

Foreword

In today's globalized world institutional competition, or competition between political units through institutional design, is potentially important. The idea is that communities, regions, nations and even continents can engage in competition over moveable resources, such as people, capital, investments, jobs and companies, using their institutional structures and the incentives they create. Both formal and informal institutions could matter. The scope of this kind of competition and its effects on these political units are the theme of this volume.

The book is written within the research project *Institutional Competition and the Outcomes of Politics* at the Ratio Institute in Stockholm, Sweden (for further information, see www.ratio.se). A number of outstanding scholars from several different countries have contributed to the analysis, which introduces a number of new themes into the analysis of institutional competition, for example, the learning and information effects of competition and how institutional competition affects government efficiency.

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