Annual Report ZDA 2017
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Foreword

Important in the year 2017 were elections in Germany, France and Austria, in all of which the issue of "populism" played a significant role. Not infrequently, the media and academia also saw therein a correlation to a demand for direct democracy. And even where direct democracy is already applied, such as in Switzerland, the dangers of populism have been evoked. But in taking a closer look, one discovers that the phenomenon proves to be extremely multifaceted and that the findings made by the scientific disciplines vary widely. Against this background it is a stroke of luck that in this same year two University of Zurich assistant professorships aimed at engaging with populism from a legal and political perspective were established at the ZDA. The integration of Prof. Nadja Braun Binder and Prof. Dr. Tarik Abou-Chadi into the ZDA was significant for the year 2017. At the same time, the interdisciplinary collaboration has thereby been strengthened, since both professorships oversee the project "Direct Democracy and Populism in Europe".

While, on the one hand, new staff arrived, there has also been the departure – albeit fortunately only a partial one – from the ZDA, which is due to an invitation to another university. Prof. Dr. Uwe Serdült, who has been deputy head of the department c2d since many years and with the ZDA from the very start, now holds a professorship at the Ritsumeikan University in Japan, while retaining a, consequently, reduced function of heading a number of research projects in the field of e-democracy at the ZDA.

This last year at the ZDA was not only characterized by the further development of staff, but also by a number of successful events. The start was made by the Aarau Democracy days on the subject of "Die Rolle der Medien in der direkten Demokratie" (trans.: the role of the media in direct democracy). Very popular was also the late summer event on the topic "Richter und (Partei-) Politik" (trans.: judges and [party] politics) organised by the Friends of the ZDA. A highlight from the perspective of the ZDA was furthermore the opportunity for several researchers to make public presentations at the EDA's Conference of Ambassadors in the presence of the President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard and Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter.

During the last year, the ZDA's already strong media presence as well as activities promoting knowledge-transfer to the public increased even further. This was not least due to the fact that the ZDA has carried out post-election surveys on behalf of the Swiss Confederation ("VOTO-Analysis") since 2016. The researchers were "fortunate" to be given the opportunity to study the motives of eligible voters in rejecting the AHV reforms.

Much preliminary work carried out in 2017 is already had an effect and will continue to do so. Future annual reports will bear witness to these activities. What deserves particular mention already now is the exceedingly fruitful and constructive collaboration with numerous volunteers from the circle of the association "Friends of the ZDA". These have provided extremely valuable contributions in the preparatory work for the Aarau Democracy Days 2018. We would like to take the opportunity here to extend our heartfelt thanks. The personal contacts served to further strengthen the friendship between the ZDA and its friends.

The extensive support of the ZDA through its friends, the four sponsoring organisations the Canton Aargau, the City of Aarau, the University of Zurich and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland is invaluable. Critical questions from the public, which finances the ZDA, such as the interpellation submitted to the Great Council, to which the Executive Council has already responded, are welcome opportunities for the ZDA to make the research and the knowledge transfer more visible and accessible.
This aim will also guide our efforts in the year 2018, knowing full well that research produced by the social sciences, humanities, and jurisprudence cannot be quantitatively measured to the last detail. For the trust that the public gives in advance, it in exchange receives high standing locally and regionally applicable research founded on a policy of scientific impartiality and integrity.

Aarau, February 2018

Prof. Dr. Andreas Glaser
I. Research

Research focus 1: Direct Democracy

The classic core areas of direct democracy were researched intensively also in the last year and the results presented in distinguished publications. Particularly noteworthy is an essay by Lorenz Langer on cantonal interventions in federal voting campaigns. Already very widely discussed in the field of academic law, it has also become a subject of interest to the praxis. The article exhibits the potential to effect a change of direction in the not altogether consistent federal adjudication. Andreas Glaser took the ten-year "anniversary" of the federal court's jurisdiction in connection with the political rights on the federal level as his starting point for an interim stock-taking on the basis of numerous precedential judicial decisions made to date. The conference "The Referendum in Praxis", which took place for the first time, aroused such great interest that it was decided to continue it in the next years.

Following on the start of the interdisciplinary project 'Direct Democracy and Populism in Europe', the research focus 'Direct Democracy' experienced a significant further development during the second half of the year. Upon taking up their work as assistant professors in the fall, the two project managers Tarik Abou-Chadi and Nadja Braun Binder developed first concepts towards carrying out the project and prepare a conference with high-calibre participants in the context of the Aarau Democracy Days 2018, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Direct democracy took centre-stage during the Aarau Democracy Days 2017. The thematic focus was the role of the media in direct democracy. A core issue was the convergence brought about by digitalisation and the resulting revolution in the media landscape.

Ongoing projects


Research focus 2: Institutions of Democracy in Comparison

This past year was the last one for the national research focus NCCR Democracy, whose period of funding by the Swiss National Science Foundation has come to an end after 12 years. It was from NCCR Democracy that important impulses came towards the founding of the ZDA. A number of NCCR Democracy research projects were based at the ZDA and the connections to the NCCR Democracy were thus close. Many ZDA researchers were consequently also actively involved in the final activities of NCCR Democracy, with which the most important results were not only presented to the academic community but also to the wider public. From a scientific point of view, particularly noteworthy is the symposium prepared by Prof. Daniel Kübler in the September edition of the Swiss Political Science Review in which the most important results of the NCCR Democracy research are presented by the involved political and communications researchers. NCCR Democracy organised an events series for the wider public during the spring semester on the topic of Globalisation, mediatization and populism: challenges for democracy in the 21st century. It consisted of public lectures given by nationally and internationally noted personalities from the political and the scientific communities as well as panel discussions in which also ZDA researchers participated. Although most of these events took place at the University of Zurich, this year's Aarau Democracy Days were integrated in the series as a 'peripheral' event and could accordingly also attract a generally Zurich-focused public to the Argovian capital.

Even after the end of NCCR Democracy, parts of its research agenda will continue to be pursued at the ZDA. An important part of this is the Democracy barometer, an instrument with which the quality of democracy can be measured, including comparisons over time and between countries. It was a core project of NCCR Democracy based at the ZDA and it will be continued with ZDA's own resources from 2018. This ensures that the international databank on the quality of democracy, which is actively used by scientists and an interested public, can continue to make current data available.

