

University of Palermo | Department of Architecture
Master Programme in Spatial Planning | Year II
Academic Year 2026-2027 | First semester

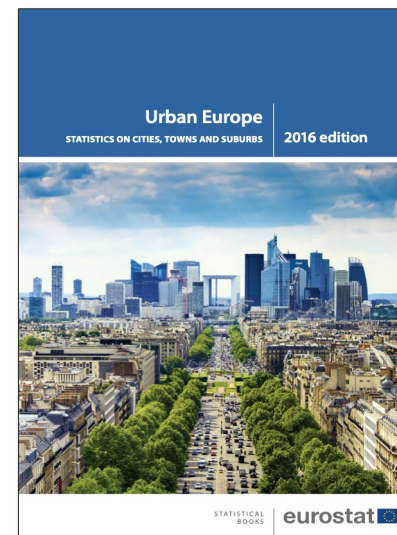
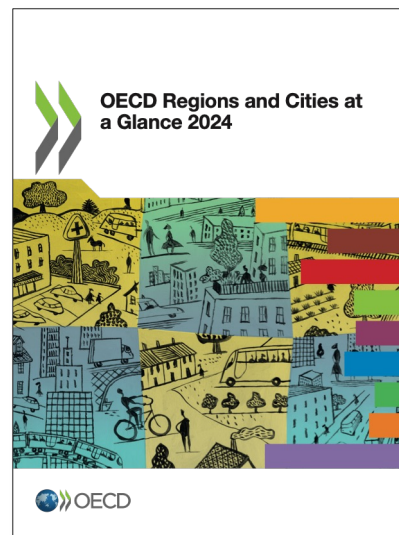
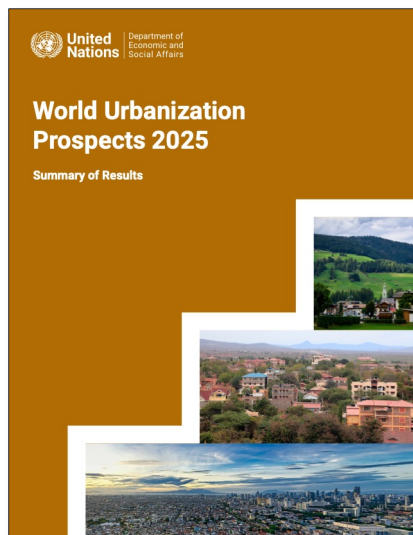
Urban and Regional Policies

Module of Planning 2 Studio + Urban And Regional Policies Integrated Course

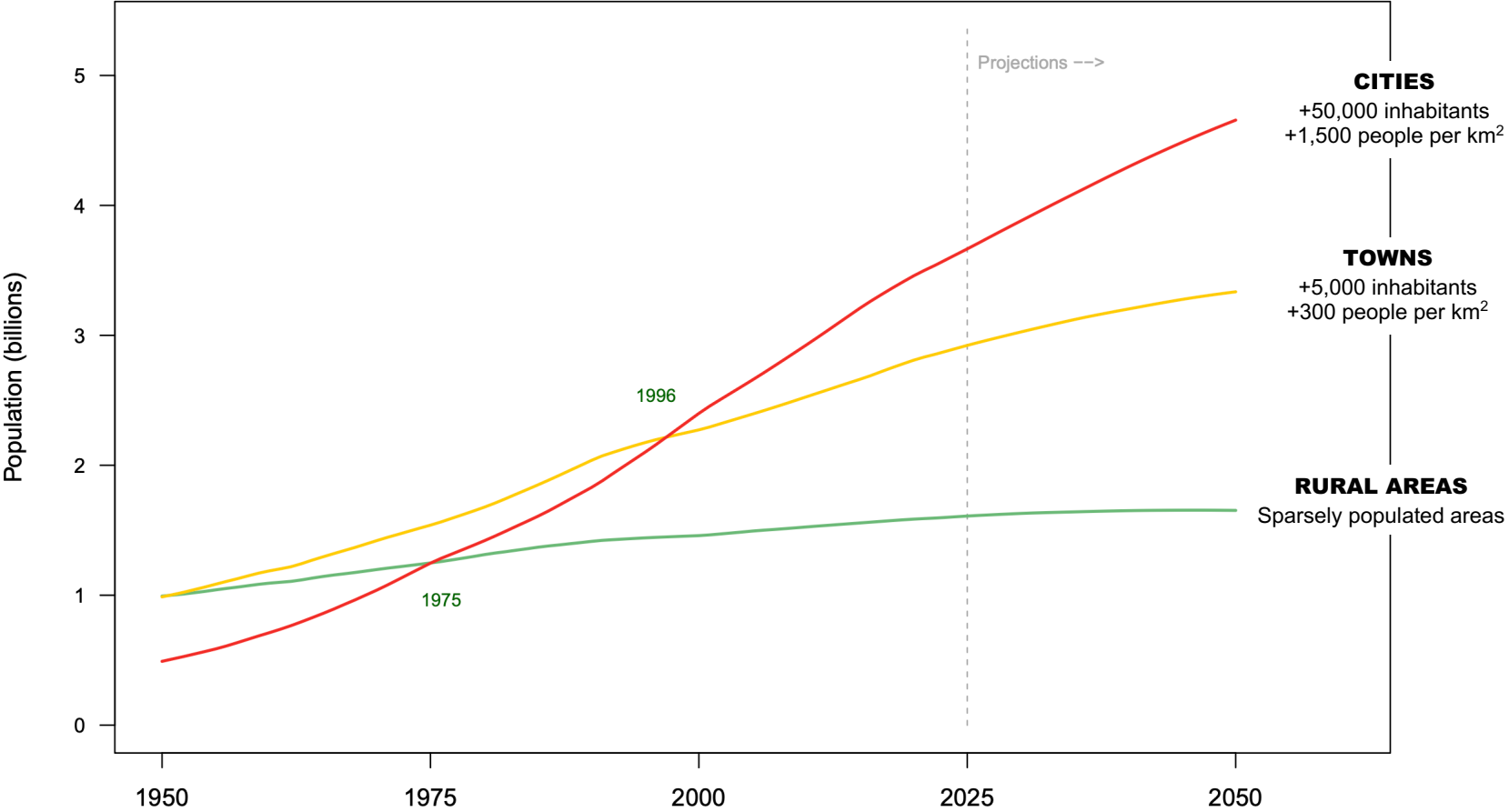
Prof. Ignazio Vinci

Policy challenges in contemporary urban areas (Part I)

