

# The Metropolitan City of Naples

## 1. Definition of the metropolitan geographical-administrative system boundaries

The Metropolitan City of Naples, Italy (*Città metropolitana di Napoli*) is located (Fig. 1) in Southern Italian region *Campania*. It is a mainly coastal area located around the Gulf of Naples in the Tyrrhenian Sea, covering a surface of 1,179 km<sup>2</sup>, including five islands, and orographically characterised by the presence of some short coastal mountain reliefs as well as of the volcano Mount Vesuvius.

The Metropolitan City of Naples has a resident population of 3,101,002 inhabitants (according to the Italian national statistics institute ISTAT – *Istituto Nazionale di Statistica*, 2018), with a population density equal to 2,630 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. It is composed of 92 lower administrative bodies, known as *comuni* (municipalities), among which Naples (*Napoli*) represents the chief city (Fig. 2).



Figure 1 – The Metropolitan city of Naples highlighted in the Italian administrative map  
CC-BY-SA 3.0 (Gigillo83)

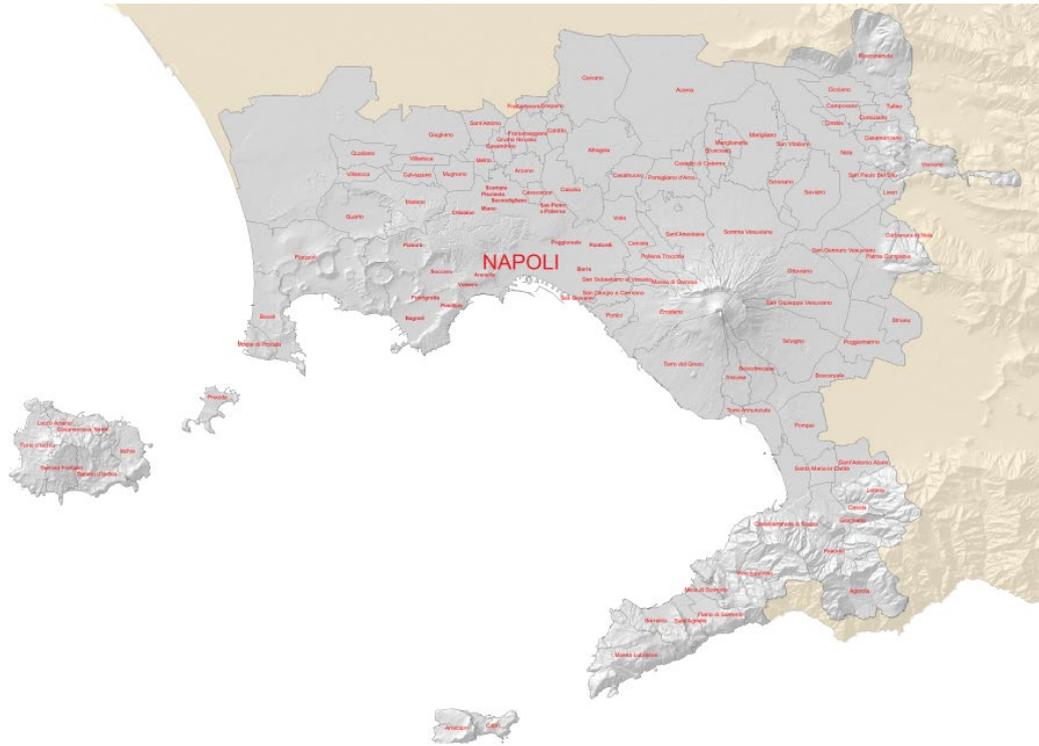


Figure 2 – Administrative view of the Metropolitan city of Naples with its constituent *comuni*  
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## 2. Main general features of the metropolitan geographical-administrative system

In the Metropolitan city of Naples, two altimetric ranges can be distinguished (Fig. 3): a plain one (507 km<sup>2</sup>) and a hilly one (672 km<sup>2</sup>), the latter including Naples. As pointed out by DARA – *Dipartimento per gli Affari Regionali e le Autonomie, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri*, (2017), it is worth noticing that the hilly zones are almost completely represented by the coastal areas, while the plain can be mostly associated with the inland.

