Lecture 1. Cities and urbanisation

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Agenda

Towns and cities – towards a definition	Urbanisation – some key terms and perspectives	Urbanisation in Poland	Cities in the World. A new perspective on urbanisation – an overall look on urbanisation

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City – towards a definition

No current uniform definition of the city

"The constant feature of the city, which has been a component of its characteristics since ancient times, is that cities cannot feed themselves" - historian Arnold Toynbee

'the city has a significant concentration of population and their housing on a small area and is located at the crossroads' – geographer, F. Ratzel

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How do you define cities in your countries?

The lack of a uniform definition makes it very difficult to conduct international studies and comparisons

How do we define a term city in Poland

city – a settlement unit with a compact structure and non-agricultural functions having city rights or the status of a city granted in accordance with separate regulations

USTAWA z dnia 29 sierpnia 2003 r. o urzędowych nazwach miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych

Basic criteria for defining a city

1. **The population** is assumed to be larger than in the countryside.

But: different local conditions – e.g. in Sweden – 200 people are already a city, in the USA -2 500, Switzerland – 10 000, Japan – 30 000.

2. **Economic base** – domination of non-agricultural activity

3. **Administrative status** (the most popular criterion for defining cities, often the only criterion) – determined by the legal system of the country concerned.

Administrative divisions very rarely coincide with the scope of urban development.

4. Differentiated **functional definitions** defining the actual spatial coverage of the city e.g. **metropolitan areas**, commuting areas

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Metropolitan areas

- **Metropolitan areas** (functional urban areas) - cities together with their surrounding commuting zones **to capture the full extent of a city's labour market.**

- Towns play an important role in connecting cities and rural areas.
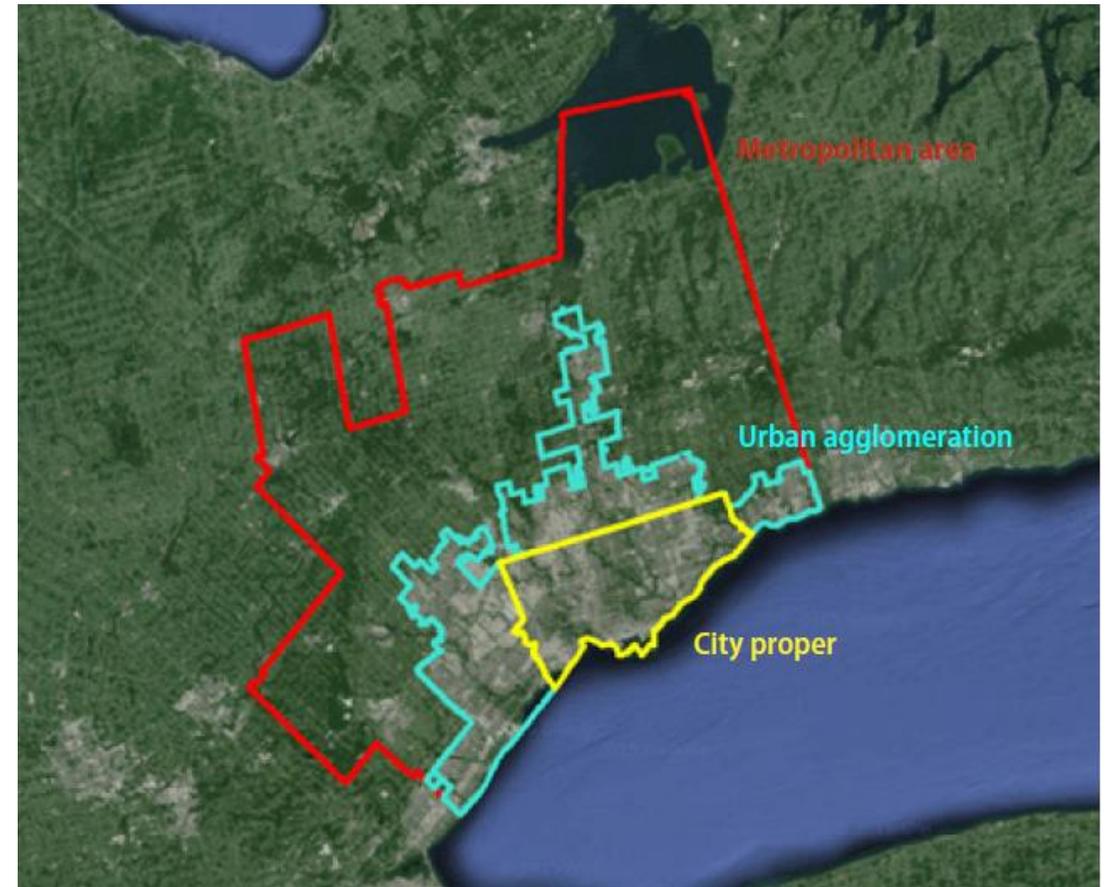
A study of 228 countries commissioned by the UN in 2006 showed

Criterion for defining a city	Basic criterion	The only criterion	Additional comments
Administrative	105 countries	83 countries	
Number of residents and its density	100 countries	57 countries	minimum numer of residents varies from 200 people to 50,000
Economic structure	25 countries		
Access to urban infrastructure	18 countries		e.g. paved roads, the existence of water and sewerage systems, electricity
Lack of any definition	25 countries		
6 countries consider all their inhabitants to be urban			

Urbanisation. What is it?
How can we measure it?

Urbanisation

A process in which an increasing proportion of society live in cities and the suburb areas

A population shift from rural to urban areas

Transformation of a society from **agrarian into an industrial**

Spread of urban lifestyle

Aspects of urbanisation

- **Demographic** – urban population growth and thus the level of urbanisation – the most commonly used aspect,

- But: what about the declining population overall? what about suburbanisation?

- **Economic** – changes in the professional structure of the population

- **Spatial**

- **Social** – urban lifestyle – the most difficult to measure

Background of urbanisation

- Revolution in agriculture

- Demographic Revolution

- Industrial Revolution

- Transport Revolution

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Industrialisation

- Social and economic changes closely related with technological innovation and development

- The first country to industrialise was the UK in 18th century

Industrial Cities

- The Industrial Revolution changed the nature of the city.

- Factories attracted workers from rural areas.

- Rapidly developing transportation technology brings more of them, and from further away.

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Industrial cities were difficult places to live due to:

- Poor living conditions: contaminated water, air pollution, shortage of housing - overcrowded living areas
- Result: Spread of diseases
- Unemployment
- Lack of public transport
- Social effect- poverty, lack of opportunities, psychological problems, alcoholism, drugs, crime, violence and other deviant behaviors'

- Example: Manchester, Łódź (Poland)

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The Promised Land

- [The Promised Land (Ziemia obiecana) 1975 in English Online (easterneuropeanmovies.com)](easterneuropeanmovies.com)

Urbanisation phases (L. van den Berg, 1982):

- **1. Urbanisation**
- Difficulties in rural life and better living conditions in the city cause the migration of people from villages to cities.
- New cities are being created and existing ones are increasing in size.
- Special places of migration are industrial centres and districts, especially mining.
- The factor of migration is the hope for better living conditions and opportunities to find work

Urbanisation phases (L. van den Berg, 1982):

- **2. Suburbanization**
- Industry and cities are developing intensively.
- New jobs are created in services, the income of the population is increasing, and thus the demand on living conditions
- There is an increase in the population of cities, but the fastest in their outer zones.
- A richer population leaves overcrowded and over-built urban centers.
- Services are transferred to the suburban area
- Passenger cars and public transport play an important role in process of suburbanization

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Urbanisation phases (L. van den Berg, 1982):

- **2. Suburbanization**
- A richer population leaves overcrowded and over-built urban centers.

- But the model was created in 1982
- Is this still true?

Urbanisation phases (L. van den Berg, 1982):

- **3. Dezurbanization**
- Demographic growth in cities is declining or stagnal
- The growth rate of the urban population is stabilizing
- **4. Reurbanization**
- Reconstruction of cities, especially their central parts, re-influx of population into the city center
- Re-development of the importance and role of major cities

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About reurbanisation

- K. Kajdanek, Powrotnicy Reurbanizacja w perspektywie przebiegu życia, Nomos 2022

- K. Kajdanek, "Have We Done Well?" Decision To Return From Suburbia To Polish Cities In The Context Of The Covid-19 Pandemic, City and Society, 2020

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Will the possibility of remote work and the Covid pandemic affect the future of cities? How about medium sized cities?

