

Call for Papers: ECPR Joint Session of Workshops, 22-27 March 2010, Münster

Deadline for proposals: December 1, 2009.

WORKSHOP ON THE GOVERNANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

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Partnerships between the state and private actors are increasingly being used across Europe as local governance tools. Commonly those partnerships are employed for the provision of various types of public services and infrastructure such as transportation, energy, water treatment or healthcare. While this type of co-operation between state and private actors is usually referred to in relation to for-profit businesses, there are also partnerships that involve civil society actors and nonprofit organisations. Some of these are new partnerships, others transformed versions of traditional bonds. At any rate, partnerships are very much en vogue in the political debate. This relevance not only derives from the increasingly widespread occurrence of partnerships, but also from a public discourse which highlights the benefits of co-operation. Additionally, they occur as one typical form within the ongoing governance debate. Nevertheless, the number of successfully and sufficiently evaluated partnership approaches in Europe is still small and we do not know much about the dynamics and configurations of these governance instruments across the various states.

The workshop is open for papers which aim to contribute to a better understanding of governance arrangements based on co-operation between state and private actors. The following topics are of special interest:

Which challenges to democratic theory arise from partnerships in service provision?

Which challenges do public and private partners, as well as their stakeholders, face within such partnerships?

What are the conditions that make partnerships successful or likely to fail?

The workshop is open to all specialists – from graduate students to experienced professors – working on the topic of the workshop, and we are particularly interested in innovative submissions within the field. The workshop will have a combination of theoretical and empirical papers.

Please send abstracts to Taco Brandsen (t.brandsen@fm.ru.nl) or Matthias Freise (freisem@uni-muenster.de).

For more information on the conference, please consult www.ecprnet.eu.