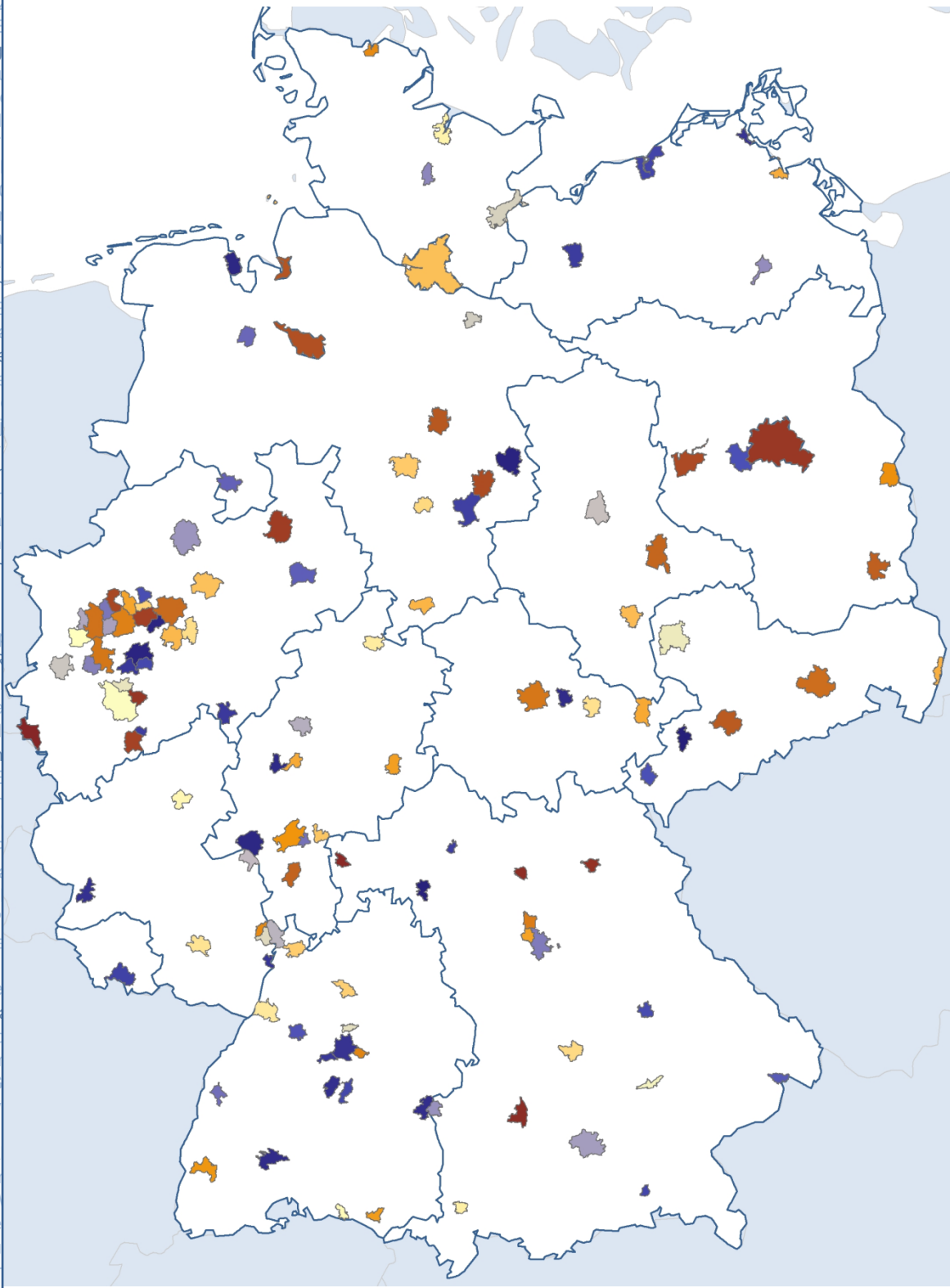


# The German Urban Audit



Comparison of cities in the European Statistical System



A Coruña Aachen Aalborg Aberdeen Acireale Adana Aix-en-Provence Ajaccio Alba Iulia Albacete Alcalá de Henares Alcobendas Alcorcón Algeciras Alicante Alkmaar Almada Almelo Almere Almería Alnhen aan den Rijn Alvtus Amadora Amersfoort Amstelveen Amsterdam Ancona Angoulême Ankara Anncy Antalya An...  
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 Chelmsford Chelte...  
 Constanța Córdoba...  
 Darlington Darmsta...  
 Hermanas Dresden...  
 Edinburgh Edirne E...  
 Fareham Faro Ferr...  
 Breisgau Fréjus Frie...  
 Genève Genova Ge...  
 Görlitz Gorzów Wi...  
 Grudziądz Guadala...  
 Hannover Haringey...  
 Hénin - Carvin Herr...  
 Ipswich Irakleio Irur...  
 Kaiserslautern Kala...  
 (Allgäu) Kensington...  
 Köln Konin Konstar...  
 Las Palmas Latina...  
 Lelystad Lemesos...  
 Línea de la Conce...  
 Ludwigshafen am R...  
 Malatya Malmö Ma...  
 Massa Mataró Mate...  
 Mollet del Vallès M...  
 Narva Neubranden...  
 Norrköping North E...  
 Nürnberg Nyíregyh...  
 Oradea Örebro Ori...  
 Padova Palencia P...  
 Pécs Pernik Perugi...  
 Plovdiv Plymouth P...  
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 de Xira Vila Nova  
 Wałbrzych Walsall  
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The map on the title page shows the 125 German Urban Audit  
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(BKG), EuroGeographics, own arrangement). On the back cover  
all the Urban Audit cities are listed for the 2014/2015 funding  
period.

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## Foreword

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For 15 years, the German cities have undertaken a systematic collection of statistical data for the Urban Audit, a comparison of European cities.

Initially, the purpose of this municipal statistical project was to provide data for the European Union. It was managed under the umbrella of the KOSIS Association leading to the foundation of the KOSIS Association Urban Audit<sup>1</sup>. It emerged from a pilot project for which several large municipal statistical offices had agreed to professionally organise the collection, verification and provision of the data.

Gradually, the German Urban Audit developed into an invaluable data source for municipal planning and decision-making. With the continuous expansion of database driven thematic maps, graphs and tables on the Internet ([www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de)), the Urban Audit has since become an important statistical service provider.

If not in the Urban Audit, where else do the cities find inter-city comparable data for 800 cities in Europe, but also urban-suburban data, as well as small-scale structural data for sub-city districts? And where else is objective structural data on European urban development linked with subjective data on assessments of the quality of life from a citizens' perspective?

The German KOSIS Association Urban Audit is the only association of cities throughout Europe that has succeeded in becoming a certified part of the European Statistical System. German municipal statistics, as one of the pillars of local self-government, has thus gained high recognition in Europe.

The German Urban Audit is closely linked with the city of Nuremberg and its former longstanding head of the Office for Urban Research and Statistics. Klaus Trutzel has always understood how to direct the interests of the German cities to urban research and statistics, in his city and in the German KOSIS association for urban statistics, developing cooperative relations with the Federal Statistical Office, with Eurostat, with the EU Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy and in the worldwide SCORUS network for urban and regional statistics (Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics) as part of

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<sup>1</sup> KOSIS stands for *Kommunales Statistisches Informationssystem* (Municipal Statistical Information System); [www.kosis.de](http://www.kosis.de)

the International Association for Official Statistics in the International Statistical Institute.

With this brochure, we wish to encourage all interested parties to participate in the success story of the Urban Audit comparing cities in the European Statistical System. Delve into the variety of possible uses of this exciting European data collection and find out more about the conceptual and organisational background to the Urban Audit.

As the new Managing Office for the KOSIS Association Urban Audit, we thank all persons, cities and institutions that have actively supported the Urban Audit over the past 15 years. We invite you to join us in writing a further chapter in German urban statistics and research in Europe.



Dr. Petra Wagner

Mannheim, October 2013

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## 1 Why a comparative urban data collection?

by Klaus Trutzel (KOSIS Association Urban Audit)

### Background – the Urban Audit at a glance

The demand for comparable information on cities originates from a development policy on the European level that increasingly focuses on cities as centres of economic and social development and also looks at the cities as the focal points of cultural, social and ecological problems. At the end of the 1990s, the EU Commission commissioned a private consortium to carry out a pilot study. In 2000 the results of the study were presented to a conference of politicians from all levels of government. The positive response, also among the participating majors prompted the Commission to continue the project, now within the scope of official statistics under the auspices of Eurostat.

Comparative urban statistics has since developed into a very important source of information for European development programmes and funding policy. Following the 1998/99 pilot study and the test phase lasting over ten years, the Urban Audit as the comparison of the quality of life in European cities has now become an integral part of the European Statistical System (ESS). With their joint efforts, the German and Finnish municipal statisticians had managed to convince the Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG Regio) that official policy has to be based on official statistics.

The 5th round of the data collection began in 2012 for the reference years 2010, 2011, 2012, counting also the pilot project that had been commissioned to a private consortium back in 1998.

| Round of the survey | Pilot project | 2002<br>2003 | 2006<br>2007 | 2009-<br>2011 | 2012<br>2013 |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Reference years     | 1998          | 1991         | <b>2004</b>  | 2005*         | 2010         |
|                     | 1999          | 1996         |              | 2006*         | 2011         |
|                     | 2000          | <b>2001</b>  |              | 2007*         | 2012         |
|                     |               |              |              | <b>2008</b>   |              |
|                     |               |              |              | 2009*         |              |

\* Requested by the EU with a reduced dataset. Germany has organised data collection annually since 2005, which for most variables also applies to the other countries from 2012.

European  
funding policy

5th round of the  
data collection  
2012/13

The group of participating cities has grown from round to round of the data collection. From the original 58 European pilot cities in 1999, including 9 German cities, this number has grown to over 800 urban centres throughout Europe in 2012 and covers countries ranging from Iceland and Norway to Romania and Turkey. Swiss cities also participate in the project out of their own interest. Territorially, the analysis is directed towards urban centres of more than 50,000 inhabitants, which were defined by the EU together with the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) across Europe, based on a selection of settlements by their number of inhabitants and population density. In Germany the Urban Audit nowadays covers 125 cities (in their administrative boundaries) including all cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants and all cities with 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, if they are functional regional centres at the same time.

**800 urban centres**

Territorial objects of the information are first of all the cities or urban centres themselves, secondly the cities' Larger Urban Zones (LUZ) approximating their functional catchment areas. In Germany, the LUZ include, in addition to the core city, those administrative districts (NUTS3 units) surrounding the core city which are closely linked to the core through commuting relations. National aggregate data help to measure deviations from the national average. Moreover, at ten-year intervals, Urban Audit sub-city districts are also analysed, at least for large cities of more than 250,000 inhabitants and with a restricted range of variables.

**Larger Urban Zone (LUZ)**

**Sub-city Districts (SCD)**

In the European Urban Audit, the focus continues to be on the overall comparison of cities and urban areas. Here, the data collection at three-year intervals has been changed to an annual collection of most variables for 2012 ff.. In the interests of greater topicality and comparability, the German partners had agreed even earlier to provide all data annually. The range of indicators extends from population to housing, health and economy, environment and transportation, culture, leisure and tourism.

**Wide data range, annual collection**

The EU is committed to gradually harmonise the Urban Audit data with general regional statistics. It has streamlined the data catalogue to this end but has also deleted indicators, which, from the urban statistics perspective, are still relevant for assessing the quality of life in the cities. Some of the indicators dropped by the EU, in the fields of employment, crime and municipal infrastructure, are therefore still being collected by the KOSIS

**Harmonisation with regional statistics**



Association Urban Audit and remain part of the German data provision.

### **One collection of data, many sources**

In Germany, the data for the city as a whole and for the LUZ are compiled from more than ten sources. They largely originate from official regional statistics and from the cities themselves, but also from statistics provided by the Federal Employment Agency, microcensus-based estimations, the criminal investigation offices of the federal states (Länder), the Federal Motor Transport Authority (register of motor vehicles) and various other non-governmental organisations. All statistics are harmonised with the European definitions and, where necessary, adjusted to these definitions by proportional fitting or estimations.

### **Quality of life from the citizens' perspective**

Urban Audit data based on secondary statistics describe the quality of life in cities independently of the citizens' subjective attitudes and perceptions. The EU Perception Survey is therefore an important supplement. In coordinated parallel surveys conducted in 2006, 2009 and 2012, German cities provided comparative survey data for 20 more cities. Exchange of micro-data has been agreed with the DG Regio, such that in Germany the citizens' perceptions of 27 cities can be compared with one another and with the results of approximately 70 other European cities.

### **Cities as producers and users of data**

In Germany, the KOSIS Association has organised the Urban Audit right from the beginning; it has assumed this function in agreement with the Federal Statistical Office and those of the Länder. In all other countries this function is assumed by the national statistical offices. The KOSIS Association provides the National Urban Audit Coordinator (NUAC) vis-à-vis Eurostat. The NUAC's Office collects the data from the various sources, checks it, adjusts it to EU standards and finally transmits the data with quality labels (flags) and footnotes to Eurostat in the prescribed format. The office is contact point for the data suppliers and, above all, for the cities themselves. The cities are, from a European as well as from a local perspective, not only producers but also most important users of data.