Discussion over urbanisation, suburbanisation, dezurbaniuzation, reurbanisation

Urban lifestyle

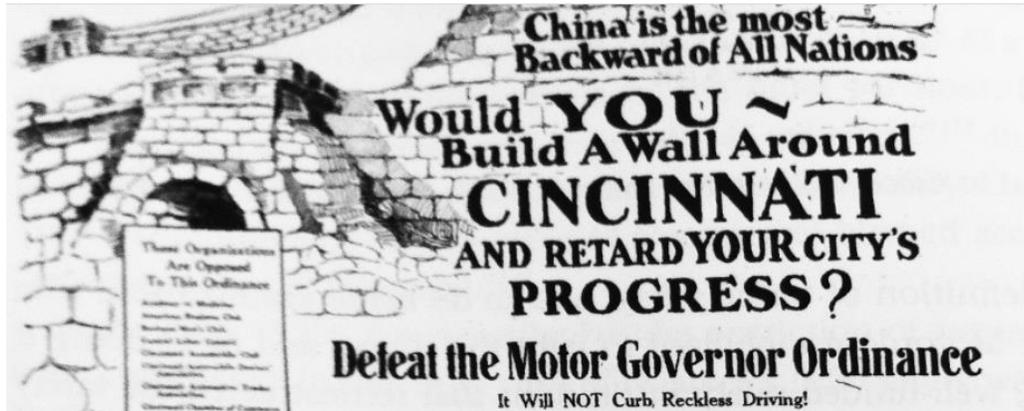How has common access to cars changed the life of Americans (finally all of us)

From street life to streets for cars

- 1900 - streets for people and trade

- Transport - carriages, trams

- Automotive companies are pushing through a law that allows cars to freely overtake public transport – public transport loses its basic advantage

- Fossil fuel companies buy up tram companies, scrap wagons and remove tracks from the streets

- 1935 - Trams officially lose any government support

- Companies promised to finance roads with a gasoline tax, finally the state must contribute billions to build it

Pro-car media campaigns

China is the most Backward of All Nations

Would YOU ~ Build A Wall Around CINCINNATI AND RETARD YOUR CITY'S PROGRESS?

These Organizations Are Opposed To This Ordinance

Defeat the Motor Governor Ordinance
It Will NOT Curb, Reckless Driving!

Do Not Help To Build a Chinese Wall Around Cincinnati Let's Make It Unanimous and—

VOTE "NO"

the City Wall
DAYTON 50 MILES
TO MOTORISTS WELCOME TO OUR CITY
Proclamation
Visitors to CINCINNATI will be arrested if they do not have GOVERNORS on their AUTOMOBILES
GOVERNORS NOT NEEDED IN St. Louis
TOURISTS MUST BUY A GOVERNOR or be FINED or JAILED
DETOUR COLUMBUS

- Advertisements on television and in newspapers
- Stigmatizing pedestrian victims of car accidents as stupid and irresponsible
- In fact, mainly children and the elderly died.
- Even government materials ridiculed people hit by cars with caricature graphics.
- The term „jaywalking" was pejorative - despite the initial outrage, it was adopted, and the pro-car campaigns could be called a great success

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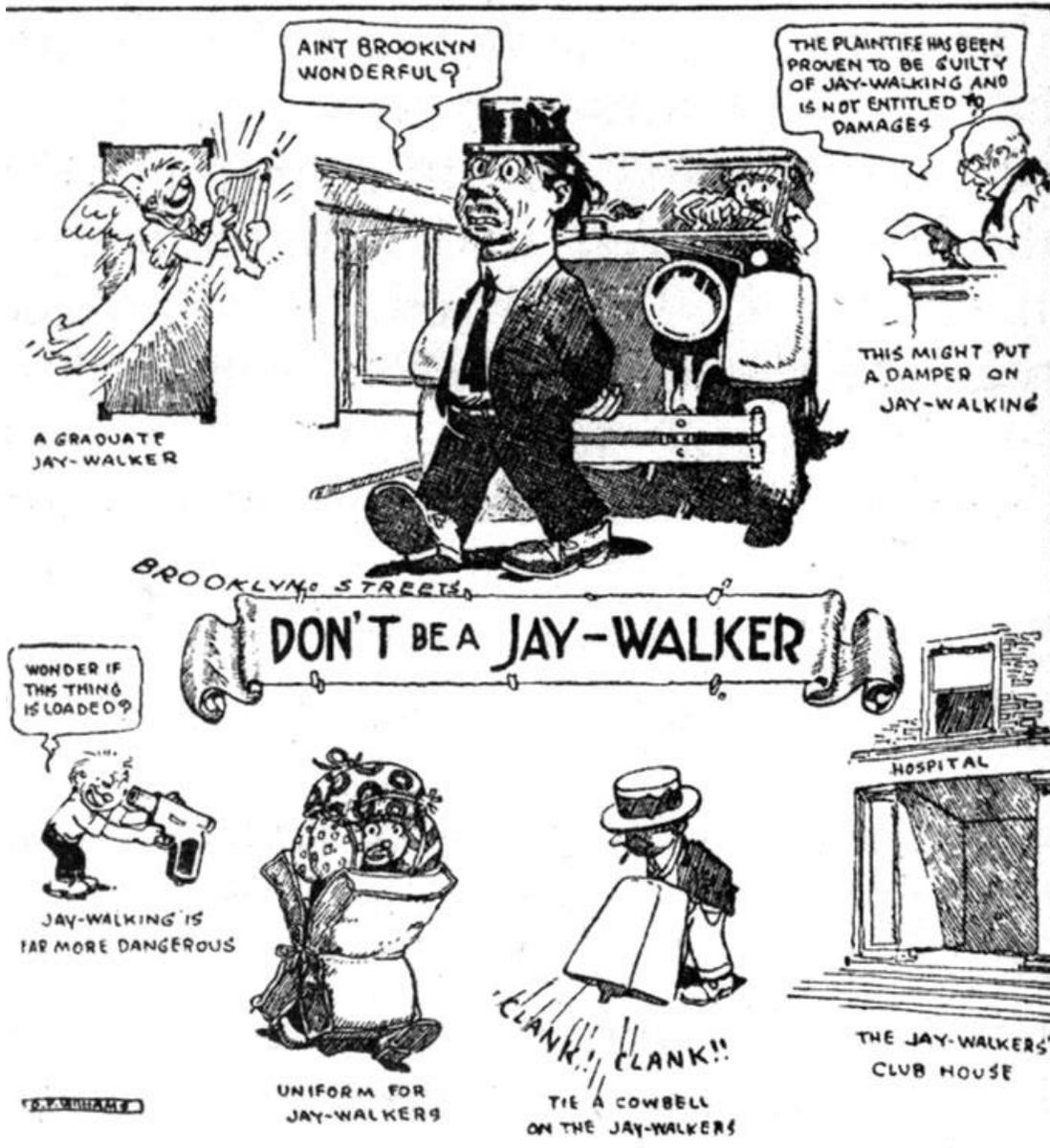
Hester Street, New York 1900

- Trade
- Services
- A meeting place for residents – diversity of social life
- Street for pedestrians
- Occasional carriages

Hester Street, New York 1990

- Cars
- No parking places
- without 'life'

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Suburbanization – the "American Dream" with a car for everyone

- Suburbanisation as a policy and way of life
- Total dependence on cars
- Traffic jams
- The disappearance of social spaces and urban life
- Long commute time to work, hospital, grocery store
- Air pollution
- Noise

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Urban lifestyle – some classical concepts

Georg Simmel – life in the city (1859-1918)

Life in the city is stimulating – it affects the way of thinking and actions of its inhabitants

Many residents of the city avoid establishing emotional ties with others and ignore the events happening around

Urban life can be liberating – people have opportunities for individualism and autonomy

Luis Wirth – Urbanism as a way of life (1938)

The urban research requires defining the relationship between 3 factors:

Population size

Population density

Social diversity

"The city is a relatively large, compact, dense and continuous settlement group composed of diverse units and groups"

These characteristics make social relationships in the city impersonal, artificial, quite tolerant

Luis Wirth ignored how life in the city changes according to social class, race or gender

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Urbanization in Poland

Percentage of population in urban and rural areas
Poland

• Urban • Rural

Note: Urban and rural population in the current country or area as a percentage of the total population, 1950 to 2050.

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Industrialisation without urbanisation?

