

Urban Atlas 2012: update and extension of the Urban Atlas 2006

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The Urban Atlas provides pan-European comparable land use and land cover data for Large Urban Zones. The 2006 edition covers more or less all EU cities with more than 100.000 inhabitants as defined by the Urban Audit, whilst the 2012 update will be covering all cities with a population above 50.000 inhabitants. The 2012 extension and update of the Urban Atlas raise a number of challenges particularly linked to the complex changes of the 2006 Large Urban Zones delineation and the extension to a large number of smaller (393) Large Urban Zones. The methodology adopted is based on the optimisation of the production process based on a careful blend of automated Object Based Image Analysis (OBIA) techniques and Computer Assisted Photo-Interpretation (CAPI) to ensure the most efficient methodology is applied whilst exceeding the minimum quality requirements. Whenever possible, processing steps were combined to avoid unnecessary duplication of tasks. Preliminary results are shown illustrating update of existing areas covered in 2006 and extension to new areas in 2012.