

Call for Papers

EURAM Public Management Strategic Interest Group Mini-Conference

on

Corporate Governance, Accounting and Accountability of State-Owned Enterprises and Agencies: Taking Stock and Next Steps in Theory and Practice

Leipzig University, Faculty of Economics and Management Science, Germany

February 19th/20th 2015

Deadline for full paper submissions for the EURAM-Mini Conference: **November 15st 2014**

Deadline for submission to the Special Issue of International Journal of Public Sector management (IJPSM):
April 1st 2015

Scientific Committee:

Denita Cepiku (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

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Key-note speakers:

Riccardo Mussari (Siena University)

Marie-Soleil Tremblay (École Nationale D'administration Publique Canada)

Round table with Sandra van Thiel (University Nijmegen), Reto Steiner (University Bern), Michèle Morner (University Speyer), Klaus Ahrend (Board Chairman HEAG Holding AG), Representative of the OECD Working Group on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises

Outline of the Call:

1. Call for Papers
2. Practicalities
3. Information about Leipzig

1. Call for Papers

Reforms in the provision of public services with new institutional arrangements have made State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) increasingly relevant in many countries (OECD 2011). SOEs are defined as enterprises where the state has significant control through full, majority, or significant minority ownership (OECD 2005a, p.11). They are often prevalent in public services of general interest, utilities and infrastructure industries whose performance is of great importance to broad segments of the population. A substantial percentage of public expenditure goes towards SOEs (OECD 2011; OECD 2005a, p.9), which demonstrates their importance for providing and managing public services and finances effectively, efficiently and sustainably (OECD 2011; OECD 2005; Florio/Fecher 2011; Whincop 2005; IFAC 2001).

Studies for different countries demonstrate the significant role of SOEs (OECD 2011, Hauth/Grossmann 2012; Avenir Suisse 2009; Obermann/Obermair/Weigel 2002). For instance, empirical studies at the local level in Germany reveal that the proportion of employees in spin-off organizational forms, compared with the core administration, has reached nearly 50%; investment amount to 54%. Debt located in SOEs and spin-off organizational forms often exceed the debt of the core administration (Bertelsmann Foundation 2013 and 2008).

Further studies stress the relevance of agencies/organizations that are structurally disaggregated from the government and operate under more businesslike conditions (Talbot 2004, Verhoest/van Thiel/Bouckaert/Lægreid 2012). According to some categorizations, SOEs are also classified as type 2 or 3 agencies (van Thiel 2012, p.20).

However, control deficits and a lack of accountability have led to discussions about what actions are appropriate in order to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of SOEs (OECD 2010). In view of these challenges, corporate governance of SOEs has become a major challenge in many economies (OECD 2005b, p.3, IFAC 2001, numeral .004; Florio/Fecher 2011, p.364; Verhoest/van Thiel/Bouckaert/Lægreid 2012).

There is a substantial body of research on the corporate governance of private - especially listed - enterprises. Corporate governance has meanwhile come to be regarded as a research discipline in its own right and is one of the most discussed management issues (Brown/Beekes/Verhoeven 2011, p.9).

In contrast, the corporate governance of SOEs and agencies has only been empirically examined to a very limited extent - despite the socio-political and economic relevance of SOEs. Though comparatively scarce, literature about the corporate governance of SOEs is in constant demand for empirical improvement. Existing studies and research projects for agencies often do not focus on the very important local governance level and on agencies, which have legal and economic independency.

Despite the time delay, the discussion about necessary improvements of corporate governance in the private sector has found its way into the public debate (OECD 2010; OECD 2005a; OECD 2005b; Whincop 2005). Central to the discourse are effective mechanisms for corporate governance and the adjustment of commercial law to apply specifically to SOEs.

For further improvements, for instance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as many public authorities, has established public corporate governance codes. The OECD working group of State-Owned Enterprises is currently revising the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises and has invited scholars and practitioners to contribute to the consultation process.¹

Leading journals for research and publication of different disciplines feature disproportionately more studies regarding the core public administration or private sector companies. Comparatively few empirical studies focus on the area between core administration and the private sector, despite empirical data show the relevance of SOEs. Moreover, it can be observed in the international research arena that the scarce research is additionally fragmented in different disciplines and groups.

For the EURAM Network, it is the aim of the Mini-Conference to provide a forum to link scholars from different interest groups such as Public Management and Corporate Governance as well as other special interests groups to the ongoing debate. In addition, the conference strives to integrate participants from the working groups of other international research organisations and disciplines working in the described field.

It is this gap that the conference is intended to address.

¹ CP. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/ca/public-consultation-guidelines-for-soes-2014.htm>.

Topics

We invite theoretical, empirical, comparative, and review papers, whether quantitative or qualitative, from scholars across disciplines on the following issues affecting (corporate) governance, accounting and accountability of State-Owned Enterprises, agencies and or outsourced public organizations with relevance for public service governance. This could be legally independent organizations/bodies (based on statutes) with managerial and economic autonomy, either based on public law or private law, private or private-law based organizations established by or on behalf of the government like a foundation or corporation, company or enterprise (government owns majority or at least a significant part of the shares), hybrid organizations, holdings, intermunicipal cooperation where different cities/public authorities own the shares etc. The focus is on all government levels, however, a special focus is put on the local governance level because empirical data here demonstrate an extraordinary importance and the biggest research gaps for this field.