Percentage urban by region and subregion

Poland — Eastern Europe — Europe
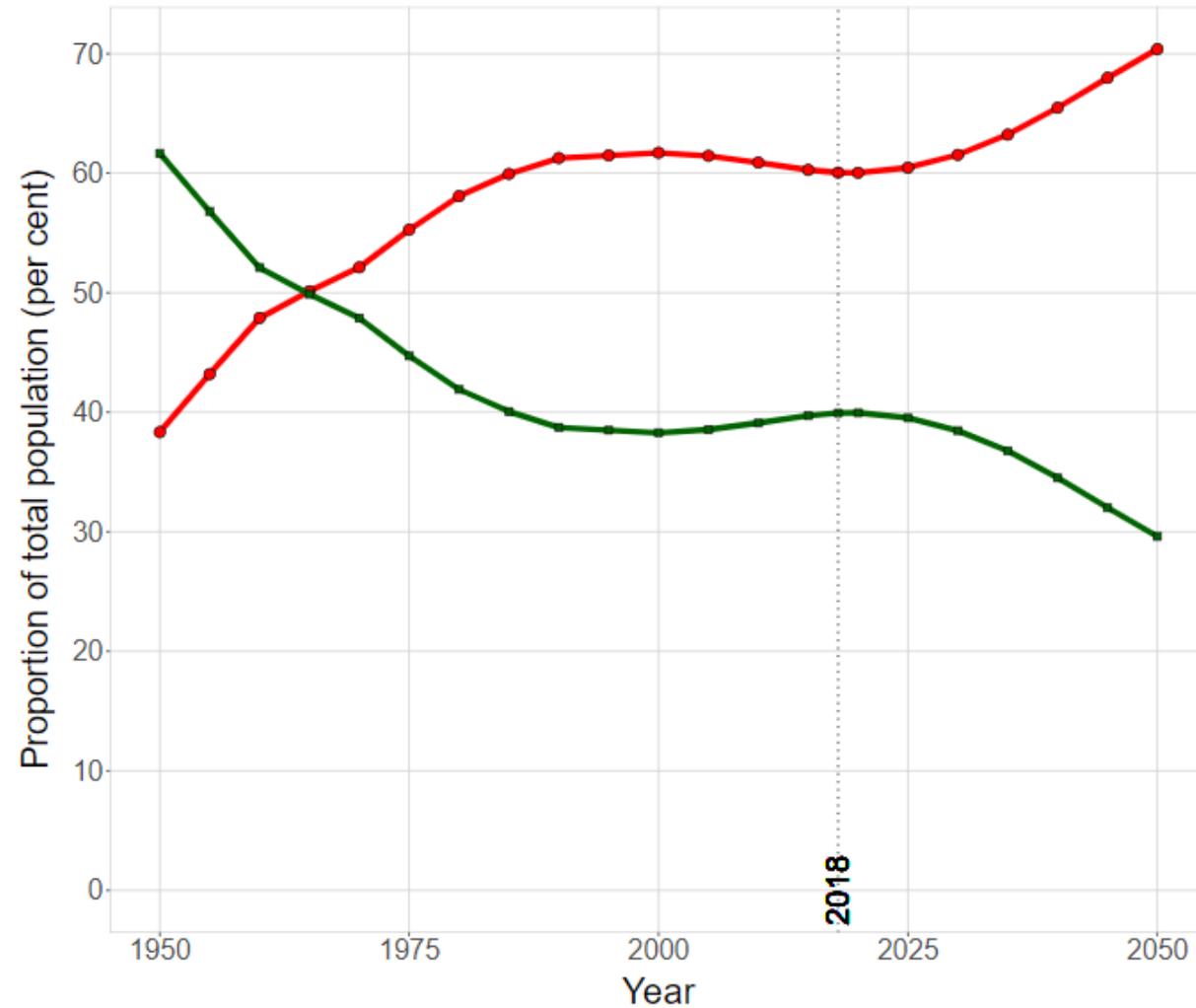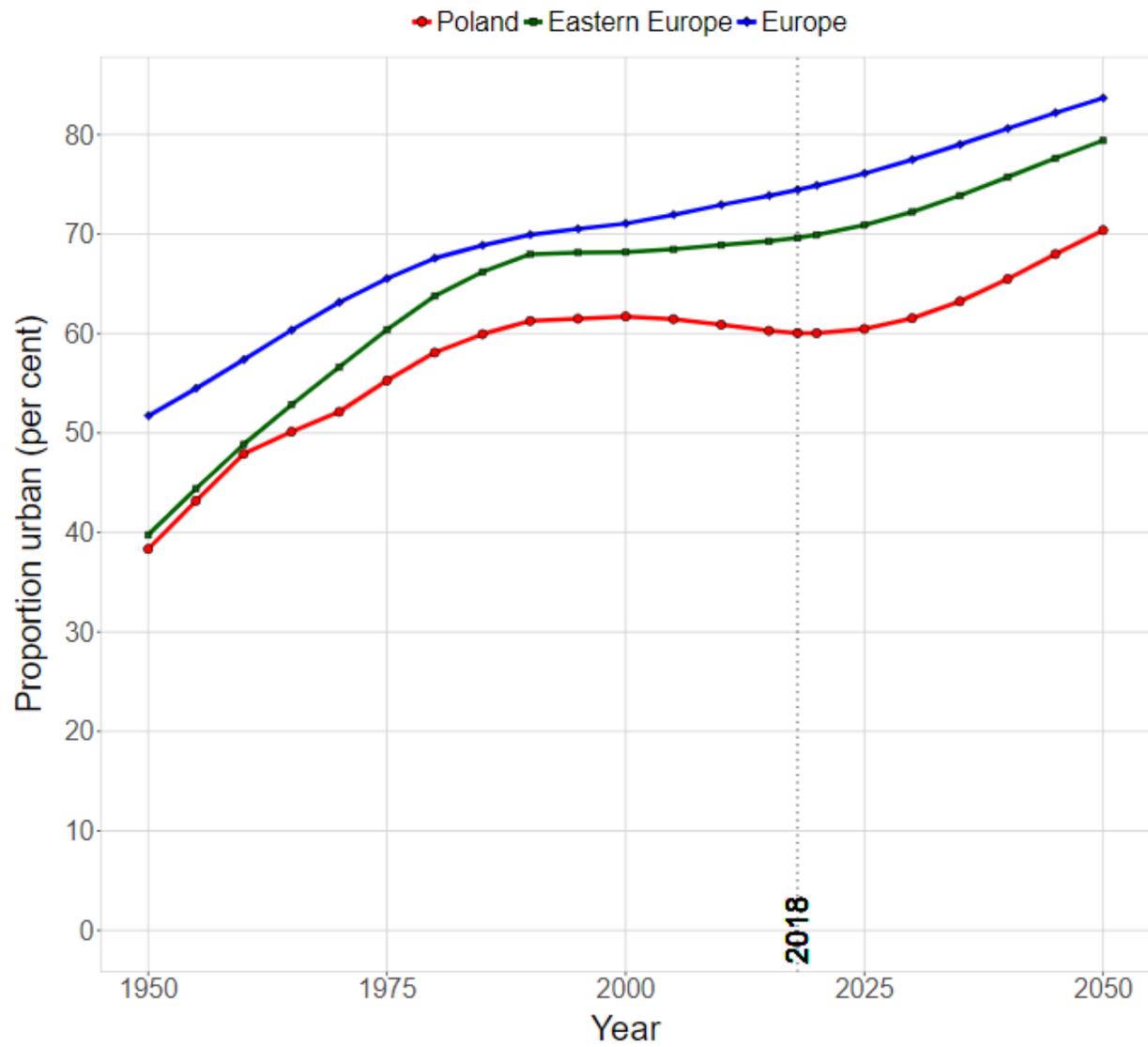
© 2018 United Nations, DESA, Population Division. Licensed under Creative Commons license CC BY 3.0 IGO.

Note: Proportion of urban population in the current country as compared to its subregion and region. The proportion is expressed as a percentage of the total population, 1950 to 2050.

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Urbanisation in the world– some key facts

The World's Cities in 2018

United Nations

OECD Urban Studies

Cities in the World

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON URBANISATION

Share of people living in urban areas, 2020

World
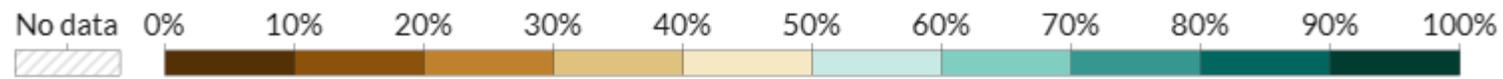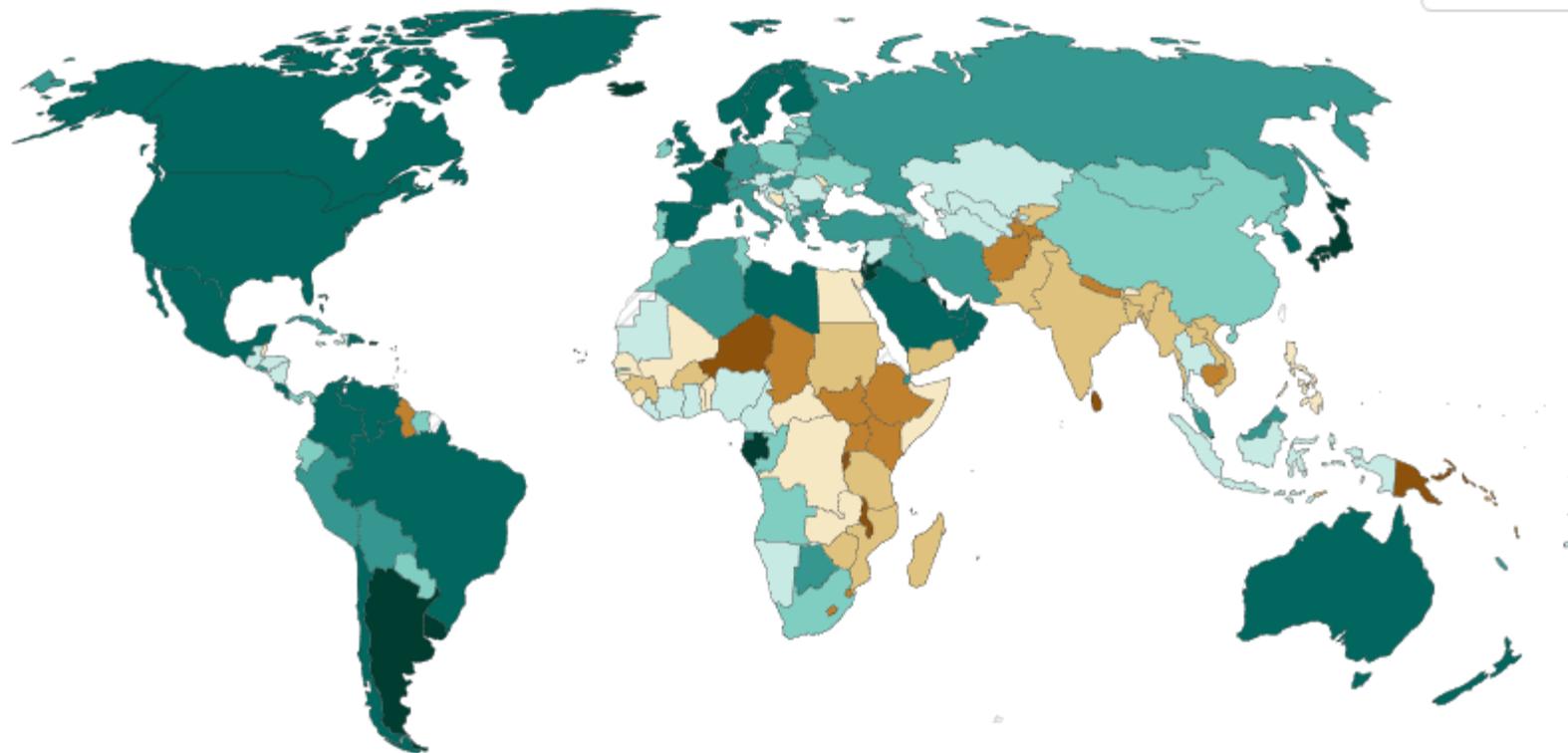
No data   0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%   70%   80%   90%   100%

