



Territorial evidence for a European Urban Agenda

TOWN in Europe

Loris Servillo

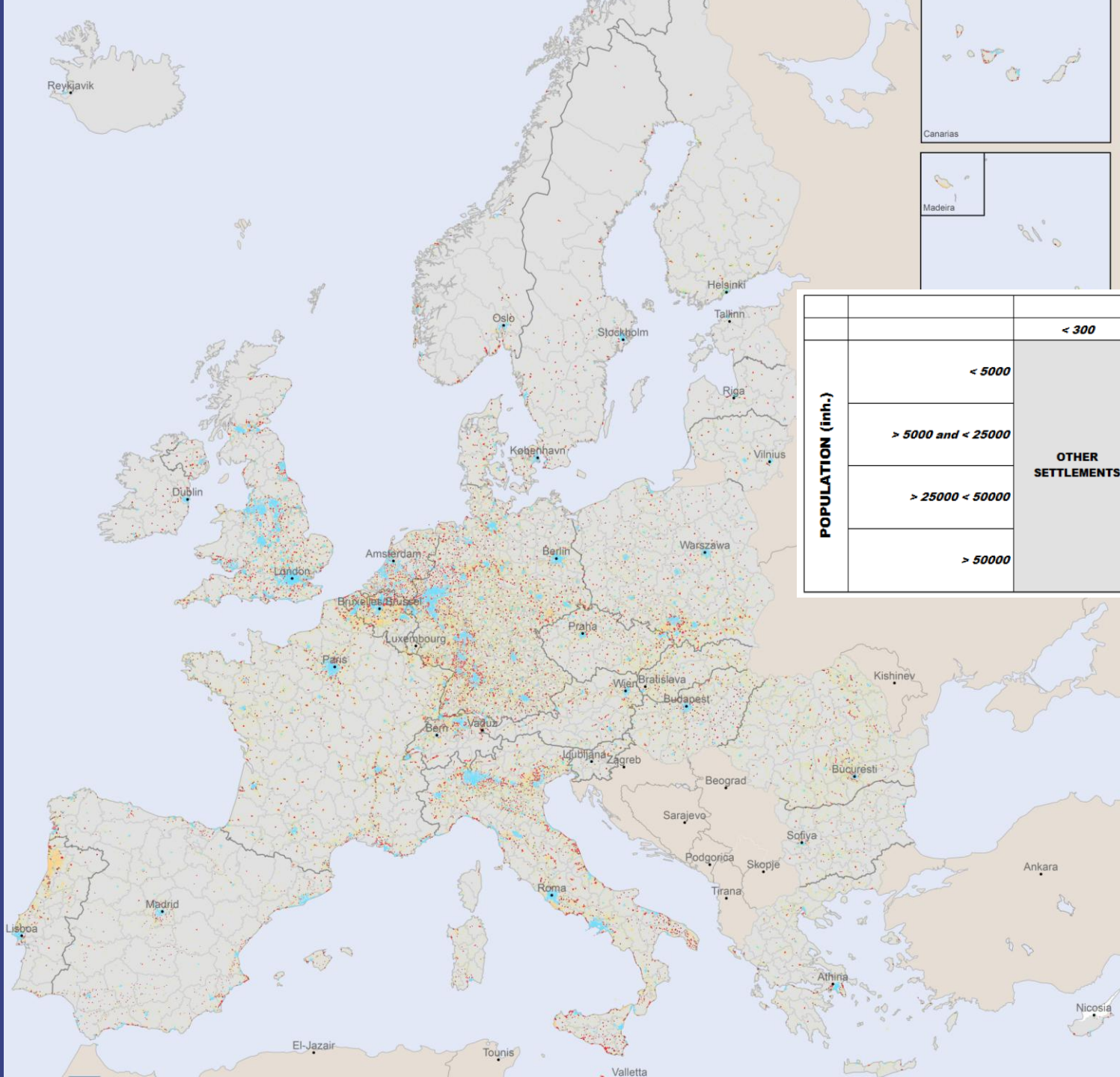
Brussels, 25 November 2014



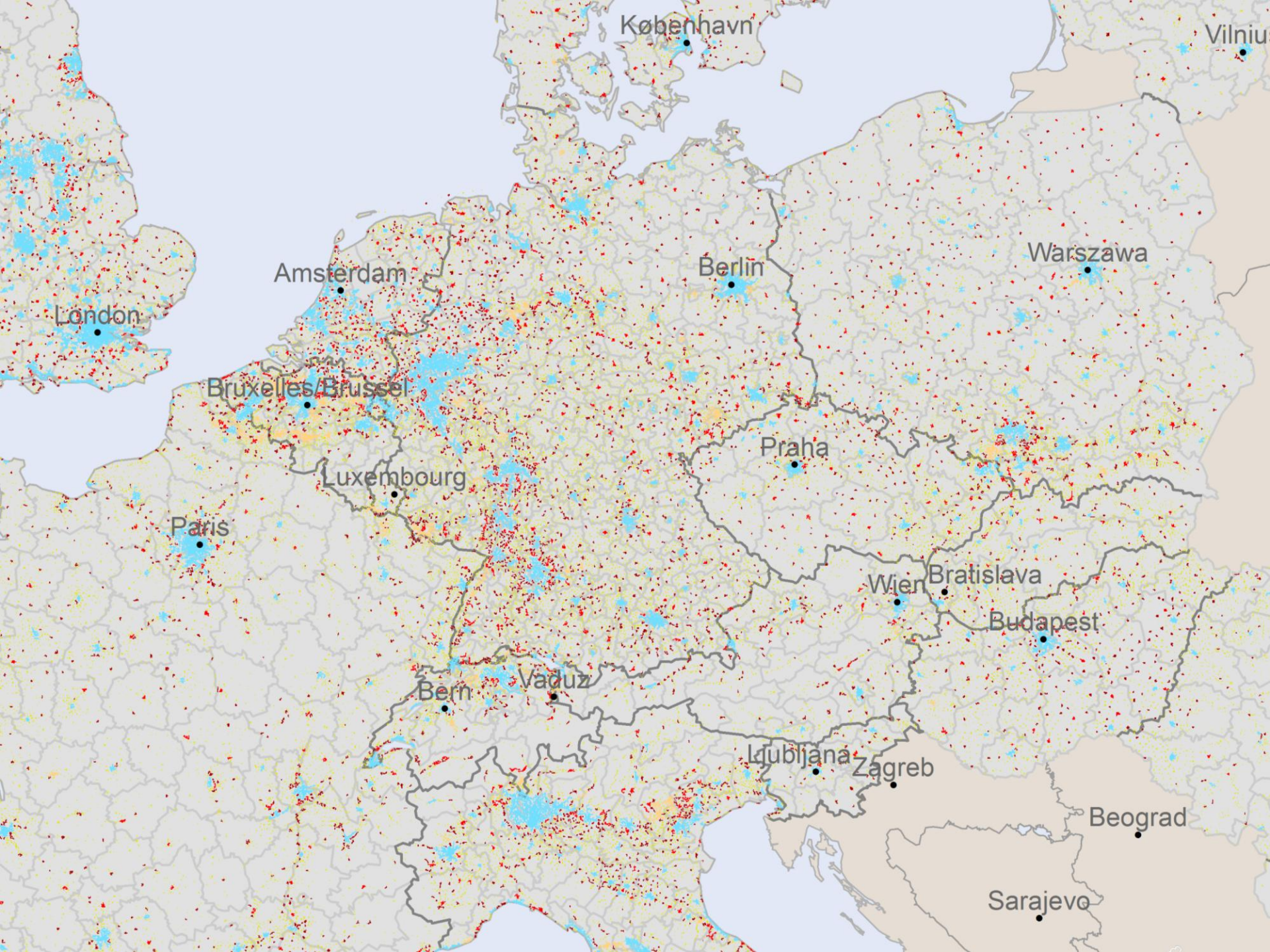
Outline

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?





