

MATTERS	PUBLIC GOVERNANCE
COUNTRY	ITALY
TITLE	HUMAN GOVERNANCE, FOR A NEW PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CULTURE: THE HUMANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ABSTRACT

Human Governance is the Italian proposal for the humanization of the Public Administration; the proposal fits into the process of improvement of the regulation and governance systems, with the objective of reinforcing the trust of the citizens towards the Institutions, stimulating a process of cultural renovation that invests not only the Administration but also the citizens themselves.

FULL TEXT DOCUMENT

Human Governance is the Italian proposal for the humanization of Public Administration; the proposal is part of the process of improving the regulatory and governance systems, in order to strengthen citizens' trust in public institutions, and stimulate a process of cultural renovation involving not only administrative bodies but also the citizens themselves.

Human Governance, “the Administration with a human face”, is the expression chosen to define, from a new and innovative perspective, the criteria and principles that are at the heart of the problems already widely faced by Governments in the field of Public Administration reform. Italy has made significant progress at the national level, in applying these principles.

The Italian proposal places the individual as a whole, the fundamental values of democracy, pluralism and the respect of human rights at the centre of the discussion. The proposal has essentially a political value because it aims to advance the discussion towards the definition of common values, at a European and international level. The definition of values that are shared, or that could be shared, and could therefore provide the theme of a unitary document: a “Charter for Quality in public services” , would affirm the centrality of some fundamental principles to which Governments ought to aspire.

The “Chart for Human Governance” which sets out rules and models of behaviour, has become a desirable and necessary instrument at the international level, especially in the European context where the European Union has recently enlarged its borders to include countries and people with similar cultural roots and sometimes difficult historical backgrounds.

Moreover, the “Chart for Human Governance” intends to affirm the importance of Public Administration in the context of the policies of the European Union. It aims to reinforce an awareness amongst citizens of belonging to a “European administrative space”. It also aims to emphasise the importance of the informal Cooperation of Public Service Ministers within the European Union, underlining the importance of policies for administrative renovation in creating sustainable economic and social development in Europe.

The project originates from a comprehensive analysis of the topic of good administration, that is widely present in the Treaty that adopts a Constitution for Europe, and that is an essential condition for the implementation of a range of core goals defined by the Constitution. These include: the Lisbon Strategy for competitiveness and growth, the Economic Stability Pact, the effective realization of the internal market, liberty of circulation and the maintenance of European competitiveness at an international level.

In this regard, the “Chart for Human Governance” presents an authentic challenge. In stressing the criteria and principles that ought to contribute to good administration, the Charter gives energy and realism to the notion of European citizenship, and reaffirms the right of European citizens to good administration of both national governments and European institutions.

Agreement on the principles of Human Governance among the member States would contribute to reinforcing awareness amongst citizens and European governments that the ratification and implementation of the Constitution will have a real and significant impact on the wellbeing of civil society. Although it is clear that translating the announced principles, into an operative agenda, will require action, concrete interventions and choices on behalf of each Member State .

The “Chart for Human Governance” would highlight principles of ethical and cultural significance that could guide Governments in their policies for public sector innovation. These principles provide a relevant basis for policies targeted at the providers of public services or relating to the rights of service users. These include policies in the area of Social accountability, Education of citizens, Equality of freedoms, Participation, Sustainability, Subsidiarity, Competitiveness at an international level, Adaptation of administrative performances, Equivalence of administrative performances and Reliability – this to be understood as the result of a more balanced relationship between State, Institutions and citizens, based on the dialogue and on the establishment of a climate of both respect and reciprocal trust, taking into account that Public Administration always has as its primary goal the common good.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Stefano Pizzicannella
Office for international affairs
Department for Public Administration
Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 116 - 00186 Roma
tel: 0039 066899 7559; fax. 0039 066899 7245

E-mail

s.pizzicannella@funzionepubblica.it