### **Strengthening cities**

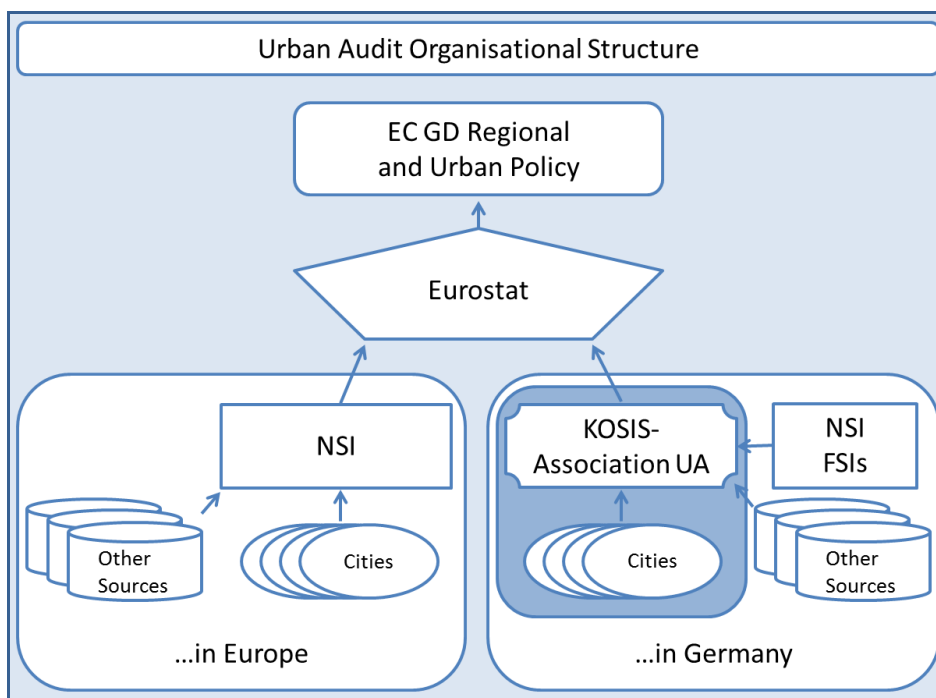
It is an increasingly important objective of European development policy to strengthen the cities' competences and capacities to manage their own development programmes. Therefore, the KOSIS Association can now also explicitly use EU funding to improve its information services as well as its tools enabling the cities to select and analyse the data for their own purposes. DUVA (originally a computer-aided population census evaluation system)



of the KOSIS Association is therefore an ideal instrument for these tasks. It supports both the data collection via the Internet, data management as well as the retrieval, selection and analysis of information. The system was recently supplemented by a modern mapping tool in addition to a dynamic reporting tool with tables, graphs and maps.

### Significance for the urban community

When the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) was asked in 1998 to join a consortium for the pilot study of the Urban Audit, Difu agreed on the condition that the KOSIS Association would also be involved in this project. The KOSIS Association, at the time managed by the Statistical Office of the city of Nuremberg, not only saw its active participation as an opportunity to receive funding for the Association, but primarily the chance to directly and actively integrate the German urban community in this EU project.



Organisational features in Germany

The figure illustrates the organisational features in Germany.

This decision already paid off when, after the end of the pilot project that had been organised by the private sector, the question arose whether the Urban Audit could be continued within the scope of official European statistics. Those active in KOSIS were well aware of the political dimensions of this project. They saw the advantage of ensuring themselves the quality of the data that were to provide the basis for public planning, and they saw the chances of being directly involved in shaping this important project. The

alternative would have been to act just as data suppliers in a state-imposed data collection, as it is the case in the other member states of the EU.

Once the national statistical offices, under the auspices of Eurostat, had agreed to conduct the Urban Audit as a joint project on a voluntary basis, the statistical offices of the Federal and the State Statistical Offices also welcomed a solution that appeared to avoid problems, which a central data collection from individual cities would have caused in the German federal system. They were therefore glad to leave this task to the KOSIS Association. It was agreed with the Federal Statistical Office that the KOSIS Association, as the 'National Urban Audit Coordinator', would substantially manage the project and the Federal Statistical Office would be responsible for all legal and financial matters in the relation with Eurostat. In order to ensure coordination between all partners on the federal, state and municipal level, the NUAC regularly reports on the state of play in the Network on Urban and Regional Statistics.

When Eurostat requested, as part of its quality offensive, that only authorised institutions would be permitted to produce official European statistics, the Federal Statistical Office, via the Federal Ministry of the Interior, arranged for the KOSIS Association Urban Audit to be included in the list of authorised national institutions according to Article 5(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 322/2009.

The KOSIS Association Urban Audit as a member of the European Statistical System (ESS), is subject to the European Statistics Code of Practice for national and community statistical authorities of 28.09.2011 and participates in the coordinating Conference of the Federal Statistical Office.

## **European Statistical System (ESS)**

A key concern of the ESS is to ensure not only the reliability, but also the comparability of European statistics. The KOSIS Association thus has to adjust the collected data to the prescribed European definitions and is requested to fill data gaps by estimates. It thus creates a quality tested, coherent and pan-European comparable statistical picture of and for the cities involved, their Larger Urban Zones and their sub-city districts. The necessary estimations based on the microcensus and statistics from the Federal Employment Agency have received special acknowledgement in the Network on Urban and Regional Statistics. Efforts have been ongoing since 2011 to integrate these

calculations in the official regional statistics of the Federal and the State Statistical Offices.

However, among German municipal statisticians there are also voices that place more importance on a clear census reference than on European comparability. There are also some reservations about giving the federal governmental level access to small-scale data below the city level.

Whether European urban development policy should deal with inner-city affairs is still controversial among German municipal statisticians. In the EU cohesion reports, DG Regio repeatedly emphasises the fact that inner-city disparities are often greater than the disparities between cities and hence certainly justify funding programmes aimed at striking a balance. The open data discussion to some extent counters the reservations that still exist.

Meanwhile, German municipal statistical offices are trying themselves to achieve a standardised and coordinated collection of comparable small-scale data with the ultimate aim to integrate the collections for the inner-city spatial monitoring system (IRB) of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) the collection of the Municipal Statistics Working Group, KOSTAT, and of the Urban Audit that so far differ in content and territorial differentiation. Here, the combination with the relevant spatial references - address references and border coordinates - plays a special role. From the cities' perspective expressed in the recommendations of the German Association of Cities (DST), this must be based on the small-scale topographical structure of the city, whereas the view of superior levels of official statistics is directed more towards abstract grids. Following requests by the DG Regional and Urban Policy, Eurostat attaches greater importance to the spatial aspects of official statistics thus giving German municipal statistics a chance to show what a valuable contribution it can make by bringing to bear the information of the municipal registers accessible to it.

Right from the beginning, the German cities' engagement in the Urban Audit has aimed also at promoting statistical comparisons among German cities to inform the cities' own development policies. The data collected should be brought to a better use, especially for this purpose. This is also the objective of the Association's efforts to improve its internet services by expanding its data provision and by considerably improving its instruments for

### Small-scale data

IRB, KOSTAT,  
Urban Audit sub-city  
districts

## Coordinated survey on the quality of life

data analysis with the Instant Atlas dynamic reporting tool undertaken in the current funding period.

The results of the coordinated citizens' survey on the quality of life are an important supplement, especially with regard to communicating the comparison of cities to policy makers. With the support by the KOSIS Association it has now been conducted for the third time by 20 German cities in parallel to the European Perception Survey.

The Urban Audit has thus become an instrument of coordinated urban statistics of great significance to local politics and will therefore continue to vigorously pursue this course.

### Urban Audit – the European perspective

DG Regional and Urban Policy<sup>2</sup> and Eurostat jointly support the comparative data collection of the Urban Audit and coordinate the project. With the Urban Audit, DG Regio is primarily committed to obtain the best possible information base for its cohesion policy, whereas, Eurostat, in addition to that, has to consider management questions and the relationship of this special data collection to general regional statistics.

EU development policy directed towards the cities, makes every effort to strengthen the cities' competence and capacity to adopt an active role in the practical implementation of their development strategies. It considers the cities to be especially well-suited to promote the necessary innovation by offering business a dynamic development environment. Cities also stand at the forefront when it comes to combating climate change through an efficient use of resources and to address social problems.

The Urban Audit has long since become an essential element of the European Statistical System, but has also faced criticism, because the former three-year data collection cycle often produced outdated results. Urban Audit indicators and definitions were also to some extent not comparable with the other European statistics and the territories to which the data were related were too incomplete and not defined in a standardised way.

DG Regio in cooperation with the OECD and Eurostat has since uniformly defined the territories to be covered and has expanded them to include all urban centres with more than 50,000

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<sup>2</sup> Up until September 2012 the European Commission Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy was called the Directorate-General Regional Policy. The abbreviation DG Regio remains unaffected.

inhabitants and has also revised the data catalogue. The aims of the revision implemented in 2011:

- By streamlining the data catalogue and by a largely annual data supply, to increase the completeness and topicality of the data, whereas the data for the sub-city districts should only be collected in the census years
- By intensifying the discussion on the methods applied and on an improved quality management, to raise the reliability and comparability of the information provided
- To further improve access to the Urban Audit results
- To completely switch to SDMX-based tools in the technical infrastructure for regional and urban statistics

These targets already determined the objectives of the Urban Audit funding programme for 2010-2012 and they are also reflected in the funding objectives for 2013-2014. Here it is intended that

- the national methodologies and data sources as well as their coherence with the guidelines for statistical indicators for urban and rural development are investigated in detail
- methodologies and guidelines for future data collections are developed that are in line with the current legal principles and guidelines of the ESS. Full consistency is to be achieved between the data collected in the project and that available at Eurostat for superior territorial levels and for the national level
- the national statistical offices are instructed and supported in adapting their infrastructure to the methodologies and guidelines developed. Above all, procedures of data validation should be set up that are compatible with the procedures for national statistics
- the data collected comply with the methodologies and guidelines developed

Legally too, the Urban Audit is to be gradually integrated in the general rules for European regional statistics.

## The Urban Audit from the urban research perspective

by Antje Seidel-Schulze (Difu)



www.difu.de

The German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) has accompanied the Urban Audit in various roles since its inception. In the pilot phase of the project starting in 1997 it was the national contact institute for the nine German cities that participated in the test of the Urban Audit concept commissioned by the European Commission Directorate General 'Regional Policy'. Since that time, Difu has had a seat in the Steering Group of the KOSIS Urban Audit project, which, in contrast to most other countries of the European Union, is in the hands of municipal statistics.

Since 2007, Difu has used Urban Audit data for research purposes. It has therefore come close to the guiding principle of the European Urban Audit, because the EU aims not only at providing comparable statistical data on the urban quality of life based on objective indicators. Urban Audit data is also intended to provide the basis for comparing cities internationally and to improve the quality of information on this topic in general. Two of Difu's research projects<sup>3</sup> are to be examined here in particular, because they show which opportunities, but also limitations, the Urban Audit has for comparative research studies on cities.

### Inter-city comparisons with Urban Audit data<sup>4</sup>

#### Structural data

In 2009, a project consortium, comprising the Rhine-Westphalia Institute for Economic Research (RWI), Difu and further partners commissioned by the EU Commission, produce the 'Second State of European Cities Report'<sup>5</sup>. The aim of the report was to evaluate data from three Urban Audit data collection waves (2001, 2004 and 2007) and to present the results in thematic chapters comparing more than 300 European cities. The Urban Audit offered and still offers an extensive dataset with over 300 variables and indicators in the areas of population, social aspects, economy, civic involvement, participation, education, environment, trans-

<sup>3</sup> Urban Audit Analysis (2008-2010); also see [www.difu.de/projekte/2008/urban-audit-analyse.html](http://www.difu.de/projekte/2008/urban-audit-analyse.html) and life satisfaction in European cities. Evaluation of the Urban Audit European Perception Survey (2009) [www.difu.de/publikationen/2009/lebenszufriedenheit-in-europaeischen-staedten.html](http://www.difu.de/publikationen/2009/lebenszufriedenheit-in-europaeischen-staedten.html) (all accessed in September 2013)

<sup>4</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region\\_cities/city\\_urban/urban\\_audit\\_data\\_collections](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region_cities/city_urban/urban_audit_data_collections)

<sup>5</sup> Second State of European Cities Report (2010) [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities\\_2010.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities_2010.pdf) (accessed in September 2013)

portation and culture. In implementing the project, it became evident that the Urban Audit provides research with a source of European urban data the uniqueness of which has three facets.

- The Urban Audit is a uniform data source. It offers a high value added for research projects. As EUROSTAT checks the data before it is made available externally, users are confronted with a reduced workload in the process of plausibility testing the data.
- Data provision for the Urban Audit is coordinated by state institutions, in most cases the national statistical offices of the 27 EU countries. This guarantees the quality and validity of the data. In addition, the national statistical offices have to use unified metadata<sup>6</sup>. In the individual case, it is necessary to consider national specificities when interpreting the data, for example regarding housing data (different traditions of housing: rental and owned property market) or in education (proportion of students). This does not reduce the validity of the data, however.
- The data can be obtained free of charge. Access via the EUROSTAT website is possible without restriction<sup>7</sup> and enables users to make individualised data queries in the common formats. Especially with regard to data retrieval on the Internet, there have been major improvements in recent years.

Besides the many possibilities the Urban Audit offers, there are also limitations that should be mentioned.

- The topicality of the data is often unsatisfactory, as the - admittedly - exhaustive data collection waves take place only every three years. Nevertheless, the diversity of topics covered by the UA is so immense that the cost of collecting and plausibility checking the data is very high. EUROSTAT attempts to raise the topicality of the data by collecting data of a smaller set of core variables on an annual basis.
- Another challenge for research is posed by data gaps that are partly quite wide in some areas. Sometimes research questions cannot be answered for all Urban Audit cities due to data gaps. In 2009, the response rate of the cities of the 27 EU countries varied between 99 and 14 percent. Data gaps are partly due to

