

Think SMALL to act **BIG** challenges and perspectives

Loris Servillo

UCL - Bartlett school of planning (UK)



VASAB Workshop

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

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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)

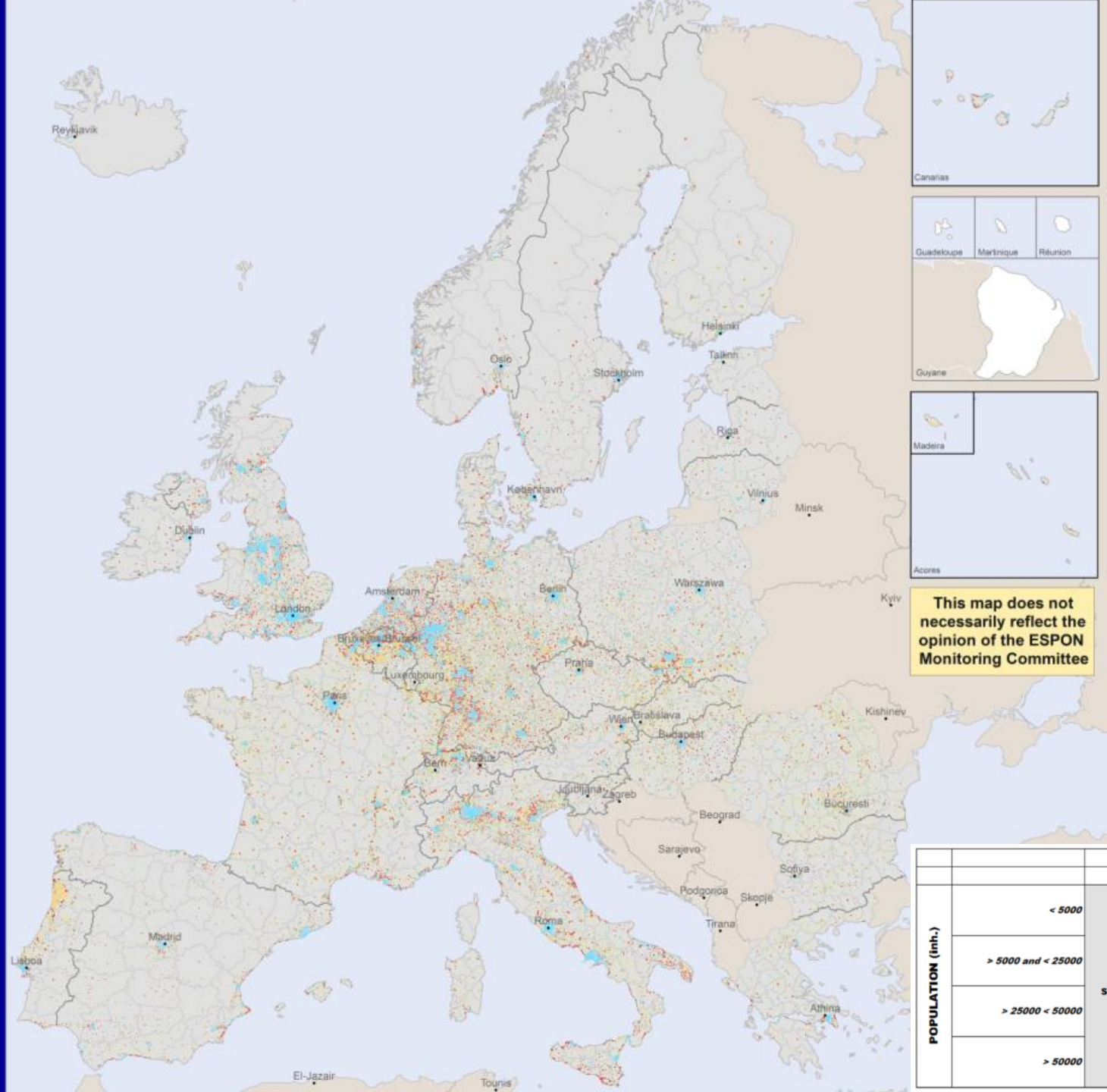
Small and medium-sized towns



Morphological interpretation (ESPON TOWN project)

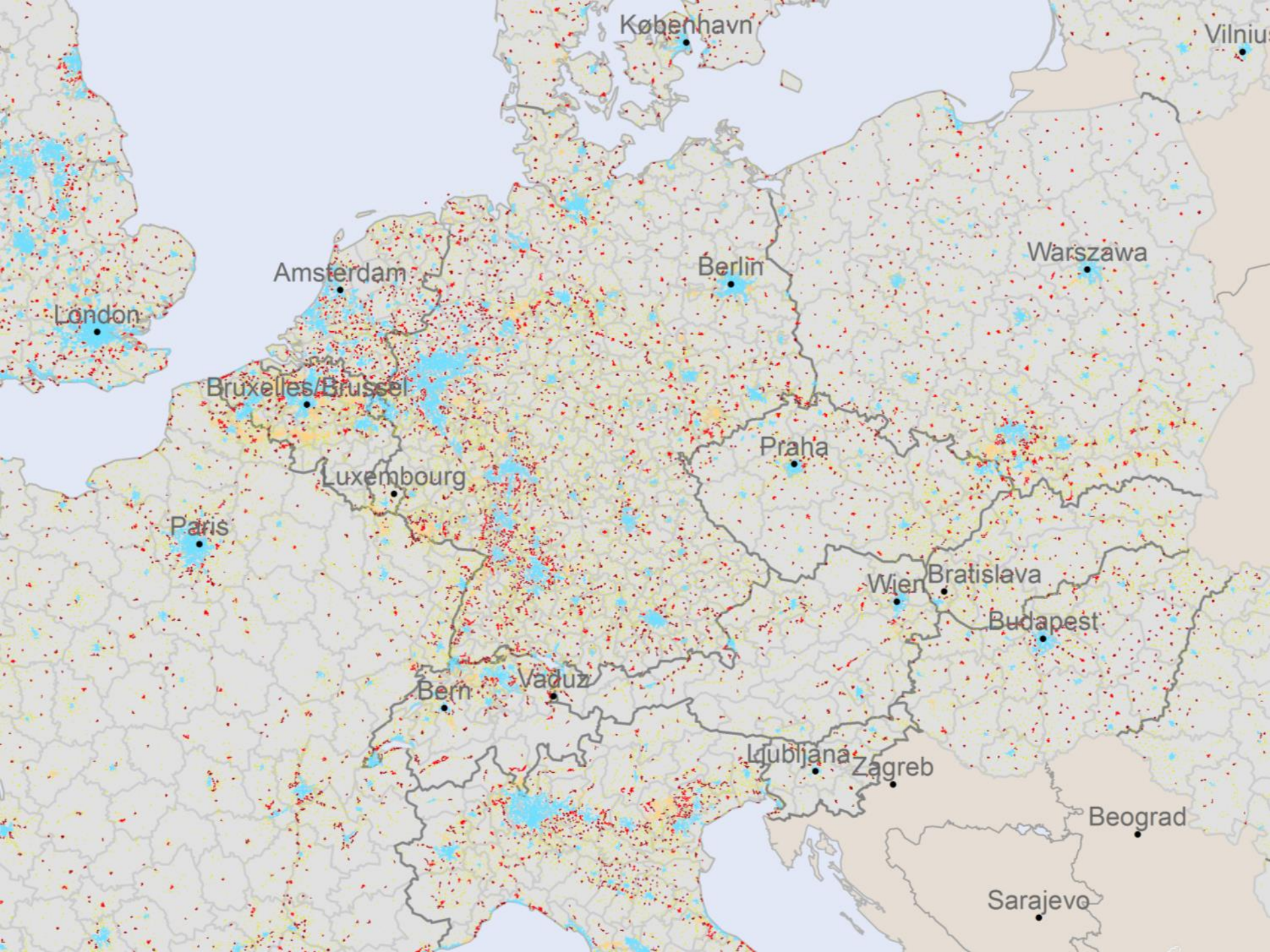
- 'Urban polygons' identified as separate built-up areas with population size and density consistently with criteria set by DG Regio / OECD
- Focus on Small and Medium sized towns