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Largest cities – Mega cities

The world's ten largest cities in 2018 and 2030				
City size rank	City	Population in 2018 (thousands)	City	Population in 2030 (thousands)
1	Tokyo, Japan	37 468	Delhi, India	38 939
2	Delhi, India	28 514	Tokyo, Japan	36 574
3	Shanghai, China	25 582	Shanghai, China	32 869
4	São Paulo, Brazil	21 650	Dhaka, Bangladesh	28 076
5	Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mexico	21 581	Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Egypt	25 517
6	Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Egypt	20 076	Mumbai (Bombay), India	24 572
7	Mumbai (Bombay), India	19 980	Beijing, China	24 282
8	Beijing, China	19 618	Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mexico	24 111
9	Dhaka, Bangladesh	19 578	São Paulo, Brazil	23 824
10	Kinki M.M.A. (Osaka), Japan	19 281	Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	21 914

Megacities of the world in 2018 and 2030

London
Tehran
Seoul
Chengdu
Ahmadabad
Nanjing
Hyderabad
Ho Chi Minh City
Dar es Salaam
Luanda

Megacities in 2018
New megacities by 2030
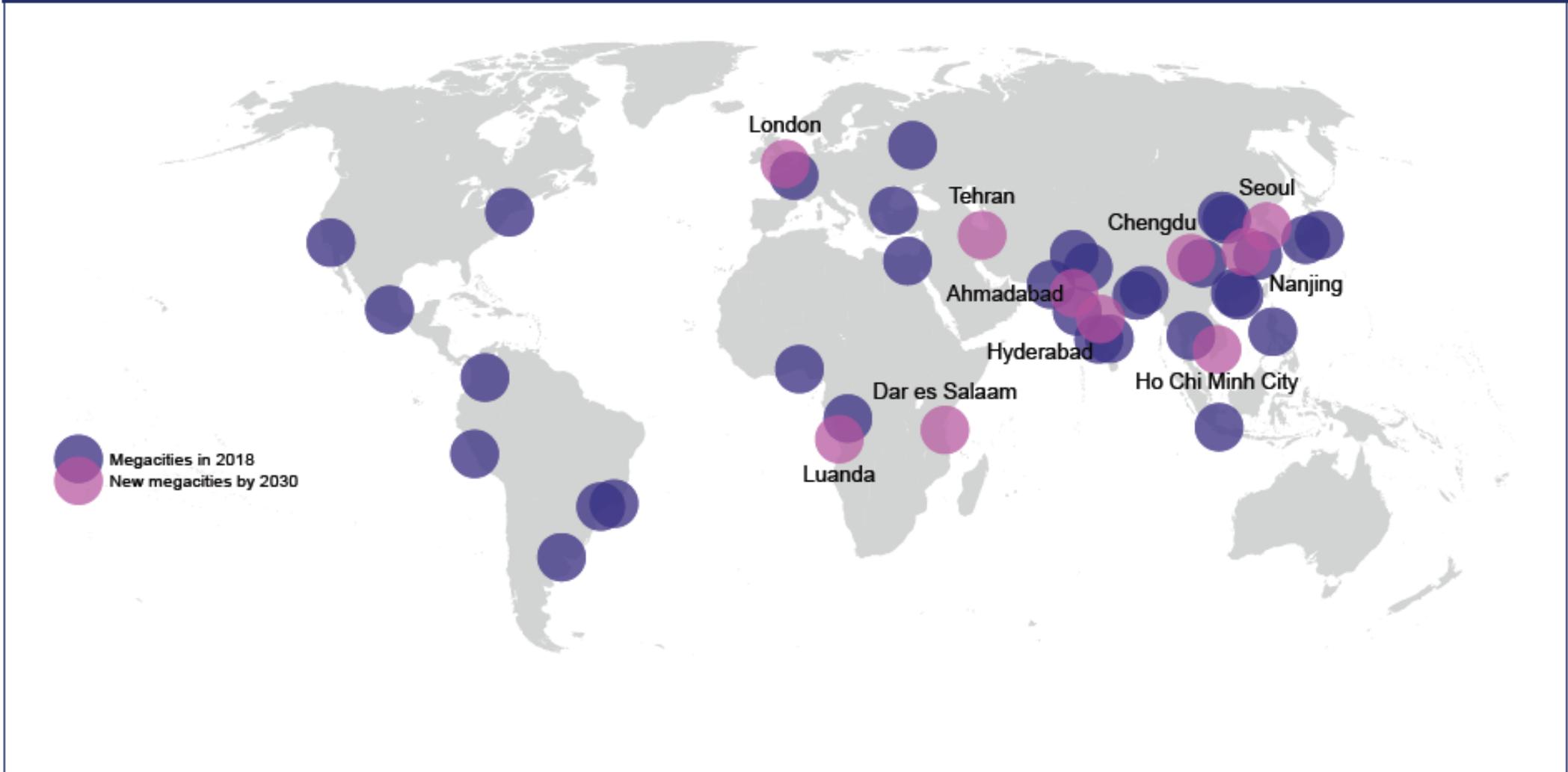
Of the world's 33 megacities—that is, cities with 10 million inhabitants or more—in 2018, 27 are located in the less developed regions or the "global South". China alone was home to 6 megacities in 2018, while India had 5.
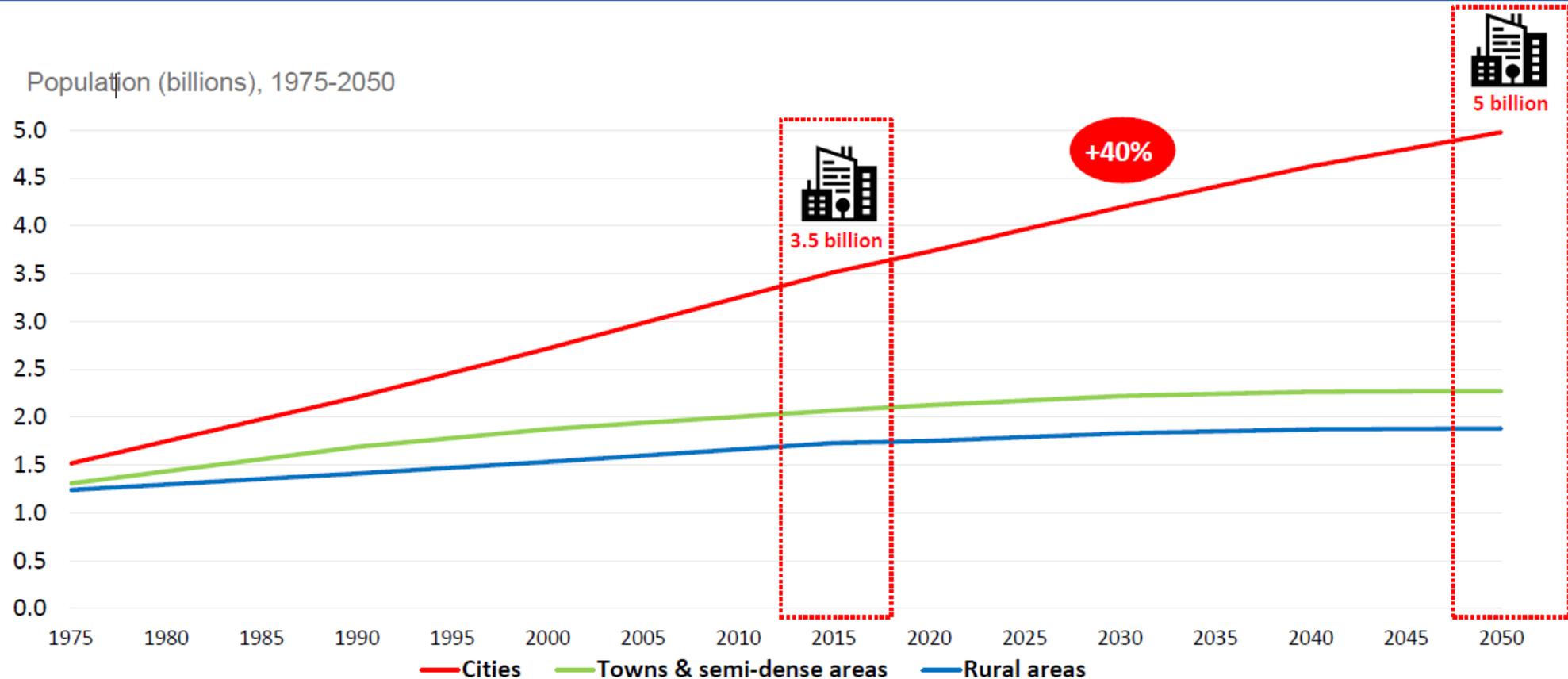
Where do people live?

