Tools for the Rural Pact: the Rural Observatory and the European Startup Village Forum

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Outline

This presentation will:

- Give an overview on the scope and functions of the Rural Observatory
- Introduce the European Startup Village Forum and define the Startup Village concept
- Look ahead to next activities and steps for science and policy in EU rural areas

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The Rural Observatory

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EU Rural Action Plan: Transversal actions

RURAL PROOFING will be introduced to review major EU policies and consider potential impacts and implications on rural areas.

A RURAL OBSERVATORY will be set up in the Commission to deepen data collection and analysis on rural areas to support policymaking.

a core component of the LTVRA and a transversal action in support of policymaking and rural proofing

Scope of the Rural Observatory

- **Collection of existing indicators** and **production of new indicators** targeted to the analysis of rural areas
- Elaboration of **analytical papers** with focus on prominent rural topics
- Integration of **contributions from external stakeholders and experts**
- Setup of a "**Rural Data Platform"** to disseminate data and knowledge on rural areas, which provides:
  - **comparability**
  - **full EU coverage**

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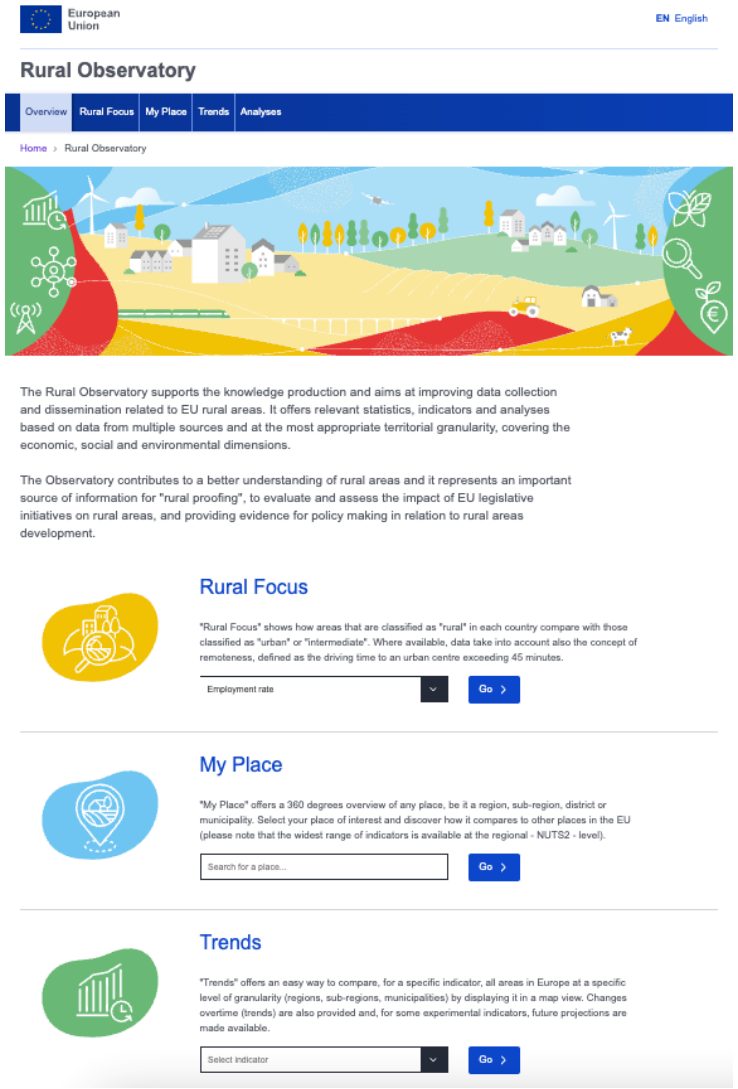
https://observatory.rural-vision.europa.eu



Available in **24 languages** (machine translation)

Main entry points:

- Rural Focus
- My Place
- Trends
- Thematic analyses

Interactive Tools

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Which tool for which stakeholder?

Rural Focus

EU National Researchers

My Place

Local Policymakers Citizens

Trends

EU National Researchers

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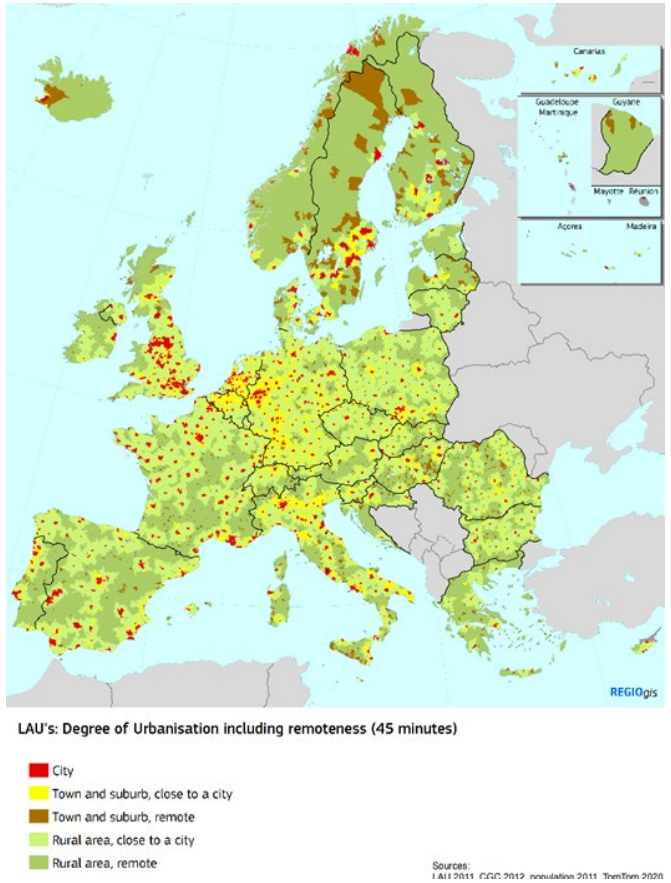
Where are the Rural Areas?

