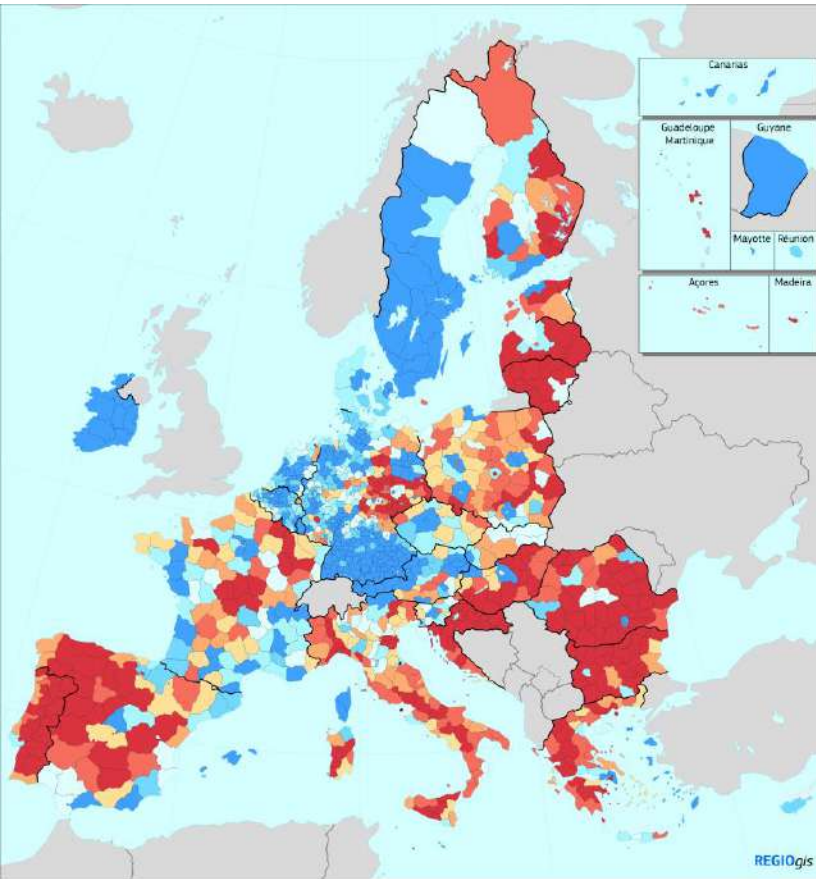




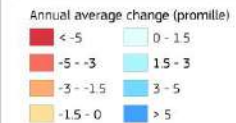
Demography and Discontent

By Lewis Dijkstra, Head of the Economic Analysis Sector

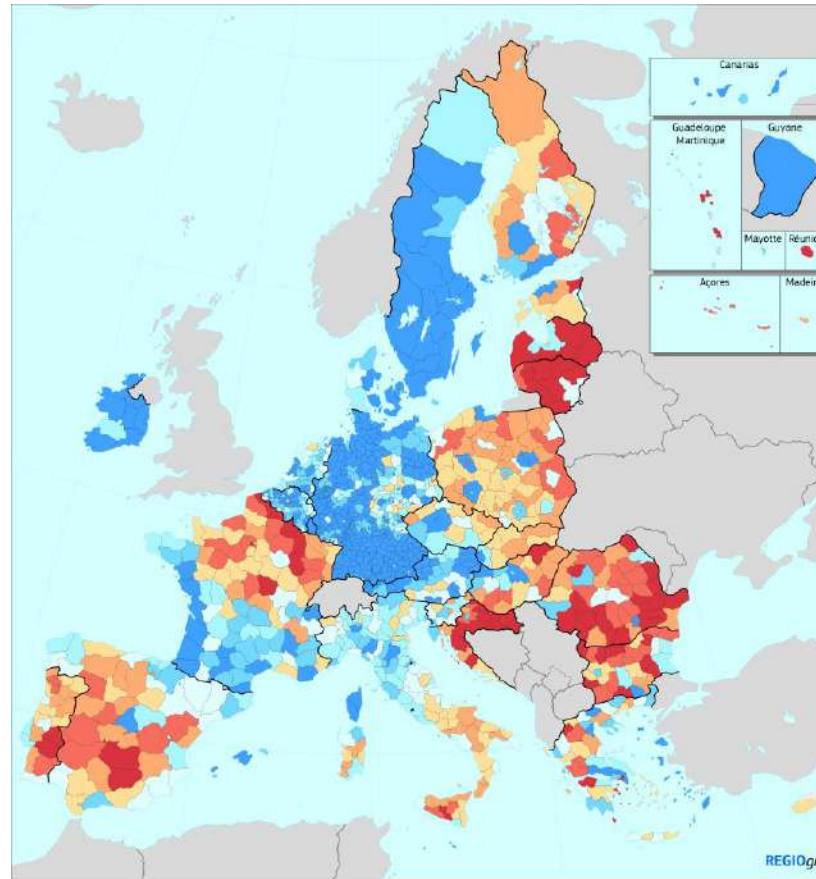
Total population change, net migration and natural change



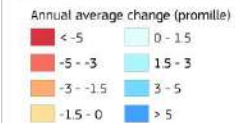
Total population growth in NUTS3 regions, 2014-2019



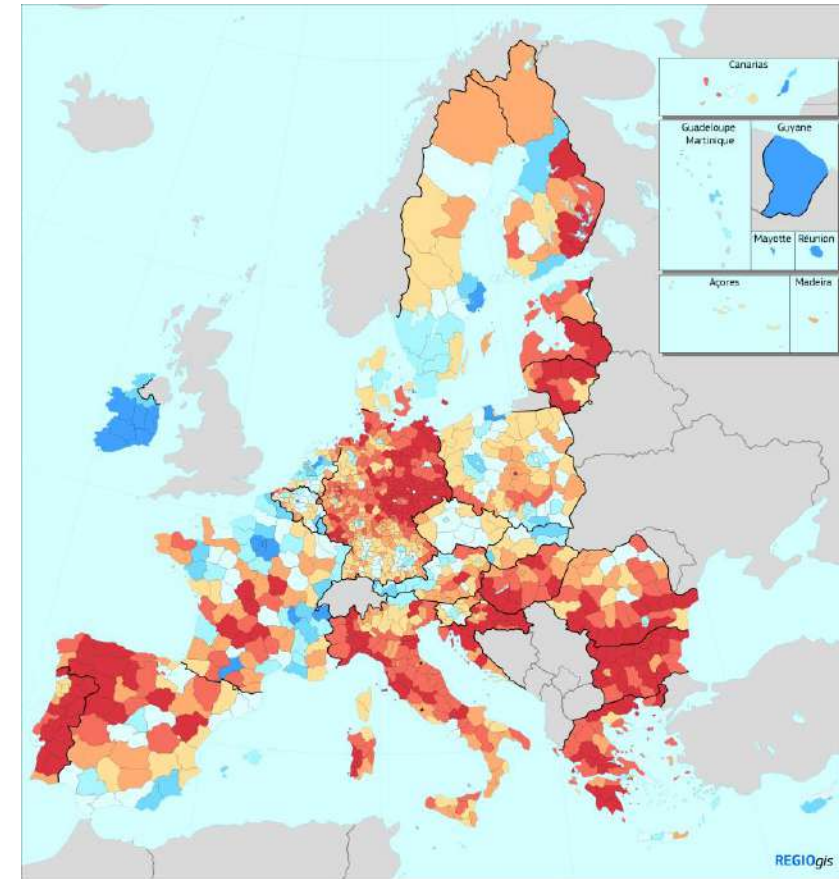
Growth between 1/1/2014 and 1/1/2019
Source: DG REGIO based on Eurostat data (demo_r_gind3)



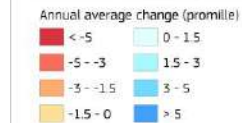
Net migration in NUTS3 regions, 2014-2019



Growth between 1/1/2014 and 1/1/2019
Source: DG REGIO based on Eurostat data (demo_r_gind3)



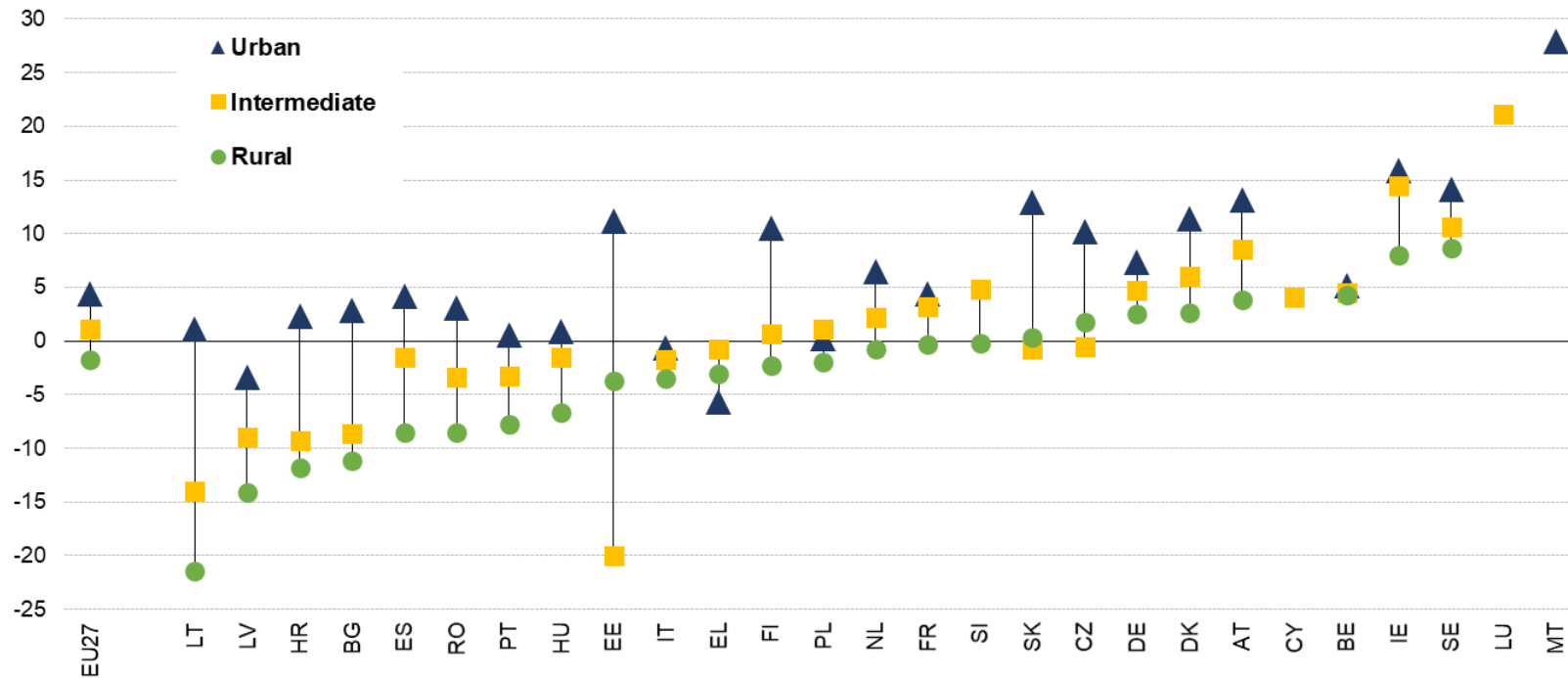
Natural population change in NUTS3 regions, 2014-2019



Change between 1/1/2014 and 1/1/2019
Source: DG REGIO based on Eurostat data (demo_r_gind3)



