

Applying the degree of urbanisation: a methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons: 2021 edition



user guide research report

Monografía

'Applying the degree of urbanisation - methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for international comparisons' has been produced in close collaboration by six organisations - the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHabitat), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and The World Bank. This manual develops a harmonised methodology to facilitate international statistical comparisons and to classify the entire territory of a country along an urban-rural continuum. The degree of urbanisation classification defines cities, towns and semi-dense areas, and rural areas. This first level of the classification may be complemented by a range of more detailed concepts, such as: metropolitan areas, commuting zones, dense towns, semi-dense towns, suburban or periurban areas, villages, dispersed rural areas and mostly uninhabited areas. The manual is intended to complement and not replace the definitions used by national statistical offices (NSOs) and ministries. It has been designed principally as a guide for data producers, suppliers and statisticians so that they have the necessary information to implement the methodology and ensure coherency within their data collections. It may also be of interest to users of subnational statistics so they may better understand, interpret and use official subnational statistics for taking informed decisions and policymaking

Título: Applying the degree of urbanisation a methodological manual to define cities, towns and rural areas for

international comparisons: 2021 edition

Edición: 2021 edition

Editorial: Luxembourg Publications Office of the European Union 2021

Descripción física: 1 online resource (97 pages)

Mención de serie: Manuals and guidelines

Nota general: Manuscript completed in December 2020

Restricciones de acceso: Open access. Unrestricted online access star

ISBN: 9789276203063 9276203060

Materia: urbanisation town rural settlement rural region policymaking European Commission FAO. UN-Habitat International Labour Organisation OECD. World Bank comparative analysis official statistics data collection

Materia Geográfica: EU Member State

Entidades: Comisión Europea. Statistical Office of the European Union Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económico Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación United Nations Human Settlements Programme Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento

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