

Shifting paradigms - Towards participatory and effective urban planning in Germany, Russia and Ukraine

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Debates on urban planning and governance give the impression that the shift of planning paradigms towards participatory and effective planning practices has been completed in Western European contexts, and is increasingly rooted in post-socialist countries. However, empirical research on the local level and its actors indicate important deficiencies and differences with regard to the scope and quality of planning paradigm change. This equally concerns cities in Western and Eastern Europe, which is not yet reflected in academic literature and public debates. The project addresses this issue, and provides an interdisciplinary comparative analysis of local stakeholders' specific urban planning concepts, including their relatedness to the centrally debated planning principles of participation and effectiveness. The concepts' translation into real planning and decision-making processes in Russia, Ukraine and Germany finally constitutes the project's main research focus. Thus, the project strives to gain insight into the shift or persistence of local planning paradigms and their causes; and to reveal and reflect challenges and chances for participatory and effective planning processes in diverse European contexts.

Projektbeteiligte

Dr. Isolde Brade

Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde e.V.
Leipzig

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Carola Neugebauer

Rheinisch-Westfälische
Technische Hochschule Aachen
Fakultät für Architektur
Juniorprofessur Sicherung kulturellen Erbes
Aachen

Dr. Irina Shevtsova

Perm State University
Centre for Comparative History
and Political Studies
Perm
Russland

Prof. Dr. Andrey Semenov

Perm State University
Department of Political Science
Perm
Russland

Prof. Dr. Anatoliy Melnychuk

Taras Shevchenko National University
of Kyiv
Kiev
Ukraine

Prof. Dr. Kostyantyn Mezentsev

Taras Shevchenko National University
of Kyiv
Faculty of Geography
Department of Economic and Social Geography
Kiev
Ukraine

Dr. Wladimir Sgibnev

Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde e.V.
Leipzig