

European Regional Statistics

- Possibilities and Limits

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Unit D2 - Eurostat

Eurostat tasks in the domain of regional information

- Regular **collection** of **regional** and **urban** data from National Statistical Offices
- **Estimation** of missing data (if possible)
- Development of appropriate **methodology**
- Satisfy (ad-hoc) user needs
- Make users **aware** of the available information through adequate dissemination

Contents of the Eurostat public database

Demography
And migration

Regional
accounts

Unemployment
Employment

Tourism

Transport

Health

Agriculture

Environment

Education

Business
data

Research
& Development

Urban
Audit

The regional breakdown

- Traditionally, most data follows the **NUTS classification**
 - ➔ = European classification of regional breakdown
 - ➔ Since June 2003 based on an EU Regulation
 - ➔ Favours institutional breakdowns
 - ➔ Hierarchical nomenclature with three levels
 - ➔ Revision every 3 years (last in 2006)
- However, there is an increasing demand for data outside the NUTS framework
 - ➔ Urban Audit = statistics at city level (since 1999)
 - ➔ A “Rural Audit” is envisaged
 - ➔ Labour Market Area data grows in importance

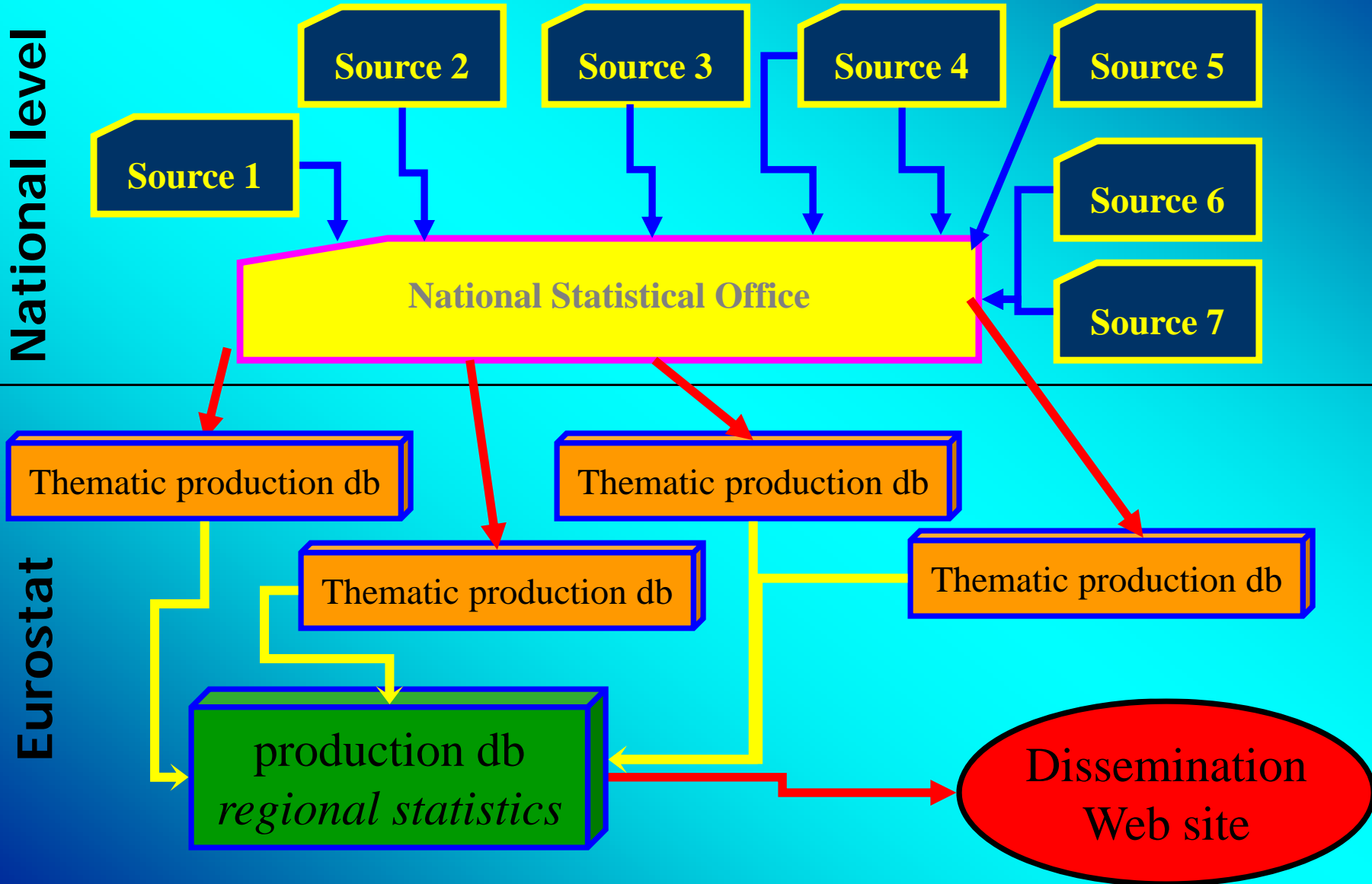
Since 1999: Urban Statistics (the “Urban Audit”)

- More than 300 indicators
 - ➔ Cover all possible social and economic aspects of the “quality of life” in cities
- 321 EU cities involved
 - ➔ In 27 Member States plus Croatia, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey
- Fresh data collection every three years
 - ➔ 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012

Since 1999: Urban Statistics (the “Urban Audit”)

