



Institut für Föderalismus  
Institut du Fédéralisme  
Institute of Federalism

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

2020

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2020 was dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. The last time the world faced a public health crisis on this scale was more than a century ago. Even now, it is still turning our daily lives upside down, claiming lives, leaving many sickened and pushing our health systems to breaking point. It has forced governments around the world, including Switzerland's, to take unprecedented action like restricting certain freedoms and shutting down parts of the economy to bring the pandemic under control.



This public health crisis has also put federalism to the test. Some have taken the view that federalism is an unnecessary complication but, as one of its defenders and staunch supporter, I firmly believe that, despite the challenges it may pose and coordination efforts it requires, this system of government must prevail, even in exceptional times like these. In a country as diverse as Switzerland, federalism ensures the proximity of decision-making to its citizens.

Federalism is not a concept that can be redefined at whim – praised when it suits us and undercut when it does not. It is instead the very bedrock on which our federal state rests.

When a majority of the cantons rejected the Corporate Responsibility Initiative even though it had won the popular vote, there were calls for the outright abolition of the double majority requirement or at least a radical overhaul, which would have been contrary to the original intention of this constitutional provision. I found such talk exasperating. Institutions must not be adapted to the circumstances; their role is to bring about an equilibrium in the long term.

As President of the Institute Council, I therefore applaud the fact that in 2020 both chambers of parliament approved the motion in favour of federal participation in the core funding of the Institute of Federalism. It is a gesture of recognition for the work carried out by the IFF Directors and staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the IFF for all they have done and continue to do. This financial contribution from the federal government will help to bolster and further develop a modern and innovative system of federalism that enjoys acceptance both domestically and internationally.

I also see this decision as a vote of confidence in federalism itself. The past year has severely tested the real driving force of a country in which we can sometimes feel close yet estranged, together yet apart. I sincerely believe that moving beyond the vision of federalism as a calm and steady river will enhance, strengthen and further promote this system of government.

Pascal Broulis

## 1. FOREWORD

The Covid-19 pandemic will undoubtedly dominate the 2020 annual reports of most institutions and companies; the IFF is no exception. In the early part of the year, the large majority of staff began working from home; in spring the University even made remote working mandatory. Conferences, events and further training courses were rejigged, postponed or cancelled altogether. The visiting scholar programme was also disrupted and an eerie silence descended over discussions on possible study trips by Institute staff and delegation visits to the Institute. Despite these challenging circumstances, the Institute and its staff forged ahead with their teaching duties, carried on with their research and continued to provide their services. An unexpected effect of the pandemic was that it also became a dominant theme of these research and service activities. The public health crisis exposed the federal system to sharp criticism both in Switzerland and around the world. References to *«Flickenteppich»* (hotchpotch) and *«Kantönligeist»* (cantonal provincialism) became commonplace in Swiss media coverage, political debates and public discourse, (cf. 'In Focus' section below). We therefore felt it our duty to scientifically frame, analyse and assess the situation. We shared and publicised the knowledge and experience we acquired during this process in myriad publications, presentations and advisory groups.

The annual report provides the funding and governing bodies as well as all interested members of the public with an overview of the work and finances of the Institute during the previous year. It is also an opportunity to share other developments and projects that have formed our activities during the previous year.

### 1.1 Core funding

For the first time since fundamental changes were made in 2008 to the Board, the Institute closed the year with a deficit. This was primarily due to the fact that we were unable to recoup the personnel costs accruing from the organisation of several events, including the Summer University, the Murtner Gesetzgebungseminare and the new Federalism Seminar; these were ultimately postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic. An additional, and recurring, factor was the lack of core funding. Without it, the Institute will be unable to continue delivering its services to the same high academic standards, and to take on new long- and

short-term commissions. In 2020 our services were much sought-after; the crisis rocked federal structures and awakened a need, nationally and internationally, for analyses and comparisons of the ability of these systems to weather extreme events like the pandemic, as well as for recommendations on how to crisis-proof them.

Autumn brought much-needed good news. On 8 September 2020, the Council of States (Switzerland's upper house) agreed, as the National Council had done in 2019, to pass the motion regarding federal participation in the core funding of the Institute. For us, this vote by the Federal Assembly is not only a major success for Swiss federalism, but also a token of recognition for the work carried out by the Institute of Federalism to foster and further this system of government. We were also heartened to learn that the figure of CHF 1 million had been proposed during the parliamentary negotiations. The Institute's services, particularly those carried out by the International Centre, tend to involve considerable financial and administrative outlays which are generally beyond the means of our development cooperation partners.

Of course, we realise that it will take time to implement the decision. Nonetheless, we are relieved that a bridging solution will likely be reached with the SDC which will allow the Institute to pursue its most pressing and important international activities while the Federal Administration and the Federal Assembly work out the practical funding details.

### 1.2 Change in the Institute Council

Our statutes stipulate that the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation delegates three members to the Institute Council. Since the IFF was founded, the Institute Council has been chaired by the President of the ch Foundation. It is also a longstanding tradition to give a Council seat to the President of the Conference of Cantonal Governments (KdK). This year, the Institute Council bade farewell to several members. Following his election to the Council of States, *Benedikt Würth* relinquished the presidency of the KdK as well as his seat on the Institute Council, which he had chaired from 2013 to 2017. We would like to thank him for his outstanding work on behalf of the Institute and tireless commitment to

advancing its interests. We are very pleased to welcome his successor, *Dr Christian Rathgeb*, the new President of the KdK and Cantonal Councillor, who was elected to the Institute Council last year. We look forward to working with him over the coming years.

Several faculty members have also left the Institute Council, including *Prof. Nicolas Queloz*. During his long tenure, he has been closely involved in the restructuring and development of the Institute over the last decade. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Prof. Queloz for his commitment and wish him a happy and satisfying retirement. We also bid farewell to *Prof. Hubert Stöckli*, who resigned from the Institute Council following his appointment as Dean of the Law Faculty in summer 2020. Since 2010, the Board of Directors have benefitted from his advice and assistance. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his unflagging support and wish him every success in his challenging new role. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome their successors, *Prof. Clémence Grisel Rapin* and *Prof. Martin Beyeler*, and look forward to forging a solid and fruitful working partnership with them.

### 1.3 Prospect and thanks

Even in the year ahead, the pandemic will continue to pose challenges not only for federalism but also for the activities of the Institute. The situation will require us to track and critically analyse federalism-related developments while pressing onward with our work and expanding our range of digital services. We remain confident that the coming year will grant us more time and space to pursue other activities, make up for the events and courses we were forced to postpone in 2020, and once again host and meet directly with visiting scholars, delegations and other interested members of the academic and political communities.

The Board of Directors would like to thank the President of the Institute Council State Councillor *Pascal Broulis*, the Vice-President, State Councillor *Jean-Pierre Siggen*, and all other members for the tremendous support and goodwill they have shown us over the last 12 months. Thanks to support from other institutions as well, our close ties with the cantons, we are in the privileged position of being more than a further education and research provider. We also serve as a centre of expertise for the cantons,

which offers us the unique opportunity to analyse federalism-related developments in close cooperation with the federal stakeholders themselves.

Last but by no means least, we want to thank our wonderful staff for their outstanding commitment, dedication to their work, and trust they continued to place in us during this extraordinary year. This year once again proved that we are stronger together!

