

Regional disparities in well-being and economic development.

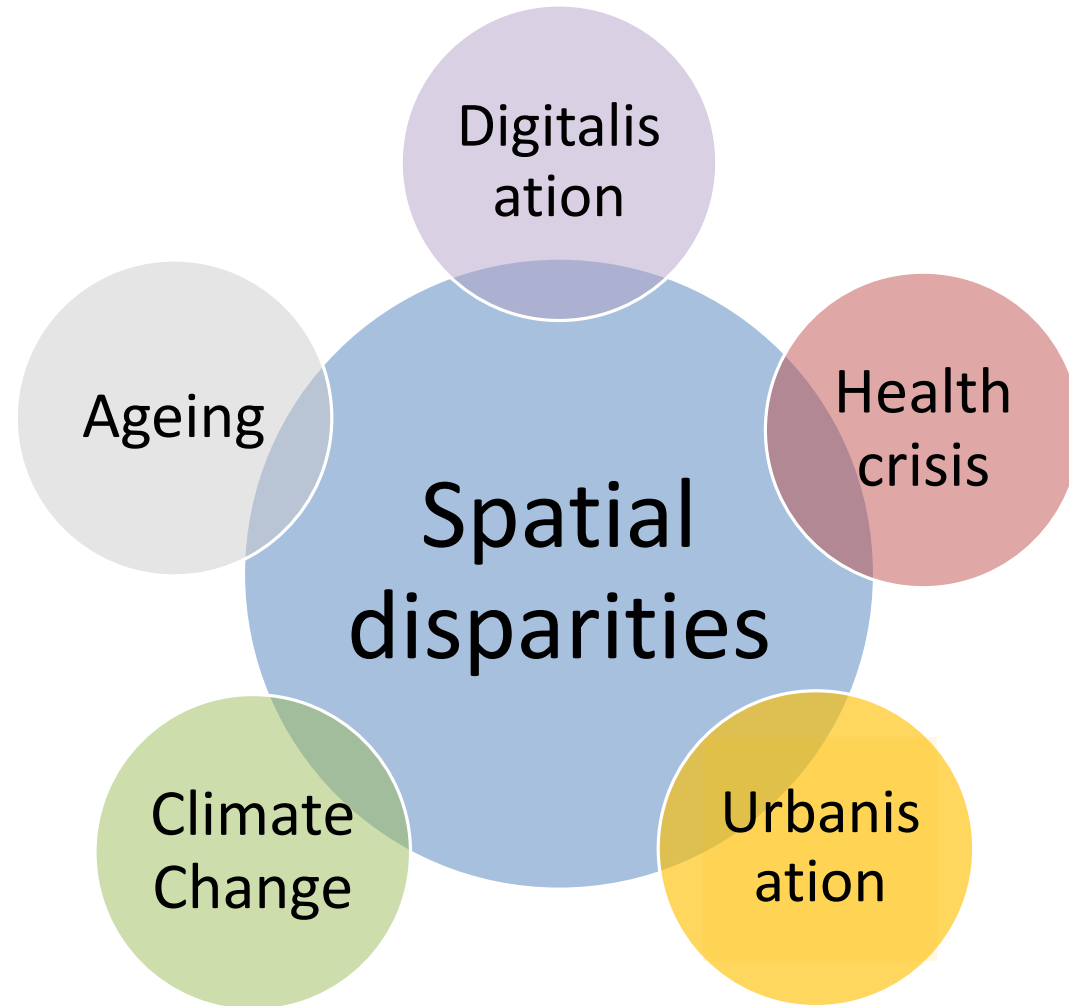
Long-term trends and the pandemic

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Multiple and interconnected factors are likely to affect regional disparities in economic development and well-being

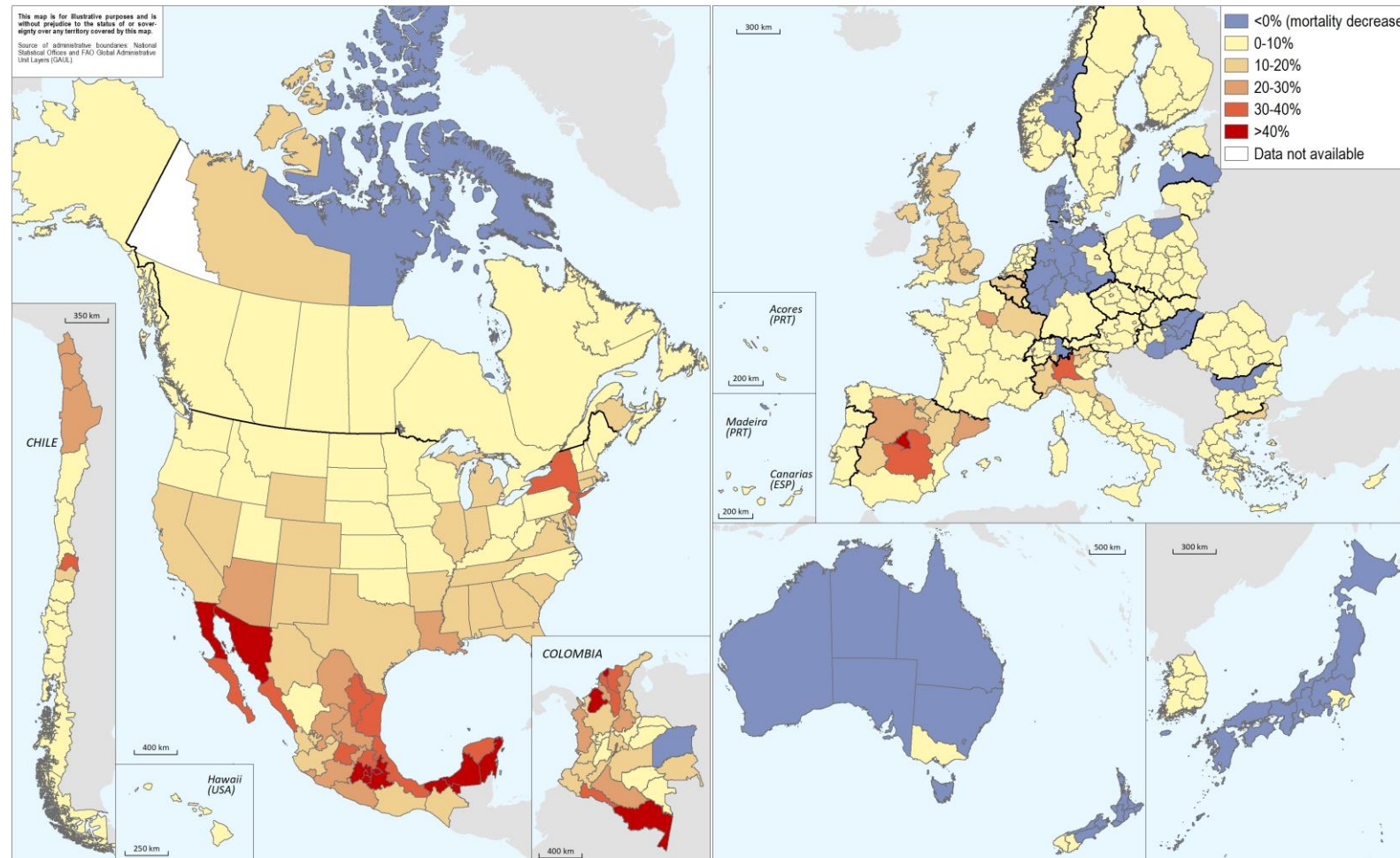


Not all places were equally prepared to face the health crisis

Some places paid a higher death toll, especially large cities

Excess mortality, February to September 2020

% increase in deaths relative to the 2018-19 average, small regions (TL3) if available, otherwise large regions (TL2)



Across OECD regions **10%** increase in deaths during the first wave of COVID-19 from January to September. Some regions have been very badly affected, with over 50% increase in deaths.

