

I. Main duties of the research unit in 2012

The research group studied two aspects of the topics this year. Firstly, analytical studies were made from different functional points of view on public tasks in general. Secondly, international comparative studies focused on groups of sectors in local public administration.

In the framework of conceptualization main hypotheses were detailed on provision of public services at different territorial levels of government. There were different aspects, like administrative, property management, financial, public policy and policies of the European Union in this respect. Our basic hypothesis is that significant changes took place in these different fields of functions in the last decade. After the period of privatization a re-municipalisation also spread. Specialities of public property are focused more rigorously than before. After the crises in 2008, government functions increased in provision of public utility services. European policies had to face new challenges in this period. Our analytical studies deal with specification of these general contemporary processes.

In the second stage of the research international comparative studies were made according to the main groups of functions in the intergovernmental relations. Public utilities, education, health, social policy, administrative services were focused. Different models were specified in European countries on methods and characteristics of public service provision. Key issues were as follows. What extent typically public roles are represented? What is the distribution of work between governmental and non-governmental public actors? As far as government is concerned, how is it divided between central and local levels? These models can be specified differently sector by sector. However, important focus points may be defined in this way, in order to characterize any other definite system, or to describe moving from one point to other in the process of development.

II. Remarkable research and other results in 2012

a) Remarkable research and other results

The research group reached relevant results in two directions in 2012. Firstly, we conceptualized main models of regulation in intergovernmental finance, economy of public property, local administration, and policies in services of general economic interests in the European Union. Main studies have been elaborated as follows:

- Regulations of local public services: the financing function. Balance of fiscal and market approaches
- Asset Management in Public Service Sector under Different Governance Models
- Changes in human resource management of public providing services at different governmental levels

MTA-DE PUBLIC SERVICE RESEARCH GROUP
TAMÁS M. HORVÁTH, Dr. of HAS
H-4028 Debrecen, Kassai út 26. Hungary
Tel/Fax: +36 52 512-700/ 77119
e-mail: kozszolg.kut@law.unideb.hu

On the other hand models of regulation were investigated in different fields of public policies scrutinizing comparative experiences. The main studies are:

- Regulation of public services in the EU
- Models of provision in solid waste management
- In-house procurement in public utility and communal services
- European models in health services at local and territorial levels
- Education as public service at different levels of government
- Local provision of public defence in different groups of countries in Europe

There also investigation on analysing crucial changes of Hungarian administration in the field of providing services to the public. Both government and governance aspects were focused.

A book is published collecting more important studies written in 2012. This volume is for practitioners working in management positions for provision of public services either in government side or for consumers. Aspects of governance are also important for stakeholders in non-governmental providers. As a textbook it may be important for university courses for MBA and MPA. Last but not least the research relevance must not be neglected, because this kind of work is relatively original. East-Central-European sides are focused in the European context after the crises of 2008 on challenges of public services in intergovernmental relations.

b) Dialog between science and society

Local public services are very important for people and their communities. Quality of provision and prices for consumers are influenced by quite a lot of economic and social components. On the other hand main distributive systems of general government expenditure are also highly involved at different government levels like education, social policy, health services. Direct and indirect types of regulation have a crucial effect on mechanism to operate and make better these services. Our investigation aims to find out more specific relevance to governing methods of delivery of public services at any level of governance in the modern society.

Some of the specific topics neglected many times are also highlighted in the project last year. For instance public utility services, importance and problems of PPP-constructions, position of churches in public services provision were in focus.

III. A presentation of national and international relations

The research group is involved in the Faculty of Political and Legal Studies, University of Debrecen, Hungary. Our Department of Financial Law and Public Management participates in MA legal and BA and MA public administration courses. There are a university professor, an assistant professor, and 3 assistant lecturers. They all are members of the research team. Courses are as follows:

MTA-DE PUBLIC SERVICE RESEARCH GROUP
TAMÁS M. HORVÁTH, Dr. of HAS
H-4028 Debrecen, Kassai út 26. Hungary
Tel/Fax: +36 52 512-700/ 77119
e-mail: kozszolg.kut@law.unideb.hu

- a) financial law and public finance in MA legal studies;
- b) public management, general government expenditure, urban management, regional policy in BA public administration;
- c) advanced public finance in MA public administration;
- d) public finance and financial law in the EU and member states for Erasmus students.

Two of our colleagues study in the PhD doctoral school of the faculty. In the framework of researchers' mobility two study tour were organized in Wien (Universitätsbibliothek Wien) and in Hof (Germany), Fachhochschule für Öffentliche Verwaltung und Rechtspflege in Bayern.

IV. Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2012

We had a successful application for OTKA (National Scientific Research Fund, Hungary) for a research grant. The subject is urban governance in intermediate cities and urban areas. City-regional governance implies cooperation among public, private and voluntary sectors. Systems of these social linkages are looser and wider in particular case than simply the administrative or morphological urban area. However, this wide-range of networking is exclusive in and out of the city-region. This quality makes possible to fulfil tasks, provide functions over the levels of any traditional cooperation between municipalities, other types of localities or any regional authorities. The research focuses on this position comparing advantages and fallacies of it with the traditional idea of local government.

V. List of important publications in 2012

Horváth M. Tamás: Kiszervezés – visszaszervezés. A helyi közszeaktor változása. (Contracting out – contracting back. Changes of local public sector) *Fundamentum*, 2012. 2. pp. 5 – 10.

Horváth M. Tamás: Felelős társaságirányítás – a közszeaktorban? (Corporate governance – in the public sector?) *Gazdaság és Jog*, Jan 2012.

Horváth M. Tamás: Visszaszervezés. Az önkormányzati feladatok átrendezése. (Contracting back. Re-organization of local tasks) *Élet és Irodalom*, LVI. 46., Nov 2012, 16. p. 5.

Csűrös Gabriella: Gazdaságpolitikai együttműködés az Európai Unióban – új utakon? (New ways in the economic cooperation in the EU) In: Pro Futuro – A jövő nemzedékek joga. DE ÁJK 2012. 2. pp. 34–52.

Csűrös Gabriella: Az Európai Unió, mint regionális gazdasági integráció egyes pénzügyi jogi aspektusai. (Some financial aspects of the EU as regional economic integration) PhD Thesis - forthcoming.

VI. Main indicators of the research unit in 2012