Eva Maria Belser  
Bernhard Waldmann  
Andreas Stöckli

## 2. LOOKING BACK ON 2020

### National Centre

The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to postpone, then cancel the two Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminare [Murten Legislative Seminars] – the drafting of legislation session in March and the legislation methodology session in May. The drafting seminar was originally rescheduled for November 2020, but will now take place in early 2021. Some parts will be in person, such as one-day practical training sessions in small groups; others will be held remotely, including pre-recorded lectures in podcast format as well as a webinar to round off the week.

In partnership with the Council of States, the Federal Office of Justice, the ch Foundation, the Swiss Union of Cities and the Association of Swiss Communes, the Institute has developed a new continuing education programme on Swiss federalism: the ‘Federalism Seminar’. This bilingual course explores the foundations and practices of the Swiss federal state through lectures, group work and discussions. The inaugural seminar was scheduled to take place in Schwarzenberg (LU) from 20 to 22 January 2020. The course programme was ready and the official launch was well under way. However, the fast-evolving public health situation led the directors of the Institute to postpone the event until January 2022.

The upside of event cancellations was that the National Centre had more time to devote to the in-depth analysis of the functioning and role of federalism during the pandemic. The in-house newsletters included linked compilations of federal and cantonal emergency legislation on Covid-19, alongside overviews of the latest developments and detailed academic articles (cf. ‘In Focus’, Section 3). Our professors and other staff members also took part in a large number of conferences and webinars, and appeared in the media (cf. Section 5.4 for more details).

As part of its contractual agreement with the ch Foundation, the Institute continued to honour its federalism monitoring obligations. It is currently assisting the ch Foundation with the drafting of its upcoming 2017–2020 monitoring report. Another way in which the Institute contributes to this work is by providing analyses of federalism-related developments in the fields of research, legislation and jurisprudence.

Finally, the Institute once again completed legal opinion commissions and shared its knowledge and expertise with various projects, including:

- ‘Reform of the Social Assistance Act (SHG) of the canton of Fribourg – Restrictions on social assistance for foreign nationals?’ (legal opinion for the canton of Fribourg)
- ‘Revision of cantonal constitutions’ (documentation for the canton of Uri)
- ‘Procedures for accessing official documents’ (input and exchange within the framework of an intercantonal working group on the public access principle)
- ‘Granting of legal personality to the ETH Domain’ (legal opinion for the ETH Board)
- ‘Review of the organisational assignment of notarial supervision in the canton of Bern’ (legal opinion for the Canton of Bern)
- ‘Admissibility of PostBus AG profit surcharges?’ (legal opinion for Swiss Post)
- ‘Admissibility of the unilateral cap on roaming charges by the Federal Council pursuant to Art. 12a bis rev-FMG’ (legal opinion for the Foundation for Consumer Protection)
- Completion of the administrative inquiry in connection with collusion in the awarding of public works contracts in the Civil Engineering Office of the Canton of Graubünden (commissioned by the Government of the Canton of Graubünden).

### International Centre

In February, the International Centre of the Institute of Federalism, at the request of the World Bank, hosted a delegation from Nepal. The purpose of the week-long visit was to provide the Nepalese team with a thorough introduction to fiscal federalism (cf. ‘In Focus’, Section 3.3). It was the last in-person event at the Institute before the pandemic brought this direct form of cooperation and knowledge transfer to an abrupt end. The public health crisis led to the cancellation of the scheduled study tours by members of the Ukrainian parliament, as well as the finance ministries of Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The exchange with the Organisation of American States on direct democracy and the visit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe also fell victim to the pandemic.

The outlook for our visiting research programme was equally gloomy. However, despite the challenging circumstances, Adriano Dirri, a visiting scholar from Italy, was able to complete his research on the management of natural resources in federal states at the Institute. Regrettably, all other research stays were postponed.

We also decided to cancel the Summer University on public health grounds. Although the University of Fribourg and the IFF have stepped up their digital cooperation activities and have since acquired valuable experience using this format, we felt that it did not seem appropriate to move the event online given that one of the most important aspects of this three-week international programme is the in-person interaction. Here's hoping for better times ahead!

The pandemic also had an impact on the focus of our work in 2020. It awakened a need for international discussions and comparisons on how different federal states dealt with the crisis and its repercussions. A series of webinars, workshops and online conferences explored the issue in detail. Several comparative law and policy articles on the subject are also in the works. These events sought to analyse and draw lessons from the often unexpected centralisation and re-decentralisation processes that occurred in different federal states with each successive wave of the pandemic.

Despite the public health crisis, the International Centre was able to make progress on a number of its ongoing projects. They included our advisory work on the Syrian constitutional process. Although most of the workshops were held online – albeit with greater frequency – an in-person meeting was held in Caux over several days during the summer, and talks in Geneva could be followed at close quarters. At the same time, we continued to support (remotely) members of the negotiating committee, which included providing them with tailor-made training sessions and documentation. Cooperation with Myanmar continued, also remotely, primarily through our participation in the Myanmar Federalism Leadership Programme and our assistance with a research project on the political party attitudes to federalism.

LoGov, an EU-funded RISE project, which studies the local urban-rural divide worldwide, continued online. However, as it relies heavily on face-to-face exchanges between researchers as well as funding for study visits, the EU recently decided to put the project on hold for several months.

However, the unexpected interruption of many of our usual activities freed up a great deal of time and energy, which we redirected into new and long-overlooked projects. The Institute finally completed its contribution to the anthology 'Equality in Diverse States' (cf. 'In Focus') and actively took part in a number of other research

cooperation and publication projects. This gave staff the opportunity to take a much closer look at Switzerland's experience with subnational constitutional law and intergovernmental relations; they subsequently shared their findings with international partners. Other activities included a comparison of Italian regionalism and Swiss federalism, as well as a scientific article on constitutionalism from a national and global perspective for a special publication to mark the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Federal Constitution. The International Centre was also able finally to complete and publish a scientific paper on its experiences with the attempts to introduce federalism in Iraq.

#### **SCHR**

Fortunately, the impact of pandemic-related restriction was not felt quite so keenly by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR). Although various events had to be postponed, the work on implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on dealing with past injustice and its other obligations moved forward as planned. Given that the SCHR pilot project will close at the end of 2022, the second half of the year was given over to planning the final projects.

### 3. IN FOCUS

#### 3.1. Covid-19 epidemic and federalism

The Covid-19 epidemic had a considerable impact on logistics and working practices (for several weeks in spring, remote working was even mandatory) but also the Institute's research and publication programme and its content.

Initially, the Institute endeavoured to compile the (emergency) legislation introduced by the federal and cantonal governments to respond to the epidemic and mitigate its consequences in a series of linked overviews. The first of these was published on 7 April 2020 (Nicolas Schmitt, Newsletter 2/2020). This was followed by a special report on economic support measures in response to the public health crisis (Claudia Höchner/Arianna Lanfranchi, Newsletter 3/2020 of 2 July 2020), and an updated compilation of cantonal regulations on Covid-19 (Claudia Höchner, Newsletter 4/2020) in November.

Florian Bergamin and Simon Mazidi wrote an article which examined the division of powers between the federal and cantonal governments on responding to epidemics. Using concrete examples, they explored whether and to what extent the cantons also have regulatory powers in extraordinary situations (Art. 7, Epidemics Act) (*Kompetenzabgrenzung zwischen Bund und Kantonen bei der Bekämpfung von Epidemien: Erste Einschätzungen unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der COVID-19-Verordnungen*, Newsletter 2/2020).

