

A WAY FORWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

THE VOICE OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

CEEP represents around **500.000 providers of public services and services of general interest (SGIs)** throughout Europe. Contributing to **more than 26% of the EU GDP** and **employing more than 60 million people**, our members are the backbone of the EU economy, providing citizens and enterprises with essential services in fields such as central and local administrations, healthcare, education, energy, transport, water, environment, waste management, housing, tourism, communications and postal services.

THE GENERAL CROSS-INDUSTRY SOCIAL PARTNER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES' EMPLOYERS

CEEP is one of the three European **general cross-industry social partners**, representing employers of public services and services of general interest. As a recognised actor in the EU social dialogue, CEEP has a voice in the bipartite and tripartite social dialogue at the highest level.

WHAT IS CEEP?

Since 1961, CEEP, the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services and Services of general interest (SGIs), represents at EU level **employers and enterprises providing public service and SGIs**.

CEEP represents around 500.000 providers of public services and SGIs throughout Europe.

Contributing to more than 26% of the EU GDP and employing more than 60 million people, our members are the **backbone of the EU economy**, active in fields such as:

- Central & local administrations,
- Healthcare,
- Education,
- Housing,
- Waste management,
- Energy,
- Transport,
- Water,
- Environment,
- Communications.

CEEP ACTIVITIES

With members all across Europe, CEEP represents them at European level. The association is organised into three boards, each addressing a key dimension of the activities of our members:

- **The Public Services Board,**
- **The Social Affairs Board,**
- **The Sustainability Board.**

Each board is sub-divided into task forces, developing a precise and specific expertise on the issues at stake.

On top of these activities, CEEP also provides a platform for debates and discussions with EU leaders, such as during its biennial Public Services Summit, or through its participation in hearings and meetings at the highest level.

PRESENT AT THE HEART OF THE EU

Along with BusinessEurope and ETUC, CEEP is one of the three **European general cross-industry social partners**.

CEEP is an actor in the European social dialogue, having a voice in the European bipartite (with the trade unions) and tripartite (with the other social partners and representatives of the EU institutions at the highest level) social dialogue negotiations at the highest level.

LOBBYING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

CEEP, with its general secretariat in Brussels, represents the interests of its members before the European institutions.

It lobbies the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament on a regular basis, on **any legislative proposal impacting and affecting SGIs and their place in the Single Market**.

ADVOCATING THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

CEEP also carries out projects **promoting the importance of modern public services in Europe**. Whether supported by the European Commission or carried out independently, CEEP intends to bring a new light on services of general interest, their modernisation and their central role in citizens' lives.

OUR MEMBERS

CEEP members are enterprises and associations from across Europe providing public services or SGIs. They are either entirely or partly publicly or privately owned and managed, and are active at national, regional and local level, regardless of their legal ownership status.

They are either European sectoral federations or are organised into national sections, active in 20 countries (18 EU Member States, as well as Norway and Turkey). CEEP offers its members many opportunities for discussion through its boards, task forces and working groups.

SECTORAL FEDERATIONS



HOSPEEM - European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association