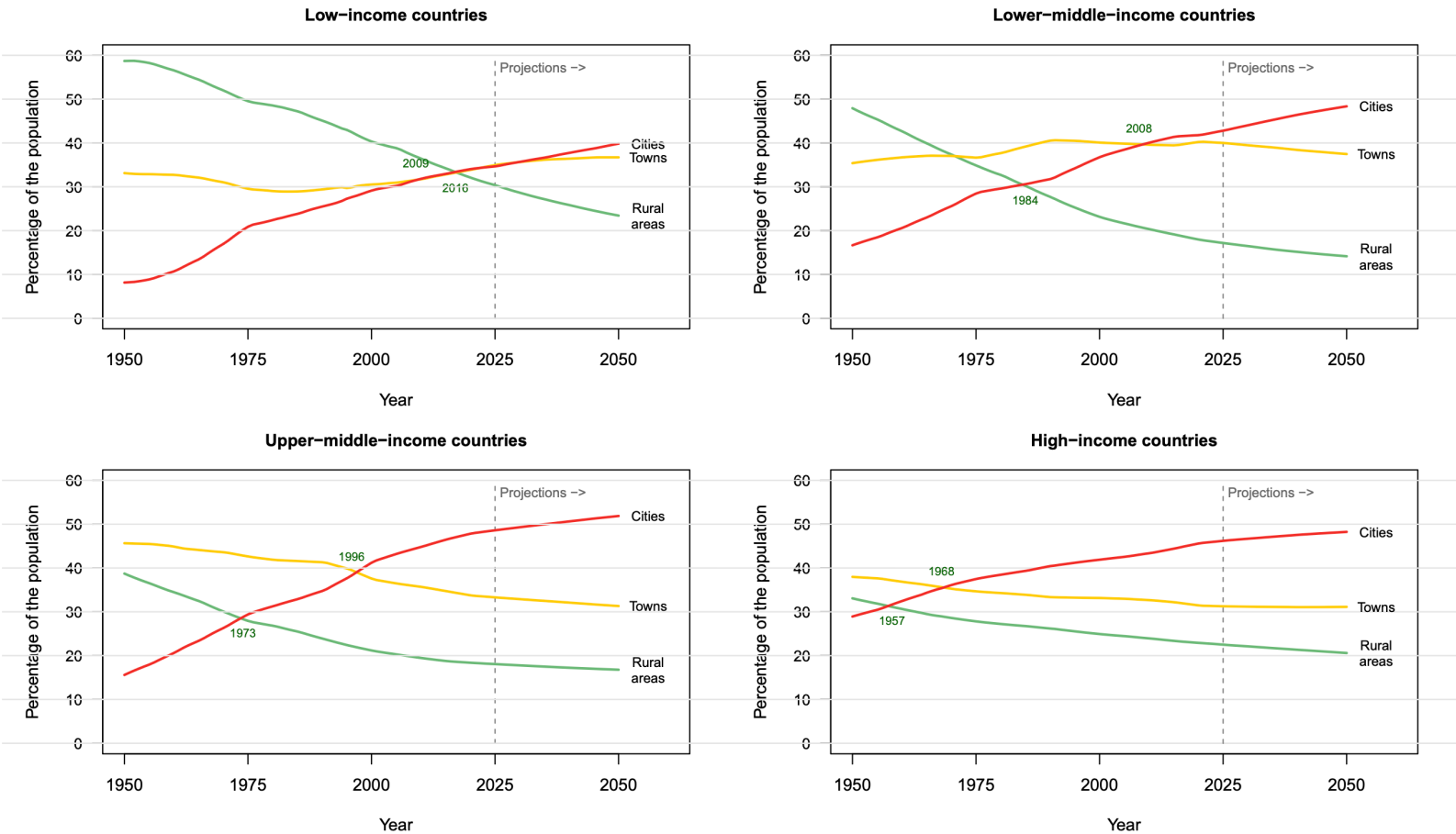
URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE



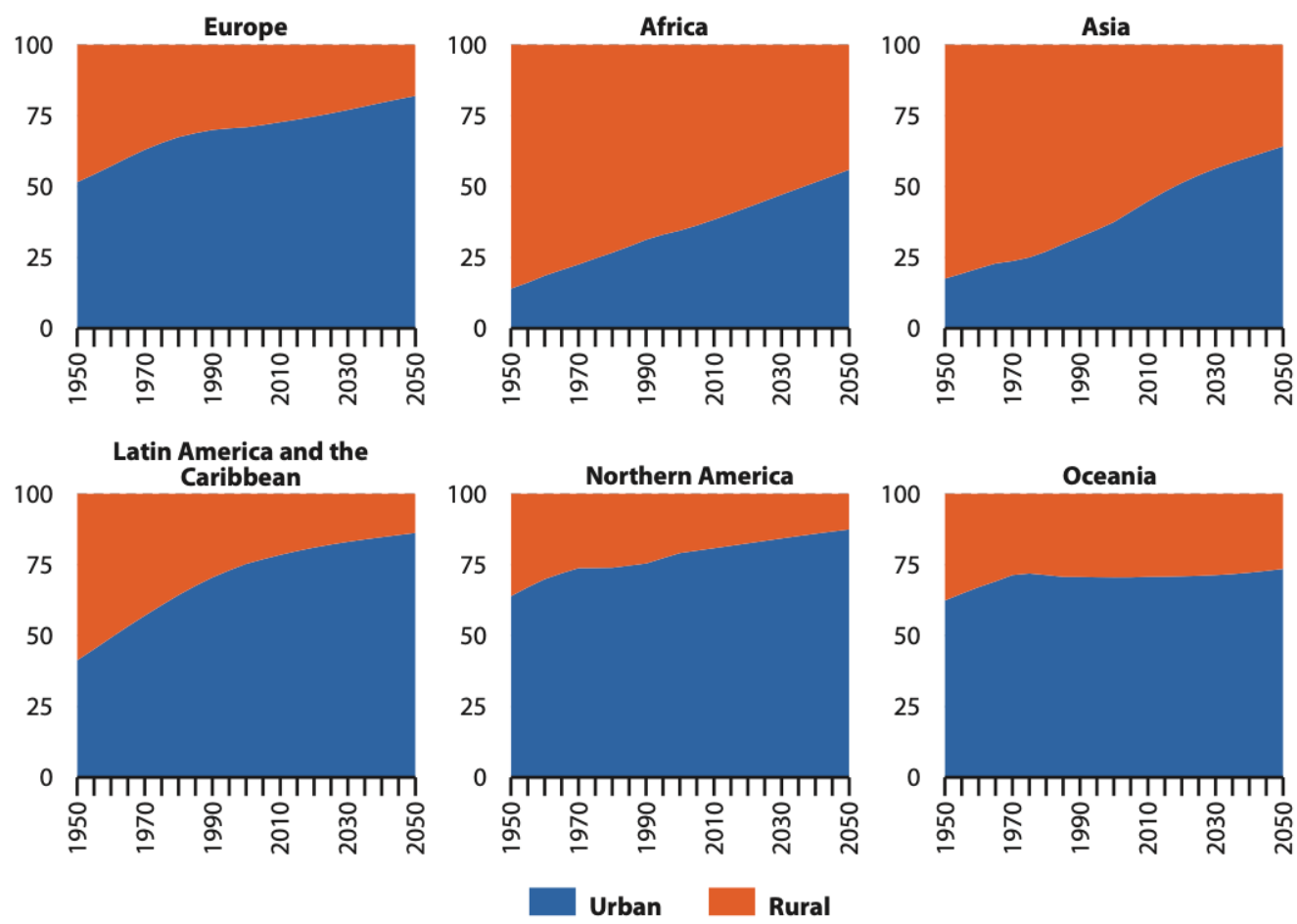
URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE



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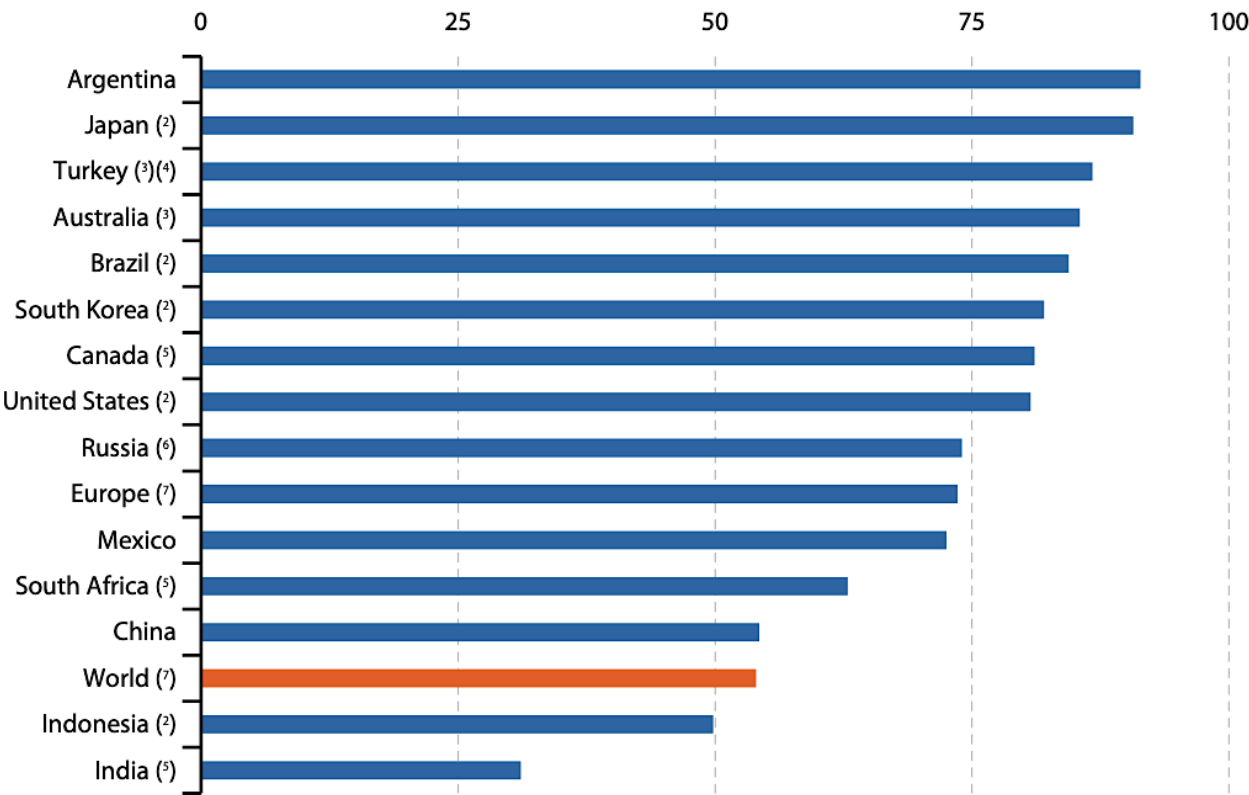


URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE



URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Share of urban population by countries and regions



URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE

The city form matters

Atlanta



Population	Urban area	Transport carbon emissions
2.5 million	4,280 km²	7.5 tonnes CO ₂ /person (public + private transport)

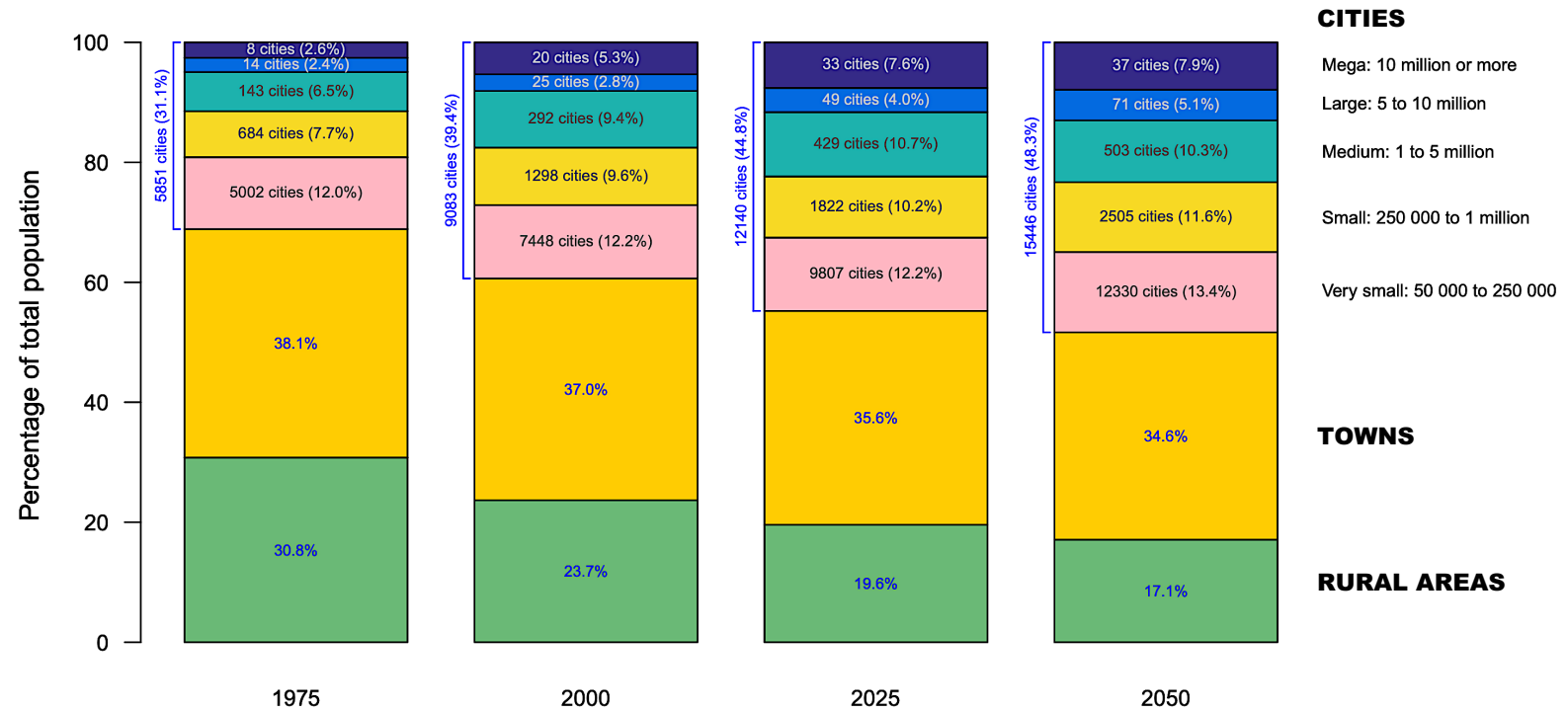
Barcelona



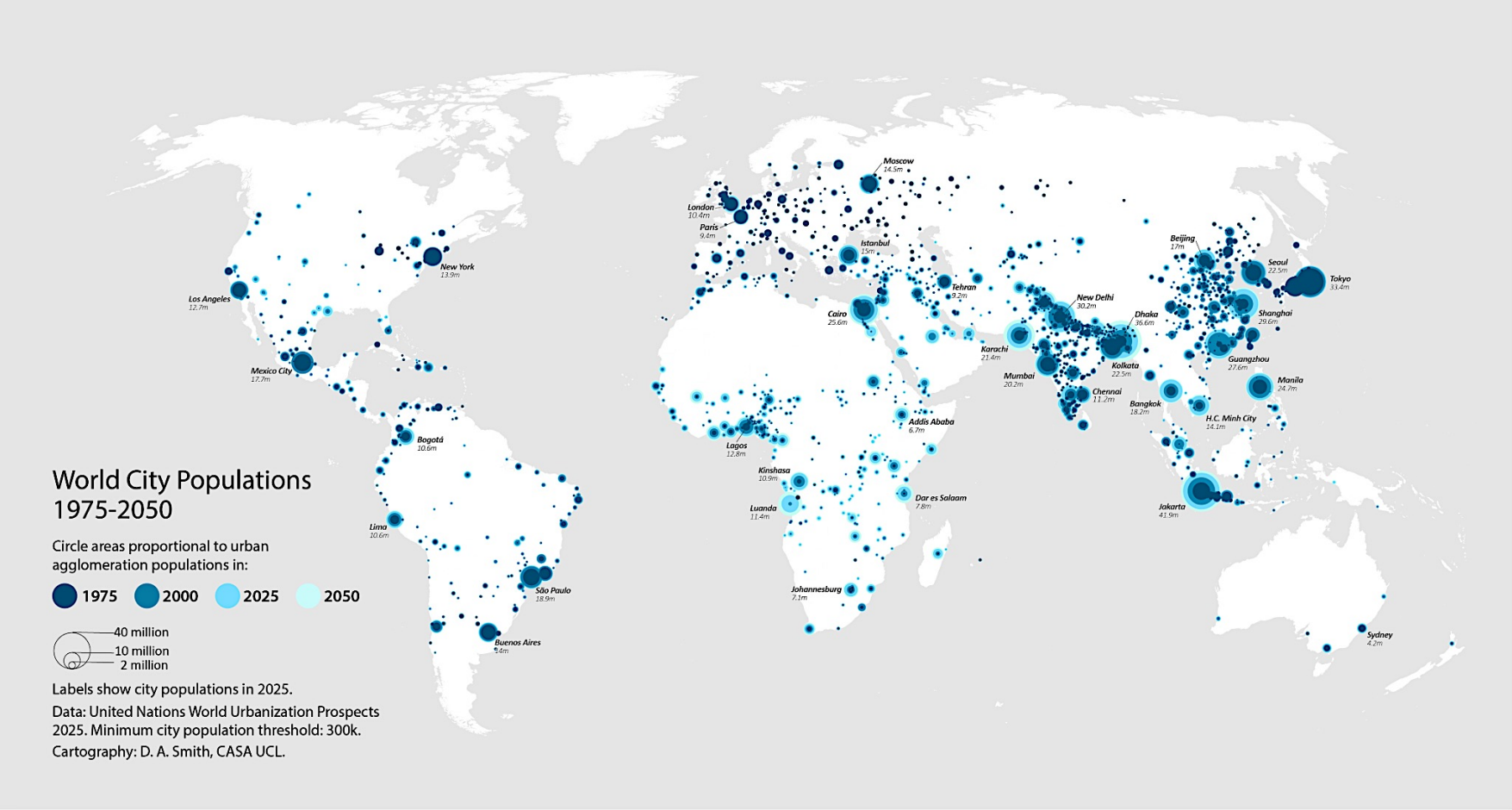
Population	Urban area	Transport carbon emissions
2.8 million	162 km²	0.7 tonnes CO ₂ /person (public + private transport)

URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE

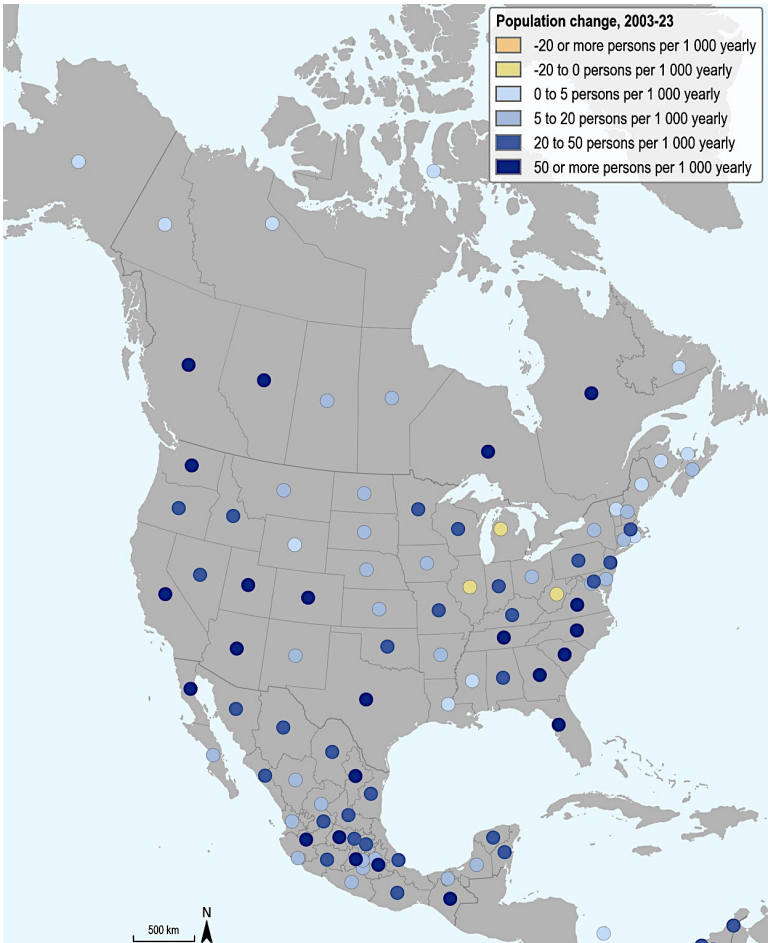
The rise of large and megacities



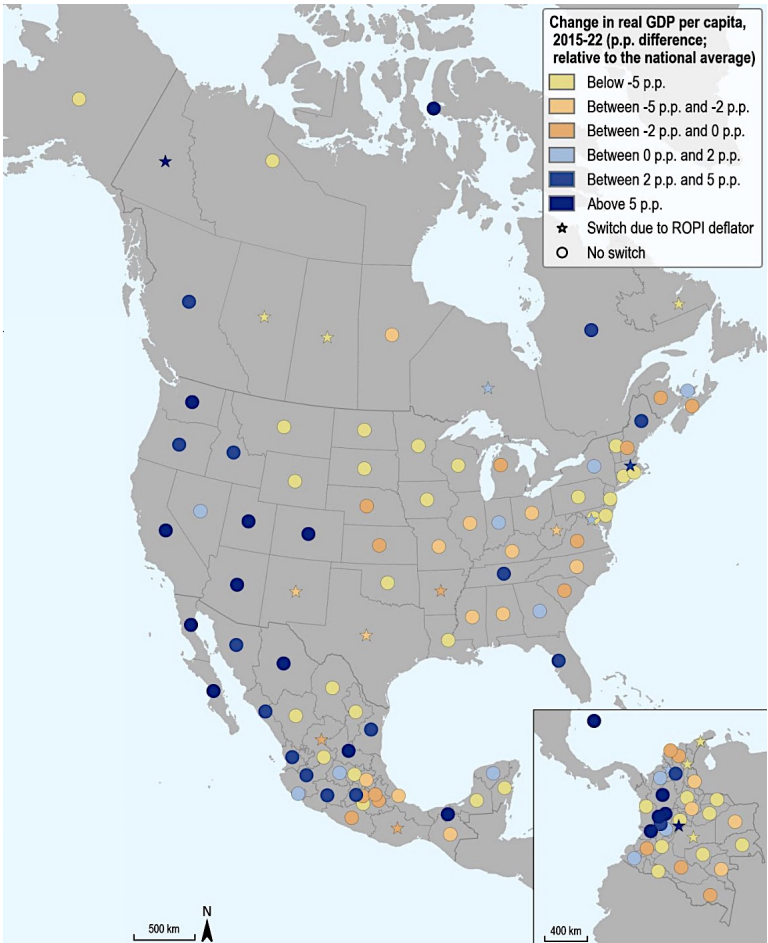
URBANISATION TRENDS ACROSS THE GLOBE



URBANISATION TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD

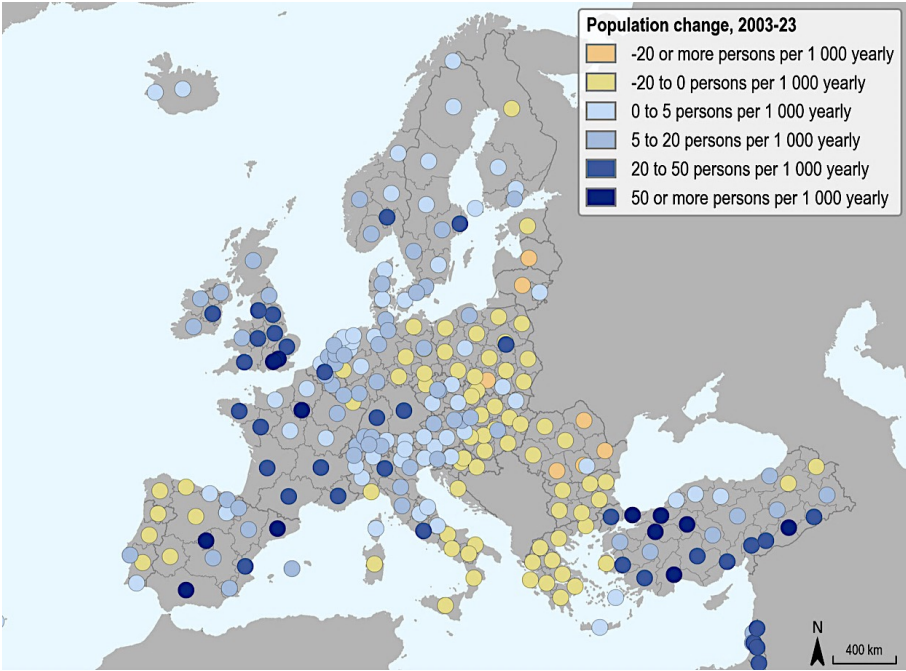


Population change 2003-2023

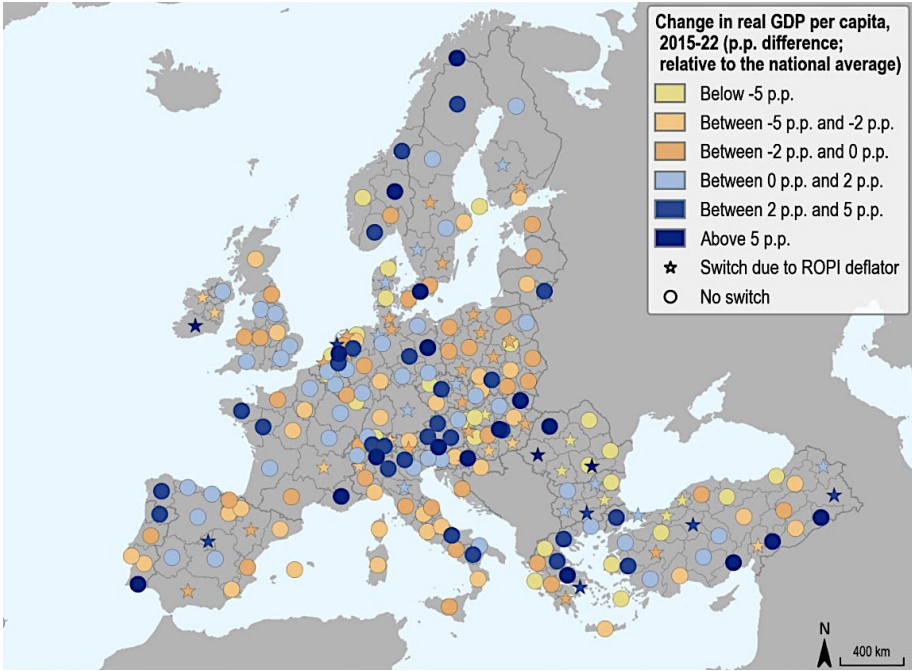


GDP change 2003-2023

URBANISATION TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD



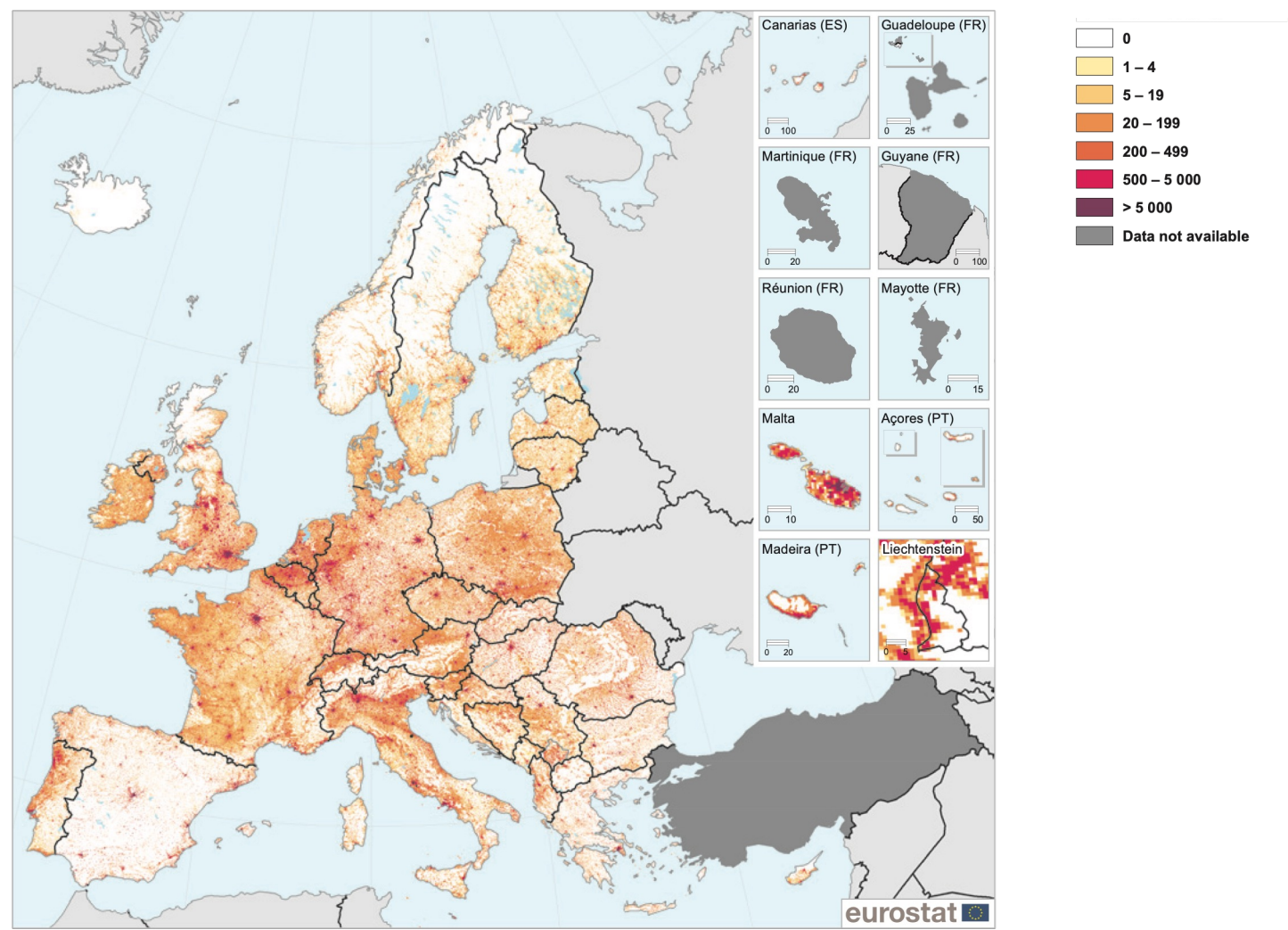
Population change 2003-2023