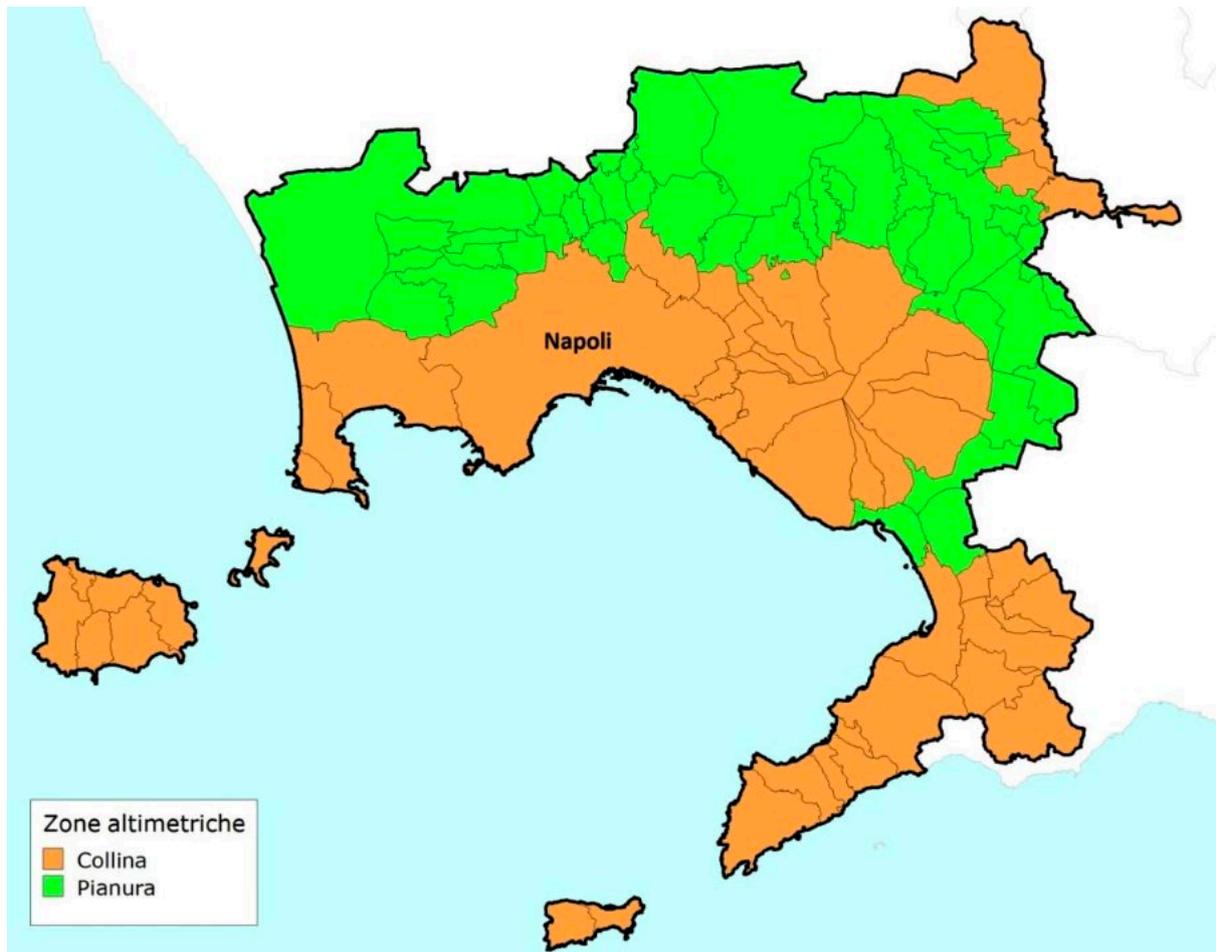


Figure 3 – Altimetric zones of the Metropolitan city of Naples (DARA, 2017, based on data from ISTAT): *collina* = hill | *pianura* = plain

Within the metropolitan area, Naples has the highest population (966,144 inhabitants), but ten more municipalities have a population higher than 50,000. The top values of population density are concentrated around Naples (mostly North of it due to the presence of the sea on the opposite side) as well as at the beginning of the Sorrento peninsula in the South of the area at issue (Fig. 4).

