



GOOD JOBS FOR GOOD SERVICES?

THE IMPACT OF PRIVATISATION OF
PUBLIC SERVICES ON EMPLOYMENT,
PRODUCTIVITY AND SERVICE QUALITY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

24 April 2009, Vienna/Austria

VENUE:

Vista3
Alfred-Dallinger-Platz 1
Schlachthausgasse 28
1030 Vienna
Austria

Organised by Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle Arbeitswelt (FORBA), Vienna, within the framework of the PIQUE project funded by the European Commission, and the Vienna Chamber of Labour, in association with the Union of Salaried Private Sector Employees, Graphical Workers and Journalists, the Union vida, the Union of Municipal Employees, the Union of Employees in the Metal, Textile and Food Industries and the Union of Austrian Postal and Telecommunications Workers.

Information & registration: www.pique.at



Some strong claims have been made in recent years of the benefits to European citizens of the privatisation and liberalisation of public services in Europe. Supporters of liberalisation and privatisation have argued that the creation of public service markets at the national and European level will boost productivity, improve quality and thereby benefit both workers and consumers.

The conference takes a closer look at the outcomes of liberalisation and privatisation and related processes such as marketisation, with a specific focus on employment, working conditions, productivity, service quality and prices. It presents the main results of the three-year European research project, "Privatisation of Public Services and the Impact on Employment, Productivity and Service Quality" (PIQUE). Funded by the European Commission, the project has investigated the consequences of liberalisation and privatisation in four sectors (electricity, postal services, local public transport and healthcare/hospitals) and six countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Sweden and the UK). These findings are added to by evidence and conclusions from further research by distinguished European experts on the privatisation of network industries and health services.

The conference also aims at providing a platform for dialogue and stakeholder discussion of the political consequences. Parallel sector workshops offer opportunity for statements, comments and in-depth discussion, while a final panel brings together academic experts as well as representatives from the European Commission, the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), the Vienna Chamber of Labour and other interest organisations.

PROGRAMME

MORNING

08:30	Registration
09:00–09:15	Welcome and introduction Herbert Tumpel, President, Vienna Chamber of Labour Dominik Sobczak, European Commission, DG Research
09:15–09:30	Jörg Flecker, FORBA: Public-service liberalisation – what is at stake?
09:30–10:30	The impact on employment, productivity and the quality of services: the PIQUE results <i>Chair: Prof. Wiesława Kozek, Warsaw University</i> Christoph Hermann, FORBA: Company strategies and the impact on employment, productivity and quality Thorsten Schulten, WSI: A race to the bottom? The impact on collective bargaining and labour relations Guy van Gyes, HIVA: Liberalisation and service quality: The users' perspective
10:30–11:00	Discussion
11:00–11:30	Tea & coffee break
11:30–12:30	Research findings on network industries and health care <i>Chair: Richard Pond, London Metropolitan University</i> Allyson Pollock, University of Edinburgh: The marketisation of health care and the consequences for service quality. Findings from the NHS Massimo Florio, University of Milan: Privatisation and liberalisation of network industries in the EU: do the consumers get a welfare dividend?
12:30–13:00	Discussion
13:00–14:00	Lunch

AFTERNOON

14:00–16:30	<p>Diverse impacts of liberalisation: Sector specific developments</p> <p>Parallel workshops on 4 sectors (2 with translation, 2 in German only)</p>	
14:00-15:15	<p>Local public transport</p> <p>Jörg Flecker, FORBA/ PIQUE</p> <p>Doris Unfried, Vienna Chamber of Labour</p> <p>Sabine Trier, European Transport Workers' Federation</p>	<p>Electricity</p> <p>Christoph Hermann, FORBA/PIQUE</p> <p>Dorothea Herzele, Vienna Chamber of Labour</p> <p>Wolfgang Liebscher, Union of Salaried Private-Sector Employ- ees, Graphical Workers & Journalists</p>
15:15-16:30	<p>Hospitals</p> <p>Nils Böhlke & Thorsten Schulten, WSI/PIQUE</p> <p>Willibald Steinkellner, vida</p> <p>Sabine Oberhauser, Union of Municipal Employees</p>	<p>Postal services</p> <p>Torsten Brandt, WSI/PIQUE</p> <p>Josef Wild, works council / Österreichische Post AG</p> <p>Mathias Grandosek, Vienna Chamber of Labour</p> <p>Almst Diedrich, TNT Public Affairs</p>
16:30–17:00	Tea and coffee break	
17:00–18:30	<p>Final plenary session</p> <p><i>Chair: Jörg Flecker, FORBA</i></p> <p>Werner Stengg, European Commission, DG Internal Market</p> <p>Brian Synnott, European Federation of Public Service Unions</p> <p>Valentin Wedl, Vienna Chamber of Labour</p> <p>Michael Böheim, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)</p> <p>Jörg Huffs Schmid, University of Bremen/PRESOM</p>	
18:30	End of conference	



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HOW TO GET THERE

The conference venue is located ca.2 minutes' walk from the underground (U3), tram (18) or bus (77A, 84A)

By underground: Underground line U3 to "Schlachthausgasse"

By bus: Bus no. 77A to "Schlachthausgasse"

By tram: Tram no. 18 to "Schlachthausgasse"

From the airport:

CAT or "Schnellbahn" to "Wien Mitte",
underground line U3 to "Schlachthausgasse"



FORBA



GPA djp
GEWERKSCHAFT DER PRIVATANGESTELLTEN
DRUCK - JOURNALISMUS - PAPIER

OGB | vida

g·mtn
Gewerkschaft Metall-Textil-Nahrung



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ORGANISATION

Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle Arbeitswelt
(Working Life Research Centre - FORBA)
1020 Aspernbrückengasse 4/5
Tel. +43-1-21 24 700; Fax: +43-1-21 24 700 77

Registration via telephone, e-mail (office@forba.at) or online at
www.pique.at/conference/registration

TRANSLATION

Presentations in English or German.
Headphone translations available for all plenary sessions and two of
the workshops. Two workshops in German only.

COST

Participation in the conference is free.

Information & registration: www.pique.at



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