

Think SMALL to act **BIG**

challenges and perspectives

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VASAB Workshop

Smart urban governance in times of transition. Resilience of small and medium cities in the Baltic Sea Region

6 September 2018

Outline

1. Why Small and Medium Sized Towns

2. Resilience and challenges

a. Macro,

b. Meso, and

c. micro scale

3. Policy opportunities

a. Place based approach

b. Community-led local development



Geomatics interpretation (DG Regio – OECD)

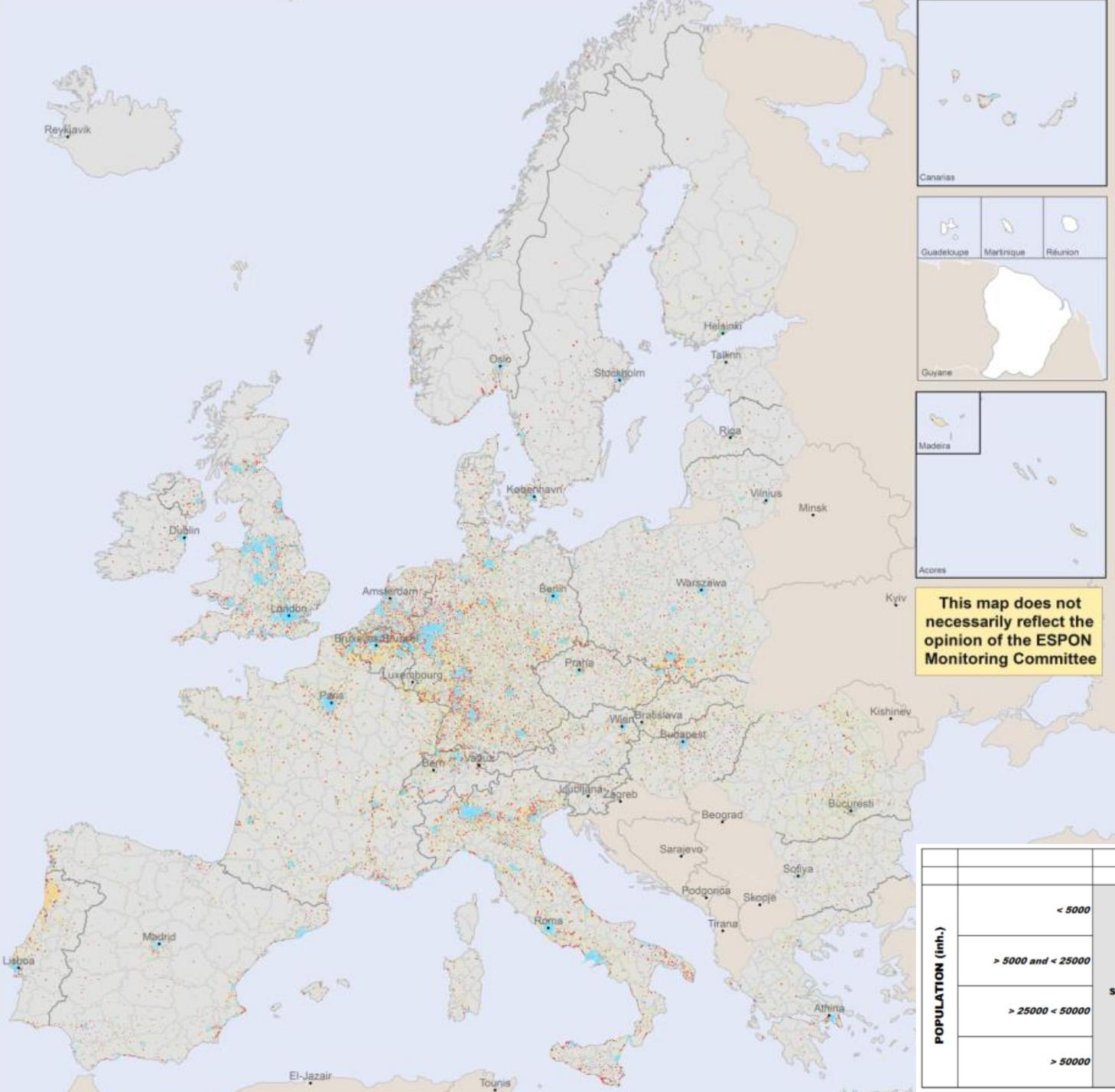
Small and medium-sized towns



Morphological interpretation (ESPON TOWN project)

- 'Urban polygons' identified as separate built-up areas with population size and density consistently with criteria set by DG Regio / OECD
- Focus on Small and Medium sized towns

		DENSITY (inh. / kmq)		
		<i>< 300</i>	<i>> 300 and < 1500</i>	<i>> 1500</i>
POPULATION (inh.)	<i>< 5000</i>	OTHER SETTLEMENTS	VST (Very Small Towns)	
	<i>> 5000 and < 25000</i>		Small SMT	
	<i>> 25000 < 50000</i>		Medium SMT	
	<i>> 50000</i>		large SMT	HDUC (high-density urban clusters)



