

**The future of Europe from a regional perspective: expert debate on the REGIOPARL
research project in the Parliament of Galicia**

On December 2, 2019, the team the international research project REGIOPARL | Regional Parliaments Lab held a workshop in the Parliament of Galicia. REGIOPARL analyzes the role of regional parliaments in the European Union (EU) and invites regional parliamentarians to discuss the future development of the EU from their perspective. The workshop in the Parliament of Galicia was part of a series of events organized by REGIOPARL, a project dealing with the future of Europe and the EU, in the context of which the project team constituted by team members from Donau-Universität Krems and the European Democracy Lab in Berlin consult several regional parliaments of Europe.

"With our events in regional parliaments, we want to create an innovative space where parliamentarians can contribute their own ideas to the future of Europe," explains Dr. Sarah Meyer, a political scientist at Donau-Universität Krems and head of the research project. In the public debate on the future of the EU, the perspective of regional political actors is only marginally being taken into account. However, regional actors and delegates play an important role in connecting the EU with its citizens and therefore should be heard in any debate about the development of the EU.

In the Parliament of Galicia, parliamentarians described their perspectives on the future of Europe. "Decision-making processes in the EU should be reorganized," said one of the delegates, referring to the example of fishing regulations. Not only in this issue, the voice of the region should be heard more clearly on the European level. In the discussion among parliamentarians, there was consensus that greater cooperation between the EU and Galicia was necessary. The deputies also discussed the role of borders in Europe and the distribution of powers between the political levels.

The project team took away many learnings from the discussion held in the Parliament of Galicia. "We managed to capture the European political objectives of the deputies beyond the real political limits and party positions," said Prof. Univ. Ulrike Guérot, director of the Department of European Policy and Democracy Research of the Donau-Universität Krems and initiator of the project, which is carried out in cooperation with Forum Morgen. At its next stop in Andalusia, the REGIOPARL team wants to capture another regional view on the future of the EU. A total of 15 regional parliaments will be visited in seven EU member states in this innovative research project.