		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)



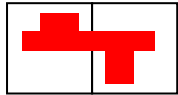
Classes	Delimitation criteria	Count	Av. Pop	Av. Sq.km	Av. Density	Total pop. in this class	as % of ESPON space*
High-density Urban Clusters (HDUC)	Pop. > 50,000 Pop. Density > 1,500 inh/km ²	850	275,476	92.3	2,927.10	234,154,670	46.3%
Large SMST	Pop > 50,000, Pop. Density < 1,500 inh/km ²	100	132,331	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

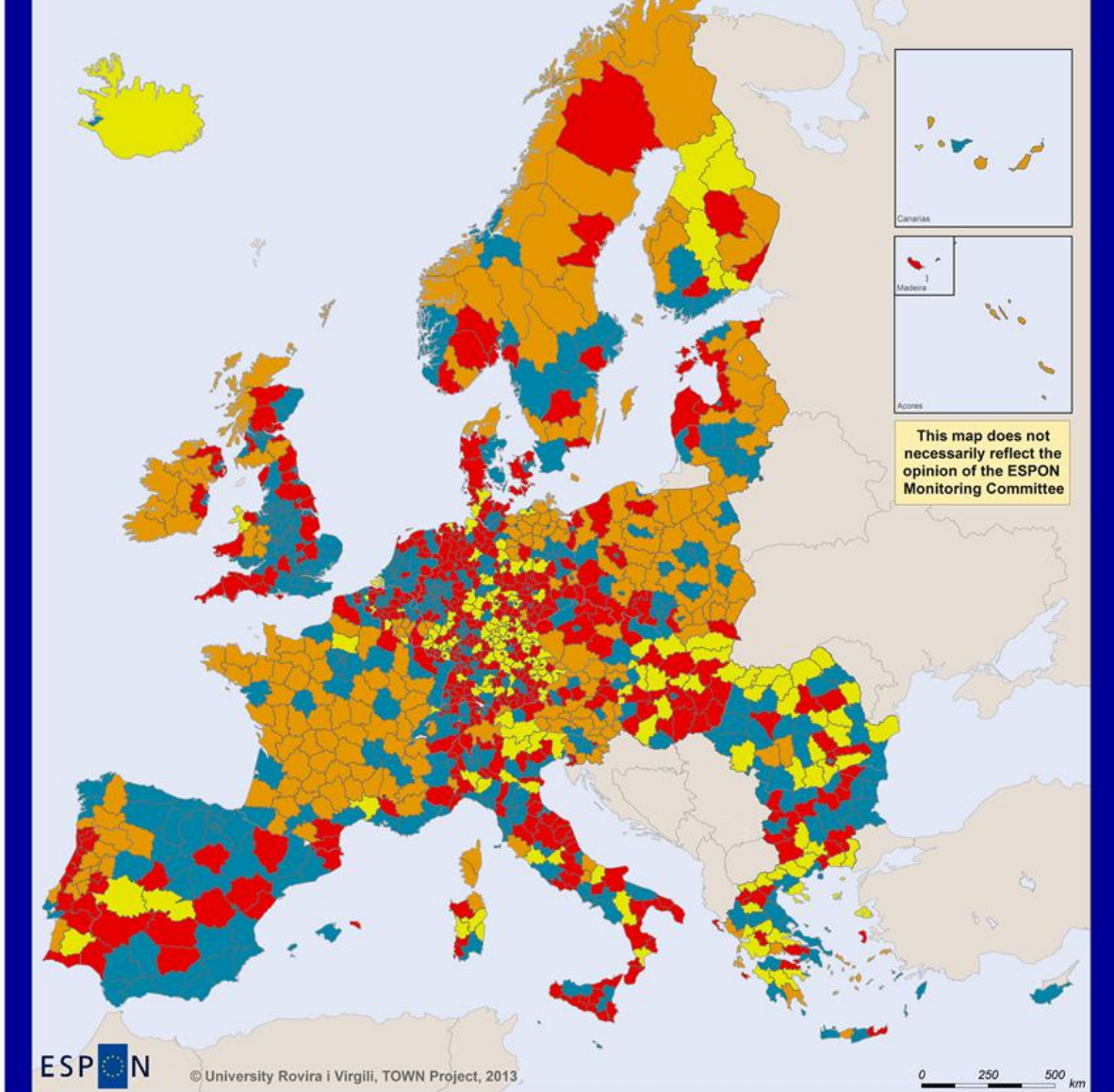
EU perspective

EU perspective

Settlement polygons



NUTS3 with prevailing settlements



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

ESPON

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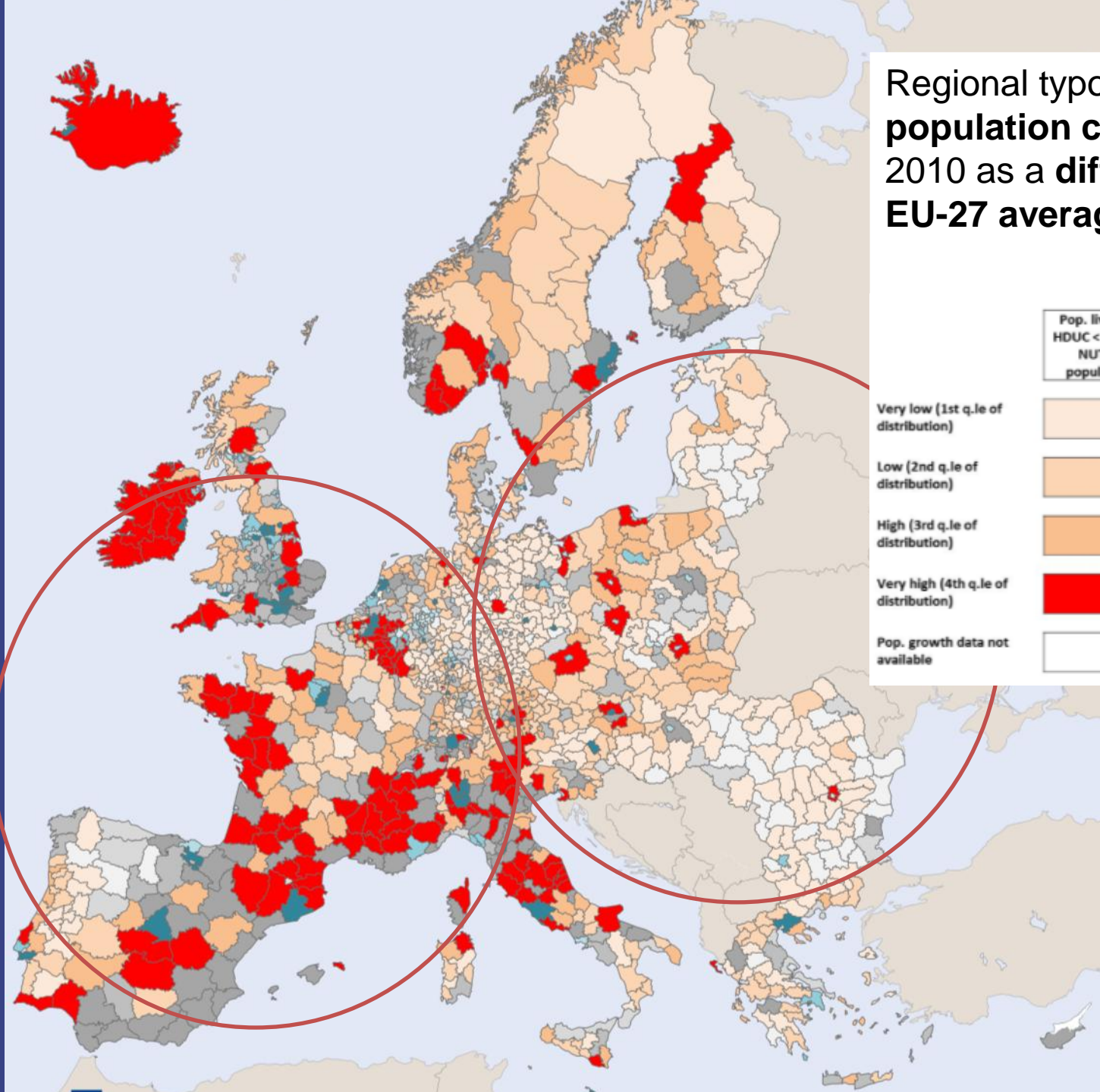
Regional level: NUTS 3
Source: Own elaboration on GEOSTAT data
Origin of data: DG Regio
Authors: F. Brandajs, A.P. Russo, D. Serrano Giné
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

Prevailing population settlement type

- High Density Urban Clusters as the prevailing type of population settlement
- Small and Medium Towns as the prevailing type of population settlement
- Very Small Towns as the prevailing type of population settlement
- Other population settlements as prevailing type

