

# Quality of life in rural Europe – key findings from the European Quality of Life Survey

ENRD Workshop on  
'Combatting rural depopulation:  
Creating new opportunities for vibrant rural areas'

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# European Quality of Life Survey

Rounds	2003, 2007, 2011 , <b>2016</b>
Target population	Resident population 18+ years living in private households. 28 EU Member States 5 candidate countries (AL, ME, MK, RS, TR)
Fieldwork period	September 2016 – February 2017
Sample size	Minimum N=1000 Increase in DE (n=1600), UK (n=1300), FR (n=1200), IT (n=2000), TR (n=2000)
Sampling methodology	Random probability sampling: 17 EU and TR (6 individual, 11 address registers) Random route enumeration: 11 EU and 4 CC
Sample stratification	By region and urbanisation level (except MT)
Response rate (RR3)	34% EU28; 63% CC5 Lowest 16% (SE), highest 70% (ME)
Interview type	Face-to-face, CAPI in all 33 countries; CATI recruitment in SE (and partially in AT) Average duration: 40 min

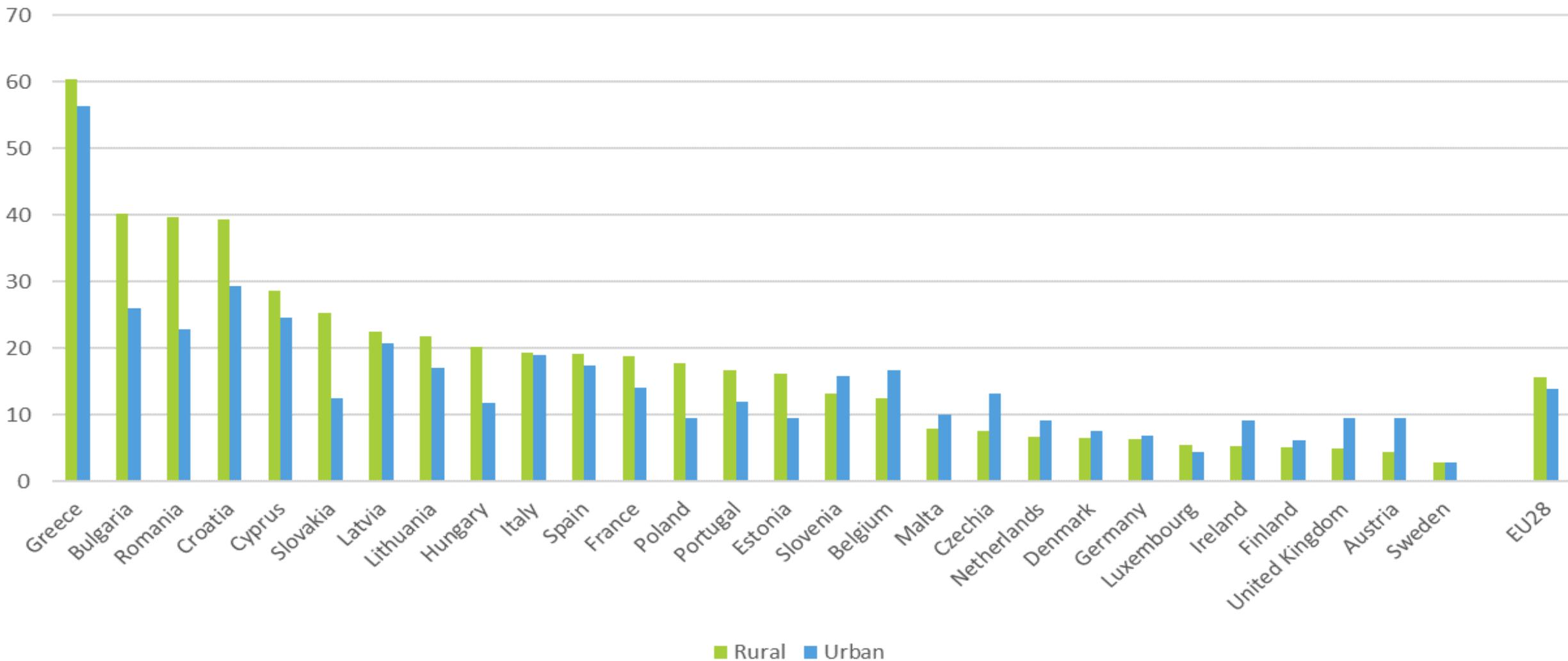


# Exploring the evidence

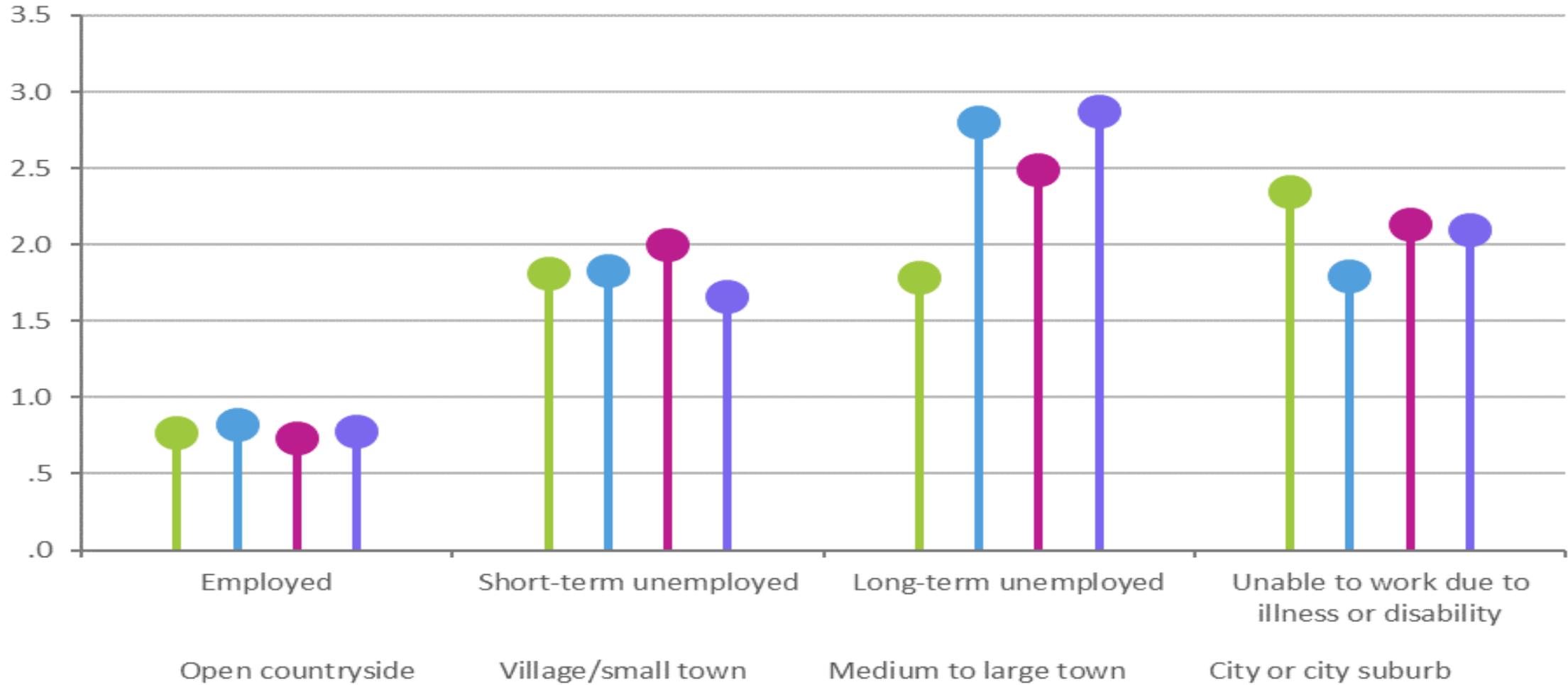
## Three key areas:

