

Minutes of RC28 Business Meeting – 14 July 2025 at IPSA WC 2025 in Seoul, South Korea

Introduction: The Chair (Soeren Keil) welcomed RC28 members and guests to the business meeting and opened the meeting. In attendance were ca. 20 RC members, including Johanna Schnabel and Juan Olmeda, who are also members of the Board of RC28.

Report on Activities of RC: The Chair reported on the most recent activities of RC28. In 2024, the RC co-organised a workshop in Chisinau, Moldova together with RC14. Michael Breen was the Board member in charge of this endeavour. In 2024, RC28 also submitted its regular report to IPSA, which has since been accepted. At the IPSA World Congress in 2025, the RC featured 8 panels, which was 3 panels fewer than in 2023. The Chair explained this with a high number of cancellation and the location of Seoul / South Korea, where there is no national or regional focus as such on multilevel governance or comparative federalism. The Chair also highlighted that the Board has agreed to team up with RC14 again in 2026 for a workshop in Bozen, Italy in June. The RC continues to operate its website, where news, new publications and information about the RC activities are available, as well as a number of social media forums.

Membership and Finances: The Chair reported that the RC currently has 69 members in good standing. Johanna Schnabel is currently the Board member overseeing membership and ensuring members pay their fees. The RC finances are healthy, with more than \$6000 in the RC's accounts, as the RC is still not spending a lot of money. For 2025, it was agreed that the RC would support the winner of the Publius Distinguished Scholar Award in his expenses to attend the IPSA World Congress and receive the award. For 2026 and 2027, there needs to be a stronger focus on supporting early career researchers from the Global South – though the RC Board and its members agree that the RC will only ever be able to provide some limited support.

Publius Distinguished Scholar Award: The award for the Publius Distinguished Scholar in 2025 was given to Prof. Harihar Bhattacharyya. He attended the World Congress in person and was awarded the prize at the RC Business Meeting. The prize is awarded in cooperation with the Center for the Study of Federalism and the RC is grateful to Prof. John Kincaid for the Center's continued support.



Prof. Bhattacharyya is awarded the Publius prize by RC28 Chair Soeren Keil

RC Board Elections: The Board of RC28 will stand down with the end of the Business Meeting but will remain provisionally in office until a new Board has been elected by RC members. The Chair announced that he will not run again, as this is against RC28 Statutes. The Board has appointed Dr Soeren Keil, the current Chair, as the Election Officer, as he is not seeking office again. He will be in touch with all RC28 members to ask for nominations for Board membership, and he will organise the online vote.

Conclusion: The RC Business meeting concluded with a note of thanks to all Board members for their hard work, all attendees for their commitment to RC28 and a plea to spread the work about the RC, its membership and activities.