# CB and Wage Setting in the Public Sector – a review of trends on pay

# EPSU Social Dialogue and Collective Bargaining Conference 2013

Brussels, 16 December 2013

Dr. Torsten Müller European Trade Union Institute - ETUI



### Framework conditions: collective bargaining in public sector

- 1.National level: pre-crisis reforms involving decentralisation of collective bargaining and differentiation/individualisation of pay schemes
- 2.European level: crisis-induced pressure to pursue policy of wage moderation in order to consolidate state budgets and in order to address macroeconomic imbalances



#### European-level intervention into collective bargaining

- 1.New European System of Economic Governance: European Semester and its Country-Specific Recommendations: moderate wage developments
- 2.Memorandum of Understanding and Stand-by Arrangements signed with "Troika" or IMF/EU: Freezes and cuts of public sector wages



#### Wage Cuts and Freezes in Public Sector during crisis

|                              | Troika/IMF          | Other             |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                              | countries           | countries         |
| General wage freeze (since   | EL, ES, IE, IT, CY, | CZ,DK, EE, F, LT, |
| 2009/2010)                   | HU, PT, RO          | PL, SL, UK        |
|                              |                     |                   |
| Pay cuts between 5% and 10%  | ES, IE, IT, PT      | CZ, EE, SL, SK    |
| Pay cuts between 15% and 30% | EL, LV, HU, RO      | LT                |
| Abolition of bonuses         | EL, ES, HU, PT,     | DK, EE            |
|                              | RO                  |                   |



#### Abolition of bonuses in public sector during the crisis

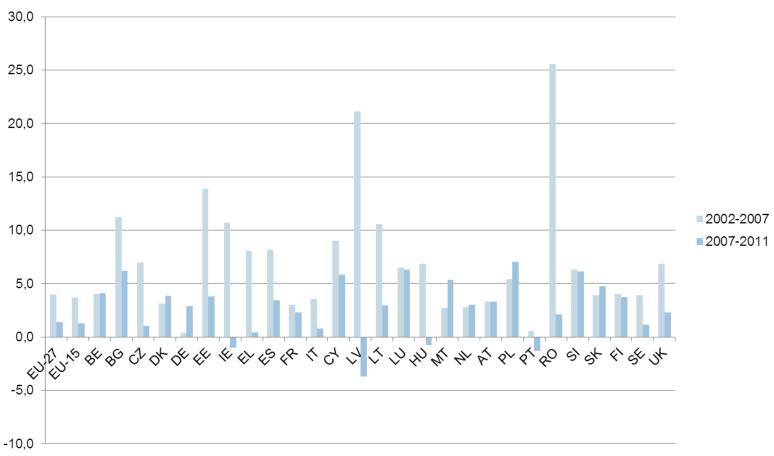
|   | Greece | Hungary | Portugal | Romania | Spain |
|---|--------|---------|----------|---------|-------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup><br>monthly<br>salary |        |         |          |         |       |
| Pension<br>entitle-<br>ments                            |        |         |          |         |       |
| Housing subsidies                                       |        |         |          |         |       |
| Reduced<br>health<br>benefits                           |        |         |          |         |       |
| Food<br>subsidies                                       |        |         |          |         |       |



#### Wage developments in public administration

#### Compensation of public adminstration employees

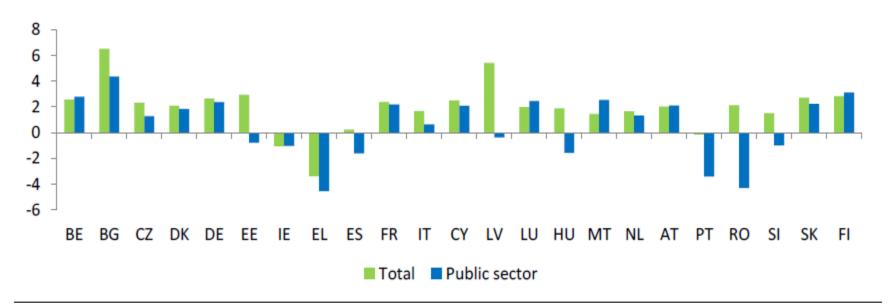
Annual average % change in EUR or national currencies





#### Comparison public sector and total economy during crisis

Graph I.3.7: Compensation per employee, total and public sector, average annual change, 2010-2012



(1) Public sector proxied by public administration and defence, education, health and social work, personal service acticities.

