

Urban Audit

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Chapter 1

The European context

The European context

- How the Urban Audit has contributed to the discussion on the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy
 - 3rd Cohesion Report
 - City Summit and the Bristol Conference
 - Cities and the Lisbon Agenda
 - Cohesion Policy and Cities
 - Regulations 2007-2013 on Cohesion and Regional Policy

3rd Cohesion Report

- Published in February 2004
- Included a box on Urban Audit focused on issues such as high concentrations of unemployment, crime and pollution in cities.
- Included a more general analysis of urban regions and the concentration of economic activity in the "pentagon" between London, Paris, Milan, Hamburg and Berlin.

(http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/interim3_en.htm)



City Summit

City Summit in Noordwijk/Leiden in October 2004

- Official opening of the urban audit website and the Urban Audit 2004 book covering 189 cities in the EU15
- Presentation of a first analysis of the urban audit

Bristol Conference December 2005

- Publication of the data for the 69 cities outside the EU15 on the official website and updating of the book
- Presentation of "Cohesion Policy and Cities" paper and the "Cities and the Lisbon Agenda" report

(http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/urban/com_2006_0385_it.pdf)



Cities and the Lisbon Agenda

Focus both on urban problems and potential in relation to the Lisbon Agenda of Growth and Jobs.

Main Questions are:

- Are European cities attractive places to work and invest?
- Are European cities innovative and entrepreneurial?
- Who works in the city?
- How big are the disparities in cities?

It includes examples of good practices for a wide range of cities

Regulations 2007–2013 on Cohesion and Regional Policy

- More growth and jobs for all regions and cities of the European Union – this message will be at the heart of Cohesion Policy and its instruments between 2007 and 2013.
- The investment made by the EU through cohesion instruments will be worth EUR 308 billion (in 2004 prices) to support regional growth agendas and to stimulate job creation.
- Cohesion Policy (2007-2013) Indicative financial allocation for Italy: 25 647 Million EUR

More info: COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006
(http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm)



Chapter 2

Developments in Urban Statistics at European level



Our Mandate

Eurostat's mission is to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service.

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Its task is to provide the European Union with statistics at European level that enable **comparisons** between countries and regions.

This is a key task. Democratic societies do not function properly without a solid basis of reliable and objective statistics.



Why Urban Statistics ?

“**Cohesion**” is the basis of Regional EU Policy, aiming at **fewer disparities** between European regions

Cities (urban agglomerations) play a specific and important role in this policy goal

Hence: In the mid 90s, the Commission saw a growing need for **reliable, quantitative** urban data

- **Eurostat was commissioned by DG REGIO to carry out the Urban Audit project**

Until then, no comparable urban statistics existed at a EU level, very little at national levels



Focus on Urban Statistics

Start of the Urban Audit in 1999 (pilot project)

Urban Audit II (Reference year 2001)

Historical Urban Audit (Reference year
1991&1996)