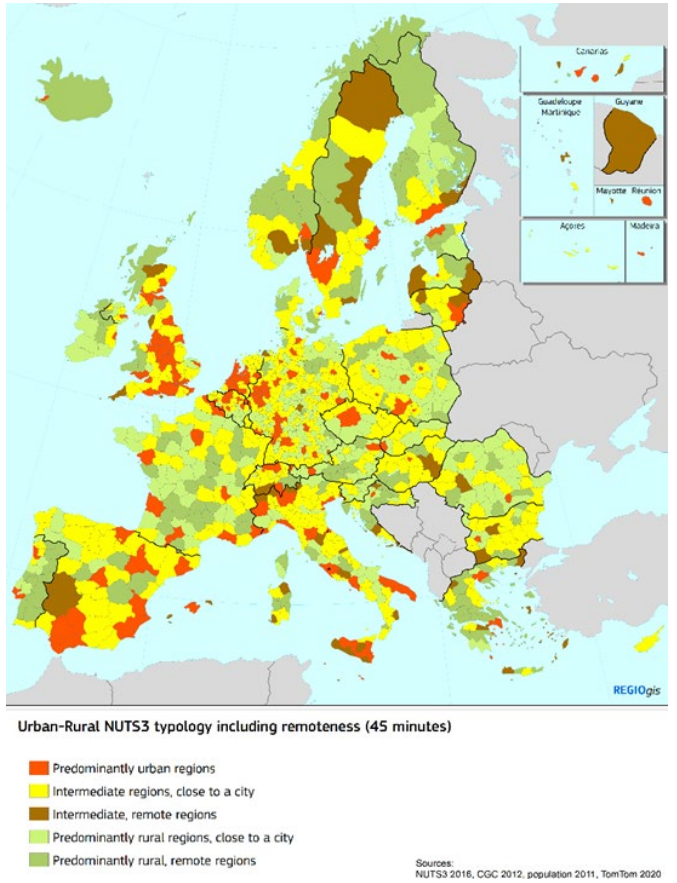


← DEGURBA

More detailed, requires source data at the grid or municipality level

URT →

Less detailed, requires source data at sub-regional (NUTS3) level



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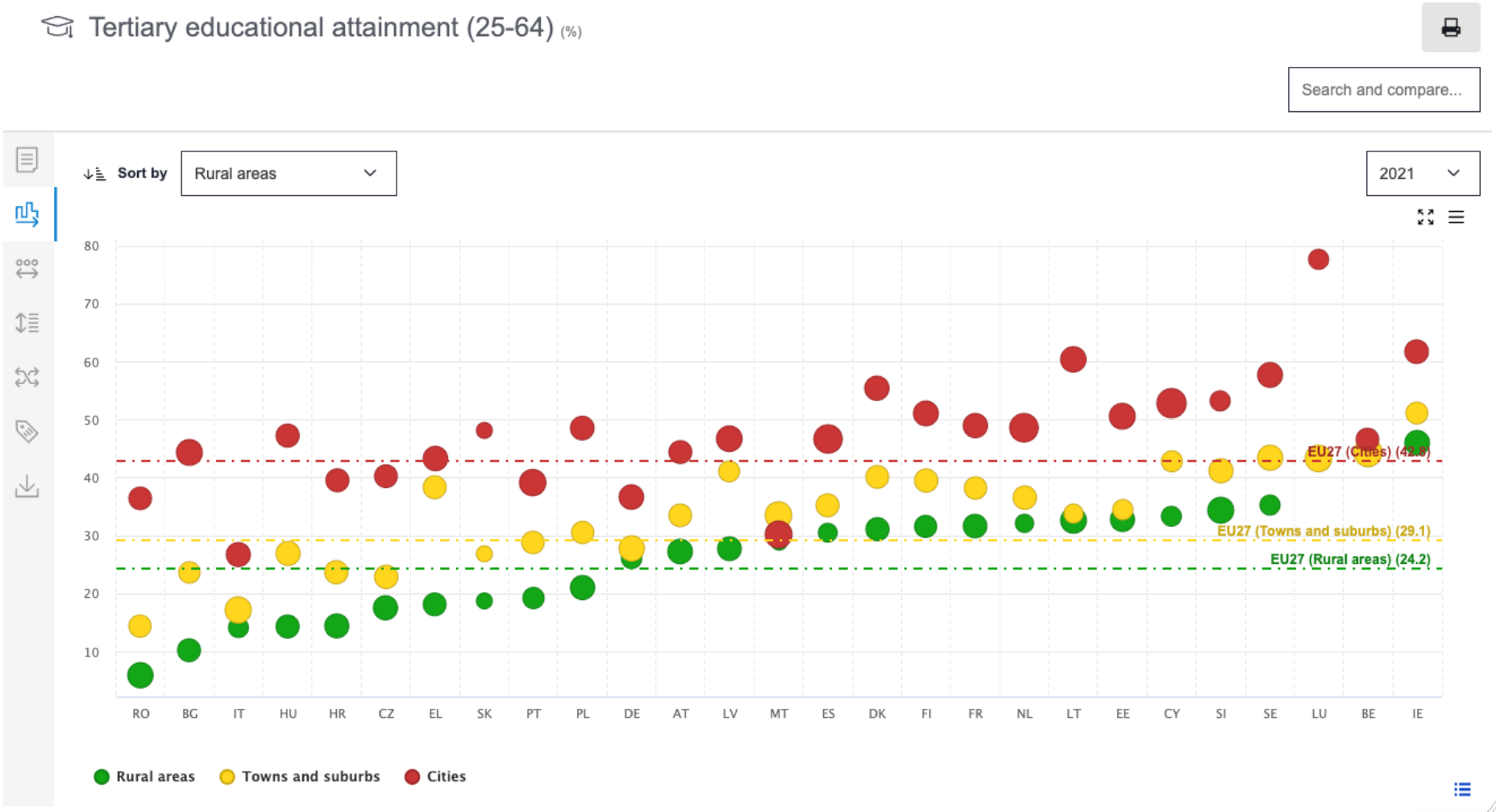
DEGURBA: example