24% Rural areas

28% Towns and semi-dense areas

48% Cities

City populations have doubled over the last 40 years and will increase **from 48% to 55%** of the world's population **by 2050**.
Cities - high density places of at least 50,000 inhabitants,

Urban populations are projected to grow from 3.5 billion in 2015 to 5 billion in 2050.

Population (billions), 1975-2050

3.5 billion

+40%

5 billion

5.0
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0

1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050

— Cities   — Towns & semi-dense areas   — Rural areas

Annual growth in metropolitan areas

Which metropolitan areas are the most vulnerable to population loss?

What are the consequences for local policy makers?

Annual growth - metropolitan areas (2000 – 2015)

■ Growth - metropolitan areas
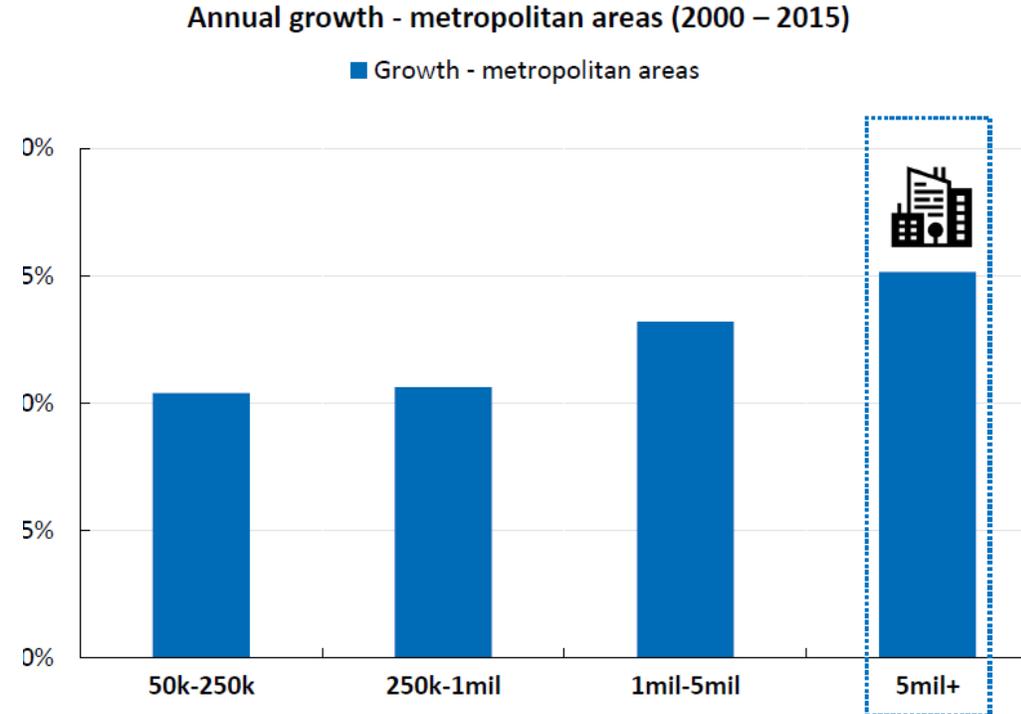
Large metropolitan areas grow fastest

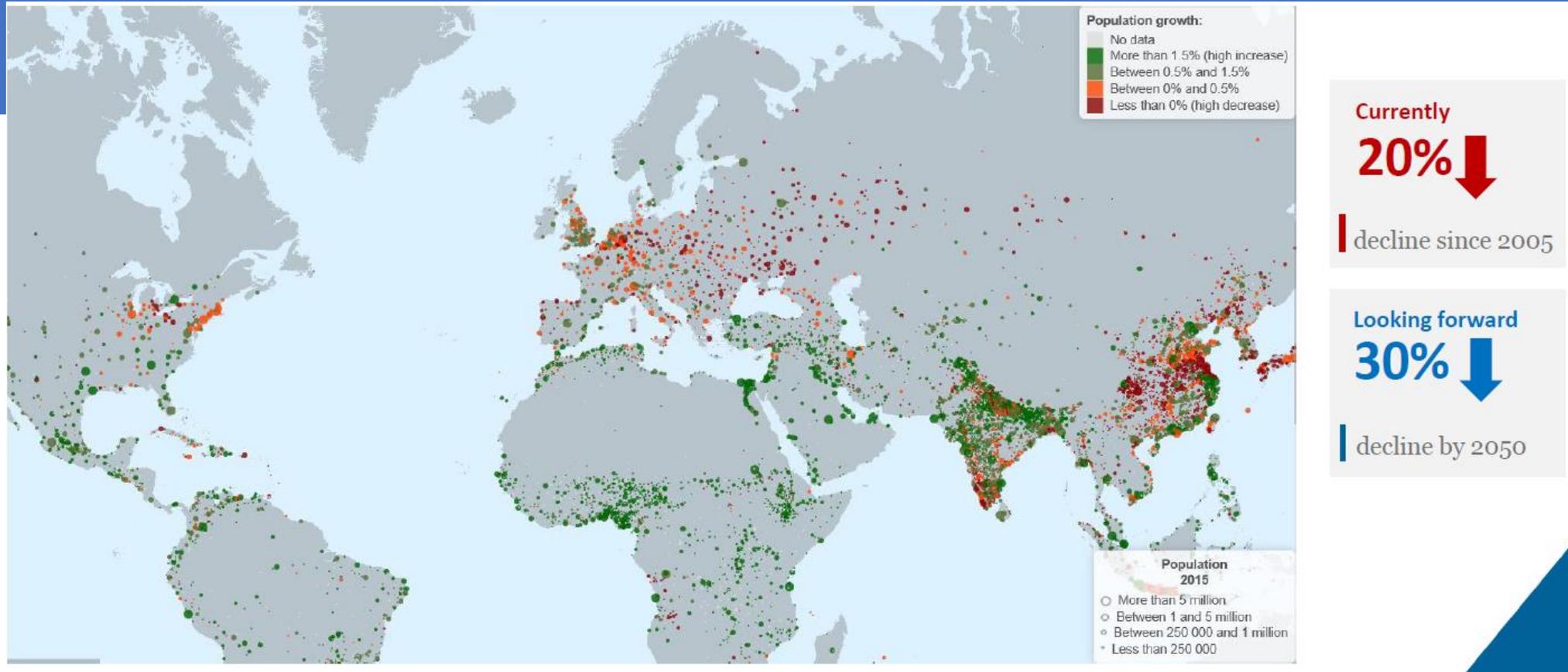**Population growth is increasingly concentrated in large metropolitans**

This creates challenges for:

- transport provision

- affordable housing

- Pollution problems

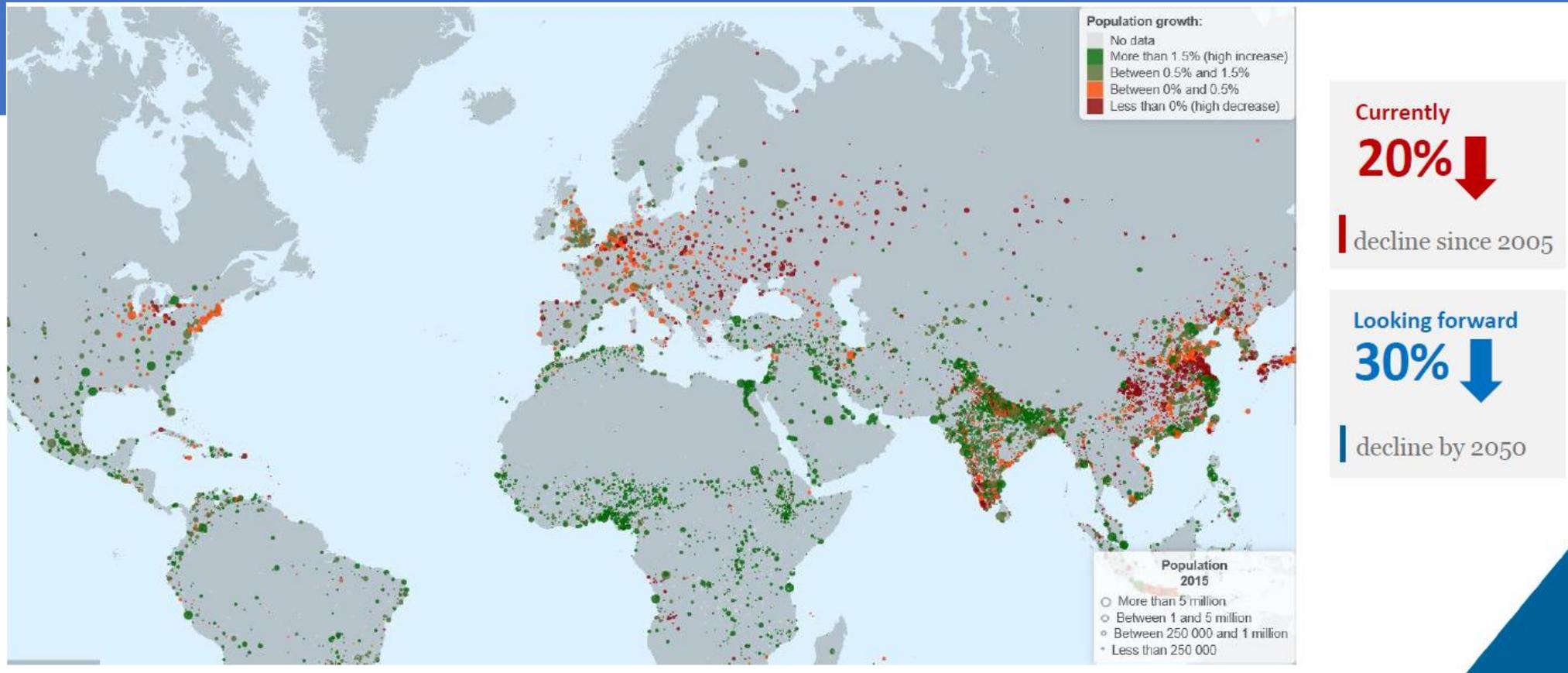### Annual growth - metropolitan areas (2000 – 2015)

■ Growth - metropolitan areas
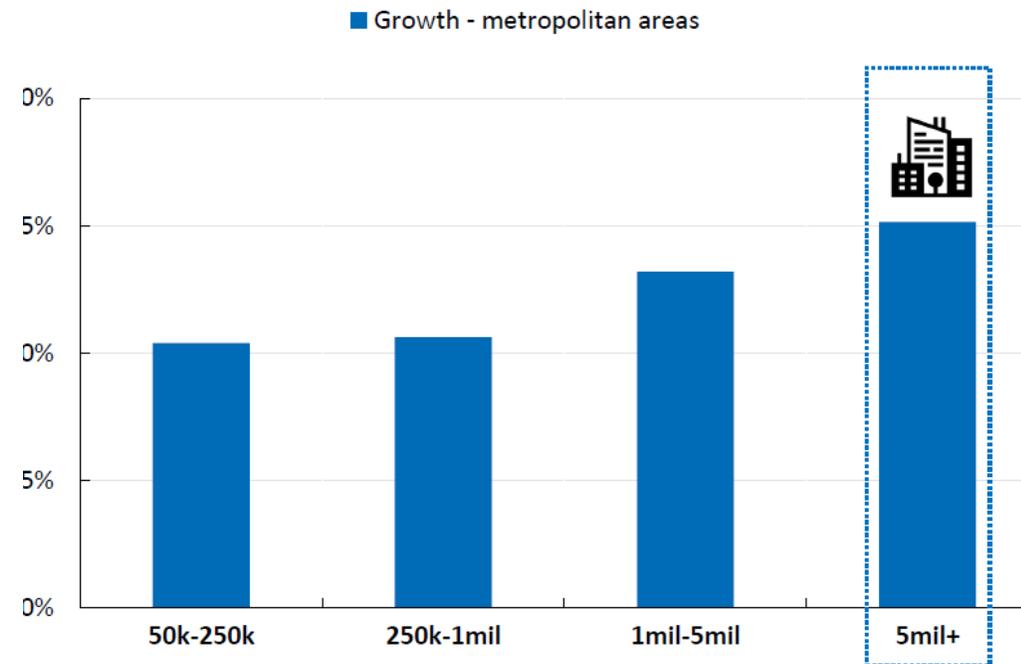
One-fifth of <u>metropolitan areas</u> in the world are shrinking

Where most of the shrinking metropolitan areas are located? Why?

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One-fifth of metropolitan areas in the world are shrinking

Population growth:
- No data
- More than 1.5% (high increase)
- Between 0.5% and 1.5%
- Between 0% and 0.5%
- Less than 0% (high decrease)

Currently
20% ↓
| decline since 2005

Looking forward
30% ↓
| decline by 2050

Population 2015
○ More than 5 million
○ Between 1 and 5 million
○ Between 250 000 and 1 million
· Less than 250 000

Most of the currently shrinking metropolitan areas are located in **East Asia and Eastern Europe** where the **national population is growing slowly or shrinking.**

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Economic development and the rise of metropolitan areas go hand in hand

Share of metropolitan population
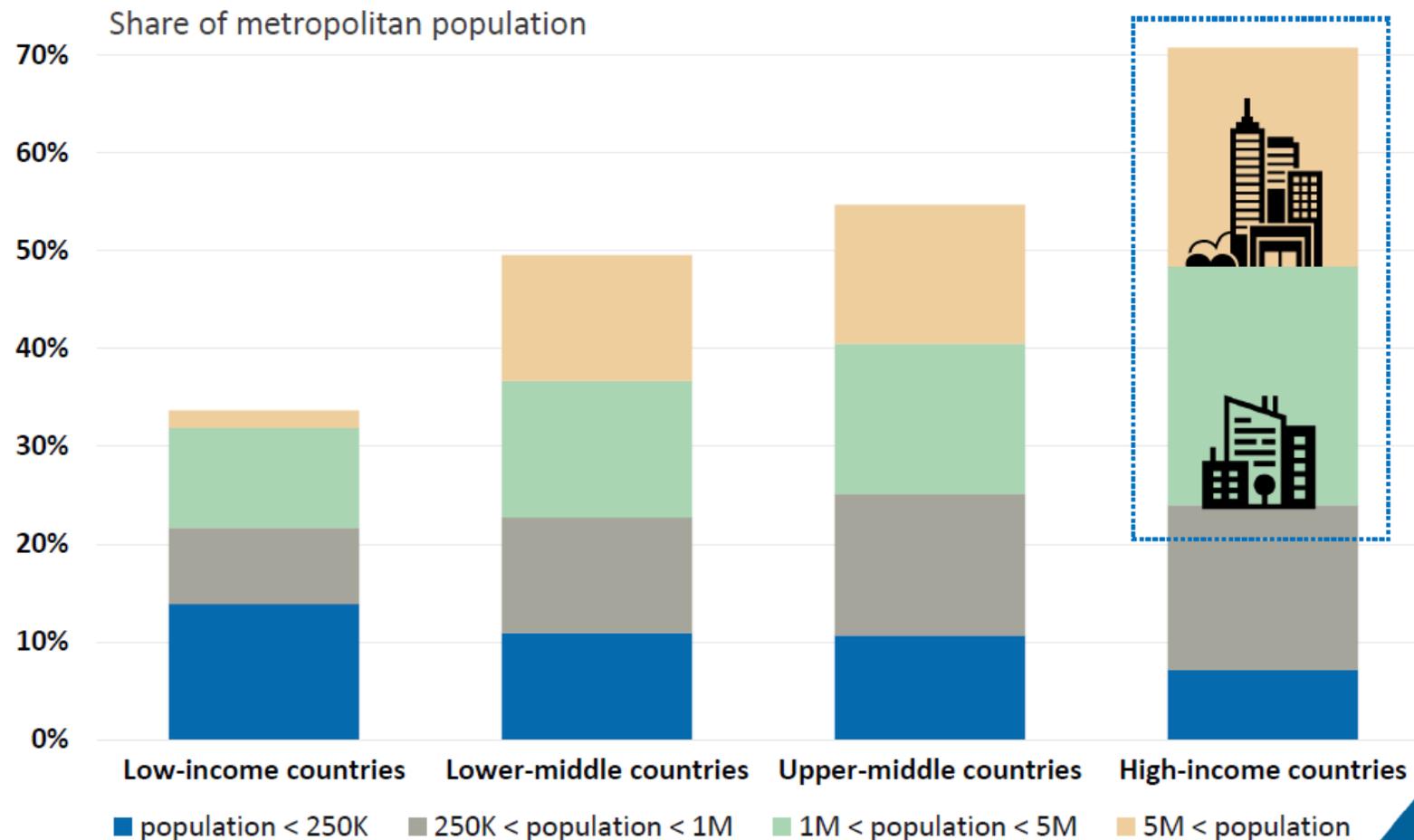
- **Countries with higher GDP per capita** have larger proportions of the population living in metropolitan areas.

