Dear colleagues and friends,

As you might already know, our new corporate communication strategy has introduced several changes in order to put stronger emphasis on and give higher visibility to Eurac Research as a whole and to the research activities of its 11 institutes.

This means that

... the logo was modified

... the official name has changed from “European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen – EURAC” into “Eurac Research”...

... the name of our institute was shortened to “Institute for Comparative Federalism”...

... our Email address is from now on federalism@eurac.edu (the sfere@eurac.edu account will be closed).

... our Twitter account is @EuracFederalism

... our invitations and the newsletter layout will have a fresh look with more colours and smooth new design ...

Nothing else has changed:

... we’re still conducting in-depth research, training and consultancy work on autonomy, federalism, multilevel governance, participatory democracy and environmental law ...

... our webpage address www.eurac.edu/sfere is still valid, the same goes for the email addresses of our collaborators!

This edition of the newsletter illustrates:

– On Page 2: opportunities for young scholars at the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research and at our panel at the ICON-S Conference in Copenhagen

– On Page 3: a new EU-financed project on Governance and Youth in the Alps with a big conference on 29th June 2017 in Bolzano/Bozen

– On Pages 4-5: contributions by guest researchers from the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

– On Page 6-8: information on our most important conferences and expert meetings over the last months

– On Page 9-10: publications by our researchers and by our partners

– And last but not least: achievements, news and contacts

We wish you an enjoyable reading!

Paulina M. Borowska
Become Federal Scholar in Residence 2018!

A new round of the Federal Scholar in Residence-Program has opened. The Institute for Comparative Federalism has established the fellowship scheme in order to enhance scholarly discussion and exchange about federal, regional and intergovernmental questions that are of academic, administrative and public importance. Academics, post-docs and practitioners who approach these issues from a comparative point of view are especially encouraged to apply. The winner of the sixth Federal Scholar edition is awarded a research stay of up to three weeks at the institute’s facilities located in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen, Italy, at the heart of the Alps. The grant covers travel costs and accommodation and offers the possibility to publish in Eurac Research’s online or book series.

PhD scholarship in Cross-Border Co-operation and Multi-Level Governance at Eurac Research

The School of International Studies of the University of Trento in cooperation with the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen, as sponsor and partner, welcomes applications for a 3-year-scholarship to develop and complete a PhD research project on “Cross-Border Co-operation, Sub-National Entities and Multi-Level Governance” from a comparative perspective. The main objective of this cooperation is to foster the link between academic education and applied research by offering excellent working conditions to a strong and highly motivated PhD student and supporting innovative research in the field of cross border cooperation. The PhD student will be affiliated with both institutions and is expected to alternate her/his presence between Trento and Bolzano. All details are available at http://www.eurac.edu/en/aboutus/jobs/Pages/PhD-student-in-Cross-Border-Co-operation,-Sub-National-Entities-and-Multi-Level-Governance_13-04-2017.aspx

ICON-S – Annual Conference, Copenhagen

For the Annual Conference of the International Society of Public Law, which will take place on 5-7 July 2017 in Copenhagen, Francesco Palermo and Karl Kössler have convened a panel to discuss their new book ‘Comparative Federalism: Constitutional Arrangements and Case Law’ (Hart Publishing, forthcoming in 2017). The book will serve as the basis for a debate on the challenges of comparative research on contemporary federalism with a group of distinguished scholars, including Eva Maria Belser, James Gardner, Patricia Popelier and Nico Steytler. Another panel entitled ‘Courts and African Federalism in a Global Perspective’ is convened by Yonatan Fessha and Karl Kössler.

Deadline for applications: 1 July 2017!

Applicants must submit a not yet published paper in either English, German, Italian, French or Spanish. They should also present their research in English during seminars at Eurac Research and neighboring partner universities.

