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"The proof of the apple is in the eating!"

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ABSTRACT

Urban/Rural Areas:

Population density (from a 1 km² grid), land cover and remoteness as basic elements for an urban/rural typology at LAU2 level.

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Urban/rural typologies currently implemented by European institutions (DG-Regio, Eurostat) or the OECD have been changed in the last few years. They rely now on building urban clusters and urban centres (high density clusters) from a 1 Km² population density grid. The origin of the typology is then administrative boundary free, but current definitions still rely only on demographic information.

Building on previous work by European Commission/Joint Research Centre, we incorporate into the urban/rural typology, at LAU2 level, information on: (*i*) **land cover** ("open space" *versus* "close space" communes), and (ii) **accessibility** ("accessible" *versus* "peripheral" or "remote" communes). In all cases, we use high resolution geographical information. A review of available data sets for accessibility network analysis is performed, with special emphasis on public and freely available data. From all this, a more complete picture of the urban/rural dichotomy emerges.

Given the previous classification, we describe the demographic and economic characteristics of remote rural LAU2´s, in relation to accessible rural communes, and also with respect to urban LAU2´s and cities. For this last exercise, an attempt to downscale disposable net income per capita at commune level, from the EU-SILC, is done using small area estimation (SAE) techniques.