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Citizenship: German born in Wattenscheid (Germany), 7 October 1964

**Current Position and Career**

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Since 2020 **Full Professor in Comparative Constitutional Law** (*Professore ordinario*)  
2010 -2020 **Associate Professor in Comparative Constitutional Law** (*Professore associato*)  
at the Faculty of Law, University of Trento (Italy)  
(2000-2010) Lecturer and Researcher (*Ricercatore confermato*)  
2012 - 2018 **Coordinator, PhD Programme in International Studies**  
at the School of International Studies, University of Trento  
Since 2000 **Vice-Director and Senior Research Advisor**, Institute for Comparative Federalism  
Eurac Research, Bozen/Bolzano (Italy) [www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)  
2000 - 2007 Coordinator (Law), “*Joint Master for Comparative Local Development*”; joint degree of the  
Universities Trento, Regensburg, Budapest (Corvinus) und Lubljana - Erasmus Mundus Programme  
1994 - 2000 **Senior Researcher** at the European Academy in Bolzano (Eurac),  
Research Area „Minorities and Autonomies“ (1996-2000: also Coordinator of this Research Area)  
1998 PhD in Comparative Public Law, University of Regensburg (Germany)  
1994 Bar exam, Regensburg (Germany)  
1991 Law Degree, University of Regensburg (Germany)

**Main Research Interests**

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Comparative federalism and regionalism; governance and constitutional law of the European Union; Rule of Law; minority rights; legal management of diversity; constitutional transformation in South-Eastern Europe

**Teaching** (regular courses at Trento University)

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European Union Law; Comparative Constitutional Law of Groups and Minorities; Minority Rights; Introduction into the Law of the German-speaking countries; Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law

**Teaching and Research Abroad**

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Vermont Law School (USA, 2008-2012); University of Regensburg (Germany, 2008 – 2010, 2012-2014); University of Innsbruck (Austria, 2010-11); Visiting professor in the Global Law Program of the University of Haifa (Israel, December 2011); University of Graz (Austria, 2012, 2014); Hebrew University Jerusalem (Israel, 2014 and 2017); University of Belgrade (Serbia, 2014-2017).

**Further Activities:**

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Since 2002 Member State Expert for the EU Commission, TAIEX, DG Enlargement  
(Rule of Law study Western Balkans, 2004; Peer Review of Judiciary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2010; Macedonia; 2010; Rule of Law report, BiH, 2019)  
2007-2022 Vice-President *Euroregional Association for Comparative Public and European Law*  
[[www.jus-euroregionale.org](http://www.jus-euroregionale.org)], Innsbruck – Bolzano/Bozen – Trento (currently: Member of the Board)  
Since 2011 Member of Group of Independent Experts, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe (European Charter of Local Self-Government; Monitoring: Macedonia, UK, Armenia, BiH, NL)

- 2016-2018 Vice-President of *Consulta per la riforma dello statuto special* (consultative body for the Autonomous Province of Trento for preparing a reform of the Autonomy Statute/Basic Law)
- 2018-2020 Senior International Legal Expert on EU Integration Matters at the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH, resident and “embedded” expert (IPA funds)

### Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

#### Activities in the Group of Independent Experts (Member for Germany)

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- **Monitoring Report:** Local Democracy in the “*former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*”, February 2012, 29 pages
- **Monitoring Report:** Local and Regional Democracy in the *United Kingdom*, CG/MON(26)10PROV, 4 March 2014, 62 pages [[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2171585#P114\\_14774](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2171585#P114_14774)]
- **Study “Regionalisation trends in European countries 2007-2015”** by members of the Group of Independent Experts, 2013-2014. Coordinator and editor: Prof. Francesco Merloni, Edition: March 2016, Strasbourg (<https://rm.coe.int/168071aa29>)  
Member of Working Group for coordination (meetings in Paris: 5 December 2012, 25 January, 20 October, 20 December 2013) and author of chapter on Germany (pp. 104-113)
- Participation in **Post-Monitoring Activities in Armenia** (workshops for local councillors; four missions in: 09/2014, 04/2015, 11/2015, 04/2016)
- Participation in **Post-Monitoring Activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (mission to Mostar), June 2018
- **Monitoring Report:** Local and Regional Democracy in *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, CG37(2019)18final, 31 December 2019, 47 pages [<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168098072a>]
- **Study “Monitoring of Grey Zones”**, for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, September 2020 (presented at Annual Meeting of Group of Independent Experts)
- **Monitoring Report:** Local and Regional Democracy in *The Netherlands*, CG(2021)41-05final, 22 September 2021, 41 pages ([https://search.coe.int/congress/pages/result\\_details.aspx?objectid=0900001680a42001](https://search.coe.int/congress/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=0900001680a42001))
- **Monitoring Report:** Local and Regional Democracy in *Montenegro*, (monitoring visit, 1-5 October 2023)