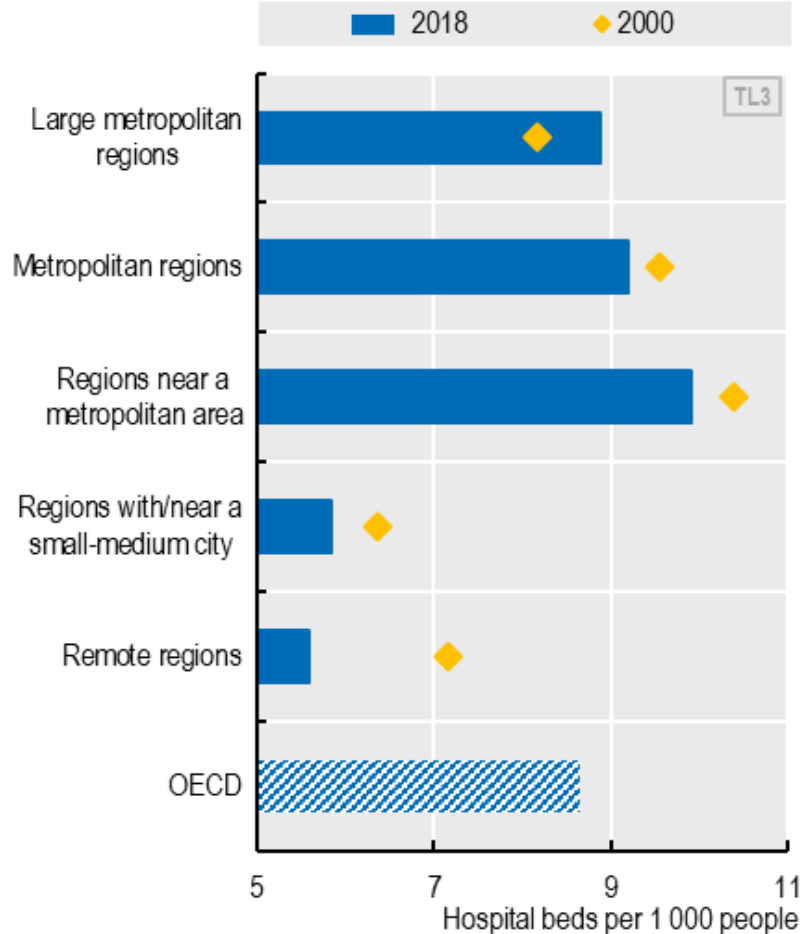
High-growth of deaths in regions of Chile, Colombia, France, Italy, Spain, and US

In most OECD countries, remote regions have a lower price in human losses than other regions

Regional disparities in availability of hospital beds are much higher today than in 2000

Hospital beds rate, 2000 and 2018

Beds per 1 000 people, by type of region, weighted averages of small regions (TL3)



- Hospital beds per person have declined everywhere since 2000, but much faster in remote regions.
- Metropolitan regions have 65% more hospital beds per capita than remote regions, a gap that can affect the capacity to cope with the COVID-19 crisis.

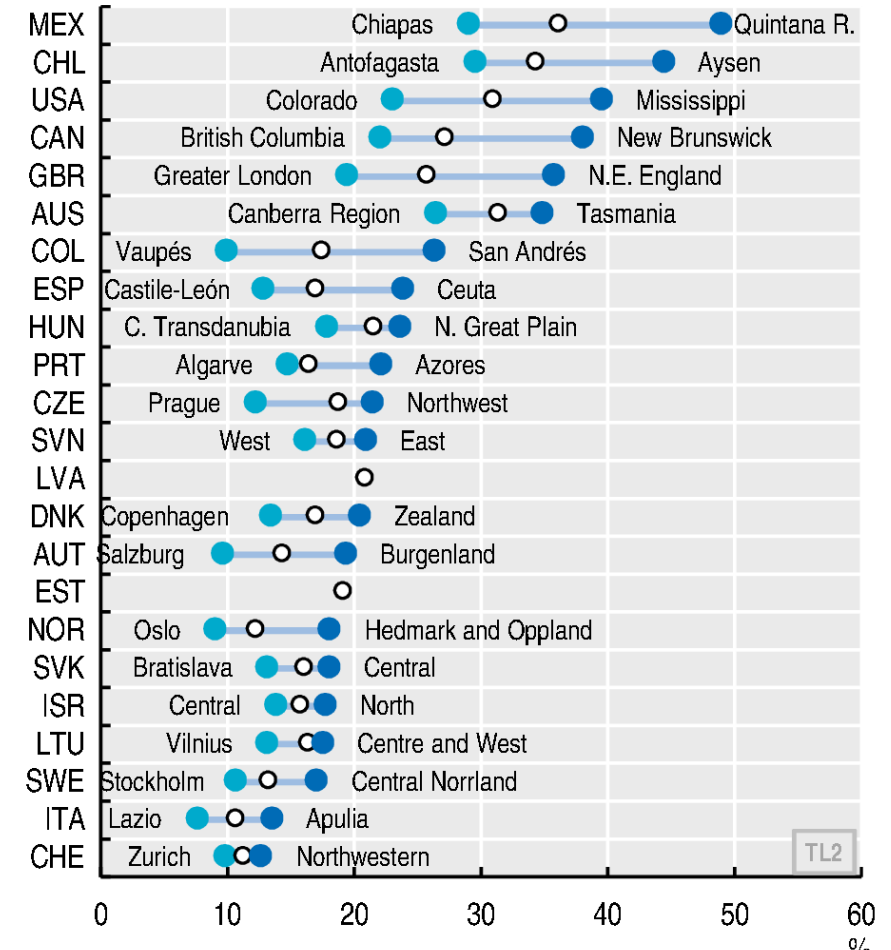
Stark regional inequalities in morbidity and mortality rates can make some places more vulnerable to COVID-19

Obesity rates, 2018

Percentage of adult population, large regions (TL2)

● Minimum ○ Country value ● Maximum

- People with high blood pressure, heart and lung diseases, and obesity are more vulnerable if infected with COVID-19
- Western European regions more affected by respiratory diseases. Baltic and Central Europe suffer more from cardiovascular diseases, and regions in the Americas from obesity
- In some regions in Mexico, Chile and the United States, close to 40% or more of the population is obese



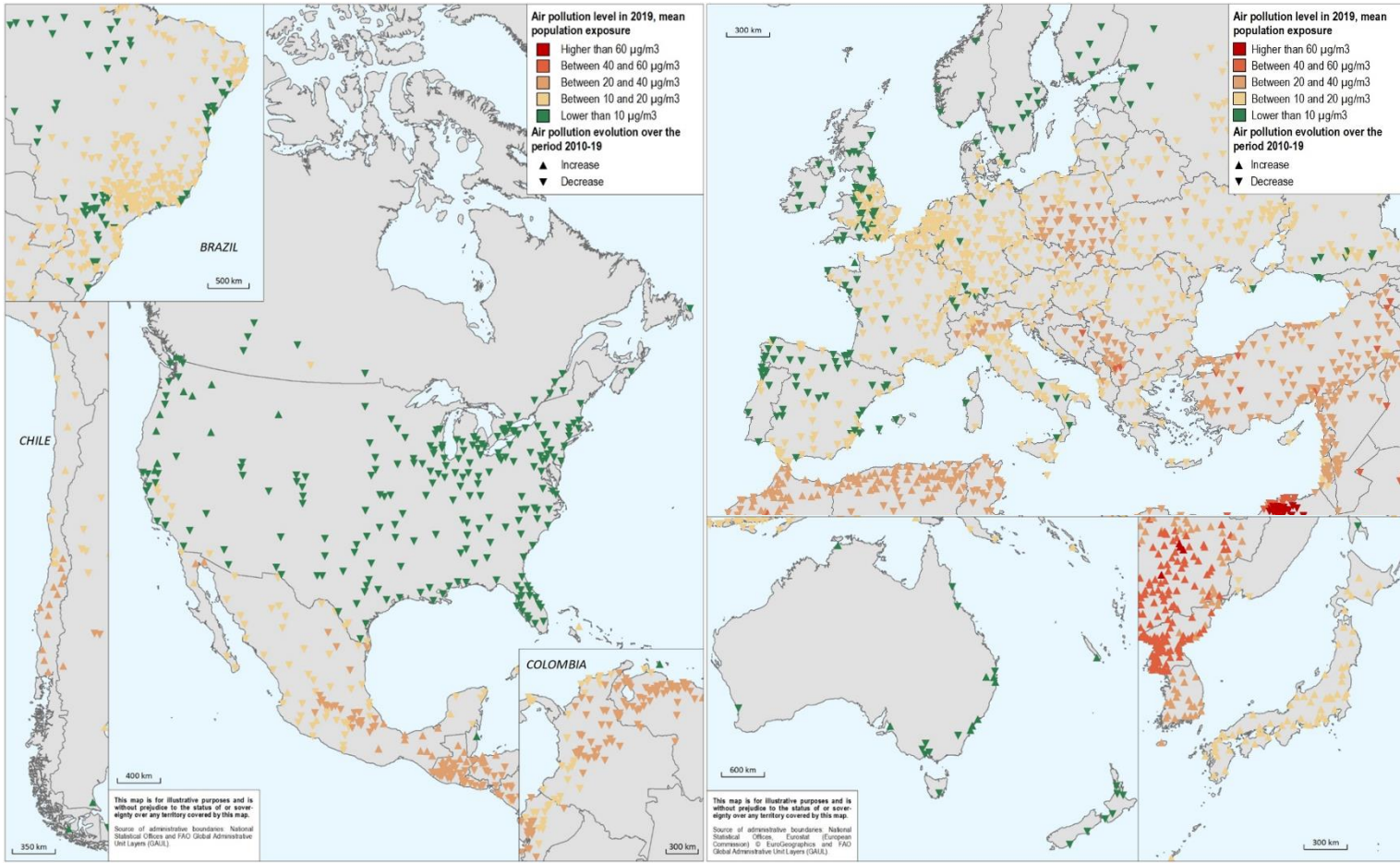
TL2

%

The spread of COVID-19 has been linked to air pollution.