For more detailed information, please visit: http://www.eurac.it/de/research/autonomies/sfereg/training/Pages/eurac-federal-scholar.aspx

Registro for participation in the conference is open until 10 June 2017: https://icon-society.org/sign-up/
The Institute’s first Alpine Space Project: GaYA – Governance and Youth in the Alps

Young people tend to leave the Alpine space because they lack of personal and professional fulfilment. Furthermore, a vast majority of decision-makers remains unaware of the benefits a young active population brings to society. This realization requires challenging consolidated approaches to democracy and devoting more attention to issues such as the legitimization of political decisions by means of citizens’ involvement. In cooperation with eight partners from all over the Alps, the project GaYA aims to increase the quality of democratic processes in the Alpine space by enhancing the involvement of young people in regional governance and by developing new approaches for decision and policy makers.

For this purposes, innovative democratic methods are collected throughout the different phases of the project in order to increase involvement of young people in everyday political actions. The implementation of innovative forms of governance has great potential for increasing sustainable decision-making. The Institute for Comparative Federalism leads the Work Package 1 of the project, which focuses on the comparative analysis, and supervises the research activities throughout the further phases of the project. Given its expertise in the field of participatory democracy, the researchers of the Institute will play an active role also during the training sessions offered to decision-makers in 12 pilot areas.

Together with the project partners, Eurac Research organizes a workshop titled “Democratic Participation at Political Decision-Making: The Involvement of Young Adults in the Alpine Region” on Thursday, 29 June 2017 in Bolzano/Bozen. During the workshop, we will present the findings of the comparative analysis and discuss citizen participation together with politicians, civil servants and youth representatives from several Alpine countries.

To register, please email: greta.klotz@eurac.edu

Aims of the project:
- Strengthening innovative and participatory democracy
- Involving youth in decision-making processes
- Increasing national and transnational governance
- Familiarising youth with complex policies

Project Partners:
- Agenzia di Sviluppo GAL Genovese (Italy)
- Jugendinformationszentrum Vorarlberg aka – Tipps & Infos für junge Leute (Austria)
- Eurac Research (Italy)
- ALPARC – Alpine Network of Protected Areas (France)
- Parc naturel régional du Massif des Bauges (France)
- Municipality of Idrija (Slovenia)
- Association “Alpine Town of the Year” (Germany)

SAVE THE DATE!
Ethnofederalism at the Margins of the Ethiopian State: The Lived Experience of the Majang People

The Majang, an indigenous ethnic minority, live in the southwestern part of Ethiopia in Gambella regional state. They are the sole inhabitants of the tropical rain forest and have lived there for centuries making a living by bee hunting, keeping and shifting cultivation. Given that these are a people, who were not just historically neglected by the preceding Ethiopian regimes, but also raided as slaves, never treated as citizens in any form or shape, the Majang naturally greeted the 1995 FDRE’s (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) constitutional guarantee of ethnic self-rule, and the pledge to empower ethnic minorities with enthusiasm.

However, results of the implementation of Ethiopian ‘ethnofederalism’ are largely paradox even after this political order has been in place for more than two decades. The paradox of Ethiopia’s federalism is that, despite the existence of extensive self-rule based on ethnicity, land acquisition primarily by migrants but also by domestic and foreign investors has posed a serious threat to the very survival of the indigenous Majang people. Extensive encroachment into Majang forestland, indeed, is causing Majang people to suffer greatly. They are economically impoverished both in relative terms as compared to the highlanders and in absolute terms owing to a meagre land ownership and loss of access to forest-based livelihoods such as honey production.

The outcome is even more disappointing when it comes to more serious political issues such as instituting structures of self-rule. Perhaps taking the incumbent government’s rhetoric of self-rule too seriously, the Majang started to demand that all the Majang dispersed in three different regional states be reorganized into one Majang-run political unit. This was denied. Meanwhile, the Majang were unable to protect their land and forest resources from the dual encroachment of self-directed highland migrants that started to swarm the Majang land on the one hand and the state licensed, without proper consultation and securing express consent of the people, domestic and foreign investors. In short, over two decades after the new state’s tenure in office, the Majang state of being is characterized by existential insecurity, the feeling that the Majang way of life as they knew it might be over. Thus, persistently ignored by the state and the local government, the Majang react to this threat in the form of violent resistance.