Canaries

Guadeloupe Martinique Réunion

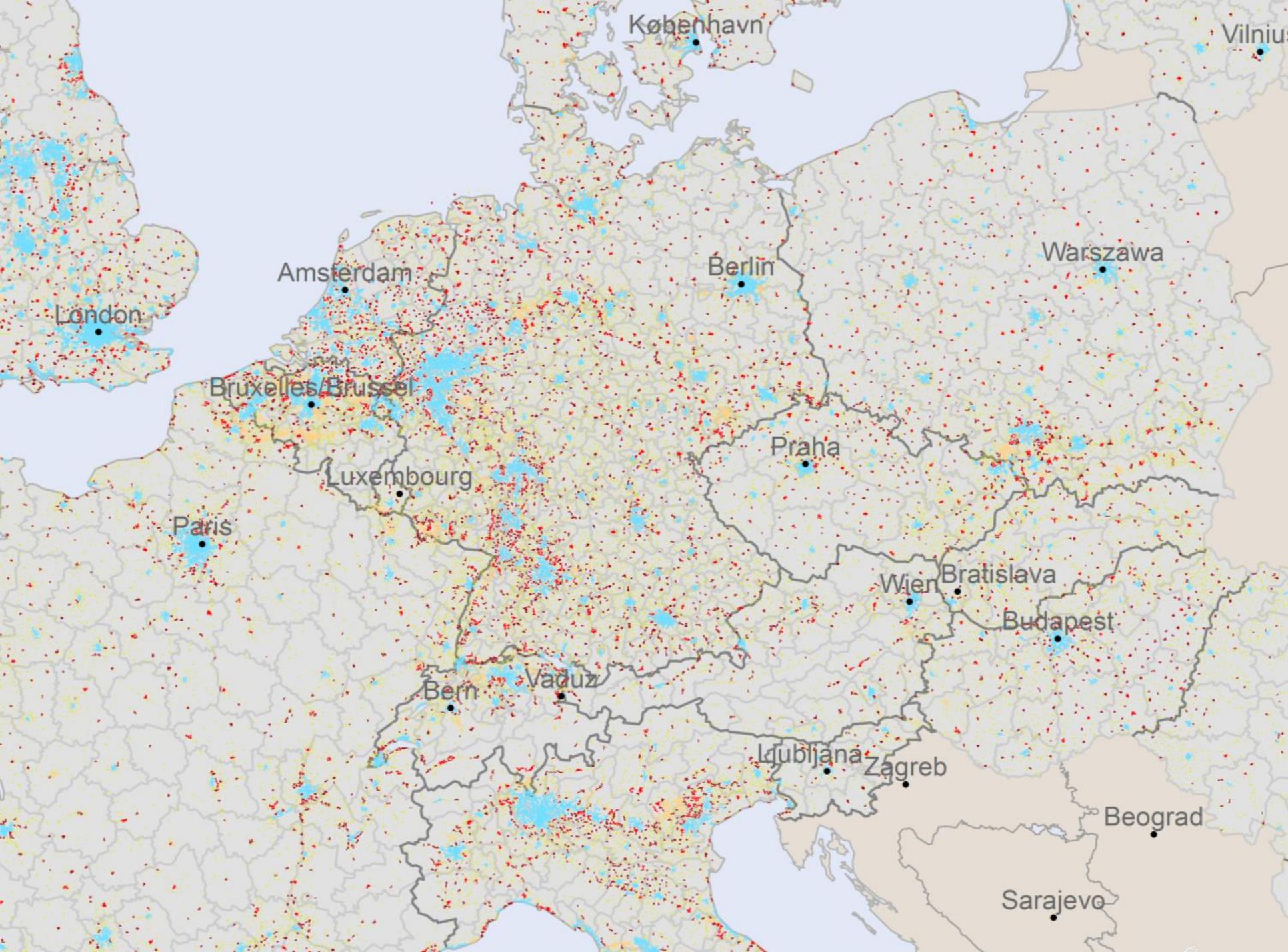
Guyane

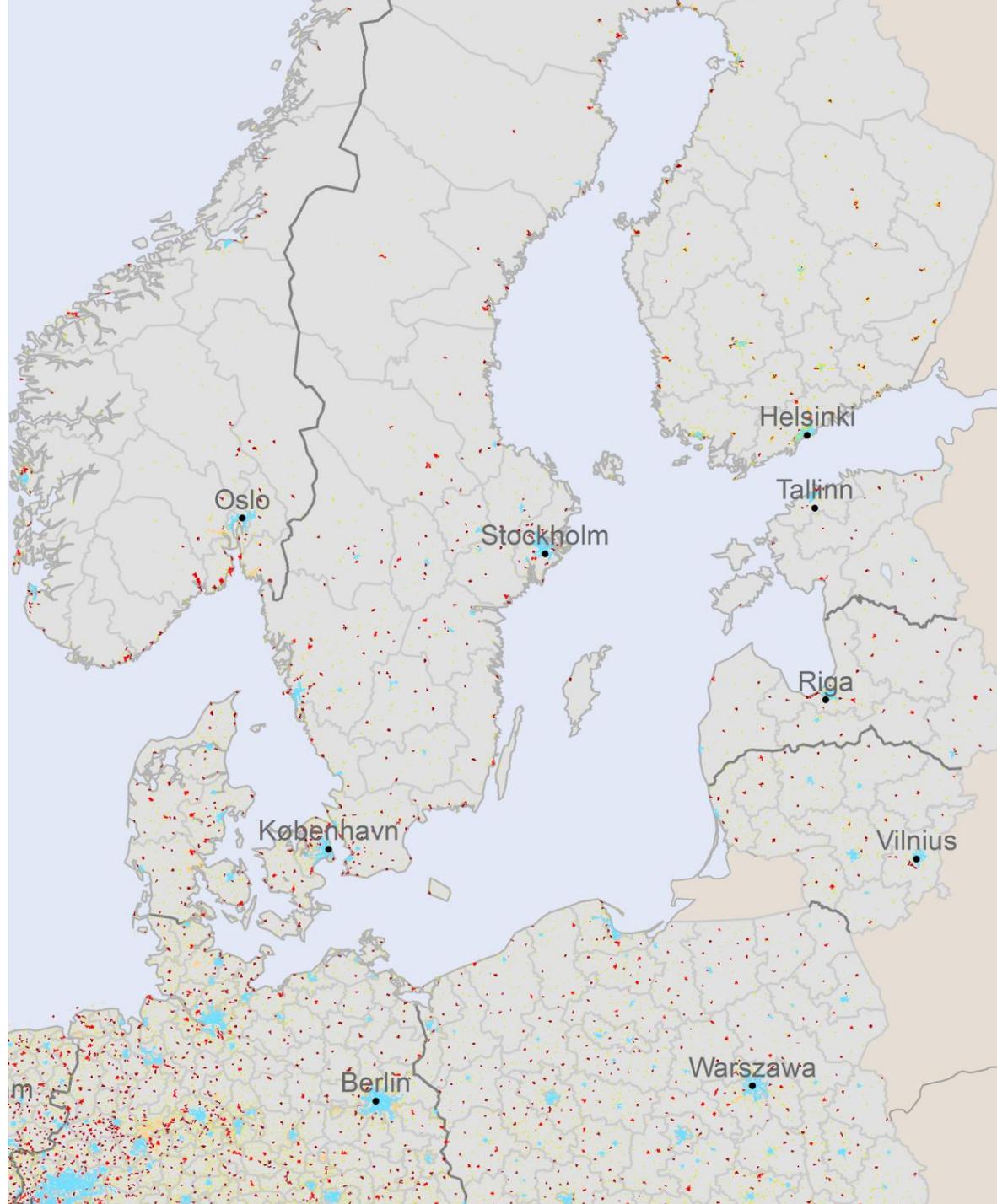
Madeira

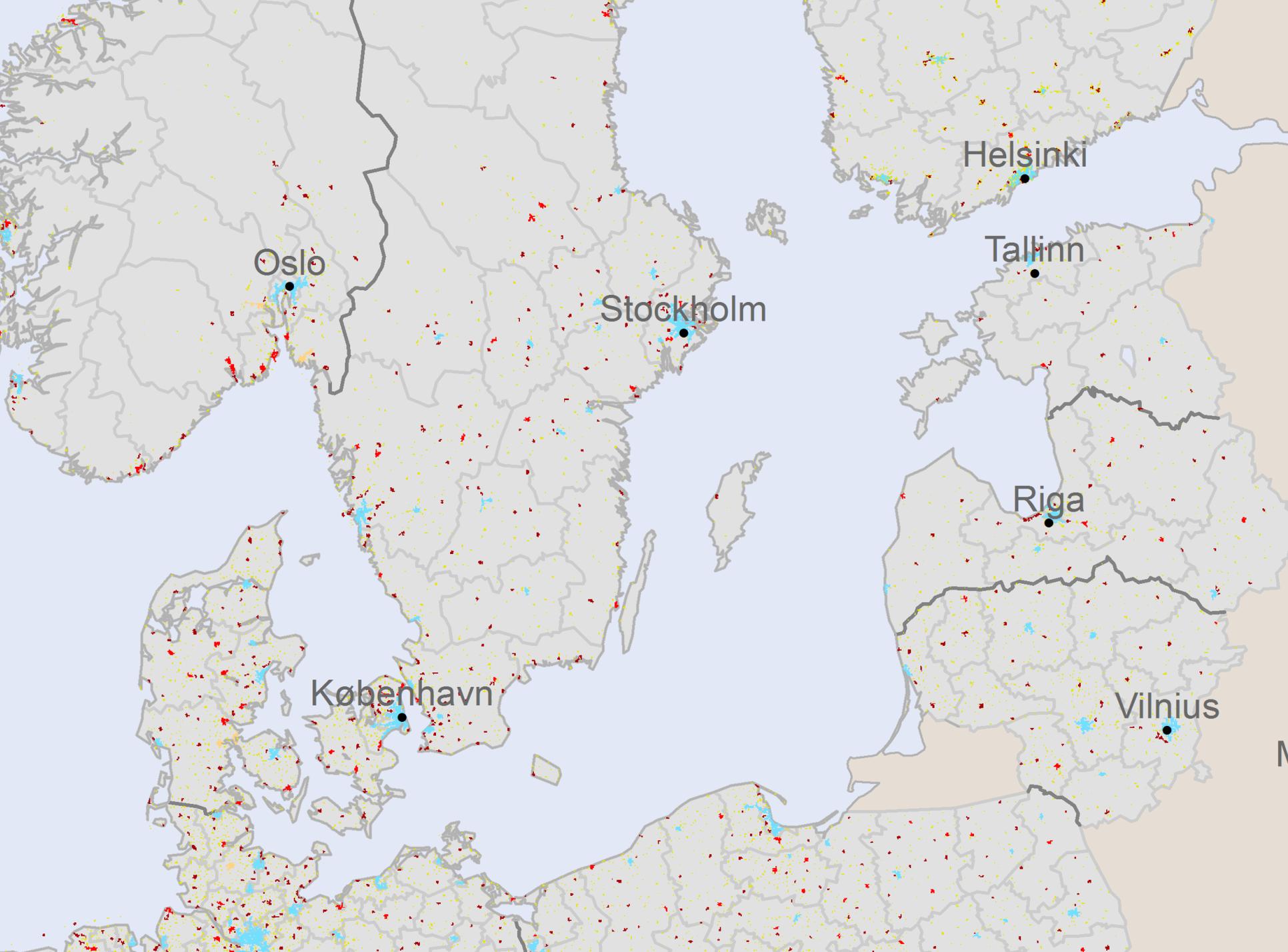
Acores

This map does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee

		DENSITY (inh. / kmq)		
		< 300	> 300 and < 1500	> 1500
POPULATION (inh.)	< 5000	OTHER SETTLEMENTS	VST (Very Small Towns)	
	> 5000 and < 25000		Small SMT	
	> 25000 < 50000		Medium SMT	
	> 50000		large SMT	HDUC (high-density urban clusters)







Oslo

Stockholm

Helsinki

Tallinn

Riga

København

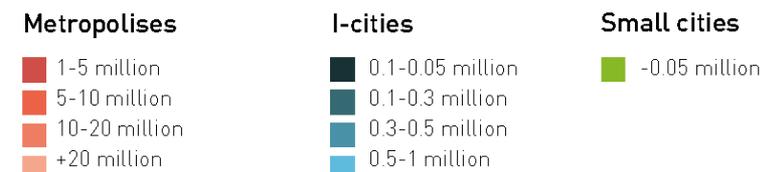
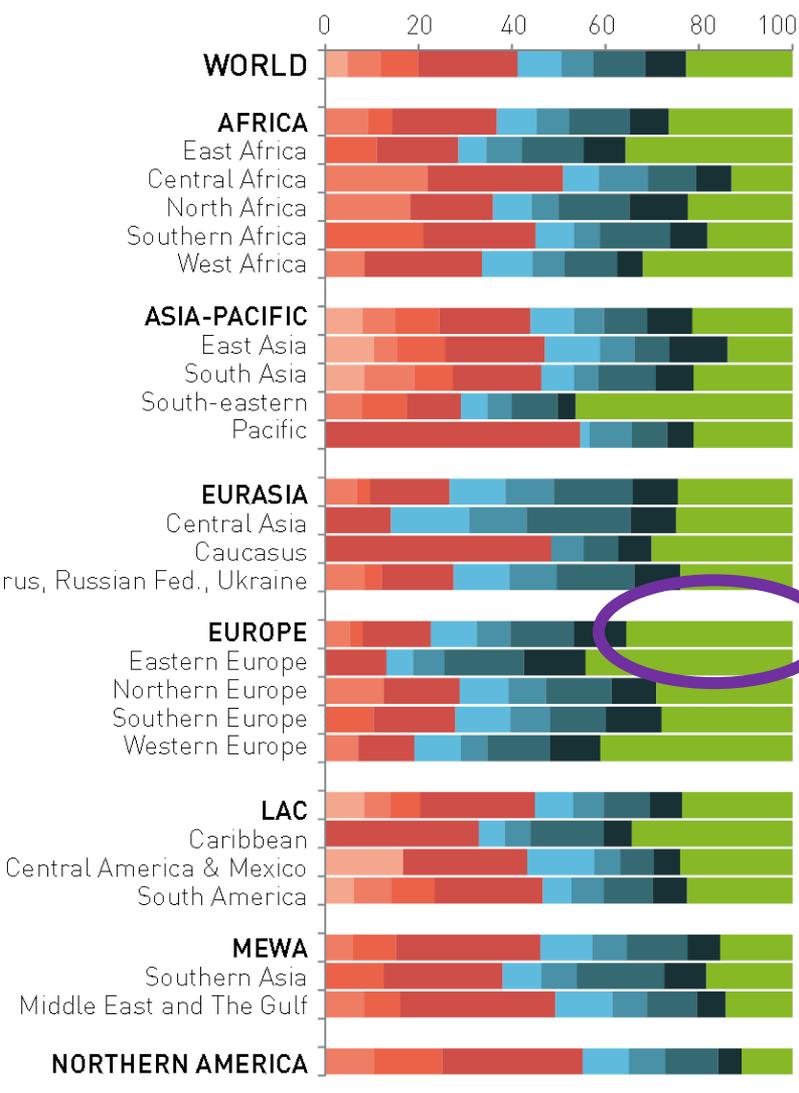
Vilnius

Dimension of population in smaller settlements

Classes	Delimitation criteria	Count	Av. Pop	Av. Sq.km	Av. Density	Total pop. in this class	as % of ESPON space*
High-density Urban Clusters (HDUC)	Pop. > 50,000 Pop. Density > 1,500 inh/km ²	850	275,476	92.3	2,927.10	234,154,670	46.3%
Large SMST	Pop > 50,000, Pop. Density < 1,500 inh/km ²	100	132,331	101.8	1,299.6	13,233,142	2,6%
Medium SMST	25,000 < Pop < 50,000, Pop. Density > 300 inh/km ²	966	35,163	19.7	2,060.59	33,967,357	6.7%
Small SMST	5,000 < Pop < 25,000, Pop. Density > 300 inh/km ²	7348	10,242	7.6	1,470.09	75,254,510	14.9%
Very Small Towns (VST)	Pop. < 5,000 Pop. Density > 300 inh./km ²	69,043	1,193	1.7	699.3	82,376,586	16.3%