Ongoing projects

Democracy barometer (ADF): An NCCR Democracy research project (Daniel Bochsler und Wolfgang Merkel [WZB]). Duration: 10/2013–09/2017. [Continued at the ZDA]


The democratic foundations of the Just City (ADF). An SNF sponsored project (Abt. I), (Oliver Dlabac, Daniel Kübler, and Peter Lee [University of Birmingham]). Duration: 03/2017–02/2020.


Topkader und Mehrsprachigkeit in der Bundesverwaltung (ADF): Research project mandated by the Research Centre on Multilingualism at the University of Fribourg (Daniel Kübler). Duration: 01/2016–12/2018.

Completed projects


**Research focus 3: Democracy and its Citizens**

The digitalization of democracy has in the mean time established itself as an integral part of research activities at the ZDA. In a prominently placed article, Micha Germann and Uwe Serdült researched the connection – important also with regard to legal policy discussions – between e-voting and voter participation. Two members of ZDA staff, Ardita Driza Maurer and Andreas Glaser, are part of the group of experts *Vote électronique* commissioned in fall 2017 by the Federal Chancellery. This group advises the Federal Council in taking e-voting from a trial operation to a regular voting channel as a further option to voting in person or by mail. Canton St. Gallen commissioned research into the lawfulness of paperless or near-paperless e-voting. In addition, Ardita Driza Maurer was commissioned by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe to provide an expert report on electronic voting. Electronic voting was finally also an important topic for the knowledge-transfer to the community such as at the Ambassadors' Conference at Lenzburg Castle, which was organised by the ZDA.

Throughout the year numerous members of staff of the department c2d were preoccupied with the conception, the writing, and the publication of the book "Das Parlamentswahlrecht der Kantone" (trans.: the parliamentary voting rights of the cantons), which was published early 2018. Herein the researchers analyse the different voting systems to the cantonal parliaments, ranging from proportional representation systems, such as the Hagenbach-Bischoff and the Doppelter Pukelsheim (double Pukelsheim), to mixed systems, and followed by the majority system. The complete cantonal legal foundations are also subjected to a revision, as are the extensive adjudication of the Federal Supreme Court and the relevant appeal proceedings.

The VOTO-studies have in the meantime become a permanent component of the ZDA. These analyses of federal voting and election behaviour are compiled on behalf of the Federal Chancellery in close cooperation with the research centre FORS at the University of Lausanne as well as with the survey institute LINK. The results always generate a great deal of interest among the public. But the collected data also offer research a wide variety of opportunities for further analyses and thus also contribute the further development and improvement of our competencies in the area of voting and election analysis.
Ongoing projects

*e-Democracy, e-Government und e-Society (c2d)*: The continuation of research in the field of digital democracy (Uwe Serdült). Duration: 06/2016–12/2018.

*Nachbefragung und Analysen zu eidgenössischen Abstimmungen (VOTO) (ADF):* Research project mandated by the Federal Chancellery (Georg Lutz [FORS], Daniel Kübler, Urs Aellig [LINK]). Duration: 06/2016–12/2020.


*What is political about consumerism? Political Consumerism in Switzerland (ADF):* SNF project funding (Abt. I), (Daniel Kübler and Birte Gundelach). Duration: 02/2017–05/2020.

Completed projects

*Designing and Exploiting the Voting Advice Application for Political Science Research: The ParteieNavi Project for the German Federal Election 2017:* SNF Lead Agency project (Div. I: Humanities and Social Sciences). Consortium composed of Universität Konstanz (Prof. Susumu Shikano), GESIS –Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Dr. Alexia Katsanidou); and ZDA (Dr. Fernando Mendez). Duration: 03/2017–12/2017.

*Preference Matcher (c2d):* Independent E-Democracy sub-project, the setting up and implementation of online voting software (Voting Advice Application) (Fernando Mendez). Duration: 06/2016–12/2017.

New approved projects:


Non-approved projects

*Verfassungswandel und Demokratie in der Europäischen Union (c2d):* Submission for project funding by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Andreas Glaser) in a lead-agency procedure with the German Research Foundation, joint submission with J.H. Klement (Universität des Saarlandes).
Research focus 4: Democracy and Historical-Political Education

In 2017, various commentators announced the arrival of the ‘post-factual age'; a development that is reflected in the 27th edition of the Duden published in the summer. New words found there include 'Fake News' (trans.: fake news) or 'Lügenpresse' (trans.: lying press). Questions raised by these neologisms include having to reflect on the role of the media in democracy. This was the topic taken up by the speakers at the 9th Aargau Democracy Days. With regard to political education it became evident that the concepts of media education and literacy need content enhancement, or in other words, need to be 'translated' in order to initiate historical/political learning. Translation achievements – namely those between the empirical and the theoretical – were the focus of the scholarly conference on the 7th and 8th September 2017 "Geschichtsdidaktik empirisch 17" (trans.: history didactics empirically 17). Consequently, the participants could experience an informative and lively exchange. With an excursion to the exhibition "Wolkenkerne, Mondgänse und Wanderbäume" in the House of Electronic Arts Basel – altogether in line with the conference title Translations II – a further 'translation' was taken into consideration: the one between science and art.

Thanks to an offensive launched by swissuniversities, which aims to underpin specialised didactics, a further step towards professionalisation could be taken. The PH Lucerne and the University of Freiburg, in collaboration with the PH FHNW Northwestern Switzerland, the Institute for Education IBW at Basel University as well as the University of Lucerne, the PH St. Gallen and the HEP Vaud, initiated the specialised Master of Arts in Educational Sciences, which was due to start with the fall semester 2017. Yet another academic milestone is the cooperative doctorate "Democracy Studies and Civic Education", which the PH FHNW together with the Institute for Political Sciences at the University of Zurich has on offer since fall 2017. First doctoral candidates have already started the program. That this can be offered is particularly felicitous as it also enables a more intensive interdisciplinary collaboration between the political sciences and political education/history didactics at the ZDA in the field of higher education teaching.

With regards to research, the three projects funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation "Doing/Undoing Difference in Political Education", "Politisiche Bildung im fächer-übergreifenden Unterricht mit Geschichte auf der Sekundarstufe I" (trans.: political education in the interdisciplinary lesson with history at secondary I level) and "Schülerinnen und Schüler schreiben Geschichte" (trans.: students write history) are now in the evaluation phase. The exchange between research and practice facilitated, i.a., the research-based further training of teachers at secondary level I (interdisciplinary lessons) as well as secondary level II (students write history). Furthermore the centre offered various continuing education programs following on numerous requests from teaching teams and schools.

