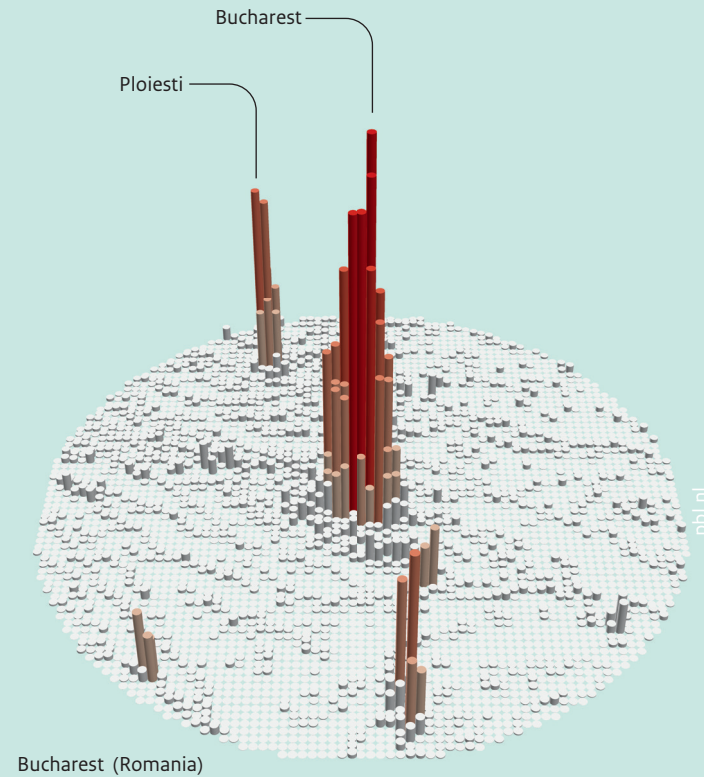


Different types of urban regions

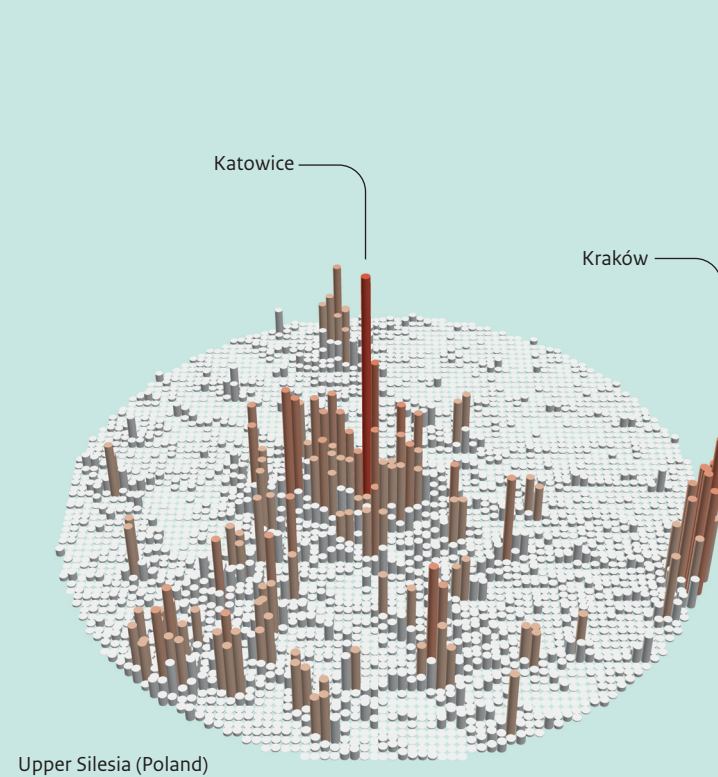
Population density 2014
On a grid of 2x2 kilometres
Source: LandScan, adaptation by PBL

Urban areas in Europe come in all shapes and sizes. In general, four different morphological types can be distinguished: monocentric, dispersed, linear and polycentric urban regions.



