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Winter School on Federalism and Governance 2027

Federalism and the Changing World Order

Innsbruck (A) and Bolzano/Bozen (I)
1 February – 12 February 2027

WHAT IS THE WINTER SCHOOL ABOUT?

The Winter School is a two-week international postgraduate program on federalism, regionalism and multilevel governance. Through an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, it explores how federalism can contribute to multilevel, integrated and pluralistic decision-making.

A wide range of lectures gives participants the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of multilevel governance and government, especially from the perspectives of law and political science. The Winter School provides a cutting-edge international learning environment with world class scholars of various academic disciplines from around the globe.

The 2027 Winter School will focus on **federalism and the changing world order**. During the training program, participants will analyse the role that federalism and multilevel governance can play in a changing world order. Starting with an introduction on how federal systems can respond to contemporary challenges, experts will lecture on constitutional resilience in multilevel systems, federalism and collective security alliances, democratic backsliding and authoritarian tendencies, as well as the impact of global crises and geopolitical power shifts on federal governance. Attention will also be paid to whether transnational crises lead to shifts in the distribution of powers between central governments and the components.

The program will provide insights into different models of federal and multilevel governance through a broad range of case studies, including the power-sharing structure of the European Union as well as examples from Africa, Asia, North America, and the post-Soviet space. In addition, participants will discuss topics such as asymmetric federalism and the impact of multilevel governance on policy areas including natural resources, minority and indigenous rights, peacebuilding, digitalization, and fiscal relations.

Besides numerous opportunities for discussion with leading experts on multilevel governance throughout the lectures, a variety of interactive sessions will provide the chance to share knowledge and experience. Lectures, workshops, Q&A sessions, and a round table will take into account multilevel systems from different continents.

The Winter School will examine a series of issues:

- To which extent do federal systems come under pressure in times of geopolitical uncertainty?
- How do alliances of states and geopolitical regions position themselves globally when balances of power shift?
- To what extent do geopolitical conflicts promote tendencies toward centralization in multilevel systems?
- What impact does the crisis of liberal democracy have on federal democracies?
- How does federalism contribute to constitutional resilience?
- What role do federal states play in stabilizing the international order?
- What tensions arise between global governance and federal sovereignty?
- Can federalism contribute to stabilizing a fragmented world order?
- What lessons can be learned from comparative practice?

The 2027 Winter School examines these and other topics by combining theoretical expertise and relevant case studies. As such, the program is a unique opportunity for young academics, postgraduate students, civil servants and practitioners to receive enhanced training on the theoretical and practical aspects of federalism and multilevel governance.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Winter School is designed for those who wish to increase their knowledge of federalism through an interdisciplinary and comparative approach:

- young researchers and academics
- post-docs, postgraduate and graduate students
- civil servants from local, regional or national government
- employees of international organizations or NGOs

Please note that the program requires previous basic knowledge of federalism.

WHAT TO EXPECT OF THE WINTER SCHOOL?

The two-week program will take place in an international learning environment in Austria (Innsbruck, Tyrol) and in Italy (Bolzano/Bozen, South Tyrol) and includes:

- lectures by distinguished academics;
- discussions and case studies with top experts in the field;
- interactive workshops;
- study visits to political institutions.

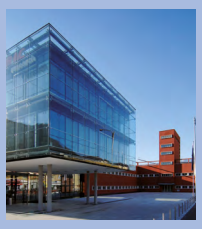
The Winter School will be held entirely in English.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anna Gamper**
  Professor at the Department of Public Law, State and Administrative Theory, Faculty of Law, University of Innsbruck and Substitute Judge of the Constitutional Court of Liechtenstein
- **Prof. Dr. Francesco Palermo**
  Head of the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen and Professor of Comparative Public Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Verona.
- **Em. Univ.-Prof. DDr. Günther Pallaver**
  Emeritus Professor at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Innsbruck and Senior Researcher at the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen.

LECTURERS

- **Prof. Pejman Abdolmohammadi** – University of Trento, Italy
- **Dr. Elisabeth Alber** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Prof. Antonia Baraggia** – Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy
- **Prof. Eva Maria Belser** – University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- **Prof. Joshua Castellino** – Brunel University of London, United Kingdom
- **Dr. Federica Cittadino** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Prof. Erin Delaney** – University College London, United Kingdom
- **Prof. Anna Gamper** – University of Innsbruck, Austria
- **Dr. Georg Grote** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Prof. Heinz Gärtner** – University of Vienna, Austria
- **Dr. Jonas Kaschka** – University of Innsbruck, Austria
- **Dr. Andreas Kiefer** – Former Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Dr. Karl Kössler** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Mag. Petra Malfertheiner** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Dr. Roberta Medda-Windischer** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Mag. Marina Ohanjanyan** – Clingendael Institute, The Netherlands
- **Prof. Francesco Palermo** – Eurac Research and University of Verona, Italy
- **Prof. Johanne Poirier** – McGill University, Canada
- **Dr. Francisco Javier Romero Caro** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Dr. Alice Valdesalici** – Eurac Research, Italy
- **Prof. Jens Woelk** – University of Trento, Italy
- **Ass. iur. Carolin Zwilling** – Eurac Research, Italy



The ***Institute for Comparative Federalism*** carries out comparative and applied research on governance trends in federal, regional and supranational systems both within Europe and around the world. The institute is part of Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, an innovative center for research and training based in South Tyrol, Italy. Founded in 1992 as a private institution, Eurac Research is composed of eleven research institutes and six centers.

The ***University of Innsbruck***, Austria, founded in 1669, has gained a long-standing reputation for studies on federalism. It serves as the main academic centre of Western Austria and its neighboring regions. Its sixteen faculties, among them the Faculty of Law and the Department of Political Science, offer a wide range of studies. The University is situated in the heart of Tyrol.

DATES AND VENUES: 1 February - 12 February 2027

The first week will take place at the Faculty of Law and the Department of Political Science, Leopold-Franzens-Universität in Innsbruck, Austria. The second week will take place at the Institute for Comparative Federalism, Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy.

Application deadline: 12 October 2026

For further information, a detailed program, enrolment procedure, costs and scholarship opportunities, please visit: **winterschool.eurac.edu**

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