UA declared "**core business**" by Eurostat end
of 2004

Quality project of Urban Audit II

Urban Audit 2006 is launched



Chapter 3

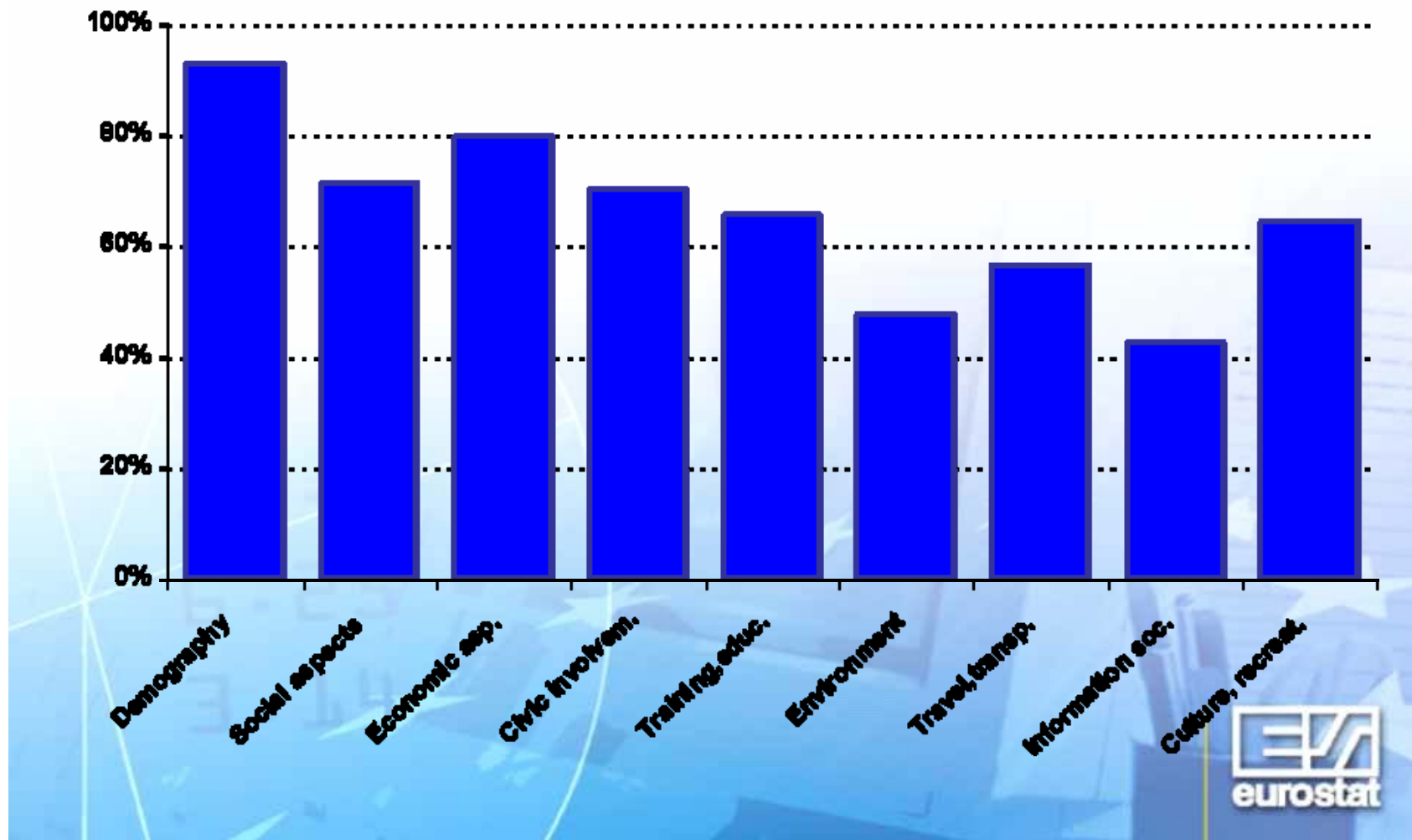
Some results from Urban Audit II

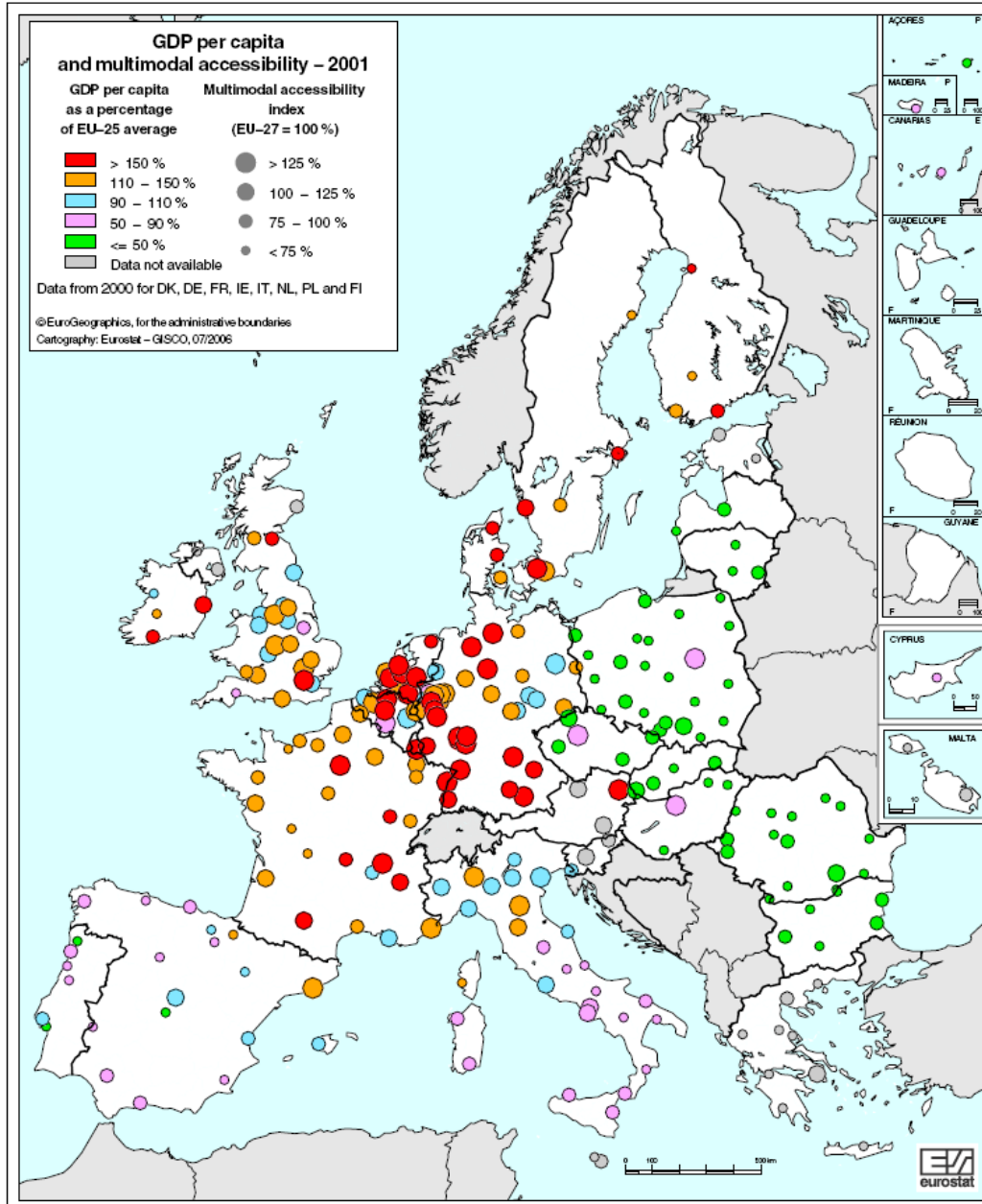


Dimensions of the Urban Audit II dataset

- More than 300 variables collected
- More than 260 indicators (derived series) calculated
- Reference periods:
1989-1993; 1994-1998 (reduced data set) 1999-2003 (complete data set)
- Four spatial units:
core city (complete data set)
larger urban zone, kernel, sub-city information (reduced data set)

