



**Luxembourgish Small and Medium-Sized Towns in Europe:
Challenges and Opportunities**

Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures
Luxemburg-Kirchberg

TOWNs in Europe

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Luxemburg, 12 December 2014



Outline

1. SMSTs in the EU territory
2. General vs specific trends?
3. Evidences for more appropriated policies - do we need to go beyond the large-city bias in (EU) urban policy?



What is a town?

Linguistic differences and translating problems

A dichotomy not always present in each national/linguistic context:

town – city, ville – cité, paese(?) – citta', ortschaft – stadt

Otherwise urban condition generally addressed as ciudad, mesto, etc..

A semantic ambiguity:

small, intermediate, local...

What is a town?

An empirical and territorialist approach (Brenner & Schmid, 2013)

Morphological
interpretation



Administrative
interpretation



Functional
interpretation



Terms	Definitions	Distinctive characteristics	Criteria
Morphological definition	Built up area (area with urban physical characteristic minimum population size)	Concentration of buildings (distinction from open spaces) (threshold)	Compact build-up area Distance between settlements and Population Density of urbanised area
Administrative definition	Settlement with administrative status	Local government with urban administrative duties and boundary containing urban settlements	Local government administrative functions Historical attribution
functional definition	Urban settlement (municipality) with concentration of services and other urban functions	Role of centre for region due to urban functions attracting commuters and visitors	Population Jobs Urban functions Commuting Centrality
	Larger area with functional relationship with one or more urban cores	Gravitational area of jobs and services located in urban core(s)	Access to jobs and services Home service commuting

Urban settlement

Urban municipality

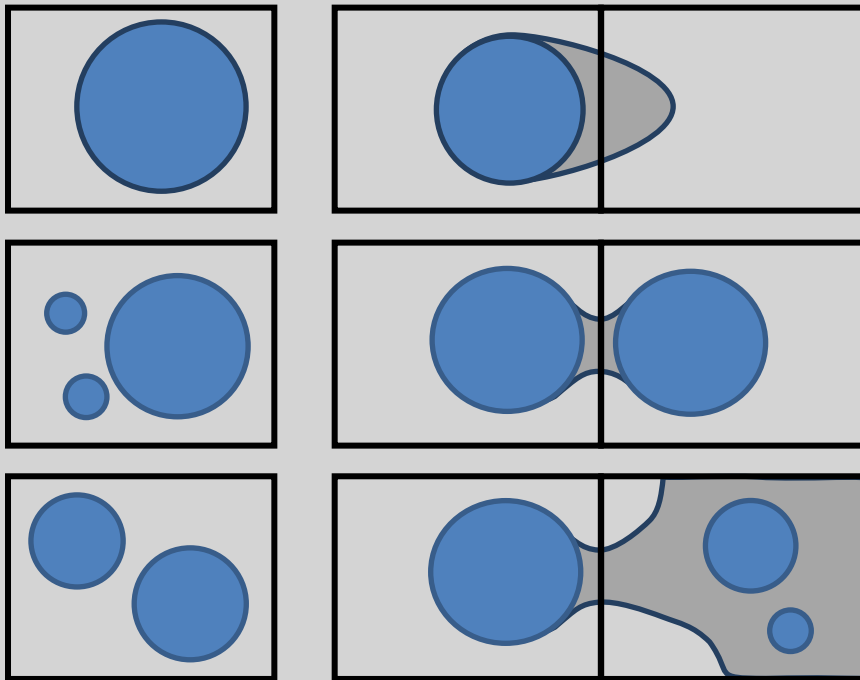
Urban centre / urban core

Urban functional region



What is a town?

Complexity and institutional diversity across Europe concerning the relationship between **administrative** and **morphological definitions**



Not only a technical aspect:

- Data issue
- (thus)
- Policy issue

Challenges for an ESPON project

policy recommendations based on evidences concerning spatial dynamics and correlation of factors.

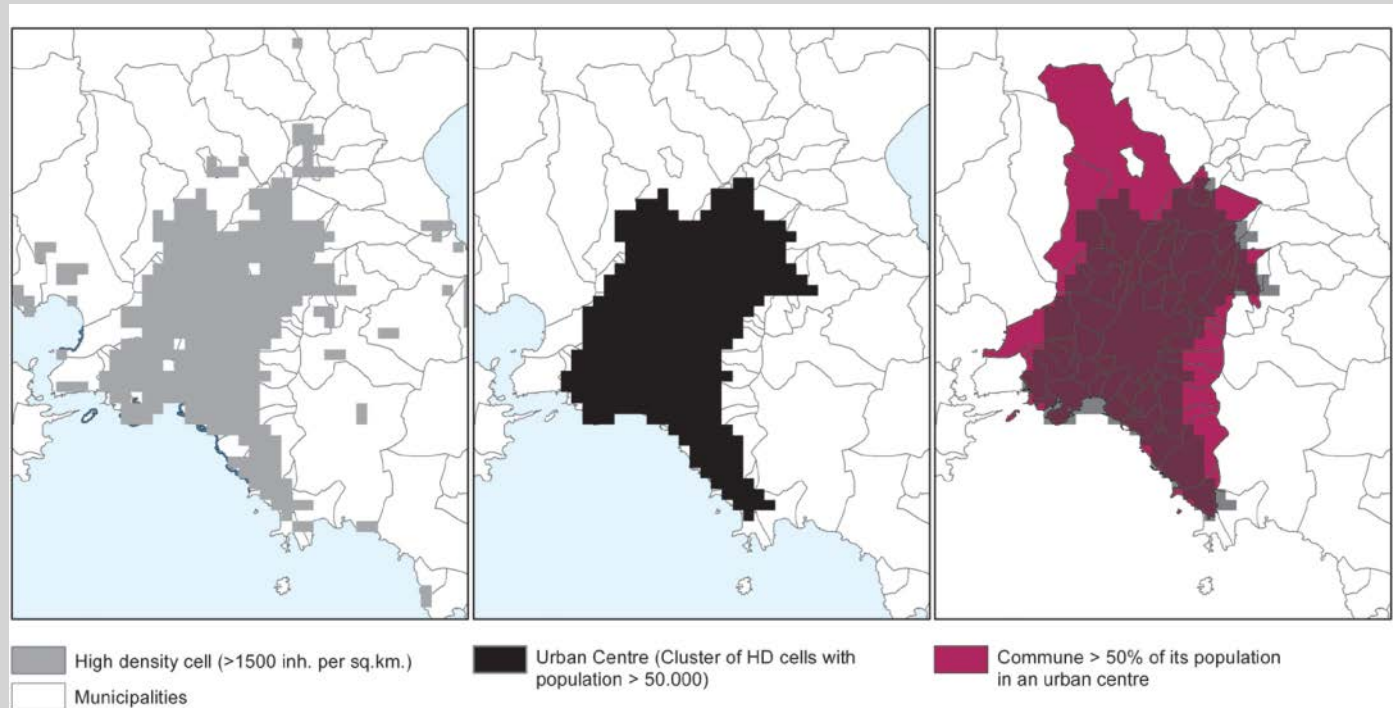
Operative questions

- What is a small and medium-sized town?
- What interpretative approach?
- What data are available for comparison?

What have we done in TOWN?

ESPON terms of reference (in line with DG Regio – OECD):

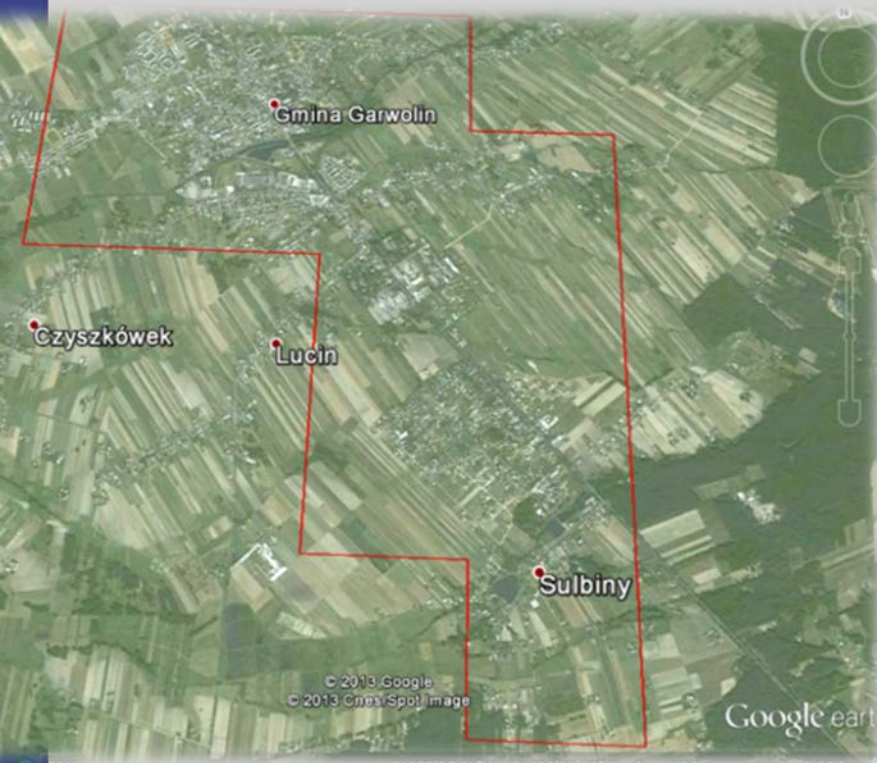
Towns:
settlements with 5-50,000 inhabitants



Athens (from: Cities in Europe: the new OECD-EC definition, Dijkstra & Poelman, 2011)

What have we done in TOWN?