Federalism and federal state organisation came in for repeated criticism during the earlier phases of the pandemic. When the Federal Council took the lead in responding to the extraordinary situation, federalism was not, contrary to widespread opinion, abolished but rather switched to crisis mode, as provided for by the Federal Constitution and the law (Eva Maria Belser, Andreas Stöckli and Bernhard Waldmann, *Der schweizerische Föderalismus funktioniert auch im Krisenmodus*, Newsletter 2/2020). When the situation was downgraded to 'special' in summer 2020, it appeared that the Federal Council had handed back responsibility to the cantons. This led to a growing rebuke that a federal system of government was not up to the task of dealing with crises on this scale. An article published by the IFF concluded that this argument falls short. It showed, by comparing the responses of various federal governments, that two main factors explain the different approaches they adopted, namely the degree of centralisation and decision-making coordination (Bernhard Waldmann, *Der Föderalismus in der Corona-Pandemie*, Newsletter 4/2020).

The annual conference of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS), which was due to take place in Ethiopia and was given over to the subject of land, spatial planning and federalism, was instead held online and focused on a comparison of the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on federal systems (Eva Maria Belser, 'Managing the coronavirus pandemic in Switzerland: How federalism was put into emergency mode and struggles to get out of it', forthcoming in Oxford University Press).

As a member of the Swiss National Covid-19 Science Task Force, Prof. Belser also repeatedly used the platform to draw attention to the impact of the crisis on federalism, democracy and human rights (all policy briefs are available on the Task Force website: <https://sciencetaskforce.ch/en/policy-briefs-english/>).

Institute member also examined the coronavirus crisis from a constitutional law perspective. Prof. Andreas Stöckli published an extensive article on government and parliaments in pandemics, which appeared in a special issue of the Swiss Law Review (ZSR) entitled *Pandemie und Recht: Beitrag des Rechts zur Bewältigung einer globalen Krise*. The three co-directors of the Institute also published an article in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* that examined the interplay of the different branches of government during the coronavirus crisis, and made a joint contribution to a webinar organised jointly with Weblaw, which took place in September 2020 and featured presentations by federal and cantonal representatives and members of the academic community. The Institute shared its expertise with parliamentarians as well. Prof. Andreas Stöckli was called as an expert in the hearings of the Political Institutions Committees of the National Council and Council of States on 'Parliament in times of crisis'. Finally, questions of constitutional law arising from the COVID-19 pandemic were also the focus of the 2020 Swiss constitutional law scholars' conference, organised this year by the Fribourg section and in which the three members of the Executive Board of the Institute were heavily involved.

#### 3.2. Visit by a delegation from Nepal

Fiscal Federalism Study Tour: National Natural Resources and Finance Commission (NNRFC) of Nepal, under the auspices of the World Bank, 24–28 February 2020.



At the request of the World Bank Office in Kathmandu, the International Centre of the Institute of Federalism organised a week-long programme for the National Natural Resources and Finance Commission (NNRFC) of the Government of Nepal.

The study tour is part of an ambitious World Bank project aimed at exploring the good practices of various federal states as part of its efforts to support the decentralisation process in Nepal. The week provided delegates with an in-depth introduction to Swiss federalism, especially its tax system and the implications for local authorities.

During the visit, which took place between 24 and 28 February 2020, the delegation familiarised themselves with the different administrative levels in Switzerland and met numerous experts from the academic community as well as federalism practitioners. As the focus was on local government, the programme also provided delegates with a better understanding of the importance of communal autonomy and intercommunal cooperation in Switzerland. The IFF also prepared technical documentation on the subject for its Nepalese guests.

### **Programme content**

The main thrust of the programme was to show how the three levels of government (federal, cantonal and communal) are organised, work together and the role they each play in a system of fiscal federalism. The delegation was also particularly keen to learn how Swiss federalism handles cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. Various meetings were organised with communal representatives, who of course have first-hand experience of the issue from their day-to-day work and lives. One of the highlights of the programme was undoubtedly a visit to Gruyères, hosted by Daniel Weber, Secretary-General of the commune, who welcomed the delegation and introduced them to the delights of a traditional cheese fondue, Gruyère's signature dish.

Each day of the one-week programme focused on a different aspect of Swiss fiscal federalism. The speakers covered and discussed many of the interesting and complex elements that make up Switzerland's federal system. Among the speakers were Prof. A. Stöckli from the IFF and Prof. Ladner from IDHEAP, as well as numerous experts from the federal and cantonal administrations, including Werner Weber, Head of the Fiscal Equalisation Division

in the Federal Finance Administration and Alain Mauron, Head of the Tax Administration of the canton of Fribourg, and Simon Berset, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference of Cantonal Finance Directors.

The opportunities and constraints of fiscal federalism were discussed at length during the study tour. The commonalities of the federal states, be they cultural, structural, political, legal or linguistic, were a recurrent part of these discussions. Presentations by Andrea Iff and Sonia Carlotti from the SDC and Uschi Anthamatten from SECO on decentralised governance and on progressive fiscal policies for greater economic development and public transparency were an additional rich source of discussion. The then Director General of the SDC Manuel Sager and his Deputy Director Thomas Gass were also on hand to welcome the delegation.

The institutional instruments that make Switzerland strong, such as direct democracy, the principle of subsidiarity, the debt brake and fiscal equalisation were presented by Dr Töpferwien, Dr Schmitt and Dr Dirri. The inherent problems of federalism and the importance of local autonomy for national cohesion were also addressed in presentations by Stéphanie Jauquier, legal counsel at the local authorities office of the canton of Fribourg, and Yvan Roeske, legal counsel to the Saane District prefecture. Finally, Reto Messikommer from the Fribourg Cantonal Statistical Office answered a series of questions on the handling and transfer of data between the different levels of the federal administration. The week ended with a visit to the UN in Geneva and a dinner with the UN Ambassador of Nepal.

### **Conclusion**

According to members of the Nepalese delegation, this look behind the scenes of Swiss federalism and the direct interaction with Swiss academics and practitioners answered many of the questions they had. All in all, it was a positive experience for everyone involved, and opened up new avenues of cooperation between Switzerland and the young federal state of Nepal.

### **3.3. Anthology ,The Principle of Equality in Diverse States – Reconciling Autonomy with Equal Rights and Opportunities‘**

In 2020, the Institute completed its contribution to the book ‘The Principle of Equality in Diverse States – Reconciling Autonomy with Equal Rights and Opportunities’ and submitted the manuscript to BRILL, the renowned publishing house. The anthology will be published in 2021 as part of the ‘Studies in Territorial and Cultural Diversity Governance’ series.

The anthology is a joint initiative of the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS) and the Institute of Federalism at the University of Fribourg. It features 14 articles by authors from four continents. Each addresses the same issue – the coexistence of equality and diversity in federal states – but from different perspectives.

Autonomy inevitably means diversity and thus a certain degree of inequality. For all federal and decentralised states, striking a healthy balance between self-government and equality is therefore a delicate and complex undertaking. Articles in the new anthology set out a number of pathways that even highly diverse states can take to secure institutional, social and economic equality while safeguarding autonomy.

In Switzerland, direct taxation is an excellent example of the delicate balancing act between cantonal autonomy and the principle of equal treatment. Peter Hänni has written an article for the anthology on the subject. The Federal Constitution affords the cantons and communes considerable autonomy in setting tax rates, hence the considerable variation in the financial burden borne by individual taxpayers in Switzerland. However, as Hänni shows, Switzerland has various mechanisms that limit cantonal tax autonomy and thus redress tax burden inequalities. Despite this, repeated calls for greater tax harmonisation persist.