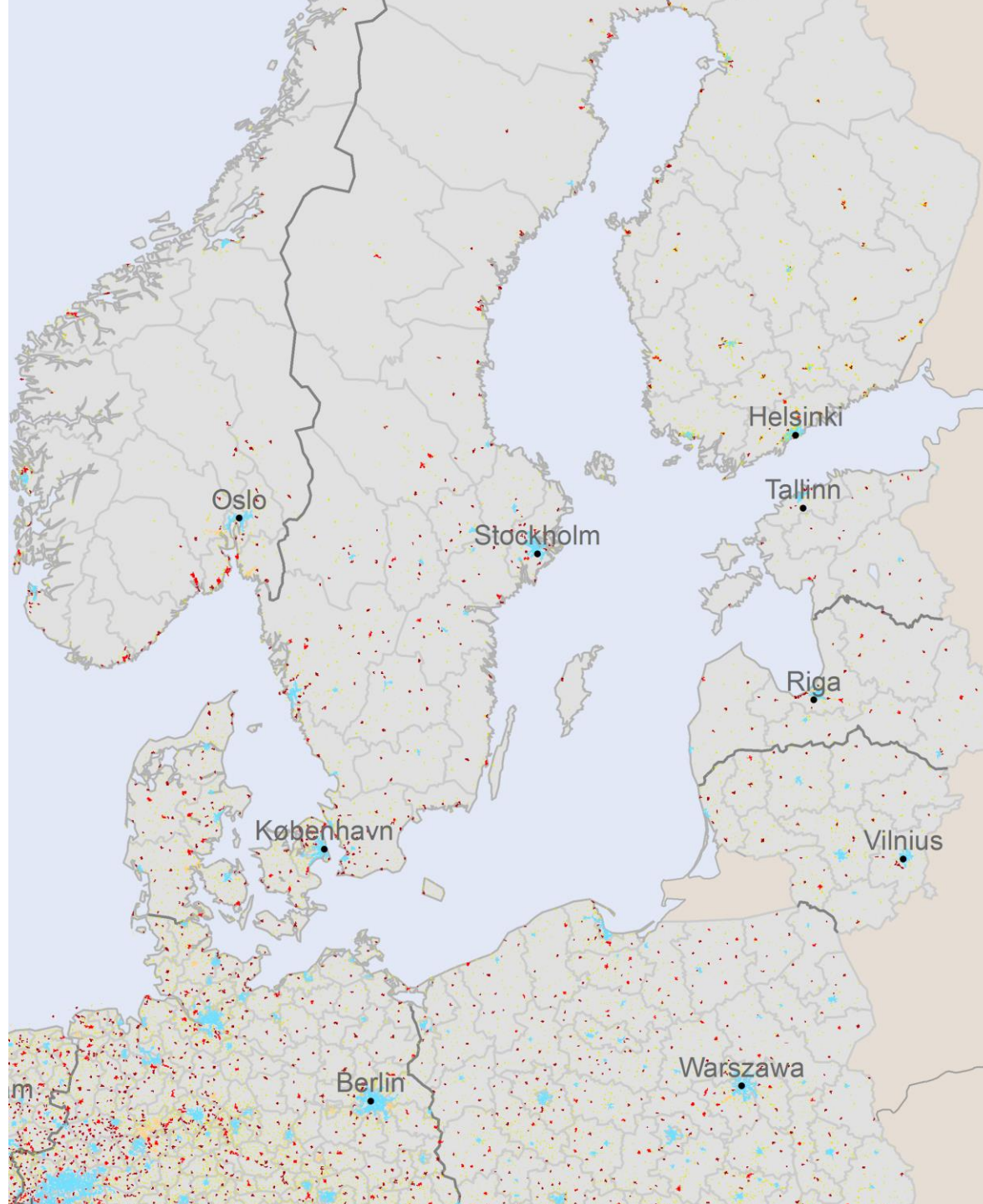
		DENSITY (inh. / kmq)		
		<i>< 300</i>	<i>> 300 and < 1500</i>	<i>> 1500</i>
POPULATION (inh.)	<i>< 5000</i>	OTHER SETTLEMENTS	VST (Very Small Towns)	
	<i>> 5000 and < 25000</i>		Small SMT	
	<i>> 25000 < 50000</i>		Medium SMT	
	<i>> 50000</i>		large SMT	HDUC (high-density urban clusters)

