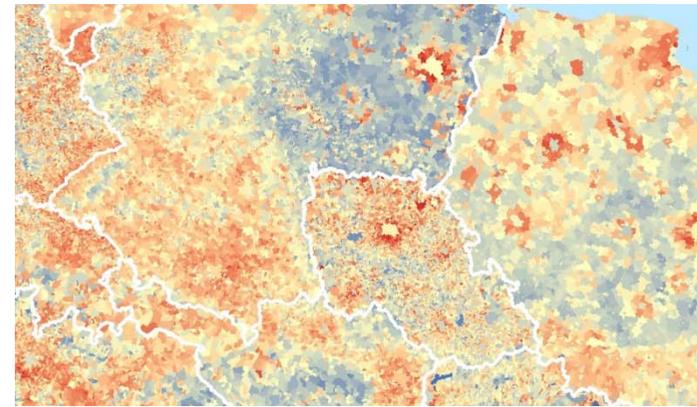
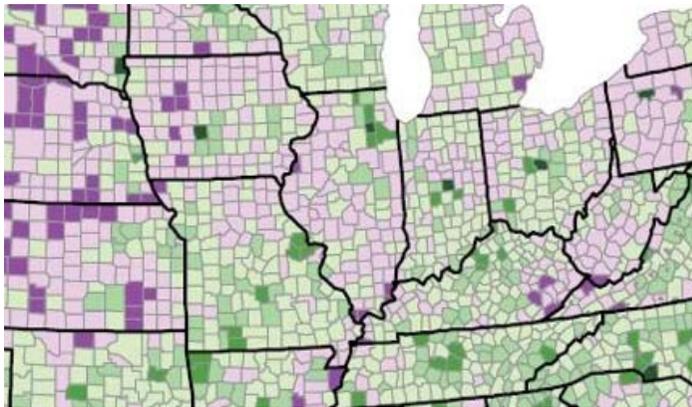


*Kwansei Gakuin University – Nishinomiya, 27 November 2019*

# URBAN SHRINKAGE IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

## SHRINKING CITIES IN EUROPE AND THE US



by

**Prof. Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann**

# Shrinking Cities

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## Initial Observation

Most countries in Europe see part of their cities affected by

- *population loss*,
- an increasingly *aging population*,
- *outmigration*.

## Shrinking Cities – Unresolved Issues

- The state of knowledge: causes, patterns, and effects
- The political dimension: the significance of shrinkage
- The responses of planners: promising strategies to deal with shrinkage

A 'Shrinking City' is defined as ...

- a densely populated **urban area** with a minimum population of 5,000 residents
- that has faced a **population loss** over a period of at least 5 years
- and shows some symptoms of a **structural crisis**.

*based on: SCiRN 2005*

# Shrinking Cities

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## Conventional Discourses on Shrinking Cities

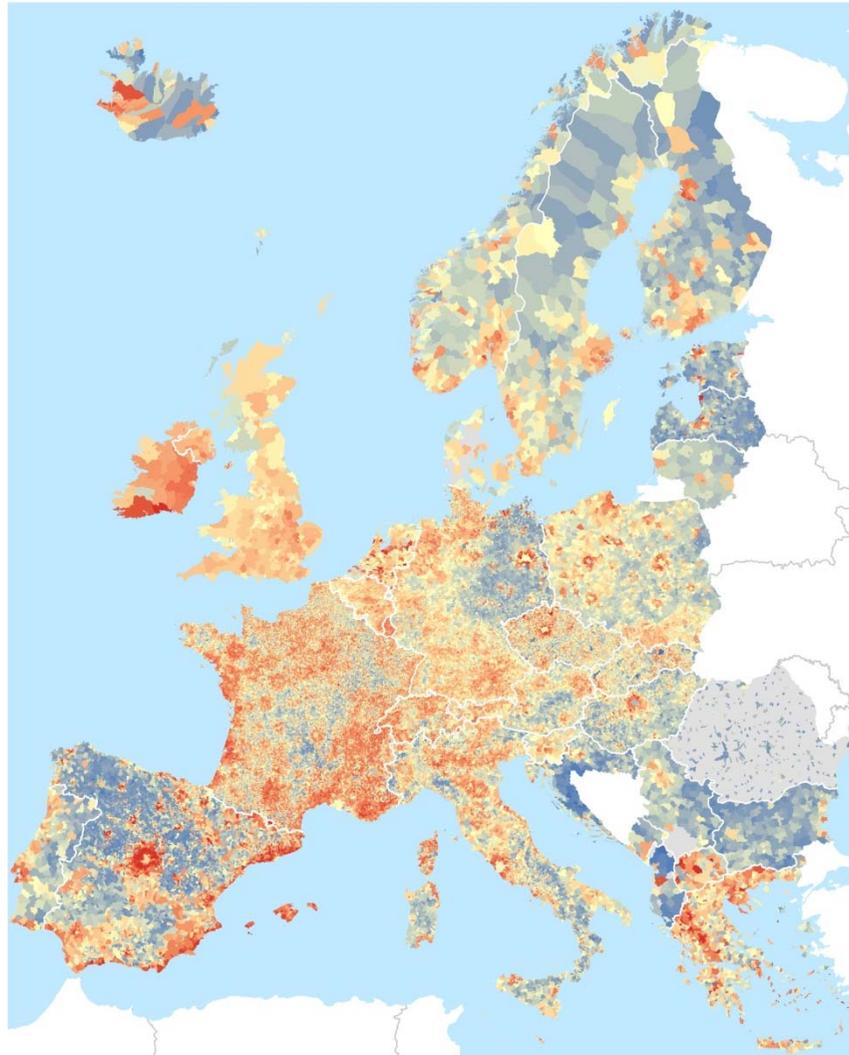
- I. Urban decline as a cyclical phenomenon
    - Shrinkage caused by economic decline
    - Shrinkage caused by suburbanization and sprawl
  - II. Second Demographic Transition
- ➔ In policies urban shrinkage was systematically disregarded as a dominant development trend.