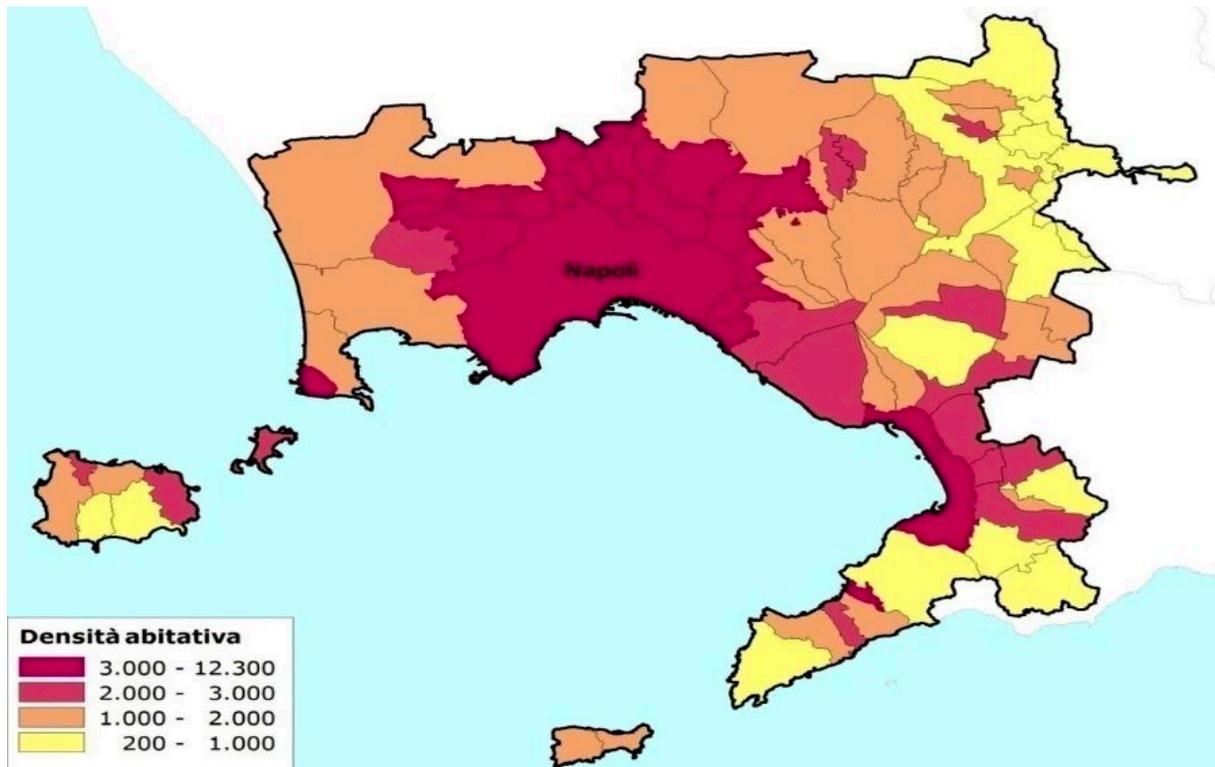


Figure 4 – Population density in the Metropolitan city of Naples (DARA, 2017, based on data from ISTAT)

The economy of the sole city of Naples is mostly focused on the tertiary sector (e.g., local, metropolitan, and regional administrations and governments; healthcare, education and research; trade and freight transportation, including port activities; and an expanding tourism industry), with poor primary and secondary activities. However, the latter are more important in the rest of the Metropolitan city, which is therefore characterised by a pretty varied economy.

The Metropolitan city of Naples is a relatively recent administrative body, introduced by law in 2014 (Italian annual bill n. 56, 7 April 2014) presenting the following governmental organs: a metropolitan council composed of 24 seats, chaired by the metropolitan mayor (currently represented by the Mayor of Naples, starting 1 January 2015), and a wider organ called metropolitan conference, composed of the mayors of the 92 municipalities. All the representative roles are second-level positions, with direct elections only held to appoint local administrations in the single municipalities, and locally elected counselors voting for representatives in the organs of the Metropolitan city.

