

Developing a global definition of cities and rural areas?

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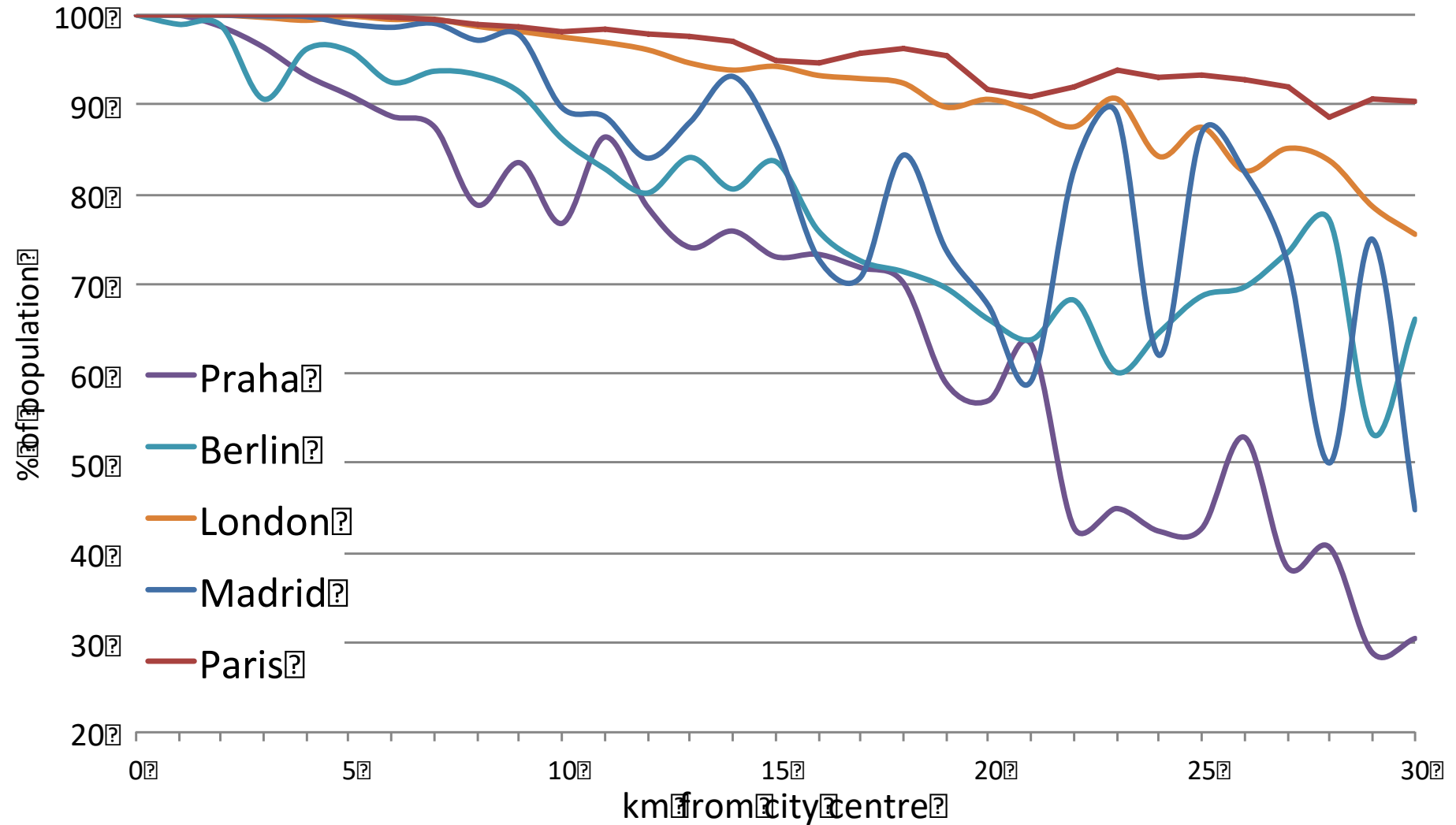
Introduction

- 2016 Work on global definition launched at Habitat III conference by European Union, OECD and World Bank
- 2017 Side-event at UN Statistical Commission as part of UNGGIM
- 2017 Expert workshop in Brussels organised by UN-Habitat
- 2017-18 FAO, ILO and UN-Habitat join the coalition
- 2018 Dedicated side-event at UN Statistical Commission
- 2019 UN Expert meeting and dedicated side event
- 2019 Presented for information at UN Statistical Commission
- 2020 UN Statistical Commission for discussion and approval ?
- 2021 Implementation post census ?

These Urban SDG indicators are very sensitive to the city boundaries

- 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport
- 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
- 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities
- 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all

Access to public transport by distance to centre



These SDG indicators are sensitive to what settlements are called rural

- *3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution*
- *4.1.1 Children in school & proficiency*
- *4.6.1 Adult literacy and numeracy*
- *6.1.1 Access to safe drinking water*
- *7.1.1 Access to electricity*
- *8.10.1 Use of banking services*
- *9.c.1 Coverage by mobile network*
- *9.1.1 % of rural population with access to an all weather road*

National definitions vary and are often not statistical

- *75 countries use population size or density, but thresholds and spatial units vary*
- *47 use a combination of population and other indicators*
- *10 use other indicators than population*
- *100 countries use administrative designations, **not a statistical definition** that can be replicated in other countries*

