



 POLITECNICO DI MILANO



Why we need a European Urban Agenda

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- 1. The European urban system**
- 2. Cities as drivers of humane progress**
- 3. City regions as drivers for sustainable development**
- 4. City regions as laboratories for EU cohesion policy and EU citizenship**
- 5. The role of European Union in urban innovation.**



1.The European urban system

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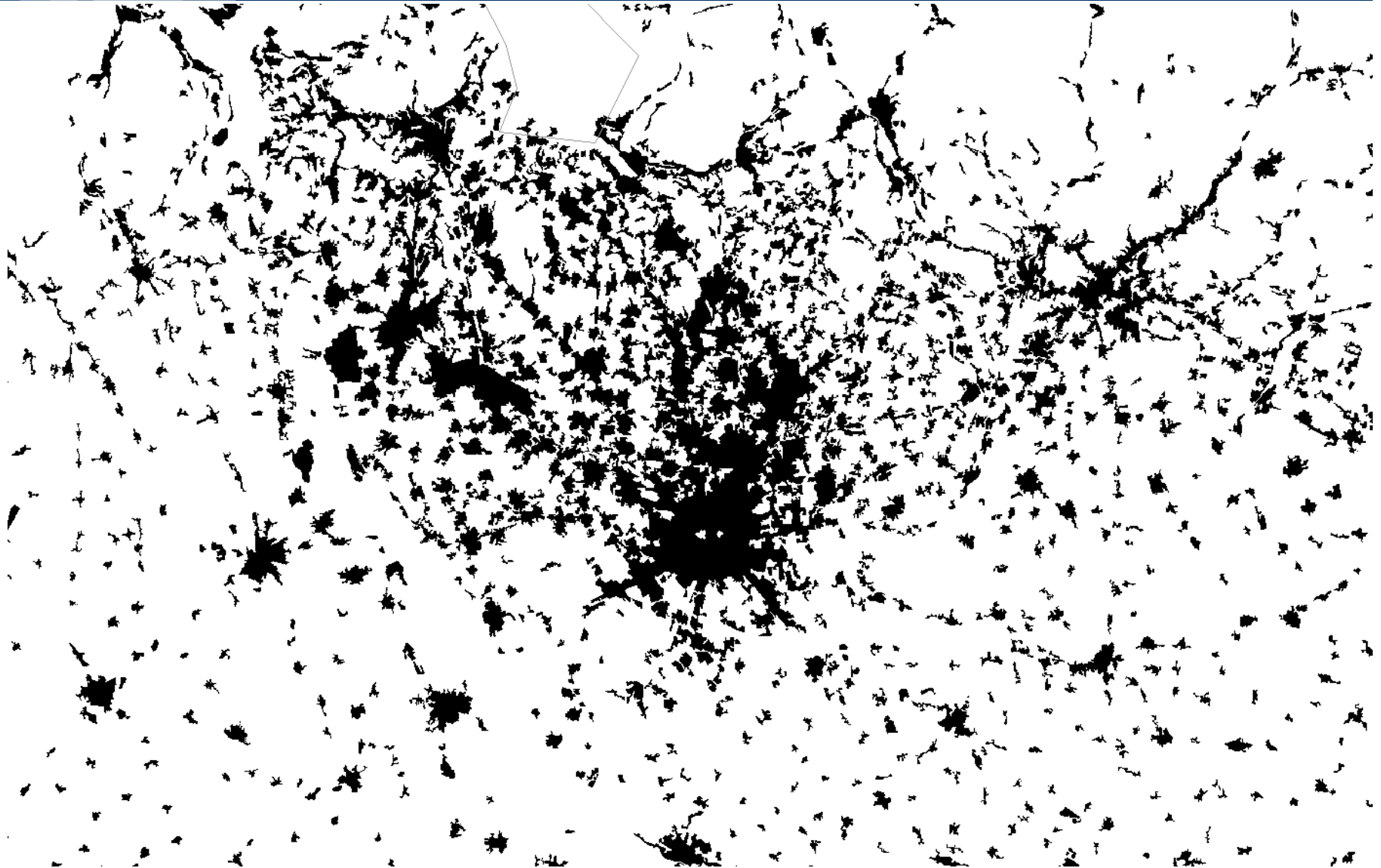
Four types of urban systems:

- two large urban agglomerations: Paris and London;
- a considerable number of large city regions: Milan, to Munich, Madrid, Stockholm and Helsinki, etc...
- a dense network of small and medium-sized cities: in many regions in central, western and southern Europe;
- areas with very few urban centres in the north, in Spain and France, and in some Eastern European regions

the emergence of **mega-city-regions producing a growing mismatch between administrative and urban structure**

