



# Measuring Geographic Indicators in OECD Regions

ESPON 2013 Programme  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
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# Outline of Presentation

1. Distance and Accessibility
  - Internal Demand OECD and TDPC Committee
2. Measuring Market Distance and Accessibility
  - Methodology
  - Challenges encountered
3. Results
  - Maps
  - Quantitative results
4. Conclusions and Proposal for Future Work

# Distance and Accessibility

Current OECD publication: “*The Contribution of Economic Geography to GDP per Capita*” at the macro level

- Why is geography important
- Analytical results
- Conclusions

At regional level there is a demand from TDCP

- Accessibility and inter-regional linkages
- Regional competitiveness with accessibility and market access

# Methodology

Following ESPON study on peripherality of European regions

General formula in analogy with the gravitational theory:

$$A_i = \sum_j g(W_j) f(c_{ij})$$

- $g(.)$  is a function of the centripetal force (e.g. population or GDP)
- $f(.)$  a function of distance (centrifugal force)

Where:

- $i$  is an index for a region
- the sum is over all other regions
- expressed as percentage of regions' average

# Methodology

$$A_i = \sum_j g(W_j) \underline{f(c_{ij})}$$

- Two forms for  $f(\cdot)$  used:
  1.  $f(\cdot)$  = simple linear distance between region centroids ("distance to markets");
  2.  $f(\cdot) = \exp(-\beta * dij)$ , for  $d$  = simple linear distance between region centroids ("access to (near) markets")

Two main drawbacks:

- (a) does not account for travel time and transportation networks and modes;
- (b) it is heavily affected by the size of the regions (a problem that is shared, at least partly, with indicators based on travel distance,)

# Challenges

Measuring markets in the OECD:

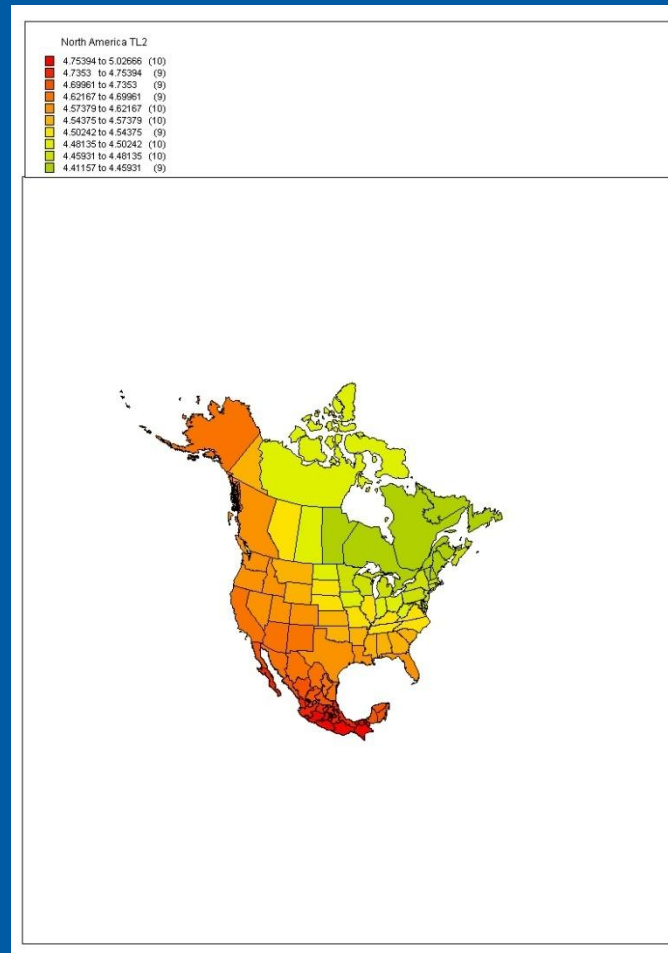
A region's distance to markets defined by:

- a) Average distance to all regions within the OECD
- b) Average distance to OECD regions in blocks:
  - Europe
  - North America
  - Asia

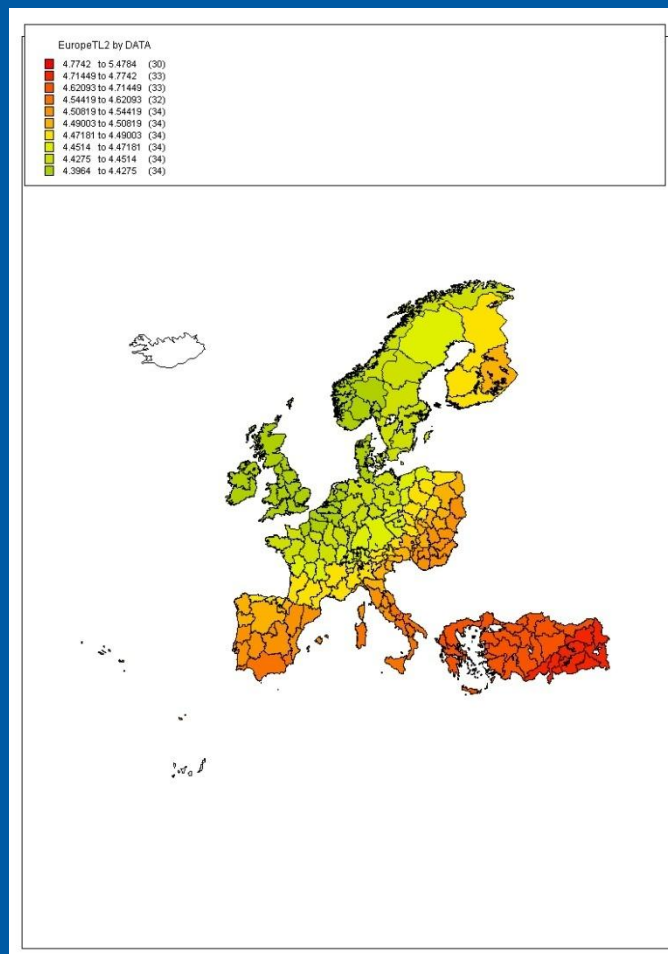
A region's accessibility is:

- a) Average distance to all OECD regions
- b) Average distance to OECD regions in blocks:
  - a) Giving more weight to neighbouring regions (contiguity)

