Population development of NUTS 2 regions in countries of the Benelux

Abstract

The main objective of this thesis is to analyse the population development of NUTS 2 regions in countries of Benelux in the period between 1990 and 2010. The analysis is based on monitoring of development selected indicators of age structure, mortality and fertility. The development of variability of these indicators is also observed. The goal of this study is also to find groups of NUTS 2 regions similar in values of selected demographic variables. Borders of these groups of regions are compared with national and cultural borders. For this purpose, the cluster analysis was conducted for input values of the selected variables at the beginning and at the end of the analysed period. A part of this work is devoted to outline the main characteristics of population development of the Benelux countries in the period between 1950 and 2010.

Keywords: Population development, NUTS 2, the Benelux, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, cluster analysis, regional differentiation