

Introductory intervention of Philippe BANCE

EUsers seminar in Rouen, 8 June 2017

Many thanks to Cécile Legros, Vice-President of the University of Rouen, for her discourse and her presence at our conference. Thanks also to all of you for to be here, and especially to the speakers who will be animating this workshop presenting their work, as well as members of the CIRIEC and EUsers networks.

This workshop is the ninth one taking place at the University of Rouen within the framework of the European program Jean Monnet - EUsers (EUsers means Services of general interest in the EU: a citizen's perspective on public versus private provision). The EUsers network will be presented by Massimo Florio, who will specify its scientific activity. However, I want to say that, since twenty-fourteen, the EUsers network has enabled the six European partner universities to carry out in-depth research on the role of public organizations in Europe in the implementation of public missions, on forms of governance and regulation of public services. It trained students for such researches throughout the network.

The today workshop is the last one in Rouen for EUsers program. It follows height three-hour workshops held at the University of Rouen since December twenty-fourteen. After a first seminar dealing with *The characteristics of liberalization and privatization in Europe*, the following were devoted to sector-by-sector analyzes about the effects of this process on public service activities. In twenty-fifteen, the workshops in Rouen concerned *European liberalization of the postal sector and its effects on the strategy of the firms*, then on *Regulation and public policy in the Telecommunications sector* and last on *Reforms in the railway sector*. In twenty-sixteen, the workshops focused on *Higher Education and Research Systems in Europe*, then on the theme *From the mode and modalities of management to the regulation of water and waste activities*, then on *Public and energy transition*, ending on the topic *Evaluation, multilevel governance and public services*. You may find the papers or slide presenting the interventions that took place on the EUsers website.

This ninth seminar is this time presenting papers that have been selected following a call for papers launched by the CIRIEC network, for a Handbook on public enterprises. Other papers will be presented in Milan from June twenty-two to twenty-four and then at the University of Ottawa on November two and three. Luc Bernier, who is organizing the Ottawa event, who is a member of the steering committee for this new project, will talk of it later.

Finally, we will organize tomorrow an international conference EUsers-CIRIEC which will deal with the governance of public organizations in the economy of the twenty-first century. This conference is an event connected to the international network CIRIEC. It aims to bridge between research activities and the world of organizations and policy makers. The objectives are to nurture the reflection of organizations and exchange about practices with leaders of organizations by our research. This approach is part of the genes of CIRIEC: the vocation of

this international scientific organization for seventy years now, is to rely practitioners and researchers, and to conduct this cross fertilization relying on thirteen national sections across the world. Barbara Sak, who heads the international secretariat, will present this issue further. The conference tomorrow will be attended by high-level political decision-makers, leaders of business organizations and public sector. Following the example of the international conference organized by CIRIEC on the future of public enterprise at the Ministry of Finance in Paris Bercy on twenty-five February twenty-fifteen, the tomorrow conference will close an early three years program.

I now give the floor to Massimo Florio, who also chairs the CIRIEC Public Enterprises - Public Services Scientific Commission and who initiated the EUsers program. He will talk to us more about this program.

Philippe BANCE