



## 3<sup>rd</sup> IPSASB Research Forum—Co-Hosted by the CIGAR

### Call for Papers

The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) has strengthened its connection with the academic community in recent years by holding two Research Fora in 2019 and 2020. The IPSASB has supported its engagement with Calls for Papers, which encourage academic researchers to contribute to standard setting through scholarly papers. The academic outreach activities have allowed participants, both from academia and standard-setting bodies, to discuss specific current and committed projects on the IPSASB's work program, as well as specific public sector topics identified for research activities.

For both the call for papers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Forum, IPSASB has partnered with the Comparative International Governmental Accounting Research Network (CIGAR) (<https://www.cigar-network.net/>). These activities have been coordinated through the [Academic Advisory Group](#), which includes independent scholars from all parts of the world, as well as the IPSASB members who have an academic background.

In preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Forum, which will be co-hosted by CIGAR at its June 2022 conference, this call for papers is again asking for scholarly contributions from the academic community.

**IPSASB is offering a grant of USD 1,500 for selected scholarly papers submitted on each of the topics below (up to six grants available in total). IPSASB may select additional topics under each Research Area depending on the focus of the proposed research and its relevance to the IPSASB's current and future work program and initiatives ([Appendix A](#) provides further information on each topic):**

Research Area 1: Research on Practical IPSAS Implementation Challenges, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- Differential Reporting – Comparative Research on the various Models Applied by National Jurisdictions in Public Sector; Including an understanding of the concepts and characteristics of less complex public sector entities underlying the different models and practical approaches to defining such entities in a public sector context.
- Discount Rates, Practical Public Sector Challenges with Discount Rates in IPSAS, and How Entities and Jurisdictions Practically Deal with These – Comparative Research related to the challenges and practical approaches applied when discounting in public sector financial reporting.

Research Area 2: Research on Adoption and Implementation of Specific IPSAS (Post Implementation Review of Use of IPSAS), specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- IPSAS 31, *Intangible Assets*
- IPSAS 33, *First-Time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS*

Research Area 3: Broad Future Focused Research, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- Climate Change and Public Sector Financial Reporting Related to Sustainability (Green Investments / Infrastructure) – Research on Public Sector Reporting Issues and how these are practically being addressed currently.

- Financial Reporting Impacts of Digitization in the Public Sector (Impact on Recognition, Measurement, Presentation and Disclosure)

In a first step, we invite interested academics to **submit abstracts** by **30 September 2021**. Abstracts should be one-page summaries of the planned approach to the topic selected by the scholar (or group of scholars). The abstracts will be reviewed by the Academic Advisory Group. Decisions on the award of grants will be taken by 31 October 2021. Scholars who wish to submit a paper without receiving a grant are free to do so.

The grant recipients, as well as other scholars, will present the first drafts of their full papers at the 2022 Research Forum (date to be determined), in order to receive feedback from fellow academics, IPSASB members and staff. Grant recipients are expected to finalize their first draft of papers by 30 April 2022, and to finalize the papers by 29 August 2022 and to present the results of their research in the week of 12-16 September 2022 at the IPSAS Board Meeting.

Final papers are invited to be published in *Public Money & Management*, after undergoing a double-blind peer review process, involving one reviewer from CIGAR and one from IPSASB.

#### **Submission process and registration**

Abstracts should be submitted by 30 September 2021 via the IPSASB [Academic Advisory Group website](#) or directly to the [submissions page](#). The full first draft of papers should be submitted by 30 April 2022, also via the website.

Participants in the IPSASB Research Forum are expected to follow the registration procedure for the CIGAR Workshop.

## **Appendix A – Research Topics**

### Research Area 1: Research on Practical IPSAS Implementation Challenges, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- Differential Reporting – Comparative Research of Models Applied by National Jurisdictions in Public Sector

This research area should explore which financial reporting principles best meet the needs of “less complex public sector entities” and ease the financial reporting burden on “less complex public sector entities” through a cost-benefit approach. A major portion of this project will focus on identifying the characteristics of “less complex public sector entities” and determine what guidance in IPSAS should be modified and simplified. Research on this topic should consider various differential reporting models being applied by national jurisdictions in the public sector, as well as the key characteristics of less complex entities in the public sector.

- Discount Rates, Practical Public Sector Challenges with Discount Rates in IPSAS, and How Entities and Jurisdictions Practically Deal with These – Comparative Research Related to the challenges and practical approaches applied when discounting In Public Sector Financial Reporting

This research area may explore inconsistencies between requirements relating to use of discount rates in IPSAS financial reporting by developing broadly applicable principles. The time value of money is a core concept in finance. Present value measurement techniques apply this concept to link future amounts to a present amount using a discount rate. Present value measurement techniques require two main sets of inputs: an estimate of the amount, timing and uncertainty of future cash flows, and discount rates to translate those cash flow to an equivalent amount of cash held at the measurement date. IPSAS developed over the years have required that various inputs be reflected in such present values. Research on this topic should consider challenges of IPSAS discounting requirements and practical approaches applied in different jurisdictions to address such challenges in public sector financial reporting.

### Research Area 2: Research on Adoption and Implementation of Specific IPSAS (Post Implementation Review of Use of IPSAS), specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- IPSAS 31, *Intangible Assets*

This limited-scope research area should address possible necessary modifications to IPSAS 31 to reflect principles developed through the Measurement, Natural Resources, and Heritage projects. Research on this topic should consider practical implementation of IPSAS 31 in the public sector, including the need for additional guidance to help better implement the core principles in the standard in the public sector.

- IPSAS 33, *First-Time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS*

This limited scope research area should address possible changes to clarify IPSAS 33 requirements and guidance, including the many complex accounting policy decisions that public sector entities have to make when first applying IPSAS. Although the standard is only used once by public sector entities when adopting and implementing accrual-basis IPSAS, the experience, and the experience of its users, have effects long after its initial adoption. Research on this topic should consider the practical challenges and inconsistencies, which have been identified in the application of IPSAS 33.

### Research Area 3: Broad Future Focused Research, specific topics of interest to IPSASB include:

- Climate Change and Public Sector Financial Reporting (Green Investments / Infrastructure) – Survey on Public Sector Reporting Issues and how these are practically being addressed currently.

Research on this topic should consider current and proposed public sector financial reporting related to climate change, including accounting for green investments and green infrastructure (recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure in public sector financial reporting) by analyzing how public sector entities are accounting for such issues in accrual financial statements.

- Financial Reporting Impacts of Digitization in the Public Sector

Research on this topic should consider how technology and digitization is impacting and shaping financial reporting in the public sector. Research related to innovations and developments in public sector financial reporting related to use of technology and digitization should be considered of particular relevance, to better understand how the use of technology and digitization is expected to shape public sector financial reporting in the future (including its potential impact on the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of existing IPSAS).