

**Rural Youth
Indicators:**

**Open Source
Indicators
for Evaluating
Youth Goals
Implementation**

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Bárta**

Disclaimer

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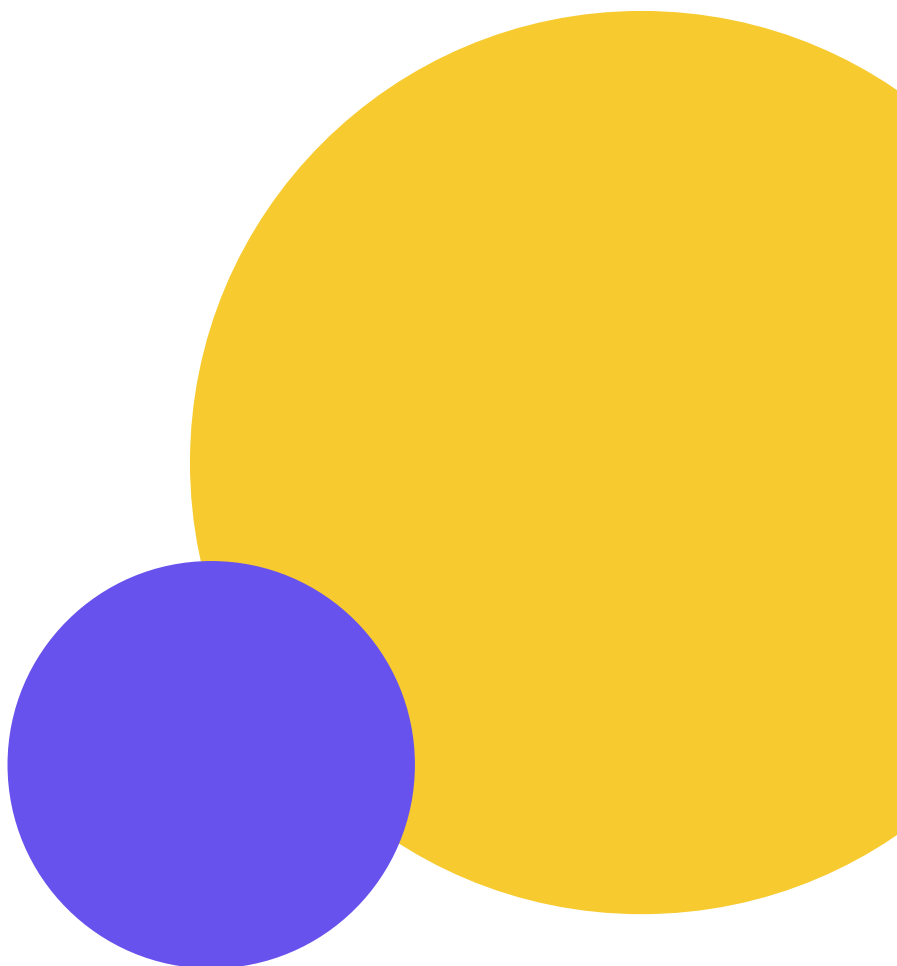
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Introduction



Indicators are widely used across different sectors to enable policymakers as well as various other stakeholders to explore and track changes in observed phenomena. As such, it is also one of the tools of evidence-based policymaking, and potentially a source of data for evaluation processes, and also for informed debates on varied topics. This publication further elaborates on a discussion started in my previous work focusing on evaluation in the youth field¹. While the previous publication aimed at providing the reader with an overview of various components of the evaluation process, this one focuses on demonstrating potential significance of indicators in implementing and fulfilling the European Youth Goals². In particular, the publication strives to point out concrete indicators existent on international and national levels, which can be potentially useful in assessing the state of affairs in the youth field. Moreover, by analysing these indicators, the publication provides the reader with a basic insight into strong and weak suits to look out for when using indicators further.

Providing an overview of the indicators concerning the whole youth field would be a gargantuan task, and therefore a decision to limit the scope of this publication to one particular European Youth Goal has been taken. In 2020, the European Youth Goal no.6 “*Moving Rural Youth Forward*” was chosen to be a focus of various youth-related initiatives, such as the EU Youth Dialogue consultations with youth³, the European Union Youth Conference held in Zagreb, Croatia⁴, leading to official Conclusions of the Council⁵. In line with the interest generated in the topic and aiming to support the existent and future initiatives in the rural areas, this publication is dealing with indicators focusing on rural youth.

The publication itself follows a clear structure from the theoretical overview (focusing on the European Youth Goals, rural areas, rural youth, and rural youth policies on the EU level), to the exploratory study presenting and analysing rural youth indicators existent in the contemporary European context. Each of the chapters includes a short summary and guiding questions to support readers in further thinking on the given subject. All of the rural youth indicators found in course of this study are listed in the Appendix to this publication together with their last known online position and a short description. Readers of this publication are encouraged to browse through and explore data on rural youth in their own local or national contexts!

