

MART GRISEL

EUKN Director

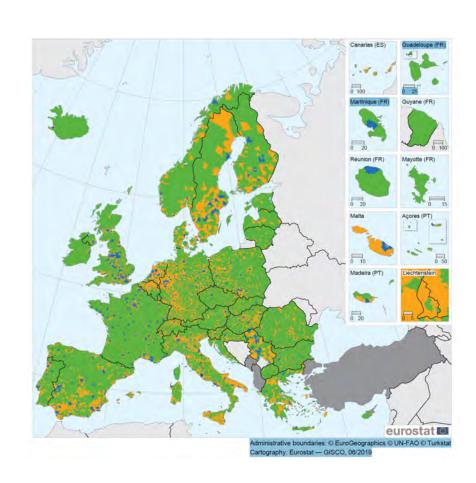
10:30 - 11:00 Findings from Germany, France, and Latvia / Resultados de Alemania, Francia y Letonia

Opportunities for development and innovation in rural areas: European experiences

EUKN Policy Lab



Europe is a continent of small and medium-sized cities and many rural areas



Cities

(Densely populated areas: at least 50 % of the population lives in urban centres)

Towns and suburbs

(Intermediate density areas: less than 50 % of the population lives in rural grid cells and less than 50 % of the population lives in urban centres)

Rural areas

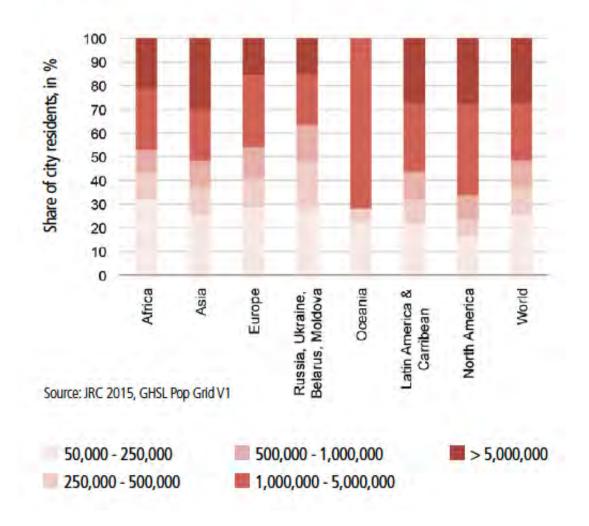
(Thinly populated areas: more than 50 % of the population lives in rural grid cells)

