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I. SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES (2014/15) ALONG THE MAIN RESEARCH FIELDS

The Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism (SFeRe) at the European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen (EURAC) carries out comparative studies and applied research on trends in federal, regional and local government and governance. The research approach is mostly based on legal comparison as a method of analysis in multi-layered systems. Next to research, training activities and consultancies are being more and more requested by partners and stakeholders.

The individual projects performed at the institute can be grouped into 5 main research clusters:
1) South Tyrolean Autonomy in Context;
2) Comparative Federalism and Autonomy Studies;
3) Institutional Innovation and Participatory Democracy;
4) Financial Relations and Fiscal Federalism;
5) Environmental policy and law in multilevel systems.
As well as
6) Training Activities and
7) Consultancies.

The following summary aims to give a short background information and to highlight the major objectives and outputs achieved between September 2014 and September 2015. All detailed activities performed by the researchers are listed in part II of this Activity Report. For major details please refer to the single projects on our website ([www.eurac.edu/sfere](http://www.eurac.edu/sfere) > research fields > projects) or contact us at sfere@eurac.edu.
The research field **South Tyrolean Autonomy in Context**, on the one hand, analyses and monitors the development of the local special autonomy and, on the other hand, meets the mission of the Institute: to provide solutions to governance issues also at local level.

Under the project entry 1.a) Monitoring Centre on Autonomies - The Autonomy of South Tyrol and of the Region Trentino Alto-Adige/South Tyrol the special autonomy of South Tyrol is closely monitored. The researchers contribute to the local public debate and offer expertise to the decision-makers at local level. Further, the Institute’s homepage also provides a collection of legislation and case law related to the two Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano with free access at (http://www.eurac.edu/it/research/autonomies/sfereg/publications/Pages/publicationsoa.aspx).

Over the last year, research focused on the recent constitutional reform process and its impact on the local reality. A conference (“Riforma costituzionale e Regioni. Riflessioni a prima lettura sul nuovo Titolo V della Costituzione”) was organized in EURAC in October 2014 to facilitate discussion among national experts in comparative constitutional law. The conference proceedings were published in spring 2015.

Furthermore, consultancy is one of the project’s main tasks in which the institute’s staff is periodically involved (one example is a consultancy with regard to the reforming process of the inter-municipal forms of cooperation (Comunità di Valle) in the Autonomous Province of Trento (September 2014)). The Institute is also involved in consultancy activities for the Council of Europe (e.g. report on “Trends in regionalization in Italy” and “Autonomy and Borders in an Evolving Europe. Principles, framework and procedures for modifying status, competences and borders of subnational entities within domestic laws”). A particular highlight in 2015 was the series of public events held at EURAC for South Tyrolean citizens, the so-called “Talks on Autonomy – Autonomiegespäße – dibattiti sull’autonomia”. Several researchers of the institute discussed together with local and international experts from academia, politics or administration on 10 different topics, such as financial autonomy, local elections or bilingual school teaching. This way, a platform for exchange of opinions for interested citizens has been offered, also in preparation of the upcoming reform process and the revision of the autonomy statute (see: Autonomy Convention for the Revision of the Autonomous Statute of the Region Trentino-South Tyrol (3.c)).

For next year, the Institute is planning to publish a volume in Italian on the five special regions in Italy, aiming at critically analyzing the sense and future development of their special status within the constitutional order. The publication will be anticipated by a conference (April 2016) where the main results of the research will be discussed. The final aim of this research activity is to publish a second book (in 2017) focusing on the special autonomies from a more comparative perspective.

The Impact of EU-legislation on the Autonomy of South Tyrol – an analysis of selected legislative and administrative competences 1.c) was a 2-year (2013-2015) third-party project funded by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen, performed in collaboration with the University of Innsbruck and the Free University of Bolzano.

The aim was to study the implications of EU-law on the legislative and administrative competences of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen. The analysis was conducted regarding the general framework and 10 selected policy fields (in economic, social and environment affairs) which are particularly relevant and/or interesting for South Tyrol. The institute was in charge of the chapters referring on the constitutional framework and on the policy fields “education” and “environmental law”. The results were published in German and in Italian in volumes of approx. 500 pages each („EU-Mitgliedschaft und Südtirols Autonomie: die Auswirkungen der EU-Mitgliedschaft auf die Autonomie des Landes Südtirol am Beispiel ausgewählter Gesetzgebungs- und Verwaltungskompetenzen“, and “L’impatto del diritto dell’Unione Europea sull’autonomia dell’Alto Adige/Südtirol”). Encouraged (also) by the interest shown by the local administration, politics and the media for these outputs, a follow-up research project is planned for 2016-2017 to be performed in the same consortium in order to analyse also the remaining fields of competence of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen.
Cross-border cooperation has always been one of the Institute’s key topics, with particular regard to the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino (1.b). Since 2012, the research focus allows the Institute to be the centre of expertise for the local administration, for politicians and for the international academic community. Especially legal forms of cooperation and the EGTCs in all EU member states and the countries of the Alpine region are of special interest. In June 2015, an international workshop on different forms of cooperation in higher education was organized in EURAC: “Comparing Experiences of Cross-border Science Regions: EGTCs and other Forms of Transnational Networks”. The positive outcome has allowed to enlarge the Institute’s network and to find potential partners for future EU calls. Institutional partner of the event as well as of the forthcoming conference proceedings, with special focus on the local project of the Euregio-Universities of Innsbruck, Bolzano/Bozen and Trento, was once again the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. Together we intend to organize regularly on an annual basis Euregio-workshops for practitioners as well as for researchers focussing on a topic of local interest of all citizens in the European Region.

As a result of a workshop organized in 2012, the Institute was invited to participate in the call H2020-TWINN-2015 on “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation”. The project was coordinated by the European Institute of Cross-Border Studies in Esztergom/Hungary and submitted in May 2015. The specific challenge was to address networking gaps and deficiencies between the research institutions of the low performing Member States and regions and internationally-leading counterparts at EU level. The proposal turned out to be unsuccessful at the evaluation stage, but the Consortium agreed on the continuation of the collaboration for future calls.