¹ Bárta 2019.

² European Commission 2020a.

³ Bárta 2020; Moxon & Bárta 2020.

⁴ Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia 2020.

⁵ Council of the European Union 2020.

Insights gathered in this publication can, nevertheless, be also applied to other European Youth Goals. Building on the structure of this publication, it is important to define theoretical concepts related to the given European Youth Goal, look into their practical definitions, follow up by localizing indicator sources, and subsequently identify the concrete indicators. Exploring other European Youth Goals via information available in existent indicators can only be recommended as it contributes to knowledge-based debates and policymaking.

The intended audience of this publication consists of all main stakeholders in the youth field and youth-related policymaking. First and foremost, the publication aims at bringing food for thought to the young people, youth workers, and policymakers, showcasing what indicators are readily available when determining the state of affairs of the European rural youth. Secondly, researchers and analysts are welcome to read through to see which areas of interest concerning the rural youth are well-covered by existent indicators, where additional indicators might be helpful, and what to avoid when designing brand new indicators.

1. Theoretical Background



It is vital to establish theoretical foundations of thinking about indicators related to rural youth. This helps in understanding forces which come to play and influence the rural areas and youth living in them. First and foremost, the European Youth Goals are introduced, and the European Youth Goal no.6 is described in detail in order to clearly state what change is desired by the young people in the EU. Subsequently, rural areas as such are defined in order to show what locations are to be targeted if the European Youth Goal no.6 is to be successfully achieved. In order to be even more precise, the rural youth as a specific population within the EU is described using available information sources. And lastly, a brief overview of the current policies tackling rural areas in the EU is presented in order to complete the full picture.

1.1 The European Youth Goals

⁶ Watchful readers notice different names for the same process of dialogue between the EU and the young people. Originally, the process was called Structural Dialogue until 2018 when the name was changed to the EU Youth Dialogue as the current EU Youth Strategy 2019 to 2027 and new guidelines on the governance of the EU Youth Dialogue came to force (Council of the European Union 2019).

⁷ European Commission 2020a.

⁸ Council of the European Union 2018.

⁹ Moxon & Bárta 2018.

¹⁰ Council of the European Union 2018.

¹¹ European Commission 2020a.

¹² Council of the European Union 2018.

The 6th cycle of the Youth Dialogue⁶ aimed at collecting ideas of young people across the European Union⁷ in order to support creation of the, then upcoming, EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027⁸. Based on consultations with almost 50 000 young people across Europe⁹, 11 Youth Goals were created and subsequently adopted to become a full text Annex 3 of the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027¹⁰. These are the European Youth Goals¹¹:

1. Connecting EU with Youth
2. Equality of All Genders
3. Inclusive Societies
4. Information & Constructive Dialogue
5. Mental Health & Wellbeing
6. Moving Rural Youth Forward
7. Quality Employment for All
8. Quality Learning
9. Space and Participation for All
10. Sustainable Green Europe
11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes

As mentioned above, it is the European Youth Goal no.6 “Moving Rural Youth Forward” which is forming the focus of this publication and to which all indicators in this publication are connected. The official definition of the European Youth Goal no.6 is as follows¹²:

“Background: Despite the EU-wide commitment to rural development and given the fact that by 2015 almost one third of the EU population were living in rural areas, prevailing differences exist between living in urban and in rural areas. Therefore, it is important to ensure equality for young people in urban and rural settings.

Goal: Create conditions which enable young people to fulfil their potential in rural areas.

Targets:

- Ensure appropriate infrastructure in rural areas in order to provide equitable delivery of public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people.
- Ensure that sustainable, high quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas.
- Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities.
- Ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes.
- Ensure equal access to high quality education for young people in rural areas.
- Establish a positive image of rural areas.
- Ensure the protection of rural traditions.”

It is apparent that the European Youth Goal no.6 aims at supporting lives of young people in rural areas across a variety of contexts, from the infrastructure, through employment domain, participation sphere, educational area, and the rural traditions. As such, it is a transversal and cross-sectoral goal containing many different areas of economic, civic, and cultural activities, making it a wide and complex European Youth Goal.

SUMMARY

- The European Youth Goals are an outcome of youth participatory processes connecting the local and European levels.
- The European Youth Goals are an integral part of the current EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027.
- The European Youth Goal no.6 focuses on rural youth.
- The European Youth Goal no.6 is a cross-sectoral and transversal goal spanning many different areas of human activities from cultural, through youth work, health, and many other.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- How do the European Youth Goals link to your local, regional, or national youth policy?
- Which of the European Youth Goals are crucial for your local, regional, or national reality at the moment and which are emerging topics for the future?
- Which of the elements named in the description of the European Youth Goal no.6 are most connected to your own local, regional, or national reality and how can you tell?

