

Trends Linked to Potential Accessibility

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Why accessibility?

- “Good accessibility of European regions improve their ***competitive position*** but also the competitiveness of Europe as a whole.”

(European Spatial Development Perspective, 1999)

- “Mobility and accessibility are ***key prerequisites for economic development*** of all regions of the EU.”

(Territorial Agenda of the European Union, 2007)

What is accessibility?

- main "**product**" of the transport system
 - determines the **locational advantage** of an area relative to all areas
 - measures the **benefits** households and firms enjoy from the existence and use of transport infrastructure
- > accessibility indicators are transformations of transport system characteristics (combined with spatial distributions of opportunities) into **territorial indicators**

Dimensions of accessibility

- origins
- destinations
- impedance
- constraints
- barriers
- type of transport
- modes
- spatial scale
- equity
- dynamic

Basic types of accessibility indicators

Accessibility is a construct of two functions

$$A_i = \sum_j g(W_j) f(c_{ij})$$

activity function

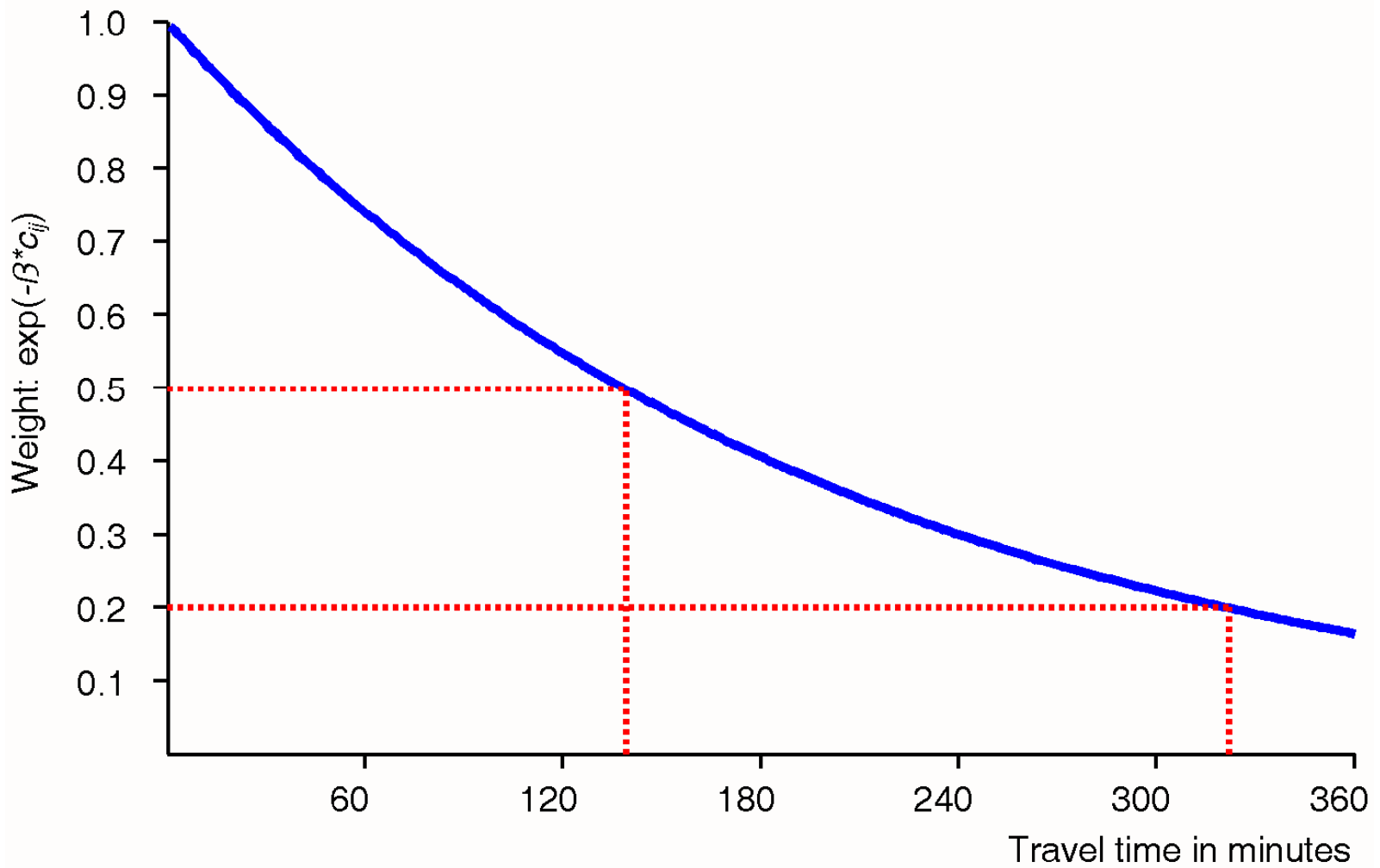
impedance function

Travel cost: Travel cost to a predefined set of activities

Cummulated opportunities: Activities in a given travel cost

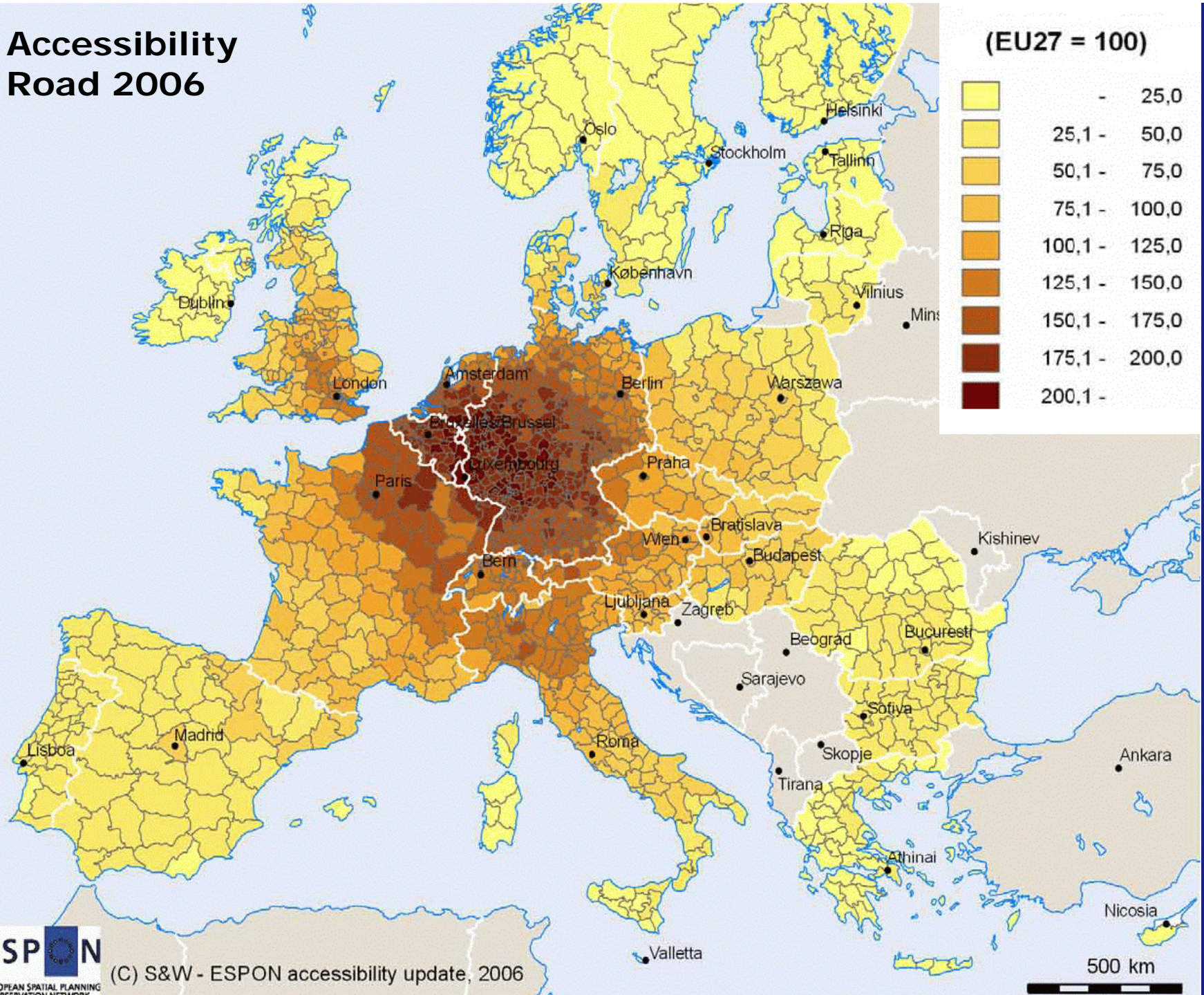
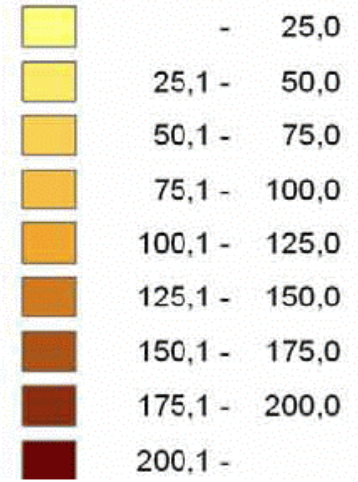
Potential: Activities weighted by a function of travel cost

Impedance function



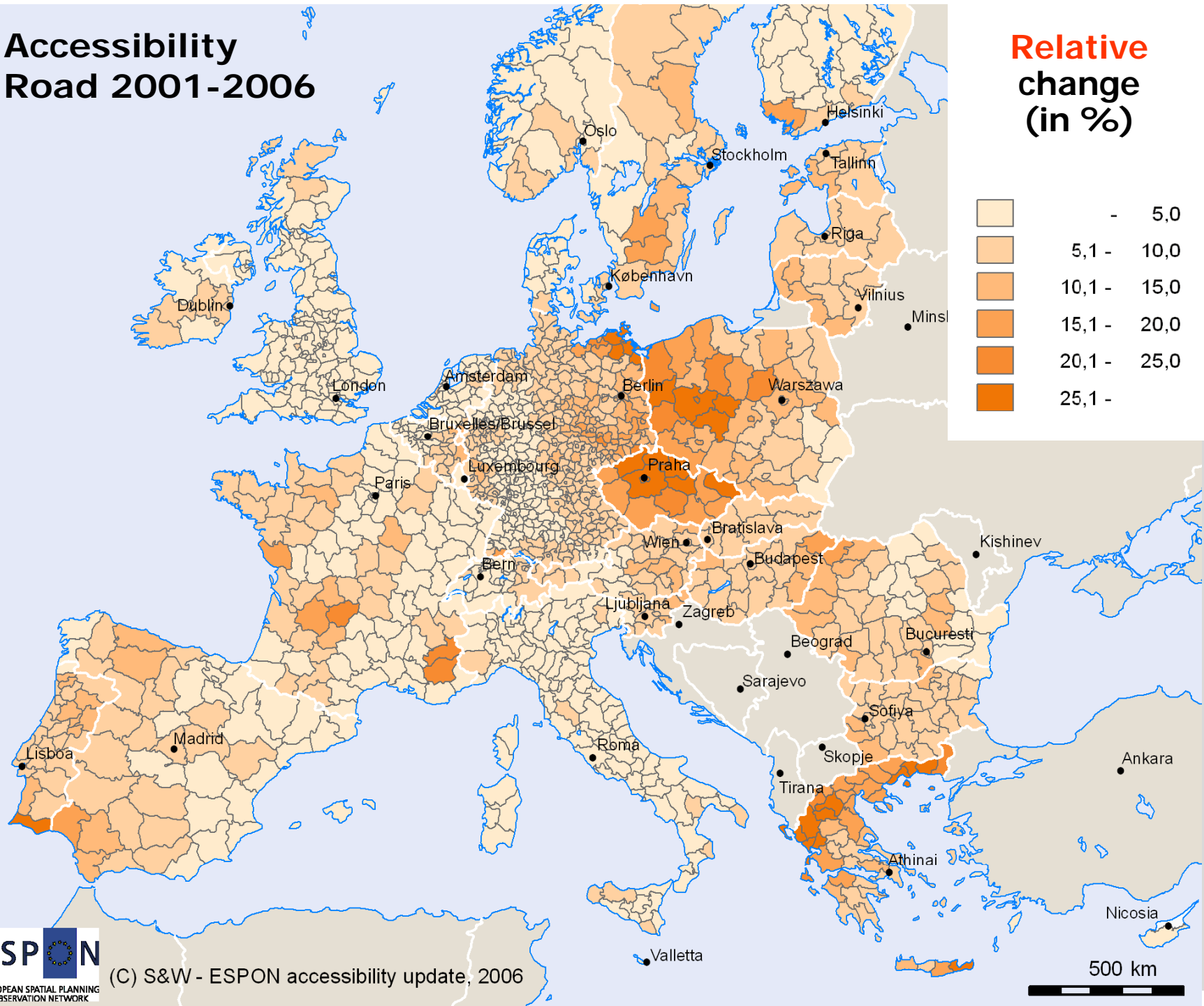
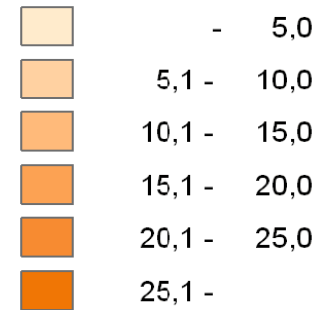
Accessibility Road 2006

(EU27 = 100)



