

## **The republicisation – territorial reappropriation of Services of general economic interest**

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While a general tendency to the privatisation of the statute and/or the ownership of the historical operators of services of general economic interest has been dominated in the context of the liberalism vague and of the New Public Management, in the last decade, we saw a regain of renationalisations – often regarded as provisional to surpass the effects of the crisis – as well as remunicipalisations, in particular in water-wastewater sector and of electricity.

Several researches, particularly those realised by CIRIEC, have analysed implemented processes, their objectives, but also the obstacles they had been confronted with (see for example, **WP18/07** – BAUBY P./ HECHT C./ WARM S. – [Water remunicipalisation in Berlin and Paris: Specific processes and common challenges](#)).

The objective of this working group would be to enlarge the investigation area:

- to all levels of reappropriation, not only national or municipal, but also at community and regional level,
- to all SGEI sectors, as well as to eventual transversal dynamics,
- to all forms of not for profit organisations, not only to SOEs but also to social economy and the ‘commons’.

### **Research hypothesis**

Our hypothesis is that while the Europeanisation of SGEIs has been developing, tendencies have emerged and they are leading to sometimes profound decentralisations or re-territorialisations of missions, objectives, forms of organisation and regulation – and therefore of break-ups of previous forms and the growing importance of the “multi-level”.

For example,

- the regionalisation of railway transport,
- the metropolisation of urban transport,
- the raising of ‘prosumers’ in electric sector in the context of the historical crossing of the cost curves of renewable energies and of centralised systems of energy production,
- the challenges of ‘desertification’ of some territories as some operators are disengaging themselves to become more cost-efficient.

More generally, tendencies to better understanding and control of challenges are developing, closer to realities, focusing on the new opportunities issued from the development of the digitalisation and promoting the democratic participation of ‘stakeholders’.

### **Methodology**

In a first stage, we may organise an **open seminar** in Thessaloniki, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, on the eve of next CIRIEC’s Congress (see: <http://www.ciriec.uliege.be/en/event-ciriec/33rd-ciriec-international-congress-thessaloniki-greece-4-6-june-2020/>).

We could exploit that occasion to take stock of the situation of the first implementation step of the project (Country reports) and to gather ideas and suggestions for the following in field analysis. To do that, we need to have at least 4/5 experts ready to present in Thessaloniki their researches and/or papers.