



GRANULAR

Rural Observatory: let's look into data on rural areas (and find stories)

Carla Lostrangio

AEIDL- European Association for Innovation in Local Development

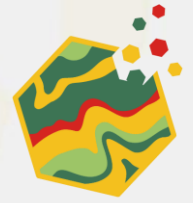
03 June 2023

Mechelen, Belgium

GRANULAR has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101061068. UK participants in the GRANULAR project are supported by UKRI- Grant numbers 10039965 (James Hutton Institute) and 10041831 (University of Southampton). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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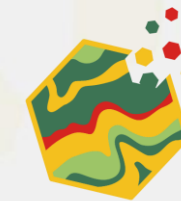
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WHY SHOULD YOU LISTEN?

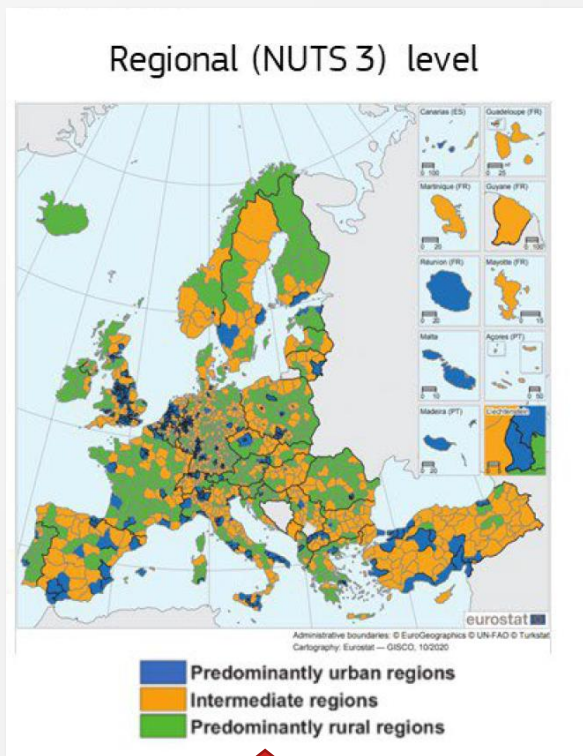


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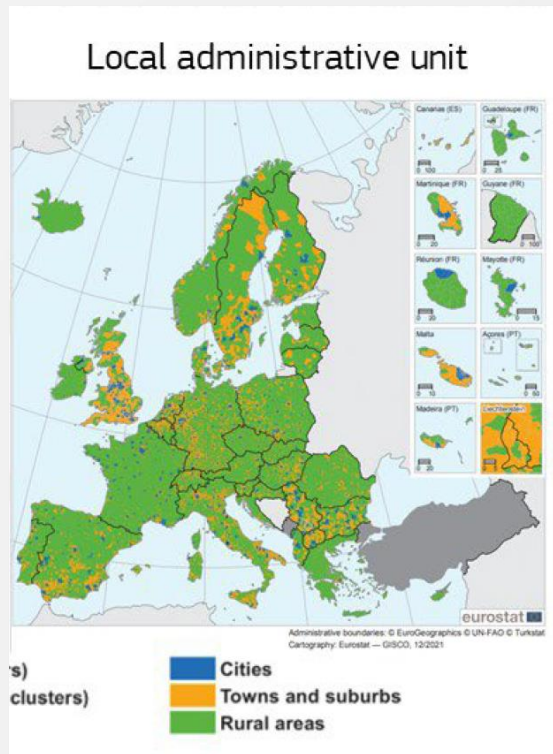
EUROPE IS RURAL



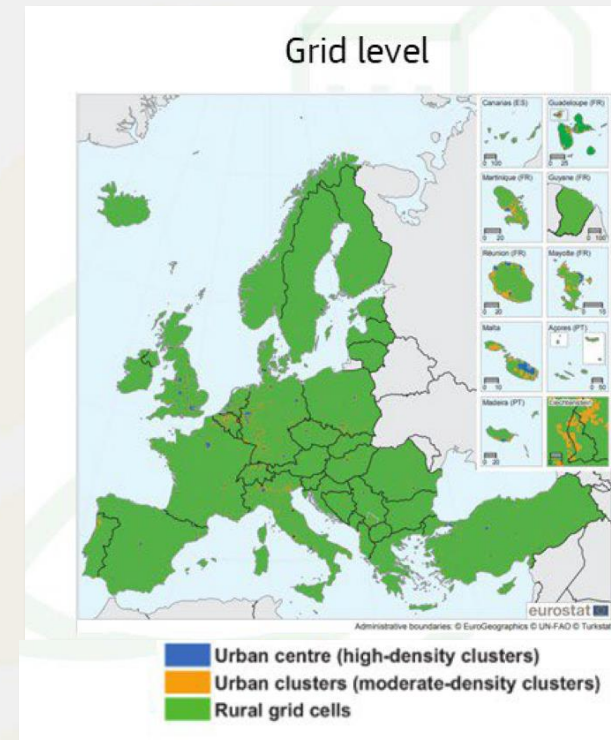
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Rural surface: 44,6%
Rural Population: 20,9%



Rural surface: 83%
Rural Population: 30,6%



?



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POLITICAL AND CULTURAL MOMENTUM



“Rural areas are the fabric of our society and the heartbeat of our economy. They are a core part of our identity and our economic potential. We will cherish and preserve our rural areas and invest in their future.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



The geography of EU discontent

Hugo Poelman, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Lewis Dijkstra / 7 Dec 2019

Support for Eurosceptic parties and the rise of populism threaten not only European integration, but peace and prosperity on the continent more broadly.

EspañaVACIADA

EXISTE ^{31M}

#EspañaVACIADA

31M



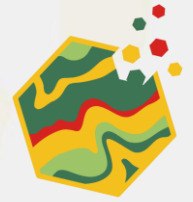
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Travel > Europe > Italy

Italy's one euro houses: who can buy one and how does it work?

Spoiler alert: the whole project will cost you a little more more than €1

RURAL EUROPE: A NEWS DESERT?



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Cronache Cultura Montagna Pubblicazioni Società Testimonianze

L'AMARO TRAMONTO DEI GIORNALI DI MONTAGNA

28/01/2022

Ve ne eravate accorti? Quelli che raccontano la montagna sui giornali a larga diffusione e ne parlano e scrivono non hanno più tribune giornalistiche e nessuno o quasi li invita a quelle televisive. La verità è che la montagna attira e offre infinite occasioni di approfondimenti ma non va più d'accordo con la carta stampata. Del resto, le edicole nelle città spariscono e l'unica pubblicazione specializzata "laica" che cerca di farsi largo in questo deserto è il bellissimo "Meridiani Montagne" della Domus con le sue firme illustri e con Paolo Paci al comando.



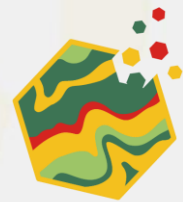
What are "news deserts" in Europe?

2023-03-23

Developing a definition for the scope of the "Local Media for Democracy" project



Co-funded by the European Union

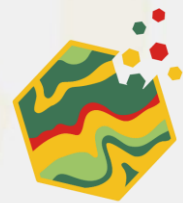


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WHAT TO EXPECT?



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1

Databases

2

Potential stories/
investigations

3

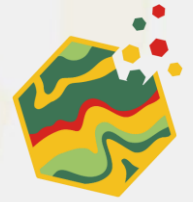
Discuss & find
peers



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1. DATABASES

EU Rural Observatory



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- Collect & produce indicators to analyse rural areas
- Gather all data in a single platform with full EU coverage + ensuring compatibility
- Elaborate analytical papers
- Integrate contributions from external stakeholders & experts

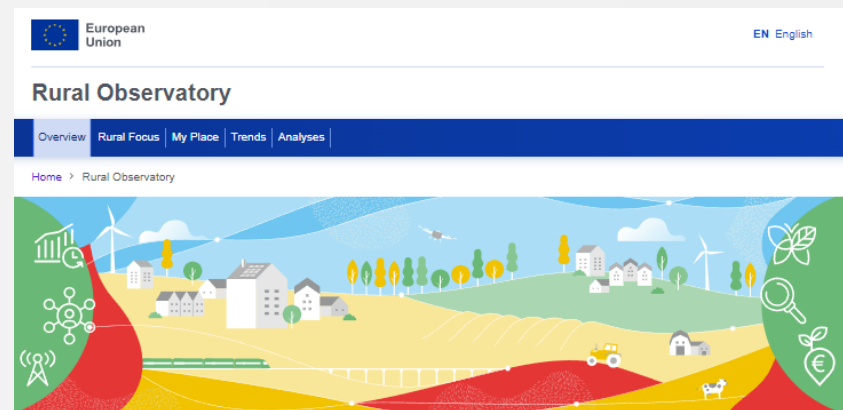


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1. DATABASES

EU Rural Observatory

Interactive tools



The Rural Observatory supports the knowledge production and aims at improving data collection and dissemination related to EU rural areas. It offers relevant statistics, indicators and analyses based on data from multiple sources and at the most appropriate territorial granularity, covering the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The Observatory contributes to a better understanding of rural areas and it represents an important source of information for "rural proofing", to evaluate and assess the impact of EU legislative initiatives on rural areas, and providing evidence for policy making in relation to rural areas development.

