



Institut für Föderalismus
Institut du Fédéralisme
Institute of Federalism

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

2017

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1 FOREWORD

On 1 August 2017, we took over the joint management of the Institute of Federalism (IFF). Our first annual report aims to offer our governing bodies and interested members of the public not only an overview of the Institute's work during the last 12 months, but also an account of where the Institute is currently at, and where it wants to be in the future.

1.1 Looking back on 2017

Federalism received a great deal of attention in legal, political and media circles over the course of 2017. In Switzerland, legal and political debate led to a much deeper engagement with issues like cooperation and the division of tasks. Elsewhere, events in the United Kingdom, Iraq, Italy and Spain dominated headlines and sparked a discussion on what is the right balance between unity and diversity.

We are delighted to have this opportunity to look back on a year when federalism took centre stage, and our Institute embarked on new ventures while continuing with the work that has helped forge its reputation. Thanks to its research, teaching activities, ongoing education courses and services, the Institute has succeeded in further raising its profile and consolidating its position as a national and international centre of expertise on good governance. Here, special mention must go to the publication of a text book on Swiss constitutional law, the organisation of the international conference «The Principle of Equality in Diverse States», involvement in the ch Foundation's 2014-2016 triennial report on federalism monitoring, the hosting of assorted delegations, not to mention teaching assignments in China and various studies on cantonal administrative structures. The Institute also stepped up its involvement in the monitoring of Swiss federalism and cultivated partnerships, old and new, at home and abroad. Some of these activities are presented in more detail in Chapters 2 and 3; all others are listed at the end of the report.

1.2 Important changes

Several major changes occurred in 2017, primarily in relation to the composition of the Institute Council and the Institute's funding.

a) Institute Council welcomes a new President

On 1 February 2017, Pascal Broulis, member of the canton of Vaud government, became the new President of the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation and, by extension, the President of the Institute of Federalism Council. His predecessor, Benedikt Würth, a member of the canton of St Gallen government, shall remain on the Council, replacing Hans-Jürg Käser, a member of the canton of Bern government.

Autumn also ushered in more changes. Canisius Braun announced his retirement, having faithfully served the interests of the Institute for many years, first as the director of the ch Foundation and then as the State Chancellor of the canton of St. Gallen. His successor, Christoph Auer, State Chancellor of the canton of Bern, was elected in December. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the retiring members for their commitment and dedication to the Institute of Federalism. We would also like to welcome the new members; we look forward to working with you.

b) Retirement of Director Peter Hänni

There were also changes to the Institute's Board of Directors. On 31 July, Prof. Peter Hänni, who had led the Institute with us as *primus inter pares* since 2008, retired from the University of Fribourg and the IFF Board of Directors. We are delighted to announce that Prof. Hänni has agreed to continue to work on special assignments for the Institute in his new role as senior adviser. By way of thanks for his enduring service, we have dedicated a section of the 2017 annual report to Prof. Hänni's accomplishments as IFF director.

c) Refocusing our international activities

Since 1997 much of the Institute's international activities have centred on developing and transition countries, for which it received funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). This longstanding collaboration, however, came to an abrupt end in November 2016 after a bid submitted by the Institute in response to a public call to tender was rejected outright. The end of the contractual relationship with the SDC placed the core funding of the Institute's international activities in serious jeopardy. This situation would have repercussions not only for the annual Summer University attended by over 40 participants from fragile and conflict-affected states, but also for the

hosting of delegations, the organisation of study tours, the visiting scholar programme, cooperation with partner institutions and many other smaller-scale forms of assistance and services that the Institute has traditionally offered its partners from developing and transition countries. After political pressure was brought to bear, the Institute entered into talks with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in summer and autumn 2017. These discussions would help both sides to work through the events of the previous year and to define the form that future collaboration could take. It was clear from various discussions within and outside the SDC that the services of the Institute were still greatly valued and considered an important component of Swiss international cooperation efforts, both in terms of its development cooperation work generally and, more specifically, its endeavours to promote peace, democracy and human rights in Switzerland's partner states. In the end, the FDFA and the Institute signed a framework contract which will place future cooperation on a new footing, establishes the principles that will govern all future collaboration, and permits FDFA personnel to avail of IFF services, should the need arise. The contractual agreement should also make it easier for both parties to share information and coordinate certain international activities.

While we are very pleased that constructive solutions could be found, we are keenly aware that the new contract is merely an outline agreement that does not provide for any binding services and will not permit the Institute to maintain its previous service performance levels. It remains unclear whether and to what extent the new contract will bring in work for the Institute, which, in turn, will make planning more difficult, particularly as regards staffing levels. The Institute is determined to safeguard its status as a renowned international centre of expertise on federalism, decentralisation, democratisation, conflict resolution and constitutional matters. It is also committed to fostering its well-established partnerships and maintaining its capacity to respond to the needs of crisis regions flexibly and directly. To this end, it will seek out new sources of core funding that will enable it to develop and see through international projects independently and secure the services of experienced, qualified staff long-term. The substantial volume of requests for governance-related assistance the Institute receives on an almost daily basis is proof positive that there is genuine international demand for its services. The work of the IFF allows Switzerland

to occupy a niche in the international cooperation field that not only promotes sustainability but is also in keeping with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

1.3 The present and the future

The Institute finds itself in a critical transition phase. In addition to the considerable uncertainties surrounding the funding of the Institute's international activities, financial concerns hang over its national activities, too. The three-year basic service provision contract with the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation expired at the end of September 2017. Although the Institute will continue to work for the ch Foundation, the nature of this contractual relationship has yet to be defined due to the restructuring of the Foundation's federalism monitoring system. Nonetheless, the ch Foundation has provided the Institute with a core contribution for 2018 to ensure that it can continue to deliver all or part of the basic services, which it has hitherto provided (in particular, in-house federalism monitoring and the publication of the newsletter on the latest developments in Swiss federalism). Negotiations on a new, longer-term contract are ongoing.

Recent experience has shown us that there is a growing reluctance on the part of the public authorities to subsidise the work of academic centres of expertise. National and international sponsor increasingly prefer to buy specific services either separately or as part of a larger package. If the Institute is to continue to offer its services alongside its academic activities – teaching, research and further education courses – it is imperative that it has sufficient staff to ensure a swift and professional response to the requests it receives (often at short notice). Today, administrations are under tremendous pressure to cut costs. While there is clearly an interest – independent of selling services – in having an academic centre of expertise that looks closely how federal states are organised both in theory and in practice, and tracks and helps shape federalism trends, there is nonetheless a certain unwillingness to provide core funding for such activities. It will take political action to change the current way of thinking. Given that federalism has been a major contributory factor in Switzerland's success and is regularly cited as a mechanism for bringing about peaceful co-existence in regions beset by conflict, we believe that it deserves to be supported as a matter of principle and not simply on an ad-hoc basis.