## The Present Debate in Europe

- I. German State Programme ‚Stadtumbau Ost‘
  - II. Emerging European perspective with different stages of national debates
- ➔ Discourse lacks a comparative perspective on the factors and impacts of shrinkage and on the policies and strategies that were implemented.

# Shrinking Cities in Europe

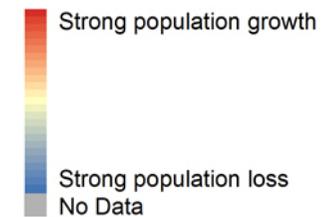
## Mapping Shrinking Cities in Europe



Mapping  
Urban Shrinkage  
in Europe

Total population  
development  
1990 - 2010  
in 93.844 municipalities  
in 37 countries

### Annual Population Development in municipalities 1990 - 2010



Regional Level: LAU1/LAU2  
Source: National Statistical Offices  
Geographical Data: Geographic Information System of  
the European Commission, ESRI Data and Maps

# Shrinking Cities in Europe

## Mapping Shrinking Cities in Europe

*Declining*

> 80 %

30 %

70 %

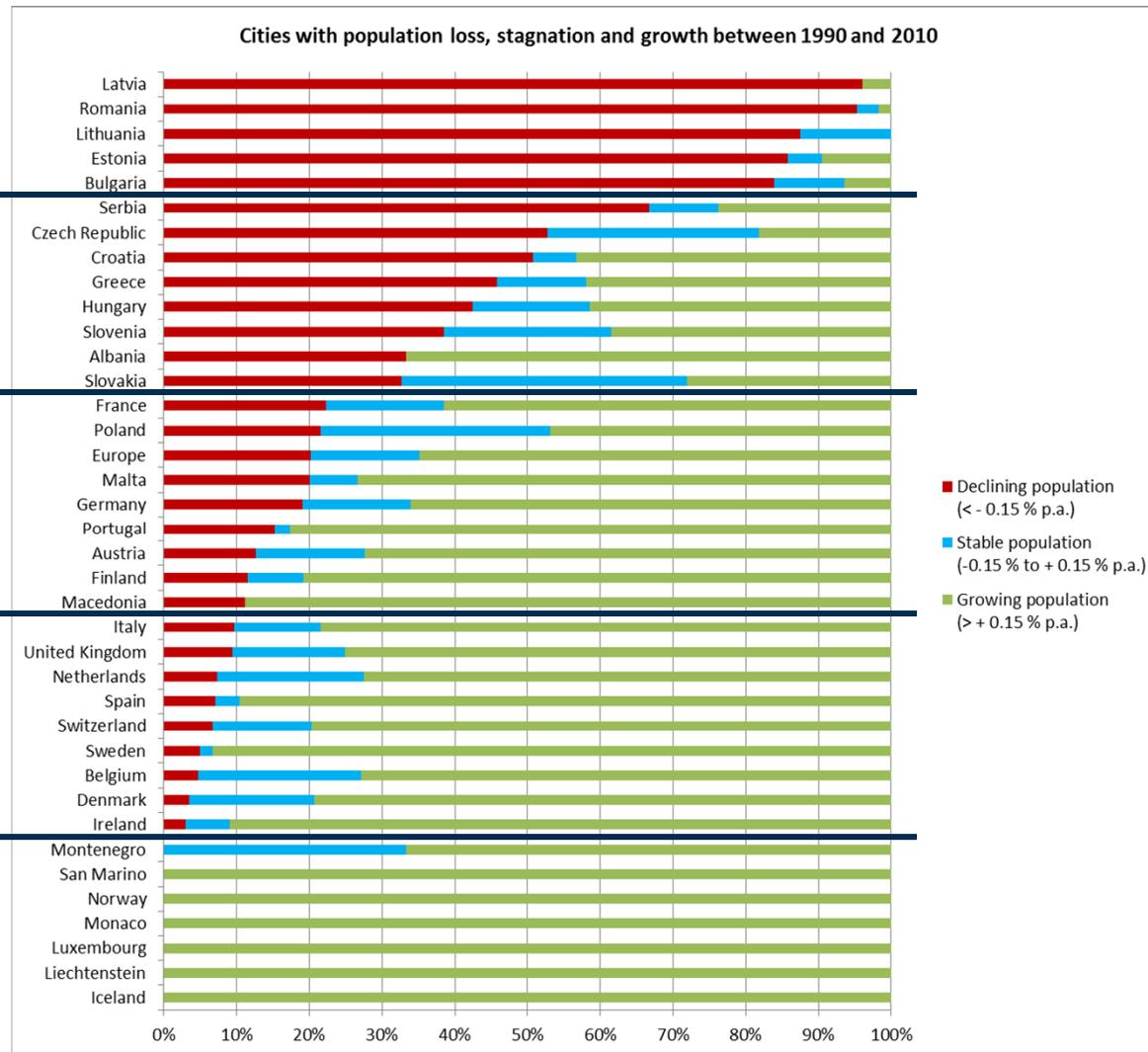
10 %

25 %

1 %

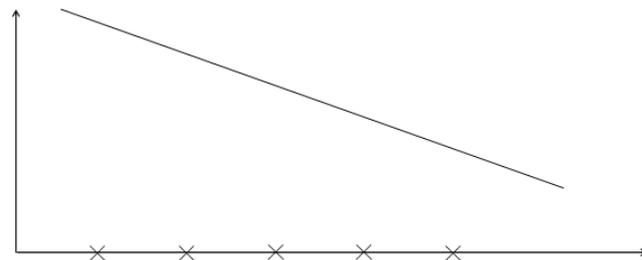
10 %

0 %



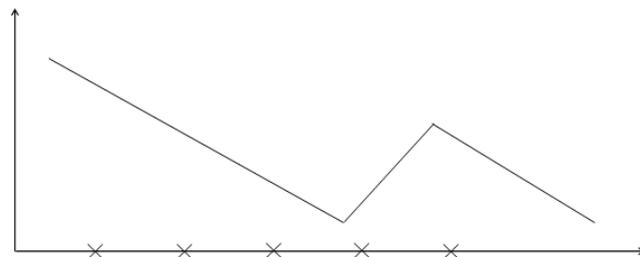
# Shrinking Cities in Europe

## Mapping Shrinking Cities in Europe: Dynamic Typology



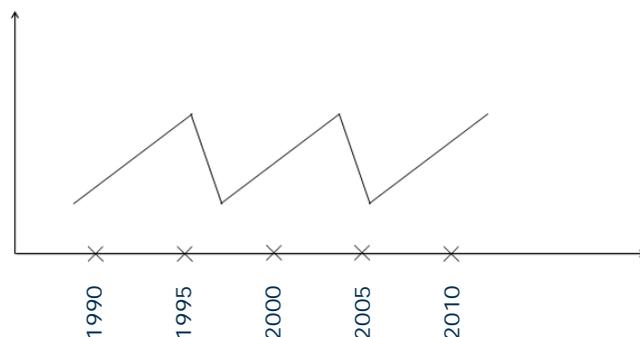
**Continuous Shrinkage**

Population loss  $> 0.15\%$  p.a. in all four five-year intervals



**Episodic Shrinkage**

Population loss over the observed period as a whole ( $> 0.15\%$  p.a.), but reported in at least one five-year period a stable ( $\pm 0.15\%$  p.a.) or even growing population ( $> + 0.15\%$  p.a.).

