

I. Summary of the five-year research program and main activities in 2017

The comprehensive five and half year project (2012–2017) of the MTA-DE Public Service Research Group (hereinafter: previous comprehensive project) examined a wide range of public services delivered at local and regional level. Beyond these local public services in a strict sense, the research also spread on those public functions (on central, European Union level or even being independent from territorial aspects) which have implications for public service provision in a subnational context. In doing so, we were focusing among others on public utilities, social services, administrative services and education issues. The [results](#) have been published in thematically focused academic volumes and several journal articles (five books and a total of 119 papers). These are already cited more than a total of 350 times in other works.

On the one hand, in the framework of our previous comprehensive project, the dissemination of the 'encyclopaedia' (the [comprehensive volume](#) of the project's results, published in 2016) have been scheduled for the first half year of 2017. We have also taken crucial steps for strengthening and extending our international relations and other professional networks in order to improve the opportunities for dissemination of the project results. The research group's interactive profiles have been further developed in order to keep under discussion the main research questions and topical issues scrutinized by the project.

On the other hand, we have also launched our next five year project titled „*Reassessment of State Roles in the Regulation of Services*“. Our research is primarily focuses on the main public service sectors organized at central level, as well as on certain other, non-(not fully) liberalized service sectors. Based on the theoretical framework originating in the previous comprehensive project, our underlying conception is that the content and management frameworks for public functions have been gradually transformed in the developed countries since the early 2000s, also in line with the main trends in the European integration process. There is a tendency of extending state roles and various forms of public involvement in the regulation of services, however, the ways and degrees of such "back to the public" trends varies, sector by sector. Thus, the aim of our new comprehensive project – much more than the former territorial aspect – is to explore the (sector-specific) changes in the regulatory functions at different levels of governance. In that beginning phase of the project, we elaborated the conceptual fundamentals, as well as the main criteria and methodological framework for subsequent international comparative analysis.

II. Remarkable research and other results in 2017

II/1. Remarkable research results

A) As a result of research in the project this year, 24 papers (book chapters or academic journal articles) have been published by the research group members and others are in the process of publication.

B) As regards the progress of young researchers, 2017 was also a fruitful year. Mainly based on the work within the comprehensive research, one [PhD thesis](#) has been successfully defended and another PhD student started his PhD research under the supervision of a research group member in a topic closely linked to the focus of our new project. A university students' research college (established in 2016) is also operating at the Faculty of Political and

Legal Studies, University of Debrecen. The members of the college are actively involved in the work of the project and, through operating our interactive profiles and taking part in other professional forums, they also plays a decisive role in the dissemination of project results.

II/2. Science and society

A) Apart from paper-based results, our interactive profiles, established in 2015, have been further developed this year in order to widen up-dated 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 kozjavadoc.hu and the independent (not simply translated) English language version (publicgoods.eu) are focused on recent changes of government functions in market economies (in Hungary, as well as in other European and non-European countries). On the average an article was read by almost 1000 visitors, the most interesting texts were read by more than twelve thousand people. In 2017 the content of these websites have been further extended with subpages discussing specific topics such as local government, environment and energy or public interest. 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.

B) The research group also operates the web based and open access [Közjavadoc](#) semi-annual journal (ISSN 2498-7190) and [Public Goods & Governance](#) quarterly journal (ISSN 2498-6453). Both *Közjavadoc* 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. This year, both journals have been ranked in the official [list of academic journals](#) of the Hungarian Academic Sciences (HAS) with the category of 'D' and their registration process for the international 'Scopus' journal database is ongoing, as well.

C) Our papers are regularly published in the professional periodical journal of "*Jegyző és közigazgatás*" [Municipal Chief Administrative Officers and Public Administration], which is disseminated among chief administrative officers of the Hungarian municipalities and has got a higher rank of category 'B' in the academic journal list of the HAS this year.