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Cities offer the highest quality of life

- Evidence from 111 countries shows that **city residents are more satisfied with their lives**.

- This trend explains why people continue to be attracted by cities, **driving urbanisation**.

Well-being

■ Rural areas   ■ Towns and semi-dense areas   ■ Cities

19%

17%

16%

% satisfied with life
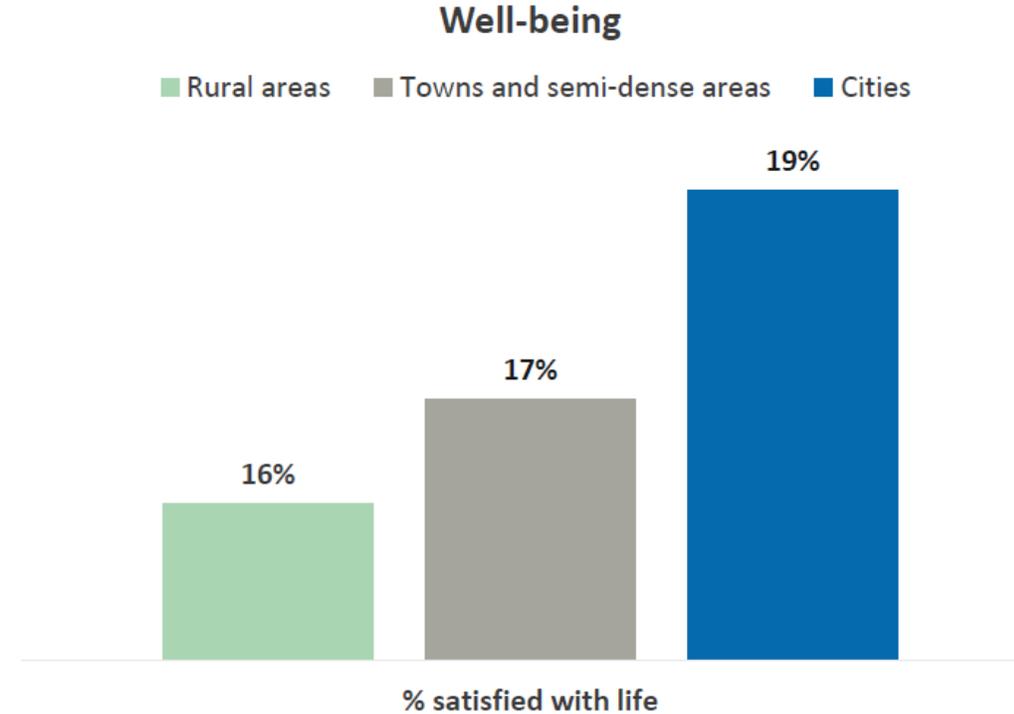
Think about life in a big city and a village

Problems

Benefits

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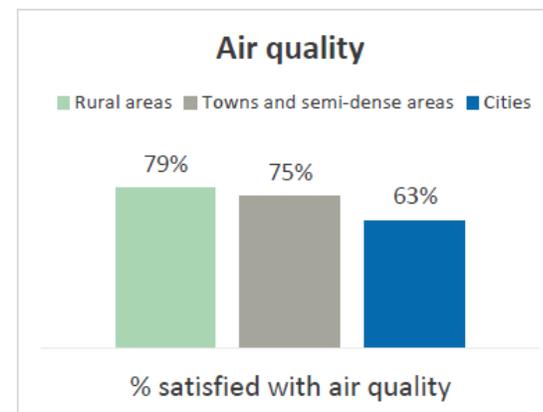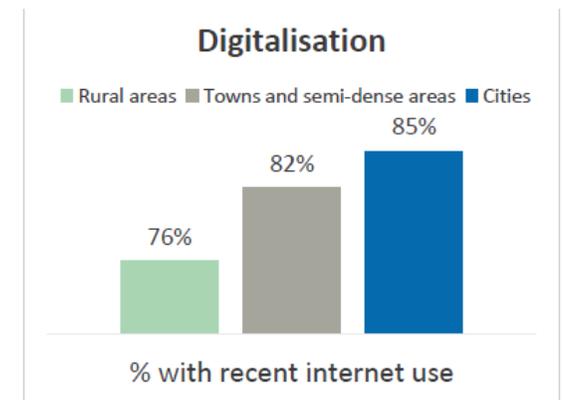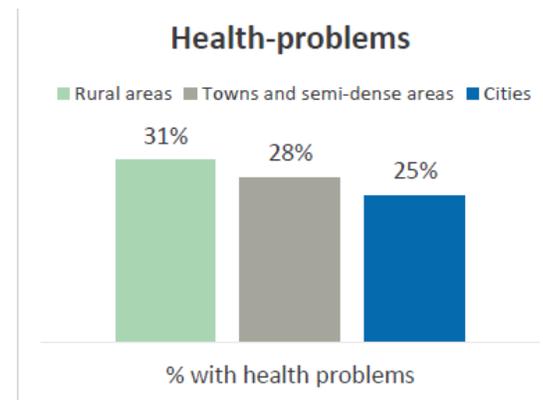**Warsaw School of Economics**

What makes the difference in quality of life?

Residents in cities enjoy better living conditions, better access to:

- healthcare (fewer health problems)

- services (digitalisation), modern technology

- education,

- better employment opportunities, higher incomes,

But cities also face:

- more crime and violence,

- obesity, stress, blood pressure, asthma and diabetes

- a higher cost of living,

- air pollution, congestion

Health-problems

Rural areas | Towns and semi-dense areas | Cities

31%
28%
25%

% with health problems

Digitalisation

Rural areas | Towns and semi-dense areas | Cities

85%
82%
76%

% with recent internet use

Air quality

Rural areas | Towns and semi-dense areas | Cities

79%
75%
63%

% satisfied with air quality

Insecurity

Rural areas | Towns and semi-dense areas | Cities
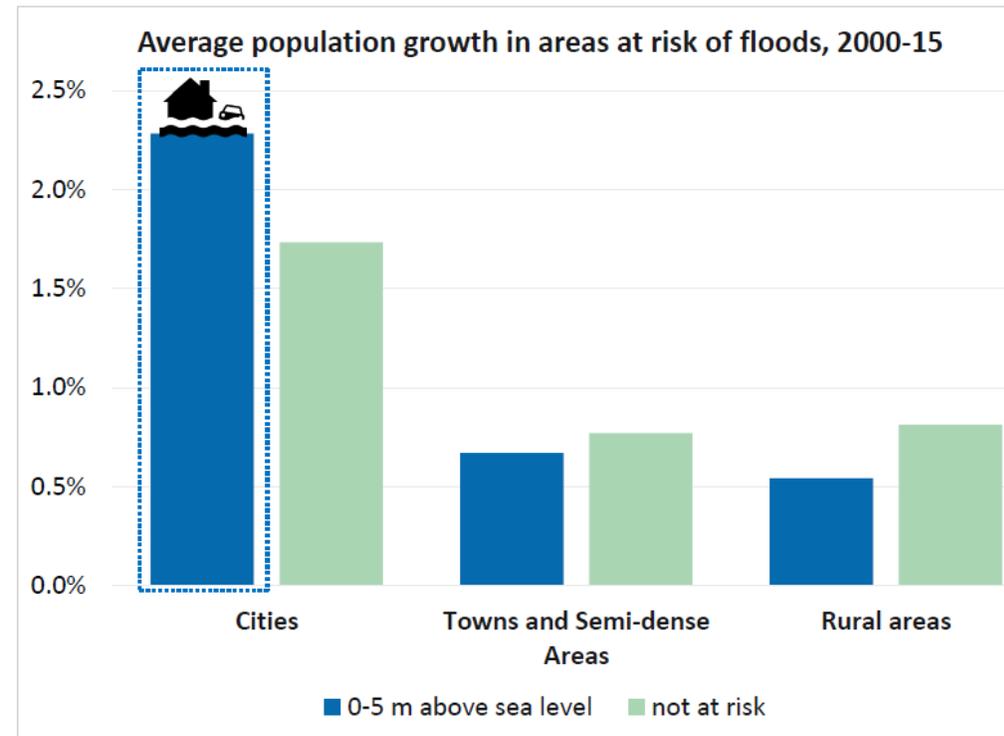
20%
15%
16%

% victims of theft
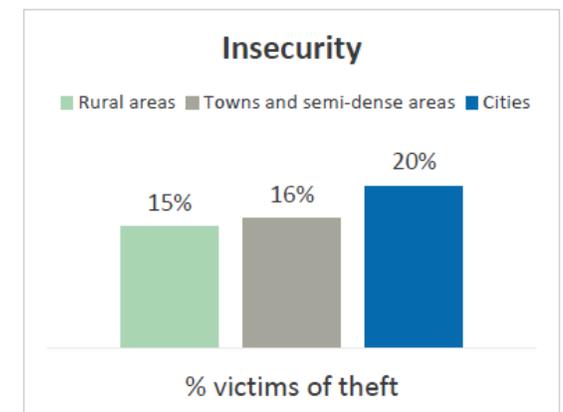
What makes the cities grow?