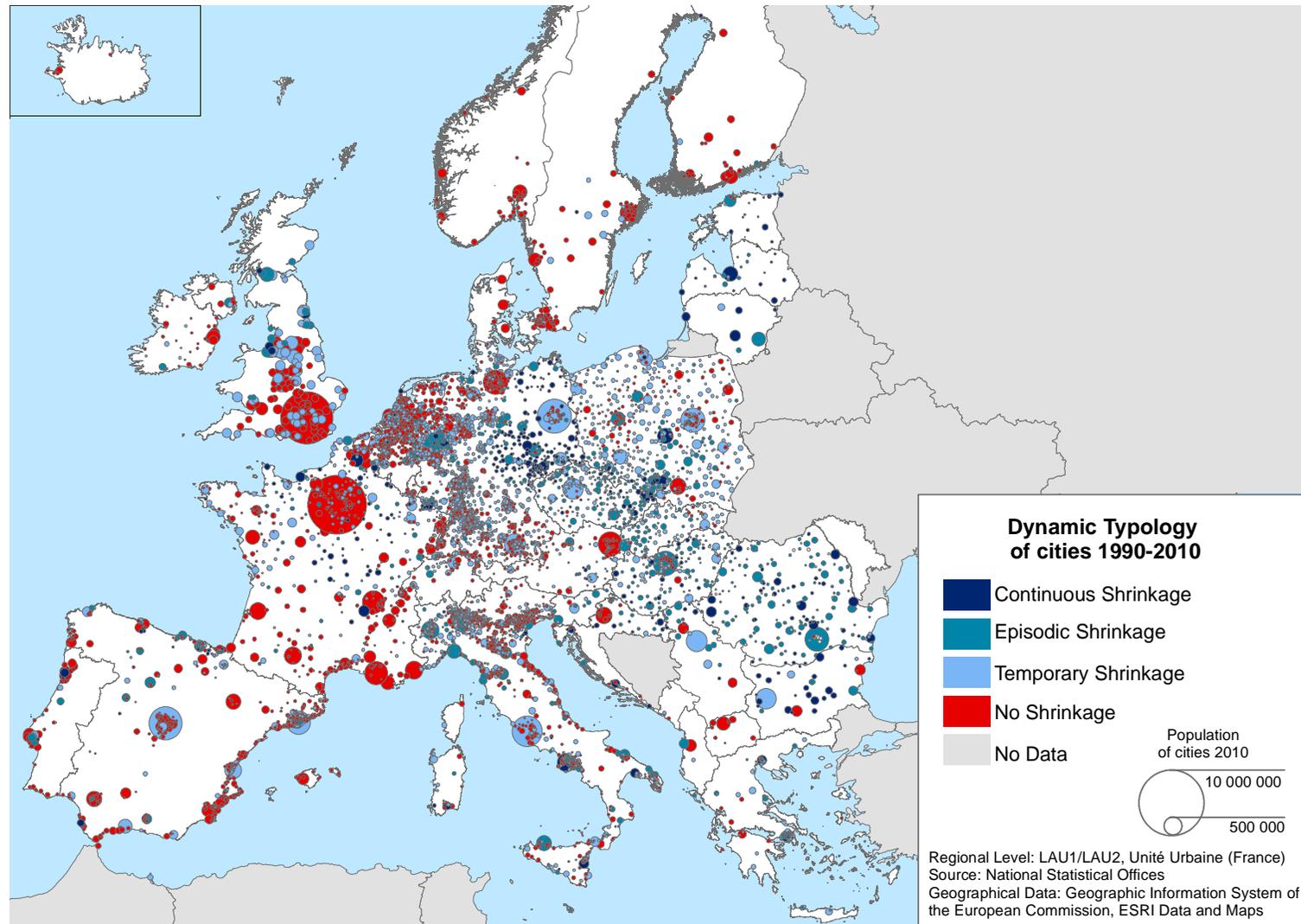


**Temporary Shrinkage**

No population loss of at least  $0.15\%$  p.a. over the entire period, but in at least one five-year period