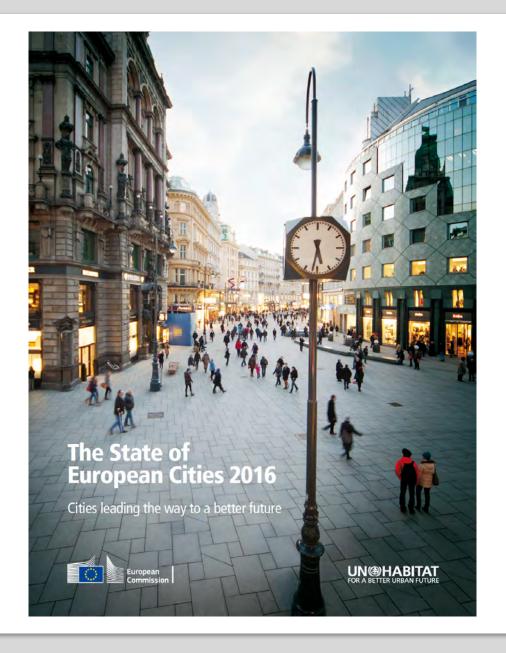
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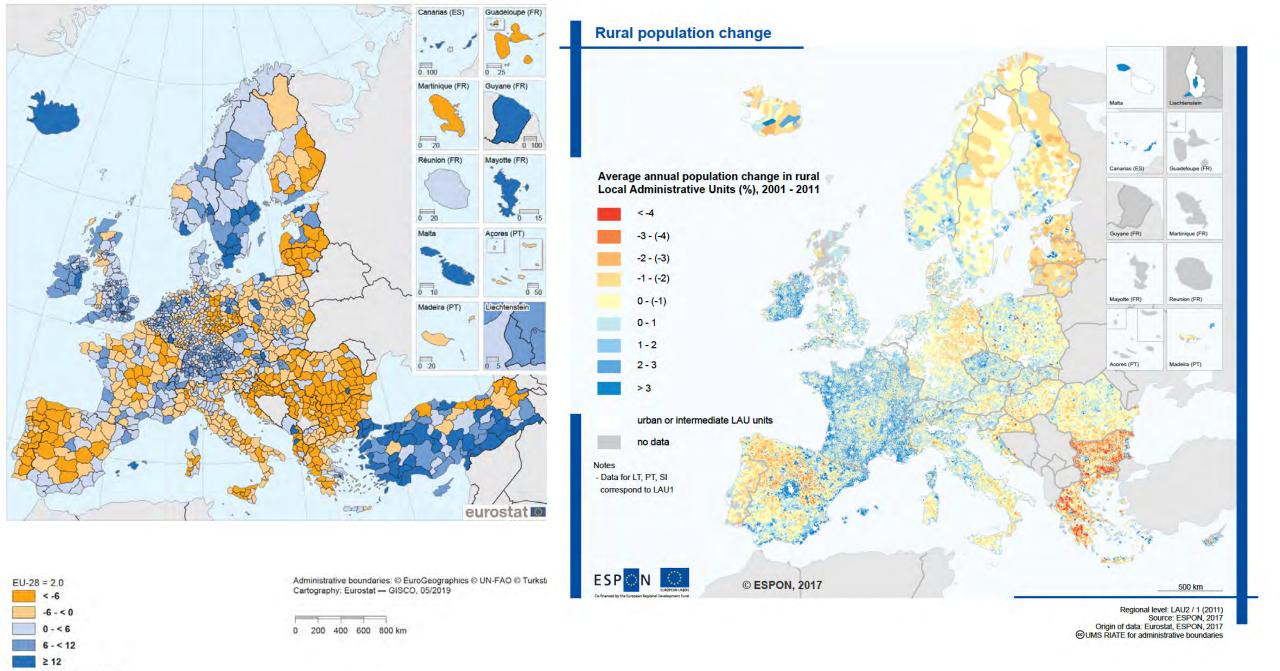
Note: based on population grid from 2011 and LAU 2016.

Source: Eurostat, JRC and European Commission Directorate-General for Regional Policy

Figure 1,5: City population share by city size per major global region, 2015







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Figure 2.1. Population by degree of urbanisation in the EU-28, 1961-2011