* including EU 27+ Ireland, Norway, Lichtenstein, Switzerland

World's distribution of urban population by settlement size and by UCLG regions* (%)



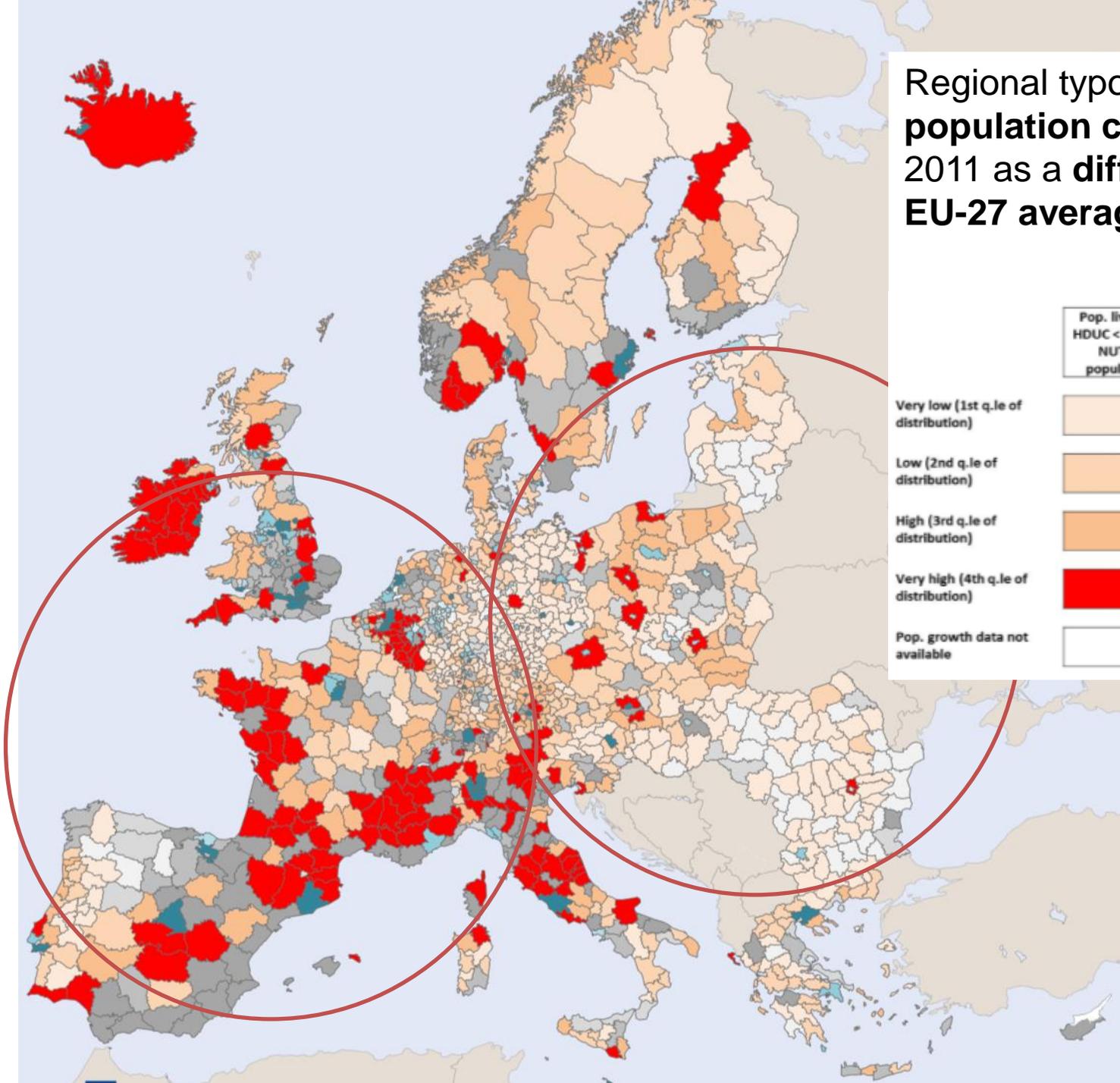
UCLG (2016) 4th Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV): Co- Creating the Urban Future: The Agenda of Metropolises, Cities, and Territories