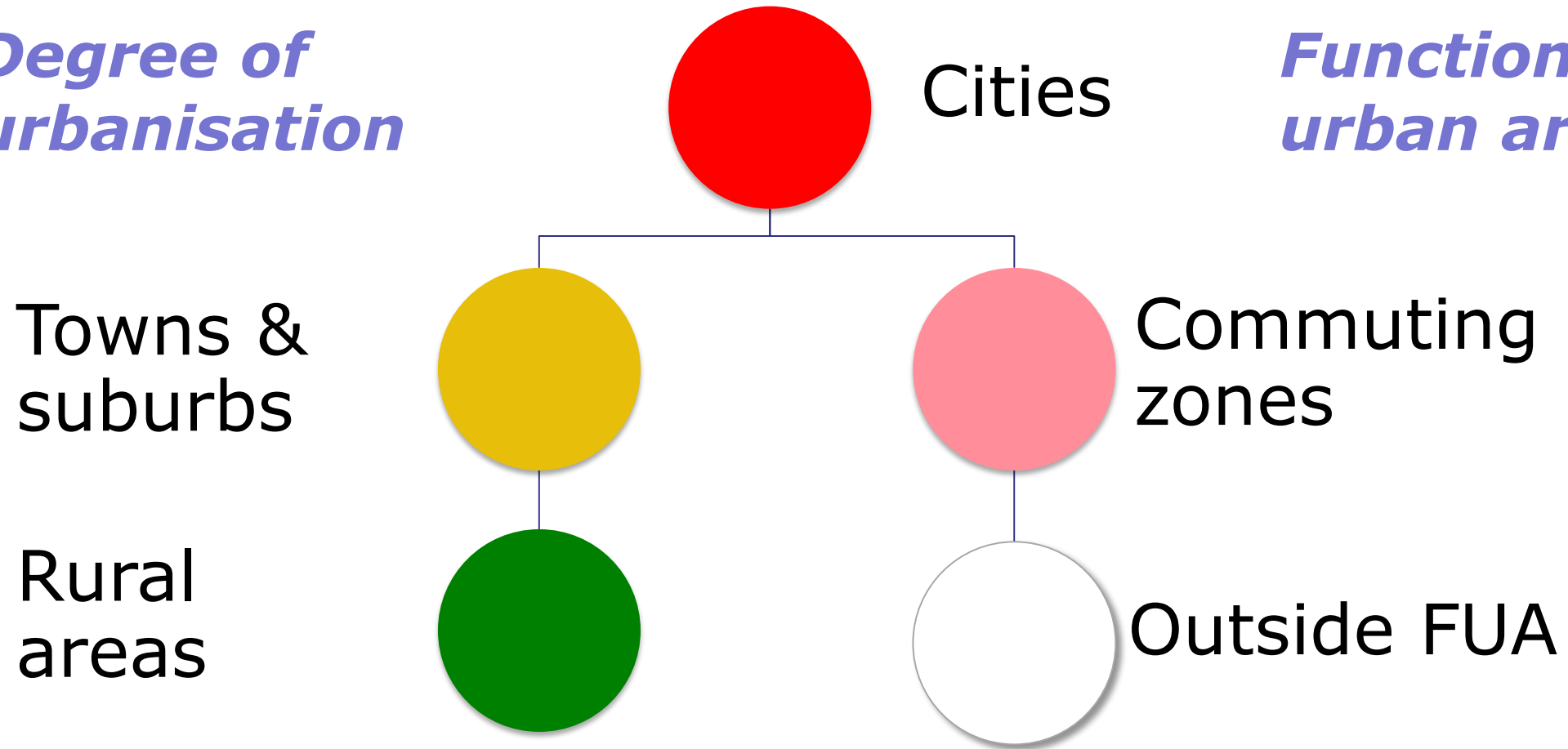
DEGREE OF URBANISATION

LEVEL 1

Two definitions with a common element: Cities

*Degree of
urbanisation*

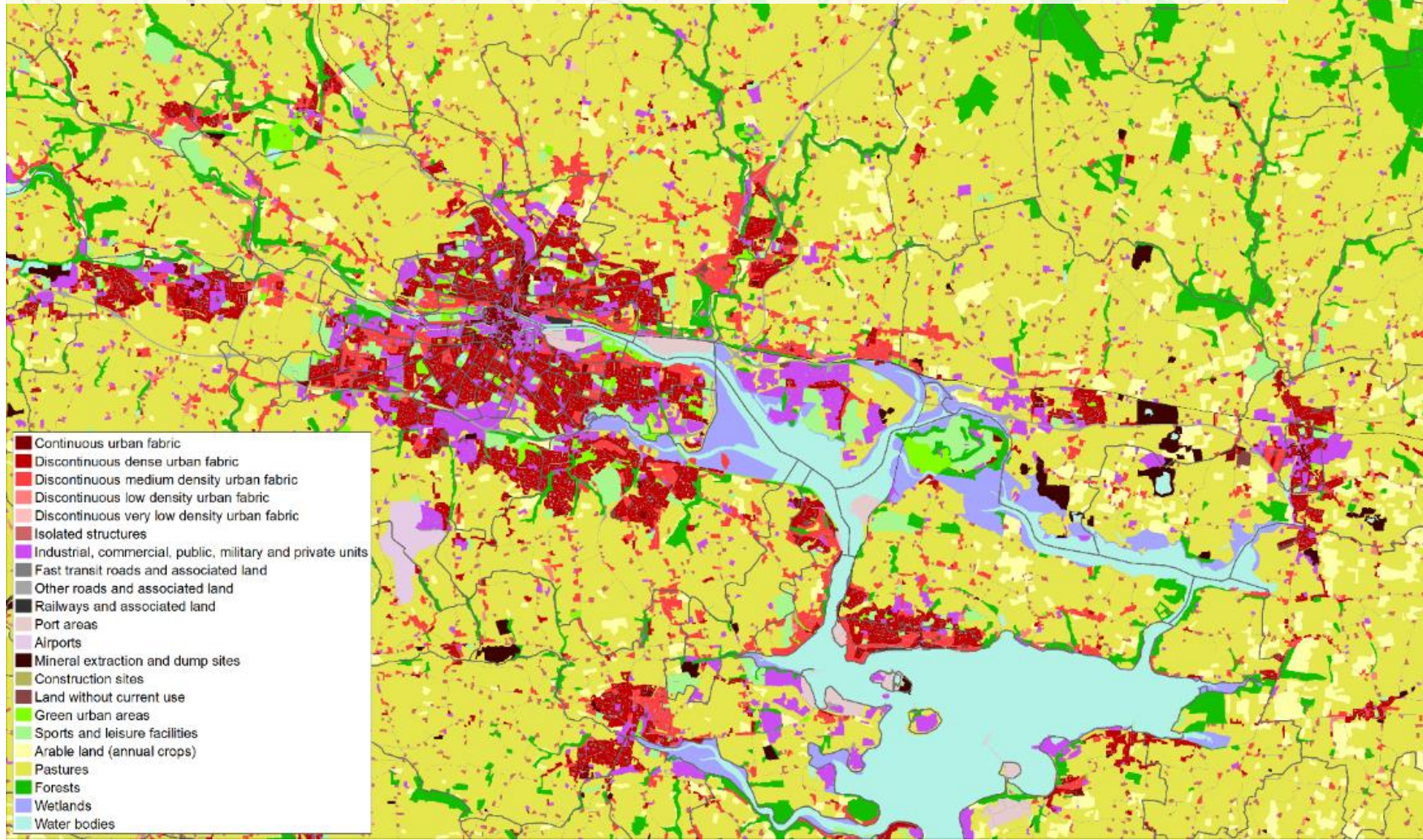
*Functional
urban area*



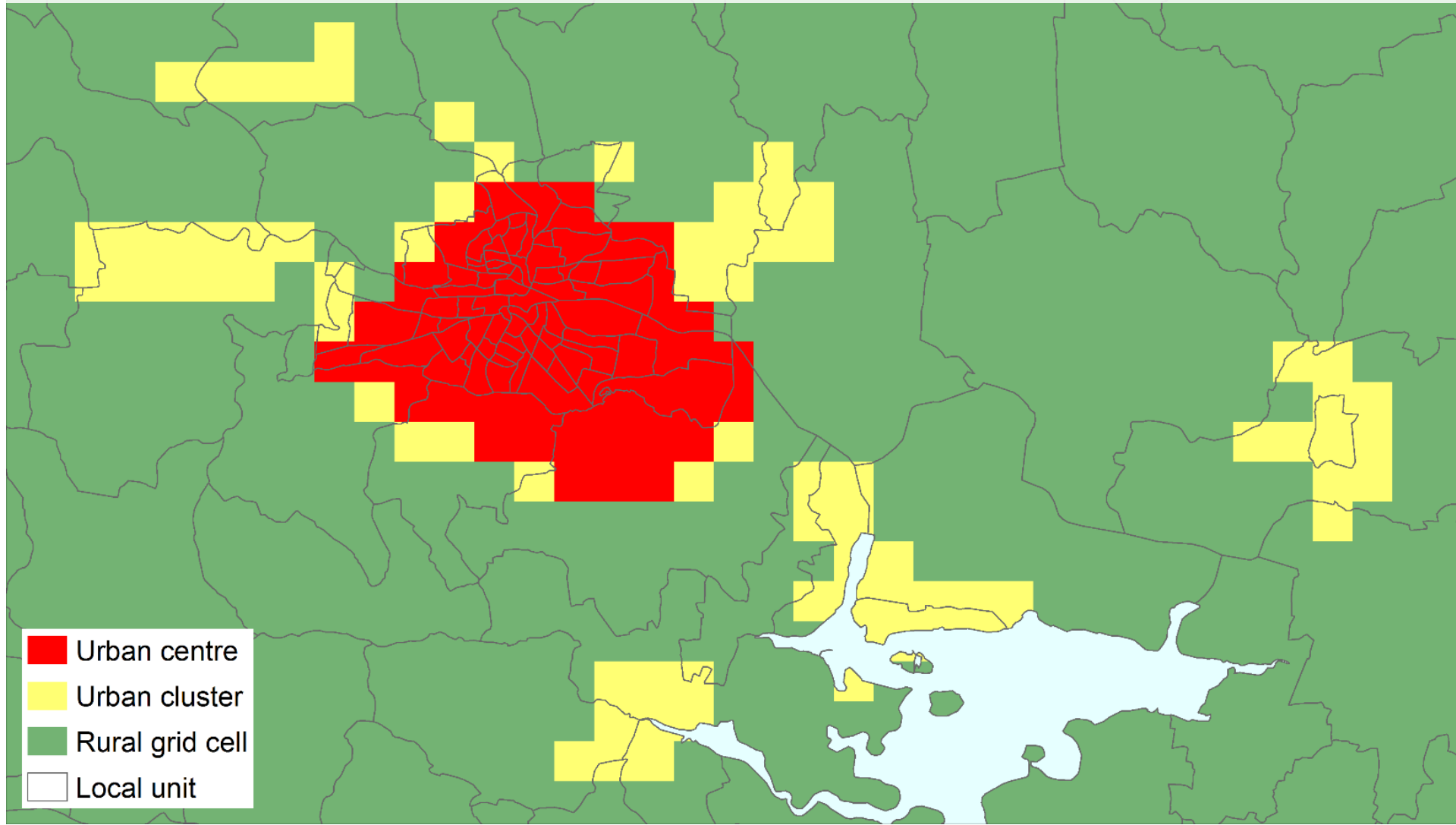
Three types of grid cells

<i>Urban centres</i>	<i>Contiguous cells with density above 1,500 residents per km² or at least 50% built-up and at least 50,000 people in the centre</i>