At the time of writing this article, threats have become more intense and Majang vulnerability is more serious in consequence. The Majang way of life may not survive the next generation. Hence, time to take action is now. It is imperative to translate the general constitutional policies into concrete programs and services that respond effectively to indigenous Majang needs and to design a specialized legal regime for the protection of the Majang as indigenous groups.

Seyoum Mesfin (PhD), Assistant Professor at Addis Ababa University and guest researcher at the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research in spring 2017.

Research for this newsletter article was supported in part by Open Society Foundations (OSF). The opinions expressed herein are the author’s own and do not necessarily express the views of OSF.
The Renaissance of Oromo Nationalism in Ethiopian Federalism: Quest for Democratic Federalism?

Ethiopia has adopted ethnic federalism in 1995 as a way to address the nationalities questions. The Oromo nation is one of these nations, nationalities, and peoples that establish the federal Ethiopia. According to the 2007 national census, the Oromos constitute more than 35% of the total population. They speak their language ‘Afaan Oromoo’ and write in Latin script. They are known for their indigenous administrative system known as the Gadaa System. In terms of religion, the Oromos practice Christianity (48.7%), Islam (47.7%) and Irreechaa-, an indigenous religion (3.3%). They live in a territory known as ‘Oromo Land’-called ‘Oromiyaa’. Since 1991, it has been the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization (OPDO), a TPLF client party that rules the Oromia State and shares power at the federal level. History plays a pivotal role in Oromo politics, as they believe in the so-called ‘colonial thesis, that is, the assumption that the Amhara-Tigrean groups colonized the rest of the peoples of present day Ethiopia. 

In theoretical and empirical terms, federalism keeps different peoples together through elements of self-rule and shared-rule; it also gives space for ethnonationalism in federal states where a specific group is identified in relation to its own territory. Ethiopian federalism addresses two potential aims of ethnonationalism: either to establish an independent state or to gain regional autonomy within the limits of a federal constitution. So the question is why we are still experiencing ethnonationalism in an ethno-federal state? It is, I argue, a result of federal democracy deficits—two competing forces, that is old Ethiopianism (seeking unitary state through cultural assimilation) and ethnonationalism that have erupted within the ruling coalition (EPRDF, Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front). Moreover, the 2005 national election established as a new paradigm the quest for ‘building one economic and political community’. Ultimately, ethnofederalism and multiparty democracy have been replaced by the developmental state ideology and hegemony of the EPRDF.

As a result, a gap between the constitution and its actual working, strong centralization, extensive land grabbing, human and democratic rights violations, etc. are visible in contemporary Ethiopian politics. Related to the resurgence of Oromo nationalism, the following points are important: First, the way in which the EPRDF has responded to the Ethiopian Muslims Civil Rights Movement since December 2011, which has led to double discrimination of people who are both Oromo and Muslim. Second, the plan to expand the capital city at the expense of the Oromos through the so called ‘Addis Ababa Integrated Development Master Plan’ which mobilized and united all Oromos. Third, the Irreechaa Massacre of September 2016 has shocked Oromos and other Ethiopians. This has strengthened Oromo nationalism and propelled the claim to end the rule of the OPDO in Oromiyaa and of the EPRDF over Ethiopia. Although some Oromo nationalists and activists still call for secession, the majority of Oromos is for genuine democratic and constitutional federalism.

Monenus Hundarraa – PhD Student at Rift Valley University in Ethiopia and guest researcher at the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research in spring 2017.
OSCE Consultancy: National Minorities and Bridge Building

As part of Germany’s chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2016, the High Commissioner on National Minorities entrusted the Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism (now: Institute for Comparative Federalism) in cooperation with the Institute for Minority Rights, both of Eurac Research, and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) with conducting a study highlighting the abilities of diverse ethnic groups and minorities as bridge-builders and agents of reconciliation between states. The outcome of the project provides OSCE members with recommendations based on positive examples of these diverse groups and their institutions working successfully with local municipalities and authorities. More details and examples are available in the EURAC Report written by Jens Woelk, Carolin Zwilling, Greta Klotz and Alice Engl as well as in the Final Report, both available on http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/autonomies/sfereg/projects/Pages/bridge-building.aspx.