The research cluster and project description

Comparative Federalism and Autonomy Studies 2.a) integrates manifold strands of the institute’s comparative studies. From the outset, we have thereby aimed at both gaining insights for the autonomy of South Tyrol and conducting broader research that is based on the analysis of self-government arrangements worldwide. Also in terms of content we have broadened our scope from an initial focus on contexts characterized by cultural diversity, including migration (2.b), to comprehensively cover all aspects of federalism and autonomy.

Within this research area we follow a decidedly trilingual approach and link scientific communities in German, Italian and English language. As a result of this bridging function, we carry out comparative studies in close collaboration with networks operating in each of these three languages (e.g. Europäisches Zentrum für Föderalismusforschung, Devolution Club – Associazione per il dialogo costituzionale, the European Consortium for Political Research, and the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies). A bilateral cooperation agreement also links us with the Center for Federal Studies of Addis Abeba University, from where we receive as guest researchers, on the basis of third-party funding, 2-4 PhD students per year at EURAC.

Trilingualism also characterizes the publications, conferences, training programs and consultancy activities, which make our research results available to various target groups. In particular, the institute edits book series in each of the three languages: “Minderheiten und Autonomien” (Nomens-Verlag, Baden-Baden), “Ius Publicum Europaeum” (CEDAM/Wolters Kluwer Italia) and “Studies in Territorial and Cultural Diversity Governance” (Brill, Leiden and Boston).


As far as consultancy (7) is concerned, we have undertaken such activities both locally and for policy-makers in various parts of the world. Due to the nature of these mandates, geographical foci of these actions change from time to time. We have been working, for instance, intensively with the Central Tibetan Administration (“Tibetan Government-in-exile”) and in Myanmar. New current and third party funded activities take us, among others, to Ukraine and Gagauzia in Moldova. Beyond these specific activities on the spot, we also provide advice through the project “Autonomies of the World“, which aims at creating an easily accessible online source for policy-makers and
other practitioners interested in comparative autonomy studies. Results from our comparative research also inform consultancy that we provide to international organizations, above all the EU, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. All these consultancy activities are financed through third-party funding from foundations, governments or international organizations.

Moreover, this research cluster also encompasses external funding for research activities. The institute is part, for instance, of project “La lingua come fattore di integrazione sociale e politica” (Language as Factor of Social and Political Integration), financed under the program PRIN (Progetti di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale). Moreover, the institute has elaborated in 2015 a Horizon 2020 project proposal with the title “CORE_ID: Cohesion Policy, Communication Strategies and European Identification in the Regions”, coordinated by the University of Magdeburg, but foreseeing a key role of the institute as work package leader. Its approval is still pending at the time of reporting. Additionally, we currently work on a project proposal in response to another Horizon 2020 call (topic REV-INEQUAL-2016-7: “Spatial justice, social cohesion and territorial inequalities”).

The research cluster **Institutional Innovation and Participatory Democracy (3.a)** integrates various strands of the Institute’s comparative studies in reconsidering the theoretical and empirical framework of federalism, democracy and governance, and their interplay. Nowadays, the challenge lies less in how to divide the spheres of government but rather in how to better connect them, by, at the same time, involving actors that have previously been excluded from traditional decision-making procedures and the channels of institutional representation. To what extent the institutionalization of new instruments and models of citizens’ participation are a means to govern better and thus to better equip government structures and governance processes with innovative tools is the overarching research question of this research cluster.

In short, the projects within this cluster aim to:
- contribute to the re-consideration of the theoretical framework of federalism, democracy, governance, and their interplay;
- empirically analyze mechanisms and procedures of cooperation and coordination in decision-making processes among governmental levels, and between governmental levels and the different institutional and societal actors that push for more participation through case studies;
- advance the research on subnational institutional innovation and participatory democracy;
- develop a set of training activities for administrations and stakeholders with regard to participatory democracy and decision-making processes at various governmental levels.

Among others, we closely cooperate with the Universities of: Innsbruck, Bolzano/Bozen, Trento, Verona, Speyer, Barcelona, Andrassy, Stellenbosch, Tufts; with international, national, regional and local networks (Center for Democracy Aarau, Forum of Federations, Aragona Government, Liechtenstein Institut, Devolution Club, Euregional Association for Comparative Public Law and European Law (AEDPCE), South Tyrolean Political Science Association) and associations/stakeholders dealing with direct and participatory democracy as well as—for trainings and consultancy—with various international master programs, regional and provincial administrations, and municipalities.

To give an example, the EU-funded project **POPI! Paths of Participation** (2014-15) (3.b) in the Euroregion Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino involved research associations and stakeholders from Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino. Its outcome - a bilingual publication and a guide for civil servants about the use of participatory instruments and methods at municipal level - has led to a wide variety of follow-up activities, such as training courses for civil servants, etc. (“Partizipation und partizipative Demokratie in der Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino: eine Projektdocumentation - Partecipazione e democrazia partecipativa nell’ Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino” (EURAC Book) and “Bürger/innenbeteiligung. Ein praktischer Leitfaden für Gemeinden in Südtirol - Democrazia partecipativa: una guida per amministratori locali dell'Alto Adige / Südtirol” (EURAC Book and an online source).

The Institute also regularly advises the Autonomous Province of Trento with regard to participatory practices (Communities of the Valley and a planned Autonomy Convention in Trentino) and scientifically supervises the so-called **Autonomy Convention for the Revision of the Autonomous Statute of the Region Trentino-South Tyrol (3.c)**...
with regard to its provisions for South Tyrol [(a one and a half year process in 2016-17 consisting of citizens involvement through public events, a so-called Forum of 100 citizens, and meetings of the organ of the 33 (8 citizens, politicians, legal experts and stakeholders)]. For details on the process see: provincial law no. 3/2015, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen.

As in the other research clusters, we follow a trilingual approach and build the link between German-, Italian- and English-language scientific communities. In 2015, a notable publication in English was “Citizen Participation in Multi Level Democracies” (Brill-Nijhoff). An English-language publication on “Local Government Compared” (working title) is planned.

The Institute is part of the transdisciplinary research group “Governance in the Alpine Region”, led by the EURAC-Institute for Regional Development and Location Management. The research focuses on the municipal level and elaborated a common basic research frame for South Tyrol and its neighboring territories.