Air pollution levels in functional urban areas

Levels of PM2.5 in μm^3 , 2019, with change between 2010 and 2019



World trends in air pollution, 2010-19:

- In 30 OECD countries at least one city with air pollution above WHO recommended levels
- Air pollution levels have decreased since 2010, except in low- and lower-middle income countries.
- Highest concentration of PM2.5 lower-middle income countries' cities (66 μm^3 of PM2.5)

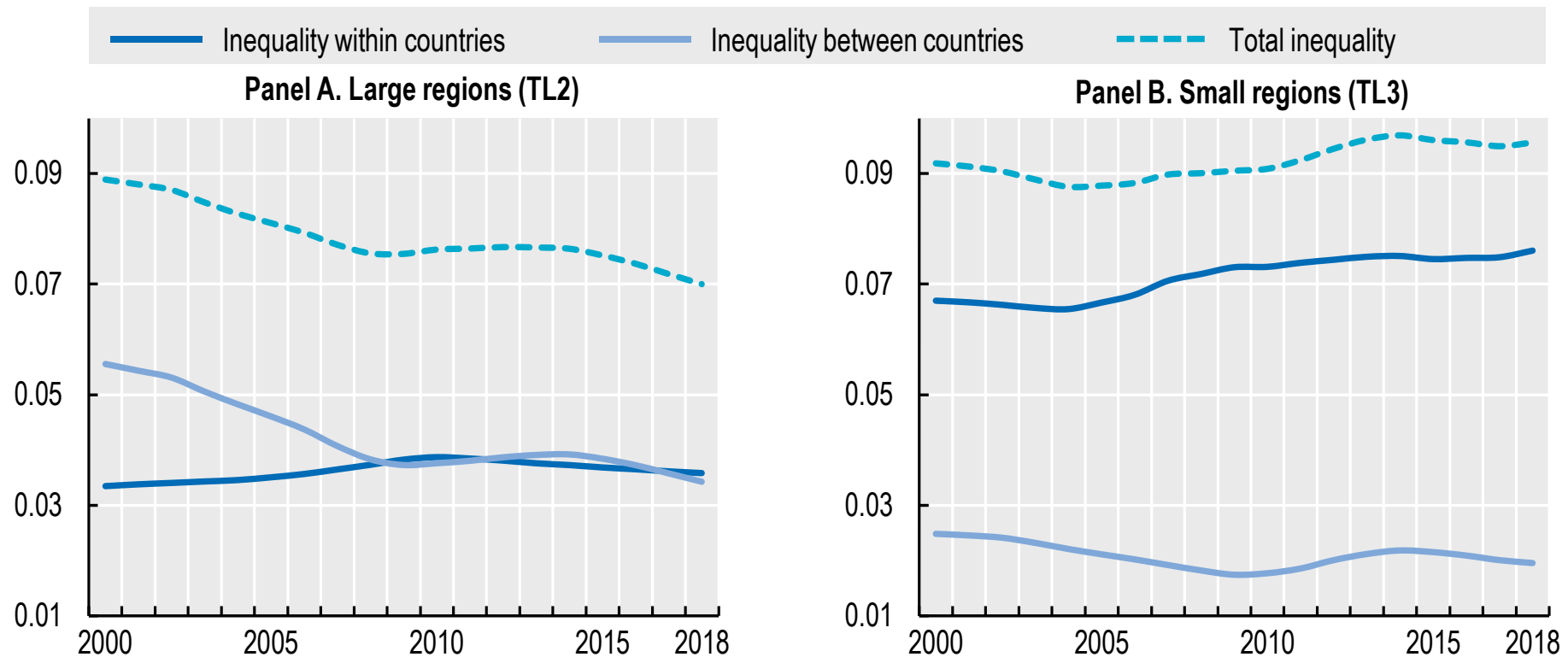
Recommended WHO limit: 10 μm^3 of PM2.5

The health crises turned into a deep economic downturn, potentially exacerbating long standing regional disparities

In the whole OECD area, within-country economic disparities have either been constant or slightly increased since 2008, depending on the scale at which we look at them.

Trends in regional disparities in OECD countries

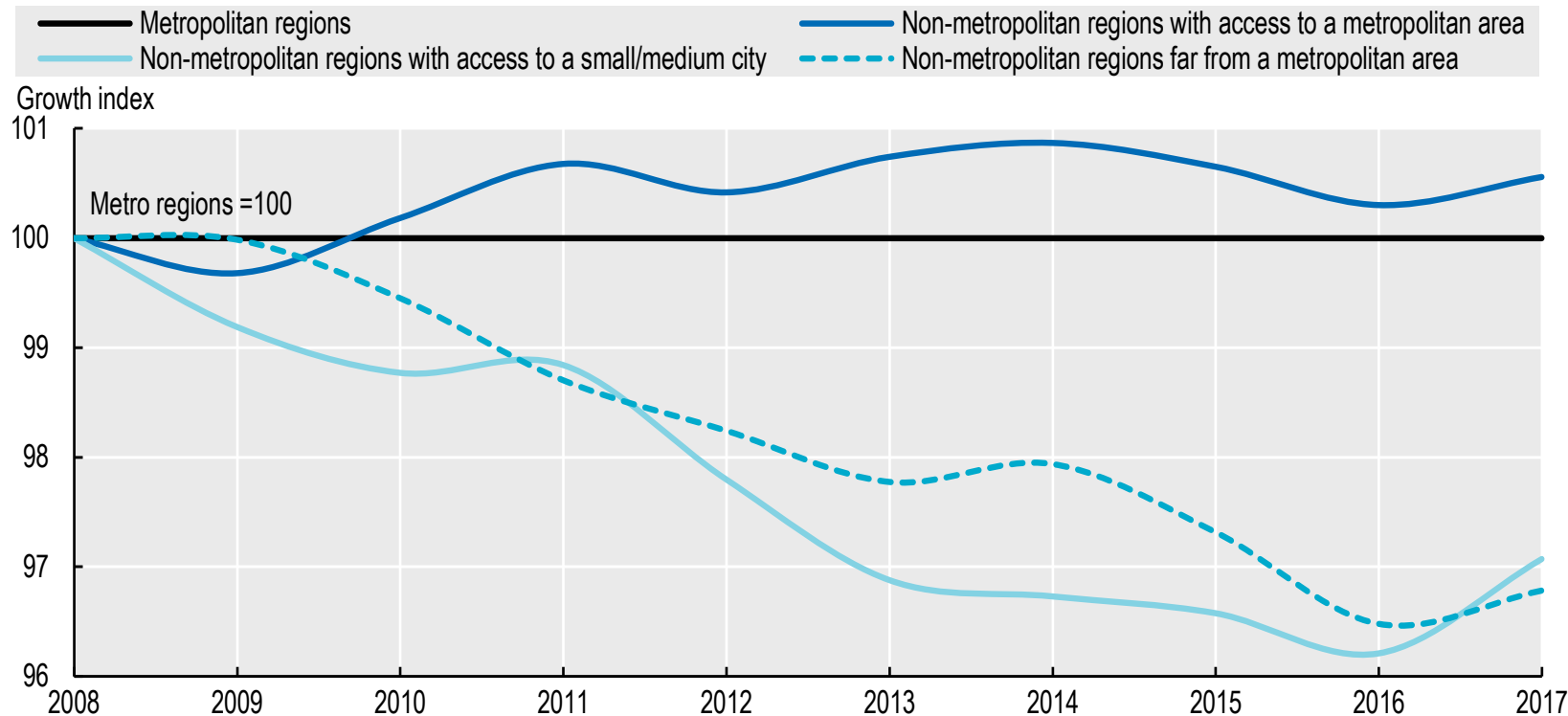
Their inequality index of GDP per capita, based on large and small regions



Regions close to metropolitan areas have grown faster than other regions in terms of GDP per capita