Resilience and challenge

Between territorial determinism and individual
urban freedom

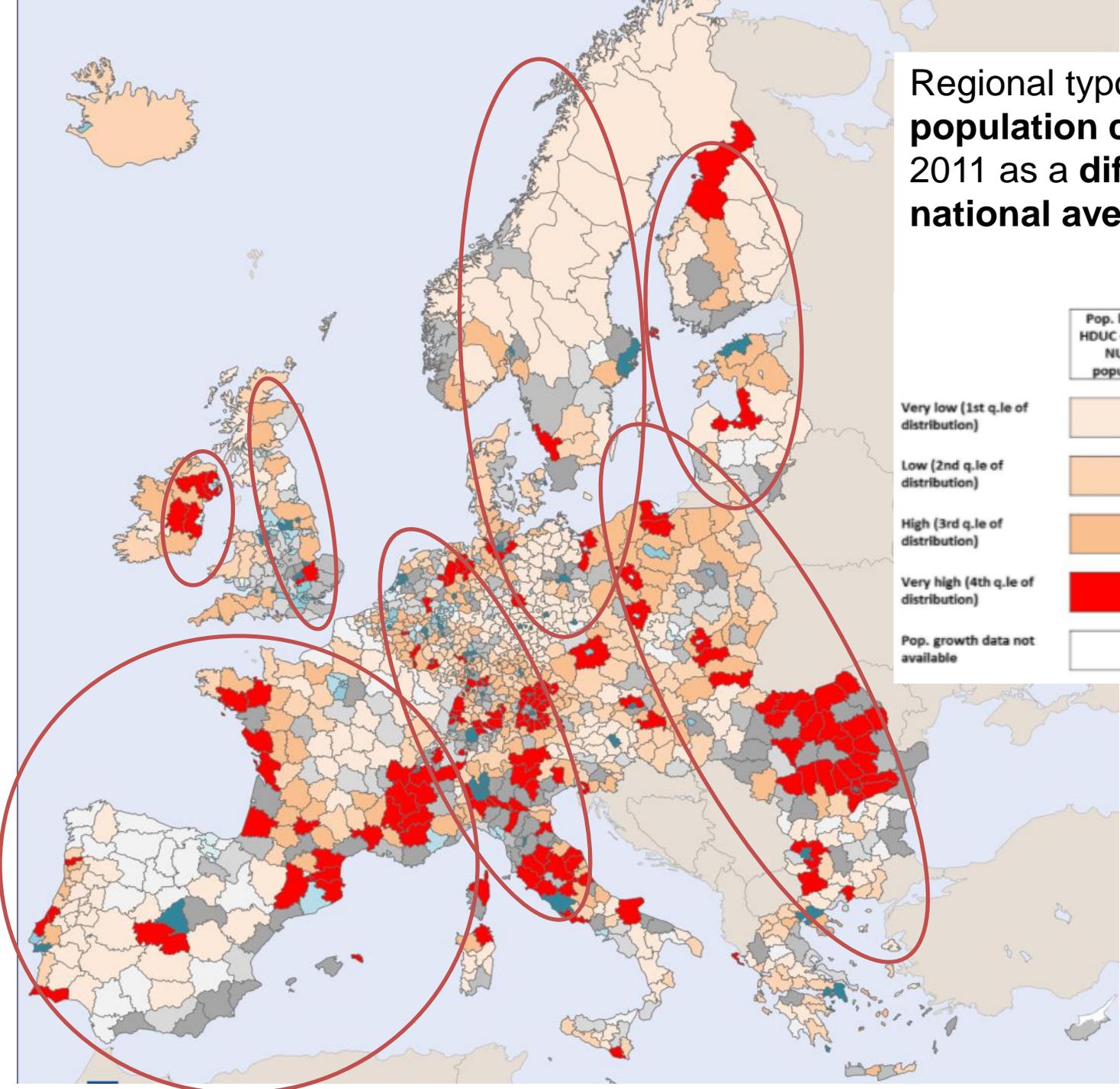
A. Macro and meso trends

Regional typology based on **population change** rates 2001-2011 as a **difference from the EU-27 average**

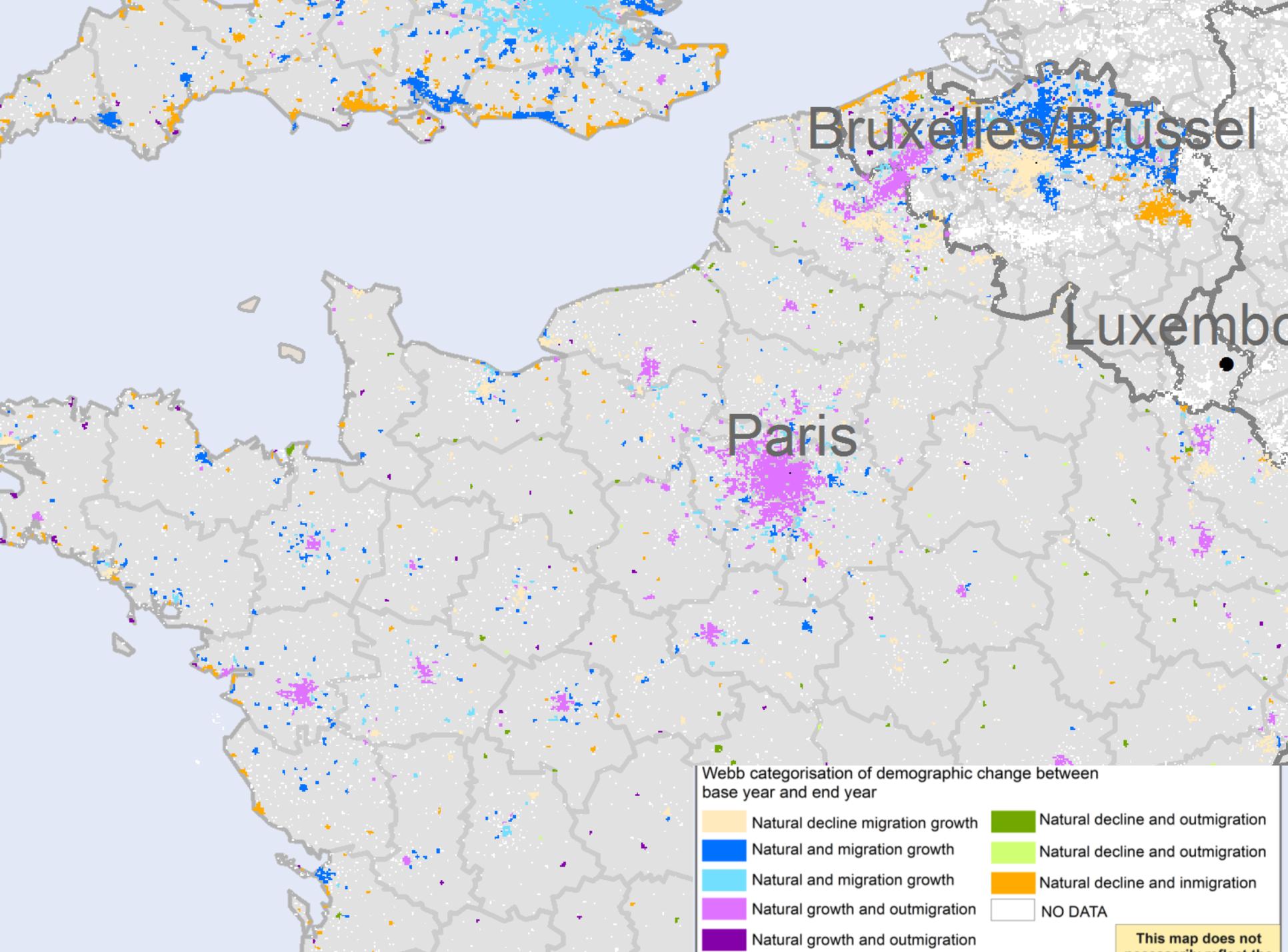


	Pop. living in HDUC < 30% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 30% < 70% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 70% of NUTS3 population
Very low (1st q.le of distribution)			
Low (2nd q.le of distribution)			
High (3rd q.le of distribution)			
Very high (4th q.le of distribution)			
Pop. growth data not available			

Regional typology based on **population change** rates 2001-2011 as a **difference from the national average**



	Pop. living in HDUC < 30% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 30% < 70% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 70% of NUTS3 population
Very low (1st q.le of distribution)			
Low (2nd q.le of distribution)			
High (3rd q.le of distribution)			
Very high (4th q.le of distribution)			
Pop. growth data not available			



Thoughts (A)

Relevance of **macro spatial trends**

- Regions with smaller settlements may have less inertial capacity to bounce them back