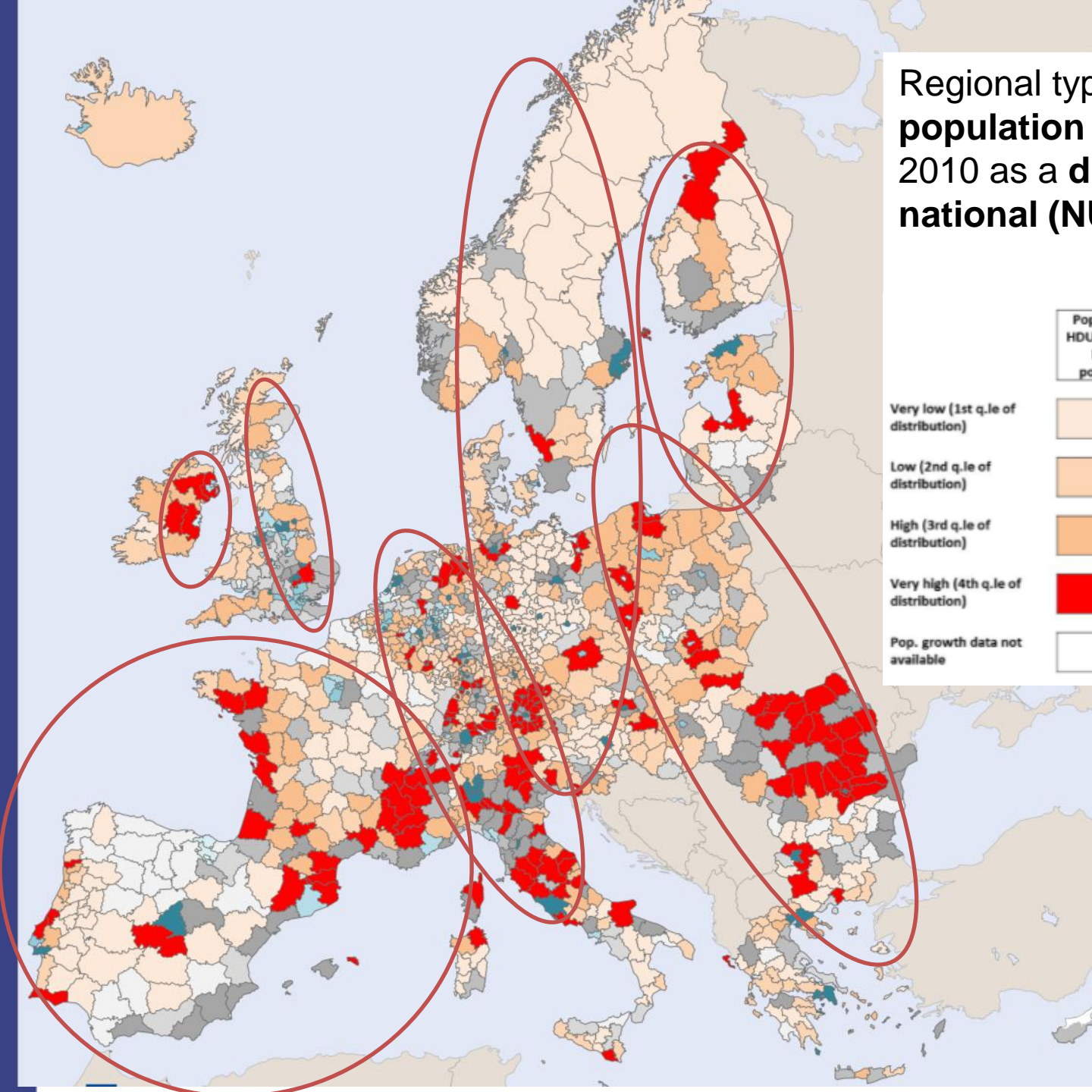


Regional typology based on **population change** rates 2001-2010 as a **difference from the EU-27 average**



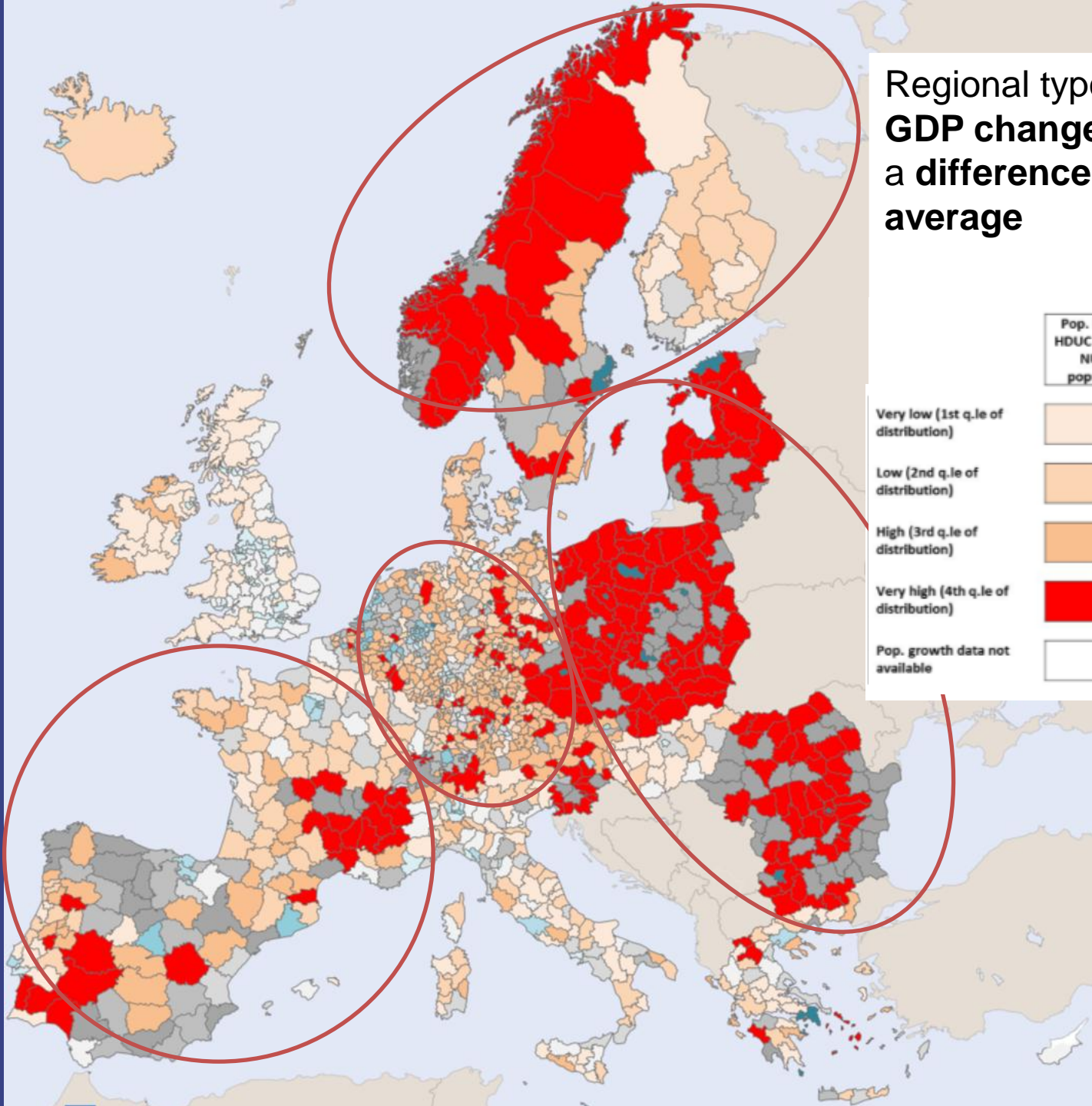
	Pop. living in HDUC < 30% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 30% < 70% of NUTS3 population	Pop. living in HDUC > 70% of NUTS3 population
Very low (1st q.le of distribution)			
Low (2nd q.le of distribution)			
High (3rd q.le of distribution)			
Very high (4th q.le of distribution)			
Pop. growth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

Regional typology based on **population change** rates 2001-2010 as a **difference from the national (NUTS 0) average**



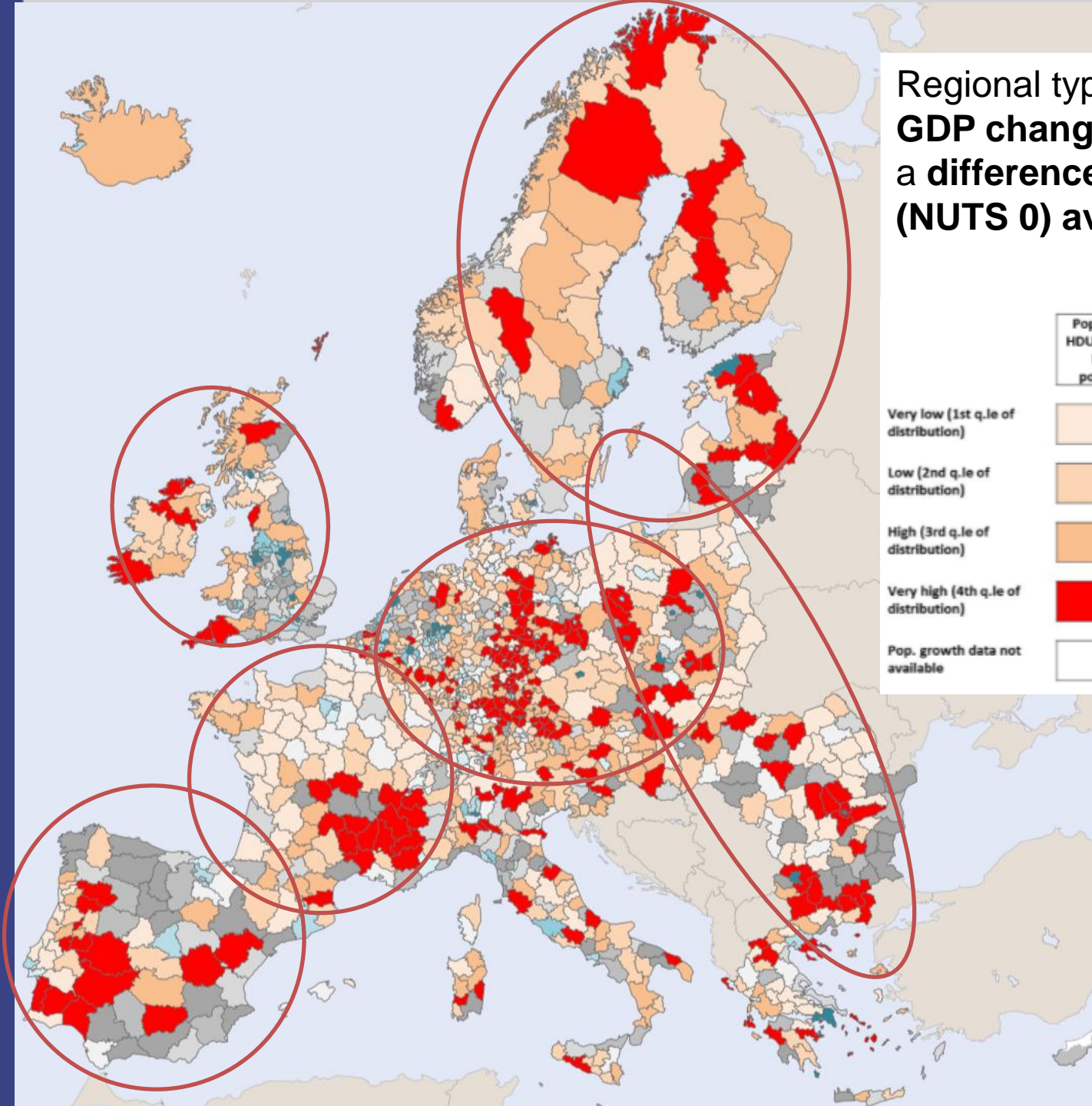
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Regional typology based on **p.c. GDP change** rates 2001-2010 as a difference from the EU-27 average