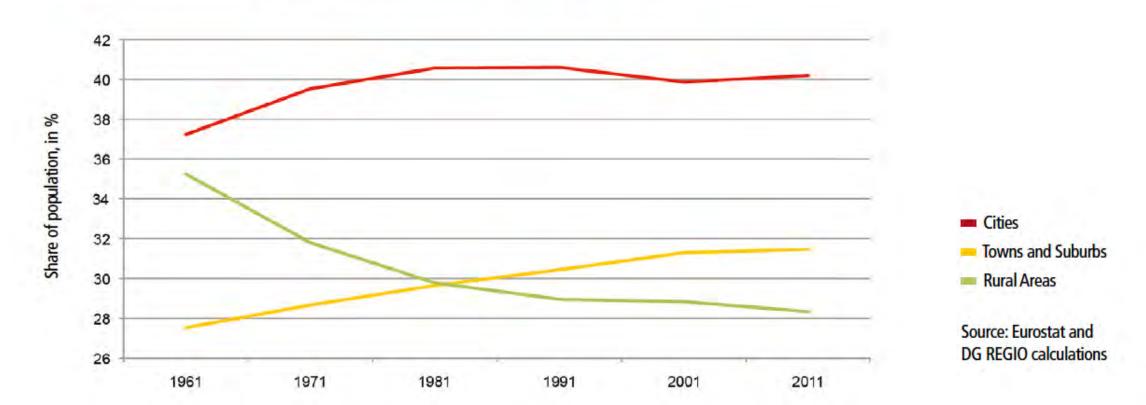
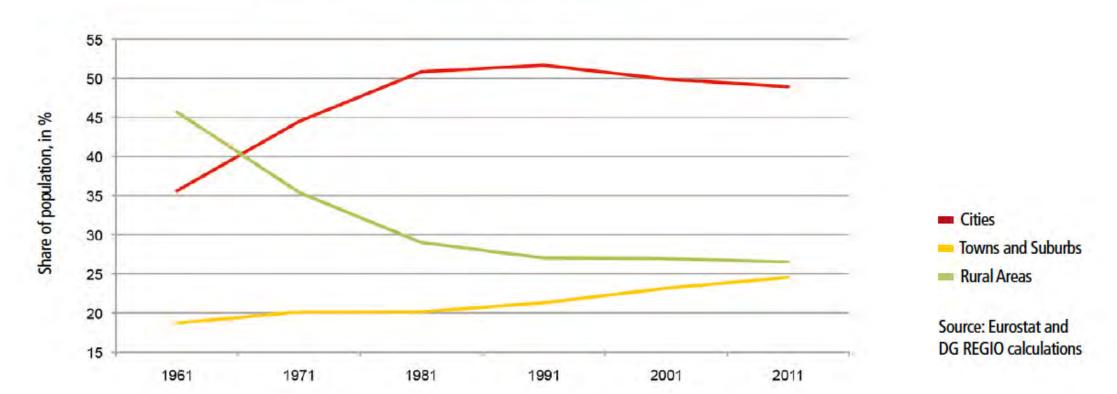
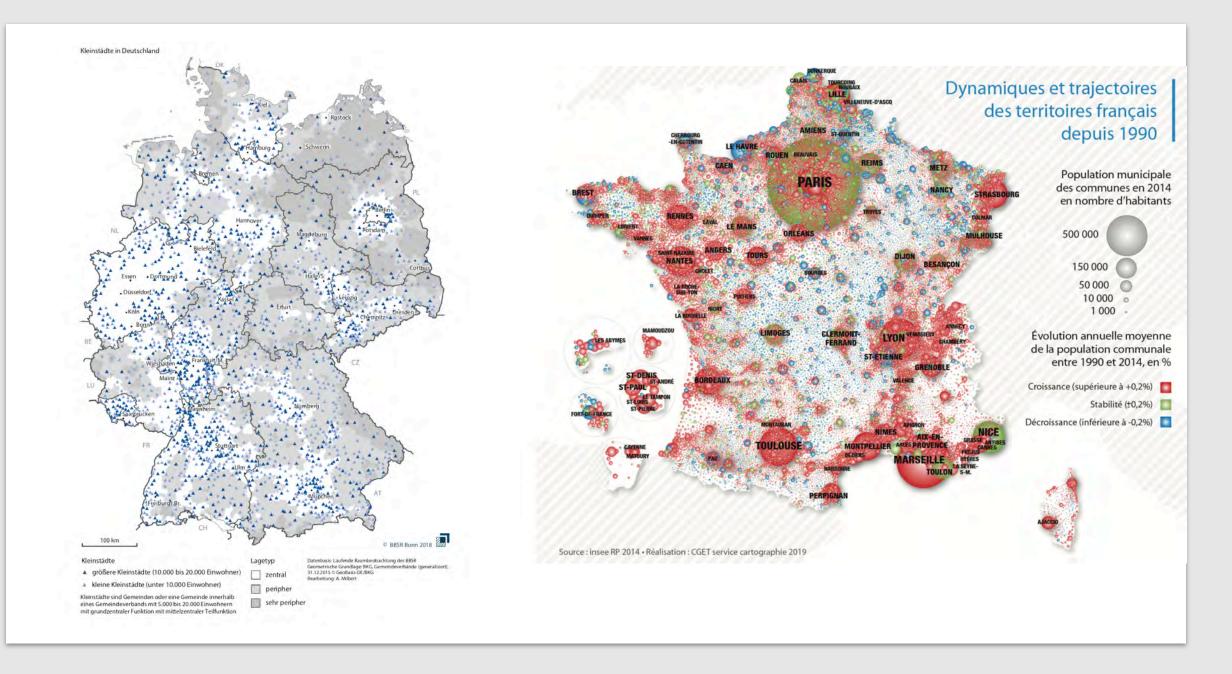