1.4 Thanks

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank both former and new members of the Institute Council, as well as the University of Fribourg and its Law Faculty for their constructive input and for the trust and appreciation they have once again shown us in 2017. Without the vigorous support of our sponsors and partners, the Institute would not be able to provide its teaching, research and consultancy services. Special thanks must also go to our staff for their tireless commitment and loyalty to federalism, particularly during a year filled with challenges and change.

Eva Maria Belser
Bernhard Waldmann

2. LOOKING BACK ON 2017

National activities

For several years now, the Institute has been systematically monitoring federal and cantonal lawmaking, jurisprudence, research papers and publications in order to identify, analyse and evaluate the latest federalism-related developments and trends. These findings inform the wider federalism monitoring activities of the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation (cf. also Section 3.1) as well as the Foundation's own research. Monitoring also allows the Institute to draw well-substantiated, medium- to long-term conclusions on the direction that Swiss federalism is going in. In 2017, the Institute once again published its quarterly federalism newsletter, which documents the latest developments and features in-depth articles on a number of policy areas, as well as its renowned newsletter on cantonal referenda.

Last year, the Institute's national activities were largely taken up with several major legal opinions and clarifications, as well as assisting a number of projects. These included a comparative legal analysis of the administrative structures of the cantons of Bern, Fribourg, Neuchâtel and Vaud, which offers a systematic overview of how tasks are divided between communes, regional authorities (associations of local authorities), geographically decentralised administrative units (districts) and the canton. The Institute also assisted with preliminary work on the drafting of the planned intercantonal convention on territorial change and the attendant implementing agreement in connection with the merger

of the Bernese commune of Clavaleyres and the Fribourg commune of Murten. Another legal opinion analysed the existence, design and impact of the organisational forms Amt [government office] and unselbständige Anstalt [dependent institution] in cantonal legal frameworks. The Institute also produced a report for the Council of Europe on bilingualism in the commune of Bosco Gurin (TI), and drafted other legal opinions and analyses on matters pertaining to planning and construction laws. The National Centre staff also assisted a working group of the Swiss Conference of Directors of Building, Planning and Environmental Protection (BPUK) in connection with a study on the loopholes, challenges and obstacles with regard to balancing land use planning interests. Finally, it participated in the scientific advisory group of the study «Föderalismus und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in der Schweiz» [Federalism and Competitiveness in Switzerland], commissioned by the Conference of Cantonal Governments (KdK) (cf. detailed list in Section 5.1).

In terms of ongoing education and knowledge transfer, the National Section once again ran its Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminare [Murten Legislative Seminars]. As always, these were divided into two separate sessions: legislation methodology (together with the Centre for Legislative Studies of the University of Zurich) and the drafting of legislation (together with the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Office of Justice). There was also the publication of a text book on constitutional law, written by Eva Maria Belser and Bernhard Waldmann, together with their colleague René Wiederkehr. It takes an in-depth look at how the Swiss federal state is organised, and the procedures that it has in place. To give readers a much better understanding of the subject matter, the book also explores fundamental questions, such as the concept of the State, the forms it can take, its governing systems, its purpose and functions, and how these apply to Switzerland. The book is targeted not only at students but at anyone with an interest in the State as an idea, its organisation and procedures. Last but not least, members of the National Centre were in high demand again in 2017 as guest speakers and lecturers (cf. also detailed list in Section 5.3–5.4).

International activities

Federalism was a highly topical issue around the world in 2017. While Catalonia and Kurdistan were the scene of disputed independence referenda, many states were contemplating or had

embarked on federalism reforms. Nonetheless, the division of power and resources in conflict regions around the globe remained a hot-button issue. The Institute of Federalism was not immune to these developments. For example, many partners expressed considerable interest in learning more about Swiss and comparative federalism, autonomy and decentralisation, and how they interact with peace, human rights and development. Clearly, there is still considerable demand out there for Swiss experience and expertise on these matters. Many academic and political stakeholders from around the world, including Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Germany, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Somalia, Spain, Syria and the US, asked the Institute for varying levels of assistance, or have sought out their teaching and research expertise.

In 2017, the Institute was once again involved in the peace process in Syria. A total of five workshops, organised by the European Centre for Kurdish Studies, were held in Berlin, Erbil and Istanbul. While the workshops in 2016 focused on familiarising Syrian Kurds with federalism and formulating common positions, the meetings in 2017 concentrated on forging broader alliances. Representatives from all of Syria's minority populations learnt of the different options available to them with regard to minority protection, autonomy and co-determination; together they formulated common positions on a number of issues. The workshops also generated a series of papers (Istanbul Paper I, II and III), which not only record the consensus reached by participants but also serve as a point of reference for their future endeavours. As well as the issue of protecting minorities, participants worked together on questions such as the system of government that Syria could adopt in the future, the composition of parliament, the judiciary and judicial independence, division of powers and responsibilities, fiscal federalism, resource management, establishing the criteria for creating regions, and the transition process. Four workshops are already planned for 2018. Their aim will be to encourage greater consensus-building and open up new avenues for peace negotiations. Dr. Sören Keil (Kent) and Prof. Eva Maria Belser are joint scientific leads on the project.

Our longstanding partnerships with Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa region generally, and China continued in 2017. At the start of the year, Dr. Mengistu Arefaine invested much of his time on exploring possible opportunities for closer cooperation on federalism-

related issues in the Horn of Africa, and the political and legal situation in Eritrea. Towards the end of the year, an international conference, jointly organised by four centres of expertise from the North and South (Addis Ababa, Cape Town, Bolzano and Fribourg), was once again held in Addis Ababa; the theme was sub-national constitutional law and the need to safeguard both diversity and unity as they relate in particular to human rights protection. Following the international conference, Prof. Nico Steytler, Prof. Francesco Palermo and Prof. Eva Maria Belser contributed to a special seminar for doctoral students; in doing so, they helped support their partner institution, the Center for Federal Studies, and its training of young researchers. In China, collaboration shifted from Peking to the South. The South China Normal University in Guangzhou invited Prof. Eva Maria Belser and Prof. Peter Hänni to give guest lectures on the rule of law, property protection and procedural rights/law. They also had the opportunity to support a centre of expertise, founded by a former IFF visiting scholar, which specialises in the strengthening of the rule of law.

In October, the Institute had the honour of organising and hosting the annual conference of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS) (cf. also «In Focus»). Thanks to the unstinting support and outstanding organisational skills of Thea Bächler and Yvonne Heiter-Steiner, directors of federalism centres from around the world were able to enjoy their stay in Fribourg, take full advantage of the opportunity offered by the conference to discuss equality in diverse states with a plethora of other experts and guests, and, of course, celebrate the association's 40th anniversary. The Institute may have handed over the organisational baton to Canberra, which will host the event in 2018, but work continues apace on the publication of the conference papers and raising public awareness of the many findings reached at the Conference.

