State of play of the Urban Audit

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Structure of the talk

- Background
- Urban Audit 3 data collection
- Perception surveys
- Analysis of Urban Audit 2 data
Background

- 1997: The Commission needed to incorporate **urban considerations** into EU policies
- Need of policy makers **at all levels** to improve the monitoring of urban policies
- **Pilot study** of DG REGIO in 1999 on 58 European cities in EU-15 – “Urban Audit”
- 2001: Evaluation and decision to continue in close cooperation with Eurostat and the national statistical offices
Eurostat’s mission is to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service, reliable and objective statistics that enable comparisons. National Statistical Institutes compile the data from their databases and coordinate the collection on national level involving relevant local authorities.

DG Regio’s mission is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion. The Community Strategic Guidelines on cohesion specifies several possible actions with a focus on urban areas. The implementation and evaluation of these actions need high-quality statistical information. Cities and local authorities are involved as contributors, providing data to the Statistical Office, and as data users. Cities are encouraged to use the database for benchmarking, policy development and evaluation.
Limit the burden on respondents

The Urban Audit is a secondary data collection

- we are collecting data that was compiled through other surveys and research
- we are collecting data from registers
- we encourage estimation of data

- very limited additional burden on respondents
- more work for cities, local authorities and
- more work for statistical institutes
Urban Audit through time

- Data collection every 3 years
- 337 variables collected, covering all aspects of economic and social life
- Over 300 indicators (derived series) calculated
- 321 European cities in 30 countries involved
  - 27 Member States
  - plus Croatia, Norway, Switzerland
Spatial units

- Core city
  - (Commune / Municipality / Ward / Gemeinde)
- Larger urban zone (LUZ) – functional city region
- Sub-city districts (reduced dataset)
Spatial levels in the Urban Audit for London

Core city

LUZ

Source: www.statistics.gov.uk
Continuously increasing geographical coverage
Cities are volunteering to be involved in the project
The domains covered create a wealth of information:

- Population
- Social aspects
- Economy
- Civic Involvement
- Education
- Environment
- Transport
- Tourism & Culture
- Information
- Society
The current data collection

- Started in March 2006
- Will end in June 2008
  - Very heterogeneous starting dates per country
- Thorough data validation (quality check) will start in October 2007
- First data can be published in November 2007
Availability of data for the core city
Availability of data for the period 2003 - 2005 at the Larger Urban Zone and at the national level
Chapter 3

The perception surveys
Citizens’ perception

- Complementary to hard facts: citizens’ perception of schools, health service, safety, housing, labour market etc.
  - (safety ≠ small number of recorded crimes)
- Telephone survey with 22 questions
- First survey in January 2004 – 31 cities in EU-15
- Second survey December 2007 – 75 cities in 29 countries
It is easy to find a good job
Air pollution is a big problem
It is easy to find good housing at a reasonable price (*only the capitals*)
Foreigners are well integrated
(worst and best cases – synthetic index)
Chapter 4

A typology of European cities
Constructing 13 typologies

- Result of a contract of DG REGIO with a consortium of advisers and scientists
  - December 2005 to March 2007 – using Urban Audit 2 data
- Iterative approach, based on scientific concepts and data availability
- **Five steps** to build the typologies:
  - Analyse **GDP/head** in three **size classes** of cities
    - Metropolitan areas show different dynamics and potentials compared to provincial towns
  - First grouping of the cities
  - Adding more criteria
    - Ports, tourism, students, services, unemployment, self employed
  - Typology of all cities (one to one assignment)
  - Fine-tuning
Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?