

Preface

The idea of this edited volume emanated from the conference 'Redefining Regions in Europe', which took place at Danube University Krems (Austria) in January 2019. This conference was the kick-off event to the project 'REGIOPARL I Regional Parliaments Lab', an international research project located at Danube University Krems that is supported by and conducted in cooperation with Forum Morgen. REGIOPARL is a multiannual comparative research project that focuses on the role of regional actors in the EU multilevel system of governance. At the same time, it aims at contributing to the ongoing debate on the future of the EU from a regional perspective.

The conference's main objective was to open the field by gathering various approaches to the definition and study of regions in Europe from several scholarly disciplines. This interdisciplinary perspective was deliberately chosen at the beginning of a project that is mainly located in political science. The various contributions to the conference clearly revealed the importance of questions related to collective identity – and regional identity in particular – when studying the multifaceted role of regions within the larger political and legal framework of the EU governance system. This is the reason why the issue of regional identity also is a key point of reference in many of the contributions to this book.

This edited volume is the third publication within the 'Krems Publication Series on European Democracy', edited by the Department of European Policy and the Study of Democracy at Danube University Krems. We would like to thank Forum Morgen for the cooperation with Danube University Krems and for funding the REGIOPARL project, including this publication. Furthermore, we express our thanks to Graeme Currie for proofreading as well as Michael Heber and Fabian Landes for taking care of formal adaptations of the manuscript. Finally, special thanks go to the authors of the individual contributions to this book, who add some fresh insights and unorthodox thinking to the contemporary study of regions in Europe from an interdisciplinary perspective of political science, sociology and legal studies.