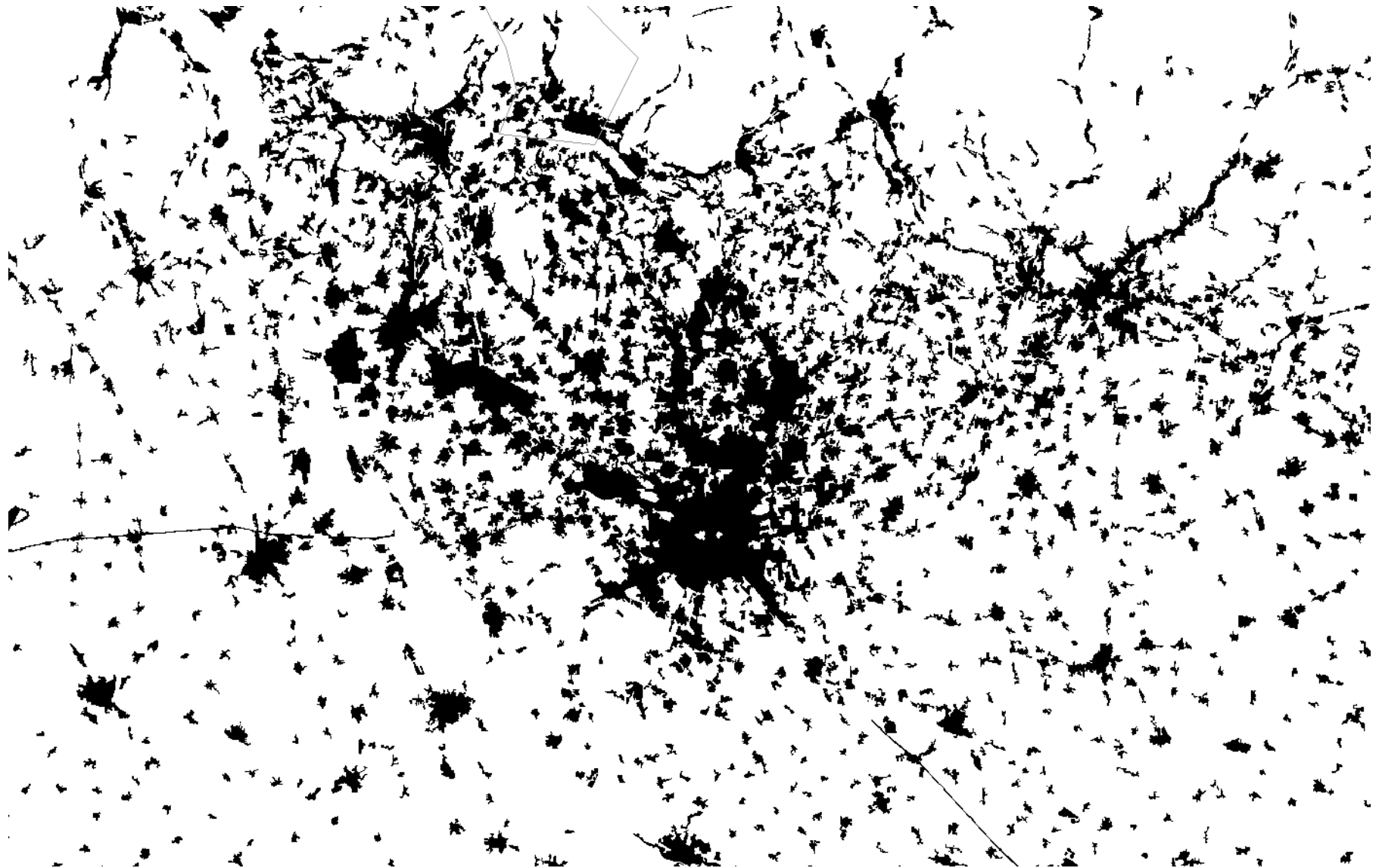


Milan: CLC artificial surfaces, 1990



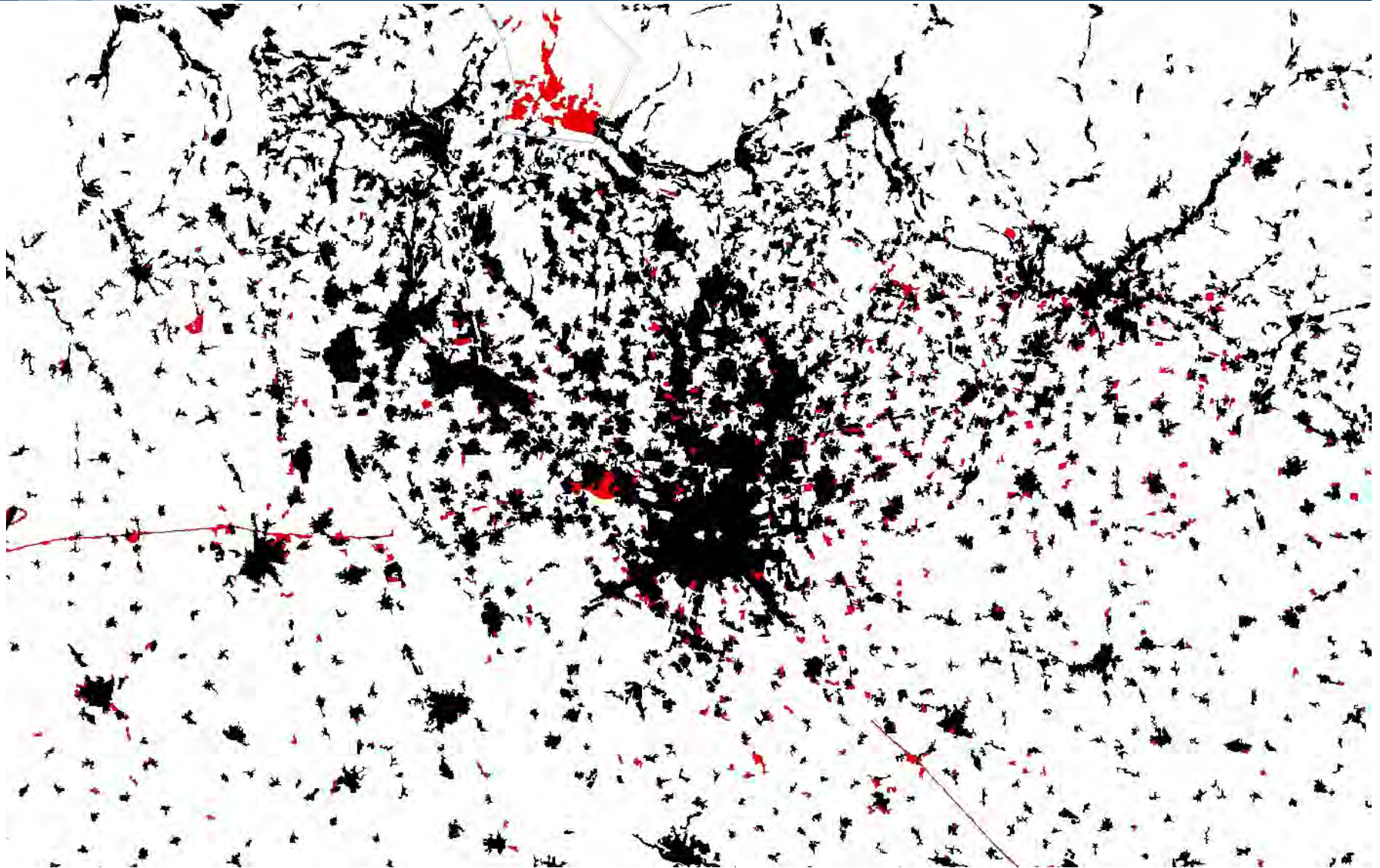


Milan: CLC artificial surfaces, 2006



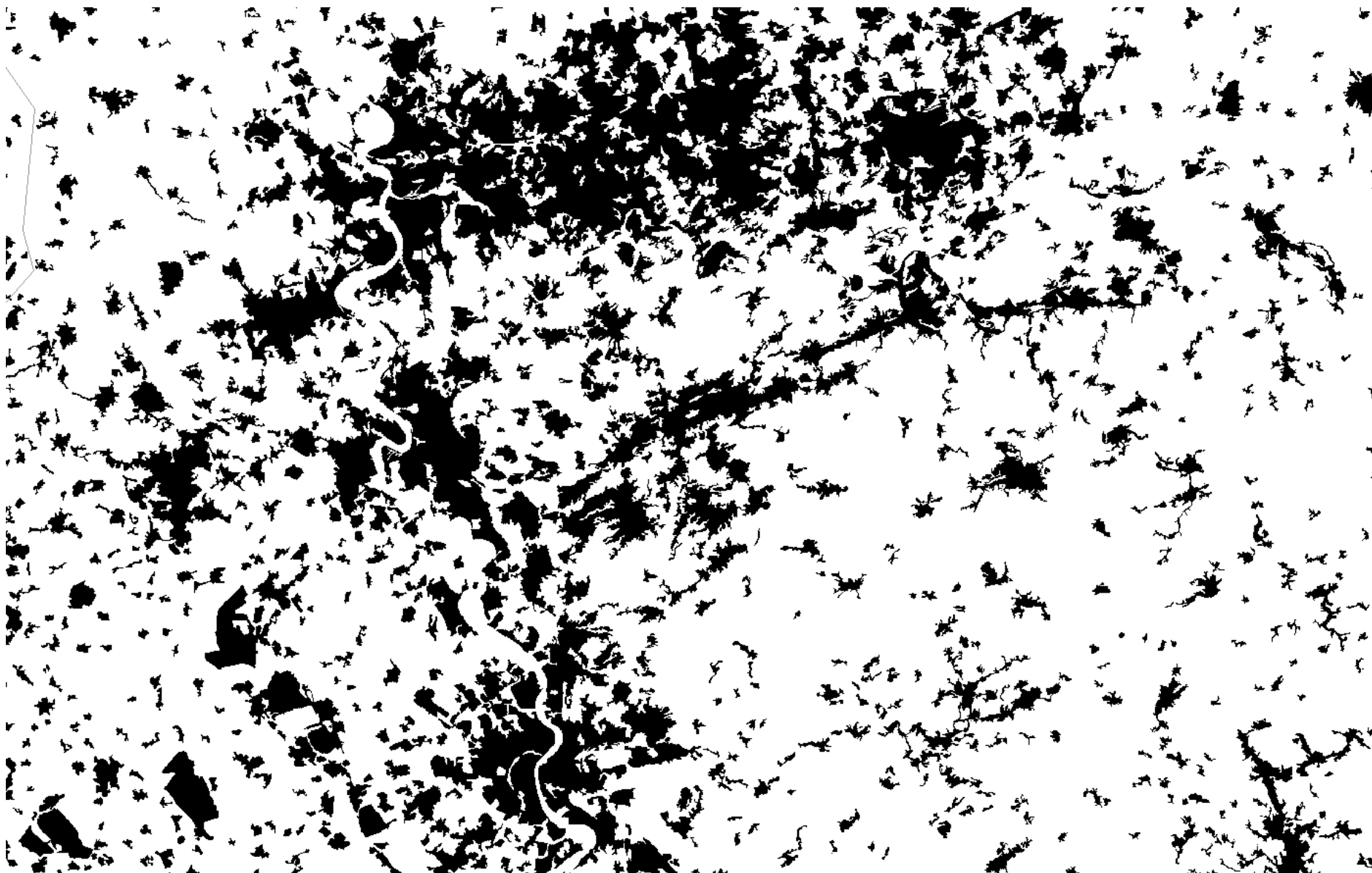


Milan: CLC artificial surfaces, 1990 - 2006



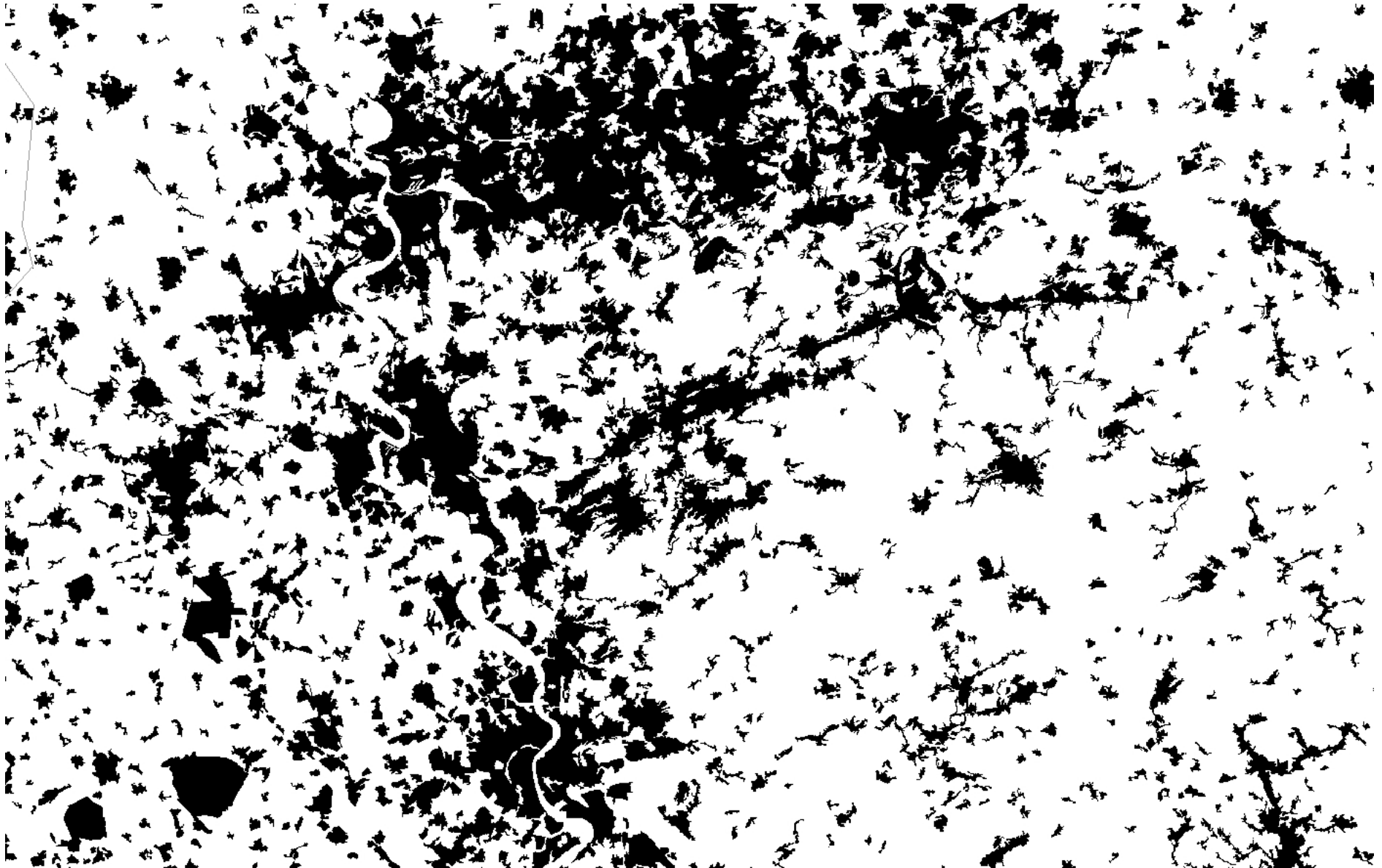


Ruhr: CLC artificial surfaces, 1990



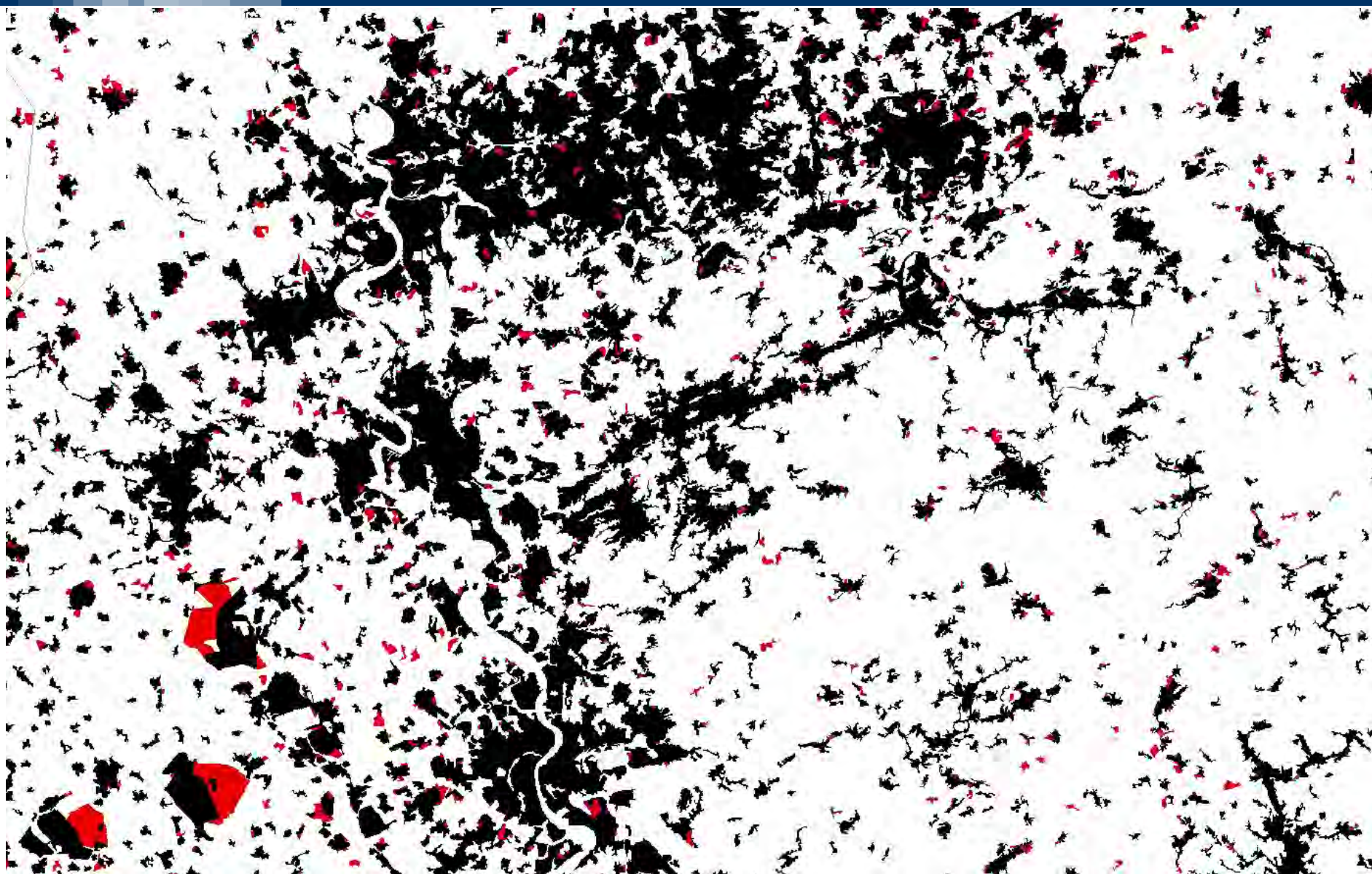


Ruhr: CLC artificial surfaces, 2006



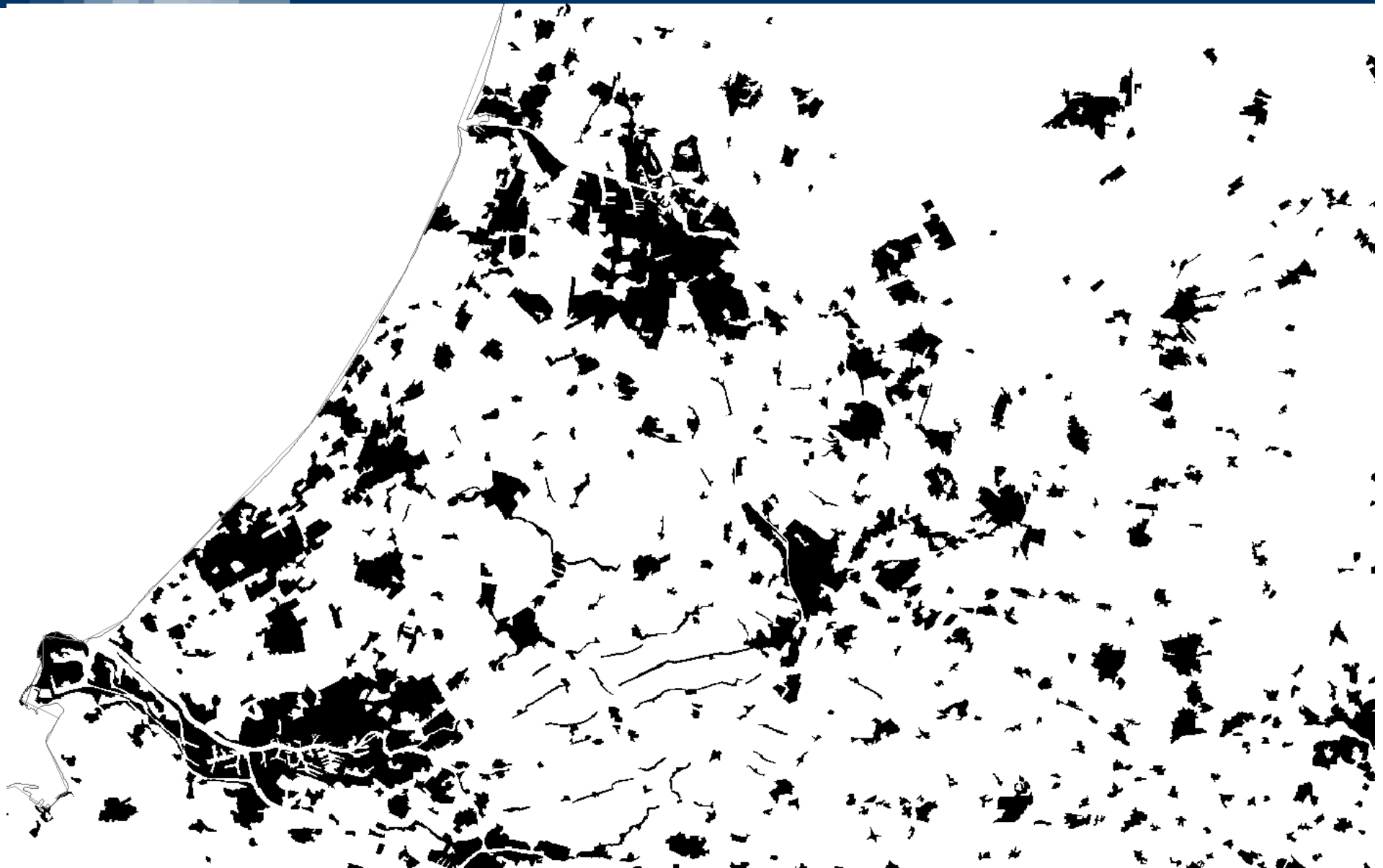


