

Defining urban areas in Europe

Three levels of urban areas based on population distribution and commuting

Grid level

A classification of raster cells of 1 km² using criteria of population density and contiguity. Where available, the population distribution is derived from registers. Elsewhere, it is downscaled from local (LAU2) population figures.

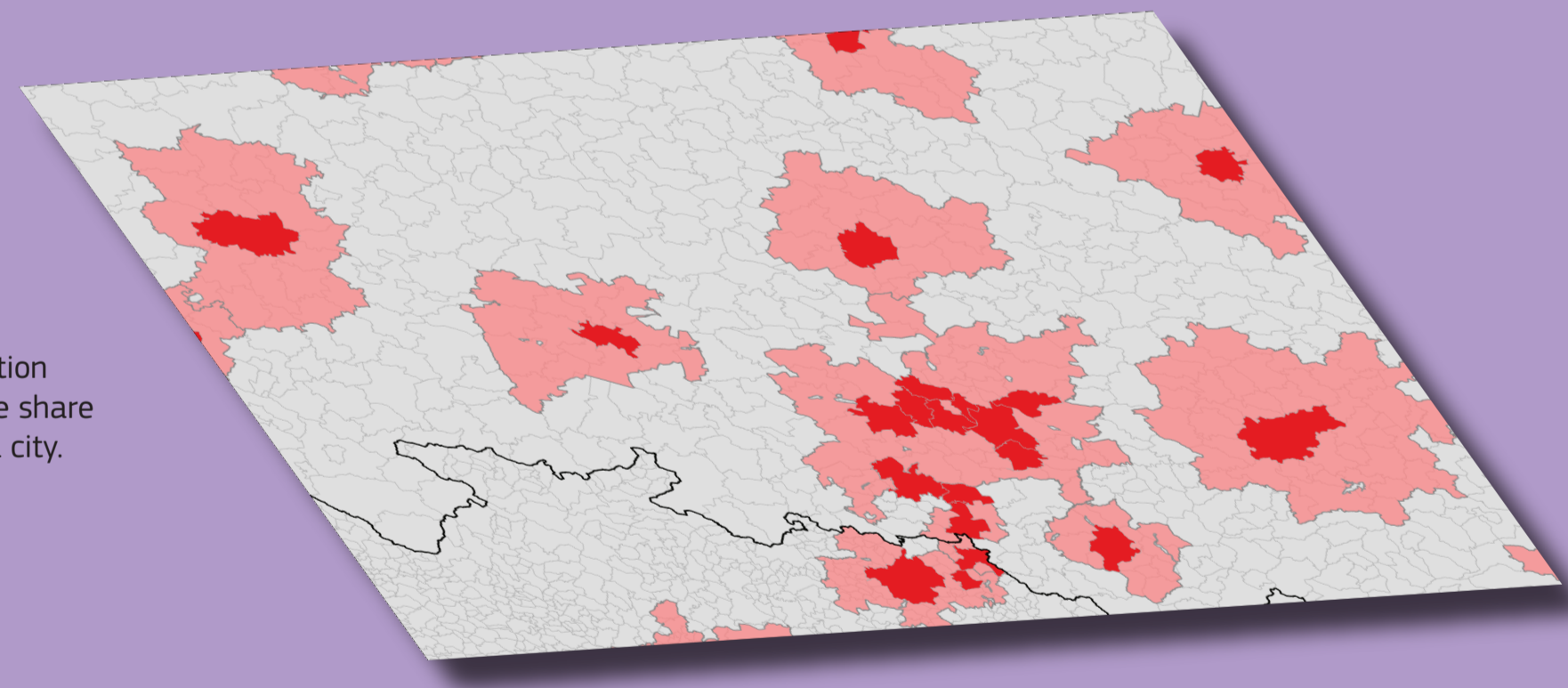


Contiguous cells (without diagonals and with gap filling) with a density of at least 1 500 inh./km² and a minimum of 50 000 inhabitants

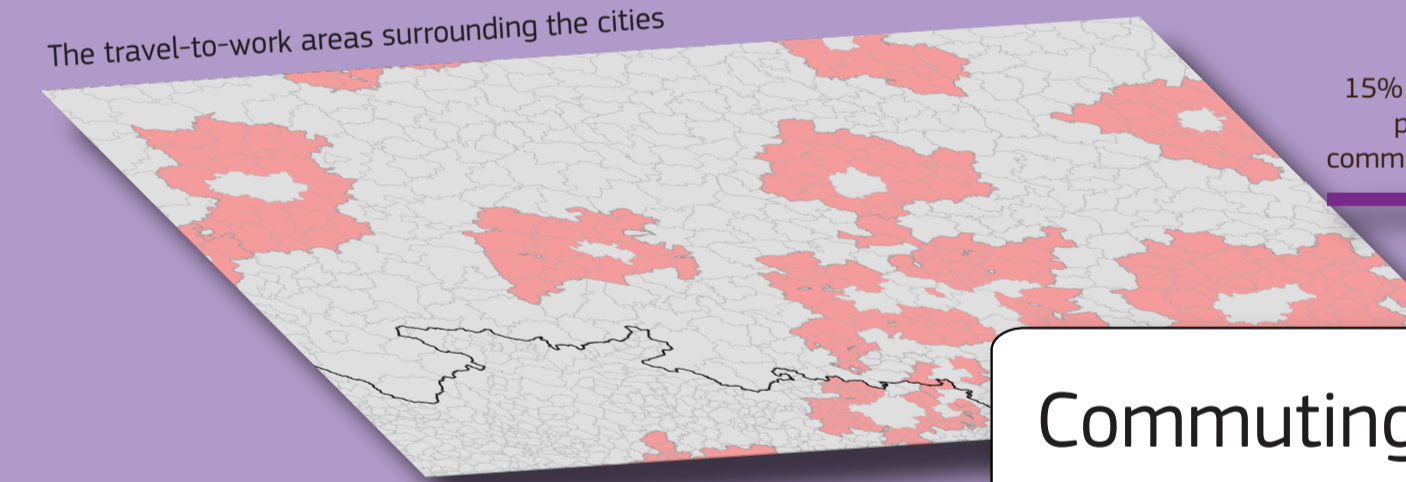
Urban centres
> 50 000 inh.