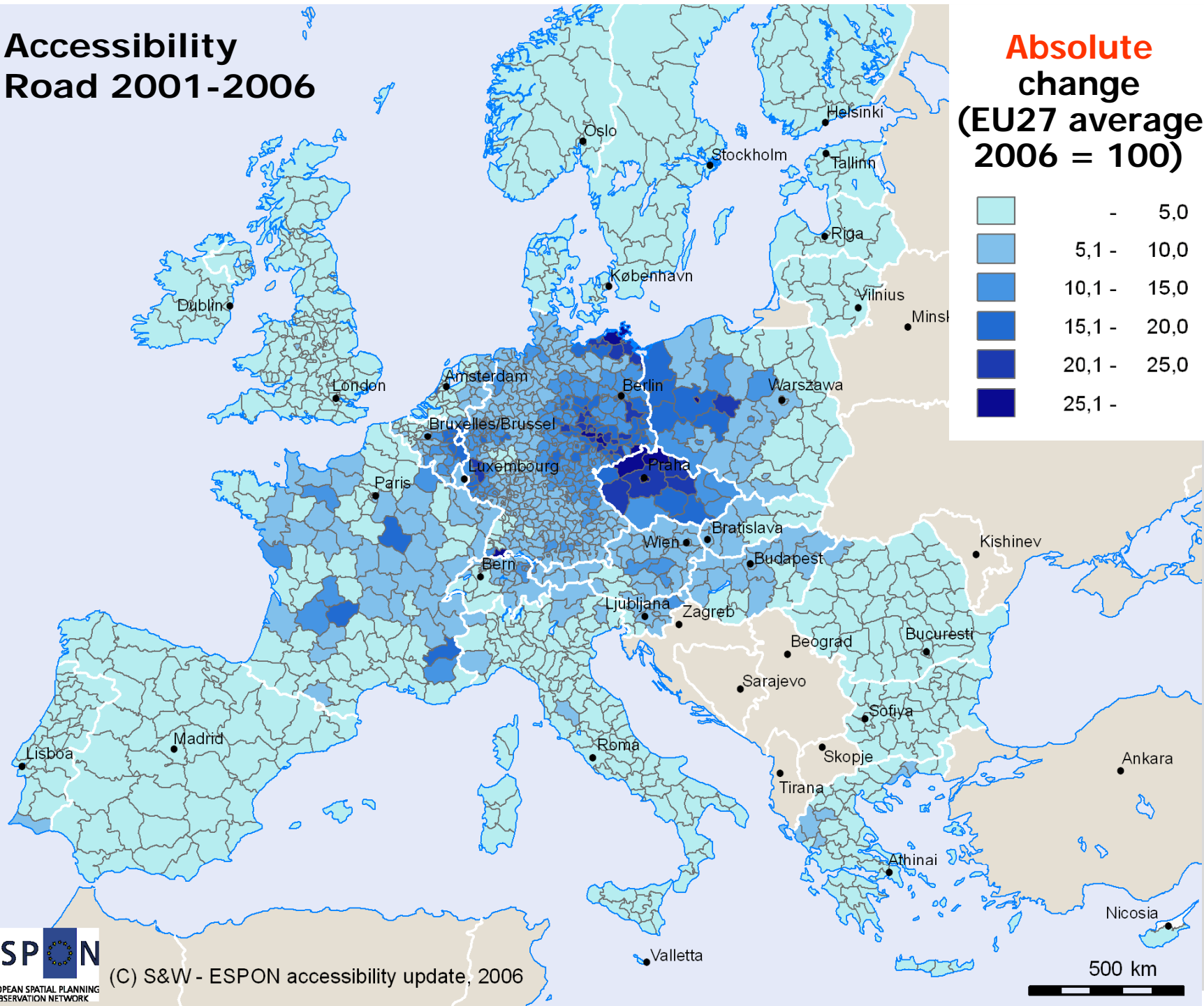
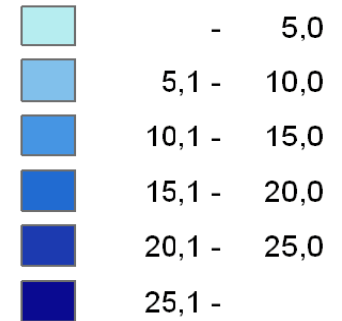
Accessibility Road 2001-2006

**Relative
change
(in %)**



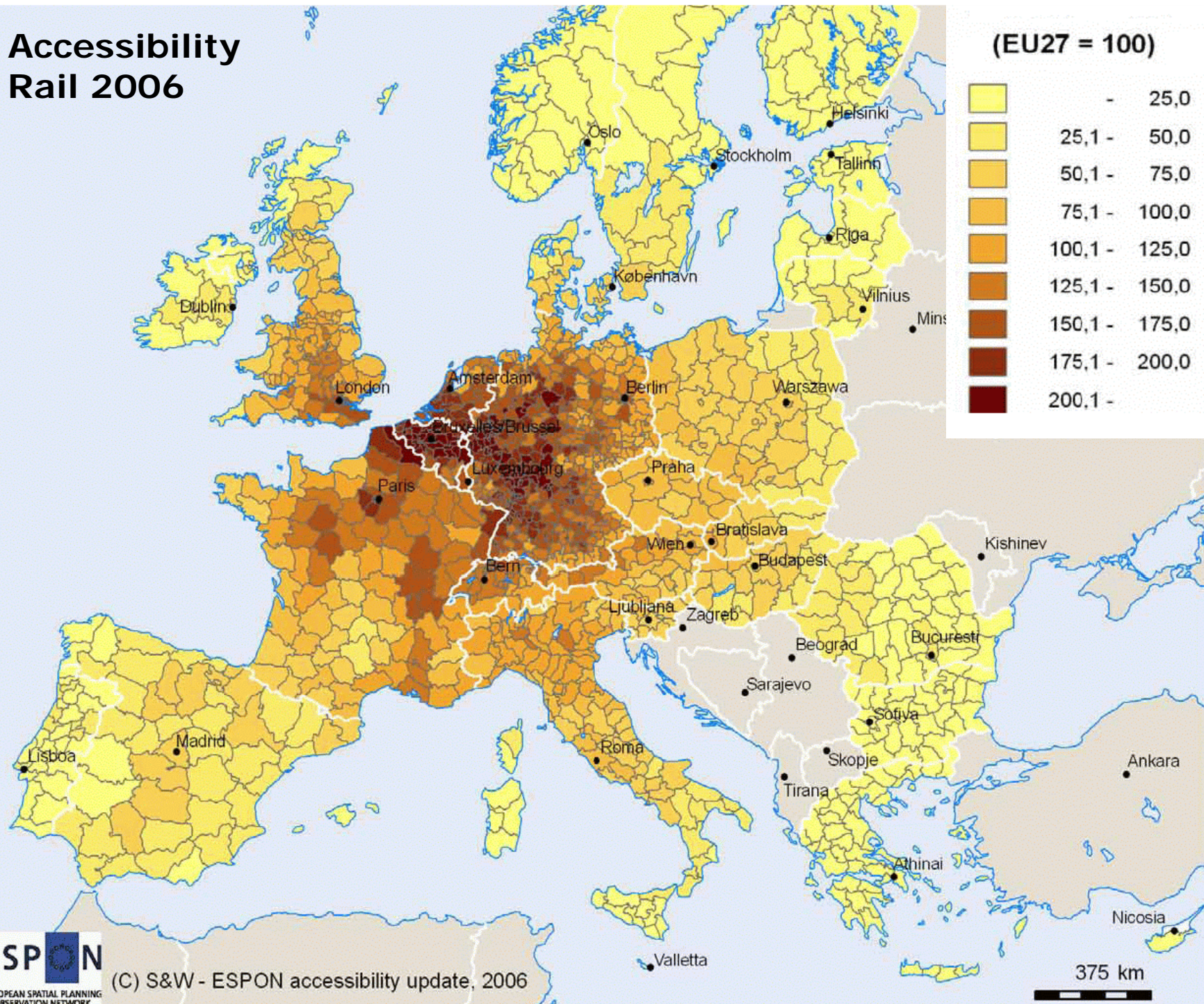
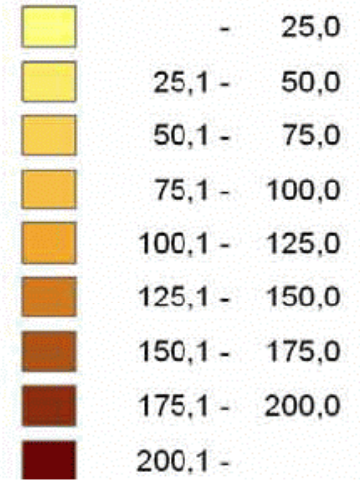
Accessibility Road 2001-2006