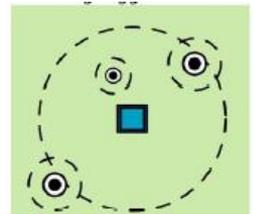
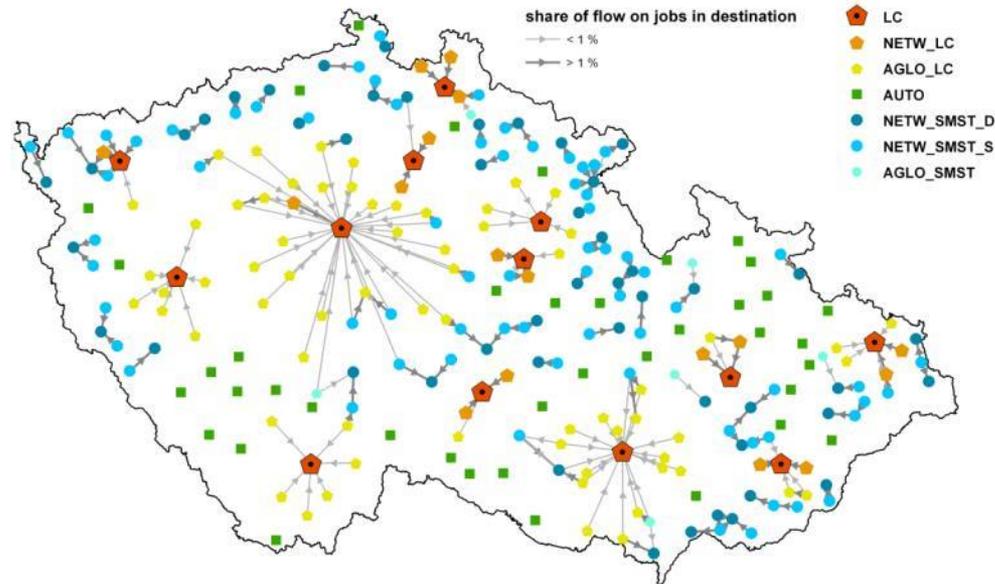
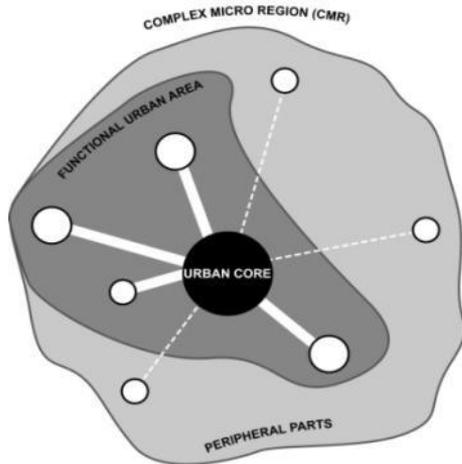
Combination of **macro/meso dynamics** and **local trajectories**

- Socio-spatial configurations with a specific regional dependency (e.g. surrounding larger urban regions)
- High variety of socio-economic performances (much higher than larger urban areas)
- EU/National policies matter?

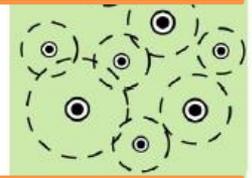
B. Functional regions and micro trends

Towns vs large cities?

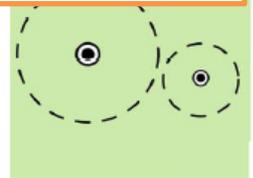
Functional identification of urban systems and their cores



Agglomerated



Networked

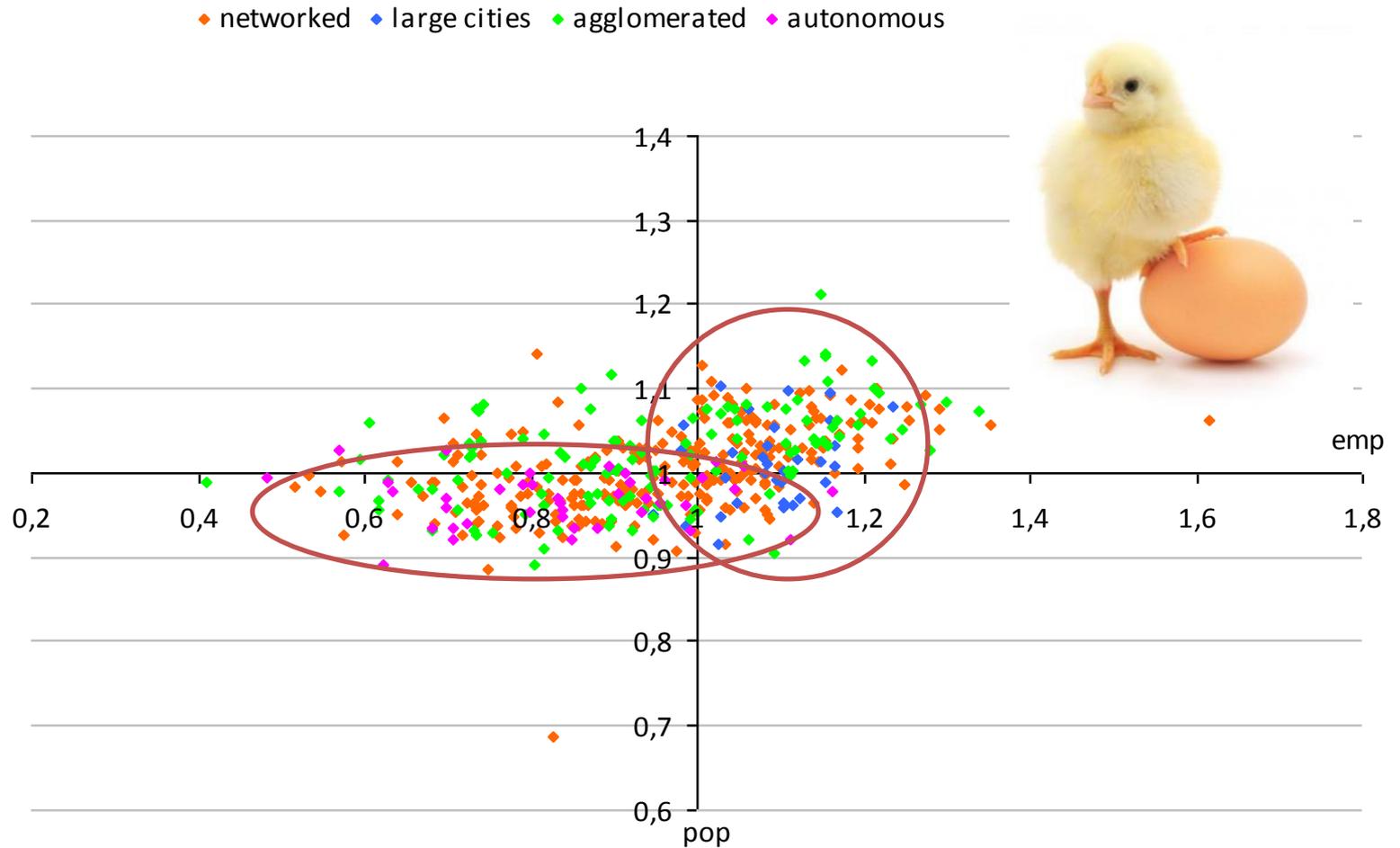


Isolated

Criteria:

- Travel-to-work patterns
- Location of services

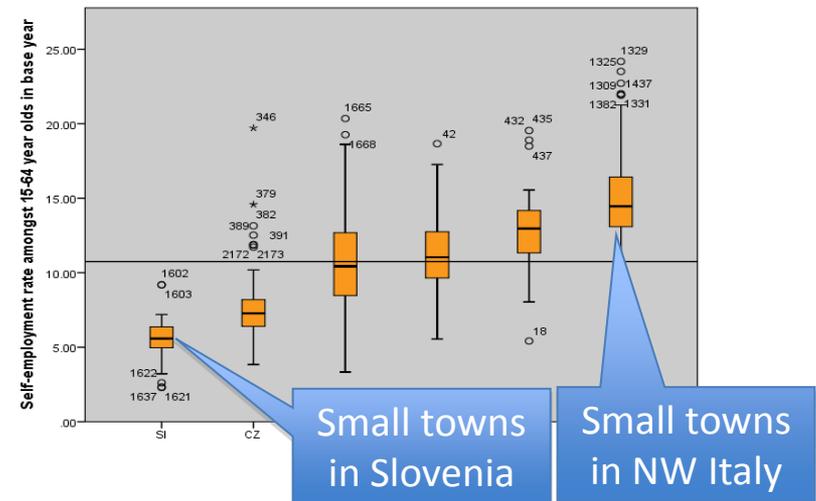
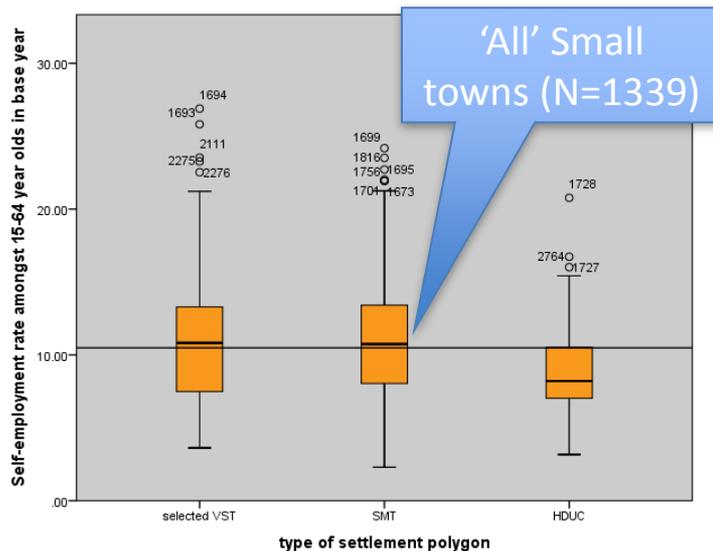
Towns vs large cities?



Socio-economic and administrative issues

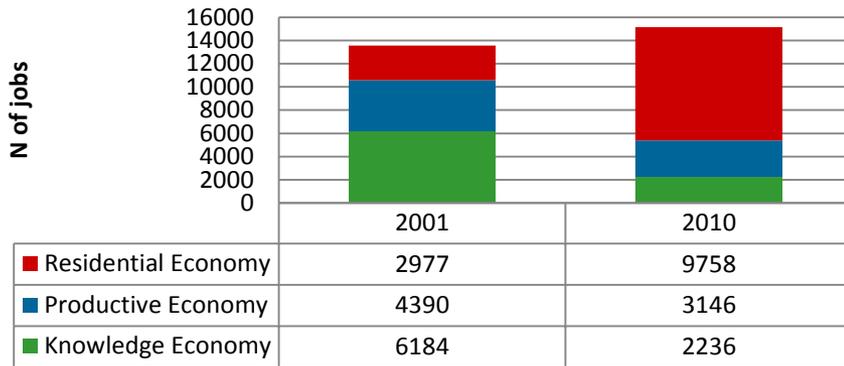
On average, SMSTs (in database) are different from large cities on a range of **socio-economic issues**

- greater proportion of industrial employment;
- A significantly smaller proportion of jobs (on average) in private marketed services and in public services in comparison to HDUCs;
- more self-employment, less diverse in sectorial mix

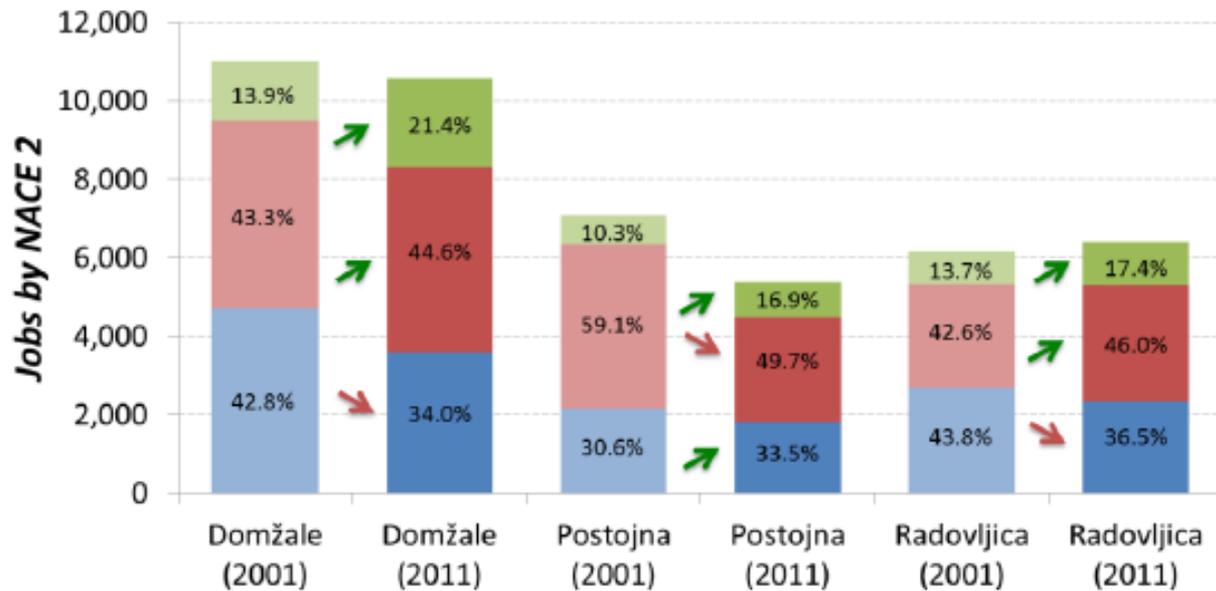
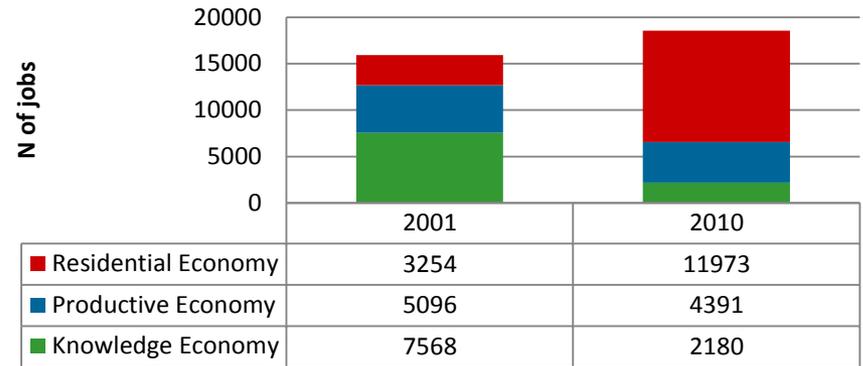