#### South Eastern European expertise and experience (activities - selection)

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Bosnia and Herzegovina	February 2000	Participation in OSCE-Conference on Constitution and the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces in BiH
Serbia	March 2001	<b>Study visit</b> to Serbia (Belgrade, University of Novi Sad and Open University of Subotica)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	February 2002	<b>Short-Term Expert</b> , EU-GTZ project “Support of the Common Institutions of the State of Bosnia-Herzegovina”
Bosnia and Herzegovina	January 2003	<b>Short-Term Expert</b> , EU-GTZ project “Support of the Common Institutions of the State of Bosnia-Herzegovina”
Western Balkans	February to July 2004	<b>Expert</b> , fact finding missions and study for EU Commission: “ <i>Re-enforcement of the Rule of Law in the Western Balkans. Division of competencies and interrelations between courts, prosecutors, the police, the executive and legislative powers in the Western Balkans countries</i> ”

(CARDS strategic studies 2003)" <http://www.suedosteuropa.uni-graz.at/en/project/re-enforcement-rule-law>

Italy (Trento)	2006 – 2008	<p><b>Coordination and research</b> in a two-years research project on “<i>Constitutional Transformations in the Western Balkans</i>”, co-financed by the Italian Ministry for University and Research. The project analysed the process of constitutional transformation and the legal recognition and treatment of diversity in the new Constitutions of SEE.</p> <p>The University of Trento was national coordinator (prof. Roberto Toniatti) of five research units (Universities of Bari, Pescara, Teramo, Trento, Trieste) and, as research unit, focusing on the interaction of two crucial aspects in transition: territorial organisation (in particular differentiated treatment and special status of some territories) and cultural pluralism (in part. Minority-protection and multiculturalism).</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	June / September 2008	<p><b>Research Scholarship</b> “Erasmus Mundus”: research on constitutional transition in BiH (2 months stay in Sarajevo)</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo) / Austria (Vienna)	December 2009 April 2010	<p>“<i>Federalism in Bosnia-Herzegovina: United in Diversity? Which kind of federalism for Bosnia and Herzegovina?</i>” <b>Presentations</b> at the International Conferences “Democracy in a Multi-Ethnic Society: Experiences and Challenges in BiH. Implications of the Judgement of the ECHR in the Case of Sejdić and Finci vs. BiH and Future Perspectives for Constitutional Reform in BiH”, University of Sarajevo and University of Vienna</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	May – July 2010	<p><b>Selected Member State Expert</b>, “Assessment of the Judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, EU Commission TAIEX, DG Enlargement (Reference code: JHA IND/EXP 41868). Fact Finding Mission (two weeks, May 2010). Objectives: a) to identify priority areas for future EU support to the reform of the judicial system, in view of its alignment to European standards; b) to identify and analyse specific areas, within the judiciary sector, where the lack of progress is particularly relevant to the European integration process and that could therefore be considered for future IPA support particularly within the framework of the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) for the years 2011-13.</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	September 2011 - June 2012	<p><b>Project “Interreligious Dialogue”</b>; Seminars and Report; European Academy Sarajevo and Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Report Sarajevo Dec. 2012)</p>
	September 2011	<p><b>Seminar</b> “Constitutional System and Reform Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, Srebrenica; Fondazione Alexander Langer, Bolzano-Bozen, V Settimana Internazionale della Memoria</p>
North Macedonia (and SEE)	2 November 2011	<p><b>Key Note Speaker at Regional Conference</b> in Skopje. Paper Presentation: “Constitutional Challenges of EU Accession for SEE Applicant Countries: A Comparative Approach”; Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Rule of Law in SEE-program</p>
North Macedonia	December 2011	<p><b>Expert, Monitoring Mission</b> for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe; Country Report on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Governance in North Macedonia (FYROM)</p>