Ruhr: CLC artificial surfaces, 1990 - 2006



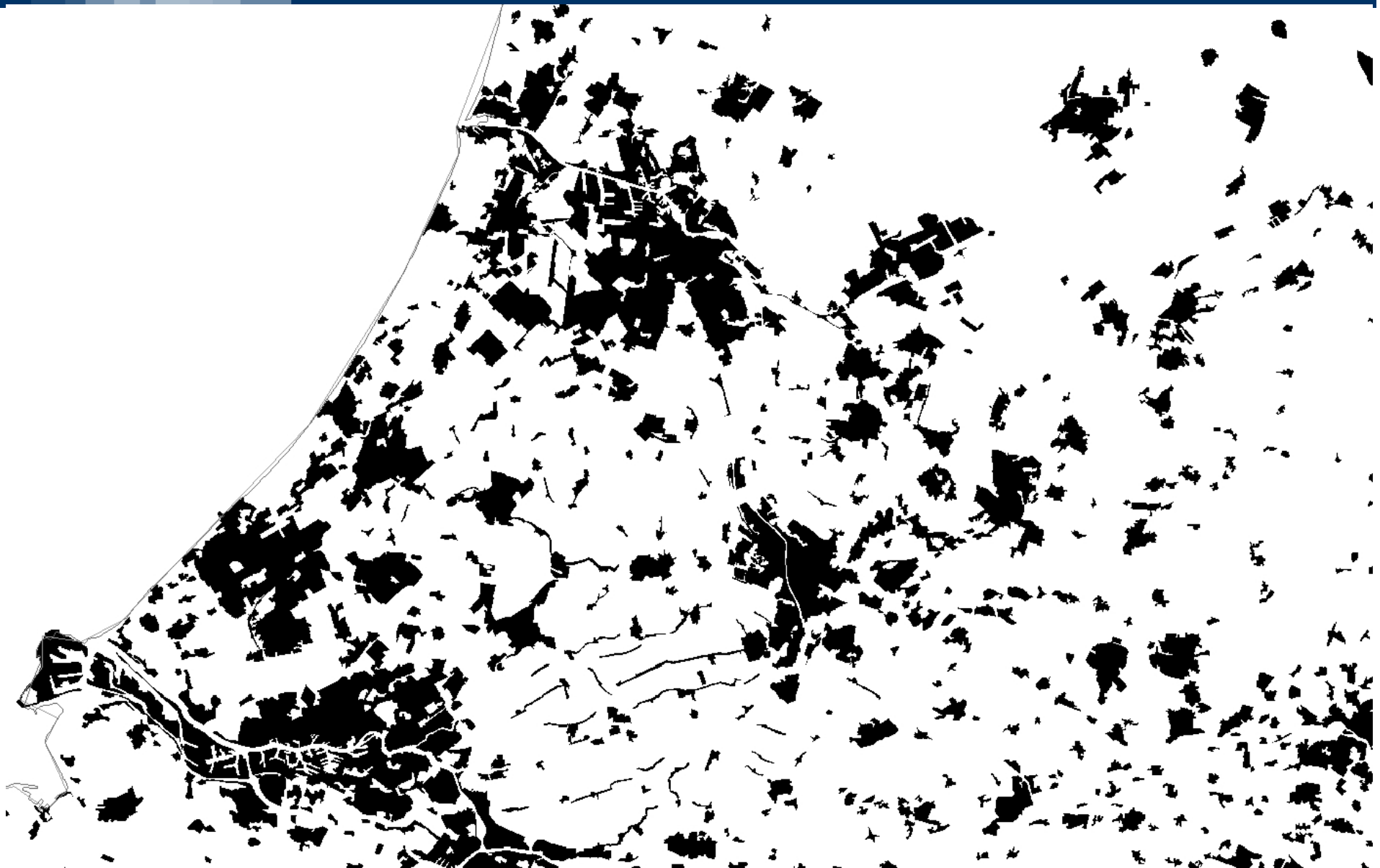


Amsterdam - Rotterdam: CLC artificial surfaces, 1990



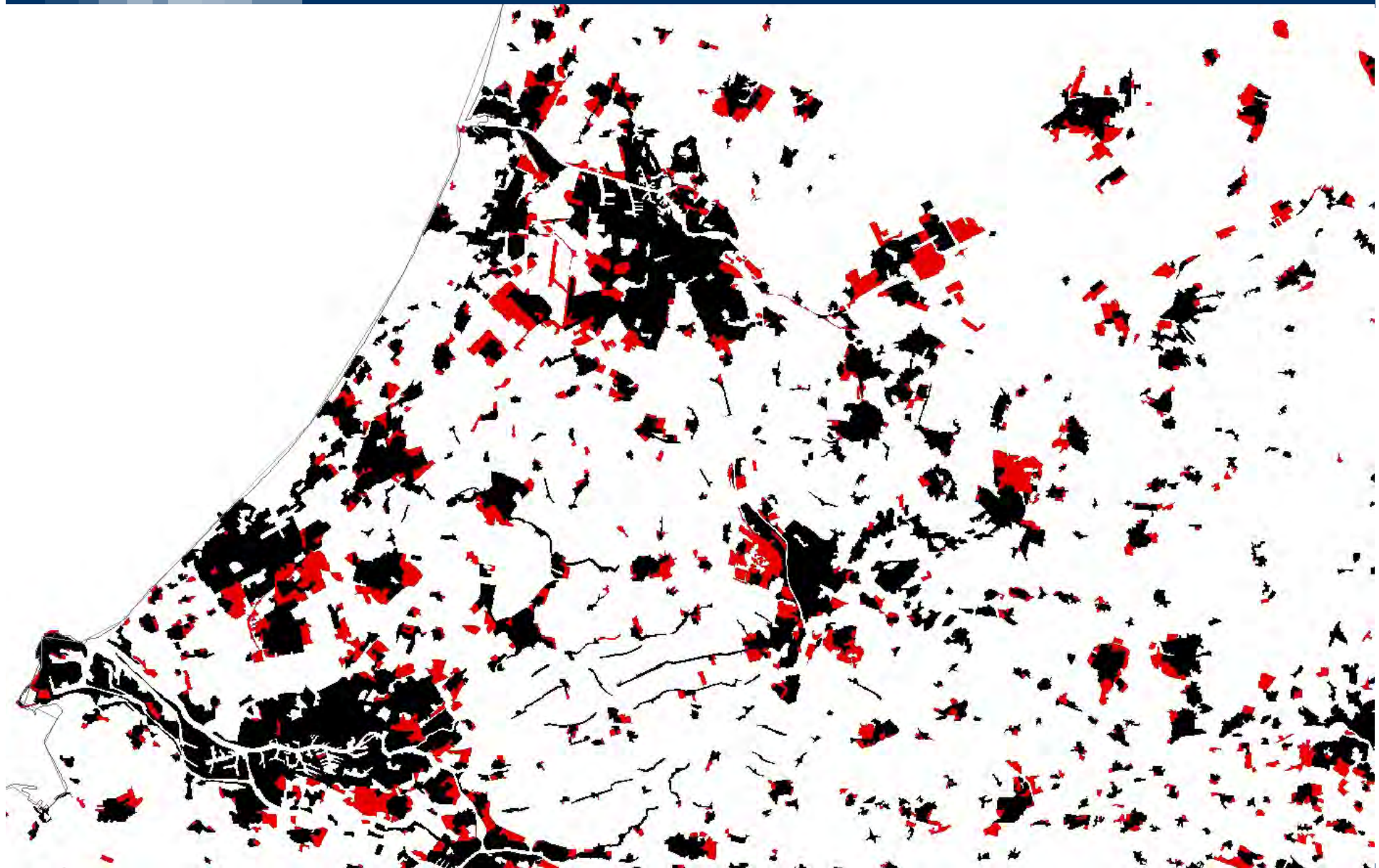


Amsterdam - Rotterdam : CLC artificial surfaces, 2006





Amsterdam - Rotterdam : CLC artificial surfaces, 1990 - 2006







The city region is an historical and geographical reality which does not count functionally and politically: fragmentation and lack of cooperation

