



**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 Brussels

**Workshop programme 19 November\*** (update 29/10/07)

**10h30-11h00 Registration**

**11h00 – 13h30 - Parallel workshops II and III**

<p><b>Workshop II: EU policies on public services: stock-taking and critical assessment (chair: Barbara Sak)</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop III: The impact of privatisation of services on employment and industrial relations (chairs: Thorsten Schulten/Christoph Hermann)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claus Faber: EU policy in the Public Transport Sector: A bumpy road to “the market”</li> <li>• Dragana Damjanovic: The EC market rules as socio-cultural policy instruments in Europe: A normative analysis</li> <li>• Emanuele Lobina: Implications of EU competition policy on water supply and sanitation operations – the case of Italy</li> <li>• Judith Clifton/Daniel Díaz-Fuentes: Public Service Reform: Let the Citizens Speak!</li> <li>• Alessandro Marra: The EU policy towards PPPs: An institutional economics perspective</li> <li>• Roxana Saplacan/Ute Dubois: Competition in electricity distribution – the next step?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry Van den Berg: Marketisation and working conditions</li> <li>• Steen Navrbjerg/Trine Larsen: Framework Agreements – A way of applying market means to the public sector – The success of EU and National Framework Agreements in Denmark</li> <li>• Elena Carla Vilcica: The impact of privatization of services on employment and industrial relations</li> <li>• Nadia Hilal: The social, political and economic role of public services in Europe</li> <li>• Ole Busck: Working conditions of outsourced waste collectors in Denmark</li> </ul>

**13h30 – 14h30 buffet lunch**

**14h30 – 17h30\*\***

**Parallel workshops I and IV**

<b>Workshop I: Drivers of privatisation (chair: David Hall)</b>	<b>Workshop IV: Public services as necessary alternative to dominance of marketisation (chair: Richard Pond)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Werner Raza: The liberalization of trade in services in the WTO: Implications for public services in the EU</li><li>• Hans-Jürgen Bieling/Christina Deckwirth: Privatising the public infrastructure within the EU: the interaction of supranational institutions, transnational forces and national governments</li><li>• Jörg Huffschmid: Finance and privatisation</li><li>• Tanja Pflug: Ideology, International competition and the Politburo privatisation</li><li>• Gunter Quaißer: Privatisation of education – How economic research institutions influence public opinion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christian Schweiger: Beyond growth and jobs: New domestic priorities in the member states</li><li>• Nina Boeger: Public service as social solidarity</li><li>• Liliana Donath/Marius Milos: The role and the performance of public sector in the European Union</li><li>• Bernhard Rupp/Tom Schmid: Shifting the burden of proof back to the private side</li><li>• Freek Louckx: Ensuring health: serving the public or the market?</li><li>• John Medhurst: (UK Public and Commercial Services union): Public Services, not Private Profit</li></ul>

**17h30 – 18h30 Cocktail drink**

\*The titles of the papers are preliminary.

\*\*Parallel to these workshops a closed meeting of a book project on marketization and privatization of public services will take place.

## **I Drivers of privatisation**

This workshop will focus on the forces behind the waves of privatisation which can be observed in Europe since the beginning of the 1980s. It should – beyond analysing political and ideological factors – clarify and assess the emergence of new economic development patterns – led by financial investors as main actors – and a new economic policy paradigm where governments look to cutting tax rates and holding back public spending in the race for international competitiveness. It should also take into account the new concentration of income and wealth at the top of the society and the consequences of the accumulation of financial wealth for the growing pressure for privatisation of new areas of public services like health care, education and public administration. Finally the workshop will assess the chances for (increased) regulation of privatised services in an environment of intensified national and international competition.

## **II EU policies on public services: stock-taking and critical assessment**

This workshop concentrates on the clarification and critical assessment of the development of European policies with regard to public services. This will include their very limited and subordinated role in the different treaties, the development and limitations of the concept of universal service obligations, the discussion on services of general interest in the green and white papers and the recent communications on social services. The theoretical hypotheses which underpin current EU policies should be elaborated and submitted to thorough critique. The workshop should also take into account the differing approaches and positions of the Commission and the European Parliament, and within both institutions.

## **III The impact of privatisation of services on employment and industrial relations**

This workshop will focus on the quantitative and qualitative impacts of privatisation and marketisation of services on employment and industrial relations. This can include issues around employment contracts, working hours, working time flexibility, earnings, training and occupational health and safety as well as the impact on collective bargaining processes and structures. The workshop may also examine quantitative issues such as changes in employment, productivity, prices, profits, and investment.

## **IV Public services as necessary alternative to dominance of marketisation**

This workshop will focus on the role which public services could and should play in the European Union. It should explore how to counter the neo-liberal view of public services as a narrowly defined exception to the general principle of competition and how to re-instate them as an alternative form of provision of services in their own right. In the workshop the concept of “public good” and the way of defining, via public discussion and democratic decisions, its extent and content should be re-examined. The discussion will also consider possible modifications and/or extensions to the concept to make it applicable to a Union of states with different historical, political and cultural backgrounds.

(version: 29<sup>th</sup> of October)