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Functional Urban Areas in Colombia

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FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREAS IN COLOMBIA

By Daniel Sanchez-Serra¹

Abstract:

This paper applies the OECD-EU methodology to identify the functional urban areas (FUAs) in Colombia. Using the municipal boundaries, population grid data and inter-municipalities commuting flows from the 2005 population census, the paper identifies 53 FUAs accounting for 27 million people, or 63% of the national population. The resulting FUAs are then compared with the existing national definition (*Misión del Sistema de Ciudades*) and the legally constituted metropolitan areas in Colombia. Finally, using the OECD-EU methodology already applied to OECD countries, the eight largest FUAs in Colombia are compared with the 281 largest FUA in OECD countries, through a set of economic, social and environmental indicators. The application of the OECD-EU methodology allows to identify the whole system of urban areas in Colombia, with the same criterion; it thus provides a complementary tool to the national and city government to better plan and design future urban policy strategies. For example, this paper finds that metropolitan areas in Colombia have smaller commuting areas relative to OECD average and that improvements in the transport infrastructure may strengthen the economic integration of Colombian metropolitan areas.

JEL classification code: R12, R23

Key words: metropolitan areas, functional definition, GIS data

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1. Introduction

Today more than half of the world's population lives in cities and the world urban population is expected to have reached 84 per cent by 2050 (UN, 2014). Socio-economic forces attract firms and individuals in cities, creating an interconnected economic and social space that extends administrative municipal boundaries. How the urban systems of a country function, that is to say the connections among cities and between cities and their surrounding areas, has an important impact on the national prosperity and quality of life of all residents.

While traditionally cities are identified through administrative boundaries, these might not capture all the socio-economic interactions generated by individuals or firms. Cities may grow in population or spatially beyond the administrative boundaries; for instance, people may live in a locality and work or regularly go for leisure to a different municipality. Additionally, boundaries of administrative units may evolve over time as a result of historical or political events.

Identifying metropolitan areas as functional urban areas, rather than administrative urban areas, has the advantage of better describing the reality of where people live and work, and in turn can change the way policies are planned and implemented. Indeed, a better adaptation and integration of the policies to the local realities might help central governments to implement specific urban policies and promote metro-wide cooperation. In other words, defining urban areas as functional economic units can better guide the way national and city governments plan infrastructure, transportation, housing, schools, space for culture and recreation. Improved planning will make urban areas more competitive to support job creation, and more attractive for their residents.

Several methodologies to identify Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) have been developed at the national level in various countries (Brezzi et al. 2012). In the case of Colombia, the 1991 Constitution recognised the institution of metropolitan areas on the base of voluntary agreements between two or more municipalities. Later on, in 2012, the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades* developed a national methodology to delimitate urban areas which is described in DNP (2012) and Duranton (2013). This methodology identifies 56 cities of which 18 were identified using a functional approach (aggregating municipalities iteratively based on a 10% commuting threshold and a population for at least 100 000 inhabitants) and 38 cities according to their population (municipalities with a population above 100 000 inhabitants), their administrative status (capitals of the department), or their role at the sub-regional level. Based on this methodology, the *Departamento Nacional de Planeación* (DNP) was able to analyse the urbanisation process experienced in Colombia as well as the characteristics of the system of cities identified. Moreover, it was used to plan and design the long-term policy in Colombia.

Indeed, recognising the importance of cities in the economic, social and environmental development, the Colombian National Council of Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) issued the document "*Política Nacional para Consolidar el Sistema de Ciudades en Colombia*" in 2014 (CONPES 3819, 2014). The document aims at designing a long-term policy to consolidate a system of cities that takes better account of the benefits of urbanisation and agglomeration, while reducing negative externalities and regional disparities. A certain number of recommendations are included in the document according to the objectives and action plan defined by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades*, DNP (2012). This document is the basis for the national policy strategy.

In a globalised world, policy makers and residents are seeking to compare their city's performance with similar realities around the world to find inspiration for implementing successful new policy ideas. In order to overcome the heterogeneity of methodologies existing worldwide to delimitate metropolitan areas, in 2012, the OECD-EU developed a new international approach to classifying urban areas. This new purely functional methodology had the aim to better monitor urban development within and across countries

(OECD, 2012). According to this definition, urban areas in OECD countries are defined as functional economic units characterised by densely inhabited “city centres” and surrounding “commuting zones” integrated with the centres through high travel-to-work flows (so called Functional Urban Areas-FUAs).

So far, the OECD-EU methodology to identify FUAs has been applied in all OECD countries², with the exceptions of Iceland, Israel, Latvia, New Zealand and Turkey. The FUAs, together with the socio-economic, environmental and governance indicators of the OECD Metropolitan Database, has proved to be an essential tool for national policy-making and has been used for international comparison.

This paper has a threefold objective: first, it identifies the FUAs in Colombia according to the OECD-EU method. Secondly, it compares such a definition with the existing national definition and the legally constituted metropolitan areas in Colombia, to better understand the main differences and commonalities. Finally, it analyses the main characteristics of the system of cities identified in Colombia and compares them with the system of cities in OECD member countries. A fine grained analysis is done by focusing on the metropolitan areas (FUAs with a population above 500 000 inhabitants).

Two main conclusions can be drawn by this exercise. First, the OECD-EU methodology applied to Colombia provides a coherent description of the national system of urban areas of different population sizes. Such a result can complement the existing national definition or the legally constituted metropolitan areas in Colombia to help national and local governments implement the recently designed action plan to increase the benefits of urbanisation while reducing negative externalities. Second, the results of this study shows that, compared to other countries, Colombia is characterised by a large share of small FUAs and by a low number of FUAs with commuting zone, signalling possible barriers, for example inadequate transport infrastructure, for cities to benefit from agglomeration economies.

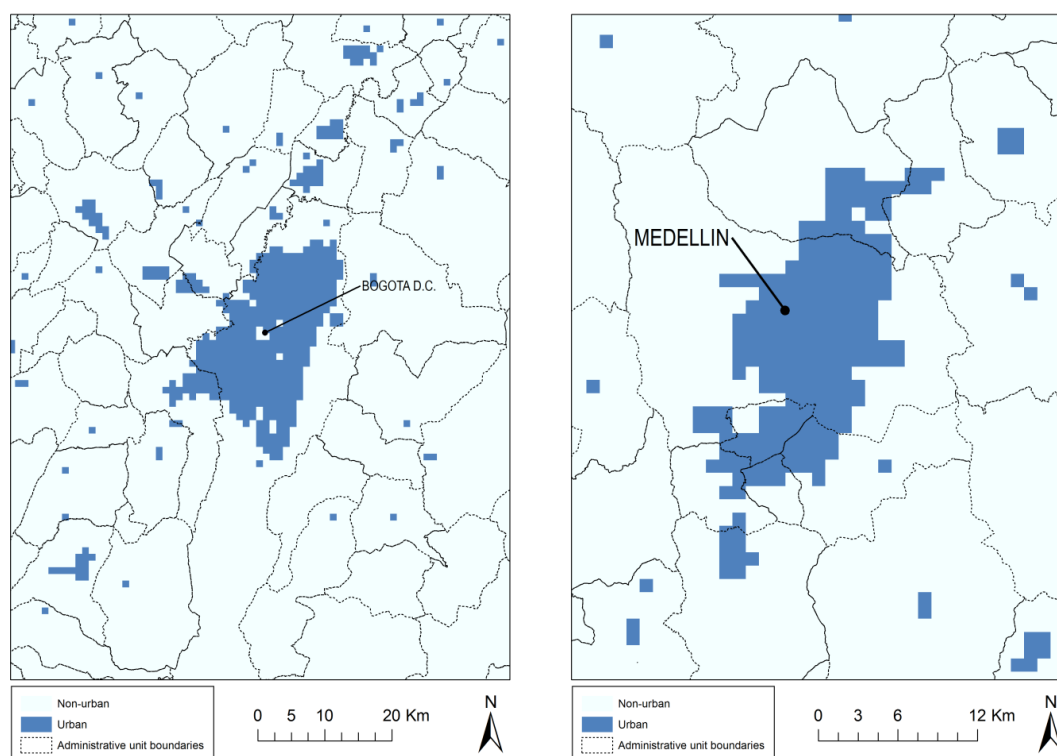
The paper is structured as follows: Section two presents the national urban definitions currently available in Colombia. The third section presents the OECD-EU methodology developed to identify FUAs in OECD countries and its application to the case of Colombia. The fourth section explores the main characteristics of the FUAs identified in Colombia. This section benchmarks the metropolitan areas (the largest FUAs, with population above 500 000) identified in Colombia with the OECD-EU method with other OECD metropolitan areas. This section also compares these results with respect to the official national definitions of metropolitan areas in Colombia. Section fifth presents the conclusions.

2. From administrative to FUAs in Colombia: National definitions

Cities adapt their urban structures to accommodate the needs generated by the rapid growth (Knight, 1995). The changes experienced in the localisation of the economic activity, local services and the housing provision in Colombia over the past 60 years have generated a new urban environment (CONPES 3819, 2014). Indeed, some Colombian cities now extend beyond the current municipal boundaries. For example, the distribution of population in Bogotá and Medellín shows that highly densely populated areas exist beyond the administrative boundaries (Figure 1).

² The methodology has been applied to two Latin American countries so far, namely, Chile and Mexico.

Figure 1. Urban and non-urban population density: Bogotá and Medellín



Note: Based on population density per km² and defining urban area all grid cells of 1km² with a population density above 1 500 inhabitants per km². These maps are for illustrative purposes and are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map.

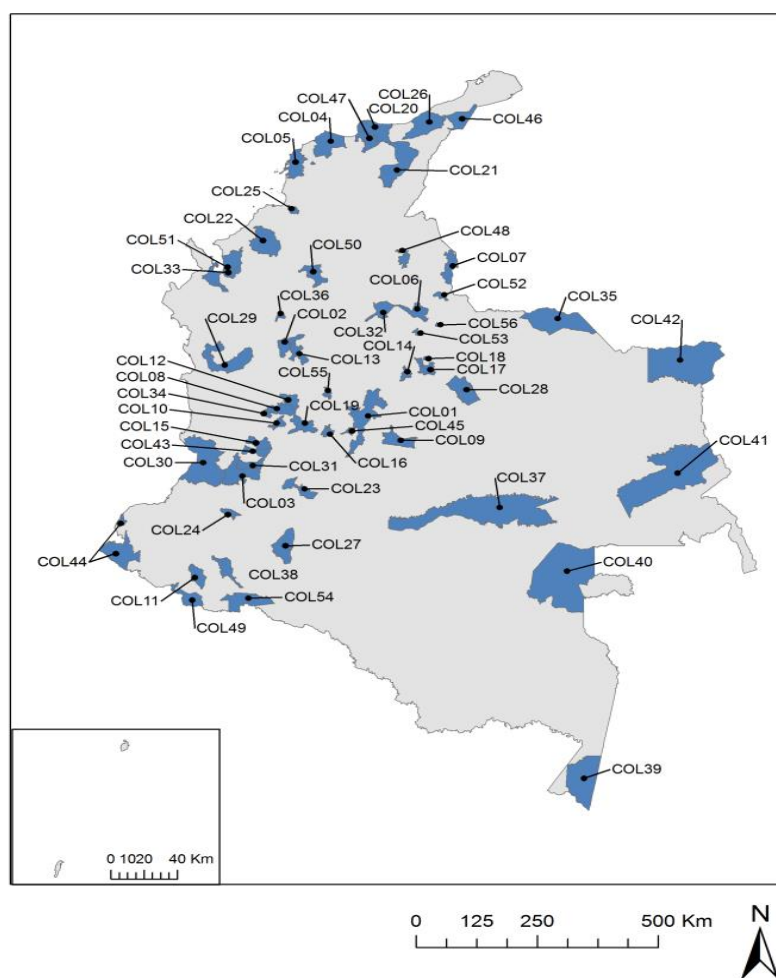
Source: Author's calculations based on population density at 1km² (2005 census year).