Democratic innovation and cross-border cooperation

As part of the „Interdisziplinäres Doktorandenkolloquium“ on 14 March 2017 between the Andrassy University of Budapest and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol, the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research organized a workshop on the topic of democratic innovation in the context of cross-border cooperation strategies and entities. The idea of the workshop was to combine two different fields of research—cross-border cooperation and democratic innovation—with the purpose of generating an original intersection, on which to build an unusual scientific debate. The overall goal of the discussion was to reflect on the question “Which role can participatory democracy have in the context of cross-border cooperation?” from different disciplinary perspectives (particularly economics, law and politics).

Therefore, the invited PhD students and experts were asked to propose an answer regarding the development of participatory and deliberative procedures to be included in the institutional setting of cross-border entities (particularly EGTCs and Macro-regional Strategies). The fruitful discussion generated very interesting thoughts and conclusions, making clear that this particular topic is still highly unexplored and leaves space for more research and interaction between researchers.

Martina Trettel

A Viable Federal Experiment in Northern Syria?

On 21 April 2017, Eurac Research held a conference entitled ‘Democratic Confederalism: Developments and Perspectives of Autonomy Experiences in Rojava-Northern Syria’. The event, which was financially supported by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, aimed to shed light on the de facto autonomy of the predominantly Kurdish-inhabited territories along the Syrian-Turkish border. In 2012, in the early stages of the civil war in Syria, government forces had withdrawn from these areas and left a political vacuum that was then filled by what is today the self-proclaimed ‘Democratic Federal System of Northern Syria’. The conference in Bolzano/Bozen brought together political scientists, historians and journalists with expertise on this federal experiment. On the part of Eurac Research, Karl Kössler and Joseph Marko participated in the event with a focus on comparing this experiment with other examples of conflict management in divided societies. In his talk, Karl Kössler critically analyzed the ‘Social Contract’ of Northern Syria, the quasi-constitution, against the background of other constitutions in divided societies. He explored whether this basic law facilitates, together with the current political circumstances, the development of a progressive grassroots democracy in Northern Syria, as is claimed by the de facto autonomous government.

Karl Kössler
BrExit seminar

On 27 March 2017 the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research organized - as the local branch of the association “Devolution Club” and in cooperation with the School of International Studies of the University of Trento and the Faculty of Law of the University of Verona - the seminar “Brexit: conseguenze per l’Unione Europea e per il Regno Unito”. The speakers – leading constitutional and European law scholars – addressed some of the possible impacts of Brexit on the EU’s and on the UK’s constitutional system.

Sara Parolari

Winter School on Federalism and Governance 2017: Federalism and Power-Sharing

“The Winter School was an incredibly enriching experience. I attended lectures by eminent professors and met brilliant researchers, engaging in discussions on Power-Sharing in federal systems and analyzing various policy fields and different countries.”

Beatrice Carlesso, Italy

“A very productive and nuanced Winter School. It provided multiple means to explore and discuss the sometimes contentious and convoluted mechanisms by which emerging and more mature federal countries try to resolve issues pertaining to power sharing that arise from the legislation in place.”

Omer Ali, Pakistan

Researchers, civil servants and postgraduate students from 19 countries attended our Winter School 2017 from 30 January to 10 February 2017 in Innsbruck and Bolzano/Bozen. The Winter School took place under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland as well as the presidents of the Land Tirol, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-Bozen/South Tyrol and the Autonomous Province of Trento.

Special thanks for their financial support go to: Land Tirol – Abteilung Kultur; Stiftung Südtiroler Sparkasse; Land Vorarlberg – Abteilung Wissenschaft und Weiterbildung; Institute of Federalism (IFO), Innsbruck; Italy-Center (University of Innsbruck), Canada Centre Innsbruck.

