

**Special Issue:**  
**Public-Private Agreements, Competition and Institutions**

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The papers in this special issue of the *Review of Industrial Organization* originated with an international conference on “Public Private Contracts, Competition and Institutions” held at the University of Paris I Sorbonne, in December 2007. The purpose of this conference was to confront alternative theoretical approaches and empirical developments on this topic.

This special issue reflects this objective of balancing normative and positive approaches. It indeed provides a collection of papers dealing with how public-private contracts are shaped, their advantages and drawbacks, why and when they should be used, and how they affect performances. To some extent, it is a useful complement to another special issue on public-private partnerships already edited in this journal (*Review of Industrial Organization*, 2006, Volume 29, Numbers 1-2).

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