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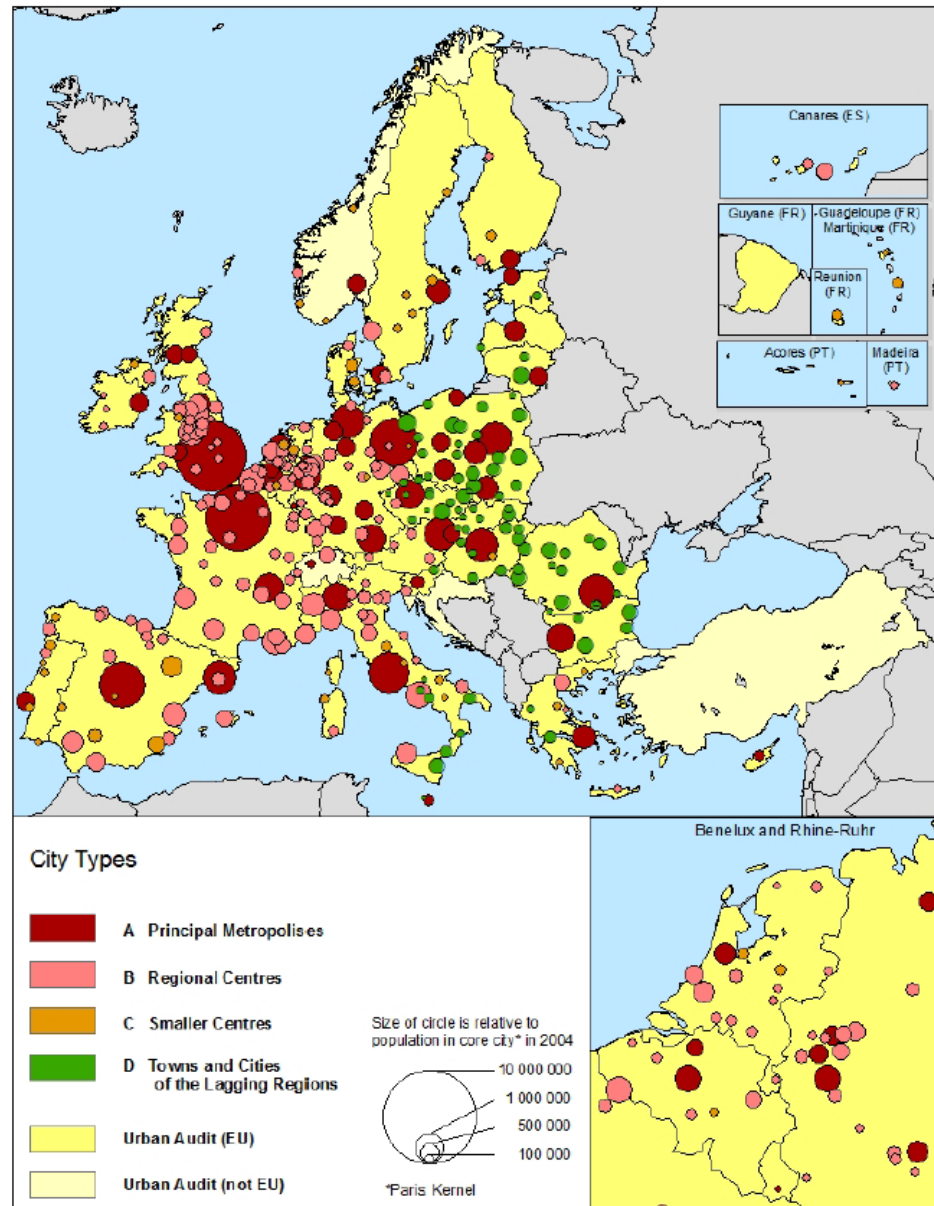
<sup>6</sup> See [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_SDDS/en/urb\\_esms.htm#meta\\_update](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/en/urb_esms.htm#meta_update) (accessed in September 2013)

<sup>7</sup> See [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region\\_cities/city\\_urban](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region_cities/city_urban) (accessed in September 2013)



delayed deliveries to EUROSTAT, but in part data are simply not available in some countries at the city level.

- The proportion of estimates and adjustment calculations is relatively high for the German cities, as some data that would comply with the EU-wide definitions is just not available and must therefore be estimated for the Urban Audit.



City typology based on Urban Audit data. Source: Second State of European Cities Report (2010); [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities\\_2010.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities_2010.pdf) (accessed in September 2013).

## Comparison of cities with Urban Audit survey data<sup>8</sup>

In addition to the objective urban data, the Urban Audit provides subjective data from a citizens' survey and thus expands the data offered. The citizens' survey - the European Perception Survey - was conducted in 2004, 2006, 2009 and 2012 in selected cities (in 2009 there were 75 cities of the 27 EU countries, as well as Croatia and Turkey). The aim of this survey is to measure the quality of life on the basis of citizens' subjective assessments. EUROSTAT published a basic count of the survey results. But the data is available for further analyses.

Difu used these data for research purposes and in 2008, in cooperation with the Association of German Municipal Statisticians (VDSt), developed a city typology of 75 European cities and compared it with the structural data of the Urban Audit. The aim was to see to what extent the situation expressed by objective data influences the citizens' subjective perception of the quality of life. As an example, this was examined on the basis of subjective and objective data on the housing and labour markets.

In contrast to the structural data of the Urban Audit, the quality and completeness of the survey data proved to be very good. There were only a few gaps. As subjective data represents an important addition to objective data, the European Perception Survey should receive more attention as a data source in European urban research.

## Conclusion

Since 2013, the future Urban Audit data collections in the EU countries have been commissioned with the request to intensify public relations for the project. It is hoped that these activities will continue to increase public awareness for the Urban Audit. This is important for Difu too, although the perspective of most Difu research projects is more national than European. But the Urban Audit offers opportunities for other applications as well, particularly as the German Urban Audit project is connected with other collections of comparative urban statistics.

## Survey data

## City typology

## Conclusion

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<sup>8</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region\\_cities/city\\_urban/perception\\_surveys](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region_cities/city_urban/perception_surveys)

## 2 Urban Audit – organisation and participation

by Klaus Trutzel (KOSIS Association Urban Audit)

### KOSIS Association Urban Audit

#### Member cities

in October 2013

Augsburg  
Berlin  
Bielefeld  
Bochum  
Bonn  
Bremen  
Chemnitz  
Darmstadt  
Dortmund  
Dresden  
Düsseldorf  
Erfurt  
Erlangen  
Essen  
Esslingen am Neckar  
Frankfurt am Main  
Freiburg im Breisgau  
Göttingen  
Halle (Saale)  
Hamburg  
Hannover  
Karlsruhe  
Kiel  
Koblenz  
Köln  
Leipzig  
Magdeburg  
Mainz  
Mannheim  
Moers  
Mönchengladbach  
Mülheim an der Ruhr  
München  
Nuremberg  
Oberhausen  
Pforzheim  
Regensburg  
Rostock  
Saarbrücken  
Schwerin  
Stuttgart  
Wiesbaden

Initiated by the KOSIS Association as the umbrella organisation, the KOSIS Association Urban Audit goes back to the affiliation of the cities of Berlin and Hamburg (each represented by the statistical office of the city state), Cologne, Essen, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, Nuremberg, Leipzig and Dresden. They jointly supported the Urban Audit pilot project in 1998. With the support of the German Association of Cities (*Deutscher Städtetag*), this grouping was transformed into the KOSIS Gemeinschaft Urban Audit, which, along the lines of KOSIS associations existing at the time, established itself as a civil law partnership (*Gemeinschaft*) in accordance with §§ 741 of the German Civil Code (BGB) to which the regulations of §§ 705 ff of the civil law partnership (BGB-Gesellschaft) are to be applied. Its code of practice is laid down in a Framework Agreement (Statute - see Appendix) that more than 40 cities have signed meanwhile, thus becoming members of the Association with voting rights. The annual General Meeting is open to all other cities participating in the project.

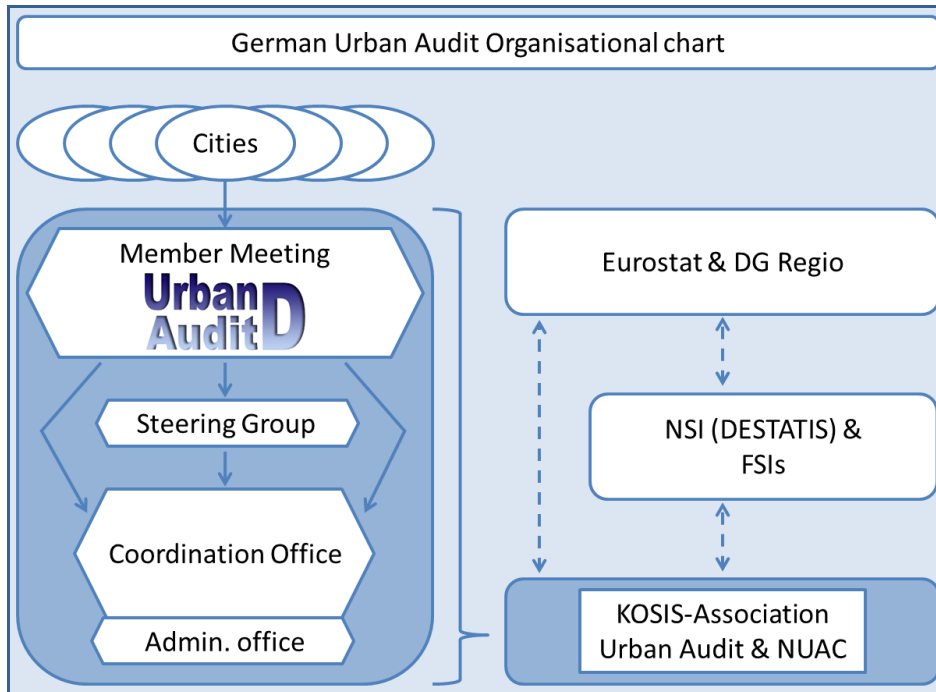
According to the Framework Agreement, the **bodies** of the KOSIS Association Urban Audit are the General Meeting, the Steering Group elected by the General Meeting and the Managing Office.

Of the 125 German cities participating, over 40 have joined the Framework Agreement of the KOSIS Association as members up until mid 2013, whereby accession is open to all participating cities.

The Association's decisions are made at meetings or in writing. Each member has one vote. In matters of fundamental importance, the members of the Association make their decisions unanimously, otherwise with a simple majority of votes cast. The members are the cities that have acceded to the Framework Agreement. Every two years they elect a Managing Office and the members of the Steering Group and define their mandate. The Managing Office

- manages the Association's business in accordance with §§ 662 ff. BGB
- represents the Association within its mandate
- heads the Steering Group
- keeps the books and manages the funds of the Association
- reports annually to the Members' General Meeting.

The **auditors** elected by the General Meeting report to the General Meeting and propose the discharge of the treasurer.



Organisational chart

**Organisational chart of the KOSIS Association Urban Audit and placement of the Association within the overall organisation of the Urban Audit.**

In agreement with the General Meeting, the Managing Office runs an administrative office, staffed with scientific personnel and undertakes all tasks connected with data collection, data organisation and quality assurance.

The **Steering Group** composed of representatives of the German Association of Cities, the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu), the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) and elected cities, supports the Managing Office in running the Association’s business and in implementing the resolutions of the General Meeting.

### Steering Group

Nuremberg had been in charge of the Managing Office since the Association was established in 1998 through to November 2012. When the **City of Mannheim** took over the Managing Office in November 2012, the administration remained in Nuremberg until the end of the current funding period (December 2013). In view of their longstanding experience in quality assurance and data organisation the Nuremberg personnel will stay with the project as the central data collection and contact point for the cities, the data suppliers and the data users.

### Managing Office

## NUAC – National Urban Audit Coordinator

In agreement with the Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistical Offices, the Managing Office appoints the **National Urban Audit Coordinator** vis-à-vis Eurostat and the Federal Statistical Office. Since 2011, the KOSIS Association Urban Audit is one of the institutions authorised to produce European statistics in accordance with Article 5(2) of regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2009.

## Coordinated Citizens' Survey Working Group

The supplementary collection of the citizens' survey data is coordinated in Germany by the Citizens' Survey Working Group of the Association of German Municipal Statisticians (VDSt).

## Cities and territorial levels participating

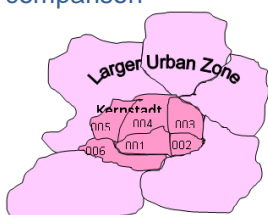
Right from the beginning, the objective of the Urban Audit was the comparison of European cities. At first, the EU defined which data from which cities representing their respective member states were to be included in the data collection.

In 2011, DG Regio and Eurostat redefined, in coordination with the OECD, the urban centres to be included in the project by a standard procedure based on the number of inhabitants and population density. For the Urban Audit, the revised typology of the local territorial units in Europe is particularly important, as it has led to a new grouping of local communities in 'rural', 'intermediate' and 'urban'. Local administrative units with more than 50,000 inhabitants and a population density of over 1,500 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> have been classified as 'urban centres'. These 'urban centres' have now all been integrated in the revised Urban Audit.

## Revised typology of European local communities

### Four territorial levels

- City in its administrative boundaries
- Larger Urban Zone (LUZ): urban core & suburbs as an approximation of the functional city
- Sub-city districts
- National level for comparison

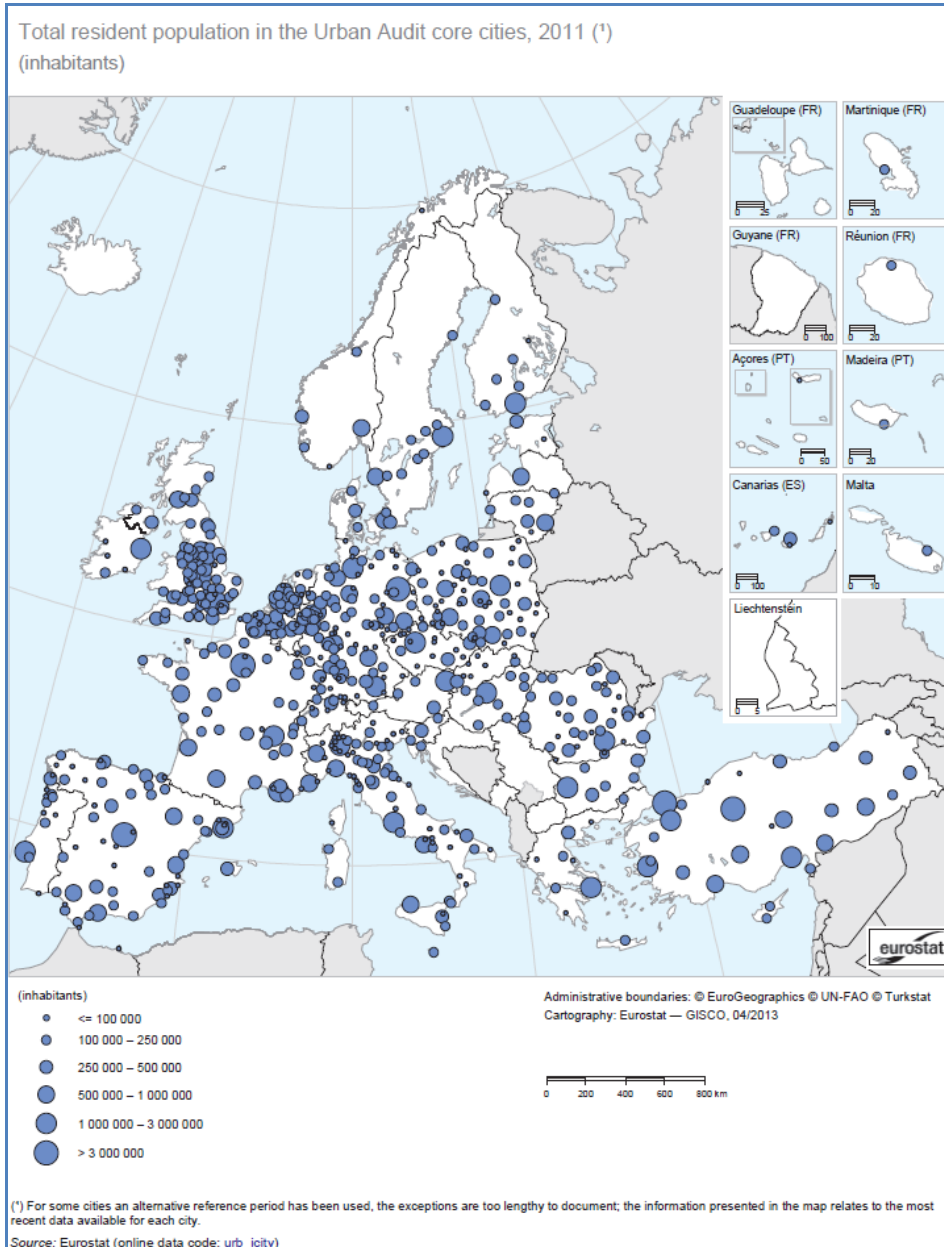


For Germany, DG Regio accepted the NUAC's proposal, which was also supported by the Federal Statistical Office, to include, in addition to the established Urban Audit cities, only those new cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants that are at the same time functional regional centres. As a result of this redefinition, the number of European Urban Audit cities increased from 600 to over 800; the German Urban Audit cities from 86 to 125.