The relationship between equality and diversity is particularly controversial in states with significant regional differences. The chapter on Ethiopia by Yonatan Tesfaye Fessha is especially topical given the current armed conflict in the region. The right of ethnic communities to self-government is a cornerstone of the territorial organisation of the Ethiopian federation. At the same time, the Ethiopian constitution provides for a wide range of individual rights, which conflict with the self-government principle. Fessha singles out the greater weight given to collective rights in the constitution for criticism, which he considers detrimental to the individual right to equal treatment.

Whether in a long-established federal system like Switzerland or in a young federal system like Ethiopia, threading the needle of regional autonomy, the protection of minorities and individual equality is likely to remain difficult. The anthology offers scholars, practitioners and policymakers a wealth of new insights into the multifaceted interplay between federalism, decentralisation and other forms of dealing with diversity, as well as relationship between respect for and implementation of the equality principle.

## 4. ORGANISATION

### 4.1 Internal developments

The pandemic has also affected the day-to-day running of the Institute. Almost all in-person meetings and events were either cancelled or took place online. The use of digital formats, coupled with the fact that staff had to work almost exclusively from home for several weeks, required a great deal of flexibility from all concerned, as well as time and energy on familiarising themselves with new communication technologies.

At the beginning of the year, Prof. Belser stepped down from the Board of Trustees of the Convivenza Foundation. As a result, the Institute directors decided not to extend the cooperation agreement with the Foundation's office; in late June 2020, the working relationship between the two organisations came to a natural and smooth end.

In 2020 one research fellow left the Institute to pursue new professional opportunities. She was replaced by another researcher on a fixed term contract.

Despite the complications caused by Covid-19, our first commercial trainee successfully completed the second year of her apprenticeship. Her early departure to attend a language programme abroad allowed a new trainee to join the Institute in July 2020. She will service the third year of her apprenticeship at the IFF.

At the end of January 2020, one person completed his six-month deployment to the Institute as part of his alternative civilian service. A new member of the alternative civilian service joined in mid-February; the work he performed was adapted in line with Covid-19 restriction. Due to the cancellation of the Summer University, the Institute regrettably also had to cancel the planned deployment of more alternative civilian service personnel.

For its part, the library service had to contend with a double challenge: the pandemic and the migration of the Cantonal and University Library system to the new management system – the Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP). While there was little impact on users, the registration of the library holdings considerably added to the library staff's workload.

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, the Institute Council met its statutory obligations in 2020 – approval of the annual accounts (spring 2020) and 2021 budget (autumn 2020) – by correspondence.

### 4.2 Institute Council

At the end of 2020, the members of the Institute Council were as follows:

#### *Chair*

**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-chair*

**Jean-Pierre SIGGEN**, President of the Canton Fribourg and cantonal Minister for Education, Culture and Sport (member since 2014)

#### *Representative of the ch Foundation for Federal Cooperation*

**Roland MAYER**, Secretary-General of the Conference of Cantonal Governments (member since 2019)

#### *Representative of the of the University of Fribourg*

**Martin BEYELER**, Professor of Infrastructure Law and New Technologies (member since 2020)

**Simon COCHRANE**, student representative (member since 2019)

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

**Raphaël DUMMERMUTH**, Research assistant, representative of the non-professorial teaching staff (member since 2020)

**Clémence GRISEL RAPIN**, Professor of Administrative Law (member since 2020)

#### *Other members*

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

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

**Peter MISCHLER**, Secretary-General of the Conference of Cantonal Finance Ministers (member since 2015)

### 4.3 Staff

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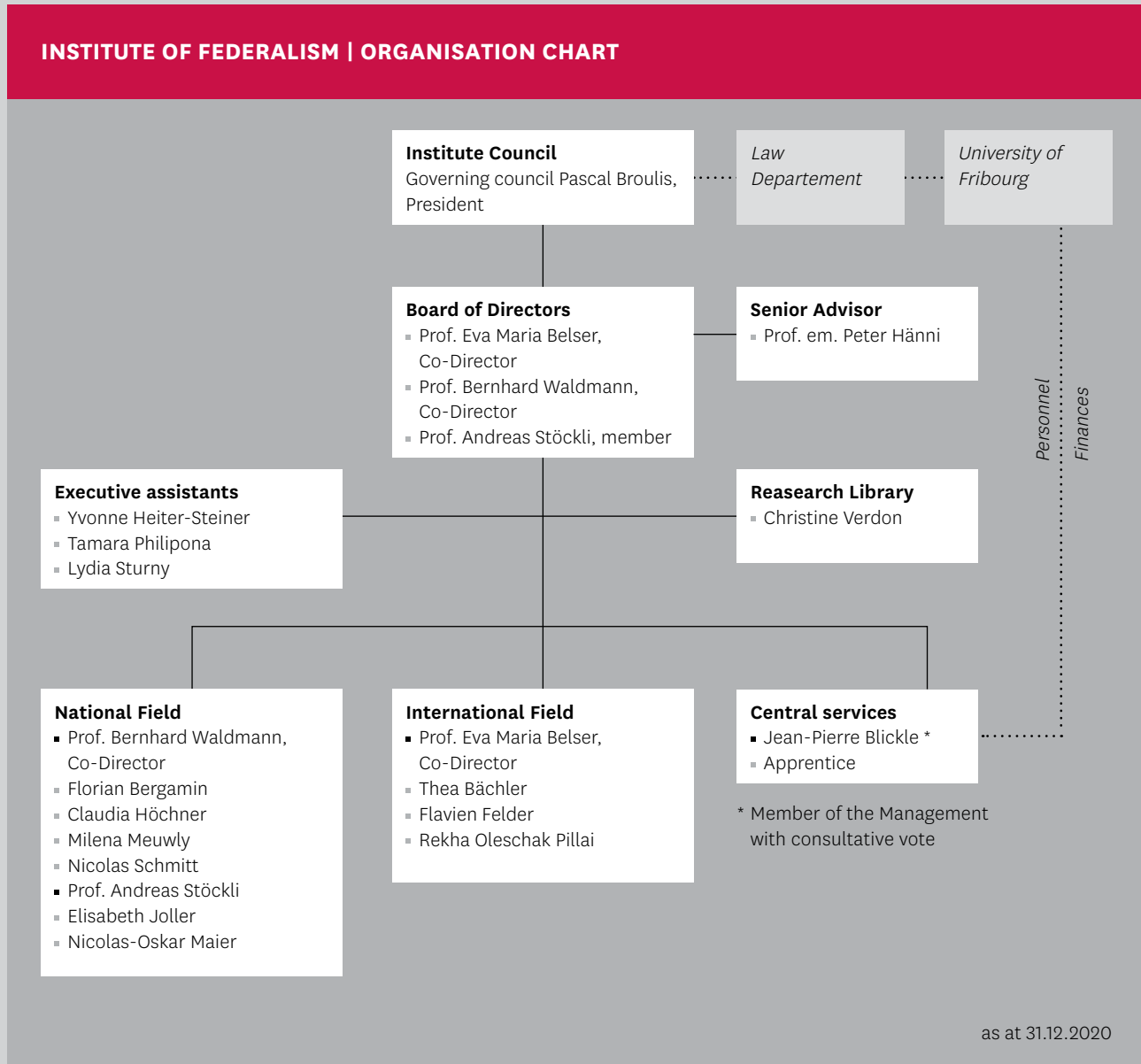
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#### 4.4 Organisation Chart



## 5. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020

### 5.1 Research and publications

#### THEA BÄCHLER

- Das Grundrecht auf Sozialhilfe. Von der Notwendigkeit, ein ungeschriebenes Grundrecht anzuerkennen, das über das Recht auf Hilfe in Notlagen hinausgeht, in: ZBl 9/2020, pp. 463–488 (co-author: Eva Maria Belser).