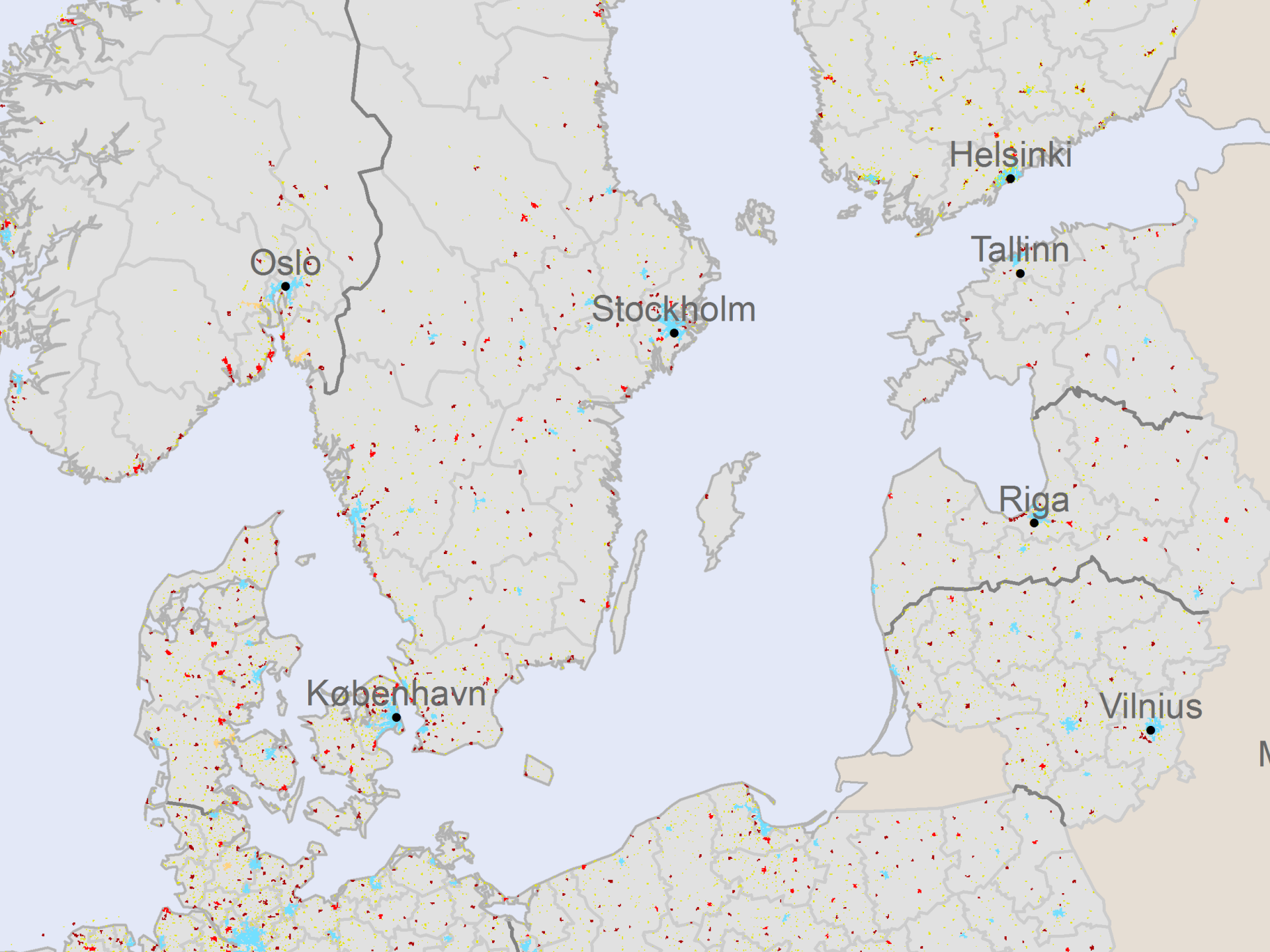


This map does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee

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		< 300	> 300 and < 1500	> 1500
POPULATION (inh.)	< 5000	OTHER SETTLEMENTS	VST (Very Small Towns)	
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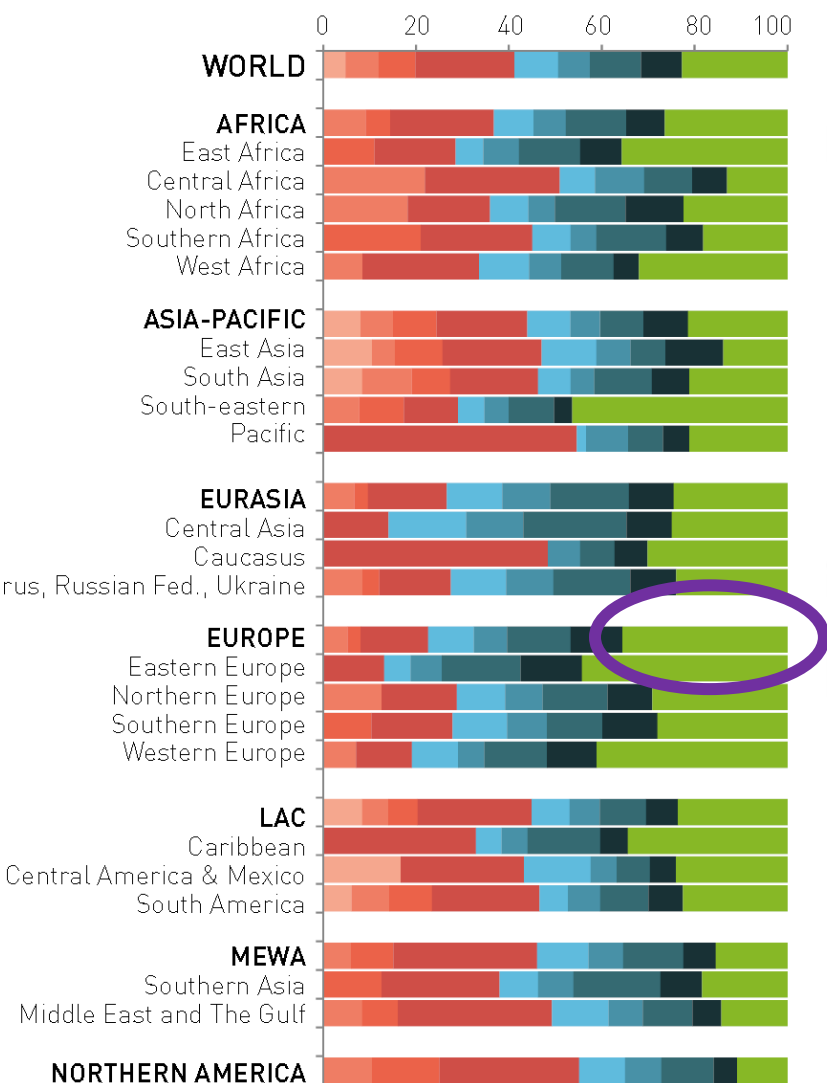


Dimension of population in smaller settlements

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* (%)



