



INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
Vienna



The future of the European Union as a system of differentiated integration

Policy lab



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

30-31 May 2020

Institute for Advanced Studies/Institut für Höhere Studien (IHS), Vienna

The imminent withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union has once again intensified discussions about the future of the EU. Although there is wide agreement that the EU requires reforms in multiple areas, the overall direction of its future development remains unclear. Taking up current developments, the third DAFEUS policy lab will explore how the EU's institutional set-up and decision-making can be improved. The participants will examine the current state of the EU as a system of differentiated integration, discuss selected reform proposals that seek to make the EU more efficient, effective and democratic, and develop concrete reform options linked to recent challenges in the political system of the EU. Throughout the debate, we will encourage comparisons with other federal and multi-level systems in order to identify strengths and deficits in the functioning of the EU and assess potential reforms. Debates in the working groups and the plenary session will lead to five to ten policy recommendations that will be presented at the beginning of the DAFEUS conference "Differentiation and asymmetries in multi-level systems. What can the European Union learn from Canada?", which will also take place at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna on 1-2 June 2020.

The DAFEUS policy labs combine expertise of scientists and practitioners with the open-minded input from interested PhD and MA students as well as civil society representatives. Participants from different backgrounds discuss policy proposals in small groups of around five persons. Each group discussion will be moderated by an expert and kick-started with a short introduction to convey the basic facts of the respective policy proposal or problem. The focus however is on an open-minded exchange among the participants on possible solutions/reforms where they can feed their individual policy preferences into the debate.

The policy lab is organised by the Cologne Monnet Association for EU-Studies (COMOS) in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and the University of Cologne in the framework of the Jean Monnet project DAFEUS. The lab will start at noon on 30 May and end on 31 May in the evening, and will be held at the premises of IHS in Vienna.

Application

The DAFEUS policy labs address a broad range of potential participants, including students, up-and-coming academics, senior scholars, policy-makers, civil society representatives and the general public. If you are interested to join our discussions in Vienna, please send a recent CV and a short letter of motivation (max. 300 words) to Lea Hopp (lea.hopp@uni-koeln.de) no later than 10 February 2020. The decision of the selection committee will be communicated within two weeks after this deadline.

Participants of the policy lab are expected to participate in the DAFEUS conference “Differentiation and asymmetries in multi-level systems. What can the European Union learn from Canada?”, which will also take place at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna on 1-2 June 2020.

Financial support

COMOS can support participants to cover their travel and accommodation costs (up to 450 EUR for participants from Europe, and up to 950 EUR for participants from outside Europe). Please specify in your email the country and city (if possible) from which you will travel to Vienna.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the COMOS programme directors & DAFEUS project directors:

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DAFEUS - Debating and Analysing the Future of the European Union as a federal System with Academia, Civil Society and Policy-Makers. Comparative experiences from multi-level systems

The DAFEUS project has four objectives. It enhances the debate on the future development of the EU, fosters public knowledge and awareness of EU politics, promotes EU studies in new research areas, and strengthens the exchange between both academics and practitioners as well as civil society and the general public.

By comparing the EU to federally organised countries, the project will shed new light on strengths and deficits of the EU's political system. On this basis, DAFEUS develops concrete recommendations how to make the EU and its federal elements more effective, more efficient and more democratic.

DAFEUS will focus on three key topics:

1. Institutions and decision-making in federal systems
2. Democracy in federal systems
3. Differentiation in federal systems

DAFEUS combines academic research, public outreach and policy dialogue by organising three DAFEUS weeks, each of which includes a policy lab and an annual conference. The events will bring together senior and junior experts with diverse academic and professional backgrounds, policy-makers, civil society organisations and the wider public.

The project's output will comprise a set of webcasts, including expert interviews and speeches, three background papers on the project's key topics, three policy papers with recommendations from the policy labs, three conference reports with key results, a journal article and an edited volume gathering contributors to the project's events. A state-of-the-art website and a corresponding online platform for debate via Facebook complement DAFEUS' outreach activities.

DAFEUS will be implemented by the Cologne Monnet Association for EU Studies (COMOS) in cooperation with the Université de Montréal, the Centre international de formation européenne and the University of Cologne.

Further information is available at www.dafeus.eu.