<i>Urban Clusters</i>	<i>Contiguous cells with a density above 300 residents per km² and at least 5,000 people in the cluster</i>
<i>Rural grid cells</i>	<i>Cells with a density below 300 residents per km² and other cells outside urban clusters and centres</i>

Cork, Ireland Land use Map



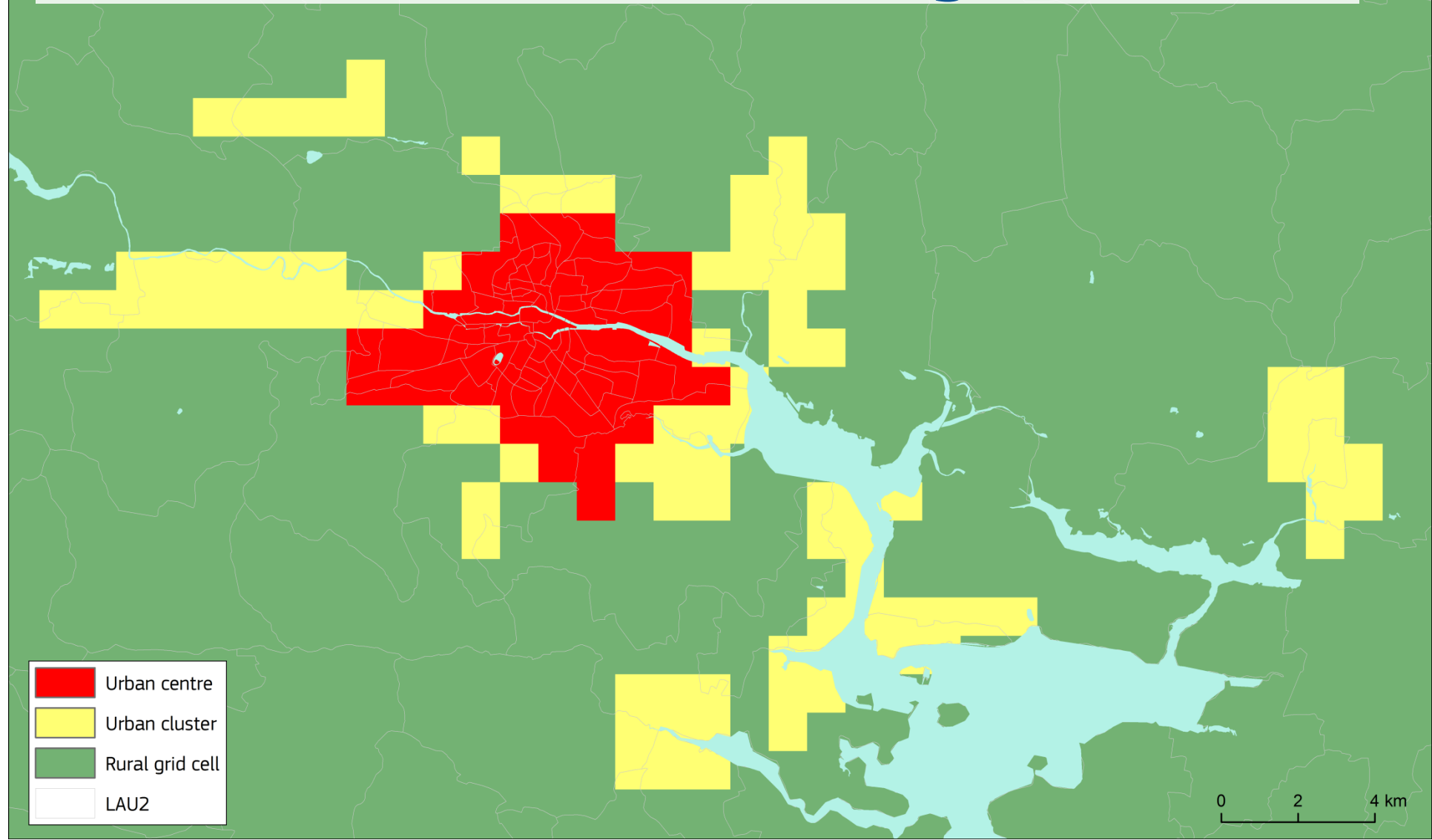
Cork, Ireland: Urban centre, urban clusters and rural grid cells



