

Quarterly THE EUSERS NETWORK

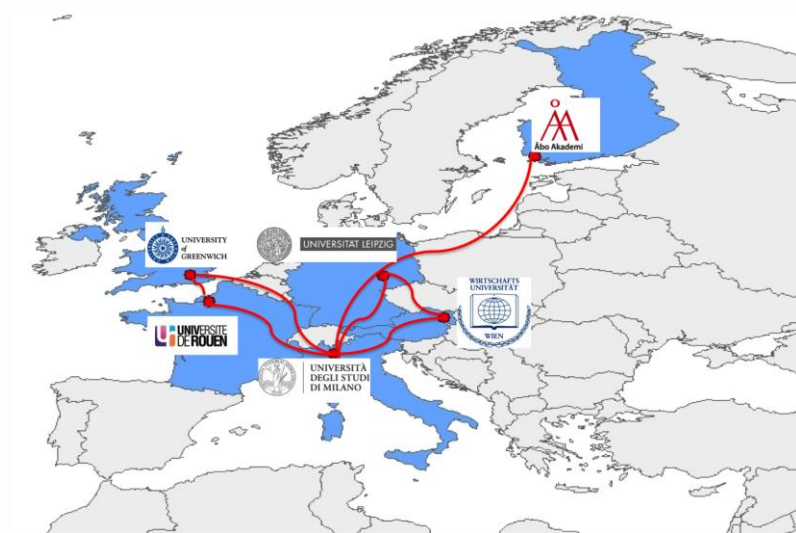
“Services of general interest in the EU: A citizens’ perspective on public versus private provision”

Co-funded by
the European Union



Six months of activities

A network of six Universities



The network is made up of six universities, including:

- [Università degli Studi di Milano \(Italy\)](#)
- [Åbo Akademi University School of Business and Economics \(Finland\)](#)
- [University of Leipzig \(Germany\)](#)
- [WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien \(Austria\)](#)
- [University of Greenwich \(UK\)](#)
- [Université de Rouen \(France\)](#)

N. 1, APRIL 2015

EUSERS MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the EUsers partners are foreseen as part of the activities of the network. The first EUsers coordination meeting took place on 23rd of October 2014.

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XIV MILAN EUROPEAN ECONOMY WORKSHOP

A workshop on Major public enterprises is going to take place at the University of Milan on 25-26th of June 2015.

3

THE CALL FOR PAPERS

The EUsers network has launched a new call for papers with the aim of collecting and capitalising the knowledge on SGI and specific related issues

3

SEMINARS SERIES

The series of 45 seminars was launched on 12th of December 2014. A first round of seminars has been organised in Rouen, Milan, Leipzig and Wien.

4

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

A new course in European regulatory economics has been organised by the University of Milan as part of the EUsers’ activities.

5

“EUsers: A reference point in the European Union on public services within high education.”

The birth of the EUsers network

In July 2014, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission has awarded the project ‘Services of general interest in the EU: A citizens’ perspective on public versus private provision (EUsers)’.

The objective of the EUsers is to encourage the diffusion of innovative teaching approaches, applied research and policy debate on services of general interest in the European Union from a citizens’ perspective, by creating a network of six universities.

Started on the 1st of September 2014, the EUsers will involve a series of activities – seminars, summer school, workshops, coordination meetings, e-book publications – over a period of three years (until 31.08.2017).

The EUsers network’s activities will focus mainly on network SGI such as – for instance – energy, telecommunications, transport and environmental services.

After six months from its starting (1. 09. 2014), the EUsers network has delivered the following activities:

- ✓ The first *Coordination meeting* was organized in Milan to launch the activities of the network.
- ✓ A meeting was held in Milan between the team of the University of Milan and the Project Manager of Jean Monnet Programme.
- ✓ The series of *45 seminars* was launched on 12th of December 2014.
- ✓ A [website](#) has been created to disseminate the EUsers activities and to share papers and materials.
- ✓ The first Workshop (out of the two planned) is scheduled in Milan on 25-26th of June 2015.



EUSERS MEETINGS

The first EUsers coordination meeting

The first Coordination meeting of the EUsers network took place on the *23rd of October 2014*. During the meeting, the six Universities discussed in details the activities that will be implemented over the three academic years (September 2014 - August 2017), including the organization of 45 seminars, a summer school, two workshops, a second Coordination Meeting, the launch of the website and the publication of the e-book.