Source: DG ECFIN AMECO database.



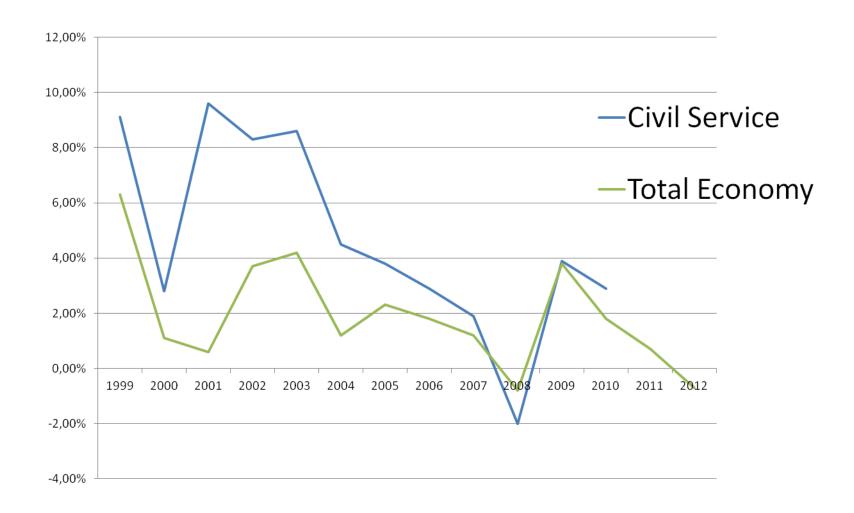
#### Wage difference between public and private sector

| Annual changes in collectively agreed real wages (last 10 years)  | Countries                |
|---|--------------------------|
| Public Sector ≥ Total Economy   | CZ, RO                   |
| Public Sector ≤ Total Economy   | F, EL, SK, ES, SE,<br>UK |
| Public Sector = Total Economy   | AT, FI                   |
| Larger Amplitudes Public Sector   | DE, IE, IT               |
| Larger Amplitudes Total Economy  Source: Eurofound Collective Wage Bargaining Overview: (http://www.eurofound.europa. |                          |

Source: Eurofound Collective Wage Bargaining Overview: (<a href="http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/cwb/">http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/cwb/</a>)

