

Cross-Border Metropolitan Integration in Europe

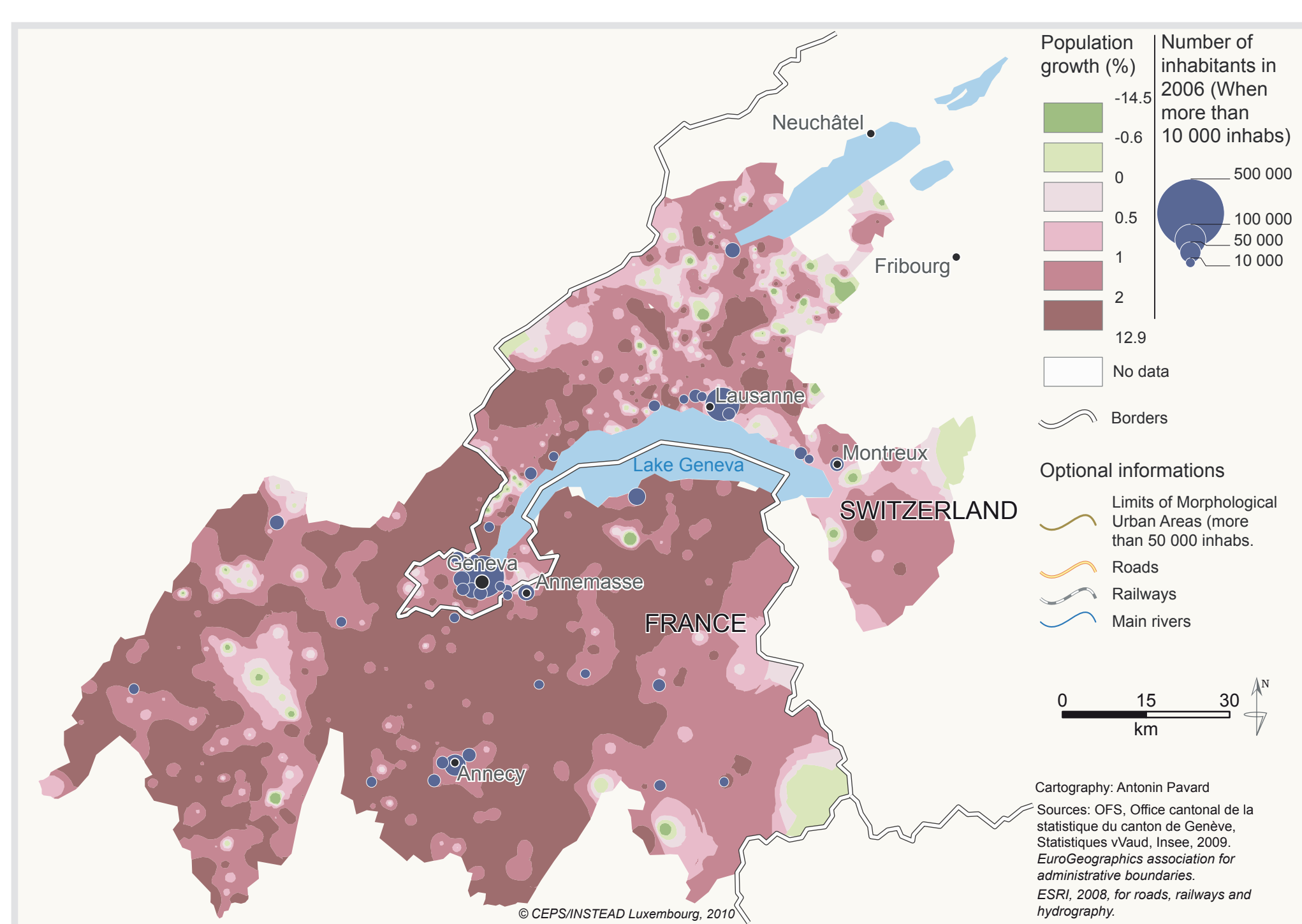
In Europe, regional integration and supranational institutions have considerably challenged the traditional role of borders.

Even though they still have a role in differentiating political, economic and cultural systems, borders increasingly serve as an interface for promoting co-operation and new opportunities at the metropolitan level.