Absolute change
(EU27 average 2006 = 100)



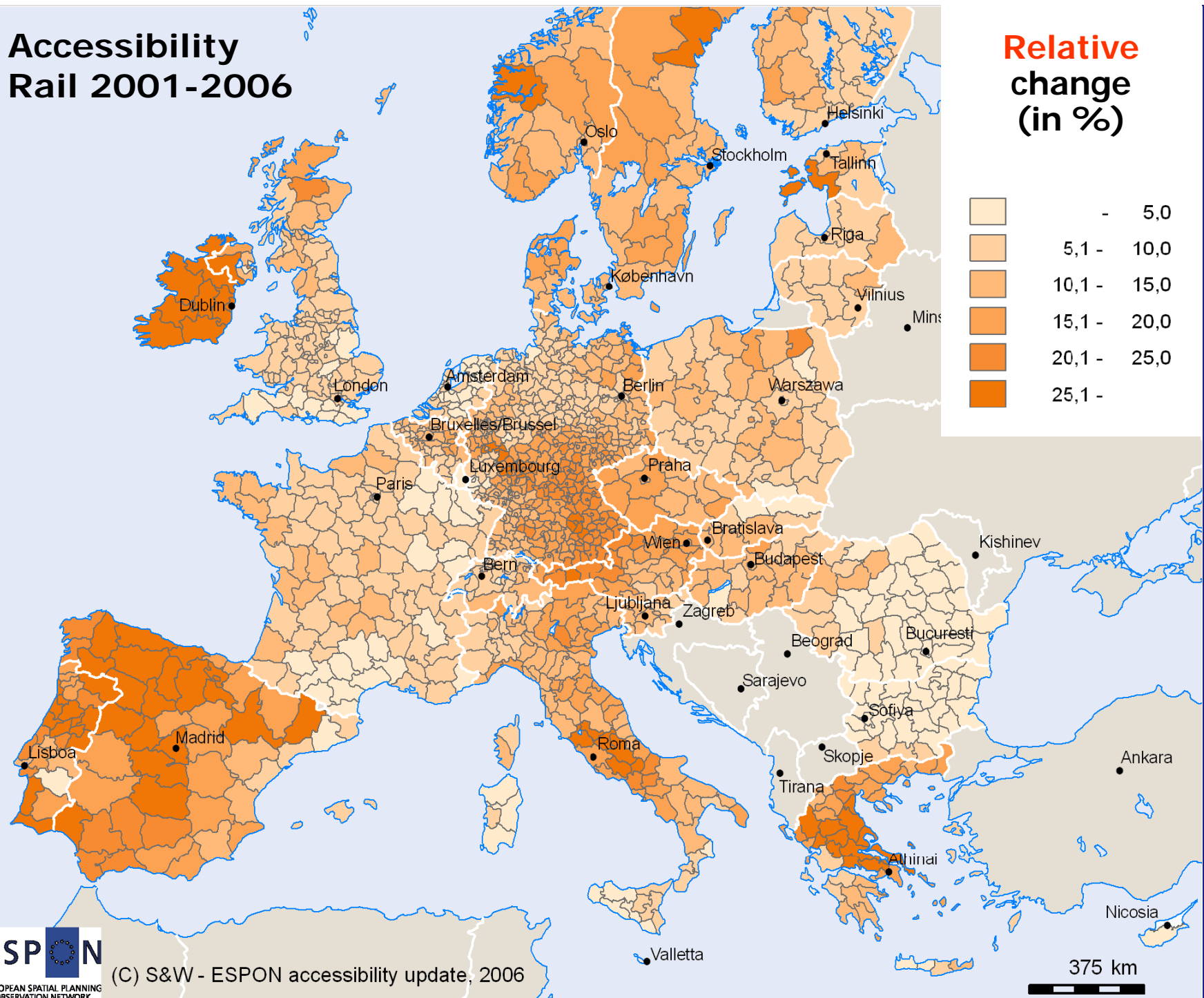
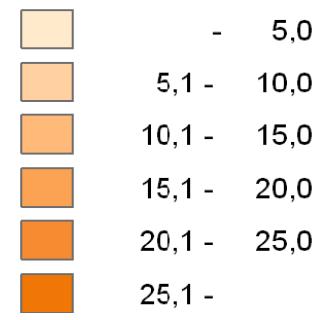
Accessibility Rail 2006

(EU27 = 100)



