Cities leading the way to a better future


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Goals of the report

• Help Urban Agenda for the EU by focussing on the topics of the partnerships (air quality, housing, migration, poverty)

• Support the New Urban Agenda by 1) testing a new global, people-based definition of cities 2) help monitor the urban SDG

• Make it easier for mayors to compare their city and learn from each other (but within Europe and globally)
Broadville and Narrowtown

The graph shows the population density per square km as a function of distance to the city centre in km. The x-axis represents the distance to the city centre, while the y-axis represents the population density per square km.

- **City**: Represented by dark red bars, indicating a high population density near the city centre.
- **Towns and suburbs**: Represented by orange bars, indicating a moderate population density farther away from the city centre.
- **Rural areas**: Represented by green bars, indicating a low population density beyond the suburban area.

The graph highlights the significant concentration of population in the city and the gradual decrease as one moves away towards rural areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Broadville</th>
<th>Narrowtown</th>
<th>Harmonised definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to transport</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green space</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population change</td>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>Decline</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land use growth</td>
<td>Rapid</td>
<td>No growth</td>
<td>Slow growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population by degree of urbanisation in Europe, 2014

Source: Eurostat and World Urbanization Prospects, 2014
Population by degree of urbanisation per continent, 2015

Source: JRC 2015, GHSL Pop Grid V1

- Cities
- Towns and suburbs
- Rural areas
- Urban in World Urbanization Prospects
Urban Centres in the world by population size, 2015

Source: JRC (GHS - POP Global Settlement Model)
European cities in a global context

- European cities are double the density of North-American cities, but half the density to Asian ones.
- European cities have a high enough density to provide efficient public transport
- An **EU-OECD voluntary commitment** is being prepared for Habitat III to test a global, people-based definition of cities
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE
Total population change by metro region, 2002 - 2012

Source: Eurostat
Demographic change

- Population growth in cities is higher, especially due to migration. But the speed of urbanisation has slowed down since the 1960s and 1970s.
- In the 1990s, 40% of cities lost population. In the 2000s it dropped to 30%.
- Working age population moves to cities looking for education and jobs, while 65+ move out.
- Capital cities tend to have highest population growth, share of working-age population and of foreign-born population.
URBAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Urban Economic development

- Cities boost productivity
  - More tertiary educated & more innovation
  - More high-growth firms
  - Higher employment rates
  - Better accessibility and connectivity
- Low-income cities are catching up, but losing jobs
- Medium- and high-income cities lag behind
- Very-high-income cities maintain their lead
# Middle-income trap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro region by income level</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>GDP</th>
<th>GDP per head</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Metro</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-metro</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average annual change 2000-2013, in %
THE INCLUSIVE CITY
Education, employment and poverty

• Europe 2020 strategy measured by degree of urbanisation
  • 10% or less of early school leavers 18-24
  • 40% or more of tertiary educated 30-34
  • 75% or more employed 20-64
  • 20 million less people in poverty or social exclusion

• Crisis has helped progress to education targets, but reduced employment and increased poverty
Regional & Urban Policy

Working age population (20-64) born outside the EU by degree of urbanisation, 2014

Bubble size is the share of national population living in the area

Note: Countries ranked by the city value. Data for Germany is by citizenship.

Source: Eurostat
Employment rate in the cities by country of birth, 2014

- Same country
- A different EU-28 country
- Non EU-28 country

Source: Eurostat
Good housing at a reasonable price per city, 2015
The inclusive city

- Cities are making progress towards 2020 targets, but employment rates are still below the pre-crisis levels & poverty and exclusion rates above.
- Employment rates of city residents born outside the EU are considerably lower
- Housing in cities is expensive, small and crowded
Car use per city, 2015
Walking per city, 2015

Respondents who most often walk as their mode of transport, in %
Cycling per city, 2015
Road fatalities

- **Green below 2020 target**
- **Purple above 2020 target**
Urban mobility

- Low-carbon modes more popular in cities, but more can be done to make these attractive:
  - Make walking and cycling safe and convenient
  - Improve speed and frequency of public transport
  - Charge more for parking a car in the city centre

- To reach the EU GHG emission targets, car use may need to be reduced. Several cities have succeeded to reduce car use.

- Traffic safety is high in most EU cities, but it can still be improved in several cities
RESOURCE EFFICIENT CITIES
Resource efficient cities

• Cities compared to rural areas need
  • Four times less land,
  • Ten times less local road
• Large cities and Mediterranean cities use less land per inhabitant
• Most EU cities with a growing population have a slower increase in land use than in population
• This efficiency can deteriorate or improve over time depending on national and local policies
URBAN ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE
• More than 300 cities have committed to reducing GHG emissions

• Cities focus increasingly on mitigation AND adaptation
Urban environment and climate change

- To reduce air pollution many cities need to act, but so do higher levels of government.
- More mayors aim to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change: **Covenant of Mayors**
- Cities are experimenting green and blue infrastructure and other nature-based solutions
URBAN GOVERNANCE
Perceived corrupt practices in local government in selected cities, 2012-2014
Efficiency of public administration in selected cities, 2015

Share of population who agree that the administrative services in their city help people efficiently, in %

Urban governance

- Successful cities have
  - sufficient autonomy,
  - sufficient funding and
  - govern at the functional (i.e. metropolitan) level

- Autonomy and funding have increased, but the crisis has reduced local public investment

- Corruption and inefficient public services continue to plague in several cities
Conclusions

• European cities are central to reaching key EU economic, social and environmental goals
• European cities already have many benefits but they need to improve their performance.
• Cities need a solid metropolitan governance and sufficient funding and autonomy