Small and medium-sized towns



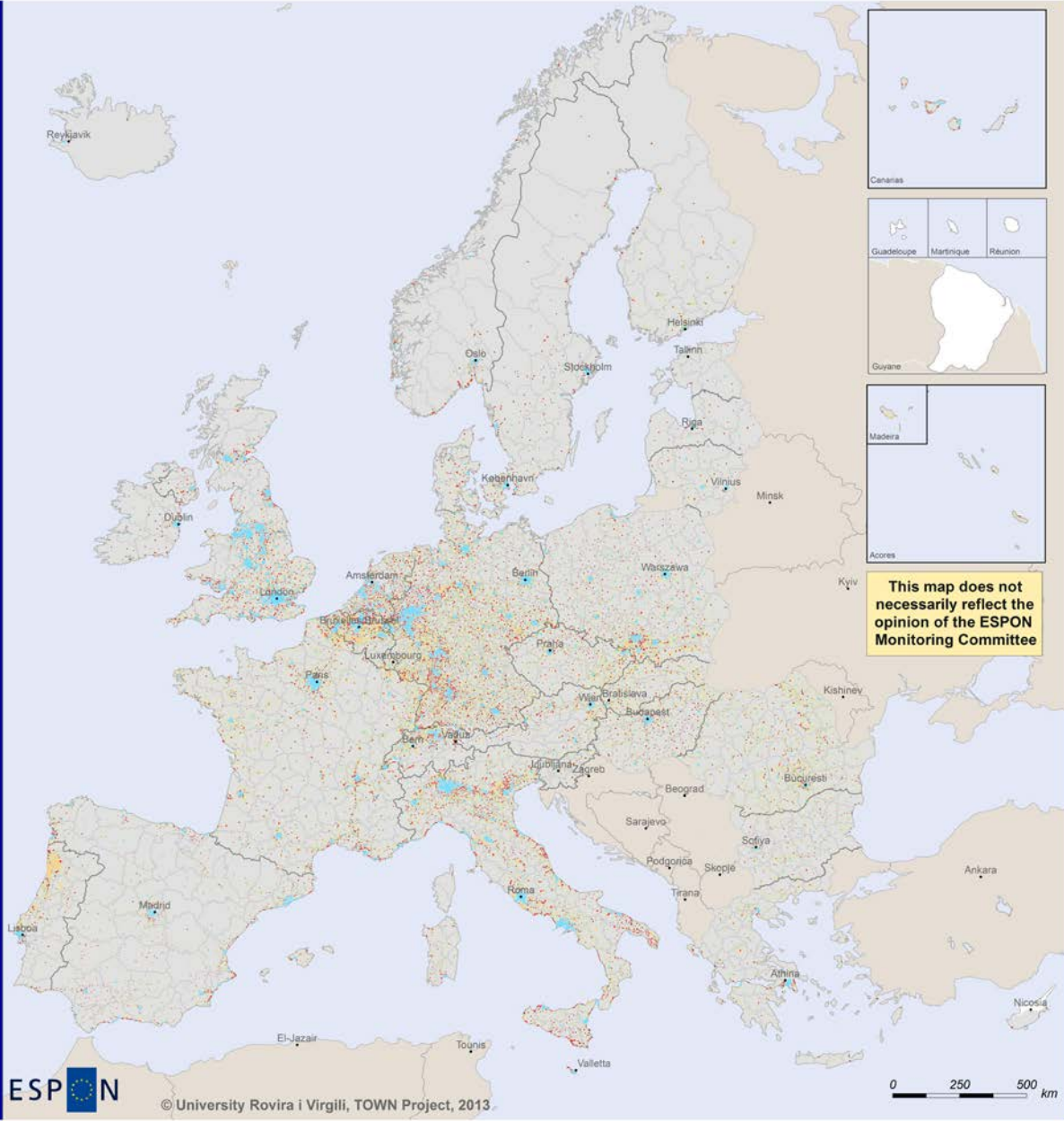
Morp



Morphological interpretation

- ‘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

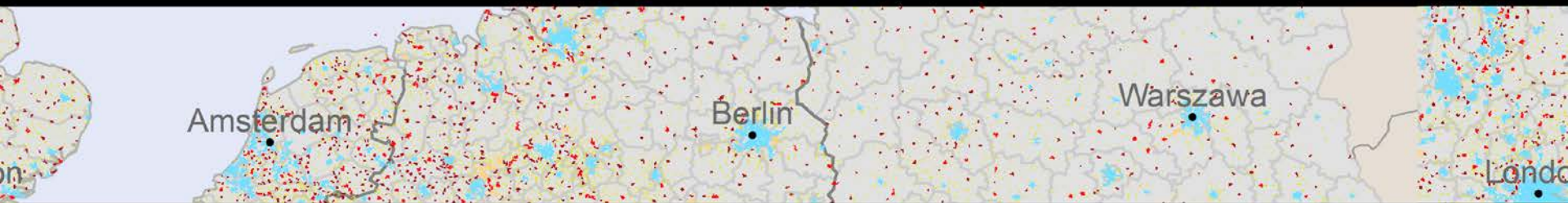
		DENSITY (inh. / kmq)		
		<i>< 300</i>	<i>> 300 and < 1500</i>	<i>> 1500</i>
POPULATION (inh.-)	<i>< 5000</i>	OTHER SETTLEMENTS	VST (Very Small Towns)	
	<i>> 5000 and < 25000</i>		Small SMT	
	<i>> 25000 < 50000</i>		Medium SMT	
	<i>> 50000</i>		large SMT	HDUC (high-density urban clusters)



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

Regional level: NUTS 3 and 1 kmq grid ce
 Source: Own elaboration on GEOSTAT da
 Origin of data: DG Res

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



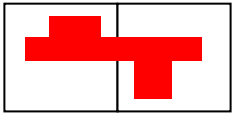
Dimension of population in smaller settlements

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%

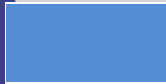



* including EU 27+ Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein, Switzerland

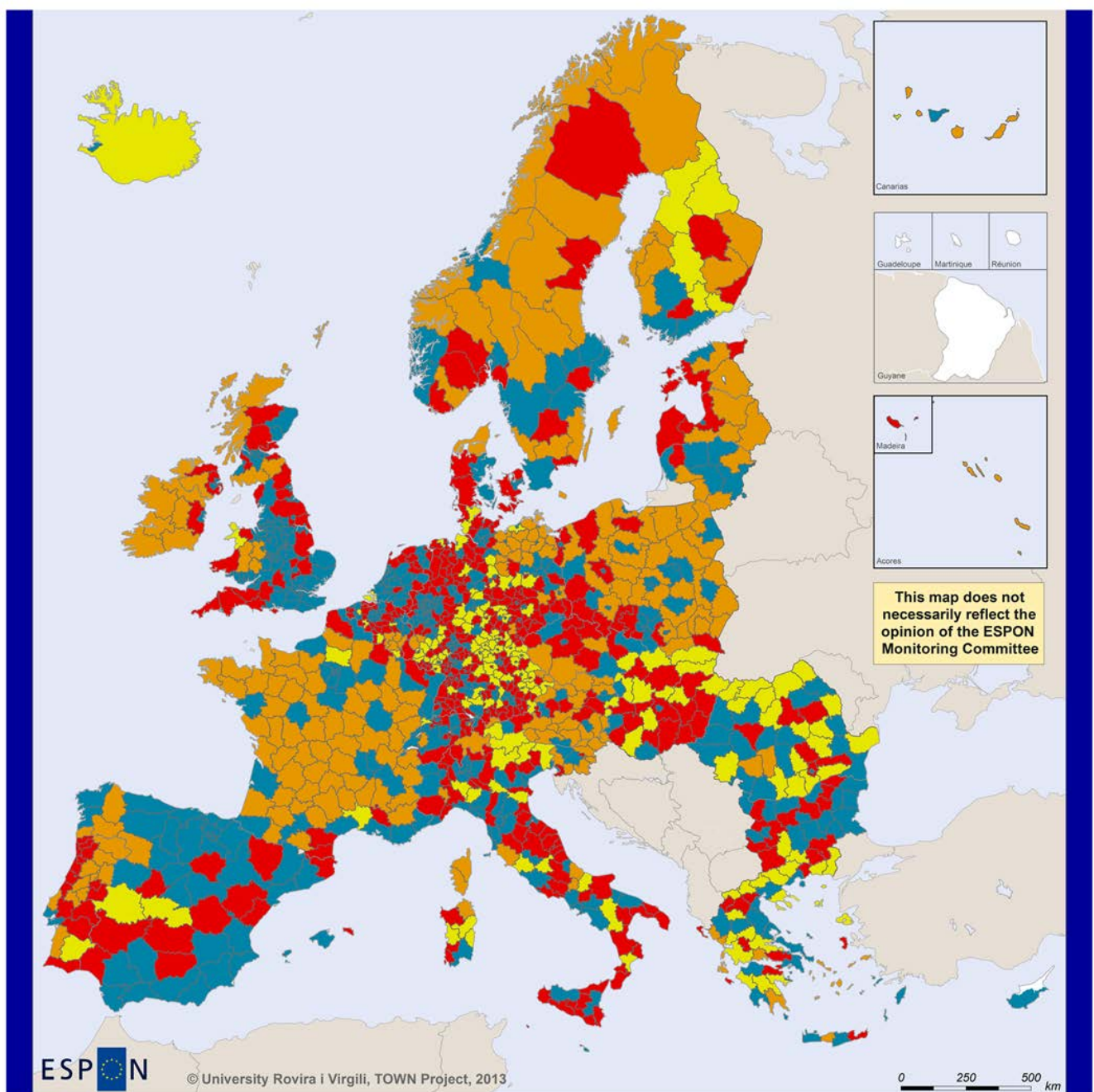
EU perspective

Settlement polygons



NUTS3 with prevailing settlements

-  Largest share of pop. lives in HDUC
-  Largest share of pop. lives in SMST
-  Largest share of pop. lives in VST
-  Largest share of pop. lives in other settlements



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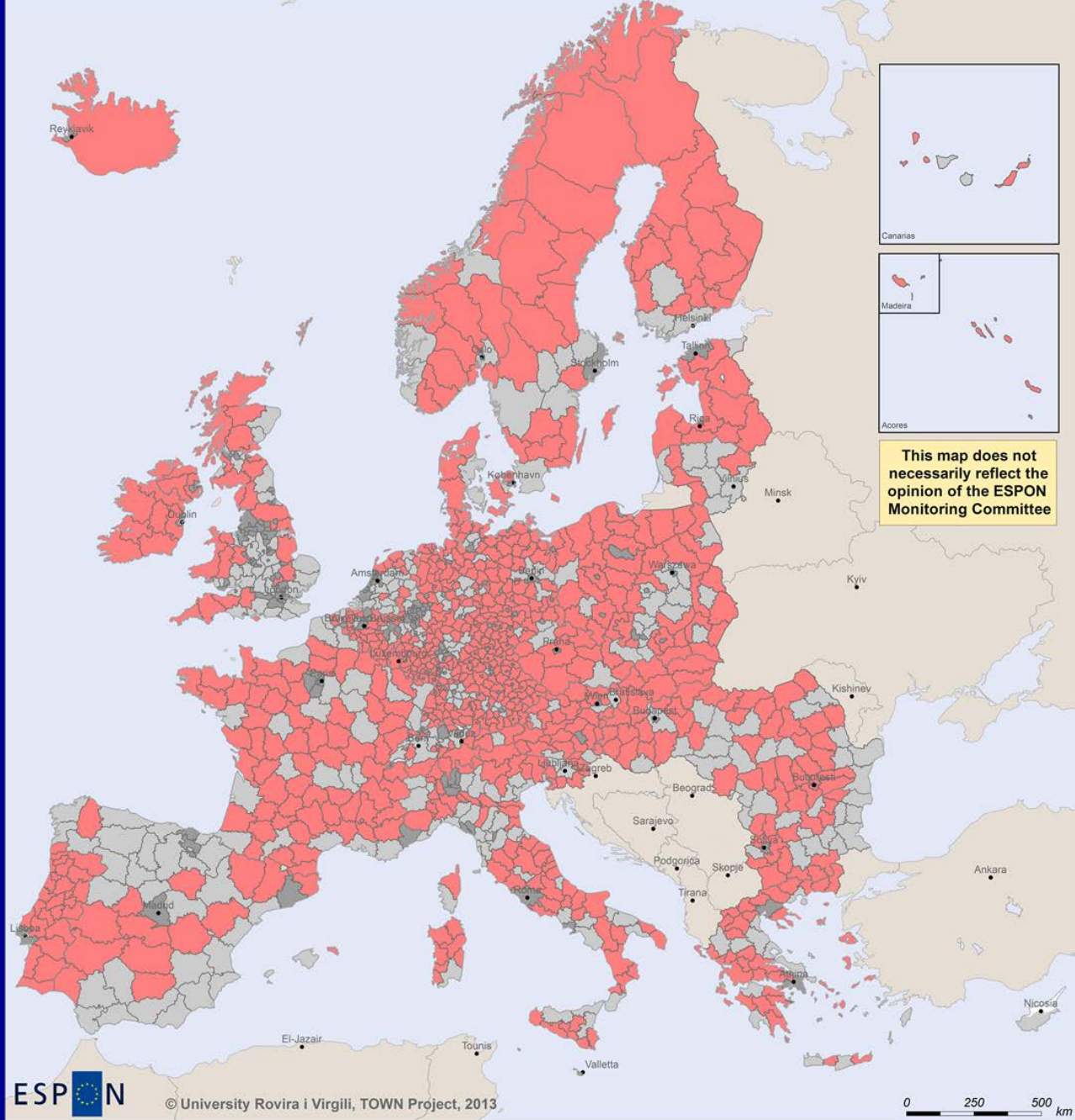
Regional level: NUTS 3 Source: Own elaboration on GEOSTAT data Origin of data: DG Regio Authors: F. Brandajs, A.P. Russo, D. Serrano Giné © EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