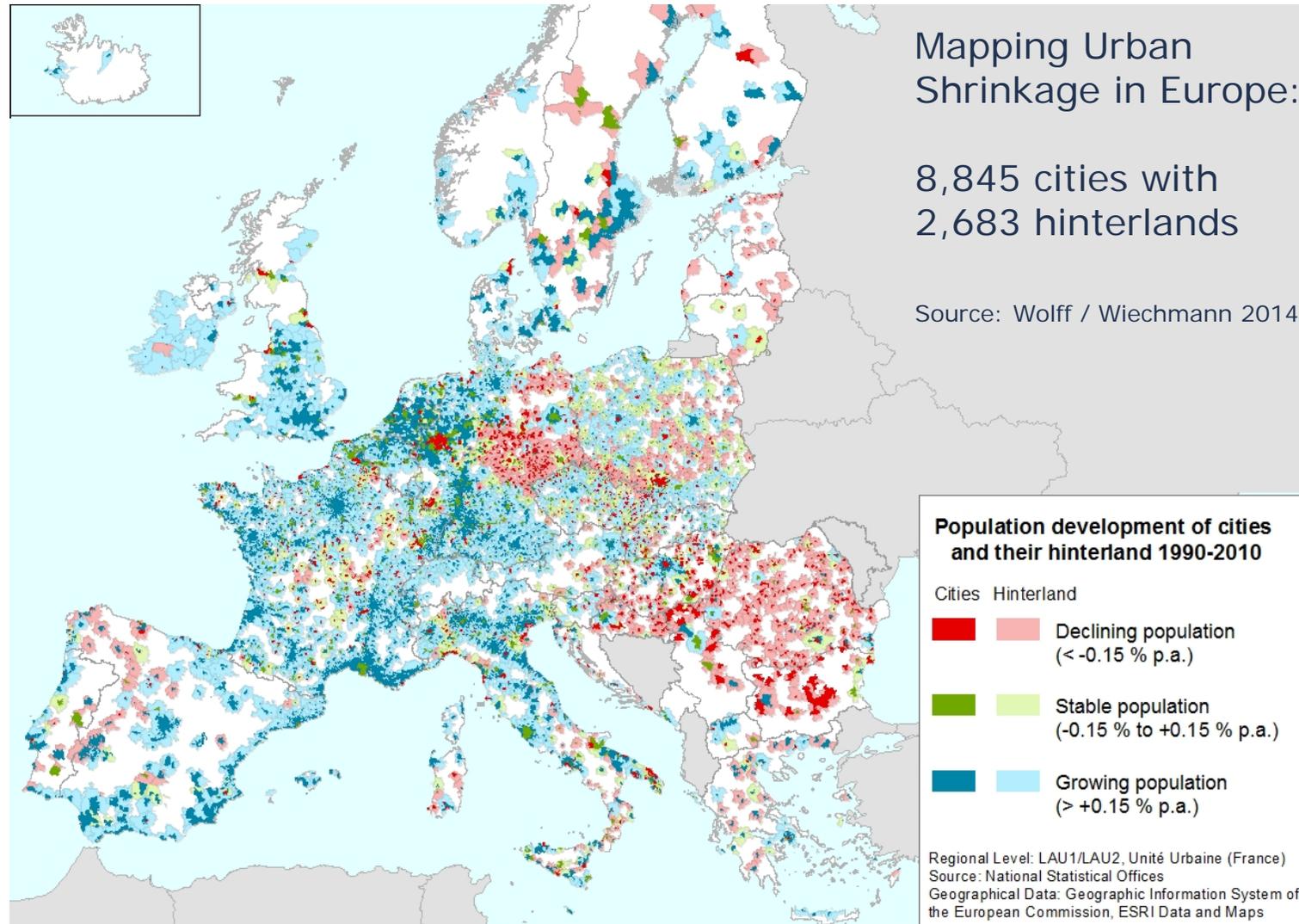
# Shrinking Cities in Europe

## Mapping Shrinking Cities in Europe: Dynamic Typology



# Shrinking Cities in Europe

## Mapping Shrinking Cities in Europe: Cities and Hinterlands



# Shrinking Cities in Europe

## Mapping Shrinking Cities in Europe

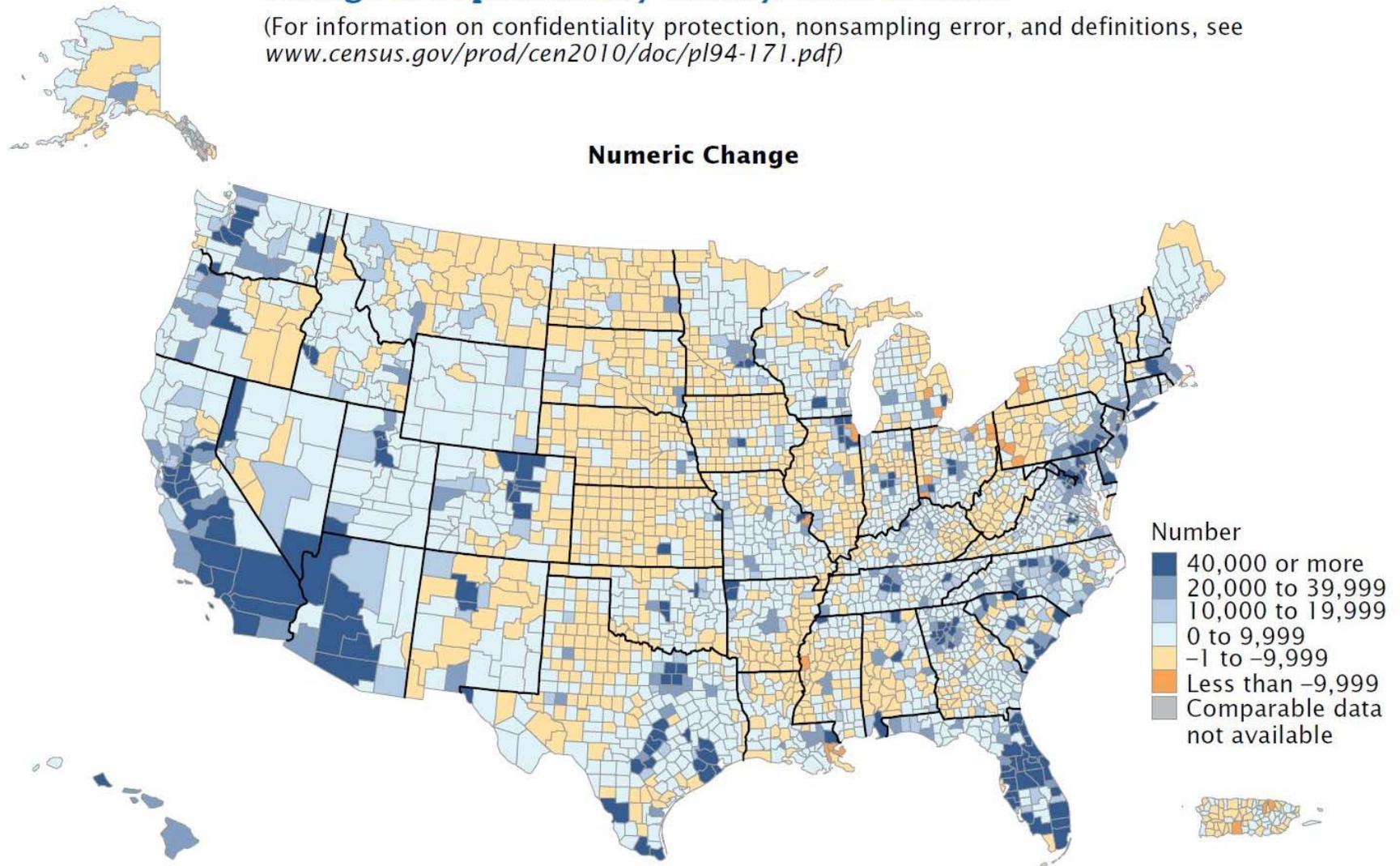
Population Balance 1990 – 2010 in European cities and hinterlands

		H I N T E R L A N D S			
		Declining population ( $< -0.15$ % p.a.)	Stable population (max. $\pm 0.15$ %)	Growing population ( $> +0.15$ % p.a.)	total
C I T I E S	Declining population ( $< -0.15$ % p.a.)	7%	4%	8%	19%
	Stable population (max. $\pm 0.15$ % p.a.)	2%	3%	10%	15%
	Growing population ( $> +0.15$ % p.a.)	3%	4%	60%	67%
	total	11%	10%	78%	100%

