

I. Summary of the comprehensive research program and main activities in 2018

The previous comprehensive research project of the MTA-DE Public Service Research Group examined a wide range of public services delivered at local and regional level including those public functions which are not ‘local’ in a strict sense but have implications for public service provision in a subnational context. The new comprehensive program titled “*Reassessment of State Roles in the Regulation of Services*“ extended the scope of the research to public services and certain non-(not fully) liberalized service sectors (energy, telecommunication, network industries, certain social service sectors etc.) organized and delivered at central level, and focuses on changes of regulatory functions at different level of governance. Our hypothesis is that the role of states/national governments, in various forms, has been strengthened in the services sectors of current market economies. By the end of 2018, the [results](#) of the research group have been published in thematically focused academic volumes, book chapters and several journal articles (five books and a total of 136 papers). These are already cited more than a total of 370 times in other works.

In 2018, we have taken further steps for strengthening and extending our domestic and international relations and other professional networks in order to improve the opportunities for dissemination of the project results of previous years. We have also published or at least completed the manuscript of sectoral studies and concept papers elaborating the theoretical fundamentals and methodological framework for subsequent international comparative analysis.

II. Remarkable research and other results in 2018

II/1. Remarkable research results

A) As results of the research in the project this year, [17 papers](#) (book chapters or academic journal articles) have been published by the research group members and others ([3 books and 23 papers](#)) are in the process of publication. Sectoral studies have been prepared in the field of energy market regulation, electronic and telecommunication, and social services. One member of the research group successfully completed her habilitation procedure, mainly on the basis of her individual research results in the framework of the research group’s comprehensive project. As from 2018 September, altogether seven PhD students continue their research under the supervision of one of the research group members in a topic closely linked to the focus of our current comprehensive research program (one of these students already completed the first draft his doctoral dissertation). In the framework of a university students’ research college established at the University of Debrecen in 2016, undergraduate students are also actively involved in the work of the project.

As for 2018, the [comprehensive volume](#) of the project's results (published in 2016) has been the (either compulsory or recommended) learning material for several MA or PhD courses of Hungarian higher education institutions, in subjects like management studies, administration or comparative public administration.

II/2. Science and society

A) Apart from paper-based results, our interactive profiles (academic internet blogs), established in 2015, have been continued to operate this year as well, in order to widen updated communication between the group and the wider professional audience, especially focused on questions and challenges to be examined in the new comprehensive project. Both the Hungarian kozjapak.hu and the independent (not simply translated) English language version (publicgoods.eu), as well as their social media (facebook) profiles serve, by taking advantages of electronic communication, as forums for disseminating the research results of the project in a more effective way. On the average an article (blog post) was read by more than 1000 visitors, the most interesting texts were read by more than twelve thousand people. The independent [English language facebook profile](#) has been developed in 2018 and already attracted a large number of visitors and ‘sharing’ for the publicgoods.eu blog.

B) A more traditional website directly about the activities of the research group is also working. Most of the descriptive information is available [in English](#). An academia.edu professional network profile is also operated for the research group.

C) The research group also operates the web based and open access [Közjapak](#) semi-annual journal (ISSN 2498-7190) and [Public Goods & Governance](#) quarterly journal (ISSN 2498-6453). Both *Közjapak* and *PG&G* include articles, shorter notes and commentaries based on theoretically and empirically grounded research and experiences with a focus and content similar to that of the interactive profiles. In 2018, most articles of *PG&G* have been authored by researchers from other (European or non-European) countries, presenting their research results focused on government functions in market and non-market economies economics in a wide range of sectors. This way the journal’s content serves as a basis for further international comparative analysis with our project results. Both journals are ranked (as category of ‘D’ journals) in the official [list of academic journals](#) of the Hungarian Academic Sciences (HAS).

D) The ‘Public Law subcommittee’ of the HAS is lead by the head of the research group and other two research group members are also active in the management of the subcommittee’s operation. Workshops and roundtable discussions organized in the framework of the subcommittee also contributed to the dissemination of the research group’s the results in 2018 (in form of journal article publications as well).