National definition of cities

With the objective to capture the real extension of the Colombian system of cities, and thus capturing the internal dynamics of cities, the relations between cities and the relation between the cities and their territory of influence, the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades* developed a methodology that identifies urban areas as functional economic areas, to reflect the space where people live and work (CONPES 3819, 2014). This approach consists of four iterative steps: *i*) identify all municipalities that are connected by having at least 10% of their resident labour force commuting to work in another municipality (even if not contiguous). All these municipalities are then aggregated in a new geographical area; *ii*) the new geographical areas (aggregations of municipalities from the first step) are considered as candidate cities if at least they concentrate 100 000 people inside the area (2010 data was used in this second step); *iii*) add to the list of candidate cities all the capitals of the departments and cities considered providers of services to the region, both with a population below 100 000; and finally *iv*) add to the list of cities all municipalities with a population of at least 100 000 inhabitants (only if they were not previously included in the list).

According to this methodology, 56 cities are identified among which 18 are considered as functional cities (groups of municipalities) and 38 monocentric (single municipalities) (Figure 2). The Colombian system of cities accounts for 65% of the total national population (around 30 million of people in 2010). Additionally, cities are distributed across all the territory but mainly concentrated in the west and centre part of the country.

Figure 2. City system in Colombia (based on the National definition of cities)



Note: COL01 Bogotá, COL02 Medellín, COL03 Cali, COL04 Barranquilla, COL05 Cartagena, COL06 Bucaramanga, COL07 Cúcuta, COL08 Pereira, COL09 Villavicencio, COL10 Armenia, COL11 Pasto, COL12 Manizales, COL13 Rionegro, COL14 Tunja, COL15 Tuluá, COL16 Girardot, COL17 Sogamoso, COL18 Duitama, COL19 Ibagué, COL20 Santa Marta, COL21 Valledupar, COL22 Montería, COL23 Neiva, COL24 Popayán, COL25 Sincelejo, COL26 Riohacha, COL27 Florencia, COL28 Yopal, COL29 Quibdó, COL30 Buenaventura, COL31 Palmira, COL32 Barrancabermeja, COL33 Apartadó, COL34 Cartago, COL35 Arauca, COL36 San Andrés de Cuerquía, COL37 San José del Guaviare, COL38 Mocoa, COL39 Leticia, COL40 Mitú, COL41 Inírida, COL42 Puerto Carreño, COL43 Guadalajara de Buga, COL44 San Andrés de Tumaco, COL45 Fusagasugá, COL46 Maicao, COL47 Ciénaga, COL48 Ocaña, COL49 Ipiales, COL50 Cauca, COL51 Turbo, COL52 Pamplona, COL53 San Gil, COL54 Puerto Asís, COL55 Honda, COL56 Málaga.

These 56 cities have been classified in two categories: FUAs (from COL01 to COL18) and Monocentric cities (COL19-COL56).

Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map.

Source: Author's calculations based on CONPES 3819 (2014).

Legally constituted metropolitan areas in Colombia

The constitutional reform of 1975 introduced in Colombia the administrative and political concept of metropolitan areas in Colombia. The possibility of creating metropolitan areas was mainly to facilitate the

production and delivery of better public services between two or more municipalities. Along the same lines, the Constitution of 1991 which replaced the previous constitution, also considered the creation of metropolitan areas (articles 319 and 325).

The definition and constitution of a metropolitan area was regulated by the law 128/1994 (then abrogated and substituted by the law 1625/2013). This law defines a metropolitan area as an administrative entity formed by two or more municipalities integrated around a core municipality (Article 2). According to the law, the new administrative entity called metropolitan area can be constituted only when a set of municipalities, which are not necessarily to be from the same department, display high economic, social and physical relations among them. Importantly, the process to constitute a metropolitan area in Colombia according to the law 1625/2013 has to be promoted by the mayors of the municipalities concerned, a third of the council of the municipality, a 5% of the electoral roll of the municipalities involved and the Governor(s) of the departments to which the municipalities that intend to integrate a Metropolitan Area belong to (Article 8). The promoters draft the document for the constitution of the metropolitan area (in which the municipalities involved will appear and the justification for the constitution of the metropolitan area will be provided) and subsequently call for a popular referendum. If the result of the referendum is favourable for the constitution of the metropolitan area, mayors and presidents of the respective municipal councils must formalise the creation of the area within thirty days (Congreso de Colombia, 2013; Proyecto de Acto Legislativo 088 de la Cámara de Representantes).

Today Colombia has recognised by law six metropolitan areas: Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Centro Occidente, Cúcuta, Valle de Aburrá and Valle del Cacique Upar. These metropolitan areas have legal status as well as administrative and fiscal autonomy. However, there are still several metropolitan areas which have only been recognised but not yet institutionalised. Some examples are the metropolitan areas of Bogotá, Cali, Popayán, Tunja or the binational and trinational metropolitan areas of Ipiales (Colombia-Ecuador), Arauca-El Amparo (Colombia-Venezuela) or Leticia-Tabatinga (Colombia-Brazil-Peru).

According to the Colombian legislation municipalities inside a constituted metropolitan area do not lose political, economic and administrative autonomy, but are organized to manage together services (e.g. transportation) that require administrative agreements and supranational institutions. However, and mainly due to both, the administrative decentralisation process as well as the fiscal reforms experienced recently in Colombia, certain metropolitan areas have not been institutionalised (Carrión, 2009).

3. Apply the OECD-EU methodology to identify FUAs in Colombia

The OECD, in collaboration with the European Union, has developed a methodology for defining urban areas as functional economic places in a consistent way across countries. Using population density and travel-to-work flows as key information, urban areas emerge as characterised by densely inhabited city centres and less-populated municipalities whose labour market is highly integrated with the city centres (OECD, 2012). The methodology consists of three main steps: *i*) identification of contiguous densely inhabited city centres; *ii*) identification of interconnected city centres that are part of the same functional area; and *iii*) definition of the outlying area or commuting zone of the FUA, linked by commuting flows to the city centres. So far, the methodology has been applied to 30 OECD countries, and a total of 1 197 FUAs have been identified. All in all, these FUAs concentrate two thirds of the OECD population (OECD, 2013).

Step 1: Identification of the city centres

Gridded population data are used to define urbanised areas or “urban high-density clusters” over the national territory, ignoring administrative boundaries. This use of population grid data to identify city centres compensates for the fact that traditional administrative units are unevenly sized and vary greatly

within and between countries. Based on an intense density analysis, Colombian urban clusters have been defined based on population and thresholds similar to the majority of OECD countries³. Concretely, a core population criterion of 50 000 people and a density criterion of 1 500 persons per km² have been applied.

The identification of city centres can be divided in three steps: *i*) all grid cells⁴ of 1 km² with a density of more than 1 500 inhabitants per km² are selected; *ii*) high density clusters are defined as an aggregation of continuous high density 1 km² grid cells. Gaps are filled and only the clusters with a minimum population of 50 000 inhabitants are kept as a high density cluster; *iii*) an urban core is made up of contiguous municipalities (based on 2005 boundaries) that have more than 50% of their populations living within “high density” cells.

DANE (2014) has applied this methodology to the Colombian context by using 1 km² grid population data based on the 2005 census⁵. According to that, DANE has identified 59 cities⁶ in Colombia which account for 80 municipalities (7.1% of the municipalities of the country). Additionally, these cities concentrate more than half of the national population (23,801,612 inhabitants in 2005). A visual representation of these results is provided in Figure 3.

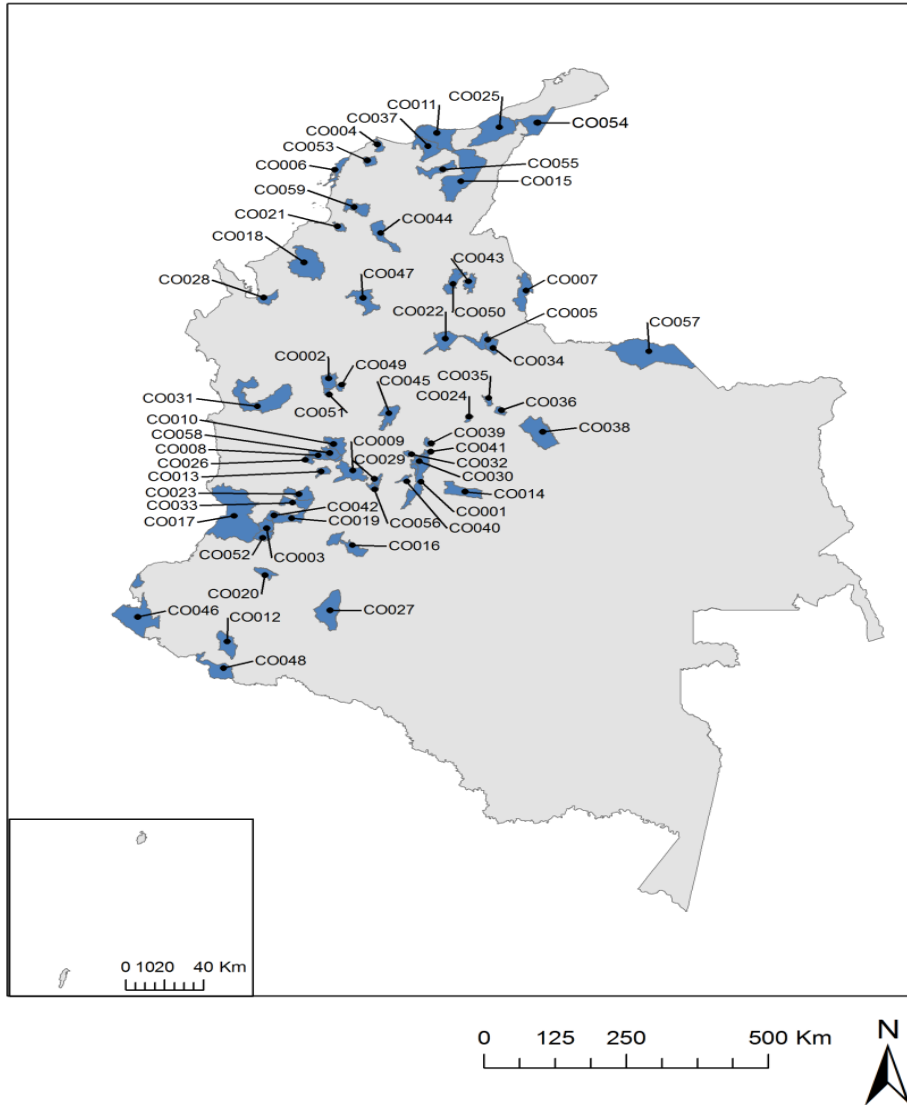
³ A population density threshold of 1 500 inhabitants per km² has been applied in all European countries, Japan, Korea, Chile and Mexico, while a population density of 1 000 inhabitants per km² has been applied in Canada, the United States and Australia. Additionally, a population threshold of 50 000 inhabitants was used in all European countries, the United States, Chile, Canada and Australia, while a larger population threshold of 100 000 inhabitants was applied in Japan, Korea and Mexico. For more details see figure A.5 in OECD (2016), *OECD Regions at a Glance 2016*.

⁴ DANE has constructed a raster map allocating in each of the grid cells of 1km² the total population based on the last 2005 general census in Colombia.

⁵ The 2005 census data is the most detailed population information currently available in Colombia.

⁶ Two cities (San Andrés de Tumaco and Maicao) were included manually to the list due to methodological reasons.

Figure 3. City centres in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology)



CO001 Bogotá D.C., CO002 Medellín, CO003 Cali, CO004 Barranquilla, CO005 Bucaramanga, CO006 Cartagena, CO007 Cúcuta, CO008 Pereira, CO009 Ibagué, CO010 Manizales, CO011 Santa Marta, CO012 Pasto, CO013 Armenia, CO014 Villavicencio, CO015 Valledupar, CO016 Neiva, CO017 Buenaventura, CO018 Montería, CO019 Palmira, CO020 Popayán, CO021 Sincelejo, CO022 Barrancabermeja, CO023 Tuluá, CO024 Tunja, CO025 Riohacha, CO026 Cartago, CO027 Florencia, CO028 Apartadó, CO029 Girardot, CO030 Mosquera, CO031 Quibdó, CO032 Facatativá, CO033 Buga, CO034 Piedecuesta, CO035 Duitama, CO036 Sogamoso, CO037 Ciénaga, CO038 Yopal, CO039 Zipaquirá, CO040 Fusagasugá, CO041 Chía, CO042 Yumbo, CO043 Ocaña, CO044 Magangué, CO045 La Dorada, CO046 San Andrés de Tumaco, CO047 Cauca, CO048 Ipiales, CO049 Rionegro, CO050 Aguachica, CO051 Caldas, CO052 Jamundí, CO053 Sabanalarga, CO054 Maicao, CO055 Fundación, CO056 Espinal, CO057 Arauca, CO058 Santa Rosa de Cabal, CO059 El Carmen de Bolívar.

Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map. The list of municipalities by city centre is presented in Annex I.

Source: Author's elaboration based on DANE (2014) computations.

Step 2: Identification of interconnected city centres

Based on the commuting data derived from the 2005 census⁷, 10 cities over a total of 59 (identified in step 1 above) are highly interconnected. Based on the OECD-EU methodology, two city centres are considered integrated and thus part of the same polycentric urban system if more than 15% of the population of any of the city centre commutes to work in another city centre. Using this function, it is possible to identify four polycentric FUA, namely, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Medellín and Cali. Indeed, it is observed that the city centre of Bogotá is highly interconnected with two neighbouring cities namely, Chía and Mosquera, in which around 25% of the labour force works in Bogotá. Similarly, Medellín is highly connected with Caldas where almost 40% of the labour force works in Medellín. Bucaramanga receives more than 28% of the labour force of Piedecuesta. Finally, Cali receives more than 15% of the labour force of each of the two neighbouring cities called Yumbo and Jamundí. As a result, 53 city centres are identified in Colombia (4 polycentric and 49 monocentric).

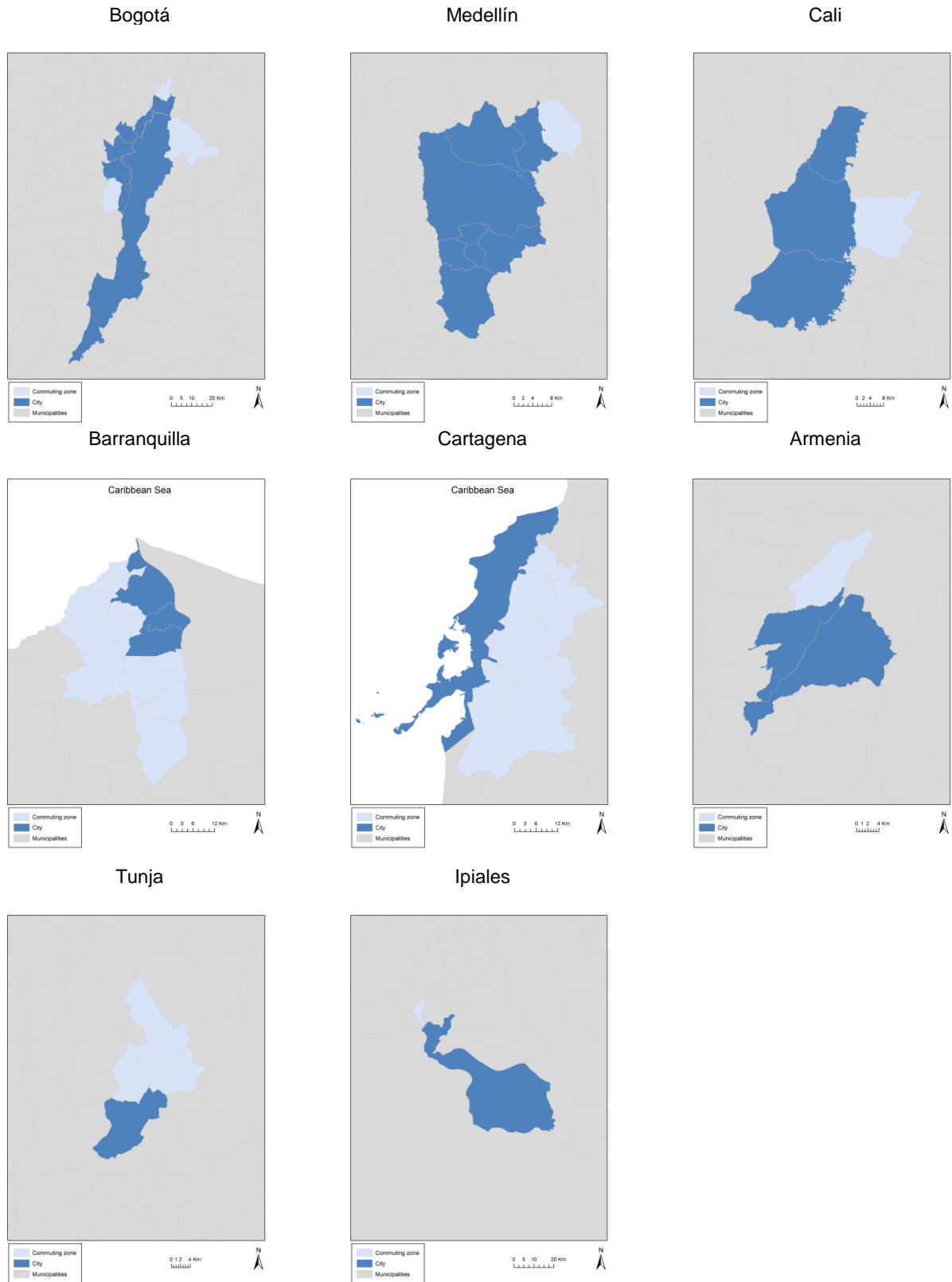
Step 3: Definition of the commuting zone of the FUA

The final step of the methodology consists in delineating the commuting zone of the FUAs. The commuting zone can be defined as the “worker catchment area” of the urban labour market, outside the densely inhabited city centre. In order to delineate the extension of the commuting zone, municipalities were assigned to each city centre if at least 15% of the population in the municipality goes to work to the city centre.

Based on this methodology, commuting zones are identified in eight out of 53 cities (15% of the FUAs identified in Colombia). Figure 4 provides a visual representation of the extension of the city centre and the commuting zone of each of these eight FUAs.

⁷ Census data is the most detailed information currently available in Colombia.

Figure 4. Extension of the city and commuting zone in eight FUAs in Colombia



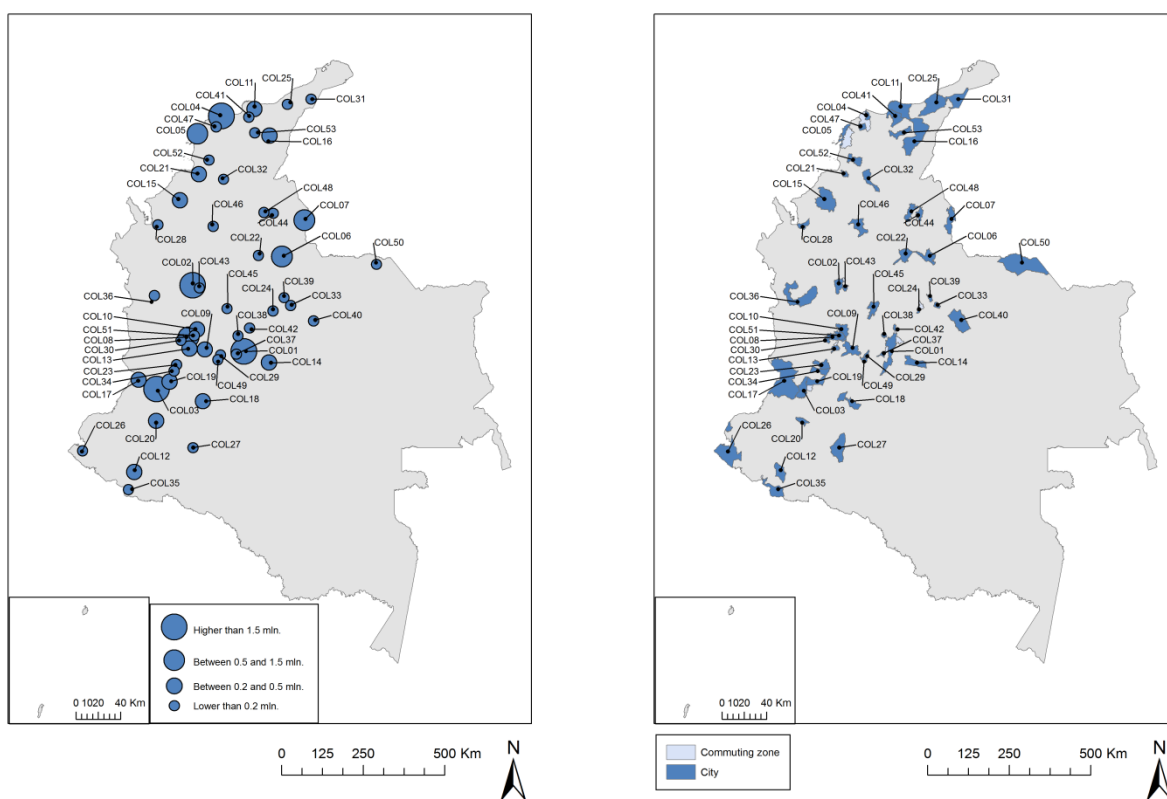
Note: These maps are for illustrative purposes and are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map. The name of the municipalities included in each FUA are available in Annex II.
 Source: Author's calculations based on 2005 population census data.

4. Main results

Spatial distribution of urban population and identification of the larger metropolitan areas

According to the OECD-EU methodology, Colombia accounts for 53 FUAs of different population size, distributed mainly in the west and centre of the country; the total urban population in 2005 (census year) is around 27 million people or 63% of the national population (Figure 5).⁸ As Figure 6 shows, there are 10 FUAs with a population below 100 000 inhabitants and only 8 FUAs have a population above 500 000. While Bogotá, Medellín, Cali and Barranquilla, concentrate a population above 1.5 mln, Bucaramanga, Cartagena, Cúcuta and Pereira have a population between 0.5 mln and 1.5 mln.

Figure 5. Population size and extension of the 53 FUAs in Colombia (reference year 2005)



COL01 Bogotá D.C., COL02 Medellín, COL03 Cali, COL04 Barranquilla, COL05 Cartagena, COL06 Bucaramanga, COL07 Cúcuta, COL08 Pereira, COL09 Ibagué, COL10 Manizales, COL11 Santa Marta, COL12 Pasto, COL13 Armenia, COL14 Villavicencio, COL15 Montería, COL16 Valledupar, COL17 Buenaventura, COL18 Neiva, COL19 Palmira, COL20 Popayán, COL21 Sincelejo, COL22 Barrancabermeja, COL23 Tuluá, COL24 Tunja, COL25 Riohacha, COL26 San Andrés de Tumaco, COL27 Florencia, COL28 Apartadó, COL29 Girardot, COL30 Cartago, COL31 Maicao, COL32 Magangué, COL33 Sogamoso, COL34 Guadalajara de Buga, COL35 Ipiales, COL36 Quibdó, COL37 Fusagasugá, COL38 Facatativá, COL39 Duitama, COL40 Yopal, COL41 Ciénaga, COL42 Zipaquirá, COL43 Rionegro, COL44 Ocaña, COL45 La Dorada, COL46 Caucasia, COL47 Sabanalarga, COL48 Aguachica, COL49 Espinal, COL50 Arauca, COL51 Santa Rosa de Cabal, COL52 El Carmen de Bolívar, COL53 Fundación.