To ensure the survival of the much-appreciated Summer University following the withdrawal of SDC funding, it was incorporated into one of the Master's programmes offered by the Law Faculty, thereby opening it up to more participants. Over three weeks, experts from Ethiopia, India and the UK, various members of University of Fribourg teaching staff and participants from Switzerland, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina and China took a in-depth and informed look at the theoretical and practical issues surrounding

federalism, decentralisation and conflict resolution. Although this new approach was largely a success, we should not lose sight of the fact that, without subsidies, attendance at an intensive, and expensive, programme like this remains beyond the reach of interested participants from disadvantaged countries.

Similarly, the visiting scholar programme is likely to remain, for the foreseeable future at least, accessible to only those who have the wherewithal to fund their stay. Over the last year, the Institute was able to host and support visiting scholars from Bosnia Herzegovina, China, Ethiopia, India and Somalia. They took full advantage of their time at the Institute to advance their research and develop new projects. Their presence helps to ensure that the Institute remains a dynamic environment for scholarly exchange. In addition to many shorter visits by ambassadors and other guests, the Institute hosted a number of delegations, primarily Myanmar and Nepal, who wished to familiarise themselves in more detail with Swiss and other forms of federalism; a particular focus of discussions was the subject of fiscal federalism.

Staff from the International Centre – Prof. Peter Hänni, Dr. Rekha Oleschak-Pillai, Dr. Nicolas Schmitt and Prof. Eva Maria Belser – were once again much in demand over the last 12 months as guest lecturers at ongoing education events and conferences in Switzerland and abroad. Their activities included helping to mark the anniversary of the Canadian Constitution, discussing the Catalonia questions, taking stock of efforts in Europe to protect minorities, and debating the specificities and latest developments in Swiss federalism (cf. detailed list at the end of the report). Last but not least, Prof. Eva Maria Belser passed the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) vetting process for inclusion on the UNDP Constitution Making Experts Roster.

3. IN FOCUS

3.1 Input to chFoundation monitoring

The ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation has been monitoring Swiss federalism developments and trends since 2005. Its findings enable it to identify areas where action could be taken and, where necessary, devise the appropriate measures. In 2012, the monitoring system was entirely overhauled. The annual (summary) report is supplemented by a more extensive triennial report which features political analyses of current challenges alongside data and surveys. It also identifies areas where improvements could be made and outlines possible measures to strengthen federalism. In autumn 2017, it was fitting that the fifth National Federalism Conference (Montreux) coincided with the publication of the triennial report 2014–2016.

Since 2005, the Institute has contributed to these federalism monitoring efforts. Initially, its annual activities were limited to providing summaries of federalism-relevant literature. However, for the first triennial report (2011–2013), it was also tasked with providing an analysis of case law. In 2017, the Institute continued to monitor cantonal lawmaking and helped to finalise the 2014–2016 report; here its work focussed on pinpointing the trends and challenges that had emerged during that three-year period.

The analysis of federalism-relevant literature published between 2014 and 2016 revealed that many articles and studies dealt with growing regulatory activities at federal level as well as the increasingly dominant position that the Confederation occupies within the federal system. Some exposed the ongoing, and ever stronger, trend towards centralisation in a number of policy areas (such as health care and culture); others analysed the causes of this shift and proposed strategies to counter it. For example, the seemingly reflexive calls for federal financial assistance and federal regulation as a means of resolving problems were identified as drivers of centralisation. A number of proposals were put forward to curtail this trend, including the expansion of direct democratic decision-making in relation to the division of tasks and public finances, and the capping of federal expenditure. Another contributory factor in the shift towards greater centralisation is the «re-entanglement» of tasks and financing responsibilities that should have been disentangled in the wake of the New System of Fiscal Equalisation and Division of Tasks (NFE). These developments have led to calls for an overhaul, or at least a discussion, with regard to the division of tasks between the different levels of governments.

An examination of the case law during the three-year observation period also found that the Confederation and the cantons rarely avail themselves of the option of letting the federal court settle disputes that touch on the federal system; these are primarily resolved by political means. However, constitutional disputes are often passed to the federal court via individual complaints (e.g. in connection with the power of federal law to derogate). The study also found that the federal court has softened its traditional reserve in relation to issues touching on the federal structure of governance in favour of a more sector-specific, outcome-driven approach. This is illustrated by federal court rulings on cantonal electoral systems which judged electoral districts that distort relative party strengths without compensatory measures as anachronistic and unconstitutional, and that majority election systems for cantonal parliaments were deemed constitutional insofar as there were material reasons to support having such a system. Another example is the interpretation of the fundamental power of the Confederation in relation to zoning which, in the light of the pursuit of greater densification, has become increasingly outcome-oriented. Here, the cantons are increasingly forced into an executor role. It is also symptomatic that the federal court, when ruling on the admissibility of police evidence gathered outside the territory of a canton, attached greater importance to the interests of criminal prosecution than to the cantonal jurisdictional regime.

3.2 Federalism – The glue that keeps a State together or a wedge that drives it apart? – International Conference on Equality in Diverse States

The Institute of Federalism organised an international conference entitled «The Principle of Equality in Diverse States». It took place on 12 and 13 October 2017 in Fribourg. Participants included the directors of federalism institutes around the world, as well as legal experts, political scientists and economists whose work deals with the organisation of the state and conflict resolution.

Federalism is the main political talking point at the present time. The division of powers between different levels of government is considered by many as a gatekeeper of peace. After all, where there is conflict, the federalism debate is usually never far away. Why are regions like Kurdistan and Catalonia demanding independence? Possibly because neither Iraq nor Spain has managed to divide powers in such a way that their regions and communities

can preserve their independence and thus exist as part of a greater whole. Federalist states like Switzerland have been largely spared secession calls despite their often highly diverse make-up. What steps can be taken to ensure that federalism unites rather than divides?

In October 2017 it was precisely these questions which were explored at the conference of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS), organised and hosted by the IFF. Over 50 seasoned and younger researchers from countries such as Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland and the US presented their research on autonomy, participation, equality and federalism. At the centre lay the question of regional asymmetry: Is it possible and expedient that rights and obligations differ across regions within the same state? Should states «do a Scotland» in order to bolster unity or does such an approach challenge the notion of equality? Another topic which was discussed was whether autonomy should be allowed to imply that different regions apply different human rights standards. For example, should or may fiscal federalism imply that public services and living conditions vary from one region to the next? The conference also offered the opportunity to discuss these and many other questions, and to contextualise them within current debate and conflicts. The extensive findings of the conference will be published in 2018.

In the run up to this conference, over 20 directors of federalism institutes from around the world held their annual meeting. As well as providing a platform to discuss their work face to face and examine the global challenges as regards the organisation of the state, the meeting was the perfect opportunity to mark the 40th anniversary of the IACFS. Participants visited the Federal Palace at the invitation of State Councillor and member of the Institute Council, as well as enjoying a number of celebratory events in Fribourg. Following on from Delhi in 2016 and Fribourg in 2017, Canberra is set to host the next annual IACFS conference, when attention will turn to other federalism-related issues besides regional autonomy. While it was a great honour to host the anniversary conference, we nonetheless look forward to a brief respite for these organisational duties!

