



Spatial divisions – Mountain regions

Description

The main objective of the statistical definition of the mountain regions is to allow statistical analyses differentiating between municipalities in mountain regions and other municipalities. It does not in any way replace the existing sectoral definitions currently used by the Federal Administration in the fields of agriculture or forestry, for example. A municipality in mountain regions is a municipality where the majority of the territory is located at a high altitude or on mountainous terrain.

Methodology

Methodology used:

Using the hectometric grid and the digital terrain model, the first step is to identify the mountain hectares:

- From 800m altitude (average value per hectare): all hectares are considered as "mountainous"
- Below 800m altitude (average value per hectare): only those hectares with a difference in altitude of 225m or more between the minimum and maximum altitudes of the hectares within a radius of 500m are considered to be "mountainous".

The results of these calculations are then scaled up to the municipality level. A municipality is considered to be part of the mountain regions if more than 50% of its surface (calculated on the hectometric basis) is in the mountain region (the surface of the municipality without lakes of more than 5 km² is taken into account).

Enclaves and exclaves are removed.

Variables used:

Digital elevation model (DEM) SwissAlti3D, Swisstopo
Copernicus DEM - Global and European Digital Elevation Model

Basic data reference period:

Current version: 2019

Degree of regionalisation:

Municipalities

Revision policy

The FSO periodically updates and revises all the non-institutional spatial divisions.

Update:

Modifications are limited to regularly updating the perimeters of non-institutional spatial divisions to the changes taking place at institutional level (e.g. municipal mergers). For every change, the FSO reassesses the assignment of new municipalities to the various spatial divisions.

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

Environment, Sustainable Development, Territory Section

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