



***Dr. Nicole Töpferwien, Il.m.***

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In January 2007 Nicole Töpferwien, founded the consulting company State Concepts". From 2003 to 2006 she was attached to the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peace-building of the Human Security Division (Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs) and worked as an advisor for decentralisation and administration reform for the Macedonian government. Until 2003 she was a senior research fellow at the Institute of Federalism in Switzerland. After having graduated from the University of Fribourg, she obtained her PhD in law and a master (Il.m.) from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, NYC, USA.

Nicole Töpferwien has worked as an expert and consultant on various aspects of federalism, decentralisation, power-sharing, inclusion of non-majority groups in state institutions and democratic processes, and conflict transformation. Until 2002 she managed the China focal point of the Institute of Federalism. From 2003 to 2006 she supported the office of the Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister in the implementation of the 2001 Ohrid Framework Peace Agreement contributing to government strategies, programmes and legislation projects.

Since 2006 she gave inputs for the political reform processes in Nepal, the Philippines, Kosovo and Bolivia. Furthermore, she participated in the preparation of Operational Guidance Notes on "Decentralisation and Autonomy in Mediation Processes" and "Federalism in Mediation Processes" in a joint Swiss-UN project and is co-authoring a Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs mandated study on "Power-sharing: Lessons learned from the Swiss experience".

Additionally, Nicole Töpferwien is active in the academic field and has acted as Deputy Secretary General of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) from 2003-2004. She was teaching at several summer universities and actively participates in international conferences and publishes in the fields of federalism, decentralisation and the accommodation of non-majority groups.