D) The 'Public Law subcommittee' of the HAS is lead by the head of the research group and its operation is managed by another research group member. The aim of that organization is to strengthen ties and interactions between different public-law related disciplines by discussing questions and topics which are complex enough to go beyond the research areas of the 'traditional' legal branches. This subcommittee is an important forum for dissemination of academic research results in its profile (the results of our research group among them).

III. Domestic and international relations in 2017

A) This year, the head of the research group took also part in the [COST Action IS 1207](#) international project of the EU titled 'Local Public Sector Reforms: *An International Comparison* (LocRef)'. (The cooperation resulted in 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 Hull, Dublin and Vienna, organized by the European Commission and the European Law Institute (in collaboration with other institutions). The participant of these events discussed the recent regulatory challenges linked to EU state aid rules, as well as EU company and financial law.

The head and another member of the research group also held presentations in an international conference in Budapest, titled '*Public Services and Autonomies in the Member States of the European Union*' organized by the Eötvös Lóránt University, in collaboration with the University of Maribor and the Lex Localis publisher. The research group also joined the newly established UACES Collaborative Research Network on Effective Enforcement of EU Law and Policy (<https://www.euenforcement.com/>). Within that collaboration, our research focuses on the challenges and threats for the effective enforceability of the EU Member States' obligations in the field of services of general interests (SGEIs). The research will be presented in international workshops and conferences (the first one will be held in 2018 September).

IV. Other domestic and international projects in 2017

The research group members has been also involved in other academic projects this year. One of them, focused on transparency issues in the management of public resources and financed by the Hungarian Ministry of Justice, has been completed this year. The results were published in an academic volume (including 7 chapters authored by our research group members), and presented in a research report (in length of 1480 thousand character) as well as in the [closing conference](#). Academic journal articles (both in Hungarian and international journals) were also published in the framework of another project, which is financed by the Public Administration and Development Operational Programme and examines the challenges and recent trends in governance resource management. This year, we also started to collaborate, especially in data collection and other empirical research, with another research group focusing on the quality and effective financing methods of local public services.

V. Most relevant publications in 2016

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

1. Gajduschek, Gy.–Horváth, T. M.–Jugovits, K. (2017): Hungarian Public Administration: Last Thirty Years.... In: Kovač, P. et al (eds.) *Public Administration Reforms in Eastern European Union Member States*. Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana Faculty of Administration. pp. 237–301. real.mtak.hu/74604/, ebooks.mruni.eu/
2. Bartha, I. (2017): The External Side of Parliamentary Democracy. *HUNGARIAN YEARBOOK OF INT. LAW AND EUROPEAN LAW*. pp. 449–473 real.mtak.hu/49103/
3. Bartha, I. (2017): University Autonomy in the European Multi-level Governance System. In : Brezovnik, B. et al (eds.) *Public Services and Autonomies in the Member States of the European Union*. Maribor: Lex Localis (forthcomming) real.mtak.hu/74520/
4. Bordás, P. (2017): Evaluation of the Support Scheme for Local Governments in Hungary. *KÖZJOGI SZEMLE* 10:(2) pp. 56–64. real.mtak.hu/74496/
5. Bartha, I. (2017): Regulation of Transfer of Agricultural Lands in the EU and Hungary. *JOGTUDOMÁNYI KÖZLÖNY* 72:(9) pp. 409–413. real.mtak.hu/74495/
6. Bartha, I. (2017) Relationship between Public and Private Law Enforcement. Analysis and Discussion. *BELÜGYI SZEMLE* 65:(5) pp. 25–41. real.mtak.hu/74521/
7. Bordás, P. (2017): Changes in Regulation of Local Public Services in Hungary and their Financial Implication *JEGYZŐ ÉS KÖZIGAZGATÁS* XIX: (3) pp. 12–15. real.mtak.hu/74522/
8. Bartha, I. (2017) Discussion on the Law and Regulation on Administrative justice in Hungary. *MAGYAR TUDOMÁNY* 178:(9) pp. 1084–1087. real.mtak.hu/74493/