

3 September 2012

PUBLIC SERVICES

KEY MESSAGES



- 1 High quality and efficient public services – or services of general economic interest (SGEIs) - are of fundamental importance for European society, the well-being of its citizens and the competitiveness of European businesses as users of these services.
- 2 Member States need to look critically at their expenditure to ensure a return to sound public finances. EU governments must therefore credibly commit to modernising the public sector by making public spending more connected to economic growth.
- 3 Stronger partnership between the public and private sectors can help respond to the challenges that Europe is facing today and generate added-value for society in the form of wider choice and innovative solutions, better value for money and new sources of financing. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) offer a primary tool to grasp these potential benefits.

WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?



- Better management of public services and infrastructures that focuses on result-oriented strategies, performance targets and innovation.
- More competition through public tendering and fair treatment of the private sector in the delivery of public services (access to funding, tax treatment, etc.)
- Effective enforcement of applicable State aid rules and fully applying its efficiency criteria for providing compensation for the delivery of SGEIs.
- More awareness of the opportunities of stronger partnership between the public and private sector and the various tools available for setting up PPP structures.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2009, the total value of public procurement in Europe was €2,3 billion, accounting for 19% of EU GDP.

In 2011, only 84 PPP transactions reached financial closure, which is significantly below the 112 and 118 deals closed in 2010 and 2009 respectively.