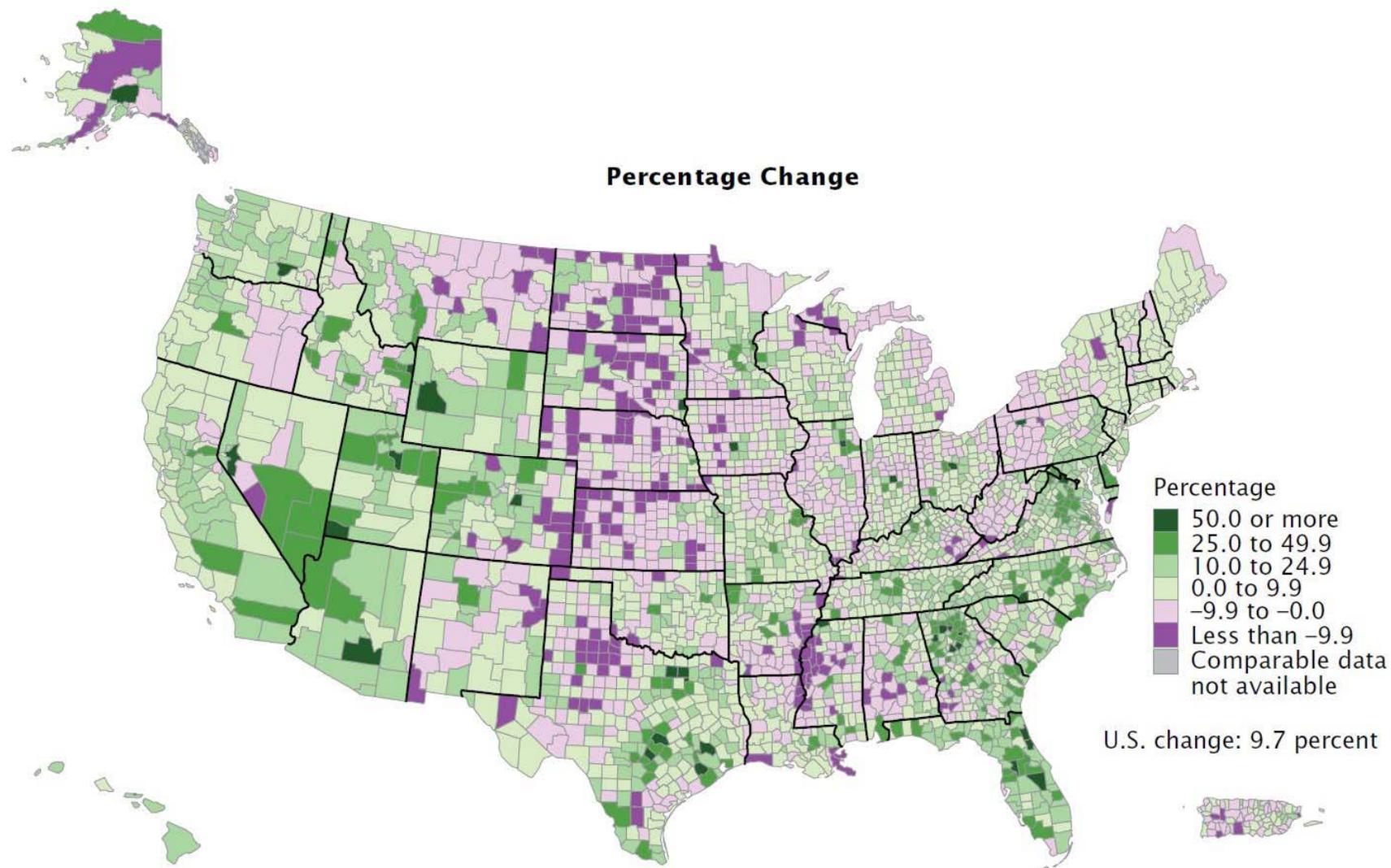
# Shrinking Cities in the US

## Change in Population by County: 2000 to 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



# Shrinking Cities in the US



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Census 2000.