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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 face **'common trends'**?

Importance of macro spatial trends

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

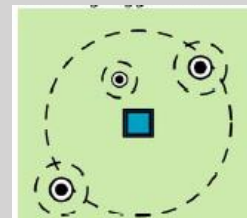
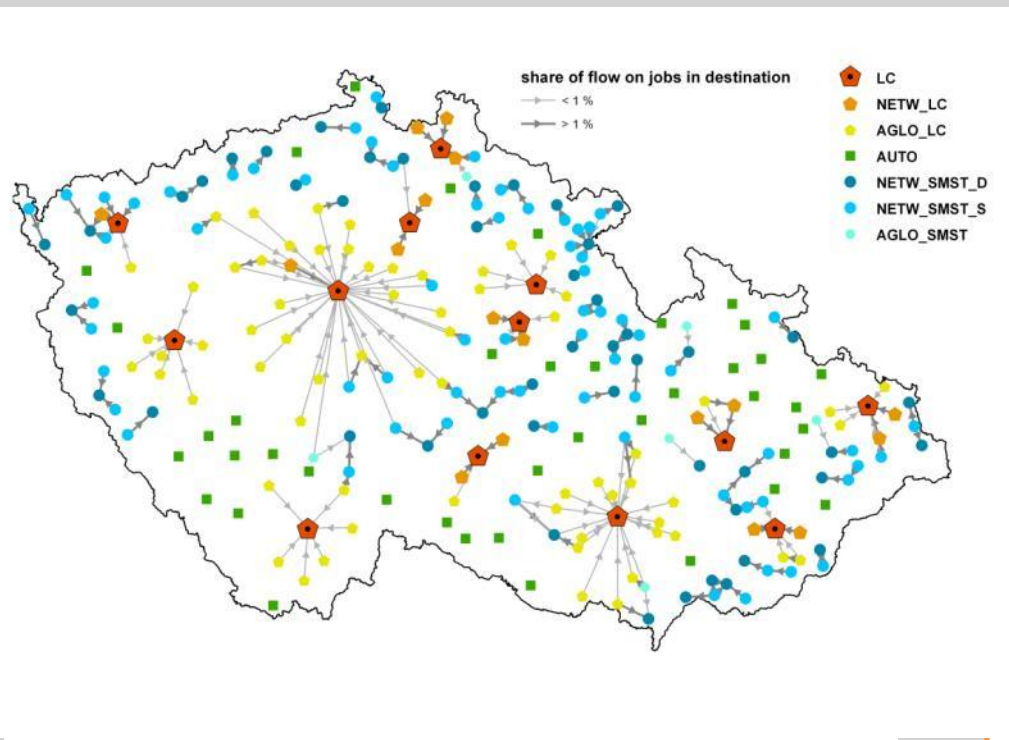
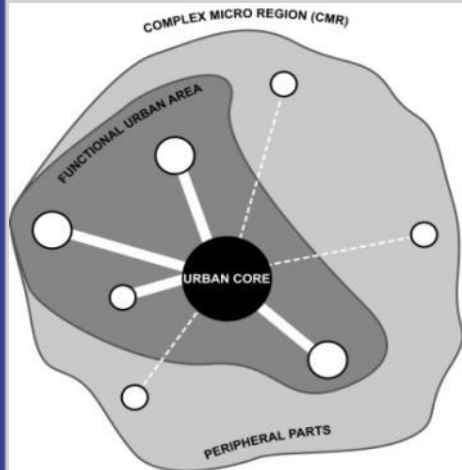
Combination of macro/meso dynamics and local trajectories

- 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?

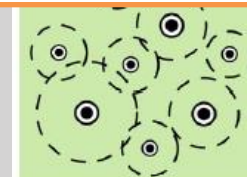


Towns vs large cities?

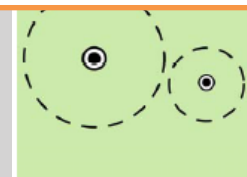
Functional definition



Agglomerated



Networked

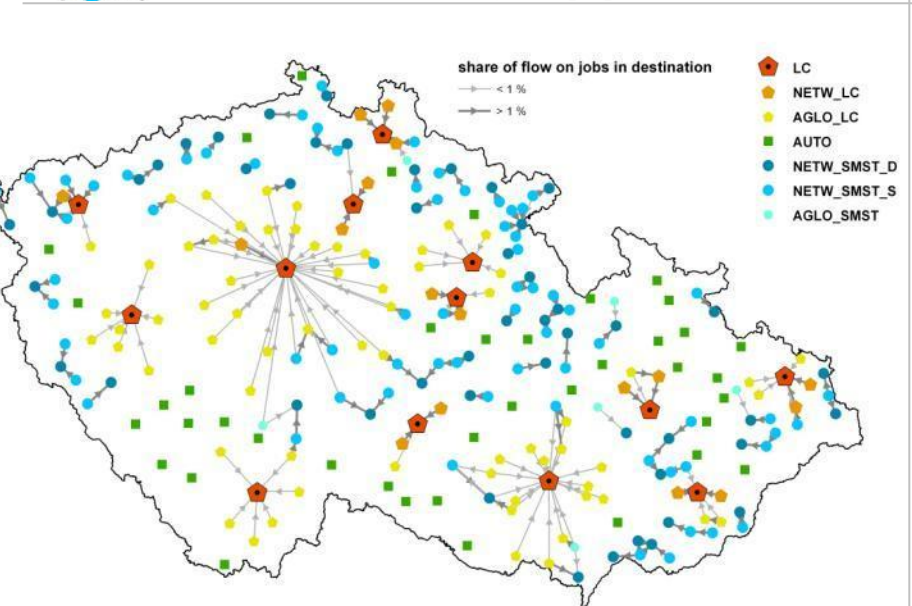
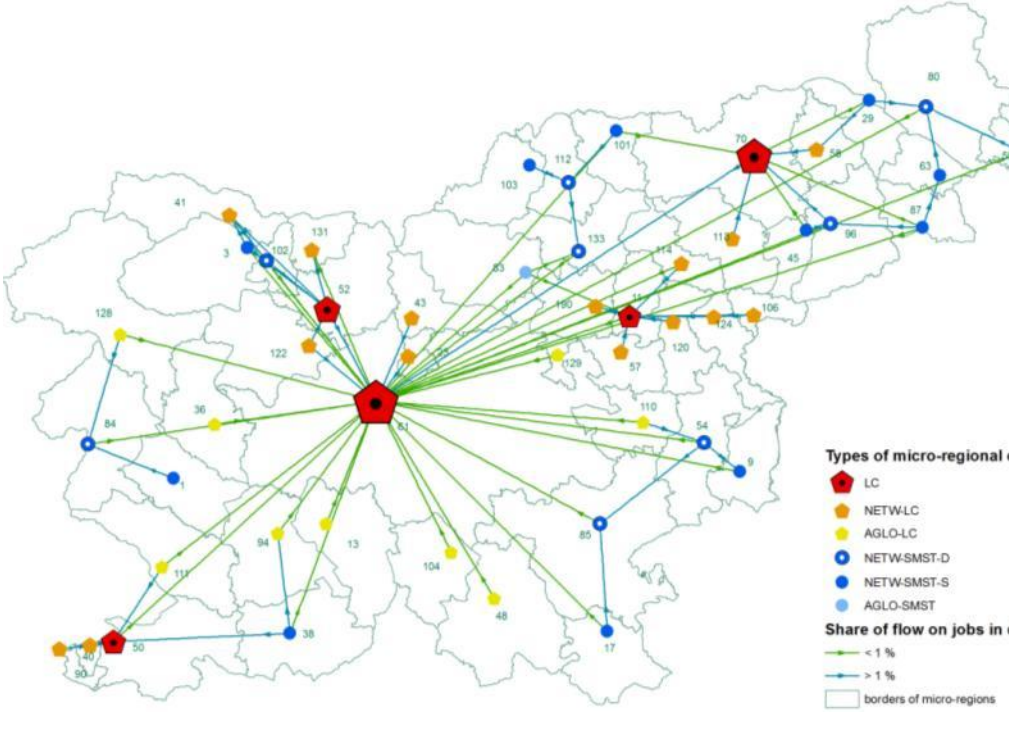
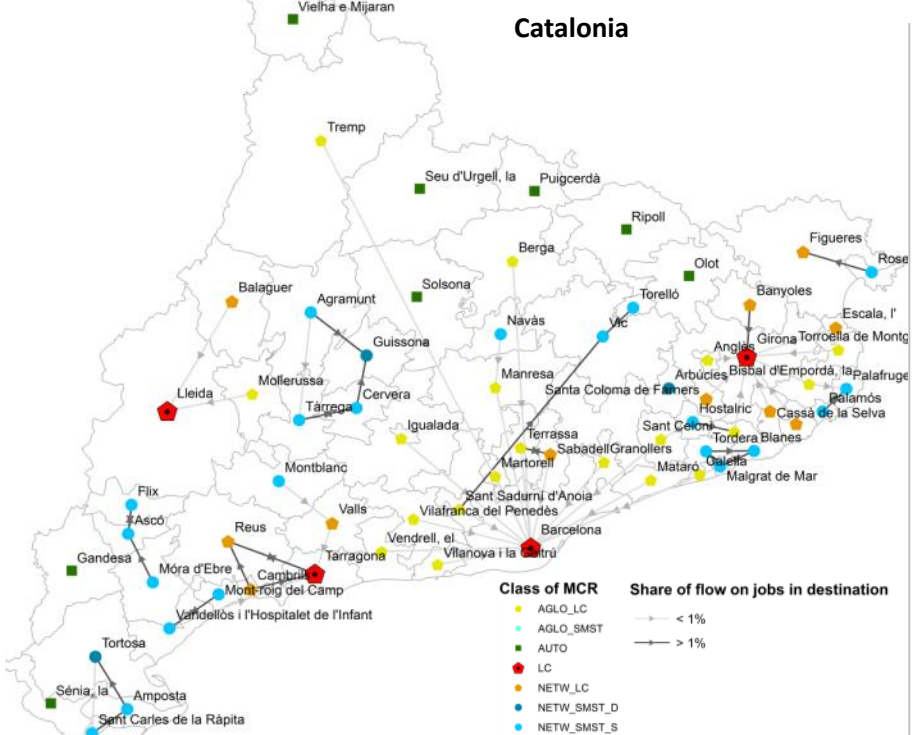