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Focus on individual region or municipality

My Place

"My Place" offers a 360 degrees overview of any place, be it a region, sub-region, district or municipality. Select your place of interest and discover how it compares to other places in the EU (please note that the widest range of indicators is available at the regional - NUTS2 - level).

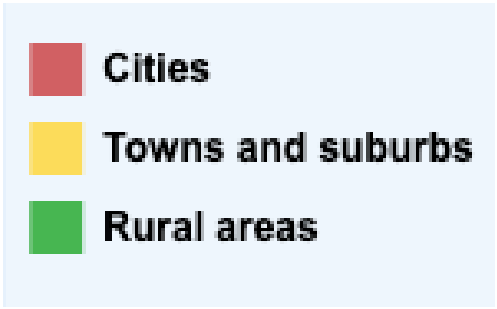
Search for a place...

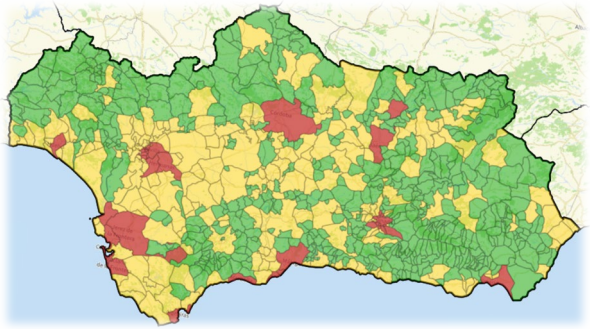
Go >

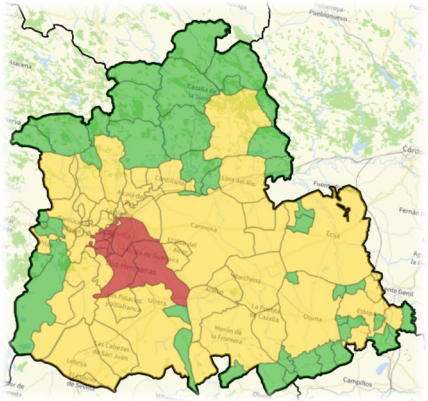
NUTS2 (Andalusia)

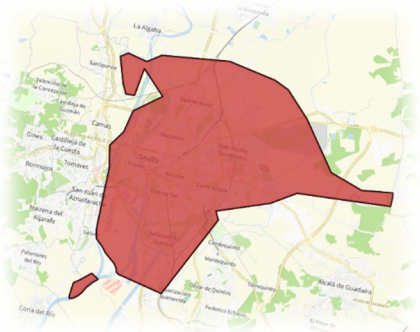
NUTS3 (Sevilla Province)

LAU (Sevilla)









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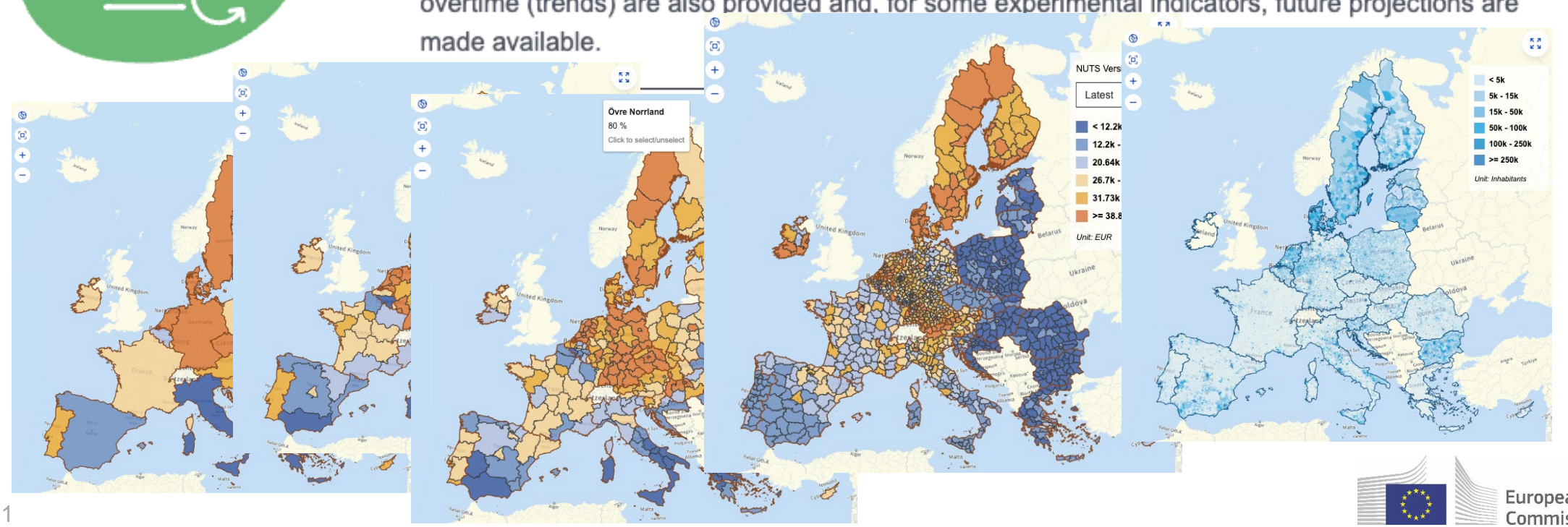
Focus on a specific indicator