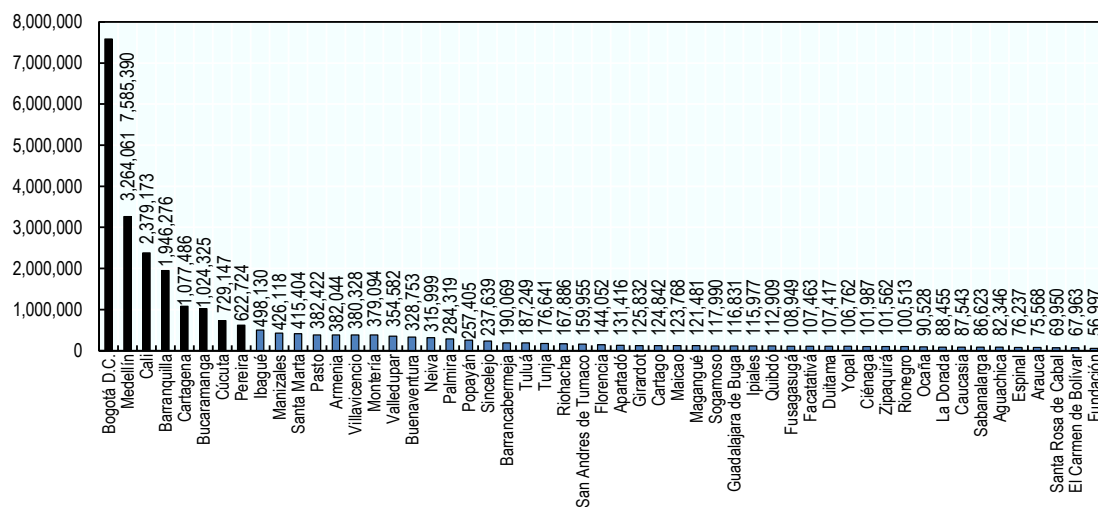
Note: These maps are for illustrative purposes and are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map.

Source: Author's calculations based on 2005 population census data.

⁸ See Annex II for the full list of municipalities included in the 53 FUAs identified in Colombia.

Figure 6. Total population by FUA (reference year 2005)

FUAs with a population above 500 000 inhabitants (in black) and rest of FUAs (in blue)



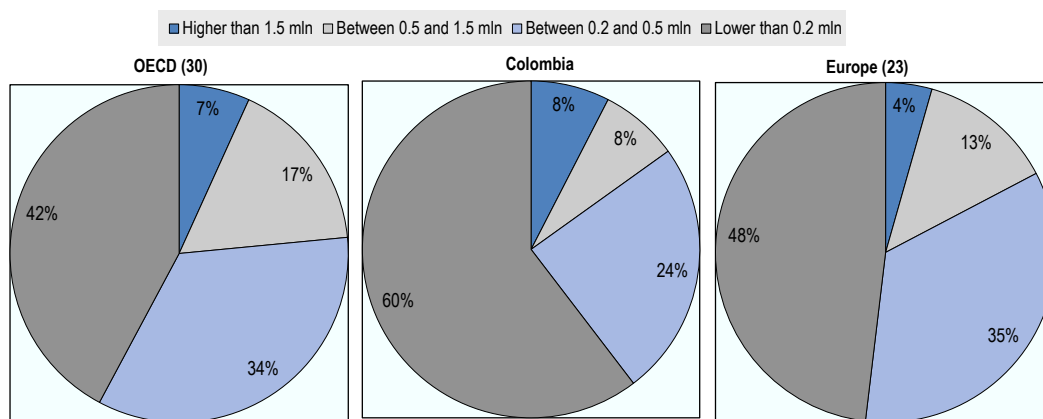
Note: According to the OECD-EU methodology, metropolitan areas are defined as the FUAs with population above 500 000.

Source: Author's calculations based on 2005 population census data.

Characteristics of the system of FUAs in Colombia.

The functional urban system in Colombia is dominated by small FUAs. Figure 7 shows that 60% of the FUAs in Colombia are FUAs with less than 200 000 inhabitants, compared to OECD and EU countries where small urban areas represent 42% and 48% of FUAs, respectively.

Figure 7. Proportion of FUAs by population size (year 2005)

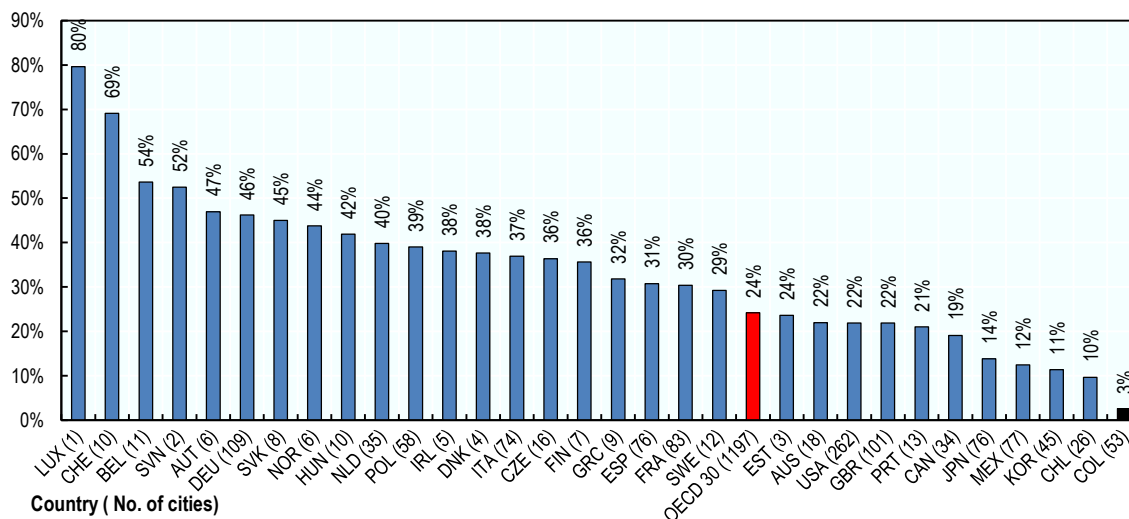


Note: Europe (23) refers to: Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom. 1 197 FUAs were identified in 30 OECD countries, of which 659 are in 23 OECD-EU countries. 53 FUAs were identified in Colombia.

Source: Author's calculations based on 2005 population census data.

Colombia's functional urban system is characterised by the low number of FUAs with commuting zone. Indeed, only 15% of the FUAs identified in Colombia are formed by a city and a commuting zone, while the rest of the FUAs do not have a commuting zone. As a result, only 3% of the population in the Colombian FUAs is concentrated in the commuting zone, which is 21 percentage points below the OECD average (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Share of population in the commuting zone over total functional urban population (reference year 2005)

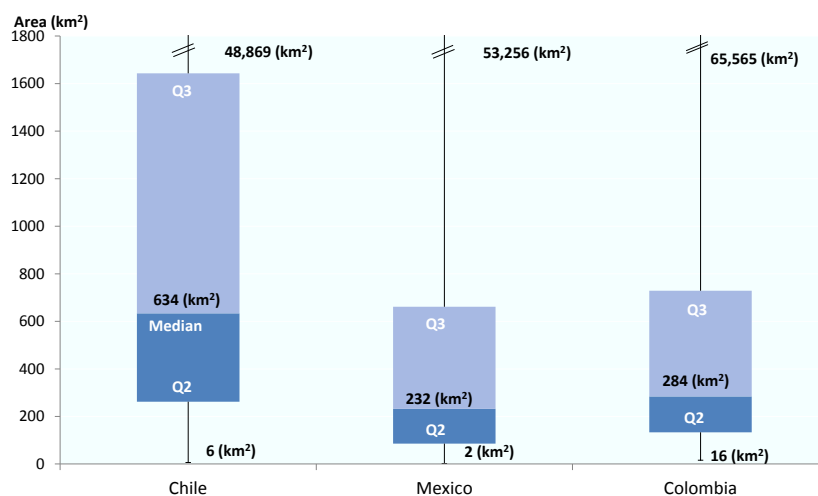


Source: Author's calculations based on 2005 population census data.

The reduced extension of the commuting zone in the Colombian FUAs is not associated to the size of the municipalities or the commuting threshold selected to delimitate them. Colombian municipalities have been traditionally considered to be rather large (Duranton, 2015b) but the median extension of the municipalities in Colombia does not differ largely from other Latin American countries such as Mexico and Chile (Figure 9). Even applying to the OECD-EU methodology a lower commuting threshold of 10% of workforce (threshold applied by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades* (CONPES 3819, 2014)), rather than 15%, the extension of the commuting zones does not change significantly (4.3% of the FUA's total population).⁹ The result confirms previous studies on the extension of urban areas in Colombia (Duranton, 2013 and 2015a).

⁹ The results derived from the application of the OECD-EU methodology to Colombia by using a 10% commuting threshold flow can be seen in Annex III.

Figure 9. Distribution of the size of the municipalities by quartile in Colombia, Mexico and Chile

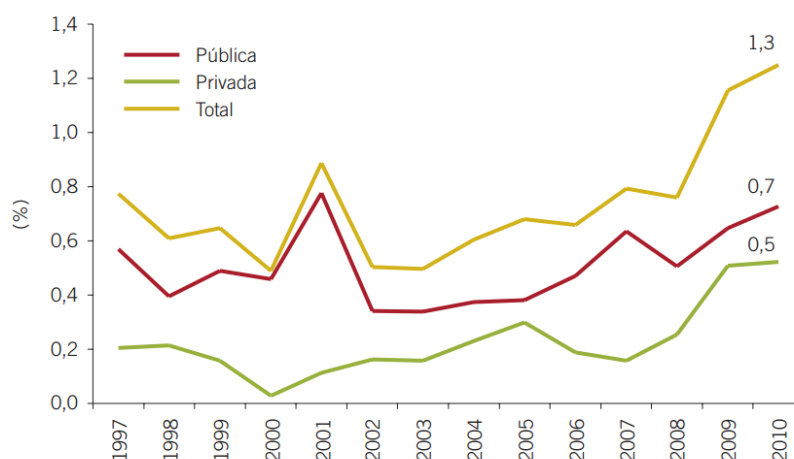


Note: The municipalities in each country are presented in 4 quartiles according to their distribution. Intermediate value (between quartile 2 and quartile 3) refers to the median.

Source: Author's calculations based on census data.

The inadequate transport infrastructure seems to be the main reason behind the reduced extension of the labour markets areas in Colombia. Despite the increases observed in the last years, the levels of investment in road quality in Colombia have been below the recommended levels (3%-6% of the GDP¹⁰). According to data from DNP and DANE, the share of public and private transport investment over the GDP has reached in 2010 the level of 1.3% (Figure 10) highlighting the need to increase this share to improve the connectivity between territories and easing the movement of people, goods and services.

Figure 10. Private and public transport investment over GDP



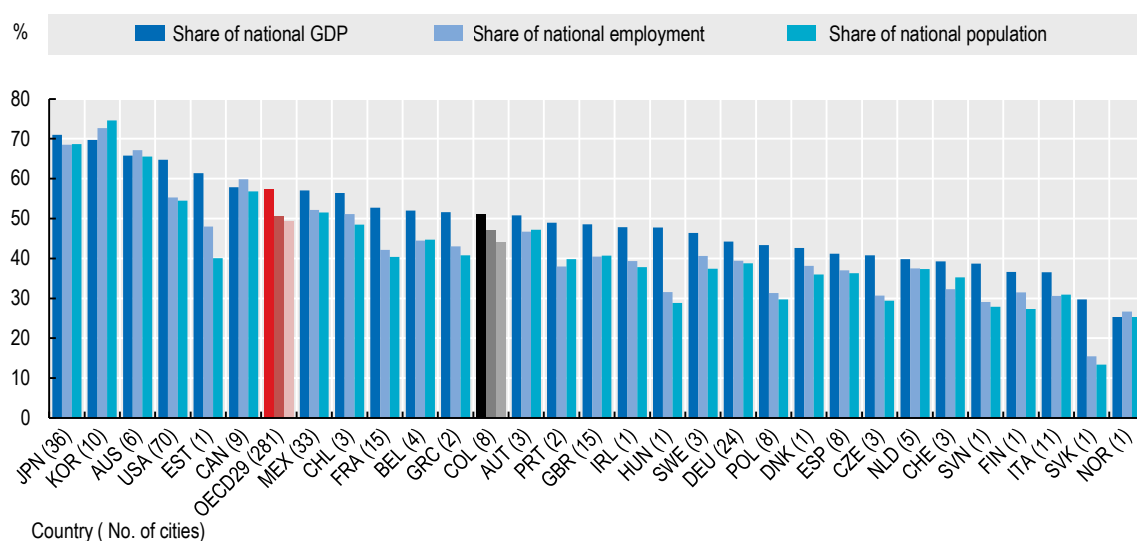
Source: FEDESARROLLO (2012).

