Urban Statistics serving the evolving European Urban Agenda

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Theme: Urban Statistics for Post-2014 Development Agenda
Why?
Why cities matter?

- Towns and cities across the European Union (EU) provide a home to more than 70% of the EU-28’s population
- The development of cities determines the future economic, social and territorial development of the European Union
- Cities are where the opportunities and threats to sustainable development come together
## EU focus on cities and urban development

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<th>DG/Agency</th>
<th>Policy/regulation</th>
<th>Targeting cities/local</th>
<th>Local projects</th>
<th>Studies/research</th>
<th>Tools</th>
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Why do we collect statistics?

Data is used to support the European urban agenda and European urban development policies by allowing:

- Evidence based policy making
- Impact assessment
- Performance management
Achievements
The Four "C"

- Co-operation
- Consolidation
- Completeness
- Communication
Co-operation at European and international level

- Eurostat and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) co-ordinates and co-finances the data collection at city level that is undertaken by the National Statistical Institutes.
- OECD and the European Commission developed and implemented harmonized definition of a city and its commuting zone.
- Several stakeholders (researchers, city statisticians, SCORUS, etc.) co-operate on a voluntary basis.
The EU-OECD FUA definition in 3 steps

1. Define an urban centre of 50 000 or more
2. Define a city based on this urban centre (LAU2 or groups of LAU2s)
3. Define a commuting zone based on this city (including check for polycentric cities)

IMPORTANT! Cities are selected based on the population of their centre, not total population
One, two, three

City and its commuting zone (Toulouse)
Consolidation

• List of indicators has been reduced and simplified taking into account availability of data at city level and policy relevance
• City definitions have been harmonised using the EU-OECD definition
• Data validation has improved
• Frequency of data collection have been revised: some data is collected annually and some in census years
Completeness

80% or higher data availability have been reached for more than 70 indicators, but still remains an area to be improved. Data availability varies to a great extent:

- by the domain
- by the country (availability of administrative sources, use of estimations)
- by the reference year
Increasing completeness by complimentary spatial levels

- Key economic indicators like Gross Domestic Product are calculated for Metropolitan regions
Change (%) in GDP per head in 2000-2008 and 2008-2011

Data source: Eurostat and DG REGIO
Source: Communication from the Commission: 6th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion

- Capital metropolitan region
- Smaller metro
- Second tier
- Non-metro

-2 0 2 4

2000-2008
2008-2011

Source: Eurostat, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
Increasing completeness by complimentary spatial levels

- Key economic indicators like Gross Domestic Product are calculated for **Metropolitan regions**
- Several data collections (Labour Force Survey; Social, Income and Living Conditions; ICT statistics, Tourism statistics, etc.) use the **degree of urbanisation** classification and produce statistics for cities and towns in a country
Three degrees of urbanisation

Three grid concepts (Cork, IE)  

Three types of municipalities
At-risk-of-poverty rate by degree of urbanisation, 2008-2012

Data source: Eurostat
Source: Communication from the Commission: 6th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion
Increasing completeness by complimentary spatial levels

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- Several data collections (Labour Force Survey; Social, Income and Living Conditions; ICT statistics, Tourism statistics, etc.) use the **degree of urbanisation** classification and produce statistics for cities and towns in a country
- Starting from the population grid using spatial analysis several new indicators can be calculated (for e.g.: accessibility)
Communication

- Subject is complex (~900 cities, ~280 metro regions, etc)
- Multiple indicators

**Need for a combination tools**

- Traditional publications (Eurostat Regional Yearbook)
- Statistical Atlas
- City Statistics Illustrated
Interactive visualisations in City Statistics Illustrated
Fixed size of circles based on population

- \( \leq 100,000 \)
- 100,000–250,000
- 250,000–500,000
- 500,000–1,000,000
- 1,000,000–3,000,000
- \( > 3,000,000 \)

Colour legend to show the value of the selected indicator.
Outlook
Future work - Completeness

Looking for complimentary data sources for calculating statistical indicators:

- Calculating more aggregates by type of area, type of region
- Giving a legal base to territorial typologies
- Spatial analysis based on the new population grid
- Other geocoded statistics
- Spreading the use of the degree of urbanisation
- Open data sources
- Big data
Future work - Communication

Plans for a Eurostat flagship publication on cities in 2016

- Concept to be prepared in 2014
- Preparation in 2015
- Link to "Third State of European Cities Report" showing the economic, social and environmental benefits of cities but not ignoring the problems at the city and neighborhood level
Future work – Co-operation at global level

- Degree of urbanisation proposed for UN 2020 census recommendations (1km² population grid)

- EC will use city database to contribute to the next UN World Urbanization Prospects (2016)

- World Bank global urban extent project will apply the degree of urbanisation globally (will create a global population grid) by 2015