

## CONCLUSIONS

Ministers responsible for Public Administration in EU Member States meeting in Rome on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU

### CONSIDERING THAT

- The quality of public administration strongly affects competitiveness, growth and social cohesion in Europe and therefore the need to modernize administrative systems is a top priority across the EU;
- Informal cooperation among EU Member States and with the European Commission in the field of public administration is a long standing reality that can support public sector modernization in the EU;

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- Restoring trust in public institutions at national and European level is a key priority and open government strategies can contribute to this allowing for greater transparency, accountability, participation and collaboration with citizens and civil society stakeholders, providing an easier access to public services as well as enhancing integrity standards and releasing high quality, high value datasets, with new technologies playing a crucial role;
- Key challenges for public sector modernization include ways to ensure implementation through innovation and the development of new capabilities as well as effectiveness through evidence-based policy decisions;
- Sharing experiences and joint activities among EU Member States and citizens, by campaigning and informing, can help foster reform efforts contributing to more effective, efficient and resilient public administrations in Member States so that also EU policy goals can be better achieved;
- Informal cooperation among EU Member States and with the European Commission taking place within EUPAN shall be re-invigorated as a forum for sharing and creating innovative practices, also considering that public sector modernization has gained an increased importance within key EU processes (such as the European Semester, the programming of the European Structural Investment Funds and the Digital Agenda for Europe) and is envisioned to meet rising expectations among citizens;
- A shared view on the modernization of public administrations at the EU level might be helpful thus requiring a greater political commitment by Ministers responsible for Public Administration in EU Member States;
- Cooperation among Member States and with the European Commission can also be enhanced by ensuring the contribution of different Directorates of the European Commission that are more involved in policy areas affecting public sector modernization. This can also be achieved by streamlining existing committees and networks at the European level.