

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462698403321
Titolo	Privatization of public services : impacts for employment, working conditions, and service quality in Europe / / edited by Christoph Hermann and Jorg Flecker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Routledge, , 2012
ISBN	0-203-11960-6 1-299-16101-4 1-136-31619-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (225 p.)
Collana	Routledge studies in employment and work relations in context ; ; 8
Altri autori (Persone)	FleckerJorg <1959-> HermannChristoph
Disciplina	338.94/05
Soggetti	Privatization - Europe Public utilities - Europe Free enterprise - Europe Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title; Copyright Page; Contents; List of Tables; List of Figures; 1 Introduction; 2 The Process of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Marketisation; 3 Concentration and Disintegration: Company Responses in the Electricity Sector and Consequences for Employment; 4 Between Former Monopolists and New Competitors: Fragmentation and Deterioration of Employment Conditions in Postal Services; 5 Outsourcing, Competitive Tendering and Changing Working Conditions in Local Public Transport; 6 Hospitals under Growing Pressure from Marketisation and Privatisation 7 Company Responses to Liberalisation and Privatisation and Consequences for Employment and Working Conditions 8 Privatisation and the Impact on Employment; 9 Privatisation and the Impact on Labour Relations; 10 The Struggle for Public Services; 11 The Citizen-User Perspective: Results from a Cross-Country Survey; 12 Conclusion: Impacts of Public Service Liberalisation and Privatisation; Contributors; Index

Sommario/riassunto

"Public services throughout Europe have undergone dramatic restructuring processes in recent years in connection with liberalization and privatization. While evaluations of the successes of public services have focused on prices and efficiency, much less attention has been paid to the impacts of liberalization and privatization on employment, labor relations, and working conditions. This book addresses this gap by illustrating the ways in which liberalization has contributed to increasing private and foreign ownership of public services, the decentralization of labor relations has amplified pressure on wages, and decreasing employment numbers and increasing workloads have improved productivity partly at the cost of service quality. Examining diverse public-service sectors including network industries, public transportation, and hospitals, and using international case studies, Privatization of Public Services covers a wide range of aspects of service provision, with particular emphasis on companies and workers. The result is a unique picture of the changes created by the liberalization processes in Europe. "--

2. Record Nr.

Autore

Titolo

Pubbl/distr/stampa

ISBN

Descrizione fisica

Collana

Altri autori (Persone)

Soggetti

UNINA9910219908903321

Schneider Friedrich

Shadow Economies Around the World : : Size, Causes, and Consequences / / Friedrich Schneider, Dominik Enste

Washington, D.C. : , : International Monetary Fund, , 2000

1-4623-2787-7

1-4527-9267-4

1-281-60577-8

1-4518-9213-6

9786613786463

1 online resource (56 pages)

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United States

Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

Formato

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Note generali

Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

Sommario/riassunto

This paper presents estimates of the size of the shadow economy in 76 developing, transition, and OECD countries, which are derived by combining figures from different estimation methods. We describe and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the different estimation methods. We find that the growth of the shadow economy—which is now remarkably large in the 76 countries—is strongly related to increasing burdens of taxation and social security contributions, as well as to the extent of state regulatory activities. Rising corruption also has a clearly positive impact on the growth of the shadow economy.