EU perspective

Settlement polygons



NUTS3 with prevailing settlements



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Typology based on degree of urbanisation

- Population (2006) living in HDUC < 30%
- Population (2006) living in HDUC 30%-70%
- Population (2006) living in HDUC > 70%
- NO DATA



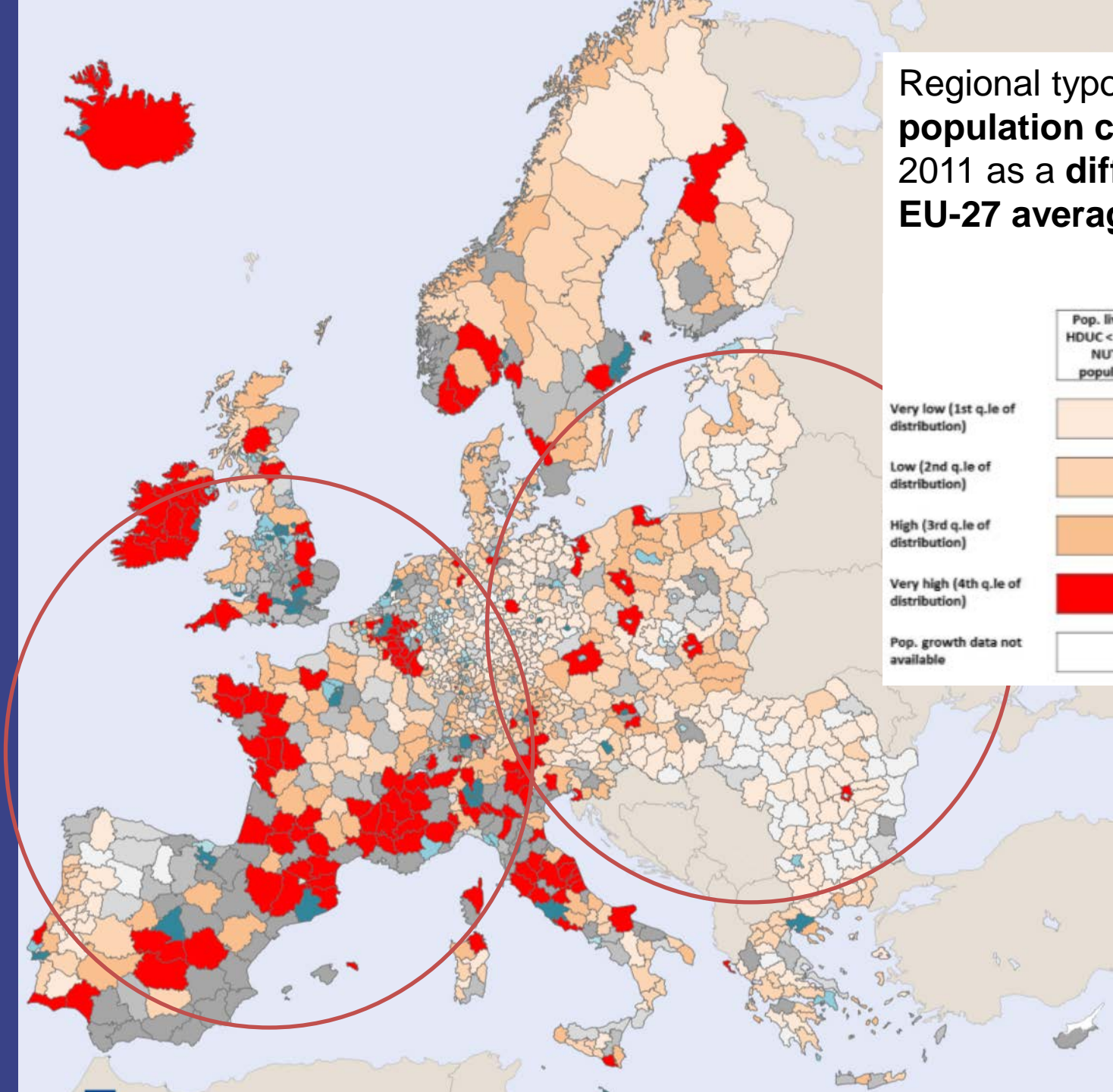
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0 250 500 km

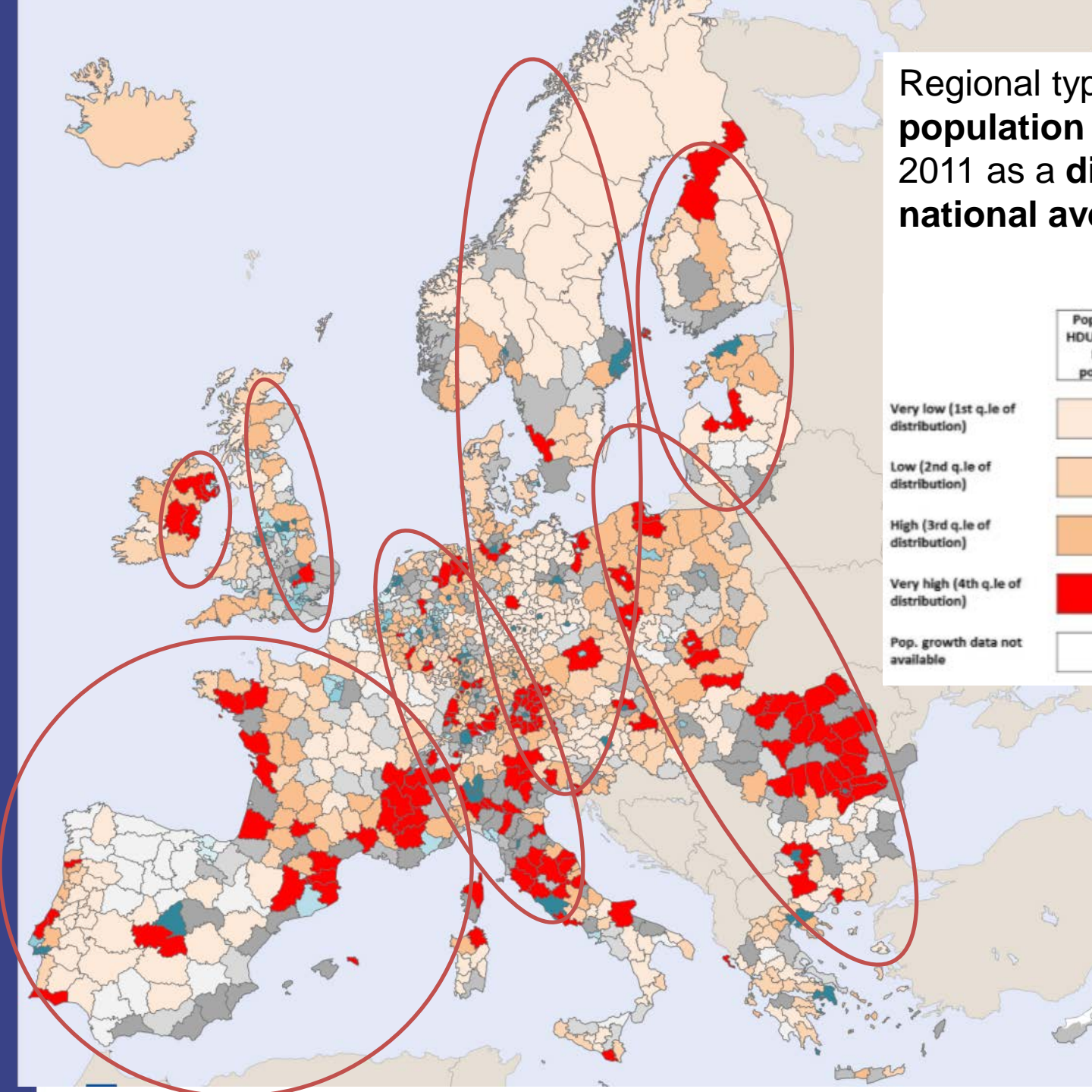
Regional level: NUTS 3
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Regional typology based on **population change** rates 2001-2011 as a **difference from the EU-27 average**