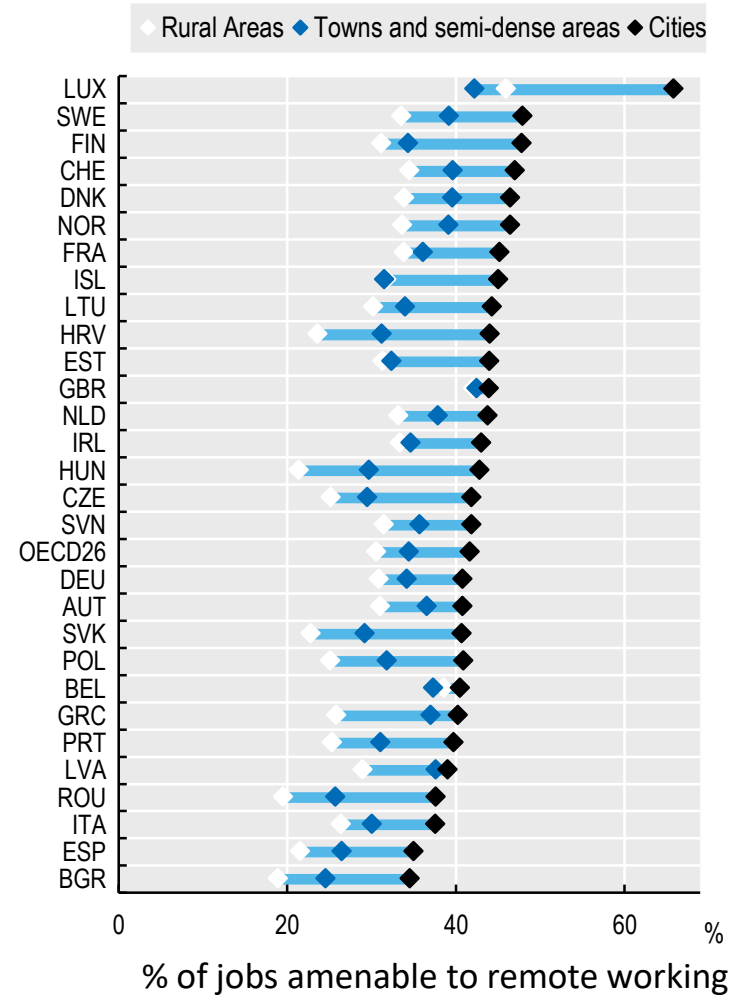
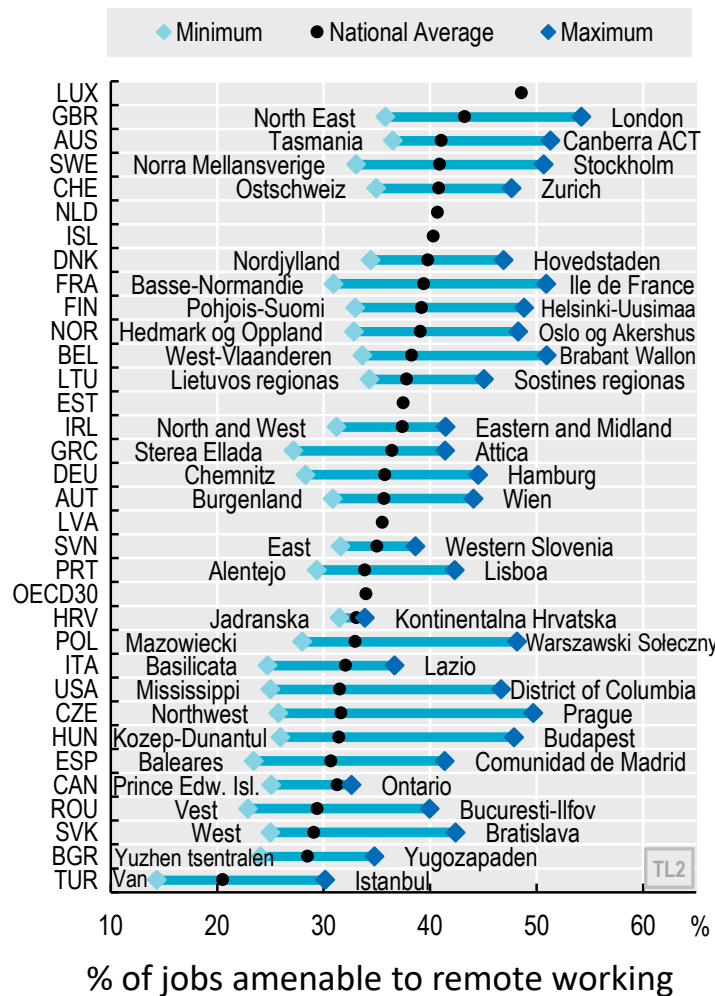
GDP per capita growth index in non-metropolitan relative to metropolitan regions

OECD countries, index (metropolitan regions=100)



- The gap in GDP per capita of regions far from metropolitan areas with respect to metropolitan regions has increased another 3 percentage points since 2008.
- Two thirds of OECD countries have regions where productivity, a proxy for wages and economic prosperity, have stagnated or declined for a decade.

Cities and capital regions have the highest capacity to shift to remote working

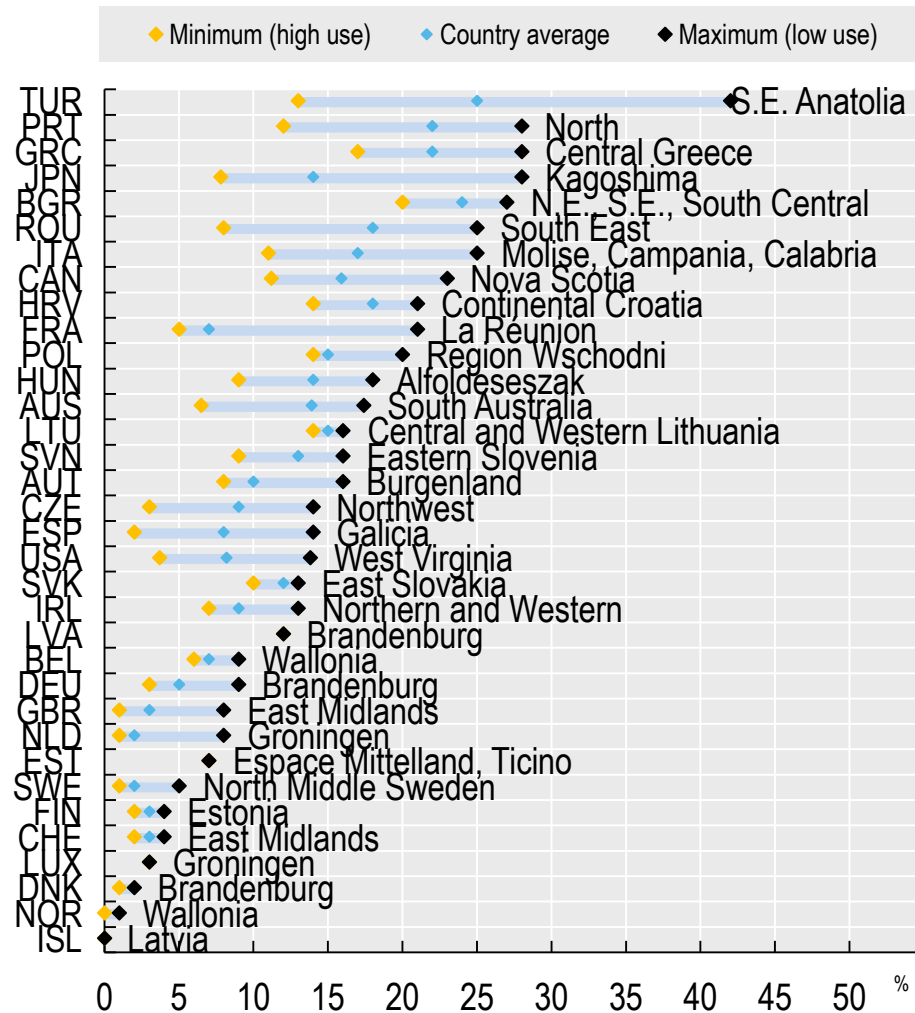


Cities, generally already wealthier than other places, can shift to remote working more easily than rural areas, with **13pp higher share of jobs amenable to remote working** than rural areas.

In several **capital regions** (i.e. Ile de France, London, Stockholm, Brussels, Prague), more than half of jobs are amenable to remote working.

Some regions lack the minimum digital skills or digital take up.

