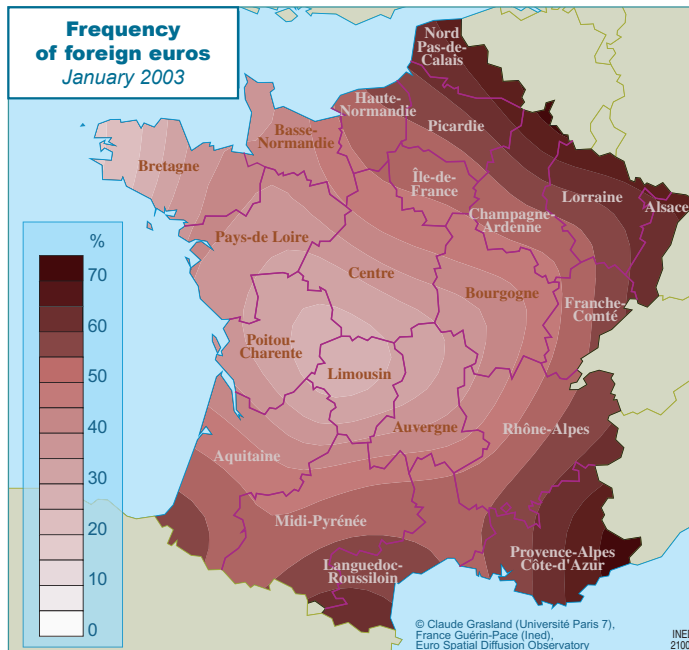


## THE CIRCULATION OF EURO COINS IN FRANCE

### Reading the graph

This map shows the distribution of euro coins minted outside France. The colours correspond to the proportion of foreign euros in circulation, going from light for the lowest proportions (5%) to dark for the highest (70%). Areas shaded in the same colour correspond to zones with the same proportion of foreign euro coins. The graph is based on data from quarterly surveys of 2,000 people whose loose change was examined to measure the country of origin and face value of their euro coins.



To construct the map, the information gathered at each sampling point was replaced by an average of the results obtained in neighbouring points, giving higher weights to the closest ones and lower weights to those further away. The information at each point is thus replaced by an image of overall distribution.

### Foreign euros are less common in Brittany and in central France

The euro was introduced in January 2002. Each country mints its own identifiable coins, but they are legal tender throughout the euro zone. They thus serve as a marker of human movements, travelling in small quantities in the pockets and purses of their users. French people who travel to another euro-zone country take away French euros and bring back foreign ones, and foreigners visiting or passing through France do

likewise. The foreign euros brought into France then circulate from person to person. The frequency of foreign euro coins thus indicates the frequency of movements to or from other euro-zone countries.

In January 2003, one year after euro coins were introduced, 11% of the 19,000 coins observed were foreign, and half of all respondents had at least one foreign euro coin in their loose change. The Limousin region and the western part of Brittany are the most isolated zones, while foreign euros are most common along the borders and main travel routes. The most frequently observed coins are from Spain, Germany and Belgium, and the 1 and 2 euro coins are more mobile than those with smaller face values.

### Sources

The data come from one of the surveys conducted by the Euro spatial diffusion observatory (ESDO) every three months since March 2002. <http://www.esdo.prd.fr/index.html>

### To find out more

Euro spatial diffusion observatory (ESDO) website (in French) : <http://www.esdo.prd.fr/index.html>

« The circulation of euros as a reflection of people's mobility » (Claude Grasland, Aurélie Tostain, France Guérin-Pace, Population and Societies, 384, November 2002)

« Mobilité européenne, tourisme et diffusion des pièces euros étrangères en France » (C. Grasland, F. Guérin-Pace, Revue d'Economie régionale et Urbaine, 2004, 5, pp 793-822.)

« La diffusion spatiale des pièces euro en Belgique et en France » (S. Berroir, C. Grasland, F. Guérin-Pace, Revue belge de Géographie (Belgeo), 2005, 4, pp. 345-358.)