# Distance to markets – total

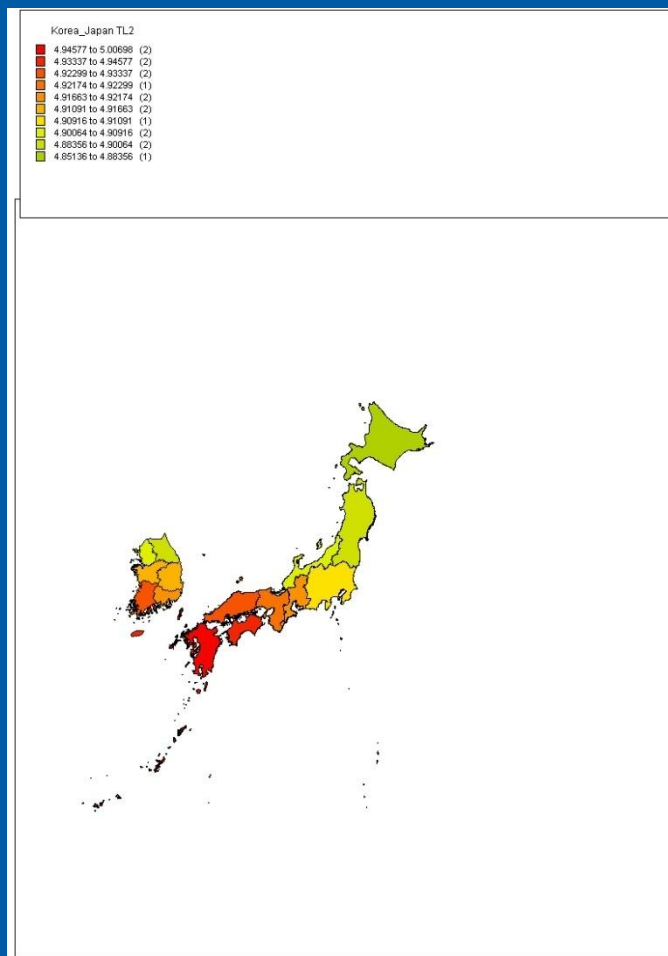


# Distance to markets – total

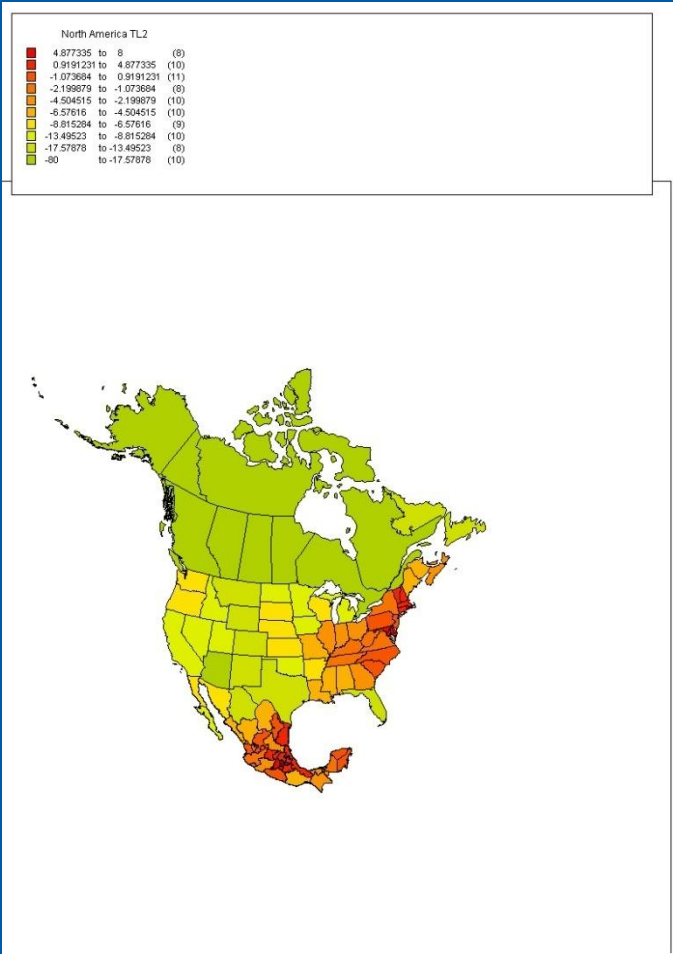