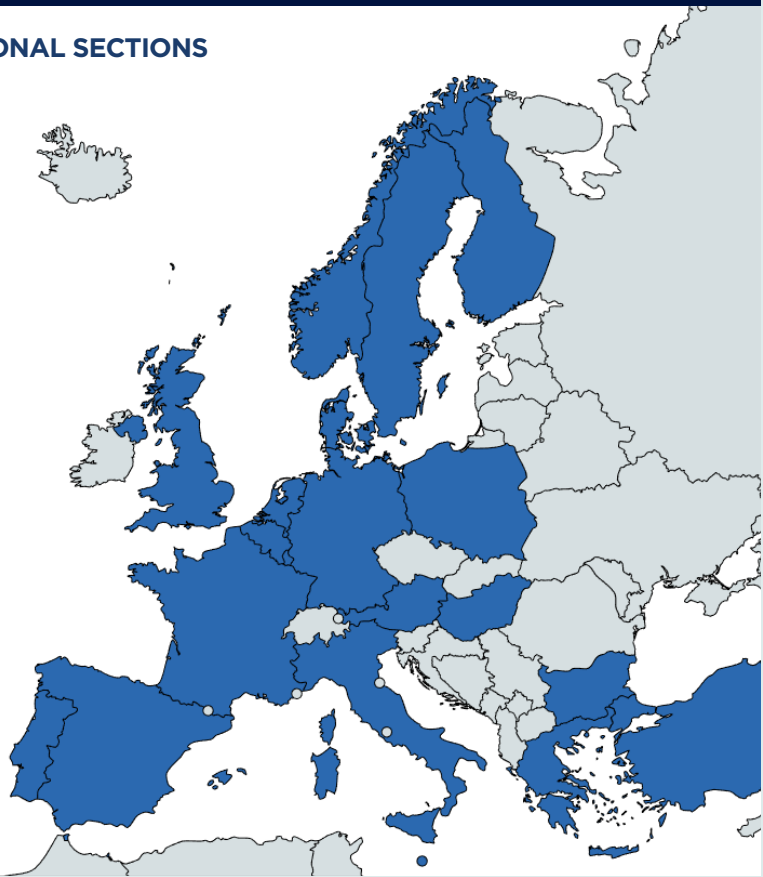


EBU - European Broadcasting Union



EFEE - European Federation of Education Employers

NATIONAL SECTIONS



ADDRESSING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SGIs

Thanks to the broad variety of sectors covered by its members, such as social housing, local authorities, transport, water and the environment, CEEP Public Services Board has developed a very precise expertise on **issues impacting the provision of SGIs from a legal perspective.**

Drawing the main lines of CEEP lobby action on public services, the board addresses issues such as **state aid, freedom of movement of services, public procurement regulation, taxation and standardisation, or industrial and investment policy.** Following recent developments, the board has also addressed new topics, such as the EU international **trade policy** or the need to modernise the **EU SME definition.**

The board works both in a plenary configuration and through its 2 task forces:

- Internal Market Task Force
- Services of General Interest Task Force

FIGHT FOR FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE AGREEMENTS

CEEP supports a **coherent implementation of the EU's international trade agenda, relying on an evidence-based, inclusive and transparent approach.**

Trade agreements are opportunities to set worldwide well-designed standards to support sustainable development, highlighting the contribution of SGIs and of the Social and Solidarity-based Economy (SSE). The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should have a broader and deeper impact on EU trade policy design as well as in other fields.

Legal certainty is needed over the **safeguard of the provision of SGIs** in international trade agreements, by including standard clauses to fully preserve the **discretionary power of national, regional and local authorities in deciding how to provide, organise, finance and commission SGIs.**

MAKE REFIT AND BETTER REGULATION BENEFIT SGI PROVIDERS

Since 2014, the European Commission has done a lot in the field of **better regulation and for improving its impact assessment, consultation or transparent governance tools.** The Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and Doing Less More Efficiently, the REFIT Platform and the Urban Agenda are good examples which should be continued, with an emphasis on the multi-level governance dimension of EU policy making.

CEEP endorses an EU internal market in which the four freedoms and competition rules are enforced in a way that enables to prepare for future challenges, such as climate change tackling or digitalisation, and respects certain key principles such as subsidiarity.



OUR PRIORITIES, OUR DEMANDS, OUR COMMITMENTS

PROMOTE SGI-FRIENDLY PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The 2014 Public Procurement Package aimed at **simplifying procedures** and making them more flexible to ensure that **greater consideration is given to social and environmental criteria** and that there is a better access for SMEs to public procurement markets. CEEP, with its members, played a key role in shaping this legislation and monitoring its implementation.

