

## Management of Urban Infrastructures *A Massive Open Online Course by EPFL - MIR - IGLUS*

In recent years, online courses have emerged as a game changer in the educational landscape. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), covering a wide variety of subject matters, are now available to practitioners, as well as academics, and continue to attract increasingly large audiences via online education platforms such as Coursera and EdX. These online courses enable learners to choose from a diverse array of subjects and to freely explore those that are most interesting to them at their own pace. The combination of the flexibility associated with online education and the high quality of courses offered by world-class universities, have turned MOOCs into an appealing learning reference for many. As a result, these courses have become particularly invaluable to those practitioners who have limited time and tight schedules restricting them from attending conventional training programs, but still feel the need to stay up to date with the cutting edge knowledge in their fields.

As of February 2016, the Chair Management of Network Industries (MIR), is offering a free online course on the [Management of Urban Infrastructures](#) as one of the products of a global action research initiative relating to the Innovative Governance of Large Urban Systems, called [IGLUS](#). This free, and on-demand, course covers the basic principles of the management of urban Infrastructures and illustrates these principles through a deeper investigation of two of the most important urban infrastructures- the urban energy and transportation sectors.

In this online course we, at EPFL, have worked with a series of our partners in the [IGLUS project](#), namely the World Bank, The Veolia Environment group, Swiss Post, City-Canton of Geneva, Boston Consulting Group, and City University of New York. By providing a combination of inputs from both academia and industry experts, we have tried to give a balanced overview of the basic principles of urban infrastructure management and to also illustrate how practitioners make use of these principles in the real-world.

In less than 10 months, about 9000 learners had enrolled in the course and the feedback from this large audience is quite promising ([Click here to see the feedback](#)). The online learning forum associated with this course provides us with a unique opportunity to host discussions and hear a range of diverse perspectives on the managerial issues raised in the course. People attending the course represent more than 90 different nationalities, and the debates centered around the course materials reflect this diversity and are in themselves an immense learning opportunity, both for us and our learners. You can find more information about free registration in this course by [visiting the IGLUS webpage at: http://iglus.org/mooc](http://iglus.org/mooc)

We are currently planning the second part of the course that is set to go online Spring 2017. The second part of the course will have a more keen focus on the Management of Urban Infrastructures in presence of disruptive innovations introduced by the ICT sector; which can be labeled as Management of Smart Urban Infrastructures.

Online courses that cover managerial, regulatory and governance issues in different network industries are becoming increasingly more prevalent. So, as of this issue of NIQ we will introduce a new section that closely follows the world of online education and reviews the currently available, and the upcoming, MOOCs that might be useful for academics and practitioners active in the field of Network Industries.

If you would like to write a review about a MOOC and publish it in an upcoming issue of NIQ, please send an email to [mohamad.razaghi@epfl.ch](mailto:mohamad.razaghi@epfl.ch).

# networkindustries

## quarterly

### **Network Industries Quarterly, Vol. 17, issue 1, 2017 (March) “The framework for liberalisation and regulation of public utilities in countries of ex-Yugoslavia”**

The forthcoming edition of Network Industries' Quarterly will be a special edition focused on countries of ex-Yugoslavia, among which two are EU member states (Slovenia and Croatia), two are in the process of accession negotiations (Montenegro, Serbia), a candidate country (Macedonia) and a potential candidate country (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

After the II World War, ex-Yugoslavia was a unique example of self-management, a specific system of governance and societal ownership of companies, including public utilities. In early 1990s, Yugoslav disintegration and democratization coincided with economic transformation from socialist-market economy to a market economy. However, legacies of the past economic system are still present in some aspect, and influence the process of liberalisation of public utilities, which was in these countries urged by joining the EU or is still urged by EU accession requirements. Market liberalisation agenda begun to come to the front, and the regulatory reform urged creation of independent regulatory agencies for state-wide public utilities such as electricity and gas markets. On the other side, municipal (communal) services are mainly provided by local authorities and public operators. Liberalisation agenda in many of these countries presupposes privatization of public undertakings or alternatives to privatization such are PPPs and concessions, and special attention will be given to the general legal framework for PPPs and concessions in the above countries.

The following are some of the issues the country contributions would try to address:

- The scope and characteristics of public undertakings providing utilities and the character of corporate governance of public utilities;
- PPPs and concessions as an “alternative” to full privatization: basic overview of active projects and reference to the legal and institutional framework for PPPs and concessions;
- Liberalisation agenda and the main issues in regulating local public utilities, such as water provision and waste management;
- The character of regulatory powers and challenges posed to municipalities in regulating communal services.

