

Urban Analysis I - Exercises

Group F

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Exercise I

Checkout the statistical figures and maps of your neighbourhood with your group on monitoringdesquartiers.brussels. Discuss the demographic profile of your neighbourhood, for example housing, ethnic composition, age structure, educational or employment level, etc. What is particularly striking about your neighbourhood? Amongst the various documents gathered for the portfolio, select one figure that demonstrates the particularity of your neighbourhood.

- Think about how to represent this figure
- How would you explain what you see in the figure?
- think about locating the neighbourhood's social characteristics across space (within the city) and across time

Question to answer: **Did social characteristics of the neighbourhood change over time? How do the characteristics of the neighbourhood differ from other neighbourhoods in Brussels?**

Notes

- relatively wealthy (low number -18yos live in a home with no labour income, higher taxable income 15-18K,), this is a trend with seconde couronne
- more female than male

- higher density of 65yo, this is a trend in the deuxième couronne and generally when you go from centre to outskirts. This shapes the dwellings, because older people are less likely to move often or rent. Thus dwellings are houses, large, expensive (compared to shared flats, houses split in multiple homes, cheaper)
- homes are generally smaller than in the country. Within Brussels, the centre has smallest households and the seconde couronne the highest. Still, this is lower than national average. To understand this, cross-reference with the number of single households under 30yo, for eg. It makes sense that Dries has larger households since it is an older population, who is likely to have kids and be well off
- education: low number of kids in Brussels go to school in/near their neighbourhood, true for Dries (parents choose schools based on reputation, rather than proximity)
- population is mostly European, both from EU or outside it (there is a clear contrast of European population concentrated in the south-east and quartier européen, compared to rest of Brussels). Interesting that neighbourhoods directly to the east of Dries (Watermael Boifort) have really low numbers non-EU Europeans
- low number of African (north and sub-Saharan) compared to rest of Brussels. Again, trend with rest of seconde couronne/south east
- type of housing mostly private houses (not apartments), with a high number of rooms per person (2+) and often lived in by owner (trends in the seconde couronne)

Redaction

One particularly striking fact of our neighbourhood is the amount of social housing it has compared to the surrounding south-east neighbourhoods of the 'seconde couronne'.

The possible explanations for this are:

- There was unbuilt, available land in Dries that the municipality could use to build social housing, as the demand continues to increase. This would be verifiable by looking at the date of the buildings, and confirming whether there was anything there previously; also looking at surrounding neighbourhoods, and whether they have available land or not; if yes, perhaps policies made it easier in Dries to build social housing?
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Exercise 2 - Mental maps of city residents and users

- Getting a grip on the neighbourhood: walk around the neighbourhood and write down your impressions, look around for visual cues of local culture, include some photographs. What kind of neighbourhood is it? What are its functions?
- Getting a grip on other's understanding of the neighbourhood: Ask at least 5 neighbourhood residents and users for their mental map of the city and the neighbourhood within it.
- Compare and contrast the mental maps of different drawers and draw some general conclusions. Any differences between users and residents of the neighbourhood?

Notes

Redaction

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