With regards to publishing, the publication of two conference volumes has been very gratifying. Politische Bildung in der Demokratie makes results from the conference "politisiche bildung empirisch 14", Forschungswerkstatt Geschichtsdidaktik 15 those from the conference "geschichtsdidaktik empirisch 15" available to interested members of the public. In spring 2017, «Gesellschaften im Wandel», a new history and politics teaching product for secondary level I was launched. The project management with regard to providing content and expertise in the four-year development of the teaching material was based at the PBGD centre and the introductory phase of the teaching material also involved staff of the same team. Numerous school classes have been working with the material since August. The team PBGD will actively follow developments to observe whether the modular version of the teaching material, which also includes digital learning resources, will meet with approval in the praxis and be implemented in lessons as study media.
Laufende Projekte


Completed projects


Projektleitung "Schulen nach Bern" (PBGD): financed by "Verein Schulen nach Bern" (Stefan Walter). Duration: 01/2017–12/2017.


New approved projects


Non-approved projects

PIDEU. Schülervorstellungen zur Demokratie in der Europäischen Union (Pupils’ Ideas of Democracy in the European Union) (PBGD): Comenius und ch Stiftung für Eidgenössische Zusammenarbeit (Monika Waldis, Béatrice Ziegler). Discontinued by the project heads (Prof. Dr. G. Weisseno, PH Karlsruhe).
Cross-departmental collaborations

The last year saw a further intensification of interdisciplinary collaboration between the three departments within the framework of various projects.

In April 2017, financial approval was received from swissuniversities for a cooperative project – elaborated by the departments ADF and PBGD – within the framework of the doctoral program "Democracy Studies" at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Zurich. This provides an institutionally guaranteed possibility for PBGD staff to complete a doctoral degree at the University of Zurich. First PhD candidates have already enrolled.

In the pedagogical publication "Politishe Bildung in der Demokratie", edited by Prof. Béatrice Ziegler and Prof. Monika Waldis, Prof. Andreas Glaser researched the interrelation between political education and political rights from the perspective of constitutional law.

In the last year, the members of the ZDA directorate worked together to finalise the development plan 2018–2021, which is due to be published in spring 2018. A central aim is to bundle interdisciplinary collaboration towards supporting a research project whose content has been outflagged.

What has proven particularly fruitful was the collaboration of staff from all three departments, which in the project group together with the members of the 'Friends of ZDA' in the preparation for the 10th Aarau Democracy Days, titled "Forum Direkte Demokratie" (trans.: forum direct democracy), which will take place in spring 2018. The main preparatory work for this was carried out in summer and fall 2017. To be commended are dedicated staff from the ZDA Nevin Martina Bucher, Dr. Oliver Dlabac, Dr. Stefan Walter and Eliane Widmer. With regards to the "Friends of the ZDA", a special thanks goes to Daniel Siegenthaler, Maja Wanner and Otto Wertli.

The research project Direkte Demokratie und Populismus in Europa is interdisciplinary in its overall conception. Within its scope, the phenomenon of populism and its interaction with direct democracy are examined from the legal and political perspective. Prof. Nadja Braun Binder and Prof. Tarik Abou-Chadi took up their posts at the ZDA on 1 September, respectively, 1 November 2017. They organised the academic conference "Demokratie und Populismus" (democracy and populism), which took place as part of the Aarau Democracy Days 2018, and successfully acquired funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation.
II. Publications

ZDA Publications

Schriften zur Demokratieforschung: In this series, brought out by Verlag Schulthess Zurich, the ZDA and its departments regularly publish their research. In the reporting year 2017 these were:

- Band 13 Politische Rechte für Ausländerinnen und Ausländer?
  Andreas Glaser (Hrsg.)
  Schulthess Juristische Medien AG (Zürich), March 2017
  ISBN: 978-3-7255-7547-3 (202 pages, paperback)

C2D Working Paper Series: An online publication registered with the Schweizerischen Landesbibliothek (ISSN 1662-8152) and accessible at the Open Access Portal of the UZH zora. Published by the department c2d. In the reporting year one issue was published.

POLIS. The journal for political education. Published by the department PBGD, the publication has as its focus topical questions on political education and is aimed at teachers, individuals interested in political education and expert groups.

- POLIS No. 10 on the topic "Schweizer Heimat" was published late 2017. Eds: Vera Sperisen, Claudia Schneider.

ZDA research reports (online publication):
- "Wer wählt wen bei den Aargauer Wahlen 2016":
  Thomas Milic, Uwe Serdült February 2017

Monographs 2017

- Soto, Francisco & Welp, Yanina (2017). Los 'diálogos ciudadanos'. Chile ante el giro deliberativo. Santiago de Chile: LOM.

Anthologies 2017

Journal articles 2017

Peer-reviewed journals


Gundelach, Birte, Buser, Patricia and Kübler, Daniel (2017). Deliberative democracy in local governance: the impact of institutional design on legitimacy. Local Government Studies, 43(2), 218-244.


Non-peer-reviewed journals


**Book chapters 2017**


Online publications 2017


Welp, Yanina (2017). ¿Dejar que la gente gobierne? La democracia directa en el siglo XXI. Condistinticosacentos (Universidad de Salamanca). 18.01.2017. [blogpost]

III. Teaching

Lectures and seminars at universities:

**Braun Binder, Nadja:** Lecture *Staatsrecht II*, RWF, University of Zurich, HS 2017.

**Dlabac, Oliver:** Master-Seminar *Decentralisation, Local Democracy, and Social Justice – European and Global Perspectives*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Glaser, Andreas:** Lecture *Demokratie*, RWF, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Glaser, Andreas:** Lecture *Staatsrecht III*, RWF, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Kübler, Daniel:** Bachelor-compulsory module *Kernkompetenzen Schweizer Politik*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Kübler, Daniel:** Bachelor-non-compulsory module *Politis und Demokratie in der Stadt*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Langer, Lorenz:** Lecture *Recent International Case Law*, RWF, University of Zurich, HS 2017.