¹⁰ Recommended level established by the World Bank (2007).

Characteristics of the eight metropolitan areas (FUAs with population above 500 000 inhabitants) in Colombia.

The eight Colombian metropolitan areas (FUAs with population above 500 000 inhabitants) concentrate 44% of the national population, 47% of the employment and 51% of the GDP (Figure 11). The concentration of GDP in Colombian metropolitan areas is similar to Greece and Austria (52% and 51% respectively). Similarly to the 281 OECD metropolitan areas, metropolitan areas in Colombia tend to have an agglomeration effect showing higher concentration levels in GDP than in employment or population.

Figure 11. Concentration of population, GDP and employment in OECD metropolitan areas, 2013

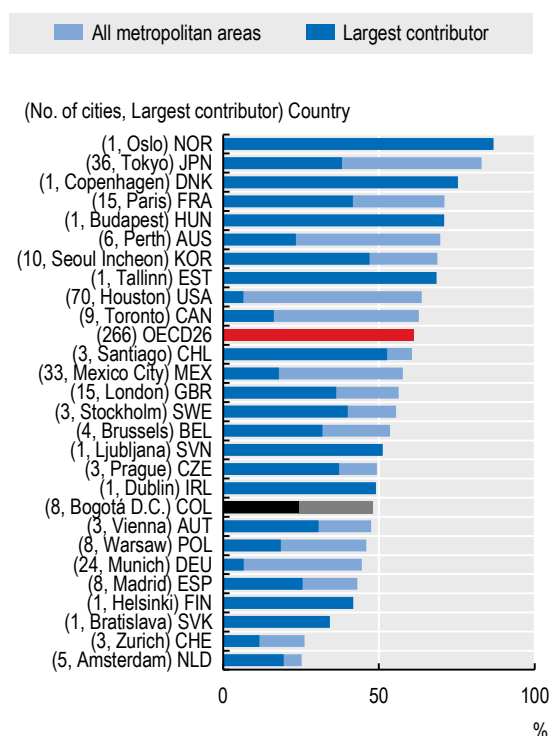


Note: The OECD-EU definition of FUAs has not been applied to Iceland, Israel, Latvia, New Zealand and Turkey. Luxembourg does not appear in the figure since it has a population below 500 000 inhabitants. Values refer to the year 2012 for Austria, Colombia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, while 2011 for Slovenia. Metropolitan GDP figures are estimates based on GDP data at TL3 level except for Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Mexico were TL2 are used. United States figures are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Metropolitan employment figures are estimates based on employment data at TL3 level except for Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Poland and Portugal were TL2 are used and NOG for Canada. Australian and the United States employment figures are provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics respectively. Metropolitan population figures are estimates based on municipal figures for the last two census available for each country. For more details in the methodology, see Annex IV.

Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2016) and data from OECD metropolitan database.

Metropolitan areas in Colombia accounted for almost 50% of the national GDP growth during the period 2000-12 (Figure 12). This share is similar to the contribution of the metropolitan areas in Austria and Ireland (47% and 49% respectively) and 22 percentage points below the OECD metropolitan average highlighting the existence of unexploited potential of metropolitan economic development. The capital city of Bogotá D.C accounted for 24% of the national GDP growth for the same period, similar to the metropolitan area of Madrid in Spain and Warsaw in Poland (25% and 19% respectively).

Figure 12. Per cent of national GDP growth contributed by the metropolitan areas 2000-13



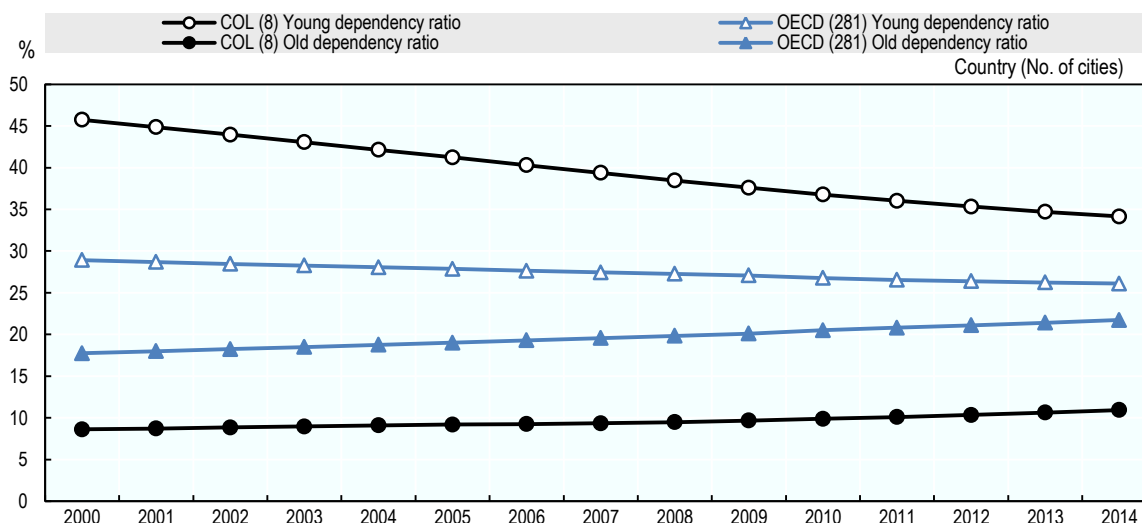
Note: The OECD-EU definition of FUAs has not been applied to Iceland, Israel, Latvia, New Zealand and Turkey. The FUA of Luxembourg does not appear in the figure since it has a population below 500 000 inhabitants. Available years: Austria, Colombia, Germany, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Sweden 2000-12; Switzerland and Norway 2008-12; Japan 2001-12; Mexico 2003-13 and the United States 2001-13. Italy, Greece and Portugal are excluded from the figure due to lack of data on comparable years. Metropolitan GDP figures are estimates based on GDP data at TL3 level except for Australia, Colombia, Canada, Chile and Mexico were TL2 are used. United States figures are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2016) and data from OECD metropolitan database.

The largest FUAs in Colombia are experiencing the population ageing effect¹¹ but at a lower path than the OECD metropolitan areas (Figure 13). Indeed, these FUAs are observing a double demographic trend. On the one hand, an increase in the proportion of elderly population over the working age population (old age dependency rate). On the other hand, a decrease of the proportion of youth population over the working age population (youth dependency rate). Concretely, the decline in the fertility rate in Colombia resulted in a decrease of the young population in the Colombian metropolitan areas, thus lowering the young dependency rate in almost 12 percentage points during the period 2000-14 (from 46% to 34%). This reduction was smaller when referring to the OECD metropolitan areas (from 39% to 26% over the same period). Reversely, the rapid increase of the life expectancy in OECD metropolitan areas has been reflected into high increases of the old age dependency ratio in OECD metropolitan area (from 18% to 22% over the period 2000-14), a larger increase than the one observed in the eight metropolitan areas in Colombia (from 9% to 11% over the same period).

¹¹ Despite the fact that a general trend is observed, it is important to mention that each city faces different challenges depending on its stage of the demographic bonus.

Figure 13. Old and young metropolitan dependency ratio; Colombia and OECD countries

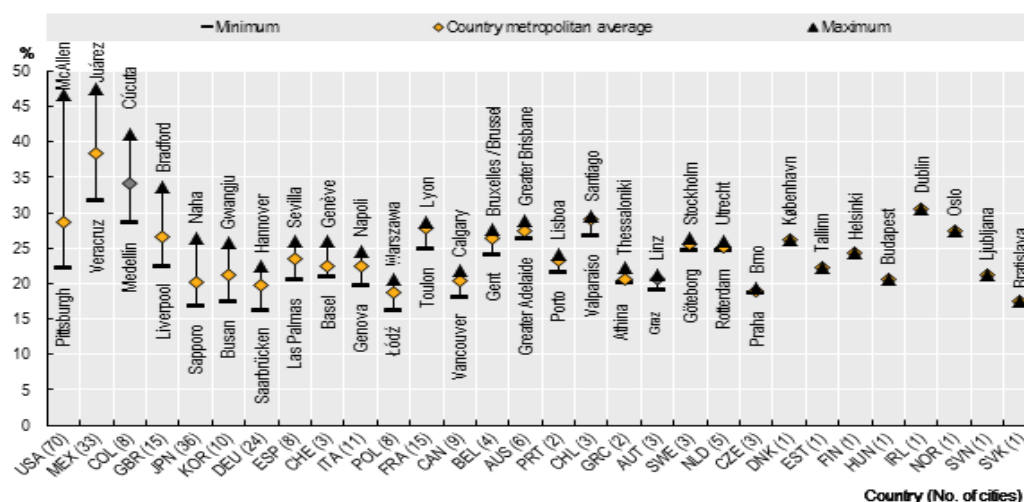


Note: The OECD-EU definition of FUAs has not been applied to Iceland, Israel, New Zealand and Turkey. The FUA of Luxembourg does not appear in the figures since it has a population below 500 000 inhabitants. Country metropolitan average refers to the average of all metropolitan areas in a country. Metropolitan population figures are estimates based on municipal figures for the last two census available for each country.

Source: Author's calculations based on data from OECD metropolitan database.

Youth dependency rates are quite different across Colombian metropolitan areas (Figure 14). Colombian metropolitan areas account for the third largest disparities in youth dependency rate among OECD countries, only exceeded by Mexico and the United States. While Cúcuta is the metropolitan area in Colombia with the largest youth dependency rate in the year 2014 (41%), Medellín accounts for the smallest rate (29%) which is similar to other OECD metropolitan areas such as Lyon (France), Greater Brisbane (Australia) and Santiago (Chile).

Figure 14. Countries ranked by youth dependency ratio at metropolitan level, 2014



Note: The OECD-EU definition of FUAs has not been applied to Iceland, Israel, Latvia, New Zealand and Turkey. The FUA of Luxembourg does not appear in the figures since it has a population below 500 000 inhabitants. Country metropolitan average refers to the average of all metropolitan areas in a country. Metropolitan population figures are estimates based on municipal figures for the last two census available for each country.

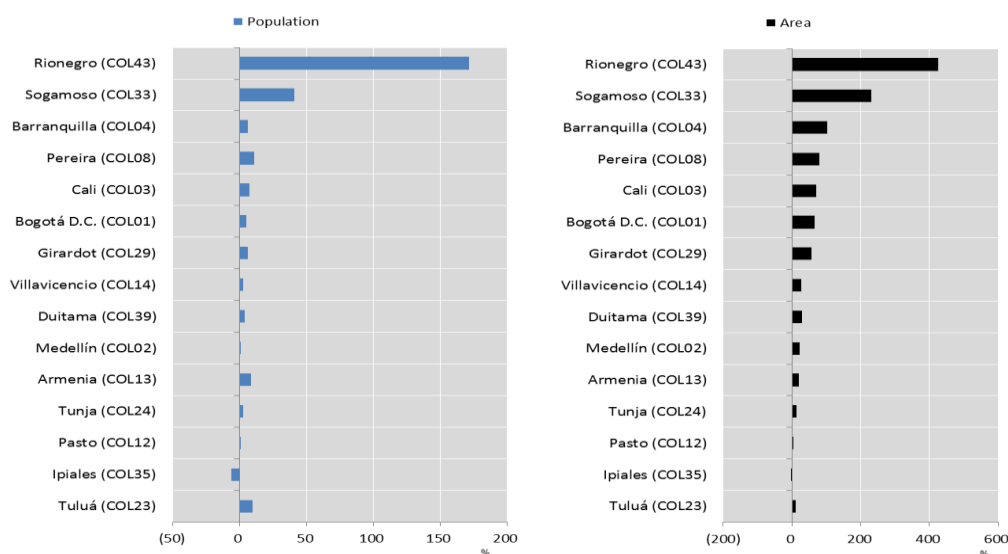
Source: Based on OECD (2016) Regions at a Glance and data from OECD metropolitan database.