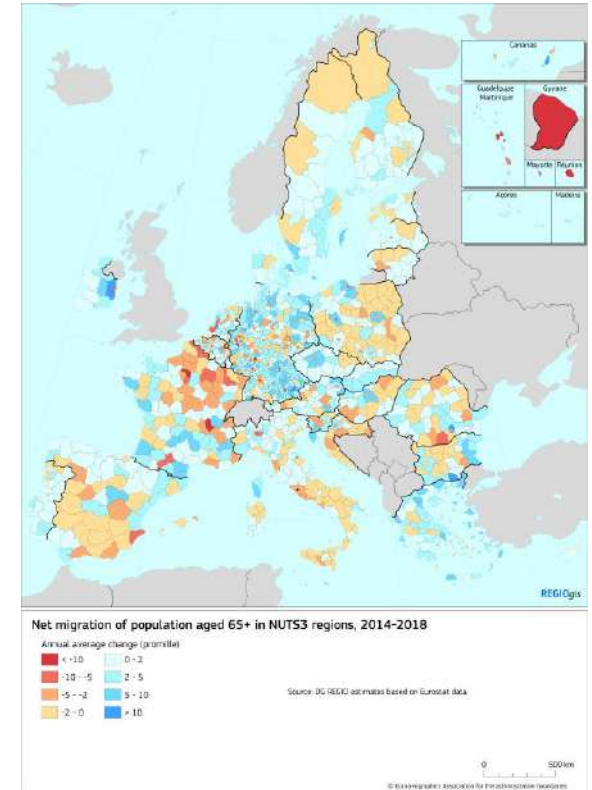
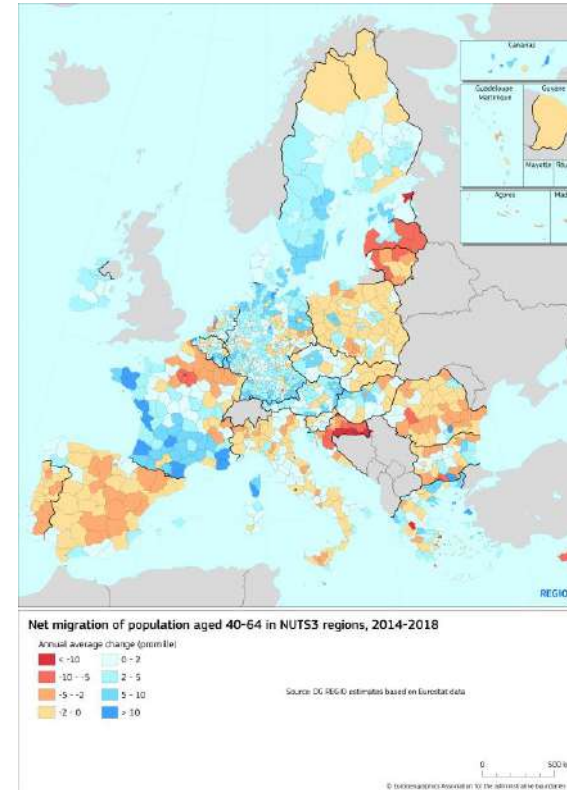
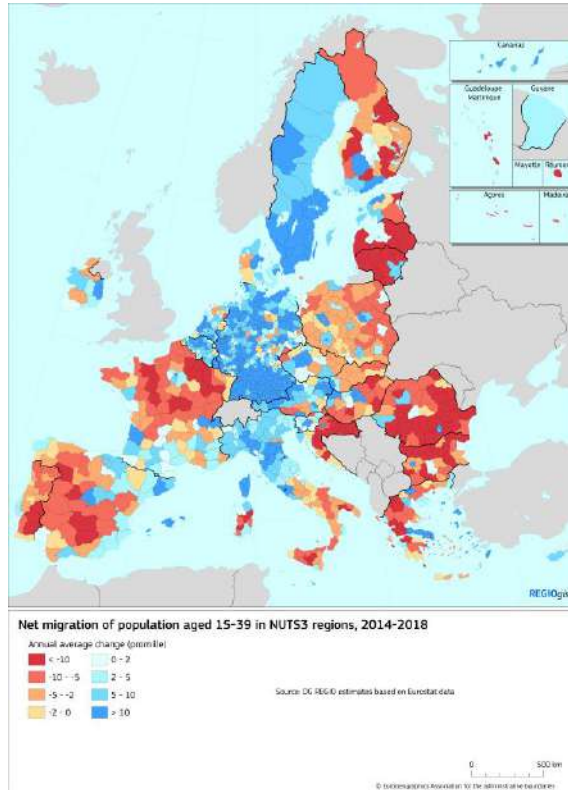
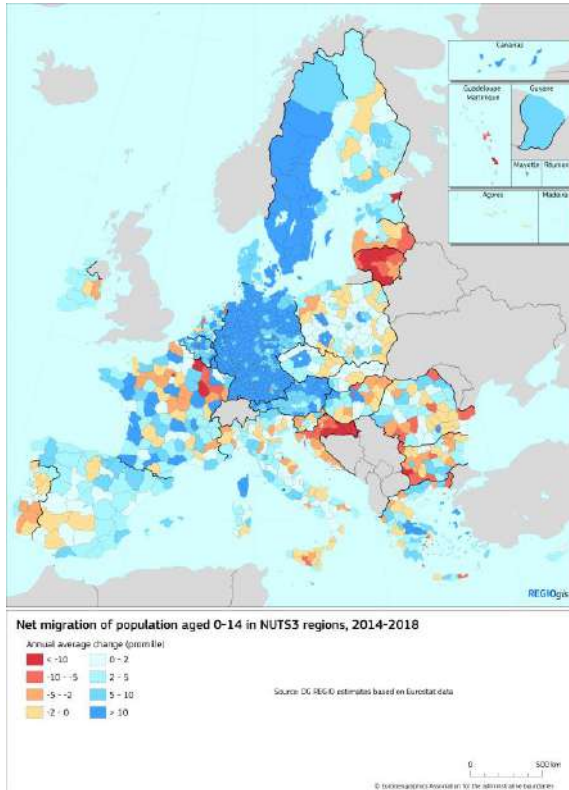
Why does the rural population shrink?



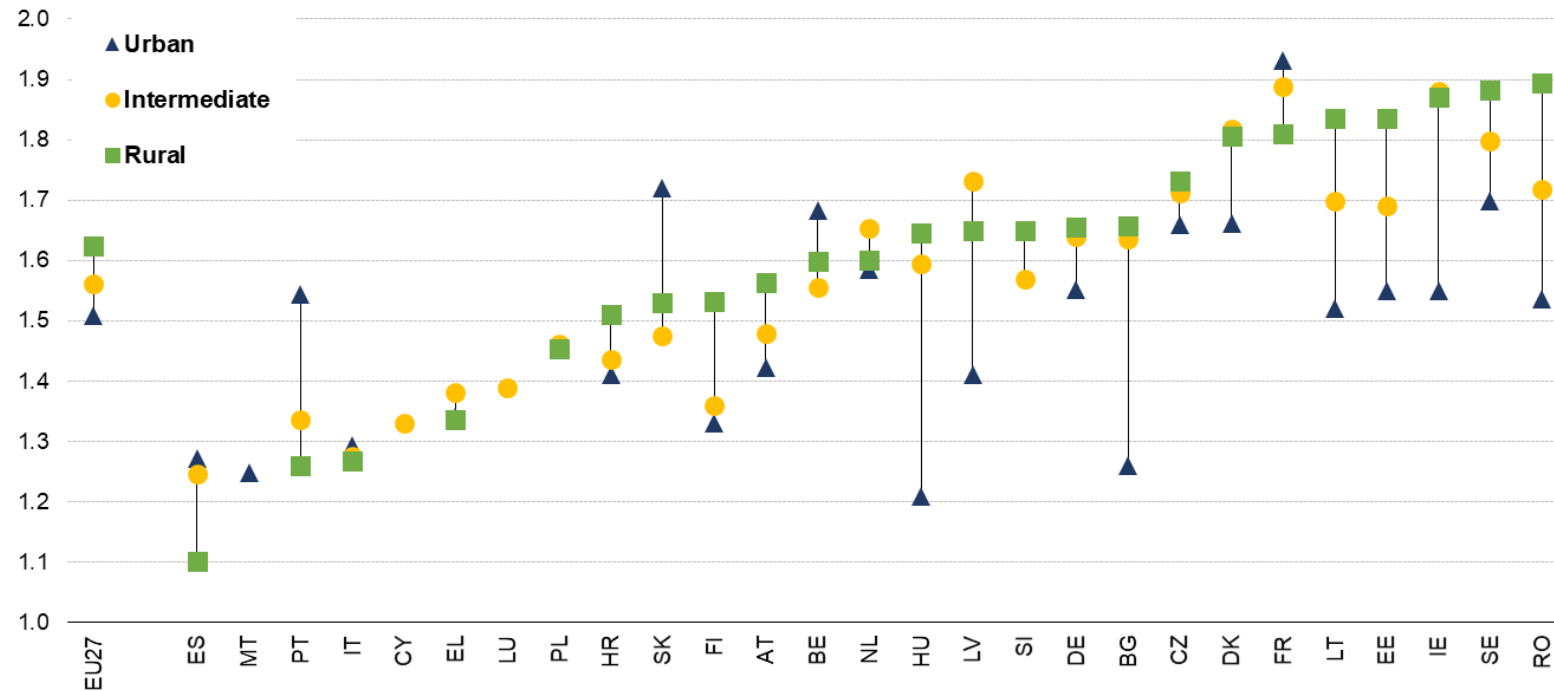
More people move to rural regions than out of rural regions



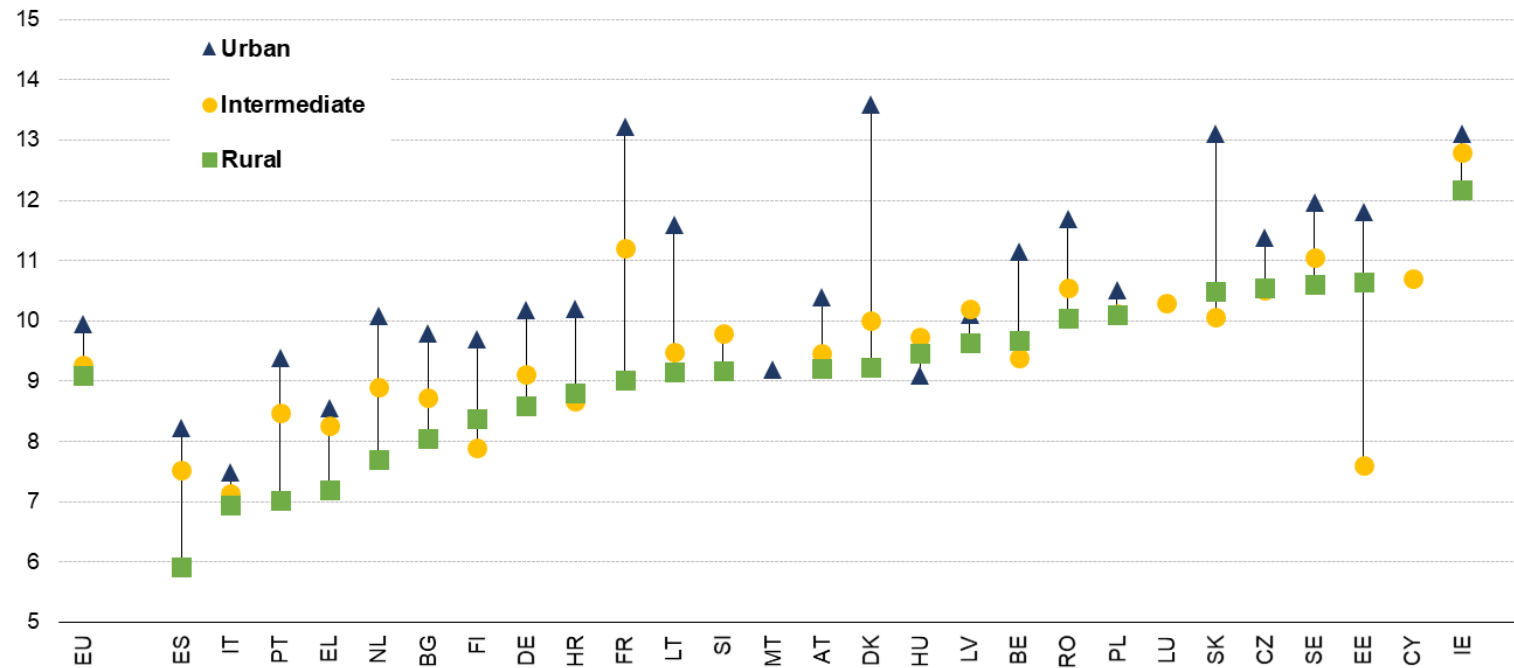
Migration favours by age with young adults the most mobile



Rural fertility rates are higher,...