Greta Klotz

Save the date: Winter School on Federalism and Governance 2018

Call for applications open from September 2017! The next edition of our crossborder training program will take place from 5 to 16 February 2018, one week at the University of Innsbruck and one week in Bolzano at Eurac Research. More information about the Winter School 2018 on winterschool.eurac.edu

ZUSAMMEN:ÖSTERREICH Akademie

ZUSAMMEN:ÖSTERREICH Akademie is a programme funded by the Austrian Integration Fund (Österreichischer Integrationsfond – ÖIF) that supports young and talented Austrian university students with a migration background.

In the framework of a 3-day-study visit to South Tyrol as a model Region of Europe, 20 scholarship holders visited Eurac Research on 28 March and met Greta Klotz, Vera Ohnewein, Verena Wisthaler, Johanna Mitterhofer and Paulina Borowska who presented and discussed South Tyrol’s Autonomy as well as various aspects of integration and immigration in the province, focusing in particular on history, institutions and the accommodation of language groups.

Paulina Borowska
Federalism as a Peace-making Instrument in the Horn of Africa?

In the context of its increasing collaboration with partners on the African continent, the Eurac Research Institute for Comparative Federalism co-organized two events that took place on 2-3 December 2016 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

A symposium entitled ‘Federalism as a Peace-making Instrument in the Horn of Africa: Comparative and Country Perspectives’ brought together scholars from Europe and Africa as well as policy-makers. In this talk, Karl Kössler argued that research on federalism in ethno-culturally diverse societies needs to be re-framed. He pointed out that the focus should be shifted from ‘old’ questions associated with the concept of multinational federalism as an instrument to protect minorities to concrete challenges for constitutional design in diverse societies.

In light of the renewed focus of the Institute for Comparative Federalism on capacity-building in emerging federal countries in Africa, Karl Kössler participated in a doctoral colloquium with PhD students of the Center for Federal Studies of the Addis Ababa University. Acting as a discussant, he provided feedback on several interesting dissertation projects covering manifold aspects of federalism in Ethiopia.

Karl Kössler
Our Publications in 2016 and early 2017

BOOKS

Alberton, Mariachiara e Federica Cittadino. La tutela dell’ambiente tra Stato e Regioni alla luce della riforma costituzionale, Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, Napoli, 2016.


Trettel, Martina. “Giudici ‘Professori’ nella giurisprudenza costituzionale dell’area di lingua tedesca: i casi di Germania e Austria”, in: Silvia Bagni et al. (a cura di), Giureconsulti e giudici. L’influsso dei professori sulle sentenze vol. II La dottrina nella giurisprudenza oltre i confini di spazio, giurisdizione e materia, Giappichelli, Torino, 2016: 105-124.


CONSULTANCIES


All publications are listed at: http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/autonomies/sfereg/publications/Pages/books.aspx
EDAP

The European Autonomy and Diversity Papers (EDAP) is an open access e-journal in the field of European integration research. It aims to contribute to the theoretical development and empirical exploration of various approaches to the growing diversity in the European Union, including ethnic, cultural, linguistic, regional, institutional and structural diversity. Regionalism, federalism, minority protection, multiculturalism and more generally, “constitutional flexibility”, are therefore core topics that underpin EDAP’s focus. EDAP explores on diversity primarily from the perspective of national constitutional law and EU law. Nevertheless, contributions from other disciplines such as political science and economics are also welcome.

EDAP is listed in the EBSCO database, the Directory of Open Access Journals (Lund University Library) and in the Archive of European Integration (University of Pittsburgh).

Selected Publications by our Partners


Concurrency of powers – the exercise of jurisdiction by federal governments and constituent units in the same policy areas – is a key, if not the central, mode of governance in most federal systems today. Moreover, the experience has been that federal governments dominate the concurrent space giving rise to contestation. This volume, Concurrent Powers in Federal Systems: Meaning, Making and Managing, edited by Professor Nico Steytler, is the first to examine from a comparative perspective this crucial issue confronting both established and emerging federations. Case studies of 16 countries on five continents dissect the various manifestations of concurrency, analyse what drives this modern governance mode, and review management strategies that seek to guard against central dominance of concurrent areas.