LAU2 level

A classification of local administrative units (LAU2) based on the share of population living in urban centres and the share of population commuting to a city.

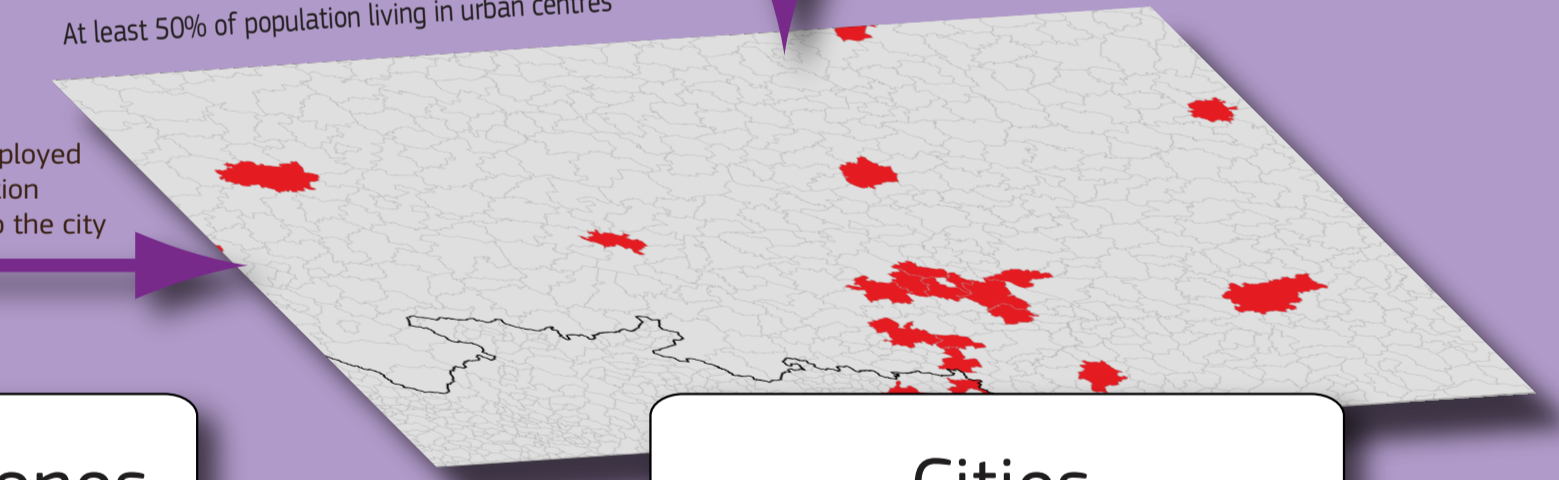


The travel-to-work areas surrounding the cities



15% of employed population commutes to the city

At least 50% of population living in urban centres



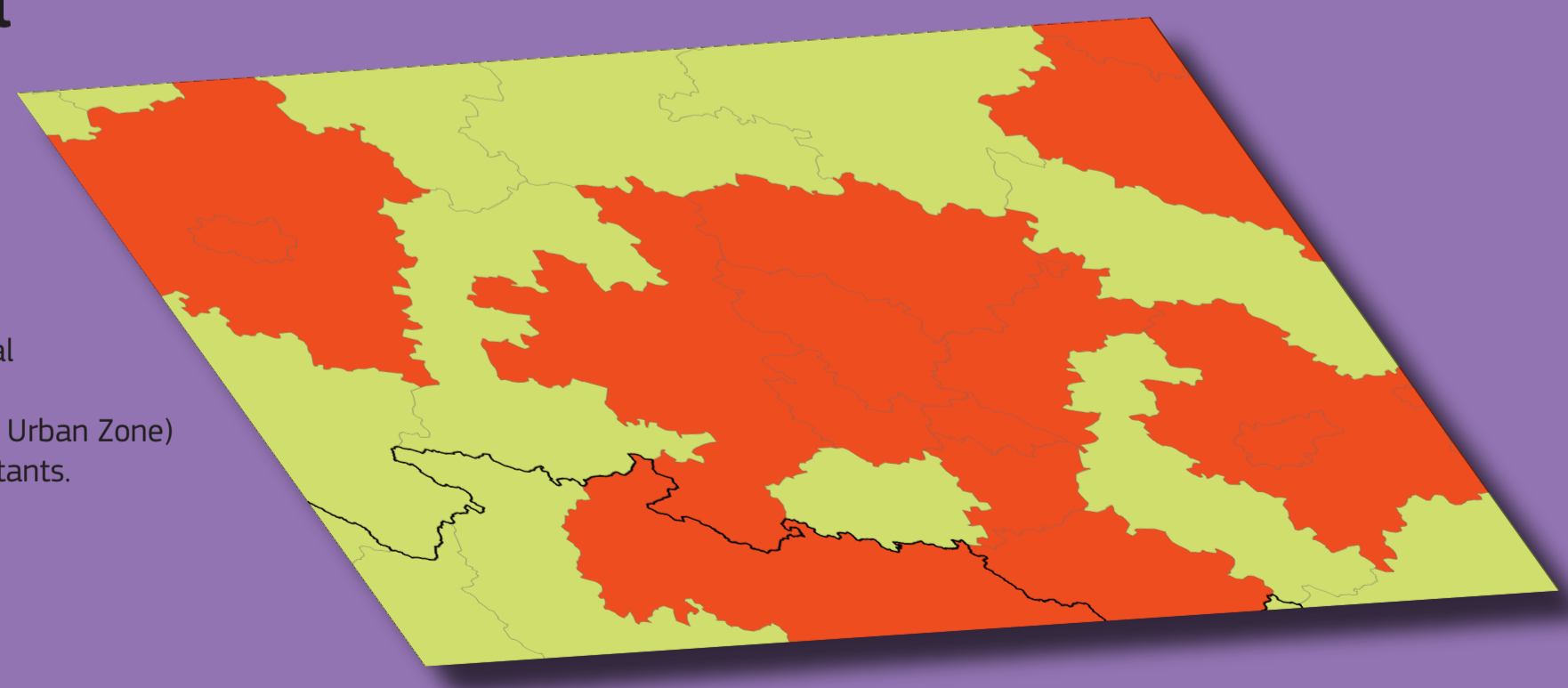
