

## Abstract

The present Master Thesis aims at contributing to the research done by a special team at the University of Milan concerning the publicization and re-publicization of enterprises worldwide since the millennium. The team therefore established an online questionnaire to collect data from scholars, researchers and other knowledgeable persons globally with the goal of subsequently evaluating the provided data and publishing the results within an online database. The aim of the Thesis is to depict the situation in Austria and contribute to the research question on whether there is a trend towards publicization and re-publicization or if such a trend can be regarded as only marginal.

Consequently, the Thesis targets the portraying of a holistic picture of the country by first, illustrating the historical developments of Austria since its establishment as a Republic in 1918. In case of Austria, the political backgrounds and economic developments throughout the years add to explaining a possible trend. The predominant socialistic streams of thought developed over the years contributed significantly to the subsequently established welfare state and its components still of value today.

Thereafter the project SuPER is explained in more detail and its classification applied to 15 selected cases of Austrian companies regarded as publicization or re-publicization since the millennium. The cases primarily refer to a variety of companies in sectors related to banking, education, health, research and technology. The analysed events giving rise to the publicization or re-publicization of the 15 cases can be divided as follows: One re-publicization, four mergers, four spin-outs, four green-field establishments and two reorganizations; the latter referring to a change of the legal structure of the company. Each case is analysed separately within its event category according to the reasons behind its existence, its main tasks and role for the society, its legal background and additional information essential for the SuPER questionnaire.

Subsequently, a discussion about the latest management trends and recent developments within the public sector in Austria according to researchers and scholars is depicted; thereby also relating these concepts to the selected cases in order to provide a complete picture of the predominant situation. The discussion shows that Austrian public companies tend to make use of private-related management concepts as stated within the notion of New Public Management. Moreover, except for one emergency nationalization, most of them were demerged or established due to reasons connected to private management techniques such as the bundling of competences and therefore the achievement of synergies as well as the attainment of efficiencies and resulting cost savings. The refurbishment of aspects within the Thesis consequently shows a trend towards neo-liberalistic market issues and therefore not only a dominance of private companies but also a tendency towards using private-related management tactics within public companies. Moreover, it does not seem that the crisis and its subsequent events of governmental intervention by emergency nationalizations have triggered a trend of further nationalizing private companies.