Theo Schiller (ed.)

Local Direct Democracy in Europe
## Contents

Preface .................................................. 7

Local Direct Democracy in Europe – a comparative overview ................................. 9
*Theo Schiller*

### I. Emerging Patterns

The uneasy balance between participation and representation: local direct democracy in the Czech Republic .......................... 33
*Michael L. Smith*

Local direct democracy in Germany – varieties in a federal state .............................. 54
*Theo Schiller*

The institutionalisation of the referendum in the Italian political system: from the national to regional and local levels ............... 75
*PierVincenzo Uleri*

Direct democracy in local politics in Norway ....................................................... 113
*Aimée Lind Adamiak*

Twenty years of Polish direct democracy at the local level .................................. 126
*Andrzej K. Piasecki*

Second-order direct democracy in Switzerland: How sub-national experiences differ from national ballots .................................................. 138
*Michael Buetzer*

Direct Democracy at the local level: a comparison of eight municipalities from four countries around Lake Constance (Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland) ................ 157
*Wilfried Marxer/Zoltán Tibor Pállinger*

### II. Small Beginnings

Direct democracy in Britain: citizens’ empowerment or political cosmetics? ............ 173
*Michèle Breuillard*
Towards a law on local direct democracy in Bulgaria
*Iva Taralezhkova*

Denmark – fragments of local direct democracy
*Palle Svensson*

Local popular votes in Finland – procedures and experiences
*Rolf Büchi*

Local referendums in France: a disappointing experience
*Stéphane Guérard*

Slovakia – restricted direct democracy in local politics
*Erik Láštic*

Direct democracy in Slovenia – poor practice at the local level
*Bernard Nežmah*

Sweden: Better late than never. Towards a stronger initiative right in local politics
*Bruno Kaufmann*

Democratic participation at the local level in post-communist states: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
*Jüri Ruus*

List of Authors