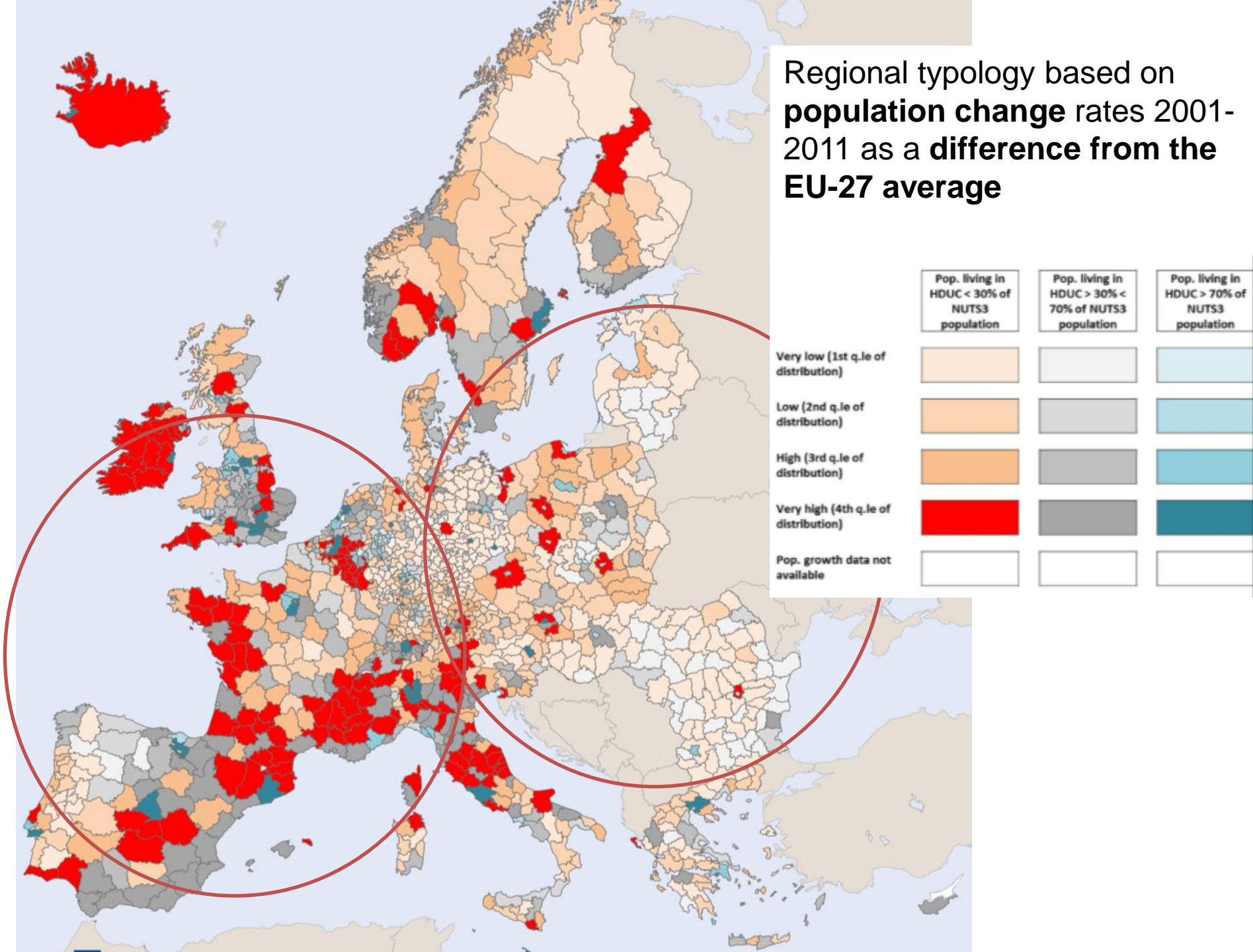
UCLG (2016) 4th Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization
(GOLD IV): Co- Creating the Urban Future: The Agenda of Metropolises,
Cities, and Territories

Resilience and challenge

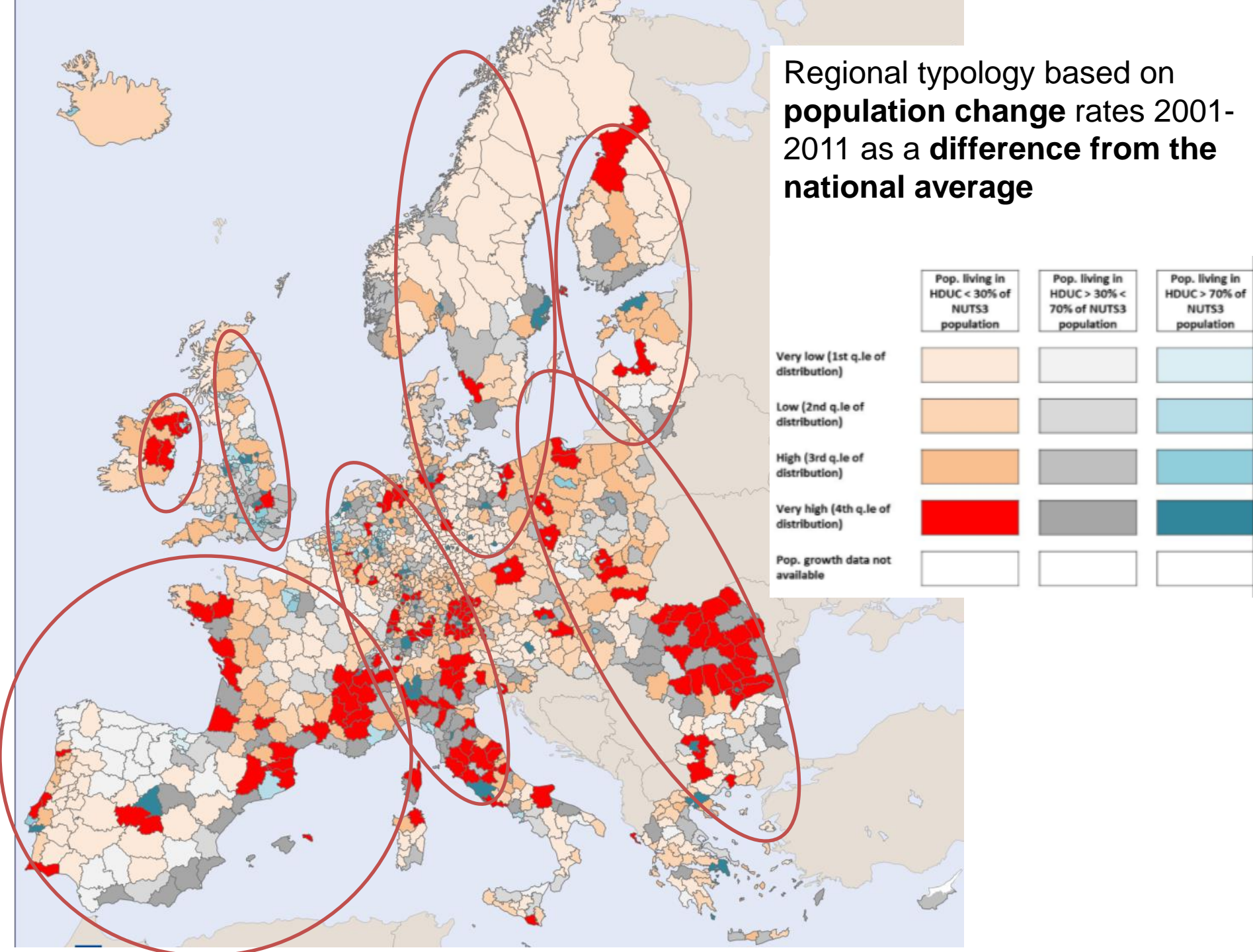
Between territorial determinism and individual
urban freedom