Moreover, together with the EURAC-Institute for Public Management, a project proposal on participatory budgeting in South Tyrol was submitted in autumn 2014 and its approval is still pending (funding from the Autonomous Province of Bolzano). Further, the Institute is in contact with partners in the Alpine area for the submission of project proposals dealing with institutional innovation and participatory democracy in this geographic Macro-region (following the new “EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, EUSALP”). It also intends to organize a high-level international workshop on participatory democracy in pluri-ethnic societies with, among others, Canadian partners.

As of 2014, a PhD project (with the University of Verona) on Participatory democracy in compound states (3.d) has been started. This PhD project has two main goals: one is to develop a univocal legal definition of participatory and deliberative democracy, the other is to map deliberative and participatory processes in the analyzed multilevel countries in order to understand the qualitative and quantitative impact of these elements in the constitutional systems but also the effective need of a legislative regulation for participatory and deliberative processes.

The research cluster on Financial Relations and Fiscal Federalism (4.) integrates the studies that are generally referred to as "fiscal federalism". As such, it deals with the allocation of financial and fiscal powers and intergovernmental financial relations in federal and regional states. At present, the constitutional foundations of these financial relations are under revision in order to adapt them to current challenges that result from continuous changes at the supranational and national spheres of economic governance. The so-called ‘fiscal federalism’ is a highly relevant political but also scientific topic, not only with regard to Italy where the revision process has been going on for over 15 years. Also, financial issues play a pivotal role in featuring the intergovernmental systems as a whole. Consequently, questions related to the assignment of financial responsibilities, as well as the balancing of autonomy and solidarity have to be comprehensively addressed, in order to fully understand the functioning of compound systems.

The main objective of the research field is to investigate these developments from a comparative and legal perspective and to analyse case studies from a variety of European compound systems, also in order to identify best practices. This occurs, on the one hand through the exploration of existing financial relations, so as to determine important characteristics and, on the other hand, through the comparison of institutional differences and asymmetries. To this effect, the research cluster puts much emphasis on the special status of some of Italy's subnational entities in order to explain the influence of reforms on the fiscal systems of these regions. Special attention is paid to the financial structure of the two Autonomous Provinces Bozen/Bolzano and Trento and the impact this has on their financial autonomy.

At a first stage, the analysis focused on the comparison of European case studies (Austria, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, UK), streamlining the undergoing reforming process of the Italian system of financial relations. Later, our focus moved closer to institutional asymmetries and, at the same time, opened up to the trans-national dimension of fiscal federalism. On the one hand, an in-depth study of financial autonomy in Italy was conducted for the Council of Europe, in order to explore the differences between ordinary and special regions, combining legal
investigation with economic data. On the other hand, the Institute focused on financial relations in the Euroregion Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino.

Recently, the Institute has taken a wider comparative approach in order to analyse the basics of intergovernmental financial relations. Here the goal is to identify tendencies around the world and to publish the findings in an English-language volume with the publishing house Brill. In addition, the Institute has been participating in the research project “Subnational Debt in a Fiscally Sustainable Europe”. The project is coordinated by the “German Research Institute for Public Administration Speyer (FÖV) of the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer and takes place within the network “Foster Europe”. The analysis takes a comparative and interdisciplinary approach in order to connect economic, legal and political perspectives. Within this research network we submitted a project under the COST call 2015 (evaluation is still pending). Further, a comparative fiscal federalism work package shall be included in the research project proposal to the EU-program HORIZON 2020 on the topic REV-INEQUAL-2016-7: “Spatial justice, social cohesion and territorial inequalities” (which the institute plans to prepare and submit by early 2016. The Institute will furthermore host two guest researchers on the topic “comparative fiscal autonomy of subnational entities” in the coming year.

As of 2012, a PhD project on fiscal federalism and financial responsibility (4.b) has been started (with the University of Verona). The main focus of the research is the principle of financial responsibility from a comparative and legal perspective. Aim of the analysis is to investigate and measure the legal instruments, which translate the financial principle into practice within the context of the selected case studies (Spain and Germany).

Also within this field of research, activities are carried out in cooperation with a wide and interdisciplinary network of research Institutes and Universities (among others, the Universities of Innsbruck, Trento and Verona, the German Research Institute for Public Administration Speyer and the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer, the Institut d’Estudis Autonòmics of Barcelona, the Institut für Föderalismus in Innsbruck, the Institute and the School of Public Leadership in Stellenbosch, as well as international experts within the IACFS network).

5) The research cluster Environmental policy and law in multilevel systems was established in 2012. As environmental problems have a local/sub-national, national, supra-national/regional, international and transnational dimension, the Institute investigates whether and how the management and protection of natural resources is guaranteed at different governmental levels and in different legislative systems. The main research fields cover: management and protection of natural resources; public participation in the environmental impact assessment (EIA); protection of biodiversity and ecological connectivity; the improvement and harmonization of low carbon policies and strategies; impact of EU environmental law on the Italian and regional/provincial legislation. Next to basic research, a number of third party funded projects were carried out:

From January 2012 to June 2014, the Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism was partner in the project BIOREGIO - Carpathians, led by the EURAC-Institute for Regional Development and location management and financed by the EU-South East Europe Programme. The research aimed at the identification of common standards for integrated management plans and the elaboration of common integrated management measures in transboundary areas. The main results of the project were several training workshops and conferences for regional stakeholders, several national reports, and the final publication “Toward the Protection of Biodiversity and Ecological Connectivity in Multi-Layered Systems”, edited by M. Alberton, published with Nomos (2013) which analyzes the institutional framework and legislation affecting biodiversity and ecological connectivity in the Carpathian countries. Weblink: http://webgis.eurac.edu/bioregio/

Low carbon South East Europe (www.locsee.eu) was financed by the South East Europe Programme and carried out in cooperation with the EURAC-Institute for Renewable Energies as lead partner of the Consortium (October 2012 – December 2014). Within the LOCSEE project, among several activities and outputs, specific “Guidelines for the Coordinated Transfer of EU Legislation in the Field of Climate Change” were developed. The guidelines are directed primarily at beneficiary countries of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), which are required to align their national legislation with the acquis communautaire in the fields of climate action and ozone layer protection.
Federica Cittadino, the four partners as well as the rising demand for environmental protection and autonomy, owing a transdisciplinary teaching modules aiming at making participants acquainted with multi-tier government and governance. The main requests concern the fields of comparative federalism, asymmetric regionalism, autonomy arrangements and participatory democracy. Among others, the Institute’s researchers are regularly lecturing and facilitating training modules as well as role plays in cooperation with the Law Faculty of the University of Verona, the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, the Free University of Bolzano/Bozen, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Alexander Langer Foundation, the High Schools in South Tyrol and in Trentino and different master programmes in foreign, national and euroregional Universities as well as associations. Upon request the Institute offers trainings and seminars for the academic and political community as well as for civil servants and the civil society.