Rural Focus

"Rural Focus" shows how areas that are classified as "rural" in each country compare with those classified as "urban" or "intermediate". Where available, data take into account also the concept of remoteness, defined as the driving time to an urban centre exceeding 45 minutes.

Employment rate

My Place

"My Place" offers a 360 degrees overview of any place, be it a region, sub-region, district or municipality. Select your place of interest and discover how it compares to other places in the EU (please note that the widest range of indicators is available at the regional - NUTS2 - level).

Trends

"Trends" offers an easy way to compare, for a specific indicator, all areas in Europe at a specific level of granularity (regions, sub-regions, municipalities) by displaying it in a map view. Changes overtime (trends) are also provided and, for some experimental indicators, future projections are made available.

Select indicator



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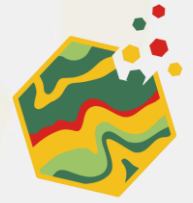
Thematic Analyses

"Thematic Analyses" combine data with analytical capabilities, trying to connect the dots and draw meaningful messages. The final aim consists in making sense of geo-spatial statistical information by transforming data mapping into sound multi-dimensional analysis at various territorial levels, with a clear focus on rural areas.

<https://observatory.rural-vision.europa.eu/>

1. DATABASES

EU Rural Observatory



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- **Demography** (depopulation, age structure, projections)



- **Economic development** (GDP, tourism, farming)



- **Labour** (employment and unemployment, gender gap)



- **Education** (tertiary education, early leavers, digital skills)



- **Social inclusion** (risk of poverty or social exclusion)



- **Infrastructure and accessibility**
(service accessibility, transport networks, high-speed broadband)



- **Environment and climate** (green transition)



- **Rural innovation** (digitalisation, cooperation and networks)



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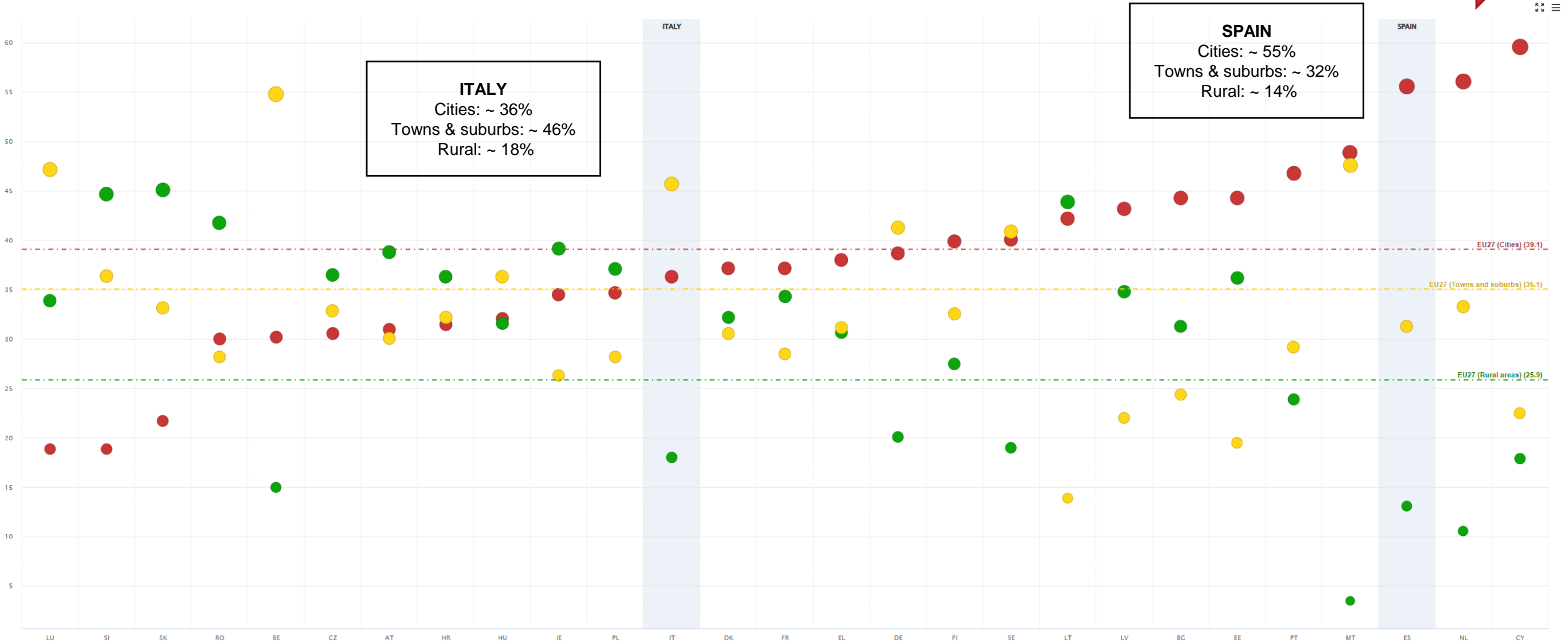
POPULATION

Population by degree of urbanisation (%)

Italy Spain Search and compare...

2021

Sort by Cities



● Cities ● Rural areas ● Towns and suburbs

POPULATION



Population by degree of urbanisation (%)

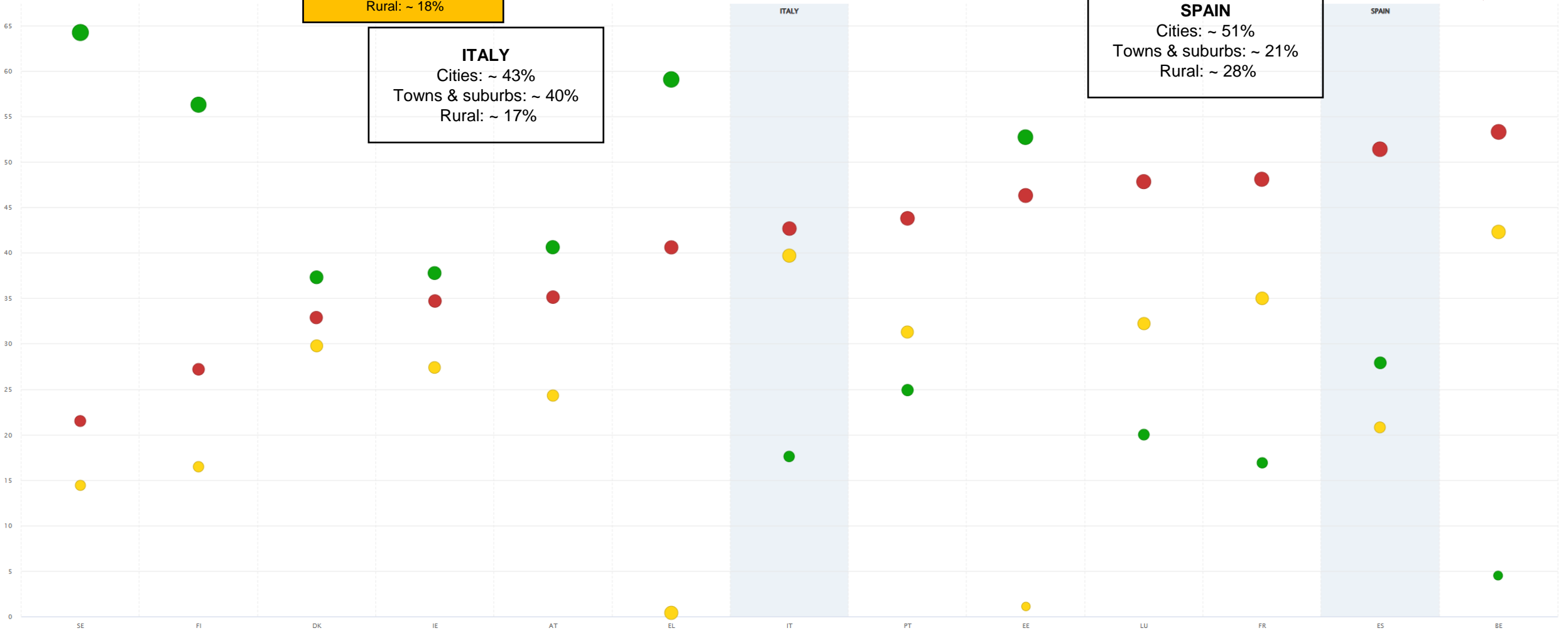


Italy X Spain X Search and compare...