#### EVA MARIA BELSER

- Kommentar zu Art. 108 und 109 BGG, in: Marcel Alexander Niggli/Peter Uebersax/Hans Wiprächtiger. Der Konstitutionalismus im nationalen und globalen Kontext: Warum nationale Verfassungen zu feiern sind und globaler Konstitutionalismus zu fordern bleibt, in: Peter Bussjäger/Anna Gamper/Arno Kahl (eds.), 100 Jahre Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz, Verfassung und Verfassungswandel im nationalen und internationalen Kontext, Wien 2020, pp. 21–47 (co-author Simon Mazidi).
- Collecting and Processing Data related to the Use of the Swiss-Covid App, Policy brief of the National COVID-19 Science Task Force (NCS-TF), online: <https://ncs-tf.ch/de/policy-briefs>.
- Das Grundrecht auf Sozialhilfe – Von der Notwendigkeit, ein ungeschriebenes Grundrecht anzuerkennen, das über das Recht auf Hilfe in Notlagen hinausgeht, Zentralblatt (ZBl) 9/2020, pp. 463–488 (co-author: Thea Bächler).
- Ensemble, dans la même direction : relations intergouvernementales et élaboration horizontale du droit par les cantons suisses (traduction : Dave Guénette), in : Alain-G. Gagnon/Johanne Poirier (eds.), L'avenir du fédéralisme canadien, Acteurs et institutions, Laval 2020, pp. 261–302, online version: [https://www.pulaval.com\\_produit/l-avenir-du-federalisme-canadien-acteurs-et-institutions](https://www.pulaval.com_produit/l-avenir-du-federalisme-canadien-acteurs-et-institutions).
- Heading Together – Intergovernmental Relations and Horizontal Law-making by Swiss Cantons, in: Alain-G. Gagnon/Johanne Poiriers (eds.), Canadian Federalism and Its Future: Actors and Institutions, pp. 251–290.
- A Failure of Conflict Resolution Rather than a Failure of Federalism? The Case of Iraq, Ethnopolitics, Volume 19, 2020 – Issue 4: Federalism as a Tool of Conflict Resolution, Guest Editors: Soeren Keil and Elisabeth Alber, pp. 383–101, online version: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449057.2020.179547>).
- Continued Confinement of Those Most Vulnerable to COVID-19, Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal, Special Double Issue on COVID-19, Volume 30, Numbers 3 and 4/ September/December 2020, pp. 401–418, online version August 2020: <https://kiej.georgetown.edu/continued-confinement-covid-19-special-issue/>

(co-authors: Suerie Moon, Claudine Burton-Jeangros, Pascal Mahon, Cornelia Hummel, Settimio Monteverde, Tanja Krones, Stéphanie Dagron, Cécile Bensimon, Bianca Schaffert, Alexander Trechsel, Luca Chiapperino, Laure Kloetzer, Tania Zittoun, Ralf Jox, Marion Fischer, Anne Dalle Ave, Peter G. Kirchsclaeffer and Samia Hurst).

- Das Recht auf einen selbstbestimmten Tod, Grundrechtliche Erwägungen de lege lata et ferenda, ZBJV 156/2020, pp. 379–422 (co-author: Sandra Egli).
- Die Religionsfreiheit und das Verbot der Geschlechterdiskriminierung - Vom Umgang des Staats mit Religionsgemeinschaften, die Frauen von Ämtern ausschliessen, und anderen Grundrechtskollisionen, in: René Pahud de Mortanges (ed.), Staat und Religion in der Schweiz des 21. Jahrhunderts, Beiträge zum Jubiläum des Instituts für Religionsrecht, Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2020, pp. 381–420.
- Betreuung betagter und hochbetagter Menschen im Kontext von SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19/Care for the elderly in the context of the Sars-Cov-2 epidemic, Policy brief of the National COVID-19 Science Task Force (NCS-TF), online: <https://ncs-tf.ch/de/policy-briefs>.
- Strategie, um die SARS-CoV-2-Epidemie zu kontrollieren und gesundheitliche und wirtschaftliche Schäden zu minimieren, Policy brief of the National COVID-19 Science Task Force (NCS-TF), online: <https://ncs-tf.ch/de/policy-briefs>.
- Who should pay for SARS-CoV-2 testing?, Policy brief of the National COVID-19 Science Task Force (NCS-TF), online: <https://ncs-tf.ch/de/policy-briefs>.
- Gender aspects of COVID-19 and pandemic response, Policy brief of the National COVID-19 Science Task Force (NCS-TF), online: <https://ncs-tf.ch/de/policy-briefs>.
- Does Swiss Federalism Need Oxygen Treatment after Been Hit by the Covid-19 Crisis?, May 2020, verfügbar unter: <https://uacesterrpol.wordpress.com/2020/06/02/does-swiss-federalism-need-oxygen-treatment-after-been-hit-by-the-covid-19-crisis/>, (co-author: Simon Mazidi).
- Temporärer Machtzuwachs des Bundesrats: Zur Frage der Gewaltenteilung in Pandemiezeiten, Gastkommentar in der NZZ vom 26 May 2020 (co-authors: Andreas Stöckli and Bernhard Waldmann).
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- Föderalismuskonzeption der Bundesverfassung, in: Oliver Diggelmann/Maya Hertig Randall/Benjamin Schindler (ed.), Verfassungsrecht der Schweiz – Droit constitutionnel Suisse, Band I: Grundlagen – Demokratie – Föderalismus, Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2020, pp. 667-690.
- Öff. Recht I, Texto Gesetzesausgabe, 5. Aufl., Basel 2020 (co-authors: Peter Hänni, Bernhard Waldmann and Andreas Stöckli).
- Föderalismus und Minderheitenschutz, in: Oliver Diggelmann/Maya Hertig Randall/Benjamin Schindler (ed.), Verfassungsrecht der Schweiz – Droit constitutionnel Suisse, Band I: Grundlagen – Demokratie – Föderalismus, Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2020, pp. 771-795.
- LoGov – Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay /H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018 Grant Agreement). Within the LoGov project, the following activities took place in 2020:
  - Third Meeting of the Research Coordination Committee
- NRP 73 Project «Sustainable Trade Relations for Diversified Food Systems», SNF-Forschungsprojekt. Eva Maria Belser ist co-applicant (co-authors: Elisabeht Bürgi and Stefan Mann). In 2020, the following events took place:
  - SECO-Meeting in Berne (12.01.)
  - 3. Workshop in Murten (13.2.)
  - 2. internationaler Workshop (online, 12.12.)
- Palgrave series Federalism and Internal Conflicts, Palgrave Macmillian (Editor: Soeren Keil and Eva Maria Belser). In 2020 have been published:
  - Hanna Shelest and Maryna Rabinovych (ed.), Decentralization, Regional Diversity, and Conflict, The Case of Ukraine, 2020.

- Alain-G. Gagnon and Arjun Tremblay, A. (ed.), Federalism and National Diversity in the 21st Century, 2020.
- Felix Schulte, Peace through Self-Determination, Success and Failure of Territorial Autonomy, 2020.
- Pau Bossacoma Busquets, Morality and Legality of Secession, A Theory of National Self-Determination, 2020.