**Langer, Lorenz:** Tutorial *Transnationales Recht*, RWF, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Marti Philipp:** Seminar *Kolonialismus als Thema des Geschichtsunterrichts*, Institut Bildungswissenschaften (IBW) University of Basel/School of Education FHNW, HS 2017.

**Milic, Thomas:** Lecture *Angewandte Methoden II*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Milic, Thomas:** Research seminar *Abstimmungsforschung in der Schweiz*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Milic, Thomas:** Lecture *Angewandte Methoden I*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, HS 2017.

**Milic, Thomas:** Lecture *Einführung in die Methoden I*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, HS 2017.

**Milic, Thomas:** Research seminar *Abstimmungsforschung in der Schweiz*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, HS 2017.

**Ruth, Saskia P. & Welge, Rebecca:** Master-Seminar *Gamification in der Demokratieforschung. Demokratie als Bildungsspiel*, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, FS 2017.

**Serdült, Uwe:** Lecture series UZH: *Gefährdet E-Voting die Schweizer Demokratie?*, 26.10.2017, University of Zurich.

**Waldis, Monika:** Demantowsky Marko: *Basler Kolloquium zur Didaktik der Geschichte und Politik. Postkoloniale Perspektiven und die historisch-politische Bildung heute*, Institut Bildungswissenschaften (IBW) University of Basel/School of Education FHNW, FS 2017.

**Waldis, Monika:** Seminar *Historisch Denken Lernen mit Zeitgeschichte*, Institut Bildungswissenschaften (IBW) University of Basel/School of Education FHNW, FS 2017.


**Welp, Yanina:** Diplomado en Elecciones, Representación Política y Gobernanza Electoral: *The political motivations behind the use of direct democracy*, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México, 16.08.2017.

**Welp, Yanina:** Summer School NCCR Democracy: *Democratization in a Globalized and Mediatized World*, University of St. Gallen, 26.–30.06.2017.

**Zamora, Patrik:** *Einführung ins Wissenschaftliche Arbeiten*, School of Education FHNW, HS 2017.
IV. **Services**

1. **Databases**

   **www.c2d.ch**

   The online database on national and regional referendums around the world, with entries beginning in the year 1791, has been further updated in the reporting year. Thanks to the committed work of several junior assistants, both the cantonal and international segments are once again up to date. The website and the database that drives it were taken offline for a complete redesign during the last three months of the year to be made available in a new version at the beginning of 2018.

   **E-voting in Switzerland**

   The database documents e-voting trials in Switzerland. It contains information about the implementation in (almost) all elections and referendums in which it was possible to cast votes electronically (2003–2017). At the end of 2017, 3,723 data points on e-voting trials from 13 cantons on municipal levels were registered. The data set will be made available to interested parties.

   **Database Swiss elections and voting (ZDA-BFS)**

   The ZDA supports the Federal Statistical Office in the further development and data processing of the election and voting statistics. The BFS commission (duration: 4 years each) includes data processing and database administration of cantonal parliamentary and government elections, assessments and support during federal elections based on political expertise, support work during federal and municipal voting, political expert consultancy as well as collecting and preparing data and metadata with regard to election and voting statistics, further development and amendment of the statistics of elections and voting. The analyses are available online at the BFS.

   **www.democracybarometer.org [update]**

   A database for measuring the quality of democracy in 69 democracies worldwide. The project measures the quality of democracy based on the three fundamental principles of freedom, control and (political) equality, broken down according to 9 democracy functions, over 100 indicators, and over the period 1990–2014. The website allows a visualisation of data according to country, through time periods, and/or a comparison between countries. It documents the concept, the data, and makes all raw data – which are indispensable for scientific research implementation – available. An update to 2016 is in progress.

   **www.politischebildung.ch**

   The portal on political education informs comprehensively about political education in Switzerland. It points the way to didactics, game and tool development by PBGD/ZDA and offers materials, information and networking possibilities on political education, as well as suggestions for lessons.

   **www.politiklernen.ch**

   The new website politiklernen.ch provides teaching and learning materials for teachers at secondary level I. Politiklernen.ch is a NCCR Democracy transfer project. The website is continuously updated and furnished with new materials.
2. Reports, expertise, evaluations

Auer, Andreas and Bisaz, Corsin. Mandate to assist the President of Mongolia for the elaboration of a law to introduce instruments of direct democracy (04/2015–03/2017, financially supported by the DEZA Mongolia).

Auer, Andreas and Bisaz, Corsin (2017). The ZDA’s assistance to Mongolia in its efforts to introduce direct democratic instruments. Final report.

Bochsler, Daniel: Abstimmungsdetektiv, software to identify anomalies in election results, mandated by the state chancellery of Canton St. Gallen.


Glaser, Andreas and Fuhrer, Corina (2017). Rechtliche Zulässigkeit der papierlosen und papierarmen elektronischen Stimmabgabe (State Chancellery St. Gallen) [expertise]

Glaser, Andreas and Kübler, Daniel (2017). Evaluation of the resolution draft of 13 Juli 2017 "Partager notre diversité: le 20e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle sur la démocratie" (Parliamentarian delegation of the Inter-parliamentary Union IPU) [legal and political science-based expert opinion].


V. **Knowledge transfer to the public**

The communication of research results to the (political) policy makers, (local) authorities, media as well as the wider public, besides the scientific research and in accordance with the dual service agreement, has high priority at the ZDA. Based on this, public relations work has the aim to regularly inform all these focus groups, according to their needs, about new projects and results. In accordance with this strategy, the ZDA website was completely redesigned in 2017, the newsletter activities professionalised and the social media activities of the ZDA intensified. The ZDA now has at its disposal an attractive and well-connected online presence that serves as an ideal addition to the diverse face-to-face activities towards communicating ZDA research (events, presentations, etc.).

Another continuing, positive development is the presence of the ZDA research in the media – one of the extremely important channels for the transfer of scholarly research to the public domain. A particularly broad coverage is achieved by the VOTO studies (2017 on the tax reform and the pensions reform). But also our expertise on democracy and populism, on the implementation of referendums, national elections and voting as well as elections in Aargau, democracy in the municipality and political education (see below for a selection of contributions to the media) were often utilised. In collaboration with swissinfo.ch three nice video portraits were made of ZDA members of staff, who presented their research projects. Good cooperations exist with swissinfo.ch and DeFacto towards furthering these transfer activities. The ZDA also maintains regular exchanges with additional national and regional media. A noteworthy example is the online survey on the elections in Canton Aargau (24 October 2017). An article about the eventful history of the ZDA, which received wide attention, was published in the magazine ARGOVIA (published by Hier und Jetzt) in 2017.