Average response rates by theme

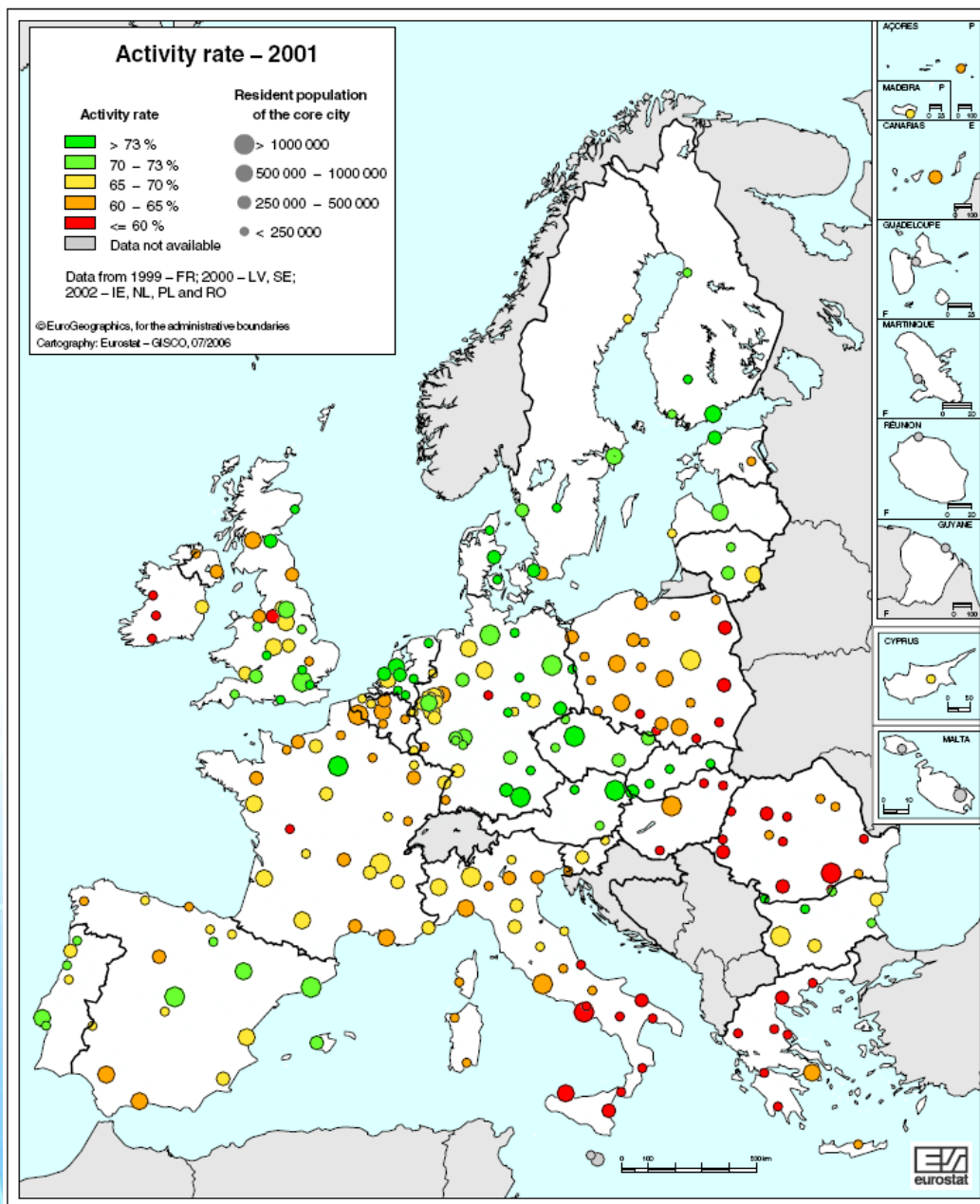


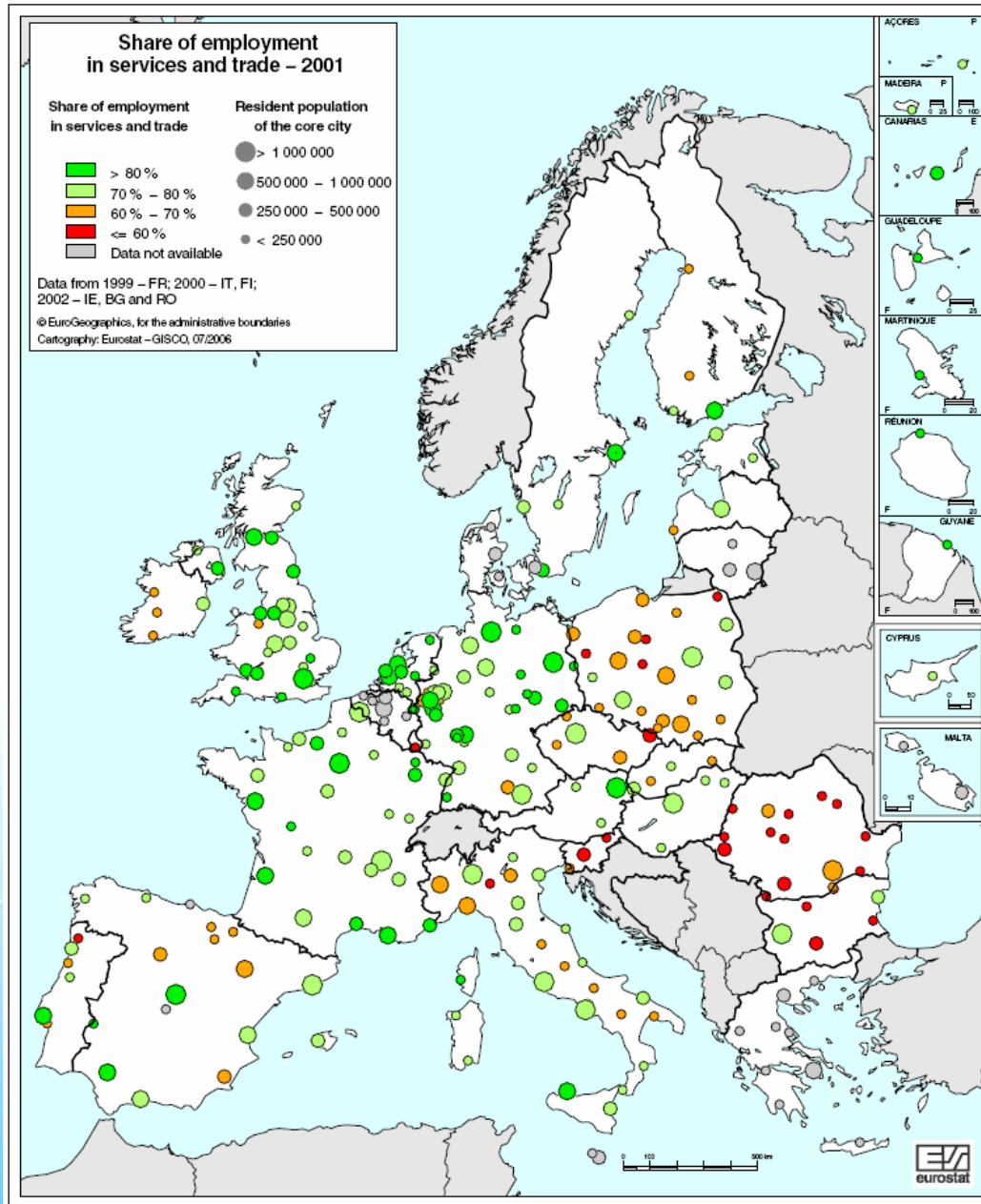


Geographical coverage of the Urban Audit

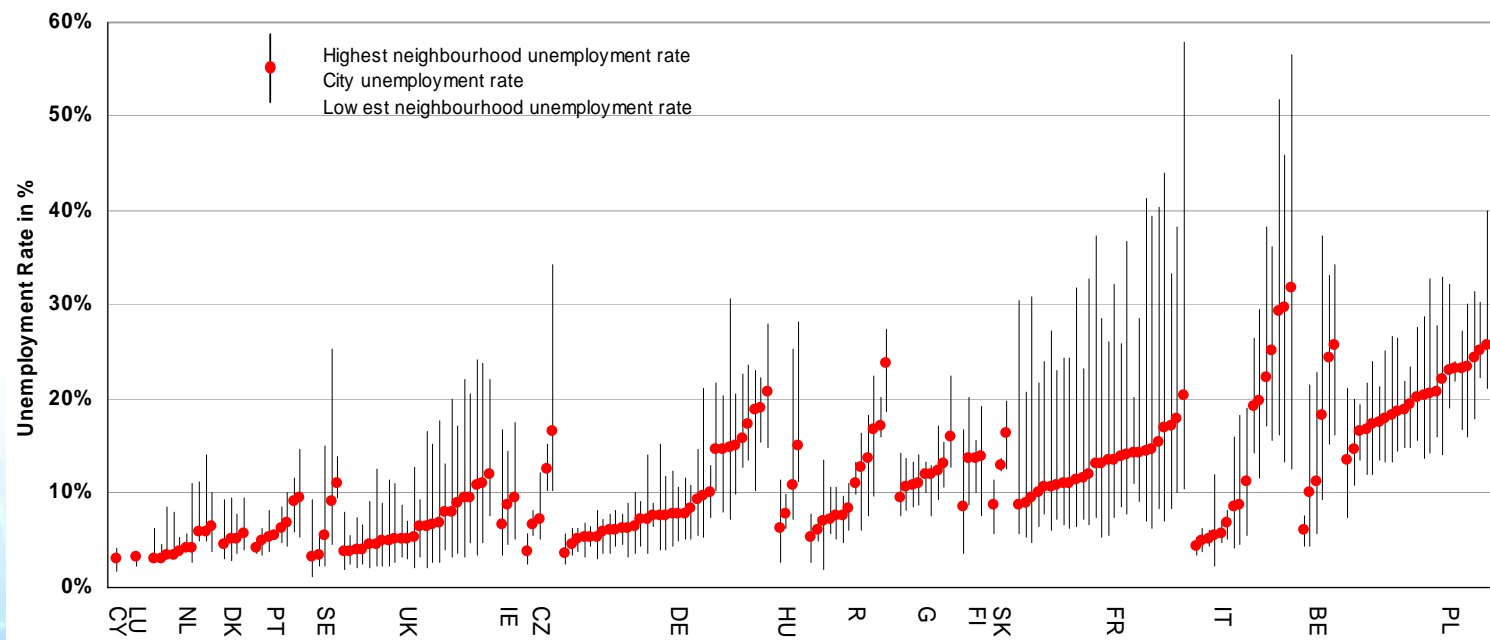
189 EU15
 69 EU12
 26 Turkey







Neighbourhood unemployment in large and midsize cities in 2001



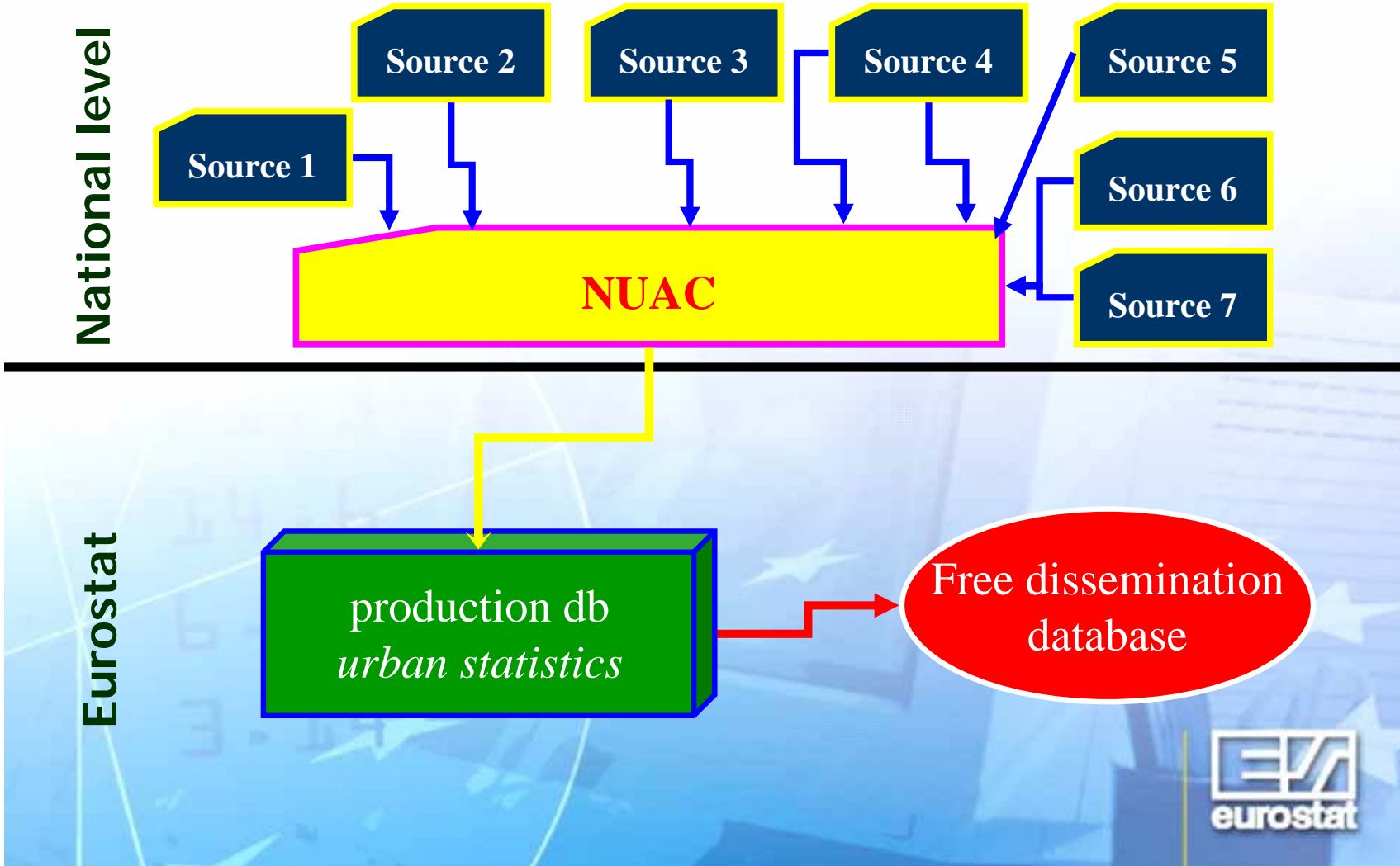
Source: Urban Audit



Chapter 4

Organization of the Urban Audit 2006





The National Urban Audit coordinator

- receives the data from the cities or other sources (central database, regional statistical offices)
- checks the data quality, in particular the comparability of data
- sends the data to Eurostat in an agreed format
- gives methodological advice to data collectors
- discusses with Eurostat the meaningfulness of variables and indicators
- discusses with Eurostat methodological issues



The city statisticians

- collect part of the Urban Audit data
- take care that their data is comparable with the data of other cities
- transmit the data to the NUAC in a standardised format
- discuss methodological issues with the NUAC

Eurostat

- Co-ordinates the data collection at European level
- Facilitates discussion and takes decisions in statistical questions (methodology)
- Checks several quality aspects of the data
- Co-finances the grants and contracts in connection with the Urban Audit
- Disseminates the data

Final remark

The organisational set-up is necessarily quite complex, due to the nature of the data sources

It only works thanks to the good will of all participants and the dedication to our goal:

Provide users with meaningful statistics about the quality of life in cities



Thank you!

Any questions?