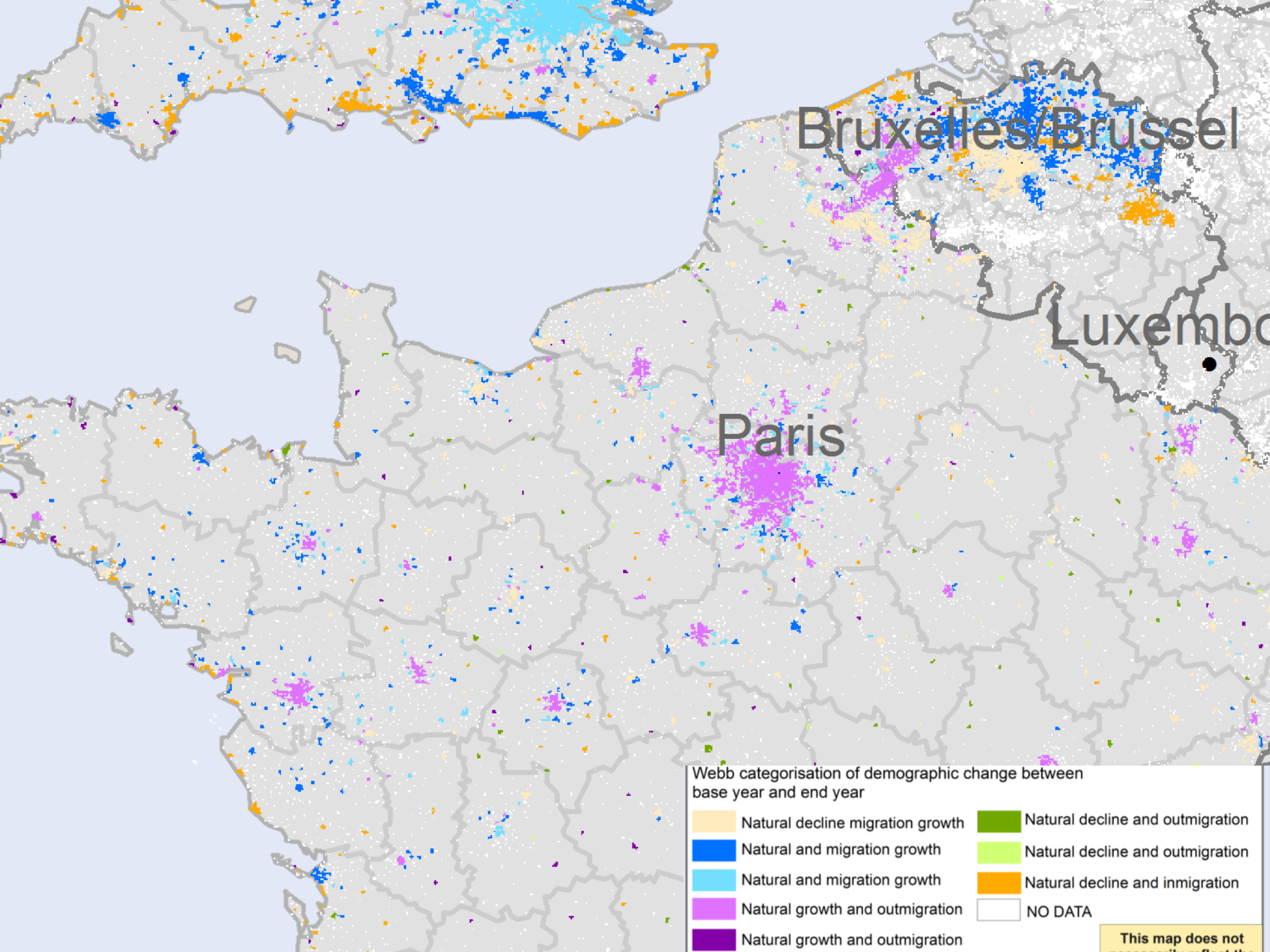
A. Macro and meso trends

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



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





Thoughts (A)