Aimed at further highlighting the key elements of this Package, CEEP also developed its **'Acquis+' companion document to the 2014 Public Procurement Package.** Building up on the growing importance of social and environmental criteria, CEEP has pushed forward its CEEP CSR Label process, showcasing the contribution of public services and SGIs to the society.

Following the 2017 European Commission's Public Procurement Strategy, CEEP will **keep monitoring and impacting future developments in this field and ensuring that public procurement remains a driver for the future.** A more strategic use of public procurement as policy instrument is to be explored in this respect.

LEAD THE CHANGE OF THE EU SME DEFINITION TO INCLUDE LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

CEEP is a prominent actor of the current talks about a revision of the definition of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in EU law. Engaged with the European Commission and key MEPs, CEEP is proposing an **extension of this legal definition to Local Public Services Enterprises (LPSEs), making it more inclusive.** Indeed, the current definition excludes de facto every enterprise with public ownership over 25% from its scope. In other words, any company of which 25% or more is owned by a public authority is not considered as an SME according to EU legislation.

This limitation implies a considerable number of counterproductive and unjustified consequences for many LPSEs across Europe, making it more difficult for them to fulfil their mission of general interest. The legal definition of SMEs is referred to in a very large number of pieces of legislation or regulation, public policies, support schemes and private frameworks both at EU and at national level. **Many LPSEs find it difficult to obtain bank loans or guarantees or face disproportionate administrative and regulatory costs from which other SMEs are exempted.**

CREATE A FAIR LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD FOR SGIs

One of the main overarching issues addressed by the CEEP Public Services Board concerns the **need for a fair level-playing field for all stakeholders, regardless of their ownership or legal structure.**

As provided for in **Protocol 26 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)** on services of general interest, the EU recognises **"the essential role and the wide discretion of national, regional and local authorities in providing, commissioning and organising services of general economic interest** as closely as possible to the needs of the users."

CEEP calls for EU institutions to respect this autonomy, closely linked to the principle of subsidiarity, and guarantee a level-playing field for all providers of services of general interest. Those calls impact a broad range of legislative and policy-making areas at EU level, including the EU Single Market, free trade agreement negotiations, or the EU-legal SME definition.

SUPPORT AN AMBITIOUS MULTI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (MFF) 2021-2027

Backbone of the political ambition of the EU, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is of prime importance to CEEP. Highlighting the need for an ambitious EU budget, **CEEP calls for recognising the added value of EU public policies and making the MFF 2021-2027 more efficient.**

As a signatory of the Cohesion Alliance, CEEP supports a **strong Cohesion Policy**, able to bring closer the different parts of Europe. Providers of public services and of SGIs have a key role to play in this process. By providing services which are central to the lives of citizens, they contribute to **reinforcing the link between citizens and authorities**, its geographical and social cohesion but also its economic and industrial competitiveness in the longer run, e.g. by fostering fair and balanced digitalisation of all fields of economic activity and social life.

CEEP therefore also highlights the need for an ambitious EU long-term investment strategy, supported by the EU institutions and the MFF 2021-2027.

PROMOTING THE EU SOCIAL DIALOGUE

CEEP Social Affairs Board (SAB) **prepares CEEP activities related to the EU Social Dialogue and social policies.** Gathering members from, amongst others, the education, healthcare and social services' sectors, as well as from local, regional and national government in their function as employers and national social partner organisations, the Social Affairs Board carries the voice of public services' and SGI employers, and influences the European social policy development and its impact at European, national and local level.

CEEP is one of the three European general cross-industry social partners and is **THE actor of the European social dialogue representing employers of public services and services of general interest.** Therefore CEEP, together with the other EU social partners, is regularly subject to **representativeness studies** carried out by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound).

CEEP is **empowered to negotiate collective agreements at European level**, together with its employer and trade union counterparts, which can become directives. This is a power given to the EU social partners by the European Treaties at art 154 and 155 TFUE.