### 3. Land use in the geographical-administrative system

As shown in Fig. 5, most of the urban residential settlements are concentrated in the coastal area and on the Naples-Caserta axis, with the main production areas laying detached at the Northern edges of the Neapolitan metropolitan urban complex.

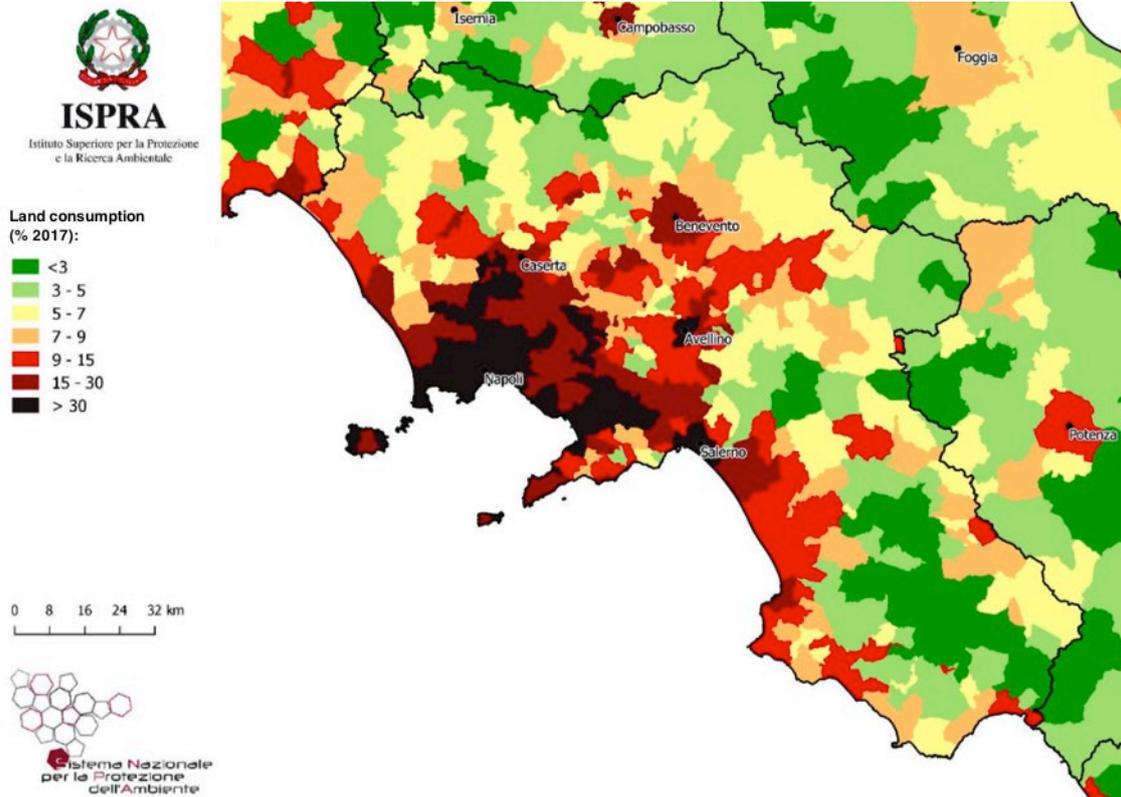


Figure 5 – Land consumption in the Metropolitan area of Naples and its surroundings at the end of year 2017 (ISPRA, 2018); percentage ranges (average value per municipality)

#### 4. Infrastructures in the geographical-administrative system

The mobility and logistic infrastructure network of the Metropolitan city of Naples is the most important of Southern Italy (DARA, 2017), with the international airport of *Capodichino* representing the busiest air station in the same macro-region. In our system, nine freight-touristic and/or fishing ports are mapped by ISTAT (*ibid.*): Casamicciola, Ischia, Procida, and Capri on the islands; Naples, Pozzuoli, Torre Annunziata, Castellammare di Stabia, and Sorrento on the mainland; besides these, many touristic marinas are also present in the area (*ibid.*). The port of Naples is the eight Italian port for freight transport and the first for tourism, primacy also due to the cruise activities (*ibid.*). Among the freight infrastructures, the freight terminal of Nola is to be mentioned too (*ibid.*).