GDP change 2003-2023

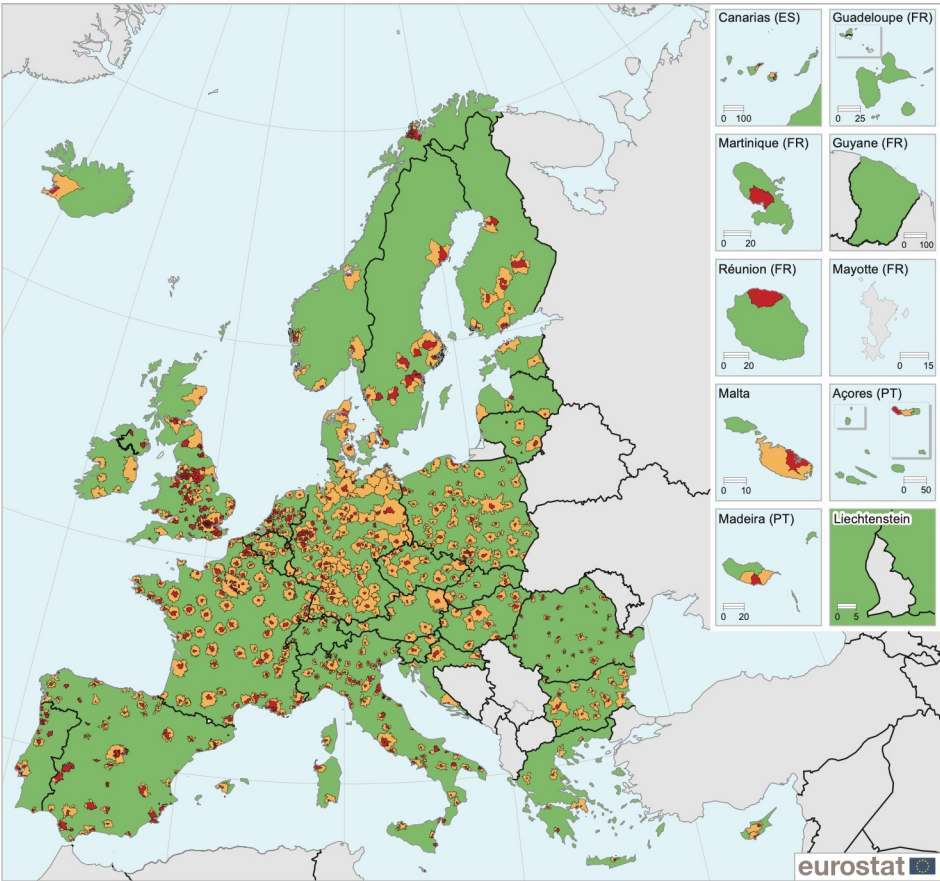
URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE

Density of population



URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE

Map 1.2: Functional urban areas, 2011 (*)



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat — GISCO, 03/2016

- City
- Commuting zone
- Participating countries

Functional urban area (FUA)

Consists of a densely populated **city core** and its surrounding **commuting zone** where at least 15% of employed residents work in the city.