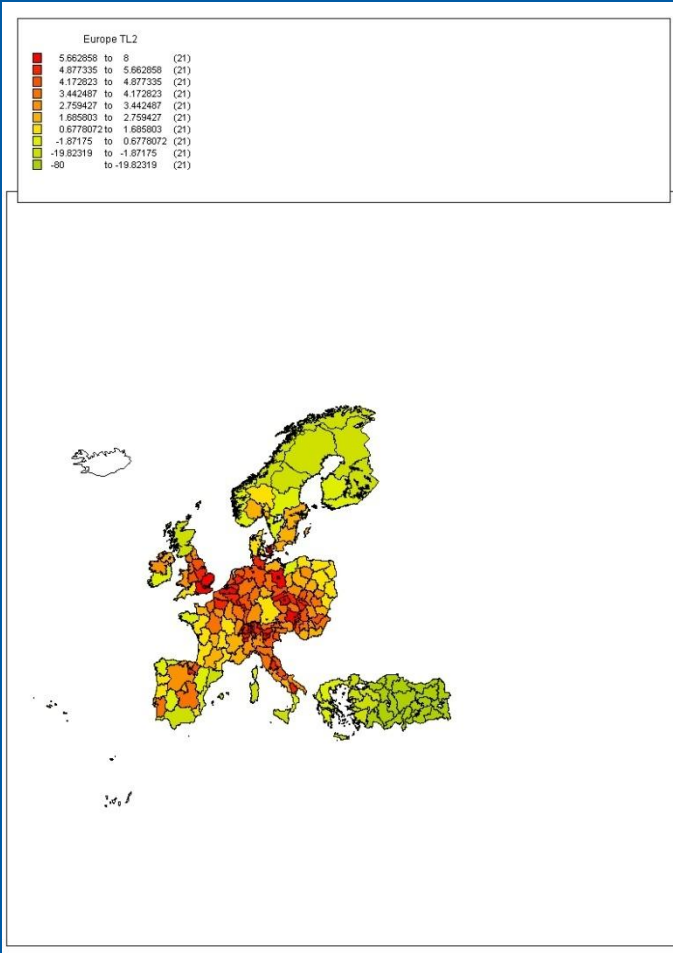
# Distance to markets – total



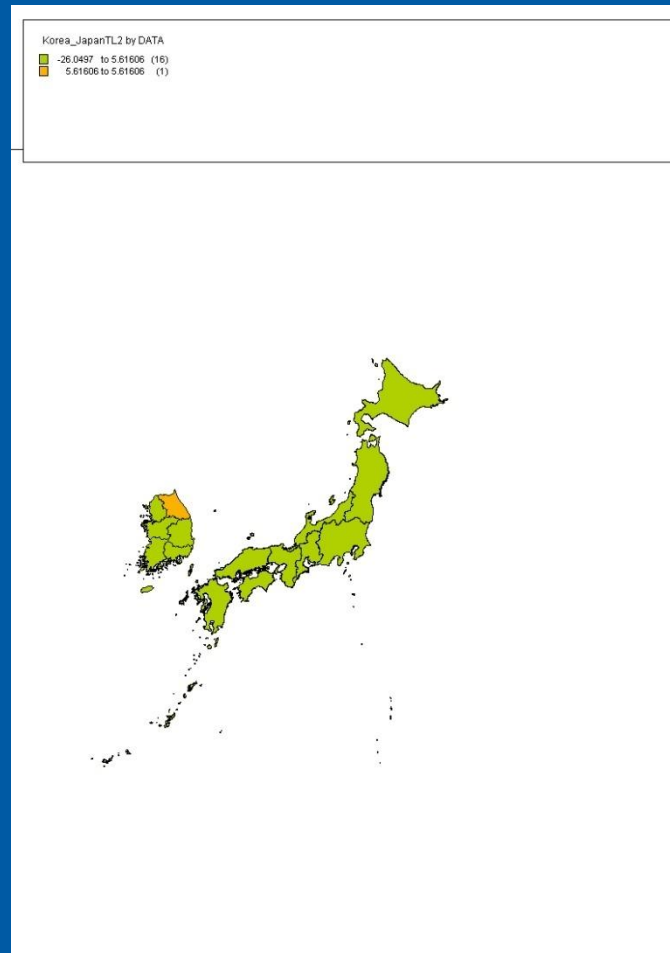