Trends

"Trends" offers an easy way to compare, for a specific indicator, all areas in Europe at a specific level of granularity (regions, sub-regions, municipalities) by displaying it in a map view. Changes overtime (trends) are also provided and, for some experimental indicators, future projections are made available.



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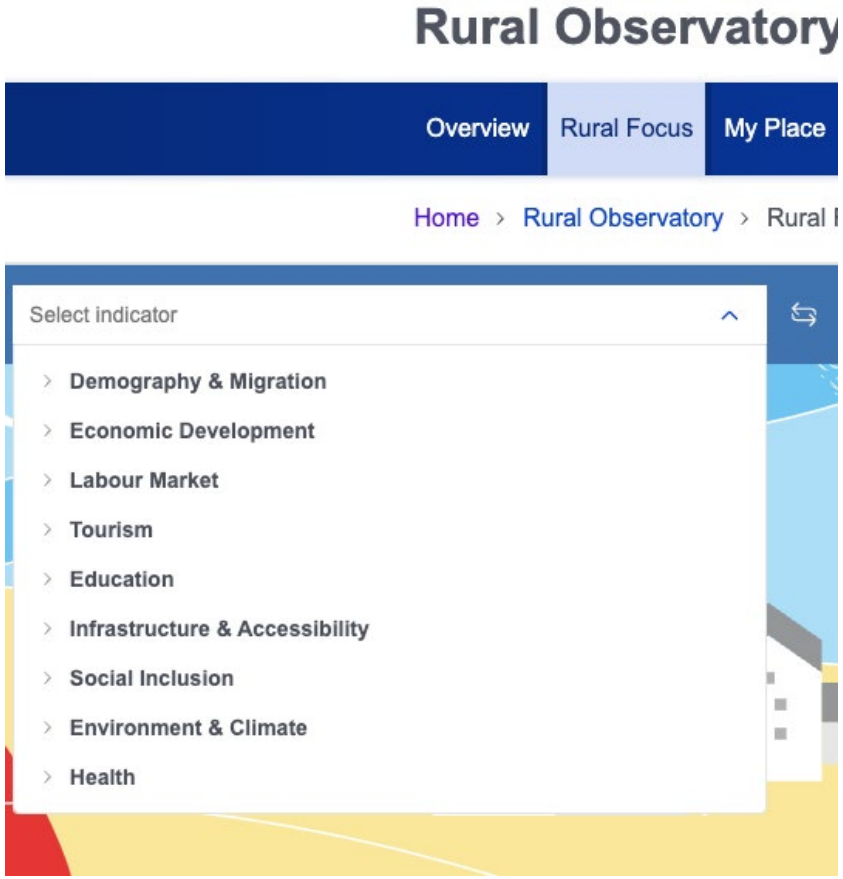
Main thematic areas



- The availability of indicators depends on the level of granularity (NUTS2, NUTS3, LAU)
- In some cases, indicators are available at the regional / municipal level but not by degree of urbanisation, or vice-versa
- One of the main challenges consists in ensuring comparability over time, due to NUTS and LAU boundaries changes

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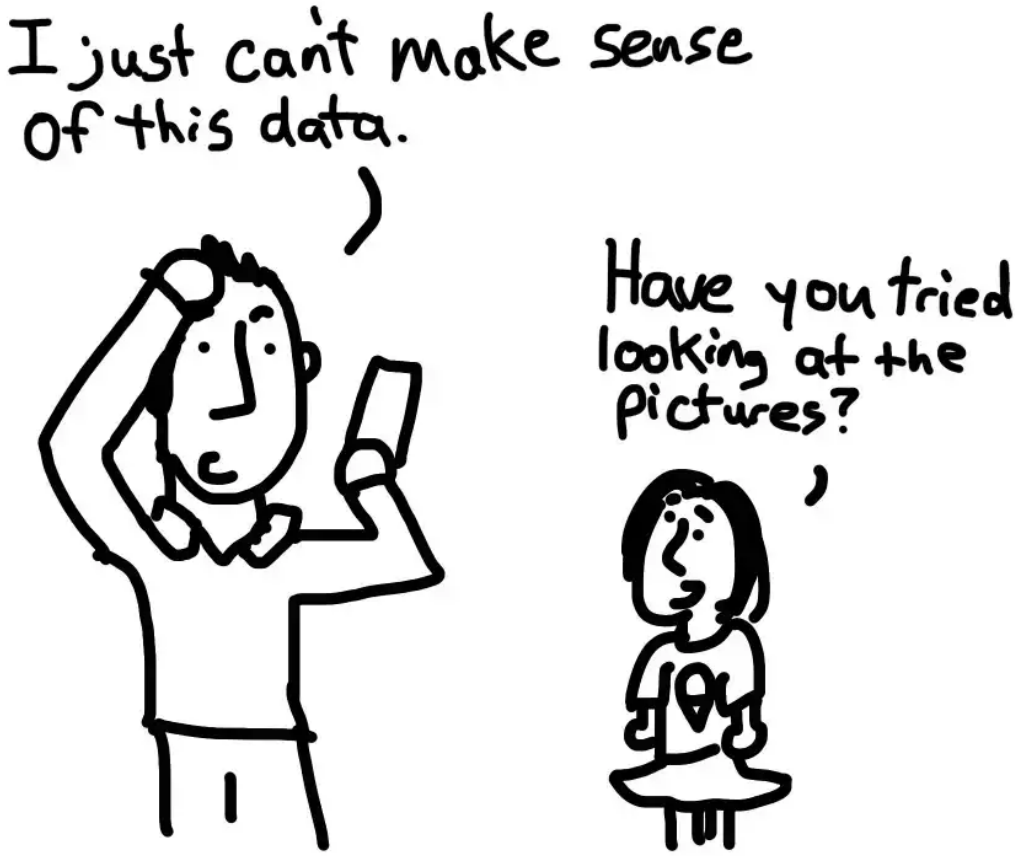
Thematic Analyses



