

I. Summary of the comprehensive research program and main activities between 01.01.2019–31.08.2019

The comprehensive research project of the MTA-DE Public Service Research Group titled “*Reassessment of State Roles in the Regulation of Services*“ focuses on 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. By 31th August 2019, the results of the research group have been published in thematically focused academic volumes, book chapters and several journal articles (seven books and a total of 149 papers). These are already cited more than a total of 400 times in other works (source: [MTMT 2](#)).

Our hypothesis is that the role of states/national governments, in various forms, has been strengthened in the services sectors of current market economies. We also state that the extension of the scope of Member States’ influence can be derived consciously from the EU legal framework and the judicial practice themselves. *The main scientific result* in that phase of the comprehensive project is that we were able to prove the above hypothesis by applying quantitative research method. The analysis and the results are described in the paper of Bartha, I.–Horváth, T. M. (2019), accepted for publication in the *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law* (to be published in No. 1/2020 Issue).

II. Remarkable research and other results between 01.01.2019–31.08.2019

II/1. Remarkable research results

A) As results of the research in the project this year, *two books and 10 papers* (book chapters or academic journal articles in English or Hungarian) have been published by the research group members, others are also in the process of publication. *International comparative studies* on the impact of EU-level regulation on services of general interest have been completed. *Sectoral studies* have been prepared in the field of media services, broadcasting and social inclusion. In 2019, altogether seven PhD students continue(d) their research (closely linked to the focus of our current comprehensive research program) under the supervision of the research group leader and another research group member. One of these students, also a member of the research group, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation (July 2019).

We also continued the collaboration with another domestic research project focusing, as decisive factors of competitiveness at the local level, on the quality and financing methods of local public services. In 2019, our research group obtained access to a complex database (containing up-to-date citizen survey results) developed in the framework of this project. Based on this dataset and the results of international comparative analyses, we are currently working on empirical studies to be published as academic journal articles.

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 up-dated communication between the group and the wider professional audience. Both the

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Hungarian kozjavak.hu and the English language version with individual (i.e. not simply translated) content (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. The most popular Hungarian texts were read by more than 14.000, the most interesting English posts by almost 5.000 people. In 2019 the content of both websites have been extended with an additional subpage respectively, focusing on the challenges of consumer protection in market economies. The research group also operates the web based and open access *Közjavak* semi-annual journal (ISSN 2498-7190) and *Public Goods & Governance* quarterly journal (ISSN 2498-6453). Both journals 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.

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 by the research group. Academic review about one of our volume, discussing challenges of regulation and management in public finance, was also published in a high ranking journal this year.

C) The 'Public Law subcommittee' of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) is lead by the head of the research group. Other two research group members are also active in the management of the subcommittee's working program and operation. Workshops and virtual discussion platforms organized by the subcommittee also contributed to the dissemination of the research group's results in 2019.

III. Domestic and international relations between 01.01.2019–31.08.2019

The head of the research group took part in a workshop discussing the regulatory challenges of artificial intelligence (held in Helsinki and organized by the Council of Europe). One member of the research group took part in another international workshop (funded by the European Commission and organized by the HAS Institute for Legal Studies) focusing on the application of EU state aid rules by national courts. She also held presentations in two international conferences (conference on „*Rule of Law Challenges in the EU: Implications for Economic Law*” in Budapest organized by the HAS Institute for Legal Studies and the Centre for Antitrust and Regulatory Studies of the University of Warsaw; and „*Transylvanian International Conference in Public Administration*” in Cluj organized by the Public Administration and Management Department of the Babes-Bolyai University, Romania) on the problems of implementation of EU Member States' obligations related to EU rules on services of general interest. The research group also takes part in the activities of the UACES Collaborative Research Network on Effective Enforcement of EU Law and Policy. The members of the research group, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law and Political Studies of the University of Debrecen, also organized an international workshops for young researchers to discuss their research findings concerning public sector governance and regulation in Europe and other parts of the world.

IV. Other domestic and international projects between 01.01.2019–31.08.2019

The research group members has been also involved in other academic projects this year. One of them, focusing on the role and regulation of public or publicly owned companies in Europe

and the United States (carried out by the Faculty of Law and Political Studies of the University of Debrecen and financed by the Ministry of Justice of Hungary) has been completed this year. The results of the international comparison have published in an academic volume containing twenty country studies and two additional chapters on the theoretical and regulatory background of the research authored (i.e. the last two) by the head and another member of the research group.

As from 2019 April, the research group members are also participating in another project of the Faculty of Law and Political Studies of the University of Debrecen (financed by the Ministry of Justice of Hungary). The project is focused on the links between consumer protection and regulatory issues of public services, highlighting the different understandings of society interests in market economies. The expected results of the project are two thematic issues of academic journals (*Közjavak* and *Public Goods & Governance*) to be published next Spring both in electronic and printed forms, as well as a virtual academic dialogue (blogposts and reflections in an organized form) already started and to be continued on the kozszoig.kut and publicgoods.eu websites.

V. Most relevant publications between 01.01.2019–31.08.2019

(For the original title of items No. 2–4, and No. 6–9 see the Hungarian version of the report)

1. Bartha, I.–Horváth, T. M. (2019) Does Not It Matter? Widening of Derogation for Services of General Interests. *MAASTRICHT JOURNAL OF EUROPEAN AND COMPARATIVE LAW* (forthcoming) <http://real.mtak.hu/103817>
2. Bartha, I. (2019): *Higher Education in the European Union. National Competences versus Supranational Commitments*. Debrecen: DUPress, p. 162 <http://real.mtak.hu/103653/>
3. Bordás P. (2019) A 'Watershed' in Local Government Finance. Debrecen: DUPress, p. 228 <http://real.mtak.hu/93858/>
4. Horváth, T. M. (2019): 'Flow' and 'Stock' Dimensions in Utility Fee Regulation. Understanding Charges and Portfolio Management in Context. In: Halász, Zs. (ed.) *Magistra et Fautrix – Halustyik Anna emlékére* [In Memoriam Anna Halustyik]. Budapest: Pázmány Press pp. 183–202. <http://real.mtak.hu/103737>
5. Haitas, D. (2019) Aspects of Hungary-Russia Energy Relations in the Context of European Union Law. *JURA* 24:(2018/2) pp. 368–377. <http://real.mtak.hu/103820/>
6. Bordás, P. (2019) Liberalisation of Electronic Communication Services in Europe. A Changing Regulatory Environment. *EURÓPAI JOG* 19:(3) pp. 17–27. <http://real.mtak.hu/103617/>
7. Horváth, T. M. (2019) State-Owned Companies in Market Economies. In: Szikora, V. (ed.) *Állami vállalatok nemzetközi összehasonlításban* [Public Undertakings in International Comparison]. Budapest: Magyar Közlöny Lap- és Könyvkiadó. pp. 459–485. <http://real.mtak.hu/103742>
8. Bordás, P. (2019) 'Smart taxation' as a Core of a 'Sustainable' Tax Regime. *IUSTUM AEQUUM SALUTARE*. 15:(3) pp. 17–25. <http://real.mtak.hu/103652/>
9. Bartha, I. – Lovas, D. (2019) Fiscal Policies and Financial Regulations in the European Union. *JOG-ÁLLAM-POLITIKA* 10:(2018/4) pp. 163–178. <http://real.mtak.hu/103735>
10. Haitas, D. (2019) Observations with regards to China's relations with Romania and Moldova. *LEX ET SCIENTIA INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL*. 25:(2018/2) pp. 105–115 <http://real.mtak.hu/103736/>