#### **FLORIAN BERGAMIN**

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- Kompetenzabgrenzung zwischen Bund und Kantonen bei der Bekämpfung von Epidemien: Erste Einschätzungen unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der COVID-19-Verordnungen, in: Newsletter IFF 2/2020, online: [https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/de/assets/public/files/Newsletter/IFF/Bergamin.Mazidi\\_Kompetenzabgrenzung%20zwischen%20Bund%20und%20Kantonen\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/de/assets/public/files/Newsletter/IFF/Bergamin.Mazidi_Kompetenzabgrenzung%20zwischen%20Bund%20und%20Kantonen_COVID-19.pdf) (co-author: Simon Mazidi).
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#### **FLAVIEN FELDER**

- Projet de recherche «LoGov – Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay» (H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018 Grant Agreement). The Institute of Federalism is a partner in this Horizon 2020 project. Eva Maria Belser is a member of the Research Coordination Committee (RCC). In the framework of the LOGOV project the following activities were carried out with the collaboration of Flavien Felder:
  - Preparation of the «Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay Switzerland» (case study).
  - Vidéo-conferences of Research Coordination Committee, 3–6 November & 3 December 2020
  - Organization of research visits to partner countries (South Africa, Singapore, Canada). Cancelled



- Research project «Local Governance in Federal Systems. Comparative and Alternative Approaches to the Traditional Paradigm» led by EURAC Research Center, Bolzano, IT. The Institute of Federalism wrote the chapter on the Swiss model and the book will be published in 2021 by BRILL – MARTINUS NIJHOFF PUBLISHERS as part of the series «Studies in Territorial and Cultural Diversity Governance».

#### PETER HÄNNI

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- Von den Kompetenzen der Aufsichtsbehörde über die Bundesanwaltschaft, in: *Droit pénal et criminologie, Mélanges en l'honneur de Nicolas Queloz*, Basel 2020, pp. 343-353.
- Coronavirus und Medienfreiheit – Wie weit dürfen die verfassungsmässigen Rechte der Medienschaffenden in Notlagen eingeschränkt werden?, in: *medialex* 03/2020.

#### CLAUDIA HÖCHNER

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#### ELISABETH JOLLER

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- Was heisst hier neutral? – Religiöse Symbole am Gericht: Überlegungen anlässlich des Urteils des Bundesgerichts 2C\_546/2018 vom 11. März 2019, in: *Andreas Stöckli/ Anne Kühler/ Felix Hafner/ Kurt Pärli (ed.), Recht, Religion und Arbeitswelt*, Zurich/St. Gallen 2020, pp. 255–294.
- Einseitige Festlegung einer Obergrenze für Roaminggebühren durch den Bundesrat?, in: *Aktuelle Juristische Praxis (AJP) 2020*, pp. 454–465 (co-author: Andreas Stöckli).

#### SIMON MAZIDI

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#### LILIANE DENISE MINDER

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#### NICOLAS SCHMITT

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#### ANDREAS STÖCKLI

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  - Ausgewählte Entwicklungen im Regierungs- und Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht der Kantone im Jahr 2019, in: *Jahrbuch 2019/2020 der Schweizerischen Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht*, Berne 2020, pp. 358-378 (co-author: Nicolas-Oskar Meier).
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  - Perspektiven des Schweizerischen Föderalismus, in: Oliver Diggelmann /Maya Hertig Randall/Benjamin Schindler (ed.), *Verfassungsrecht der Schweiz / Droit constitutionnel suisse*, Bd. I, Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2020, pp. 797-815.
  - Der Föderalismus in der Corona-Pandemie, in: *Newsletter des Instituts für Föderalismus 4/2020 vom 26th November 2020*, online: [https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/de/assets/public/files/Newsletter/IFF/3\\_Waldmann\\_Covid-19\\_und\\_Foederalismus-final.pdf](https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/de/assets/public/files/Newsletter/IFF/3_Waldmann_Covid-19_und_Foederalismus-final.pdf).
  - Der schweizerische Föderalismus funktioniert auch im Krisenmodus, in: *Newsletter des Instituts für Föderalismus 2/2020 vom 7. April*, online [https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/de/assets/public/files/Newsletter/IFF/Newsletter\\_COVID-19\\_Beitrag\\_Belser\\_Stoekli\\_Waldmann.pdf](https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/de/assets/public/files/Newsletter/IFF/Newsletter_COVID-19_Beitrag_Belser_Stoekli_Waldmann.pdf) (co-authors: Eva Maria Belser and Andreas Stöckli).
  - Gewaltenteilung in Pandemiezeiten, in: *NZZ 26th May*, pp. 8 (co-authors: Andreas Stöckli and Eva Maria Belser).
  - Allgemeine Dienstpflicht – Im Spannungsfeld zum Verbot der Zwangs- und Pflichtarbeit, in: *AJP/PJA 2020*, pp. 1598-1613.
  - Verfahren für den Zugang zu amtlichen Dokumenten: Immer weiter weg vom ursprünglichen Konzept?, in: *FZR/RFJ 2020*, pp. 1-23.
  - Strafrecht und Verwaltungsrecht: Verschiedene Welten?, in: Bertrand Perrin/Meylan/Gerhard Fiolka/Marcel Alexander Niggli/Christof Riedo (ed.), *Droit pénal et criminologie, Mélanges en l'honneur de Nicolas Queloz*, Basel 2020, pp. 461-472.
  - Beleihung und Konzession – Unterschiede und Berührungspunkte, in: Véronique Boillet/Anne-Christine Favre/Vincent Martenet (ed.), *Le droit public en mouvement, Mélanges en l'honneur du Professeur Etienne Poltier*, Geneva/Zurich/Basel 2020, pp. 799-814 (co-author: Martin D. Küng).
  - Rechtsprechung zum öffentlichen Recht, Bereich «Raumplanung», in: *Zeitschrift für Baurecht und Vergabewesen BR/DC 2/2020 und 5/2020* (co-author: Tamara Chantal Wanner).
  - *Öff. Recht I, Texto Gesetzesausgabe*, 5. Aufl., Basel 2020 (co-authors: Peter Hänni, Eva Maria Belser and Andreas Stöckli).

#### BERNHARD WALDMANN

- Zusammenarbeit im Bundesstaat, in: Oliver Diggelmann /Maya Hertig Randall/Benjamin Schindler (ed.), *Verfassungsrecht der Schweiz / Droit constitutionnel suisse*, Bd. I, Zurich/Basel/Geneva 2020, pp. 715-736.

#### 5.2 Expert reports

Kurzgutachten zum Bundesgerichtsentscheid 145 I 73, zuhanden der Eidgenössischen Kommission gegen Rassismus EKR (co-author Liliane Minder), 2019/2020, verfügbar unter [https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/Kurzgutachten\\_zum\\_Bundesgerichtsentscheid\\_145\\_I\\_73.pdf](https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/Kurzgutachten_zum_Bundesgerichtsentscheid_145_I_73.pdf)./; in French: *Avis de droit relatif à l'arrêt du Tribunal fédéral 145 I 73, À l'intention de la Commission fédérale contre*

le racisme CFR, [https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/Avis\\_de\\_droit\\_relatif\\_a\\_l\\_arret\\_du\\_Tribunal\\_federal\\_145\\_I\\_73.pdf](https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/Avis_de_droit_relatif_a_l_arret_du_Tribunal_federal_145_I_73.pdf); in Italian: Perizia giuridica sulla decisione del Tribunale federale 145 I 73, All'attenzione della Commission fédérale contre le racisme CFR, [https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/Perizia\\_giuridica\\_sulla\\_decisione\\_del\\_Tribunale\\_federale\\_145\\_I\\_73.pdf](https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/Perizia_giuridica_sulla_decisione_del_Tribunale_federale_145_I_73.pdf) (**Eva Maria Belser**)

