

Rolf Frankenberger | Elena Chernenkova [eds.]

Local Governance and Public Wellbeing

Comparing Russian and German Examples



Nomos

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Preface

Since 2014, there is a vital exchange and cooperation between scientists, civil society and administration representatives from Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, and Tübingen, Baden-Württemberg. This cooperation builds on the now more than 30 years of sister city relations that were established in 1989. In 2016, an expert workshop on local politics was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and held in Petrozavodsk. Social scientists and practitioners from politics and civil society analysed different aspects of local politics, participation and civil society. As follow-ups we were able to publish an edited volume on local politics in a comparative perspective, to present results of our work in conferences at St. Petersburg, Tübingen, Petrozavodsk and elsewhere. These activities were supported by Petrozavodsk State University and Eberhard Karls University Tübingen. Lively cooperation continued and resulted in a second application for conducting a workshop, the focus of which now was on wellbeing, participation and governance. We were grateful that the DAAD granted us funding for bringing together scientists, students, and civil society representatives in a seven-day workshop in Tübingen. The participants presented and discussed their research and practical experience on questions of fostering local development and enhancing wellbeing. In an intensive review, these first papers were developed into the contributions to this volume. As editors we would like to thank all authors for contributing to the volume and for being up to deal with the reviews they received on their papers. New projects are already under preparation, including a summer school on city-university relations, teacher exchange and joint research projects.

Some people deserve special acknowledgement for making this project a success. Stewart Gold served as a facilitator and project assistant. He took care of all issues and of all participants. Matthew McCormick did an excellent job in proof-reading and giving important valuable inputs in the review process of the articles. Olga Riedinger served as an interpreter and helped fostering mutual understanding. As always, Monika Przybysz at the DAAD had an open ear for administrative questions. Carmen Thamm at the European Center for Research on Federalism (ECRF) did an excellent job editing the volume. We are grateful to the DAAD for funding this volume. We also thank Stephan Klingebiel, Christopher Blum and Daniela Harsch, Major for Social Affairs, Order and Culture at the City of Tübingen, for supporting the workshop, Markus Trämer for providing insight in the LebensPhasenHaus, Markus Holz for his introduction to the work of the AiS gGmbH Mössingen, and Lilia Künstle from the West-Ost Gesellschaft Tübingen.

Petrozavodsk and Tübingen, April 2020

Rolf Frankenberger and Elena Chernenkova

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