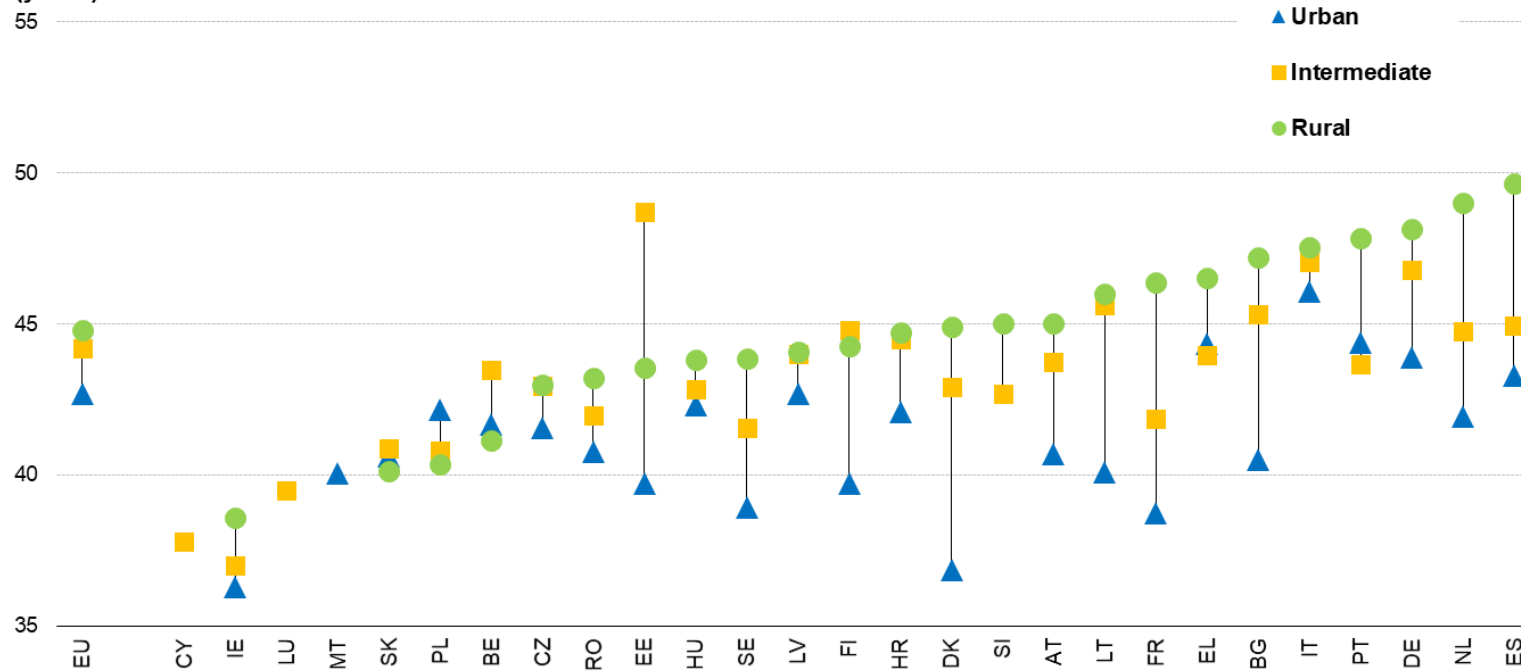


...but crude birth rates are lower



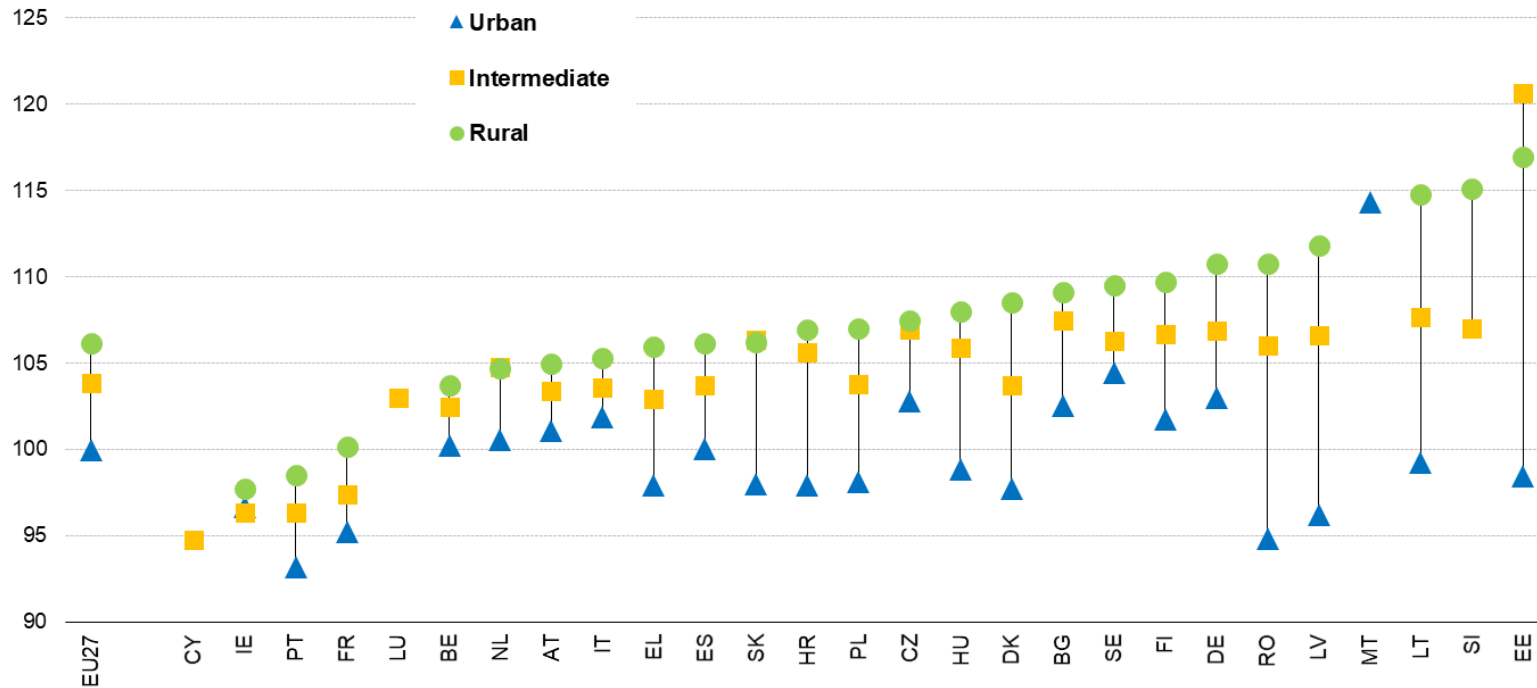
... because rural residents are older

Median age by urban-rural regional typology, 2019
(years)

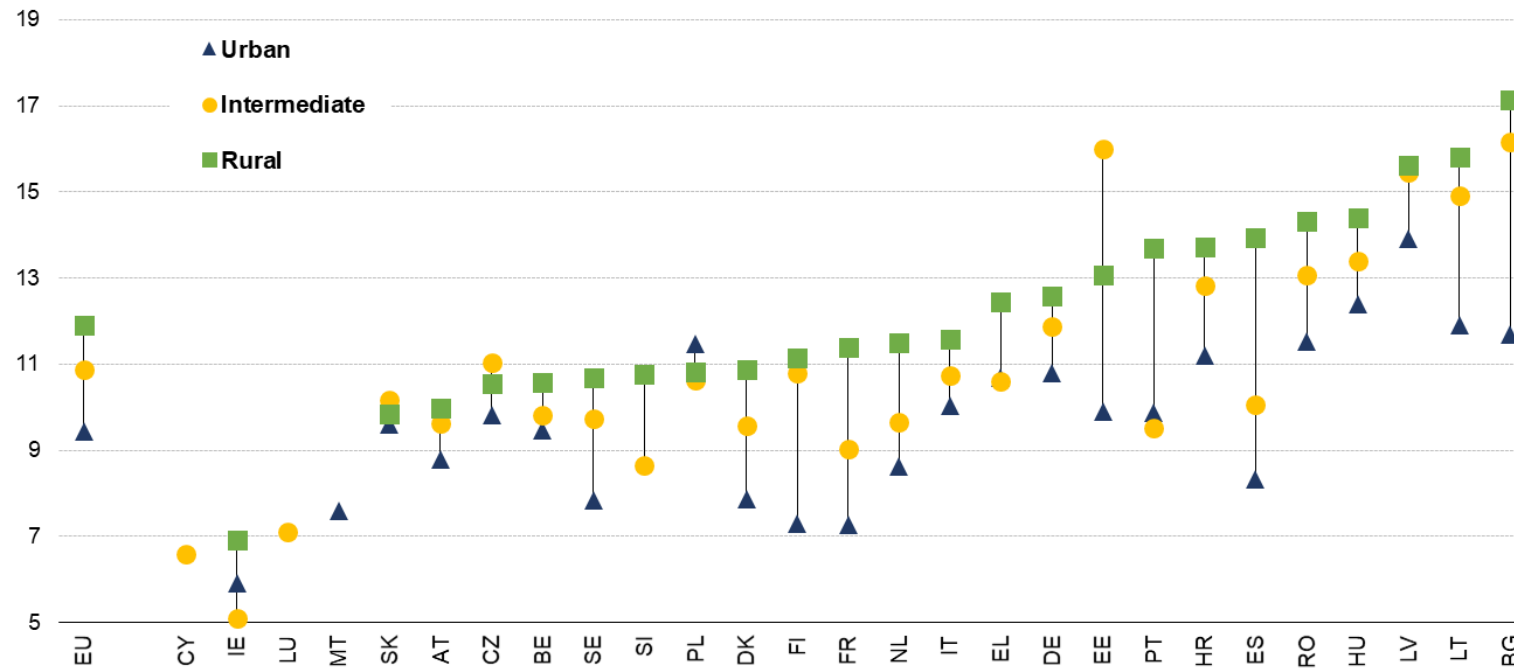


And more women (aged 20-44) move out of rural regions than men do

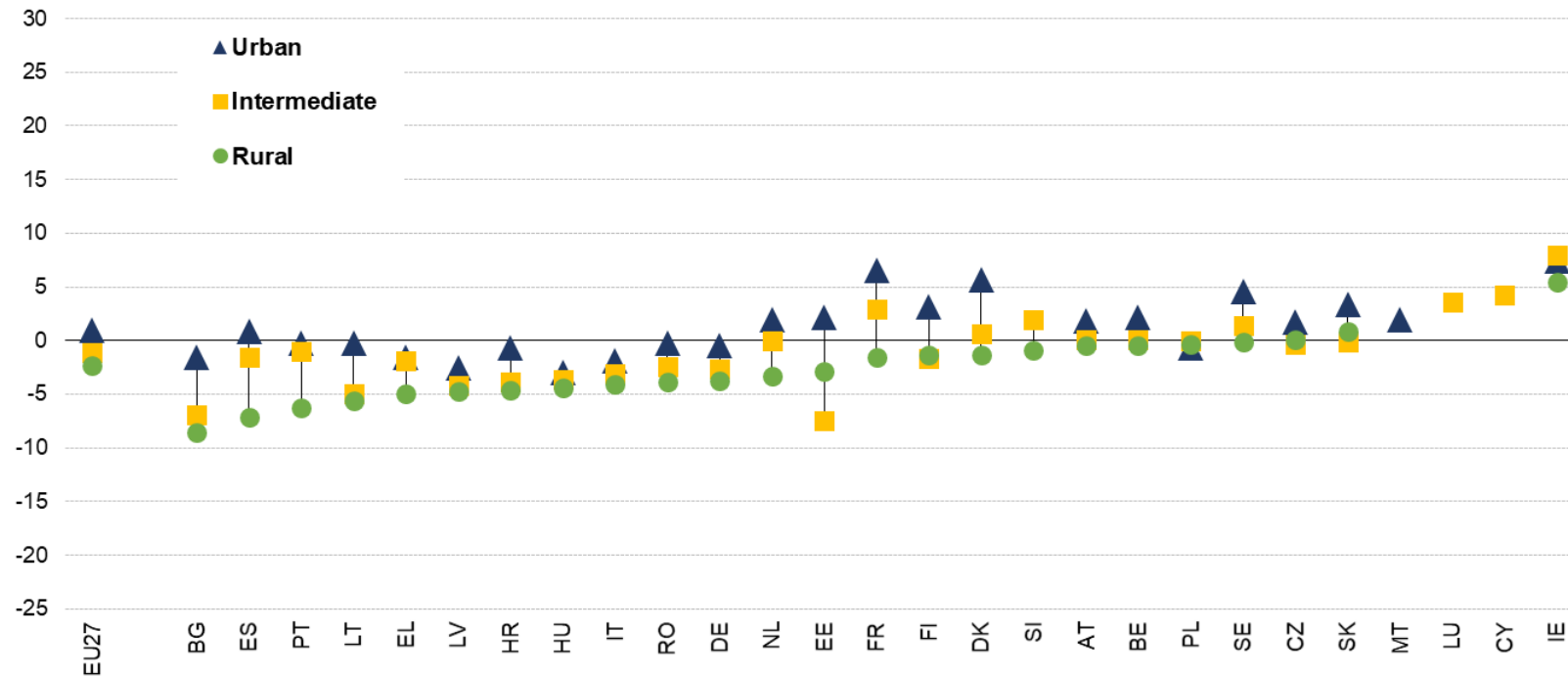
Men aged 20-44 per 100 women of that age by urban-rural regional typology, 2019 (years)



