

## THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISE

### Role and governance in the implementation of innovative strategic policies and economic development

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Centre “Pierre Mendès France” in Bercy

## CIRIEC’s recent activities and works related to public enterprise

After several years of neglect, public enterprises are coming back as an important research topic. CIRIEC’s International Scientific Commission “Public Services/Public Enterprises” has recently concluded a 3-years<sup>1</sup> inquiry on case studies of contemporary public enterprises, and has now published a book<sup>2</sup> edited by Prof. Luc Bernier (ENAP, Québec), and a special issue of the *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics* (edited by Prof. Philippe Bance, Université de Rouen, Prof. Fabienne Fecher, Université de Liège and Prof. Gabriel Obermann, WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien). The *Journal of Economic Policy Reform* (edited by Prof. Massimo Florio, University of Milano and Prof. Judith Clifton) and the *International Review of Applied Economics* have on their side each recently published a special issue on public enterprises including papers presented at CIRIEC seminars organized 2013 in Berlin, Brussels, and Milan.

CIRIEC’s International Scientific Commission has now launched a new set of country studies of major public enterprises ([http://www.ciriec.ulg.ac.be/en/pages/3\\_2recherches.htm](http://www.ciriec.ulg.ac.be/en/pages/3_2recherches.htm)).

The European Commission has awarded a prestigious Jean Monnet Network grant to six universities (Università degli Studi di Milano (IT), Åbo Akademi University School of Business and Economics (FI), University of Greenwich (UK), Universität Leipzig (DE), Université de Rouen (FR), WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (AT)), including partners of CIRIEC’s network, for advancing teaching and research on public versus private provision of public services. A joint workshop of CIRIEC and the Jean Monnet Network will be held in Milan June 25-26, 2015 (<http://users.unimi.it/eusers/home/home-page/>).

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The Scientific Commission “Public Economy” of CIRIEC-France has moreover engaged, during the second semester 2012, in a study on public organizations’ capacity to internalize general interest missions.

These works of CIRIEC-France, published January 2015 in a book<sup>3</sup> under Prof. Philippe Bance’s direction, deal with a broader study issue than those at CIRIEC international level, since they include not only public enterprises but also the non-commercial public sector. Its subject focuses more on public missions’ internalization. The book highlights the necessity to establish the internalization of missions on common principles and a shared vision of general interest, while adapting to organizations’ features and missions, with flexibility and pragmatism.

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<sup>1</sup> CIRIEC (2012), The future of public enterprise mission, performance and governance: Learning from success and failures. A research agenda 2012-2014. Paper drafted by Massimo Florio and adopted by the Steering Committee of the Project: available at: [http://www.ciriec.ulg.ac.be/fr/telechargements/CIRIEC\\_project\\_FUTURE%20of%20PE2012-2014\\_%20with%20template.pdf](http://www.ciriec.ulg.ac.be/fr/telechargements/CIRIEC_project_FUTURE%20of%20PE2012-2014_%20with%20template.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Bernier L. (ed.) 2015, *Public Enterprises Today: Missions, Performance and Governance. Learning from Fifteen Case Studies*, Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, Bruxelles, Bern, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien.

<sup>3</sup> Bance Ph. (éd) 2015, *L’internalisation des missions d’intérêt général par les organisations publiques, Réalités d’aujourd’hui et perspectives*, Presses Universitaires de Rouen et du Havre.