# Accessibility – total



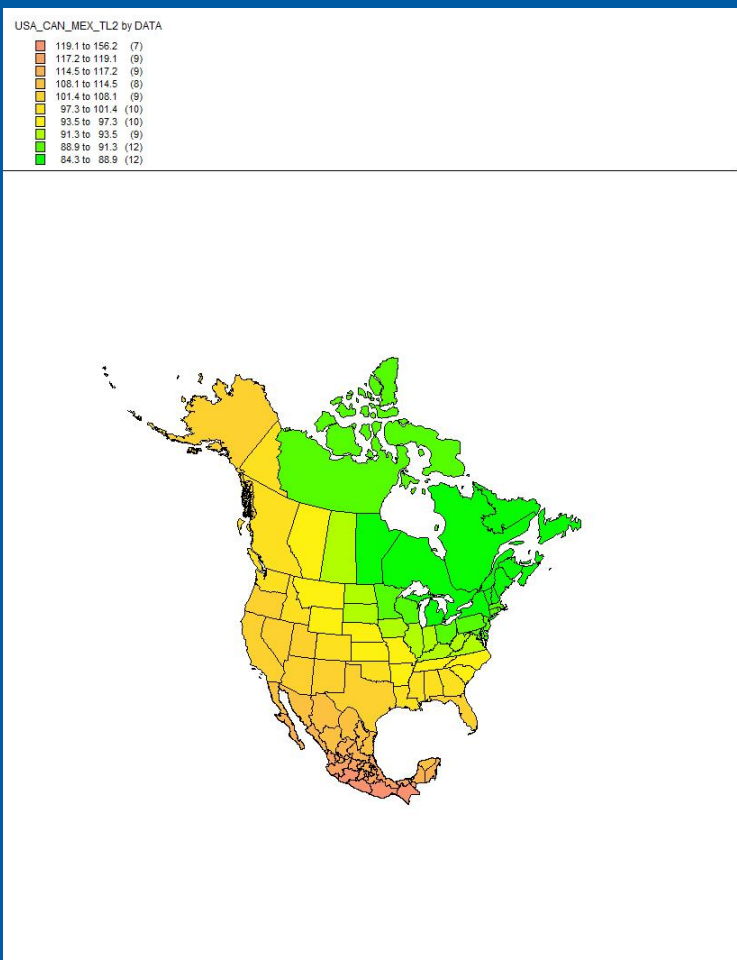
# Accessibility – total



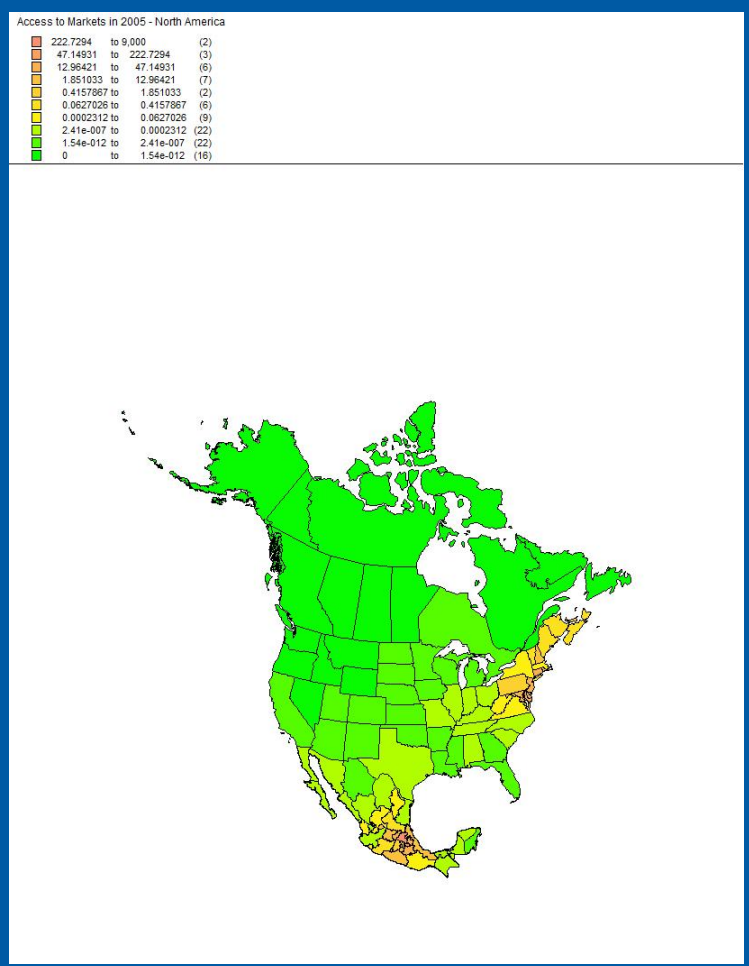