Edited by Nico Steytler, University of the Western Cape.

For more information on the book series “Studies in Territorial and Cultural Diversity Governance” see https://www.brill.com/tcdg

EDAP is published by Institute for Comparative Federalism and the Institute for Minority Rights of Eurac Research.

For further information please see www.eurac.edu/edap


Regional Autonomy, Cultural Diversity and Differentiated Territorial Government assesses the current state of the international theory and practice of autonomy in order to pursue the possibility for regional self-government in Tibet. Initiated by a workshop, and roundtable with political representatives from different autonomous regions, including His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, this book brings together a group of distinguished international scholars in order to offer a much-needed enquiry into solutions to the Tibetan quest for ‘genuine’ autonomy. Examining the Chinese framework of regional self-government, along with key international cases of autonomy in Europe, North America and Asia, the contributors to this volume offer a comprehensive context for the consideration of both Tibetan demands and Chinese worries. Their insights will be invaluable to academics, practitioners, diplomats, civil servants, government representatives, international organisations and NGOs interested in the theory and practice of autonomy, as well as those concerned with the future of Tibet. Roberto Toniatti and Jens Woelk are based at the University of Trento, Italy.
Achievements and News

PhDs

We are proud to announce that three collaborators of the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research have recently completed their PhD studies. Alice Valdesalici was awarded a PhD in European and Italian Constitutional Law in May 2016 at the University of Verona. Her research investigates the principle of financial responsibility from a comparative and legal perspective.

Federica Cittadino obtained her PhD in International Studies in January 2017 at the School of International Studies at the University of Trento. Her thesis explores the interaction between the rights of indigenous peoples as protected by international human rights law and the conservation of biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Both doctoral theses are to be published in 2017.

In May 2017, Martina Trettel will defend her PhD thesis on Participatory democracy, compound states and legal traditions in comparative public law at the University of Verona. Her research deals with those new democratic tools that revolve around the idea of citizen’ participation, generally referred to as ‘participatory democracy’. Hence, this study investigates the interactions between the concept of participatory democracy and two comparative constitutional categories: legal traditions and federal theories. Her thesis is planned to be submitted for publication to Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane – ESI in early 2018.


IACFS Presidency

Prof. Dr. Francesco Palermo, head of the Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research, was elected President of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS) at the Annual Conference of the association in October 2016 in New Delhi—see also contribution on page 8 and http://iacfs.org/about-us/executive-committee).

He is the first European to hold this position, for which he was chosen especially because of his international profile and his comparative research on federal systems. The Institute for Comparative Federalism of Eurac Research has been a member of the association since 2006 and hosted the annual meeting in 2013 with a conference on “Federalism as Decision Making (see newsletter fall 2013 at http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/autonomies/sfereg/network/Documents/Newsletter/SFERE_Newsletter-05.pdf)

Membership in ALDA

Eurac Research has recently become a member of ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy!

Have a look at http://www.alda-europe.eu/newSite/ for news and events! For timely information about the activities and call for partners, you can subscribe to the ALDA monthly newsletter, available in six languages - English, French, Italian, Serbian, Russian, and Arabic.
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Editorial deadline of this issue:
04.05.2017
Images: Eurac Research,
Wikipedia, project partners
Editor: Paulina M. Borowska
Language Review: Annika Kreß

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Follow us @EuracFederalism

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http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/autonomies/sfereg/newsa-
ndmedia/Pages/video.aspx

NEW! Check out our EURAC-press
releases and press clippings in German and/or Italian

Mail: If there is anything else you would like to know about us,
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The homepage of our Institute with the complete list of our
projects, publications and scientific articles:
www.eurac.edu/sfere

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autonomies/sfereg/network/Pages/Newsletter.aspx

ACADEMIA
Read the current issue of the EURAC Science magazine Academia n. 76/2017. Download at:
www.eurac.edu/en/services/science/
Pages/Magazine.aspx

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/17
Available from 26 May 2017 at:
http://www.eurac.edu/en/aboutus/pro-
file/Pages/Activityreport.aspx

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