2004



Sort by Cities



ITALY
 Cities: ~ 36%
 Towns & suburbs: ~ 46%
 Rural: ~ 18%

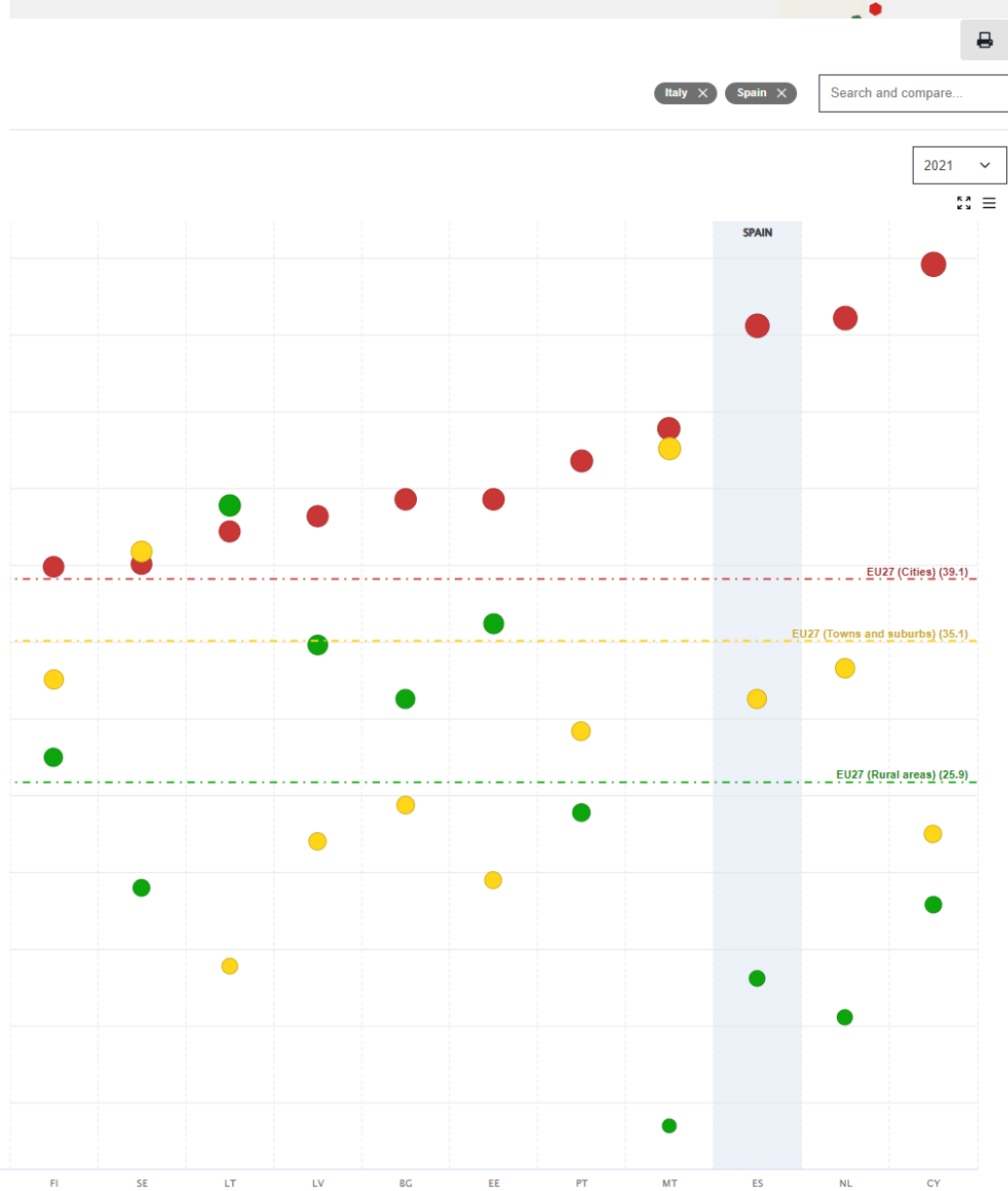
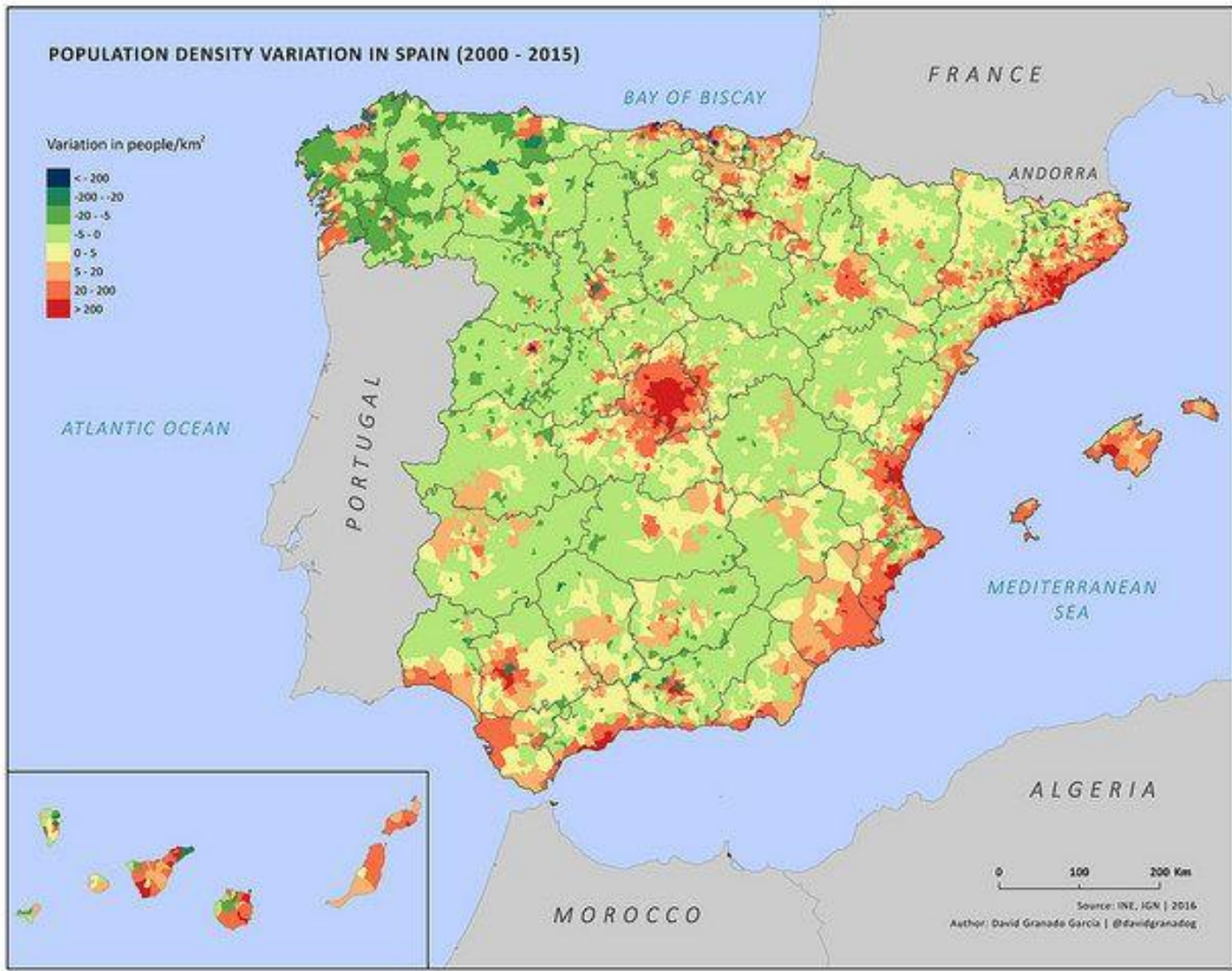
ITALY
 Cities: ~ 43%
 Towns & suburbs: ~ 40%
 Rural: ~ 17%

SPAIN
 Cities: ~ 55%
 Towns & suburbs: ~ 32%
 Rural: ~ 14%

SPAIN
 Cities: ~ 51%
 Towns & suburbs: ~ 21%
 Rural: ~ 28%

● Cities ● Rural areas ● Towns and suburbs





LU SI SK RO BE CZ AT HR HU IE PL IT DK FR EL DE FI SE LT LV BG EE PT MT ES NL CY

● Cities ● Rural areas ● Towns and suburbs

TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (25-64)



Tertiary educational attainment (25-64) (%)

Ireland X Italy X Portugal X Search and compare...