# Accessibility – total



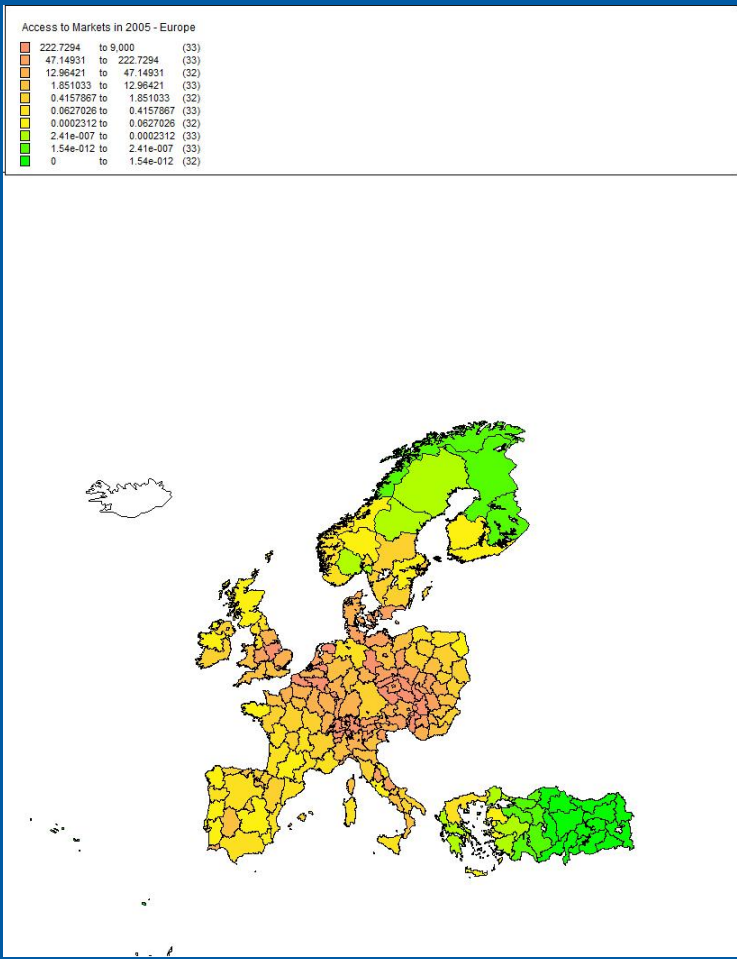
# Distance to markets -- Blocks



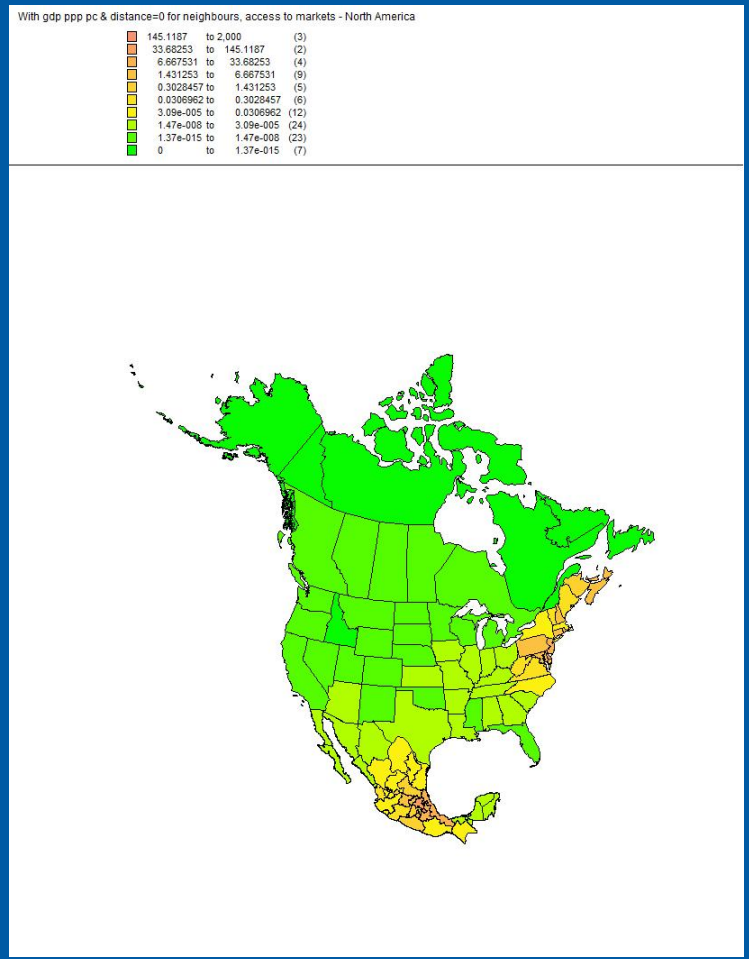