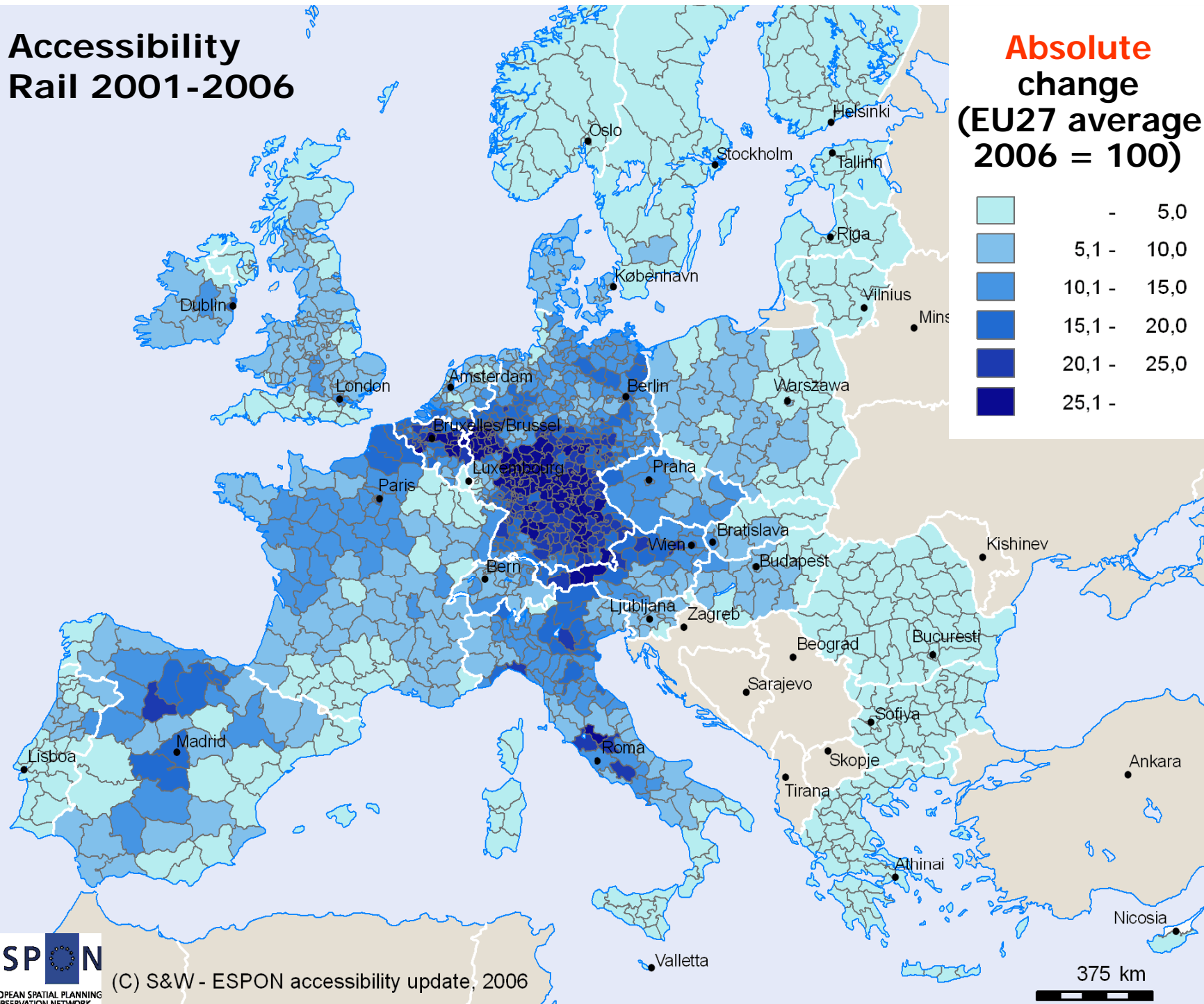
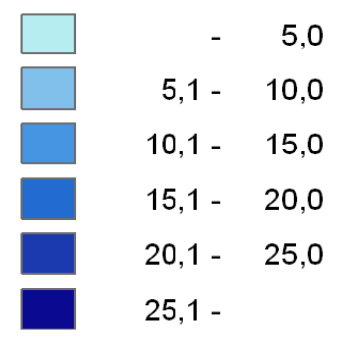
Accessibility Rail 2001-2006

Relative change (in %)



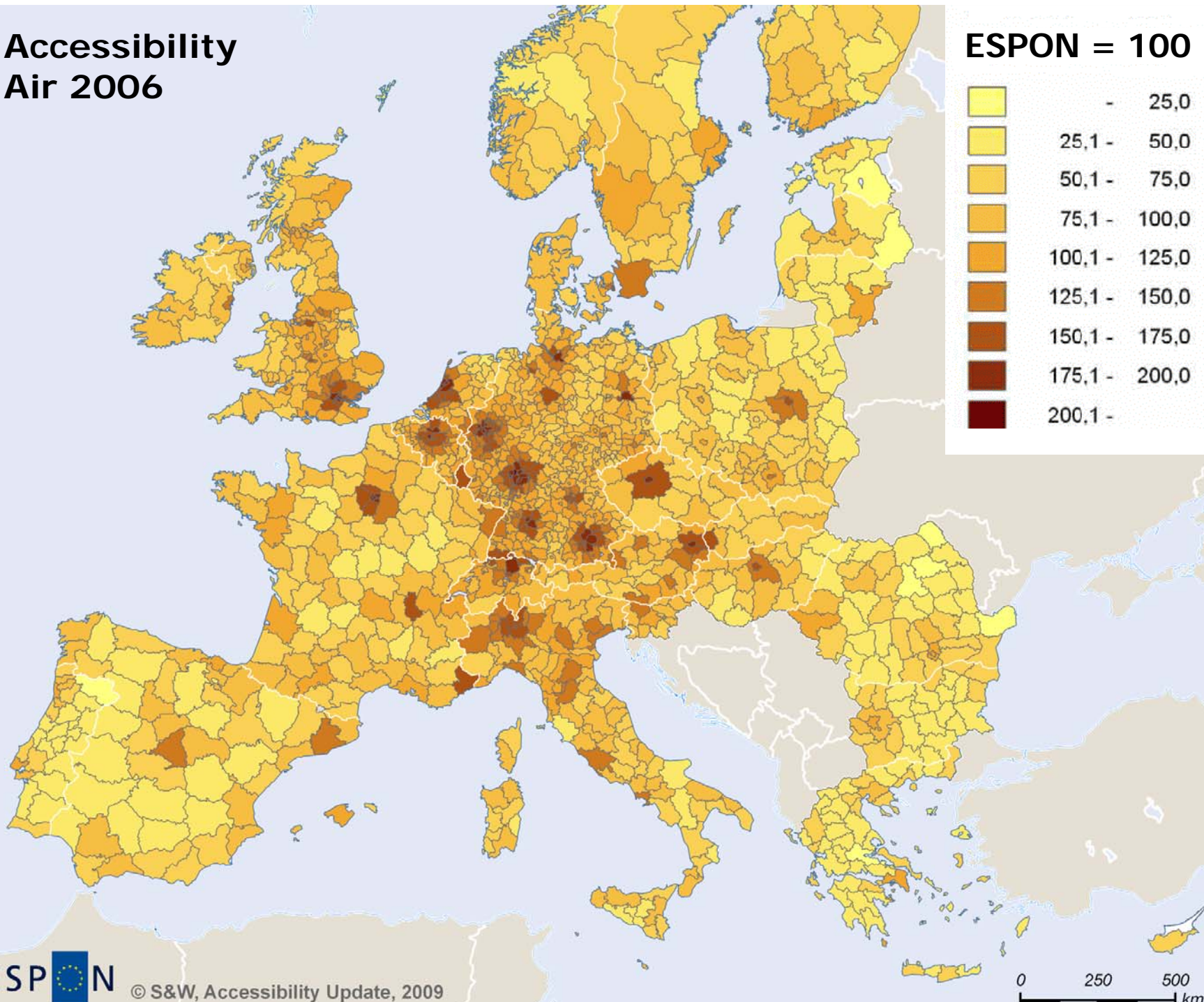
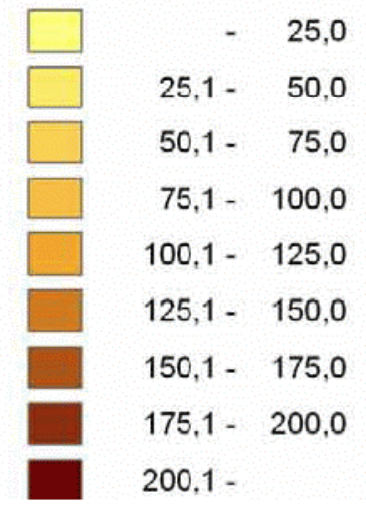
Accessibility Rail 2001-2006

