Quality of Life in European cities

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ESS multidimensional Quality of Life concept

Overall experience of life

- Natural and living environment
- Governance and basic rights
- Economic and physical safety
- Social relations & leisure
- Material living conditions
- Productive or main activity
- Health
- Education
New Eurostat flagship publication

- Covers different aspects of personal well-being, combining for the first time objective indicators with subjective evaluations of individuals’ situations
- Main data source: 2013 ad-hoc module of EU-SILC on subjective well-being
- Includes the Degree of urbanisation classification
Let's look at happiness first...
Iceland!
Rural Netherlands!
Frequency of being happy in the last 4 weeks, 2013 (Always or Most of the time), %

- Cities
- Towns and suburbs
- Rural areas
Frequency of being happy in the last 4 weeks, 2013 (Rarely or Never), %
Frequency of being happy in the last 4 weeks, 2013
Overall life satisfaction, cities, 2013 (scale from 0-10)
Overall life satisfaction, 2013

Cities
Towns and suburbs
Rural areas

Low 21.0%
High 21.7%
Medium 57.4%
Average satisfaction with different aspects of life in the European Union, 2013
(on a scale from 0 “not satisfied at all” to 10 “fully satisfied”)

*Satisfaction with the job and commuting time: employed population. All other questions: population aged 16 and over.*
Average satisfaction with financial situation, 2013

[Graph showing satisfaction levels for various countries in Europe, with categories for cities, towns and suburbs, and rural areas.]
Average satisfaction with accommodation, 2013
Average satisfaction with commuting time, 2013

- Rural areas
- Towns and suburbs
- Cities
Self-assessment of health, 2013
(% of persons aged 18–64 assessing their own health as bad or very bad)
People reporting crime, violence or vandalism in their area, 2013 (%)
People reporting pollution, grime or other environmental problems in their area, 2013 (%)

Cities:
- Ireland
- Norway
- Denmark
- Finland
- Croatia
- Luxembourg
- Iceland
- Estonia
- Sweden
- Spain
- Cyprus
- Austria
- France
- Poland
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Portugal
- Bulgaria
- Slovenia
- Netherlands
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Belgium
- Romania
- Italy
- Germany
- Greece
- Malta

Towns and suburbs:
- Ireland
- Norway
- Denmark
- Finland
- Croatia
- Luxembourg
- Iceland
- Estonia
- Sweden
- Spain
- Cyprus
- Austria
- France
- Poland
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Portugal
- Bulgaria
- Slovenia
- Netherlands
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Belgium
- Romania
- Italy
- Germany
- Greece
- Malta

Rural areas:
- Ireland
- Norway
- Denmark
- Finland
- Croatia
- Luxembourg
- Iceland
- Estonia
- Sweden
- Spain
- Cyprus
- Austria
- France
- Poland
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Portugal
- Bulgaria
- Slovenia
- Netherlands
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Belgium
- Romania
- Italy
- Germany
- Greece
- Malta

Cities (³):
- Czech Republic
- Malta

Towns and suburbs (²):
- Czech Republic
- Malta

Rural areas (²):
- Czech Republic
- Malta
Average rating of trust, 2013
Trust in the political system, 2013

Cities
Towns and suburbs
Rural areas

European Commission
Trust in the legal system, 2013

![Graph showing trust in legal systems across EU countries]
Trust in the police, 2013

Cities
- Finland
- Denmark
- Iceland
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Sweden
- Austria
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Romania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Belgium
- Estonia
- EU-28
- France
- Lithuania
- Italy
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Latvia
- Hungary
- Portugal
- Czech Republic
- Poland
- Greece
- Cyprus
- Slovakia
- Bulgaria

Towns and suburbs

Rural areas
Trust in others, 2013

Cities
Towns and suburbs
Rural areas

European Commission
Conclusions

• Differences in quality of life often more pronounced between countries than between cities and rural areas

• Highest urban-rural differences in life satisfaction observed in Bulgaria, Croatia and the UK

• People living in cities tend to report a higher self-assessment of health while they are less satisfied with accommodation

• Prevalence of crime and violence is generally higher in cities, as is environmental exposure to pollution and grime

• More detailed analysis by socio-demographic factors useful
Infographic

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/
Safety feeling when walking alone in the dark
Share of persons who feel very safe when walking alone in their area

- Lithuania: 9.8%
- EU (28 countries): 28.4%
- Malta: 66.4%
More information

Eurostat regional yearbook 2015: Chapter on Quality of Life (forthcoming)

Eurostat publication “Quality of life – facts and views”:

Statistics Explained:

Infographic:

Eurostat website:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/overview