The TV series "Der Bestatter" very nearly set about solving a murder at the ZDA – the Villa Blumenhalde, the property, and the poisonous yews in the garden won the film crew over, but unfortunately the filming had to be scuppered as the driveway was too narrow for the camera's tracking shots. The ZDA, however, continues to be available for future investigative work by the "Bestatter" or other (criminalistic) detective programs.

1. **Events**

A highlight among the events in 2017 is the 9th Aarau Democracy Days on "Die Rolle der Medien in der direkten Demokratie" (trans.: the role of the media in direct democracy). The timeliness and exigency of the subject-matter and the fact that a number of well-known personalities were among the audience attracted some 200 guests. Also, the three panels of the corresponding scholarly conference were well attended, with between 60 and 100 participants each. Within the scope of the collaboration of the ZDA with swissinfo.ch/Dear Democracy, a platform on direct democracy, the public event on 16th March was transmitted as a livestream on Facebook (ca. 5,000 clicks) and therewith expanded into a virtual space. The new experimental format was met with great enthusiasm. Within the framework of a further collaboration with DeFacto (platform of the IPZ UZH and other university-level institutions for knowledge transfer to the public domain) a series of articles resulted on the «Rolle der Medien in der direkten Demokratie» (trans.: role of the media in direct democracy).
ZDA events 2017

9th Aarau Democracy Days "Die Rolle der Medien in der direkten Demokratie",
16th and 17th March 2017, Kultur & Kongresshaus Aarau:

Lecture and panel discussion on the topic "Direkte Demokratie in Zeiten
individualisierter Medienutzung", 16 March 2017

Expert Conference, 17 March 2017
Panel 1: Medien im Abstimmungskampf: Berichterstattung und Wirkung
Panel 2: Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen der digitalisierten Medienlandschaft
Panel 3: Politische Bildung im Zeitalter von Internet und Social Media

The late summer event of the association Friends of the ZDA on the topic "Richter
und (Partei-) Politik", 24 August 2017, ZDA:
Lecture held by Prof. Dr. Regina Kiener, Ordentliche Professorin für Staats- und
Verwaltungsrecht, Universität Zürich and Rudolf Ursprung, Ehemaliger Bundesrichter,
followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Marcel Bolz.

Geschichtsdidaktik empirisch 17: Translation II
Expert conference, 7 and 8 September 2017, Alte Universität Basel
Overview of trends, ideas and problems in empirical research in history didactics
(http://www.geschichtsdidaktik-empirisch.ch/).

Conference «Praxis der Volksinitiative», 28 September 2017, ZDA
Lead: Prof. Dr. A. Glaser und Prof. Dr. A. Kley. Lectures by Nagihan Musliu, MLaw,
Assistentin ZDA, Luka Markic, MLaw, Assistent UZH, Nadine Marra, Leiterin
Stadtbüro Stadt Aarau, Julien Fiechter, Stv. Leiter Sektion Politische Rechte,
Bundeskanzlei, Andreas Hugi, CEO & Managing Partner Furrerhugi AG.

2. Public relations

In 2017, the fact that the ZDA is a well-networked research centre, recognized in the national
and international community, as well as among (political) decision-makers, who regularly
depend on the staff's expertise, was once again made impressively evident during the
numerous events that took place at and in collaboration with the ZDA. An noteworthy
example is the Ambassador's Conference 2017, which took place on invitation of the then
President of the Swiss Confederation, Doris Leuthard (24 August 2017 at Schloss Lenzburg),
or the Austrian delegation of politicians and members of the media who visited the Villa
Blumenhalde on 30 November 2017 in order to learn more about direct democracy in
Switzerland (and to consider whether, or how it could be transferred to Austria).

The ZDA receives a growing number of requests for lectures, expertise, visits and
subscriptions of the newsletter (in January 2018: 463). Since summer 2016, the ZDA
manages, in addition to its presence on Facebook (666 followers), a Twitter account (595
followers, among whom one can find numerous academics, politicians and members of the
media). Since Wikipedia plays an important role in Google's ranking system, the ZDA
Wikipedia entry has been updated and expanded.

3. Contributions in the media

ZDA staff members are regularly present in the national and international media with their
expertise. The greatest number of media contributions are linked to Facebook and Twitter
(www.facebook.com/zdaaarau; www.twitter.com/zdaaarau), and a selection of our contributions
are also regularly listed in the "News" section of our website.
The following is a selection of contributions of the year 2017. Among the highlights were **contributions and expert reports by ZDA staff** on the following topics:

**Voting behaviour by Swiss living abroad**

**Election of Ignazio Cassis as member of the Federal Council of Switzerland**

**Democracy in the municipalities**

**(Direct) Democracy and the media**

**Democracy and populism**

**Direct democracy in Mongolia**

**Direct democracy in Austria**

**E-voting**

**Municipality mergers**

**Multilingualism and federalism**

**Political education in Switzerland**

**Political consumption**
Politics and justice in Switzerland

The implementation of popular initiatives

The independence referendum in Catalonia

Referendum on the pension reform

Referendum on the tax reform
"Wer brachte die Rentenreform zu Fall?", Bericht über die Resultate der VOTO-Studie. in: SRF, 30. März 2017.

Voting in Aargau

Media notices and mentions
30.03.2017: Medienmitteilung "Ergebnisse der VOTO-Studie zur eidgenössischen Volksabstimmung vom 12. Februar 2017"
04.07.2017: Medienmitteilung "Nadja Braun Binder wird Assistenzprofessorin am Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau"
VI. **Organisation / Resources**

1. **Organs / Partners**

   a. **Partners**

   The ZDA is a joint research institute of the City of Aarau, the Canton of Aargau, the University of Zurich (UZH) and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW).

   b. **Board of Partners**

   The Board of Partners is composed of two delegates each per partner:

   - State Councillor Alex Hürzeler (Chairman of the ZDA General Meeting, Head of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports BKS of Canton Aargau)
   - Dr. Katja Gentinetta (Canton Aargau representative)
   - Mayor Jolanda Urech (City of Aarau representative)
   - Prof. Dr. Thomas Bernauer (City of Aarau representative)
   - Prof. Dr. Gabriele Siegert (Vice President for Arts and Social Sciences, University board UZH representative)
   - Prof. Dr. Thomas Gächter (RWT, UZH representative)
   - Prof. Dr. Sabina Larcher (Director of the College of Education, FHNW representative)
   - Prof. Dr. Andrea Bertschi-Kaufmann (Head of the Institute Research and Development PH FHNW, FHNW representative until 31.08.2017)
   - Dr. Alexander Hofmann, (Vice Director School of Education, FHNW representative since 01.09.2017)

   Dr. Alexander Hofmann, Vice Director PH FHNW, has taken over as delegate of the FHNW in the general meeting of the ZDA following on the retirement of Prof. Dr. Andrea Bertschi as of 01.09.2017.