3.3 Looking back on Peter Hänni's accomplishments as Institute Director

On 28 September 2017, our colleague Prof. Peter Hänni delivered his farewell lecture at the Law Faculty of the University of Fribourg, where he had worked as a professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law since 1992. Entitled 25 Jahre Recht lehren – Eine Zeitreise [A journey through 25 years of teaching law], his final official presentation took colleagues, students and invited guests on a tour of a quarter-century of law and jurisprudence. Prof. Hänni detailed the profound changes that our discipline has undergone during that time, highlighted developments both positive and negative, voiced criticism and praise, and offered his own personal take on events and developments over the last 25 years. Replete with often amusing, and even juicy, anecdotes, this journey through time painted a fascinating picture of what the law is, how it impacts society and the influence, for better and worse, that it exerts.

Having served as deputy director of the Institute of Federalism for many years, Prof. Hänni was appointed IFF director in 2008. During his tenure, he was instrumental in defining the strategic direction of the Institute and ensuring that the effective and professional implementation of these plans. His appointment as director ushered in the «triumvirate». As the freshly minted director wrote in the 2008 annual report, the Institute should be run by «a collegial structure. [...] While Prof. Waldmann directs the National Centre, Prof. Belser is responsible for the International Centre, and in addition to his representative activities as Director, Prof. Hänni will deal with other matters as necessary.» Even before he took office, the triumvirate was already clear about the direction which they wanted to take the Institute in: closer links with the Law Faculty and the University of Fribourg in general, greater focus on research; and delivering services that drew exclusively on the Institute's core competencies. A further priority for Prof. Hänni was restoring the Institute's financial health. That same year, the director noted in the annual report that the Institute's order books were already pretty full, and that «The good rapport prevailing within the Direction has contributed substantially to the timely realisation of the many new tasks that had to be dealt with.» In the 2009 annual report, the director proudly announced «that we have largely achieved our goals.» The volume of commissions for the National Centre rose sharply, the processing of legal data was outsourced, and most of the Institute's work had moved away from mere documentation to jurisprudence and other fields of research. At the same time, the

Institute strengthened its physical ties to the Law Faculty: its IT services were successfully incorporated into Fribourg University's Central Services. At the same time, the Institute had to contend with a challenging, large-scale project: reclassifying its library holdings, which historically had used its own classification system and therefore was hard for the research community to access, and their transfer to the library system of the Cantonal and University Library (KUB). Five years later, Prof. Hänni was able to declare that this massive undertaking had reached a successful conclusion: all of the Institute's books and journals were now available on the internet platform of the libraries of Western Switzerland (RERO). In 2011, the Institute's decision to plough most of its energy into research had begun to bear fruit: the Institute launched a new series of publications, *Federalism 2.0*, in which the Institute assessed the state of federalism with a view to energising scholarly debate and federalism research, as well as raising awareness of issues of relevance to Switzerland specifically but of considerable interest internationally.

The Institute decided to follow the lead of the University of Fribourg and its individual faculties and rethink its public image. The result was a brand-new website and logo. However, this 'face lift' was more than skin deep. In the 2010 annual report, Prof. Hänni explained: «By examining the form we were able to sharpen the focus of the content». Consequently, it was decided that the National and International Centres should collaborate more given that «both areas have recently been engaged in academic investigations of Swiss and comparative federalism, human rights.»

The 2011 annual report was the first time that the Director officially expressed a desire to move the Institute closer to the University; within the space of a few years, the IFF was happily installed in its new premises at Beauregard 1. The director was full of praise, citing its proximity to the university and the train station, as well as the bright and cheerful offices: «It is truly a pleasure to work here!», he declared.

In the 2015 annual report, the director explained that it was only when reviewing the past 12 months that he fully grasped the scale and scope of the Institute's work and achievements. New contracts were signed, old partnerships were consolidated, new relationships forged, research projects and legal opinions issued, delegations hosted, while interested parties from Switzerland

and around the world attended the teaching and ongoing education courses offered by the Institute. In the 2016 annual report, Prof. Hänni remarked that an apt title for it would be «the only constant is change», as it suitably encapsulated the events of the previous year and the priorities of the Institute's activities.

Although change has always been part and parcel of the Institute's history, the director noted that certain things stay the same. The Institute continued to plough its energies into its chosen field of expertise and worked tirelessly in the interests of good governance and building the capacities of States to achieve their stated goals. Likewise, member of the Board and Institute staff in general continued to reap the benefits of the constructive and collegial approach that the Institute has always fostered. It was a pleasure to work with Peter Hänni. We have learnt much from our time spent with him deciding on and shaping the destiny of the Institute. This is why we are delighted that the Institute will continue to benefit from his outstanding expertise in his new role as senior advisor. We would like to thank him for his incredible work and commitment to the Institute and we look forward to being able to count on his support and friendship in the future.

4. ORGANISATION

4.1 Internal developments

Staffing levels remained unchanged in 2017. Three members of staff were hired on temporary contracts to work on specific projects. The Institute also welcomed a SNSF doctoral student, while two employees left due to the expiry of their temporary contracts.

One person spent one month of his alternative civilian service at the Institute updating the federalism database.

The Institute Council, as always, convened twice, in March and December of 2017. Pascal Broulis, member of the canton of Vaud government, took over the presidency of the Institute Council along with the presidency of the ch Foundation. Benedikt Würth, member of the canton of St. Gallen government and outgoing president, remains on the Institute Council as the third representative of the ch Foundation.

At the meeting on 4 December 2017, the canton of Bern state chancellor, Dr. Christoph Auer, was elected to the Council. He succeeds Canisius Braun, State Chancellor of the canton of St. Gallen and thus guarantees the representation of the Conference of State Chancellors on the Institute Council.

4.2 Institute Council

At the end of 2017 the Institute Council comprised the following members:

President

Pascal BROULIS, State Councillor and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs of the canton of Vaud, representative of the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation (member since 2017).

