Statistics on cities, towns and suburbs - supporting urban policies

Gunter Schäfer
Eurostat Unit E4
Regional statistics and geographical information
Content

I. Policy relevance of the City statistics, key characteristics and harmonised definitions

II. Some examples of city characteristics

III. City Statistics Illustrated application
Policy relevance

- Towns and cities across the European Union (EU) cover more than 70% of the EU-28’s population.
- Europe's cities are the engines of the European economy, providing jobs and services, and serve as hubs that catalyse creativity and innovation.
- Cities symbolise the twofold challenge: how to improve competitiveness while meeting social, cultural and environmental demands.
- Cities move into the focus of attention with the Urban Agenda and the Pact of Amsterdam.
Therefore we need City Statistics

High quality statistical data is required to support the European urban agenda and European urban development policies by allowing:

- Evidence based policy making
- Impact assessment
- Performance management
Priority Themes for the EU Urban Agenda

- Inclusion of migrants and refugees
- Air quality
- Urban poverty
- Housing
- Circular economy
- Jobs and skills in the local economy
- Climate adaptation (including green infrastructure solutions)
- Energy transition
- Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions
- Urban mobility
- Digital transition
- Innovative and responsible public procurement
Some key publications of DG REGIO

- Sixth Cohesion Report, 2014
  (Investment for jobs and growth. Promoting development and good governance in EU regions and cities.)
- Quality of life in cities, 2015
  (Perception survey in 79 European cities)
- Cities of tomorrow, 2011.
  (Challenges, visions, ways forward)
- Access to public transport in European cities, 2015
- The Europe 2020 index, 2015
  (progress of EU countries, regions and cities to 2020 targets)
Coming soon...

From DG REGIO: "State of European Cities report"

From Eurostat: "Urban Europe — statistics on cities, towns and suburbs"
Co-operation at European and international level

- Eurostat and 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, associations of cities and municipalities etc.) co-operate on a voluntary basis
- Degree of urbanisation proposed for UN 2020 census recommendations (1km² population grid)
The urban paradox

- Urban areas are often characterised by high concentrations of economic activity, employment and wealth
- Opportunities abound in these hubs of innovation, distribution and consumption
- Cities are also characterised by a range of social inequalities
- It is commonplace to find people who enjoy a comfortable life living in close proximity to others who may face considerable challenges, in relation to housing, poverty or crime
Example of city characteristics:
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion
2014 (%)
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in cities
2014 (%)
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in cities, towns and suburbs and rural areas

EU-28 (¹)

Greece
Bulgaria
Belgium
Austria
Romania
Italy
United Kingdom
Portugal
Latvia
Ireland
Spain
Cyprus
Estonia
Denmark
Germany
Hungary
Malta (²)
Croatia
Lithuania
Slovenia
France
Netherlands (³)
Poland
Sweden
Finland
Luxembourg
Slovakia
Czech Republic
Switzerland (⁴)
Norway
Iceland

Cities
Towns and suburbs
Rural areas

2014 (%)
Spatial coverage - harmonised European definitions

- **Country level**
- **Functional Urban Area = City + Commuting zone**
- **City/Greater city**
- **Sub-city district**
Degree of Urbanisation

Based on the 2011 population grid
The EU-OECD harmonised city definition in 3 steps

1. Define an urban centre of 50,000 or more
2. Define a city based on this urban centre (Communes or groups of communes)
3. Define a commuting zone of the city (including check for polycentric cities and connected cities) (Cities are selected based on the population of their centre, not total population, not all cities have their own commuting zone)
City and its commuting zone (Toulouse)
Sub-City Districts show internal city structure

- Household ownership
  - Average = 22.0

- Education Achievements
  - Average = 52.2

- Activity rate
  - Average = 76.7

- Earnings above national minimum wages
  - Average = 90.1

London in detail with SCDs
New ways of analysing cities

Day and night time population of Ljubljana
Data collection on cities by Eurostat

I. Demography:
1) Population by age groups
2) Nationality at birth
3) Household Structure

II. Social Aspects:
1) Housing conditions
2) Health conditions
3) Crime data

IV. Training and Education

III. Economic Aspects:
1) Employment conditions and Labour Market
2) Economic activities and enterprises
3) Income Disparities and Poverty

V. Environment

VI. Travel, transport and culture
Visualisations in RSI

Bar chart

Distribution plot

Scatter plot

Data table
Ageing cities?

Size of the circle: Population on 1 January, total, 2014

Proportion of one-person households, 2014

Old age dependency ratio, 2014
Demographic development in Urban Europe, 2014
Thank you for your attention!