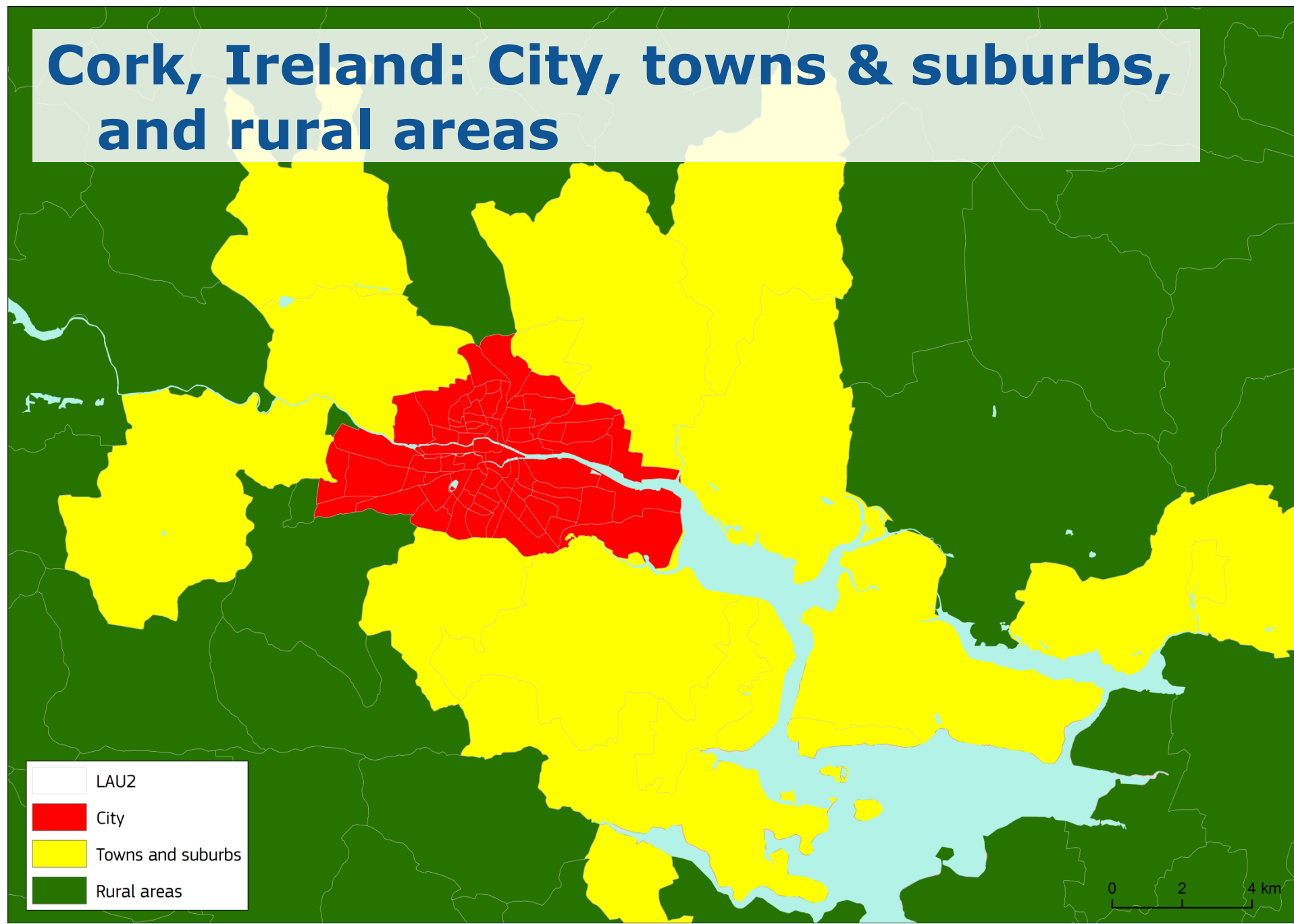
Three types of local units

<i>Urban area</i>	<i>Cities + towns and suburbs</i>
<i>Cities</i>	<i>> 50% population in urban centres</i>
<i>Towns and suburbs</i>	<i>> 50% population in urban clusters and not classified as city</i>
<i>Rural area</i>	<i>> 50% population in rural grid cells</i>

Cork, Ireland: Urban centre, urban clusters and rural grid cells



Cork, Ireland: City, towns & suburbs, and rural areas



DEGREE OF URBANISATION

LEVEL 2: TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Degree of urbanisation: Level 1 & 2

City

Towns &
suburbs

Rural area

City

Town

Suburb

Village

Dispersed
rural area

Mostly
un-
inhabited

The level 2 of degree of urbanisation ...