impaired competitiveness

The definition of fixed boundaries of new governmental entities (like metropolitan authorities) does not look possible everywhere any more.



A European Urban Agenda is needed therefore to move in these two directions:

- **to recognize and consider cities for what they really are today**, especially in Europe, as extended networks of centres of different size;
- **to support initiatives of horizontal and vertical cooperation** to acknowledge and sustain the functional and political role of the European cities.



2. Cities as drivers of humane progress

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4 waves of innovation in the history (Peter Hall 1998):

- I. **Cultural-Intellectual:** Athens 500BC, Florence 1400, London 1600, Vienna 1800, Paris 1900, Berlin 1920;
- II. **Technological-Productive:** Manchester 1770, Glasgow 1840, Detroit 1900, Palo Alto 1950;
- III. **Cultural-Technological:** Los Angeles 1920; Memphis, Tennessee 1955;
- IV. **Technological-Organizational (urban innovation)**
?San Francisco and the Silicon Valley, Boston and the Cambridge region, London and the M4 corridor, Copenhagen and the Oresund area, Munich and its large urban region etc.



2. Cities as drivers of humane progress

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two moves in this process:

- **from cultural, to technological, to organisational innovation, → to the integration of all these dimensions** in the contemporary city region;
- **from core centres to outwards cities → to the integration into a new extended urban form.**

Cities will continue to be the cradle of innovation

But this time (a) it is a different city and (b) it is a different form of inter-sectoral and cross-disciplinary integration which re-combines physical and virtual proximity.