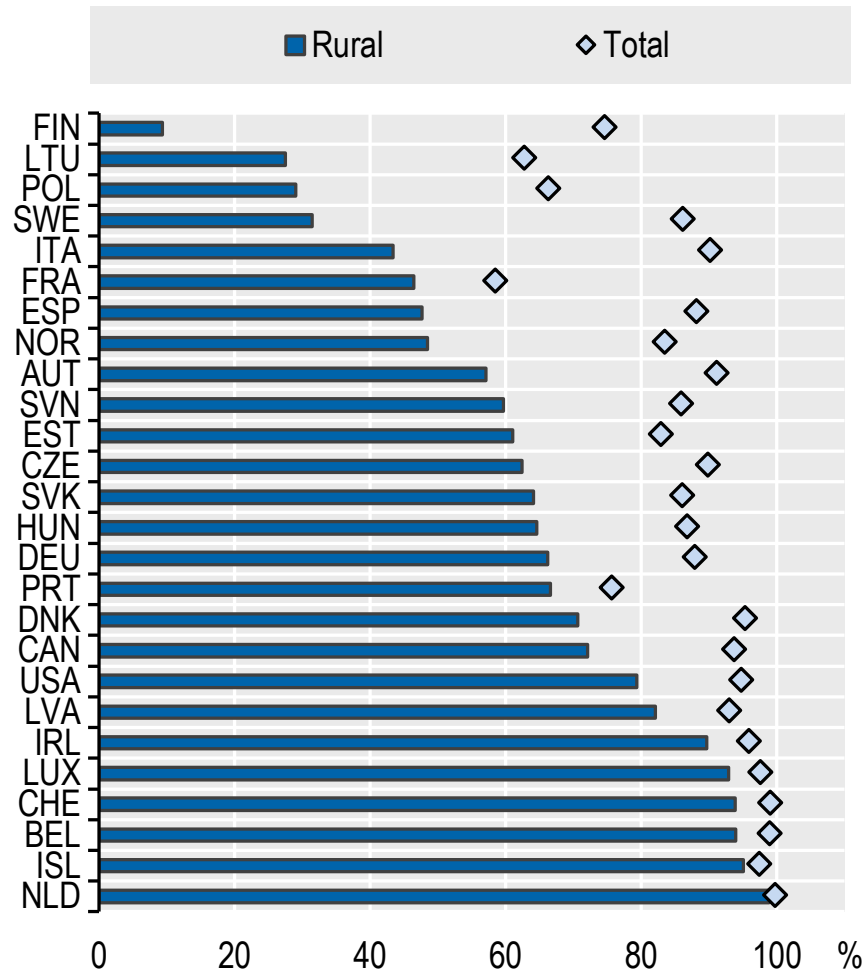
% of people not using the Internet, 2019



- The share of people using the Internet in the regions with the highest use is 10 percentage points higher than in the region with the lowest use, on average.
- In some regions in Italy, Japan, Greece, Portugal and Turkey one fourth or more of households do not use internet.

Rural areas are likely to slip further behind due to poor digital infrastructure

% households with access to internet >30Mbit/s, 2019



Rural areas need to bridge the digital divide

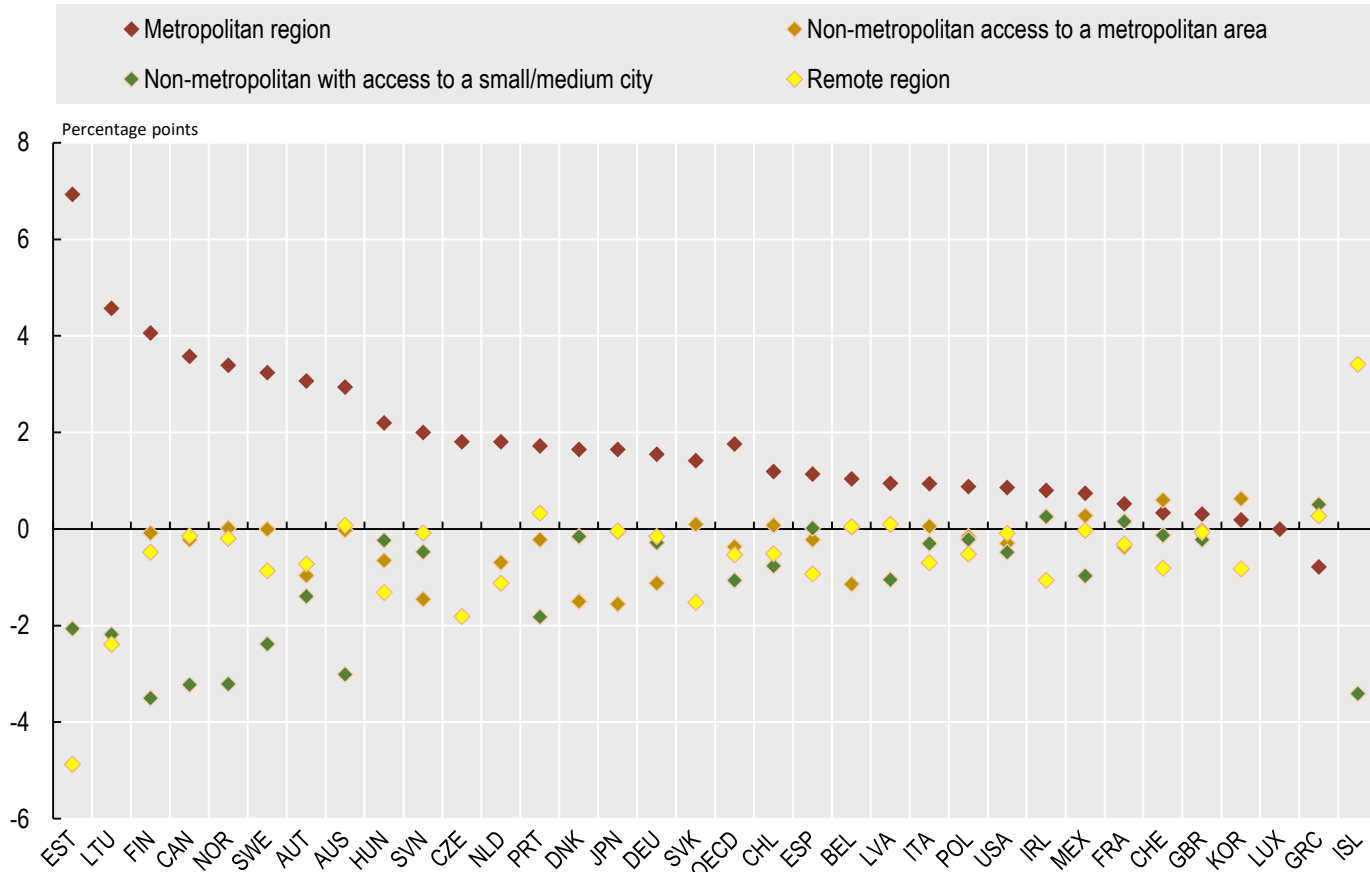
- One in three households in rural areas does not have access to high-speed broadband, on average.
- Only 7 out of 26 countries have succeeded in ensuring access to high-speed connection to more than 80% of households in rural regions.

Demographic change, ageing and urbanization are affecting regions differently

The concentration of the population in metropolitan regions has continued to increase almost everywhere in OECD countries since 2000

Change in the share of population by type of region

Change in the share of the population in TL3 regions over total population 2000-19