To be usable, data must be:

- accessible
- understandable

➔ visualisations, infographics, sound research

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The European Startup Village Forum

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Startup Village Forum and the Rural Action Plan

- The LTVRA's flagship action on **Research and Innovation for rural communities** acknowledges the enabling role of innovation ecosystems as a driver empowering these areas and their citizens.
- The **Startup Village Forum (SVF)** is part of this flagship action.

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Startup Village Forum and the NEIA

- The **New European Innovation Agenda** aims to position Europe at the forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and start-ups. The agenda brings together policies, investments and instruments in a coherent approach to drive systemic change and impact.
- The NEIA's support to Startup Villages is aimed at **addressing the innovation divide and harnessing opportunities offered by EU rural areas**.

Startup Village Forum

The **SVF** is intended

- to be an **open and inclusive** space for rural stakeholders for sharing and learning from each other
- to better **understand the dynamics** that operate in rural areas in terms of **entrepreneurship and innovation**
- to strengthen territorial ecosystems and contribute to **accelerate the spread and adoption of innovation** in rural areas

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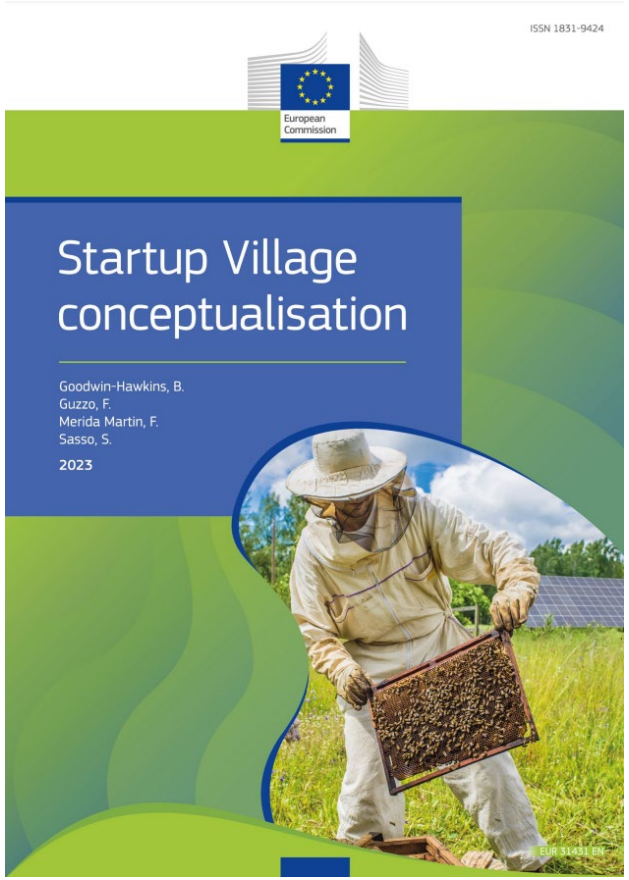
What is a Startup Village?



*A place (or a network of small places) that embraces **innovation** and **ambitious entrepreneurship** as a way to unlock development potential and support wellbeing in rural areas.*

*By combining local **place**, **people**, and **purpose** with external **knowledge**, **resources**, and **markets**, a Startup Village strives to provide favourable conditions for entrepreneurial and innovative **ecosystems** to flourish.*