An older population also leads to a higher crude death rate

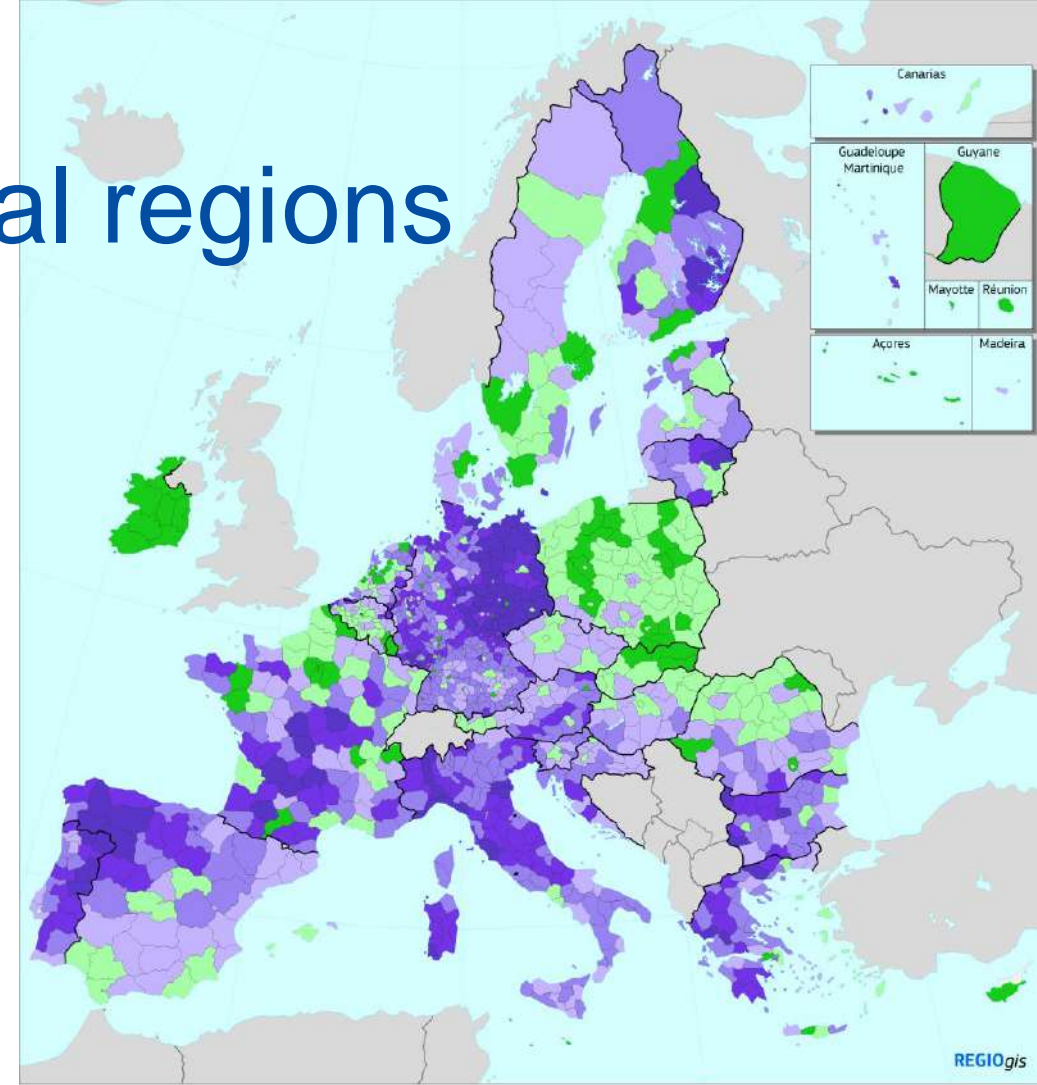


And negative natural change

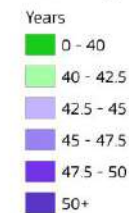


Demographic change in rural regions

- A slowly shrinking population in rural regions due to an older population
- Net migration into rural regions is positive, but lower than in urban regions
- Migration is age and sex specific, young adult (women) are more likely to move out of rural regions



Median age of population by NUTS3 region, 2019

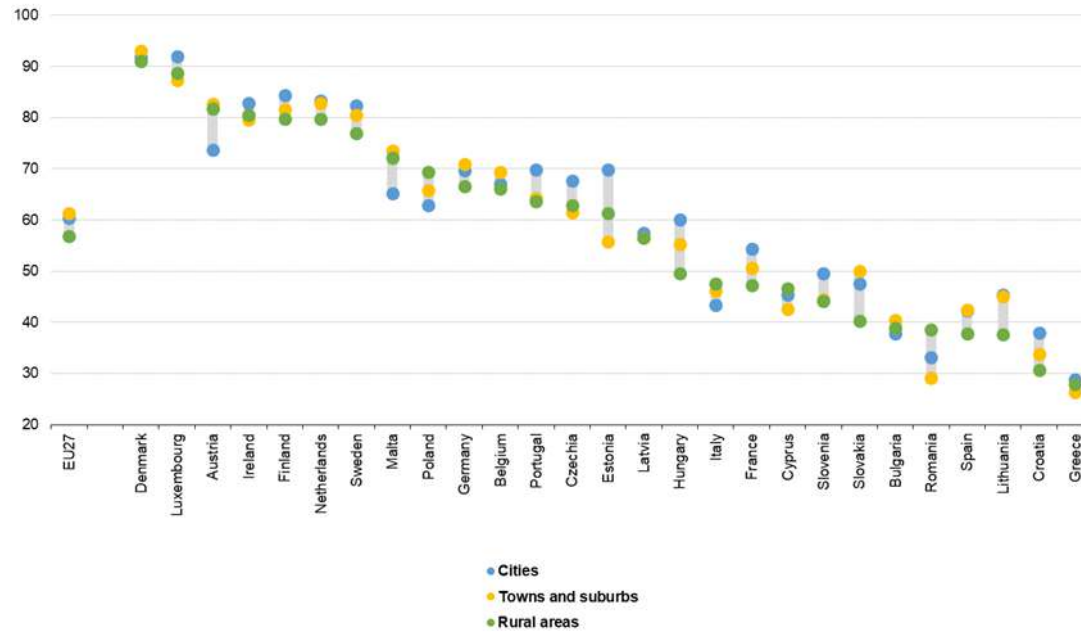


Source: Eurostat (demo_r_pjanind3)

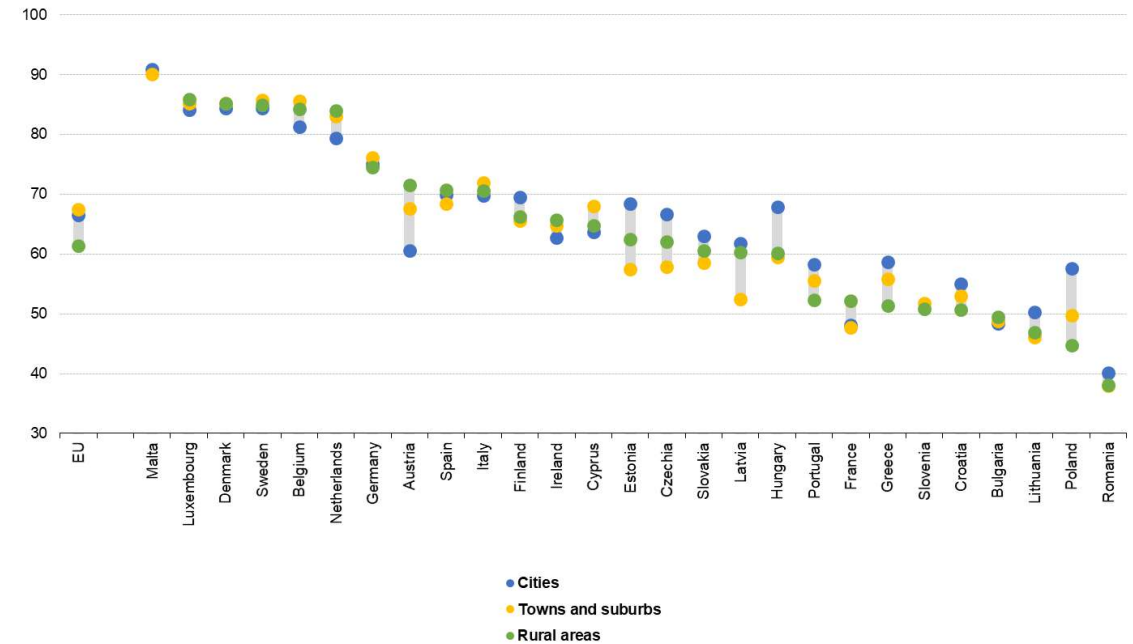
0 500 km

Rural residents are less satisfied with national democracy and less likely to vote

Proportion of population who is satisfied with national democracy, 2018-2019
(%, share of population aged 15 years or over, by degree of urbanisation)



Turnout in national election, 2013-2018
(%, as share of eligible voters, by degree of urbanisation)

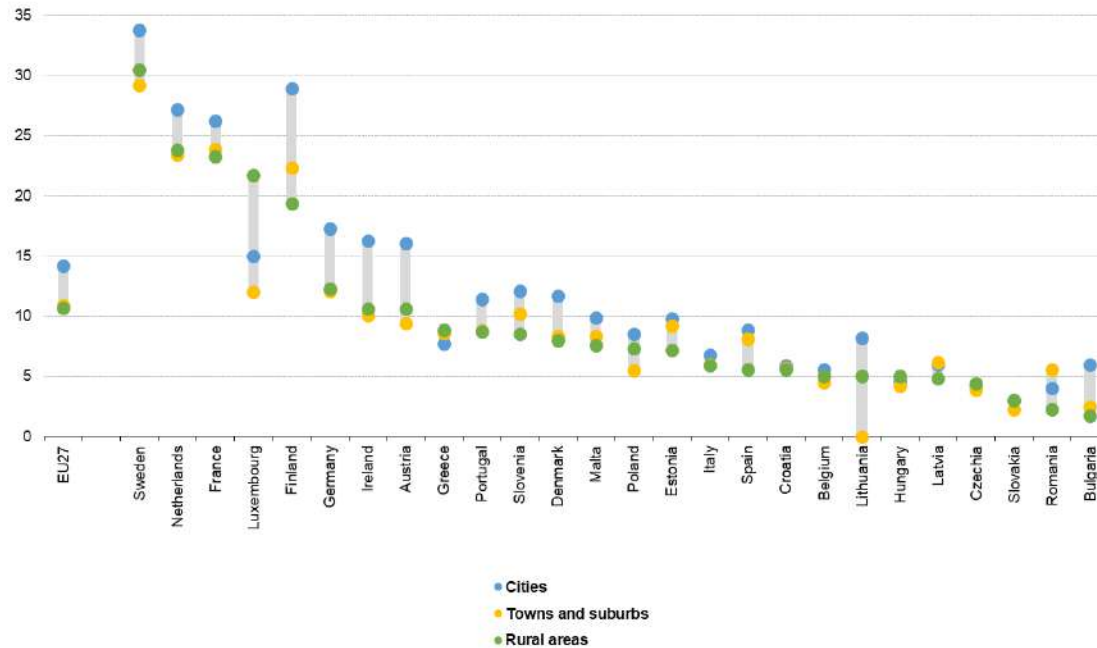


Satisfaction with national democracy

Turnout in national elections

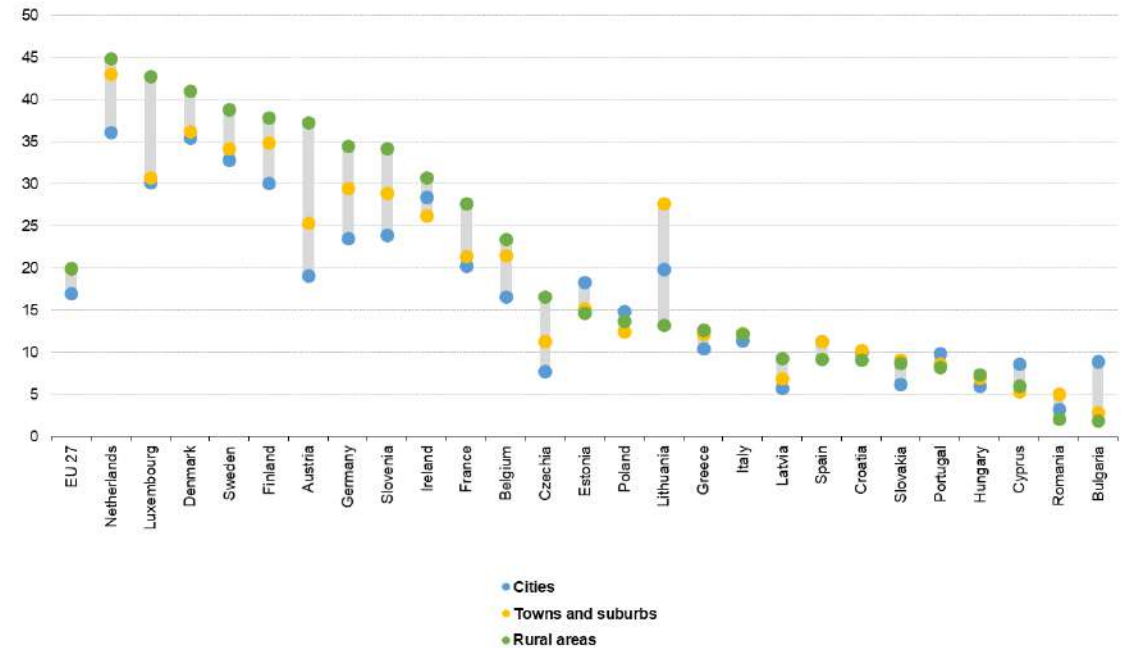
Rural residents are less likely to be active citizens, but more likely to volunteer

Proportion of population that were active citizens, 2015
(%, share of population, by degree of urbanisation)