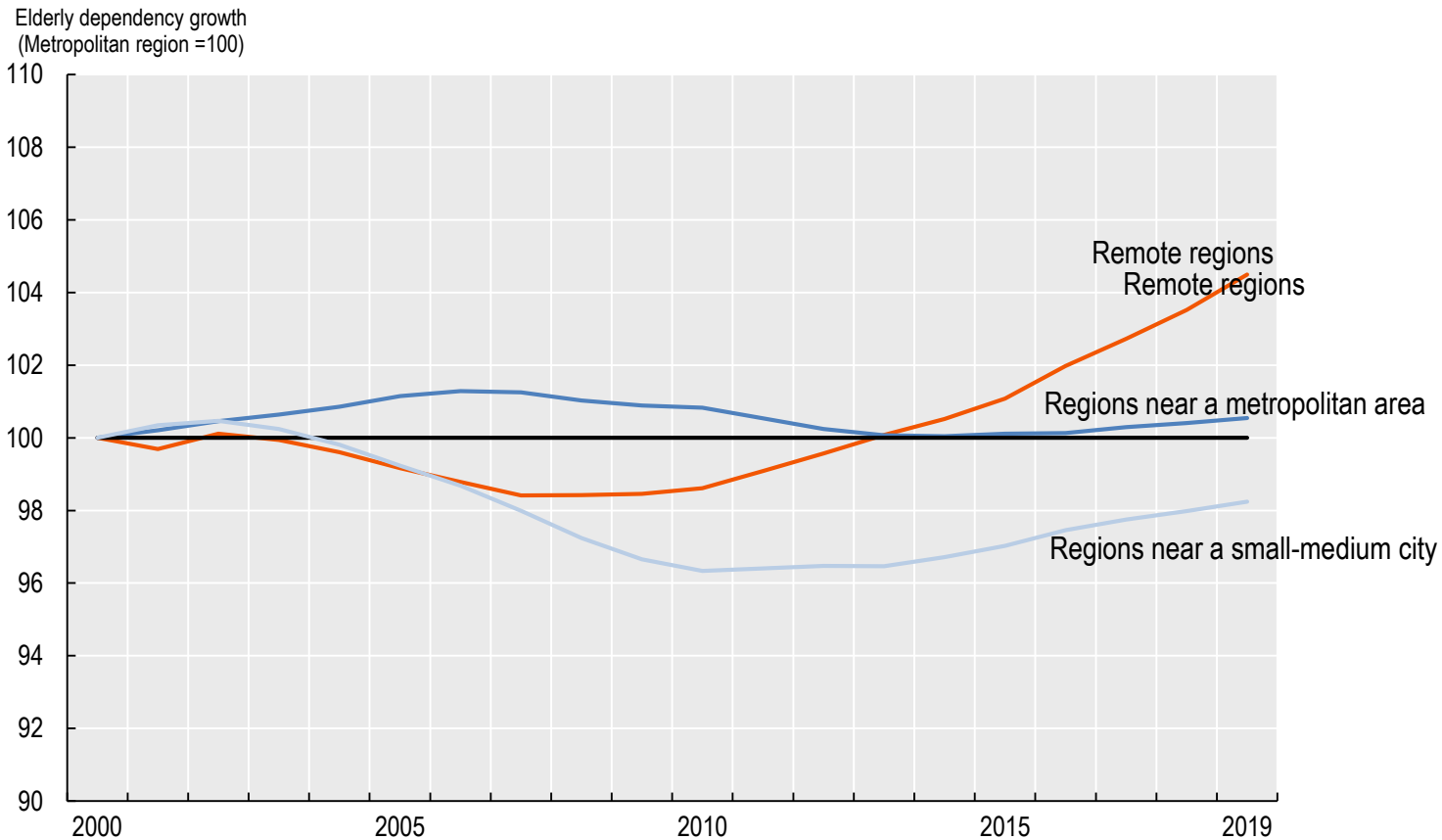


- Increased concentration of population in metropolitan regions by 2 percentage points since 2000
- Highest increase in Baltic and Nordic countries.
- This process is driven by the young, explaining faster ageing trends outside metropolitan regions

All regions are ageing in OECD countries, but faster in remote regions

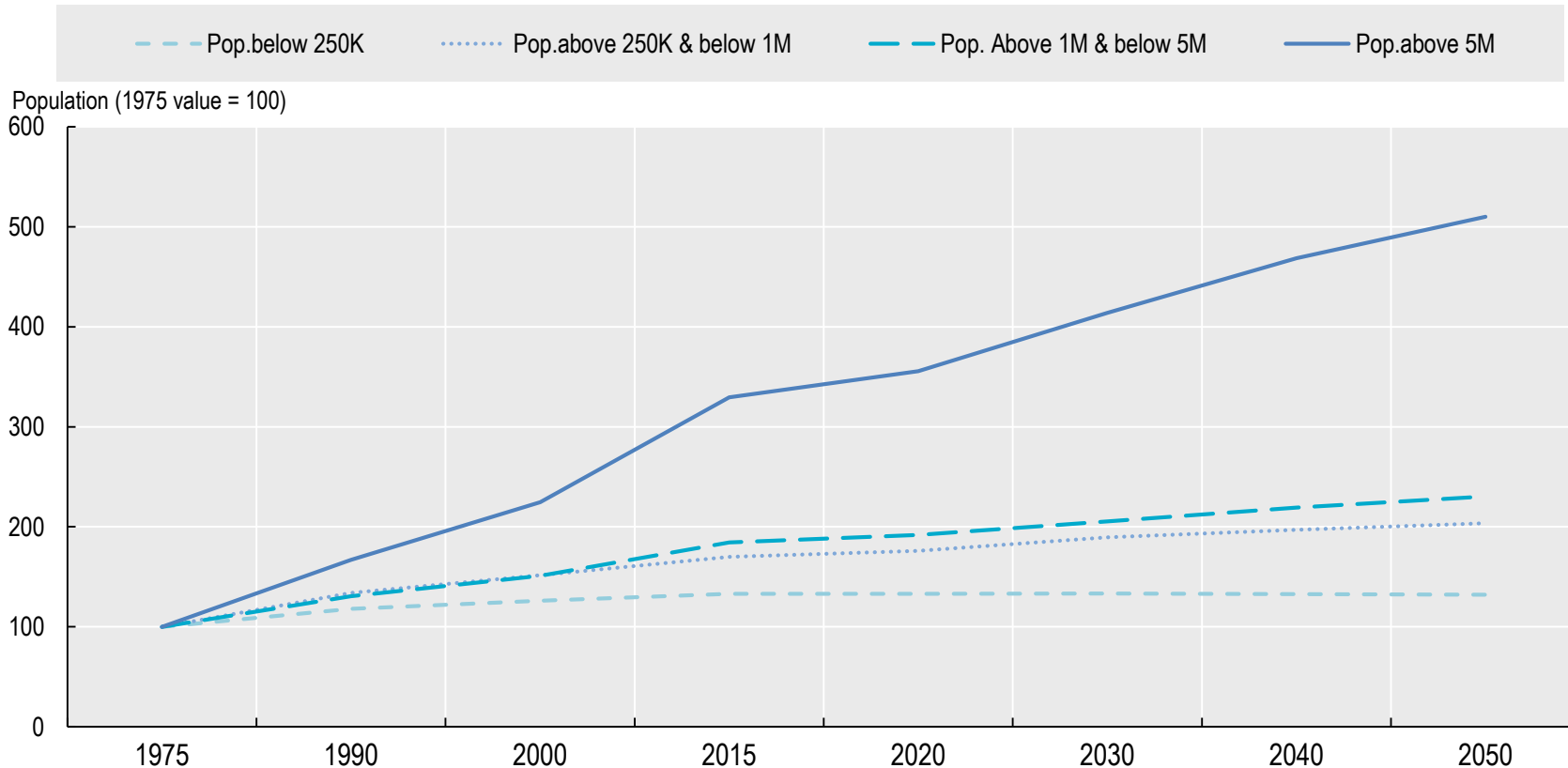
Elderly dependency rate in OECD countries by type of region (TL3)

Positive net population flows of youth (15 to 29 years old) across regions, 4-year average 2015 and 2018



- In 80 regions across 13 countries there is one elderly every two working persons.
- In levels, elderly dependency rate is lowest in metropolitan regions
- In recent years the elderly dependency rate has grown faster in remote regions compared to other places (figure).
- This trend puts pressure on social service and healthcare, as well as local public finances

Looking at the whole world, large metropolitan areas have grown fastest and will likely continue to do so



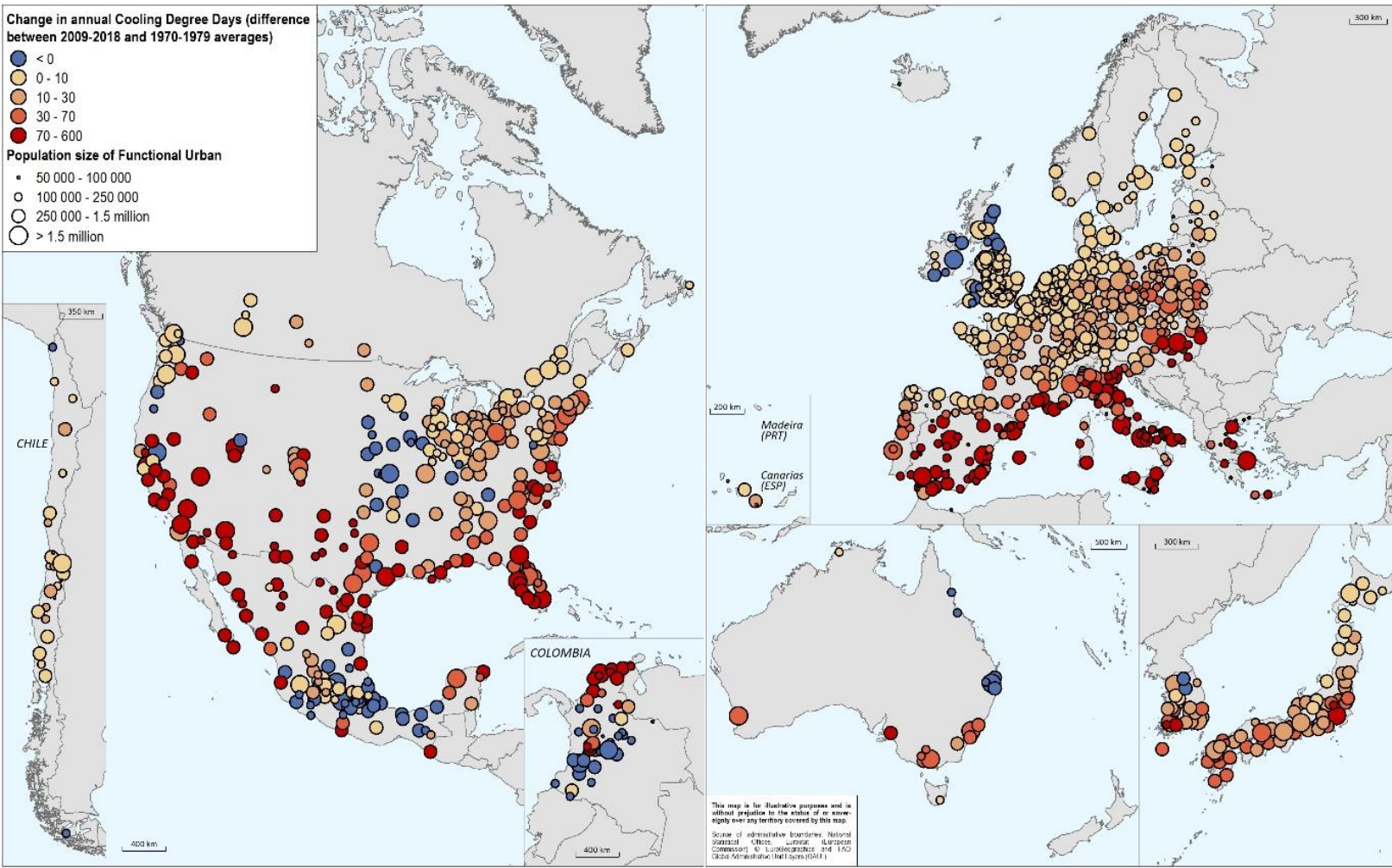
- During the next 30 years, population in metropolitan areas over **5 M.** inhabitants is expected to grow by **150%** (what amounts to 13 times the population of France)
- Growth in smaller metropolitan areas won't exceed **40%** during the same period.