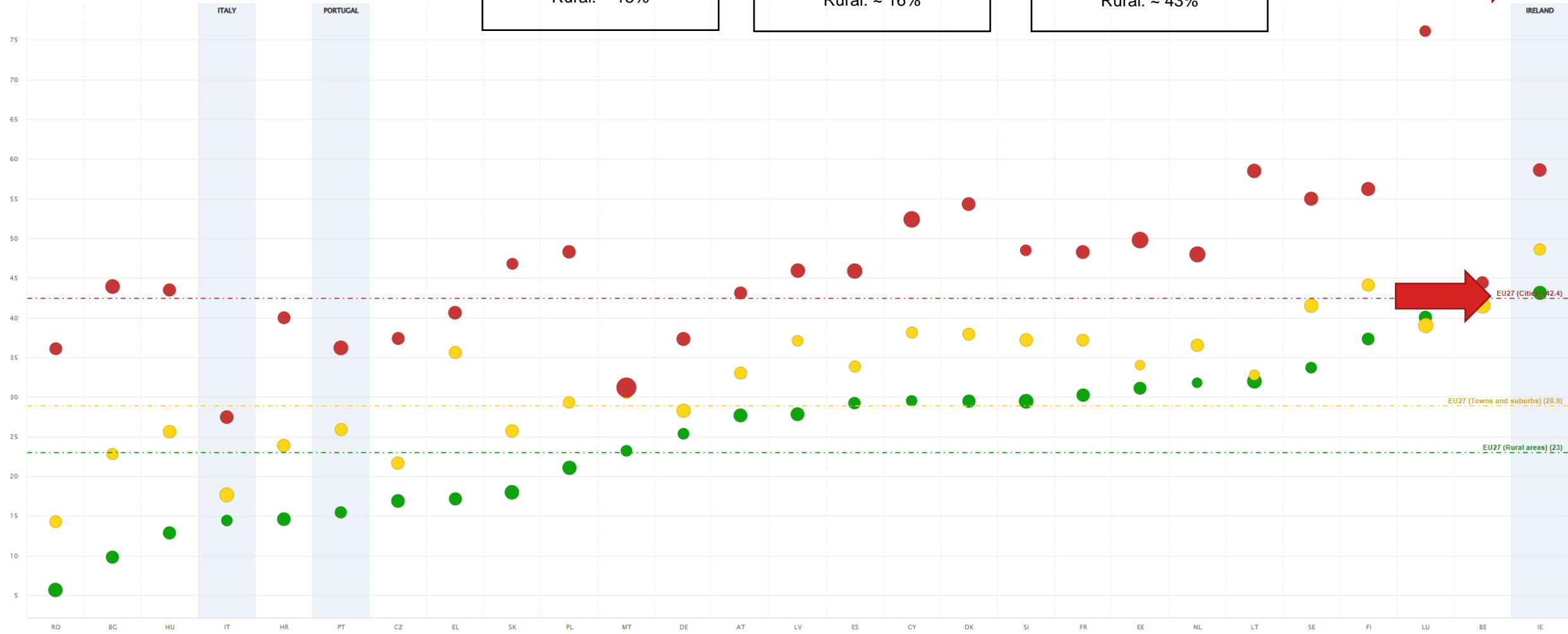
Sort by Rural areas

ITALY
Rural: ~ 15%

PORTUGAL
Rural: ~ 16%

Ireland
Rural: ~ 43%

2020



● Cities ● Rural areas ● Towns and suburbs

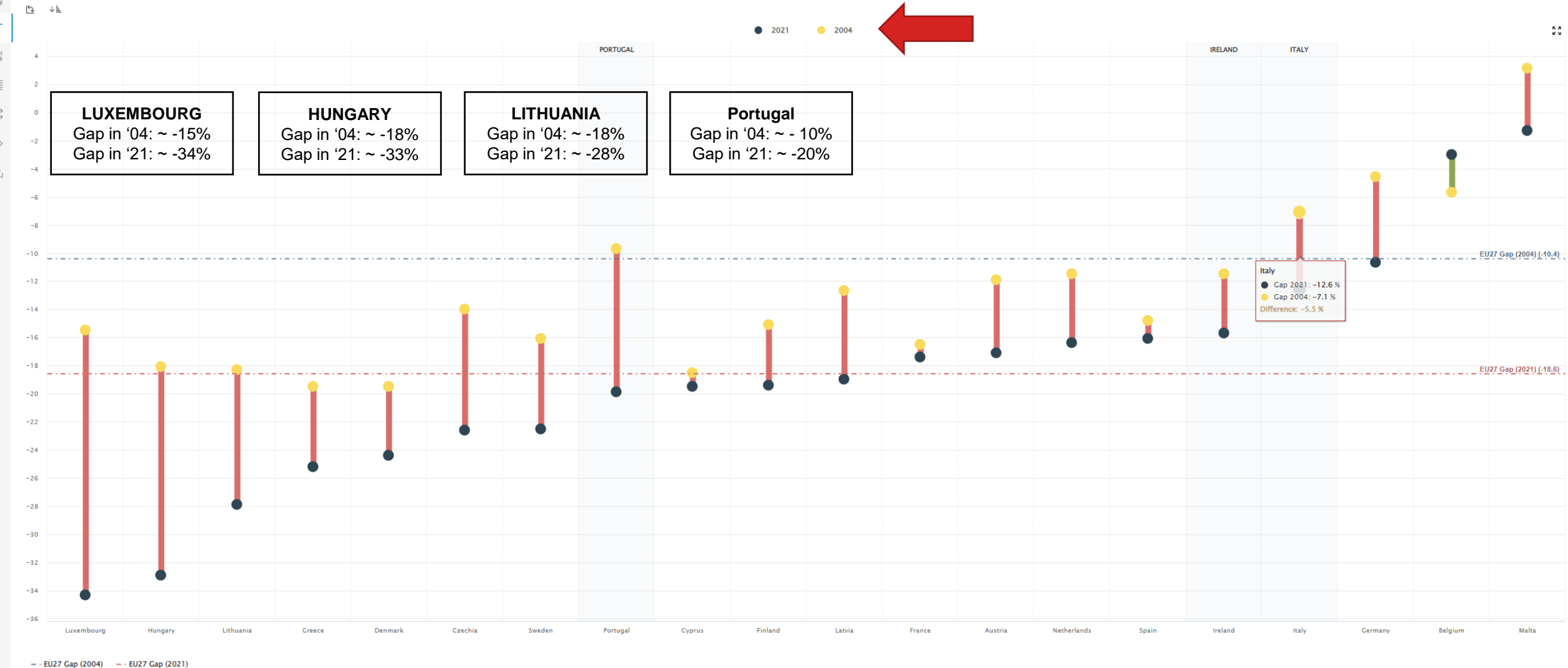
TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (25-64)



Tertiary educational attainment (25-64) (%)

Ireland X Italy X Portugal X Search and compare...

GAP IN Rural areas COMPARED TO Cities IN 2004 AND 2021



TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (25-64)



Tertiary educational attainment (25-64) (%)

Italy X

Search and compare...

Sort by Rural areas

2020



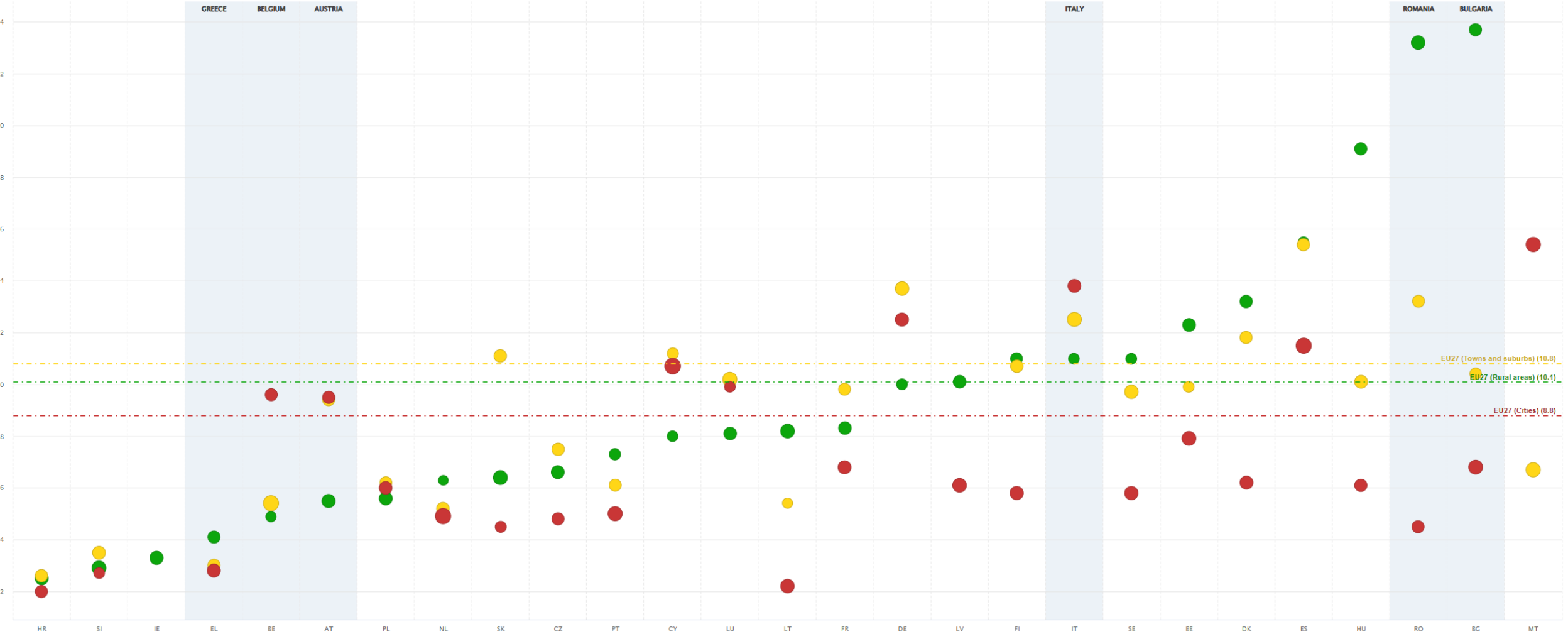
Cities Rural areas Towns and suburbs

EARLY LEAVERS FROM EDUCATION (18-24)



Sort by Rural areas

2021



● Cities ● Rural areas ● Towns and suburbs

EARLY LEAVERS FROM EDUCATION (18-24)



Early leavers from education (18-24) (%)

Greece X Search and compare...

