



**Call for Papers**  
**for presentations by Master and PhD candidates**  
**International Conference**  
**„FROM TAKERS TO SHAPERS?**  
**CHALLENGES FOR REGIONS IN A DYNAMIC EU POLITY”**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Zoom conference**

Previously, regions were often conceptualized as takers of EU policies. Yet, regions gain more and more significance as (co-)shapers of the future European Union. There are, for instance, a dense network of regional offices in Brussels and an intensified cross-country cooperation among regions. At the domestic level, they are increasingly involved in EU affairs, including regional parliaments who try to develop a stronger voice. However, the dynamic nature and complexity of EU multi-level governance are challenges for these active regions. Dramatic changes in territorial politics in the EU member states as well as in European governance have affected regions in manifold ways. Political, academic, but also public, interest for regions in a changing EU polity has grown, especially for their role in EU integration and policies.

Thus, we can observe dramatic changes in territorial politics in the EU member states as well as in European governance. Regions are affected by these changes in manifold ways – and they act within changing frameworks of reference. Previously regions were often conceptualized as takers of EU policies, especially of regional and cohesion policies. Yet, regions increasingly become (co-)shapers of the future EU polity. In the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe (2020-2022) the question of regional voice gains again prominence. The conference has to address this issue and regional policy-maker begin to claim agency in this process

This conference adopts a multi-disciplinary and multi-perspective approach by looking at constitutional, policy-related, democratic, as well as identity related issues. We invite Master and PhD students to contribute presentations focusing on the following aspects:

- Regions as actors in EU constitution-making
- How can regions shape the EU? Networking among regions
- Bringing citizens in: Regions and identity politics in EU governance



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We will select one paper on each of these three aspects. Please send us your one-page abstract plus a short biographical note. Full conference papers are to be submitted by 30 April 2021. Presenters will have the opportunity to publish them in the Yearbook of Federalism published by the European Centre on Research of Federalism (EZFF), which is an established source on federalism research and has a wide readership. The papers will be subject to peer-review. Results of the conference will be documented online.

Please send your one-page abstract plus a short biographical note by **1 March 2021** to Prof. Dr. Gabriele Abels, University of Tübingen: [gabriele.abels@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:gabriele.abels@uni-tuebingen.de)

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