

Teodora Brandmueller

Statistical Office, Eurostat, Regional statistics and geographical information, Luxembourg

European City Statistics - Prospects for the Future

Abstract

Cities are places where many of Europe's challenges can be dealt with, such as unemployment, social divides and pollution. Cities are at the same time places of opportunities to boost growth, create jobs and enhance competitiveness for the benefit of all. On the one hand, the importance of cities to effectively implement EU policies is unchallenged, on the other hand establishing cities in the statistical geography is a recent development. Measuring certain social, economic and environmental phenomena at such a detailed geographical level creates new challenges for the European Statistical System.

Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) have been collecting data on more than 900 European cities in the past years. The goal of the data collection is to contribute towards the improvement of the quality of urban life: it supports the exchange of experience among European cities; it facilitates benchmarking at the European level and provides information on the dynamics within the cities and with their surroundings. However, Eurostat is challenged to gather and compile even more detailed data, with a view to efficiently adjust the existing policies and shaping the future ones.

These new challenges call for the use of new data sources and new methods. New data sources include open and big data sources as well as the use of geospatial data. New methods include the use of technology embedded in smart systems aiming at transforming data into knowledge and present it in the form of statistics: Trusted Smart Statistics. This presentation will focus on the different pathways and show pilot projects addressing these challenges.