**Absolute
change
(EU27 average
2006 = 100)**



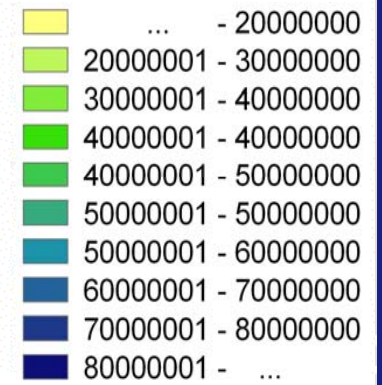
Accessibility Air 2006

ESPON = 100



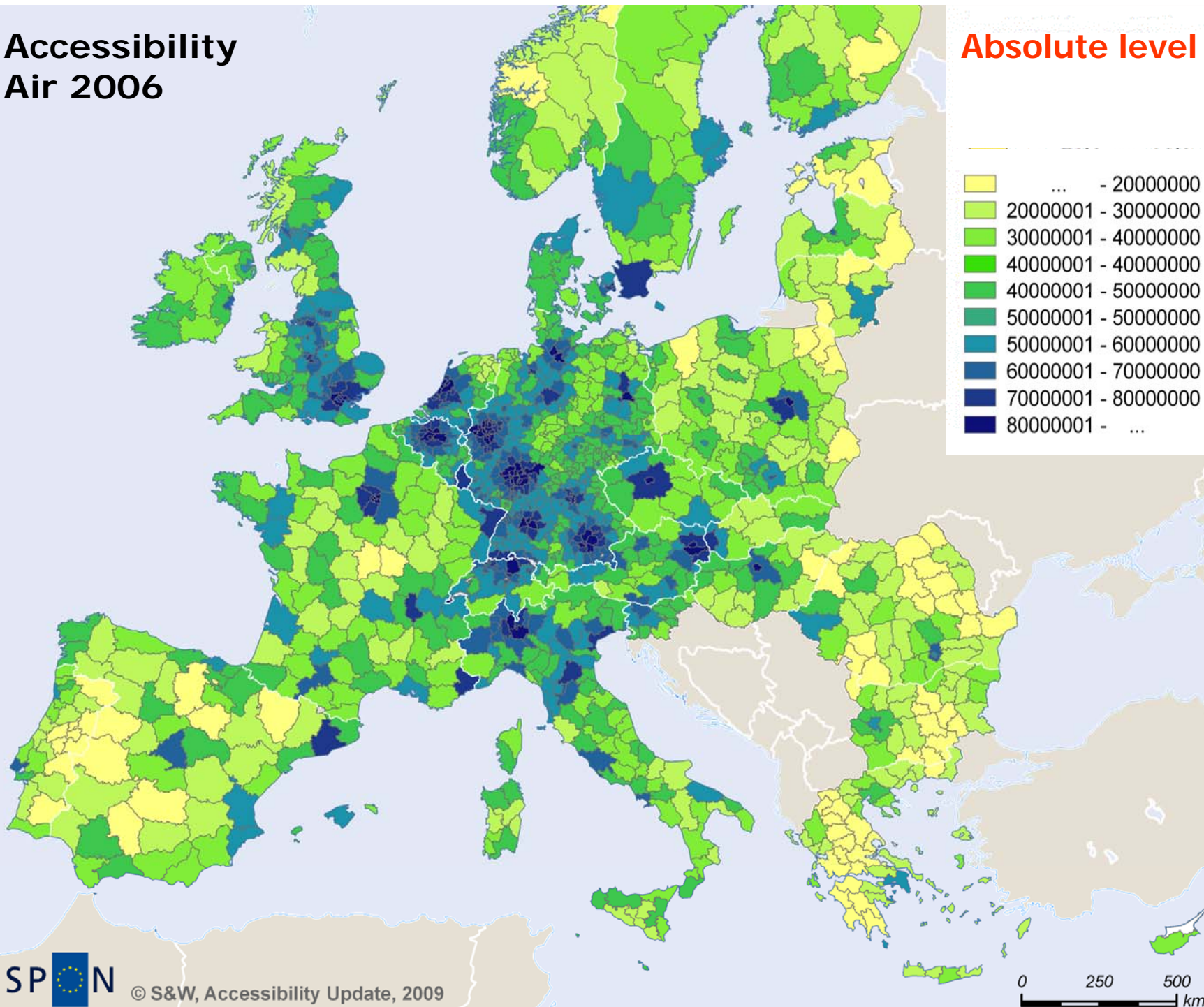
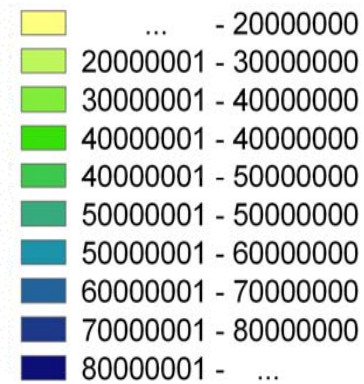
Accessibility Air 2001