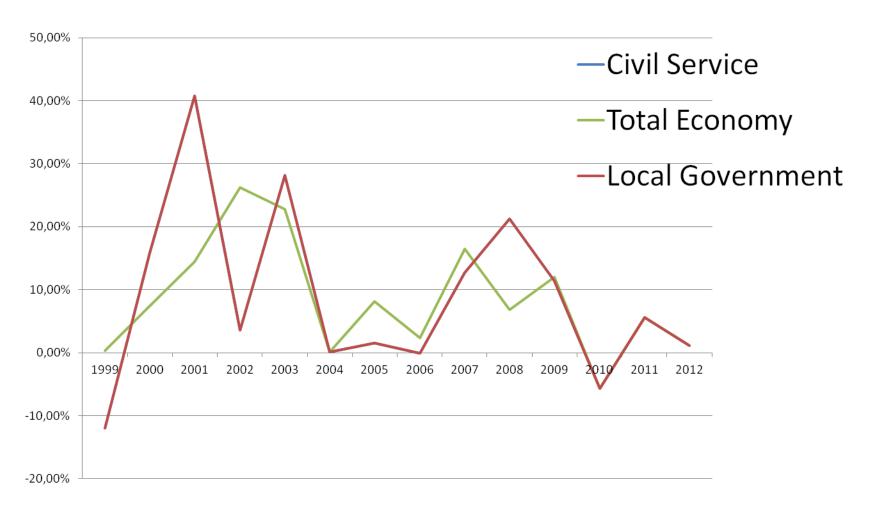


#### Public Sector > Total Economy: CZ (coll. agreed wages)



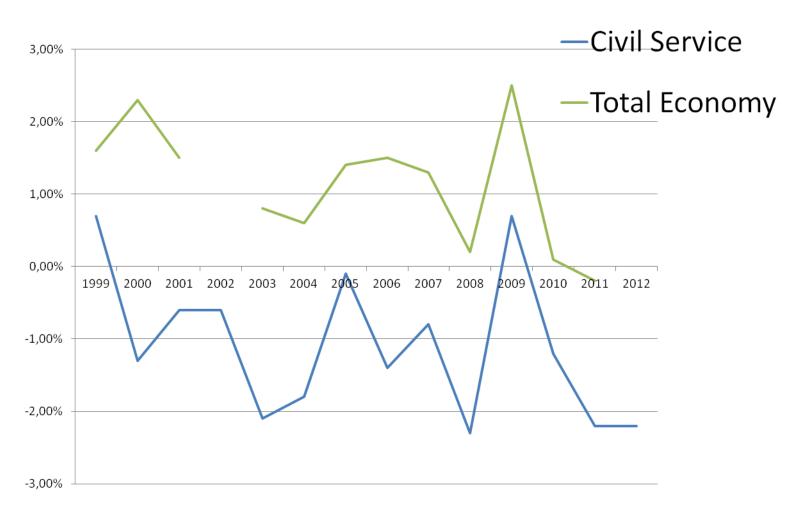


#### Public Sector > Total Economy: RO (coll. agreed wages)



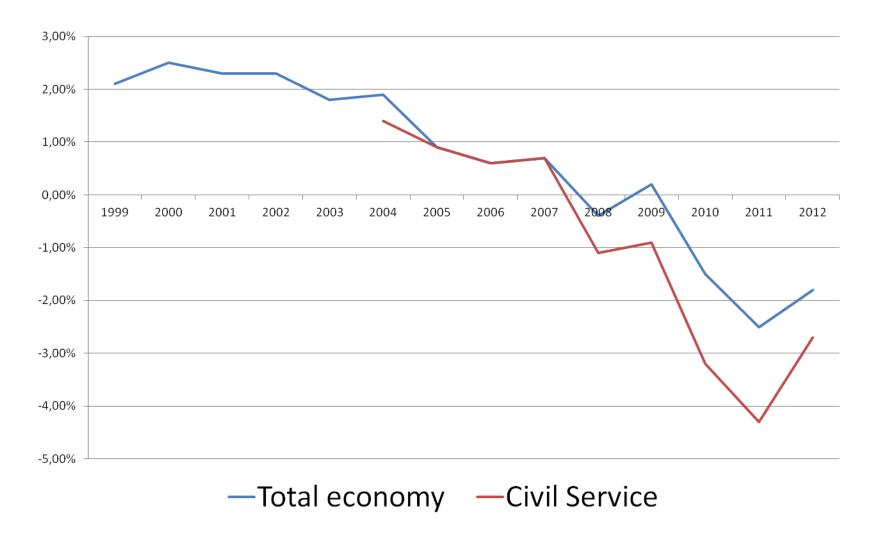


### Public Sector < Total Economy: FR (coll. agreed wages)



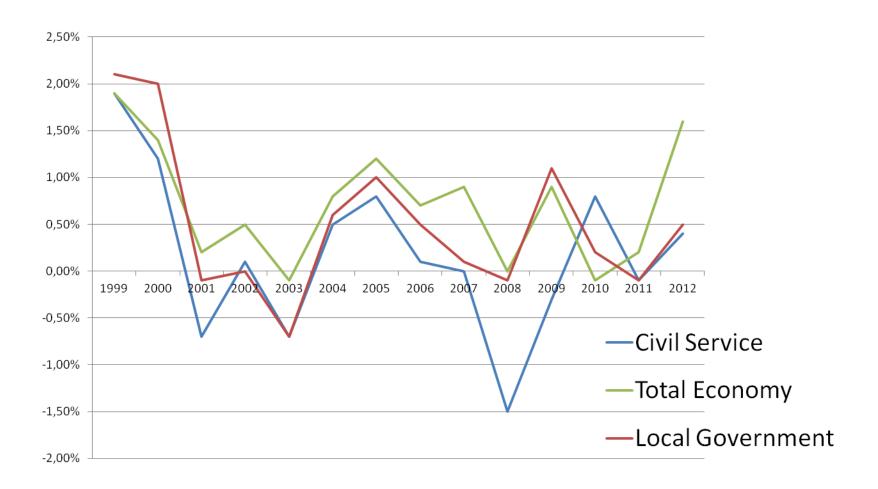


#### Public Sector < Total Economy: UK (coll. agreed wages)



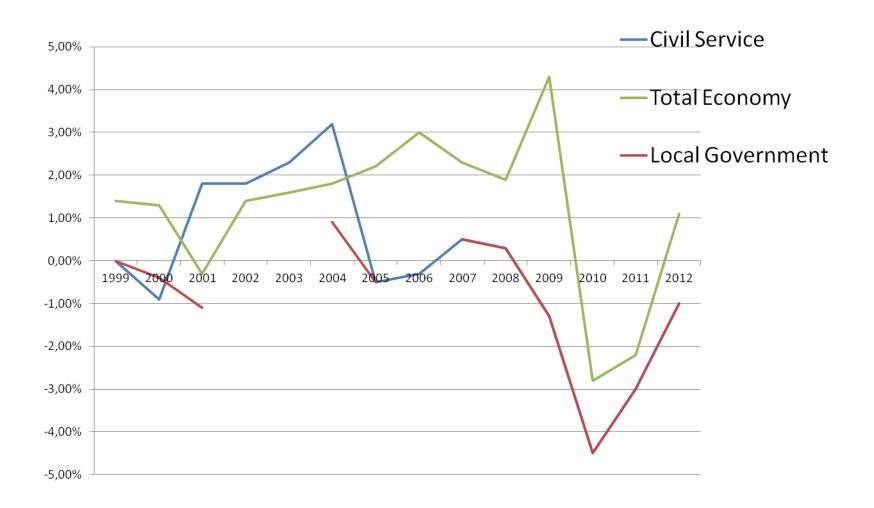