City core

Is a high-density urban center typically defined as having an urban population threshold (such as **at least 50,000 residents**).

Commuting zone

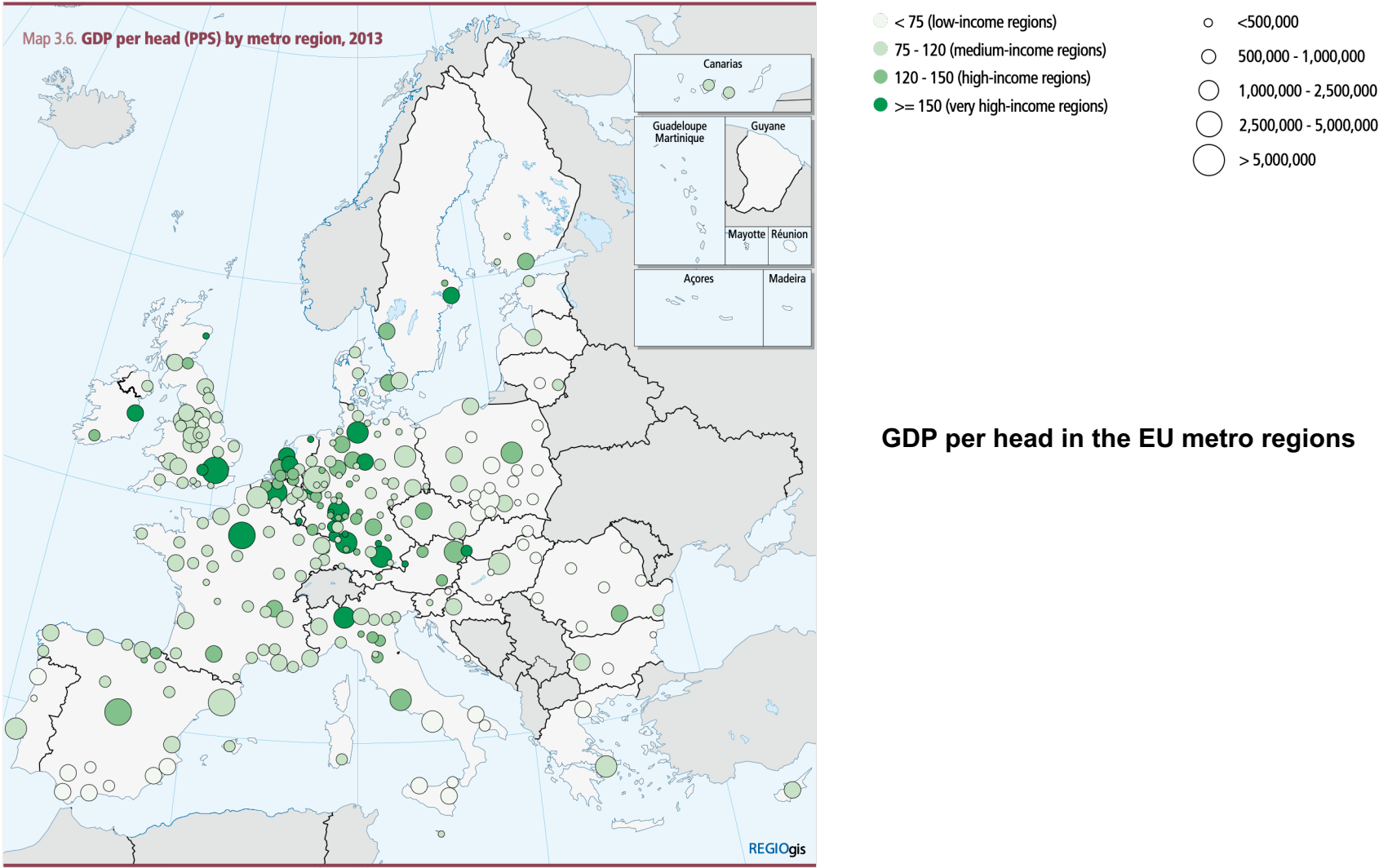
Is a **peri-urban or surrounding hinterland** linked to the core by daily travel-to-work flows. Any neighboring spatial unit qualifies as a commuting zone **at least 15% of its workforce commutes into the city**.

Metropolitan region/city

A city and its commuting zone containing **at least 250,000 inhabitants**.

URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE

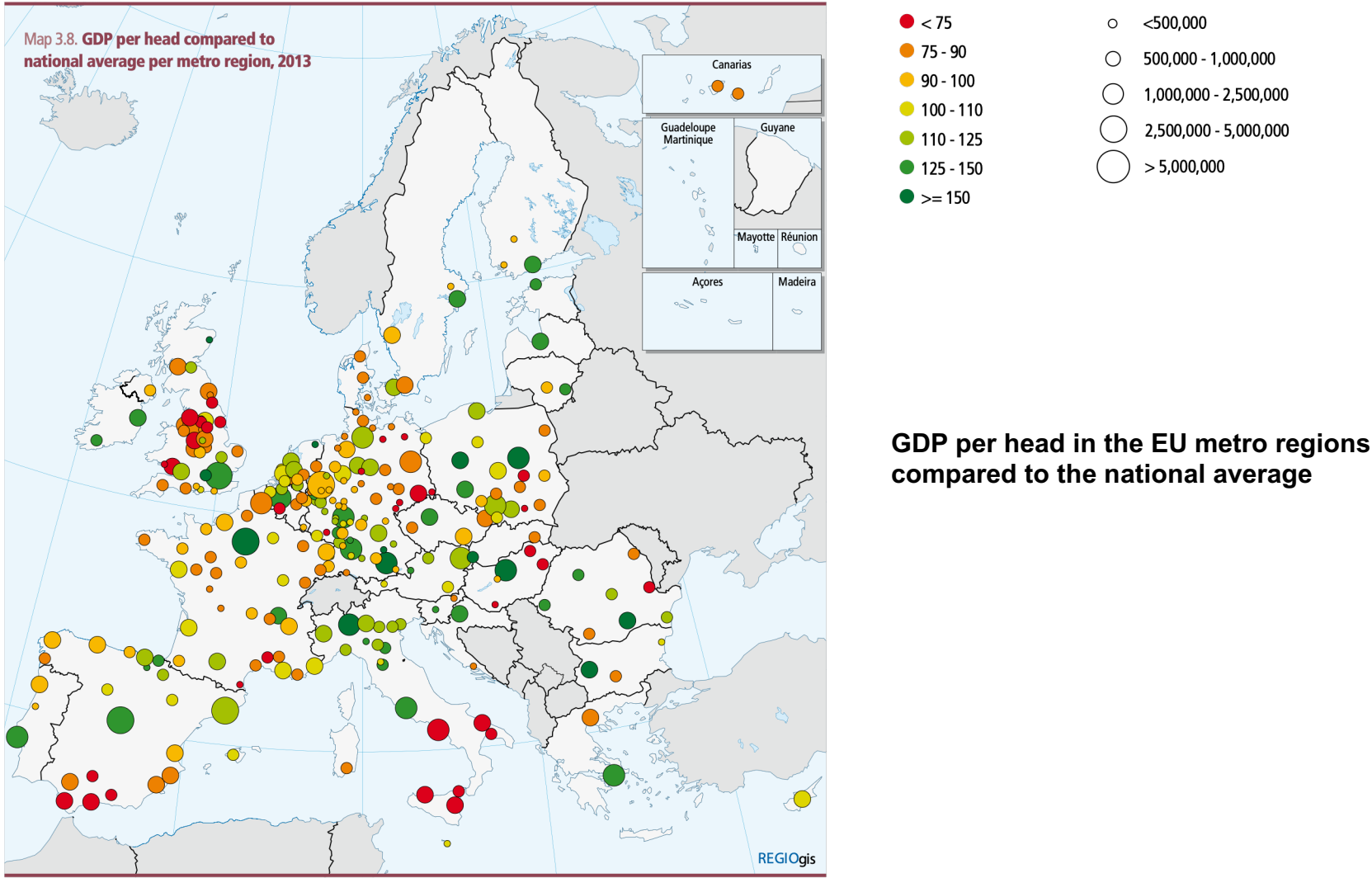
Large cities' population and economy



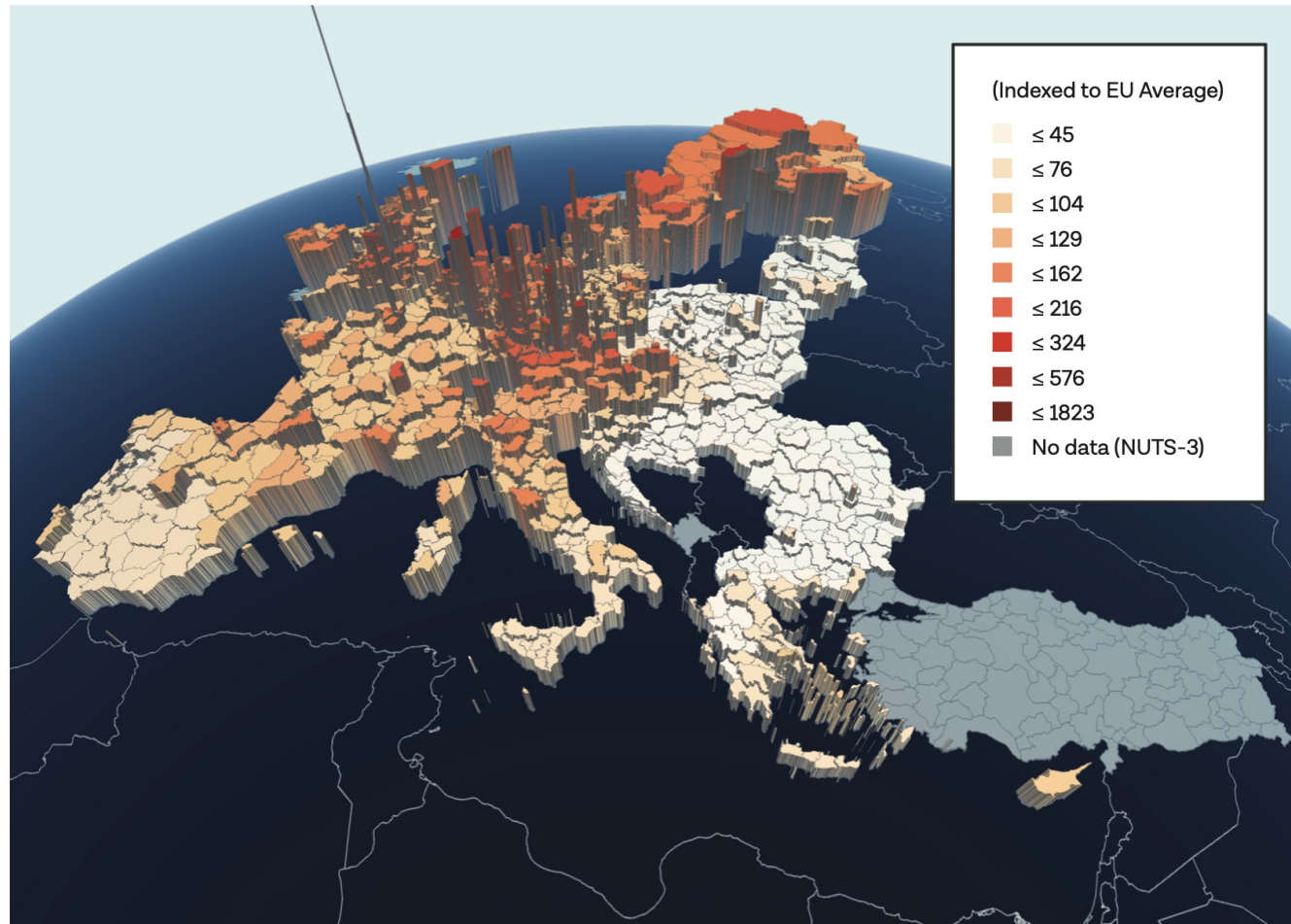
GDP per head in the EU metro regions

URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE

Large cities' population and economy



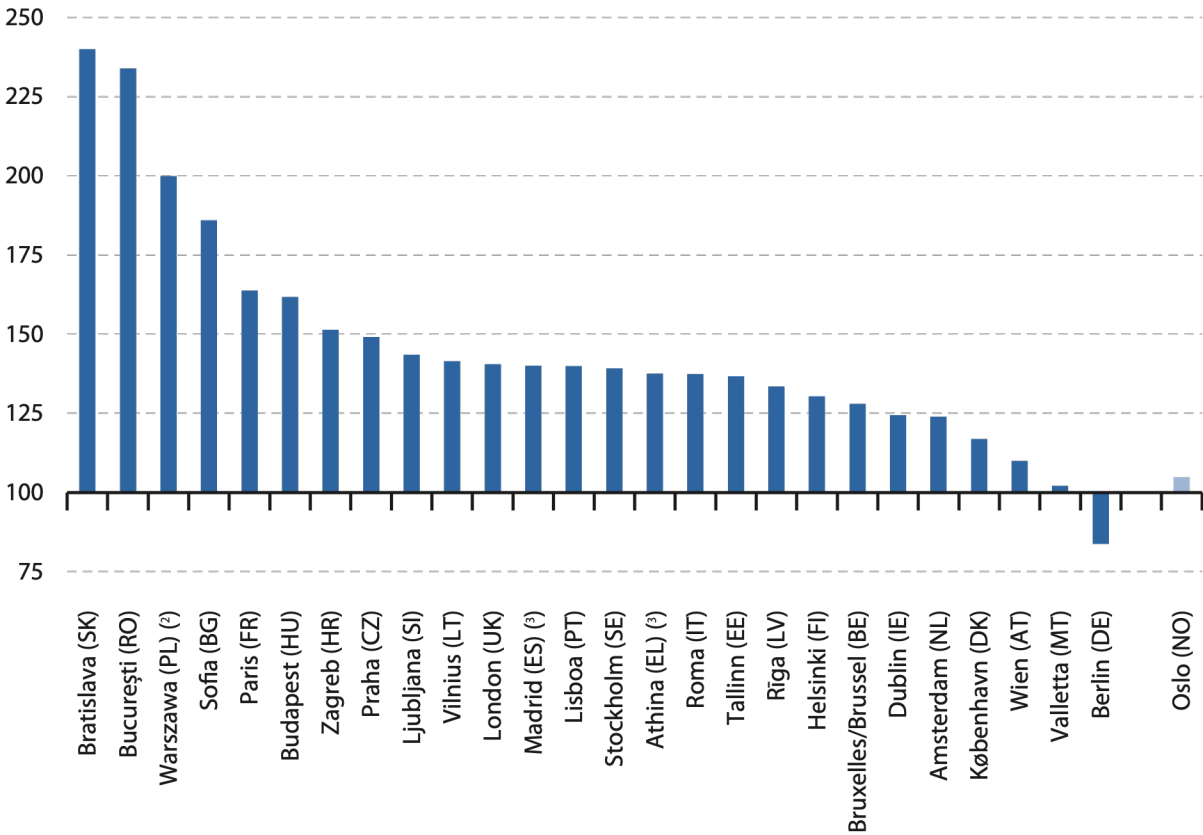
URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE



Distribution of GDP per head across the EU third-level administrative units

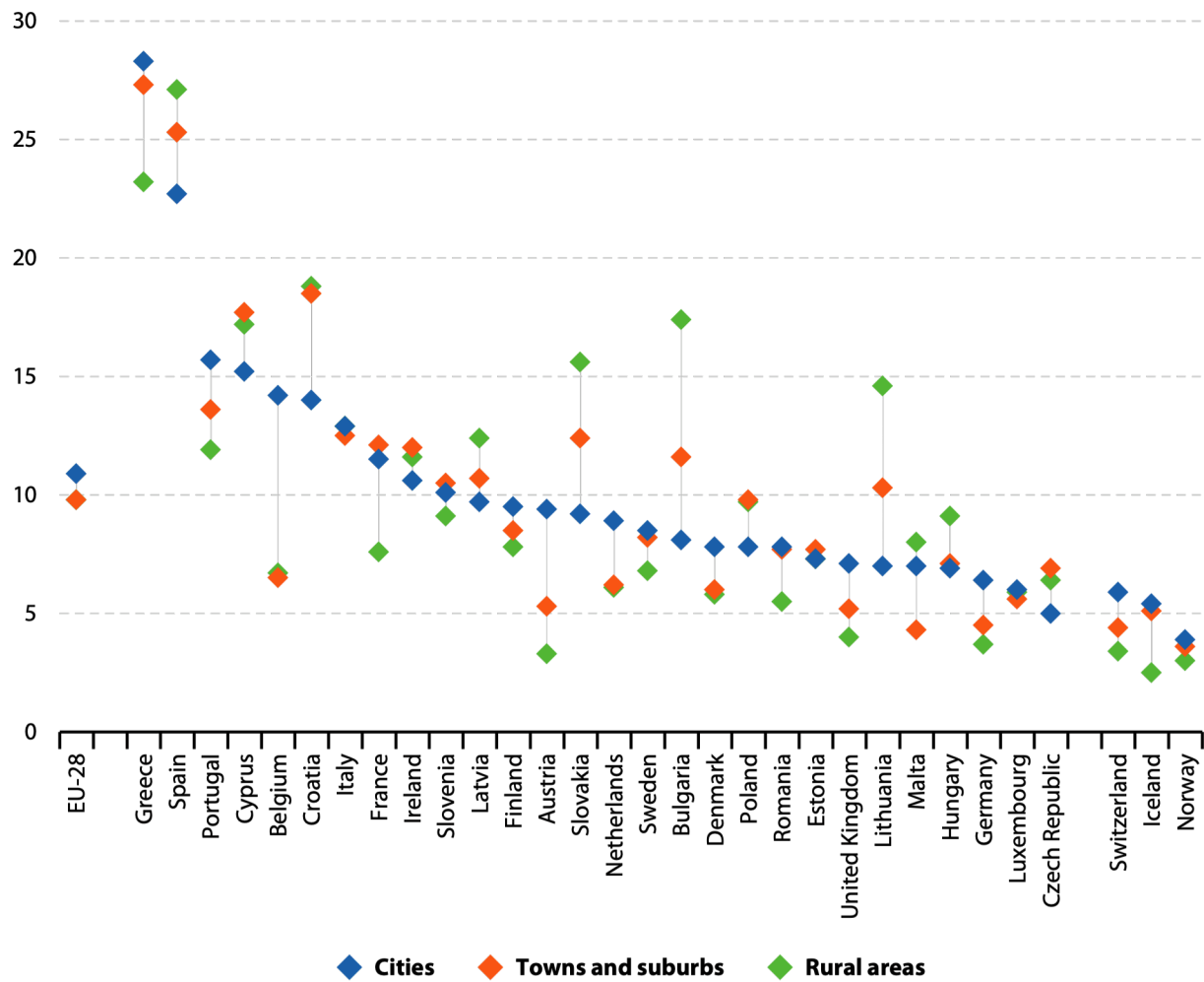
URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE

Economic polarisation in the capital cities



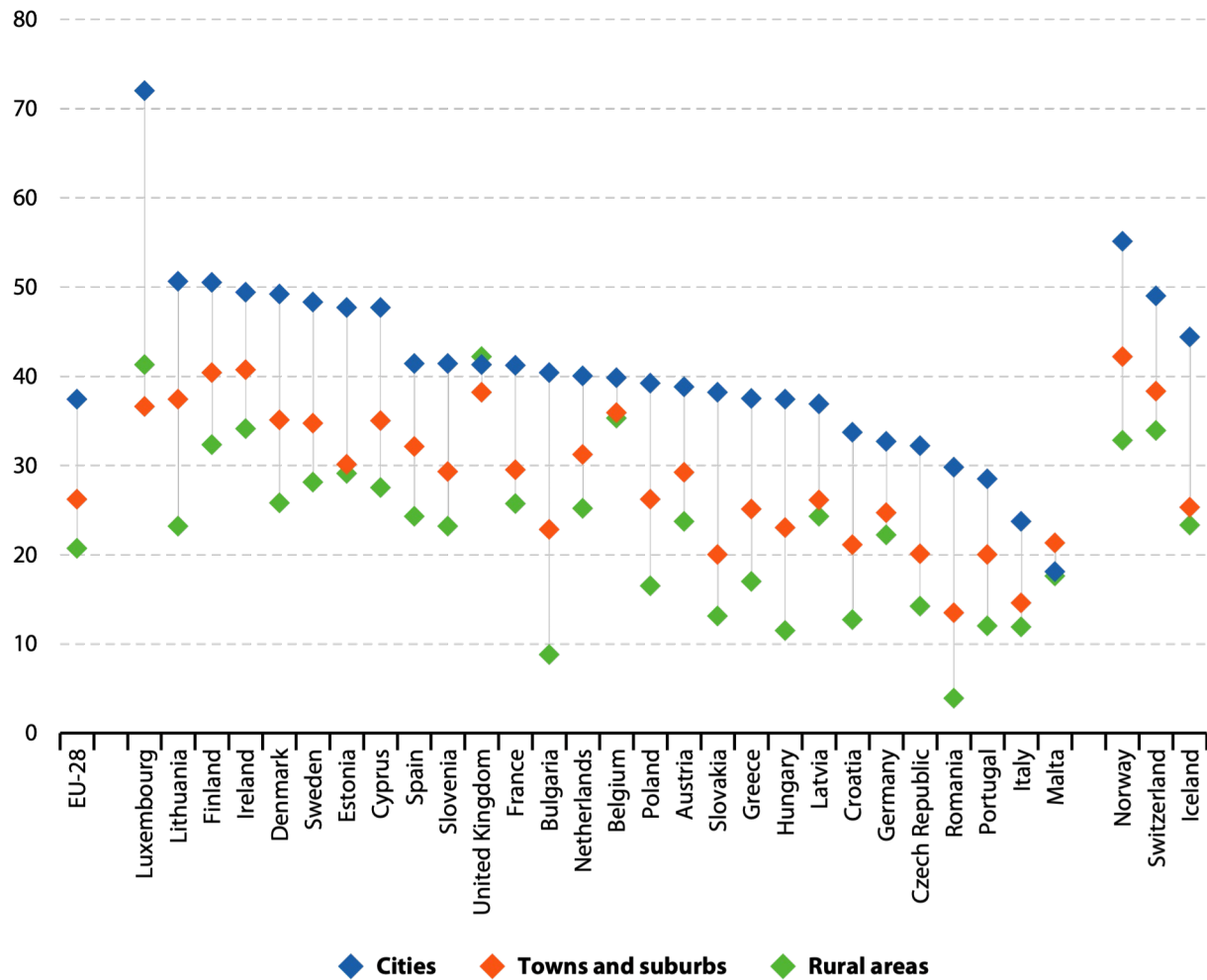
GDP per head in capital cities compared to national average

URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE



Unemployment rate by degree of urbanisation (2014)

URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE



Proportion of people (aged 25–64) with a tertiary level of education (2014)

URBANISATION TRENDS IN EUROPE

- Trends in the total population from 1961 to 2018 show a **decline in the share of population living in rural areas** over the total population.
- Whereas the total **population of European functional urban areas (FUAs) is projected to increase**, almost half of them will actually lose population.
- This means that a **polarisation process** within and around the economically **stronger cities** will continue in the future.
- **Europe's level of urbanisation** is expected to increase to approximately **83.7% in 2050**.
- **Built-up areas** are likely to expand, **reaching 7% of the EU territory by 2030**.

CONTACTS AND MATERIALS

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Teaching materials for the course will be published on a web page at the following link: **www.ignaziovinci.net**