   The partners' meeting is the strategic steering organ of the ZDA. Its responsibility is to supervise and control the activities of the centre and manage the organisation's funds in accordance with its purpose. In the financial year 2017 it approved the annual report and financial reporting 2016, and approved the 2018 budget and also finalised the development plan 2018–21.

   c. **Directorate**

   The Directorate is the operative management body of the ZDA and is composed of the heads of the three departments, who are at the same time professors at the UZH, respectively, professors at the FHNW. The chair is held by a member selected by the partner meeting for one term, defined as lasting two to four years.

   As of 01.01.2017 the general meeting elected Prof. Dr. A. Glaser on a rotation basis as the new Chairman of the Directorate ZDA for the 2017–2020 term of office. After the PBGD department head changeover in 2016, the board could begin work in the reporting year – in its new composition:

   - Prof. Dr. Andreas Glaser, Chairman Directorate ZDA 2017–2020, Department Head c2d, Professor for Public Law at the UZH;
• Prof. Dr. Daniel Kübler, Department Head ADF; Professor for Democracy Research and Public Governance at the UZH, Director of NCCR Democracy;
• Prof. Dr. Monika Waldis Head of Department PBGD, Professor at the FHNW and Head of the Centre for Citizenship and History Education.

In 2017, the directorate convened at 8 formal meetings; informal discussions took place on a regular basis. D. Kübler spent 01.08.2017 to the end of January 2018 at the University Science Po in Paris within the context of a research semester.

d. Expert Advisory Board

As two members of the advisory board stepped down in 2016, the board held their 2017 meeting in a new composition (in alphabetical order):

• Prof. Dr. Giovanni Biaggini, Chair in Constitutional, Administrative and European Law, University of Zurich;
• Prof. Dr. Carla van Boxtel, Professor of Teaching Methodology with a focus on history education, Research Institute of Child Development and Education, University of Amsterdam;
• Prof. Dr. Silja Häusermann, Full Professor of Swiss Politics and Comparative Political Economy, Institute for Political Science, University of Zurich;
• Prof. Dr. Dirk Lange, Professor for Didactics of Civic Education, Institute for Political, Science, Leibnitz University Hannover;
• Prof. Dr. Yannis Papadopoulos, Professor of Swiss Politics and Public Policy, Institute of Political, Historical and International studies, University of Lausanne;
• Prof. Dr. Bernhard Waldmann, Chair in Constitutional and Administrative Law, Institute for Federalism, Faculty of Law, University of Fribourg.

The scientific advisory board advised the directorate, in accordance with the ZDA statutes, in drawing up the 2018–2021 development plan and provided their expert opinion on the annual report to the partners' meeting. In addition to the regular bilateral meetings with members of the directorate who head up departments, a joint meeting takes place once a year. This took place on 14 September 2017 at the UZH in Zurich-Irchel under the direction of Prof. A. Glaser. The member of the board present in person was Professor Silja Häusermann (IPZ-UZH). Connected via videoconference were Prof. Carla van Boxtel (University of Amsterdam) and Prof. Yannis Papadopoulos (University of Lausanne). Prof. Giovanni Biaggini (RWF-UZH), Prof. Dirk Lange (University of Hannover) and Prof. Bernhard Waldmann (University of Fribourg) were unable to take part, but submitted their input in writing. The advisory opinions and discussions were summarised in a report to the partners' meeting. This year again the members of the advisory board issued the ZDA and its directorate a very good testimonial. They are, yet again, impressed by the expert output of the ZDA staff as well as the qualitative and quantitative aspect, the high international visibility in the expert and media spheres as well as the high share of third-party funded projects. The self-image of the members of the directorate, as seen from the outside, was considered to be, in a positive sense, 'entrepreneurial'. What is considered unique for a research institution (the main strength) is the continual and goal-oriented interaction with civil society.
2. **Staff**

On the reporting date 31.12.2017, a total of 53 staff were employed at the ZDA; the cost-relevant average of full-time equivalents in the reporting year was 2613.50 (ca. 26 full-time equivalents).

The staff statistics, according to function and departments, for the year 2017 gives the following picture:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>ADF</th>
<th>c2d</th>
<th>PBGD</th>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>Total percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistants without degrees</td>
<td>14.96</td>
<td>99.18</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>118.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistants with BA</td>
<td>70.11</td>
<td>71.67</td>
<td>17.62</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>159.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistants with MA/licentiate</td>
<td>45.24</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>48.45</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>128.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD students</td>
<td>365.83</td>
<td>267.50</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>733.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdocs</td>
<td>188.33</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>537.49</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>388.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research associates</td>
<td>115.00</td>
<td>212.50</td>
<td>537.49</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>864.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant professors</td>
<td>16.67</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>administrative/technical staff</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>170.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total full-time equivalents</td>
<td>816.14</td>
<td>919.18</td>
<td>728.18</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>2613.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of staff on 31.12.2017</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* excl. Directorship
** according to UZH terminology

In the last year it was again possible to raise the number of doctoral and research assistant positions, while reducing the number of postdocs in accordance with the personnel strategy of the ZDA and in the interest of promoting young academics. This has proven to be expedient as two new positions for postdocs were created through the two assistant professorships.