Based on the strength of commuter relations, Larger Urban Zones (LUZ) were defined for all cities. DG Regio and Eurostat accepted the KOSIS Association Urban Audit's proposal to leave almost all existing LUZs unchanged and agreed also on the proposed new LUZs of the other cities. These proposals had been coordinated beforehand with the cities affected.



DG Regio and Eurostat hope to expand the spectrum of city-related information by matching the selection of cities with the territorial categories of the official sample surveys, and to combine up-to-date information obtained from the sample surveys with territorially differentiated information from the Urban Audit.



**The Urban Audit cities according to their population size 2011. Source: Eurostat regional yearbook 2013.**

In Germany interest was soon shown in expanding the data collection to other cities. The map of the next page shows the 125 German cities, the data of which is currently included in the collection. The supplementary 'Perception survey on quality of life in European cities' originally conducted only by the EU, was of interest to a number of German cities so far not included in the

sample of the EU. In 2006, 2009 and 2012 these cities conducted a coordinated parallel survey, adding to the seven cities selected by the EU a further 20 German cities in 2012.

- 1 = Bergisch Gladbach
- 2 = Bochum
- 3 = Bottrop
- 4 = Duisburg
- 5 = Gelsenkirchen
- 6 = Hagen
- 7 = Herne
- 8 = Iserlohn
- 9 = Cologne
- 10 = Krefeld
- 11 = Leverkusen
- 12 = Mönchengladbach
- 13 = Moers
- 14 = Mülheim a. d. Ruhr
- 15 = Neuss
- 16 = Recklinghausen
- 17 = Remscheid
- 18 = Solingen
- 19 = Witten
- 20 = Wuppertal

German  
Urban Audit cities



**125 German cities are participating in the current round of data collection. The 27 cities shown in italics take part in the supplementary citizens' survey (Perception survey), 20 of which are part of the coordinated survey, whereas Berlin, Dortmund, Essen, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich and Rostock are part of the European sample.**



### 3 What data is collected for the Urban Audit?

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#### Objective data on the quality of life

by Klaus Trutzel (KOSIS Association Urban Audit)

The data gathered to compare the quality of life covers almost all areas of life, grouped in 'domains'. The catalogue of variables has been streamlined by Eurostat, whereby a number of data, especially from the area of environment and transport, were to be collected centrally. As soon as these data are available, they will also be included in the German data base at [www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de).

Eurostat divides the variables into those to be collected annually and those to be collected in three year intervals. In Germany, it was decided to collect all variables annually to ensure topicality and comparability. This and the decision to retain some of the variables dropped by Eurostat aimed at making those variables available to the user at any time that had been considered relevant for inter-city comparisons and analyses.

All variables are identified by a variable code and with this they are comparable Europe-wide. The variables specified by Eurostat are identifiable by a 'V' in the last position.

However, the prescribed European definitions often differ from the definitions used in the data sources, e.g. for the labour market data. Here the EU follows the gainful employment concept of the International Labour Office – ILO, whereas, in Germany, the numbers used refer to employees subject to social insurance contributions and to the unemployment figures of statistics by the Federal Employment Agency (BA). To make these data internationally comparable, experts of KOSIS Association Urban Audit convert them by adding the civil servants and estimated self-employed to the employees subject to social insurance contributions (including those working in part-time jobs). The microcensus provides the target parameters for the Länder, whereas the BA statistics determine the regional distribution.

Indicators on the level of education, income distribution, choice of transportation and data on housing conditions are provided by the microcensus. The results of this one percent sample of all households in Germany have so far only been published on the level of the so-called regional adjustment strata. The State Statistical Offices agreed, however, to provide data on NUTS3 level as input to the Urban Audit estimations that have been conducted so far by city experts. The aim is, however, to integrate

#### Areas of life

Domain DE –  
Demography  
Population  
Nationality  
Households

Domain SA – Social  
aspects  
Housing  
Health  
Crime

Domain EC – Economic  
aspects  
Labour market  
Economy  
Income

Domain TE – Education  
Educational activity  
Level of education

Domain EN –  
Environmental aspects  
Climate  
Air Quality  
Noise  
(Waste) water  
Waste management  
Land use

Domain TT – Transport  
Public transport

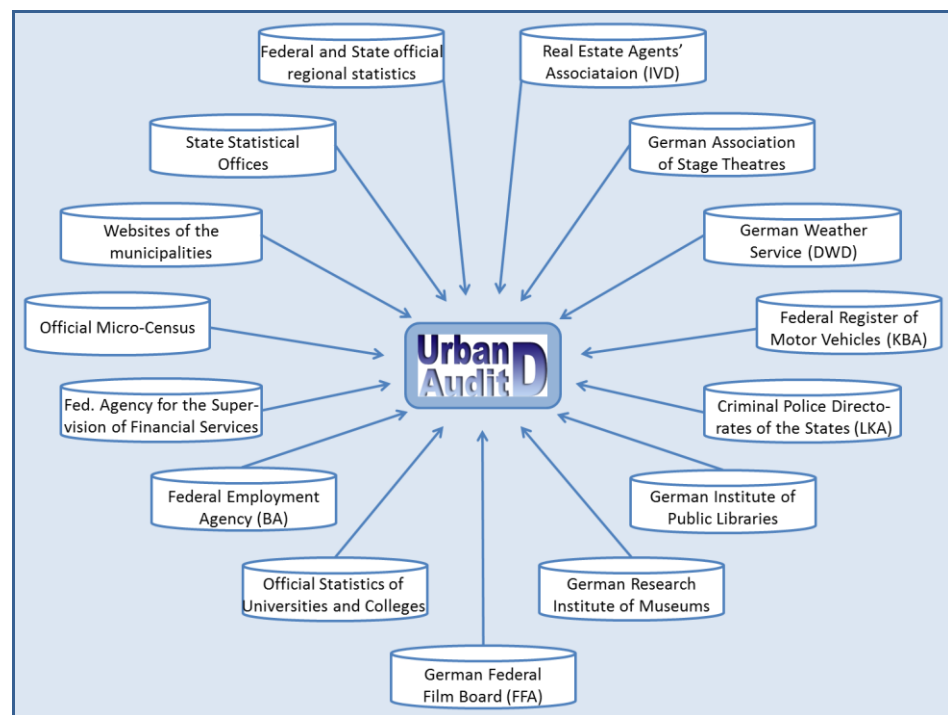
Domain CR – Culture  
and recreation  
Culture  
Tourism

#### Microcensus

these calculations in the official regional statistics of the federal and the state statistical offices. Since 2011, tests have been in progress at the Federal Statistical Office with the support of the interested offices of the Länder, which can be expected to lead to positive results in 2013.

In contrast to official sectorial statistics that usually originate from a single source, in regional statistics the focus is on the territorial aspects. The structures and developments of regions are described by a broad range of different indicators. Accordingly, the Urban Audit relating to the quality of life in cities, their suburbs and sub-city districts collates data from a large number of different sources:

**Further data sources**



One collection of data, many sources

The statistical offices of the cities collect the data from the competent departments, e.g. the information on the number of doctors from the health department and the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Doctors (KV).

**Adjustment of city district data**

The population data by city-districts originates from the population register, the employment data from the small-area statistics of the Federal Employment Agency (BA). In the case of variables for which data for the city as a whole have to be provided, the sub-city district data are adjusted to the values for the city as a whole in order to generate an overall consistent database.

Data quality and comparability play a prominent role in this international collection of secondary statistical data. Eurostat provides a glossary on this, which is also published at [www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de). When analysing the data, one may realise, however, that despite adjustment calculations, the national context in the economic, social and legal system often predominates. For international comparisons it is therefore recommended to also take account of the respective national average.

Ensuring data quality is one of the main tasks of the office collecting the data. It invests a considerable share of its capacity in specifying precise definitions for the data to be collected, in checking the content, timeliness and territorial assignment of the incoming data and documenting any special features in a way clearly understandable to the users. Data that have been adjusted to European specifications or estimated data are specially labelled and explained by footnotes.

The following measures ensure the quality of published data:

- Data taken without change from the official regional database are already quality tested; comparison over several years ensures that no errors have crept into the production process.
- The data collected online from the cities is plausibility checked automatically on entry and is then subject to a comparison of content and with the data for previous years. Cities can correct their data prior to release.
- In the same way, the quality of the data requested from ten other public institutions is verified.
- In cases of territorial change, data are recalculated to match the current state.
- Indicators are derived from the basic data and checked for implausible deviations.
- All individual values of the data collected are given a flag to designate their quality and data source and, where applicable, a footnote explaining estimations and other special features. This footnote is attached to the data offered by Eurostat as well as to the data in the German Urban Audit database and is thus made accessible to every user.
- Eurostat carries out extensive quality checks every few months requesting the NUACS to verify the data and, make corrections if necessary.
- Error notifications by users are followed up without delay.

The European as well as the German Urban Audit can therefore rely on consistent and coherent database that has been intensively quality checked.

### **Territorial levels**

The KOSIS Association provides its data for the cities within their administrative boundaries, the Larger Urban Zones - LUZ, for the national level and also for the suburban areas, i.e. the part of the LUZ outside the city boundaries, because the disparities between the city and the surrounding countryside are often of particular interest.

Each data value bears a flag and a footnote that can be downloaded with it. It is planned to also generate an extra stock of indicators, like population density, from the basic data. The latter can already be found in the InstantAtlas 'dynamic report' with tables, graphs and maps.

### **Time series**

The data itself can be retrieved from the KOSIS Association's database as comparisons of structures and as time series. The Association thus provides an extensive range of data including those relevant variables that extend beyond Eurostats' requirements. The complete catalogue of variables can be found in the Appendix.

## Subjective data - quality of life from a citizen's perspective

by Ulrike Schönfeld-Nastoll (City of Oberhausen) and Dr. Ralf Gutfleisch (City of Frankfurt am Main)

Commissioned by the Directorate-General Regional Policy, a citizens' survey on the quality of life in European cities (Perception survey on quality of life in European cities) was conducted every 3 years, beginning in 2004 with the latest survey in 2012, to supplement the collection of objective structural data. In addition to the citizens of 75 cities in the European Union (EU-27), inhabitants of five cities in Turkey and Croatia have also been surveyed since 2006. In each city, 500 randomly selected citizens were surveyed by telephone interviews.

With the aim of creating their own coordinated survey, the German Urban Audit cities and the Association of German Municipal Statisticians (VDSt) established a working group in order to organise the participation in the second wave of the EU survey in 2006/07. In spring 2009 the VDSt published a comprehensive report on the survey results of 2006, entitled "Lebensqualität aus Bürgersicht – deutsche Städte im Vergleich" ("Quality of life from the citizens' perspective – German cities in comparison"). This cooperation has since been responsible for the participation and organisation of German cities in the coordinated survey on quality of life.

In the latest collection round at the end of 2012, concurrent with the EU survey, 20 German cities participated in the survey. As the survey method and its content were largely identical with the previous surveys in 2006 and 2009, changes over time will be an important part of the evaluation of the current survey.

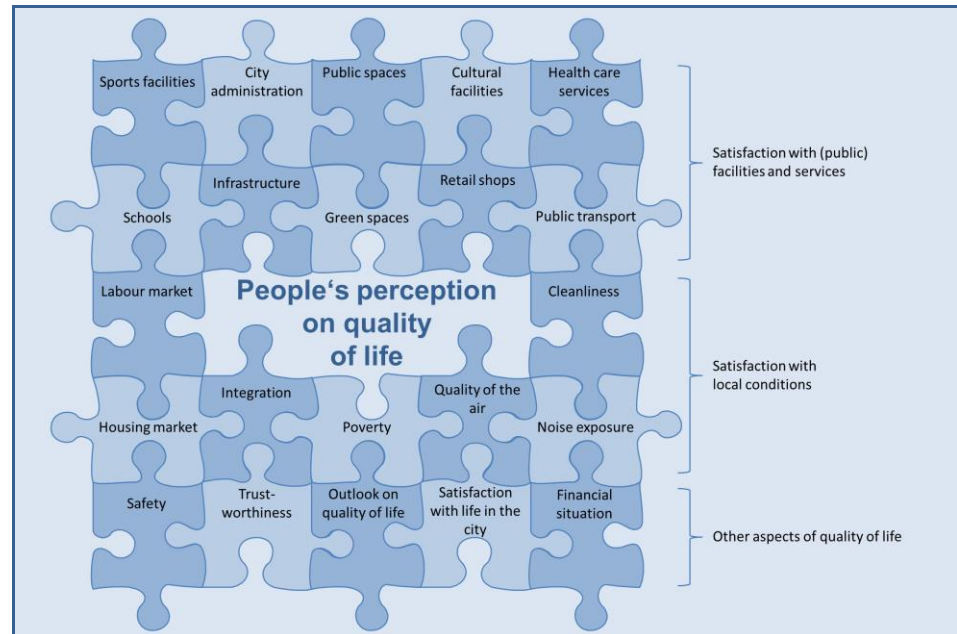
As in the earlier rounds of the survey, the micro-data of the EU survey and the German cities' "coordinated survey" are shared with the DG Regio. This way, both the European cities (including the 7 German cities), can be included in the evaluation. The individual data records of the latest collection round cover a total of 95 European cities, including 27 cities of Germany alone.