During the negotiations of these agreements the CEEP delegation is made up of members of the Social Affairs Board. The SAB is also in charge of **drafting all CEEP answers to consultations launched by the European Commission in the field of social policies**, in the context of articles 153 and 154 of the TFEU.

The board works in a plenary format and through its 4 task forces:

- Education & Training Task Force
- Health & Safety Task Force
- Macro-economic Task Force
- Social Protection Task Force

REINFORCING A LONG-STANDING CALL FOR INVESTMENT

A long-standing message from CEEP is its call for **boosting investment in physical and social infrastructures and closing the investment gap in Europe.**

With the European Fund for Strategic Investment and the proposed InvestEU, the EU institutions have operated a change of paradigm, and put investment at the heart of the economic development.

Considering their key role for citizens and enterprises, **providers of public services also need access to those financing tools**, which should remain at the heart of the EU long-term strategy in order to cope with current and upcoming challenges, such as demographic ageing, digitalisation and climate change.



OUR PRIORITIES, OUR DEMANDS, OUR COMMITMENTS

PROMOTE ACTIVE SOCIAL DIALOGUE AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVEL

At EU level, **social dialogue has a key role to play in bringing the European project forward**, by relying on strong and representative national social partners, with clear mandates in bipartite negotiations and a clear legitimacy to be involved and associated in shaping national reform programmes.

National social partners can also contribute to ensuring a **better connection between the EU and citizens**, at a time when it seems so difficult. The support and trust of EU institutions is essential for the social partners, and for **supporting capacity-building activities**.

With the financial support of the European Commission, together with its members and in cooperation with the other EU cross-industry social partners, CEEP is holding events in the different Member States aimed at supporting a **strong and stable structure for social dialogue throughout Europe**.

LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERS' WORK PROGRAMME 2019-2021

The sixth autonomous work programme of the European social partners supports the objectives of the **2016 quadripartite statement on "A New Start for Social Dialogue"** to strengthen social dialogue at European and national level, to foster the role and influence of national social partners in the European Semester, and to step up capacity building support to national social partners, notably through the European Social Fund.

The 2019-2021 Work Programme addresses the six following priorities:

- **Digitalisation**,
- Improving the **performance of labour markets and social systems**,
- **Skills**,
- Addressing **psycho-social aspects and risks at work**,
- **Capacity-building** for a stronger social dialogue,
- **Circular Economy**.

IMPLEMENT THE EU PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

Announced in March 2016, the EU Pillar of Social Rights was proclaimed during the Social Summit in Goteborg in November 2017. CEEP welcomed this initiative and expressed the belief that **promoting a sustainable and inclusive society and fostering convergence between Member States will require establishing a proper balance between economic and social priorities** in European policies. CEEP members are therefore committed to contributing to the discussions aiming at ensuring upward social and economic convergence between Member States and regions.

Our key messages on shaping the EU Pillar of Social Rights relied on the **explicit recognition of the role of public services** and essential services, the need to **focus on implementing the current legislations** in the social field, the **role of national, regional and local authorities** in translating the Pillar's principles into a reality, as well as the **importance of social partners** in shaping a Social Europe.

PROVIDE INPUTS TO THE EU SEMESTER PROCESS

The European Semester is the **coordination of economic and social policies** taking place between Member States at EU level.

As one of the cross-industry EU social partners with a specific expertise on the functioning of labour markets across the EU, CEEP is **involved at various stages of the Semester process**. Improvements were made in recent years to associate more closely EU and national social partners to the yearly cycle of interaction between the Commission and Council's relevant bodies with respect to the preparation of country reports and country-specific recommendations.

