



Functional Areas and Territorial Development

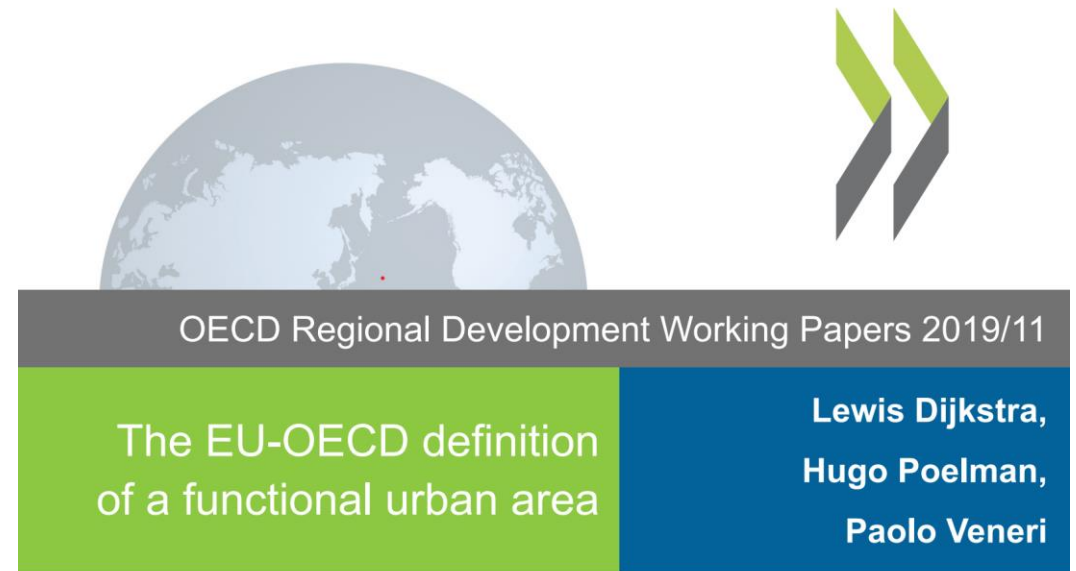
*Lewis Dijkstra, Head of Territorial and
Urban Analysis, Joint Research Centre*

Why do we need functional areas?

- Municipalities are often too small and vary in size between countries
- Access to services goes beyond single municipalities, such as public and private transport, health care, education, broadband, supermarkets, leisure, culture...
- Regions are often very large and heterogenous including a mix of cities, towns and villages, making it more challenging to create a coherent development strategy

Functional urban areas are centred on cities

- The city functions as an employment centre and a hub of public and private services
- The commuting zone consists of the surrounding residential areas in towns, suburbs and rural areas
- <https://doi.org/10.1787/20737009>



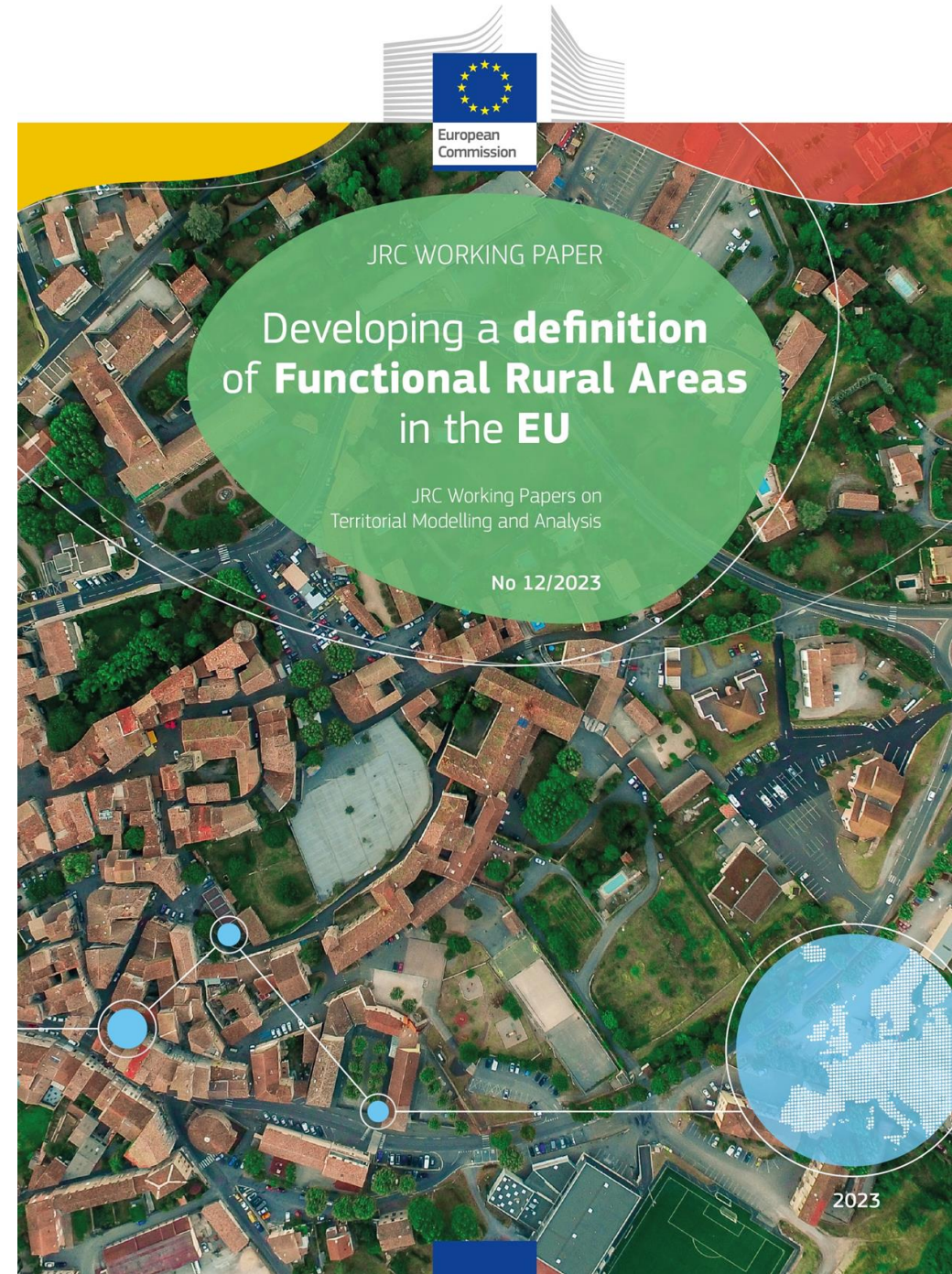
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>

Endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020 and part of the Eurostat Territorial Classification Regulation

Functional Rural Areas are inspired by market towns

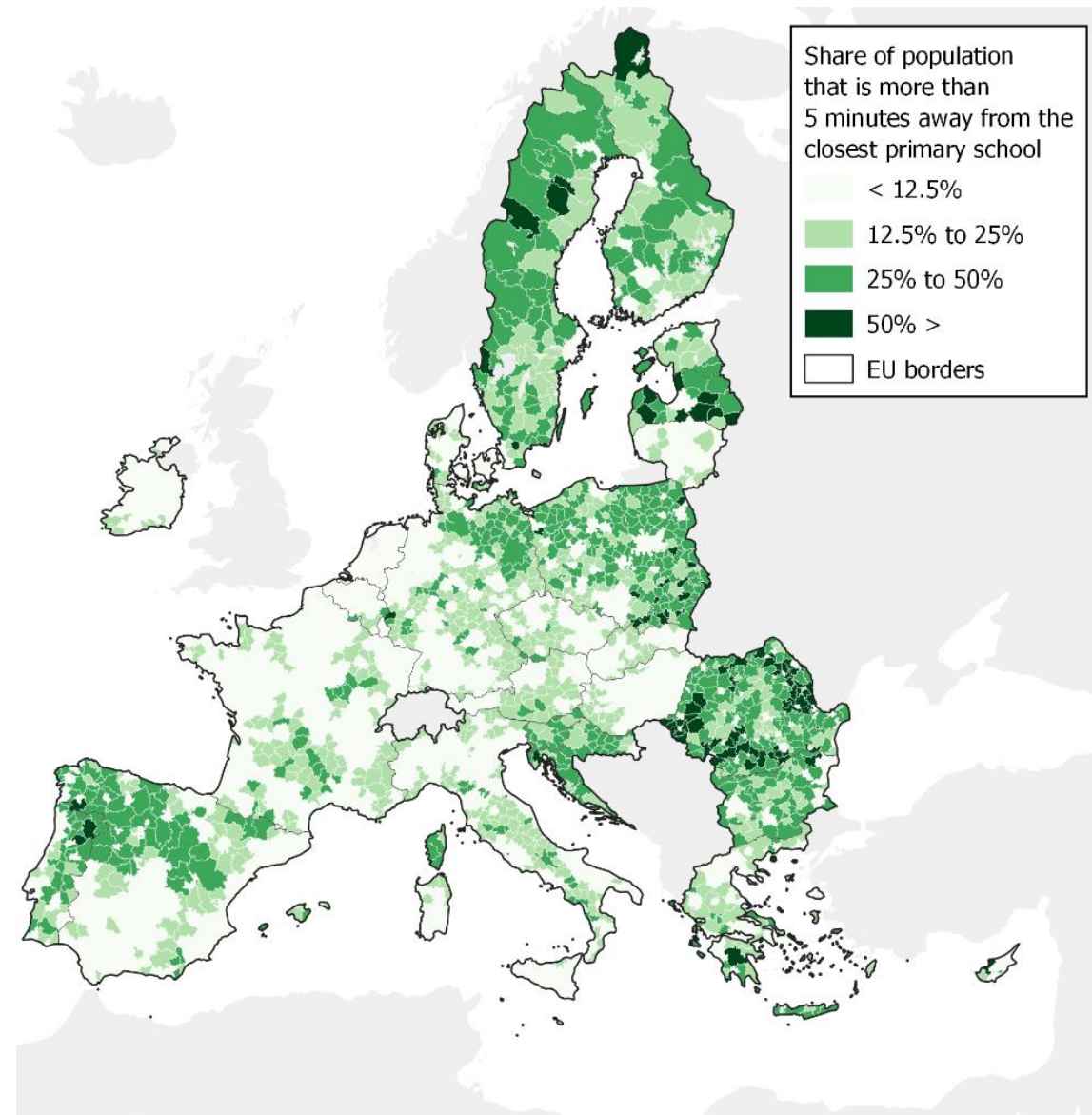
- Market towns offer public and private services to a wider area: a post office, a grocery store, a bank, a school and a doctor,
- They serve as a community centre: weekly market, café, restaurant, cultural centre
- They contain some jobs, but are not a major employment centre or commuting destination

