INSTITUT FÜR ÖKUMENISCHE STUDIEN
INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES ŒCUMÉNIQUES

UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG SCHWEIZ
UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG SUISSE

Prof. Barbara Hallensleben
Avenue de l'Europe 20
CH-1700 Fribourg

Tel. [+41] 026 / 300 74 10
Barbara.Hallensleben@unifr.ch
www.unifr.ch/iso/ – www.unifr.ch/orthodoxia

Study Day * October 30th 2026
An Old and New Voice in Orthodoxy



Among the autocephalous Orthodox Churches, the tension between the Greek and Russian traditions is currently attracting most of the public attention. This study day concentrates on an old yet new voice within the Byzantine Church: the (almost) autocephalous Macedonian Orthodox Church – Archdiocese of Ohrid. The name points to a venerable tradition (dating back to the 9th century) and a new development following the independence of the Republic of Macedonia (since 1991) and of North Macedonia (since 2019). In ecclesiastical terms, the region belonged to the Serbian Orthodox Church, which granted autocephaly to the Macedonian Orthodox Church in 2022.

Dr Viktor Nedeski is a professor at the St Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. He is a recognised expert on the history of his Church and has followed the path to autocephaly. He will stay in Fribourg as part of a research project funded by the European university alliance *AccrossEU*.

The study afternoon proposes three thematic areas and time for discussion:

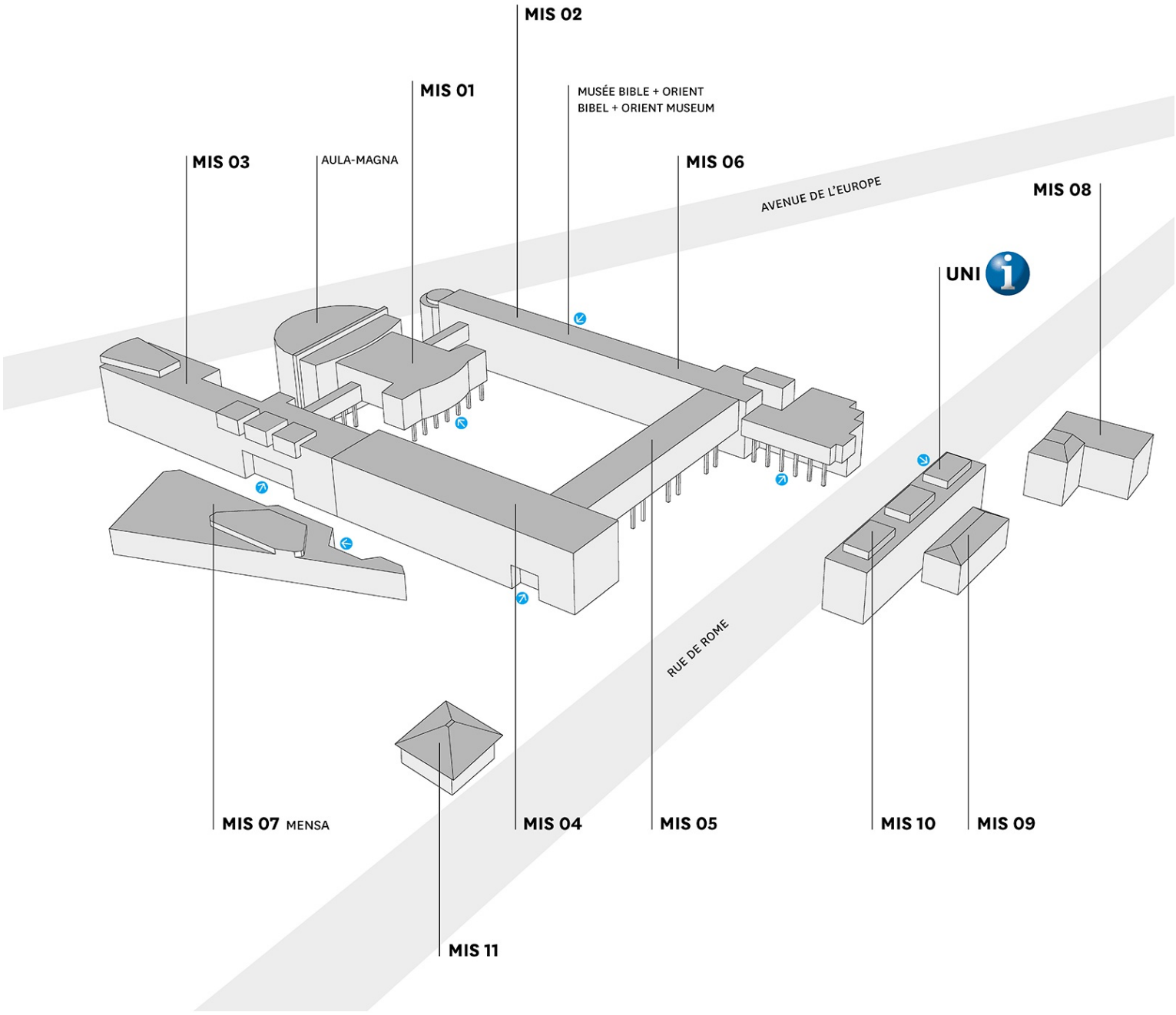
* **The Macedonian Orthodox Church/Archdiocese of Ohrid and its historical and spiritual experience**
* **A peaceful way to autocephaly?**
* **The Macedonian Orthodox Church as reflected in its saints**

Friday, October 30th 2026, 13:30 to 17:00

Weiterbildungsgebäude / Bâtiment de formation continue
Rue de Rome 6, 1st floor (with coffee breaks)

Prof. Nedeski referiert auf Englisch. Übersetzungshilfen für die Diskussionen werden angeboten.
Prof. Nedeski s'exprimera en anglais. Une aide à la traduction est proposée pour les discussions.

Kontakt/Contact: Prof. Barbara Hallensleben, barbara.hallensleben@unifr.ch



Das Weiterbildungsgebäude ist mit MIS 08 gekennzeichnet.
Le bâtiment de formation continue porte la référence MIS 08.
The continuing formation building is indicated by the reference MIS 08.