# Access to Markets – Blocks



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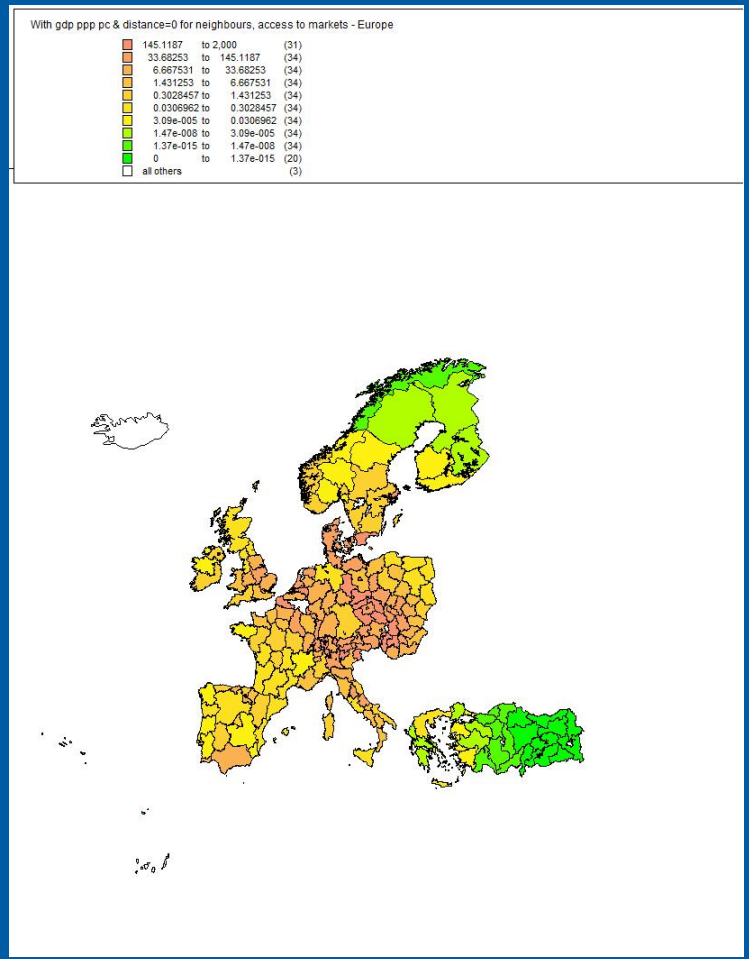