In recent years, CEEP achieved to **integrate several of its core positions into the key documents of the European Semester**. Amongst others, a specific focus is now put on issues such as **"investment in high-quality public services"**, the **role of education and training** in boosting knowledge-intensive, sustainable and inclusive growth, or on the **digitalisation of public services** to boost productivity and competitiveness.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COHERENT EU SECTORAL POLICIES

Together with its task forces, the CEEP Sustainability Board facilitates and structures the work related to sectoral policies, with a transversal perspective, and gathers experts coming from the different public services and SGI sectors (telecommunications, energy, public transport, waste management and water).

The Sustainability Board looks at the bigger picture and proposes a truly cross-sectoral approach, whilst the task forces focus more on the specific issues of their sectors. It addresses the most pressing **issue of the development of a European sustainable model, bringing together economic, environmental and social dimensions.**

The main issues addressed by the Sustainability Board are the **EU response to climate change and the impact of digitalisation on the provision of public services.**

Its task forces **monitor the different EU legislative proposals, sharing expertise and preparing reasoned and balanced opinions on the issues at stake at sectoral level.**

The board works in a plenary composition and through its 5 task forces:

- Communications Task Force
- Energy Task Force
- Environment Task Force
- Transport Task Force
- Water Task Force

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

In our opinion on Climate “For Sibiu and Beyond - A Sustainable Climate Strategy for Europe: Acting Now!”, CEEP highlights that:

- **Global warming is a major risk and climate policies must be developed as part of a sustainable approach,**
- **A prerequisite for success is the social acceptability of these policies.**

CEEP members manage essential infrastructure and provide SGIs that contribute to well-being and competitiveness; their proximity to economic actors makes them key players in climate policies.

PROMOTE A FAIR DIGITALISATION

With its transformative power, digitalisation is one of the most important challenge for the future of the EU.

Both as employers and as service providers, **CEEP members play a central role in ensuring a fair and inclusive digital transformation.** Gathering both broadband providers, content producers, education and training institutions, providers of public services and SGIs have contributed to developing digital tools.

With an increased focus on investment in **R&D**, the **emergence of data economy** as well as a **better network infrastructure that benefits the whole society**, CEEP calls for supporting public services to adapt to the new digital society and guarantee its success.

OUR PRIORITIES, OUR DEMANDS, OUR COMMITMENTS

PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE WATER

CEEP Water Task Force played a very active role in the preparation of the **Drinking Water Directive** and of the **Water Framework Directive**, as well as in the **Commission expert groups** on EIB, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the CIS-Groups- Groundwater, Chemicals, Water Reuse, Strategic Coordination Group (SCG).

The approach proposed by our members in the water sector relies on the **following principles**:

- A **systemic approach to the whole water chain**, with close cooperation between all actors,
- Appropriate **protective measures for drinking water sources**,
- A consistent application of the **precautionary and of the polluter-pays principles to address water pollution**,
- **Simplify the administrative obligations** of water companies and sewer managers,
- Respect of the **subsidiarity principle**.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTE AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

One of the main challenges of our time, the protection and the preservation of the environment has far-reaching impacts. CEEP members providing services in the environment sector - waste management, recycling, waste water management etc. - have undertaken in recent years several initiatives aimed at the key legislative pieces, such as the **Circular Economy Strategy**, the **Single-Use Plastic Strategy**, as well as the **Extended Producer Responsibility principle** of pursuing the reflection to further develop new business models and R&D.

Reducing the amount of chemicals in the environment should remain a key priority. Helping to better protect the environment by **setting clear strategic goals for climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for 2030 and 2050**. Equally important is the **investment in R&D projects for new business models**, which the public sector will need to keep up with the challenges of climate change. This will also include investing in greater biodiversity strategy plans for the next coming decades.

PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TOWARDS A STABLE EU ENERGY MARKET

Since the publication of the Commission's Clean Energy Package in 2016, the Energy Task Force has worked extensively to support an **affordable, efficient and more sustainable energy market design in the EU**, able to address the digital and climate change challenges.