Beside external training activities, the institute carries out also its own training programs: Since 2010 it organizes yearly a two week full time education program on the topics of federalism, regionalism and multi-level governance. This “Winter School on Federalism and Governance” (6.a) is a cross-border project, jointly organized by the Institute and the University of Innsbruck (Faculty of Law and the School of Political Science and Sociology). The underlying rationale of the Winter School is to create living labs where qualified participants from all over the world learn about other experiences and best practices by discussing with internationally renowned scholars as well as senior officials from ministries and international organizations.

The Winter School aims to combine applied research and academic teaching for both academics and practitioners with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. The program attracts every year excellent scholars (among other things) before full membership is granted. The guidelines therefore aim to provide IPA countries with an appropriate tool in the form of a concise but comprehensive overview of each relevant legislative act. Several workshops and conferences were organized in the participating countries to disseminate results and outputs.

From March 2013 to May 2014, the EURAC-Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism was lead partner of the Europe-Aid project on “Regulating and promoting public participation in EIA in selected pilot areas” (acronym: EU-China) with a total project budget of 587.191,00 €.

The institute carried out several activities and coordinated the entire project as lead partner. Among the main achievements and activities were:
- Organization of Training programs, workshops and conferences in Beijing, in Yunnan and Shandong, including Deputy Directors of the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection, members of the Delegation of the European Union to China, Professors from University of Political Science and Law, members of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and representatives of Environmental NGOs, local authorities and EIA agencies;
- Study reports on Chinese weaknesses and best practices, EU best practices
- Organization of public events for local communities to encourage their participation in projects currently undergoing EIA procedures in Yunnan and Shandong.

In addition, a particular highlight of 2015 was a consultancy financed by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen to write a report on the division of competences with regard to environmental protection and management between the Italian State and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen. Several bilateral meetings and a final seminar were organized to discuss the results. The question of the competences of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen in environmental law were also analyzed within the project “The Impact of EU-legislation on the Autonomy of South Tyrol” (see above at 1.c and in the section “Publications”). As concluding note, it should be mentioned that a new collaborator (Federica Cittadino) for the research area environmental law was selected through a public call and she will start working full time in November 2015.

The Institute offers several training activities (6). This to respond both to the requests of our partners as well as to the rising demand for transdisciplinary teaching modules aiming at making participants acquainted with multi-tier government and governance. The main requests concern the fields of comparative federalism, asymmetric regionalism, autonomy arrangements and participatory democracy.

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The Winter School aims to combine applied research and academic teaching for both academics and practitioners with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. The program attracts every year excellent scholars
from different continents (on average 250 applications/edition) and thus helps to develop and to strengthen the worldwide scientific network of the Institute. The target group of the Winter School are max. 30 postgraduate students, young researchers and professionals as well as civil servants from local, regional and international government offices or NGOs who wish to deepen their knowledge from a theoretical and practical approach. The programme is a unique opportunity to be trained both on theoretical and practical aspects of federalism. Beyond the umbrella topic "Federalism and Governance", a main focus is chosen for every edition.

Since 2013, the Institute runs every year the “EURAC Federal Scholar in Residence-Program” (6.b). The winner is granted a research stay up to 3 weeks at EURAC and the opportunity to present their research findings in a public lecture at EURAC. The aim is to enhance the exchange of scholars dealing with federalism and regionalism from a comparative perspective in order to both elaborate new project ideas and to stress the importance of conducting comparative research. Applications consists in submitting a not yet published full-fledged academic paper which undergoes a double blind peer review process. So far, the record of our Federal Scholars include: Dr. Donna Wood (University of Victoria, CAN, research paper: “Could European Governance Ideas Improve Federal-Provincial Relations in Canada”); Prof. Andrew Hughes Hallett (George Mason University, USA; University of St Andrews, UK, research paper on How to Apply the Lessons of Fiscal Autonomy in Practice) and Prof. James Gardner (SUNY Buffalo Law School, USA, research paper "Distinctive Identity Claims in Federal Systems: Judicial Policing of Subnational Variance"). Every year, at least 15 scholars from several countries worldwide apply for this programme.

Furthermore, the researchers of the Institute developed a set of simulation games Let’s go federal! Verbünden wir uns! Federiamoci!® (6.c), registered as an European figurative trademark in 2013. The underlying rationale of the different modules of the simulation game is to create living labs where participants assume the function of political decision-makers as well as of civil servants. The different modules of the role play can either build upon each other or be carried out separately. Researchers facilitate the modules both in monolingual (English, German and Italian) and bi/trilingual versions. The role play mainly focuses on intergovernmental relations, second chambers, the distribution of competences among governmental levels, fiscal federalism and intergovernmental financial relations. Starting from the basic module created for high schools, the researchers continued develop the role play and its contents. The simulation game can be easily adapted to the knowledge and the skills of the target group and has been widely used in universities, high schools and master programmes domestically and abroad.

Further details to our projects are available at http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/autonomies/sferereg/researchfields/Pages/default.aspx

For details regarding books and papers mentioned above, please see the section “publications” in this report and online at http://www.eurac.edu/it/research/Publications/Pages/default.aspx.
II. Detailed list of Activities

II.1 Consulting Contracts / Activities

Francesco Palermo is Member of the joint committee for the implementation of the Autonomy Statute of Trentino-South Tyrol (commission of 12) and President of the sub-committee for South Tyrol (commission of 6) since March 2014.