Absolute level



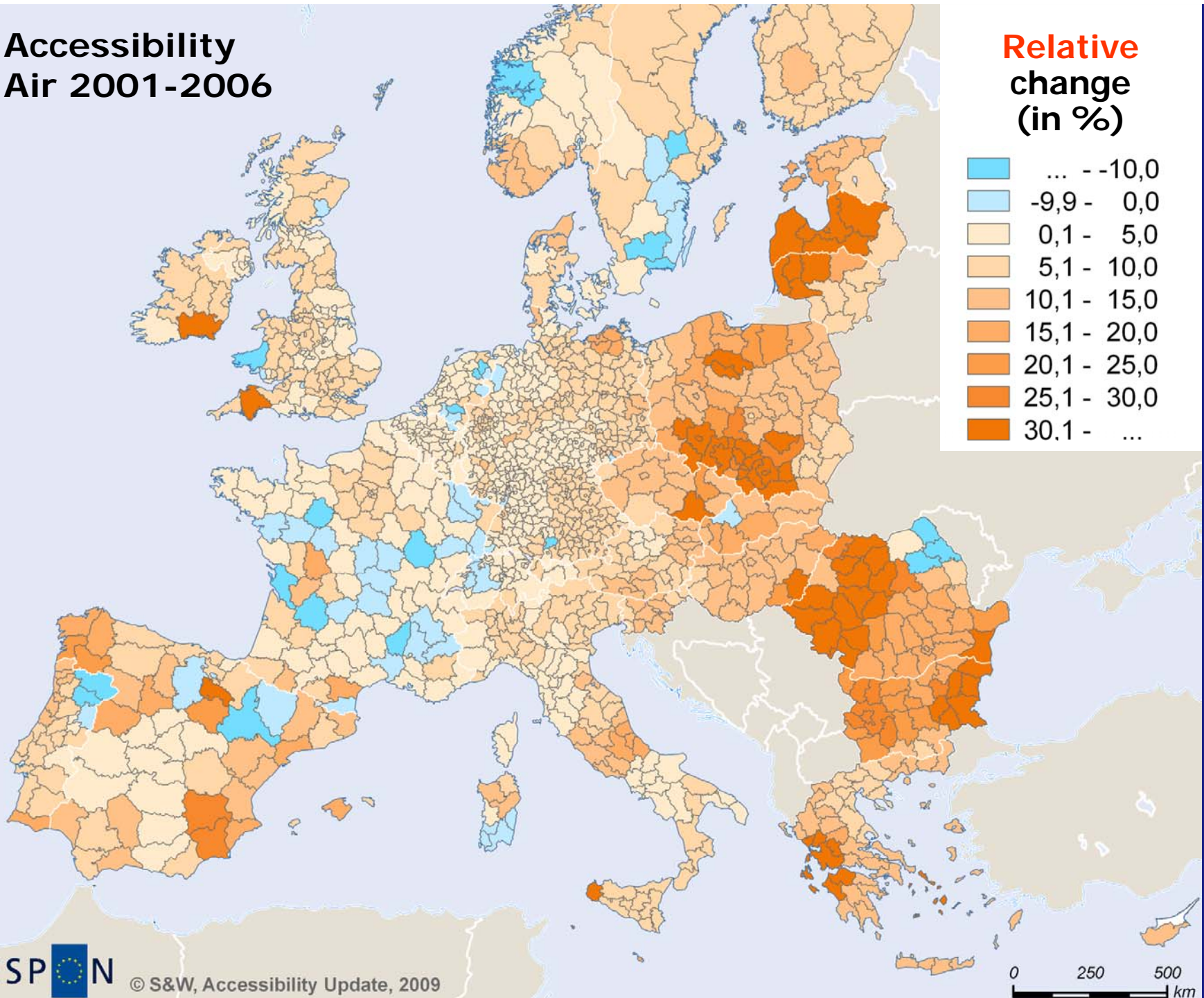
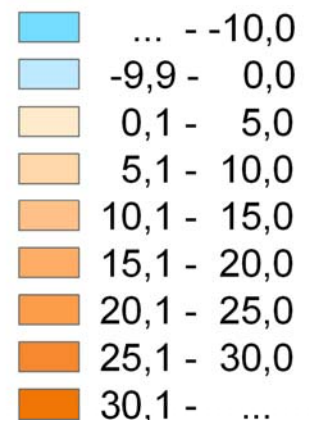
Accessibility Air 2006

Absolute level



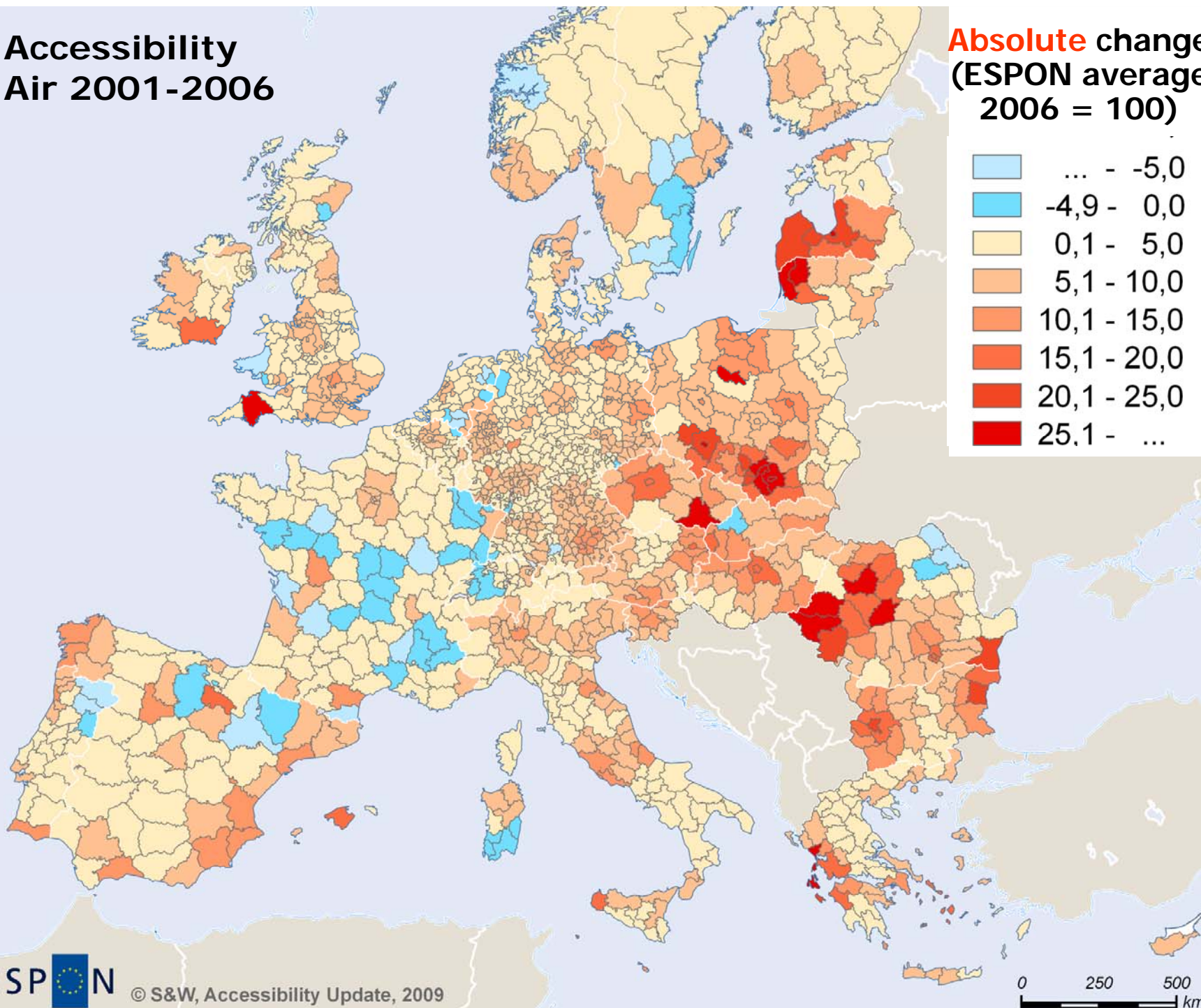
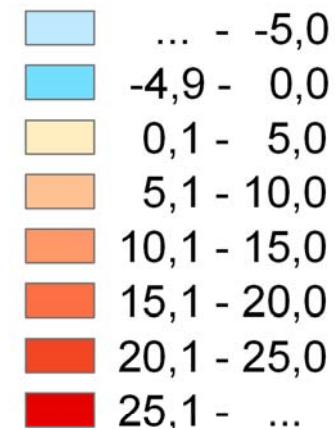
Accessibility Air 2001-2006