GAP IN Rural areas COMPARED TO Cities IN 2000 AND 2022



AGRICULTURAL LAND



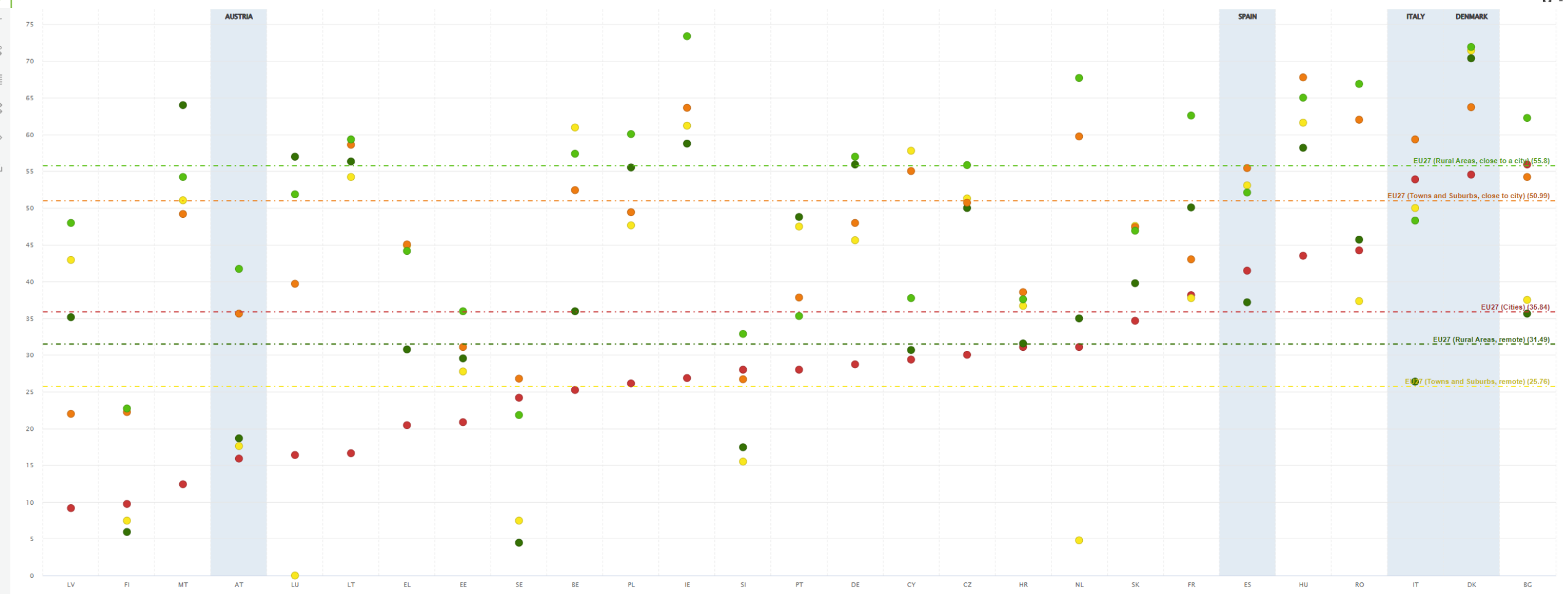
Agricultural land (%)

Italy X Spain X Austria X Denmark X

Search and compare...

2018

Sort by Cities



● Cities
 ● Rural Areas, remote
 ● Towns and Suburbs, remote
 ● Towns and Suburbs, close to city
 ● Rural Areas, close to a city

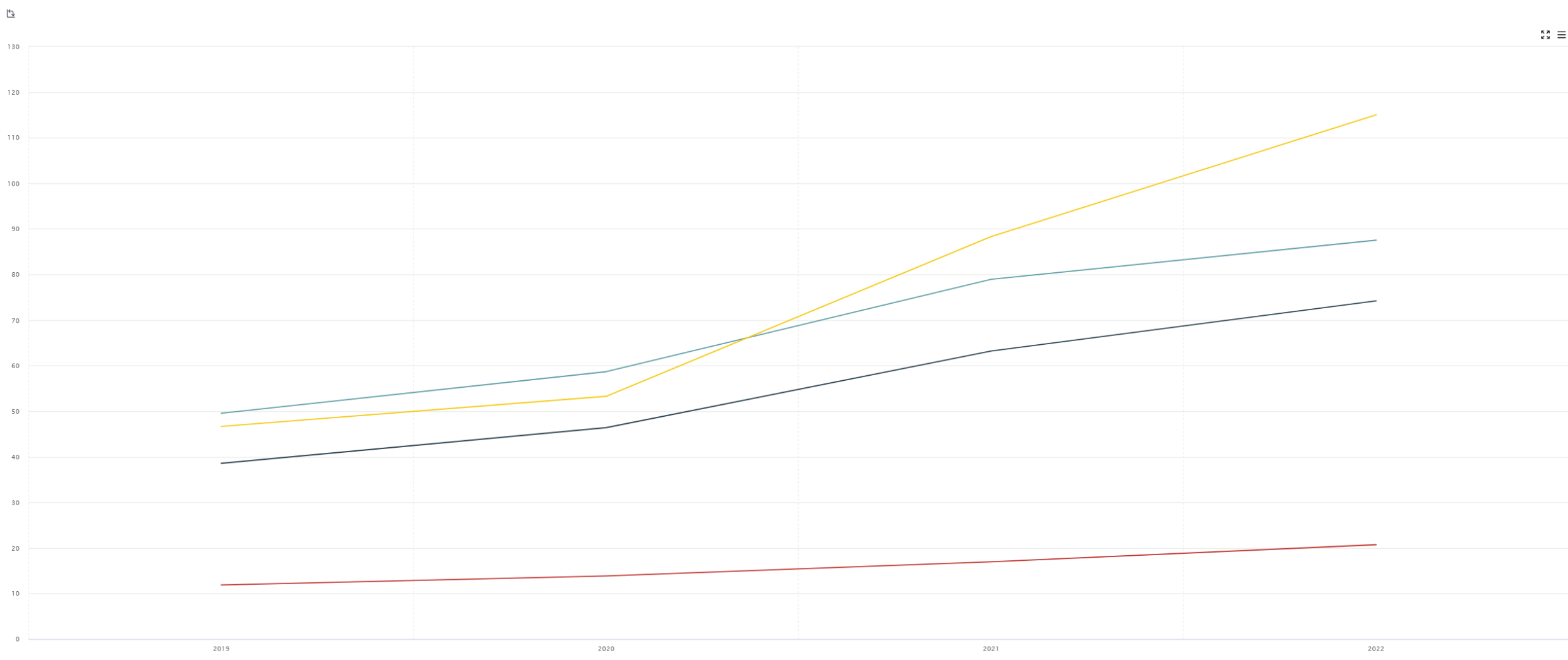
BROADBAND SPEED (FIXED NETWORKS)



/:\ Broadband speed (fixed networks) (Mb/s)

Greece X Germany X Belgium X Romania X

Search and compare...



— Greece — Germany — Belgium — Romania

BROADBAND SPEED (FIXED NETWORKS)



Broadband speed (fixed networks) (Mb/s)

Greece X Germany X Belgium X Romania X

Search and compare...