The institute delivered to the Council of Europe the report “Financial autonomy and Italian regionalism: walking backward like a crab?”, which includes the last developments incurred in both ordinary and special regions with regard to financial autonomy. It also takes in an in-depth analysis of the current system and rules on public debt, budget deficit, borrowing of regions as well as rules on spending and the equalization model. April 2015.

The institute delivered a Consultancy to the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen on the division of competences with regard to environmental protection and management between the Italian State and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen. Output: report on “The division of competences with regard to environmental protection and management, whose results were presented to the Autonomous Province. Report submitted to the Autonomous Province, May 2015.

A consultancy for the provincial branch of CISL (the second largest Confederation of Trade Unions in Italy) on the limits of the provincial legislative competence on social security was carried out between October and November 2014.

A consultancy with regard to the reforming process of the inter-municipal forms of cooperation (Comunità di Valle) in the Autonomous Province of Trento was carried out in September 2014.

A consultancy for the creation of a “Percorso partecipato di costruzione e monitoraggio della Piattaforma delle Resistenze Contemporanee”, was performed between October 2014 and May 2015.

II.2 Training Activities

II.2.1 Organized / Coordinated Training Activities in EURAC

- 6th edition of the Institute’s post-graduate training programme “Winter School on Federalism and Governance”, with focus on “Federalism and Democratic Participation”. Innsbruck and Bolzano, 2-13 February 2015.


- Summer Institute “Politics in Fragmented Polities: Cohesion, Recognition, Redistribution, and Secession”. Scientific coordination and sponsorship: Université du Québec au Montréal (UQAM) together with a network of partners, e.g. Queen’s University, the Trudeau Foundation and others. In collaboration with the EURAC-Institute for Minority Rights. 14-27 June 2015, EURAC.
II.2.2 Lectureships and Commissions

Francesco Palermo is Professor for Public Comparative Law at the University of Verona (on leave since March 2013 as elected Senator of the Italian Republic).

Jens Woelk is Associate Professor for Comparative Public Law at the University of Trento and Coordinator of the PhD Programme in International Studies (SSI) at Trento University.

Matteo Nicolini is Assistant Professor for Comparative Public Law at the University of Verona.

Martina Trettel and Alice Valdesalici are Members of the Examining Board in Comparative Public Law and Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law, University of Verona, Italy.

In the framework of the **Institute’s own Training Programmes**, researchers of the Institute delivered the following lectures:

- At the International Winter School on Federalism and Governance 2015 – Federalism and Participatory Democracy, (organized by EURAC and University of Innsbruck) in February 2015:
  - Jens Woelk held lectures on “Introduction - Federalism and Democratic Participation” (2.2.15, in Innsbruck) and “Representation and Federalism: Case Study Germany”, 9.2.15 in Bolzano/Bozen
  - Sara Parolari and Alice Valdesalici held the simulation game “Let’s Federate!”® on Multilevel States & Decision-Making Processes”, 4+2 hrs, 5.2.15 in Innsbruck and 12.2.15 in Bolzano/Bozen
  - Francesco Palermo, lecture on “Representation and federalism. How can federalism provide answers to the challenges of participation?”, in Bolzano/Bozen 9.2.2015
  - Paulina M. Borowska, lecture on “The Autonomy of South Tyrol” in Bolzano/Bozen, 10.2.15
  - Carolin Zwilling, lecture on “South Tyrol: Recent developments of the Autonomy from a constitutional law perspective”, 11.02.2015 in Bolzano/Bozen
  - Elisabeth Alber, lecture on “Participatory Subnational Democracy – The Case of South Tyrol” in Bolzano/Bozen, 11.2.15.
  - Karl Kössler, lecture and workshop on “Participation and Secession Referenda”, 12.2.2015 in Bolzano/Bozen.
  - Mariachiara Alberton, lecture and workshop on “Participatory Forms in Multilevel Environmental Protection”, 12.2.15 in Bolzano/Bozen.

- Simulation game “Let’s Federate!”®- “Federiamoci®” and “Verbünden wir uns!*”
  - Paulina M. Borowska, Greta Klotz, Sara Parolari, Martina Trettel and Alice Valdesalici, in collaboration with Matteo Nicolini (supervision), held interactive workshops on “Decision making process in a multilevel State”, “Distribution of competences within a multilevel State” and “Fiscal federalism in a multilevel state” (in Italian, 3 x 2hrs) at the University of Verona, Faculty of Law, within the undergraduate course on comparative public law, April 2015, using the approach of the simulation game Let’s Federate!*®
  - Martina Trettel and Carolin Zwilling held the simulation game “Federiamoci®” in Italian in collaboration with EURAC Junior in EURAC, 09.02.2015 and Greta Klotz and Martina Trettel on 20 October 2015 within the “training week for young scholars”. Elisabeth Alber co-held the simulation game of 3,5 hrs each on 19 November, 16 and 19 December 2014.
Lectures upon invitations from our partners:

- Elisabeth Alber has been delivering trainings in Myanmar for the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), commissioned by the Hans Seidel Foundation (HSS).


- Karl Kössler and Jens Woelk gave a lecture on “Autonomy and Power-sharing at Subnational Level. Comparing European Experiences” at the International Summer Research Institute – Politics in Fragmented Polities: Cohesion, Recognition, Redistribution and Secession, Université du Québec à Montréal and EURAC, 16 June 2015 in Bolzano/Bozen.

- Karl Kössler gave a lecture on “Multinational Constitutional Systems: Definition, Formation and Performance” at the University of Trento, 7 October 2014.

- Francesco Palermo lectured on European Approaches and Standards Regarding Minority Protection and Autonomy, at the International Summer Research Institute “Politics in Fragmented Polities: Cohesion, Recognition, Redistribution, and Secession, Université du Québec a Montréal-EURAC, Bolzano, 22 June 2015

- Francesco Palermo lectured on Territorial autonomy: is it still a relevant option for minorities in Europe?, at the Global Minority Rights Summer School – Tom Lantos Institute, National University of Public Service, Middlesex University, Budapest, 23 July 2015


- Martina Trettel and Alice Valdesalici held several lectures at the in the corso di laurea “Comparative public law and comparative constitutional law”, in Italian, Faculty of Law, University of Verona.

