



SALTSA

An alternative to the market
The social, political and economic role of public services in Europe
Organisers: ETUI-REHS, EPSU, SALTSA

Brussels, November 19-20, 2007
Venue: ETUI-REHS; Blvd. du Roi Albert II, 5; B-1210 Brussel

Background note

The joint EPSU/ETUI-REHS/SALTSA research initiative on developments relating to public services comprises of a series of elements:

- ✓ A “call for papers” on four major themes relevant to public services: the drivers of privatisation; the impact of the EU policies on public services; the effects of privatisation on employment and industrial relations; and the role of public services as a counterbalance to marketisation. The “call for papers” has been sent out to a wide range of academics.
- ✓ Organising a number of parallel workshops on 19 November 2007 to discuss a selection of the papers received. A Scientific Committee (made up of EPSU, ETUI-REHS and several established public service research networks) has selected the papers to be presented and discussed in workshops. A number of papers will be chosen for publication in the ETUI-REHS “*Transfer*” and CIRIEC’s “*Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*”. The workshops will be English-speaking only.
- ✓ Presenting and discussing the results of the workshops at a Conference on 20 November 2007. The Conference is organised in a format that will encourage debate between academics and trade unions. A number of well-known academics have been invited to the Conference to make presentations linked to the four workshop themes. Interpretation will be provided during the Conference in English, French, German, Swedish and Spanish. Italian will be provided as a passive language.

The aim of the joint initiative is to discuss the vital economic and social contribution of public services, challenge assumptions underlying current EU policies and identify research questions that need to be covered in future research programmes.



The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) comprises 8 million public service workers from over 200 Public Service Unions in 36 countries. It organises workers in health and social services, local and national administration, energy, water and waste.



The ETUI-REHS Research Department conducts scientific research on issues of strategic importance to the labour movement. It forms a link between the European trade union movement and academia.



SALTSA is a research programme run by LO- TCO-SACO Sweden and the former National Institute for Working Life. The purpose of the programme is to facilitate problem-oriented research collaboration on issues related to working life in Europe.