Vice-president

Jean-Pierre SIGGEN, Cantonal Minister for Education, Cultural and Sport (Fribourg) (member since 2014)

Other members

Christoph AUER, State Chancellor of the canton of Bern, (member since 2017)

Bérénice BILLOTTE, Student representative, University of Fribourg (member since 2017)

Anne-Sophie CONSTANS-LAMPERT, Government employee of the Principality of Liechtenstein (member since 2015)

Jacques DUBEY, Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Fribourg (member since 2014)

Stefan MAEDER, representative of the non-professorial academic staff, University of Fribourg (member since 2017)

Sandra MAISSEN, Director of the Foundation for Swiss Cooperation (ch foundation) (member since 2009)

Peter MISCHLER, Deputy Secretary of the Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Finance (member since 2015)

Nicolas QUELOZ, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Fribourg (member since 2012)

Hubert STOECKLI, Professor of Civil Law, University of Fribourg (member since 2010)

Benedikt WÜRTH, Cantonal Minister of Finance (St Gallen) and representative of the Foundation for Swiss Cooperation (ch foundation) (member since 2013)

4.4 Staff

Board of Directors



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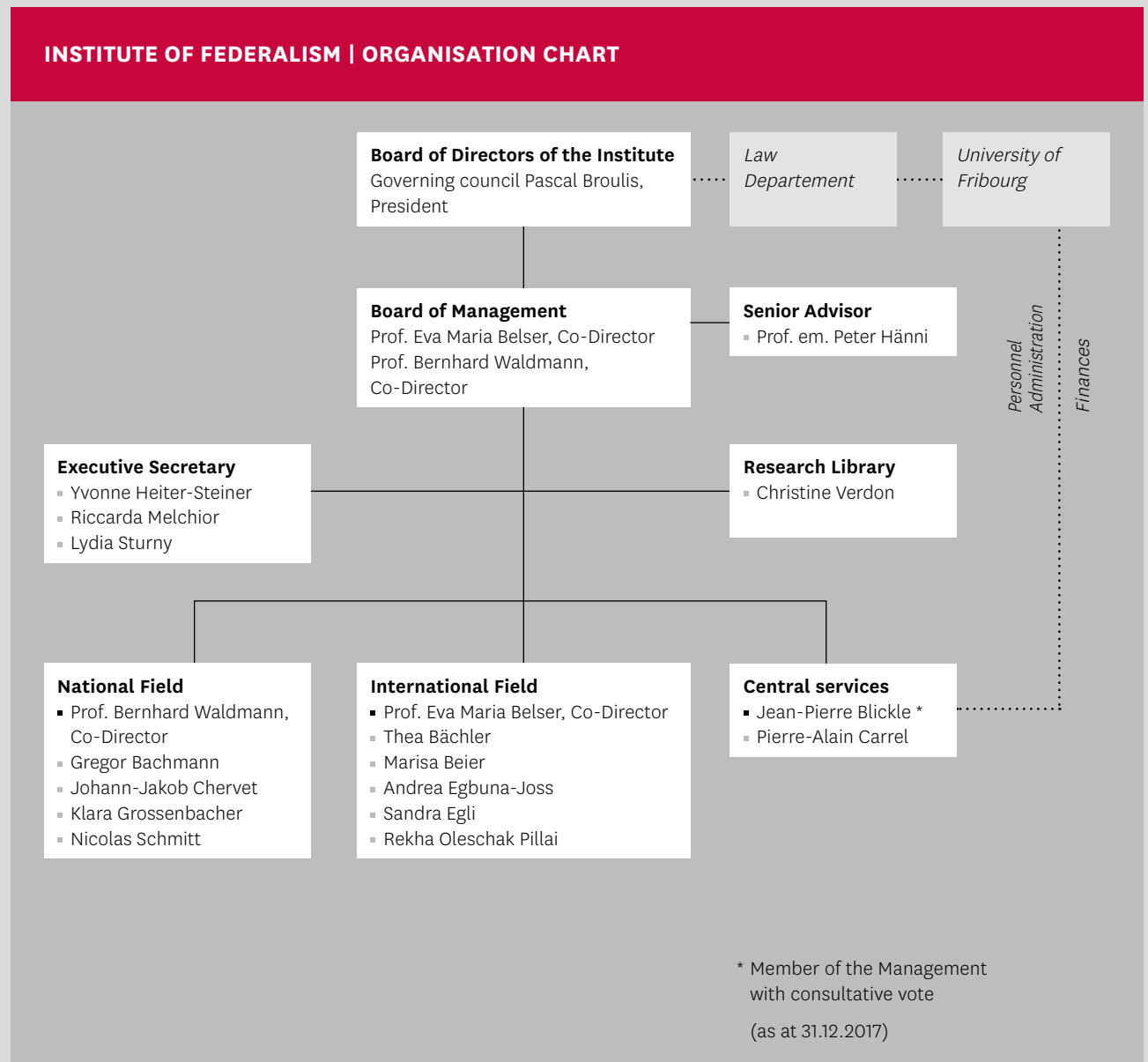


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4.5 Organisation Chart



5. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2015

5.1 Research and publications

THEA BÄCHLER

- «Föderalismus: Auslauf- oder Zukunftsmodell für die Sozialhilfe?», in: Zeitschrift für Sozialhilfe ZESO 01/17, pp. 26–27 (co-author: Angelika Spiess)

GREGOR BACHMANN

- «Zur Anfechtbarkeit verwaltungsorganisatorischer Anordnungen, Kommentar BGE 1C_517/2016 vom 12. April 2017 (Urteil 'Cazis')», in: sui generis 2017/37, pp. 91–101 (co-author: Bernhard Waldmann)

EVA MARIA BELSER

- «Gleiche Rechte im Alter, Ein Grundrechtskatalog für ältere Menschen in der Schweiz» (co-authors: Christine Kaufmann, Sabrina Ghielmini and Andrea Egbuna-Joss), published by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR), 2017
- «Das schweizerische Ringen um die Steuerung der Zuwanderung – Von der Umsetzung der Masseneinwanderungsinitiative und anderen Gratwanderungen», in: Rudolf Hrbek/Martin Grosse Hüttmann (eds.), Hoffnung Europa – Die EU als Raum und Ziel von Migration, Baden-Baden 2017, pp. 113–140 (co-author: Fabrizio E. Cramer)
- Foreword, in: Kaleab Kassaye Ahmed, «Umpiring a Federal System, The Ethiopian Choice in Comparative Perspective», doctoral thesis, Fribourg 2017, Publikationen des Instituts für Föderalismus (PIFF), Volume 11, Bern 2017, VII–VIII
- «Menschenrechte im Alter, Ein Überblick über die menschenrechtliche Situation älterer Personen in der Schweiz, Studie des Schweizerischen Kompetenzzentrums für Menschenrechte» (co-authors: Christine Kaufmann, Andrea Egbuna-Joss, Sabrina Ghielmini and Gabriela Medici), Bern 2017
- «Wenn man frei mich wünschen liesse, wählt' ich gern ein Plätzchen mir, mitten drin im Paradiese: lieber noch – vor seiner Tür! Quid?» Fribourg Law Review 2017, pp. 29–31
- «Staatsorganisationsrecht» (co-authors: René Wiederkehr and Bernhard Waldmann), Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2017
- «Concurrent Powers as Doors to Legislative Innovation – Conditional Powers as Gates to the Blind Alley: Some Swiss Illustrations»,

in: Nico Steytler (ed.), Concurrent Powers in Federal Systems, Making, Meaning, Managing, Leiden/Boston 2017, pp. 49–69

- «Ungleichheit produziert Wutbürger», debate with Andreas Glaeser, discussion chaired by Gjon David and René Schuhmacher, plädoyer 06/2017, 20 November 2017

