

# CALL FOR PAPERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# GOVERNANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (2026)

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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



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**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**International Conference**  
***Governance in the European Union: Challenges and Opportunities***

**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: **Governance in the European Union: Challenges and Opportunities (2026)**.

The conference aims to examine the evolving concept of governance in the European Union, understood as a complex, multi-level system involving European, national, regional, and local actors. It provides an interdisciplinary framework for analysing both theoretical and practical dimensions of governance, including institutional arrangements, policy processes, and issues of democratic legitimacy.

While centred on the EU, the conference situates these discussions within a broader European context, encompassing regional governance, cross-border cooperation, and interactions with institutions such as the Council of Europe. Particular attention is given to the role of local and regional actors within multi-level governance structures and their contribution to contemporary European integration processes.

### **Thematic Panels**

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

#### **Panel 1: Governance in the European Union: Institutions, Actors and Processes**

This panel examines the institutional and practical dimensions of governance in the European Union, focusing on decision-making processes, policy coordination, and the role of various actors operating at different levels. Contributions may address EU institutions, member states, regional and local authorities, as well as mechanisms such as subsidiarity, multi-level governance, and cross-border cooperation. Attention is given to the role of regions and subnational actors in shaping and implementing EU policies.

#### **Panel 2: Theories of European Integration and Governance**

This panel brings together theoretical perspectives on European integration and governance, including functionalism, neofunctionalism, intergovernmentalism, and multi-level governance, as well as approaches conceptualizing the EU as a post-sovereign or imperial structure. Contributions may also explore theoretical frameworks explaining governance in complex, multi-

level political systems, including the role of regions and territorial dynamics in European integration.

### **Panel 3: Governance and Democracy: New Forms of Participation and Deliberation**

This panel focuses on innovative participatory and deliberative mechanisms developed at European, national, 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.

### **Panel 4: Regional Governance and Territorial Cooperation in Europe**

This panel focuses on governance at the regional and local levels in Europe, including the role of regional authorities, territorial cohesion, and cross-border and macro-regional cooperation. Contributions may examine institutional frameworks, policy instruments, and practical experiences of governance in regions, as well as the impact of EU policies on regional development and administrative capacity.

### **Panel 5: Regional Identity and Autonomy Movements in Contemporary Europe**

This panel examines the relationship between regional identity, autonomy claims, and secessionist movements in Europe from the perspective of governance. It focuses on how governance structures at European, national, and regional levels respond to and shape these dynamics. Contributions may address:

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

The panel encourages comparative and interdisciplinary analyses grounded in EU law, Council of Europe standards, and broader theories of governance in Europe.

## **Important Dates**

**Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30 April 2026**

Notification of acceptance: by 7 May 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 Nodżak; dr Monika Skowrońska.

### **For future inquiries, please contact:**

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### **Registration form:**

[Governance in the European Union: Challenges and Opportunities \(2026\) – Wypełnij formularz](#)



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