Delineating Cities and Rural Areas
The French Experience with DEGURBA

David LEVY
INSEE

January 28-30, 2019
Overview

1. The french context
   - Urban Units
   - Urban Areas
   - OECD Cities

2. The uses of DEGURBA
   - To define cities
   - To define rural
   - To compare countries

3. The upcoming projects
   - Upgrade DEGURBA
   - Upgrade urban areas
1 The french context
   - Urban Units
   - Urban Areas
   - OECD Cities

2 The uses of DEGURBA
   - To define cities
   - To define rural
   - To compare countries

3 The upcoming projects
   - Upgrade DEGURBA
   - Upgrade urban areas
To define Urban Units

There are 36 000 municipalities
Urban units were define in 1960 and the method did not changed

There are 2,300 urban units, but how many cities?

contiguously built-up areas

> 200 m

zones de bâtis continu

commune 1

> 2 000 Hab.

commune 2

commune 3

population communale

> 50 %

> 50 %

more than 50% of the population is concentrated in the contiguously built-up area

a population greater than 2,000 inhabitants
Otherwise, we analyse the influence of the cities: urban areas. An urban area is a statistical area describing a central urban core and its economic influence on surrounding municipalities. The core is defined by an urban unit offering over 10,000 jobs.
Urban Areas

We recently change the way to define a city, base on the 1rst level of DEGURBA.
To conclude this introduction on the french context: What are cities, urban and rural areas?

- 36,000 municipalities
- 2,300 urban units
- 241 large urban areas
- 68 cities

Let’s see how DEGURBA brings alternative perspectives
1. The french context
   - Urban Units
   - Urban Areas
   - OECD Cities

2. The uses of DEGURBA
   - To define cities
   - To define rural
   - To compare countries

3. The upcoming projects
   - Upgrade DEGURBA
   - Upgrade urban areas
The uses of DEGURBA

To define cities

to capture the main cities

The DEGURBA methodology is very useful for capturing the main French cities. Let’s look at an example in the South of France.
to capture the main cities

One Urban unit (left) and 3 cities - DEGURBA level 1 (right)
french urban units and DEGURBA level 1
The uses of DEGURBA
To define cities

city and suburbs

Cities and suburbs (DEGURBA)
- cities
- suburbs
- rural
- deep rural
DEGURBA is not sufficient for defining rural

3 levels DEGURBA (right) - 4 levels DEGURBA (left)
but DEGURBA is helpful for defining rural

DEGURBA and far from FUA

DEGURBA and far from amenities
DEGURBA is helpful for analysing borders.
1. The French context
   - Urban Units
   - Urban Areas
   - OECD Cities

2. The uses of DEGURBA
   - To define cities
   - To define rural
   - To compare countries

3. The upcoming projects
   - Upgrade DEGURBA
   - Upgrade urban areas
The new levels of DEGURBA

- Upgrade will come in the next months
- Level ”1.5”: cells > 1,500 residents/km AND cluster of [5,000 - 50,000] residents
- The new rural levels
The new urban areas (FUA)

Le Zonage en Aires Urbaines 2010

The current urban areas

Projects new urban areas
To conclude

DEGURBA is helpful for delineating cities, suburbs and rural areas

DEGURBA is a flexible classification, allows us to complete levels

DEGURBA allows international analysis, especially around the borders
Thank you
Any questions?