ANDREA EGBUNA-JOSS

- «Gleiche Rechte im Alter – Ein Grundrechtskatalog für ältere Menschen in der Schweiz», 2017 (co-authors: Eva Maria Belser, Christine Kaufmann and Sabrina Ghielmini)

PETER HÄNNI

- «Gleichstellung zwischen Frauen und Männern in der EU», in: Astrid Epiney/Lena Hehemann (eds.), Schweizerisches Jahrbuch für Europarecht 2016–2017, Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2017, pp. 37–67 (co-authors: Tamara Iseli and Samuel Walter)
- «Schweizerisches Bundesverwaltungsrecht, Personalrecht des Bundes», Volume 1/2, 3rd edition, Basel 2017
- «Texto Gesetzessammlung, Öffentliches Recht I», 4th edition, Basel 2017 (co-authors: Eva Maria Belser and Bernhard Waldmann)

NICOLAS SCHMITT

- «In the country of William Tell, the myth becomes reality: Some reflections about cantons' sovereignty», in: Euskal Autogobernaren etorkizuna: ereduen azterketa alderatua eta dimentsio europarra, pp. 60–78
- «La política lingüística a Suïssa: el paradigma canvia, però la complexitat es manté» [Switzerland linguistic policy: paradigm shifts but complexity remains], in: Revista de Llengua i Dret [Journal of Language and Law], No. 67, 2017, pp. 86–105
- «Quelques réflexions venues de Suisse : le fédéralisme européen en quête de modèle», in: Sylvia Calmes-Brunet / Arun Sagar (eds.), Fédéralisme, Décentralisation et Régionalisation de l'Europe. Perspectives comparatives, Actes du colloque de Rouen, L'Epitoge – Lextenso, Toulouse and Rouen 2017, pp. 21–43
- «La seule alternative: le fédéralisme», interview in Le Vif – L'Express, No. 40, 6 October 2017, on the Catalonia situation

- «Paris und die französische Wüste», interview with Andreas Minder, in *universitas*, 01/2017/18, pp. 30–31

BERNHARD WALDMANN

- «Staatsorganisationsrecht», Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2017 (co-authors: Eva Maria Belser and René Wiederkehr)
- «Der Schweizerische Föderalismus unter Beobachtung: Ein Monitoring aus verschiedenen Perspektiven», in: European Center for Research on Federalism EZFF (eds.), *Yearbook of Federalism 2017*, Baden-Baden, pp. 325–335
- «Zur Anfechtbarkeit verwaltungsorganisatorischer Anordnungen, Kommentar BGE 1C_517/2016 vom 12. April 2017 (Urteil 'Cazis')», in: *sui generis* 2017/37, pp. 91–101 (co-author: Gregor Bachmann)
- «Bauen ohne Baubewilligung?, Von klaren und den Zweifelsfällen», in: Institut für Schweizerisches und Internationales Baurecht (eds.), 2017 Swiss Construction Law Conference, Fribourg 2017, pp. 31–56
- «Neue Urteile – Öffentliches Recht, Ausgewählte «Leitentscheide» aus den Jahren 2015–2016», in: Institut für Schweizerisches und Internationales Baurecht (eds.), 2017 Swiss Construction Law Conference, Fribourg 2017, pp. 165–181 (co-author: Peter Hänni)
- «Umbau eines Hotels ausserhalb der Bauzone in bewirtschaftete Zweitwohnungen: Erweiterung, Wiederaufbau oder Neubau?», in: *BR/DC* 2017, pp. 301–303
- «Windenergie im Konflikt mit dem Natur- und Landschaftsschutz, Eine Zusammenfassung und Kommentierung des Bundesgerichtsurteils 1C_346/2014 vom 26. Oktober 2016 (Windparkzone Schwyberg)», in: *FZR/RFJ* 2016/4, pp. 385–404

5.2 Services and Study Tours

5.2.1 Expert reports

«Rechtsprechung zum Schweizerischen Föderalismus» (2014–2016), case law analysis commissioned by the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation, January 2017 (**Klara Grossenbacher**)

«Literatur zum Schweizerischen Föderalismus» (2014–2016). literature analysis commissioned by the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation, February 2017 (**Klara Grossenbacher**)

Advising and assisting with the drafting of the intercantonal territorial change convention between the cantons of Bern and Fribourg on the territorial change of the commune of Clavaleyres, draft convention (**Klara Grossenbacher**)

«Erstwohnungsanteil gemäss Quartiergestaltungsplan für das Tourismusresort Andermatt» (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

«Balancing interests in planning control» project of the Swiss Conference of directors of Public Works, Planning and Environmental Protection (DDPE); part of the second phase of the revision of the Spatial Planning Act («RPG 2»), final report and project assistance (**Bernhard Waldmann** and **Gregor Bachmann**)

Advisory group to the study «Föderalismus und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in der Schweiz» [Federalism and competitiveness in Switzerland], Conference of Cantonal Governments (KdK) (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

5.2.2 Study Tours

27.01., Fribourg	Hosting of Prof. Alfred Tovias from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
08.03., Fribourg	Visit by Rafa Tajouri and Tareq Elbadri from Libya on the issue of whether federalism could lead to peace in their country, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
10.03., Fribourg	Hosting of a delegation of journalists from France on the subject of Swiss federalism, Presence Switzerland, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
10.-13.03., Erbil (Iraq)	«Negotiation Strategies (security, natural resources)», training course for the Kurdish National Council, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (with Sören Keil) (Eva Maria Belser)
31.03., Bern	Hosting of a delegation from Myanmar as part of the Training Course on International Relations and Human Security, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA and the Geneva Center for Security Policy GCSP (Nicolas Schmitt)
27.-30.04., Istanbul (Turkey)	First Dialog Workshop with members of the Arab and Kurdish opposition in Syria on power-sharing options, presentations on reasons for power-sharing, forms of federalism and decentralisation, group work and discussions, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (with Sören Keil) (Eva Maria Belser)
05.05., Fribourg	Visit by high-ranking delegation from Ethiopia; main item on the agenda Fiscal federalism and resource allocation, particular the Swiss Financial Equalisation Model, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
24.05., Fribourg	Hosting of a delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo, CENI-CNDH-Société civile congolaise en Suisse on cooperation with the Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
26.-31.05., Istanbul (Turkey)	Workshop on minority rights and protection, knowledge-building and training for representatives of minority groups in Syria, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (with Sören Keil) (Eva Maria Belser)
08.-10.06., Fribourg	Hosting of a delegation of high-ranking officials from the Nepalese Ministry of Finance on the subject of federalism in general and financial federalism in particular, SDC, Southern Asia Division, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
10.07., Fribourg	Visit by a delegation of communal authority representatives from the Rakhine district (Myanmar) on the subject of federalism and multiculturalism, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
24.07., Murten	Visit by a delegation from the Myanmar Peace Commission, main item on the agenda: Introduction to federalism, FDFA, together with the Institute of Federalism, (Nicolas Schmitt)
26.07., Fribourg	Second visit by Tareq Elbadri (Libya) on the subject of federalism in Libya, Institute of Federalism (Nicolas Schmitt)
15.-17.09., Istanbul (Turkey)	Workshop on past and future training as part of the Syria peace process, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (with Sören Keil) (Eva Maria Belser)
06.-10.11., Guangzhou (China)	Lectures on Swiss Administrative Law, guest lecturer at the South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China (Peter Hänni)
09.-13.11., Istanbul (Turkey)	Workshop on systems of government, election, allocation of powers and resources, territorial organisation and transition, further and basic training for representatives of minority groups in Syria, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (with Sören Keil) (Eva Maria Belser)
Since 2017	Swiss expert – «Moscow Mechanism» of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (Eva Maria Belser)
Since 2017	Expert on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Constitution Making Experts Roster (Eva Maria Belser)

