

Call for Papers

Benchmarking of Public Utilities II

Bremen Monday the 20th and Tuesday 21th November 2017

Subject

After the first successful workshop on Benchmarking of Public Utilities in 2015 we continue our research and are happy to host the second workshop. There is a renewed interest in benchmarking and performance analysis of public utilities. New methods have been developed and a growing number of interesting case studies are in the process of being finalized. Benchmarking is an evolving tool within the public sector. It has found its way into the decision making process of management of public utilities. It is becoming more and more important for regulators and the financial community, as public utilities around the world are becoming increasingly commercialised. In the past, public utilities were predominantly owned by governments and benchmarking was not used frequently however this is changing too as the application of benchmarking to public utilities has proven useful under multiple scenarios. Nevertheless, analysis and comparison of service quality, fees, productivity and the financial performance of public utilities remain an interesting challenge. One feature of current research is that it has become very specialized and is applied to one of the many public utilities such as airports, seaports and energy suppliers. While this has advanced research we think it is now time to share knowledge drawing from multiple fields.

We would therefore like to invite researchers working in the field of public utilities benchmarking to submit abstracts and participate in a workshop on the topic. Research may be theoretical or applied and may address any of the following topics:

- **Case Studies:** Benchmarking of public utilities with respect to financial, operational and/ or marketing perspective. How do public utilities use benchmarking? Has benchmarking improved performance?
- **Benchmarking techniques:** A large number of different benchmarking methods, such as DEA, SFA or TFP are in use today. Yet, the question remains, which technique is most appropriate to be applied under specific circumstances? How good are partial methods compared to total methods?
- **Explanations of performance differences:** Public utilities performance shows substantial differences. Are these differences caused by privatisation, liberalization, regulation, improved public management techniques or countervailing powers?
- **Productivity growth:** Has productivity of public utilities grown over the last decades and have these gains been passed to the users? Do public utilities have inherently high costs and high prices?
- **Benchmarking as a regulatory tool:** How and to what extent can benchmarking be used as a guide for regulatory institutions? Are there any special requirements to benchmarking when it is applied as regulatory tool?
- **Governance and performance:** How does competition, regulation and ownership shape performance?
- **Which public utilities?** We are seeking analyses on all public utilities in particular airports and sea ports.

Key Addresses:

- *Darryl Biggar, Australian Consumer and Competition Commission*
- *Gert Brunekreeft, Jacobs University*
- *Peter Forsyth, Monash University Melbourne.*

Venue: The seminar will take place at the University of Applied Sciences Bremen, Werderstr. 73, the 20th and Tuesday 21th November 2017

Paper proposals: Please send an extended abstract (one page, about 300 words, including a short CV) until **10 October, 2017**, as pdf- or word-file to: malte.moewes@hs-bremen.de. Information on acceptance will be given by 15 October.

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