Structure of the talk

1. Regional statistics in the EU
   - The tasks of Eurostat
   - Regional statistics
   - Urban statistics

2. The demand for regional statistics: a basis for Regional Funds

3. The challenges ahead
Chapter 1

The supply side: What Eurostat can offer
Eurostat’s tasks in the domain of regional and urban information

- Regular **collection** of regional and urban data from National Statistical Offices
- **Estimation** of missing data (if possible)
- Assure the **comparability** of the data
- **Consultancy** of major users (DG REGIO)

**NOT our task**
- Thorough **analysis** of the data
- Develop **composite indicators**
- Develop **strategies** of regional and urban planning

Most of this is accomplished by our users, i.e. DG REGIO, national and regional political agents, research institutions
Contents of REGIO database

- Demography
- And migration
- Tourism
- Health
- Labour market (labour force survey)
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Regional accounts
- Unemployment
- Education
- Research & Development
- Business data

All data is publicly available at Eurostat’s website.
Obligations of data transmission

A legal base ("Regulation") exists for
- Regional Accounts (GDP, household accounts)
- Labour Force Survey
- Transport statistics
- Agriculture statistics (partly)
- Business statistics
- Demography

Data transmission based on gentleman’s agreement
- Other regional statistics like health, education, environment, R&D
- Urban statistics
The regional classification NUTS

- Over 25 years in use, without legal base
  - But for many years the basis for regional policy
  - Since June 2003, an EU Regulation

- NUTS favours institutional breakdowns
  (primarily administrative divisions in force)
  - i.e. no functional regions like for example labour market areas

- Hierarchical nomenclature with three levels

- Revision at the most every 3 years
  - In the interest of the users
Since 2000: Urban Statistics
Well ...., European Urban Statistics
Dimensions of the Urban Audit dataset

- More than **300 indicators**

- Reference years
  - 1991 and 1996 *reduced data set*
  - 2001 *complete data set*
  - 2004 *latest data set*
  - 2007 *currently collected and validated*

- Three spatial units
  - 321 cities in EU27, plus cities from NO, CH, HR and TR
  - larger urban zones (=including the city hinterland)
  - sub-city information (reduced dataset)

- In addition: perception survey in 75 cities (2006 and 2009)
The topics covered

1. DEMOGRAPHY
   1.1 Population
   1.2 Nationality
   1.3 Household Structure

2. SOCIAL ASPECTS
   2.1 Housing
   2.2 Health
   2.3 Crime

3. ECONOMIC ASPECTS
   3.1 Labour Market
   3.2 Economic Activity
   3.3 Income disparities and Poverty

4. CIVIC INVOLVEMENT
   4.1 Civic Involvement
   4.2 Local Administration

5. TRAINING AND EDUCATION
   5.1 Education and Training (Provision)
   5.2 Attainment of Educ. & Training

6. ENVIRONMENT
   6.1 Climate/ Geography
   6.2 Air Quality and Noise
   6.3 Water
   6.4 Waste Management
   6.5 Land Use
   6.6 Energy Use

7. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

8. INFORMATION SOCIETY

9. CULTURE AND RECREATION
   9.1 Culture and Recreation
   9.2 Tourism
Chapter 2

The demand: A basis for regional policy
Purpose of regional data

- Quantitative information = basis for objective and unbiased structural and cohesion policy
- Definition, implementation and monitoring of EU regional policies (2007-2013: 347 billion euros)
- Hence: Commission (DG REGIO) = major user of our statistics
  - Selection of eligible regions
  - Ex-post evaluation (Cohesion Report)
Why cohesion policy?

- The European Union = one of the most prosperous economic zones in the world
- But: economic and social disparities between regions weaken the EU’s dynamism
- Hence the political goal of reducing the gaps in development and disparities between citizens
Disposable income of private households per inhabitant (in PPCS) by NUTS 2 regions, 2006
In percentage of EU-27=100

EU-27: Eurostat estimate
DK: National level
Data source: Eurostat
© EuroGeographics Association, for the administrative boundaries
Cartography: Eurostat — GISDO, 05/2009
Economic dispersion EU-27:
GDP/Head and Unemployment
(coefficient of variation at NUTS level 3)
Three goals in cohesion policy

Convergence
– To support growth-enhancing conditions and job creation in the least developed regions

Regional Competitiveness and Employment
– To strengthen the competitiveness of regions. To anticipate and encourage economic and social change

European Territorial Cooperation
– To ensure harmonious and balanced development throughout the entire Union
Cohesion spending 1989-2013 (billion euros)

€ 21 billion later added for 10 new Member States
1. Convergence

- **Criteria:** GDP/head in PPS at NUTS level 2 lower than 75% of the EU average
  - Same criteria since the beginning of regional policy
  - Easy to understand

- High quality standards needed for these key figures (numerator and denominator)
2. Regional Competitiveness and Employment
3. Territorial Cooperation

- **Data needs:** large battery of statistics at **NUTS level 2 and 3**, for example
  - Unemployment rate (by gender and age groups)
  - Long term unemployment
  - Business statistics
  - Innovation and knowledge society
  - Environment
  - Accessibility of services

- **High quality standards needed**
Chapter 3

The challenges ahead
Challenges for Eurostat’s dataset

- Statistics are not sufficiently up-to-date
  - Hence: annual data collection for the Urban Audit
  - Hence: earlier delivery for regional GVA in revised ESA

- Data sets show many gaps
  - Hence: pressure on Member States to conform to existing legislation (example GFCF)
  - Hence: create legislation for urban statistics
Challenges for Eurostat’s dataset (2)

- Regional data is needed for **new thematic areas**
  - Compute regional **poverty** indicators
    - Important in the discussion on social exclusion
  - Compute indicators on **business demography**
    - Important in the discussion on Europe’s economic dynamism
  - Compute regional **government expenditure** statistics
    - provide insight into the effect of government intervention (regional government, national government, European Cohesion Policy)
Challenges for Eurostat’s dataset (3)

- Statistics for **variable spatial areas** are needed for different purposes
- Examples
  - Functional labour markets
  - Revised urban-rural typology
  - Coastal regions
- The answer: collect many NUTS 3 statistics which can then be used as **building blocks** for variable spatial areas
Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?