Isolated

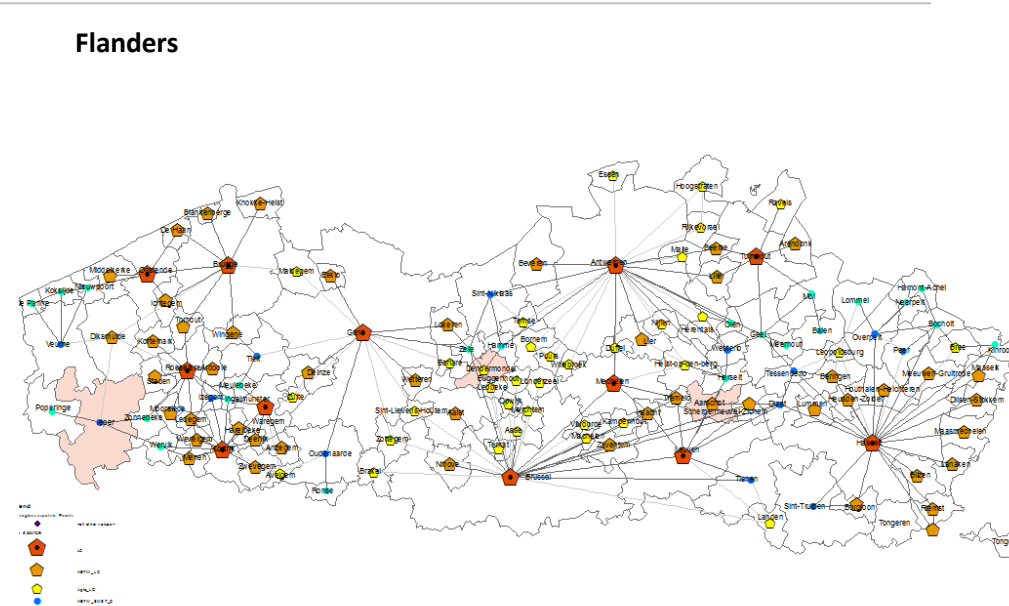
Criteria:

- Travel-to-work patterns
- Location of services

Catalonia

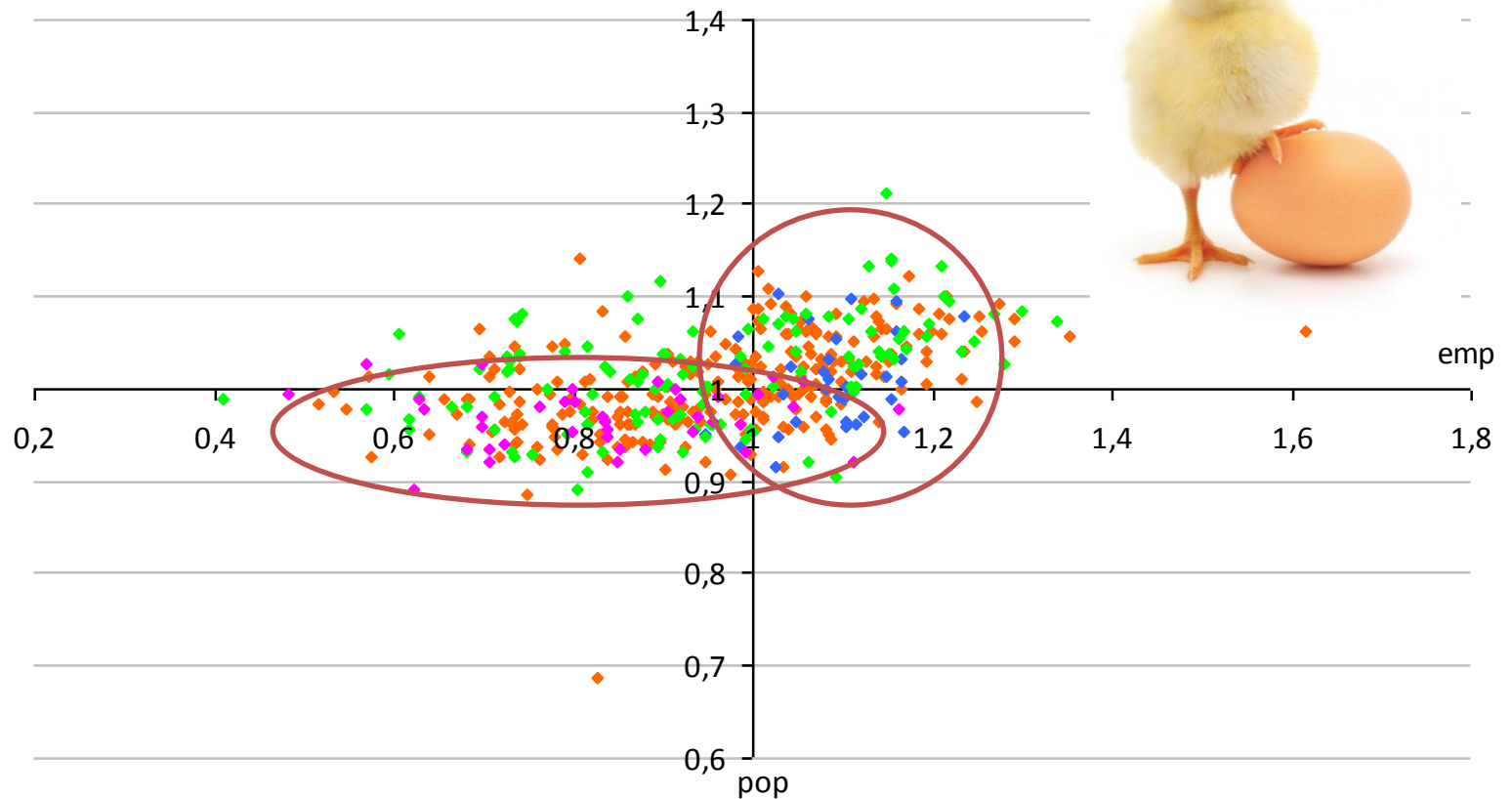


Flanders



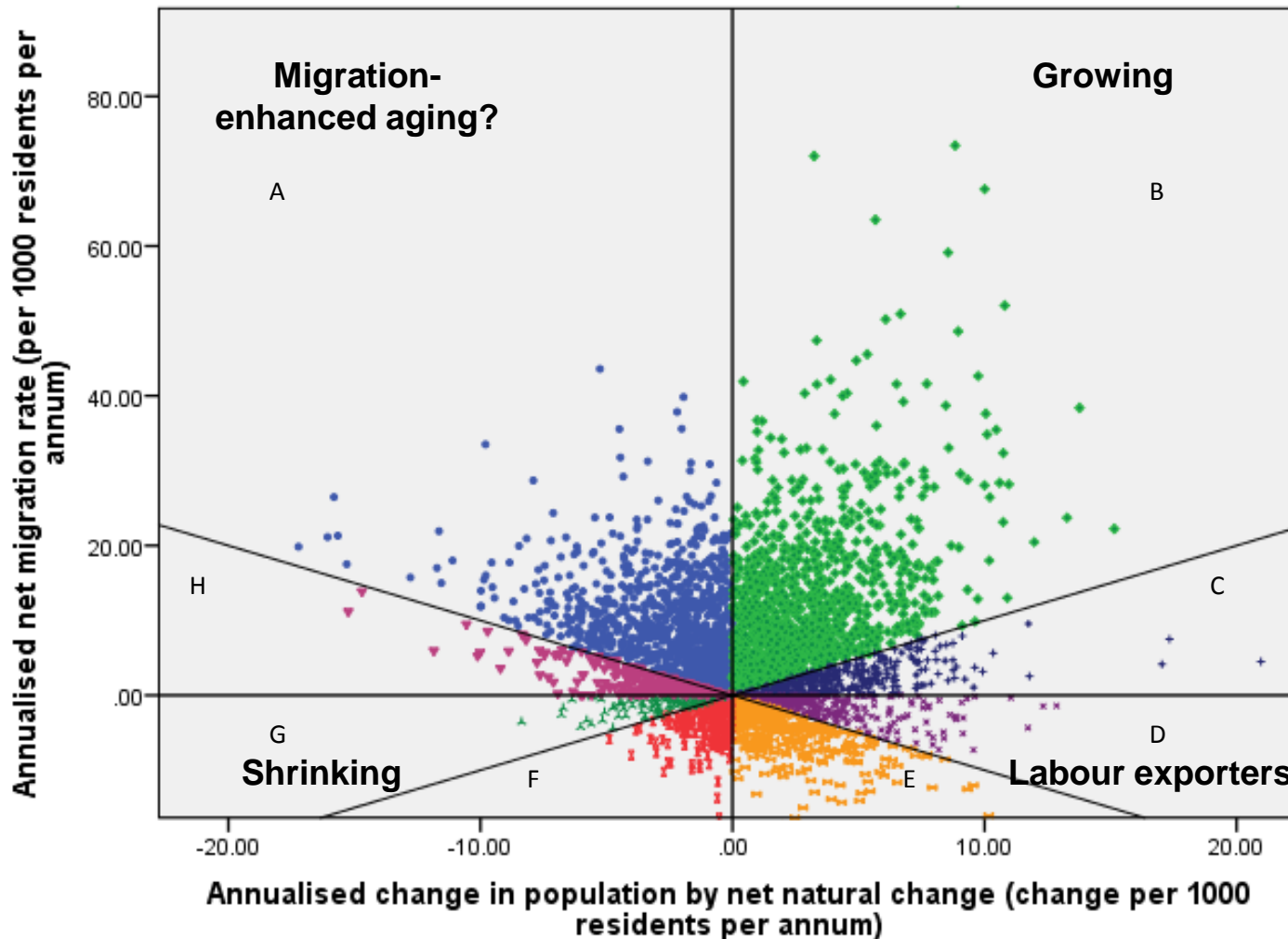
Towns vs large cities?

◆ networked ◆ large cities ◆ agglomerated ◆ autonomous



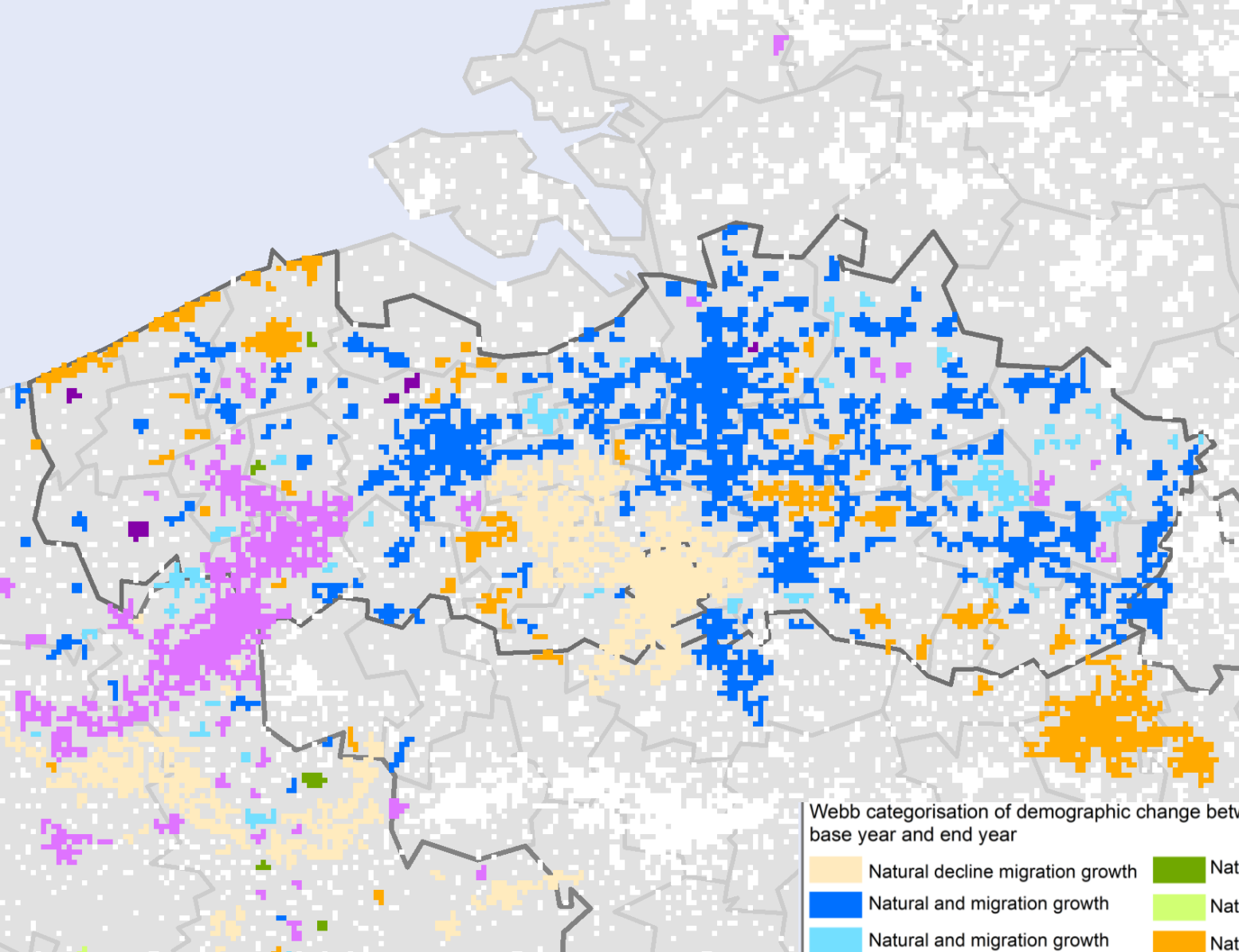


Regional clusters












Typology of demographic change (after Webb (1965))

