

**CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**REGIONALISM IN EUROPE
CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

Krakow, Poland, 28–29 May 2026

ON-SITE AND ONLINE PARTICIPATION



**REGIONS
IN THE EUROPEAN
UNION**

Erasmus+ Jean Monnet
Module 2024-2027



**Uniwersytet Komisji
Edukacji Narodowej
w Krakowie**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

CALL FOR PAPERS
International Conference
Regionalism in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Governance

Krakow, Poland, 28–29 May 2026

Hybrid Format: On-site and Online Participation

Organized within the Jean Monnet Module “Regions in the European Union”
University of the National Education Commission in Krakow (UKEN)
Project website: <https://regions.uken.krakow.pl/>

About the Conference

The Organizing Committee invites scholars, researchers, doctoral candidates, and practitioners from Poland and abroad to submit papers for the international conference: **Regionalism in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Governance (2026)**.

The conference is organized within the Jean Monnet Module Regions in the European Union, which explores the evolving concept of regionalism in Europe from legal, political, institutional, and socio-economic perspectives. While particular attention is devoted to the European Union, the conference also expands the discussion to the broader European institutional framework, including the Council of Europe and its role in promoting local and regional democracy across the continent. The event aims to foster interdisciplinary and international dialogue on the transformation of regionalism in Europe and the growing role of local and regional governance within: the EU’s multi-level governance system, the institutional framework of the Council of Europe, and the broader European integration process.

Thematic Panels

We welcome submissions addressing (but not limited to) the following themes:

1. New Faces of Regionalism in Europe: Normative and Institutional Dimensions.

This panel explores the evolution of the idea of regionalism within both the European Union and the Council of Europe. Particular attention will be given to legal foundations and institutional developments shaping the position of regions and local authorities in European governance. Contributions may examine:

- the role of the European Committee of the Regions in EU policymaking,
- the activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,
- subsidiarity and multi-level governance,
- legal guarantees of regional and local self-government,
- institutional transformations affecting regional participation in European decision-making.

The panel encourages reflection on how these institutions contribute to strengthening democratic participation, decentralization, and territorial cohesion across Europe.

2. The Role of Regional and Local Authorities in European Decision-Making and Post-Enlargement Governance.

This panel examines the participation of regional and local authorities in European governance processes within both the EU and Council of Europe frameworks, including developments following EU enlargement. Topics may include:

- subsidiarity and proportionality,
- consultation mechanisms and interinstitutional dialogue,
- the Early Warning System,
- monitoring of local self-government under the European Charter of Local Self-Government,
- decentralization reforms in Central and Eastern Europe,
- cohesion policy, structural funds, and institutional capacity-building in post-enlargement states.

Special attention may be given to the specific trajectories of regional governance in Central and Eastern Europe and the interaction between EU policies and Council of Europe standards.

3. Regionalism and Democracy: New Forms of Participation and Deliberation. This panel focuses on innovative participatory and deliberative mechanisms developed at local and regional levels across Europe. Contributions may explore:

- citizens' assemblies,
- participatory budgeting,
- deliberative mini-publics,
- hybrid co-governance models,
- democratic innovations strengthening legitimacy and inclusiveness.

Particular attention will be given to how such innovations address contemporary challenges, including declining trust in institutions, territorial inequalities, and democratic fatigue, as well as their institutional feasibility within EU and Council of Europe frameworks.

4. Cross-Border Cooperation, Macro-Regions and Territorial Cohesion. This session addresses cross-border and macro-regional cooperation as instruments of territorial development and European integration. Papers may examine:

- EU macro-regional strategies,
- INTERREG and cross-border cooperation programs,
- cohesion policy and territorial convergence,
- the Council of Europe's contribution to cross-border and interregional cooperation,
- governance challenges in border regions of Central and Eastern Europe.

The panel welcomes both legal and policy-oriented perspectives on how territorial cooperation enhances stability, development, and integration across Europe.

5. Regional Identity and Autonomy Movements in Contemporary Europe. This panel investigates the relationship between regional identity, autonomy claims, and secessionist movements across Europe. Contributions may address:

- constitutional and legal responses to autonomy demands,
- regional self-government and its limits,
- minority protection mechanisms within EU and Council of Europe systems,
- implications for European integration and state stability.

The panel encourages comparative perspectives and analyses grounded in both EU law and Council of Europe standards.

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 12 April 2026

Notification of acceptance: 20 April 2026

Deadline for registration of non-presenting participants: 15 May 2026

Conference Languages

The official languages of the conference are English and Polish.

Presentations may be delivered in either English or Polish.

For interested participants, selected sessions delivered in Polish will be translated into English. Please note that translation from English into Polish will not be provided.

Venue

Uniwersytet Komisji Edukacji Narodowej w Krakowie

ul. Podchorążych 2, 30-084 Kraków, Poland

Recommended value for money accommodation

Hotel Akademicki Krakowiak (approx. 15 minutes walking distance from the University)

<https://ach.uken.krakow.pl/hotel/>

Publication

Participants interested in publishing their papers in Volume 12 (2026), Issue II of the Public Administration Yearbook (Rocznik Administracji Publicznej – RAP) should submit their full manuscripts by 30 June 2026. Papers submitted after this deadline will be considered for publication in Volume 13 (2027), Issue I. Publication is free of charge.

Organizing Committee

dr Piotr Uhma – Chair; prof. UKEN dr hab. Grzegorz Krawiec; prof. UKEN dr hab. Joanna Podgórska-Rykała; dr Anna Juryk (UEK); dr Agata Nodzak; dr Monika Skowrońska.

For future inquiries, please contact:

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Registration form:

[Regionalism in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Governance \(2026\) – Wypełnij formularz](#)



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