



The Geneva PPP Research Center

Background

Geneva is a focal point of international co-operation: About 35 International Organizations and more than 250 NGOs are located in Geneva, about 130 Multinational Companies have their headquarters in this city, and 170 foreign States are represented. While these organizations are all actively striving to solve, or at least closely concerned by the most striking societal problems faced by humanity, experience has shown that the complexity involved in these problems brings to light the limits of each sector's capacities. Acknowledging that actors from the public, business, and civil-society sectors are interdependent in solving fundamental problems in society and in reaching their goals, public-private partnerships (PPPs) have thus become the "collaboration paradigm of the 21st century."

These partnerships are supposed to create a collaborative advantage by combining sector-specific resources and expertise. However, they are not simple ventures. The benefits of the collaborative approach are often jeopardized by challenges stemming from a complex environment, differences in the partners' interests and ways of working, and a lack of suitable partnership management know-how and skills. Yet, the development of respective knowledge and capacities remains difficult in an arena that is fragmented, with actors starting from scratch without building on existing best practices and lessons learned.

The uniqueness of the Geneva PPP Research Center

The Geneva PPP Research Center takes into account the prominence of PPP approaches as well as the challenges involved in such endeavors. It seeks to serve as a hub and catalyst for PPP-related research projects and to provide a platform for academics, professionals, and practitioners to share know-how for managing PPPs. This means that the Center builds on major PPP research activities of Geneva-based researchers and initiates further interdisciplinary research projects. To countervail the current fragmentation of the PPP landscape, it provides an overview of the latest insights into PPP tools, educational programs, and research activities in Geneva. The Center allows creating a much needed link between education programs, the practice, and research. For example, Master and MBA programs benefit from the latest insights into PPP management and from an active exchange with professionals. Additionally, the PPP Research Center seeks to develop close links to PPP catalysts, such as the World Economic Forum. Thus, the center aims to make the most of its unique geographical position in a cluster of key actors in the PPP arena.

The Geneva PPP Research Center

- a research-focused platform**
- acting as a hub of Geneva-based research activities**
- promoting the integration of PPP-knowledge, projects, and initiatives, while building on the resources and knowledge of the University of Geneva**



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Selected research activities

Articles and books

- Stadtler, L. (2014): Scrutinizing Public-Private Partnerships for Development: Towards a Broad Evaluation Conception. Forthcoming in the Journal of Business Ethics.
- Probst, G.; Bassi, A. (2014). Tackling Complexity: A Systemic Approach for Decision Makers. Sheffield: Greenleaf Publishing.
- Stadtler, L. (2014): Designing Public-Private Partnerships for Development: A Dissertation Summary. Forthcoming in Business & Society.
- Stadtler, L. (2013): Managing Boundaries in Tripartite Cross-Sector Partnerships. In: Leslie A. Toombs (Ed.), Best Paper Proceedings of the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management (2013:1 12200; doi:10.5465/AMBPP.2013.40).
- Stadtler, L. (2012): Designing public-private partnerships for development. In: *M@n@gement*, 15(1), 77-100.
- Stadtler, L.; Probst, G. (2012): How Broker Organizations Can Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships For Development. In: *European Management Journal*, 30(1), 32-46.
- Stapleton, O.; Stadtler, L.; Van Wassenhove, L. (2012): Private-Humanitarian Supply Chain Partnerships on the Silk Road. In: Haksoz, C.; Seshadri, S.; Iyer, A.V.: *Managing Supply Chains on the Silk Road: Strategy, Performance, and Risk*. New York: Taylor & Francis Group, pp. 217-238.
- Stadtler, L. (2011): Aligning a Company's Social and Economic Interests in Partnerships for Development. In: *Journal of Corporate Citizenship*, 44, 85-106.
- Stadtler, L. (2010): Managing Across Corporate Boundaries: Public-Private Partnerships. In: Stadtler/Schmitt/Klarner/Straub (Eds.): *More than Bricks in the Wall: Organizational Perspectives for Sustainable Success*. Wiesbaden: Gabler, pp.170-179.

Related awards

- Winner of the SIM Best Dissertation Award 2013, organized by the Social Issues in Management Division of the Academy of Management
- Winner of the SNIS Award for the Best PhD Thesis in International Studies, organized by the Swiss Network for International Studies

Published case studies

- Probst, G.; Stadtler, L. (2013): The Ethiopia Commodity Exchange: Planting the Seeds for Change. European Case Clearing House, ECCH (Ref. No. 813-009-1), England and Teaching Note (Ref. No. 813-009-8). **Winner of the EMFD Case Writing Competition 2012.**
- Van Wassenhove, L.; Stadtler, L. (2012): The Logistics Emergency Teams: Pioneering a New Partnership model. Case Study, INSEAD, European Case Clearing House, ECCH (Ref. No. 712-033-1), England and Teaching Note (Ref. No. 712-033-8).



- Van Wassenhove, L.; Stadtler, L. (2012): Building on Lessons Learnt: Disaster Relief Operations at Agility. Case Study, INSEAD, European Case Clearing House, ECCH (Ref. No. 712-021-1), England and Teaching Note (Ref. No. 712-021-8).
- Van Wassenhove, L.; Stadtler, L. (2011): Corporate Social Engagement: How Aramex Crosses Boundaries, Case Study, INSEAD, European Case Clearing House, ECCH (Ref. No. 711-038-1), England and Teaching Note (Ref. No. 711-038-8). **Runner up at the 2011 oikos Case Writing Competition.**
- Probst, G.; Stadtler, L.; Arabyiat, T. (2010): Creating shared responsibility in a multi-stakeholder partnership, Case Study, University of Geneva (HEC), German-Jordanian University, European Case Clearing House, ECCH (Ref. No. 710-026-1), England and Teaching Note (Ref. No. 710-026-8).

Selected teaching activities

- "International Organizations and Public-Private Partnerships" – MOOC offered at coursera.org (Oct-Nov 2013 and Oct-Nov 2014; Dr. Lea Stadtler and Prof. Gilbert Probst)
- "Managing Change Projects: Across Boundaries" – Master Course (Dr. Lea Stadtler and Prof. Gilbert Probst)
- "Cross-Sector Partnerships" – IOMBA Course (Dr. Valerie Federico-Weinzierl and Dr. Lea Stadtler)
- "Public-Private Partnerships and Change Management" – 5h module integrated into MBA and MA courses on change management