

SS1. Subnational Diplomacy: a Fashion or an Opportunity?

Chairs: Ilona Pálné Kovács and Balázs Brucker – brucker.balazs@krtk.hun-ren.hu

Despite the strong reorganization of relations between the levels of multi-level governance (MLG), diplomatic activity is still associated with the operation of the state, while many other actors (civil, business, multinational organizations, local and regional governments) have appeared directly in the international arena. Through their international relations, local governments worldwide expand their scope, introduce innovations, learn from each other, exchange public policy models, and spread good practices.

So far, we have limited information about the effects and operational characteristics of subnational diplomacy. The panel aims to address these questions. We welcome papers related to the international activity of subnational actors (e.g., local/regional governments, federal states, etc.) both at bilateral (twinning relations; cross-border cooperations, etc.) and multilateral level (thematic networks; representation of subnational interests in the EU institutions, etc.).