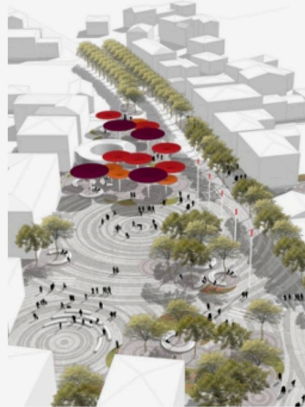


In how far is a country's environmental performance determined by its stage in the urbanization process?

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1 Introduction

- One of the major challenges of worldwide urbanization lies in the management of urban planning and development.
- The notion of **sustainable urbanization** emerged as a dynamic process that aims to find a balance between the environmental, social, economic and governance factors of an urban area to manage the harmful impact posed by worldwide urbanization (UN-Habitat/DFID, 2002)

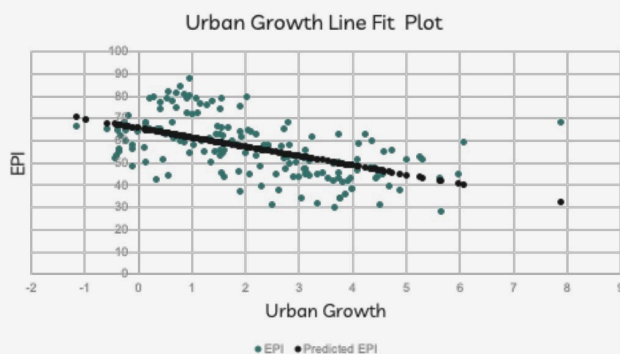


2 About the EPI

- Our data was retrieved from the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) which measured the environmental performance of 180 countries.
- The EPI consists of **two policy objectives**:
 1. Environmental Health and;
 2. Ecosystem Vitality
- These constitute two distinct dimensions of sustainability.



3 Data Analysis



For every 1% increase in urban growth, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) of a specific country decreases on average about 1.88 (within the multiple regression with urban level and GDP p.c.).



For every 1% increase in urban level, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) of a specific country increases on average about 0.11 (within the multiple regression with urban level and GDP p.c.).

4 Case Study

Switzerland is in a **mature stage of urbanization** (high urban level, low urban growth) and is currently ranked first on the EPI.

• The case study shows that a country that has already gone through an urbanization process can shift its focus from short-term problems related to rapid urbanization to other pressing issues such as sustainable development

Kenya is in an **early stage of urbanization** (high urban growth, low urban level) and is currently ranked 130 on the EPI.

• The case study illustrates that countries undergoing rapid urbanization are required to implement sustainable urban policies to ensure that urban growth can occur without further detriment to the environment.

5 Conclusion

It is crucial for countries which are currently undergoing significant population growth in urban areas to transform this development into a sustainable process associated with continuous improvements in environmental performance.