- Alice Valdesalici held a lecture on “Processi decisionali, riparto delle competenze e relazioni finanziarie: una comparazione tra diversi ordinamenti composti”, Corso di diritto pubblico comparato, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Università di Verona, 21 April 2015 (2h).

- Martina Trettel held lectures on “Modalità di accesso alla giustizia costituzionale” Corso di diritto costituzionale comparato, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Università di Verona, 12 and 19 November 2014 (2h+2h).

- Carolin Zwilling gave a lecture on “Recent developments of the South Tyrolean Autonomy with special focus on the constitutional reform” for secondary school teachers of law and economy, EURAC, 11 November 2014.

- Carolin Zwilling and Greta Klotz gave a lecture on “EGTCs in the Alps and EUSALP”, research visit of professors and students from the University of Erlangen (Germany), EURAC, 25 September 2015.
II.2.3  Incoming scholars

The International Jury of the Third Edition of the EURAC Federal Scholar awarded the prize to Professor James Gardner, faculty member at SUNY Buffalo Law School. His manuscript "Distinctive Identity Claims in Federal Systems: Judicial Policing of Subnational Variance" has been ranked first among all received applications. James Gardner received his B.A. from Yale University in 1980 and his J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1984. He practiced law in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and taught in several US-Universities. In 2012 he held the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in the Theory and Practice of Constitutionalism and Federalism at McGill University in Montréal. Gardner's research interests include the constitutional structure of politics, the institutionalization through law of principles of democracy, comparative and American federalism, and subnational constitutional law.

In 2015, the institute hosted 4 PhD students of Addis Ababa University (based on a Cooperation Agreement with the the Centre for Human Rights University and the Centre for Federal Studies of Addis Ababa University) on the following research topics: “Ethnic Federalism and the Right to Political Participation of Regional Minorities in Ethiopia”; “Legal and Political Responses to the Rights of Ethno national Minorities in Ethiopia”, “Federalism and Urban-Local Governance: Exploring IGR in Intermediate Cities of Adama and Assosa, Ethiopia”; “Federalism, Families and Women in Ethiopia: The case of the Gurage people in Gurage Lone”.

Other three visiting researchers in 2014/2015 at the institute were academics from the University of the Basque Country; the Faculty of European Studies Babeş-Bolyai University and from the Central Department of Political Science, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

II.2.4  Outgoing scholars:

Sara Parolari was visiting researcher at the School of Law of the University of Edinburgh (tutor: Professor S. Tierney) within the Eurac-Outgoing Program.

Martina Trettel was visiting researcher at the Universitat de Barcelona under the supervision of Prof. Josep Maria Castellá Andreu, Barcelona, June-July 2015.

II.2.5  PhD candidates:

Martina Trettel and Alice Valdesalici are PhD candidates in Comparative Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Verona.
II.3 Publications

For a full list of our publications (recent and past) please go to:
http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/autonomies/sferg/publications/Pages/default.aspx

Francesco Palermo is director of the book series:
- “Studies in Territorial and Cultural Diversity Governance“ (with J. Marko), Brill, Martinus Nijhoff, Leiden/Boston, The Netherlands/USA
- „Minderheiten und Autonomien“ (with J. Marko), Nomos, Baden Baden, Germany
- „Ius Publicum Europaeum“ (Cedam/Kluwer Italia), Italy

Francesco Palermo is member of the board of many scientific journals, such as:
- General Editor of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues
- Member of the Steering committee of the journal “Der moderne Staat”
- Member of the Advisory Board of the journal “Federal Governance”
- Scientific board member of the on line review “European Diversity and Autonomy Papers” (www.eurac.edu/edap)
- Member of the Scientific board of the journal “Treaties and Documents. Journal of Ethnic Studies”
- Member of the Scientific Board of the Journal “Sant’Anna Legal Studies” (STALS), Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa
- Member of the Steering committee of the book series “Ricerche di diritto comparato – Diritto pubblico”, published by Bononia University Press
- Member of the Scientific committee of the book series “Nuovi studi di diritto estero e comparato”, published by Maggioli
- Member of the Scientific committee of the book series “Quaderni giuridici del Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Sociali”, University of Trieste
- Member of the editorial board of the reviews of Diritto pubblico comparato ed europeo
- Member of the editorial board of the reviews of Quaderni costituzionali.

II.3.1 Books (monographs and edited volumes) in chronological order

Single chapters:
- Karl Kössler, Beyond Majoritarian Autonomy? Legislative and Executive Power-Sharing in European Regions.
- Matteo Nicolini, Territorial and Ethnic Divide: A New Legal Geography for Cyprus.
  - Karl Kössler, “Conclusions”.

  - Sara Parolari, Introduzione, pp. 4-8.
  - Francesco Palermo, Tanto tuonò che piovve. Il “problema” delle Regioni e le sue presunte soluzioni, pp. 155-175.


  - Mariachiara Alberton, Federica Cittadino, Umweltschutz, pp. 437-475.


  - Mariachiara Alberton, Federica Cittadino, La tutela dell’ambiente, pp. 471-513.

  - Sara Parolari, Martina Trettel, Regionalization in Central and Eastern Europe: Limits and Perspectives of an Externally Driven Process, pp. 358-377
  - Elisabeth Alber, Alice Valdesalici, Framing subnational ‘institutional innovation’ and ‘participatory democracy’ in Italy: some findings on current structures, procedures, and dynamics, pp. 448-78;

- Francesco Palermo, Participation, Federalism and Pluralism: challenges to decision-making and responses by constitutionalism, pp. 31-47.


- Carolin Zwilling, CBC in multilevel systems and EGTC pluri-ethnic regions, pp. 5-7.
- Francesco Palermo, The EGCT as a New Instrument of Cross-border Cooperation: The European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino, pp. 135-146

II.3.2 Chapters in other volumes (in alphabetical order)


II.3.3  Scientific papers

II.3.4  Articles in scientific journals (in alphabetical order)


Federica Cittadino, The Ascent of EU Environmental Policy: A Case for Unintended Consequences, in: EDAP Diversity and Autonomy Papers, 01/2015 (peer reviewed)


Matteo Nicolini, Alice Valdesalici, La dottrina tedesca in tema di forma di Stato, DPCE - Diritto pubblico comparato ed europeo (peer reviewed journal), II/2014, 852-70.


