



06/11/2007

AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE MARKET: THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN EUROPE

ETUI-REHS/EPSU/SALTSA CONFERENCE

Public services provide a vital contribution to Europe's economy. It is with this in mind that the European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and Health and Safety (ETUI-REHS), the European Public Services Union (EPSU) and SALTSA are organising a conference entitled "An alternative to the market: the social, political and economic role of public services in Europe". The event will consist of a number of workshops and a plenary session taking place on 19th-20th November at International Trade Union House in Brussels.

The aim of the joint initiative is to discuss the economic and social contribution of public services, challenge assumptions underlying current EU policies and identify research questions that need to be covered in future research programmes. The conference is also designed to promote debate between trade unions and the academic community.

The conference will cover four major themes relevant to public services:

- The forces that have driven successive waves of privatisation since the beginning of the 1980s;
- The impact of EU policy on public services;
- The impact of privatisation on employment and industrial relations;
- The role of public services as a necessary alternative to dominance of marketisation.

[Click here](#) for the conference agenda.

**For more details, please contact: Tristan Macdonald,
Tel: +32 2 224 0562; Mobile: +32 (0)473 544 619;
email: tmacdonald@etui-rehs.org; www.etui-rehs.org**

The European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and Health and Safety (ETUI-REHS) is an international non-profit-making Association established under Belgian law. It conducts research on issues of strategic importance for the world of labour, provides trade union education and training activities and promotes a high level of health and safety protection for workers in Europe. The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) comprises 8 million public service workers from over 200 Public Service Unions in 36 countries. It organises workers in health and social services, local and national administration, energy, water and waste. SALTSA is a research programme run by LO-TCO-SACO Sweden and the former National Institute for Working Life. The purpose of the programme is to facilitate problem-oriented research collaboration on issues related to working life in Europe.