North Macedonia	April 2012	<b>Selected Member State Expert</b> , “Assessment of the Judiciary in Macedonia”, EU Commission TAIEX, DG Enlargement (TAIEX Assessment Mission on Judiciary to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (JHA 48054). (one week, April 2012)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3 December 2012	<b>Speaker and selected Member State Expert</b> , “European standards in the field of independence and professionalism of the justice sector, best practices on the role and composition of supreme judicial councils”, Seminar, Sarajevo, EU Commission TAIEX, DG Enlargement (JHA 51155)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	September 2012 - 2013	<b>Project “The Constitutional, Legal and Factual Position of the Croat Constituent People”</b> ; Seminars and Study; European Academy Sarajevo and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Feb. 2014
Bosnia and Herzegovina	June 2018	<b>Expert, Post-Monitoring Mission</b> for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Mostar
Bosnia and Herzegovina	November 2018 and February 2019	<b>Expert, Monitoring Mission</b> for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe; Country Report on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bosnia and Herzegovina	July 2018 - January 2020	<b>Senior International Legal Advisor on EU integration matters</b> to the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH: Technical assistance and monitoring of reform process at HJPC and in BiH judiciary; coordination with EU Delegation in BiH and European Commission (DG NEAR and DG JUST) – resident and “embedded” expert (IPA funds)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	02-04 December 2020	<b>Organization of the conference:</b> “The ‘Dayton-generation’: The future of Bosnia in the Eyes of Young People” on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement (3 conferences), scientific supervision and initiator together with S. Keil (Christchurch University, Canterbury) and D. Kapidzic (University Sarajevo), Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2021-2023	<b>CEI Knowledge Exchange Project (KEP): “Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution and EU Accession”</b> : creation of an academic platform among the major BiH universities ( <a href="https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Progetti/Bosnia-and-Herzegovina-the-Constitution-and-EU-Accession">https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Progetti/Bosnia-and-Herzegovina-the-Constitution-and-EU-Accession</a> )
Bosnia and Herzegovina	May 2023	Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: <b>Expert Opinion with Recommendations on guaranteeing local autonomy</b> in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina through compliance with the standards of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (report and interaction with the FBiH Local Government association)

**Books**

- Jens Woelk, *Konfliktregelung und Kooperation im italienischen und deutschen Verfassungsrecht: "Leale collaborazione" und Bundestreue im Vergleich*, Nomos, Baden-Baden 1999. 367 p. [ISBN 3-7890-5983-8]
- Jens Woelk, Francesco Palermo e Joseph Marko (cur.), *Tolerance Through Law – Self-Governance and Group Rights in South Tyrol*, Martinus Nijhoff/Brill, Leiden – Boston, 2008 [ISBN 978-90-04-16302-7]
- Francesco Palermo/Jens Woelk, *Diritto costituzionale comparato dei gruppi e delle minoranze*, Cedam, terza edizione, Padova 2021, pagg. XIX-404 - [ISBN: 9-788813-375928]
- Jens Woelk, *La transizione costituzionale della Bosnia ed Erzegovina: dall'ordinamento imposto allo Stato multinazionale sostenibile?* Collana del Dipartimento Scienze giuridiche dell'Università di Trento, vol. 81, Cedam, Padova, 2008 (314 pagg.) [ISBN 978-88-13-29033-7]
- Francesco Palermo, Giovanni Poggeschi, Günther Rautz, Jens Woelk (eds.), *Globalization, Technologies and Legal Revolution. The Impact of Global Changes on Territorial and Cultural Diversities on Supranational Integration and Constitutional Theory*, Nomos, Baden-Baden 2012 (548 P.) [ISBN 978-3-8329-7870-9]
- Roberto Toniatti, Jens Woelk (eds.), *Regional Autonomy, Cultural Diversity and Differentiated Territorial Government: The Case of Tibet – Chinese and Comparative Perspectives*, Routledge, London 2017 [ISBN: 9780415525350]