- Financial hardship
- Connectedness
- Subjective well-being

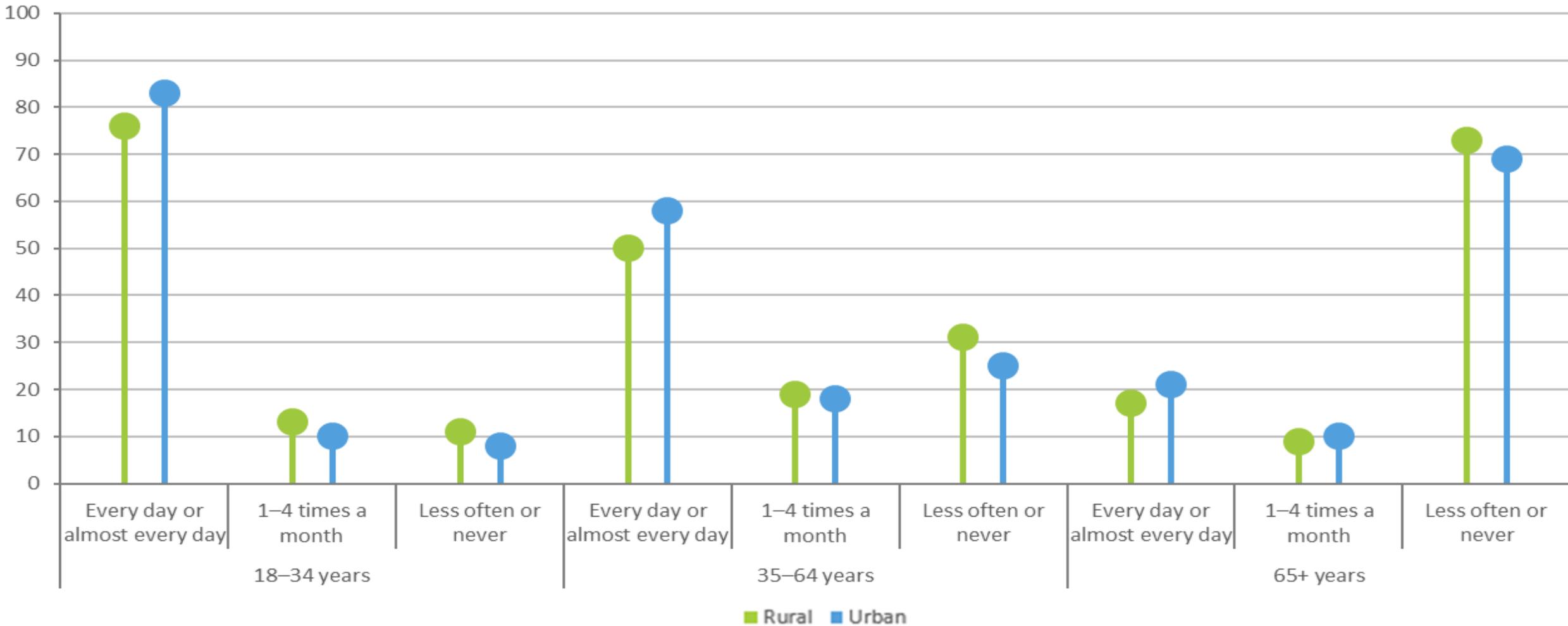
# Proportion of people indicating difficulty or great difficulty making ends meet, by rural and urban area, Member States, 2016