The Guest Editor of this Special Issue is Tatjana Jovanic, Associate Professor of Economic Law and Market Regulation at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law.

If you are interested to contribute, please send an email to Ms Nadia Bert ([FSR.Transport@eui.eu](mailto:FSR.Transport@eui.eu)).

The [Network Industries Quarterly](#) carries an ISBN number and is published by Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne (EPFL) and the Florence School of Regulation (European University Institute). Published four times a year and distributes to approx. 6000 interested subscribers worldwide, the NIQ is included in Cadmus, the EUI's Research Repository. You can find the latest issues of the NIQ here:

[- Vol 18 - no 4 - 2016 – Reform of the Railway Sector and its Achievements: global overview](#)

[- Vol 18 - no 3 - 2016 – The challenges of digitalization and the use of data](#)

[- Vol 18 - no 2 - 2016 – Financing of infrastructures in Latin America](#)

[- Vol 18 - no 1 - 2016 – Achievements and challenges regarding public utilities' regulation in Brazil](#)

# networkindustries

## quarterly

### **Network Industries Quarterly, Vol. 17, issue 2, 2017 (June) “Competition Policy in Energy Markets: The Experience of Emerging Economies”**

The regulatory reform in developing countries took a prominent role in the 1990s. Both external and internal factors pushed many countries to liberalize their energy markets and introduce independent regulatory agencies to oversee the regulatory reforms. In the beginning, competition policy remained in the background. However, as liberalizations and regulatory reforms matured, competition policy has begun to come to the front. The advances such as technology and result-based tariff models also brought issues of anti-competitive behaviour in energy markets.

While technological and economic advances shape the new market framework, the economic literature catches up with the evolution of energy markets. For example, the competition issues created by incentive regulation models still do not get the attention they deserve.

This call for papers aims at contributing to the literature to close the gap, searching for academic contributions able to explore the major issues surrounding concurrent application of competition and regulation. The following are some of the issues we hope to address:

- The tensions between competition policy and regulation in energy markets,
- The evolution of tariff models and their relation to competition,
- Major competition investigations in the industry in the EU and US,
- Differing approaches to competition policy in both civil law and common law traditions,
- How advances in technologies affect the role of competition policy,
- The potential for deregulation in the energy markets.

We welcome proposals in the form of a short abstract of max 200 words that touch these and other issues related to competition policy in energy markets, either with a case study or a comparative approach and grounded on empirical research. The deadline for abstracts is January 30th, 2017. The final paper should not exceed 1.700 words length (all included). A preliminary draft is expected by May 28th, 2017. If you are interested to contribute, please send an email to the guest editor of this special issue on “Competition Policy in Energy Markets: The Experience of Emerging Economies”, Mr Fuat Oguz ([foguz@ybu.edu.tr](mailto:foguz@ybu.edu.tr)) with a cc to Ms Nadia Bert ([FSR.Transport@eui.eu](mailto:FSR.Transport@eui.eu)).

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## Competition and Regulation in Network Industries: a new Journal by Sage

Commencing in 2017 SAGE is delighted to be the new publisher of [Competition and Regulation in Network Industries](#).

We are building on the **16-year tradition and strength** of the existing Intersentia Journal *Competition and Regulation in Network Industries*, yet strive to evolve it into an even higher quality journal. We will address the increasingly urgent challenge of governing (including regulating) complex and dynamic socio-technical systems (e.g., energy, transport, water, communication, urban systems) so as to make these systems more **efficient, sustainable** and **resilient**. In particular, we will take into account the fact that digitalization is rapidly pervading all infrastructures.

Network industries are caught between technological developments, evolving competition and regulation. At the same time, significant innovations – especially in the field of ICTs – offer new opportunities for infrastructure operations and governance. Exploring this combined technological and institutional dynamics between competition and regulation provides a fascinating field of research that challenges academics, managers and policy-makers alike.

The new Journal *Competition and Regulation in Network Industries* is resolutely interdisciplinary in nature, favoring articles that combine economic, legal, policy and engineering approaches. We are looking for articles that link theory with practical relevance: they should make contributions to theory and methodology development, yet always building on solid empirical research, both quantitative and qualitative. Articles that establish links between the evolving network industries are of particular interest.

### Publication process:

The Journal welcomes submissions and engages in a **collaborative discussion with the authors** so as to produce the highest possible quality articles. Each article is double-blind peer reviewed. After acceptance, articles are published online on a rolling basis. 4 paper issues are published each year, containing each 4 to 6 articles.