The Metrolux research team at the Centre for Population, Poverty and Public Policy Studies (CEPS/INSTEAD) in Luxembourg studies the functional and institutional dynamics of such cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe.

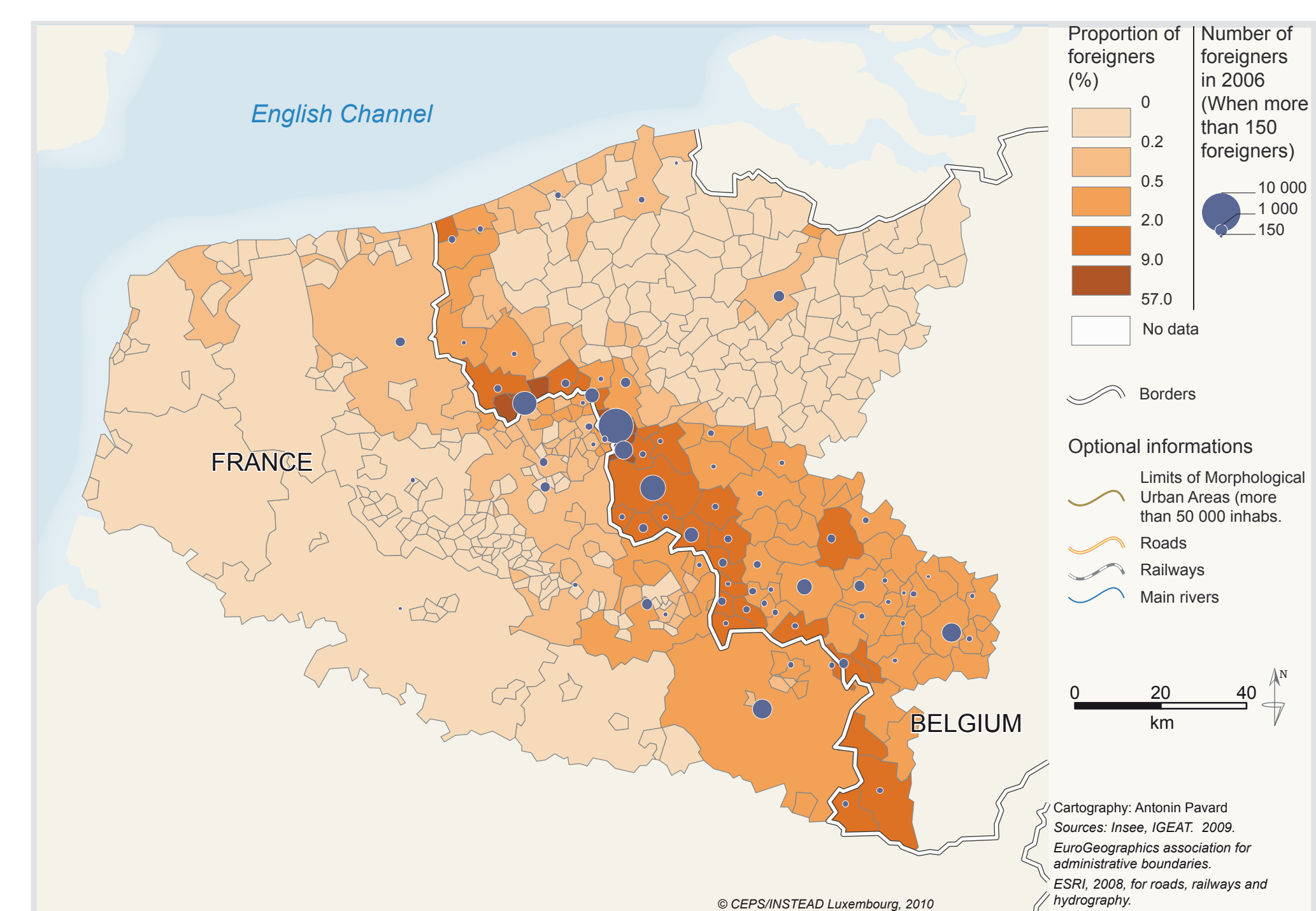