1.2 Discovering Rural Areas in the EU

Identification of the target group of young people living in rural areas requires to understand what areas are designated as “rural areas” in the EU context. As this publication deals with indicators, and hence focuses on such an understanding of reality which is based on statistical data, it also builds the understanding of the rural areas in line with Eurostat, as an official source of statistical data within the EU.

Determining the nature of a given spatial area is done on three different levels, as shown in Figure 1. Firstly, *grid cells* of 1 km² are classified in order to determine whether they can be considered as *rural grid cells*, *urban clusters*, or *urban centres*. Subsequently, *degree of urbanisation* can be determined on the level of *local administrative units* (LAU¹³), based on share of population living in rural or urban conditions, resulting in *thinly populated rural areas*, *towns and suburbs with intermediate density of population*, and *densely populated cities*.

Lastly, NUTS level 3 (regions) are used to determine whether the region can be considered *rural*, *intermediate*, or *urban*, based on the results of the *grid cells*, hence using, again, the original distinction of *rural grid cells*, *urban clusters*, and *urban centres*, as follows¹⁴:

- “**predominantly urban regions**, NUTS15 level 3 regions where more than 80% of the population live in urban clusters;
- **intermediate regions**, NUTS level 3 regions where more than 50% and up to 80% of the population live in urban clusters;
- **predominantly rural regions**, NUTS level 3 regions where at least 50% of the population live in rural grid cells.”

Since LAU can be of different sizes in different Member States, determining the urban or rural nature of the NUTS level 3 (regions) directly from the *grid cells* which all have the same size, avoids distortion as well as supports representativity of the results¹⁶. All in all, the difference between the rural and urban areas is usually referred to as “**urban-rural typology**” and lies in a combination of two key factors: *density* and *total population* of the given area. In order to better visualize this somewhat abstract process, Figure 2 shows *urban-rural typology* applied on the level of *grid cells*, while Figure 3 shows *degrees of urbanisation* in local administrative units (LAU), and Figure 4 depicts *urban-rural typology* on NUTS 3 (regional) level. All of those maps were exported from Statistical Atlas by Eurostat and well illustrate the differences between the given levels of measurement, from the most detailed (*grid cells*), to the most general (NUTS 3).

¹³ “To meet the demand for statistics at a local level, Eurostat maintains a system of Local Administrative Units (LAUs) compatible with NUTS. These LAUs are the building blocks of the NUTS and comprise the municipalities and communes of the European Union. Until 2016, two levels of Local Administrative Units (LAU) existed: The upper LAU level (LAU level 1, formerly NUTS level 4) were defined for most, but not all of the countries. The lower LAU level (LAU level 2, formerly NUTS level 5) consisted of municipalities or equivalent units in the 28 EU Member States. Since 2017, only one level of LAU has been kept.” (Eurostat 2020a)

¹⁴ Eurostat 2018b.

¹⁵ “The Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, abbreviated NUTS (from the French version Nomenclature des Unités territoriales statistiques) is a geographical nomenclature subdividing the economic territory of the European Union (EU) into regions at three different levels (NUTS 1, 2 and 3 respectively, moving from larger to smaller territorial units). Above NUTS 1, there is the ‘national’ level of the Member States. The NUTS is based on Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), which is regularly updated.” (Eurostat 2016)

¹⁶ Eurostat 2019a.

Figure 1: Schematic overview defining urban-rural typologies.