**Figure 1: Development of FTEs at the ZDA 2010-2017 according to function**

![Graph showing development of full-time equivalents from 2010 to 2017](image)
Department of General Democracy Research (ADF):

Prof. Dr. Daniel Kübler, Prof. Dr. Daniel Bochsler, Prof. Dr. Tarik Abou-Chadi
Dr. Oliver Dlabac, Dr. Birte Gundelach, Dr. Tomislav Milic, Dr. Steffen Mohrenberg,
Dr. Saskia Ruth
Nino Abzianidze, Deborah Beuret, Madlaina Bruderer, Alice El-Wakil, Sebastian Fust, Lea Heyne, Andreas Juon, Lukas Lauener, Deborah Kalte, Anna-Lina Müller, Pascale Münch, Thomas Reiss, Philippe Rochat, Michelle Roos, Lyne Schuppisser, Michael Strebel, Sophie von Wartburg, Aleksandra Zdeb, Roman Zwicky

Completed qualifying papers:

L. Heyne, Critical, satisfied or alienated citizens? Conceptualizing and understanding democratic (dis)satisfaction, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.

Ongoing qualifying papers:

Z. Burkadze, Hybrid regimes and political transition, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.
A. El-Wakil, Reconsidering Direct Democracy: The Value of the Facultative Referendum in Democratic Systems, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.
D. Kalte, Political consumerism in Switzerland: Are vegans the new political actors?, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.
Ph. Rochat, Effekte des lokalen Kontextes auf die politische Beteiligung, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.
L. Rohrbach, Conflict in Multi-Ethnic States: The Role of Territorial Self-Governance, Diss. Universität Kopenhagen.
M. Strebel, A politicized metropolis? Citizen's political attitudes and behavior in European city-regions, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.
R. Zwicky, Democratic Foundations of the Just City, Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.

Department Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (c2d):

Prof. Dr. Andreas Glaser, Prof. Dr. Nadja Braun Binder
Dr. Julian Beriger, Dr. Corsin Bisaz, Dr. Lorenz Langer, Dr. Fernando Mendez, Dr. Uwe Serdült, Dr. Yanina Welp
Nicolas Aubert, Svenja Balla, Salim Brüggemann, Nevin Bucher, Magdalena Despotov, Ardita Driza Maurer, Marco Ehrat, Julia Eigenmann, Corina Fuhrer, Louis Gebistorf, Katja Gfeller, Till Hächler, Valérie Humm, Irina Lehner, Nagihan Musliu, Liana Sala, Gabriel Steffen

Completed qualifying papers:

A. Tornic, The Popular Complaint as Access Right of Individuals to the Constitutional Courts in the Successor States of the Former Yugoslavia, Diss, Jur. Fak. UZH (bei Prof. A. Auer).

Ongoing qualifying papers:

N. Aubert, Démocratie directe dans le Canton de Vaud, Diss. Jur. Fak. UZH (bei Prof. A. Auer).
J.-I. Beriger, Die Kodifizierung des nichtstreitigen Verwaltungsverfahrens in Russland, Habil, Jur. Fak. UZH.
N. Bucher, Die Einräumung parlamentarischer Vorstossrechte als Mitwirkungsinstrumente der jugendlichen Wohnbevölkerung, Diss. Jur. Fak. UZH.
C. Bisaz, Verfahrensrechtliche Bedingungen legitimer Volksentscheide, Habil, Jur. Fak. UZH.
C. Fuhrer, Die Umsetzung erfolgreicher Volksinitiativen auf kantonaler Ebene, Diss. Jur. Fak. UZH.
L. Langer, Die Richterwahl als republikanische Institution, Habil, Jur. Fak. UZH.
N. Musliu, Die Umsetzung erfolgreicher Volksinitiativen auf Bundesebene, Diss, Jur. Fak. UZH.
E. Somer, Kantonale Volksinitiativen im Vergleich, Diss, Jur. Fak. UZH (bei Prof. A. Auer).

Department of Civic and History Education (PBGD):

Prof. Dr. Monika Waldis
Dr. Philipp Marti
Simone Affolter, Jonas Borer, Anic Sophie Davatz, Kristine Gollin, Franziska Hedinger,
Manuel Hubacher, Lenya Koechlin, Viviane Nadler, Martin Nitsche, Ruth Probst, Claudia
Schneider, Vera Sperisen, Julia Thyroff, Stefan Walter, Patrik Zamora

Ongoing qualifying papers:

F. Hedinger, Vermittlung der Politischen Bildung im Geschichtsunterricht auf Sekundarstufe I – Eine
Untersuchung bezüglich dem Lehrplan 21-Themenbereich "Menschenrechte", Diss. Swissuniversities
Doktoratsprogramm UZH IPZ/PH FHNW Democracy Studies/Civic Education.

E. Maienfisch, Differenzierungsprozesse im (Berufs-)Bildungssystem und soziale Mobilität am
Beispiel der ausseruniversitären Hochschulentwicklung in der Schweiz im Bereich Wirtschaft ab 1950,
Diss. Phil. Fak. UZH.

M. Nitsche, Beliefs von Geschichtslehrpersonen, Diss. Phil.-Hist. Unibas.
K. Oehler, Learning with images – visual literacy and historical reasoning, Diss. Phil.-Hist. Unibas.
P. Zamora, Messung von Wissen in Politischer Bildung bei Sek II-SchülerInnen, Diss. Phil. Fak.
UZH.
S. Zurbrügg, Europabildung im allgemeinbildenden Unterricht in der Schweiz – Bestandsaufnahme
und Empfehlungen, Diss. Swissuniversities Doktoratsprogramm UZH IPZ/PH FHNW Democracy
Studies/Civic Education.

ZDA Pool:

Nathalie Baumann (Public Relations), Eliane Widmer (Head of Administration & Finance).

Every year additional guest researchers join the ZDA team for a few weeks or months. In the
reporting year these were:

Zarina Burkadze: ADF/NCCR, September 2014 to August 2017, Swiss Government
Excellence Scholarship as doctoral candidate at the UZH, Georgia;

Maria Eugenia Perez: c2d, November 2017 to March 2018, internship at the University
Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris;

Martha Sandoval: c2d, March 2016 to mid 2018, Government Scholarship, Mexico.
3. Financial report 2017 / Finance plan

The financial reporting for the attention of the partners/funding institutions encompasses the detailed annual statement per cost centre/department with budget adjustments as well as various analysis reports. Since 2013, the total sum of all expenses is reported, independent of the method of financing. In the gross personnel costs, the share of different funding sources (own resources, resp. third party funds) is, in addition, reported separately. The third-party funds are itemised as funds raised competitively and in part as contracted research.