CEEP key messages on the development of the energy market in Europe support:

- The development of a **sustainable investment framework allowing innovation**,
- A **cost-effective decarbonisation with an efficient carbon-pricing** (ETS) and a follow-up of the implementation of the Clean Energy Package,
- A **fair level playing field between traditional and new actors** (e.g. citizen energy communities),
- The important role of **gas as a bridge to reach 2050 targets**,
- A **hybrid and technological-neutral approach**, putting the different technologies on equal footing.

DEVELOP HIGH-QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

Faced with both the decarbonisation and digital challenges, CEEP members in the transport sector are in complete evolution. Based on the contributions from its members, CEEP has developed concrete proposals on the key files.

Emphasising the **natural role of public transport as the best e-mobility and decarbonisation strategy** in cities, CEEP members call for support to reach the targets set by the Clean Vehicle Directive, such as the development of alternative infrastructure for H2 or electric vehicles.

CEEP also recalls the **importance of subsidiarity and the freedom of Member States to fund, organise and provide public services**. Therefore, a fair level playing field for all actors is needed, without discrimination against publicly-funded enterprises. A close **monitoring of the implementation of the PSI Directive will be pivotal**, whilst caution will be needed to avoid further top-down liberalisation in the transport sector.

CEEP TAKES A STAND FOR A DEMOCRATIC EU

As part of the “This Time I’m Voting” campaign of the European Parliament, CEEP and its members all across Europe organised several activities in the lead-up to the elections. Engaging with candidates, EU institutions, stakeholders and citizens, CEEP highlighted its commitment to a truly democratic EU.

21 FEBRUARY 2019: CEEP AT THE ‘CIVIL SOCIETY FOR REUNAISSANCE’ OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This event brought together, on the same stage, representatives of social partners, of civil society, inspirational figures, including climate activist Greta Thunberg, and institutional leaders such as Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The lineup of the event was a clear signal that we are no longer dealing with the classic “business as usual” in Europe. CEEP was represented by Valeria Ronzitti, General Secretary, and Milena Angelova, CEEP and EESC Vice-President, at this event, which served as a kick-off event for the campaign.

7 MARCH 2019: CEEP EVENT ON THE EU ELECTIONS

Supporting the ‘This Time I’m Voting’ campaign, CEEP also organised its own first event on the EU elections. Focused on the importance of participation and engagement, the event featured as speakers Luca Jahier, President of the EESC, MEP Karine Gloanec-Maurin, chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Public Services, MEP Jo Leinen, Honorary President of the European Movement International, Christian Mangold, Director for Campaigns at the European Parliament, Petros Fassoulas, Secretary General of the European Movement International, and Tellervo Kyla-Harraka-Rounala, Vice-President of the EESC Employers’ group, with opening and closing remarks by CEEP Vice-Presidents Tom Beattie and Milena Angelova.



11-13 APRIL 2019: CEEP AT THE DEMOCRACY ALIVE FESTIVAL

CEEP was present at the Democracy Alive Festival, hosted by the European Movement International in Den Burg, on the Dutch island of Texel. For three days, CEEP took part in several discussions and events, highlighting its commitment to democracy, the importance of voting at the European elections on 23-26 May 2019, the key role public services and SGIs play for the EU socio-economic model and the need to further boost investment. It was also a chance to directly exchange with EU fellow citizens and present them CEEP priorities, stressing how strongly our members support social development and economic growth.

CEEP MEMBERS’ ACTIVITIES

With the campaign moving to the ground and to the Member States, CEEP national sections, and their own members, also organised several events. As such, BVÖD, the German section of CEEP, organised two debates on 25 March and 23 May with MEP candidates and members of the national or regional parliament, to highlight the place of SGIs in Europe. CEEP France organised a formal event with MEP candidates from all French political parties. VNG, prominent Dutch member of the CEEP Benelux section, also held a high-level debate with MEP candidates from the whole political spectrum, whilst, in Sweden, SALAR made good use of Europe Day on 9 May to hold events on the importance of the European Union.





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