In the coordinated citizens' survey, urban quality of life is investigated by different components. A key aspect here is the satisfaction with the urban infrastructure and the services provided by the city. These include important areas like transportation, schools, healthcare, but also the leisure sector with the available green spaces, sports facilities, cultural facilities etc. Another survey module investigates the personal assessment of the



### Aspects of the quality of life

respondents regarding the labour market, the provision of housing and environmental issues. Furthermore, there are questions on the integration of foreigners, how citizen-friendly is the public administration and how responsible is the management of public funds considered by the citizens. Their satisfaction with living in the respective city, as well as questions concerning the individual financial situation and on the sense of security, are also included in the respondents' evaluation.



**The subjective assessment on the quality of life in a city is composed of many different aspects.**

### Optional add-on modules

In addition to the European basic module on quality of life, the Working Group also developed optional add-on modules on the family-friendliness of cities, the citizens' participation, active aging and on inclusion. This could enhance the informative value of the analyses to politicians.

### Broad spectrum of German cities

Even though the small sample of participating German cities does not allow any generalisation regarding the German cities as a whole, the broad spectrum of different size classes, geographical locations and economic structures of the participating cities does allow regional comparisons. The results of this urban study provide important indications of possible problems for the cities involved. The comparison between cities reveals the cities' strengths and weaknesses thus opening the way for in-depth analyses.



## 4 Where to find the Urban Audit data

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*by Grazia Groß and Alexandra Muth (KOSIS Association Urban Audit)*

The data gathered and processed is freely available on the Internet for all interested users. Various possibilities are available to retrieve data, depending on the intended use. The KOSIS Association Urban Audit offers a **web catalogue** and a **dynamic report** for all German Urban Audit territorial units as well as a complementing **dynamic report** providing the results from the survey on the quality of life in European cities. The statistical office of the European Union, **Eurostat**, keeps all data accessible in a database.

### The DUVA web catalogue

The data collected, entered, adapted and quality tested for all territorial units and reporting years for the German cities can be found in the DUVA web catalogue<sup>9</sup>. The web catalogue offers the possibility of selecting cities, LUZ regions, individual reference years, individual variable attributes or individual variable groups and then to download the relevant data. In the future it will also be possible to create printable maps using the DUVA map tool.

The web catalogue can be found on the Urban Audit website ([www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de)) under menu item 'Data, Graphics, Maps' from sub-item 'Data, Indicators'.

The **basic data** is offered in the Urban Audit web catalogue (see figure on the next page). The data is called up separately for the so-called domains (cf. Chapter 3). For improved orientation, instructions for use may be called up from the top line as a pdf document. A variable list with attribute descriptions is also stored as a pdf file for each domain.

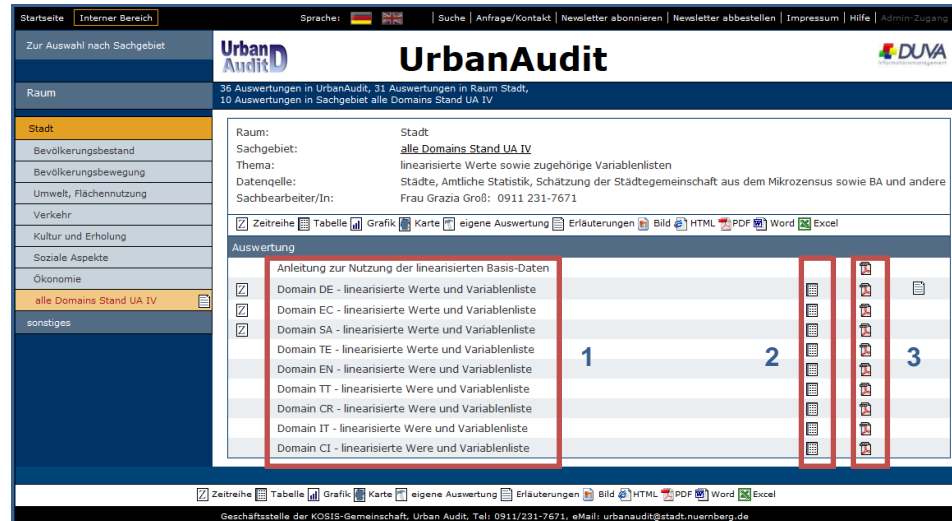
### DUVA web catalogue

| URBAN AUDIT                           |
|---------------------------------------|
| Urban Audit Wegweiser                 |
| Daten, Grafiken, Karten               |
| ▪ Daten, Indikatoren                  |
| ▪ Grafiken, Karten                    |
| ▪ Städte, Gebiete                     |
| ▪ Definitionen, Methoden, Instrumente |

<sup>9</sup> Further information on DUVA is available at [www.duva.de](http://www.duva.de)



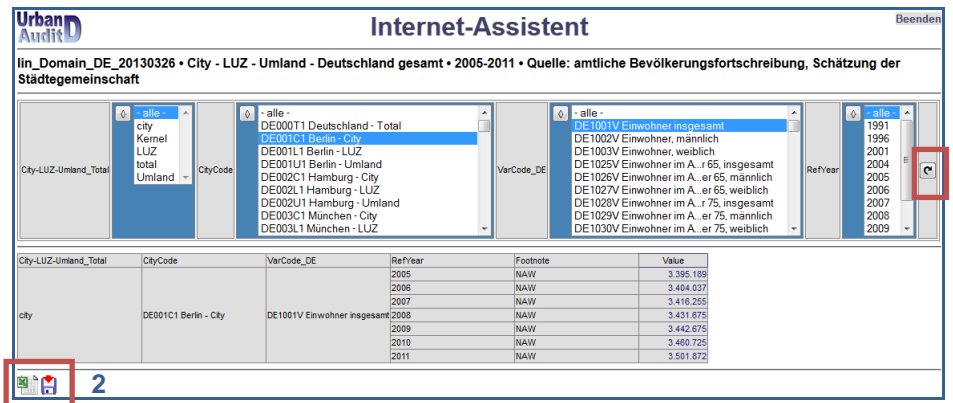
Start screen



Domains and pdf documents

The start screen of the web catalogue. The list of the individual domains (1) in the main window. The data can be called up via the small table icon (2). The pdf document with the respective variable list with the attribute descriptions is opened by clicking on the pdf icon (3).

By clicking on the table icon for the required domain, the DUVA Internet wizard opens a selection screen for individual data selection. One or more or all territorial levels, territorial units, variable and survey years are available for selection. If a selection has been made, this has to be confirmed with the refresh button. The data displayed is then available for downloading.



Selection screen

The territorial level(s), the territorial unit(s), the variable(s) and reference year(s) are defined from left to right. Finally the selection is confirmed by selecting the small arrow on the far right (1). The options for downloading are displayed under the table (2).

Linearized basic data

The basic data is available in linearized form, i.e. for each territorial unit (e.g. city), all the available reference years, including the associated quality certification (=flag) and the associated footnotes (where applicable) are displayed and are ready for downloading.

## Dynamic reports with InstantAtlas

To supplement the web catalogue there is a dynamic report version that allows creating customized data tables, graphs and maps interactively. The **Structural Data Atlas** includes selected basic data and indicators for various German Urban Audit territorial units and report years (city, LUZ\*, SCD\*). The **Perception Survey Atlas** offers results of the citizen survey on the quality of life as well as selected basic data and indicators for German and European participant cities from various reporting years.

The Structural Data Atlas can be called up at [www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de) under menu item 'Data, Graphics, Maps' from sub-item 'Graphics, Maps'. Switch to the Perception Survey Atlas by clicking the button 'Quality of life from a citizen's perspective' at the top right edge of the screen.

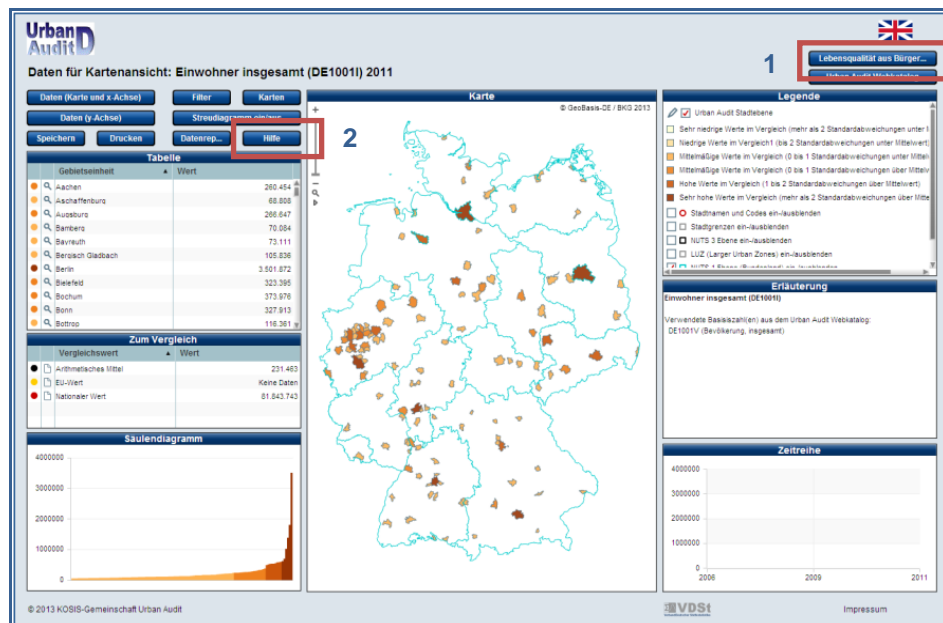
## InstantAtlas Dynamic Reports

**URBAN AUDIT**

Urban Audit Wegweiser

**Daten, Grafiken, Karten**

- Daten, Indikatoren
- Grafiken, Karten
- Städte, Gebiete
- Definitionen, Methoden, Instrumente



Urban Audit Perception Survey

User manual

1 Database

2 Parameters

3 To compare with

4 City comparison

5 Map

6 Legend

7 Explanation

8 Time series

Click on a file or the appropriate label to jump to that section.

Contents

- 1.1 Database
- 1.2 Parameters
- 1.3 To compare with
- 1.4 City comparison
- 1.5 Map
- 1.6 Legend
- 1.7 Explanation
- 1.8 Time series

Help file and switching between the reports

The start screen of the Structural Data Atlas. The field to switch between the two projects is at the top right (1). Immediately below this you arrive in the DUVA web catalogue. The field to call up the application help function is next to the other selection keys (2).

An extensive help file (user manual) is stored for both projects, which can be called up via the respective 'Help' field. These files are constantly updated and supplemented with useful information. The basic framework established in the projects is gradually filled with data and supplemented with further interesting indicators. Users are always welcome to submit suggestions for improvements.

\* Under development.

In addition to the interactive interface of the dynamic reports, there is the option of displaying the data received in a barrier-free data report. The selection key for opening the data report is right next to the Help button. No Flash is necessary for this function and the contents can easily be exported for further use, e.g. to an Excel file.



Data report start page of the Structural Data Atlas (top) and an example of a data sheet (right)

**Urban Audit D**  
 Home | Cities | Population | Demographic young age dependency Index (DE1059I)

Select an area profile...  
 Select a dataset...

**Demographic young age dependency Index (DE1059I)**

| Demographic young age dependency Index (DE1059I) |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | 2006                                | 2009                                | 2011                                |
| Arithmetic mean                                  | 29                                  | 28                                  | 28                                  |
| European average                                 | data not yet available or processed | data not yet available or processed | data not yet available or processed |
| National average                                 | 33                                  | 31                                  | 30                                  |

| Demographic young age dependency Index (DE1059I) |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
|  | 2006 | 2009 | 2011 |
| Aachen   | 25   | 25   | 24   |
| Aschaffenburg                                    | -    | -    | 29   |
| Augsburg   | 30   | 29   | 28   |
| Bamberg  | -    | -    | 26   |
| Bayreuth   | -    | -    | 25   |
| Bergisch Gladbach                                | 36   | 36   | 41   |
| Berlin   | 26   | 25   | 25   |
| Bielefeld  | 33   | 33   | 32   |

The user can select from a series of representations. It is possible to call up data by territorial unit, as it is by indicator or reporting year. A territorial level must firstly be selected on the start page in order to find the various selection options (territorial profile or dataset and report year) on the next screen. There is also a section in the help file on the data report.

## Eurostat

Eurostat, as the actual data collector, holds a wide range of Urban Audit data. Besides the data collected on core cities and urban regions, the range also includes indicators on the various territorial levels, as well as the results of the opinion survey. The European data offered on over 300 attributes for European cities now numbering over 800 with their commuting regions, the Larger Urban Zones – LUZ, is available in the Eurostat statistical database at

[epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region\\_cities/city\\_urban/data\\_cities/database\\_sub1](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region_cities/city_urban/data_cities/database_sub1) (last accessed December 2013)

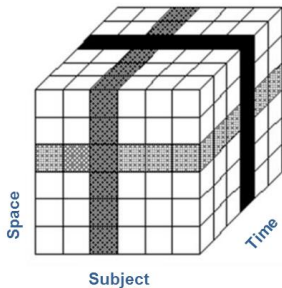
## Eurostat



The Eurostat Urban Audit data offering. Click an icon at the beginning of the line to open the relevant database entry.