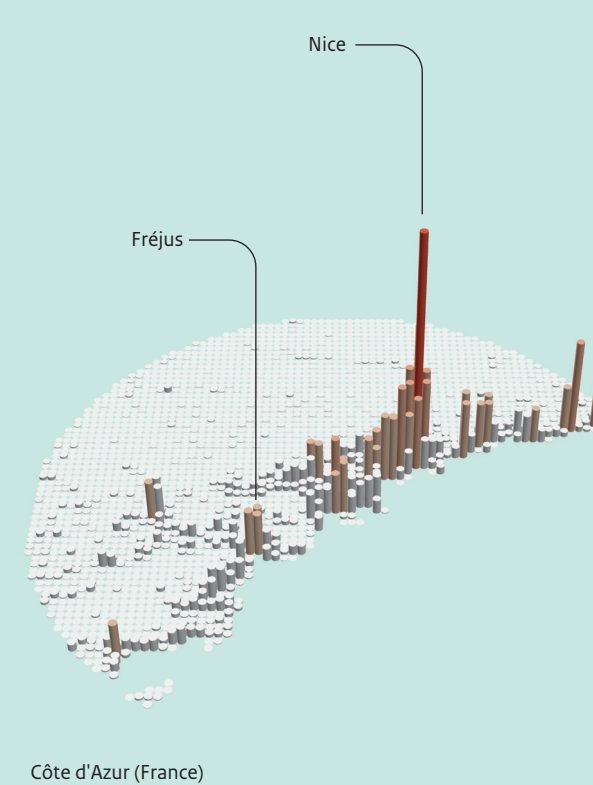
Monocentric urban region

Regions with monocentric urban structures can be found in France, Spain, Portugal and countries in the northern and eastern parts of Europe, where cities are distributed over relatively wide areas.



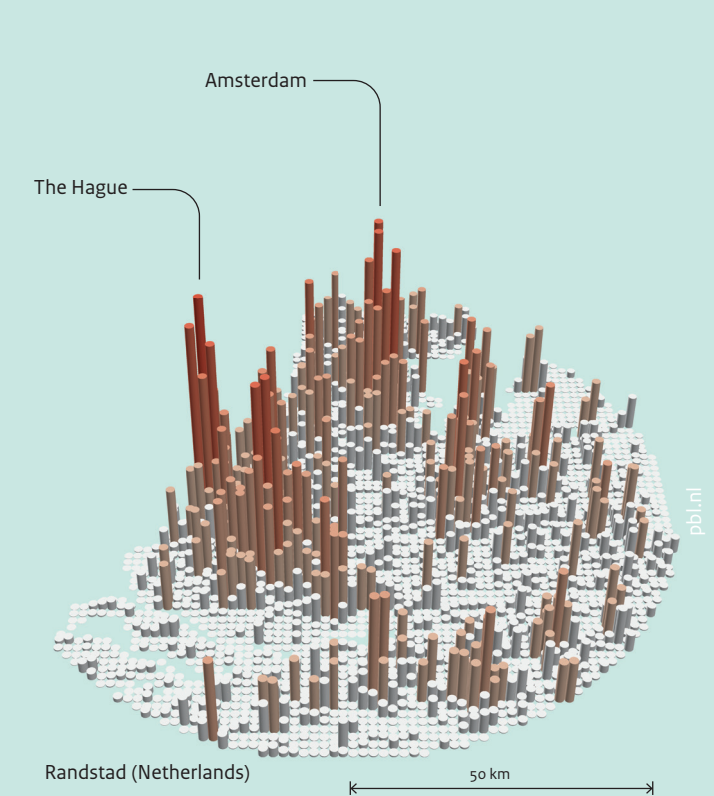
Dispersed urban region

Dispersed urban patterns are formed by scattered or sprawling cities, towns and suburbs with relatively low densities. Examples can be found in parts of Belgium, in northern Italy and in the south of Poland.



Linear urban region

Regions with linear forms of agglomeration have emerged along some of Europe's coastlines, for instance in Portugal, in the southern parts of Spain and France, and in the east of Italy. Linear urban regions are also present in mountain valleys in Switzerland and Austria.



Polycentric urban region

In polycentric urban regions, multiple cities lie in close proximity to one another. These kinds of regions can be found in the Netherlands, the western part of Germany and the southern half of the United Kingdom.