Also, the six Universities briefly illustrated the kind of teaching courses which will be involved in the EUsers programme of activities. They agreed to involve as many students as possible (e.g. undergraduate students, PhD students, post-doctorate) as well as representatives from civil society and policy makers during all the activities. They are committed to ensure multidisciplinary synergies among academic disciplines in the EUsers' activities. In carrying out these activities, synergies with the [CIRIEC](#) network will be explored.

The next Coordination meeting is scheduled in June 2015 in Milan during the first workshop organized by the EUsers network.

EUsers network meets the EACEA officer in Milan

On the *25th of November 2014*, a meeting was held in Milan between the team of the University of Milan and Ms Piedad Rivas - Project Manager of Jean Monnet Programmes at EACEA.

During the meeting, the Project coordinator - Prof. Massimo Florio (from the University of Milan) - presented the six universities of the EUsers network, the objectives to be achieved and the activities planned. Also, preliminary structure of the website was showed and discussed with the participants of the meeting.

EUsers network meets the EACEA officer in Brussels

A new meeting between EUsers network and EACEA officers took place in Brussels on 22nd January, 2015.

Prof. Massimo Florio (University of Milan) met Maria Victoria de Yturriaga Saldanha, the new Project Manager - since January 2015 - of the Erasmus +, Jean Monnet Programme.

During the meeting, the timeplan of the EUsers activities was discussed. Prof. Florio announced the launch of the seminar series and of the website.

XIV MILAN EUROPEAN ECONOMY WORKSHOP

Major Public Enterprises in a global perspective 25-26th of June 2015

Annually organized by the University of Milan, the *European Economy Workshop* - in view of its XIV edition - will focus on the activities of the EUsers network.

In particular, it will present preliminary knowledge developed on the empirical analysis of the different mode of provision of services of general interest, with a specific focus on public providers.

The aim is to contribute to a systematic analysis, country by country, on some key research questions:

- *What is the extent of the survival or expansion of the public enterprise (PE) in a global perspective, particularly as far as large enterprises are concerned?*

- *Who are the major players at national and international level?*
- *How do they perform? How is the control of government implemented?*
- *What is the mission assigned by governments to the major players?*
- *To what extent are PE of national significance transforming themselves in multinationals?*

The workshop is organized in collaboration with [CIRIEC](#) network and will take the form of an in-depth discussion of a set of invited papers.

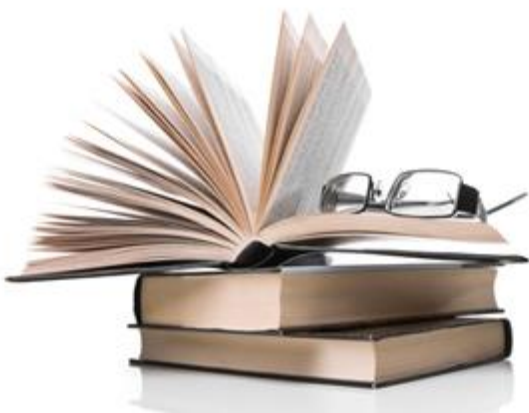
Around 20 country papers will be presented. Key note speakers will be:

- Anders Berg, *OECD*
- Richard Kozul-Wright, *UNCTAD*

For more info, visit the [EUsers website](#).



THE CALL FOR PAPERS



Major Public Enterprises: Country Analysis and Policy Trends
Submission by 30th of April, 2015

The EUsers network periodically launches call for papers with the aim of collecting and capitalising the knowledge on SGI and specific related issues. Selected papers will be disseminated through publications.

In view of the XIV Milan European Economy Workshop, the EUsers network has launched a call for paper aimed at collecting *country analysis* of the role and performance of major public enterprise (PE), and the policy trends about the current relationships between government and PE.

The country papers will be focused on PEs having at least a national scope of operations, and/or an international dimension. It will identify the major PEs in the country, discuss their performance (particularly during years after 2000 and the Great Recession of 2008), current policy trends and future perspectives.

SEMINARS SERIES

The series of 45 seminars was launched on 12th of December, 2014.

The first seminar of the EUsers network has been organized by Prof. Philippe Bance at the *University of Rouen (France)*. The seminar opened with a brief presentation of the EUsers, its objective, partners and activities planned. It discussed about the liberalisation and the need for the evaluation of services of general interests. Speaker: Pierre Bauby (Président de RAP)

On February 19-20th, 2015, the *University of Leipzig* organized the [EURAM-Conference](#) on "Corporate Governance, Accounting and Accountability of State Owned Enterprises and Agencies: taking Stock and Next Steps in Theory and Practice".



