

“UTILITIES POLICY AND REFORM: THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITIZENS AND SOES”

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Topic & research goal

- Public utilities – Network industries
- Policy change – ‘Paradigm shift’
 - Nationalization → Privatization
 - State monopolies → Competitive markets
 - SOEs reform



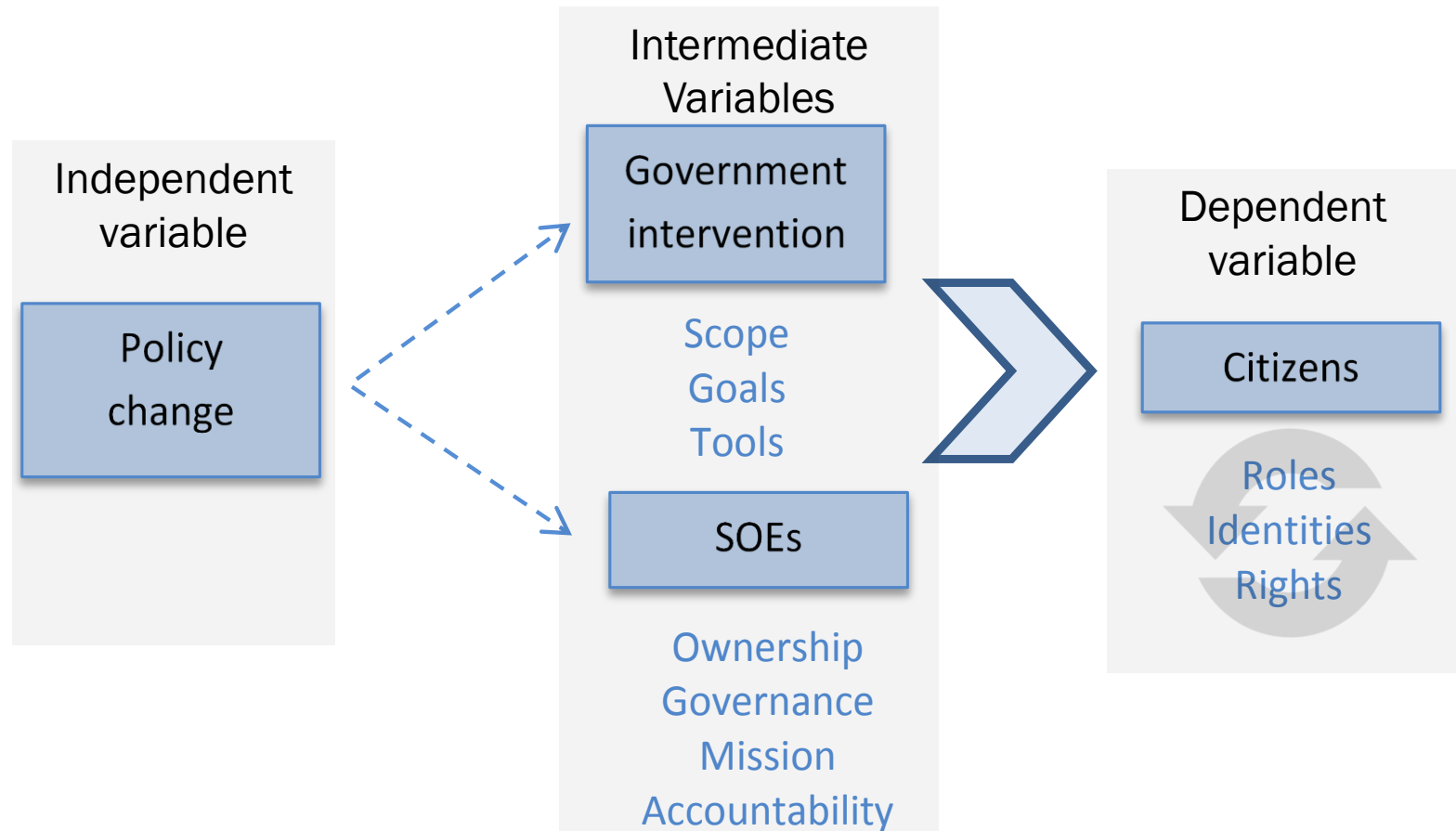
The role of citizens



Theoretical context

- Public interest
- Anglo-Saxon pattern (public utilities)
- French pattern (service public)
- EU framework (services of general economic interest)

1. Research question & variables



2. Policy paradigm & reform

POST-WAR PARADIGM

- Nationalization
- Public ownership
- Political control
- State monopolies
- Vertical integration

CURRENT PARADIGM

- Corporatization
- Modernization
- Privatization
- Liberalization
- Unbundling
- Europeanization
- Agencification

3. Policy reform implications (1/2): The role of the state

POLICY	GOVERNMENT
Nationalization	Owner
Corporatization/ Modernization	Majority/ Minority Shareholder
Privatization	Minority Shareholder
Liberalization	Regulator
Europeanization Agencification	Regulator

3. Policy reform implications (2/2): Type & ownership of SOEs

POLICY	SOEs
Nationalization	Public
Corporatization/ Modernization	Sociétés Anonymes (Public/Mixed)
Privatization	Mixed/Private
Liberalization	Commercial

4. The focus on citizens (1/2): The rationale for reform

- Consumer empowerment
 - Freedom of choice
 - Diversification of the provided services
 - Individual needs/preferences
- Market competition
 - Lower prices
 - Quality improvements
- Corporatization - privatization
 - Transparency
 - Better access to information