Expert activity in the framework of the Syrian constitutional process, organized by the European Center for Kurdish Studies Berlin (**Eva Maria Belser** and **Soeren Keil**). The following events took place in 2020:

- «Fiskale Dezentralisierung und Transition», Workshop (Caux, 26.–31.8.)
- «100 Jahre syrische Verfassung, Dezentralisierung in der MENA-Region», online Workshop (9.–12.12)

Rechtsgutachten betreffend Zulässigkeit von Gewinnzuschlägen der PostAuto AG? im Auftrag der Post CH AG, January, 50 pages (**Andreas Stöckli** and **Elisabeth Joller**)

Inputs zu Fragen betreffend das Gesetz über den Personentransport mit Taxis und Limousinen (PTLG) des Kantons Zürich zuhanden des ASTRA, February (**Florian Bergamin**)

Rechtsgutachten betreffend Zulässigkeit der einseitigen Festlegung einer Obergrenze für Roaminggebühren durch den Bundesrat gemäss Art. 12a<sup>bis</sup> rev-FMG im Auftrag der Stiftung für Konsumentenschutz, February, 18 pages (**Andreas Stöckli** and **Elisabeth Joller**)

Reform des Sozialhilfegesetzes (SHG) des Kantons Freiburg – Einschränkungen der Sozialhilfe für ausländische Staatsangehörige?, Gutachten zuhanden der Direktion für Gesundheit und Soziales (GSD) des Kantons Freiburg, March (**Bernhard Waldmann** and **Liliane Minder**)

Gutachten im Auftrag des Kantons Freiburg, Reform des Sozialhilfegesetzes (SHG) des Kantons Freiburg, April (**Bernhard Waldmann** and **Liliane Minder**)

Rechtsgutachten betreffend Verleihung der Rechtspersönlichkeit an den ETH-Bereich im Auftrag des ETH-Rats, May, 73 pages (**Andreas Stöckli** and **Elisabeth Joller**)

Rechtsgutachten betreffend Überprüfung der organisatorischen Zuordnung der Notariatsaufsicht im Kanton Bern, im Auftrag des Departements für Inneres und Justiz des Kantons Bern, June, 85 pages (**Andreas Stöckli** and **Elisabeth Joller**)

Dokumentation über die Revision von Kantonsverfassungen zuhanden des Kantons Uri, August (**Florian Bergamin**)

Begleitung des Projekts «Federalism and Political Parties in Myanmar» der Hanns Seidel Foundation, Myanmar, August – February 2021 (**Thea Bächler**)

Verschiedene Beratungsmandate für das Generalsekretariat des Eidgenössischen Departements für Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung (WBF), 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (**Peter Hänni**)

Gutachten zur Frage der Revision der Maturitätsanerkennungsverordnung (MAV), Kompetenz- und organisationsrechtliche Probleme, erstattet dem Staatssekretariat für Bildung, Forschung und Innovation (SBFI), November (**Peter Hänni**)

Schlussbericht vom 16. November 2020 betr. Administrativuntersuchung zu den Rechtsgrundlagen, Prozessen und Praxen des Bau-, Verkehrs- und Forstdepartements (BVFD) sowie des Tiefbauamts (TBA) betreffend den Umgang bei Preisabsprachen im Zusammenhang mit Arbeitsvergaben im Tiefbaubereich, Untersuchungsauftrag 1 gemäss Regierungsbeschluss vom 11. Juni 2018, Prot. Nr. 458, im Auftrag der Regierung des Kantons Graubünden, 46 pages (**Andreas Stöckli** and **Martin Beyeler**)

Schlussbericht vom 23. November 2020 betr. Administrativuntersuchung zu einzelnen Vorgängen im Bau-, Verkehrs- und Forstdepartement sowie im Tiefbauamt (TBA) des Kantons Graubünden, die bei Arbeitsvergaben im Tiefbaubereich im Zusammenhang mit Preisabsprachen stehen könnten, Untersuchungsauftrag 2 gemäss Regierungsbeschluss vom 11. Juni 2018, Prot. Nr. 458, im Auftrag der Regierung des Kantons Graubünden, 245 pages + 95 pages Stellungnahmen im Rahmen des rechtlichen Gehörs (**Andreas Stöckli** and **Elisabeth Joller**)

Member of the Federal Electricity Commission (ElCom) and Chairman of the Commission's Legal Affairs Committee; re-elected by the Federal Council for the 2020-2023 term of office (**Andreas Stöckli**)

### 5.3 Study Tours

23.–28.02., Fribourg	Study Mission of a Nepalese delegation consisting of about 20 participants from different levels of the Nepalese administration and the World Bank Nepal on the topic of «Strengthening Fiscal Federalism in Nepal» ( <b>Flavien Felder</b> and <b>Nicolas Schmitt</b> )
17.06., Fribourg	Participation in the visit to Fribourg of a delegation from the Romanian city of Oradea accompanied by the Romanian ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. Vlad Vasiliu ( <b>Nicolas Schmitt</b> )

### 5.4 Continuing education courses

14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Schweizerische Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht (SVVOR) on «Öffentlichkeitsprinzip in der Verwaltung: Wie viel Transparenz ist möglich und nötig?» in cooperation with Stämpfli Verlag AG, Bern, University of Fribourg, January 17 (**Andreas Stöckli**)

In 2020 the three Murtner Gesetzgebungsseminare had to postponed or cancelled due to the Covid 19 epidemic.

### 5.5 Presentations and conferences

17.01., Fribourg	Conference chair, introductory lecture and moderation, 14th Conference of the Schweizerische Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht on the topic «Öffentlichkeitsprinzip in der Verwaltung: Wie viel Transparenz ist möglich und nötig?», University of Fribourg ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
18.02., Innsbruck (Austria)	«Federalism and Language», presented at the Winter School on Federalism and Language 2020, organized by Eurac Bolzano and the University of Innsbruck ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
24.02., Fribourg	«Introduction to Swiss Federalism», lecture in the context of the visit of a delegation from Nepal on the topic of fiscal federalism, University of Fribourg ( <b>Nicolas Schmitt</b> )
24.02., Fribourg	«Fiscal Federalism in Switzerland», presentation during the visit of a delegation from Nepal (Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal), University of Fribourg ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
27.02., Fribourg	«Introduction to Local Governance – the Role of the Communes», lecture in the context of the visit of a delegation from Nepal on fiscal federalism, University of Fribourg ( <b>Nicolas Schmitt</b> )
31.03., Online event	«Verbot religiöser Symbole für Gerichtspersonen – Erfordernis einer unabhängigen Gerichtsbarkeit oder diskriminierende Regelung?», presented as part of the Master's lecture series on the protection of basic and human rights by Prof. Eva Maria Belser, University of Fribourg ( <b>Elisabeth Joller</b> )
06.04., Fribourg	«Was der Bundesrat in der Corona-Krise darf», interview on the SRF 4 News program ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
28.04., Online event	«Verfassungsrechtlicher Anspruch auf Sozialhilfeleistungen», presented as part of the Master's lecture series on the protection of basic and human rights by Prof. Eva Maria Belser, University of Fribourg ( <b>Thea Bächler</b> )
12.05., Online event	«Fürsorgerische Zwangsmassnahmen und Fremdplatzierungen, eine Übersicht aus rechtlicher Perspektive», presented as part of the Master's lecture series on the protection of basic and human rights by Prof. Eva Maria Belser, University of Fribourg ( <b>Liliane Minder</b> )
20.05., Webinar	«The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on federal dynamics: Swiss case study», presentation at the Federalism and Covid 19 Webinars, co-organized by the Groupe de recherche sur les sociétés plurinationales (GRSP) and Peter MacKell Chair in Federalism (McGill) ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
17.06., Fribourg	Questions autour de la procédure de médiation selon la Linf-FR, Groupe de travail principe de transparence, Fribourg ( <b>Bernhard Waldmann</b> )