Suburbs are contiguous with or within 2km of a city and/or a dense town

... captures the full settlement hierarchy

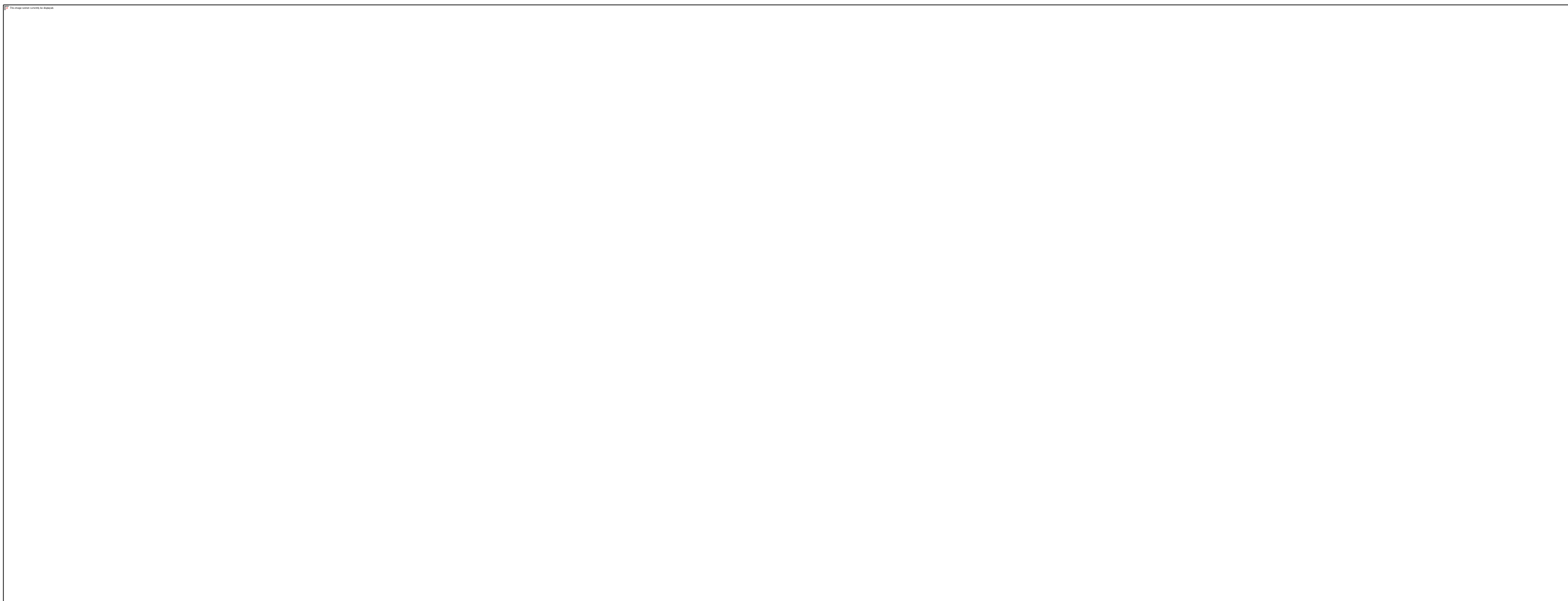


Suburbs are contiguous with or within 2km
of a city and/or a dense town

EU-OECD Functional Urban Area definition used three concepts

- **Urban centre:** Contiguous grid cells with at least **1,500** inhabitants per km² and at least **50,000** inhabitants in the centre
- **City:** one or more municipalities with at least **50%** of their population in an **urban centre**
- **Commuting zone:** Contiguous municipalities with at least **15%** of their employed population working in the **city**
- **Functional Urban Area** = City + Commuting zone