4. The focus on citizens (2/2): Concepts & identities

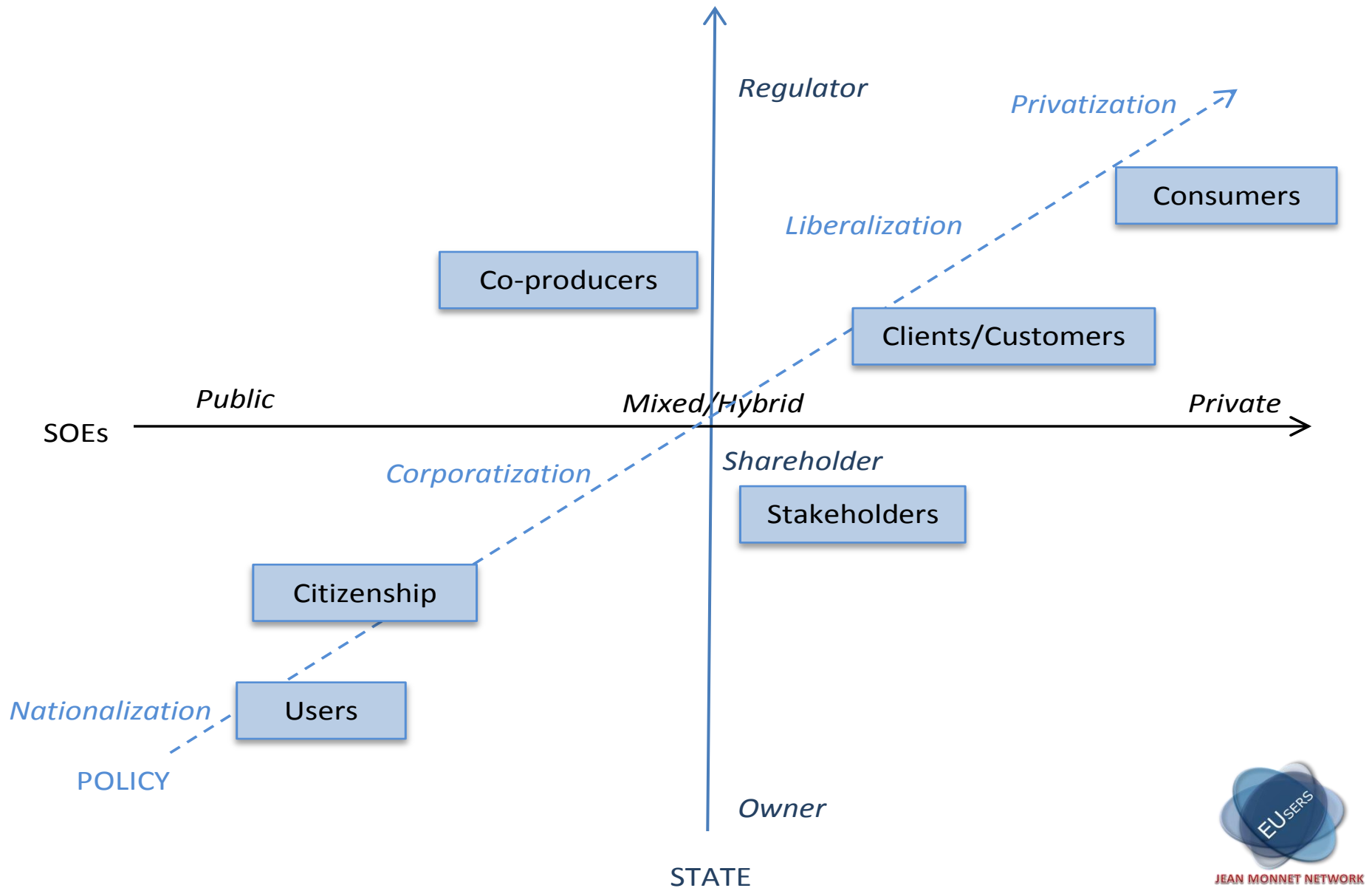
- User
- Client/Customer
- Consumer
- Citizen (citizenship)
- Co-producer
- Stakeholders

UTILITIES POLICY, CITIZENS AND SOEs: A TAXONOMY

POLICY	GOVERNMENT	SOEs	PUBLIC INTEREST	CITIZEN	RIGHTS
Nationalization	Owner	Public	Collective	User	Social/Political
Corporatization/ Modernization	Majority/ Minority Shareholder	Sociétés Anonymes (Public/Mixed)	Collective/ Individual	User Clien/ Co-producer	Social/ Civil
Privatization	Minority Shareholder	Mixed/Private	Individual	Consumer	Civil
Liberalization	Regulator	Commercial	Individual	Consumer	Civil
Europeanization Agencification	Regulator	-	General economic	Consumer User Stakeholder	Civil/Social



CITIZENS ROLES & IDENTITIES IN THE UTILITIES SECTOR



5. Limitations

- Normative assumptions
- Theoretical (ideal) types
- Synthesis – ‘hybrid’ models (?)
- Trade-offs
- Diversity
 - Policy impact
 - Citizens’ reaction

Conclusions

- Conceptual framework: changing role of the citizens in varying policy contexts
- Policy paradigm shift (nationalization → privatization):
 - Re-balancing of collective and individual needs
 - Re-prioritization of the public and private interests
 - User → consumer
- In search of a new configuration: 'hybrid' models