EURAM Conference – Leipzig, 19-20th of February, 2015

A seminar was organized by the *University of Wien*:

- Provision of Services of General Interest and the Role of Public Auditing, 25th of March, 2015. Speaker: Mr. Karl F. Jaros, Austrian Court of Audit (ACA).

Two seminars have been organised by the *University of Milan*.

- [Investments and regulations in the water sector](#), 27th of February 2015. Speaker: Prof. Alberto Cavaliere
- [Public enterprise in Italy from an historical perspective](#), 25th of February, 2015. Speaker: Prof. Giuseppe Bognetti

A second seminar has been organized by the *University of Rouen*:

- [The European postal sector liberalisation and its effects on the strategy of firms](#), 17th of April, 2015. Speakers: Benoit Camguilhem (*University of Rouen*), Denis Joram (*La Poste group*),



Deregulation and need of evaluation for SGI – Rouen, seminar 12th of December 2014. .



Public enterprise in Italy from an historical perspective – Milan, seminar 25th of February, 2015.



Investments and regulations in the water sector – Milan, seminar 27th of February, 2015.

FORCOMING SEMINAR:

- ✓ WATER RE-MUNICIPALISATION AS A NEW FORM OF PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Organised by the University of Greenwich (UK). 28th of April, 2015. For more info, download "[Final 2nd What future for England's water](#)"

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

As part of the EUsers teaching activities, the University of Milan has organised a new course in '[European regulatory economics](#)' (ERE) (January-March, 2015).

The course was built on the knowledge acquired during Prof. Florio Jean Monnet Chair "Ad Personam" of "European Union Industrial Policy".

It focused on SGI, in particular network industries and on the interplay between provision and regulation.

The objective of the course was an introduction in economics and policy of network industries in the European Union.

The reform paradigm that was discussed includes privatization, vertical disintegration, price regulation and liberalization.

The sectors considered include *electricity, gas and telecoms*

The course was held by Prof. Florio and Prof. Chiara Del Bo.

It was structured into the following three modules:

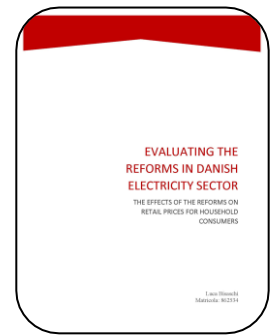
1. Economics of regulation
2. The policies
3. Country case studies.

During the third module, students have been divided into groups and asked to perform a country analysis of reforms in the sectors considered.

Country reports prepared by students included:

- A brief discussion of the national context, highlighting the features relevant for subsequent analysis in the period and the relevant sector.
- Presentation of the characteristics of the sector in the country, examining the supply and demand for the service, also from the technological point.
- Changes in consumer prices over time, for different types of user.
- Development of sector reforms.
- Comparative analysis of price trends, reforms and other factors that may have an impact on prices, with any hints to consumer satisfaction.
- Conclusions

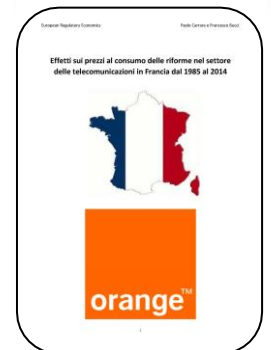
The most interesting country reports have been published on the EUsers website (see section [Students club](#)).



Electricity - Denmark



Gas - Netherlands



Telecommunication - France



European regulatory economics - Classroom

EUsers contacts

PROJECT COORDINATOR

[Prof. Massimo Florio](#)

University of Milan (Italy)

E-mail: massimo.florio@unimi.it

Website: <http://www.massimoflorio.com>

PROJECT OFFICER

Michela Argenti

University of Milan (Italy)

Phone: +39 02503 21527

E-mail: michela.argenti@unimi.it

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

[Prof. Massimo Florio](#) (University of Milan)

[Prof. Philippe Bance](#) (Université de Rouen)

[Prof. Jane Lethbridge](#) (University of Greenwich)

[Prof. Gabriel Obermann](#) (WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien)

[Prof. Ulf Papenfuss](#) (Universität Leipzig)

[Prof. Johan Willner](#) (Åbo Akademi University School of Business and Economics)

Project info

- ✓ *Funding scheme:* Lifelong Learning Programme
- ✓ *Action:* Jean Monnet Network Creation and development of consortia of international players in the area of European Union studies.
- ✓ Project Leader: University of Milan (Italy)
- ✓ Duration: 1.08.2014 - 31.08.2017
- ✓ EUsers website: <http://users.unimi.it/eusers/>

PARTNERS



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



UNIVERSITY
of
GREENWICH



UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

