Aiming at high-quality statistical information on Urban Europe – Achievements and challenges

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What is the Urban Audit?

The Urban Audit is a joint effort by DG Regio and Eurostat to provide reliable and comparative statistical information on selected urban areas.

Dimensions of the dataset:

- More than 300 variables collected and 260 indicators (derived series) calculated.
- Four spatial units: core city (complete data set); larger urban zone, kernel, sub-city information (reduced data set).
European Statistics Code of Practice

- **Institutional Environment**
  1. Professional Independence
  2. Mandate for Data Collection
  3. Adequacy of Resources
  4. Quality Commitment
  5. Statistical Confidentiality
  6. Impartiality and Objectivity

- **Statistical Processes**
  7. Sound Methodology
  8. Appropriate Statistical Procedures
  9. Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents
  10. Cost Effectiveness

- **Statistical Output**
  11. Relevance
  12. Accuracy and Reliability
  13. Timeliness and Punctuality
  14. Coherence and Comparability
  15. Accessibility and Clarity
Statistics based on sound methodology

Sound methodology must underpin quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

- Liaise with colleagues at international level in order to learn from the best
- The overall methodological framework follows European and international standards and guidelines
- The Urban Audit Think Tank creates a forum for discussion
- European standards and recommendations are used in the concepts and definitions (ESA95, LFS, NACE etc.)
Appropriate Statistical Procedures

- Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, must underpin quality statistics.
- Data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.
- Appropriate editing and imputation computer systems are used and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required.
- Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.
Relevance

- **Priority needs** are being met and reflected in the work programme
  - The variable list was revised based on policy need of the Commission (DG Regional Policy and DG Environment), the European Environment Agency.
  - Several new variables in the domains education, environment, transport.

- **User satisfaction surveys** are undertaken
  - Last survey was undertaken by DG Regio in 2006.
  - Feedback is collected at various forums and conferences (Urban Audit Day 2005 – all participating cities invited)
  - **YOUR FEEDBACK IS WELCOME!**
Coherence and Comparability

- European Statistics should be consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries.
  - Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.
  - Comparability of the data is assessed. Acceptable ranges of indicator values calculated using descriptive statistics.
Proportion of females to males in total population

Bruxelles / Brussel
Brno
Aalborg
Leipzig
Bochum
Weimar
Mainz
Larisa
Valencia
Palma di Mallorca
Badajoz
Strasbourg
Rennes
Dijon
Ajaccio
Limerick
Genova
Cremona
Campobasso
Cagliari
Luxembourg's Gravenhage
Enschede
Lodz
Lublin
Opole
Zory
Ponta Delgada
Nitra
Malmo
Bradford
Belfast
Lincoln
Plovdiv
Cluj-Napoca
Sibiu
Adana
Erzurum
Siirt
Average living area per person m²

Bruxelles / Brussel
Praha
København / Aarhus
Köln
Düsseldorf
Bielefeld
Trier
Erfurt
Tallinn
Larisa
Barcelona
Las Palmas
Pamplona/Iruña
Lyon
Nantes
Amiens
Dijon
Grenoble
Palermo
Venezia
Ancona
Potenza
Lipari
Miskolc
Amsterdam
Krakow
Lublin
Rzeszow
Suwałki
Coimbra
Kosice
Oulu
Burgas
Timișoara
Sibiu
Average living area per person m²

Bruxelles / Brussel
Praha
Aarhus
Köln
Düsseldorf
Bielefeld
Trier
Erfurt
Tallinn
Las Palmas
Pamplona/Iruña
Lyons
Nantes
Amiens
Dijon
Grenoble
Palermo
Venezia
Ancona
Potenza
Llepala
Miskolc
Amsterdam
Krakow
Lublin
Rzeszow
Suwalki
Coimbra
Kosice
Oulu
Burgas
Timisoara
Sibiu
Average living area per person m² - 2001
Average living area per person m² - 2001

EU 15

EU10
Procedure of validation I.

Variable control

Pass

Suspicious

Fatal error

Review

Correct explanation

Indicator control
Procedure of validation II.

Indicator control

Pass

Suspicious

Fatal error

Review

Correc
texplain

Dissemination
Accessibility and Clarity in Disseminating Urban Audit data

Easy access to data in a clear understandable form

- [www.urbanaudit.org](http://www.urbanaudit.org)
- New Table – Graph – Map interface

Meta data and guidance

- Meta data is presented according to Special Data Dissemination Standards
Darmstadt

Darmstadt is located in the German federal state of Hessen. The city has a population of just under 140,000 and its Mathildenhoehe artists' colony is well known.

The printing and publishing industries used to be the economic drivers of the city. Today, Darmstadt attracts a large number of software companies which are mainly "spin-offs" from Darmstadt's Technical University. The city markets itself as the "City of Sciences" with a very good representation of R&D organisations, such as ESOC and EUMETSAT, the Heavy Ion Research Association (GSI), the four Fraunhofer Research Centres, the GMD Research Centre and commercial firms of international reputation.

The city is part of a Larger Urban Zone (LUZ) of 428,000 inhabitants, as defined by the Urban Audit, covering an area of 781 km².

CITY AND LUZ LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>QUINTILES</th>
<th>INDIATORS</th>
<th>YEAR SCORE</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>1st CASES</th>
<th>YEAR SCORE</th>
<th>Ratio CITY:LUZ</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>DEMOGRAPHY</td>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>138.457</td>
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<td>·</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total resident population</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>138.457</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>236</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total annual population change over 5 yrs.</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>EU nationals as a percentage of total population</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Non-EU nationals as a percentage of total population</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1.0.80</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Average size of households</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>1.1.13</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of households that are 1-person households</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Percentage of households that are lone-parent households</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1.1.01</td>
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### Demographic indicators - Total resident population

The Urban Audit is a joint effort by the Directorate-General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO)...

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</table>

Initial available.
Challenges for the future

- Increase comparability
  - Decrease the use of deviating definitions
  - Continue harmonisation of spatial delineations (sub-city districts; larger urban zones)

- Improve dissemination
  - Map based statistical data dissemination
  - Increase visibility of metadata
Thank you for your attention!