Sara Parolari, Alice Valdesalici, La riforma del federalismo fiscale come motore per il regionalismo italiano?, in: Studia Europea. Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai (peer reviewed journal), 1, 2014, 79-98;


II.3.5 Reports

Francesco Palermo, Sara Parolari and Alice Valdesalici, Financial autonomy and Italian regionalism: walking backward like a crab?, Council of Europe (eds.), April 2015.


II.3.6 Scientific papers published at scientific conferences /conference proceedings


II.3.7 Online papers


Martina Trettel, Democrazia directa y participativa en la Provincia Autónoma de Trento. La proposición de ley de iniciativa popular, la opinión de la Comisión de Venecia y la Ley provincial 12/2014: caminos paralelos destinados a cruzarse, in Blog de la Revista Catalana de Dret Public, luglio 2015, disponible al link: http://blocs.gencat.cat/blocs/AppPHP/eapc-rcdp/2015/07/16/democracia-directa-y-participativa-en-la-provincia-autonoma-de-trento-la-proposicion-de-ley-de-iniciativa-popular-la-opinion-de-la-comision-de-venecia-y-la-ley-provincial-122014-caminos-paralelos/


II.3.8 Databases and Translations

“Osservatorio dell’autonomia” (available online at http://www.eurac.edu/it/research/autonomies/sfereg/publications/Pages/publicationsoa.aspx with legislation and case law of 2014 and 2015 related to the two Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and coordinated the updating process.

Updates and further development of internal databases of the institute on “better governance and institutional innovation” as well as on “Environmental law”.

Elisabeth Alber and Carolin Zwilling, Continuity and Change in South Tyrol’s Ethnic Governance, Paper for the online database “Autonomies of the World”, to be accessible in 2016.


II.3.9 Articles in the magazine “Academia” and other contributions to public relations (positions in journals / newspapers etc.)


Carolin Zwilling, Italiens Verfassungsreformversuche, Grafic Article, Academia, EURAC Science Magazine No. 69, April 2015.

Carolin Zwilling, Weniger Euro = mehr Sicherheit, Academia, EURAC Science Magazine No. 70, September 2015.

Francesco Palermo is columnist of the newspapers “Alto Adige” and “Trentino”, as well as for the online-magazine “Salto.bz”.

II.4 Conferences

II.4.1 Organized conferences and events

Round table “Venti di Secessione: Scozia, Catalogna e Nuova Europa”, 15 September 2014, EURAC.

Conference “Riforma costituzionale e regioni. Riflessioni a prima lettura sul nuovo Titolo V della Costituzione”, 10 October 2014, EURAC.

International Symposium “Law, Territory and Conflict Resolution” organized in collaboration with the University of Verona – Department of Law, Verona, 21 November 2014.

As part of the project “POP - Paths of Participation!”: several workshops in Bolzano and Innsbruck in 2014/2015 and A public event “Giornata della partecipazione”, 22 November 2014, EURAC.

“Winter School on Federalism and Governance - Federalism and Democratic Participation”, University of Innsbruck (first week) and EURAC Bolzano (second week). 1 - 13 February 2015.

Workshop “Twenty Years After Dayton”, in collaboration with Luiss Guido Carli University, Rome, 27.02.2015

International workshop “Comparing Experiences of Cross-border Science Regions: EGTCs and other Forms of Transnational Networks”. EURAC, 8 June 2015.


- 12.03.2015: Il patto di garanzia – freno o impulso per l’autonomia finanziaria?
- 26.03.2015: Föderalismus all’italiana – Fortschritt oder Rückschritt für Südtirol?
- 17.04.2015: Partizipation in Südtirol – Schweizer Modell ja oder nein?
- 07.05.2015: Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino – mit dem Bürger oder am Bürger vorbei?
- 14.05.2015: Gemeinderatswahl 2015 – Wandel oder status quo?

Planned for autumn/winter 2015/16:

- 16.10.2015: Gesellschaftlicher Wandel in Südtirol – Miteinander oder Nebeneinander?
- 30.10.2015: Zweisprachiger Unterricht – Gefahr oder Fortschritt? / Istruzione bilingue – pericolo o progresso?
- 20.11.2015: Democrazia partecipativa nella Provincia Autonoma di Trento – un percorso in salita o in discesa?
- 27.11.2015: Autonomiekonvent – Südtirol mitdenken oder nicht?
- 04.12.2015: L’esempio del Parco dello Stelvio: Governance multilivello nel territorio alpino – utopia o realtà?
- 15.01.2016: Il nuovo Senato una seconda camera federale – finzione o realtà?
II.4.2 Presentations at conferences


Francesco Palermo, speaker at the conference Universitat de Barcelona, Jornadas sobre la reforma constitucional del Estado autonómico en la perspectiva del federalismo del siglo XXI, Barcelona, 22 May 2015 (presentation on “The evolution of the Italian regional system”).

Francesco Palermo, speaker at the International Conference “Promoting & Progressing the Rights of Persons from Minority Groups”, National University of Ireland Maynooth, 20 April 2015 (presentation on “Current Challenges for Protection and Progression of Minority Rights”).


Francesco Palermo, speaker at University of Bologna, Dept. Scienze politiche e sociali, Congresso internazionale del Centro studi sull’America latina, “Cittadinanza e appartenenza in un mondo (dis)integrato”, Bologna, 9 March 2015 (presentation on “Le riforme costituzionali alla luce delle tensioni tra centro e periferia, sovranità statale e spinte secessioniste”).

Francesco Palermo, speaker at the international CALRE conference “Come un sistema federale può favorire la crescita in Europa”, Venezia, Consiglio regionale, 5 February 2015 (presentation on “Come un sistema federale può favorire la crescita in Europa: il caso italiano e tedesco”).


Elisabeth Alber gave an input talk on “Participatory Democracy – Theory and Practice” at the Annual Meeting of the Netzwerk Partizipation, 3 December 2014.


