

RT3 – The forms of governance of public enterprises of the future

The public enterprise ‘in uniform’, responding to urgent and destabilising needs stemming from the public authorities having public-policy objectives, is a model of the past. For a number of years now, new forms of governance have been implemented that are designed to perform general-interest tasks, adopting a more participative approach and ensuring greater proximity to citizens. Beyond the balance-sheet that it is now possible to establish on these new forms of governance and on what sets them apart from those of private operators, the question must be asked as to what would be possible and desirable to put in place in future so as to bring the public enterprises, their consumers and citizens closer together. How also are the institutional mechanisms to be adapted such that the public enterprises can respond effectively to general-interest missions that are becoming increasingly multi-level, that is to say, defined by public authorities situated at different (for instance geographical) levels of competence?

How can the public enterprises be in future model citizen enterprises?

Is closer proximity between public enterprises and their clienteles compatible with an increase of their role as citizen enterprises?

How articulate effectively the missions assigned by the local, regional, national or even European public authorities to work to full potential towards the general interest?