

## KPM Schriftenreihe Nr. 59

Thema/Titel	<b>Papers on Strategies, Incentives and Effects of Amalgamations in Switzerland</b>
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Inhalt	<p>The dissertation consists of three articles on strategies, incentives and effects of mergers of municipalities in Switzerland. The three articles each focus on one of the three levels of government in the political-administrative system: merger strategies are examined in a cross-country comparison at the national level, the incentive systems of the cantons for municipal mergers at the cantonal level, and the effects of municipal mergers at the municipal level itself.</p> <p>The first article explores the question of what factors influence merger activity in Western European countries. Using the Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (csQCA) method, the paper identifies the combinations of factors that are associated with high merger activity: either a) an open policy window in small municipalities, b) an open policy window in municipalities with little autonomy, or c) incentives for mergers in small municipalities with little autonomy.</p> <p>The second paper examines the reasons for the cantons' interest in mergers, the design of the cantons' incentive systems for mergers, and their influence on the municipalities' merger activities. For this purpose, data from the 2009/2010 Swiss survey of municipal clerks and the 2010 survey of cantonal administrations are analyzed using multiple regression. The empirical results show that cantons with a higher number of municipalities set more incentives for mergers. Moreover, the incentives have a positive impact on the merger activity of the municipalities.</p> <p>The third paper examines the effects of municipality mergers. Based on survey data from the 1998 and 2009 municipal clerk surveys, changes in municipalities are compared in a quasi-experimental group of merger municipalities and a control group. The analysis supports the hypotheses that mergers have positive effects on service delivery, professionalization in municipal administrations, and municipal autonomy. The effects on municipal finances are inconclusive. Negative effects on local democracy were not found in the study.</p>

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