Active citizens

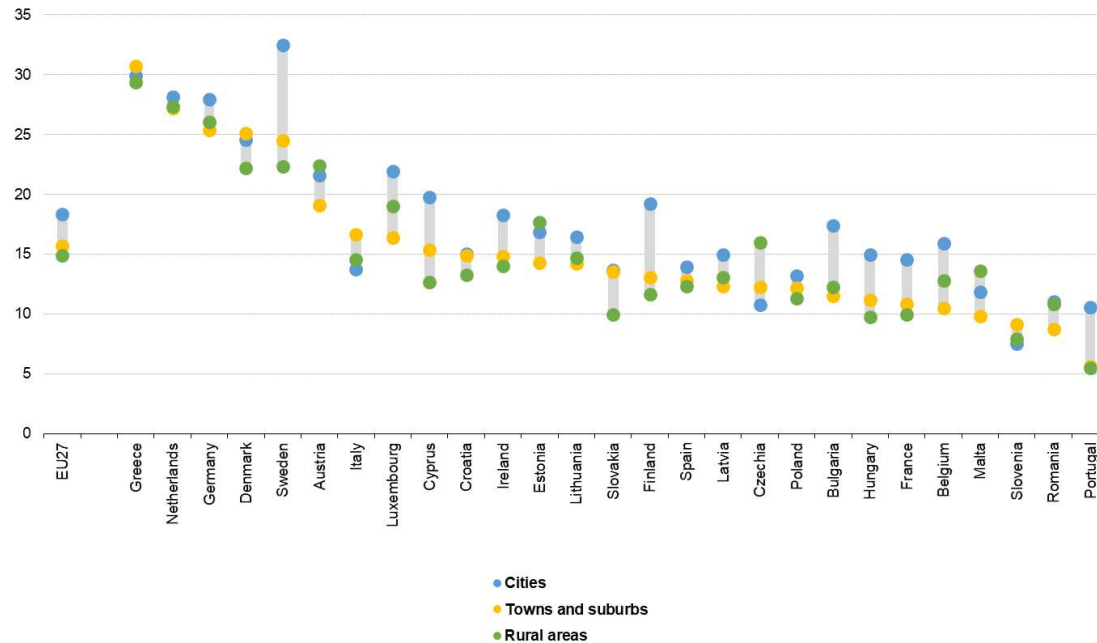
Proportion of population who participated in formal voluntary activity, 2015
(%, share of population, by degree of urbanisation)



Voluntary activities
(formal)

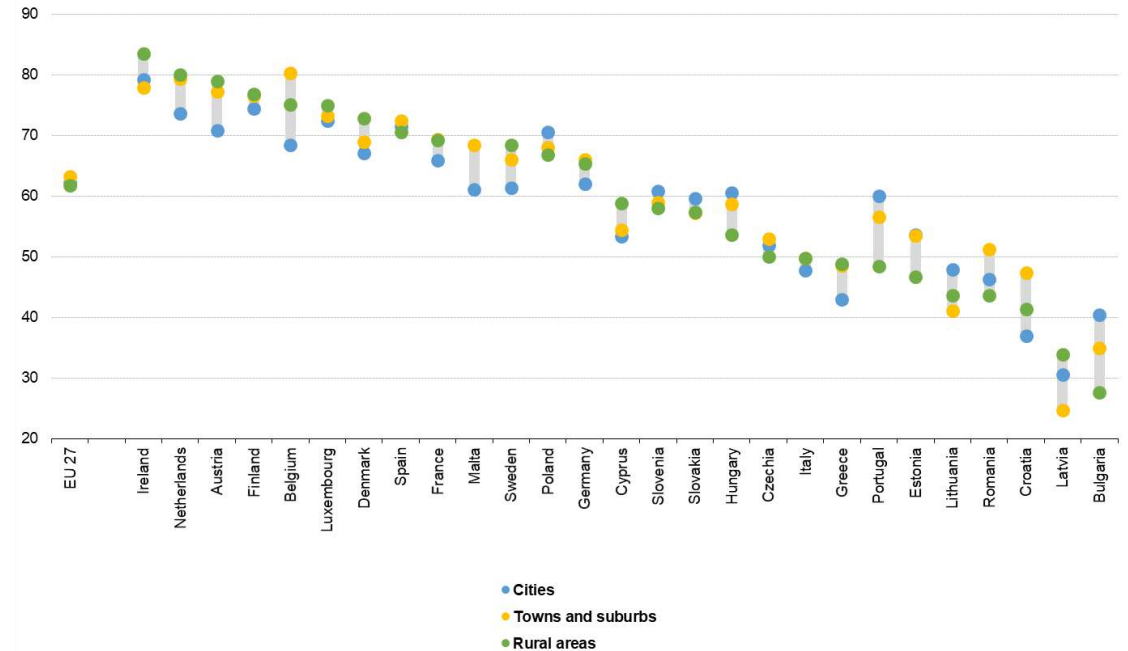
Rural residents are less likely to frequently talk about politics, but just as happy

Proportion of population who frequently talks about politics, 2018-2019
(%, share of population aged 15 years or over, by degree of urbanisation)



Frequently talks about politics

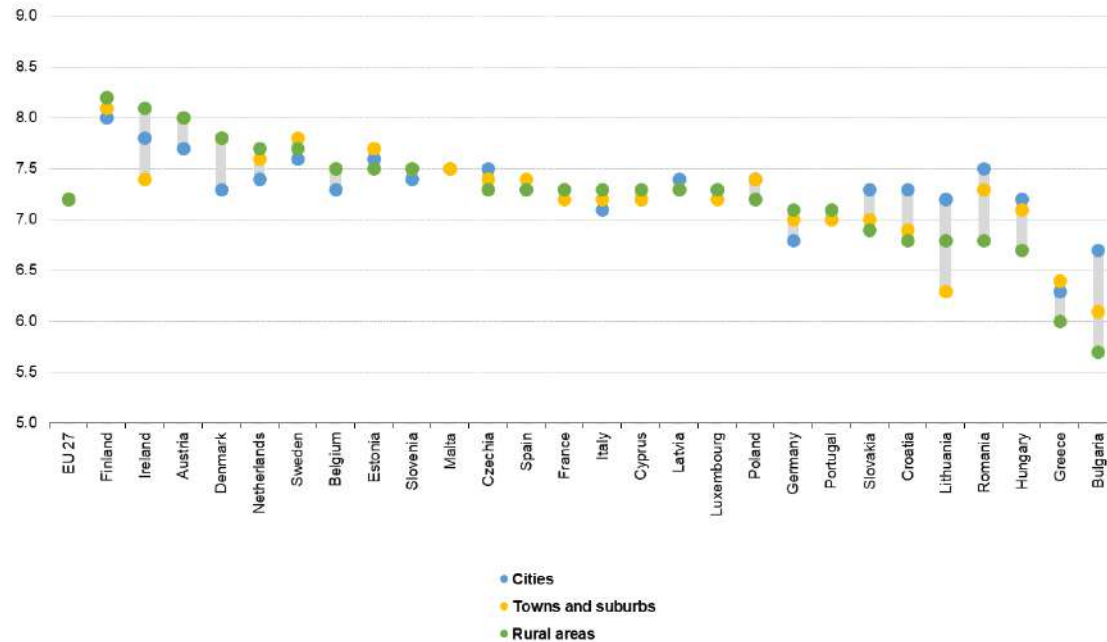
Proportion of population who was always happy or most of the time happy in the past 4 weeks, 2018
(%, share of population aged 15 years or over, by degree of urbanisation)



Happy during the past four weeks

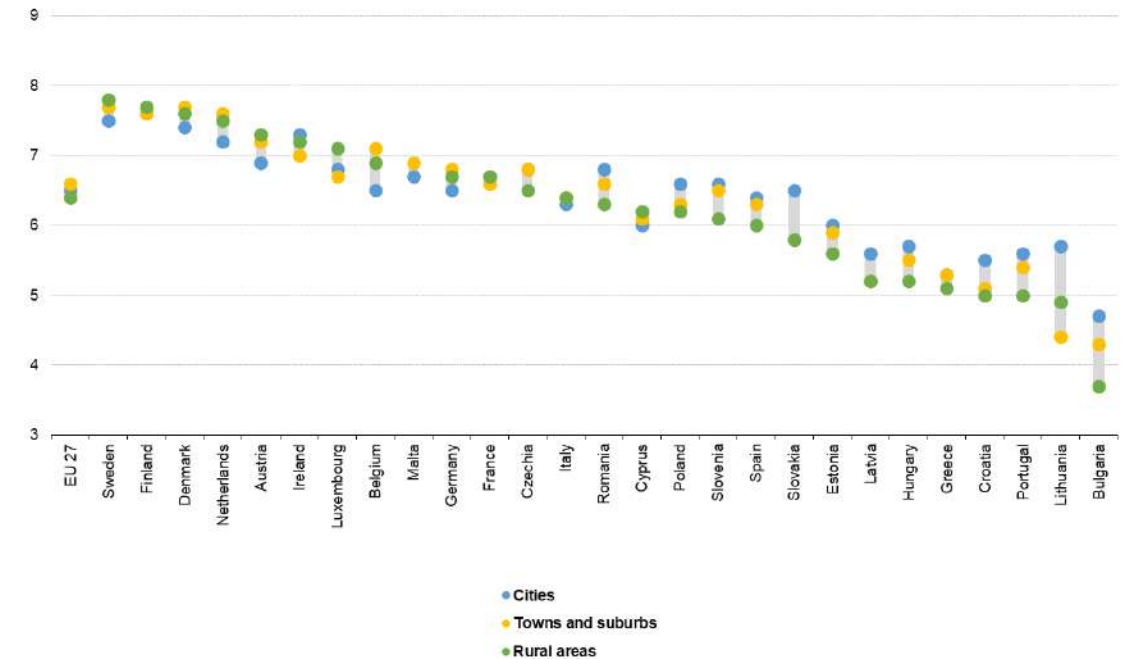
Rural advantage in MS with high satisfaction and rural disadvantages in MS with low

Average rating of job satisfaction, 2018
(ratings on a scale from 0 ("not satisfied at all") to 10 ("fully satisfied"), by degree of urbanisation)



Satisfaction with their job

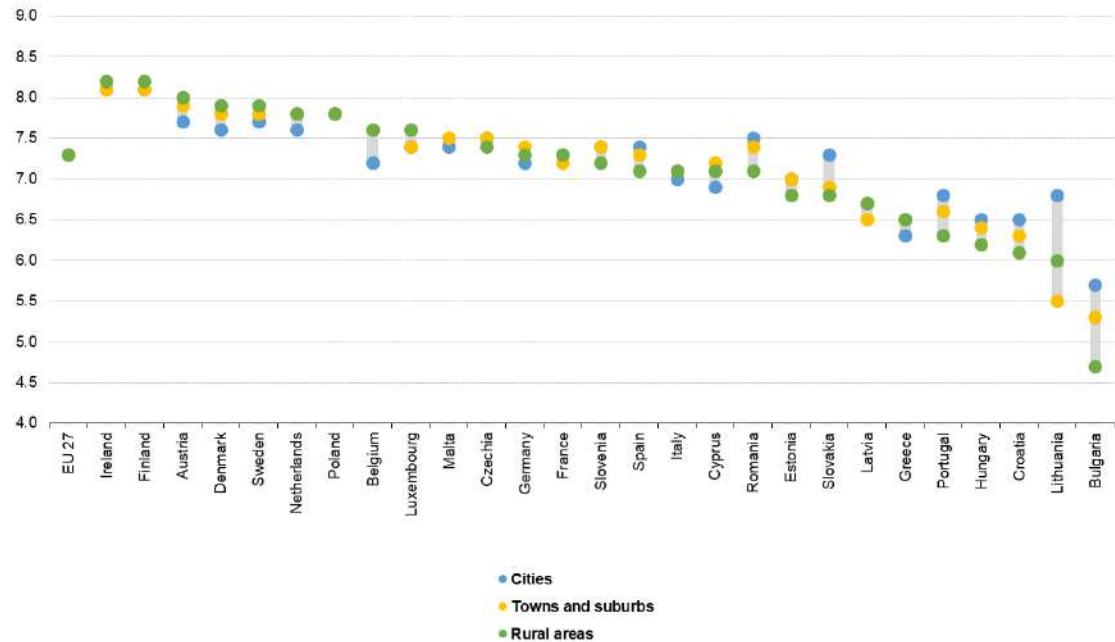
Average rating of satisfaction with financial situation, 2018
(ratings on a scale from 0 ("not satisfied at all") to 10 ("fully satisfied"), by degree of urbanisation)