Comparative analysis between the definition of cities by the “Misión del Sistema de Ciudades” and the FUAs identified by the OECD-EU method

As described in the previous section, 56 cities were identified in Colombia based on the methodology developed by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades*. All these cities had at least 100 000 inhabitants, and among them, 18 were considered as polycentric cities, while the rest as monocentric. According to 2005 census figures, these 56 agglomerations accounted for a total of 27 745 201 people (65% of the national population) and their extension covered 151 941 km² (13% of the national land).

Some differences appear when comparing these 56 cities with regards the results of applying the OECD-EU methodology. Firstly, only 43 cities¹² were identified in both methods and only 15 of them showed differences in terms of area and population. For these cities it can be observed that the extension and population concentrated in the cities identified by the official definition tend to be larger than the ones identified with the OECD-EU method, with the exception of Ipiales (Figure 15). Additionally, the differences are less significant in terms of population than in terms of area. These differences are particularly evident in the cities of Rionegro and Sogamoso where the resulting city derived from applying the official definition covers a larger area (425% and 232% larger than the one identified with the OECD-EU method, respectively) or concentrates a higher share of population (171% and 41% larger, respectively). These results seem to be coherent due to the fact that the official functional definition uses a smaller commuting threshold than the OECD-EU method (10% and 15% respectively). However, Ipiales is an exception to this rule since the population and area of the resulting city identified on the basis of the official method is smaller than the FUA identified based on the OECD-EU method.

Figure 15. Percentage difference in area and population between the official and the OECD-EU definitions, 2005



Note: This figure only displays the FUAs identified in both methodologies (official functional definition and OECD-EU) that have a difference in terms of population or area.

Source: Author’s calculations based on DANE (2014) and 2005 population census data.

¹² Bogotá D.C., Medellín, Cali, Barranquilla, Cartagena, Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Pereira, Ibagué, Manizales, Santa Marta, Pasto, Armenia, Villavicencio, Montería, Valledupar, Buenaventura, Neiva, Palmira, Popayán, Sincelejo, Barrancabermeja, Tuluá, Tunja, Riohacha, San Andrés de Tumaco, Florencia, Apartadó, Girardot, Cartago, Maicao, Sogamoso, Guadalajara de Buga, Ipiales, Quibdó, Fusagasugá, Duitama, Yopal, Ciénaga, Rionegro, Ocaña, Cauca and Arauca.

Additionally, some cities were not identified by one of these methods. On the one hand, 13¹³ out of the 56 cities identified based on the methodology developed by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades* were not captured by the OECD-EU method. This fact can be mainly due to the ad-hoc aggregation of candidate cities in the national definition developed by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades*. On the other hand, 10¹⁴ out of the 53 FUAs identified with the OECD-EU method were not observed when using the methodology developed by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades*.

The identification of 10 new cities not identified by the national definition stresses the relevance of the application of the OECD-EU methodology for the better planning and implementation of future urban policies in Colombia. Indeed, the identification of these cities could better support the analysis of the urban system in Colombia and by extension could better help to plan and design the long-term urban policy strategies in Colombia.

Comparative analysis between the legal constituted metropolitan areas in Colombia and the FUAs identified by the OECD-EU method

Several size differences appear between the FUAs delimited by using the OECD-EU methodology and the 6 metropolitan areas legally constituted in Colombia, basically due to the different approaches used in both procedures. Indeed, as described in the previous section, the official metropolitan areas recognised in Colombia have been constituted on the base of voluntary agreements between two or more municipalities. The legal framework for the recognition of metropolitan areas in Colombia is provided by the Law 1625 of 2013.

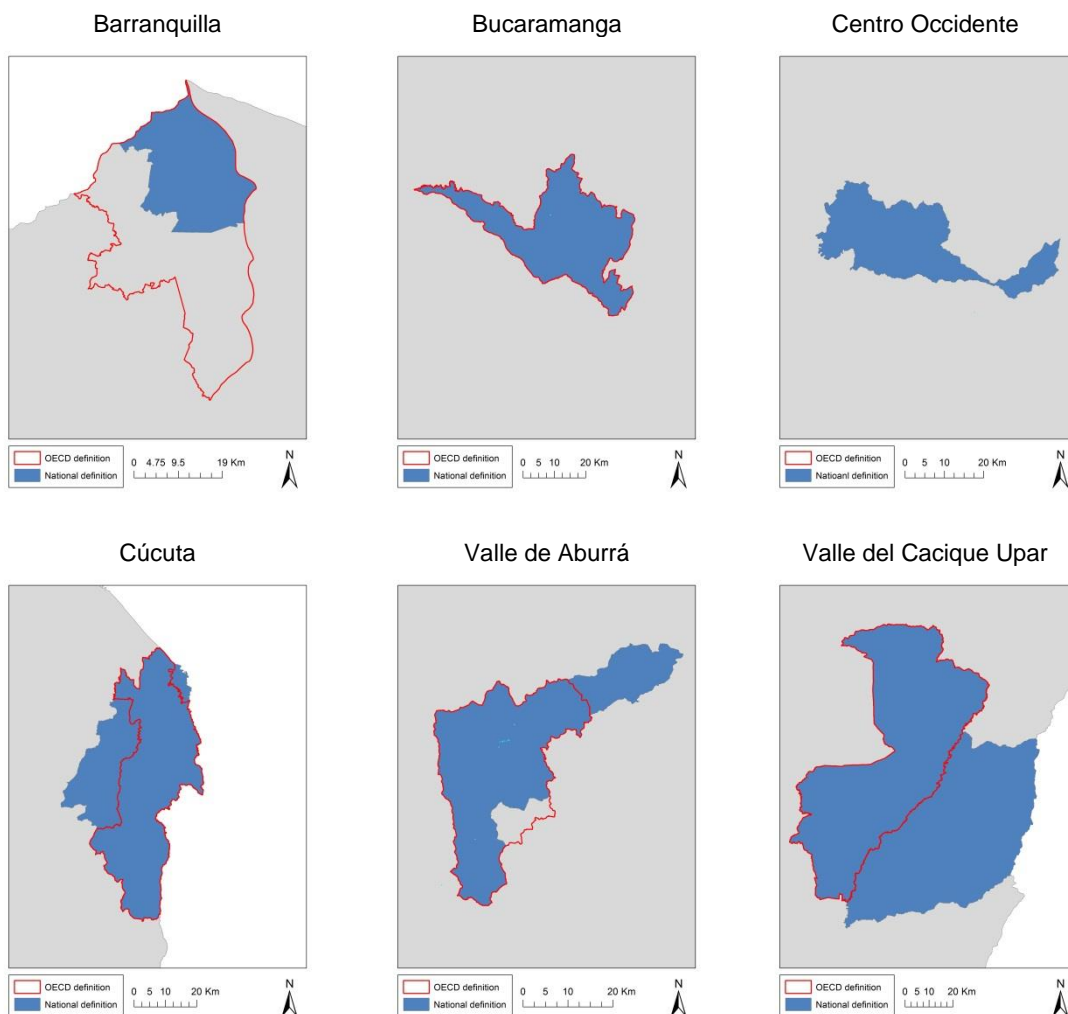
Figure 16 provides the extension of the six metropolitan areas legally constituted and their corresponding FUAs identified by applying the OECD-EU methodology. When comparing them, it can be observed the following: *i*) the metropolitan area of the Centro Occidente is not identified when applying the OECD-EU methodology; *ii*) the metropolitan area of Bucaramanga is identical in both cases; *iii*) the legally constituted metropolitan areas of Barranquilla and Valle de Aburrá seem to do not capture the real extension of the urban labour market, given the fact that the extension of the FUA identified using the OECD-EU method is larger in terms of area covered; *iv*) the legally constituted metropolitan areas of Cúcuta and Valle del Cacique Upar seem to cover a larger area extension than the one identified by using the OECD-EU methodology.

Since only six metropolitan areas have been legally constituted in Colombia, the 53 FUAs identified with the OECD-EU methodology provide a more comprehensive picture of metro formation in the country. The identification of several FUAs not legally constituted in Colombia shows that several opportunities are being missed. Indeed, better delivery of public services across municipalities belonging to the same FUA could be taking place if their were legally recognised as metropolitan areas. These results also point to the need of strengthening and encouraging the constitution of metropolitan areas which belong to the same FUA, by simplifying the procedure in law 1625/2013. The OECD-EU methodology could serve as a guide to identify the municipalities that display high economic, social and territorial relations being this the first criterion required to start the process to constitute a metropolitan area according to the law 1625/2013.

¹³ Mocoa, Leticia, Inírida, San José del Guaviare, Mitú, Puerto Carreño, San Andrés de Cuerquía, Turbo, Pamplona, Málaga, San Gil, Honda and Puerto Asís.

¹⁴ Magangué, Facatativá, Zipaquirá, La Dorada, Sabanalarga, Aguachica, Espinal, Santa Rosa de Cabal, El Carmen de Bolívar and Fundación.

Figure 16. Comparison between the six metropolitan areas recognised by Law in Colombia and the OECD-EU FUAs



Note: These maps are for illustrative purposes and are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map.

Source: Author's calculations.

5. Conclusions

The main purpose of this paper is to identify the functional urban system in Colombia according to a common methodology developed by the OECD-EU and already applied to 30 OECD countries. Once the functional urban areas (FUA) of Colombia have been identified on the basis of 2005 census data, the demographic and economic trends of the eight largest ones are measured and compared with the 281 largest OECD FUAs (OECD metropolitan areas).

Based on the OECD-EU method and using municipal boundaries, population grid data and inter-municipalities commuting flows, 53 FUAs were identified in Colombia in the year 2005. These FUAs accounted for almost 27 million people (63% of the national population) in 2005. The functional urban system in Colombia is dominated by small FUAs and is characterised by a low number of FUAs with

commuting zone. Indeed, 60% of the FUAs identified in Colombia are urban areas with less than 200 000 inhabitants, much below the OECD average (42%). Additionally, only 15% of the FUAs identified in Colombia have a commuting zone. As a result, it has been observed that only 3% of the population in Colombian FUAs is concentrated in these peripheral areas of the FUAs, figure which is 21 percentage points below the OECD average. This study points to the inadequacy of transport infrastructure as the main reason behind these particularities.

This paper also provides a preliminary international assessment of the socio-economic characteristics of the eight metropolitan areas identified in Colombia (FUAs with a population above 500 000). As a summary, the Colombian metropolitan areas concentrate a large share of national population, employment and economic activity. Additionally, they account for almost 50% of the national GDP growth during the period 2000-12, being the capital city the main contributor to this growth. With regard to the population structure, Colombian metropolitan areas account for the third largest disparities in youth dependency rate among OECD countries. However, the levels remain high in comparison with other OECD countries.

In Colombia two ways to delimit metropolitan areas currently coexist: the methodology defined by the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades* to delimit metropolitan areas and the metropolitan areas legally constituted. On the one hand, the Colombian constitution of 1991 recognised the constituency of metropolitan areas on the base of voluntary agreements between two or more municipalities. On the other hand, the *Misión del Sistema de Ciudades* developed in 2012 a national methodology to identify the system of cities. This paper compared and analysed the results derived from each of the national definitions with the results derived from the OECD-EU method. From this analysis some similarities in the size of cities were observed. However, methodological differences give place to discrepancies in terms of population and area.¹⁵

The novelty of the OECD-EU method compared to the national ones is to detect all cities in a country with the same criteria, thus providing an accurate picture of the national system of urban areas, regardless of the administrative or legal status of cities. While six metropolitan areas have been legally constituted in Colombia, the OECD-EU method identifies eight metropolitan areas and a total of 53 FUAs. The OECD-EU methodology provides a list of municipalities that have high socio-economic interactions, and thus can guide national and local authorities' efforts to encourage the constitution of metropolitan areas for municipalities belonging to the same FUA. Indeed, the formation of metropolitan areas favours the emergence of agglomeration economies that can be translated into improved welfare for the population due to the existence of economies of scale in the provision of public goods and services.

All in all, the identification of Colombian FUAs based on the OECD-EU methodology provides a complementary tool to the national and city government to better design and implement future urban policies. The delimitation of these FUAs and their inclusion in the OECD Metropolitan Database also allows to benchmark Colombian cities' performance with their international peers.

