Defining urban areas in Europe

Three levels of urban areas based on population distribution and commuting

**Grid level**
A classification of raster cells of 1 km² using criteria of population density and contiguity. Where available, the population distribution is derived from registers elsewhere, it is downscaled from local LAU2 population figures.

**LAU2 level**
A classification of local administrative units (LAU2) based on the share of population living in urban centres and the share of population commuting to a city.

**NUTS 3 level**
A typology of NUTS-3 regions based on the share of regional population living in a city and its commuting zone (= Larger Urban Zone) of more than 250,000 inhabitants.

These typologies have been developed by DG Regional and Urban Policy in co-operation with DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Eurostat, DG Joint Research Centre and OECD.

Data sources: Eurostat, DG JRC, national statistical institutes, EFGS

For more information:
- Cities - harmonised definition: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/focus/index_en.cfm