

CALL FOR PAPERS

Workshop and Expert Seminar 22 and 23 April 2016
at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg,
Rechts- und Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Erlangen.

“Best practices for the protection of water in times of crisis. Focus on participatory instruments in environmental law and policies”

The Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and the Università degli Studi di Torino are organising a two-day interdisciplinary and comparative seminar for PhD students, Post-Docs, junior researchers and practitioners/experts in environmental law, economics and policies *with a focus on the protection of water in times of crisis.*

We welcome any submissions for short interventions/posters and comparative discussion thereof from the viewpoint of the national legal orders, the EU legal order or international law, which show how the use of participatory instruments (e.g. under the regime of the Aarhus Convention and Directive 2000/35, but also the Water Framework Directive or of national law) can contribute to the protection of water resources (ground water, drinking water, rivers, sea water) against pollution, loss through economic/transport activities, or to a guarantee of access to (clean) water as a common good.

Possible contributions could include:

- Water as a common good and its protection by public participation.
- The use of *Bürgerinitiativen*, plebiscites, referenda and other means of public participation for the above mentioned objectives.
- General questions of public participation in environmental law and democracy.
- The relationship of national, international and supranational law in the protection of water resources, especially in cross-border contexts (i.e. regimes for rivers to be used by two neighbouring states).
- Access to water as a human right and its realisation in the national legal orders.
- Economic approaches to a better management of water resources.
- Theoretical (economic, political, social, philosophical) concepts underlying the protection of water resources by law, by public participation or by other social models.
- Examples of best practices in implementing the participatory approach.
- ...

Objective of the Seminar and contributions:

The objective is to offer a comparative overview of the participatory rights for citizens and, as their counterpart, the duties for the authorities in Germany and in Italy as Member States of the European Union as regards the protection of water. To explore the best practices related to participatory rights, we will use a case study method, comparing legislation, administrative proceedings and case law as well as their functioning in practice and underlying theoretical concepts.

Short interventions (max. 15 minutes) will be discussed in small panels by using a comparative grid, thus working together on a comparative study. This reflects a new methodological approach in comparative law based on comparison through the lens of International and EU law. Practitioners and experts will discuss together with academics with the aim to find common solutions to the research questions. The results will be published in a printed collection of papers. Several key-note speeches will round up the venture.

Paper details:

We welcome abstracts for manuscripts in the mentioned areas of research (no more than 500 words). Manuscripts should be well developed, but at a stage where they can still benefit from the group's discussion.

Funding:

Limited funding for travel subsidies is provided by the DAAD for participants from southern EU-Member States and possibly also Germany. Please state in your submission, whether you would like to receive a subsidy.

There is no fee for participation.

Paper submission procedure:

The deadline for manuscript submission is *January, 22, 2016*. Please submit an electronic copy of your abstract and – if applicable – outline of the manuscript as well as a short CV stating your current position (MS-Word or PDF only) to:

Email:

eva.j.lohse@fau.de;

margherita.poto@unito.it

Shortlisted papers will be notified by *January 30, 2016*.