III. Domestic and international relations in 2018

A) As a result of the [COST Action IS 1207](#) international project of the EU Horizont 2020 Framework Program titled ‘Local Public Sector Reforms: *An International Comparison* (LocRef)’, a volume released in 2018 by the Palgrave Macmillan publisher, containing one chapter authored by the head of the research group. Besides, the head of the research group also took part in workshops held in Riga, Tallinn and Zagreb, organized by the European Commission, the European Law Institute (ELI) and the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdiction of the European Union [ACA]. The participant of these events discussed the recent challenges of company and financial law, regulatory issues of corporate governance, as well as judicial protection before administrative courts. The research group also takes part in the activities of the UACES Collaborative Research Network on Effective Enforcement of EU Law and Policy (<https://www.euenforcement.com/>). In the framework of this collaboration, one member of the research group held a presentation on the enforcement problems of EU Member States’ obligations in the field of services of general interests (SGEIs) in the UACES 48th Annual Conference in Bath in 2018. The members of the research group, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Debrecen, also organized three international workshops for young researchers to

discuss recent challenges of public sector governance and regulation in Europe and beyond. A part of these presentations have already been published in our *PG&G* journal, others are in the process of publication.

As regards our domestic relations, we also continued the collaboration in data collection and other empirical research (especially focusing on social services) with another research group focusing on the quality and effective financing methods of local public services.

IV. Other domestic and international projects in 2018

The research group members has been also involved in other academic projects this year. One of them, focused on the challenges and recent trends in governance resource management, and another one which examined these issues in relation to local governments (both financed by the Public Administration and Development Operational Programme) have been completed this year. As a result, 7 academic volumes are forthcoming and other papers have already been published in several domestic and international journal articles. As from 2018, the research group has been also involved in another academic project, focusing on ownership structure of public or publicly owned companies, financed by the Hungarian Ministry of Justice.

V. Most relevant publications in 2018

(For the original title of items No. 4–8, see the Hungarian version of the research report)

1. Horváth, T. M. (2018): Evaluation of an Anti-Monopoly Programme in Hungarian Public Utilities. In: Koprić, I.–Wollmann, H.–Marcou, G. (eds.) *Evaluating Reforms of Local Public and Social Services in Europe. More Evidence for Better Results*. London: Palgrave Macmillan pp. 279–296. <http://real.mtak.hu/90889/>
2. Horváth, T. M.–Bartha, I. (2018): EU-Compatible State Measures and Member States Interests in Public Services: Lessons from the Case of Hungary. *INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REVIEW* 16:(1-2) pp. 99–121 <http://real.mtak.hu/90894/>
3. Bartha, I. (2018): Public Services Exemptions in EU Trade Agreements. In: Horváth M. T. et al (szerk.) *Európai uniós erőforrások és tagállami államháztartás* [EU Resource Management and National Public Finances], 168–185. Bp.: Dialóg Campus (forthcoming) <http://real.mtak.hu/90904/>
4. Bordás, P. (2018): ‘Smart taxation’ Opportunities in the Hungarian Tax System. *KÖZJOGI SZEMLE* 11:(3) pp. 47–52. <http://real.mtak.hu/90883/>
5. Lovas, D. (2018): EU State Aid Regulation in the Energy Sector. *EURÓPAI JOG* 18:(2) pp. 24–31. <http://real.mtak.hu/90885/>
6. Haitas, D. (2018): Eurasian Integration and Ukraine. *JOG-ÁLLAM-POLITIKA* 10:(2) pp. 179–192. <http://real.mtak.hu/90899/>
7. Bordás, P. (2018): Fiscal Decentralization in Hungary. *CURRENTUL JURIDIC* 21:(4) pp. 88–96. <http://real.mtak.hu/90896/>
8. Horváth, T. M. –Szilágyi, J. E.–Bartha, I. (2018): Values and Interests in Water Policy and Regulation. *KÖZJOGI SZEMLE* 11:(3) pp. 14–19. <http://real.mtak.hu/90876/>