## 5 How to make use of the Urban Audit data

by Alexandra Muth



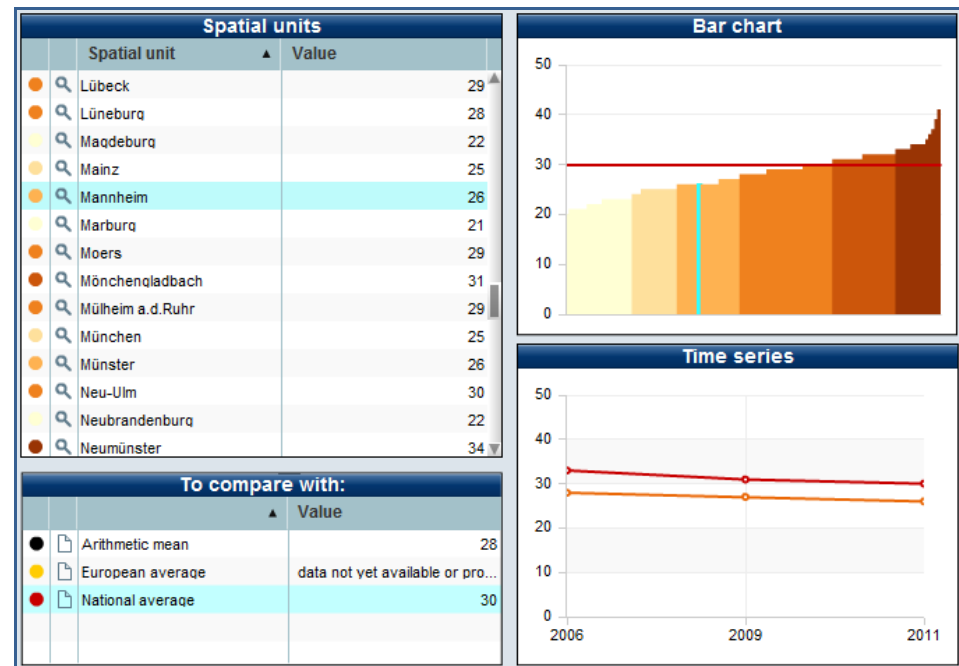
Basically the data from the Urban Audit includes and allows combining information on all relevant elements of the statistical data cube as space, subject and time.

The following examples show some analysis options based on classic interests of urban statistics.

Often called for - a certain figure

### Quick responses in everyday work

Often the need for data is less complex than you would imagine. Especially in preparation for a press conference, often 'just the one figure' is required. How high is the current Demographic young age dependency Index in the city? Or how many burglaries were there in 2009? Data for certain report years, topics and territorial levels can be found for each city, both in the web catalogue, as well as in the dynamic reports.



Tables, bar charts, time series and reference values

Demographic young age dependency Index for Mannheim (2011), in comparison with other cities and with the national value (Bar chart), as well as over the course of time (Time series)

## Developments over the course of time

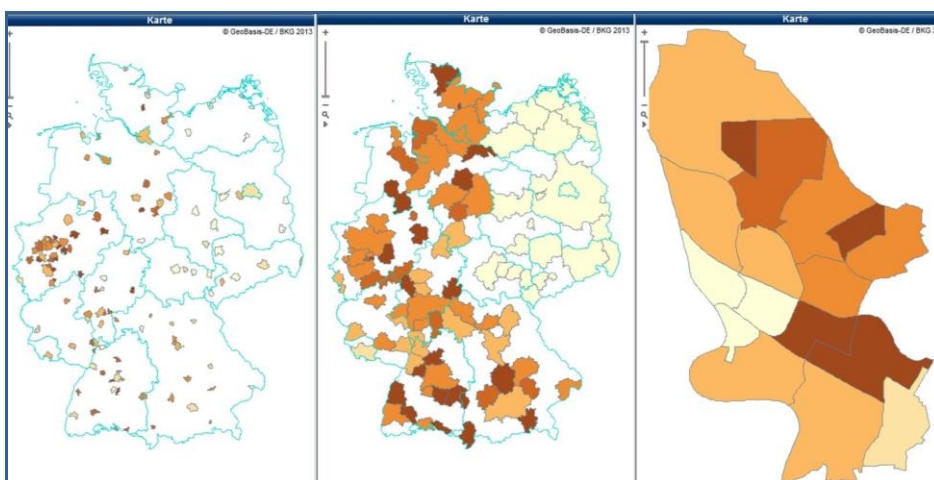
Especially for the control and decision making level it can be interesting to know how a spatial unit develops over time. Therefore the data collection offers times series, partially dating back to 2004. In addition to accessing data in the classical fashion in the web catalogue, the dynamic report offers visualisation of data on a certain topic over the various reporting years. One can easily see whether the number of unemployed has dropped over the course of time or satisfaction with public green spaces has increased, for example.

## Longitudinal

## Two are better than one - added value through reference values

A figure is often only of interest once it can be related to other figures - whether it is over the course of time or in comparison with other spatial units, average values or target values. In addition to the time series described above, regional comparisons at a point in time can be made with the data from the Urban Audit. One may e.g. compare the same territorial level of different cities, compare different territorial levels of one city (e.g. urban-suburban comparison) or compare sub-city districts (intra-municipal or inter-municipal comparison of Urban Audit sub-city districts). Furthermore, there is partly the possibility of comparing with (inter)national average values and selected target values, in the future e.g. with the five headline targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

## Cross section



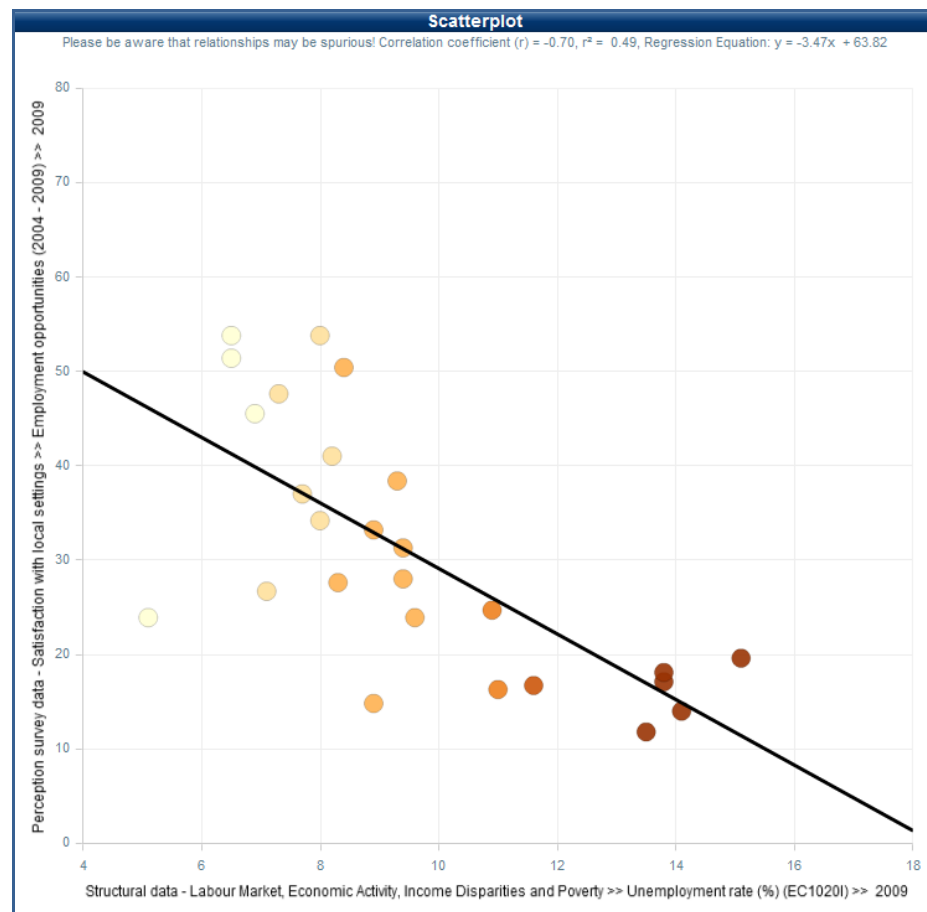
Cities, LUZ and SCD

**Various maps for the demographic young age dependency Index 2011 - comparison between cities, comparison of the Larger Urban Zones (LUZ) and comparison of the Mannheim Urban Audit sub-city districts (from left to right).**

## Interrelationships

### Knowing rather than suspecting - analysing interrelationships

A question that often arises in everyday work: Is there a correlation between certain variables? In order to answer this question data can be downloaded and evaluated with statistical tests. Alternatively, the dynamic reports offer the possibility of plotting two variables in a scatter diagram. In addition to the point cloud and the regression line, the diagram displays the correlation coefficient and determination coefficient, as well as the linear equation of the regression line. This option does not obviate verification with further statistical investigations, but it may provide a starting point to reveal interrelations.



Scatterplot

**Satisfaction with the labour market in 2009 as a function of the 2009 unemployment rate. The visual impression of a negative relationship is confirmed by the sign and value of the correlation coefficient. With  $r = -0.7$  there is a strong negative correlation.**

The correlation between two objective values can be further analysed in the **Structural Data Atlas**. With the **Perception Survey Atlas** one can e.g. explore whether there is an interrelationship between the citizens subjective perception and the



structural data or whether certain subjective assessments are related to one another.

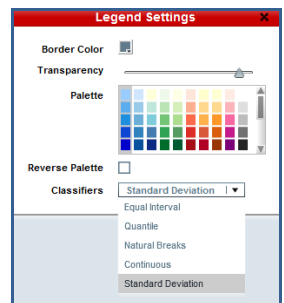
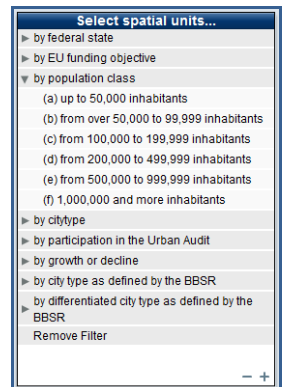
### Filter options and classifications

Usually it doesn't make sense to compare "all with all". Therefore the user must decide which data to use according to his or her certain knowledge interest. It may e.g. be useful to compare only similar cities - for instance cities of a similar size, geographical location, demographical structure or economic performance.

In the web catalogue, data can be specifically selected for certain cities or territorial units. Moreover, the dynamic reports offer predefined filters that allow e.g. to include in the comparison only certain cities or those of a certain population size.

Special comparative groups can be compiled according to one's own criteria. The exact procedure is described in the dynamic reports in each of the help files functions under the item 'Creating your own selection'.

Under the item 'Legend' in the help file one can learn how the classifications and the colour schemes can also be changed according to one's own needs.



## 6 Outlook

by Alexandra Muth and Dr. Petra Wagner

The current funding period ends on 31 December 2013. This marks the end of the transition phase in project management from Nuremberg to the City of Mannheim as the new Managing Office. In close cooperation with the previous and the new Managing Office the Federal Statistical Office submitted a proposal to Eurostat to receive funding for the next round of data collection in 2014/15. The formal conclusion of the funding contract is still pending. Eurostat wants to sign the grant agreements with the project participants by the end of the year<sup>10</sup>. The European Commission provides an overall budget of one million Euros for the total of twelve applications from a total of 15 countries received and accepted following preliminary technical examination.

The City of Mannheim, as the new Managing Office, plans to continue and further consolidate the project dependent on the funding granted. More than in the previous funding periods, Eurostat emphasizes the communication of results as a task of the project. This requirement was gladly accepted in the proposal.

|  | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | M9 | M10 | M11 | M12 | M13 | M14 | M15 | M16 | M17 | M18 | M19 | M20 | M21 | M22 | M23 | M24 |   |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| <b>Task 1 Screening of variables</b><br>- deliverable: overview table with classification*<br>- milestone: understanding data availability and necessity of estimations                                  |    |    | ★  |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
| <b>Task 2 Methodological and quality assessment</b><br>- deliverable: metadata file*<br>- milestone: understanding methods of data collection from different sources and data quality                    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | ★  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
| <b>Task 3 Compilation of variables for the reference year 2013</b><br>- deliverable: dataset*<br>- milestone: completed dataset for ref. year 2013   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | ★   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
| <b>Task 4 Report on the degree of progress and difficulties encountered</b><br>- deliverable: report*  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | *   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
| <b>Task 5 Compilation of variables for the reference year 2014</b><br>- deliverable: dataset*<br>- milestone: completed dataset for ref. year 2014   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | ★   |   |
| <b>Task 6 Communicate results</b><br>- deliverables*: optimized website, improved dynamic reports, improved DUVA-System<br>- milestone: acquisition and installation of InstantAtlas software            |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | * |
| - deliverables: meetings [m] (with workshop) [mw], participation in relevant events [p]<br>- milestone: Kick-off meeting with staff involved in the action   |    | ★  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
| - deliverables: paper [pn] / e-mail [en] newsletters, print publication [pp]<br>- milestone: print publication to report first results from the action to cities and institutions involved in the action |    |    |    | en | pn | en |    |    | en | pn  | en  |     |     | en  | pn  | en  |     |     |     |     | en  | ★   | pn  | en  |   |
| <b>Task 7 Final technical report</b><br>- deliverable: report*   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | * |

Project plan 2014/15

The project plan for the upcoming funding period 2014/15. The focus, apart from methodological insights, is on the communication of results.

Taking into account the EU-specifications, the dataset requested for the forthcoming round will be examined with a view to the information needs and knowledge interests of the cities and supplemented if necessary.

<sup>10</sup> Note: The grant agreement was signed in December.

The KOSIS Association Urban Audit focuses on the utilization of data for comparative analyses amongst cities. Therefore the further development of the dynamic reports and the data offered in the web catalogue are main objectives. Indicators derived from the basic data shall make it easier for the participating cities to meet their information needs. In addition, they shall be enabled to create individual maps from the Urban Audit data using the DUVA map tool.

**More benefit...**

Concerning evaluation options, special attention will be directed in the future to the sub-city districts, i.e. the analysis of inner-city structures and developments. The inter-municipal comparison already possible is to be supplemented with the option of intra-municipal comparisons. The analysis of inner-city disparities should be possible here, as well as the comparison of structurally similar areas of different cities.

Additionally the great interest in subjective assessments as a supplement to the objective structural data will be taken into account.

Efforts are still underway to simplify the submission of the data for the participating cities.

**...reduced costs**

Municipal decision-making, European cohesion policy and empirical comparative urban research should benefit equally from this data collection and provision.

## Appendix

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### Contact partners, competences and contact data

KOSIS-Association  
Urban Audit



[www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de)

As the project partner in Germany, the KOSIS Association Urban Audit manages the data collection to support the comparison of European cities. In 2012, the City of Mannheim was elected as the new Managing Office. After a transition phase in 2013, the project will be managed by the Municipal Statistical Office in Mannheim. The Managing Office undertakes business management, represents the Association within its mandate, leads the Steering Group, keeps the books and manages the funds of the Association.

KOSIS Association Urban Audit  
c/o City of Mannheim, Communal Statistical Office  
[Dr. Petra Wagner, Alexandra Muth](#)  
PO Box 100035  
68133 Mannheim  
Tel.: +49 (0) 621 / 293 7857  
Fax: +49 (0) 621 / 293 7750  
E-mail: [urbanaudit@mannheim.de](mailto:urbanaudit@mannheim.de)

The contact person for all matters concerning the collection of structural data for the KOSIS Association Urban Audit is Mrs. Grazia Groß.

