



Typology of municipalities and urban-rural typology

Description

The typology of municipalities 2012 is based on the model used to define the Areas with urban character 2012, which uses criteria that are both morphological (density) and functional (commuter flows). It comprises 9 or 25 categories. The 9 categories are defined using the criteria of density, size and accessibility. Socio-economic criteria are added for the subdivision into 25 categories.

The urban-rural typology 2012 is derived from the typology of municipalities in 9 categories and consists of 3 categories: in addition to the "urban and "rural" categories, an "intermediate" category has been introduced.

These two typologies replace the previous typologies.

Revisions 1990, 2000 and 2017

Current version: version published in 2017, based on data from 2011 to 2013

Methodology

Typology of municipalities

- 9 categories (defined by density, size and accessibility)
- 25 categories (differentiated by socio-economic criteria)

Urban-rural typology:

- 3 categories (based on the 9 categories of the municipality typology)
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Revision policy

The FSO periodically updates and revises all the non-institutional geographical levels.

Update:

The perimeters of non-institutional divisions are regularly modified to take into account changes taking place at institutional level (e.g. municipal mergers). With each change, the FSO re-evaluates the affiliation of the new communes to the various spatial divisions.

Reassessment:

A country's spatial structure changes over time. The FSO aims to keep track of these developments by updating the spatial divisions roughly every 10 years, i.e. by using the same calculation method but with new data. Exceptionally, the threshold values may be adapted.

Methodological revision:

In order to ensure that data can be compared over time, revision of the calculation methods and definitions occurs less frequently (approximately every 20 to 30 years).

Legal basis

Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992 (FStatA)
Multi-annual programme for federal statistics

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office
Buildings and Dwellings Section, Spatial nomenclature service
Environment, Sustainable Development, Territory Section
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