

OECD Report launch

Getting to Services in Towns and Villages

26-27 June 2024 | Ispra, Italy and online

Workshop on degree of urbanisation, Wednesday 26 June 14:30 CET:

Spanish translation in Zoom

https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_POwcN0xgQ0q4PLim45Os7g

Report launch, Thursday 27 June 9:30 CET:

https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AhHfFOBHQSWAQ-K4VpRbgw



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Report launch

Getting to Services in Towns and Villages: Preparing regions for demographic change

■ Background

The majority of the OECD population resides in settlements (cities, towns or villages). Yet settlements contain more than just housing. Most settlements provide employment opportunities along with important services such as schools, banks and hospitals. The presence and accessibility of good-quality services in settlements can enhance economic growth and wellbeing for the whole region. Likewise, a lack of services can have many negative regional impacts. The OECD report, *Getting to Services in Towns and Villages: Preparing regions for demographic change*, measures provision of and access to services on an international scale. It uses the degree of urbanisation to define settlements and focuses on towns and villages.

Cross-country comparisons by degree of urbanisation hold tremendous value for policy. Differences across regions and countries can inform policy makers about which services are provided locally or supralocally, affecting investments in services and land use decisions from the public and private sectors. The efficient organisation of services and transport links across settlements – cities, towns and villages – can help meet net-zero goals and promote access to services for everyone.

■ Key topics

The **day-ahead workshop** features presentations by statistical agency officials who will talk about the uses of population grids and the degree of urbanisation in their national contexts.

The **launch event** showcases the newly published OECD report, which analyses the geography of services in OECD countries. The report also relates service provision to transport links (and travel times) between settlements and to population change.

The workshop and launch event will discuss the following questions:

- How can population grids and the degree of urbanisation inform national and international policy research?
- How can we source more and better data on economic activity and service provision in towns and villages?
- What indicators can help policymakers understand and address the geography of ageing and demographic change?
- Can population grids help countries measure rural-urban linkages? What transport (or mobility) measures are available, and how do they differ from the commuting measures used to define functional urban areas?

■ Venue

European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra Italy

Via Enrico Fermi, 2749, 21027 Ispra (VA), Italy. The following link provides more information:
https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-sites-across-europe/jrc-ispra-italy_en

Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference. There is a security check before entering the Ispra site, where **registered participants will need to show a form of ID**.

Agenda

[Central European Time]

26 June 2024 Workshop on degree of urbanisation

Spanish translation (in Zoom) for workshop: 14:30-17:00 Italy time; 8:30-11am Ottawa/New York time

14.30-14.45

Opening remarks

Jorge Durán Laguna, Head of Economic Analysis and Regional Statistics – European Commission (EC) DG-REGIO

Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division – OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE)

14.45-15.40

Using the degree of urbanisation for national statistics

MODERATOR

Hugo Poelman, Statistical expert

14.45-15.00

STATISTICAL EXPERT

Dennis Mwaniki, Spatial Data Expert – UN-Habitat

15.00-15.15

STATISTICAL EXPERT

Michael Ratcliffe, Senior Advisor – US Census Bureau

15.15-15.30

STATISTICAL EXPERT

Birkan Ergüç, Head of GIS Group – Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK)

15.30-15.40

STATISTICAL EXPERT

Peter Murphy, Chief of Research, Geospatial and Geographic Concepts, Standards and Areas – Statistics Canada ([online](#))

15.40-16.00

Afternoon break

16.00-17.00

Panel discussion: open for questions

MODERATOR

Lewis Dijkstra, Team Lead – EC Joint Research Centre (JRC)

PANEL

Hugo Poelman, **Dennis Mwaniki**, **Michael Ratcliffe**, **Birkan Ergüç**,
Peter Murphy

19.30- 22.00

Event dinner

27 June 2024 Report launch

9:30-9:50

Opening remarks

9.30-9.50

Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division – OECD CFE

Jorge Durán Laguna, Head of Economic Analysis and Regional Statistics – EC DG-REGIO

9:50-10:20

The geography of services in towns and villages

9.50-10.10

PRESENTER

Alison Weingarden, Economist – OECD CFE

10.10-10.20

DISCUSSANT

Hugo Poelman, Statistical expert

10.20-10.50

Transport and access to services

10.20-10.40

PRESENTER

Alison Weingarden, Economist – OECD CFE

10.40-10.50

DISCUSSANT

Alessandro Alasia, Assistant Director – Statistics Canada

10.50-11.20		Morning break
11.20-12.00		Population change in towns close to and far from cities
11.20-11.40	PRESENTER	David Burgalassi , Economist – OECD CFE
11.40-11.50	DISCUSSANT	Fabrizio Natale – Team Leader, Demography and Migration Unit – EC Joint Research Centre (JRC)
11.50-12.10		Closing remarks
		Martijn Brons , Project Officer – European Commission
		Ana Moreno Monroy , Head of Unit – OECD CFE

■ About the report

Across the world, people's daily activities centre around clusters of population and economic activity. Settlements – cities, towns and villages – provide jobs and access to services for their own residents and others nearby. Spatial access is especially important for those with socioeconomic disadvantages and for older populations, particularly persons with mobility challenges. It is also key to promoting vibrant communities and greater access to services can help the environment by reducing passenger vehicle emissions. Thriving settlements can promote wellbeing while addressing societal challenges in regions and countries.

This report describes the interaction between geography and access to services. It measures and analyses three main aspects (1) The spatial configuration of settlements; (2) Accessibility – the travel time associated with accessing settlements of different sizes via car and public transport modes; and (3) Services – public and private services that are available and accessible across a variety of domains including health, finance and education. Numerous policy interventions hinge on improving service accessibility.

Understanding the complex interactions between geography, transportation infrastructure, and service provision is essential for regional development policies. The type of quantitative analysis in this report is especially crucial for places experiencing population decline, predominantly in rural areas.

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

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