GAP IN Rural areas COMPARED TO Cities IN 2019 AND 2022



AV. DISTANCE TO HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

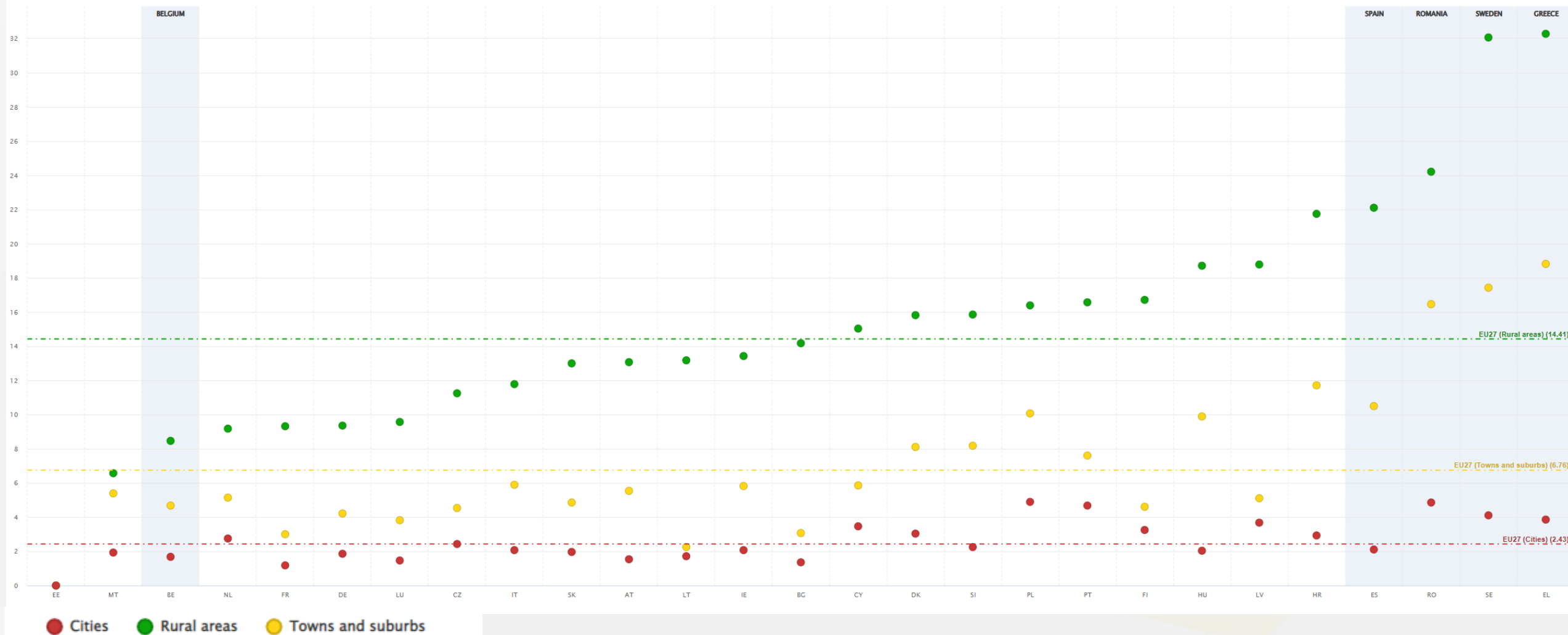


Average distance to healthcare facilities (Km)

Belgium X Romania X Spain X Sweden X Greece X Search and compare...

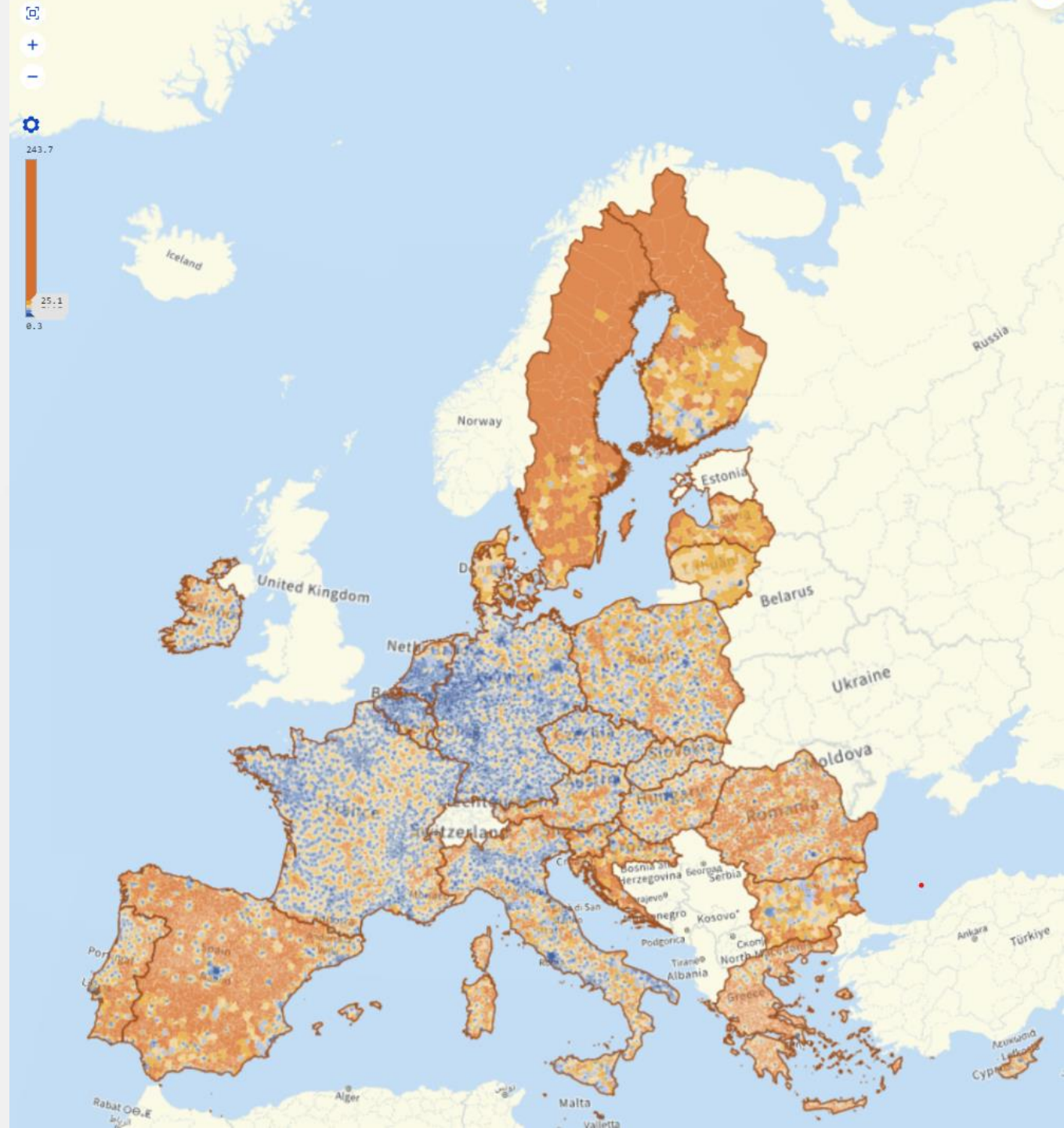
Sort by Rural areas

2018



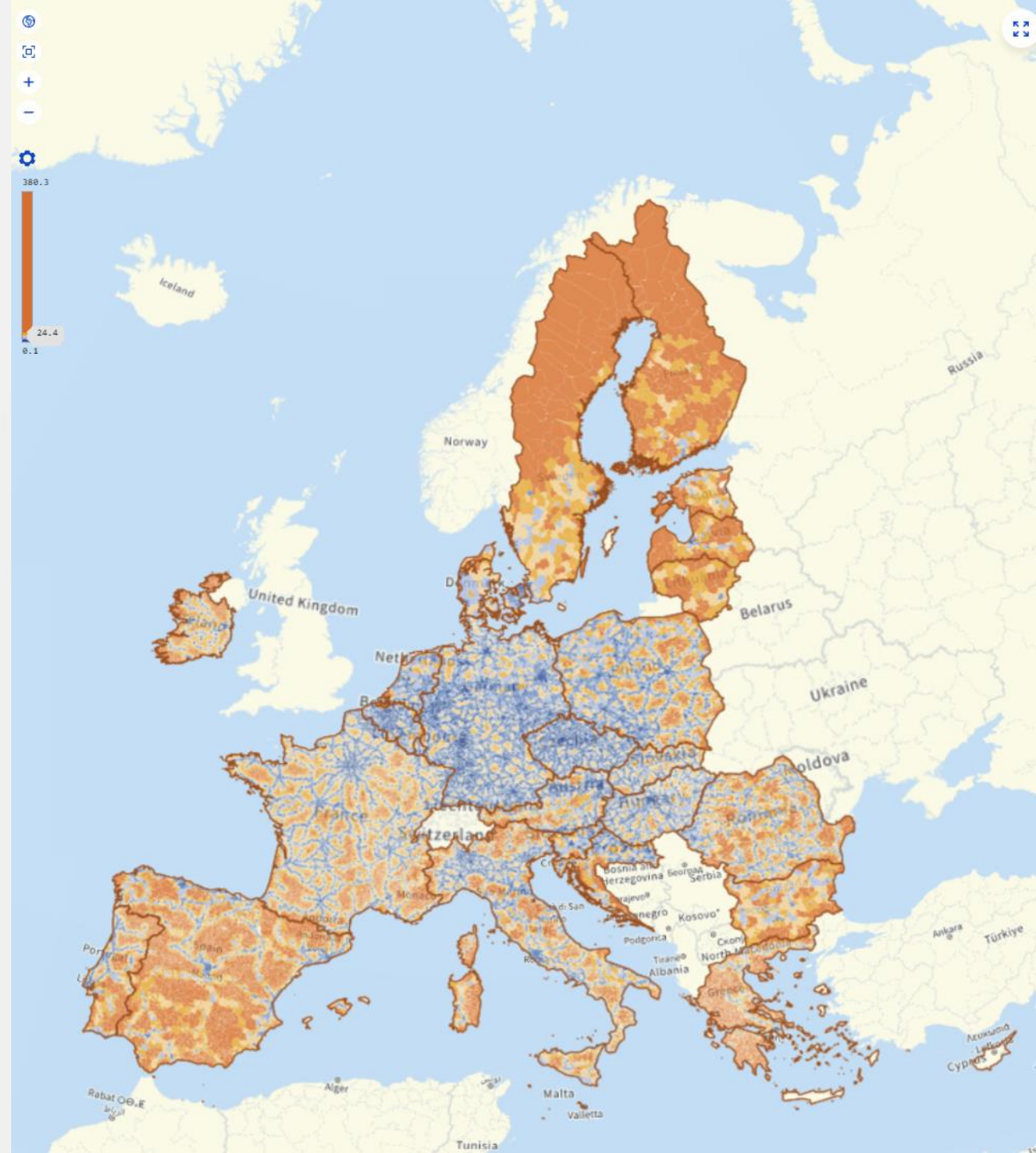
AV. DISTANCE TO HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