EU-OECD City definition: Graz, Austria

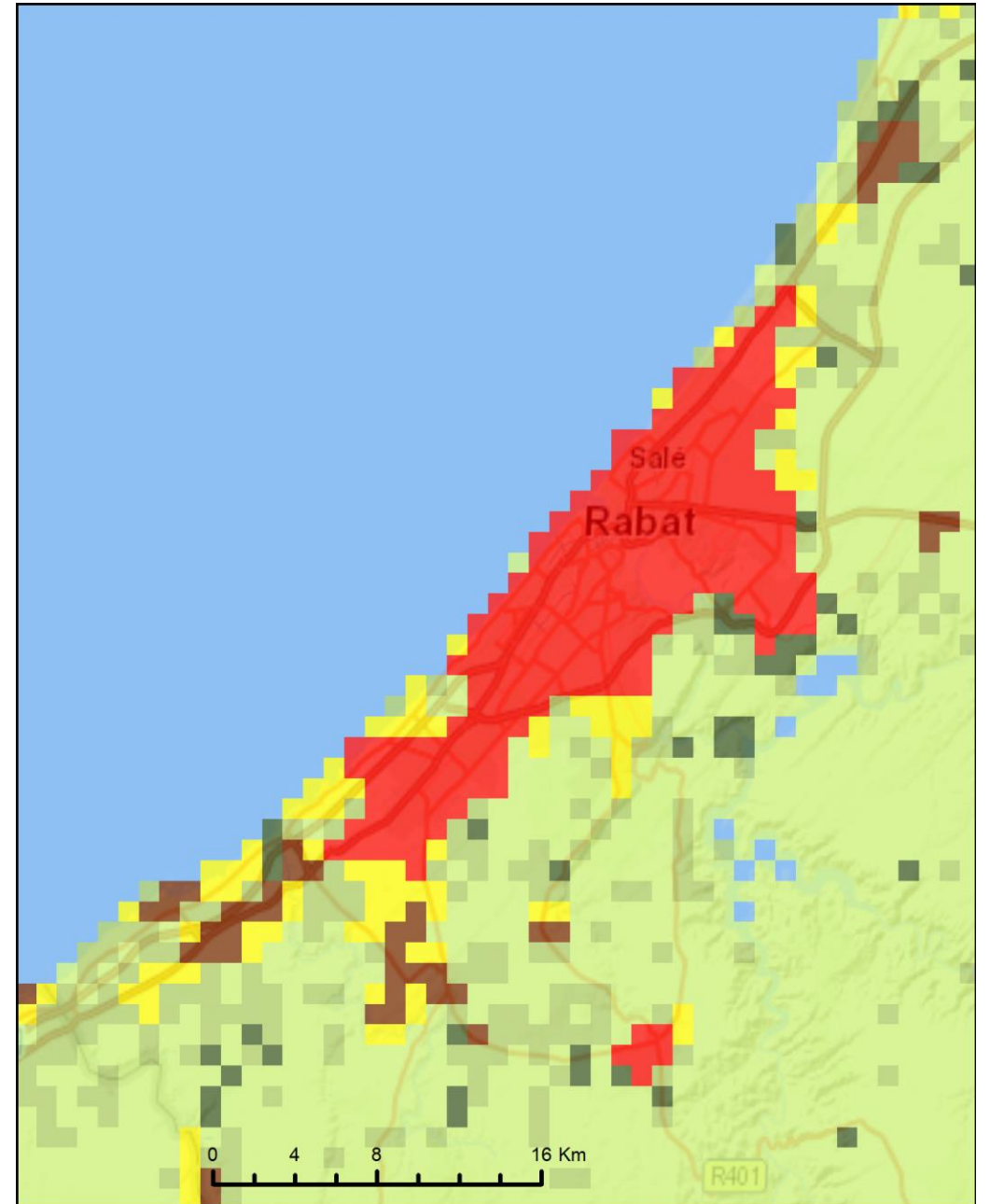


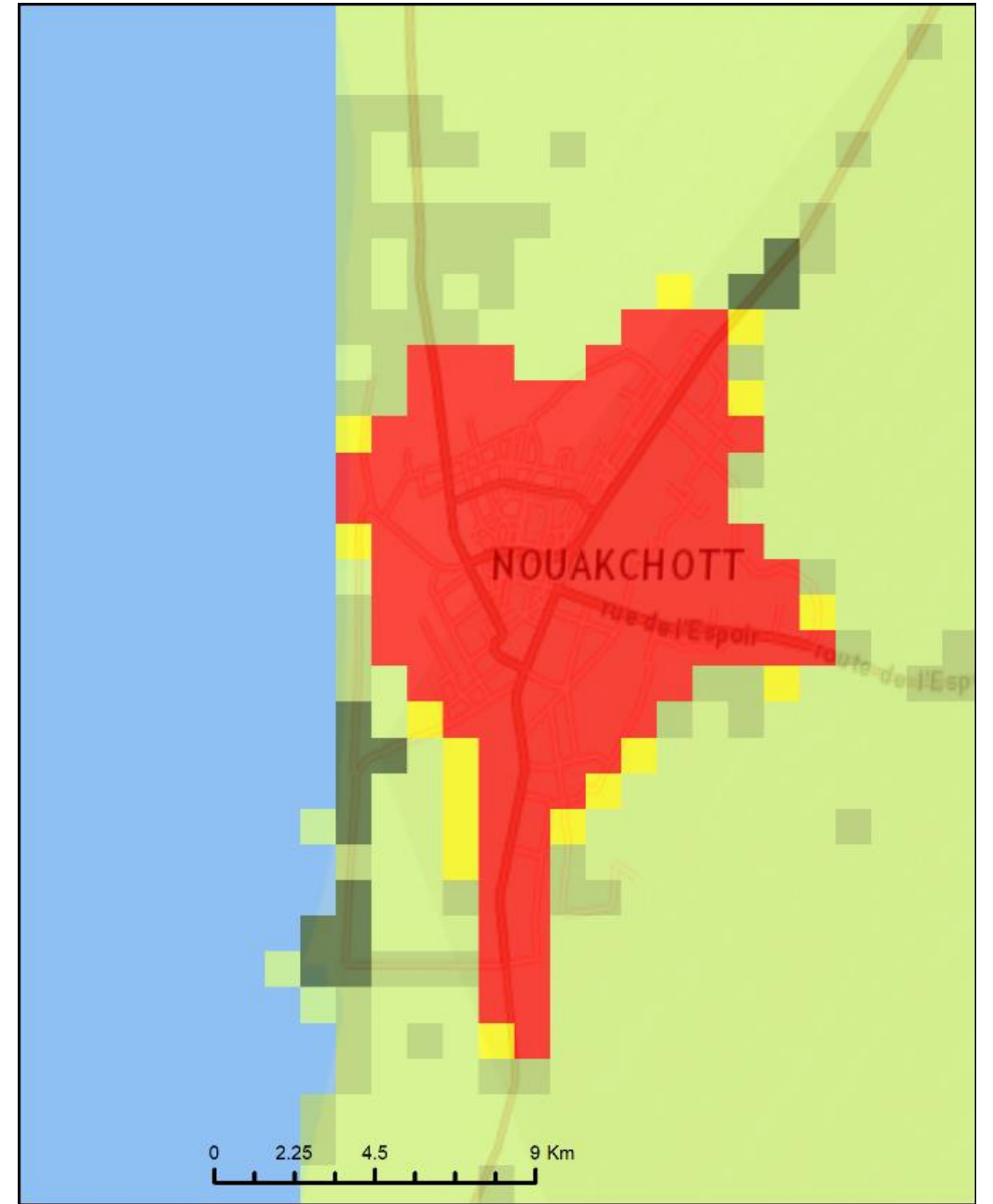
City + Commuting zone = Functional urban area

