WHAT IS THE WINTER SCHOOL ABOUT?

The Winter School is a two-week international postgraduate programme 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 provides participants with 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 running the courses and workshops on federalism and its challenges.

The 2020 Winter School will focus on federalism and language. For one week at the University of Innsbruck and one week at Eurac Research, Bolzano-Bozen, participants will analyze the connections between language and federalism. For example, they will explore the correlation between language and law, the subnational or local regulation of language in multilevel systems as well as the challenges and opportunities of linguistic diversity. They will consider a wide range of case studies of symmetric and asymmetric federations, other multinational states and the European Union, including examples from Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.

In addition, one entire day of the programme will be dedicated to the perspectives of international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in relation to multilingualism and its promotion, particularly in territorially diverse environments.

Furthermore, the Winter School will provide insights into the multifaceted role language can play in federal systems in relation to education, the regulation of immigration and migrant integration, as well as institutional innovation.

Besides numerous opportunities for discussion with leading experts on multilevel governance throughout the lectures, a variety of interactive sessions will also offer participants the chance to share knowledge and experience. Lectures, workshops, Q&A’s and discussion groups will all address the various connections between federalism and language through the comparison of various case studies.

The Winter School will examine a series of issues:

- What particular challenges does language pose for federal systems?
- How do constitutions deal with the subject of language and federalism?
- Are there asymmetries in language policies within multilevel systems?
- How are the decision-making powers relating to language policy distributed across different levels of government?
- What is the role played by courts when it comes to legal disputes in relation to language?
- Does linguistic diversity lead to political conflict?
- What kind of language rights and policies exist in multilevel systems in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia?
- What are the challenges for linguistic minorities in federal states arising from new migration?
- What are the costs and benefits of language regulations and of federalism?
- What are the perspectives of international organizations on these issues?
- What lessons can be learned from comparative practice?

The 2020 Winter School examines these and other questions by combining theoretical expertise and relevant case studies. As such, the programme 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.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

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

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

Please note that the programme builds on assumed prior knowledge of federalism.
DATES AND VENUES: 17 February – 28 February 2020

The first week takes place at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria; the second week takes place at the Institute for Comparative Federalism, Eurac Research Bolzano/Bozen, Italy.

Application deadline: 11 October 2019

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

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The Winter School is held entirely in English.