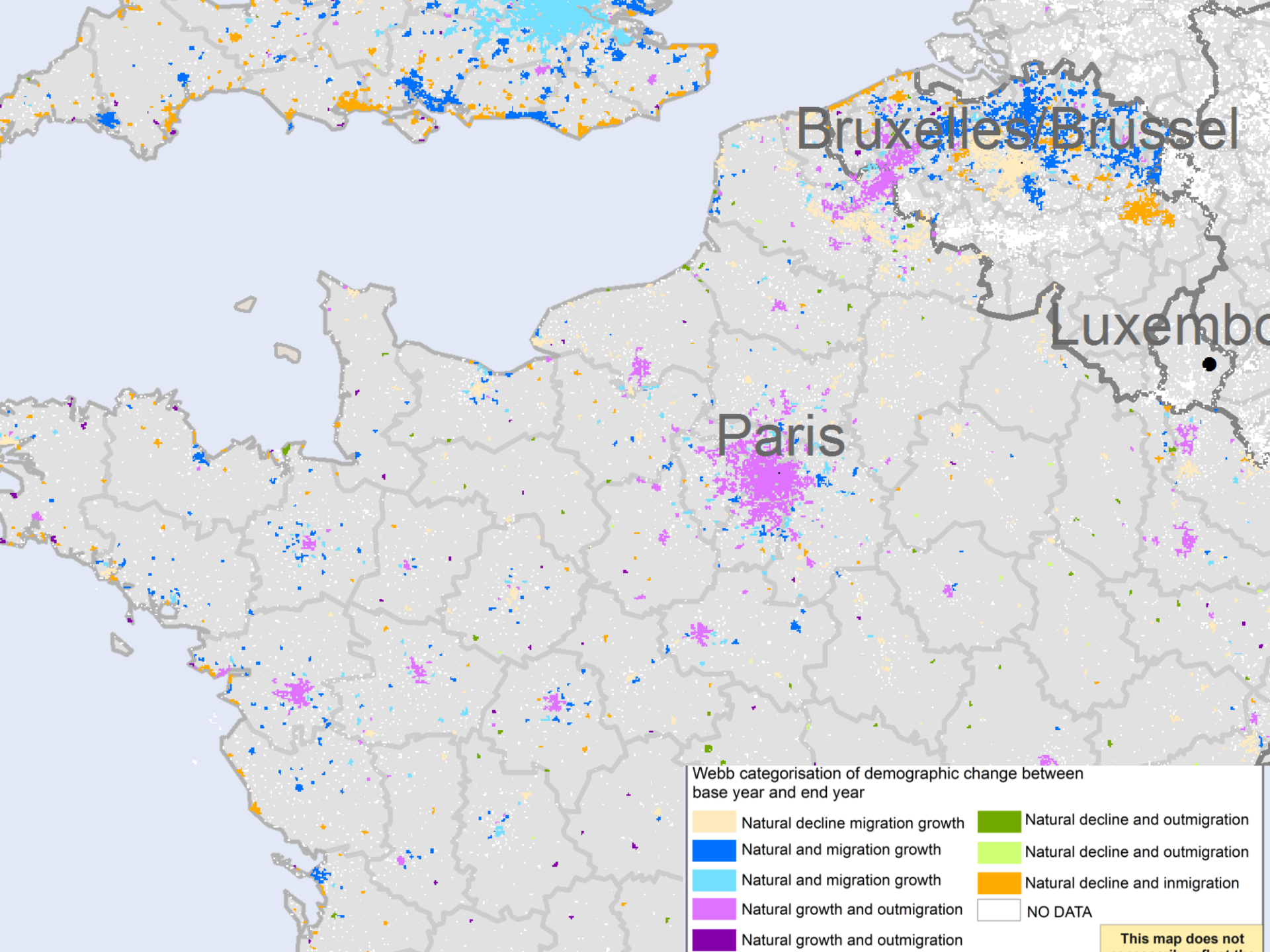
- A (natural decline migration growth)
- ◆ B (natural and migration growth)
- + C (natural and migration growth)
- × D (natural growth and outmigration)
- E (natural growth and outmigration)
- F (natural decline and outmigration)
- ▲ G (natural decline and outmigration)
- ▼ H (natural decline and immigration)



Webb categorisation of demographic change between base year and end year

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Natural decline migration growth |  Natural decline and outmigration |
|  Natural and migration growth |  Natural decline and outmigration |
|  Natural and migration growth |  Natural decline and immigration |
|  Natural growth and outmigration |  NO DATA |
|  Natural growth and outmigration | |

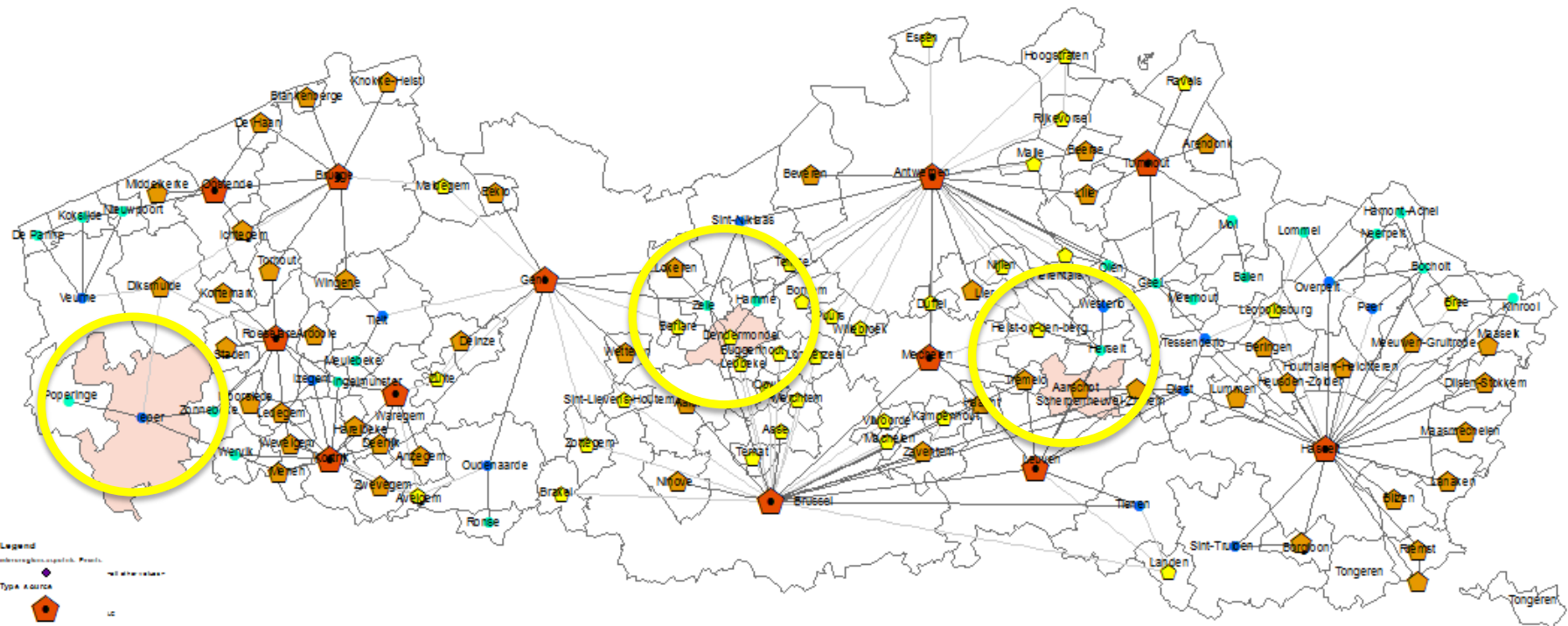
This map does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee



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_municipaliteit, Name: naam_municipaliteit

Type source

- LC
- NATH_LC
- IGH_LC
- NATH_ghat_p
- NATH_ghat_p

Formaat

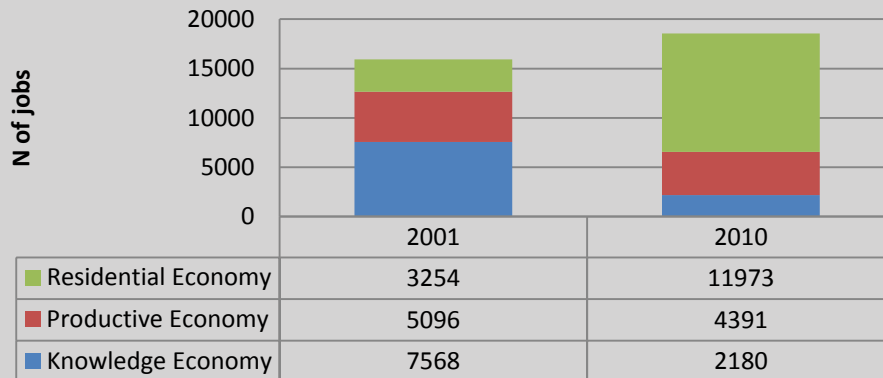
Share flooi (obduct)

- 0 - 10000 - 100000
- 100000 - 1000000
- 1000000 - 10000000
- 10000000 - 100000000

Share flooi (obduct)

- 0 - 10000 - 100000
- 100000 - 1000000
- 1000000 - 10000000
- 10000000 - 100000000

leper: Number of jobs by economic profile



Residential economy:

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

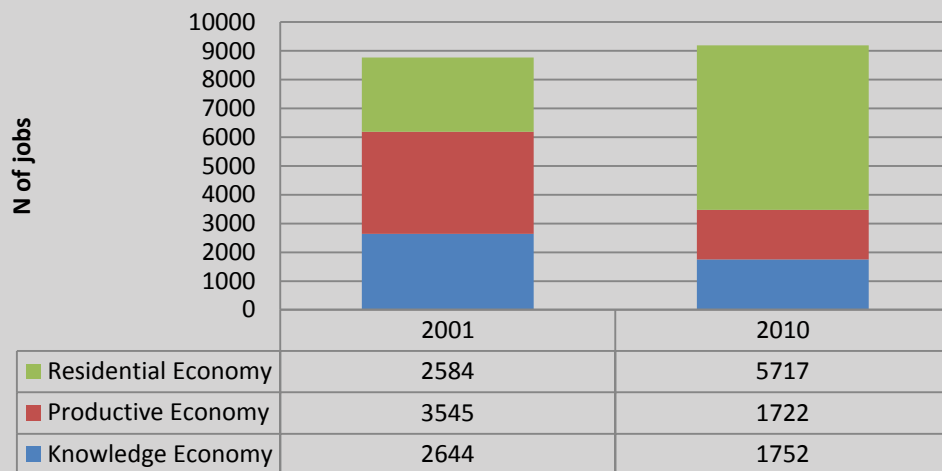
Productive economy (> Flemish avg):

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

Knowledge economy

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

Aarschot: Number of jobs by economic profile



Functional roles:

