

Abstract

Management and financing of public services, with specific reference to the local dimension is experiencing a progressive opening to a better comprehension and implementation of market-related ideas and dynamics. In this regard, the European legal system has backed a move towards the adoption of more efficient public services' management policies, with a view to reduce the negative effect on private sector's incentives.

The emerging picture reveals a positive attitude and an incoming confidence towards models of public services' provisioning based on a closer relationship between public and private sectors. This derives mainly from the relevance of competitive concerns and from the awareness that the contribution of capital and values from the private sector represents an important solution to the growing limits that public entities do encounter in pursuing their institutional duties. Both economic and juridical literature have expressed a strong interest towards *public-private partnerships* (hereinafter, as "PPPs"), which are considered as a special means at public managers' disposal to remedy to market failures, as well as to State failures in the provisioning of public services

The present work will analyse, in the first chapter, the relevant normative developments on public service provision, which now seem to reach a standpoint in the provision of Art. 23-*bis* of the Law Decree No. 112/2008, as implemented by the related government regulation.

Thereafter, the scope of the analysis will cover the models of PPPs implemented in practice. We will observe, especially, various combination of PPPs, such as private-public companies, project financing and the competitive dialogue procedure.

Lastly, the third chapter will look into some concrete implementing aspects of PPPs, which are conducted in the light of one specific economic sector, in which public bodies are nowadays intervening, namely the financing of next generation networks (“NGN”).

In this connection, the analysis will suggest the existence of a strong interdependence between regulatory themes, public aims and competitive concerns in the sector examined. Evidence will be given of the recent proposal for a national public-private company entrusted with NGN developments, as well as of regional and sub-regional initiatives moving to the same direction.