

CEEP – Serving the public

ACTRAV Symposium

**Session: “Defending and extending public services
and public enterprises”**

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CEEP: Short introduction

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- ▶ **European organisation founded in 1961**
- ▶ **Representing public service employers' and providers of Services of General Interest in Europe**
- ▶ **1 of 3 general cross-industry European Social Partners together with BUSINESSEUROPE and ETUC**
- ▶ **CEEP members are enterprises and authorities from the EU, Norway and Turkey (associated member) providing Services of General Interest, whatever their legal ownership or status. In addition, few sectoral members**

Public services in Europe: Main results of two “Mapping of the Public Services” projects (I)

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- ▶ **Public services are key for Europe’s economy:**
 - **Employ around 30% of the workforce**
 - **Responsible for more than €500 bln of investments**
 - **Directly contributing to 26,6% to the EU Gross Value Added or around €3000 billion**

Public services in Europe: Main results of two “Mapping of the Public Services” projects (II)

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- ▶ **Public services also provide the physical and social infrastructure of Europe:**
 - Contribution to European society far greater than their monetary value. Good health and education have far-reaching impacts on individuals and society
 - Promote a socially cohesive and inclusive society by providing accessible, affordable and high-quality services which help reduce poverty and enable people to enter the labour market
 - Support the growth and prosperity of the private sector

Public services in Europe: Some trends and challenges

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- ▶ **Modernisation of public services: Ongoing restructuring processes to improve performance of public services**
- ▶ **Liberalisation and increasing competition:**
 - Some sectors more concerned
 - Have impacted on employment and working conditions
- ▶ **Change in the nature and of the demand: For instance need to adapt to demographic and societal change in the provision of services**
- ▶ **Security of future investment and financing**

Public services in Europe: The ongoing crisis

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- ▶ **Current and future economic context following the crisis brings with it pressure on governments to constrain public expenditure**
- ▶ **At the same time citizens expect higher quality of services**
- ▶ **Crisis have impacted on countries differently: Under the pressure to reduce public expenditure, public services adjustments include cuts in expenditure, jobs, wages, working conditions, structural reforms**
- ▶ **“Doing more with less resources”: Crisis increased this trend**

Public services in Europe: CEEP's response to crisis adjustments

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- ▶ CEEP can understand the necessity in some circumstances behind fiscal consolidation measures introduced in many Member States, however axing essential public services is not the way forward to restoring growth
- ▶ Before deciding to make cuts in public budgets, all options for recovering assets hidden from taxation should be thoroughly implemented
- ▶ Investments to stimulate growth and employment creation are also essential, because austerity measures alone will not solve all Europe's problems
- ▶ Restructuring must be handled in a long-term sustainable way: Need to anticipate restructuring even higher
- ▶ There is a clear need to involve the social partners in the process and the planning of reforms in order to avoid negative effects

Public services in Europe: Short conclusions

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- ▶ **The social impact of the crisis is being felt heavily:**
 - Unemployment rates remain historically high
 - Youth unemployment levels in many countries at unsustainable levels
 - Growing divergence in employment and social outcomes between Member States
- ▶ **The essential role of public services such as social and health care services, housing and energy supply in combating poverty and social exclusions is unquestionable**
- ▶ **The ILO has an important role in supporting high quality public services**

Thank you for your attention!

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