The spatial aspect of climate change and sustainable development: some insights

Temperatures have increased in many metropolitan areas in the last 50 years

Change in cooling needs in cities and their commuting zones

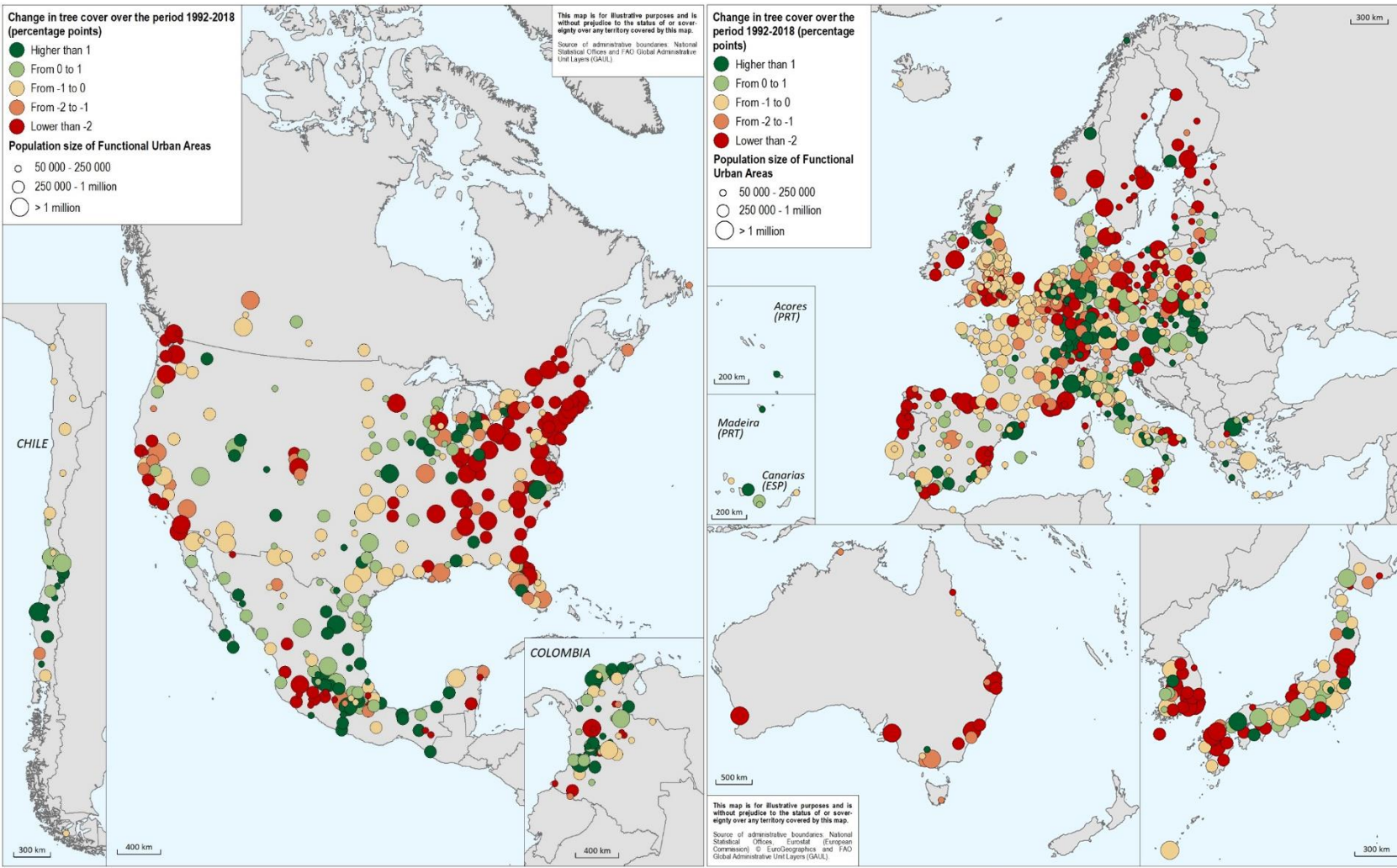
Cooling degree days needed over the year to maintain an indoor temperature of 22 °C, functional urban areas, 1970-2018



- Cooling degree days (CDDs), a standard measure of for how long and by how much outside air temperature was above 22°C, have increased by 25% since 1970 in OECD cities, on average
- In Europe, Southern regions experienced higher increases in CDDs
- Cooling needs have more than doubled in Athens, Greece and Taranto, Italy.

Large metropolitan areas are experiencing higher tree cover loss than other areas, particularly in North America and Australia

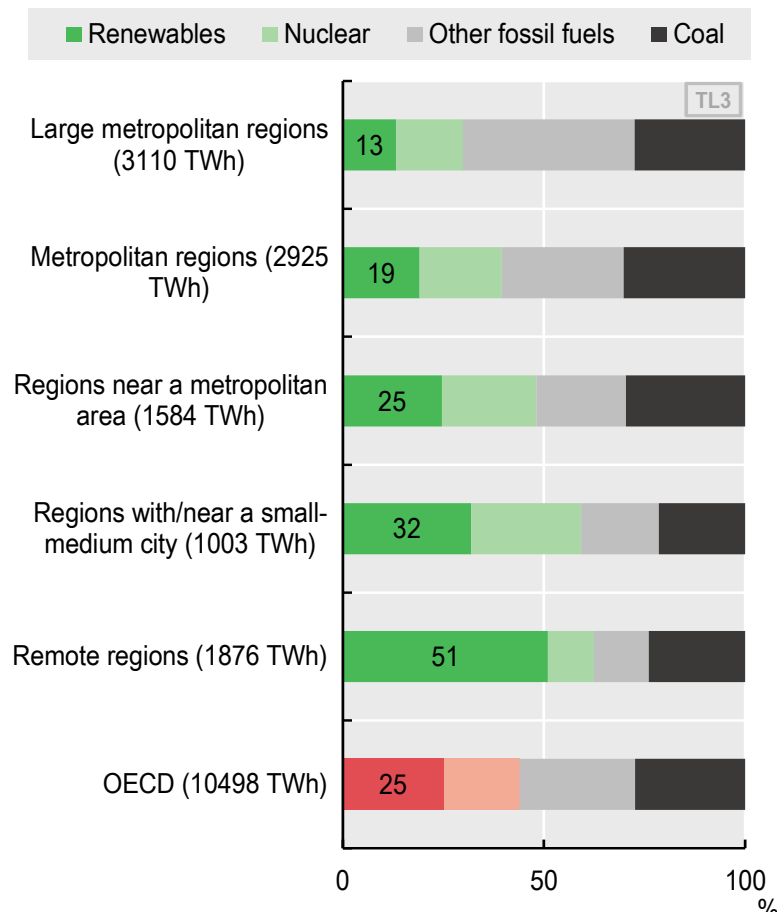
Change in tree cover in FUAs: 1992-2018



- Tree cover area has declined in more than half of functional urban areas between 1992 and 2018 (3pp reduction on average),
- Decline in tree cover happened for almost three quarters in the metropolitan areas over one million inhabitants.
- Bergen (Norway) lost more than 20 pp of tree cover since 1992, while St Gallen (Switzerland) and Trondheim (Norway) have gained close or more than 20 percentage points