# Access to Markets – Blocks & weighted





# Access to Markets – Blocks & weighted



# Results – Cross Sectional model

- Links between geographic measures and growth:
  - By blocks
  - Contiguity

$$\frac{1}{T} \ln \left( \frac{GPD_{t+T}}{GDP} \right) = \alpha + \beta_1 \ln(GDP_t) + \beta_2 \ln(Inf_t) + \beta_3 (Pr\_Ed\_att_t) + \beta_4 \ln(Ti\_Ed\_att_t) + \\ + \beta_5 ER_t + \beta_6 \ln(Pat_t) + \beta_7 \ln(GDExp\_B_t) + \beta_8 \ln(GDExp\_G_t) + \beta_9 \ln(Spec\_Ag) \\ + \beta_{10} \ln(Spec\_Man) + \beta_{11} \ln(Market\_Dist) + \beta_{12} \ln(Accesibility)$$

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Constant	0.0268 (2.65)**	0.0013 (0.11)	0.1695 (11.54)**	0.1553 (9.06)**	0.1582 (9.33)**	0.1934 (6.44)**	0.193 (5.08)**	0.3014 (6.27)**	0.2972 (9.62)**	0.104 (1.46)	-0.0126 (-0.32)
Initial Y	-0.0006 (-0.59)	0.0012 (0.95)	-0.0122 (-9.45)**	-0.0097 (-6.21)**	-0.0094 (-5.95)**	-0.015 (-5.39)**	-0.0152 (-4.14)**	-0.0261 (-6.18)**	-0.026 (-8.6)**	-0.0214 (-5.04)**	-0.0047 (-1.2)
Infrast	---	0.0075 (0.86)	---	0.0093 (1.36)	0.0132 (1.92)	0.0156 (1.99)*	0.02 (2.31)*	0.0155 (1.89)	0.0172 (2.21)*	0.0148 (1.89)	0.0284 (3.23)**
Prim Ed	---	---	-0.0096 (-9.72)**	-0.0126 (-11.03)**	-0.0129 (-11.46)**	-0.0035 (-3.55)**	-0.004 (-2.93)**	-0.0075 (-5.06)**	-0.0079 (-5.42)**	-0.0091 (-6.36)**	---
Tert Ed	---	---	0.0076 (8.79)**	0.0091 (9.31)**	0.0097 (9.81)**	---	---	0.0089 (6.42)**	0.0087 (6.83)**	0.0096 (7.13)**	0.0067 (4.58)**
Empl rate	---	---	---	---	-0.0205 (9.33)**	---	---	---	---	---	---
Patents	---	---	---	---	---	0.0015 (2.5)**	---	---	---	---	---
R&D total	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.0019 (1.71)	-0.0007 (-0.47)	---	-0.0009 (-0.6)	---
R&D busin	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-0.0026 (-2.3)*
R&D gov	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.0028 (2.98)**
R&D HEI	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-0.0078 (-5.81)**
Sp Agric	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-0.0014 (-2.04)*	-0.0009 (-1.41)	-0.001 (-1.65)	---
Sp Man	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-0.0047 (-2.89)**	-0.0052 (-3.62)**	-0.0028 (-1.77)	---
Sp Fin	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.0029 (2.02)*	0.0031 (2.32)*	0.0014 (0.96)	0.0015 (1.03)
Mkt Access	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.0002 (0.39)	0.0009 (1.75)	---	0.0013 (2.19)*
Dist Mkts	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.0333 (3.67)**	---
R <sup>2</sup>	0.0011	0.0082	0.2916	0.3235	0.3451	0.1652	0.1515	0.4712	0.4728	0.5111	0.4014
Adj R <sup>2</sup>	-0.002	0.0019	0.2989	0.3134	0.3329	0.1505	0.1338	0.442	0.4493	0.4841	0.3717
F	0.35	1.29	40.93**	32.16**	28.24**	11.23**	8.57**	16.14**	20.17**	18.94**	13.5**
N	333	315	292	274	274	232	197	173	189	173	170

# Conclusion

- Geography matters for growth
  - Consistent with previous studies :

*Agglomeration Economies and Regional Comparative Advantages:  
New Evidence from Regional Employment Clusters*

- Accessibility affects growth:
  - Only when R&D is accounted
- Distance to markets affects growth (unexpected sign)
  - Problem of measurement
  - Development – far from steady state