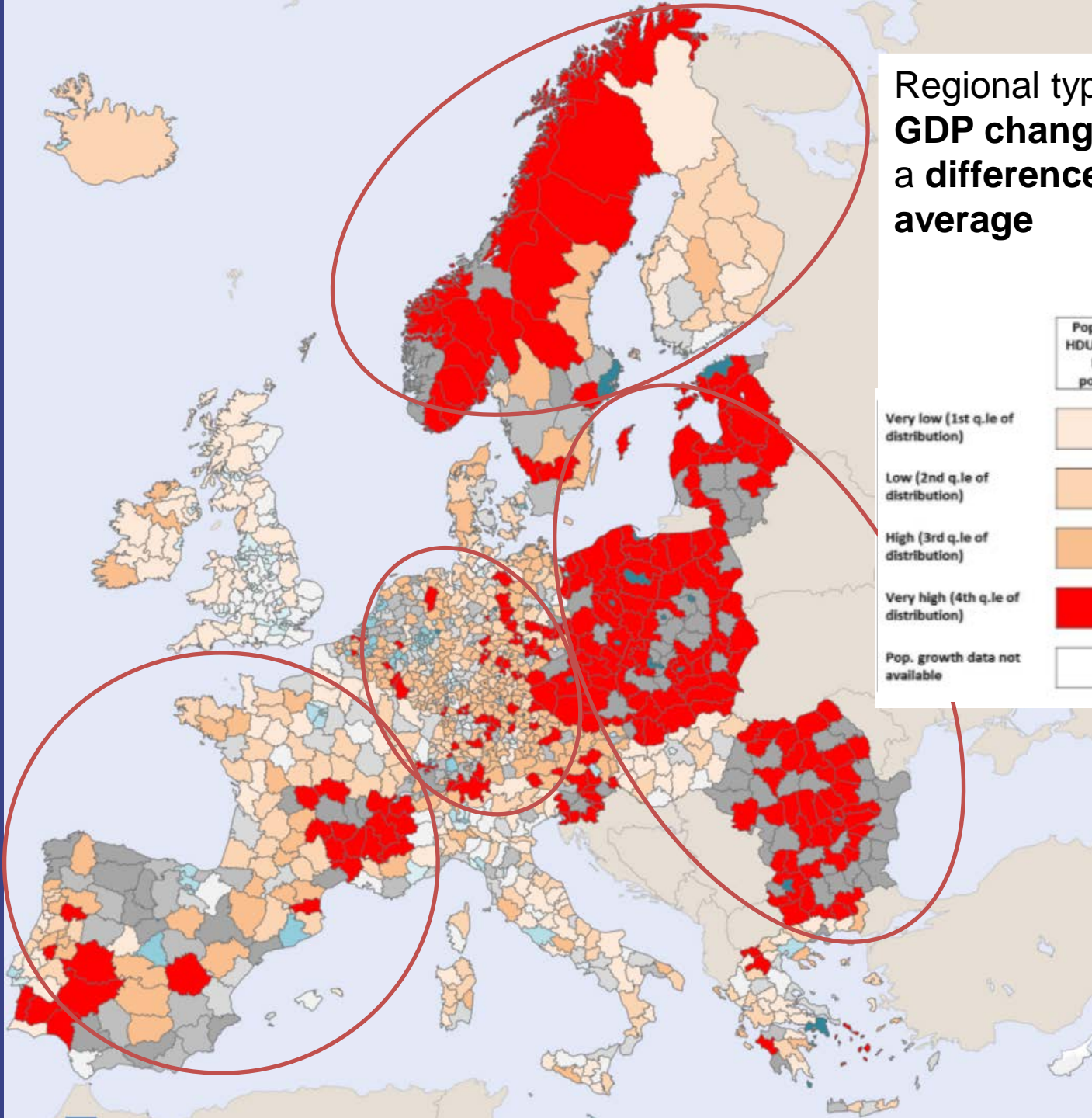
	Pop. living in HDUC < 30% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 30% < 70% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 70% of NUTS3 population
Very low (1st q.le of distribution)			
Low (2nd q.le of distribution)			
High (3rd q.le of distribution)			
Very high (4th q.le of distribution)			
Pop. growth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

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



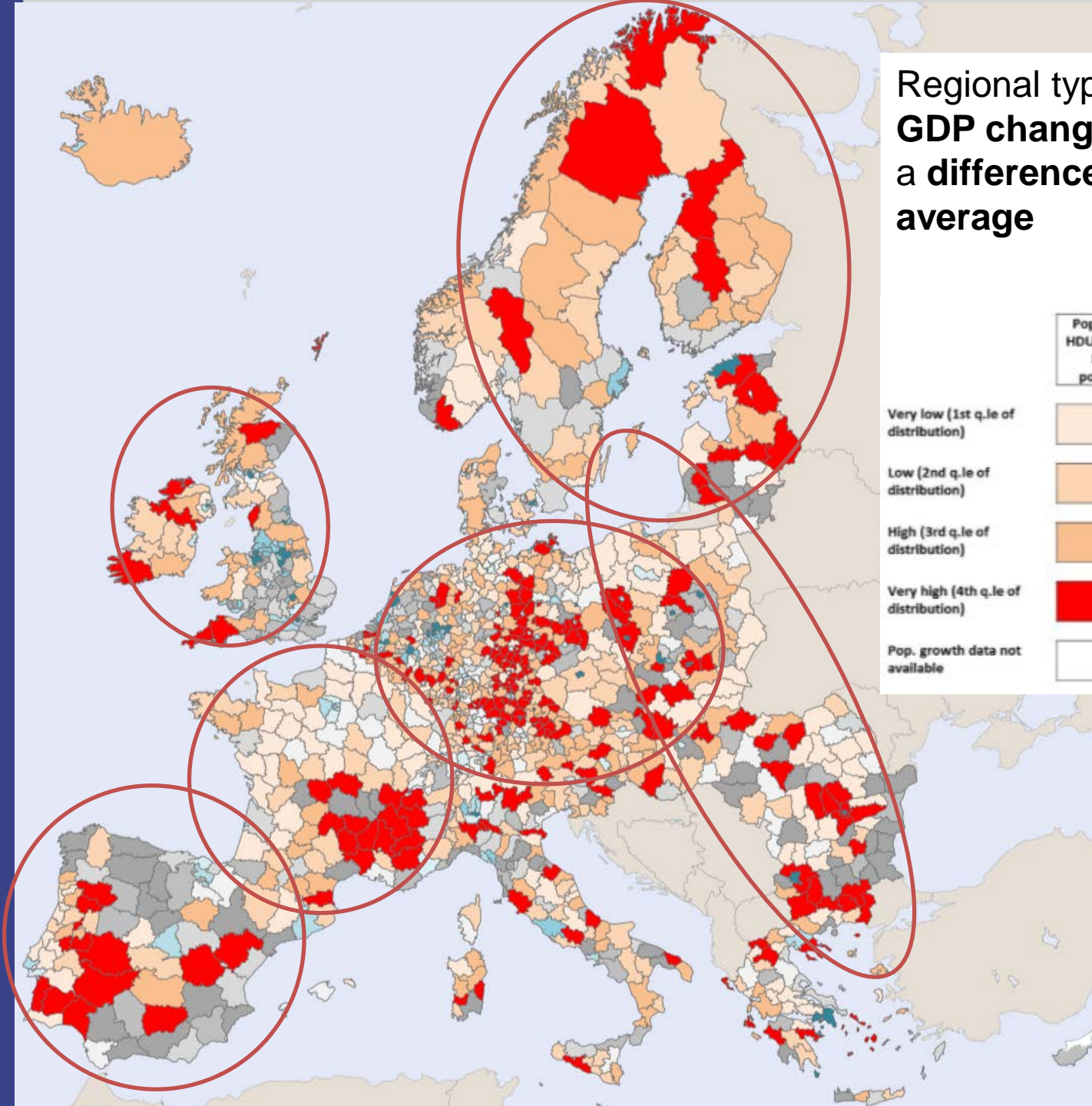
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Pop. growth data not available			

Regional typology based on **p.c. GDP 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)			
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Pop. growth data not available			

Regional typology based on **p.c. GDP 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			

General reflections – trends in Europe

- Do SMSTs across Europe present '**common trends**'?

Importance of **macro spatial trends**

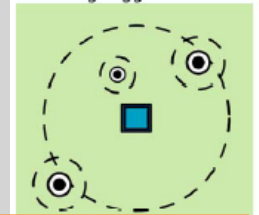
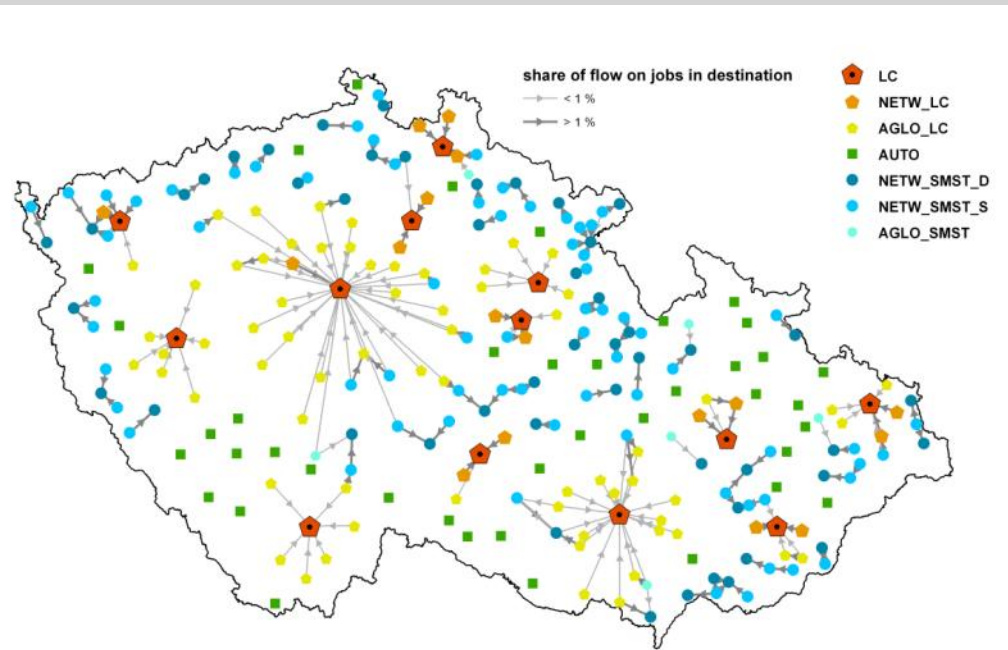
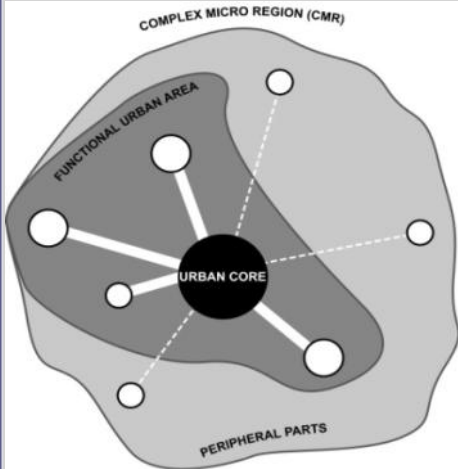
- Regions with smaller settlements may have less inertial capacity to bounce them back

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

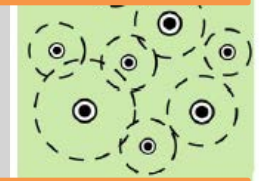
- Socio-spatial configurations with a specific regional dependency (e.g. surrounding larger urban regions)
 - High variety of socio-economic performances (much higher than larger urban areas)
- EU/National policies matter?

Towns vs large cities?

