

## I. Main duties of the research unit in 2013

Is the pendulum swinging back again? – Hellmut Wollmann and Gérard Marcou raise this question about many of contemporary relationships which are moving from private back to public in service provision (Wollmann and Marcou eds. *The Provision of Public Services in Europe*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2010) Our research focuses this progress and process in details from an East-Central-European view. For this purpose in 2013 international comparative studies were prepared sector by sector providing at all of the intergovernmental levels.

i) International comparative studies were made according to the main groups of functions in the intergovernmental relations. Public utilities, education, health, social policy, administrative services, development and master planning were focused. 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? Important focus points may be defined in this way, in order to characterize any definite systems, or to describe moving from one point to other in the process of development.

ii) On the other hand the research group started to prepare an encyclopedia of intergovernmental provision of public services. In different groups of services basic aspects of delivery were scrutinized, like administrative, financial, ownership, policy formulation, and the European focus. Approximately one-third of the studies had already been finished.

## II. Remarkable research and other results in 2013

### a) Remarkable research and other results

The research group published a book as a collection of thematic and comparative studies of investigations on recent changes in public service delivery: T.M. Horváth (ed.) (2013) *Kilengések. Köszolgáltatási változások*. Budapest: Dialóg Campus. There are 14 in-depth studies in the book, supplemented with a summary of data basis. All of these are prepared by the researchers and collaborators of the project team.

In this volume main models of regulation are conceptualized in intergovernmental finance, economy of public property, local administration, and policies in services of general economic interests in the European Union. The main studies focus financial regulations of local public services as balancing fiscal and market approaches; asset management in public service sector under different governance models; changes in human resource management of publicly providing services at different government levels

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Secondly, models in different fields of public policies were investigated scrutinizing comparative experiences. The main studies are on the regulation of public services in the EU, models of service 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 are focused in the book.

This volume is either for researchers or practitioners working in management positions for provision of public services. 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 (Master of Public Administration). 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. Nowadays main economic and social fallacies are as follows: control of public service provision in natural monopolies, cost effectiveness of welfare services, civil control of public order, information technology in administration. There are new paradigms as answers of these challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our investigation focuses these new models from the point of view of adaptation in the East-Central-European environment. Therefore, apart from the mentioned issues quite a few regionally focusing subjects are highlighted. For instance fees and charges of public utility services, importance and problems of PPP-constructions, position of churches in public services provision are in focus.

III. A presentation of national and international relations

The research group participates in the network of the European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST). Working session was held in Edinburgh, in September 2013. Paper presented is going to be developed in the following year.

Another linkage to the professional society is the involvement in the work of Transnational Institute which focuses public initiatives in influencing was of networking service provisions. The group presented some of the Hungarian cases for the network.

The research group is integrated part of the Faculty of Political and Legal Studies, University of Debrecen, Hungary. The 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 and other colleagues in part-time jobs. Most of them are members of the research team in different positions. Courses where research results are built in the curricula are as follows:

- 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 colleagues study in the PhD doctoral school of the faculty. In the framework of researchers' mobility a study tour was organized to Hof (Germany), Fachhochschule für Öffentliche Verwaltung und Rechtspflege in Bayern.

#### IV. Brief summary of national and international research proposals, winning in 2013

Magyary Zoltán Post-Doctoral Scholarship has been won by a member of the team. She makes investigation in the public finance of the European Union, especially on the budgetary and subvention policy of the cycle 2014–2020. The period of the scholarship is 21 months.

#### V. List of important publications in 2013

Csűrös Gabriella: Gazdaságpolitikai együttműködés az Európai Unióban – új utakon? [New ways in the economic cooperation in the EU] In: Czibere Ibolya–Kovács Imre (szerk.): *Fejlesztéspolitika – vidékfejlesztés*. Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó, Debrecen, 2013. 274-307.

Horváth M. Tamás (szerk.): *Kilengések. Közszolgáltatási változások*. [Oscillations: Changes in public service management] Dialóg Campus, Budapest-Pécs, 2013.

Horváth M. Tamás-Péteri Gábor: Nem folyik az többé vissza. Az állam szerepeinek átalakulása a víziközmű-szolgáltatásban. [Change of public functions in the water services] In: Valentiny Pál – Kiss Ferenc – Nagy Csongor István (szerk) *Verseny és szabályozás*, 2012 MTA KRTK Közgazdaság-tudományi Intézet, Budapest, 2013. p. 177–200

Horváth M. Tamás: Csendes fordulat: A közszolgáltatásokkal kapcsolatos uniós politika változásának eredete és hatásai. [A silent turn: The shift of European policies on public services] *Jogtudományi Közlöny* 2013. (LXVIII. évf.) 4. sz. 173-182. o.

Szilágyi Bernadett: A közoktatás finanszírozásának kérdései, különös tekintettel az egyházi fenntartókra. [Finance of education, especially on maintenance by churches] P. Szabó Béla, Szemesi Sándor (szerk.): *Profectus in Litteris* IV. Előadások a 9. debreceni állam- és jogtudományi doktorandusz-konferencián, DE-ÁJDI, 2012. június 1., 221-228.

Varga Judit: PPP börtönök. [PPP prisons]. Szabó Béla, Szemesi Sándor (szerk.): *Profectus in Litteris* IV. Előadások a 9. debreceni állam- és jogtudományi doktorandusz-konferencián, DE-ÁJDI, 2012. június 1., 255-263.