¹⁵ More precisely, the two methods identify 43 cities in the same way, 15 cities are present in both exercises but differ in the boundaries and 10 cities are identified only by the OECD-EU methodology.

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Annex I. List of municipalities by Functional Urban Area in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology and 15% of commuting threshold)

ID City core	Name City core	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)
CO001	Bogotá D.C.	11001	Bogotá D.C.	6,840,116
CO001	Bogotá D.C.	25214	Cota	19,909
CO001	Bogotá D.C.	25754	Soacha	401,996
CO002	Medellín	05001	Medellín	2,214,494
CO002	Medellín	05088	Bello	371,625
CO002	Medellín	05212	Copacabana	61,230
CO002	Medellín	05266	Envigado	174,150
CO002	Medellín	05360	Itagüí	234,973
CO002	Medellín	05380	La Estrella	52,571
CO002	Medellín	05631	Sabaneta	44,443
CO003	Cali	76001	Cali	2,119,843
CO004	Barranquilla	08001	Barranquilla	1,146,498
CO004	Barranquilla	08433	Malambo	101,280
CO004	Barranquilla	08758	Soledad	461,603
CO005	Bucaramanga	68001	Bucaramanga	516,460
CO005	Bucaramanga	68276	Floridablanca	254,600
CO005	Bucaramanga	68307	Girón	135,860
CO006	Cartagena	13001	Cartagena	893,033
CO007	Cúcuta	54001	Cúcuta	587,567
CO007	Cúcuta	54405	Los Patios	67,239
CO007	Cúcuta	54673	San Cayetano	4,493
CO007	Cúcuta	54874	Villa del Rosario	69,848
CO008	Pereira	66001	Pereira	443,442
CO008	Pereira	66170	Dos Quebradas	179,282
CO009	Ibagué	73001	Ibagué	498,130
CO010	Manizales	17001	Manizales	379,794
CO010	Manizales	17873	Villamaría	46,324
CO011	Santa Marta	47001	Santa Marta	415,404
CO012	Pasto	52001	Pasto	382,422
CO013	Armenia	63001	Armenia	280,881
CO013	Armenia	63130	Calarcá	73,720
CO014	Villavicencio	50001	Villavicencio	380,328
CO015	Valledupar	20001	Valledupar	354,582
CO016	Neiva	41001	Neiva	315,999
CO017	Buenaventura	76109	Buenaventura	328,753
CO018	Montería	23001	Montería	379,094
CO019	Palmira	76520	Palmira	284,319
CO020	Popayán	19001	Popayán	257,405
CO021	Sincelejo	70001	Sincelejo	237,639
CO022	Barrancabermeja	68081	Barrancabermeja	190,069
CO023	Tuluá	76834	Tuluá	187,249
CO024	Tunja	15001	Tunja	154,066
CO025	Riohacha	44001	Riohacha	167,886
CO026	Cartago	76147	Cartago	124,842
CO027	Florencia	18001	Florencia	144,052
CO028	Apartadó	05045	Apartadó	131,416
CO029	Girardot	25307	Girardot	97,889
CO029	Girardot	73275	Flandes	27,943
CO030	Mosquera	25286	Funza	61,391
CO030	Mosquera	25473	Mosquera	63,237
CO031	Quibdó	27001	Quibdó	112,909
CO032	Facatativá	25269	Facatativá	107,463
CO033	Buga	76111	Buga	116,831
CO034	Piedecuesta	68547	Piedecuesta	117,405
CO035	Duitama	15238	Duitama	107,417
CO036	Sogamoso	15759	Sogamoso	117,105
CO037	Ciénaga	47189	Ciénaga	101,987
CO038	Yopal	85001	Yopal	106,762
CO039	Zipaquirá	25899	Zipaquirá	101,562
CO040	Fusagasugá	25290	Fusagasugá	108,949
CO041	Chía	25175	Chía	97,907
CO042	Yumbo	76892	Yumbo	92,214

ID City core	Name City core	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)
CO043	Ocaña	54498	Ocaña	90,528
CO044	Magangué	13430	Magangué	121,481
CO045	La Dorada	17380	La Dorada	72,936
CO045	La Dorada	25572	Puerto Saglar	15,519
CO046	Tumaco	52835	Tumaco	159,955
CO047	Caucasia	05154	Caucasia	87,543
CO048	Ipiales	52356	Ipiales	109,127
CO049	Rionegro	05615	Rionegro	100,513
CO050	Aguachica	20011	Aguachica	82,346
CO051	Caldas	05129	Caldas	67,994
CO052	Jamundí	76364	Jamundí	96,849
CO053	Sabanalarga	08638	Sabanalarga	86,623
CO054	Maicao	44430	Maicao	123,768
CO055	Fundación	47288	Fundación	56,997
CO056	Espinal	73268	Espinal	76,237
CO057	Arauca	81001	Arauca	75,568
CO058	Santa Rosa de Cabal	66682	Santa Rosa de Cabal	69,950
CO059	El Carmen de Bolívar	13244	El Carmen de Bolívar	67,963

Annex II. List of municipalities by Functional Urban Area in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology and 15% of commuting threshold)

ID FUA	Name FUA	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)	CORE (1 refer to city / 0 refer to commuting zone)
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	11001	Bogotá D.C.	6,840,116	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25754	Soacha	401,996	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25175	Chía	97,907	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25473	Mosquera	63,237	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25286	Funza	61,391	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25214	Cota	19,909	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25126	Cajicá	45,391	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25740	Sibaté	31,675	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25377	La Calera	23,768	0
COL02	Medellín	05001	Medellín	2,214,494	1
COL02	Medellín	05088	Bello	371,625	1
COL02	Medellín	05360	Itagüí	234,973	1
COL02	Medellín	05266	Envigado	174,150	1
COL02	Medellín	05129	Caldas	67,994	1
COL02	Medellín	05212	Copacabana	61,230	1
COL02	Medellín	05380	La Estrella	52,571	1
COL02	Medellín	05631	Sabaneta	44,443	1
COL02	Medellín	05308	Girardota	42,581	0
COL03	Cali	76001	Cali	2,119,843	1
COL03	Cali	76364	Jamundí	96,849	1
COL03	Cali	76892	Yumbo	92,214	1
COL03	Cali	76130	Candelaria	70,267	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08001	Barranquilla	1,146,498	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08758	Soledad	461,603	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08433	Malambo	101,280	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08078	Baranoa	51,565	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08296	Galapa	31,985	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08573	Puerto Colombia	27,825	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08634	Sabanagrande	25,399	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08685	Santo Tomás	23,877	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08520	Palmar de Varela	23,678	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08560	Ponedera	18,944	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08558	Polonuevo	13,901	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08832	Tubará	10,912	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08849	Usiacurí	8,809	0
COL05	Cartagena	13001	Cartagena	893,033	1
COL05	Cartagena	13836	Turbaco	63,057	0
COL05	Cartagena	13052	Arjona	60,418	0
COL05	Cartagena	13683	Santa Rosa	18,195	0
COL05	Cartagena	13873	Villanueva	17,576	0
COL05	Cartagena	13838	Turbaná	13,493	0
COL05	Cartagena	13222	Clemencia	11,714	0
COL06	Bucaramanga	68001	Bucaramanga	516,460	1
COL06	Bucaramanga	68276	Floridablanca	254,600	1
COL06	Bucaramanga	68307	Girón	135,860	1
COL06	Bucaramanga	68547	Piedecuesta	117,405	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54001	Cúcuta	587,567	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54874	Villa del Rosario	69,848	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54405	Los Patios	67,239	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54673	San Cayetano	4,493	1
COL08	Pereira	66001	Pereira	443,442	1
COL08	Pereira	66170	Dosquebradas	179,282	1
COL09	Ibagué	73001	Ibagué	498,130	1
COL10	Manizales	17001	Manizales	379,794	1
COL10	Manizales	17873	Villamaría	46,324	1
COL11	Santa Marta	47001	Santa Marta	415,404	1
COL12	Pasto	52001	Pasto	382,422	1
COL13	Armenia	63001	Armenia	280,881	1
COL13	Armenia	63130	Calarca	73,720	1
COL13	Armenia	63190	Circasia	27,443	0
COL14	Villavicencio	50001	Villavicencio	380,328	1

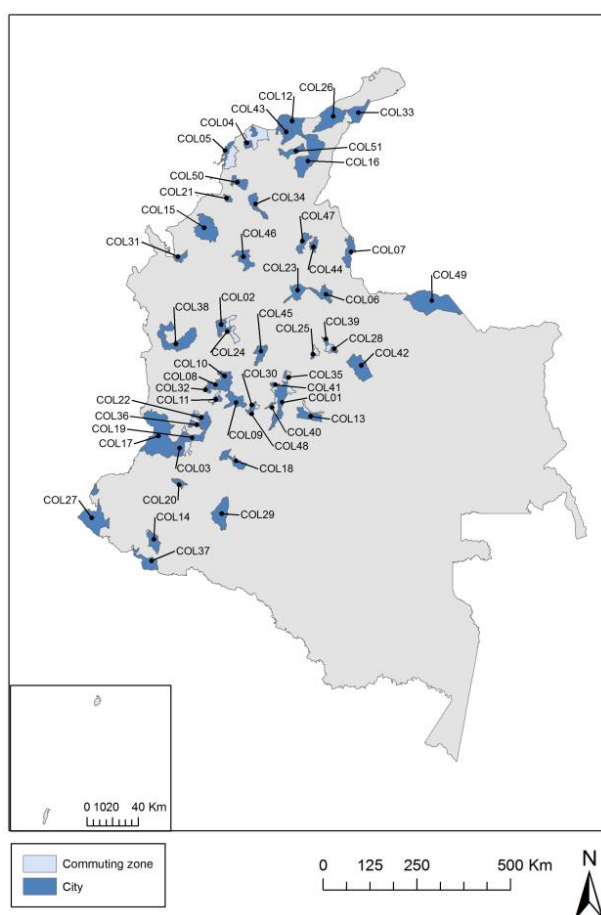
ID FUA	Name FUA	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)	CORE (1 refer to city / 0 refer to commuting zone)
COL15	Montería	23001	Montería	379,094	1
COL16	Valledupar	20001	Valledupar	354,582	1
COL17	Buenaventura	76109	Buenaventura	328,753	1
COL18	Neiva	41001	Neiva	315,999	1
COL19	Palmira	76520	Palmira	284,319	1
COL20	Popayán	19001	Popayán	257,405	1
COL21	Sincelejo	70001	Sincelejo	237,639	1
COL22	Barrancabermeja	68081	Barrancabermeja	190,069	1
COL23	Tuluá	76834	Tuluá	187,249	1
COL24	Tunja	15001	Tunja	154,066	1
COL24	Tunja	15204	Cómbita	12,981	0
COL24	Tunja	15476	Motavita	6772	0
COL24	Tunja	15500	Oicatá	2,822	0
COL25	Riohacha	44001	Riohacha	167,886	1
COL26	San Andres de Tumaco	52835	San Andres de Tumaco	159,955	1
COL27	Florencia	18001	Florencia	144,052	1
COL28	Apartadó	05045	Apartadó	131,416	1
COL29	Girardot	25307	Girardot	97,889	1
COL29	Girardot	73275	Flandes	27,943	1
COL30	Cartago	76147	Cartago	124,842	1
COL31	Maicao	44430	Maicao	123,768	1
COL32	Magangué	13430	Magangué	121,481	1
COL33	Sogamoso	15759	Sogamoso	117,105	1
COL34	Guadalajara de Buga	76111	Guadalajara de Buga	116,831	1
COL35	Ipiales	52356	Ipiales	109,127	1
COL35	Ipiales	52022	Aldana	6,850	0
COL36	Quibdó	27001	Quibdó	112,909	1
COL37	Fusagasugá	25290	Fusagasugá	108,949	1
COL38	Facatativá	25269	Facatativá	107,463	1
COL39	Duitama	15238	Duitama	107,417	1
COL40	Yopal	85001	Yopal	106,762	1
COL41	Ciénaga	47189	Ciénaga	101,987	1
COL42	Zipaquirá	25899	Zipaquirá	101,562	1
COL43	Rionegro	05615	Rionegro	100,513	1
COL44	Ocaña	54498	Ocaña	90,528	1
COL45	La Dorada	17380	La Dorada	72,936	1
COL45	La Dorada	25572	Puerto Salgar	15,519	1
COL46	Caucasia	05154	Caucasia	87,543	1
COL47	Sabanalarga	08638	Sabanalarga	86,623	1
COL48	Aguachica	20011	Aguachica	82,346	1
COL49	Espinal	73268	Espinal	76,237	1
COL50	Arauca	81001	Arauca	75,568	1
COL51	Santa Rosa de Cabal	66682	Santa Rosa de Cabal	69,950	1
COL52	El Carmen de Bolívar	13244	El Carmen de Bolívar	67,963	1
COL53	Fundación	47288	Fundación	56,997	1

Source: OECD elaboration based on DANE (2014) computations and 2005 census population.