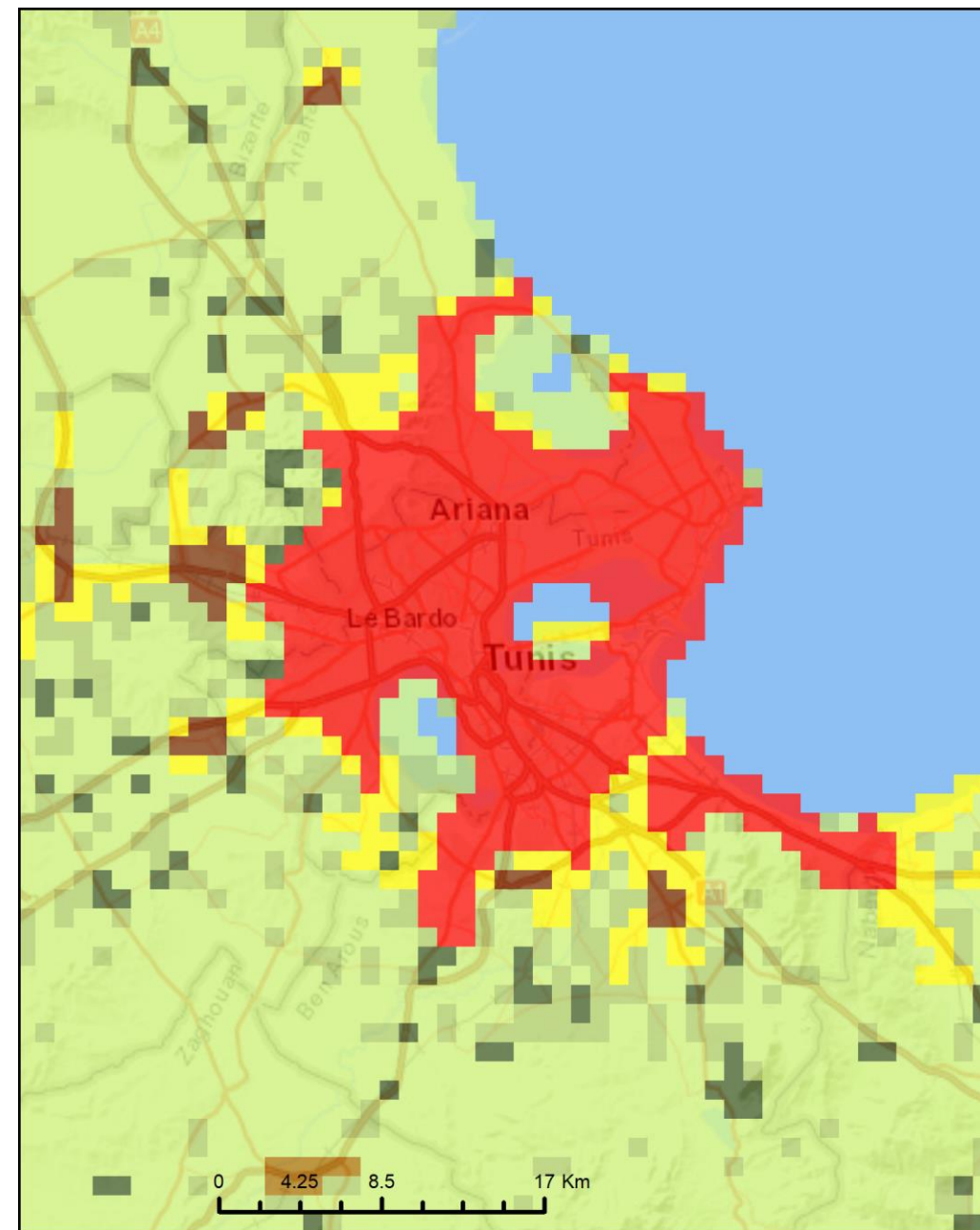
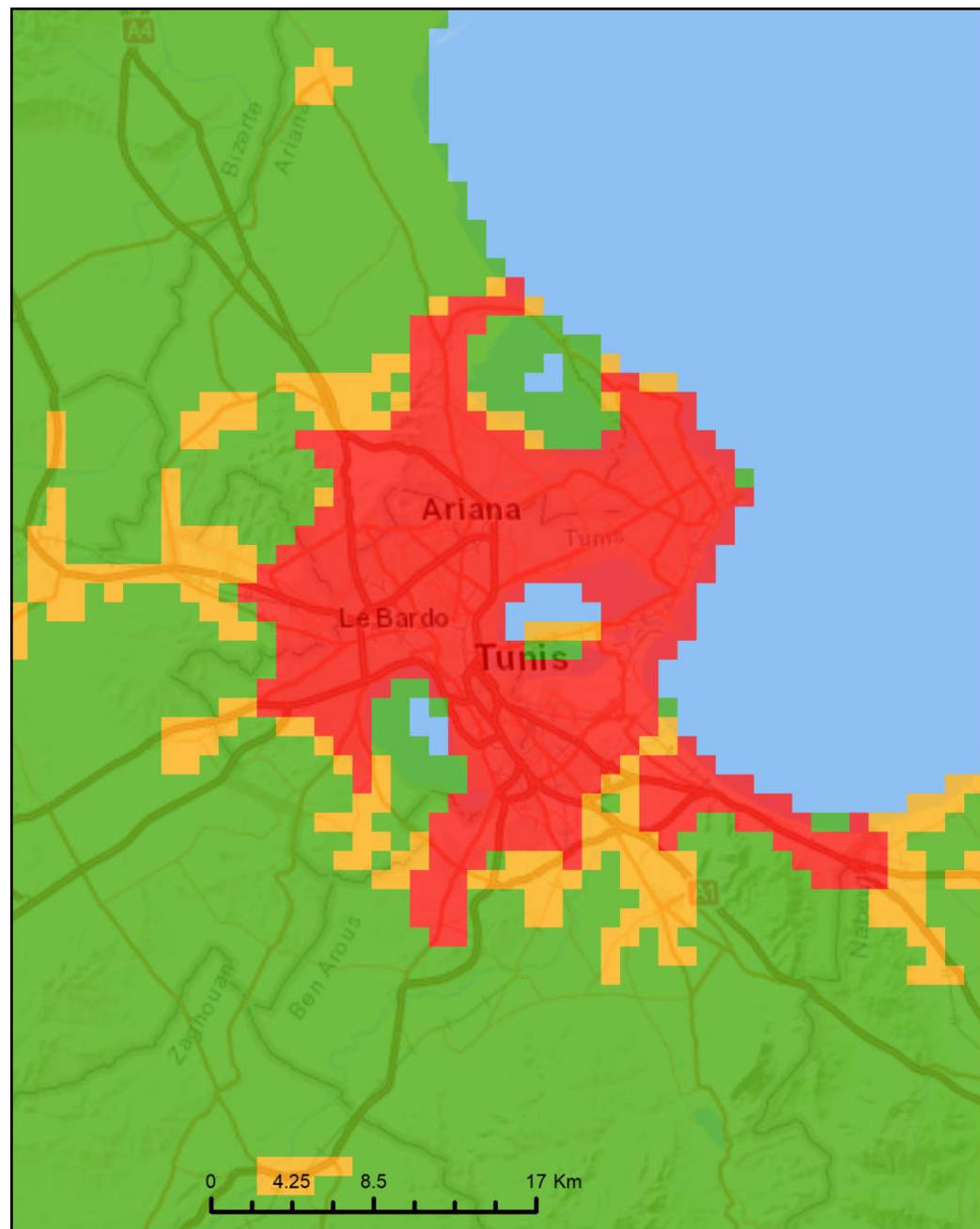


