

EPSA 2013 Celebratory Ceremony

Maastricht (NL), 27 November 2013



European Public Sector Award

“Weathering the storm” – Trends, tendencies and solutions in a time of crisis

Michael Burnett (UK), EIPA Expert and Theme and Category Leader, EPISA 2013, EIPA Maastricht



- **Chartered Accountant – 20+ years working in/with public sector**
- **Done business in 25+ European countries**
- **Public sector expert Deloitte and Touche/KPMG (14 years)**
- **Seconded National Expert, DG Enterprise**
- **EIPA expert public services (8 years)**
- **EPSA Theme and Category Leader 2013 “Weathering the storm – Creative solutions in a time of crisis”**
- **EPSA Theme leader in 2009 and 2011**
- **Publications include contributing author EPSA research reports 2009/2011/2013 and “Public Management in the Twenty-first Century”**



In the eye of the storm



- **Banking crisis**
- **Economic crisis**
- **Public finance crisis**
- **Currency crisis**



- **Continuing pressures on public finances/real economy**
- **The problem can't be fixed in one or two years**
- **The problem can't be fixed with painless solutions**
- **There are limits to the scope for tax increases, better tax collection and more borrowing to fund public spending**
- **Citizen need for public services in economic crisis/need to maximise availability of services**
- **Need for legitimacy of government to take tough decisions in crisis**



The scope of the challenges



- **Stabilising public finances**
- **Effective financial sector regulation**
- **Continuing to address the climate change agenda**
- **Protecting competitiveness**
- **Protecting employment/employability**
- **Protecting diversity**



- **The sustainability of Europe's social model is at stake eg sustaining employment, promoting employability, maintaining diversity etc**
- **The questions are profound – What is the state for?**
- **There's an emotional dimension...**
 - **What will be our legacy to our children and grandchildren?**
 - **It's never easy to move from expansion to contraction**
- **The essential need for change to face the future**



- **Directly related to two key aspects of Europe's economic crisis i.e. stabilising public finances and promoting economic growth**
- **Key challenges faced by all European public administrations - simultaneously**
- **Change needed to face the future**
- **No one entity has a monopoly of best practice in this theme so...EIPA aims to promote sharing of ideas and knowledge Europe-wide to help public administrations to face the crisis with more confidence**



- **Significant evidence of creative responses at all levels of government to the continuing crisis**
- **Common success factors i.e combination of:**
 - **Implementation capacity**
 - **Broad stakeholder support**
 - **Political support**



- **Possibility of continuing pursuit of active strategies to promote environmentally friendly economic growth and social inclusion**
- **Potential of transparency to promote better governance and reduce opportunities for corruption**
- **Potential of ICT to enhance trust in government at all levels, improve service delivery, reduce costs and enhance citizens' experience**
- **Scope for partnerships, mergers and collaborative ventures to improve quality of public services**
- **Potential for centralisation of procurement and service management to reduce costs and promote innovative service delivery solutions**



- **Services with a regulatory and control function can still establish public trust**
- **Employee-friendly outcomes are not in conflict with better public service orientation**
- **Importance of stakeholder consultation in the implementation of ICT projects**
- **The crisis need not deter imaginative cross-border collaboration**



And finally...



- **Significant pressures remain, particularly on health and social care budgets**
- **Significant challenges remain, particularly to actively promote business innovation and growth and remove barriers to it**
- **Innovative policy responses are potentially within the reach of all European public administrations if they seek out and adapt good practice from others**