The Journal holds an **annual conference** at the European University Institute in June each year ([call for papers now open](#)). Papers presented there are offered a fast-track review process.

### Editor in chief:

Prof Matthias Finger, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and European University Institute



### **Workshop by the University of Antwerp: “Ship finance in the Basel IV era”**

**28th February 2017 @ 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

**Auditorium BNP Paribas Fortis (Rue Royal/Koningsstraat 20, Brussels)**

The shipping industry struggles with overcapacity, low freight rates, the implementation of new (environmental) regulations and a shortage of bank financing. This sector is very capital intensive. Hence, securing the funding of ships is very important. The latter is topical given the recent developments with respect to Basel IV. Basel IV involves more stringent capital requirements and greater financial disclosure.

Which impact can be expected for the shipping industry? To answer this question, the BNP Paribas Fortis Chair Transport, Logistics and Ports organizes within the EU shipping week a seminar “Ship financing in the Basel IV era”.

After two keynote speeches by BNP Paribas, a leading ship financing bank, a panel discussion with people from the shipping industry, academic world and DG FISMA (speakers to be confirmed) will be scheduled. A network drink will close this event.

For further information please contact Elisabet Naert ([elisabet.naert@bnpparibasfortis.com](mailto:elisabet.naert@bnpparibasfortis.com) or +32 (0)2 565 63 65).

### **European Shipping Week: 27 February to 3 March 2017, Brussels**

The first European Shipping Week took place over the course of the week of 2-6 of March 2015 and featured a variety of events. The second will take place in Brussels from Monday, 27 February to Friday, 3 March 2017 and promises to be an even greater success.

European Shipping Week is intended to be a platform where policy-makers from the main EU institutions will meet and engage with European shipowners and other stakeholders from the shipping sector. The focus is on shipping, in all its different aspects.

European Shipping Week is the brainchild of the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) and is run by a Steering Group made up of Europe's main shipping organisations as well as the European Commission and Shipping Innovation. The shipping organisations involved on the Steering Group include: ECSA; Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Europe; European Community Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (ECASBA); Interferry; the European Dredging Association (EuDA); the World Shipping Council (WSC); the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF); the European Tugowners' Association (ETA); as well as the European Maritime Pilots Association (EMPA).



## OPEN CALL FOR PAPERS

Implementation of the liberalization process has brought various challenges to incumbent firms operating in sectors such as air transport, telecommunications, energy, postal services, water and railways, as well as to new entrants, to regulators and to the public authorities.

Therefore, the Network Industries Quarterly is aimed at covering research findings regarding these challenges, to monitor the emerging trends, as well as to analyze the strategic implications of these changes in terms of regulation, risks management, governance and innovation in all, but also across, the different regulated sectors.

The Network Industries Quarterly, published by the Chair MIR (Management of Network Industry, EPFL) in collaboration with the Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation (European University Institute), is an open access journal funded in 1998 and, since then, directed by Prof Matthias Finger.

## ARTICLE PREPARATION

The Network Industries Quarterly is a multidisciplinary international publication. Each issue is coordinated by a guest editor, who chooses four to six different articles all related to the topic chosen. Articles must be high-quality, written in clear, plain language. They should be original papers that will contribute to furthering the knowledge base of network industries policy matters. Articles can refer to theories and, when appropriate, deduce practical applications. Additionally, they can make policy recommendations and deduce management implications.

Detailed guidelines on how to submit the articles and coordinate the issue will be provided to the selected guest editor.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### MORE INFORMATION

- [network-industries.org](http://network-industries.org)
- [mir.epfl.ch](http://mir.epfl.ch)
- [florence-school.eu](http://florence-school.eu)

### QUESTIONS / COMMENTS?

**Nadia Bert**, Managing Editor:  
[nadia.bert@eui.eu](mailto:nadia.bert@eui.eu)  
**Mohamad Razaghi**, Publication  
Editor: [mohamad.razaghi@epfl.ch](mailto:mohamad.razaghi@epfl.ch)

Published four times a year, the **Network Industries Quarterly** contains short analytical articles about postal, telecommunications, energy, water, transportation and network industries in general. It provides original analysis, information and opinions on current issues. Articles address a broad readership made of university researchers, policy makers, infrastructure operators and businessmen. Opinions are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Contact [fsr.transport@eui.eu](mailto:fsr.transport@eui.eu) to subscribe. Subscription is free.



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