- Data collection for three different spatial units
 - ➔ The core city (administrative city)
 - ➔ The Larger Urban Zone, i.e. the city plus hinterland (functional urban region)
 - ➔ Sub-city districts (reduced data set)
- In addition in December 2006: perception survey in 75 cities of all Member States

Data Flow of Regional and Urban Statistics



The role of Eurostat

- Clearly, Eurostat is a **statistical office**, not a research institute
 - ➔ Supplier of “official data” (*for policy purposes*)
 - ➔ Therefore Eurostat focuses on reliable, high quality statistics
 - ➔ Very limited number of estimations
 - ➔ No forecasts
- To conclude: division of roles between Eurostat and for example ESPON

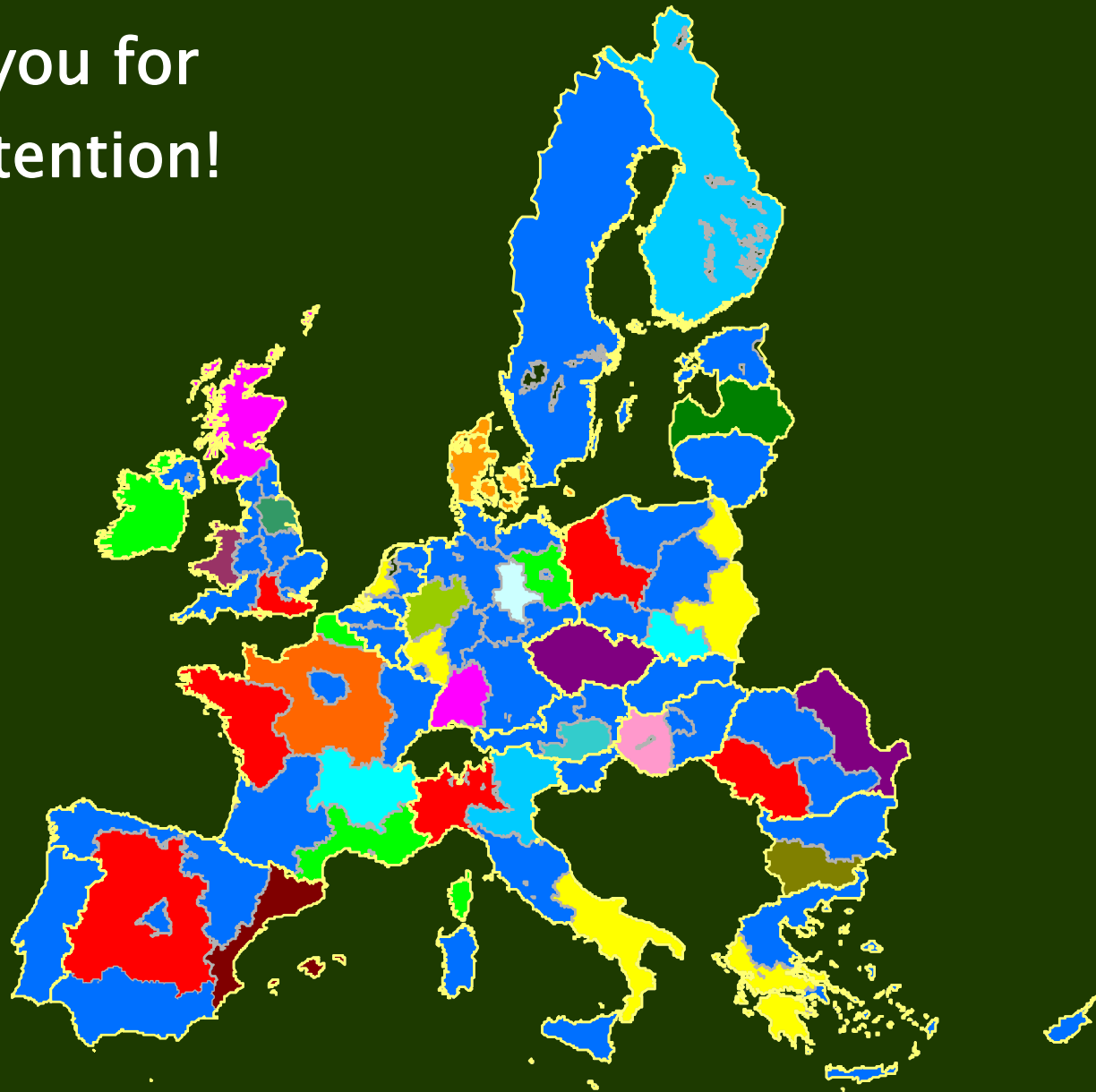
Challenges ahead

- Two major **obstacles** to a substantial increase in regional data
 - ➔ **Human resources** in the Eurostat unit are used up to 100%, it is not possible to manage further projects
 - The alternative approach to confine additional projects to **external contractors** has become so cumbersome that it is no alternative any more
 - ➔ Second: **Data suppliers** (i.e. National Statistical Offices) are only willing to collect and transmit additional data if there is a very solid justification for its need

Some new projects started last year

- **Government expenditure** statistics at NUTS level 2
 - ➔ Strong need of DG REGIO
- **Energy consumption** statistics at NUTS level 2
 - ➔ Broken down by users and energy types
- **Labour Market Area** statistics
 - ➔ Strong interest of DG REGIO
 - ➔ Exists in several Member States

Thank you for
your attention!



Any Questions ?