Relevance of **macro spatial trends**

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

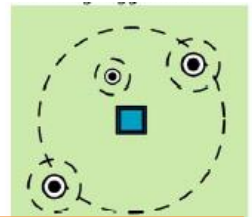
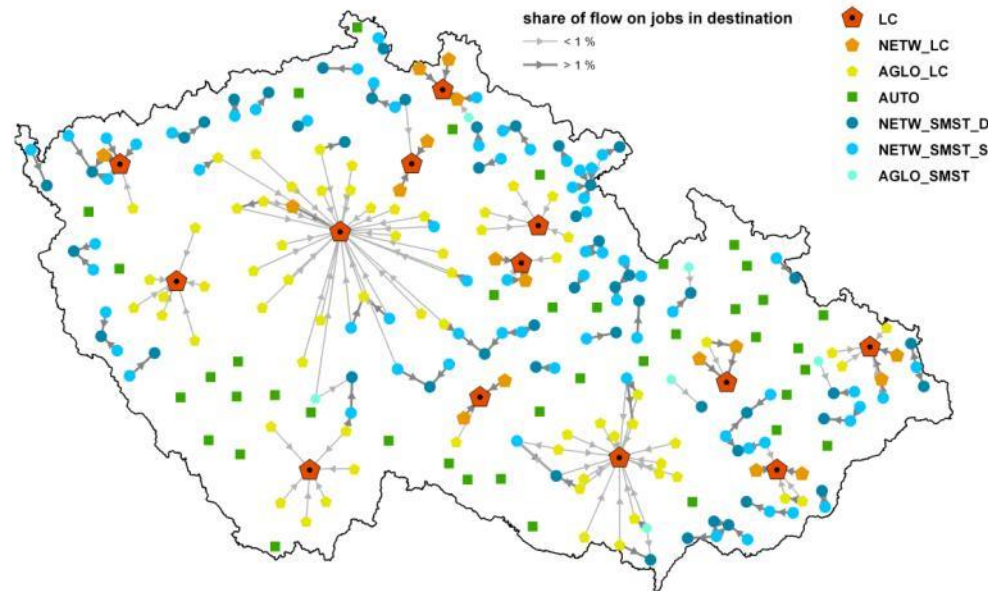
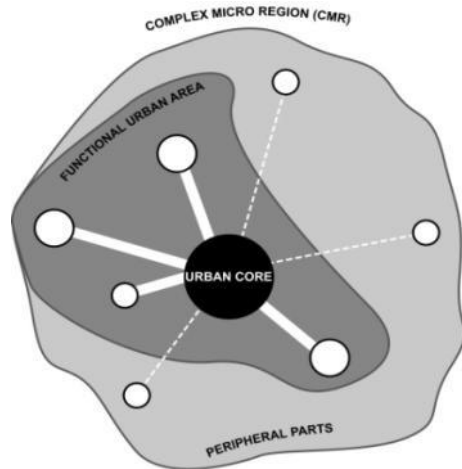
Combination of **macro/meso dynamics** and **local trajectories**

- 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?

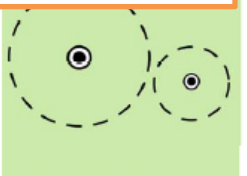
Functional identification of urban systems and their cores



Agglomerated



Networked

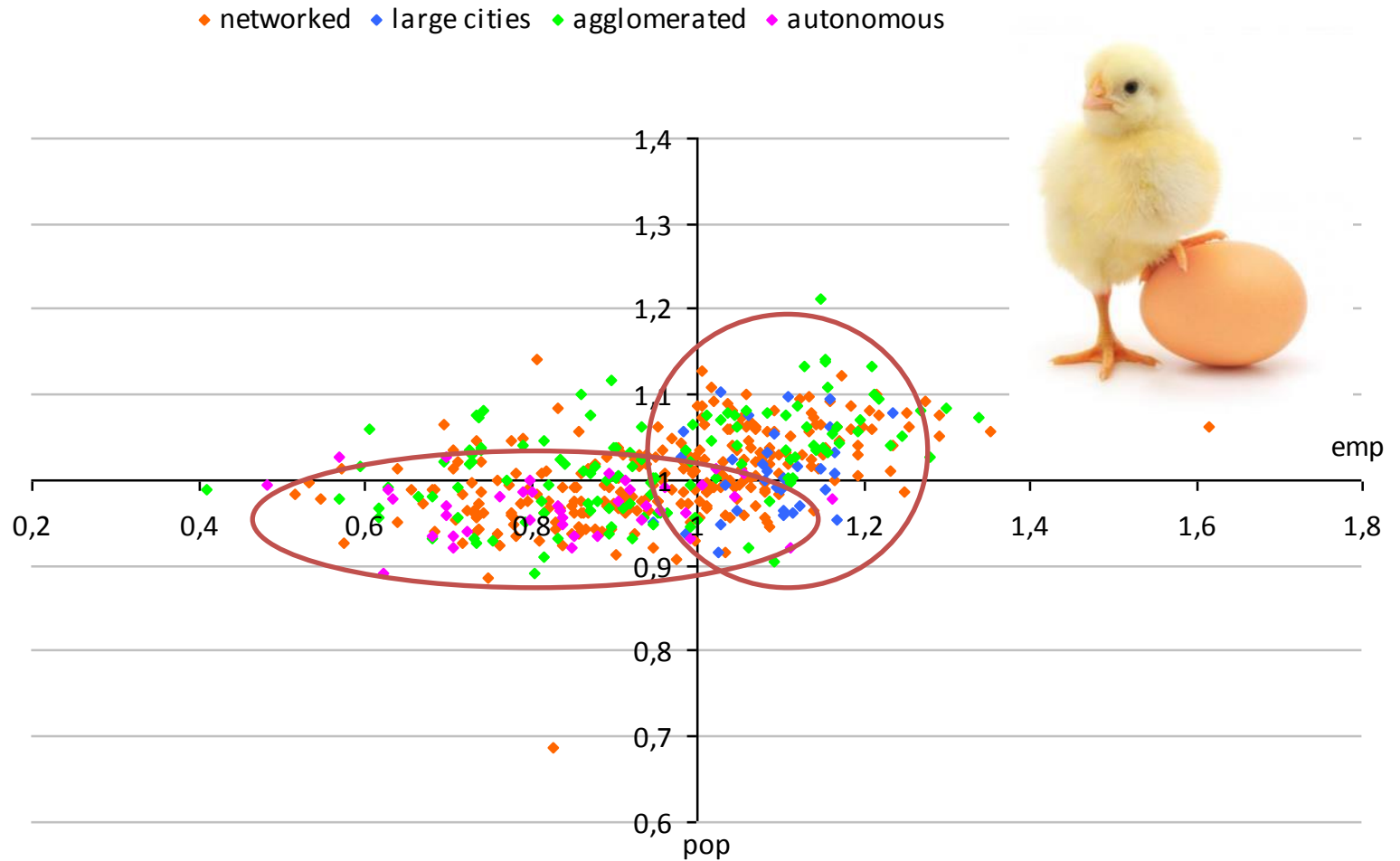


Isolated

Criteria:

- Travel-to-work patterns
- Location of services

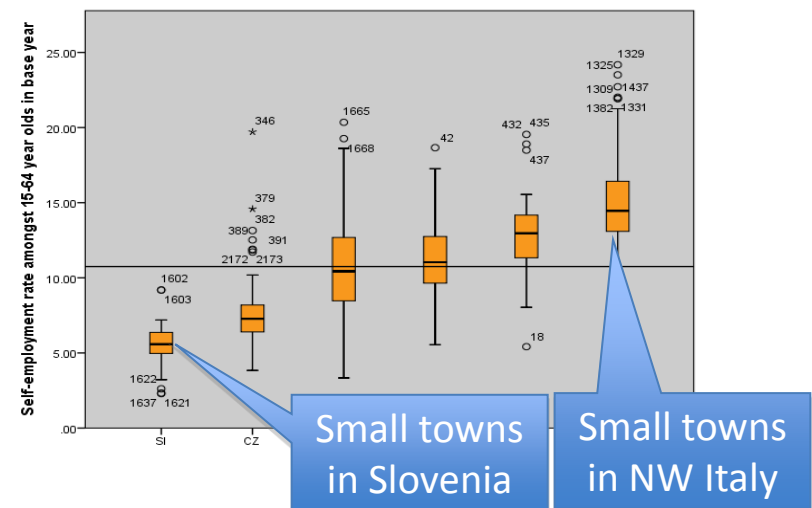
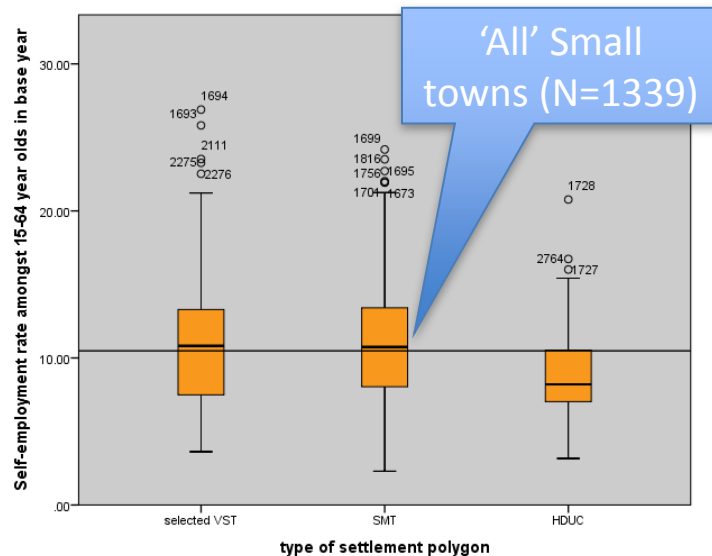
Towns vs large cities?



Socio-economic and administrative issues

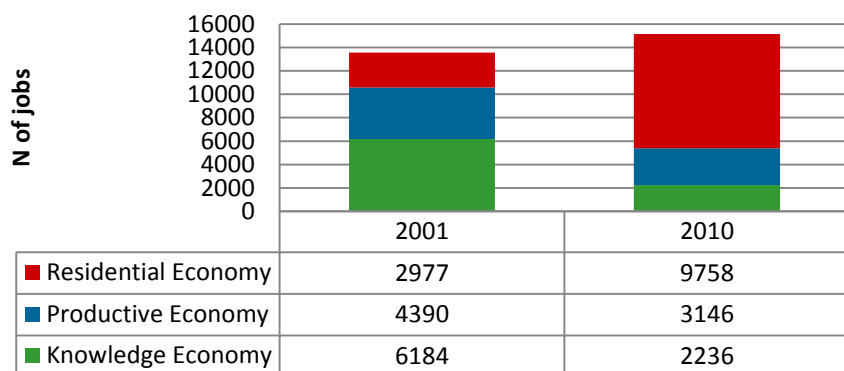
On average, SMSTs (in database) are different from large cities on a range of **socio-economic issues**

- 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

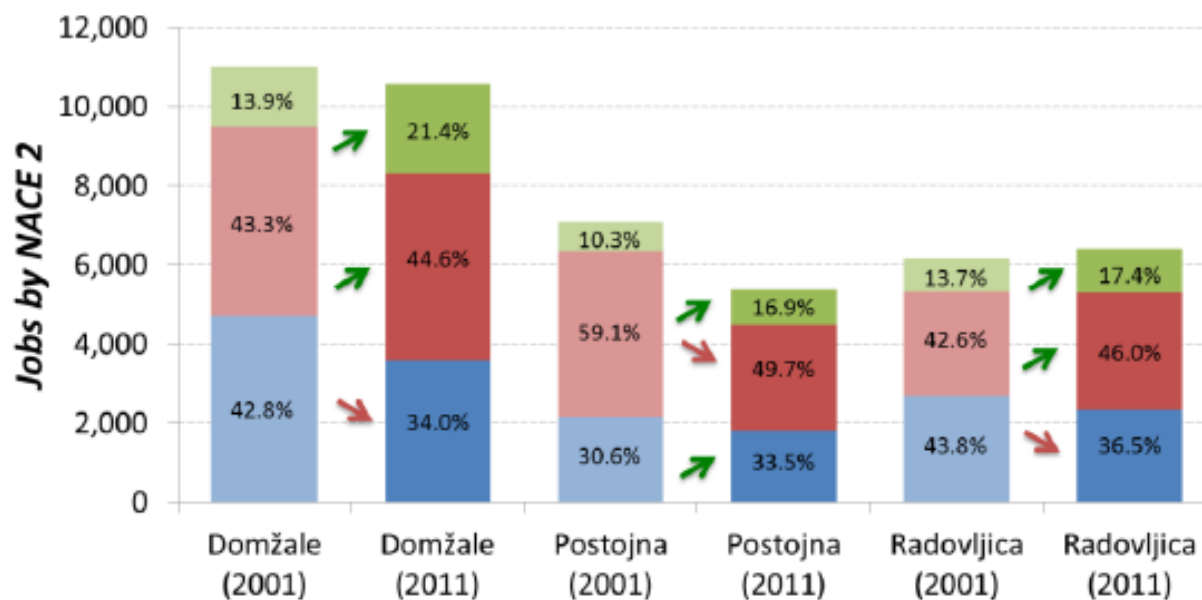
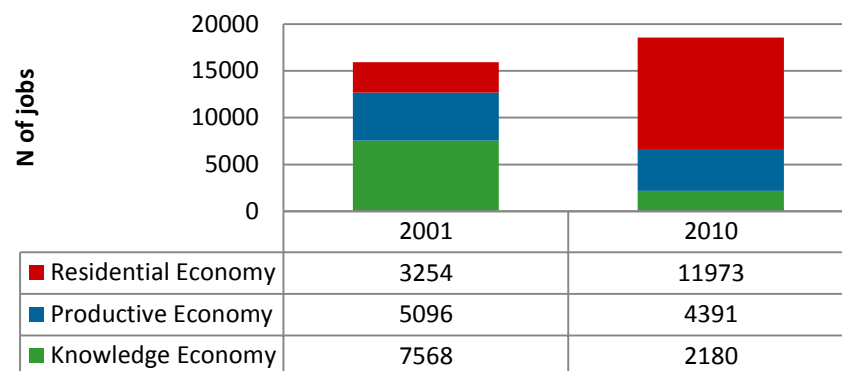


