

Call for Papers for the „Yearbook of Federalism 2023“

Crisis Federalism - Competition for Solutions or Collective Crisis Management? (working title)

In the context of the Covid 19 pandemic, the performance of federal systems has been discussed intensively – and often very critically. Again and again, it is claimed that unitary-centralist systems were better able to cope with the pandemic or to communicate the rules of crisis management. On the other hand, there are voices that consider federal systems superior even in crises because they provide incentives for competition for the best policy solutions (“laboratory federalism” being the operative word).

However, the Covid 19 pandemic is not the only challenge to which federal systems must respond: The protection of the population is one or even the central task of the state as a whole as well as of its regional units. Natural and environmental disasters (such as earthquakes or floods), the climate crisis, terrorist threats, wars and refugee flows (such as the current influx of war refugees from Ukraine) also have a territorial dimension and thus affect federal structures and their ability to perform and change. Moreover, these crises are not parallel or successive, but often overlapping and interdependent. Some observers no longer speak of a poly-crisis, but of a “perma-crisis”. This raises the question of how federal systems can react to the crises and remain capable of action.

For the Yearbook of Federalism 2023, we invite proposals for papers that address different aspects of this issue. They can be case studies or comparative studies; studies that focus on individual crises or on comparing the management of crises of different kinds. International comparisons are also very welcome. Furthermore, contributions can also focus more on administrative aspects of crisis federalism, e.g. on a change of structures in civil protection, or on the role of parliaments in crisis politics.

We would like to point out that the editorial deadline for contributions that are accepted is 31 May 2023 in order to guarantee the publication of the Yearbook in autumn 2023.

The “Yearbook of Federalism” has been released by Nomos (Baden-Baden) for over 20 years now. It is published by the European Centre for Research on Federalism (ECRF) at the University of Tübingen. The Yearbook is conceived as a compendium that offers readers from research, politics and administration an up-to-date overview of various aspects of federal and regional structure and policy. Both German- and English-language contributions can be featured.

In addition to an annually alternating main topic, the yearbook includes the following sections, for which suggestions for contributions are also welcome:

- Research topics
- German federalism
- European country reports
- Global country reports
- Regional and municipal cooperation in Europe
- European Union / European integration

We invite you to send 1-2 page abstracts (incl. a short biographical note) by 20 January 2023 to the following email address: ezff@uni-tuebingen.de. We are looking forward to your contributions.