

NUTS system

Full title: Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques

Abbreviation: NUTS

Legal basis:

- It is related to the Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)

Implementation date: 1970

History of the classification:

At the beginning of the 1970s, Eurostat developed the NUTS (Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques – Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes) classification, which aimed to designate comparable territorial units in terms of area and population size, based on which uniform regional statistics can be collected and compiled.

The NUTS classification divides the economic territory of the member states and also includes their territory outside the region (airspace, territorial waters, etc.). Existing administrative units within the member states form the main basis for defining territorial units. An administrative unit is a geographical area with an administrative authority, where this authority has administrative or political decision-making powers for the area within the legal and institutional framework of the given member state.

Structure:

The system is structured hierarchically, dividing individual member states into NUTS 1 units, these into NUTS 2 units, and these into NUTS 3 units. The NUTS level to which an administrative unit should be classified is determined based on population thresholds.

| Chapter | Position | Denomination |
|---------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1.1. | 1–5 | Settlement identification number |
| 1.2. | 6–10 | NUTS 3 code |
| 1.3. | 11–14 | NUTS 2 code |
| 1.4. | 15–17 | NUTS 1 code |

Short description:

- a) Settlement identification number
- b) NUTS 3 code
- c) NUTS 2 code
- d) NUTS 1 code

Main statistical applications:

Social, economic and territorial statistics.

Linked classifications: NUTS

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