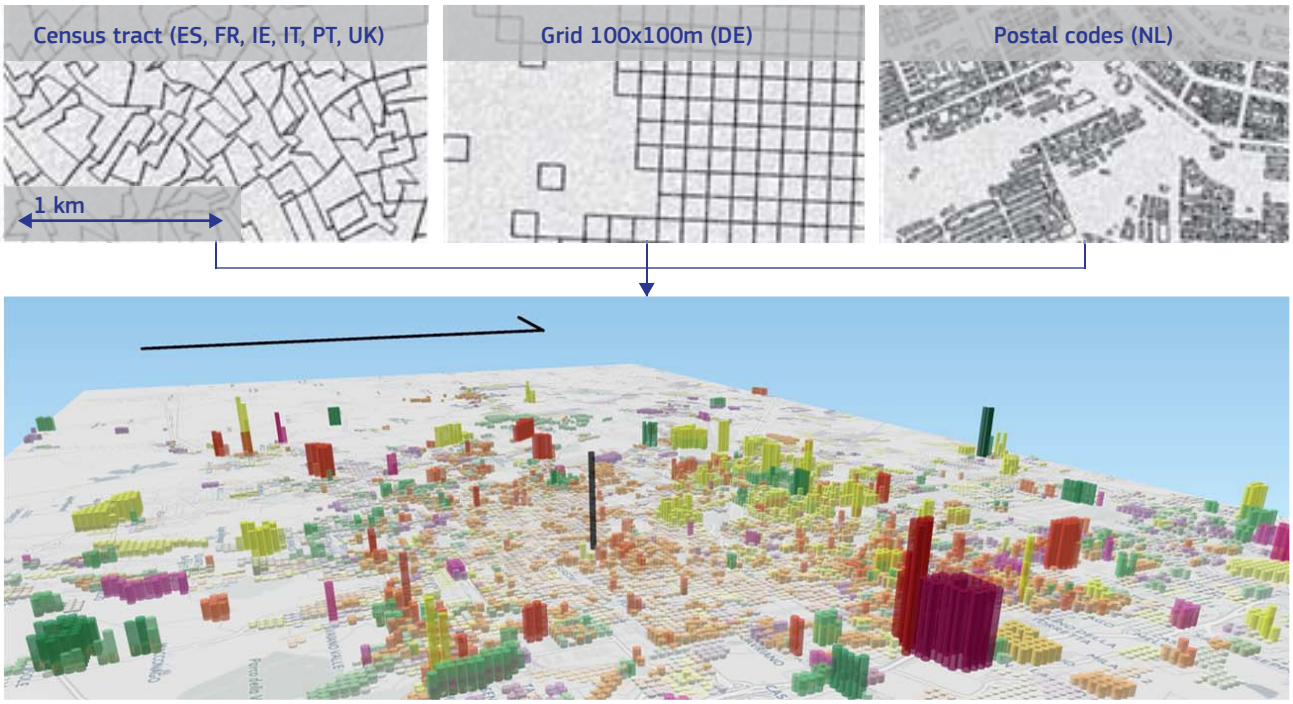
European Commission

D4I - Data for Integration

Studying local aspects of migration using a new dataset



The figure illustrates the process of harmonisation of the Census data from different geometries into a uniform grid at EU level

Recent developments in data creation, collation and analysis provide city authorities with significant opportunities to become more effective and efficient. Through the use of data, authorities can be better placed to see, understand and respond to the challenges they face.

But geographically detailed data on migration is not always easily accessible, consistently collected or comparable across EU cities.

The D4I initiative directly addresses this concern by bringing together data from Censuses in EU Member States. By processing data from the 2011 Census on the number of migrants by origin (country of birth and/or citizenship) in eight Member States and at the highest possible level of spatial detail, it shows how diverse datasets can be harmonised to produce valuable insights into the composition of cities.

Censuses contain a wealth of relevant information which can be used to calculate residential segregation and diversity. However, this is complicated by the fact that they are structured and processed in different ways in different places. The D4I initiative has overcome this to produce detailed maps of the population of cities, including migrants, in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK. From these, subsequent analyses can shine light on the impact of migration and diversity on a range of local issues, from electoral outcomes to housing markets.

D4I gives new possibilities for using data to better understand the situation within specific cities and to compare across diverse locations. The uniqueness of the dataset resides both in the high level of spatial resolution (cells of 100 by 100 m) and the large geographical coverage that includes almost 45 000 local administrative units. Such data from more EU Member States and over time will allow for even richer and broader insights to be gathered in the future.

D4I - Data for Integration is an initiative of the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD - https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/migration-and-demography). Data on the concentration of migrants at high spatial resolution has been assembled from National Census statistics and shared with research teams from across the world. The aim is to produce new insights on the local aspects of migration in support of policymaking at EU, national and local levels.

For more information on the D4I: https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datachallenge/ or contact fabrizio.natale@ec.europea.eu

Joint Research Centre