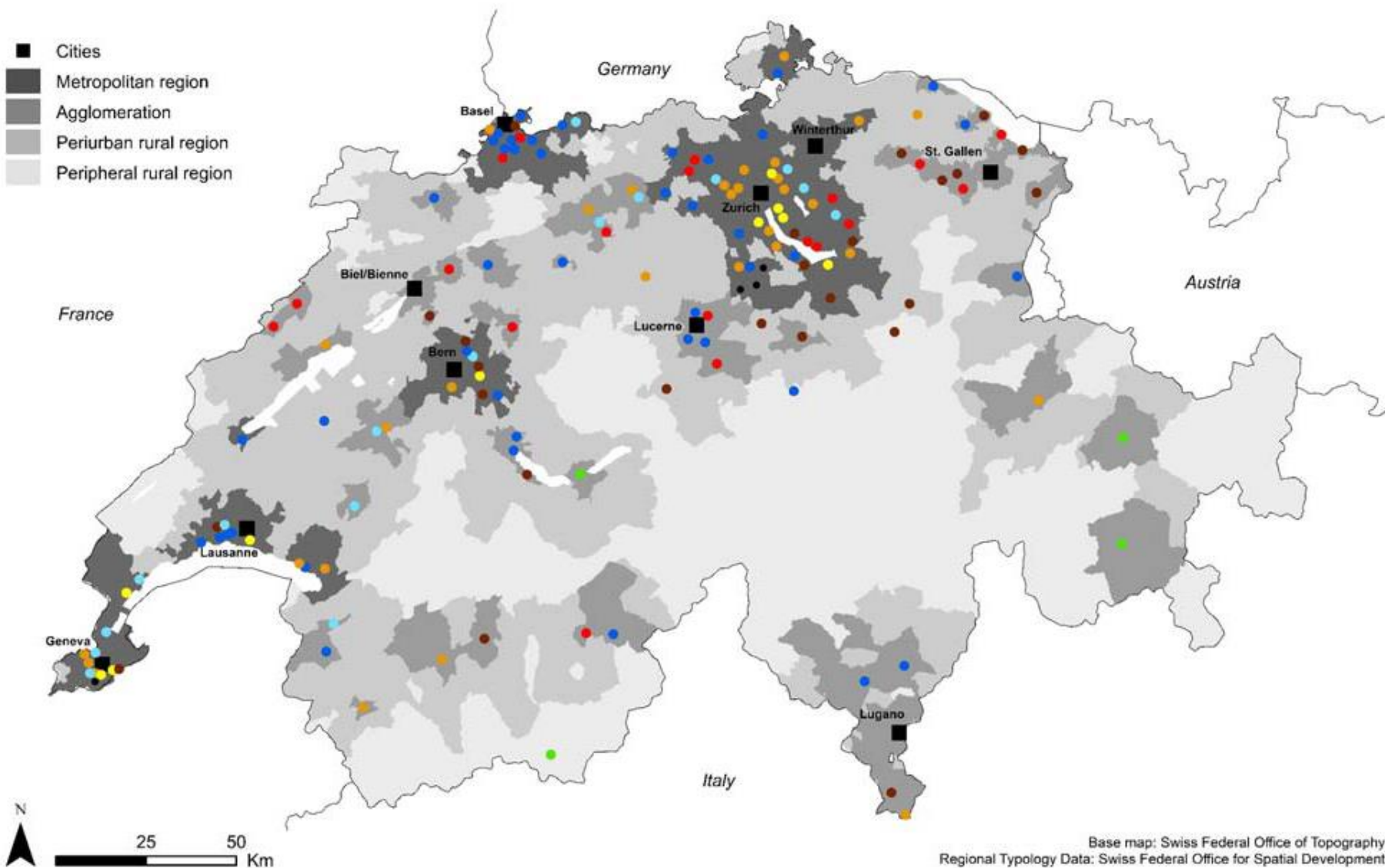
Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs

Dendermonde: Number of jobs by economic profile



Ieper: Number of jobs by economic profile





Thoughts (B)

Socio-economic dynamics

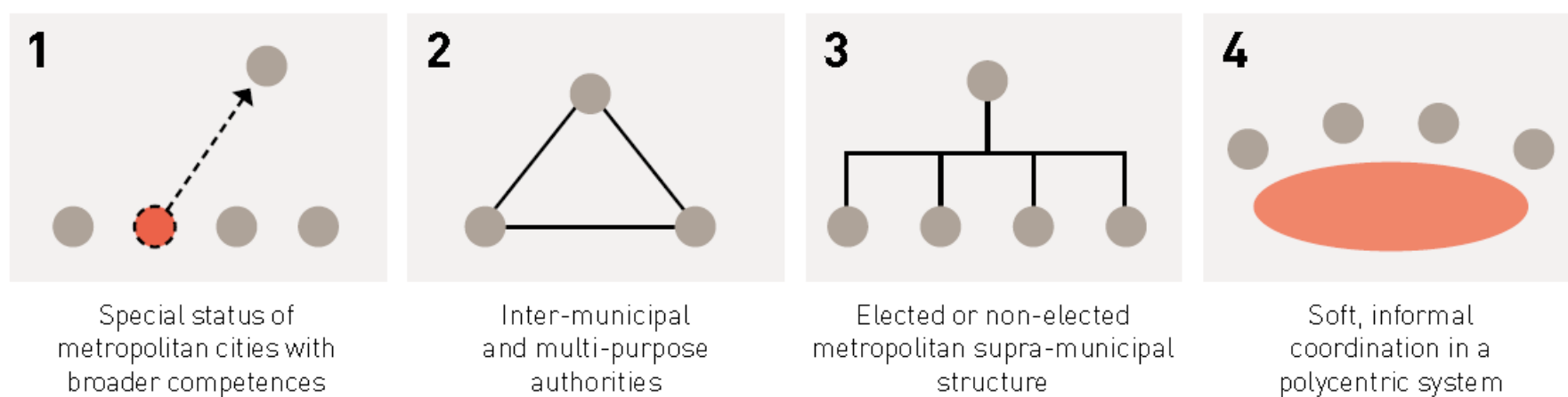
- Productive profile under stress, reinforcement of the agricultural sector
- Important shift toward residential economy
- Few but significant knowledge-based sectors in local economy, especially in functional relationship with larger urban areas
- Role of public sector (administration, university, etc.)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

Loris Servillo

L.Servillo@ucl.ac.uk

Loris.Servillo@gmail.com