#### Public Sector < Total Economy: SE (coll. agreed wages)



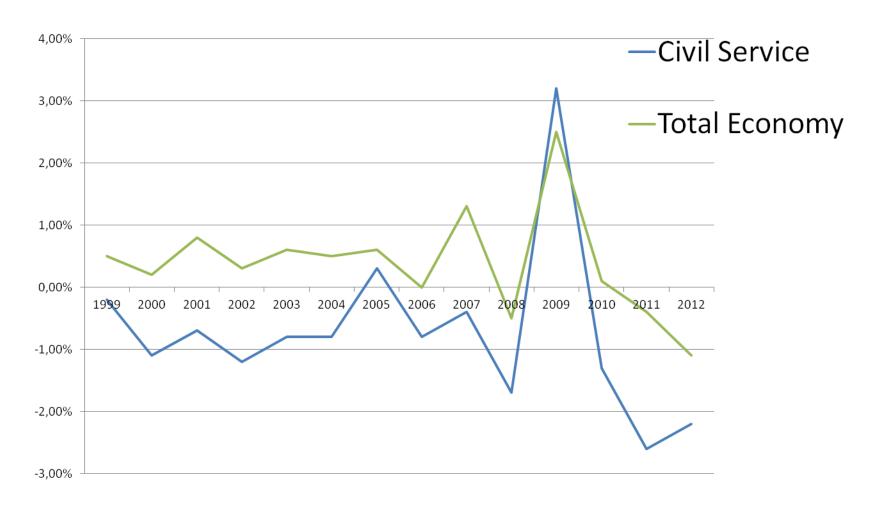


### Public Sector < Total Economy: EL (coll. agreed wages)



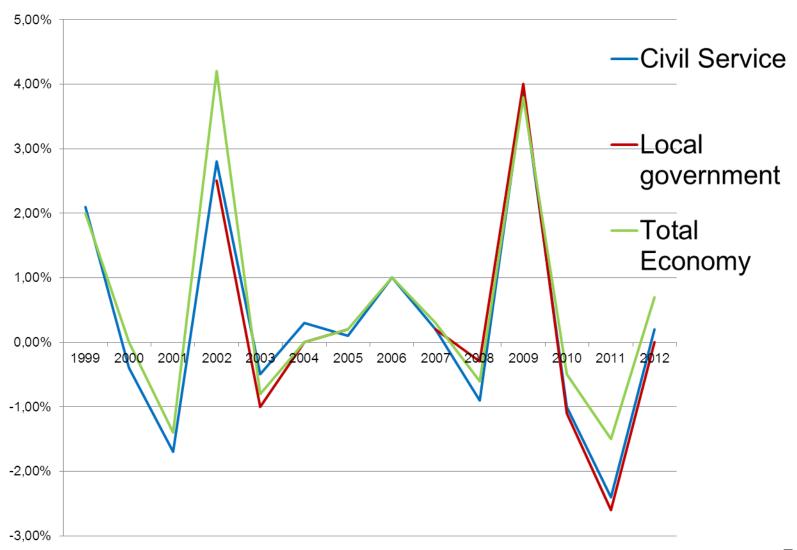


#### Public Sector < Total Economy: ES (coll. agreed wages)



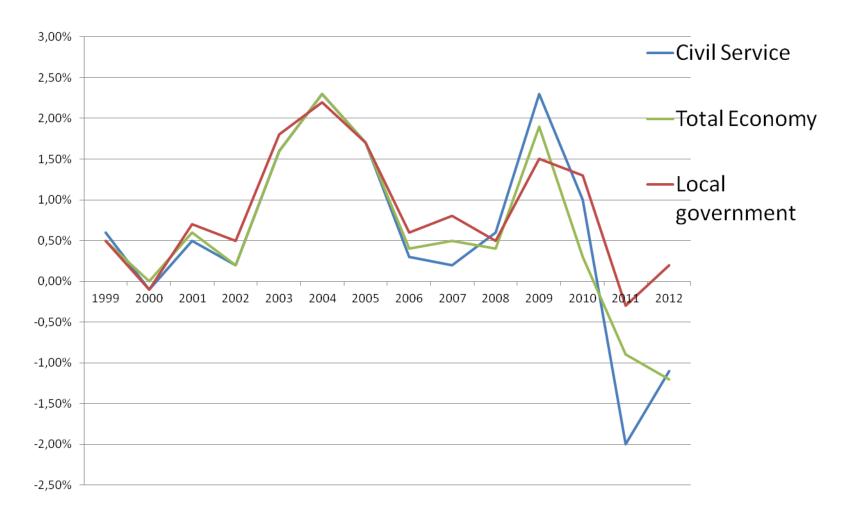


### Public Sector = Total Economy: AT (coll. agreed wages)



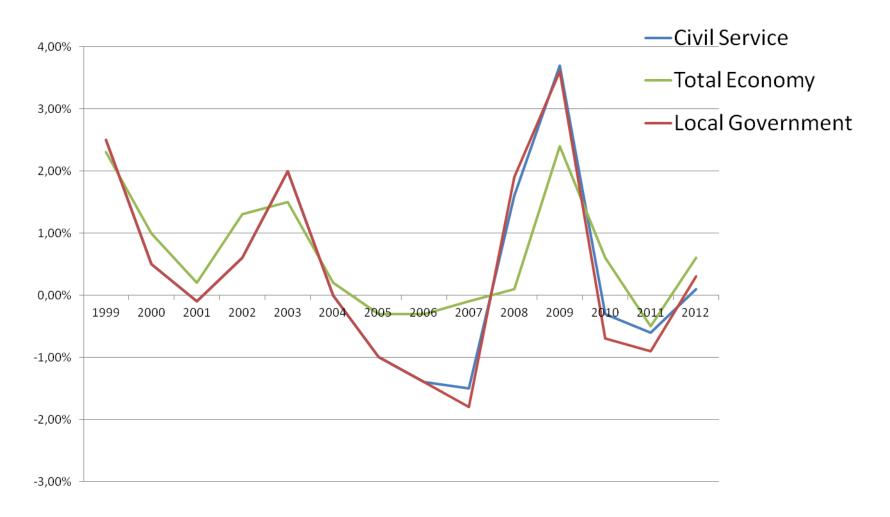