- 7.7 km in the EU.
- 13.1 km in rural areas close to a city
- 22.1 km in remote rural areas
- **Above 35 km** in the remote rural areas of Sweden, Greece and Spain.



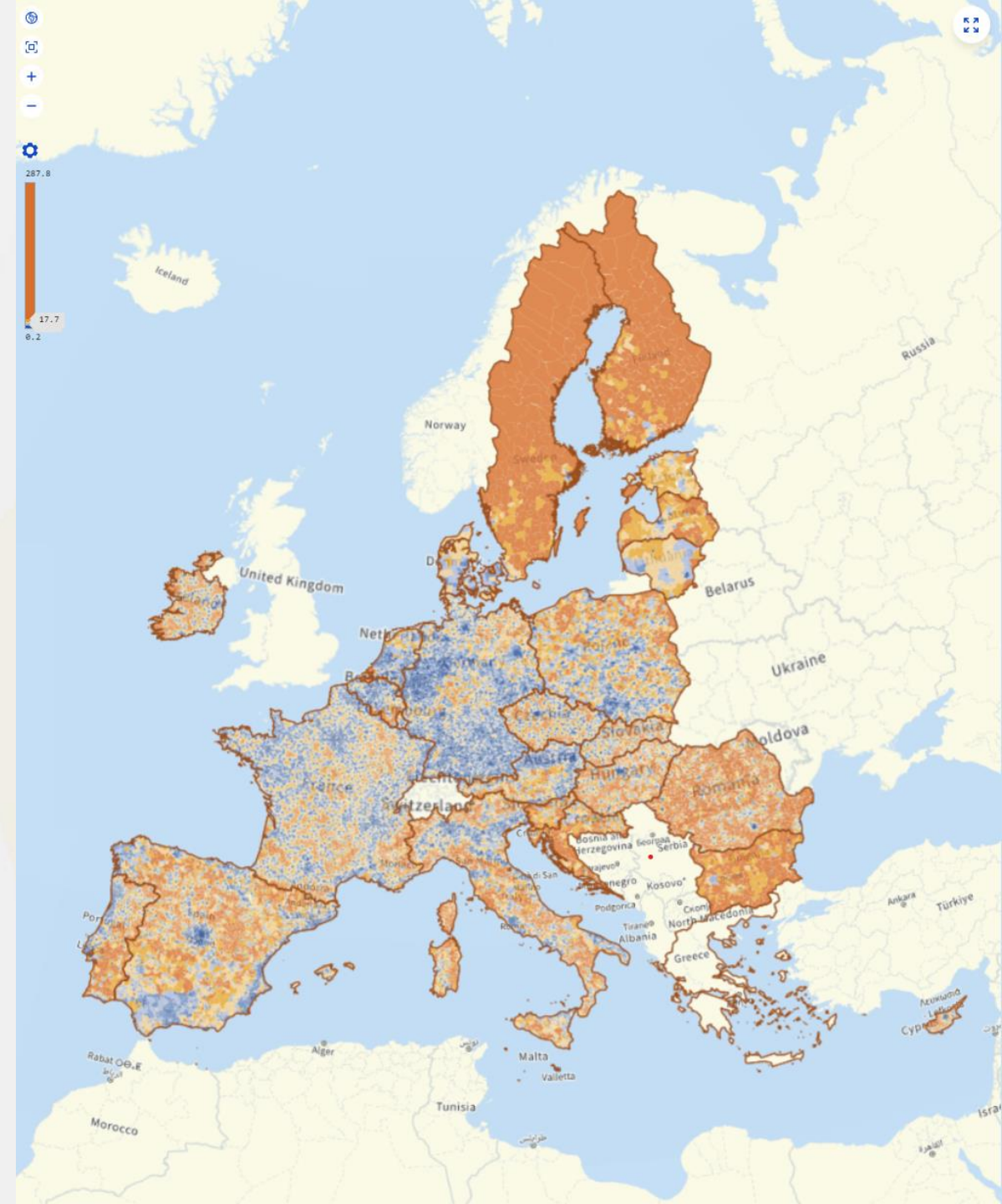
AV. DISTANCE TO TRAIN STATIONS

- 6.3 km in EU.
- 9.4 km rural areas close to cities.
- 11.3 km in rural areas.
- **Above 20 km** in rural areas of Greece, Latvia, Finland, Ireland, Estonia and Lithuania.



AV. DISTANCE TO PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 7 times more in rural areas than cities
- About 33.6 km for primary schools in rural areas
- About 75.6 km for secondary schools in rural areas



THEMATIC ANALYSES



GRANULAR



eurostat
Statistics Explained

Rural Europe

The publication on Rural Europe features subnational statistics with different territorial typologies by using intuitive visualisations, innovative data presentations and concise text. The publications have six chapters in common with Urban Europe publication on education and training, the labour market, income and living conditions, and digital society and economy. Rural Europe contains another three chapters on demographic developments, women and men, and quality of life.

[Read more](#)

How has the EU's population developed?



(%, average annual change, 2015–2020)



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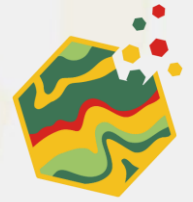
1. DATABASES



GRANULAR is a four-year multi-disciplinary and transnational project, which aims at generating **new datasets, tools and methods** to better understand **rural areas**.

By doing this, we hope to gain new insights into the unique characteristics, dynamics, and drivers of change in rural areas. Using this knowledge and our **Rural Compass**, we aim to help those involved in rural development to design **place-based policies** that are specifically tailored to the needs of each individual area. Ultimately, GRANULAR hopes to support rural actors in their efforts to promote sustainable territorial development.

www.ruralgranular.eu



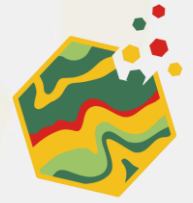
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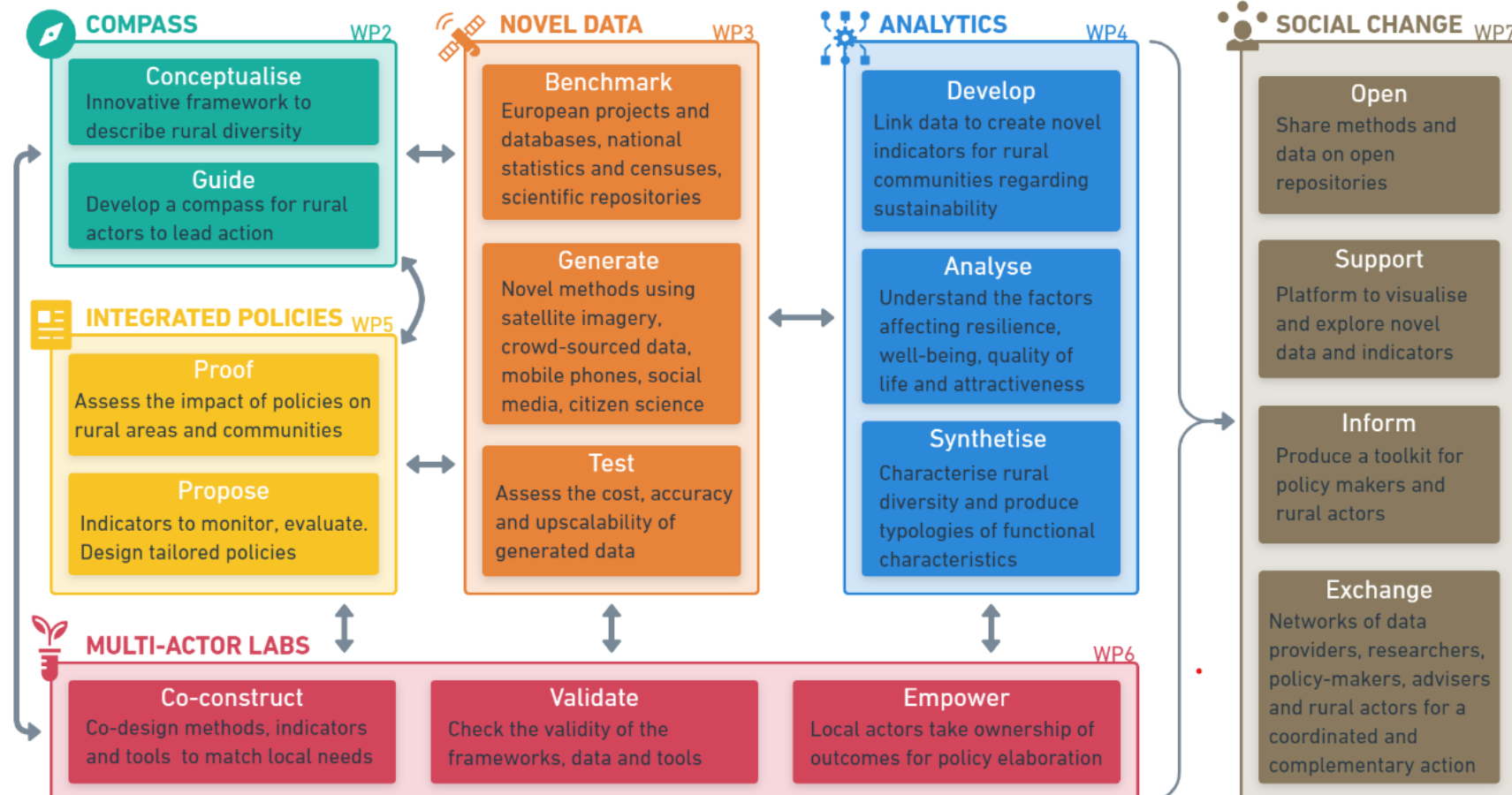
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1. DATABASES

