

## Expanding and Upgrading Government Services on a Cross-City Basis

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### Abstract

This study centres on the reform of delivering government services on a cross-city basis, particularly the inter-governmental collaborations. It relies on empirical data collected from multiple sources to delve into the expansion patterns, challenges and optimization paths for upgrading collaboration in the delivery of government services across cities. An analysis of intercity agreements data from 55,278 “city dyad” in 333 prefectural-level administrative regions reveals that the network of city cooperation is steadily growing and evolving from a monocentric to a polycentric spatial pattern. Furthermore, field investigation reveals that current interlocal cooperation faces potential challenges related to goal replacement, consensus maintenance, and reduced cooperation effects. To foster the advancement of cross-city service delivery, it is advisable for policymakers to adjust evaluation concept, establish institutional coordination mechanism, and strengthen vertical and horizontal coordination.

### Key Words

Government Services; “Delivering Government Services on a Cross-City Basis”; Interlocal Cooperation; Regional Governance