Figure 2.5 Population by degree of urbanisation in Spain, 1961-2011











Definition of small and medium-sized towns and cities

- Different definitions in different MS exist, based on population size, functional role, regional importance and administrative status;
- OECD-COM definition of cities: S (50,000 100,000), M (100,000 250,000), L, XL, XXL and global cities; however lower threshold is much higher than common in many MS.

Development challenges of small and medium-sized towns and cities

Demographic

- Outflow young and educated
- Shrinking population

Economic

- Industrial decline
- Old infrastructure
- Poor housing stock

Institutional

- Insufficient capacity and funding
- Lack of collaboration

Geographic

- Autonomous SMUAs
- Networked SMUAs
- Agglomerated SMUAs





SMUAs differ from larger urban areas



Advantages

More self-employment

Many regions with SMUAs perform well

Lower poverty rates in some MS

Lower unemployment rates on average

More affordable housing

Good quality of life



Neutral

Different demography

More pensioners

Less migrants

More school age children



Disadvantages

Older working population

Less economic diversity

Erosion of services

Limited connectivity

Political unrest

SMUAs Differ from Large Cities

|Demographic

- older working population
- less migrants
- more pensioners
- higher share of school age children

Economic

- more self-employment
- larger working population in manufacturing
- industrial decline
- less economic diversity

Housing

- more second homes
- cheaper houses







SMUAs from individual MS and regions are statistically different from SMUAs in other MS and regions

Cēsis, Latvia

- Cēsis (15,828): a regional development center of creative cultural activities, and tourism
- Challenge of depopulation (-14,2% during past 10 years)
- Active, innovative young mayor and his team



Photo credit: bicycle.lv



Kranj, Slovenia

- Kranj (55,764), from industrial and job-providing centre to a service and a living area
- Youngest city in Slovenia, highest quality of life
- Well-connected city, close to Ljubljana





Example support intermunicipal cooperation: Germany

- Federal programme to encourage intermunicipal cooperation, as part of the National urban development policy, launched 2010 together with German states
- **Objective**: strengthen SMUAs as business, social and cultural centres, allow them to function as hubs, supplying services for the public in the future.
- Programme focuses on inter-municipal cooperation and integrated strategies to cope with demographic and economic shifts
- Sustained investment in adaptation and modernisation community infrastructures
- More than 400 urban areas supported; 70 million euro/year by Federal Ministry.



Example polycentric development: national policy Latvia

- Multi-sectoral territorial support with investments in 30 development centres (many SMUAs) for improvement infrastructure.
- Projects based on local development programs and Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia 2030
- Building capacity and skills of municipalities in cooperation with entrepreneurs
- Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) tool to be used for 9 largest urban areas and their links with surrounding areas





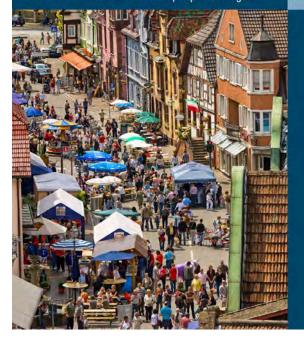








Potenziale von Kleinstädten in peripheren Lagen



Strategic choices: going for growth or coping with decline?

Elements of a growth strategy

Socio economic

- Invest in skills; make use of the skills and knowledge inhabitants
- Provide responsive, efficient and open public services
- Target young generation
- Support local innovation

Territorial

- Ensure co-development by working across administrative boundaries
- Secure connectivity (infrastructure, digitalization)
- Build local and regional partnerships

Institutional

- Strategic planning, scenario planning, smart specisalisation
- Strengthen collaborative and inclusive community leadership
- Collaborate across boundaries and sectors
- Networking (national, international)

