



MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES (CIMES)

(extracted from the UIA-CIMES Initial Document - 5th point)

Defining what constitutes a medium-sized or intermediate city is quite a complex task. In an attempt to analyse this phenomenon on an international scale it has been decided to establish a wide quantitative band (between 20,000 and 2,000,000 inhabitants), and then include a series of other more qualitative characteristics. Intermediate cities should therefore play a clear territorial role, they should have some territorial administrative function (whether at the national-state, federal, regional or local level) but they should not form part of metropolitan conurbations. The survey is quite general, but it was thought that more precise and specific formulations would have required a lot more work from local collaborators.

It would be greatly appreciated if "local collaborators" and other architects, town planners and professionals related with urban/territorial planning and development could respond to the following points and send their contributions to the UIA-CIMES programme manager.

a) City size and form :

- The plotting of a "radius" (R), measured in Km (kilometres), whose circumference inscribes approximately 70% of the urban (municipal) population. In order to determine the scale and distance to the urban centre, drawn on a town plan.
- The plotting of a straight line (L), measured in Km (kilometres), between the most extreme points of the consolidated urban nucleus of each city (no more than 200m between buildings). In order to determine the physical longitude of that city, drawn on the same town plan as previously mentioned.
- The establishment of rough altimetric or topographical "bench marks" at one kilometre intervals along the previously mentioned line (L) in order to obtain a "profile" of the city's urban form, drawn on the same town plan as previously mentioned.

b) City size and density :

- An indication of the urban and rural surface areas (Su and Ru) measured in Ha. (hectares).
- An indication of the urban and rural populations (Pu and Pr) in number of inhabitants (Hb/Ha).
- Gross densities given as the number of urban or rural inhabitants per hectare, (Du and Dr).

c) The city and its urban "hinterland":

- Its radius of influence in Km (H)
- The municipalities within its area of influence and the total population of the area (P)
- Its distance from the two nearest big cities — the populations of neighbouring large cities

d) Network of services and infrastructure :

- An indication of the percentage of the urban surface covered by networks of drinkable water, drains and sewage systems for residual waters and effluents, public lighting and electrical grids, with respect to the total urban surface area. These data may be very approximate.
- Frequency of street cleaning: daily, weekly,
- Refuse collection (daily, weekly or monthly volume)
- Selective refuse collection
- Refuse treatment and recycling



e) Territorial Infrastructure :

- Nearest airport.
- Existence of railway station(s).

f) Network of free spaces and green areas :

- An Indication of the percentage of the urban surface that is not destined for construction, because it forms either part of a green area or serves other free space functions (roadways, water courses, etc) with respect to the total urban area. These data may be very approximate.

g) Levels of urban equipment :

- Socio-cultural: Universities (if possible, indicating the number of students), number of public libraries, number of centres for secondary education, number of indoor public sports pavilions.
- Health care: General hospitals (number of beds), primary health clinics or first aid centres.
- Other equipment and public services: Public markets for basic supplies: indicating whether wholesale or retail.

h) Government :

- Types of territorial administration housed in the city (local, regional-federal, national.)
- Number of municipal councillors.

i) Annual municipal budget.

j) Type of medium-sized or intermediate city :

In which group would you put your city?

- Medium-sized cities on the periphery of the great metropolises.
- Isolated cities, small metropolitan centres and urban poles in rural areas (territorial centres).
- Connected cities, within networks of active economic exchanges, whether because they are at nodal points in networks of high velocity transport, or because they are part of a regional urban network.
- Others to be specified:

k) Economic activity :

- Main economic activity.
- Employment structure expressed in % terms: approximate division between primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.
- Rate of unemployment (approximate).

l) Housing :

- Total number of housing units (approximate).
- General characteristics (approximate %s of substandard housing, slums, shanty towns)
- Approximate number of homeless (people or families).
- Approximate % of housing without and/or electricity.

m) Monuments or buildings that most clearly represent or symbolise the city:

- Name, description, functions that they perform, date of construction (approximate.)



n) Most important urban projects carried out during the last 10 years.

o) Most important projects currently being undertaken or planned for the immediate future.

Thank you very much for your collaboration.

Please send the results, with three photographs (a general view of the city, a representative monument and one of a parade or public and traditional event) and a city map to :

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