Relative change (in %)



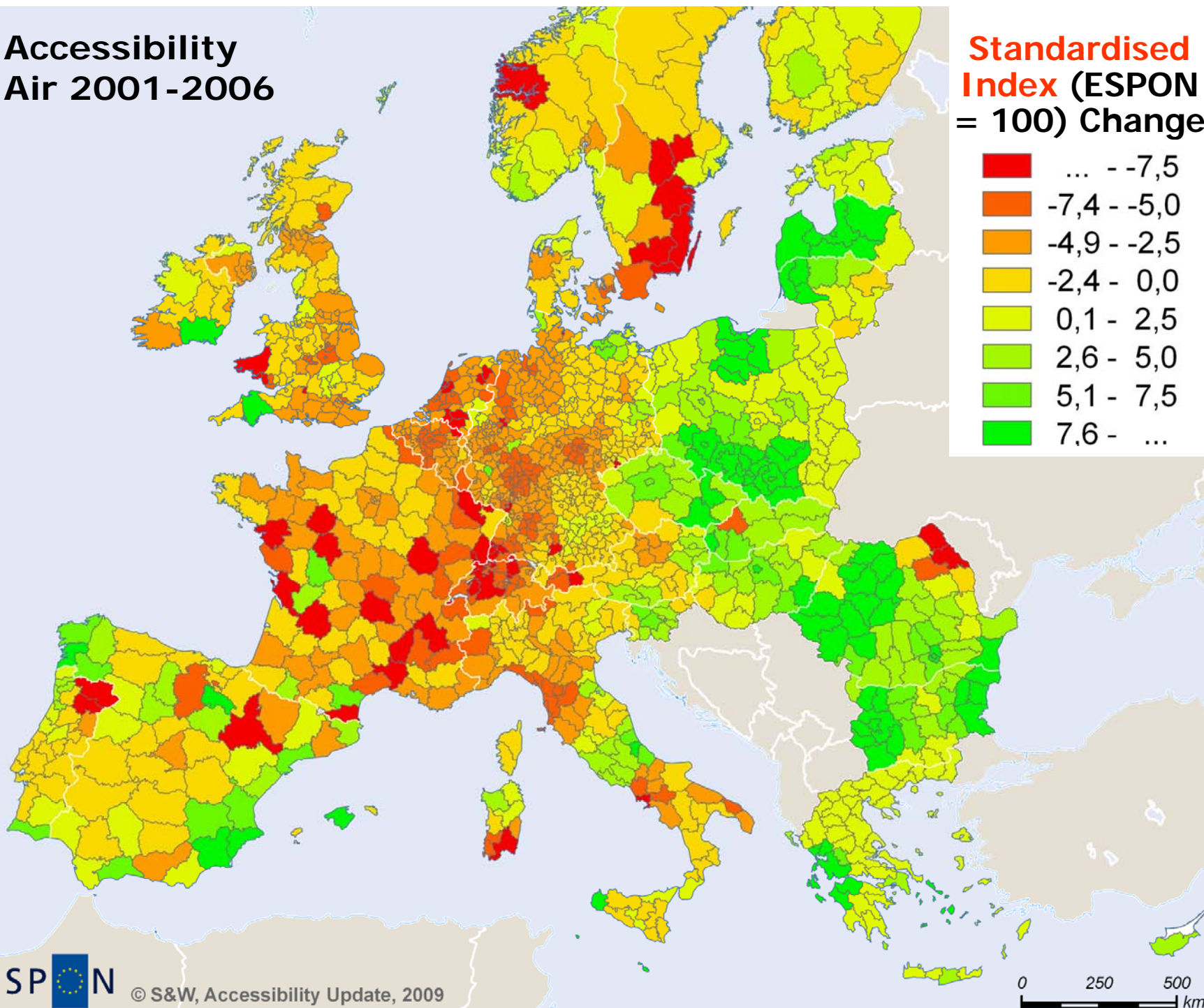
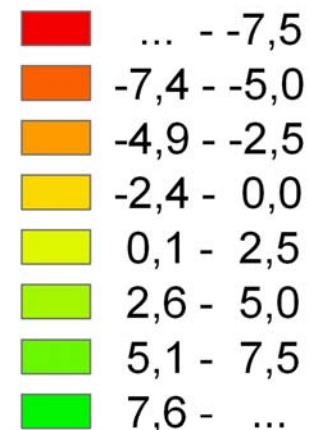
Accessibility Air 2001-2006

Absolute change
(ESPON average
2006 = 100)



Accessibility Air 2001-2006

**Standardised
Index (ESPON
= 100) Change**



Conclusions (1)

- Different transport modes have ***very different spatial patterns*** of accessibility in Europe.
 - > ranging from traditional core-periphery pattern to new forms of core-periphery pattern
- ***Spatial disparities*** of accessibility continue to exist for all modes of transport
 - > transport infrastructure and service development was not able to change the overall European pattern
 - > road and rail investments of the past was in absolute terms in favour of core regions

Conclusions (2)

- However, transport infrastructure projects and improved transport services can have **substantial impacts** on potential accessibility of **individual regions**.
 - > In particular, new **high-speed rail** and **flight services** are able to **reshape** the European continent in terms of accessibility by bringing high accessibility to regions outside the European core
- Process of **EU enlargement** had clear impact on accessibility in the new member states:
 - > **road** infrastructure development and reduced border waiting times
 - > improved **flight services**

Conclusions (3)

- Accessibility by air is ***most dynamic***, however, also in a negative manner.
 - > Air carrier ***react within relatively short time*** on changing market conditions.
 - > In terms of accessibility, only the large international airports seem to have a ***sustainable position***.
 - > ***Regional strategies*** based on the development of regional airports to improve accessibility ***might be risky*** as they are dependent on one or a few air carriers that are following different objectives.

Further Information

- www.espon.eu
 - Project 1.2.1 *Transport Trends, Services and Networks*
 - *ESPON Accessibility Update Studies*
- www.spiekermann-wegener.de
- ks@spiekermann-wegener.de