Annex III. Functional Urban Areas in Colombia using an alternative threshold of commuting (10%)

The main objective of this Annex III is to present the results of the OECD-EU methodology to Colombia by applying a lower commuting threshold (10% instead of the 15% used). This 10% commuting rate threshold is in line with the threshold set in the national methodology to delimitate functional urban areas in Colombia (DNP, 2012). This national methodology and the results derived from its application to Colombia is described in Section 2 of this paper. Figure 17 displays the location and the extension of the Functional Urban Areas (FUA) by using this new commuting threshold. As a result, 51 FUAs are identified. Table 1 presents the list of municipalities included in each of the 51 FUAs identified. It is important to note that based on this new threshold, 6 polycentric FUAs have been identified namely, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Medellín, Cali, Barranquilla and Pereira.

Figure A.1. 51 FUA in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology and 10% of commuting)



COL01 Bogotá D.C., COL02 Medellín, COL03 Cali, COL04 Barranquilla, COL05 Cartagena, COL06 Bucaramanga, COL07 Cúcuta, COL08 Pereira, COL09 Ibagué, COL10 Manizales, COL11 Armenia, COL12 Santa Marta, COL13 Villavicencio, COL14 Pasto, COL15 Montería, COL16 Valledupar, COL17 Buenaventura, COL18 Neiva, COL19 Palmira, COL20 Popayán, COL21 Sincelejo, COL22 Tuluá, COL23 Barrancabermeja, COL24 Rionegro, COL25 Tunja, COL26 Riohacha, COL27 San Andrés de Tumaco, COL28 Sogamoso, COL29 Florencia, COL30 Girardot, COL31 Apartadó, COL32 Cartago, COL33 Maicao, COL34 Magangué, COL35 Zipaquirá, COL36 Guadalajara de Buga, COL37 Ipiales, COL38 Quibdó, COL39 Duitama, COL40 Fusagasugá, COL41 Facatativá, COL42 Yopal, COL43 Ciénaga, COL44 Ocaña, COL45 La Dorada, COL46 Caucasia, COL47 Aguachica, COL48 Espinal, COL49 Arauca, COL50 El Carmen de Bolívar, COL51 Fundación,

Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map.

Source: OECD elaboration based on DANE (2014) computations and 2005 census population.

Table A.1. List of municipalities by Functional Urban Area in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology and 10% of commuting threshold)

ID FUA	Name FUA	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)	CORE (1 refers to city / 0 refers to commuting zone)
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	11001	Bogotá D.C.	6,840,116	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25754	Soacha	401,996	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25175	Chía	97,907	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25473	Mosquera	63,237	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25286	Funza	61,391	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25214	Cota	19,909	1
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25430	Madrid	62,436	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25126	Cajicá	45,391	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25740	Sibaté	31,675	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25377	La Calera	23,768	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25785	Tabio	20,850	0
COL01	Bogotá D.C.	25099	Bojacá	8,879	0
COL02	Medellín	05001	Medellín	2,214,494	1
COL02	Medellín	05088	Bello	371,625	1
COL02	Medellín	05360	Itagüí	234,973	1
COL02	Medellín	05266	Envigado	174,150	1
COL02	Medellín	05129	Caldas	67,994	1
COL02	Medellín	05212	Copacabana	61,230	1
COL02	Medellín	05380	La Estrella	52,571	1
COL02	Medellín	05631	Sabaneta	44,443	1
COL02	Medellín	05308	Girardota	42,581	0
COL02	Medellín	05079	Barbosa	42,453	0
COL02	Medellín	05318	Guarne	39,541	0
COL03	Cali	76001	Cali	2,119,843	1
COL03	Cali	76364	Jamundí	96,849	1
COL03	Cali	76892	Yumbo	92,214	1
COL03	Cali	76130	Candelaria	70,267	0
COL03	Cali	19573	Puerto Tejada	44,324	0
COL03	Cali	19845	Villa Rica	14,326	0
COL03	Cali	76869	Vijes	9,781	0
COL03	Cali	19513	Padilla	8,336	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08001	Barranquilla	1,146,498	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08758	Soledad	461,603	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08433	Malambo	101,280	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08638	Sabanalarga	86,623	1
COL04	Barranquilla	08078	Baranoa	51,565	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08296	Galapa	31,985	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08573	Puerto Colombia	27,825	0
COL04	Barranquilla	47745	Sitionuevo	26,867	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08634	Sabanagrande	25,399	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08685	Santo Tomás	23,877	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08520	Palmar de Varela	23,678	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08560	Ponedera	18,944	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08558	Polonuevo	13,901	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08832	Tubará	10,912	0
COL04	Barranquilla	08849	Usiacurí	8,809	0
COL05	Cartagena	13001	Cartagena	893,033	1
COL05	Cartagena	13836	Turbaco	63,057	0
COL05	Cartagena	13052	Arjona	60,418	0
COL05	Cartagena	13683	Santa Rosa	18,195	0
COL05	Cartagena	13873	Villanueva	17,576	0
COL05	Cartagena	13838	Turbaná	13,493	0
COL05	Cartagena	13222	Clemencia	11,714	0
COL06	Bucaramanga	68001	Bucaramanga	516,460	1
COL06	Bucaramanga	68276	Floridablanca	254,600	1
COL06	Bucaramanga	68307	Girón	135,860	1
COL06	Bucaramanga	68547	Piedecuesta	117,405	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54001	Cúcuta	587,567	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54874	Villa del Rosario	69,848	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54405	Los Patios	67,239	1
COL07	Cúcuta	54673	San Cayetano	4,493	1

Table A.1. List of municipalities by Functional Urban Area in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology and 10% of commuting threshold) (continued)

ID FUA	Name FUA	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)	CORE (1 refers to city / 0 refers to commuting zone)
COL08	Pereira	66001	Pereira	443,442	1
COL08	Pereira	66170	Dosquebradas	179,282	1
COL08	Pereira	66682	Santa Rosa de Cabal	69,950	1
COL09	Ibagué	73001	Ibagué	498,130	1
COL10	Manizales	17001	Manizales	379,794	1
COL10	Manizales	17873	Villamaría	46,324	1
COL11	Armenia	63001	Armenia	280,881	1
COL11	Armenia	63130	Calarca	73,720	1
COL11	Armenia	63401	La Tebaida	33,501	0
COL11	Armenia	63190	Circasia	27,443	0
COL12	Santa Marta	47001	Santa Marta	415,404	1
COL13	Villavicencio	50001	Villavicencio	380,328	1
COL13	Villavicencio	50606	Restrepo	10,178	0
COL14	Pasto	52001	Pasto	382,422	1
COL14	Pasto	52480	Nariño	4,183	0
COL15	Montería	23001	Montería	379,094	1
COL16	Valledupar	20001	Valledupar	354,582	1
COL17	Buenaventura	76109	Buenaventura	328,753	1
COL18	Neiva	41001	Neiva	315,999	1
COL19	Palmira	76520	Palmira	284,319	1
COL20	Popayán	19001	Popayán	257,405	1
COL21	Sincelejo	70001	Sincelejo	237,639	1
COL22	Tuluá	76834	Tuluá	187,249	1
COL22	Tuluá	76036	Andalucía	18,196	0
COL23	Barrancabermeja	68081	Barrancabermeja	190,069	1
COL24	Rionegro	05615	Rionegro	100,513	1
COL24	Rionegro	05440	Marinilla	45,548	0
COL24	Rionegro	05148	El Carmen de Viboral	41,012	0
COL25	Tunja	15001	Tunja	154,066	1
COL25	Tunja	15204	Cómbita	12,981	0
COL25	Tunja	15476	Motavita	6,772	0
COL25	Tunja	15187	Chivatá	5,049	0
COL25	Tunja	15500	Oicatá	2,822	0
COL26	Riohacha	44001	Riohacha	167,886	1
COL27	San Andres de Tumaco	52835	San Andres de Tumaco	159,955	1
COL28	Sogamoso	15759	Sogamoso	117,105	1
COL28	Sogamoso	15491	Nobsa	15,194	0
COL28	Sogamoso	15806	Tibasosa	12,626	0
COL28	Sogamoso	15272	Firavitoba	6,316	0
COL28	Sogamoso	15362	Iza	2,116	0
COL29	Florencia	18001	Florencia	144,052	1
COL30	Girardot	25307	Girardot	97,889	1
COL30	Girardot	73275	Flandes	27,943	1
COL30	Girardot	25612	Ricaurte	8,145	0
COL31	Apartadó	05045	Apartadó	131,416	1
COL32	Cartago	76147	Cartago	124,842	1
COL33	Maicao	44430	Maicao	123,768	1
COL34	Magangué	13430	Magangué	121,481	1
COL35	Zipaquirá	25899	Zipaquirá	101,562	1
COL35	Zipaquirá	25200	Cogua	18,276	0
COL36	Guadalajara de Buga	76111	Guadalajara de Buga	116,831	1
COL37	Ipiales	52356	Ipiales	109,127	1
COL37	Ipiales	52022	Aldana	6,850	0
COL38	Quibdó	27001	Quibdó	112,909	1
COL39	Duitama	15238	Duitama	107,417	1
COL40	Fusagasugá	25290	Fusagasugá	108,949	1
COL41	Facatativá	25269	Facatativá	107,463	1
COL42	Yopal	85001	Yopal	106,762	1
COL43	Ciénaga	47189	Ciénaga	101,987	1
COL44	Ocaña	54498	Ocaña	90,528	1
COL45	La Dorada	17380	La Dorada	72,936	1

Table A.1. List of municipalities by Functional Urban Area in Colombia (based on the OECD-EU methodology and 10% of commuting threshold) (continued)

COL45	La Dorada	25572	Puerto Salgar	15,519	1
COL46	Caucasia	05154	Caucasia	87,543	1
COL47	Aguachica	20011	Aguachica	82,346	1
COL48	Espinal	73268	Espinal	76,237	1
ID FUA	Name FUA	ID municipality	Municipal name	Municipal population (year 2005)	CORE (1 refers to city / 0 refers to commuting zone)
COL49	Arauca	81001	Arauca	75,568	1
COL50	El Carmen de Bolívar	13244	El Carmen de Bolívar	67,963	1
COL51	Fundación	47288	Fundación	56,997	1

Source: OECD elaboration based on DANE (2014) computations and 2005 census population.

Annex IV. Methodology to adjust GDP, total employed and unemployed at metropolitan level

The proposed methodology uses the socio-economic values (GDP, employment and unemployment) in TL3 regions as data inputs and the distribution of population based on census data. The suggested methodology is composed of three main steps:

- Step 1: Intersect the municipal boundaries with the TL3 boundaries by the use of GIS techniques;
- Step 2: Attribute each municipality a GDP value by weighting for the population in each municipality; and
- Step 3: Calculate the sum of municipalities' GDP values belonging to each metro area. A similar technique is applied to estimate employment and unemployment in metropolitan areas with working age population (15-65 years old) used as data input in step 2.

It has to be noted that the estimates of GDP, employment and unemployment in the metropolitan areas do not adhere to international standards; the comparability among countries relies on the use of the same methodology applied to areas defined with the same criteria.