The system at hand is provided with 900 km of roads, with highways linking it to various destinations in all the Italian national territory (A1 to Milan, A3 to Reggio Calabria, A30 to Caserta and Salerno, A16 to Canosa). Among the state roads, *SS 7 bis Appia*, linking Rome to Brindisi, *SS 7 quater Domiziana*, to Rome as well alongside the Tyrrhenian coast, and *SS 162*, linking Pozzuoli to the Vesuvian municipalities (*ibid.*).

The railway network is composed of slightly more than 1,000 km of active lines, of which 180 km are high speed lines.

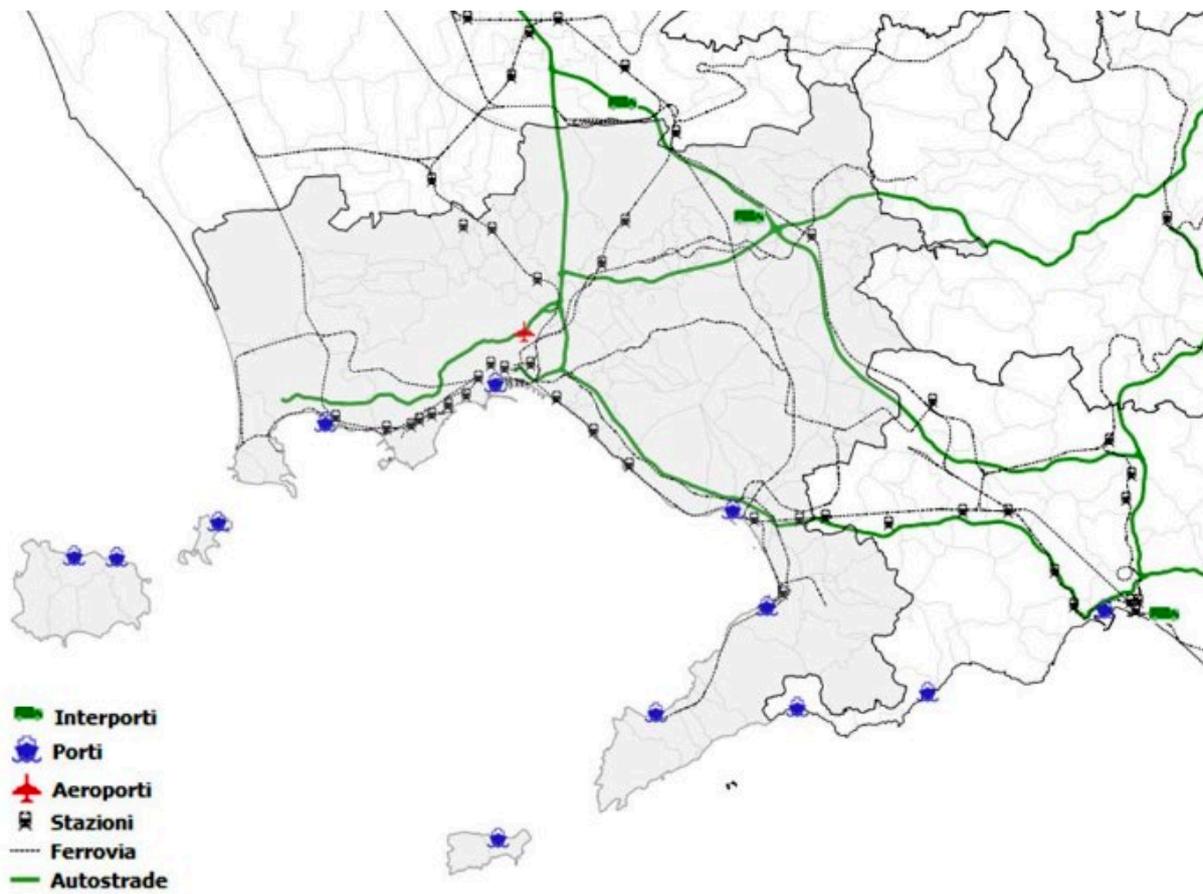


Figure 6 – Main infrastructures of the Metropolitan city of Naples (DARA, 2017): *interporti* = freight terminals | *porti* = ports | *aeroporti* = airports | *stazioni* = train stations | *ferrovia* = railway | *autostrade* = highways