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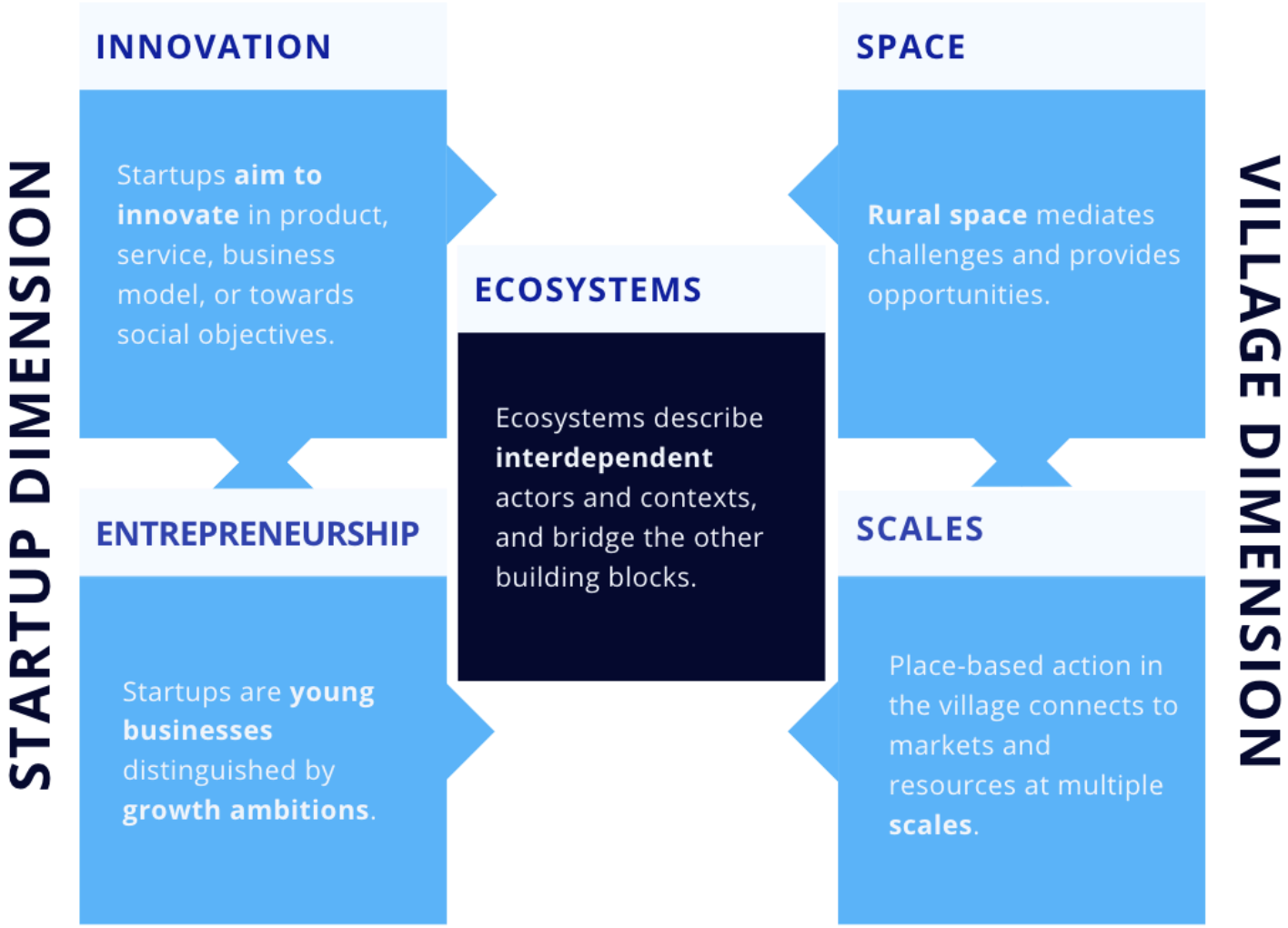
CONCEPTUAL BUILDING BLOCKS



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JRC Research Activity on Rural Innovation Ecosystems

- **Startup Village Mapping Tool** to develop a better understanding on the fuctioning of Startup Villages and their degree of readiness

- Analysis of **good practices and initiatives** to support entrepreneurship and innovation in European rural areas

- Exploratory study on the geographical distribution of startups in European rural areas and the relationship between **regional specialisation and startup emergence**.

- Development of a limited number of **indicators to measure rural innovation** and entrepreneurship, talking into account their specific features

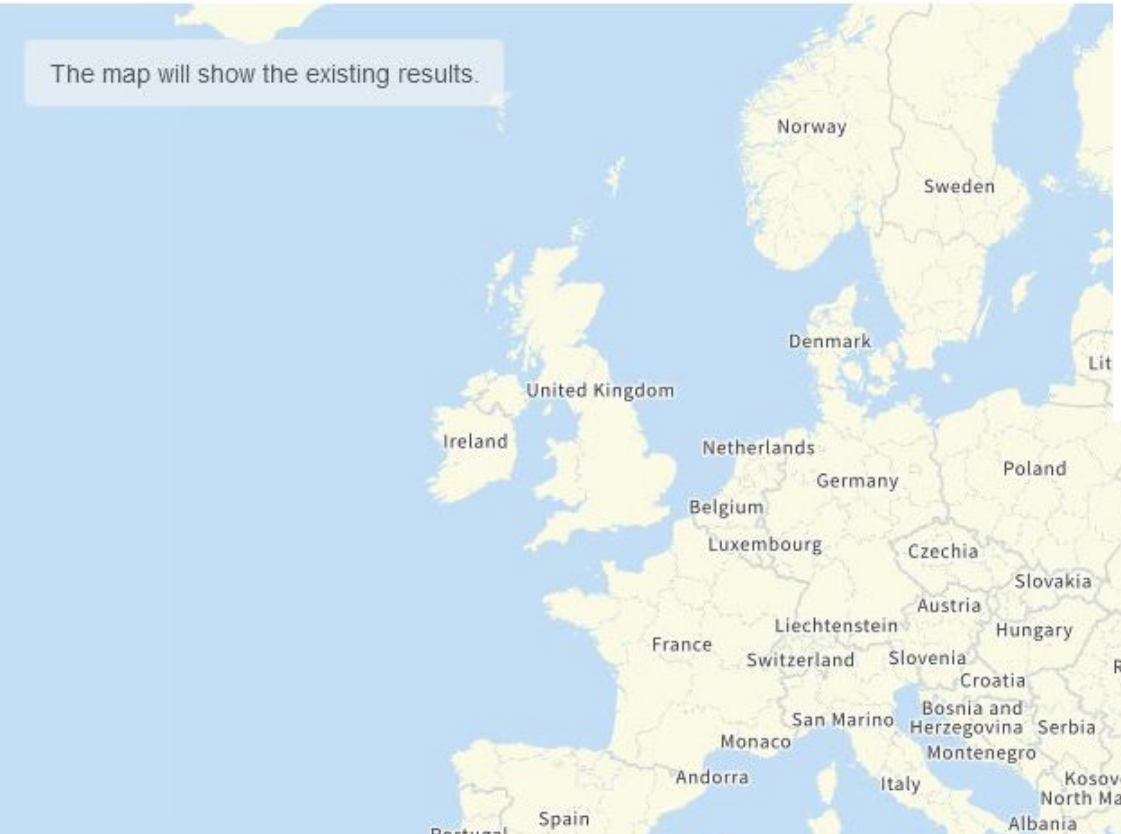
- Analytical **deep-dives on the enabling conditions** to develop innovation ecosystems and innovative entrepreneurship in rural areas

