Metropolitan governance of European medium–size cities. Linking trajectories and mode of governance.

Christophe Breuer, Ph.D. Candidate
Standing Conference of Territorial Development
Economic geography research unit | University of Liège
Belgium
At the beginning...

1 FEDERAL STATE
Army, Security, Police, Energy, International relations, Social Security, etc.

3 REGIONS
Economy, Land use, Agriculture, Environment, Mobility, Local administration, etc.

3 COMMUNITIES
Education, Culture, etc.
At the beginning...

10 PROVINCES

Education, Security (Environment, Economy, Tourism, etc.).
At the beginning...

589 COMMUNES

All local competencies
Land use, Education, Environment, Culture, etc.
Belgian urban areas

Composantes des complexes résidentiels urbains belges (2001)

Legend:
- Limite de province
- Limite de commune

Composantes des complexes résidentiels urbains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dark Brown</td>
<td>Agglomération</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Banlieue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>Zone résidentielle des migrants alternants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IWPE, 2009
Source des données : Luyten & Van Hecke, 2007
Regional economic trajectories

GDP / inh.

Urban weight in Wallonia

LIÈGE
- City : 194.000 in.
- UA : 654.500 in.
- % R : 19%

CHARLEROI
- City : 203.000 in.
- UA : 400.750 in.
- % R : 11%
Municipal fragmentation of the urban area
Research framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMAND</th>
<th>Assessment of urban fragmentation in Europe for cities which can be compared to Liège and Charleroi, on a quantitative basis.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selection of a set of cities for qualitative analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSTRAINTS</td>
<td>Short amount of time, data availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTION</td>
<td>European data, use of existing typology, urban area level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scales of European data: Liège
Scales of European data: Bruxelles / Brussels
Creation of the database

**City Nomenclature**
- European code for:
  - Core city [622 entries]
  - Large Urban Zone (LUZ) [622 entries]
  - Metropolitan Region [308 entries]

**Population information**
- Population at LUZ level (2012)
- Evolution at MR level (5 years)

**Economic information**
- Evolution of PIB / inhab. (5 years) at MR

**Typology / trajectory**
- DATAR Typology for European Cities
- First ECR typology / Index of City Power 1
- Second ECR typology / Index of City Power 2
Cities selection

All indexed cities by Eurostat
958

UA Cities
620 (300 millions inhab.)

LUZ Population 300k – 1.000k
181 (91 millions inhab.)

Regional cities
87 (48 millions inhab.)

Diversified UA Ind., Ser.
58 (33 millions inhab.)

Non UA Cities
338

LUZ Population > 1 million
59 (149 millions inhab.)

LUZ Population < 300.000
407 (59 millions inhab.)

Exclusion of A Cities and C Cities

Exclusion of touristic cities, C Cities and incomplete
Urban Audit Cities
Selected Cities
Fragmentation indicator in urban areas

FRAGMENTATION INDICATOR

- ▲ 1 – 10.000
- ▄ 10.001 – 20.000
- ▆ 20.001 – 50.000
- ■ 50.001 – 100.000
- ● > 100.000

Inhab. / local unit
## Fragmentation indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>136.032</td>
<td>55.228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>77.903</td>
<td>48.960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>74.903</td>
<td>2.916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>56.477</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34.729</td>
<td>11.882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26.981</td>
<td>34.060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23.468</td>
<td>20.839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11.977</td>
<td>12.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.718</td>
<td>5.636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.862</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary results of the exploratory research

H1: There is a significant difference of local fragmentation between industrial cities and service cities, due to the rapid evolution of industrial cities and their particular urban fabric.
- Rejected: there is no statistical evidence of a more fragmented local administration in industrial cities.

H2: There is a significant correlation between urban fragmentation and urban trajectories (GDP or population evolution).
- Rejected: there is no significant statistical evidence of such correlation.

H3: There is a significant correlation between urban fragmentation and cities power index (CPI).
- To be confirmed: there is a low but significant positive correlation between urban fragmentation and CPI. The lower the fragmentation, the higher the CPI. This result should be tested with new Eurostat spatial references.
Conclusion

Are European databases useful?
- European databases and spatial references have too little stability.
- There is currently no systematic database to compare metropolitan governance of second-tier cities. Governance indicators come from secondary analysis on non-governance data.
- There is a great variability of methodological framework from state to state.

Is this methodology useful to compare metropolitan governance of European cities?
- Despite disappointing but expected statistical results, this methodology could be the first step towards a metropolitan governance benchmark. It gives useful insight on urban administrative geography in Europe.
- Nevertheless, this methodology has serious limitations due to the impossibility to integrate multilevel institutional bricolage.
Christophe Breuer, Ph.D. Candidate
Standing Conference of Territorial Development
Economic geography research unit | University of Liège
Belgium