

# Regional Participation within European Multi-Level Governance

Saxony-Anhalt: Regional Parliament, Regional Government, Stakeholders

### Romana Sălăgeanu Regional Participation within European Multi-Level Governance

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Why is there a regional participation of Saxony-Anhalt within the European Multi-Level Governance system? The author provides an account of the characteristics of European Multi-Level Governance (EMLG) and regional participation therein, by describing the EMLG and identifying its topics and categories of meaning for regional participation. She establishes the mechanisms responsible for regional participation, highlighting the patterns that emerge.

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### List of abbreviations

CDU: Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands/ Christian Democratic Union of Germany

CEFIC: The European Chemical Industry Council

CF: Cohesion Fund

ChemLog: Chemical Logistics Cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe

ChemClust: Chemical Cluster Development in European Regions

COM: European Commission CoR: Committee of the Regions

Council: Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers) DG: Directorate-General within the European Commission EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

ECRN: European Chemical Regions Network EMLG: European Multi-Level Governance

EP: European Parliament

EMFF: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

EMK: Europaministerkonferenz (Europe-ministers' conference)

EPP: European People's Party

ERDF: European Regional Development Fund

ESF: European Social Fund

ESI: European Structural and Investment Funds

EU: European Union

FDP: Freie Demokratische Partei/ Free Democratic Party

FDR: Federal Republic of Germany GDR: German Democratic Republic GG: *Grundgesetz*/ German Basic Law

HLG: High Level Group

KPD: Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands/ Communist Party of Germany

LRAs: Local and regional authorities
MEP: Member of the European Parliament

MFF: Multi-annual Financial Framework

MLG: Multi-Level Governance

MPK: Ministerpräsidentenkonferenz (minister-presidents' conference)

MS: Member States

NUTS: Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics

OP: Operational Programme PA: Partnership Agreement

SED: Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands/ Socialist Unity Party of Germany

SME: Small and Medium Enterprise

SPD: Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands/ Social Democratic Party of Germany

TEN-T: Trans-European Transport Network

VCI: Verband der Chemischen Industrie/ The German Chemical Industry

Association WP: White Paper

### Abstract

The book provides an account of the European Multi-Level Governance (EMLG) characteristics and of the regional participation within it, by describing the EMLG and by identifying the topics and categories of meaning for regional participation within it. It establishes the mechanisms responsible for regional participation, highlighting patterns that emerge from it. The book does not offer the entire EMLG picture with all the processes involved in it, but it offers a perspective of the regional dimension of this phenomenon.

The main research question is: Why does the regional participation of Saxony-Anhalt within EMLG occur? The purpose of the qualitative analysis is to explain the process of regional participation in EMLG, taking into account Saxony-Anhalt. The analysed data is based mainly on literature concerning the EMLG and the regional participation, but also on documents from the supranational, national and subnational levels.

Multi-Level Governance (MLG) was a highly debated topic within the European integration literature in the 1990s, with regard to the European Regional Policy. Initially, it was merely understood as an approach to the way the EU functions. Since then, it has been further developed and it is currently part of the institutional understanding of EU governance at European level.

The case study, Saxony-Anhalt, was chosen because it offers a model of regional participation within EMLG. This model can be followed by both Western and Eastern European regions within the EU; only if their actors understand what the EU governance comprises and only if they mobilise and engage actively within EU governance processes.

The purpose of this book is to provide a framework of regional participation that can be considered "best-practice". This study is valuable for actors from the new EU Member States, where regional participation can or still needs to be built up and strengthened. The empirical contribution of this research is relevant for the literature on subnational participation within EMLG, since research on Multi-Level Governance can focus more on Central and Eastern Europe.