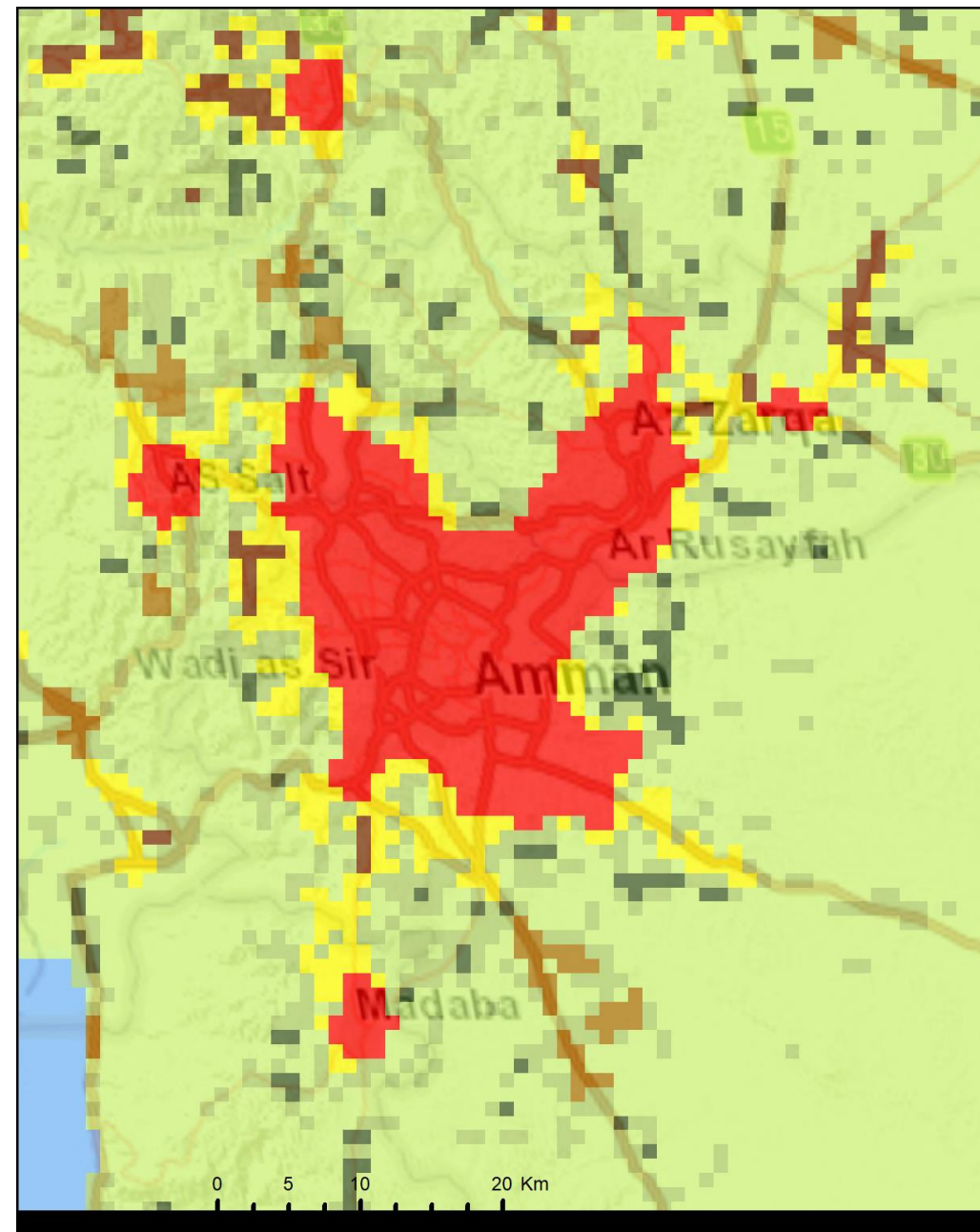
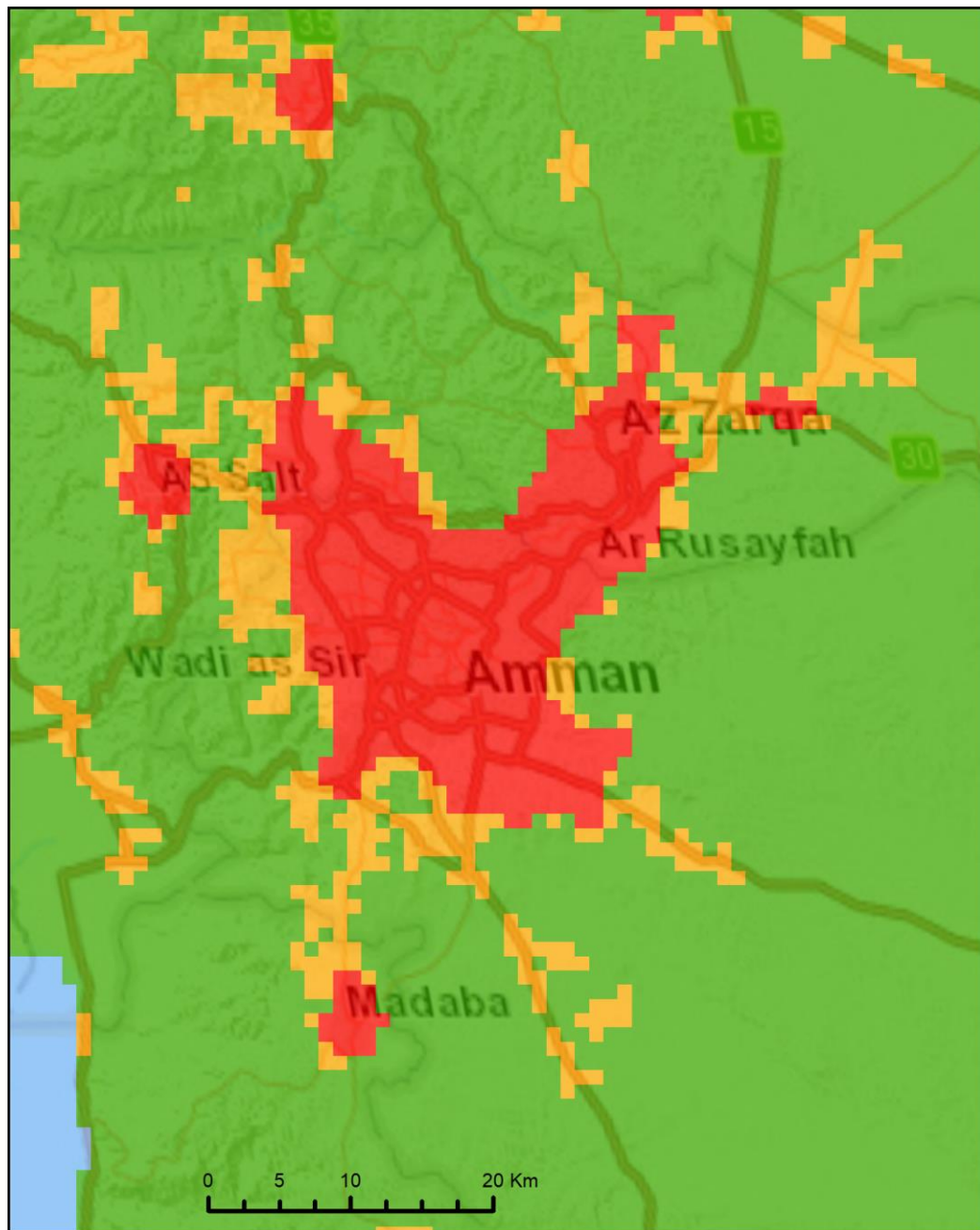
Conclusions

- A stronger policy demand
 - A new statistical instrument
 - New data sources
 - Two new definitions
- SDGs, AFINUA, GSARS...
- The population grid
- Remote sensing and geospatial data
- Degree of urbanisation and FUA
-
- A unique coalition of six international organisations ...
 - ... that aims to create the first globally recommended definition of cities and rural areas to facilitate international comparisons (and not to replace national definitions!)









More information

- https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/global-city-and-settlement-definition_en
- <http://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/degurba.php>
- *Free global population grid 1975-2015*
- <http://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datasets.php>
- *Nice visualisation of global data:* <http://luminocity3d.org/WorldPopDen/>
- *Visualisation of the European data:* http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/mapapps/urban/degurba.html