Satisfaction with financial situation

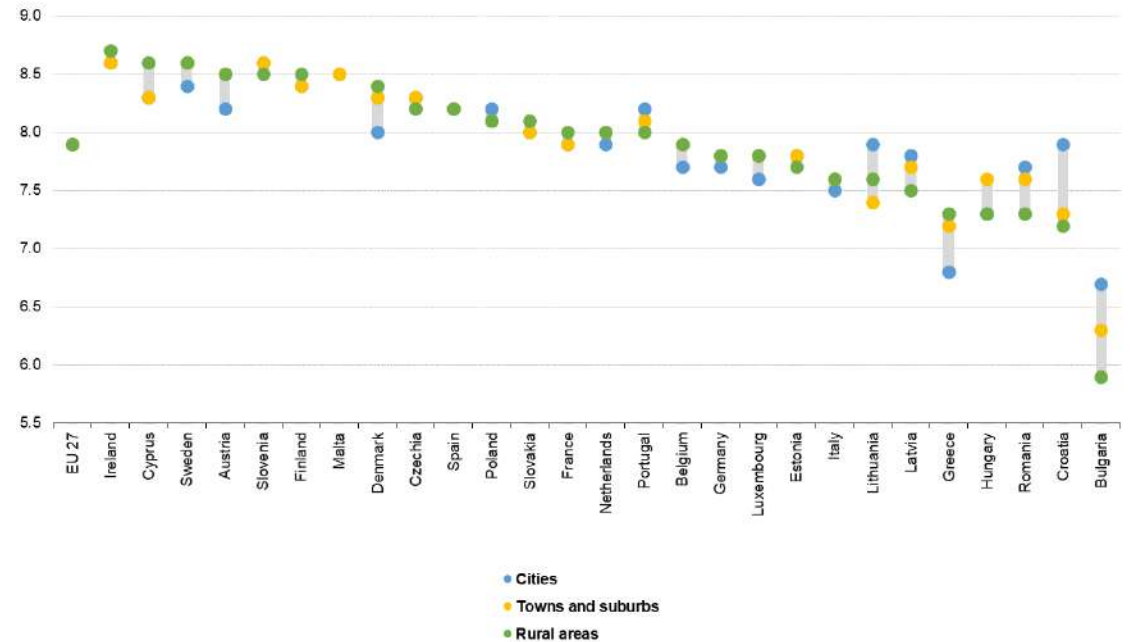
Rural advantage in MS with high satisfaction and rural disadvantages in MS with low

Average rating of overall life satisfaction, 2018
(ratings on a scale from 0 ("not satisfied at all") to 10 ("fully satisfied"), by degree of urbanisation)



Overall life satisfaction

Average rating of of satisfaction with personal relationships, 2018
(ratings on a scale from 0 ("not satisfied at all") to 10 ("fully satisfied"), by degree of urbanisation)



Satisfaction with personal relationships

Rural quality of life?

Disadvantage

- Active citizenship
- Turnout
- Trust in the national democracy
- Discussing politics

Neutral

- Income satisfaction
- Job satisfaction
- Life satisfaction
- Satisfaction with personal relationships
- Happiness

Advantage

- Volunteering

The urban-rural divide in anti-EU voting

Lewis Dijkstra*, Laura de Dominicis*, Nicola Pontarollo**

*European Commission, DG REGIO

**University of Brescia

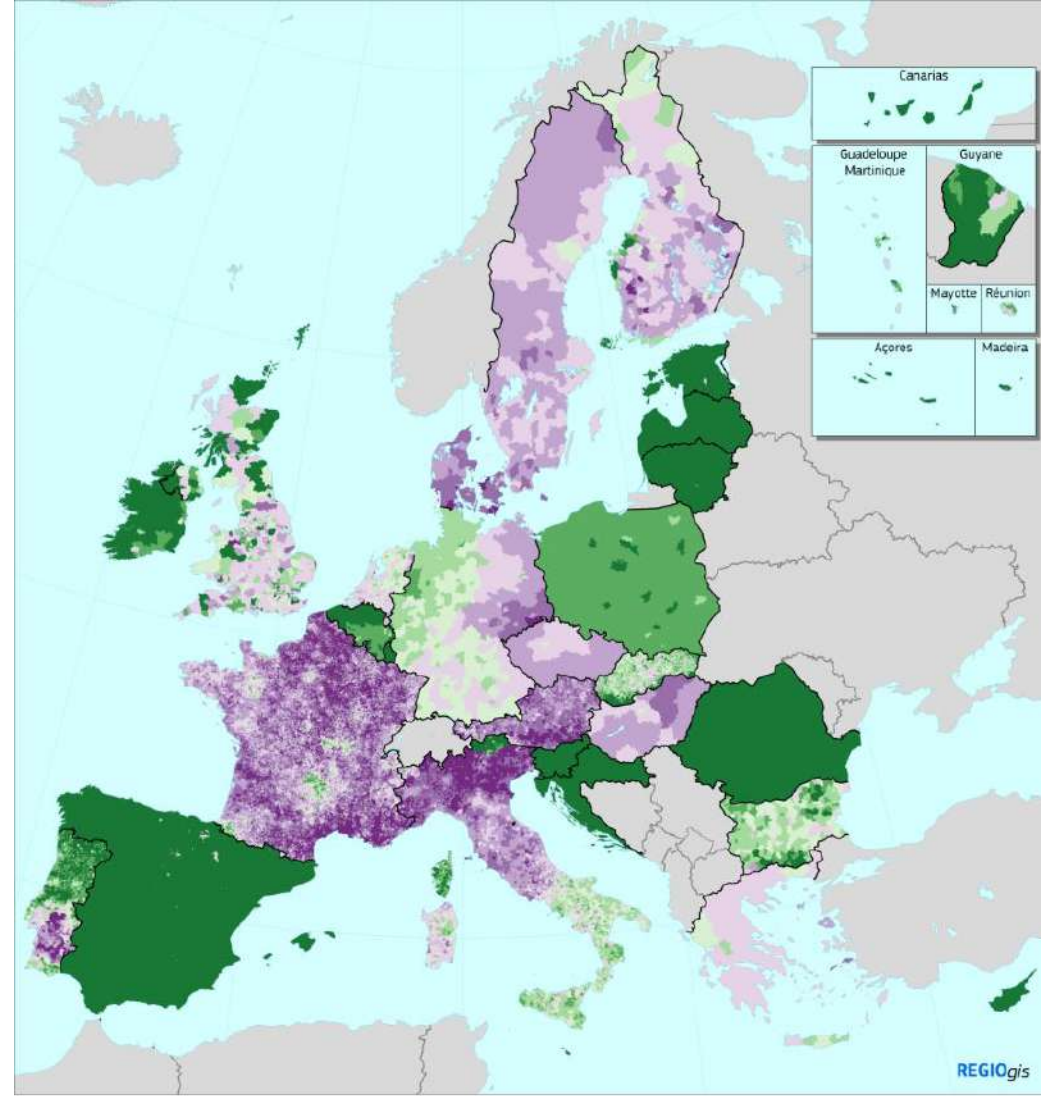
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/working-papers/2020/the-urban-rural-divide-in-anti-eu-vote-social-demographic-and-economic-factors-affecting-the-vote-for-parties-opposed-to-european-integration

Research questions

- Does anti-EU voting differ by degree of urbanisation?
- What are the drivers of anti-EU vote?
- Do the drivers have differentiated effect according to the degree of urbanization?

Anti-EU vote: definition

- national elections 2013-2018
- Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2014-2017 rates political parties between 0 (opposed to EU integration) and 7 (supports EU integration)
- Anti-EU vote = the share of votes for parties which are opposed and strongly opposed to European integration, i.e. score lower than 2.50.



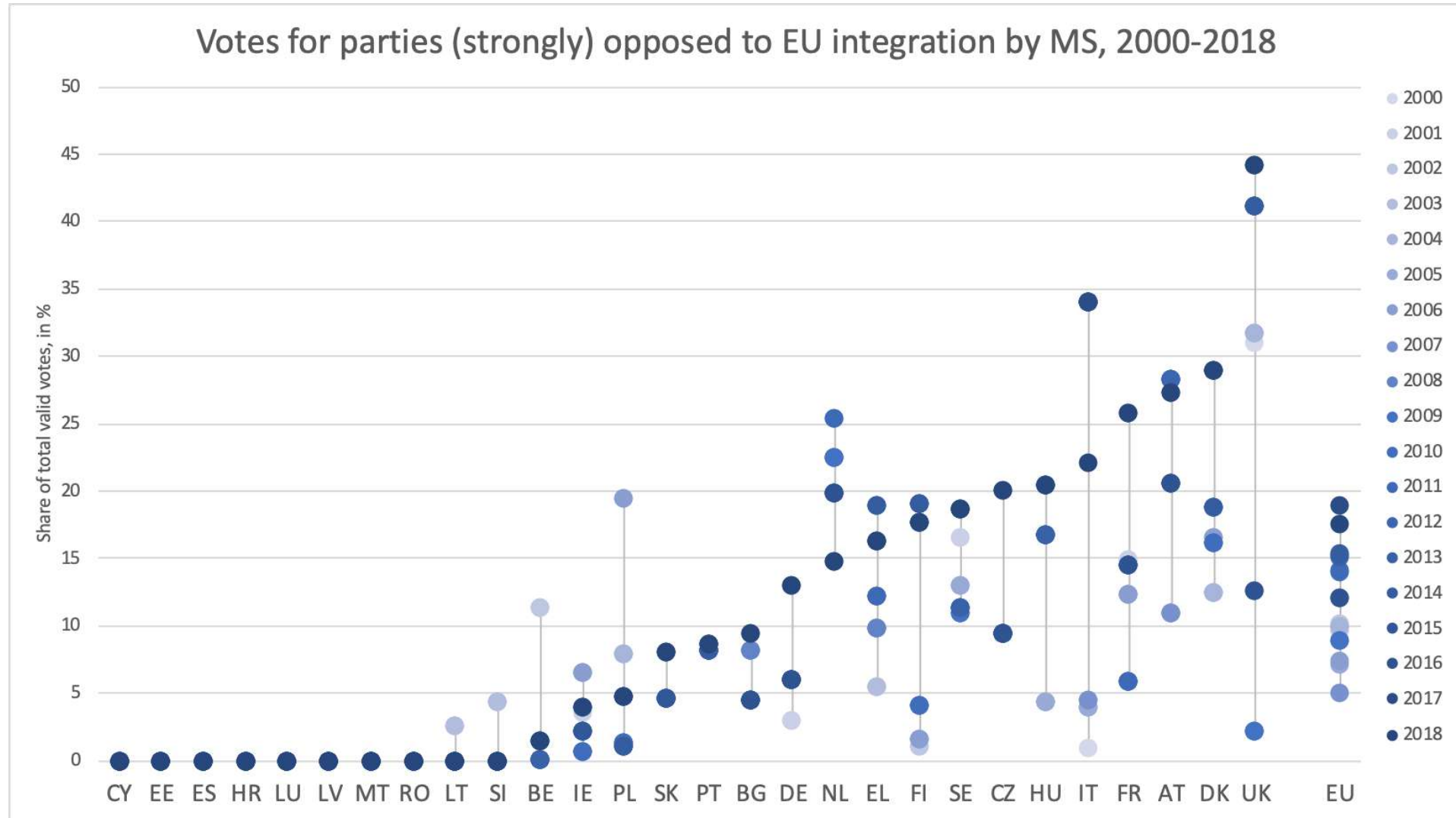
Minimum share of votes for parties (strongly) opposed to European integration, 2013-2018

% of valid votes	
0.0 - 3.0	13.5 - 20.0
3.1 - 6.5	20.1 - 27.0
6.6 - 10.0	27.1 - 35.0
10.1 - 13.4	35.1 - 100.0

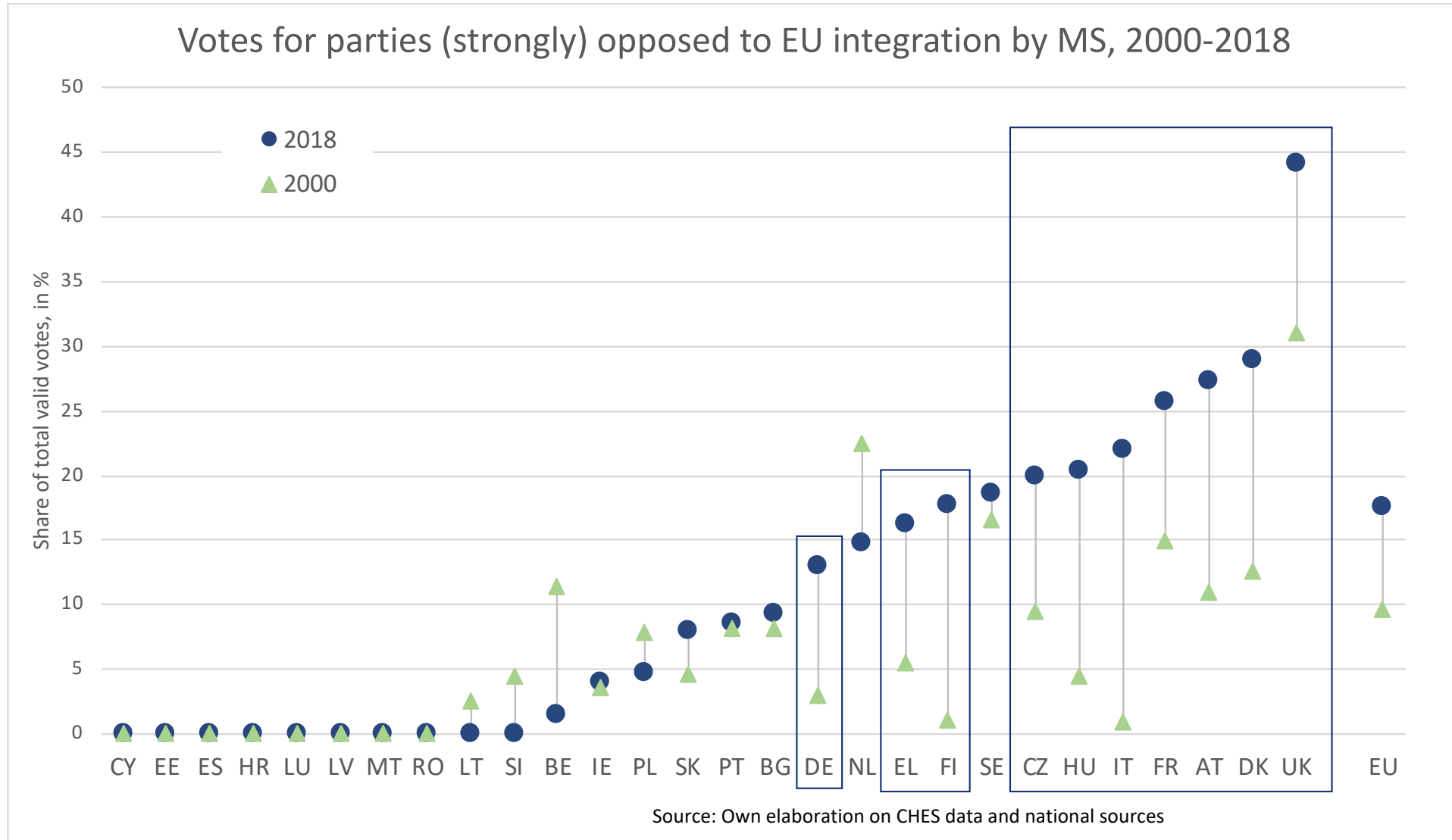
Sources: national authorities, CLEA, Chapel Hill Expert Surveys 2014 and 2017, EuroGeographics, DG REGIO
Election years:
2018: IT
2017: BG, CZ, DE, FR, MT, NL, AT
2016: IE, ES, HR, CY, LT, RO, SK
2015: DK, EE, EL, PL, PT, FI, UK
2014: BE, LV, HU, SI, SE
2013: LU
EU-28 average = 13.4%

