

Editorial

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The second special issue of “Der öffentliche Sektor- The Public Sector” is dedicated to a specific notion of “publicness”, namely urban commons. After Elinor Ostrom’s Nobel-prize winning work on “Governing the Commons” (1990) the topic of Common Pool Resources has been discussed and further developed in various contexts and disciplines. One could for example draw parallels between commons and open-access-journals such as “The Public Sector”- but in this issue we will focus only on the urban dimension of commons.

I am very happy to have won my (former) colleagues from TU Wien, Alexander Hamedinger - who already has been a member of the editorial board - and Lukas Franta as guest editors for this special issue on urban commons. I will leave it to them to give a thematic introduction and an overview over the contributions of this issue- see p. 5f.

Personally, this issue of “Der öffentliche Sektor- The Public Sector” (in its 43rd year after its foundation by Egon Matzner) is special also for another reason. It is not only the first issue on urban commons and the second with guest editors and a double-blind peer-review process. It also marks the 3rd year of open-access-publishing and the involvement of an editorial board, and the sixth year after a graphical relaunch and the introduction of a thematic focus for each issue. And - since I have left TU Wien for new professional challenges- it also is my last one as editor-in-chief. Today’s goodbye as editor-in-chief, however, won’t be my final farewell to the journal, since I joyfully accepted the invitation to remain a member of the editorial board.

I would like to thank Michael Getzner (head of the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Wien), Johann Bröthaler (head of the Centre of Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy) and Wolfgang Blaas (my predecessor as

editor-in-chief) for “entrusting” me the journal and for their continuous support. The role as editor of a scientific journal was an extremely inspiring and highly instructive job for me. Thank you for giving me this opportunity! Many thanks also to the editorial team (Maximilian Jäger, Astrid Krisch) and the secretariat (Rosalinde Pohl) for your excellent implementation work.

The (until today) three guest editors and the editorial board have significantly raised the journal’s quality level – I truly recognize your late-night hours of work, your ideas, your networking, your expertise and perseverance. Special credits deserves the Repositum team of the TU library, who helped making the “Public Sector” journal the first open-access journal published by TU Wien.

All the efforts of the above mentioned persons, however, would be in vain, if it were not for the two most important groups: The authors and the readers of “Der öffentliche Sektor - the Public Sector”. Thank you for your inspiring contributions, your loyalty and your feedback! Within the small, but growing scientific community around “The Public Sector”, it is not rare that readers of one issue become future authors and vice versa. Therefore, it is now the moment to announce the call for papers for the next special issue 1/2018 which is open: *Assessing the spatial and policy contribution of economic (e)valuation. Impacts of economic valuation on policies and spatial planning*. For further details please visit http://oes.tuwien.ac.at/sektoer/wiki/call_for_papers

I wish you an inspiring reading of this special issue on urban commons, and I also hope you will remain a loyal reader of “Der öffentliche Sektor- The Public Sector” until its 50th anniversary and beyond!