[Grazia Groß](#)  
c/o Bureau for Statistics and Urban Research for  
Nuremberg and Fürth  
Unschlittplatz 7a  
90403 Nürnberg  
Tel.: +49 (0) 911 / 231 7671  
Fax: +49 (0) 911 / 231 2844  
E-mail: [urbanaudit@stadt.nuernberg.de](mailto:urbanaudit@stadt.nuernberg.de)

### NUAC

In the participating European countries the respective National Urban Audit Coordinator (NUAC) is responsible for the national coordination of the project.

*National Urban Audit Coordinator (until / from 2014)*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <a href="#">Klaus Trutzel</a>   | <a href="#">Dr. Petra Wagner</a>                                       |
| Unschlittplatz 7a   | Collinstr. 1   |
| 90403 Nürnberg  | 68161 Mannheim   |
| Tel.: +49 (0) 911 231 7671  | +49 (0) 621 / 293 7101   |
| Fax: +49 (0) 911 231 2844   | +49 (0) 621 / 293 7750   |
| Email: <a href="mailto:kum.trutzel@t-online.de">kum.trutzel@t-online.de</a> | <a href="mailto:petra.wagner@mannheim.de">petra.wagner@mannheim.de</a> |

As the project coordinator the Federal Statistical Office is responsible for all legal and financial questions vis-à-vis Eurostat. The contact person at the Federal Statistical Office DESTATIS is Dr. Susanne Schnorr-Bäcker.

Federal Statistical Office  
Department B103  
[Dr. Susanne Schnorr-Bäcker](#)  
Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11  
65189 Wiesbaden  
Tel.: +49 (0) 611 / 75 20822  
E-mail: [susanne.schnorr-baecker@destatis.de](mailto:susanne.schnorr-baecker@destatis.de)

## Federal Statistical Office



[www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de)

The project manager at the European level is Directorate E 'Sectoral and Regional Statistics' at Eurostat. The contact partner is Teodora Brandmüller from the department of Regional Statistics and Geographic Information.

Eurostat  
Directorate E - Sectoral and Regional Statistics  
[Teodora Brandmüller](#)  
Bâtiment Bech  
11, rue Alphonse Weicker  
L-2721 Luxembourg  
Tel.: +352 (0) 4301 / 1 (central telephone number)  
E-mail: [teodora.brandmueller@ec.europa.eu](mailto:teodora.brandmueller@ec.europa.eu)

## Eurostat



[epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu)

The German survey, in parallel to the European survey on the quality of life from a citizen's perspective, is coordinated by the VDSt (Association of German Municipal Statisticians) Survey Working Group (VDSt AG Umfragen).

*Representative for surveys*  
[Ulrike Schönfeld-Nastoll](#)  
Department for Statistics and Elections  
Essener Strasse 66  
46042 Oberhausen  
Tel.: +49 (0) 208 / 825 2649  
E-mail: [ulrike.schoenfeld@oberhausen.de](mailto:ulrike.schoenfeld@oberhausen.de)

## VDSt Survey Working Group



[www.staedtestatistik.de](http://www.staedtestatistik.de)

*Deputy*  
[Dr. Ralf Gutfleisch](#)  
Local administrative office, Statistics and Elections  
Zeil 3  
60313 Frankfurt am Main  
Tel.: +49 (0) 69 / 212 38493  
E-mail: [ralf.gutfleisch@stadt-frankfurt.de](mailto:ralf.gutfleisch@stadt-frankfurt.de)

## Catalogue of variables

Domain DE –  
Demography  
Population  
Nationality  
Households

- Population (*age groups and gender*)
- Population by nationality (*German, EU foreigner, foreigners from non-EU countries; adapted to EU definition*)
- Population by place of birth\* (*Inland, other EU countries, non-EU countries*)
- Private households (*Total, 1-person households, households with child, pensioner 1-person households*)

Domain SA –  
Social aspects  
Housing  
Health  
Crime

- Housing by type of building (*detached and semi-detached houses, flats in multi-storey blocks*)
- Households by housing conditions (*in detached and semi-detached houses, in privately financed flats in multi-storey blocks, in social housing*)
- Households by ownership status (*owner, tenant*)
- Purchase price for owner-occupied housing / owner-occupied apartments (*euros/sqm.*)
- Annual rent for house or flats in multi-storey blocks (*euros/sqm.*)
- Empty conventional dwellings\* (*total*)
- Housing occupancy (*sqm. living space/person and overcrowded residential property*)
- Live births (*total*)
- Infant mortality (*total*)
- Deaths (*total, male, female, under 65 years*)
- Deaths due to heart/respiratory diseases persons under 65 (*total, male, female: ICD-10 Pos. No. I00-I99 u. J00-J99*)
- Suicides (*total*)
- Hospital beds (*total*)
- Doctors (*in private practice, without dentists*)
- Dentists (*total (in private practice)*)
- Reported crimes (*total, murder, car theft, domestic burglaries*)

Domain EC – Economic  
aspects  
Labour market  
Economy  
Income

- Economically active population, workers, unemployed persons (*total, male, female, age groups; adapted to EU definition*)
- Over 6 months uninterrupted unemployment 15-25 year-olds (*total, male, female, age groups; adapted to EU definition*)
- Over one year uninterrupted unemployment 55-65 year-olds (*total, male, female, age groups; adapted to EU definition*)
- Self-employed, workers (*total, male, female, age groups; adapted to EU definition*)
- Workers at place of work (*total; national accounts*)
- Gross domestic product (*total*)
- Company bankruptcies (*total without insolvencies of private individuals*)
- Employees at place of work (*total*)

\* Attribute with higher non-response rate (not available for 20% or more of the cities).



- Employees at place of work by NACE sections (*total*)
- Self-employed / economically dependent workers at place of work (*total*)
- Total number of companies (*total according to the business register, up to 250 employees, over 250 employees*)
- Headquarters of listed companies (*total*)
- Middle annual net income of private households (*total; median*)
- Average annual net income of private households (*total*)
- Income distribution (*quintiles*)
- Persons / households at risk of poverty (*less than 60%, less than 50% of the national median income*)
- Dependent on benefits (*households, persons*)

- 
- Children in daycare centres (*total, 0 - 3 years, 3 - 5 years*)
  - Young people leaving school or training without qualifications (*total, male, female*)
  - Students in higher education institutions (*total, male, female; ISCED level 5-6*)
  - Inhabitants (15-65 years) by educational level (*total; ISCED 0-2, 3-4, 5-6*)

Domain TE – Education  
Educational inclusion  
Level of education

- 
- Weather and climate data (temperatures, sunshine hours, precipitation etc.)
  - Water consumption of all users (*total; m<sup>3</sup>*)
  - Drinking water price per m<sup>3</sup> for private households (*euros*)
  - Domestic/commercial waste (*total*)
  - Urban area (*total*)
  - Land use (*types of use*)

Domain EN – Environmental aspects  
Climate  
Air Quality  
Noise  
(Waste) water  
Waste management  
Land use

- 
- Means of transport for the journey to work (*mode of transport*)
  - Journey to work (*duration and distance*)
  - Inward and outward commuters (*total*)
  - Network of cycle tracks (dedicated) in the city (*length in km*)
  - Public transport infrastructure in the city (*track length, stops*)
  - Public transport combination monthly ticket price (*euros; in the central 5-10 km zone*)
  - Taxi price for 5 km journey (*euros; daytime journey into the centre*)
  - Registered private cars (*total*)
  - Road traffic accidents: killed (*total*)

Domain TT – Transportation  
Transportation  
Transportation

- 
- Cinemas (*number, seats, visitors*)
  - Museums (*number, visitors*)
  - Theatres (*number, seats, visitors*)
  - Public libraries (*number of outlets, loaned media*)
  - Public swimming pools *total; outdoor and indoor pools without lids*)
  - Accommodation establishments (*overnight stays, number of beds*)

Domain CR – Culture and recreation  
Culture  
Tourism

## KOSIS Association Urban Audit - Framework Agreement

### § 1

#### **The aim**

It is the aim of the KOSIS Association Urban Audit

1. to organise a comparative urban data collection and data provision in close relation with the Urban Audit of the EU Commission
2. to integrate this German Urban Audit in the ICOSTAT inter-municipal statistical information system of the German Association of Cities
3. to pool and bring to bear the interests of the cities in the Urban Audit
4. to jointly manage any resources provided for the Urban Audit project

### § 2

#### **Legal form, membership**

- (1) The members of the KOSIS Association Urban Audit form a partnership in accordance with §§ 741 ff. of the German Civil Code (BGB). The provisions of §§ 705 ff. on the civil law association apply accordingly.
- (2) The members of the KOSIS Association Urban Audit are the German cities to be involved in this project: Berlin and Hamburg (each represented by the statistical office of these city-states), Cologne, Essen, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, Nuremberg, Leipzig and Dresden, insofar as they accede to this Framework Agreement. Given an expansion of the project, the group of possible members extends accordingly. Furthermore, the members of the Association can also resolve to admit other members.

### § 3

#### **Bodies, decision-making, course of business**

- (1) Bodies of the Association are
  - the community of members
  - the steering group if the community of members decides to elect such a group
  - the Managing Office
- (2) The Association can make its decisions in meetings or in writing. Each member has one vote.
- (3) In matters of fundamental importance, the members of the Association make their decisions unanimously, otherwise with a simple majority of votes cast. For simple questions and simple matters of day-to-day administration, the majority of votes cast decides. If no agreement is reached, the majority can demand the minority to leave the Association. For pecuniary disputes, the provisions on termination (§ 5) of this Framework Agreement apply.
- (4) The community of members
  - decides on all fundamental questions of the Association, especially on the use of financial resources,
  - in case of an extension of the project, elect from among their number a Managing Office and defines its mandate; this takes place every two years or also prior to this if more than half the members demand this,
  - elects a steering group on demand of the majority of members and defines its mandate,
  - decides, on a yearly basis, on the statement of accounts of the Managing Office and possibly of the Steering Group,
  - decides on the standards, definitions and procedures to be applied in the project
  - decides on any further use within the Association of the data collected
- (5) Until the first election, the Managing Office is the KOSIS Administrative Office / Office for Statistics and Urban Research of the City of Nuremberg. The Managing Office
  - undertakes the business management in accordance with §§ 662 ff. BGB

- represents the Association within its mandate
  - leads the Steering Group as necessary
  - keeps the books and manages the funds of the Association
  - reports annually to the Members' General Meeting
- (6) The Managing Office is entitled to receive reimbursement for documented expenses within the limits of the funds available and, to the extent to which this has been agreed, to appropriate reimbursements of the costs of its work for the project from the resources available to the Association.
- (7) Liability on the part of the Managing Office is excluded, except in cases of intent or gross negligence.
- (8) Liability on the part of the KOSIS management, of the KOSIS members not involved with the project and the legal representatives of the KOSIS Association is excluded.

#### **§ 4**

##### ***Rights and duties of the Association and its members arising from the Urban Audit***

- (1) The KOSIS Association, in cooperation with the cities, organises the professional and technical coordination and data supply, common methodological work, such as agreements on estimation and collection procedures, the provision of meta data with the involvement of the experts appointed by the German Association of Cities (*Deutscher Städtetag*) and it ensures the provision of data, including the provision of data for the Urban Audit of the EU.
- (2) The copyright and right of disposal for the data remains with the cities. They determine which of their data that is not yet freely available may be published.
- (3) The members of the Association support the Urban Audit project by contributing to the discussions and consultations of the Association within the means at their disposal, by providing the required data and by actively supporting the project to make it a success.

#### **§ 5**

##### ***Termination, dissolution***

- (1) Each member can leave the Association for a good cause by giving a reasonable period of notice of termination. The majority vote of the Association requesting one or more members to leave is equivalent to serving notice of termination. Good causes for notice of termination are, above all, impossibility to perform the contractually agreed services, gross negligence of mutual interests and use of data contrary to agreement.
- (2) The Association shall be dissolved if
- the majority of members so decides
  - due to departures, fewer than five members remain in the Association
  - the purpose of the Association is fulfilled
- (3) In the event of termination or dissolution, the Association shall agree on an appropriate share of benefits and burdens.

#### **§ 6**

##### ***Place of contractual fulfilment and court of jurisdiction***

The place of contractual fulfilment and court of jurisdiction is the location of the Managing Office.

**Managing Office**

**Acceding institution:**

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Place, date, signature

---

Place, date, signature

## European Statistics Code of Practice



Adopted by the  
European Statistical System Committee

28th September 2011




### Preamble

**The vision of the European Statistical System<sup>1</sup>**

*"The European Statistical System will be a world leader in statistical information services and the most important information provider for the European Union and its Member States. Based on scientific principles and methods, the European Statistical System will offer and continuously improve a programme of harmonised European statistics that constitutes an essential basis for democratic processes and progress in society."*

**The mission of the European Statistical System**

*"We provide the European Union, the world and the public with independent high quality information on the economy and society on European, national and regional levels and make the information available to everyone for decision-making purposes, research and debate."*

To realize this mission and vision, the members of the European Statistical System strive for joint cooperation and continuous interaction with users according to the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and general quality management principles including commitment of leadership, partnership, staff satisfaction and continuous improvement, in addition to integration and harmonization.

**The European Statistics Code of Practice**

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 Principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production processes and the output of statistics. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the Principles provides a reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code. The quality criteria for European Statistics are defined in European Statistical Law<sup>2</sup>.

Statistical authorities<sup>3</sup>, comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics<sup>4</sup>, together with governments, ministries and the European Council, commit themselves to adhere to the Code.

The Principles of the Code of Practice together with the general quality management principles represent a common quality framework in the European Statistical System.

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1. Regulation (EC) 223/2009, Article 4  
2. Regulation (EC) 223/2009, Article 12  
3. Regulation (EC) 223/2009, Articles 4 and 5  
4. Regulation (EC) 223/2009, Article 1. In the Code of Practice, «other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics» are referred to as «other statistical authorities».

### Institutional Environment

Institutional and organisational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and credibility of a statistical authority developing, producing and disseminating European Statistics. The relevant issues are professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity.

**PRINCIPLE 1**

**PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE**

Professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.

**INDICATORS**

1.1: The independence of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating statistics is specified in law and assured for other statistical authorities.

1.2: The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies. They are of the highest professional calibre.

1.3: The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have responsibility for ensuring that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner.

1.4: The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases.

1.5: The statistical work programmes are published and periodic reports describe progress made.

1.6: Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements.

1.7: The National Statistical Institute and Eurostat and, where appropriate, other statistical authorities, comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics as far as considered suitable.