0 500km

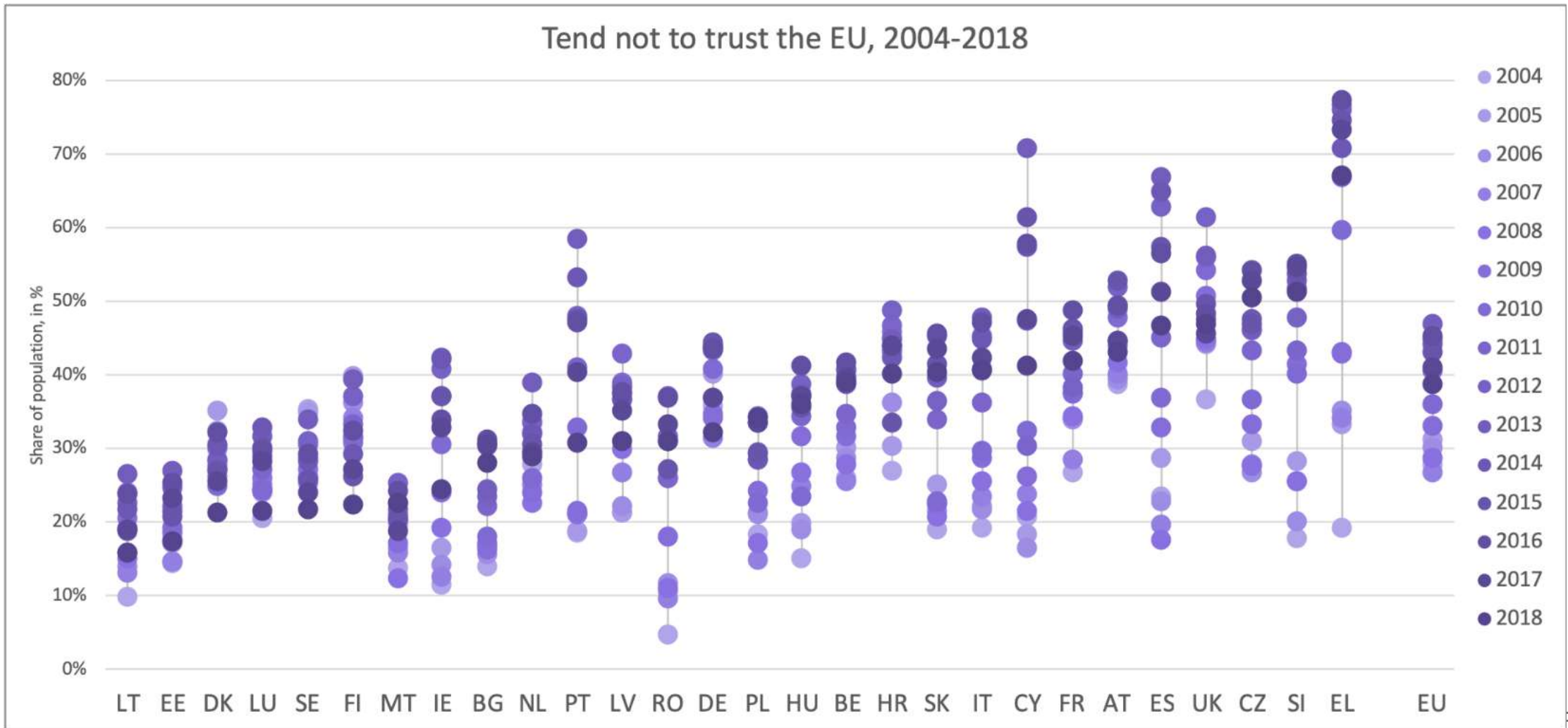
Voting against the EU, 2000-2018



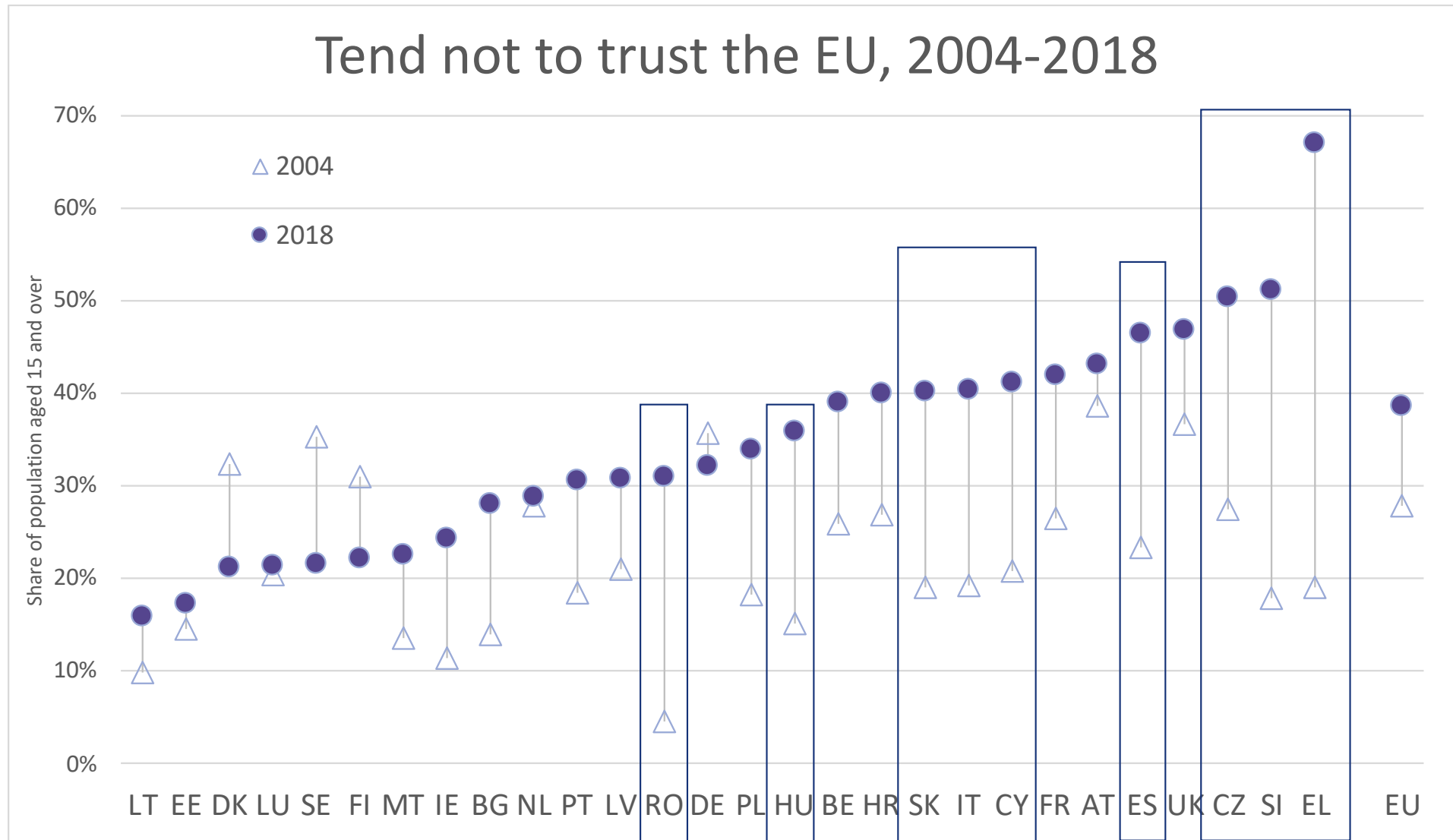
Increases over 10 pp in 10 MS



Trust in the EU declines, 2004-2018



In 9 MS, distrust up by more than 20pp, In 18 MS by more than 10pp

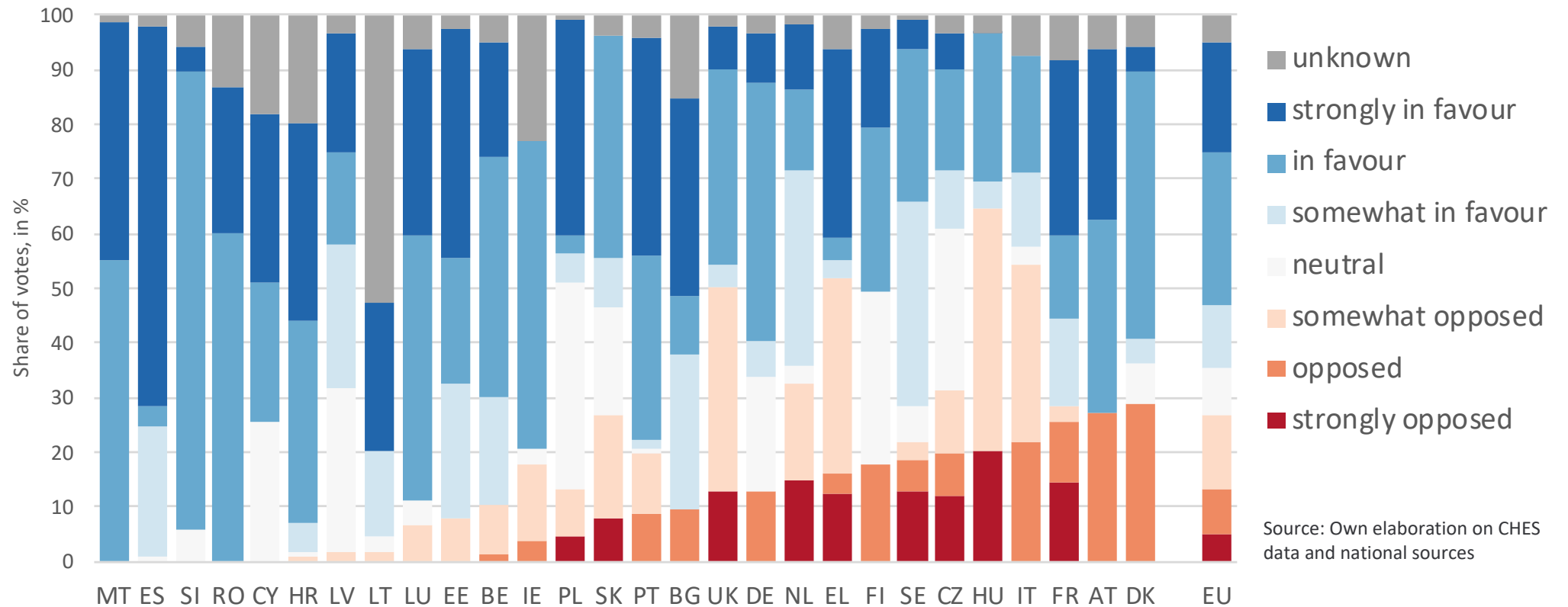


What voting data have we collected

- Votes in 63,406 constituencies in all EU-28 member states from national sources and CLEA
- The boundaries of the spatial units
 - In 13 MS, municipal boundaries or smaller units
 - In 10 MS, constituency boundaries
 - In 5 MS, NUTS-3 regions
- Involved a network of political science experts
- Matching data with boundaries took a lot of time