- Impact of corporate governance structures, holding structures, mechanisms and reforms on accountability and performance in SOEs and agencies
- Models of Corporate Governance
- Trust and control of SOEs
- Measuring performance in hybrid organisations
- Board professionalism
- Board dynamics
- Gender diversity in the board and top-management
- Regulation and self-regulation (soft law)
- Diffusion, Quality and effects of public corporate governance codes
- Corporate Governance Reporting
- Outcome-oriented control
- Accounting practices and effects
- Audit (e.g. rotation, interaction between audit committee and internal audit)
- Holistic and integrated control of core administration and SOEs and agencies
- Financial sustainability and cutback management including SOEs and agencies
- Public service motivation, values and attitudes of public managers in SOEs
- Institutional public-private-partnerships

The goal of the conference and of the Special Issue is to advance the knowledge on a world-wide phenomenon (academic researchers, practitioners, state and local government organizations, international organisations - such as EC, IMF, WB and OECD - and rating agencies, media and the public, among others) due to its significant implications on the political, social, and economics state of affairs.

Deadline for submissions of full papers for the EURAM-Mini Conference is November 15th 2014 to Ulf Papenfuß (papenfuss@wifa.uni-leipzig.de). Notification until Nov. 30th Accepted papers will be presented at the EURAM Mini-Conference in Leipzig.

The focus is on high quality papers that potentially move the field of the conference theme.

Deadline for submission to the Special Issue of International Journal of Public Sector Management (IJPSM) **April 1st 2015** electronically to Ulf Papenfuß (papenfuss@wifa.uni-leipzig.de). The Special Issue will be guest edited by Giuseppe Grossi and Ulf Papenfuß. Those intending to submit a manuscript to the Special Issue should submit papers, written in English according to the editorial standards of the International Journal of Public Sector Management.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME:

Thursday February 19th 2015

09.00-11.00 Registration
10.00-10.30 Welcome addresses by Rector and conference convenors
10.30-12.00 Plenary with Key-note speakers
12.00-13.30 Lunch
13.30-15.00 Sessions
15.00-15.30 Coffee break
15.30-17.00 Sessions

19.30 Gala dinner

Friday February 20th 2015

9.00-10.30 Sessions
10.30-11.00 Coffee break
11.00-12.30 Round table
Final remarks
12.30-13.30 Lunch

2. Practicalities

Location of conference

University of Leipzig
Faculty of Economics and Management Science
Grimmaische Str. 12
04109 Leipzig
Germany

Map of the campus is available at <http://www.wifa.uni-leipzig.de/en/contact.html>.

The University campus can easily be reached from railway main station by foot in 10 minutes.

Attendance fee

The attendance fee of 220 EUR (PhD students 100 EUR) includes participation in the welcome buffet, two coffee-breaks, two lunches, gala dinner, beverages and conference kit. To be paid by January 31st 2015 to the following bank account:

Recipient: Hauptkasse Sachsen, Stauffenbergallee 2, 01099 Dresden

BIC: OSDD DE 81 **IBAN:** DE82 8505 0300 3153 0113 70.

Please mark your payment with name and booking code: 1715918. It is very important!

Contact person: Thilo Krieg (E-mail: krieg@wifa.uni-leipzig.de).

Accommodation

The following suggested hotels are located in the city centre. They are very close to the railway station.

– **Motel One Leipzig-Nikolaikirche** <http://www.motel-one.com/de/hotels/leipzig/>

E-mail: leipzig-nikolaikirche@motel-one.com

Prices per night: Single room: Around 69.00 EUR. Excluding breakfast.

– **Hotel Ibis Leipzig City** <http://ibishotel.ibis.com/de/hotel-1811-ibis-leipzig-city/index.shtml>

E-mail: H1811@ACCOR.COM

Prices per night: Single room: Around 57.00 EUR. Excluding breakfast.

- **Radisson Blu Leipzig** <http://www.radisson-leipzig.com>

Email: info@radisson-leipzig.com

Prices per night: Single room: Around 114.00 EUR. Including breakfast.

Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation.

Motel One you could contact by using the following code: EURAM 2015.

How to reach Leipzig

The closest airport is Leipzig/Halle Airport. Direct train connection to Leipzig railway station from Leipzig/Halle airport railway station (the journey takes around 15 minutes). Leipzig railway station is very close to the city centre and the University campus. From Berlin railway main station, you need 75 minutes to Leipzig by train.

3. Information about Leipzig

With a history going back almost 1,000 years, this Saxon metropolis has earned more than a few claims to fame – as Little Paris, Venice of the North, the city of the Peaceful Revolution or as a city of commerce. The New York Times listed Leipzig in 2010 as one of the top 10 cities to visit, calling it ‘the better Berlin’.

Leipzig has been a trade city, since the time of the Holy Roman Empire, located at the intersection of two important medieval trade routes. But Leipzig is not only known for its long fair and trade tradition but because of its multifaceted music and cultural scene. The city is associated with many famous musicians and musical institutions including Johann Sebastian Bach and the St. Thomas Boys Choir, Robert Schumann and Richard Wagner.

Owing to its unique system of passageways, the historic city centre exudes a distinctive flair. Stylish boutiques and top department stores invite visitors to shop and stroll. Most of the city’s sights are located within walking distance, e. g. the Old Town Hall, St. Nicholas Church, diverse museums and galleries.

Leipzig’s university, where Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Nietzsche and Angela Merkel studied, is located right in the heart of the city. It was founded in 1409 and is one of the oldest universities in Germany. After decades behind the iron curtain Leipzig only recently found its way back into international spotlight. The industrial centre of former East Germany now attracts thousands of tourists every year and, thanks to its thriving art scene, cheap rents, and underground parties, became a magnet for young, creative individuals.