

re:constitution

Call for Applications

re:constitution fosters exchange and analysis on democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The programme invites applications for **15 Fellowships in two tracks** for the period from October 2023 to July 2024.

Deadline: 3 May 2023, 12 noon (CEST)

Forum
Transregionale
Studien

 DEMOCRACY
REPORTING
INTERNATIONAL

Funded by

STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

re:constitution Fellowships 2023/2024

Call for Applications

Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe

re:constitution is a joint programme of Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien and Democracy Reporting International, funded by Stiftung Mercator.

Forum Transregionale Studien invites applications for **15 Fellowships in two tracks** for the period from October 2023 until July 2024.

Deadline: 3 May 2023, 12 noon CEST

Stipend: € 2.500 per month during mobility period(s) between October 2023 and July 2024

What is the re:constitution Fellowship?

As challenges to democracy and the rule of law in the EU persist, they threaten not only the Union's legal order, but also its self-conception as a community of values. re:constitution offers a platform for exchange and debate about these pressing developments. Its Fellowships enable early-career scholars and practitioners to shape these debates, bridging the gap between academia and practice and contributing to the development of legal and political solutions at European level. Based on a unique concept centred around the mobility and a network of Fellows, the Fellowships are designed to strengthen their expertise through open exchange and collaboration with partners and institutions on a project of their own choice related to democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Fellows become part of a European exchange network of scholars and practitioners, building bridges between diverse personal backgrounds, disciplines and countries. Their attachment to the programme continues in the framework of the re:constitution alumni network.

Who is eligible to apply?

The programme is seeking applications from **European Union, non-EU EEA countries, Switzerland and the United Kingdom residents*** in the early stages of their careers as

SCHOLARS

holding a PhD in

- Law/legal studies,
- Political sciences,
- Social sciences,
- Philosophy,
- Other neighbouring disciplines

and focusing on issues on and around democracy and/or the rule of law in Europe.

Your PhD research should have been completed no more than 10 years ago. Scholars who are still working on their dissertation may be eligible if their PhD is close to completion (within a year).

PRACTITIONERS

- Government officials (e.g. policy advisors) from central authorities and local self-government bodies,
- Judges or practicing lawyers (attorneys)
- NGO legal/policy experts working on rule of law and democracy in the EU,
- Journalists reporting on the rule of law and/or democracy in the EU,
- General researchers/legal experts working on questions pertaining to the rule of law and/or democracy in the EU.

This list is non-exhaustive. For practitioners, comparable work experience is expected, but a PhD is not required.

* It is important to be a resident of one of these countries for the duration of the Fellowship. Citizenship in these countries is not required.

How is the re:constitution Fellowship structured?

The re:constitution Fellowships are designed for both academics and practitioners and will be awarded for the period from October 2023 to July 2024. As a new feature, the Fellowships now include two tracks to allow for part-time participation to better accommodate the individual professional requirements and personal circumstances of the applicants. Fellows from both tracks will have equal access to all parts of the programme.

TRACK 1 - Full Time

10 Fellowships for 2023-2024 available

Mobility period of 6 months to be taken flexibly between October 2023 and July 2024

Research stays during mobility period at **two host institutions** in EU / EEA / UK or CH, divided between a research institution and an institution working in a practical context and on a full-time basis each. The host institutions' locations must differ from the EU country of residence during the time of the Fellowship.

Stipend

2.500,- € per mobility month to cover 6-month mobility phase

Participation in **3 Fellows' Exchange Meetings** over 2-3 days each mandatory:

- First meeting: October 2023 in-person in Berlin
- Second meeting: February 2024 online
- Third meeting: June 2024 in-person outside of Germany

Presentation of re:constitution research project and **full participation** in **Online Fellow Talks** series

TRACK 2 - Part Time

5 Fellowships for 2023-2024 available

Mobility period of 3 months full-time (or 6 months part-time) to be taken flexibly between October 2023 and July 2024

Research stay during mobility period at **one host institution** in EU / EEA / UK or CH, with a duration

- a) of 3 months on full-time basis, or
- b) of 6 months on a part-time basis.

The location of the host institution must differ from the EU country of residence during the time of the Fellowship.

Stipend

2.500,- € per mobility month to cover 3-month full-time, OR

1.250,- € per mobility month to cover 6-month part-time mobility phase.

Participation in **at least 2 out of 3 Fellows' Exchange Meetings**.

Attendance of the first in-person meeting in October 2023 in Berlin is mandatory.

Subsequently, at least one of the remaining meetings is to be attended:

- Second meeting: February 2024 online
- Third meeting: June 2024 in-person outside of Germany

Presentation of re:constitution research project in **Online Fellow Talks** series, participation in full series optional

For more information about current and previous Fellows and the programme itself, please visit reconstitution.eu. Follow us on Twitter [@reconstitutEU](https://twitter.com/reconstitutEU) for up-to-date programme news.