Startup Village Mapping Tool

Understanding how innovation functions in rural areas is central for effective public and private sector's initiatives aimed at strengthening these territories. In February 2023, a rolling call for expression of interest was launched for all those European villages that intend to be Startup Villages. The map below will show the villages that have identified themselves as Startup Villages, and the information they provided. As the call remains open, the map will continue evolving.

If you represent a local authority and you think your village could qualify as a Startup Village, fill in the questionnaire!

Go to survey



Startup Village Mapping Tool

Available on
https://startup-forum.rural-vision.europa.eu

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European Union

EN English

European

Home About

EU VILLAGE

Close

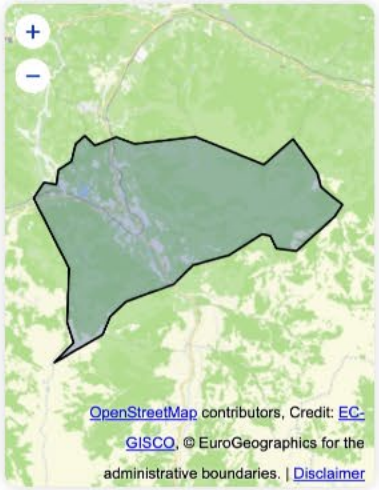
About this village

Country:
in the European Union

Size:
less than 15 000 inhabitants

Distance from the nearest main city:
less than 20 minutes' drive

Institution providing information for this factsheet:
EU Village's Municipality



Why can EU Village be considered a Startup Village?

Our town has invested in developing mentoring schemes for startups, as well as functional co-working and networking spaces and regular events with established universities. These elements, in addition to available high-speed connection, have attracted a number founders and digital nomads.

Factors facilitating local innovation and entrepreneurship

EU Village's Municipality

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Factors facilitating local innovation and entrepreneurship

Co-working facilities

Fablab facilities

Business incubation/acceleration

The three main economic sectors of EU Village

Co-working facilities ✓

Fablab facilities ✓

Business incubation/acceleration ✓

The three main economic sectors of EU Village

Manufacture of furniture

Accommodation

Food and beverage service activities

Existing programmes for innovation and entrepreneurship

Implemented startup strategy/programme ✓

www.innovatingeuvillage.eu

How well do local innovation actors connect with each other?

Startups and SMEs	Very good	Good	Good	Rather weak	Good	Very weak
Public authorities	Good	Rather weak	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good
Investors	Rather weak	Good	Rather weak	Fair	Rather weak	Good
Industry and corporates	Rather weak	Very weak	Very good	Rather weak	Very good	Rather weak
Universities and research institutions	Fair	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very good

Accommodation

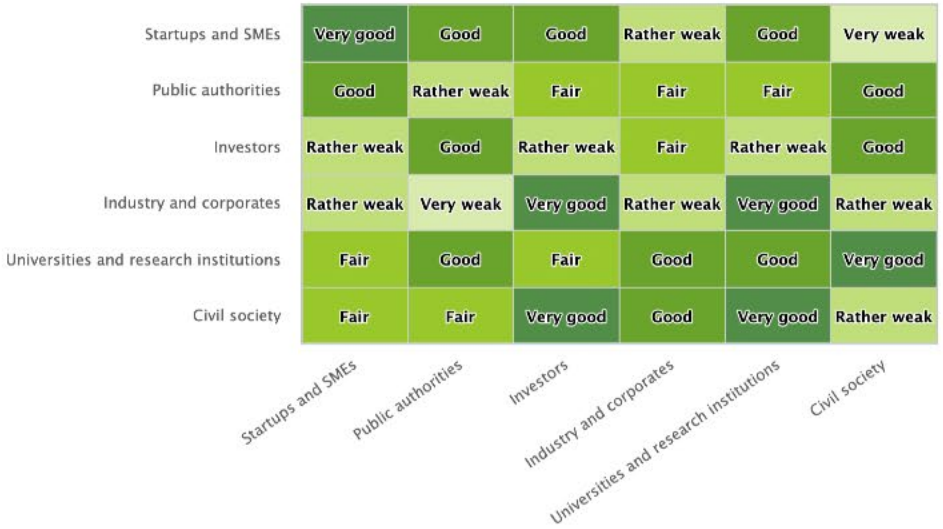
Food and beverage service activities

Existing programmes for innovation and entrepreneurship

Implemented startup strategy/programme

www.innovatingeuvillage.eu

How well do local innovation actors connect with each other?