5.3 Training courses

Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar, Foundation Seminar I: Legislation methodology (3–5 May 2017, Murten), in cooperation with the Centre for Legislative Studies, University of Zurich (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

Teaching at the South China Normal University – School of Law, Guangzhou (6–9 June 2017, Guangzhou, China) (**Eva Maria Belser**)

Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar, Foundation Seminar II: Drafting legislation (22–24 November 2017, Murten), in cooperation with the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Office of Justice (**Bernhard Waldmann**)

2017 Conference of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies, The Principle of Equality in Diverse States – Reconciling Autonomy with Equal Rights and Opportunities (12–13 October 2017, Fribourg) (**Eva Maria Belser** and Thea Bächler)

Symposium on «The Functions and Relevance of Subnational Constitutions in Federal Systems», Addis Ababa University (1 December 2017, Addis Ababa) (**Eva Maria Belser**)

Seminar for doctoral students, Centre for Federal Studies, Addis Ababa University, (2–4 December 2017) (**Eva Maria Belser**)

5.4 Lectures/presentations

09.01., Fribourg	«What Are Human Rights?», delivered as part of the <i>American College Program</i> «Survey of International Organizations» (Andrea Egbuna-Joss)
25.01./01.02., Fribourg	«Neue Urteile – Öffentliches Recht, Ausgewählte Leitsentscheide aus den Jahren 2015–2016», presented at the 2017 Swiss construction law conference, University of Fribourg (Bernhard Waldmann and Peter Hänni)
25.01./01.02., Fribourg	«Bauen ohne Baubewilligung? Von klaren und den Zweifelsfällen», presented at the 2017 Swiss construction law conference, University of Fribourg (Bernhard Waldmann)
01.02., Innsbruck (Austria)	«Power Sharing in Integrated Federal Systems», presented at the Winter School on «Federalism and Governance», University of Innsbruck (Eva Maria Belser)
02.02., Innsbruck (Austria)	«Power Sharing in Federal Switzerland», panel debate at the <i>Winter School</i> on «Federalism and Governance», University of Innsbruck (Eva Maria Belser)
09.02., Cham	«Verwaltungstätigkeit und Verwaltungsverfahren», presented at the Central Switzerland Trainee Lawyers Course (Bernhard Waldmann)
10.02., Cham	«Wiedererwägung und Revision», presented at the Central Switzerland Trainee Lawyers Course (Bernhard Waldmann)
16./17.02., Geneva	«Territorial Reorganisation and Special Arrangements» and «Protection of Minorities», two presentations given at a seminar on options for transnational/transregional governance for the Ukraine and Syria, Global Studies Institute (Prof. Micheline Calmy-Rey), University of Geneva (Eva Maria Belser)
01.03., Fribourg	«An Introduction to Human Rights», given as part of the Bachelor- course «Human Rights and Education» taught by Prof. Cathryn Magno, University of Fribourg (Andrea Egbuna-Joss)
16.03., Bern	«Bundesgericht unter Druck, Erläuterungen und Diskussionen rund um die Rechtsprechung und die Rolle des Bundesgerichts bei der Anwendung des Völkerrechts», roundtable for parliamentarians, <i>Schutzfaktor M</i> (Eva Maria Belser)
21.03., Fribourg	«Demokratie – Grundlagen und aktuelle Streitfragen», presented as part of a further education course for upper secondary economics and law teachers, University of Fribourg (Bernhard Waldmann)

23.–24.03., Quebec (Canada)	«Intergovernmental Relations in Times of Law Harmonisation – Horizontal Law-making by Swiss Cantons and the Democratic Deficit Debate», <i>Canada at 150: the Future of Federalism, Actors and Institutions</i> , McGill University (Eva Maria Belser)
13.04., Washington (USA)	«Foreign Affairs Federalism: A Comparative Perspective», 111 th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law (Eva Maria Belser)
26.04., Fribourg	«Rechtsverweigerung und Rechtsverzögerung», presented as part of the administrative procedural law course taught by Prof. Peter Hänni, University of Fribourg (Gregor Bachmann)
28.04., Istanbul (Turkey)	«Gründe für eine gewaltenteilige Staatsorganisation», dialogue workshop with members of the Arab and Kurdish opposition in Syria, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (Eva Maria Belser)
29.04., Istanbul (Turkey)	«Formen der gewaltenteiligen Staatsorganisation», dialogue workshop with members of the Arab and Kurdish opposition in Syria, European Centre for Kurdish Studies (Eva Maria Belser)
03.05., Murten	«Regelungsinstrumente», presented at the <i>Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar</i> on legislation methodology, Institute of Federalism and the Centre for Legal Studies of the University of Zurich (Bernhard Waldmann)
05.05., Eupen (Belgium)	«Small is complicated – Reform for better governance in Switzerland», congress of local and regional authorities on «Successful territorial reform, causes and methods of subnational reform in Council of Europe member states», Council of Europe (Eva Maria Belser)
27.05., Istanbul (Turkey)	«Minderheitenrechte und Minderheitenschutz – Nationale und internationale Standards», presented at a workshop <i>The Rights and Protection of Minorities</i> , European Centre for Kurdish Studies (Eva Maria Belser)
28.05., Istanbul (Turkey)	«Minderheitenrechte und Minderheitenschutz – Fallstudien», presented at <i>The rights and protection of minorities</i> , European Centre for Kurdish Studies (Eva Maria Belser)
02.06., Fribourg	«Digitalisierung und Datenschutz – ein Kommentar», University of Fribourg (Eva Maria Belser)
06.06., Guangzhou (China)	«Introduction to Swiss Public Law», South China University, School of Law, Guangzhou (Eva Maria Belser)
07./08.06., Guangzhou (China)	«The Referendum – Swiss Direct-Democratic Rights» and «Planning, Expropriation and Compensation», two presentations delivered at the South China University, School of Law, Guangzhou (Eva Maria Belser)
09.06., Yunfu City (China)	«Local Government – Functions and Challenges from a Comparative Perspective», presentation organised by the South China University, School of Law, Guangzhou (Eva Maria Belser)
11./27.06., Fribourg	«Fédéralisme en Suisse» and «Démocratie directe en Suisse», two presentations to the Kurdisch Centre Fribourg, <i>Kulturverein von Mesopotamien der Kurdischen Gemeinschaft Kanton Freiburg</i> (Nicolas Schmitt)
26.06. Fribourg	«International Human Rights Law: An Introduction», delivered as part of the <i>American College Program</i> «Survey of International Organizations» (Andrea Egbuna-Joss)
27.06., Fribourg	«The Role of International Organizations», delivered as part of the <i>American College Program</i> «Survey of International Organizations» (Andrea Egbuna-Joss)
05./07.07., Copenhagen (Denmark)	«Comparative Federalism – Constitutional Arrangements and Case Law: Book Discussion» and «Revisiting the Counter-majoritarian Role of Courts – The Judicial Protection of Human Rights in Times of Popular Pressure not to do so», ICON-S 2017 International Society of Public Law, University of Copenhagen (Eva Maria Belser)