1.8: The appointment of the heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat and, where appropriate, of other statistical authorities, is based on professional competence only. The reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated are specified in the legal framework. These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence.

**PRINCIPLE 2**

**MANDATE FOR DATA COLLECTION**

Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.

**INDICATORS**

2.1: The mandate of the statistical authorities to collect information for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law.

2.2: The statistical authorities are allowed by law to use administrative data for statistical purposes.

2.3: On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authorities may compel response to statistical surveys.

**PRINCIPLE 3**

**ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES**

The resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements.

**INDICATORS**

3.1: Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to meet current statistical needs.

3.2: The scope, detail and cost of statistics are commensurate with needs.

3.3: Procedures exist to assess and justify demands for new statistics against their cost.

3.4: Procedures exist to assess the continuing need for all statistics, to see if any can be discontinued or curtailed to free up resources.

**PRINCIPLE 4**

**COMMITMENT TO QUALITY**

Statistical authorities are committed to quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and product quality.

**INDICATORS**

4.1: Quality policy is defined and made available to the public. An organizational structure and tools are in place to deal with quality management.

4.2: Procedures are in place to plan and monitor the quality of the statistical production process.

4.3: Product quality is regularly monitored, assessed with regard to possible trade-offs, and reported according to the quality criteria for European Statistics.

4.4: There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using also external experts where appropriate.

**PRINCIPLE 5**

**STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY**

The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes are absolutely guaranteed.

**INDICATORS**

5.1: Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed in law.

5.2: Staff sign legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.

5.3: Penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.

5.4: Guidelines and instructions are provided to staff on the protection of statistical confidentiality in the production and dissemination processes. The confidentiality policy is made known to the public.

5.5: Physical, technological and organisational provisions are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases.

5.6: Strict protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.



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| <p><b>PRINCIPLE 6</b></p> <p><b>IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY</b></p> <p>Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>6.1: Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.<br/>         6.2: Choices of sources and Statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics are informed by statistical considerations.<br/>         6.3: Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and publicised.<br/>         6.4: Information on the methods and procedures used is publicly available.<br/>         6.5: Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.<br/>         6.6: Advance notice is given on major revisions or changes in methodologies.<br/>         6.7: All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.<br/>         6.8: Statistical releases and statements made in press conferences are objective and non-partisan.</p> | <p><b>PRINCIPLE 8</b></p> <p><b>APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, underpin quality statistics.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>8.1: When European Statistics are based on administrative data, the definitions and concepts used for administrative purposes are a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.<br/>         8.2: In the case of statistical surveys, questionnaires are systematically tested prior to the data collection.<br/>         8.3: Survey designs, sample selections and estimation methods are well based and regularly reviewed and revised as required.<br/>         8.4: Data collection, data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.<br/>         8.5: Appropriate editing and imputation methods are used and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required.<br/>         8.6: Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.<br/>         8.7: Statistical authorities are involved in the design of administrative data in order to make administrative data more suitable for statistical purposes.<br/>         8.8: Agreements are made with owners of administrative data which set out their shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes.<br/>         8.9: Statistical authorities co-operate with owners of administrative data in assuring data quality.</p> |
| <p><b>Statistical Processes</b></p> <p>European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices are fully observed in the processes used by the statistical authorities to organise, collect, process and disseminate European Statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for good management and efficiency. The relevant aspects are sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost effectiveness.</p>   | <p><b>PRINCIPLE 9</b></p> <p><b>NON-EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON RESPONDENTS</b></p> <p>The reporting burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. The statistical authorities monitor the response burden and set targets for its reduction over time.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>9.1: The range and detail of European Statistics demands is limited to what is absolutely necessary.<br/>         9.2: The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations.<br/>         9.3: The information sought from businesses is, as far as possible, readily available from their accounts and electronic means are used where possible to facilitate its return.<br/>         9.4: Administrative sources are used whenever possible to avoid duplicating requests for information.<br/>         9.5: Data sharing within statistical authorities is generalised in order to avoid multiplication of surveys.<br/>         9.6: Statistical authorities promote measures that enable the linking of data sources in order to reduce reporting burden.</p>   |
| <p><b>PRINCIPLE 7</b></p> <p><b>SOUND METHODOLOGY</b></p> <p>Sound methodology underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>7.1: The overall methodological framework used for European Statistics follows European and other international standards, guidelines, and good practices.<br/>         7.2: Procedures are in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the statistical authority.<br/>         7.3: The business register and the frame for population surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.<br/>         7.4: Detailed concordance exists between national classifications systems and the corresponding European systems.<br/>         7.5: Graduates in the relevant academic disciplines are recruited.<br/>         7.6: Statistical authorities implement a policy of continuous vocational training for their staff.<br/>         7.7: Co-operation with the scientific community is organised to improve methodology, the effectiveness of the methods implemented and to promote better tools when feasible.</p>   | <p><b>PRINCIPLE 10</b></p> <p><b>COST EFFECTIVENESS</b></p> <p>Resources are used effectively.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>10.1: Internal and independent external measures monitor the statistical authority's use of resources.<br/>         10.2: The productivity potential of information and communications technology is being optimised for data collection, processing and dissemination.<br/>         10.3: Proactive efforts are made to improve the statistical potential of administrative data and to limit recourse to direct surveys.<br/>         10.4: Statistical authorities promote and implement standardized solutions that increase effectiveness and efficiency.</p>   |

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| <p><b>Statistical Output</b></p> <p>Available statistics meet users' needs. Statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European institutions, governments, research institutions, business concerns and the public generally. The important issues concern the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users.</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLE 11</b></p> <p><b>RELEVANCE</b></p> <p>European Statistics meet the needs of users.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>11.1: Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and consider their emerging needs and priorities.<br/>         11.2: Priority needs are being met and reflected in the work programme.<br/>         11.3: User satisfaction is monitored on a regular basis and is systematically followed up.</p> | <p><b>PRINCIPLE 14</b></p> <p><b>COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY</b></p> <p>European Statistics are consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it is possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>14.1: Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (i.e. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).<br/>         14.2: Statistics are comparable over a reasonable period of time.<br/>         14.3: Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.<br/>         14.4: Statistics from the different sources and of different periodicity are compared and reconciled.<br/>         14.5: Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured within the European Statistical System through periodical exchanges between the European Statistical System and other statistical systems. Methodological studies are carried out in close co-operation between the Member States and Eurostat.</p>   |
| <p><b>PRINCIPLE 12</b></p> <p><b>ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY</b></p> <p>European Statistics accurately and reliably portray reality.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>12.1: Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated.<br/>         12.2: Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented according to the European standards.<br/>         12.3: Revisions are regularly analysed in order to improve statistical processes.</p>  | <p><b>PRINCIPLE 15</b></p> <p><b>ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY</b></p> <p>European Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>15.1: Statistics and the corresponding metadata are presented, and archived, in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons.<br/>         15.2: Dissemination services use modern information and communication technology and, if appropriate, traditional hard copy.<br/>         15.3: Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible and the public is informed.<br/>         15.4: Access to microdata is allowed for research purposes and is subject to specific rules or protocols.<br/>         15.5: Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.<br/>         15.6: Users are kept informed about the methodology of statistical processes including the use of administrative data.<br/>         15.7: Users are kept informed about the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the quality criteria for European Statistics.</p> |
| <p><b>PRINCIPLE 13</b></p> <p><b>TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY</b></p> <p>European Statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner.</p> <p><b>INDICATORS</b></p> <p>13.1: Timeliness meets European and other international release standards.<br/>         13.2: A standard daily time for the release of statistics is made public.<br/>         13.3: The periodicity of statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.<br/>         13.4: Divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained and a new release date set.<br/>         13.5: Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy can be released when considered useful.</p>   | <p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE</b><br/> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/quality">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/quality</a> – E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ESTAT-QUALITY@ec.europa.eu">ESTAT-QUALITY@ec.europa.eu</a></p>  <p>Publications Office</p> <p>ISBN 978-92-79-21679-4 – doi:10.2785/18474 – Cat. No KS-32-11-955-EN-C</p>  |

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-32-11-955/EN/KS-32-11-955-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-32-11-955/EN/KS-32-11-955-EN.PDF) (last accessed October 2013)

## Links

Urban statistics and  
research

- [www.staedtestatistik.de](http://www.staedtestatistik.de)  
Urban statistics on the Internet
- [www.difu.de](http://www.difu.de)  
German Institute of Urban Affairs

Urban Audit

- [www.urbanaudit.de](http://www.urbanaudit.de)  
KOSIS Association Urban Audit website
- [ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/activity/urban/audit/index\\_de.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/urban/audit/index_de.cfm)  
European Commission Urban Audit Portal
- [www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/international/03/04.html](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/international/03/04.html)  
Swiss Internet offering on the Urban Audit

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## Publications (selection)

Structural data

- European Union, Regional Policy (2007): State of European Cities Report. Adding value to the European Urban Audit.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities\\_2007.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities_2007.pdf) (last accessed October 2013)
- Rhine-Westphalia Institute for Economic Research (RWI) (ed.) (2010): Second State of European Cities Report.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities\\_2010.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/stateofcities_2010.pdf) (last accessed October 2013)

Survey data

- Association of German Municipal Statisticians (ed.) (2008): Quality of life from a citizen's perspective.  
[www.staedtestatistik.de/fileadmin/vdst/ag-lebensqualitaet/Materialien/Lebensqualitaet\\_2006/Lebensqualitaet\\_aus\\_Buergersicht.pdf](http://www.staedtestatistik.de/fileadmin/vdst/ag-lebensqualitaet/Materialien/Lebensqualitaet_2006/Lebensqualitaet_aus_Buergersicht.pdf) (last accessed October 2013)
- European Commission (2010): Opinion survey of quality of life in 75 European cities.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/survey2009\\_de.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/survey2009_de.pdf) (last accessed October 2013)
- European Commission (2013): Quality of life in cities. Perception survey in 79 European cities.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/survey2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/urban/survey2013_en.pdf) (last accessed October 2013)



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Palencia Palermo Palma de Mallorca Pamplona/Iruña Panevėžys Pardubice Paredes Paris Parla Parma **Passau** Pátra Pavia Pazardzhik Pécs Pernik Perugia Pesaro Pescara Peterborough **Pforzheim** Piacenza Piatra Neamț Piła Piotrków Trybunalski Pisa Pitești **Plauen** Pleven Plock Ploiești Plovdiv Plymouth Plzeň Ponferrada Ponta Delgada Pontevedra Poole Pordenone Porto Portsmouth Potenza **Potsdam** Póvoa de Varzim Poznań Pozuelo de Alarcón Praha Prat de Llobregat, El Prato Prešov Preston Przemysł Puerto de Santa María, El Purmerend Radom Râmnicu Vâlcea Ravenna Reading **Recklinghausen** Redbridge Redditch **Regensburg** Reggio di Calabria Reggio nell'Emilia Reims **Remscheid** Reus **Reutlingen** Reykjavík Richmond upon Thames Rīga Rijeka Rimini Roanne Rochdale Roma Roman Roosendaal **Rosenheim** Rostock Rotherham Rotterdam Rozas de Madrid, Las Rub Ruda Śląska Ruse Rybnik Rzeszów **Saarbrücken** Sabadell Saint Denis Saint-Brieuc Saint-Etienne Saint-Quentin en Yvelines Salamanca Salerno Salford Salzburg **Salzgitter** Samsun San Cristóbal de la Laguna San Fernando San Sebastián de los Reyes San Sebastián/Donostia Sandwell **Sankt Augustin** Sanlúcar de Barrameda Sanremo Sant Boi de Llobregat Sant Cugat del Vallès Santa Coloma de Gramenet Santa Cruz de Tenerife Santa Lucía de Tirajana Santander Santiago de Compostela Sassari Satu Mare Savona Schiedam **Schweinfurt** Schwerin Sefton Seixal Sénart en Essonne Setúbal Sevilla 's-Gravenhage Sheffield 's-Hertogenbosch Shumen Šiauliai Sibiu Siedlce **Siegen** Siirt **Sindelfingen** Sintra Siracusa Sittard-Geleen Slatina Slavonski Brod Sliven Slough Słupsk Sofia Solihull **Solingen** Sosnowiec South Tyneside Southampton Southend-on-Sea Southwark **Speyer** Spijkenisse Split St Albans St. Gallen St.Helens Stalowa Wola Stara Zagora Stargard Szczeciński Stavanger Stevenage Stockholm Stockport Stockton-on-Tees Stoke-on-trent **Stralsund** **Stuttgart** Suceava Sunderland Sutton Suwałki Swansea Świdnica Swindon Szczecin Szeged Székesfehérvár Szombathely Talavera de la Reina Tallinn Tameside Tampere / Tammerfors Tamworth Taranto Târgoviște Târgu Jiú Târgu Mureș Tarnów Tarragona Tartu Tczew Telde Telford and Wrekin Terni Terrassa Thanet Thessaloniki Thurrock Tilburg Timișoara Toledo Tomaszów Mazowiecki Torbay Torino Torrejón de Ardoz Torremolinos Torrevieja Toruń Tower Hamlets Trabzon Trafford Trenčín Trento Treviso **Trier** Trieste Trnava Tromsø Trondheim **Tübingen** Tulcea Tunbridge Wells Turku Tychy Udine **Ulm** Umeå Uppsala Ústí nad Labem Utrecht Valence Valencia Valladolid Valletta Valongo Van Vantaa Varese Varna Västerås Veliko Tarnovo Velsen Venezia Venlo Verona Versailles Viana do Castelo Viareggio Vicenza Vidin Vigevano Vigo Vila Franca de Xira Vila Nova de Gaia Viladecans Vilanova i la Geltrú **Villingen-Schwenningen** Vilnius Viseu Vitoria/Gasteiz Vlaardingen Volos Vratsa Wakefield Wałbrzych Walsall Waltham Forest Wandsworth Warrington Warszawa Warwick Waterford Waveney **Weimar** Westminster **Wetzlar** Wien **Wiesbaden** Wigan **Wilhelmshaven** Winterthur Wirral **Witten** Wrocław Woking **Wolfsburg** Wolverhampton Worcester Worthing Wrexham Wrocław Wuppertal Würzburg Wycombe Yambol York Zaanstad Zabrze Zagreb Zamora Zamość Zaragoza Zgierz Zielona Góra Žilina Zlín Zonguldak Žory Zürich **Zwickau** Zwolle