Geneva Average annual population growth, 2000-2006



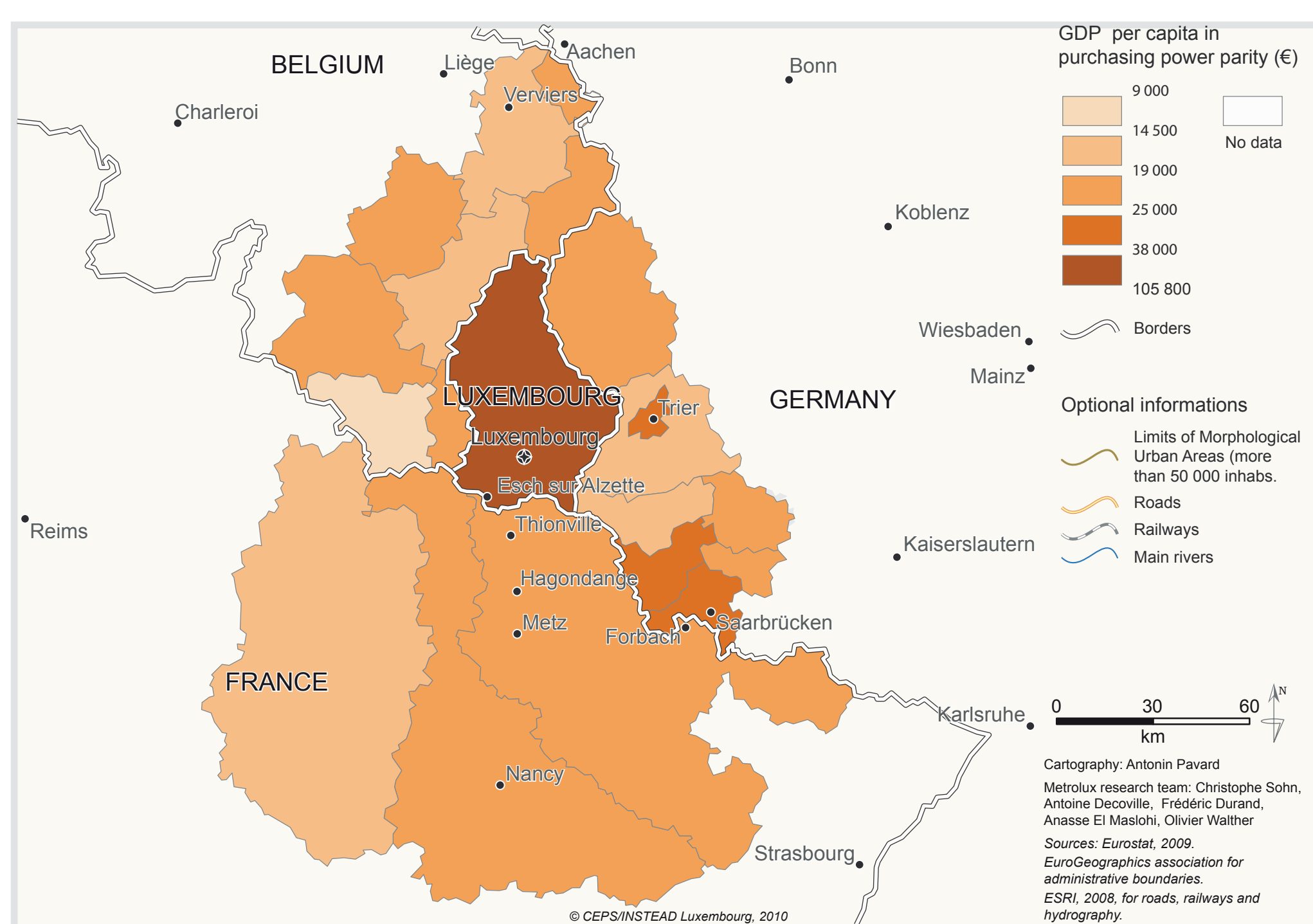
What effects have national boundaries on demographic dynamics? In the Geneva region, French suburbs have experienced a higher demographic growth than Swiss municipalities because of price differentials and land availability.

