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# **Unstable orders and changing minority protection: The effects of urbanization**

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# Unstable orders and changing minority protection: The effects of urbanization

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## Abstract

In the European Union, national borders are losing importance. In many parts of the world an accelerating process of urbanization is taking place. With economic development comes an increasing mobility of populations. All these and many other processes affect the living conditions of linguistic and other minorities. As a consequence, the basis for traditional minority policies might change. In this chapter, in the spirit of economic cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis, we analyze the effects of the changing conditions on the costs of traditional policy measures.

In any economic analysis costs play an important rôle. The question is, how are costs affected by urbanization? Taking our point of reference in two minorities in Europe, the Hungarian speakers in Transylvania and the Swedish speakers in the area around the capital Helsinki/Helsingfors in southern Finland, we first discuss the implications of urbanization in light of a cost-effectiveness analysis. This provides us with a normative background for the analysis.

An interesting question is how the political system adjusts to the new conditions in designing minority policies. We will see that the policy has very different implications in the two cases discussed.

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