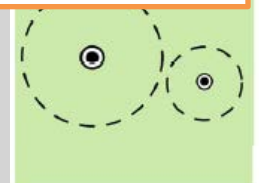
Functional identification of urban systems and their cores



Agglomerated



Networked

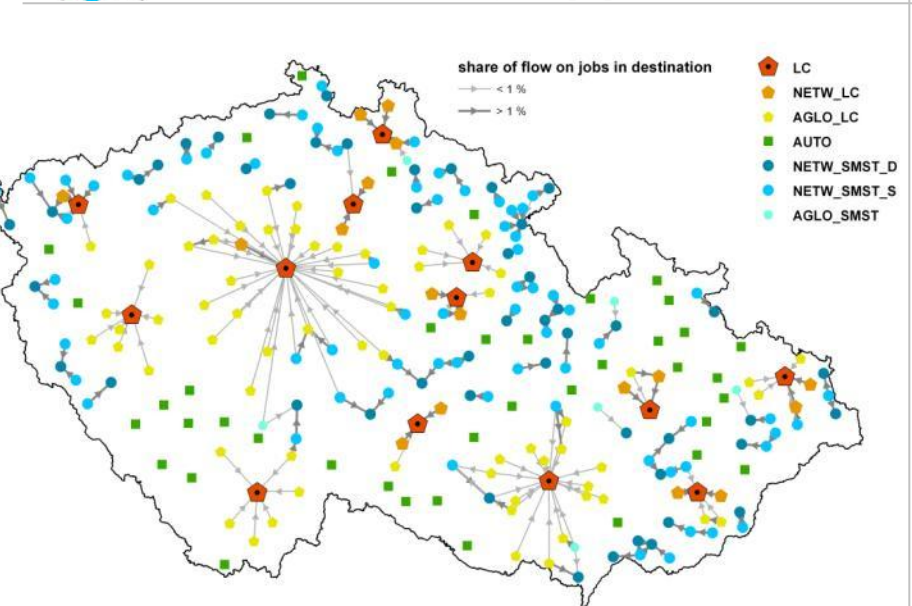
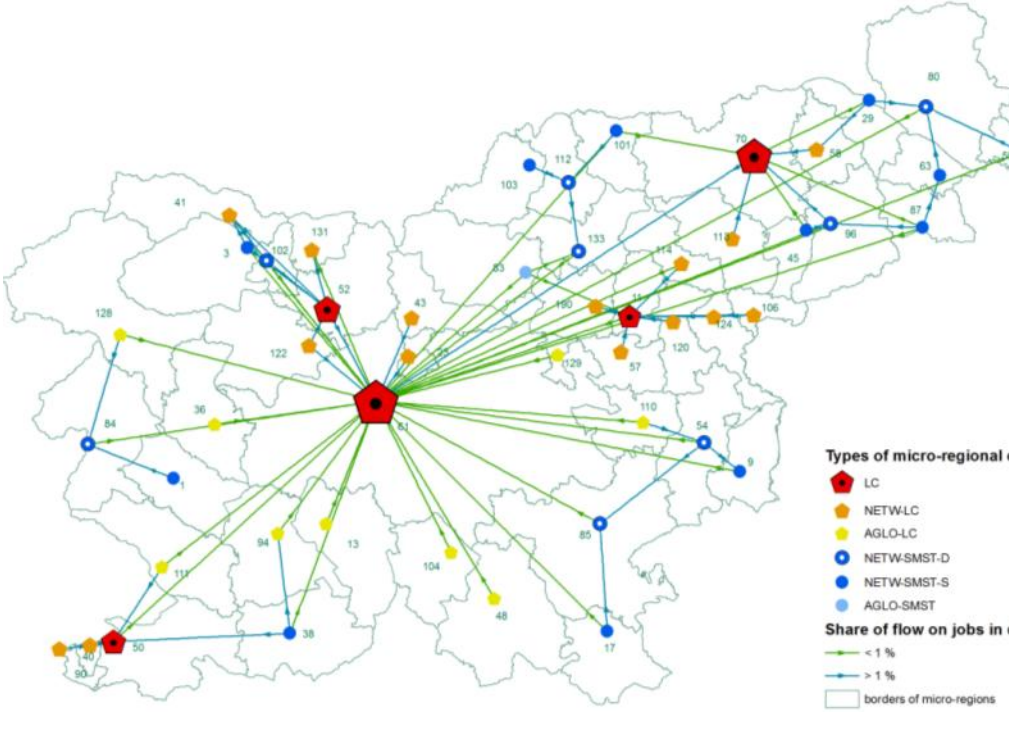
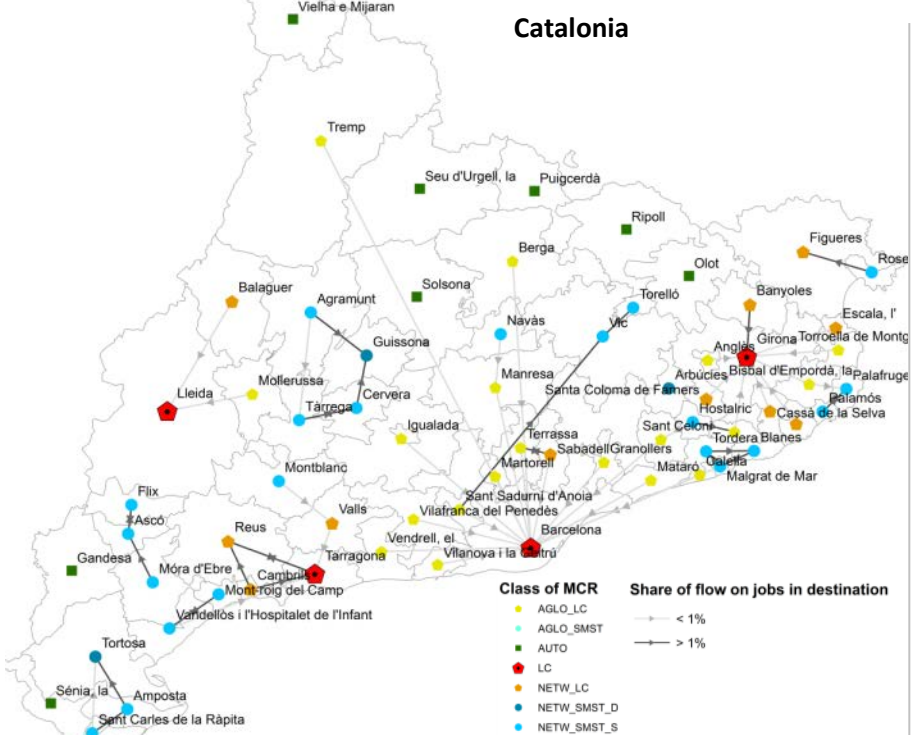


Isolated

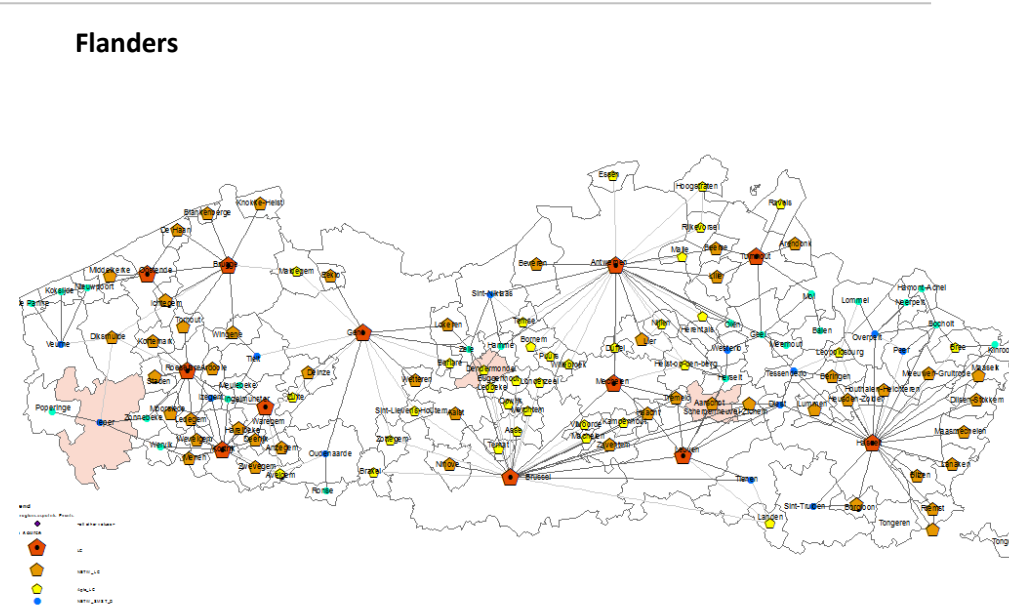
Criteria:

- Travel-to-work patterns
- Location of services

Catalonia

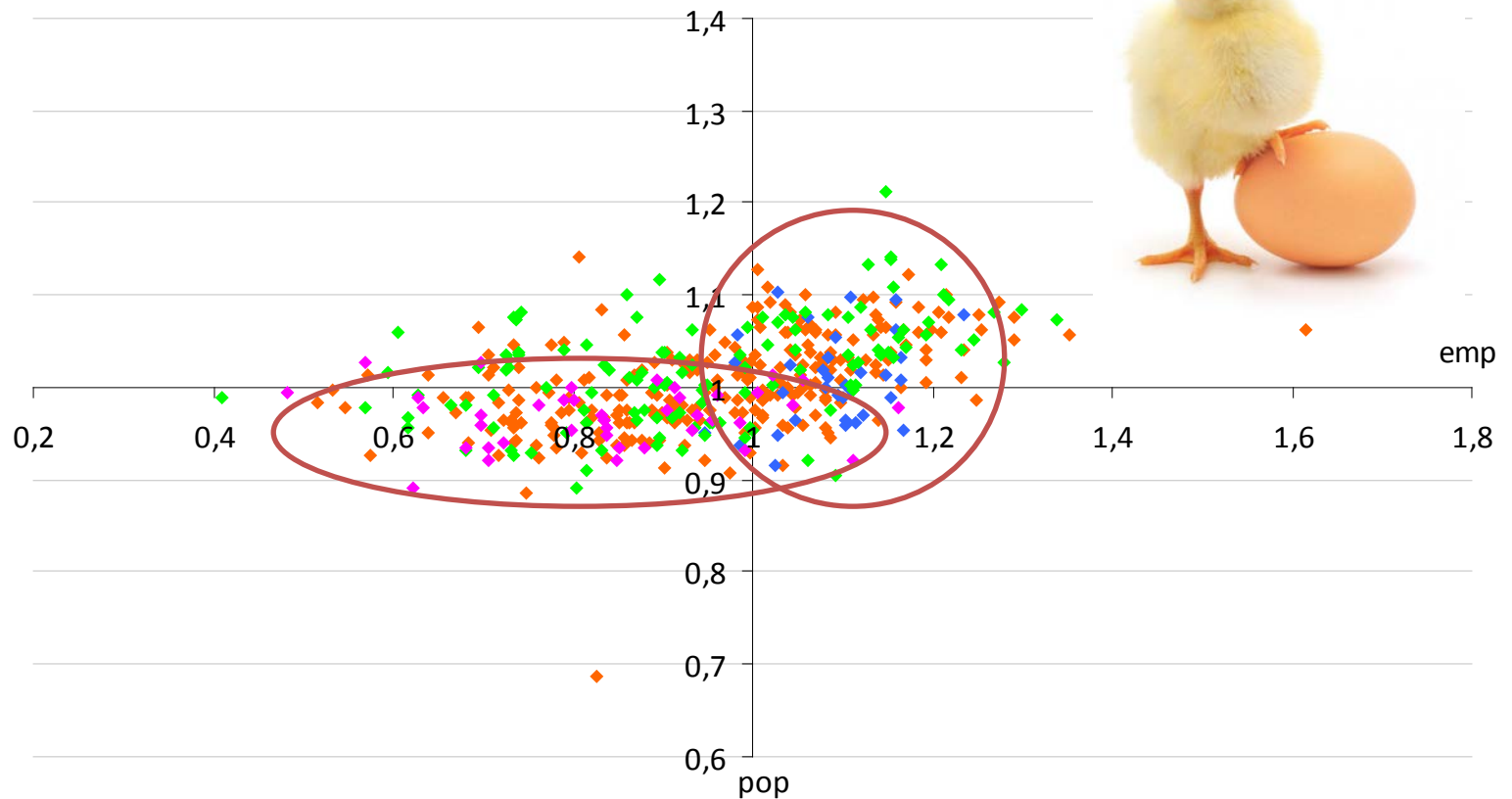


Flanders

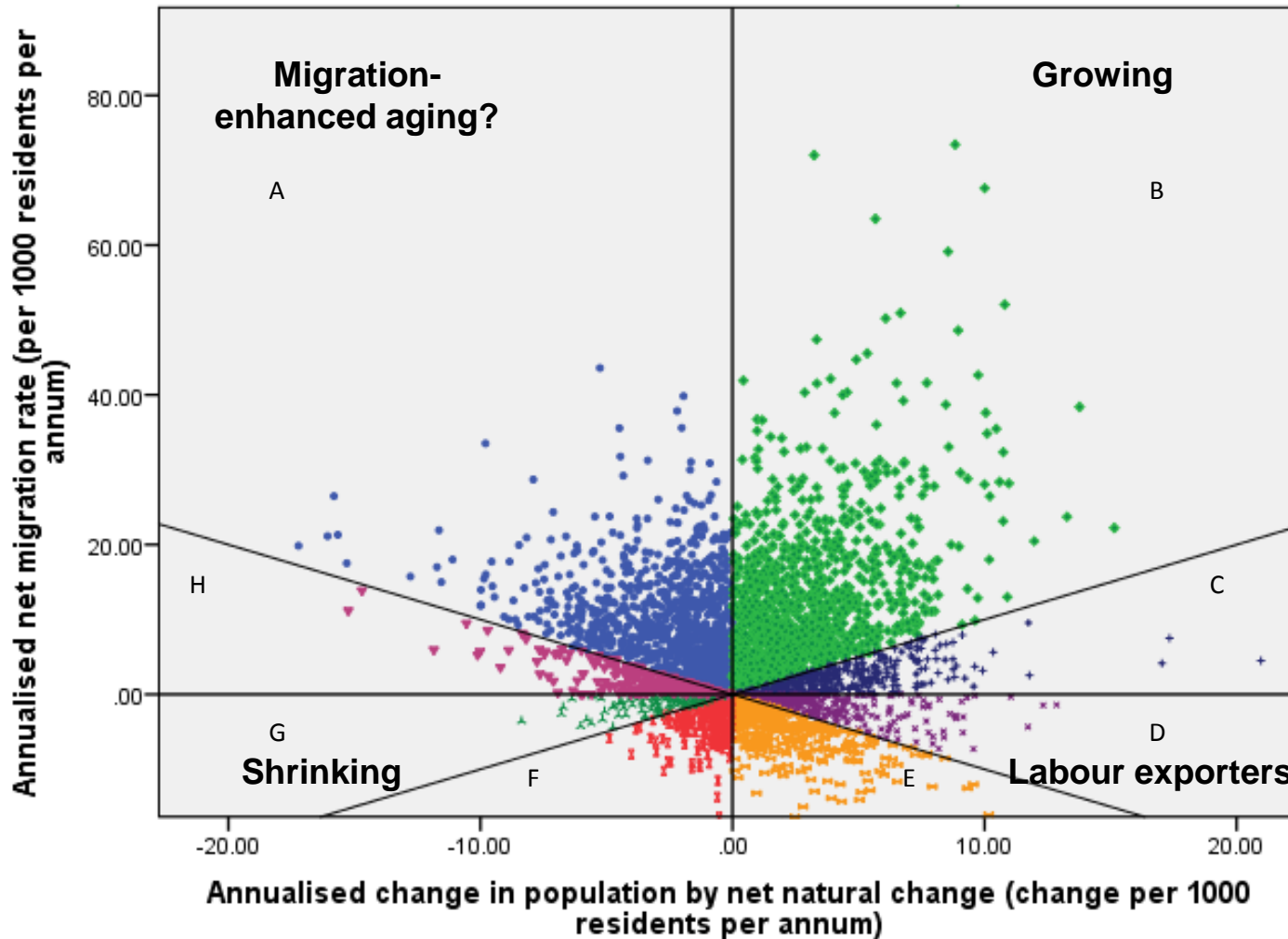


Towns vs large cities?

◆ networked ◆ large cities ◆ agglomerated ◆ autonomous

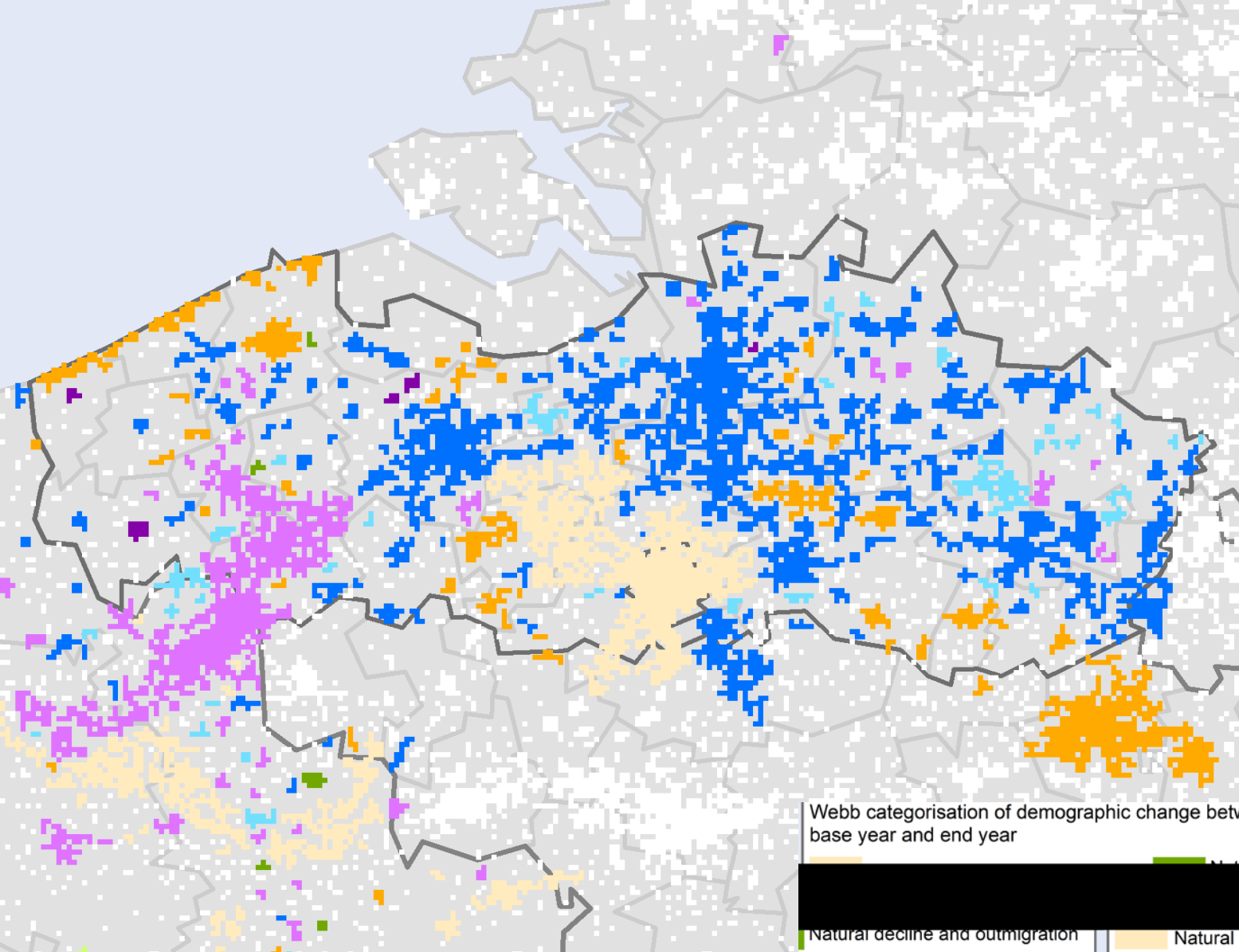


Regional clusters



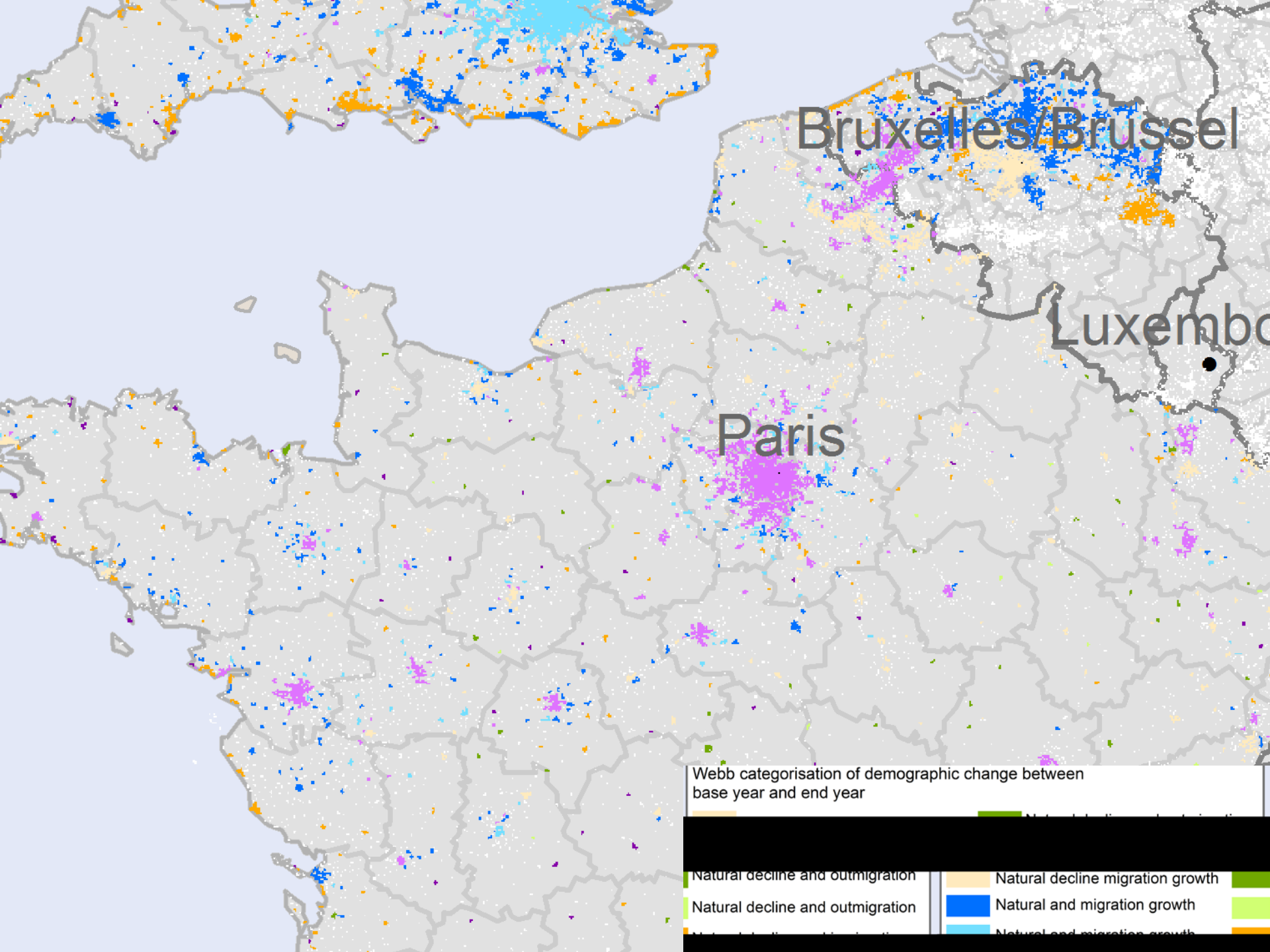
Typology of demographic change (after Webb (1965))