Access to funding

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

European Social Fund (ESF)

Cohesion Fund (CF)

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Kazakhstan
Georgia
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan
Turkmenistan
Tajikistan
Iran
Iraq
Afghanistan
s, Credit: EC-GISCO, © EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries | Disclaimer

Upcoming e

28 FEB 2023

Eu

n 2021

Publications

define it as 'A

Rural Toolkit

What is it?

An online guide for rural actors (local authorities and stakeholders) to identify the **EU funding opportunities** (in 2021-2027) that better match their needs to revitalize and develop rural areas

It also provides **inspirational examples** on how those funding initiatives has been used and combined

Work plan

Survey to all EU Services and Agencies to identify the key funds, programmes, instruments and support mechanisms for the period 2021-2027 → Done

A **workshop** with rural stakeholders to test the functionality and user friendliness → July

Launch of the **1st version** of the Rural Toolkit during the Spanish Presidency → September

Release of a **2nd version** with more functionalities → December

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Thank you

simone.sasso@ec.europa.eu

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Annex

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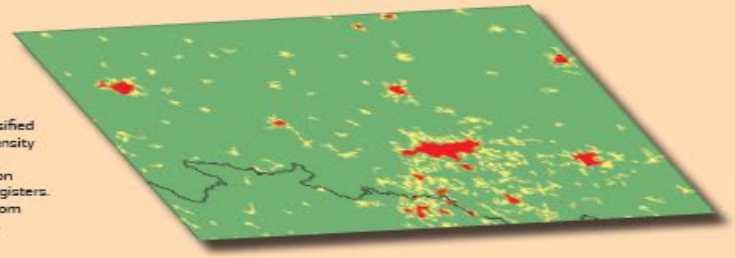
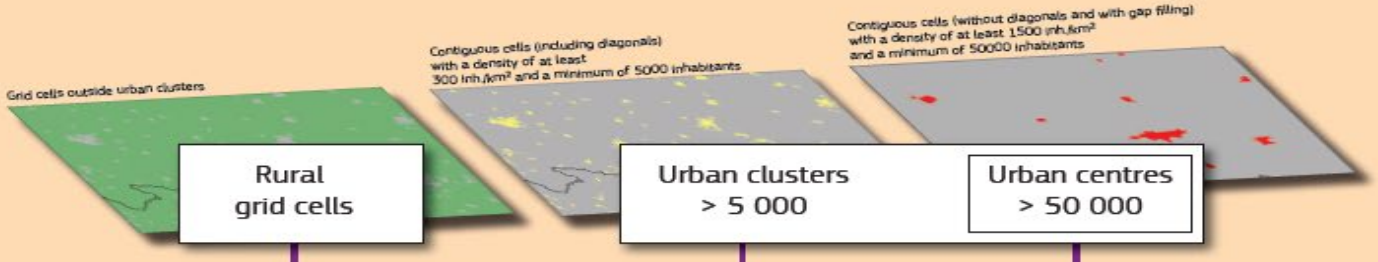
Degree of urbanisation

A classification of local administrative units

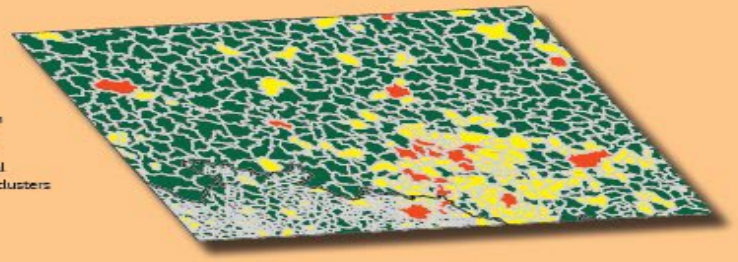
Grid cells



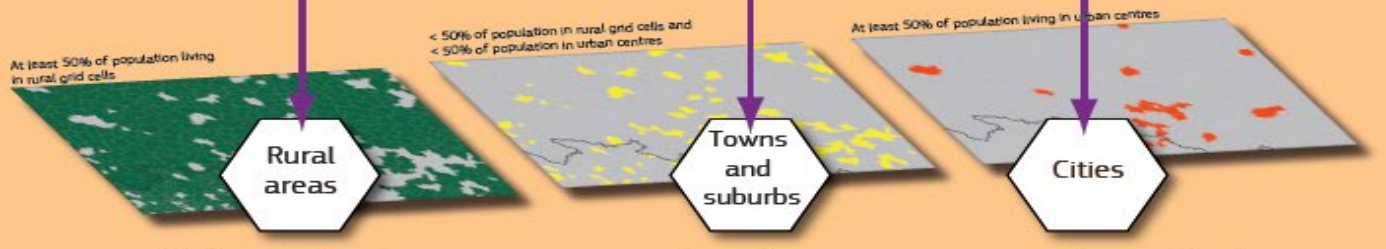
Raster cells of 1 km² are classified using criteria of population density and contiguity.
Where available, the population distribution is derived from registers. Elsewhere, it is downscaled from local (LAU) population figures.



LAU units



The degree of urbanisation is a classification of local administrative units (LAU) based on the share of local population living in urban clusters and in urban centres.



This typology has been developed by DG Regional and Urban Policy in co-operation with DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Eurostat, DG Joint Research Centre and OECD.

Data sources: Eurostat, DG JRC, national statistical institutes

Regional and Urban Policy

For more information:

Degree of urbanisation classification:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Degree_of_urbanisation_classification_-_2011_revision

Correspondence table of LAU:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/miscellaneous/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_DEGURBA

REGIOgis

Three misconceptions

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