Greta Klotz and Martina Trettel took part in the conference “Graubünden forscht 2014: Young Scientists in Contest” in Davos, Switzerland on 10-11 September 2014 and presented a paper on the instruments and strategies that the European Union developed in recent decades for the purpose of increasing crossborder cooperation in bordering areas of the EU with regard to the Alpine region.


Greta Klotz was invited by POLITIS (South Tyrols Center for Political Studies and Civic Education) to speak on political populism in Europe within the series of events on democracy and civic participation (“Baustelle Demokratie – Chance Bürgerbeteiligung”), Bressanone, 26 February 2015.

Karl Kössler participated as chairman and discussant of the panel “Discourses and Rhetorics” in the international conference “Pro-independence Movements and Migration: Discourse, Policy and Practice”, 24 October 2014 in Bolzano/Bozen.

Matteo Nicolini presented a paper on “Boundaries and Identity: The Legal Geography of the European Union and the United States of America”, in September 2014 at the Symposium “Comparing and Contrasting Federalism in the EU and the USA”, at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. The funds we received covered the travel expenses. EU-financed project lead by the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, University of Nicosia.


Matteo Nicolini delivered a lecture within the Deliberative Workshop “Toward the EU fiscal an political Union”, Verona, 6 March 2015.

Sara Parolari participated as speaker at the conference: “Yes Scotland vs Better Together. Il referendum del 18 settembre per l’indipendenza della Scozia”; paper presented: “Il voto della Scozia sull’indipendenza e il suo significato” School of International Studies, University of Trento, 29 September 2014.


Alice Valdesalici presented a paper on Autonomia finanziaria e specialità sarda: una prospettiva comparata at the Conference on Continuità territoriale e low cost, University of Sassari, 28-29 November 2014.

Alice Valdesalici delivered a paper with the title “A minimal dossier on Italy’s subnational public debt” (with Professor G. Pola) at the International Conference on Subnational Public Debt in a Fiscally Sustainable Europe, Eisenstadt (Austria), September 2014.

Alice Valdesalici presented a paper on “Autonomia finanziaria e specialità sarda: una prospettiva comparata”, Conference on Continuità territoriale e low cost, University of Sassari, 28-29 November 2014.

Jens Woelk presented “The Constitutional Transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina between Nationalism and European Conditionality” and Francesco Palermo spoke as discussant at the conference “Twenty Years After Dayton” at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome, 27 February 2015 (of which the institute was co-organizer).

Jens Woelk chaired the round table during the international workshop on cross-border science cooperation on 8 June 2015: “Comparing Experiences of Cross-border Science Regions: EGTCs and other Forms of Transnational Networks”, EURAC.

Jens Woelk was chair and moderator of the Round Table: “Die Zusammenarbeit der Bildungs- und Forschungseinrichtungen in der eurorregionalen Praxis”, Tagung “Rechtliche Möglichkeiten universitärer Zusammenarbeit in der Europaregion”, AEDPCE Vereinigung und Universität Innsbruck, 4 December 2014.
II.5 Networking Activities

Since fall 2011, the institute continues to publish a newsletter twice a year, which is sent out to a significant number of our academic contacts and networks and is also available online (archive and latest issue) at http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/institutes/sfere/Newsletter.html.

In the framework of networking and consultancy activities, the head of Institute Francesco Palermo and the single researchers of the institute met a high number of delegations from academia, administration as well as from local and national political institutions as well as from international organisations (especially CoE and OSCE). The researchers are often contacted by local and international media for interviews. Naturally, both the institute and single researchers are members in number of associations.

The institute is member of:

- European Consortium for Political Research - ECPR
- International Association for Centers of Federal Studies – IACFS. Francesco Palermo is Vice President of the Board of Directors
- Devolution club (a national association of constitutional lawyers). Francesco Palermo on the executive board, Sara Parolari is the person in charge of the local branch and participated at the annual assembly of the association Devolution club held in Bologna on 20th March 2015

Furthermore, most of the researchers are members in a number of associations, such as:

(This is it not intended as a complete names but for space reasons only the most relevant memberships are mentioned):

- Politika - South Tyrolean Political Science Association: (Elisabeth Alber is Vice-president, Greta Klotz is member)  
- Associazione Euroregionale di Diritto Pubblico Comparato ed Europeo AEDPCE (Francesco Palermo and Jens Woelk share the Vice-Presidency, most other researchers are members)  
- Associazione di Diritto Pubblico Comparato ed Europeo DPCE (Francesco Palermo)  
- Associazione italo-tedesca dei giuristi/ deutsch-italienische Juristenvereinigung (Francesco Palermo, Carolin Zwilling)  
- Devolution Club (Sara Parolari is the manager of the local unit of Bolzano, Francesco Palermo is on the Executive board)  
- European Regional Mountain Initiatives: From Pyrenees to the Caucasus” (ERMI), approved by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Mariachiara Alberton is member of the scientific committee) – Mariachiara Alberton  
- Gruppo 183 (Mariachiara Alberton is member of the managing board)  
- Gruppo di Pisa (Constitutional Adjudication)  
- Italian Committee for RACSE (Réseau Académique sur la Charte sociale européenne et les droits sociaux)  
- SIPE (Societas Iuris Publici Europaei) - Francesco Palermo  
- Committee for development cooperation, Region of Veneto (Francesco Palermo)

Additionally to what is mentioned above, Francesco Palermo is:

- Member Member and President of the joint committee for the implementation of the autonomy statute of Trentino-South Tyrol (6-er und 12-er Commission) (since March 2014)

Member of the Constitutional Commission for Ukraine (since March 2015)

Francesco Palermo and Jens Woelk are both Members (Woelk is alternative member) of the Council of Europe’s Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government and

The institute collaborates with a high number of partners at local, regional, national and international level. In the timeframe 2014-2015 the most significant collaborations were undertaken with:

- Council of Europe (consultancy activities)
- Stellenbosch University (international conference)
- UQAM (International Summer Institute with a network of Canadian Universities)
- Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino (a EU project and several smaller workshops/events)
- University of Innsbruck (with “Forschungszentrum Föderalismus”, in 2 third party funded projects, and several conferences)
- Free University of Bolzano/Bozen (in 2 third party funded projects)