**Articles**

- Woelk, Jens, *Reforms of Local Government in SEE. Closer to Europe?* in: Bruno Dallago (cur.), *Transformation and European Integration. The Local Dimension*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke 2006, pp. 85-107
- Woelk, Jens, *From Compromise to Process: the Implementation of the South Tyrolean Autonomy*, in: Boltjes, Miek (ed.), *Implementing Negotiated Agreements: The Real Challenge to Intrastate Peace*, TMC Asser Press, The Hague, 2007, pp. 157-176 [9789067042406]
- Palermo, Francesco, Woelk, Jens, *L'indipendenza della magistratura e le sue garanzie negli ordinamenti dei Balcani occidentali*, in Marina Calamo Specchia, Maddalena Carli, Giampiero di Plinio, Roberto Toniatti (a cura di), *I Balcani occidentali. Le Costituzioni della transizione*, G. Giappichelli editore, Torino 2008, pp. 203-230
- Woelk, Jens, *Chapter 7. Germany*, in Dawn Oliver, Carlo Fusaro (eds.), *How Constitutions Change. A Comparative Study*, Hart Publishing, Oxford 2011, p. 143-167 [ISBN 184960949]
- Woelk, Jens, *Bosnia-Herzegovina: Trying to Build a Federal State on Paradoxes*, Michael Burgess, G. Alan Tarr (eds.), *Constitutional Dynamics in Federal Systems: sub-national perspectives*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal & Kingston, London, Ithaca 2012, p. 109-139 [ISBN 978-0-7735-3954-9]
- Woelk, Jens, *EU Member State-Building in the Western Balkans: (Prolonged) EU-Protectorates or New Model of Sustainable Enlargement? Conclusion*, in Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity Vol. 41, Issue 3, 2013, pages 469-482 (Special Issue: *Europeanization, State-Building and Democratization in the Western Balkans*) (Taylor & Francis)
- Woelk, Jens, *Il governo locale fra condizionalità internazionale e democratizzazione 'bottom up': Il caso dei Balcani occidentali*, in: Belloni, Roberto/Cereghini, Mauro/Strazzari, Francesco, *Costruire la Pace tra Stato e territori. I dilemmi del peacebuilding*, Erickson, Trento 2014, pp. 25-59
- Woelk, Jens, *The Constitutional Transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina between Nationalism and European Conditionality*, in L. Benedizione, V.R. Scotti (eds.), *Twenty years after Dayton. The Constitutional Transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, LUISS University Press, Roma, 2016, 23-49
- Keil, Soeren and Woelk, Jens, *In Search of Functionality and Acceptance: The Distribution of Competence in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in Günther Pallaver and Ferdinand Karlhofer (eds.), *Federal Power-Sharing in Europe*, Nomos, Baden-Baden 2017, pp. 119-146
- Woelk, Jens, *From Enlargement Perspective to "Waiting for Godot"? Has the EU Lost its Transformative Power in the Balkans?* In: Antonioli, Luisa/Bonatti, Luigi/Ruzza, Carlo (eds.), *Highs and Lows of European Integration. Sixty Years After the Treaty of Rome*, Springer, Wien 2018, pp. 27-47 (ISBN 978-3-319-93625-3)

- Woelk, Jens, *A Window of Opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina?*, Rome, IAI, January 2021, 6 p. (IAI Commentaries; 21|02) (ISSN 2532-6570) Link: <https://www.iai.it/en/node/12619>
- Woelk, Jens, *Loyal cooperation: systemic principle of Italy's regionalism?* in: Erika Arban, Giuseppe Martinico, Francesco Palermo (eds.), *Federalism and Constitutional Law. The Italian Contribution to Comparative Regionalism*, Routledge 2021, p. 170-188 (<https://www.routledge.com/Federalism-and-Constitutional-Law-The-Italian-Contribution-to-Comparative/Arban-Martinico-Palermo/p/book/9780367611736>)
- Woelk, Jens, *Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in: Luís Roberto Barroso and Richard Albert (eds.), *The International Review of Constitutional Reform 2021 (IRCR)*, p. 45-48
- Woelk, Jens, *Il potere giudiziario e le riforme per preparare l'adesione all'Unione europea*, in: Laura Montanari (a cura di), *L'allargamento dell'Unione europea e le transizioni costituzionali nei Balcani occidentali. Una raccolta di lezioni*, Editoriale Scientifica, Napoli 2022, pp. 261-278 (ISBN 979-12-5976-294-8), liberamente scaricabile (<https://www.editorialescientifica.com/shop/catalogo/fuori-collana/edizioni-fuori-collana/lallargamento-dellunione-europea-e-le-transizioni-costituzionali-nei-balconi-occidentali-detail.html>)