Residential economy:

Centrum function within the arrondissement: schools, commercial centre

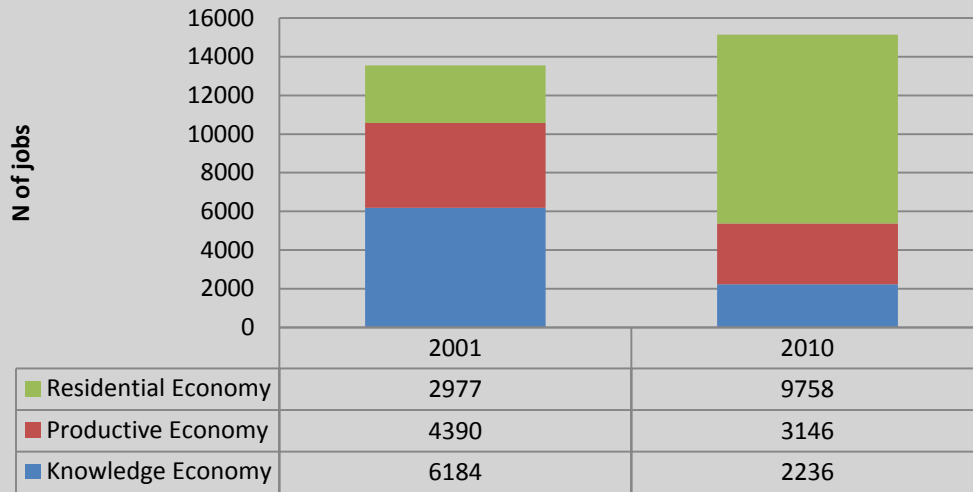
Productive economy:

has diminished very strongly

Knowledge Economy:

has diminished, but strategies are developed to capitalize on the proximity to Leuven

Dendermonde: Number of jobs by economic profile



Functional roles:

Residential economy:

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

Productive economy:

has diminished very strongly

Knowledge Economy:

very important downfall between 2001 and 2010

Summing up

Some evidences:

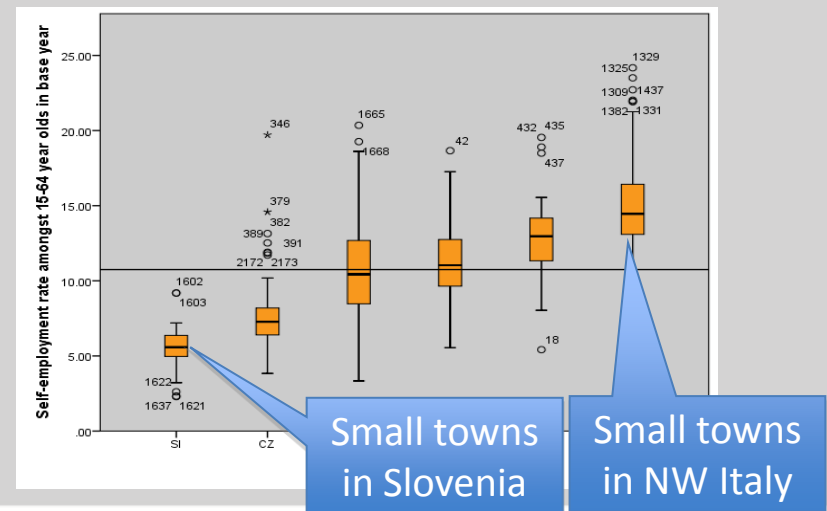
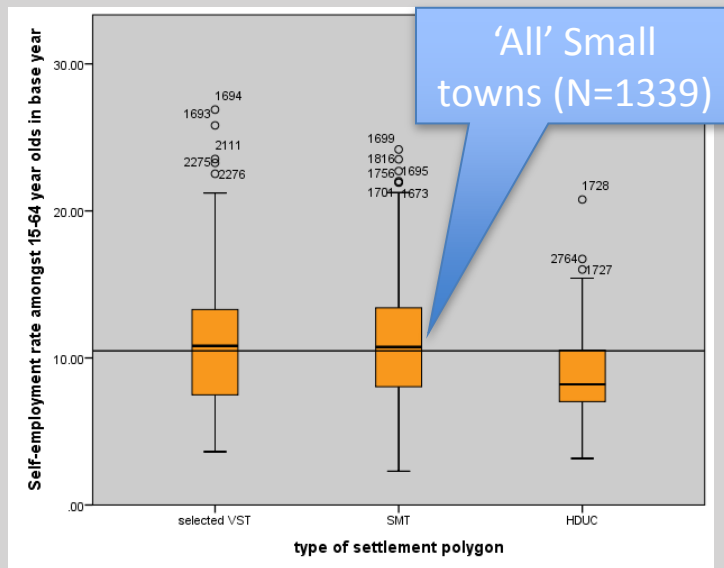
- *Settlements agglomerated in larger metropolitan areas are destabilised*
 - *on the one hand by suburbanisation, and*
 - *on the other hand by a re-concentration of jobs and services in cities*
- Successful cases are those one strategically working on diversification and innovation
- Evidences indicate 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**

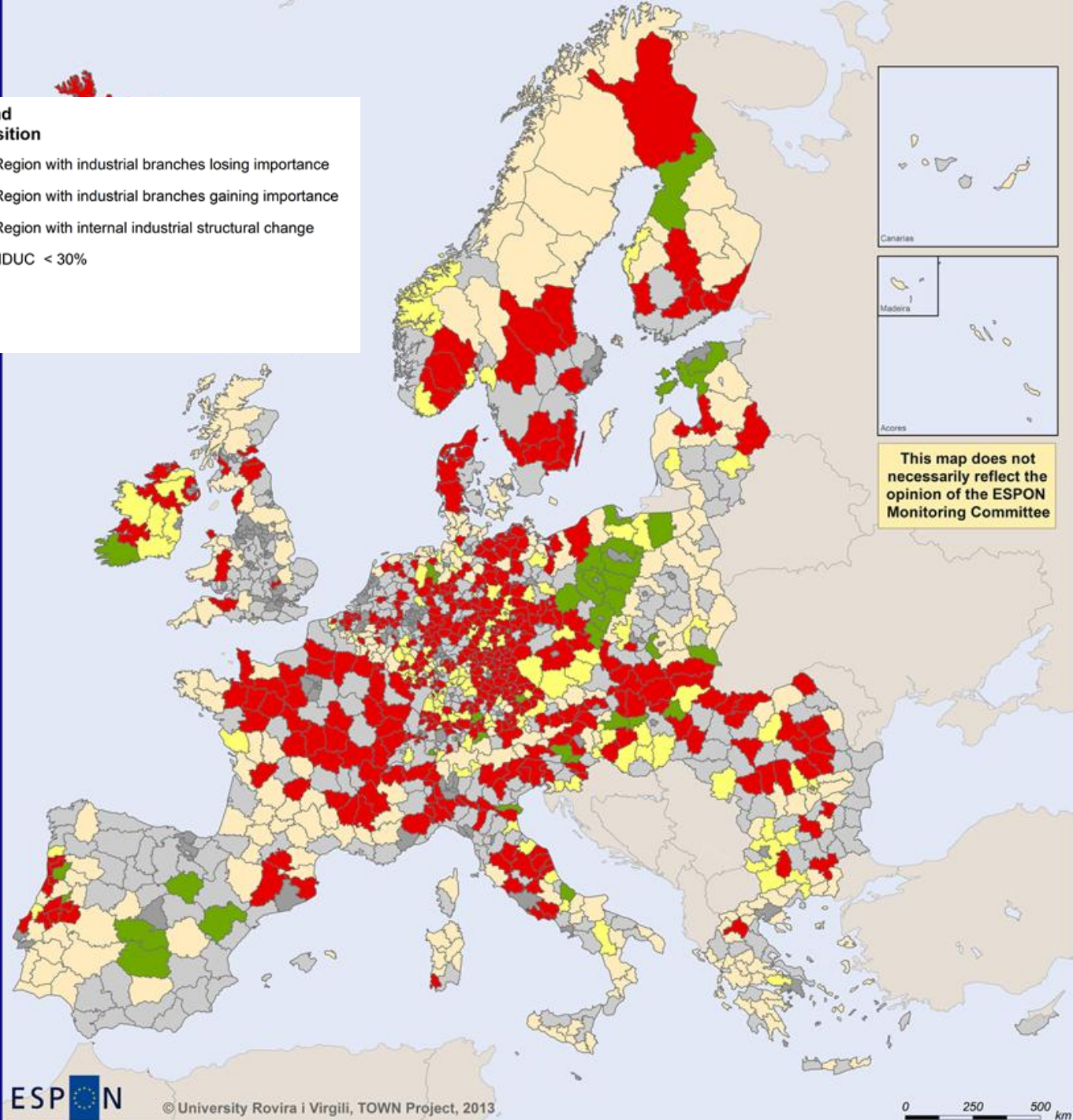
- greater proportion of industrial employment;
- A significantly smaller proportion of jobs (on average) in private marketed services and in public services in comparison to HDUCs;
- more self-employment, less diverse in sectorial mix



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?



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



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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