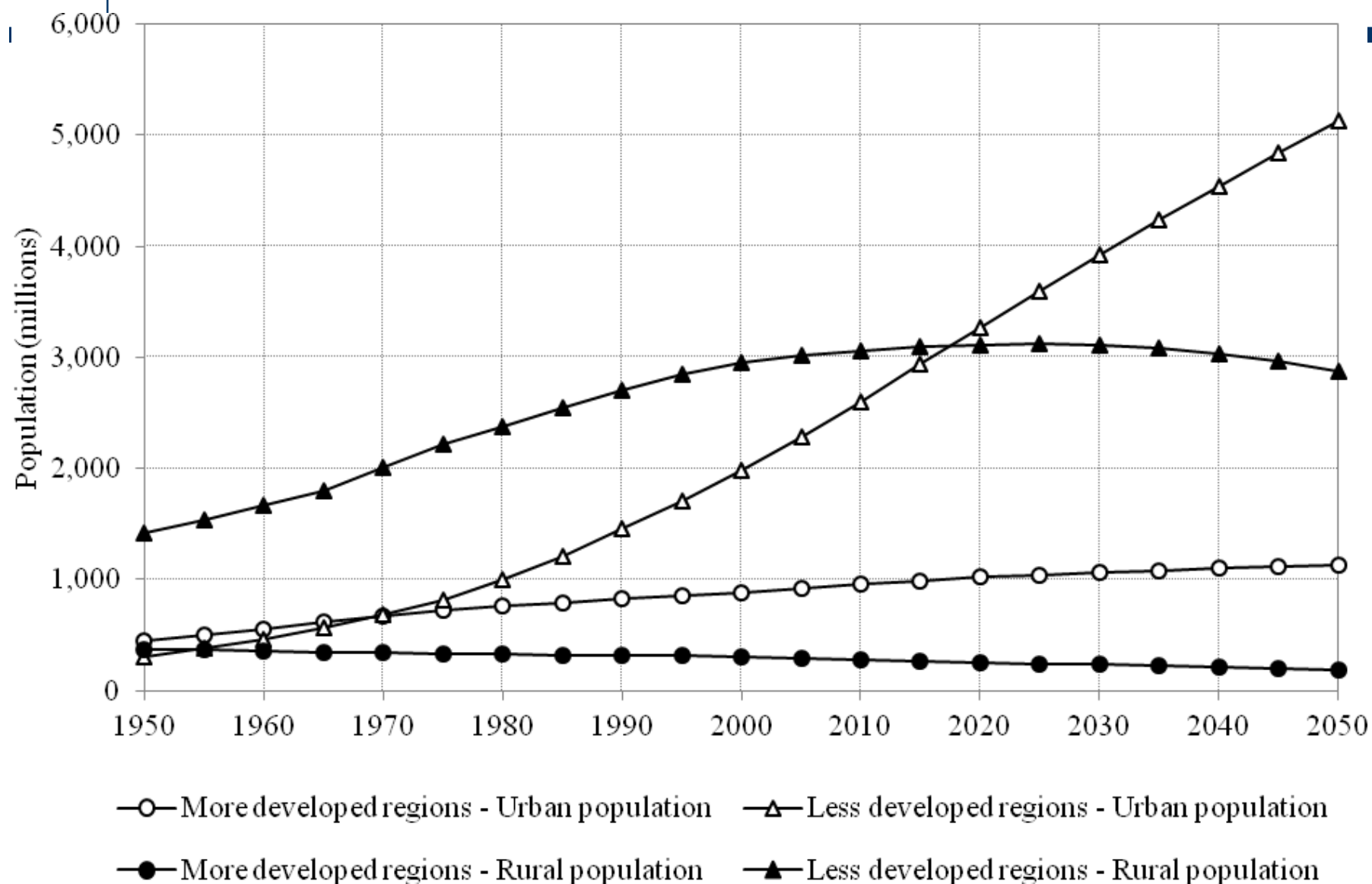


3. City regions as drivers for sustainable development

Europe will **not be any more the most urbanised** continent but it could become **the continent with the better capacity to use cities as resources towards sustainable development:**

- Balanced urban system
- More liveable cities
- Committed citizens

Figure I. Urban and rural populations by development group, 1950-2050





3. City regions as drivers for sustainable development

Global trends identified in the “Guide to social innovation”

- **Demographic** – migration and ageing of the EU population
- **Poverty** – 84 m people suffering, children in particular, social exclusion
- **Environmental** – water pollution, climate change, increasing carbon emission
- **Health and well being** – 9% of GDP, inequalities in access to health
- **New community trends**- Diversity and the new community providing IT solutions
- **Ethical goods and services**- fair trade and local production in strong growth



3. City regions as drivers for sustainable development

Most of these trends positive and negative have their critical places in cities.

Growing awareness about the role of cities in the last 15 years

- “Towards an Urban Agenda in the European Union” (1997)
- “Lille Action Program” (2000)
- “Urban Acquis” Rotterdam 2004,
- “Bristol Accord” 2005
- “Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities” 2007
- “Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities” Marseille 2008
- “Barca Report”, 2009
- “Toledo Declaration” in 2010
- “Cities of Tomorrow: Challenges, Visions, Ways Forward” 2011
- “Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020” 2011
- Urbact II “Cities of Tomorrow-Action Today” 2013



3. City regions as drivers for sustainable development

| EU2020 objectives | |
|---|---|
| 1. Employment | 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed |
| 2. R&D | 3% of the EU's GDP (public and private combined) to be invested in R&D/innovation |
| 3. Climate and Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990• 20% of energy from renewables• 20% increase in energy efficiency |
| 4. Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing school drop-out rates below 10%• at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education |
| 5. Combat Poverty and social exclusion | at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion |



3. City regions as drivers for sustainable development

Now it is important to move **from awareness to action**.

The role of an European Urban Agenda is to build upon the legacy of this long process of progressive discovery of the role of cities and of the new character of the urban space, and to indicate clear priorities and modes of action



4. City regions as laboratories for EU cohesion policy and EU citizenship

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The urban is the place of density, heterogeneity, inequality it is the elected field of experimentation of EU cohesion policy → now extended to the urban regions

Inside city regions we can find all the different conditions that we recognise at a larger scale

- the redefinition European welfare model
- the effort to reduce inequalities and spatial divide
- new forms of manufacturing
- new strategies to cope with environmental problems
- clusters of universities, research centres and institutions



4. City regions as laboratories for EU cohesion policy and EU citizenship

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The level of complexity requires appropriate sophisticated strategies

Cities are the place of integration, the elected places for place-based policies

Stakeholder and citizens participation also with the aim of reconstructing social and political capital for the European project

A European Urban Agenda would be beneficial to the territorial agenda



5. The role of European Union in urban innovation.

Many member states have not ministries or special departments for urban policies

Those who have them may have difficulties in addressing effectively the urban new dimension

Path dependency

The need to stabilize attention of member states and

The need to generate knowledge, discussion and mutual learning at local level supporting incubators of new strategic ideas



5. The role of European Union in urban innovation.

The European Urban Agenda could become a framing discourse capable to fostering the preparation of national urban agendas and to encourage vertical and horizontal cooperation

This is another important role of a European Urban Agenda: to create a **learning environment among city-regions** where to experiment in a complementary way different streams of action within a framework that allow for each one to be a laboratory for the others.