### Public Sector = Total Economy: FI (coll. agreed wages)



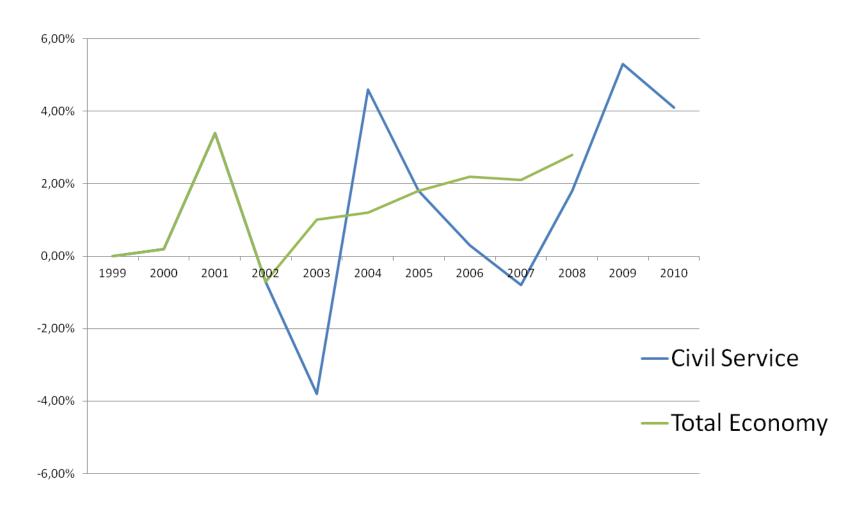


#### Larger Amplitude Public Sector: DE (coll. agreed wages)



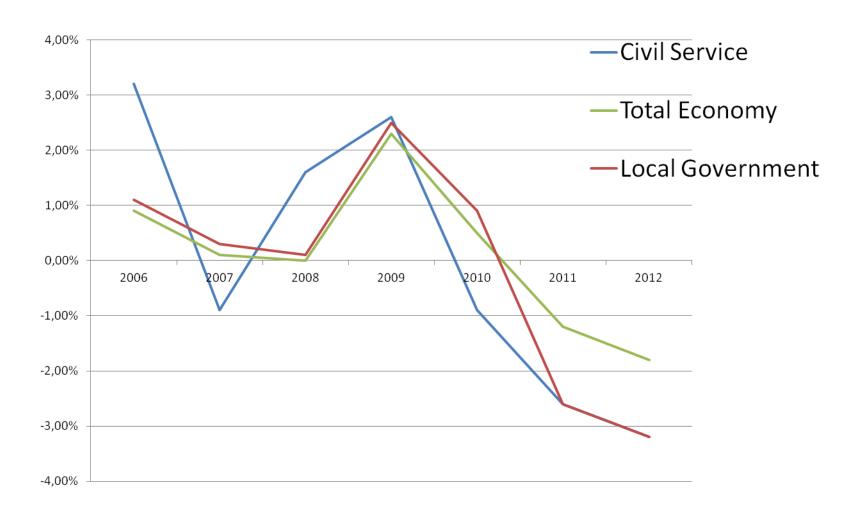


#### Larger Amplitude Public Sector: IE (coll. agreed wages)





#### Larger Amplitude Public Sector: IT (coll. agreed wages)





## Development of public sector wage setting during the crisis

1.Revival of unilateralism: measures have often been adopted by governments without trade union involvement.

2. Re-centralization of wage-setting: centrally defined measures have been applied to all services and employees.



#### Austerity policies and the changing context of CB

#### Thank you very much for your attention!!!

Dr. Torsten Müller Senior Researcher

European Trade Union Institute Bld. du Roi Albert II, 5 1210 Brussels

Email: tmueller@etui.org