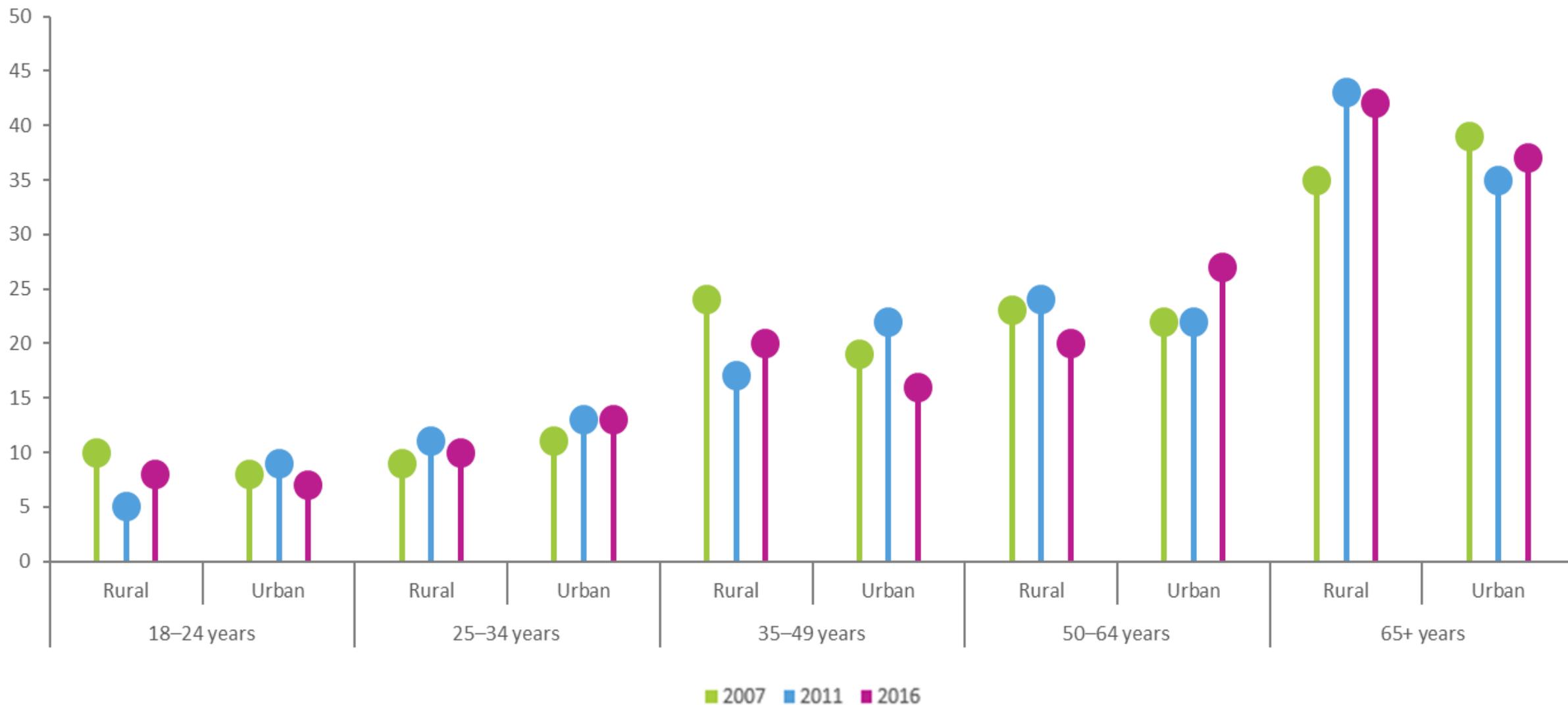
## Average number of items households cannot afford, by employment status and urbanisation category



## Proportion who use the internet for purposes other than work, by frequency and age group, according to rural and urban area, EU, 2016



# Proportion of people reporting that distance made access to a doctor difficult, by rural and urban area and age group, EU, 2007, 2011 and 2016



# Conclusions, policy pointers

- A north–south, east–west EU divide in the quality of life of rural dwellers in relation to financial hardship and life satisfaction can be observed. Rural residents in less prosperous Member States experience challenges of a much greater scale than their counterparts in northern and western Europe.
- Poverty in rural areas remains a serious challenge in many Member States. EU cohesion policy and the associated funding certainly contribute to alleviating rural poverty, but policymakers must ensure that programmes are tailor-made for the specific needs of rural society.
- There is a need, in light of the ageing of European societies, for more focus on quality of life of older people living in rural areas and the increasing need to make services more accessible for them.
- Internet usage in rural areas in many countries is not as advanced as in urban areas, and that this is in part related to poor internet access. The survey results show a link between social exclusion and low internet usage.