- Globally, cities have continuously become denser over the past 40 years.

- Policy-makers need to accompany the increasing population density with better access to:
  - public services and transport
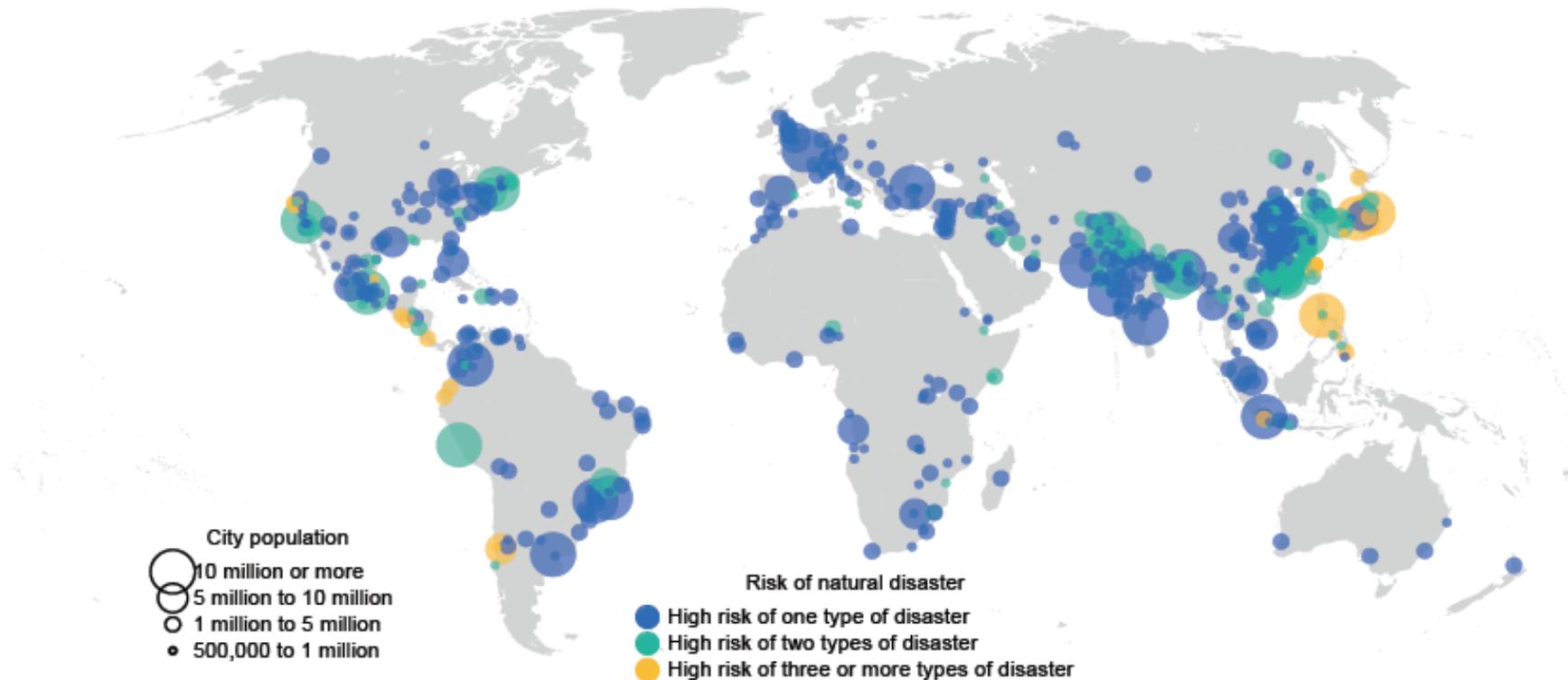 - infrastructure
  - affordable housing
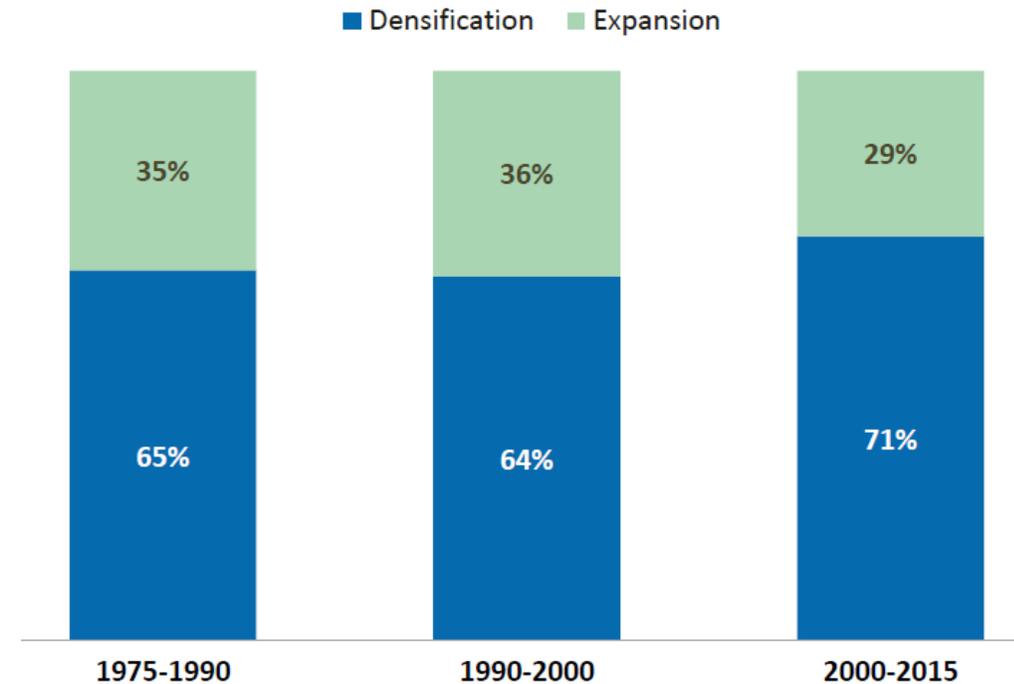
The growth & increasing density of cities raise serious challenges

- The growth and increasing density of cities **raises their exposure to climate change risks.**

- In cities, risks associated with **sea-level rise** has been increasing.

Average population growth in areas at risk of floods, 2000-15

Legend: ■ 0-5 m above sea level   ■ not at risk

Categories: Cities, Towns and Semi-dense Areas, Rural areas

Most cities are vulnerable to at least one type of natural disaster

Cities' risk of exposure to natural disasters

City population
- 10 million or more
- 5 million to 10 million
- 1 million to 5 million
- 500,000 to 1 million

Risk of natural disaster
- High risk of one type of disaster
- High risk of two types of disaster
- High risk of three or more types of disaster

59% of cities with at least 500 000 inhabitants were at high risk of exposure to at least one of six types of natural disasters (cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions)

What OECD indicates as important for its future works? What are the challenges that the cities are facing?

OECD and EC setting a **new benchmark for sub-national statistics**

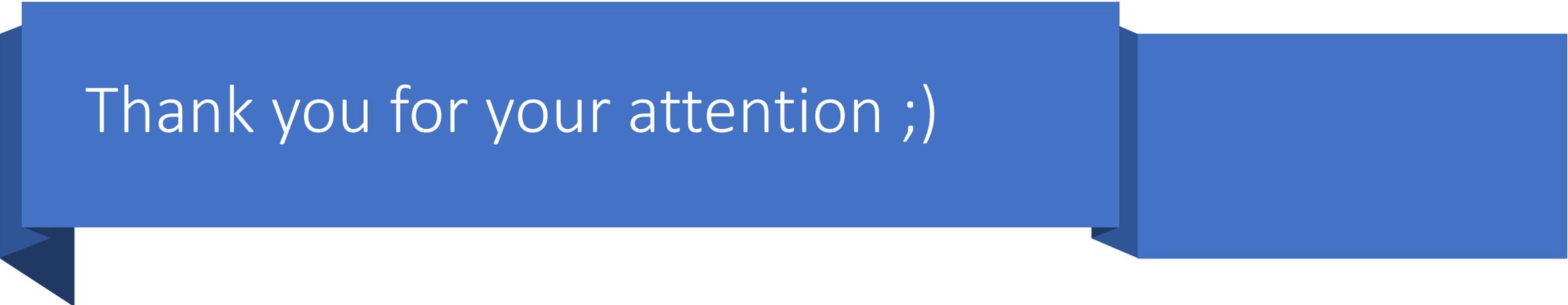Key instrument for urban policy and SDG monitoring: **better data for better lives**

Important topics for future work:

Shrinking cities & managing decline smartly

Managing urbanisation with sustainable development

Specific challenges of intermediary cities

Digital and physical **infrastructure investment needs in rural areas**

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