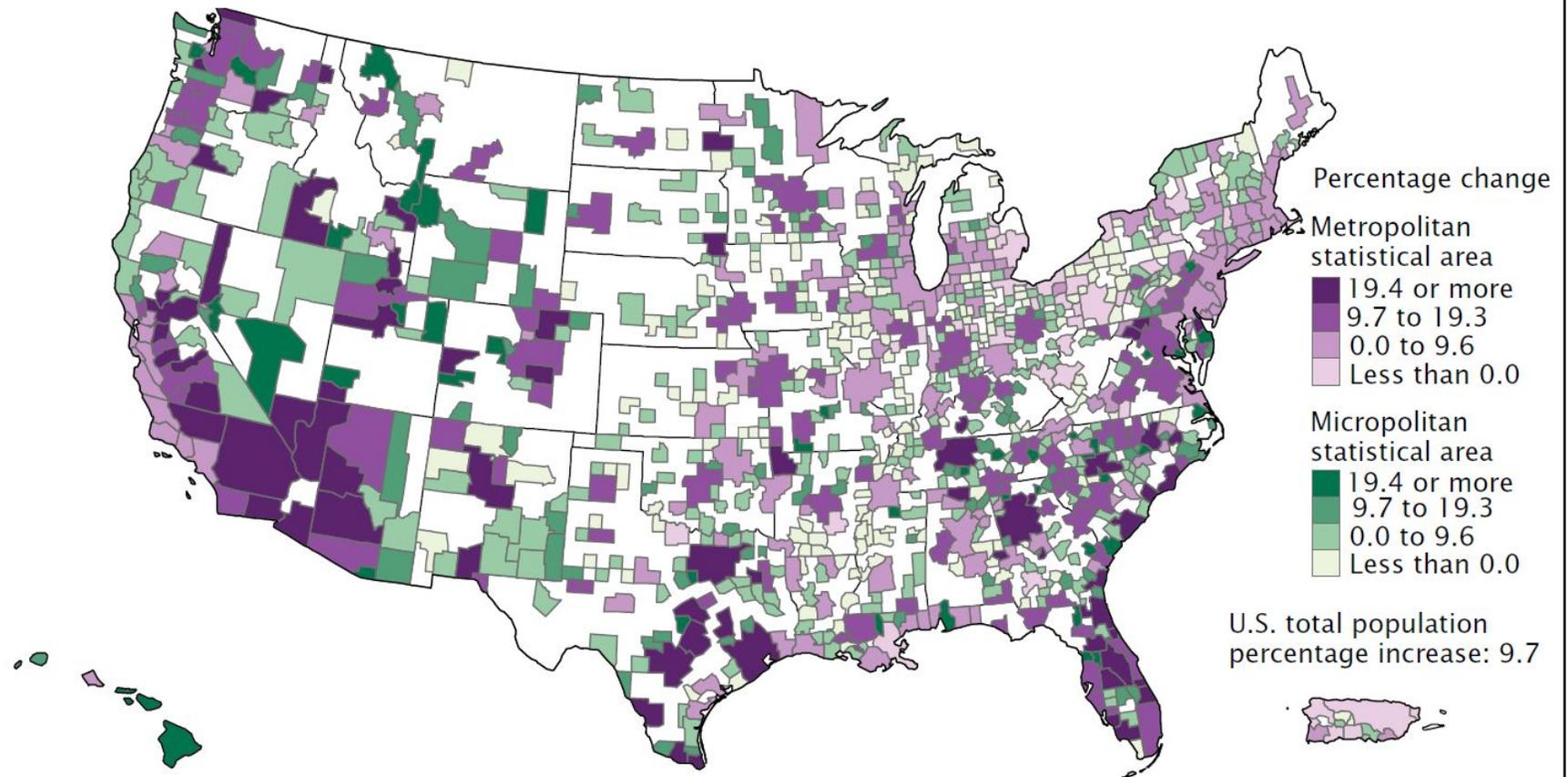
# Shrinking Cities in the US



Figure 4.

## Percentage Change in Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Population: 2000 to 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/p194-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/p194-171.pdf))



## Shrinking Cities in Europe and the US

### Europe

- **More than half** of Europe's cities (3.563 out of 7.035) shrank either continuously, episodically or temporarily in the past 20 years
- There are Shrinking Cities in **almost all** European countries
- Extend, spatial pattern, and development paths **differ** considerably
- In Europe, urban shrinkage is a **long-term structural phenomenon** rather than a short-lived interruption of a general growth path
- Key driver: natural losses due to **low birth rates**, migration losses due to **suburbanization**

### US

- While **urban areas** on the whole are **growing**, the population in **several metro areas shrank** in the past 20 years.
- **38 larger cities** with over 100,000 inhabitants have lost between **20 % and 62 %** since 1950
- The vast majority of these cities are **legacy cities** located in the **rust belt** in the North-Eastern United States
- In many cases, the **surrounding areas** have increased in population.
- Key driver: migration losses due to **industrial decline and suburban sprawl**

# Shrinking Cities in Europe and the US

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## Common issues of Shrinking Cities

- Housing vacancy rates are above fluctuation reserve lead to a (partial) collapse of the **housing market**
- Social as well as technical **infrastructure** is oversized and has to be maintained and adapted by less and less consumers
- Municipal **financial basis** is deteriorating
- Population is **ageing** above average

## Observed differences between Shrinking Cities

- **Causes** are different: economic decline, out-migration, low fertility rates, suburbanization, decentralization, environmental pollution, etc.
- **Extend and spatial pattern** of vacancies differ
- Most face economic **decline**, while others are economically **competitive**
- In some cases shrinkage goes along with **racial segregation**, in others not
- Some deliberately **plan** for a **smaller city** where as other still aim for demographic growth

# Shrinking Cities in Europe and the US

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## Implications

- Urban shrinkage is a **major challenge** for future urban policies and urban research in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- However, issues and challenges of shrinking cities have **hardly ever appeared** on the agenda of politicians and urban planners in the past.
- There is **no blueprint** how cities should react. Shrinking Cities need creative and flexible urban strategies in highly uncertain environments.
- **Economic inclusion strategies** in shrinking cities demand the overcoming of a one-sided focus on growth as revitalization efforts often highly segregated areas and do not target the social needs of the poor.
- Responses need to take the **local and national contexts** into account.
- A paradigm-shift from growth-oriented planning to **'smart shrinking'** with a strong focus on **remaining assets** and **novel ideas** is needed.
- Politicians and planners should to **learn** from experiences made elsewhere.