What are the benefits of a re:constitution Fellowship?

Independence for scholars and practitioners to research and publish on an issue of their choice connected to democracy and the rule of law in the EU.

Exchange and debate on topical projects in high-quality and flexible environment of mutual learning and debate among scholars, legal practitioners and journalists from across Europe.

Mobility via collaboration with select host institutions across the EU and EEA/UK or CH, offering new personal and remote work and exchange opportunities.

Networking through multi-faceted exchange about democracy and the rule of law in personal meetings with leading experts and decision makers from across Europe and different backgrounds offering diverse perspectives.

Shaping the future re:constitution alumni network to build a sustainable community of knowledge with potential for further collaboration and support.

Support by the coordination team and access to a secure digital collaborative working space provided by Forum Transregionale Studien.

Opportunities to become involved in the broader analytical work of the re:constitution programme run by DRI, based on interests and availability.

With accepting the Fellowship, the applicants will agree

- ✓ to pursue an independent research project about an issue pertaining to the programmatic scope of re:constitution,
- ✓ to select host institutions across the EU and EEA / UK or CH and to manage their own research stays of 3-6 months at these host institutions according to the specifications of the preferred track,
- ✓ to attend the Fellows' Exchange Meetings in October 2023, February and June 2024, according to the specifications of the preferred track,
- ✓ to ensure their participation in the Fellow Talk series to present their research and discuss other Fellows' research projects, according to the specifications of the preferred track,
- ✓ to publish the project results and outcomes in a suitable format. These can be re:constitution Working Papers (for any academic papers) or alternatively, other output formats (e.g. policy papers, op-eds, reports, essays, podcast episodes, blog posts etc). Producing one type of outcome is the minimal requirement; further publication and dissemination is welcome. Please specify your preference/s in the application!

How to apply

Please submit your application via our secure online application platform by **3 May 2023, 12 noon CEST**: <https://application.trafo-berlin.de/>

Important! Applications by e-mail will not be considered!

As part of your application, you will be asked to prepare and upload the following:

- Curriculum vitae including publications (2-3 pages),
- Project outline (2-3 pages),
- Short abstract of your project (max. 300 words),
- Two references (university faculty members or practitioners in a field relevant to your project) who can serve as referees (Please note: Letters of recommendation are NOT REQUIRED),

- Potential host institutions (your preferred research and practice institutions in EU countries to spend part of your mobility period, ideally including an indication of preferred dates and/or existing personal contacts. By the time of submitting your application you are not yet required to organise your stays.),
- Preferred Fellowship track (only one track to be selected).

The working language of re:constitution is English.

The diversity of our societies should also be reflected in the Fellowships. We therefore welcome applicants of all cultural and social backgrounds, ages, religions, world views, disabilities or sexual identities. The applications will be evaluated by an evaluation committee of scholars and practitioners working in the fields of democracy and the rule of law. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process by early July 2023.

If you have any questions, please refer to the FAQ on our website or contact the programme coordination team: reconstitution@trafo-berlin.de

re:constitution Partner Institutions

Forum Transregionale Studien

The Forum Transregionale Studien is a platform for the international cooperation between scholars of different expertise and perspectives on global issues. The Forum provides scope for exchange on questions of science policy, epistemology and ethics, and develops infrastructures and formats that allow transregional research ideas and projects to be tested, implemented and communicated. It appoints scholars from around the world as fellows and engages in joint research programs and initiatives with partners from universities and research institutions in and outside Berlin. The Forum is funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health, Long-Term Care and Gender Equality.

forum-transregionale-studien.de

trafo.hypotheses.org

Democracy Reporting International

Democracy Reporting International (DRI) is an independent organisation dedicated to promoting democracy worldwide. We believe that people are active participants in public life, not subjects of their governments. Our work centres on analysis, reporting, and capacity-building. For this, we are guided by the democratic and human rights obligations enshrined in international law. Headquartered in Berlin, DRI has offices in Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Ukraine.

democracy-reporting.org

Stiftung Mercator

Stiftung Mercator is a private, independent foundation that acts on the basis of scientific expertise and practical project experience. Through its work, it strives for a society characterized by openness to the world, solidarity and equal opportunities. To achieve these objectives, it supports and develops projects that improve participation and cohesion in an increasingly diverse society. Stiftung Mercator wants to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Europe, address the impact of digitization on democracy and society, and drive forward climate change mitigation. Stiftung Mercator pursues activities in Germany, Europe and worldwide. It has a particular affinity with the Ruhr area, the home of its founding family and of the foundation's headquarters.

stiftung-mercator.de