



Measuring SDGs by Degree of Urbanisation across the globe

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Abstract:

The Degree of Urbanisation was developed to facilitate the comparison of Sustainable Development Goal indicators for cities and urban and rural areas across national borders. The Degree of Urbanisation is a harmonised, global definition endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, which complements national definitions of urban and rural areas, but does not replace them.

To highlight the interest and the feasibility of producing SDG indicators by degree of urbanisation, this manual includes examples of indicators from 12 of the 17 goals for a range of countries across the globe. The indicators tend to have a clear urban gradient with cities at one end, rural areas at the other and with towns and semi-dense areas in between. In some cases, cities tend to fare better, for example in terms of access to education, in others, rural areas tend to do better, for example in terms of personal safety.

The indicators are derived from a variety of data sources, including household surveys, telephone surveys, census, geo-spatial data and remote sensing. Some of these indicators will have close to global coverage, while others will focus on Europe, sub-Saharan Africa or low and middle-income countries.

This presentation aims to highlight how the Degree of Urbanisation can be used to produce SDG indicators for cities, towns and rural areas in a highly cost effective manner. It shows how producing indicators using harmonised definitions can facilitate policy evaluations and the exchange of experience between different countries.

Keywords:

Cities; Rural areas; Towns; Urbanisation; SDGs;

References:

1. Methodological Manual on how to apply the Degree of Urbanisation: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-02-20-499>
2. UN Statistical Commission Document on the Degree of Urbanisation: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3j-Recommendation-E.pdf>
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FOR THE PAPER IS SIX PAGES**