The most significant key data of the annual statement are summarised in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZDA TOTAL ACTUAL AMOUNT 2017 by departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carryover balance 01.01.2017 (incl. earmarked funds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third-party funded staff costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>financed by basic funding (contribution partners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNAL ALLOCATION: ADMINISTRATION COSTS (POOL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVENUES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own resources (basic provisions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution Canton AG (incl. administration costs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution City of Aarau (incl. administration costs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding FHNW to the administration costs (Pool)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding UZH: assistant position professorship Kübler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding UZH: project contributions NCCR Democracy + Graduate Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding UZH: project contributions &quot;direct democracy and populism&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance director ZDA (1/3 UZH and 1/3 PH FHNW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DISPOSABLE FUNDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-party funds (outside financing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue SNF projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue overhead SNF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue other third-party projects (incl. overhead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue other (services, donations,...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES FROM THIRD-PARTY FUNDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-party funds quota (competitive projects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-party funds quota (commissioned projects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-party funds quota (total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE on 31.12.2017 (incl. earmarked funds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earmarked funds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the contractually defined funding by the partners and the internally produced assets of the parent universities in projects (2017 total CHF 2,571,597), it was possible to raise subsidies to the amount of CHF 1,184,485. This is equivalent to a third-party quota (percentage share of costs financed by third-party funds) of an average of 30.6%. In the benchmark with the social sciences and jurisprudence, the ZDA is, with this, consistently on an above average level of over 30%. The share of competitively acquired third-party funds is at 27.2% high compared to the total expenditure; 3.4% were generated by means of contracted research, mandates and services.
The budget for the **administrative overhead expenses** (cost centre "Pool") of a total of CHF 550,000 is, for an institute the size of the ZDA, very tightly calculated. Costs can only be maintained at this low level thanks to the link to the administration of the parent universities (personnel and financial administration), despite consistent growth of the scope of tasks and the regulatory demands. The largest expense item is the rent cost of ca. CHF 200,000 for the Villa Blumenhalde.

Due to the upcoming conversion of the telephone system to the IP standard, it was necessary to replace the ZDA's outdated telephone unit in 2017. By connecting with the FHNW infrastructure, it was possible to implement a cost-saving solution (scope of investment CHF 12,000). In addition to the strategic reserves for replacement investments, funds were placed in reserve to support public relations work.

In 2017, the third-party funding quota of the **Department c2d** fell temporarily after the phase-out of the project financing of e-democracy; the research focus will be continued internally after the service agreement with the Canton Aargau and other cantonal and national partners has been finalised. In addition to the ongoing projects funded by the SNF and the Avina-Stiftung, again various legal opinions and expert reports for state and private institutions were provided. From 2018, a group of experts will conduct follow-up surveys to cantonal elections and voting by order of the Canton Aargau (Duration: 3 years). In addition, Julian-Ivan Beriger will be sponsored from July 2017 to June 2018 with an early-postdoc stipend from the SNF towards realizing a research stay at the Institut für osteuropäisches Recht und Rechtsvergleichung at the University of Cologne.

The **Department ADF** is conducting several prestigious third-party funded mandates (data analyses for the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, voting analyses "VOTO" in cooperation with FORS/LINK and commissioned by the Federal Chancellery, study of multilingualism in the Federal Administration) and is realizing three research projects funded by the SNF.

After the phase-out of NCCR Democracy in fall 2017, the **Demokratiebarometer** will be kept going at the ZDA, with funds having been placed in reserve towards this. The remaining reserves will be used for the funding of personnel and projects (the stipend "Demokratieforschung", the project cooperation "Citizen Participation in China" and project set-up "Direkte Demokratie und Populismus in Europa").

With a third-party funding quota of 55.8%, the **Department PBGD** achieved an exceptionally good result in the reporting year (as centre of the Institute of Research and Development of the PH FHNW, it is bound by the self-financing requirements of the PH FHNW). This sharp increase and the concomitant increase in project volume entailed the recruitment of more staff. Currently, the furtherance of writing and historical thinking in history lessons at grammar school level, the question of migration-related differences in school-internal and external offers of political education, as well as didactic questions on the implementation of the teaching plan 21 topics in interdisciplinary lessons are being studied in larger project contexts. An additional focus is the further education of teachers towards the introduction of the teaching plan 21 in primary schools in the four partner cantons on the topics "Räume, Zeiten, Gesellschaften" (trans.: spaces, times, societies), which in various aspects, poses new demands on teaching requirements for teachers.
**Financial planning**

Basic funding by the four partners (based on the articles of the partnership, in CHF):

- City of Aarau: 785,000.–
- Canton AG: 800,000.–
- UZH: 300,000.– (Assistant Professorship D. Kübler IPZ/UZH as well as internally generated project assets)
- FHNW: 450,000.– (Administrative cost contributions and internally generated project assets)

**Total**: 2,335,000.–

The contributions of the parent universities by means of internally produced assets were contractually fixed at a minimum of CHF 200,000 (UZH), resp., 300,000 (FHNW). As a rule, the effective project funding, however, extensively exceeds these figures.

The basic contribution of the UZH to the ZDA is realized through the financing of an assistant's post at the IPZ/UZH chair of the ADF department head and internally produced assets in projects, which were realized until September 2017 within the context of NCCR Democracy (Department ADF). From October 2017, with the phasing out of NCCR Democracy a transition to the new project funding of "Direkte Demokratie und Populismus in Europa/Direct Democracy and Populism in Europe" will take place: The UZH funds two assistant professorships with one doctoral post each; one of which is affiliated with the Faculty of Philosophy (IPZ), and the other with the Faculty of Law (RWI). With the approved budget of CHF 420,000/year for the project duration (2017–2020, with the option to extend for a further three years), the UZH provides a contribution to the ZDA that is more than double the contractually stipulated sum – showing a clear commitment and appreciation for the successful institutional collaboration with the other partners.

In addition, based on financial planning targets, project-related third-party funds amounting to ca. CHF 1,200,000 for research projects and services are to be realized. CHF 1,282,174 was budgeted for the year 2018. To be noted, however, is that the budgeting of the expected third-party funds from public institutions (in particular the SNF, federal authorities and the cantonal administration) as well as private organisations (foundations, NGOs, private firms and associations…) depends on planned or pending project applications and/or expected commissions. The actual project commitments/commissions very much depend on external factors (economic situation, political developments…) and are difficult to appraise.