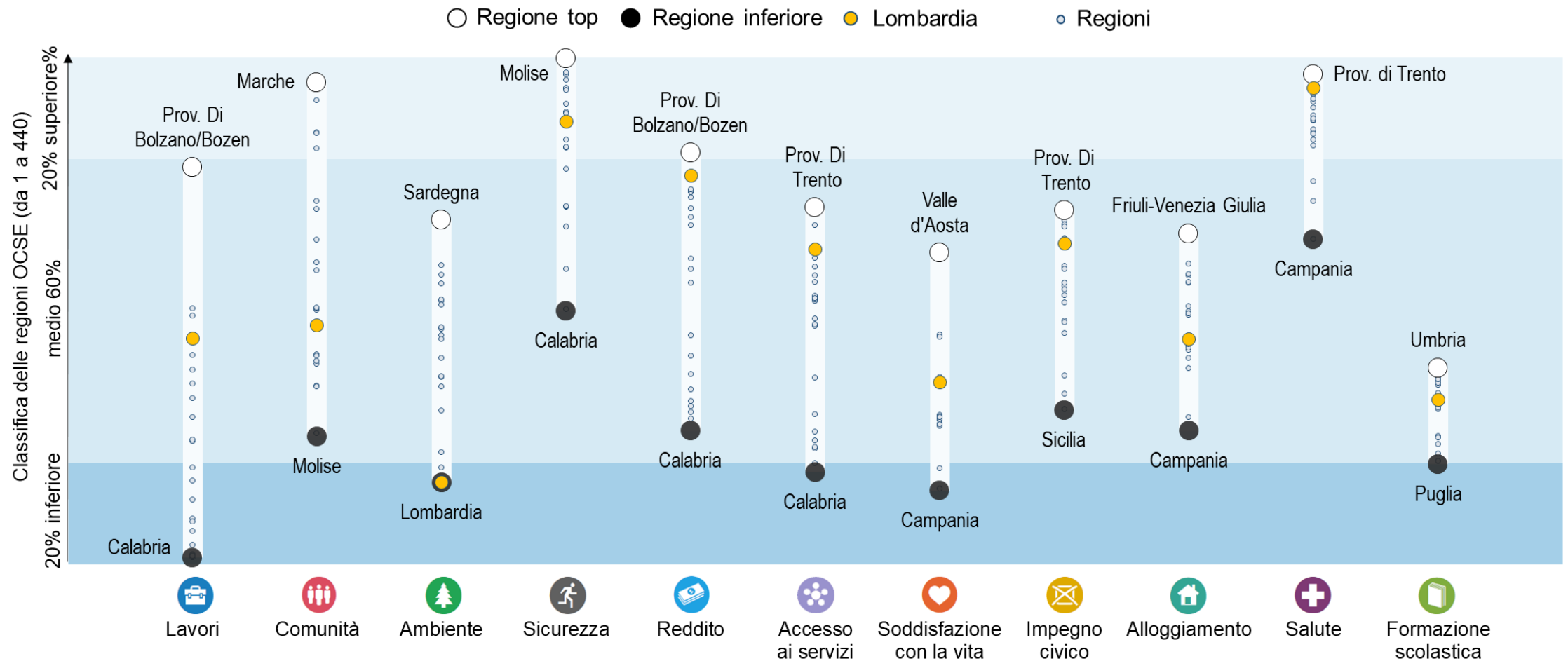
Metropolitan regions are more dependent on carbon intensity energy production

Sources of electricity production by type of region, 2017



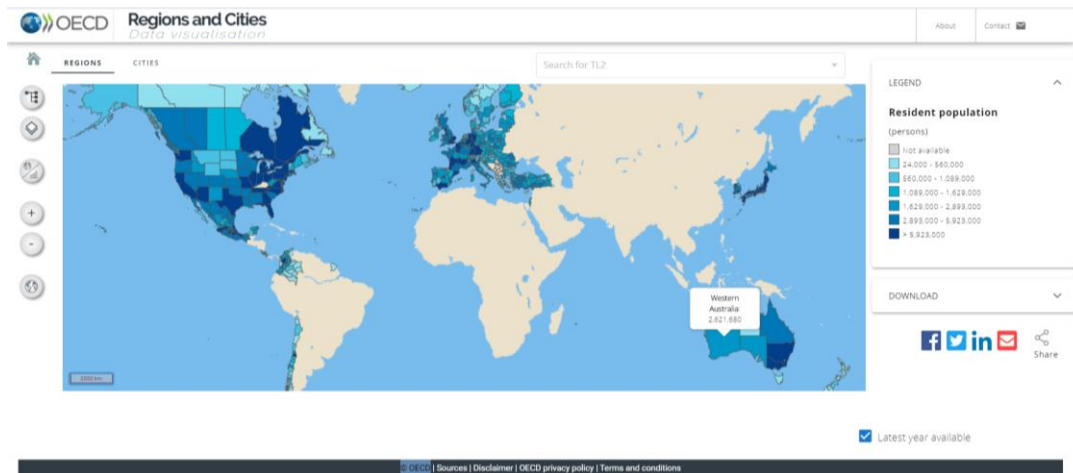
- Regions far from metropolitan areas release about one third less tons of CO2 per GWh than metropolitan regions
- While accounting for only 17% of population, regions far from metropolitan areas produce 48% of the clean electricity in OECD countries.

How is Lombardy doing in well-being compared to the rest of OECD regions?



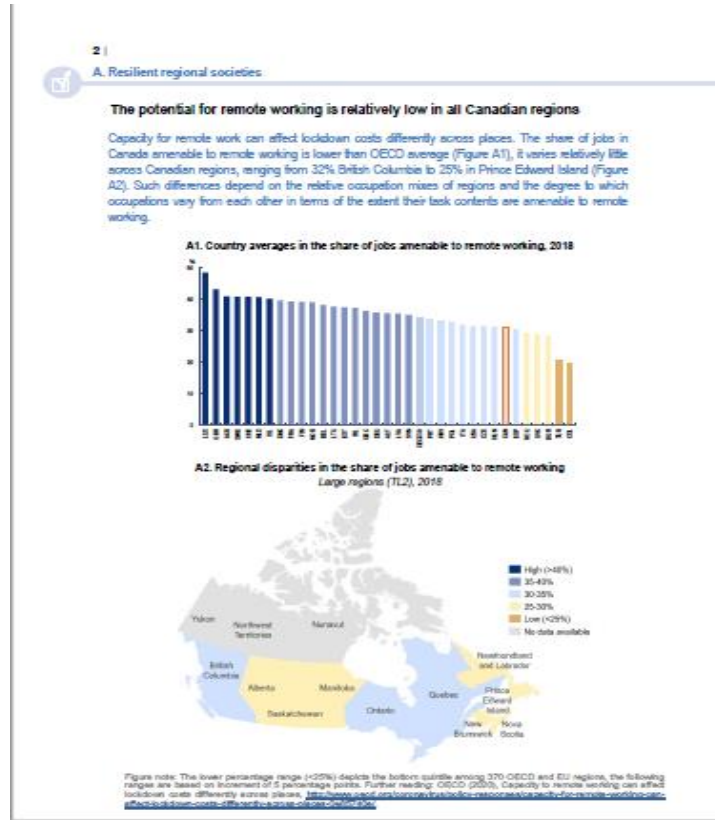
Complementary material

OECD Regions and Cities Statistical Atlas
<https://regions-cities-atlas.oecd.org>



Explore the Atlas to find and download indicators on demographic, social, economic and environmental topics of regions and cities in OECD countries and beyond

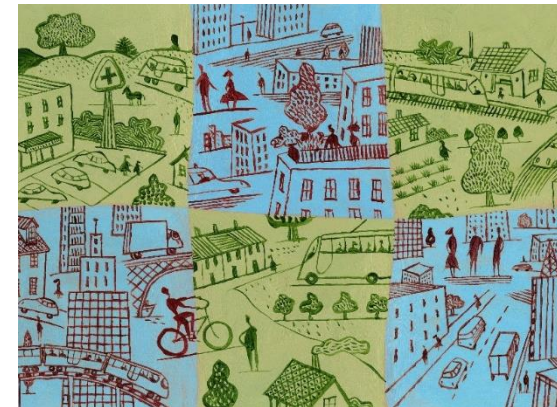
OECD country profiles
oe.cd/3kN



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