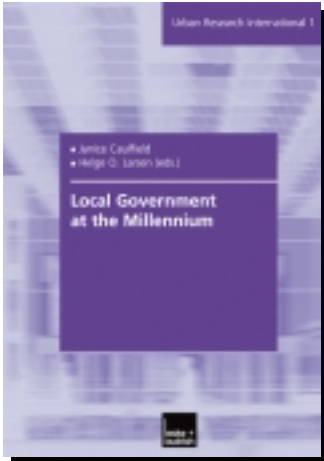


# URBAN RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

Edited by: Hellmut Wollmann (Berlin), Harald Baldersheim (Oslo) and Peter John (London). On the editorial board are Susan Clarke (Boulder, USA), Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot (Bordeaux), Michal Illner (Praha) and Annick Magnier (Florence).

The volumes of the new book series seek to provide a forum for the discussion of crucial issues of local and regional politics and government in an international and comparative perspective. The book series is edited in co-operation with the *Research Committee on the Comparative Study of Local Politics and Government* within the International Political Science Association (IPSA).



**Janice Caulfield/Helge O. Larsen (eds.)**  
**Local Government at the Millennium**  
2002. 212 pages. Maps. 11,50 EUR  
ISBN 3-8100-3191-7

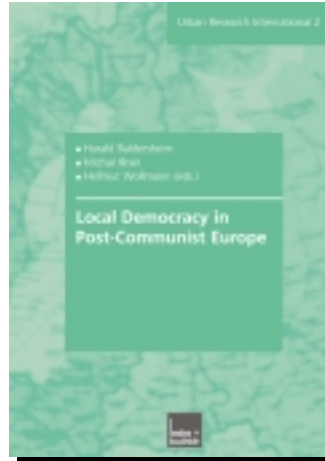
At the start of the new Millennium, this book is a review of local governance around the globe, identifying common themes, convergences and divergences. The book is a comparative analysis of local government reform as it has unfolded in all parts of the industrialised world: Europe, Australasia, and North America. It draws on many individual country experiences and locates these within a conceptual framework built around the notion of "reform". Its central themes include:

- New Public Management and its impact on local government
- The decline of representative politics and the rise of consumer politics
- Political governance capacity and the professionalisation of the executive
- Devolution and integration: the reform of central-local relations

The volume should serve as a useful compendium to local government studies and politics courses everywhere.

**Harald Baldersheim/Michal Illner  
Hellmut Wollmann (eds.)**  
**Local Democracy in Post-Communist Europe**  
2003. 300 pages. Maps. 25,50 EUR  
ISBN 3-8100-3192-5

The book provides an overview of the status of local democracy in the post-communist countries of Europe after a decade of transitional reforms. In most of these countries local government reform was regarded as a vital component of the transition to "normalcy" and was put on



the earliest reform agendas. Commentators sometimes doubted, however, whether local democracy was viable under the socio-economic conditions that characterised former communist countries. Some of these countries have now successfully introduced local government reforms and have established workable institutions. Others are still seeking to overcome communist and other legacies that hamper change. The book charts the particular challenges that have accompanied post-communist local government reforms and seeks to draw lessons for further reforms. The book also reviews theories of transition; in assessing the relevance of these theories to local reform a comparative framework for the analysis of local reform in post-communist conditions is developed. The countries covered include the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Russia, and the Baltic states. In addition, the special experience with local reform in the former GDR area after the German unification is presented.

**Dhirendra K. Vajpeyi (ed)**  
**Local Democracy and Politics in South Asia**  
Towards internal decolonization?  
2003. 180 pages

Since independence the countries of South Asia have tried out a variety of local government systems. The aims have been quite similar, however: to provide local frameworks for participation and development. Some of the experiments have been abject failures, others have been quite successful. The successful steps may amount to a process of internal decolonisation whereas other countries have merely replaced the rule of an imperial elite with that of local or national overlords. This book presents broad reviews and assessments of the various systems and seeks to identify the causes of pro-

gress and backsliding. The countries covered are Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**Norbert Kersting/Angelika Vetter (eds.)**  
**Reforming Local Government in Europe**  
October 2003

Facing problems of political legitimacy efficiency and effectiveness major structural and procedural reforms have been implemented in nearly all Western and Central European local government systems since the 1990's. These functional, territorial, participative and management reforms depend on different historical and national contexts, described by experts from Austria, the Baltic Countries, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, the Nordic Countries, Poland, Spain and Switzerland. The comparative study of local government reform activities in 14 Western and Central European local government systems shows that historical and national contexts do matter when explaining the different paths, emphasis and trajectories of local government reform. But they also show common patterns with regard to the problems to be solved and the means taken.

**Henry Bäck/Gunnar Gjelstrup  
Marit Helgesen/Folke Johansson  
Jan Erling Klausen**  
**Urban Political Decentralisation**  
Six Scandinavian cities  
December 2003

Citizens of large cities often look upon local politics with feelings of a deep divide between "us" and "them". The city council is seen as a collection of distant figures and its decisions as of little relevance to people's daily lives. Cities have tried out various instruments to overcome such feelings of citizen alienation and distrust, including neighbourhood councils of various formats and powers. Scandinavian cities have experimented with neighbourhood councils and other forms of decentralisation of decision-making for several decades. The book seeks to summarise these experiences. Topics covered include the functioning of District Councils in metropolitan regions; methods to stimulate citizen and community involvement; the role as a district council politician; efficiency in service provision; processes of co-ordination across districts; methodological considerations in research on neighbourhood politics. The authors have all been involved in evaluations of decentralisation reforms; in preparation of the book a network of evaluators and practitioners was established. The proceedings of this network are another input into the book.

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