

Call for Papers for the “Yearbook of Federalism 2027”

“Government Modernisation – A Federal Reform Agenda?” (Working title)

In many countries, the issue of *government modernisation* is currently being discussed and oftentimes associated with the goal of *reducing bureaucracy*. In Germany, for instance, a “*Federal Modernisation Agenda*” was jointly adopted by the federal and state governments in 2025. Its aim is to strengthen the state’s capacity to support the economy and society. This involves not only technological innovations, such as the digitalisation of public administration, but also new forms of cooperation that can help conserve resources and boost efficiency.

Federal states face particular challenges in modernising their respective executives due to their multi-level structure. At the same time, there may also be significant potential for innovation – in the sense of *laboratory federalism*. Unlike explicit federalism reforms, this also concerns the transformation of federal statehood below the threshold of constitutionally enshrined reforms.

For the “*Yearbook of Federalism 2027*”, we invite proposals for papers that address different aspects of this issue. In the spirit of comparative federalism research, the aim is not only to examine proposals and discussions in Germany, but also to broaden the perspective to include international experiences of reforms and debates on government modernisation in other multi-level systems in Europe and around the world. Contributions may take the form of case studies or comparative studies; they may be investigations focusing on individual states, regions or even local authorities, whilst taking into account multi-level dynamics. Contributions may come from the fields of political science, public administration, law, human geography, economics or other disciplines.

We would like to point out that the final editorial deadline for contributions that are accepted will be 31 May 2027 in order to guarantee publication of the Yearbook in autumn 2027.

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 **1 December 2026** to the following email address: ezff@uni-tuebingen.de. We are looking forward to your contributions.