- A (natural decline migration growth)
- ◆ B (natural and migration growth)
- + C (natural and migration growth)
- × D (natural growth and outmigration)
- ◻ E (natural growth and outmigration)
- F (natural decline and outmigration)
- ▲ G (natural decline and outmigration)
- ▼ H (natural decline and immigration)



Webb categorisation of demographic change between base year and end year



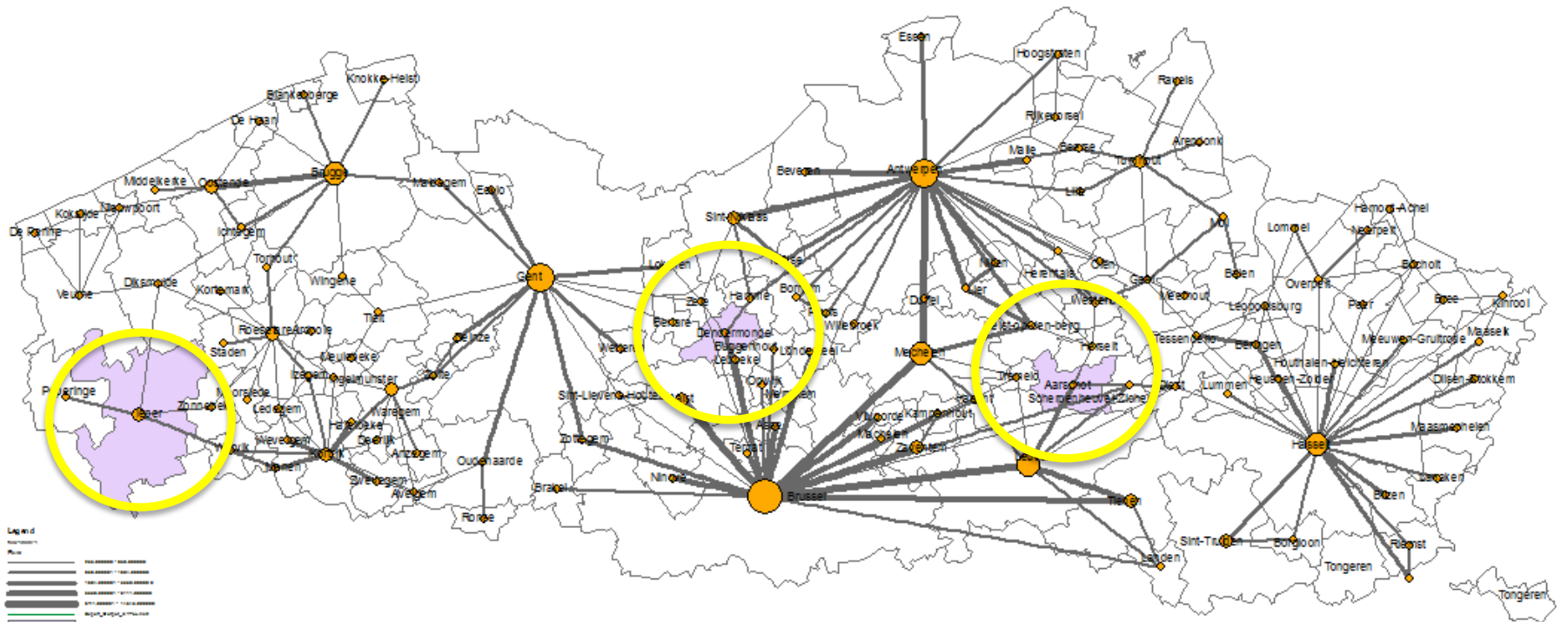


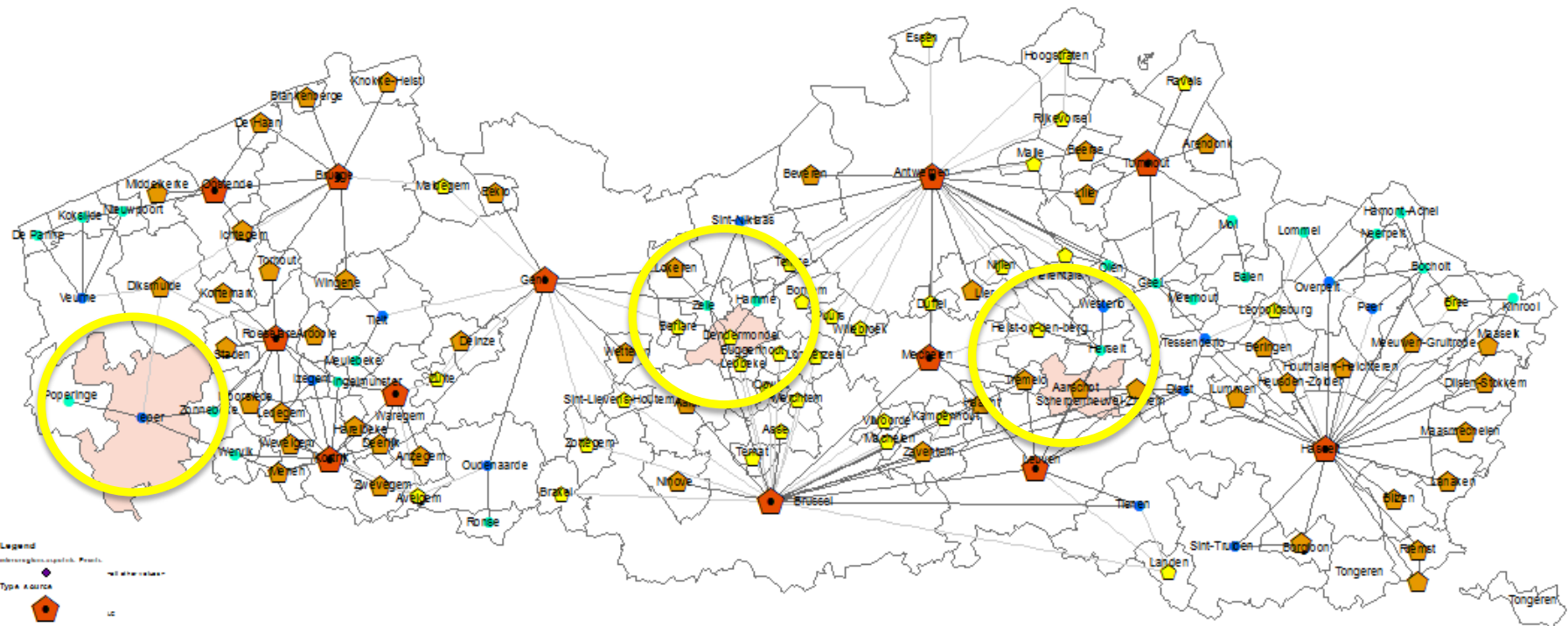
Clusters of problem sets

Do SMSTs across Europe face ‘common problems’?

- Social and economic problems for SMSTs are only ‘common’ in an abstract sense
- In practice the ‘problems’ of towns are **mainly** framed by:
 - their national/regional context
 - spatial type (coastal, mountain, post-industrial, etc.)

(clusters of ‘problem-sets’)





Legend

id: id_municipality

Type source

- id
- id_municipality
- id_municipality
- id_municipality
- id_municipality

Projections

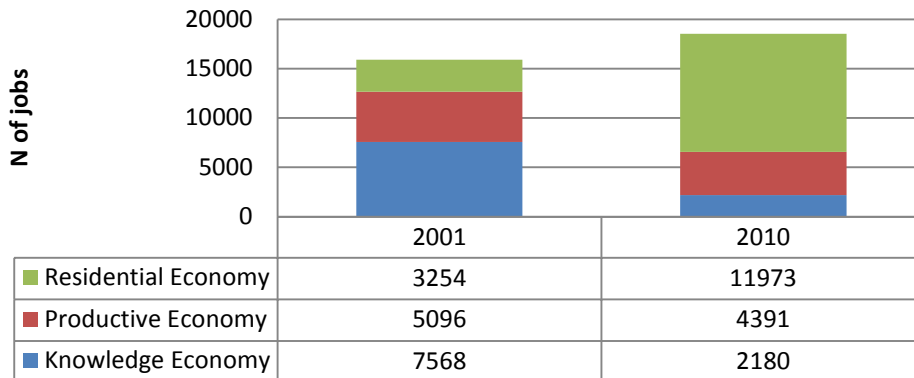
Scale: 1000000

- 0 - 100000
- 100000 - 200000
- 200000 - 300000
- 300000 - 400000

id_municipality

Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs: Ieper (B)

Ieper: Number of jobs by economic profile



Residential economy:

- Centre of the Westhoek (commercial, services of general interest)
- Tourism and recreation – war peace tourism and rural tourism

Productive economy (> Flemish avg):

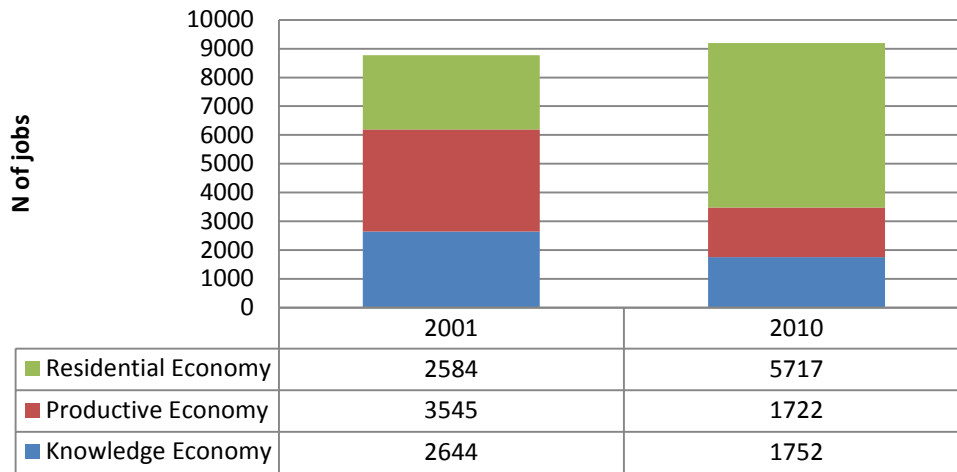
- Agriculture + processing industries
- some multinational companies (Picanol, McBright)

Knowledge economy

- Flanders Language Valley (Lernaut & Hauspie) went bankrupt in 2001 -> search for new functions

Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs: Aarschot (B)

Aarschot: Number of jobs by economic profile



Residential economy:

- Central function within the arrondissement: schools, commercial centre

Productive economy:

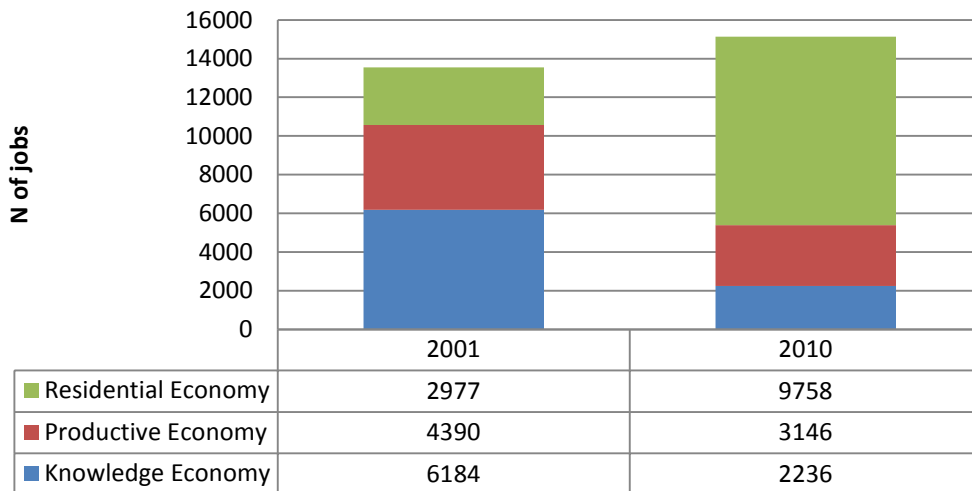
- Strongly shrunk

Knowledge Economy:

- Shrunk, but ongoing strategies to capitalize on proximity to Leuven

Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs: Dendermonde (B)

Dendermonde: Number of jobs by economic profile



Residential economy:

- Centrum function within the arrondissement: schools, juridical functions, commercial centre

Productive economy:

- Strongly shrank

Knowledge Economy:

- very important downfall between 2001 and 2011

Summing up

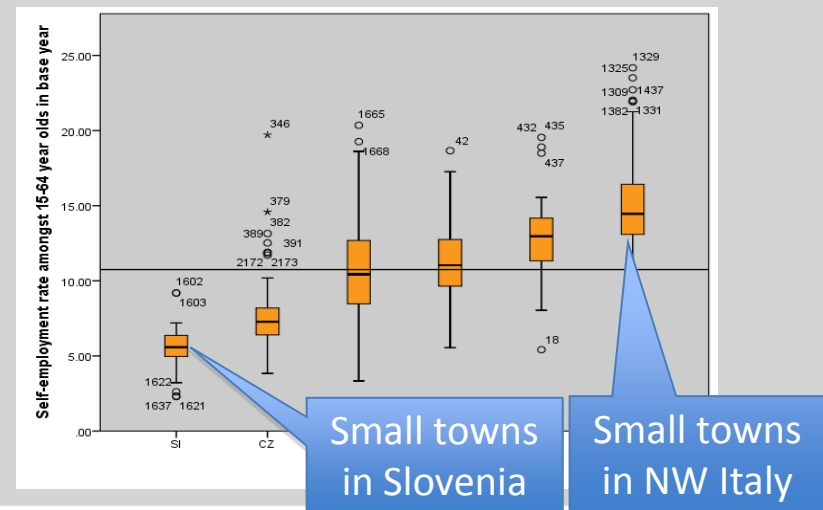
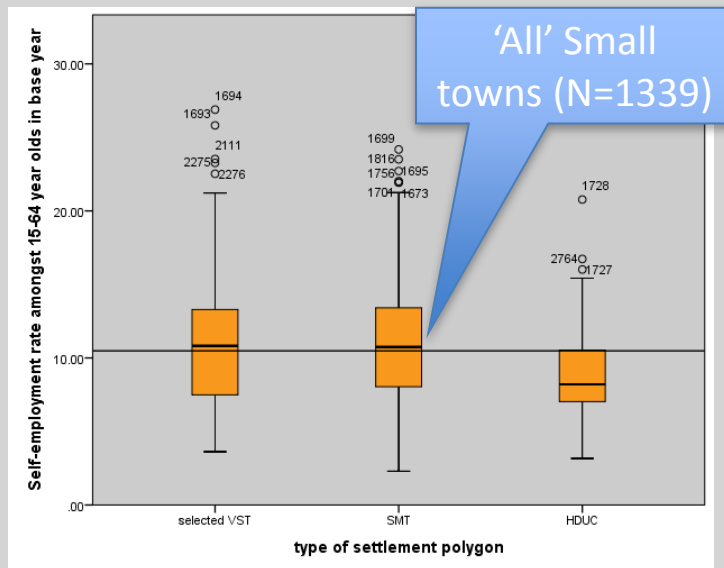
Some evidence:

- *Settlements agglomerated in larger metropolitan areas are destabilised*
 - *on the one hand by suburbanisation, and*
 - *on the other hand by a re-concentration of jobs and services in cities*
- Successful cases are those one strategically working on diversification and innovation
- Evidence suggest the presence of **integrated territorial systems**, in which urban areas are tightly integrated and complementing each others

Socio-economic and administrative issues

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

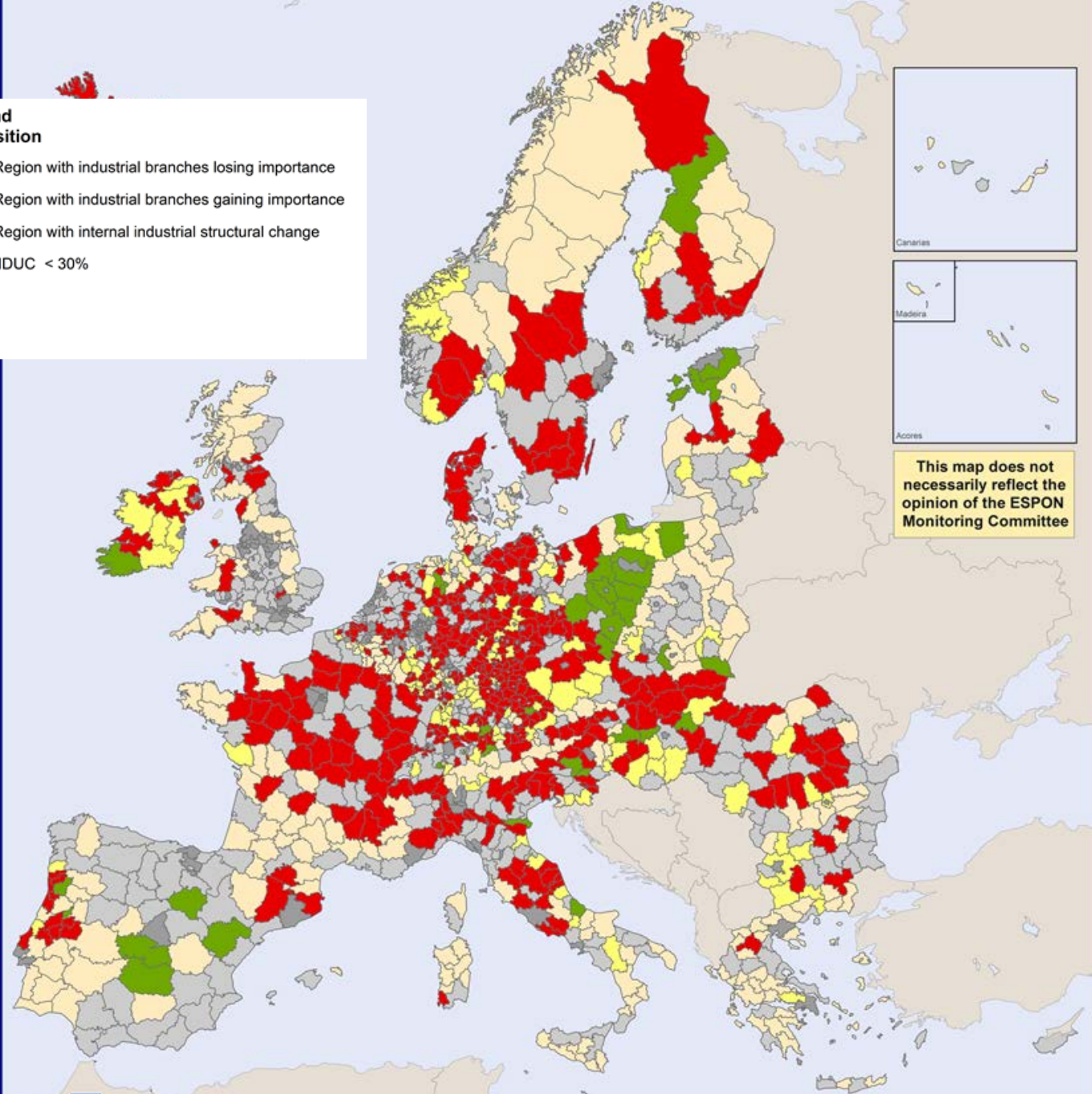
- greater proportion of industrial employment;
- A significantly smaller proportion of jobs (on average) in private marketed services and in public services in comparison to HDUCs;
- more self-employment, less diverse in sectorial mix



Typology based on degree of urbanisation and ESPON typology of regions in industrial transition

- Population (2006) living in HDUC < 30% and Region with industrial branches losing importance
- Population (2006) living in HDUC < 30% and Region with industrial branches gaining importance
- Population (2006) living in HDUC < 30% and Region with internal industrial structural change
- Other regions with Population (2006) living in HDUC < 30%
- Population (2006) living in HDUC 30%-70%
- Population (2006) living in HDUC > 70%

Warning message?



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Considerations

- Importance of supporting diversification of economic profiles
- Taking in consideration higher number of self-employment and specific socially-bound dynamics

(> tailored policies and territorial tacit knowledge)

But:

- is the local administrative level the right one?
- Does it have the right capacities?
- Is the appropriate territory?

Administrative mismatch (> coordination and micro-regionalism)

	N (SMST polygons in database)	Mean number of intersections between SMST polygons and:	
		local authority units (LAU)	NUTS3 regions (2006)
Belgium (BE)	184	1.23	1.05
Czech Republic (CZ)	222	1.73	1.01
Spain (ES)	65	1.78	1.00
France (FR)	881	2.89	1.06
Italy (IT)	252	2.41	1.11
Poland (PL)	42	1.33	1.02
Sweden (SE)	41	1.00	1.00
Slovenia (SI)	43	1.26	1.00
England & Wales (UK)	574	1.19	1.12
Total	2304	2.05	1.07

! Policy message



3. Policy reflections

- Understanding **town needs and opportunities**
 - Giving SMSTs a voice in regional debates
 - Tailored measures (place-based approach?)
 - Tacit knowledge and socially-bound dynamics
 - Supporting alternative visions of the local economy
- Supporting the definition of **micro-regionalism processes**
 - Building synergies through cooperation
 - Territorial governance:
 - Multilevel and horizontal cooperation
 - Policies tailoring functional territory
- Working on **town administrative capacity**
 - Increasing local leadership
 - Knowledge/ access to different funding opportunities

CLLD?

Enough?



European Economic and Social Committee

HEARING

Community Led Local Development (CLLD) as a tool of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 for local, rural, urban and peri-urban development

29|09|2014 | Brussels

EESC | Jacques Delors Building
Rue Belliard 99 | Room JDE 62

- Partnership
- Transparency
- Effectiveness
- ~~Corruption~~



**Accept the challenge of “thinking big
about thinking small”!**
(Bell and Jayne, 2009)

THANK YOU

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