20.08., Canterbury (England)	«Federalism in the USA», presented at the <i>Summer School</i> on «Federalism, Multinationalism and the Future of Europe», Canterbury Christ Church University (Nicolas Schmitt)
22.08., Canterbury (England)	«Protecting Minority Rights», presented at the <i>Summer School</i> on «Federalism, Multinationalism and the Future of Europe», Canterbury Christ Church University (Eva Maria Belser)
06.09., Tel Aviv (Israel)	«Confederalism, Federalism and Conflict Mitigation, Power-Sharing Mechanisms and their Usage in Deeply Divided Societies», presented at a workshop on «Is a Confederation applicable to the Israel-Palestinian situation?», organised by the <i>Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)</i> and the Swiss Embassy in Tel Aviv (Eva Maria Belser)
11.09., Bellinzona	Press conference by Mr. Siccardi on the Ticino civics initiative, held by the organising committee « <i>Educazione civica, alla cittadinanza e alla democrazia</i> » (Nicolas Schmitt)
15.09., Fribourg	« <i>Ein neues Datenschutzgesetz für die Schweiz</i> », presented as part of the Law Graduates Conference, University of Fribourg (Bernhard Waldmann)
25.09., Fribourg	«Federalism in the USA», presented as part of the Master's programme «Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution», University of Fribourg (Nicolas Schmitt)
28.09., Fribourg	«25 Jahre Recht lehren – Eine Zeitreise», farewell lecture, University of Fribourg (Peter Hänni)
02.10., Zurich	«Gegen Wahlen – Streitgespräch mit Eva Maria Belser und Andreas Glaser», <i>plädoyer</i> , debate chaired by Gjon David and René Schumacher, (Eva Maria Belser)
04.10., Saarbrücken (Germany)	«Das Recht des öffentlichen Dienstes in der Schweiz», presented as part of the « <i>Verwaltung</i> » discussion group of the Association of German Constitutional Law Professors VDStRL (Peter Hänni)
12.10., Fribourg	«Balancing Autonomy and Human Rights – Can We Accept Unequal Human Rights Standards in Federal States?», presented at the 2017 Conference of the International Associations of Centers for Federal Studies, Institute of Federalism (Eva Maria Belser)
13.10., Fribourg	«The Tension between Cantonal Autonomy and the Principle of Equality», presented at the 2017 Conference of the International Associations of Centers for Federal Studies, Institute of Federalism (Peter Hänni)
13.10., Fribourg	«Equality Among Individuals in Need and Among the Subnational Entities Supporting Them: Reviewing the Provision of Social Welfare in a Federal State», presented at the 2017 Conference of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies, Institute of Federalism (Thea Bächler)
26.–27.10., Bolzano (Italy)	«Direkte und partizipative Formen der Demokratie in der Schweiz», Yearbook of Federalism, authors' workshop on «Governance auf dem Prüfstand: Direkte und deliberative Demokratie in Europa», EURAC (Eva Maria Belser)
02.11., Bern	«Die Verantwortlichkeit der Behördenmitglieder im Bund, vom Umgang mit Elite-Bashing im demokratischen Rechtsstaat», Continuing Education Conference of the Centre of Expertise on Public Management: «Wer regiert die Schweiz» (Eva Maria Belser)
02.11., Zurich	«Kopftücher am Schalter, Kreuze im Büro – Ein Überblick über die neue Rechtsprechung zu den religiösen Symbolen am Arbeitsplatz», Zurich Lawyers Association (Eva Maria Belser)
08.11., Fribourg	Participation in the public debate on the Grand Fribourg merger (Nicolas Schmitt)

13.11., Fribourg	Visit by T.R. Raghunandan, as part of award of an honorary doctorate during the <i>Dies academicus</i> , University of Fribourg (Nicolas Schmitt)
16.11., Zurich	«Datenschutz – Eine Betrachtung aus verschiedenen Perspektiven», presented at the EOS Forum 2017, «Datenschutz versus Forderungsmanagement» (Bernhard Waldmann)
22.11., Saragossa (Spain)	«New Tendencies of Federalism in Europe, An Assessment on the Last Decade of Swiss Federalism», Observatory VIII on «New Tendencies of Federalism in Europe», organised by the <i>Manuel Giménez Abad Foundation</i> , the <i>Instituto de Derecho Público de Barcelona</i> and the <i>Friedrich Ebert Stiftung</i> (Eva Maria Belser)
23.11., Murten	«Aufbau und Systematik von Erlassen», presented at the <i>Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar</i> on drafting legislation, Institute of Federalism (Peter Hänni)
23.11., Murten	«Normtypen», presented at the <i>Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminar</i> on drafting legislation, Institute of Federalism (Bernhard Waldmann)
27.11., Lausanne	«Démocratie et minorités», CUSO seminar for doctoral students, University of Lausanne (with Sandrine Baume) (Eva Maria Belser)
01.12., Lucerne	«Die neuere Praxis des BGER und des BVGER zur ordentlichen und ausserordentlichen Beendigung öffentlich-rechtlicher Dienstverhältnisse», presented at the St. Gallen public employment law conference (Peter Hänni)
01.12., Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	«Protecting Unity in Federal States: Homogeneity Clauses and their Enforcement», presented at the symposium on «The Functions and Relevance of Subnational Constitutions in Federal Systems», Addis Ababa University (Eva Maria Belser)
02.12., Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	«Federalism and Conflict Resolution» and «The Protection of Minorities», two presentations given as part of a seminar for doctoral students, Centre for Federal Studies, Addis Ababa University (Eva Maria Belser)
06.12., Geneva	«Comparaison des systèmes fédéraux et des systèmes décentralisés» and «Fédéralisme: le cas de la Suisse», two presentations on good governance and migration for diplomats from Cameroon, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) (Nicolas Schmitt)
07.12., Bern	«Arbeit – Alter – Menschenrechte», public event and panel debate organised by the Swiss Centre of Expertise on Human Rights (Eva Maria Belser)



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