Commuting zones

Cities

Larger urban zones

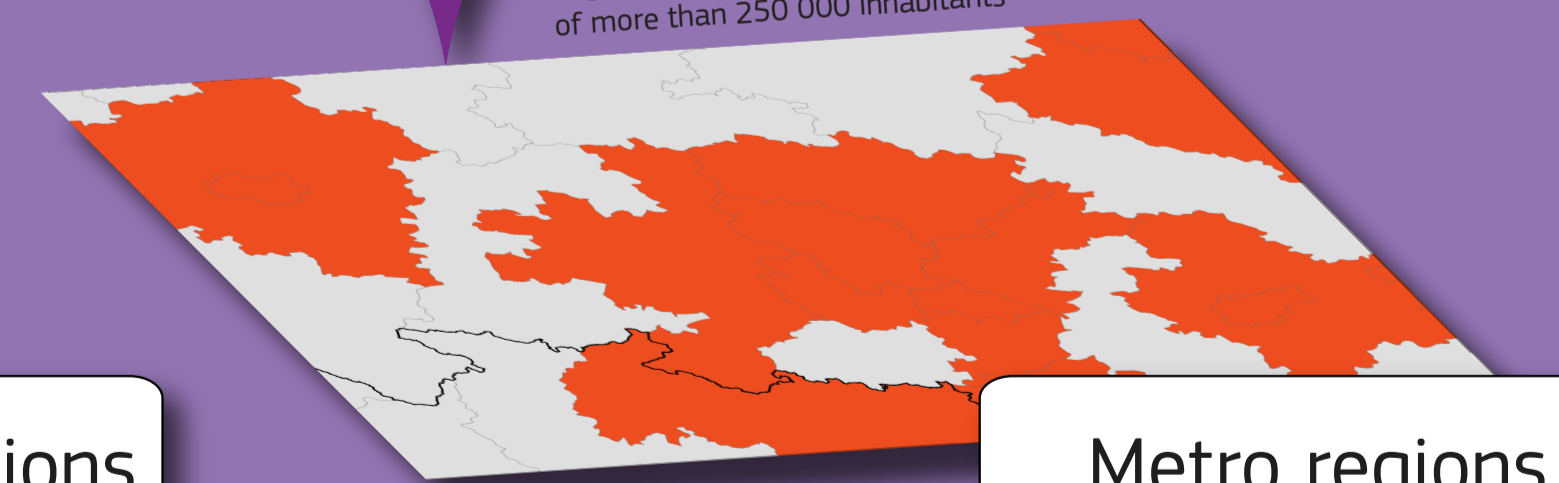
NUTS 3 level

A typology of NUTS-3 regions based on the share of regional population living in a city and its commuting zone (= Larger Urban Zone) of more than 250 000 inhabitants.



Non-metro regions

Regions representing larger urban zones of more than 250 000 inhabitants



Metro regions