Lille Proportion of foreigners from neighbouring countries, 2006



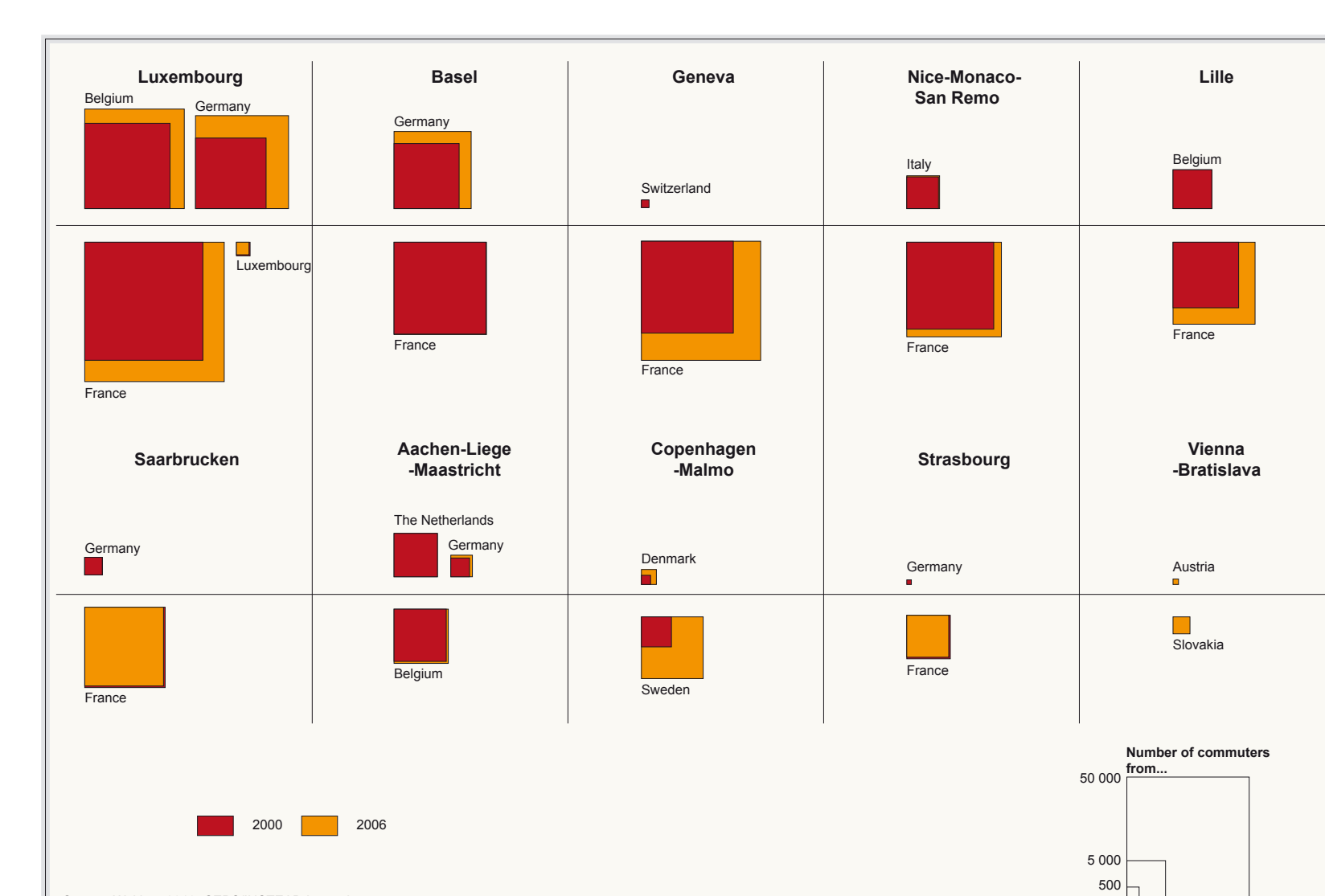
National borders still play a key role in Europe. In the Lille region, the proportion of French citizens in Belgium is considerably higher than the proportion of Belgian citizens in France.

Luxembourg Regional GDP per capita in purchasing power parity, 2006



European regions are unequal in terms of wealth production. As in the case of Luxembourg, cross-border metropolitan regions with a knowledge-intensive economy tend to have a higher GDP per capita. Wealth inequalities tend to grow over time.

Cross-border commuting flows, 2000-2006



Not all cross-border metropolitan regions have important commuting flows. With more than 150,000 daily cross-border commuters, Luxembourg is the border area where cross-border commuting is the most developed, followed by Basel and Geneva. Most of these areas experienced a positive growth, with the exception of Saarbrücken and Strasbourg.