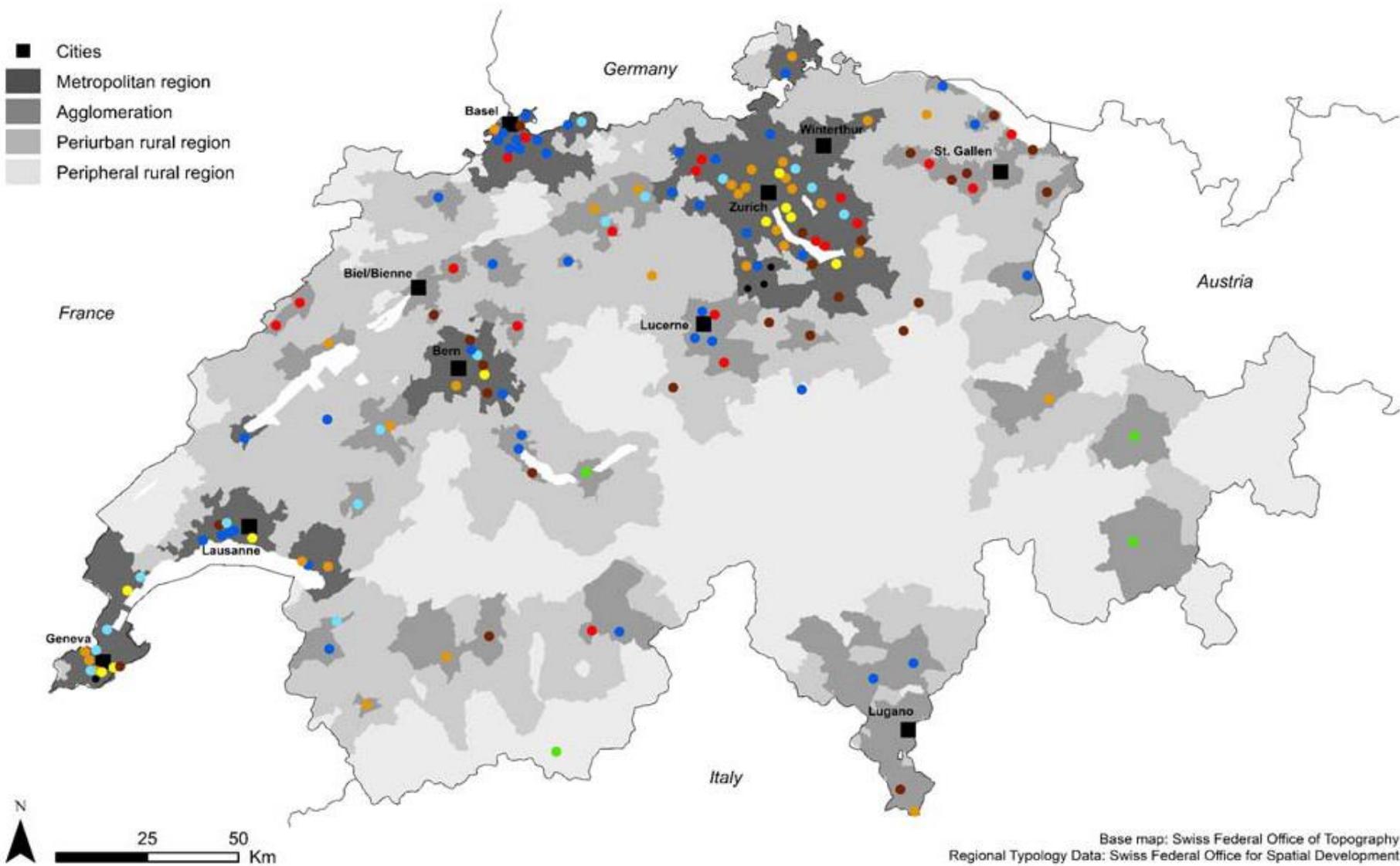
Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs

Dendermonde: Number of jobs by economic profile



Ieper: Number of jobs by economic profile





- Prospering residential economy towns
- Low tech towns
- High tech towns
- Knowledge intensive towns
- Residential economy towns
- Alpine tourism towns
- Business hub towns
- Outliers

Thoughts (B)

Socio-economic dynamics

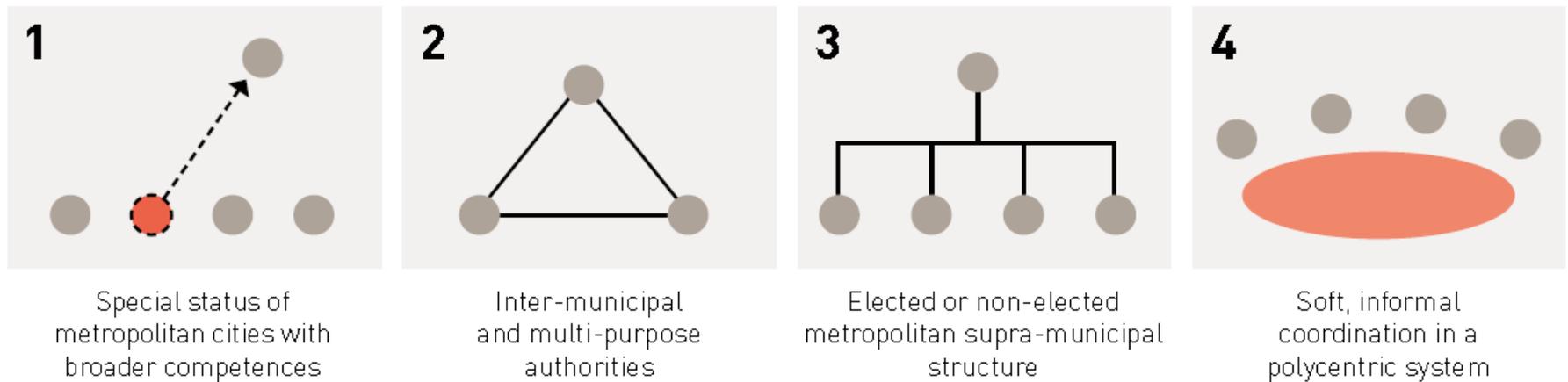
- Productive profile under stress, reinforcement of the agricultural sector
- Important shift toward residential economy
- Few but significant knowledge-based sectors in local economy, especially in functional relationship with larger urban areas
- Role of public sector (administration, university, etc.)
- Role of traditional and food-related tourism (synergies with agro-industry)

Presence of (sub-)regional cluster of territorial dynamics

About forms of governance, institutional arrangements and funds opportunity

Figure 2.2 **Four models identified by the OECD**²⁴

Source: OECD (2015)



CLLD Fund composition in VASAB area

Country	Mono EAFRD	Mono EMFF	EAFRD-EMFF	Mono ESF	EAFRD-ERDF	EAFRD-ESF	ERDF-ESF	EAFRD-EMFF-ESF	EAFRD-ERDF-ESF	All 4 ESIF	TOT
Denmark	19	3	7								29
Estonia	26	8									34
Finland	55	10									65
Germany	298	29							23		350
Latvia	29		6								35
Lithuania	46	10	3	23							82
Poland	251	24	11	7			1		29	1	324
Sweden	2	4			3	2		1	28	8	48

Source: own elaboration

Conclusive messages

- Relevance of **macro trend / driving force** and contextual vulnerability – **lower inertia toward changes for SMST**
- Evidence suggest the presence of **integrated territorial systems**, in which urban areas are tightly integrated and complementing each others (networking systems)
- Successful cases are those one strategically working on diversification and innovation

Key elements for a policy agenda

- Importance of a diversified economic profile
- Local strategic capacity of rethinking key sectors (e.g. access to services)
- Critical (territorial) mass
- Investment in institutional capacity building

Thank you for your attention

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