

Winter School on Federalism and Governance 2025

Federalism and the Separation of Powers

Innsbruck (A) and Bolzano/Bozen (I)
3 February – 14 February 2025



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Under the auspices
of the Secretary
General of the
Council of Europe,
Mr Alain Berset

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 give 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 2025 Winter School will focus on **federalism and the separation of powers**. During the training program, participants will analyze the legal and political structures of distribution systems. Starting from an introduction on the origins of the separation of powers, experts will lecture on the vertical and horizontal separation of powers, the involvement of the subnational level as well as the role of constitutional courts and other checks and balances in federal systems. A focus will also examine the question of if and how the vertical separation of powers can be a useful tool in the prevention of authoritarianism.

The program will provide insights into different aspects of the separation of powers by offering a wide range of case-studies, such as the federal power-sharing system of the European Union, as well as examples from Africa, Asia and North America. Furthermore, topics such as asymmetric federalism and the impact of power-sharing on key policy fields, such as environment, migration, digitalization and health or fiscal relations, will be discussed.

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:

- How can federalism be used as a tool to divide and share powers?
- What is the role of constitutional courts and of other checks and balances for the separation of powers?
- What are the consequences of asymmetries for the separation of powers?
- Can a strict separation of powers be counterproductive in federal systems, and how can shared rule and intergovernmentalism be combined with the separation of powers?
- Does the vertical separation of powers prevent authoritarian systems?
- How do power relations change during emergencies?
- How does the separation of powers impact on policy fields such as migration, environment, fiscal relations and digitalization influenced by separation of powers?
- What lessons can be learned from comparative practice?

The 2025 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

- **Dr. Elisabeth Alber** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Dr. Hans Altherr** – Chair of the Board, Forum of Federations
- **Prof. Eva Maria Belser** – University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- **Dr. Federica Cittadino** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Prof. Erin F. Delaney** – University College London, UK
- **Dr. Michael Da Silva** – University of Southampton, UK
- **Prof. Yonathan Fessha** – University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anna Gamper** – University of Innsbruck, Austria
- **Dr. Georg Grote** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Em.o.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Max Haller** - University of Graz, Austria
- **Mag. Petra Malferteiner** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Prof. Giuseppe Martinico** – Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy
- **Prof. Dr. Francesco Palermo** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen and University of Verona, Italy
- **Dr. Sara Parolari** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Prof. Dr. Patricia Popelier** – University of Antwerp, Belgium
- **Dr. Francisco Javier Romero Caro** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Prof. Tuan Samahon** – Villanova University, USA
- **Dr. Johanna Schnabel** – Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- **Dr. Alice Valdesalici** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Dr. Asanga Welikala** – University of Edinburgh, UK
- **Dr. Verena Wisthaler** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- **Ass.-iur. Carolin Zwilling** – Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, 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 Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, offer a wide range of studies. The University is situated in the heart of Tyrol.

DATES AND VENUES: 3 February - 14 February 2025

The first week will take place at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, 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: 13 October 2024

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

Eurac Research

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The Winter School is honored to be held under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Alain Berset

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