GRANULAR project



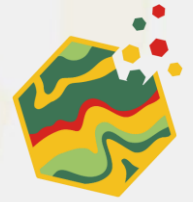
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1. DATABASES

GRANULAR project (90 datasets for rural areas)



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ONLYOFFICE File Home Insert Layout Formula Data Pivot Table Collaboration View Plugins WP3_benchmark_draft_IAMM.xlsx

Calibri 11 A⁺ A⁻ General Normal Neutral Bad Good Input Output Calculation Check Cell Explanatory Text Note Linked Cell Warning Text

01 Rural compass

Indicator Class	Data Class	Author/producer	Title	Description	Updates	Data Type
	e.g. Census, Crowdsourcing, Satellite imagery, ...				frequency, still updated	
	cf. Proposal					
5 Environment	In-situ	EuroStat	LUCAS	Land Use and Coverage Area frame Survey	Every 3 years	Point
6 Environment	Aerial photos, Satellite	ESA	Corine	Land Cover and Land Use Mapping	Every 3 years	Raster
7 Environment	Satellite	ESA	Worldcover	Land Cover and Land Use Mapping	Annual (if renewed)	Raster
8 Environment	Satellite	EEA	Copernicus	Multiple environmental Copernicus datasets available	Annual	Raster
9 Environment	RS/GIS	UoS	WorldPop Covariates	datasets representing metrics (eg, dist-to-roads, dist-to-waterways, etc.) related to population presence and density (spatially harmonized)	Projec-based (next global update expected to be completed at the end of 2024) - Data may be used as they become available	Raster
10 Climate	Model	ECMWF	...	Climate model data	Daily, Monthly	Raster
11 Climate	Satellite	EEA	Copernicus	Satellite derived climate data (temperature, rainfall)	Monthly	Raster
12 Demography	Census based + RS	JRC	GHSL-POP	Distribution of population, expressed as the number of people per cell		Raster
13 Demography	Census-based + RS and GIS reference data	UoS	WorldPop	High resolution world population weighted-density		Tabular and vector
14 Demography	Census-based + RS and GIS reference data	UoS	WorldPop	High resolution world population density	Projec-based (next global update expected to be completed at the end of 2024) - Data may be used as they become available	Raster
15 Demography	Census-based + RS and GIS reference data	UoS	WorldPop	High resolution world population density (age and sex structures by 5-year classes)	Projec-based (next global update expected to be completed at the end of 2024) - Data may be used as they become available	Raster

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Indent: 0
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Conditional formatting



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1. DATABASES

GRANULAR platform

<https://repository.ruralgranular.eu/>

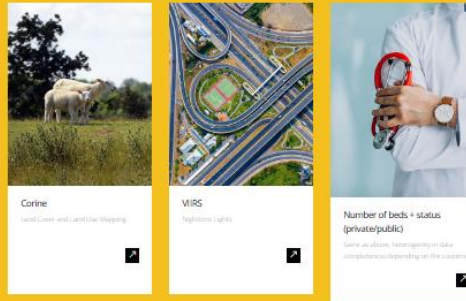
GRANULAR Digital Platform

transnational project, which aims at generating new datasets, tools and methods to understand the characteristics, dynamics and drivers of rural areas. Thanks to these new insights and to the creation of a Rural Complex, GRANULAR will support rural actors to design tailored place-based policies for territorial development.



GRANULAR: supporting digital, economic and ecological transitions in rural areas. Better knowledge for better rural policies.

Available datasets

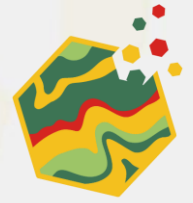


Digital platform



GRANULAR Digital Platform is an online interface to visualise and analyse the data and indicators generated by the project on rural areas. Rural areas often lack detailed data to picture their current situation and predict future trends. With our project, we help to find and easily access these data for different rural areas, and at different levels of granularity (e.g. local, regional, macro-regional).

53
Datasets



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2. STORIES

Interesting issues to be covered

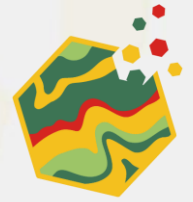
- Generational renewal in agriculture
- Dismantlement of public services in rural areas, esp. connectivity, social services, healthcare
- EU funds in/to rural areas (e.g. Cohesion Policy)
- Recovery & Resilience Plans (e.g. Green Communities in Italy, e-governance)
- Neo-rurality: COVID-19 trend or long-term reality?
- Seasonality (e.g. workers/ tourism), time and spatial implications
- Demographic trends (ageing/silver economy, brain drain and migration, e.g. Nordic countries)
- Connectivity
- Land use changes in rural areas in relation to green transition/ renewable energies push, and their conflicts

"Only 11% of all European farmers are under 40 years of age. For each farmer younger than 35 there are over 5 farmers older than 65 in Europe",
COPA COGECA

EU Farming in Trouble: The Solution? Young Farmers and a New Agricultural Model, CEJA

Florin Marin (EESC)'s research on Cohesion Policy across Romania

CREATING NEW NARRATIVES



GRANULAR

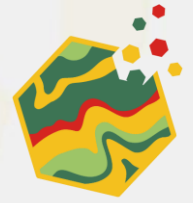


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2. STORIES

Policies & co.

- Stocktaking from the CAP (Q3/4 2023)
- Stocktaking from the Cohesion Policy (Q3/4 2023)
- Brain drain (EC comm in Q2 2022)
- EU Soil Health Law (Q2, 2023- EC)
- Nature Restoration Law (Q3, 2023)
- EU elections (June 2024)



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2. STORIES

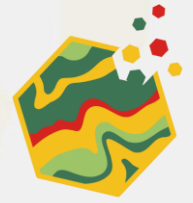
How can we help? Or viceversa?

FROM YOUR SIDE:

- Make use of existing data
- Visual data in interesting ways
- Create a combination of data visualization (e.g. access to basic services)
- Contribute to the Rural Observatory with data identification- data gaps (?)

FROM OUR SIDE:

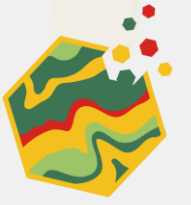
- Help you to find stories from our GRANULAR Living Labs
- Provide you expert insights (from our contacts)
- let you know once we publish new data (GRANULAR)
- Collaborate with you to define stories/investigations and disseminate them



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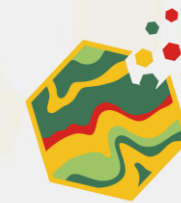
3

**Discuss & find
peers**



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GET FUNDED!



GRANULAR

Applications are open for the Local Media for Democracy grant programme

📅 2023-03-23

[Leggi in Italiano](#)

[Kliknite ovdje za hrvatski](#)

[Clique aqui para Português](#)

[Klicken Sie hier für Deutsch](#)

[Cliquez ici pour le français](#)

The new grant programme Local Media for Democracy is launched today; a pilot media funding scheme that will inject €1.200.000 financial support to local, regional and community media who are struggling to serve the public interest in the so-called “news deserts” areas in Europe.

28 Sept 23



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