



## OUR SELF-CONCEPTION

The International Research and Consulting Centre (IRCC) is a nationally and internationally recognised centre of interdisciplinary academic expertise. We focus on questions of cultural diversity as one of the core elements of federalism, and thus contribute to the peaceful living together of people and communities within multicultural societies.

The services we provide are oriented to meeting demand and needs, to focusing upon target groups and upon achieving significant impact. They build on our research in our fields of competence. Partners are our principal concern.

We provide a motivating working environment that enables our staff members to deliver optimal services, to have opportunities to independently develop in their area of work, as well as to learn from each other.

The IRCC was founded in 1997 and constitutes an integral part of the Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg, building upon its successful experience in academia and exchange.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

The IRCC divides its activities into three domains: research, documentation and knowledge exchange. Our research is practice oriented and forms an important basis for the other two fields of activity.

**Research:** We explore fundamental questions on federalism, decentralisation and the rule of law in multicultural societies. Our research is demand-practice-and-policy oriented. We respect and learn from local distinctiveness and are guided by the diversity and uniqueness of cultures. We integrate our international guest researchers and partners in our research activities. This is how we further develop our interdisciplinarity and gain new synergies.

**Documentation:** In our research and knowledge exchange activities we rely on the Institute's library that contains a great number of relevant titles in our priority domains and in major world languages.

**Knowledge exchange:** On the basis of our research and documentation, we offer three forms of knowledge exchange services: *advanced professional and academic training, consultancy, expertise and facilitation, and publications:*

***Advanced Professional and Academic Training:*** We organise practice-oriented courses on the topics of federalism and multiculturalism (e.g. our yearly Summer University). Furthermore, we organise conferences and workshops with internationally recognised researchers and experts, or participate at such events ourselves. We also organise study tours to Switzerland for international delegations. Thereby we introduce our guests to the relevant topics and deepen our mutual insights through interactive discussions.

***Consultancy, Expertise and Facilitation:*** We offer consultancy, expertise and facilitation on questions of federalism, decentralisation, constitution-making and institution-building.

***Publications:*** The results of our research and knowledge exchange activities are published, among others, in our publication series PIFF consisting of books and working papers. We also publish the results of our activities on the internet, as well as in fact sheets and toolkits that are specially prepared for policy-makers and practitioners.

## OUR PARTNERS AND STAFF

Our services are accomplished in co-operation with the following national and international partner organisations: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Political Direction of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), other Swiss and international authorities, NGOs, university institutes and international organisations.

The staff of the IRCC is composed of a pluri-disciplinary team of scientific collaborators. Additionally, the IRCC has a substantial academic exchange programme. The presence of guest researchers, mainly from countries of the South and East, enriches the activities of the IRCC. Guest researchers conduct research and publish on topics in our priority domains.

International Research and Consulting Centre,  
Institute of Federalism  
Route d'Englisberg 7  
1763 Granges Paccot  
Switzerland

phone (secretariat): +41.(0)26.300.8125

fax: +41.(0)26.300.9684

email: [info@federalism.ch](mailto:info@federalism.ch)

[www.federalism.ch](http://www.federalism.ch)