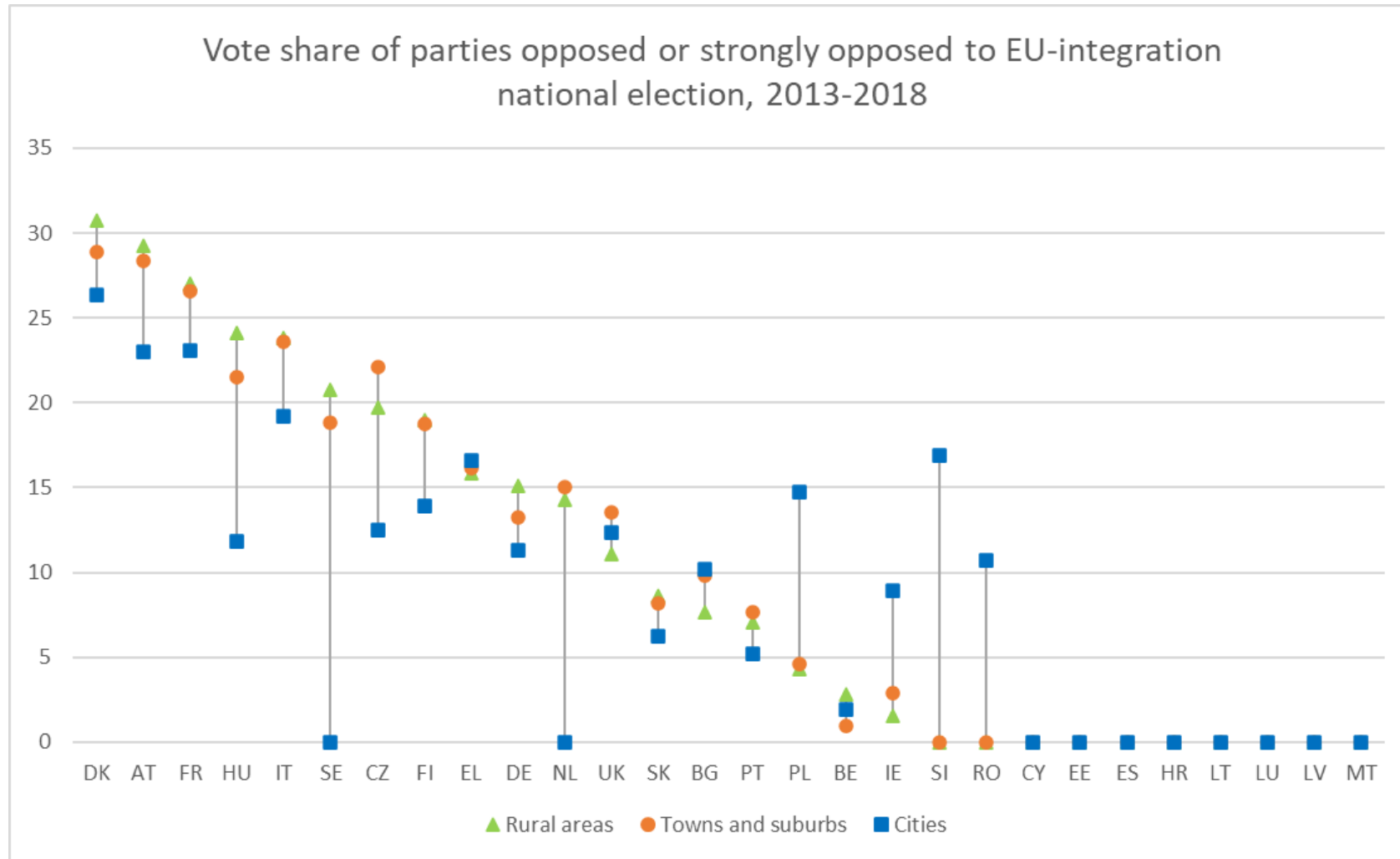
One in four voted for a party that (somewhat) opposes EU integration

Votes per country by party position on EU integration, national elections 2014-2018

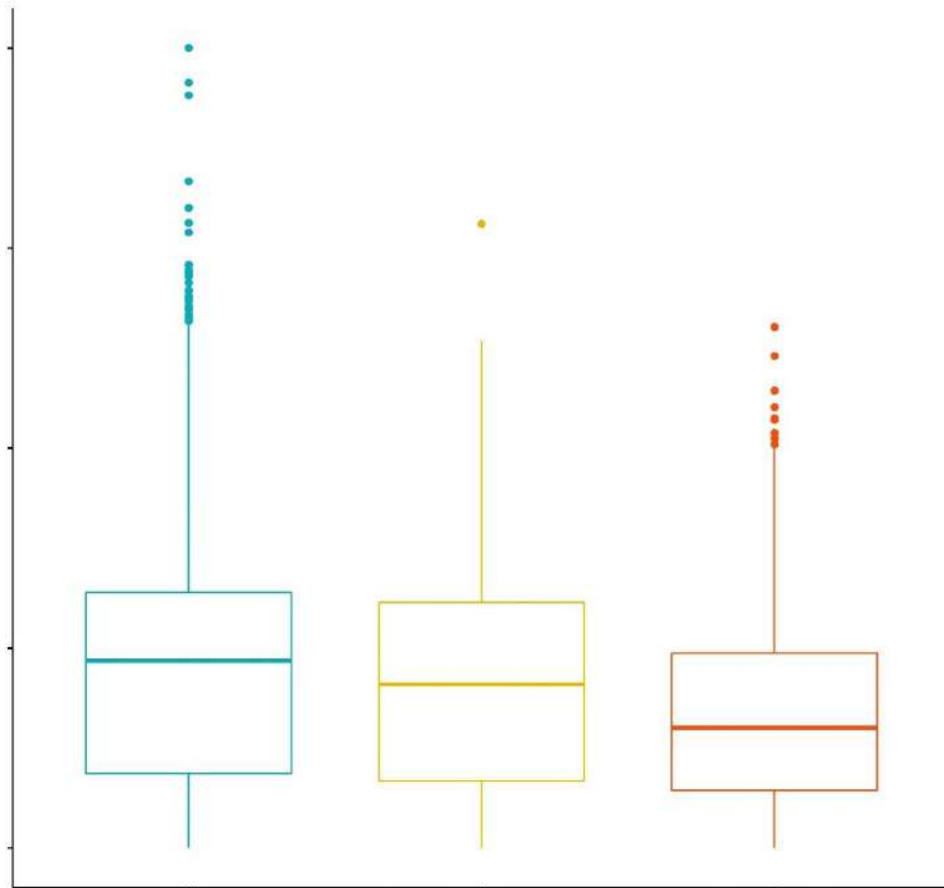


Source: Own elaboration on CHES data and national sources

Anti-EU vote by degree of urbanization



Anti-EU vote by degree of urbanization



- In cities, the support for anti-EU parties is around 5.5 percentage points lower than in rural areas
- In towns and suburbs, the support for anti-EU parties is around 1.3 percentage points lower than in rural areas
- The difference between cities and towns and suburbs corresponds to 4.1 percentage points

Type of area	difference
Towns and suburbs vs. rural areas	-1.32***
Cities vs. rural areas	-5.45***
Cities vs. towns and suburbs	-4.13***

What might be the drivers?

We correlate the share of votes for anti-EU parties with a set of potential explanatory variables distinguishing by degree of urbanization.

- GDP per capita and GDP per capita growth
- Unemployment rate and unemployment growth
- Age structure
- Tertiary education
- Population-weighted density, i.e. density in the neighborhoods
- Share of population born in a different EU Country and share of population born outside EU
- Road performance
- Turnout

Results

	cities	Town and suburbs	Rural areas
GDP per capita (N3)	0	0	0
GDP per capita growth (N3)	0	0	+
Unempl. Rate 2015 (N2)	--	-	0
Growth unempl. Rate 2002-2014	+	+	+
Born in diff. EU country	0	-	--
Born outside EU (share, N3)	+	++	+++
Pop. aged 20-39 (share, N3)	0	--	-
Pop. aged 40-64 (share, N3)	0	+	0
Pop. aged 65+ (share, N3)	+	0	0
Tertiary edu. (share, N2)	0	-	-
weighted population density	-	-	-
Road performance (1H5)	+++	++	+
Turnout	---	--	-
Share_no_ches	-	-	-

Unemployment growth increases Euroscepticism everywhere

The share of people born different EU country negatively impact anti-EU vote, in particular in rural areas

On the contrary, a higher share of people born outside EU increases Euroscepticism

Youngers vote less anti-EU parties



Results vary according to the degree of urbanization

Better infrastructures might restore the confidence governments' ability to govern, decreasing, the need of a stronger EU

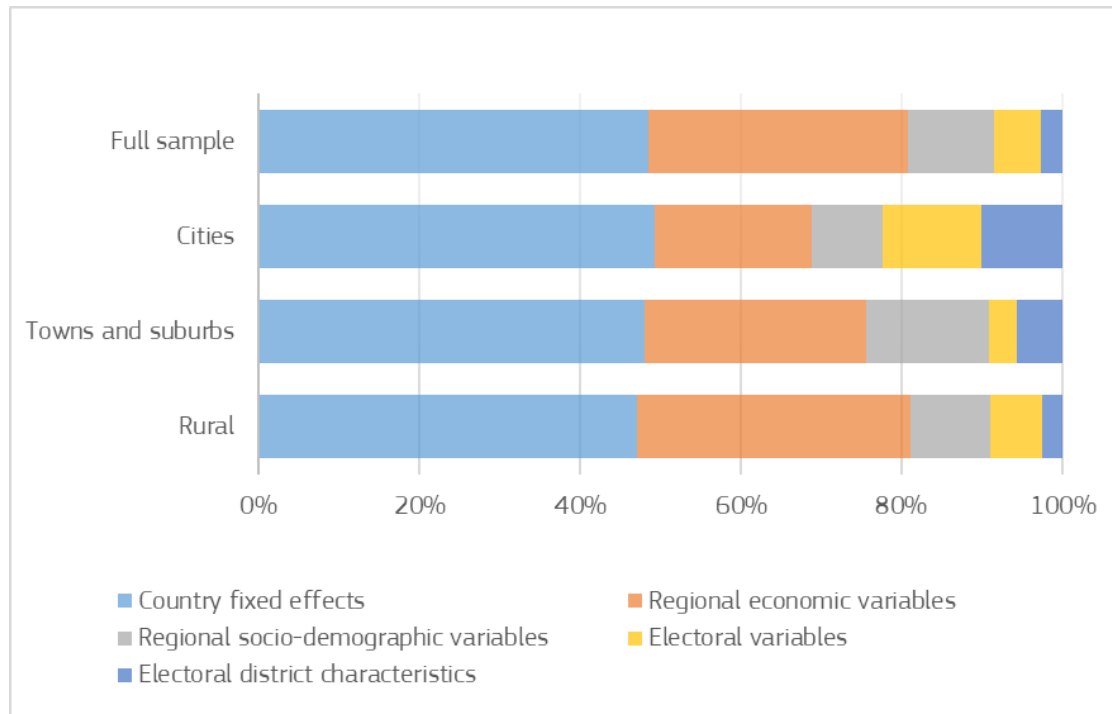
Where people vote more, support for anti-EU parties decreases

Summarising the impact

	Regional economic variables		Regional socio-demographic variables						Electoral district characteristics		Electoral variables
	Declining GDP	Increasing unemployment	Higher share of tertiary educated	Higher share of migrants		Higher share of population aged			Better road performance	Higher neighbourhood density	Higher turnout
				Born in the EU	Born outside the EU	20-39	40-64	65+			
Cities		↑			↑			↑	↑	↓	↓
Towns and suburbs		↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑		↑	↓	↓
Rural areas	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑		↑	↓	↓

 Increases
 Decreases
 } Anti-EU vote

What explains the anti-EU vote?



- Biggest impact is from the country effect
- Second biggest effect is:
 - Economic variables in rural areas
 - Socio-demographic in towns and suburbs
 - Electoral variables in cities

Conclusions: Socio demographic drivers part 1

- Higher education is inversely correlated to vote for Eurosceptic parties
- A high share of young people is negatively correlated to anti EU vote
- A high share of older people is positively correlated to anti EU vote
- In cities, the share younger and middle ages does not have an impact on support for Eurosceptic parties
- In rural areas, only the share younger have a (negative) impact on support for anti EU parties

Conclusions: Socio demographic drivers part 2

- In multicultural context, where there is a high share of people from other EU countries, a lower vote for anti EU parties is observed. This is observed, in particular, for rural areas
- In contrast, where the share of people from countries outside the EU is higher, there is a higher vote for anti EU parties, again, in particular, for rural areas
- Turnout in all cases decreases vote against EU

Conclusions: Economic drivers

- Rising unemployment increases support for anti-EU parties, in particular in cities and in town and suburbs
- GDP per capita has no effects on vote for anti-EU parties
- Weighted population density, i.e. density in the neighborhoods, decreases support for anti-EU parties
- Better infrastructures are negatively correlated to anti-EU vote (we don't really need the EU?)

Thank you



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