

FUTURE DIRECTIONS COMPARATIVE SUBNATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

One of the primary purposes of the conference at Bellagio was to, in consultation with experts from around the world, plan future activities for the academic and practical study of subnational constitutions in federal systems. We are proposing the creation of a new subfield of comparative constitutional law. The conference developed a number of recommended actions:

I. Country-specific actions

A number of activities should focus only on the subnational constitutions of a specific federal state.

- A. Academic research on the subnational constitutions of each particular federal state.
 - 1. Publication of such scholarship in academic and practical journals, and publication of books, both generally concerning the subnational constitutions of the country and also treating the subnational constitutions of specific component units.
 - 2. Publication of practical information about subnational constitutions for government officials and citizens.
- B. Develop university-level courses and teaching materials in law, political science, and history concerning the subnational constitutions of the country.
- C. Organize conferences of experts, and help develop new experts, to share information on the study of the subnational constitutions of the country.
- D. Develop public information materials that can be made available generally to the public and to children in schools.

- E. Organize subnational constitutional law sections in national constitutional law organizations.

II. Regional actions

There may be important insights to be gained by the study of subnational constitutions, in a comparative sense, within specific regions such as Europe, Latin America, North America, Africa, and Australasia (?).

- A. Conferences bringing together academics and practitioners from the region to map out regional strategies for the study of subnational constitutions.
- B. Regional publishing projects.
- C. Regional teaching cooperation in, for example, the European Union.
- D. Public information materials that bring relevant comparative information to each of the countries in the region.

III. World-wide actions

There are a number of activities, such as the Bellagio conference, that can continue to proceed on a world-wide basis.

- A. Seek membership, and develop committees or sections on subnational constitutional law, in organizations like the World Association of Constitutional Law.
- B. Further pursue the development of comparative subnational constitutional studies on a world-wide basis.
 - 1. Continue the International Encyclopedia of Law's volume on subnational constitutions.
 - 2. Plan additional conferences on subnational constitutional law at world

events such as the World Association of Constitutional Law, International Political Science Association, International Association of Centers for Federal Studies, International Association of Judges, the Forum on Federations, etc.

- IV. Make available the information developed in all of the above activities to scholars and practitioners who are involved in subnational constitutional development in newly emerging federal systems.
 - A. Identify funding sources to support the provision of technical support and consulting by experts associated with the project.
 - B. Identify ways to bring the lessons learned in the development and revision of subnational constitutions in any federal state to the attention of other federal states.
 - C. Identify ways to bring together practitioners and government officials of component units in federal states to compare experiences and collaborate on improving the performance of subnational governments.