



### **The Institute of Federalism, in Fribourg**

Dear Readers,

Located in the center of Europe, Switzerland is a unique country with its institutions. The country is relatively small and has almost no natural sources, but one of the richest countries in the world and many of the international organizations have founded their central offices here.

One may easily understand the reason behind this success and can give these two basic explanations. Firstly, It has a well-established political system. Many decisions have been taken locally by the ones who will benefit from them the most. Secondly, the education system of the country is functioning well as the graduates of any school are well adapted to job, academic and social world.

Swiss University system is also doing its duty well. Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne are two national universities and both are counted as one of the best 10 universities of the world. Other universities have cantonal status, but they are also among the respected universities. The academic institutions of the country draw many scholars from all over the world.

The purpose of this paper is to introduce one of these institutions: The Institute of Federalism, in Fribourg. The institute is a politically independent center and it mainly focuses on state organizations. The institute works under Fribourg University and according to its web site the main research fields are mainly; Comparative federalism, Democracy, Fundamental and human rights, Conflict prevention and management, Legisprudence, Administrative, and Public Law.



Fribourg is a bilingual canton as it has two official languages. In this setting, the institute has its current status in 1938. In its first years the study subjects were generally local but international subjects have been studied for the last 20 years. The institute provides

services and expertise in the areas such as constitutionalization and democratization, in cooperation with the Swiss agency for development and cooperation (SDC) and other national and international actors. It provides training, especially through its Summer University, welcomes delegations from states which undergo processes of federalization and transition and supports a number of projects at home and abroad. (<https://www3.unifr.ch/federalism/en/institute/profile.html>).

The Institute of Federalism has an extensive and lucent guest researcher program that is open to researchers from all over the world. The guest researchers can benefit from the specialized library and expert scholars.

As stated before, the democracy culture of Switzerland is a result of its own institutions and system of education. There is much to learn from these institutions like the Institute of Federalism. The institute should be followed and visited by the academics studying on Democracy and federalism-related issues.

Sincerely,

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