

Call for Papers for the “Yearbook of Federalism 2026”

“Solidarity in federal systems – blessing or burden?” (working title)

According to Daniel Elazar’s classic definition, federal systems are characterised by their combination of “*self-rule*” and “*shared rule*”. The former is based on the idea of subsidiarity, while the latter refers to the need for jointly exercised rule where this brings added value. Jointly exercised rule raises the question of how much solidarity is required in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions for federal systems to function. Michael Burgess has pointed to the need for a “federal spirit” that must be characterised by mutual recognition, empathy, and reciprocity. This is because a formal constitutional structure alone is not sustainable in the long term for federalised systems or fully developed federal states. The question of this federal spirit arises particularly, but not only, in times of crisis. Above all, fiscal federal compensation mechanisms for regional/inter-territorial equalisation and social cohesion are repeatedly criticised. But even beyond fiscal rules, federal arrangements refer to solidarity as an ethical and political norm. It is unclear how much and what kind of solidarity is needed to ensure the functional operation and social cohesion of federal systems and to integrate centrifugal forces.

For the “*Yearbook of Federalism 2026*”, we invite proposals for papers that address different aspects of this issue. These may be political theory papers, empirical case studies, or comparative studies. Empirical contributions may relate to individual countries, regions, or the municipal dimension, taking into account multi-level dynamics.

We would like to point out that the editorial deadline for contributions that are accepted will be 31 May 2026 in order to guarantee publication of the Yearbook in autumn 2026.

The “*Yearbook of Federalism*” has been published by *NOMOS* (Baden-Baden) since 2000. It is edited 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 are possible.

In addition to an annually alternating main topic, the Yearbook includes the following sections, for which proposals 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 **15 January 2026** to the following email address: ezff@uni-tuebingen.de. We are looking forward to your contributions.