18.06., Webinar	«Rule of Law during COVID-19 in Switzerland», presentation at the European Law Institute (ELI) Webinar on Rule of Law During and Post-COVID-19 ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
23.06., Webinar	«Covid-19 und Dezentralisierung - Was kann Syrien von anderen Staaten lernen?» presented as part of a webinar ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> co-organizers <b>Francesco Palermo</b> , <b>Nico Steytler</b> and <b>Georg Milbradt</b> )
25.06., Bern	«Verwaltungsaufsicht», presented as part of the Executive Master of Public Administration, University of Berne ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
01.07., Online event	Online lectures on fiscal federalism, state organization, distribution of powers in federal states, organized by the Hans Seidel Foundation in Yangon, Myanmar ( <b>Rekha Oleschak Pillai</b> )
02.07., Online event	«Times of Crisis! Is Federalism in Peril? The role and impact of federalism on an effective crisis management» presentation in the context of an online panel ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> co-organizers <b>Hans Schoemaker</b> and <b>André Duvillard</b> )
12.08., Online event	Online lectures on fiscal federalism, state organization, distribution of powers in federal states, organized by the Hans Seidel Foundation in Yangon, Myanmar ( <b>Rekha Oleschak Pillai</b> )
19.08., Online event	Online lectures on fiscal federalism, state organization, distribution of powers in federal states, organized by the Hans Seidel Foundation in Yangon, Myanmar ( <b>Rekha Oleschak Pillai</b> )
27.08., Caux	«Einführung in verschiedene Formen der Dezentralisierung», presented at the workshop on the topic «Fiskale Dezentralisierung und Transition», in cooperation with the European Center for Kurdish Studies ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
27.08., Caux	«Finanzausgleich und Finanztransfer: Wie gleich sollen Regionen und Kommunen sein?», presented at the workshop on the topic «Fiskale Dezentralisierung und Transition», in cooperation with the European Center for Kurdish Studies ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
28.08., Caux	«Zölle, Steuern und Gebühren: Die Finanzierung multilateraler Staaten», presented at the workshop on the topic «Fiskale Dezentralisierung und Transition», in cooperation with the European Center for Kurdish Studies ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
02.09., Webinar	«Gewaltenteilung in ausserordentlichen Lagen – mit einem Blick auf die Corona-Krise und in die Zukunft», organization and management of the webinar of the Schweizerische Vereinigung für Verwaltungsorganisationsrecht (SVVOR) ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
09.09., Zurich	«Notrecht in der Corona-Krise: Staatsrechtliche Herausforderungen», lecture at the 19th Anniversary Conference of the Center for Legislative Studies of the University of Zurich ( <b>Bernhard Waldmann</b> )
11.09., online	«Verhandlung statt autoritativer Vollzug? – Über konsensuales Verwaltungshandeln und konsensuale Streitbeilegung im Verwaltungsrecht», presentation at the Schweizerischen Juristentag 2020 ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
15.09., online	Management and moderation, Dienstagskolloquium on the subject of «Natural resource revenue sharing and their role in the multilevel finance: the case of Nigeria and Sri Lanka», guest speakers Jayampathy Wickramaratne and Adriano Dirri, Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg ( <b>Flavien Felder</b> )
16.10., Zurich	«Gleichberechtigung der Geschlechter und Religionsfreiheit im schweizerischen Verfassungsrecht», workshop as part of the event series «Legal Gender Studies» at the University of Zurich ( <b>Elisabeth Joller</b> )
22.10., Berne	«Parlament in Krisenzeiten», hearings in the Political Institutions Committees PIC ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
30.10., online	«Introduction to Swiss Public Law», lecture in the context of the event series «Introduction to Swiss Law» ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
10.11., Online event	«Federalism as a tool of conflict resolution», presented at the School of International Studies, Trento ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
11.11., Online	«FINMA als unabhängige Finanzmarktaufsichtsbehörde: Organisation, Aufgaben und Verfahren», presented at the Sanitas Group as a part of the input@sanitas ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
19.11., online	Management and moderation, Dienstagskolloquium on the subject «Cooperative Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations: What's Law Got to Do With It?», guest speaker Johanne Poirier, Institut of Federalism, University of Fribourg ( <b>Flavien Felder</b> )
20.11., Webinar	«Rechtsprechung zum Verwaltungsrecht», presentation at the ALUMNI IUS FRILEX Service Pack 2020 ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
24.11., Online event	«Federalism in Practice: Institutions, Competences and Finances», presented as part of the Myanmar Federalism Leadership Program 2020 ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
26.11., Online event	International Expert Round Table, Myanmar Federalism Leadership Program 2020 ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> co-organizers <b>Elisabeth Alber</b> , <b>Paul Anderson</b> , <b>Andrew Harding</b> and <b>Soeren Keil</b> )

28.11., Online event	«Multitier-Constitutionalism and Constitutional Hierarchies», presented as part of the Myanmar Federalism Leadership Program 2020 ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
29.11., Online event	«State Constitutions in Action: the Case of the Cantons in Switzerland», presented as part of the Myanmar Federalism Leadership Program 2020 ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
02.12., Online event	«Nos libertés aux soins intensifs?/Freiheiten auf der Intensivstation?», panel discussion ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
03.12., Online event	LoGov – Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay, Research Coordination Committee, Third Meeting ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
04.12., Online	«Föderalismus», presented at the Schweizerischen Tagung der Staatsrechtlerinnen und Staatsrechtler on the topic «COVID-19 und öffentliches Recht» ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
04.12., Online event	«Verfassungsrecht», presentation at the ALUMNI IUS FRILEX Service Pack 2020 ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
04.12., Online	«Gewaltenteilung in der Corona-Krise», presented at the Schweizerischen Tagung der Staatsrechtlerinnen und Staatsrechtler on the topic «COVID-19 und öffentliches Recht» ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> )
07.12., Fribourg	Dans le contexte de la formation bilingue plus-droit lors d'une séance « tandem », visioconférence et discussion sur le thème : Le statut des langues – La reconnaissance officielle sert-elle à quelque chose ? L'exemple suisse ( <b>Nicolas Schmitt</b> )
11.12., Online event	«Neue Entwicklungen im Verwaltungsverfahren», presentation at the ALUMNI IUS FRILEX Service Pack 2020 ( <b>Bernhard Waldmann</b> )
14.12., Fribourg	Brief interview on the French-language radio station La première (matinale) on the subject « du fédéralisme et de la crise sanitaire ». ( <b>Nicolas Schmitt</b> )
15.12., Online	Management and moderation, Dienstagskolloquium on the subject «Comparative Federal Fiscalism: The Swiss case», guest speakers Andreas Stöckli and Sean Müller, Institut of Federalism, University of Fribourg ( <b>Flavien Felder</b> )
15.12., Online	«Comparative Fiscal Federalism: The Swiss case», presentation at the Dienstagskolloquium, Institut of Federalism, University of Fribourg ( <b>Andreas Stöckli</b> and <b>Sean Müller</b> )
16.12., Fribourg	«Bekommen die Kirchen eine Corona-Sonderbehandlung?», podcast, SRF News+ ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )
29.12., Fribourg	«Steuert die Schweiz auf einen indirekten Impfwang zu?», interview in the broadcast Echo der Zeit ( <b>Eva Maria Belser</b> )

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