

**German Section of CIRIEC**  
**(Bundesverband Öffentliche Dienstleistungen),**  
**activities 2014-2016**

---

## **Events**

### **1. Annual events of the BVÖD**

Together with the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Bündnis TTIPunfairHandelbar, BVÖD hosted a full-day conference in Berlin, on 26 November 2014, on the subject of planned Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and the USA: *“TTIP: Gefahr oder Chance? Wie schaffen wir eine gerechte Handelspolitik?”* (“TTIP: Risk or Opportunity? How do we set up a fair trade policy?”). This event was the occasion to explore and explain the TTIP as well as aspects of the CETA and TiSA Agreements.

Following through on the rotational BVÖD Members' Meeting of 29 October 2015, Berlin was the venue of the annual BVÖD conference on “Protection and Financing of Public Infrastructure”. The conferenciers, made up of scientists and practitioners, engaged in extensive discussion on a new infrastructure model for Europe and the role of the local-authority economy. There was general consensus regarding the particular importance of setting the objective of making long-term investment in public infrastructures more attractive so as to procure a high level of quality of service for the citizen. To that end many and various solutions were proposed that, whilst taking all due account of political considerations, also included the citizen in the equation.

### **2. Events of the Scientific Council (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat-WBR)**

10 February 2016 saw the Annual Conference of the Scientific Council in tandem with the Kompetenzzentrum Öffentliche Wirtschaft, Infrastruktur und Daseinsvorsorge e.V. in Leipzig. The addresses mainly concerned the possible future organization of welfare in the light of ever-increasing automation. One thematic focus was the collection and use of data. Among other things this raised questions as to the administration and actual use of ever-increasing masses of data and the actual economic value of such data, as well as questions about the protection of such data. Questions were also raised concerning parameters, competent allocation bodies and the clear rules that ought to apply in respect of these challenges in order to be in any position to square up to the new challenges.

## Publications

### 1. *Zeitschrift für öffentliche und gemeinwirtschaftliche Unternehmen (ZöGU) – Journal for Public and Nonprofit Services*

During the period under review eight regular issues appeared (of which two as double numbers). Volume 1-2 2016 concerns Public Governance and is available in English. Its companion volume deals with the theme: "Sustainability Management and Sustainability Reporting of Public Enterprises".

### 2. **Statements of Positions, Studies**

- September 2014: in this official statement the German Scientific Council of BVÖD (WBR) takes a critical stance towards Chapter V of the 20th Opinion (2012/2013) of the Monopolies Commission. The WBR takes the view that the Monopolies Commission fails to appreciate important elements of economic theory and, in a general way, argues in an altogether restrictive manner. This position also makes clear that the fundamental efficiency of private enterprise over public enterprise posited by the Monopolies Commission simply does not hold good. The WBR here also adopts its position with regard to the sector-specific proposals made by the Monopolies Commission for Water and for Telecommunications, specific reference being made to a policy of incentivisation for the management of water resources.
- November 2014: the BVÖD makes an advisory contribution towards the transparency of the TTIP talks. In accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the European Union Treaty, it recalls the duty of the EU Commission to maintain "open, transparent and regular dialogue with the representative associations and with civil society". The BVÖD presents numerous proposals as to how the transparency requirements of the European Union Treaty might best be satisfied.
- October 2015: the WBR adopts its official position on the written hearing of the Finance and Economy Committee of the Regional Government of Schleswig-Holstein on the PIRATES Party motion "Protect Regional Means and Goods - stop non-viable public-private partnerships (PPP)".
- August 2016: the WBR brings out a short publication bearing the title „Sparkassen und Landesbanken im Wettbewerb - Ist der Öffentliche Auftrag noch zeitgemäß?“ ("Savings Banks and Regional Banks in Competition - is the public contract still the contemporary solution?") outlining its position and reaffirming the necessity of trade-union and public credit institutions for the sustainable future stabilisation of the entire banking sector. The unabridged version will in the near future be appearing in the ZöGU, official publication of the Bundesverbandes Öffentliche Dienstleistungen - Deutsche Sektion des CEEP e.V.

## **Current scientific activities**

The "*Handbuch Öffentliche Wirtschaft*" ("Guide to the Public Economy") edited by the WBR, conceived as a reference work for technical matters and providing scientifically-based orientation for practitioners in the Public Economy and mapping political issues, is expected to come out during late 2016.

A Working Group "Local-Authority (Sewage and Waste-)Water Management 2030" will conduct a public debate on the future of municipal water treatment and supply, examining key decisive factors and exploring possible lines of development. The point of the exercise is the provision of support, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises in the upcoming strategy discussions.

February 2016 saw the creation of the WBR Working Group "*Daseinsvorsorge im digitalen Zeitalter – Transformation oder Optimierung?*" ("Welfare in the Digital Age – transformation or optimisation?"). This Working Group will deal with the present and future problems and benefits of digitalisation for the provision of general-interest services and the position adopted in the matter by the public sector.