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC135599>

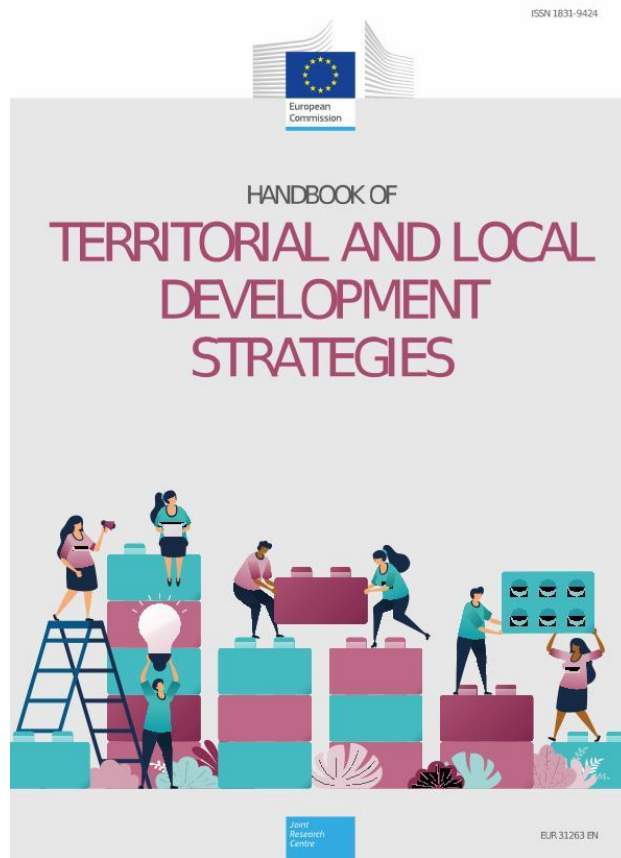


Share of population that is more than 5 minutes from a primary school

- Functional areas are large enough to have most daily services
- However, some are experiencing rapid population reduction which may lead to the consolidation of some services in fewer locations



Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies



It discusses how to **design and implement** integrated strategies outside **urban areas**.

It aims to serve managing authorities of operational programmes, local strategy owners as well as other stakeholders involved in the process.

Link to JRC Publications Repository:

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130788>

Link to interactive page: <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/territorialstrategies/>

Self-assessment tools: SAT4SUD – SAT4TER



Link to the tool:

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strategies/sat4sud/>



Link to the tool:

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sat4ter/en>

- Can help Local Authorities and Managing Authorities of EU Cohesion Policy evaluate integrated urban (SAT4SUD) and territorial/non-urban (SAT4TER) development strategies
- Identify elements to be strengthened as well as areas for improvement
- Are built around the six building blocks of the JRC-DG REGIO handbooks
- Can be used in all the steps of the policy cycles (design, implementation, evaluation)

JRC-DG REGIO Territorial peer reviews

What?

- Two-day workshops for local authorities that manage a Cohesion Policy development strategy outside urban areas
- The goal is to learn from other local authorities from across the EU, experts and EU Commission representatives

When, Where and Who?

- The **2024 Territorial peer review** will take place in **September 2024** in Heraklion, Greece.
- The strategies are 1) Crete, Greece, 2) Monti Dauni, Italy, 3) Țara Făgărașului, Romania.

Next call

- Beginning of January 2025

