

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
EUPHORIA AND DISILLUSIONMENT. RECENT  
EXPERIENCES FROM AUSTRIA AND  
IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNTRIES IN  
TRANSFORMATION.

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**Abstract**

This paper analyses the arduous path towards implementing Public Private Partnership (PPP) as a governance mode increasingly 'en vogue' in many political programs worldwide. As current literature on PPP strongly features an Anglo-Saxon bias recent experiences from Austria with a continental-European legalistic Rechtsstaat tradition are presented. Based on our analysis of a recently failed PPP project we outline that beside factors put forward by rational-choice approaches the dynamics of such partnerships are also shaped by normative and cultural-cognitive factors as theorized by neoinstitutional approaches. We thereby understand PPPs not only as a distinct, innovative organizational arrangement but also as a policy tool with symbolic meanings and underlying premises. In the final part general implications regarding the relevance of these experiences for transformational countries are outlined.

**Keywords:** neoinstitutionalism, public goods theory, Public-Private Partnership, procurement, public management

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