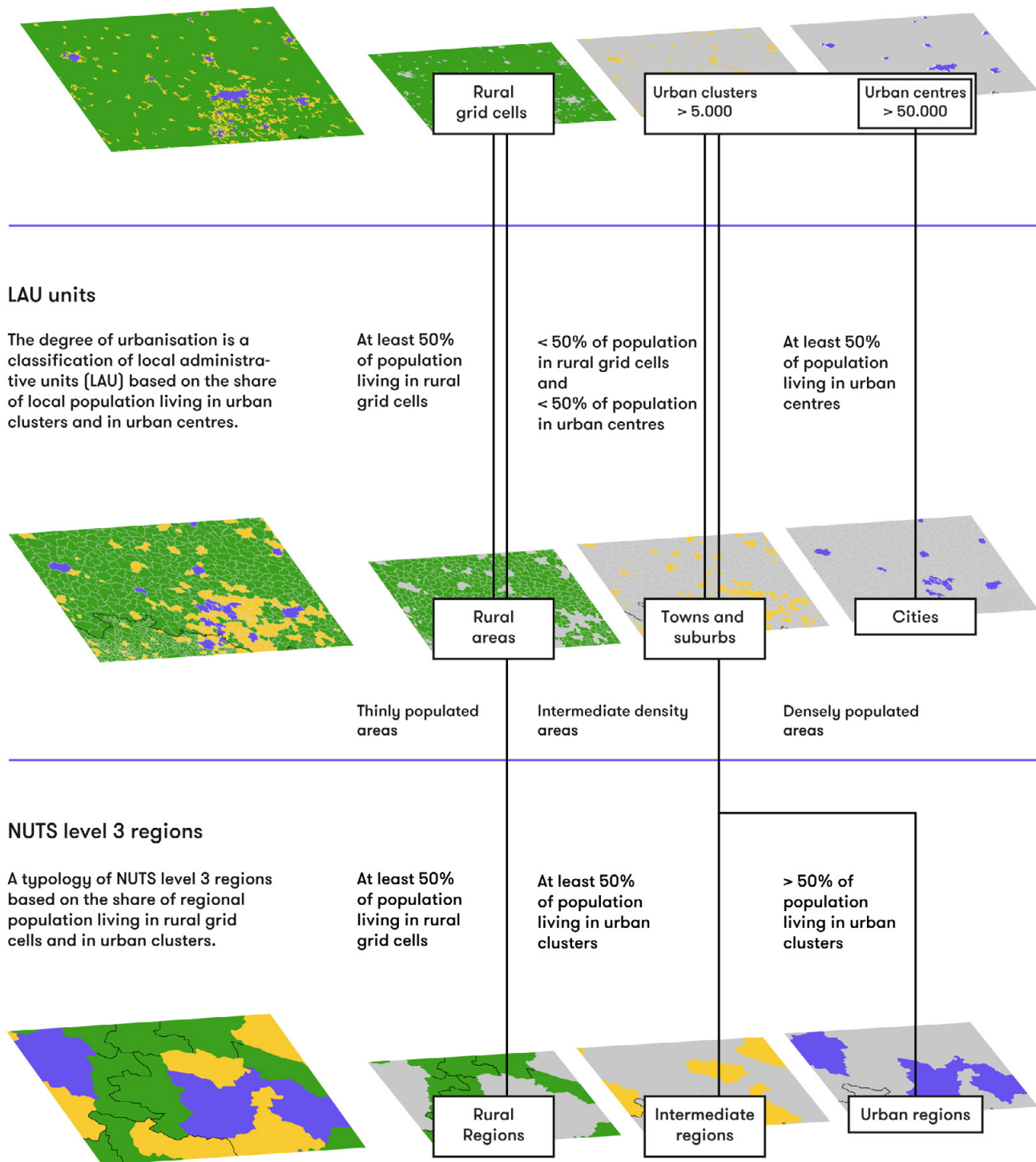
Grid Cells

Raster cells of 1 km² are classified using criteria of population density and contiguity. Where available, the population distribution is derived from registers. Elsewhere, it is downscaled from local (LAU) population figures.

Grid cells outside urban clusters

Contiguous cells (including diagonals) with a density of at least 300 inh./km² and a minimum of 5000 inhabitants

Contiguous cells (without diagonals and with gap filling) with a density of at least 1.500 inh./km² and a minimum of 50.000 inhabitants



Source: European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy, based on data from Eurostat, JRC, national statistical authorities, EFGS Eurostat 2020b.

¹⁷ European Union 2018: 3.

¹⁸ Methodology of the data processing is of the essence and differing methodologies are reasons for different figures available in other official sources. The Joint Research Centre states, that the rural areas covered in 2015 as much as 75% “of the EU populated mainland”. (Perpiña Castillo et al. 2018: 8.) Further information on methodologies of mapping and modelling spatial data can be found in a publication by Jacobs-Crisioni et al. (2017).

¹⁹ European Commission 2018.

When it comes to determining how much of the EU land can be considered rural areas and how much of it falls into other areas, such as the intermediate or urban, the DG Agriculture and Rural Development¹⁷ states that in 2018, 44% of the EU28 territory fell under the rural areas¹⁸, with another 44% in intermediate regions, and 12% representing urban areas, in line with information available in *Common context indicators for rural development programs 2014–2020*¹⁹. Rural areas, therefore, cover vast landscapes in the EU, and development of rural areas means further supporting almost half of the EU lands. To further stress the importance of the rural areas, Figure 5 shows a map of the EU in which regions (NUTS 3) are described with regard to their respective proportion of rural areas: the darker the colour, the higher the percentage of rural areas is in the given region. As shown in all abovementioned figures and demonstrated by the calculated proportions of the rural areas in the EU, the rural regions are widespread throughout the EU Member States. Bearing this in mind, it is important to have a look at the amount of people living in these areas in terms of both the general population and the youth population.

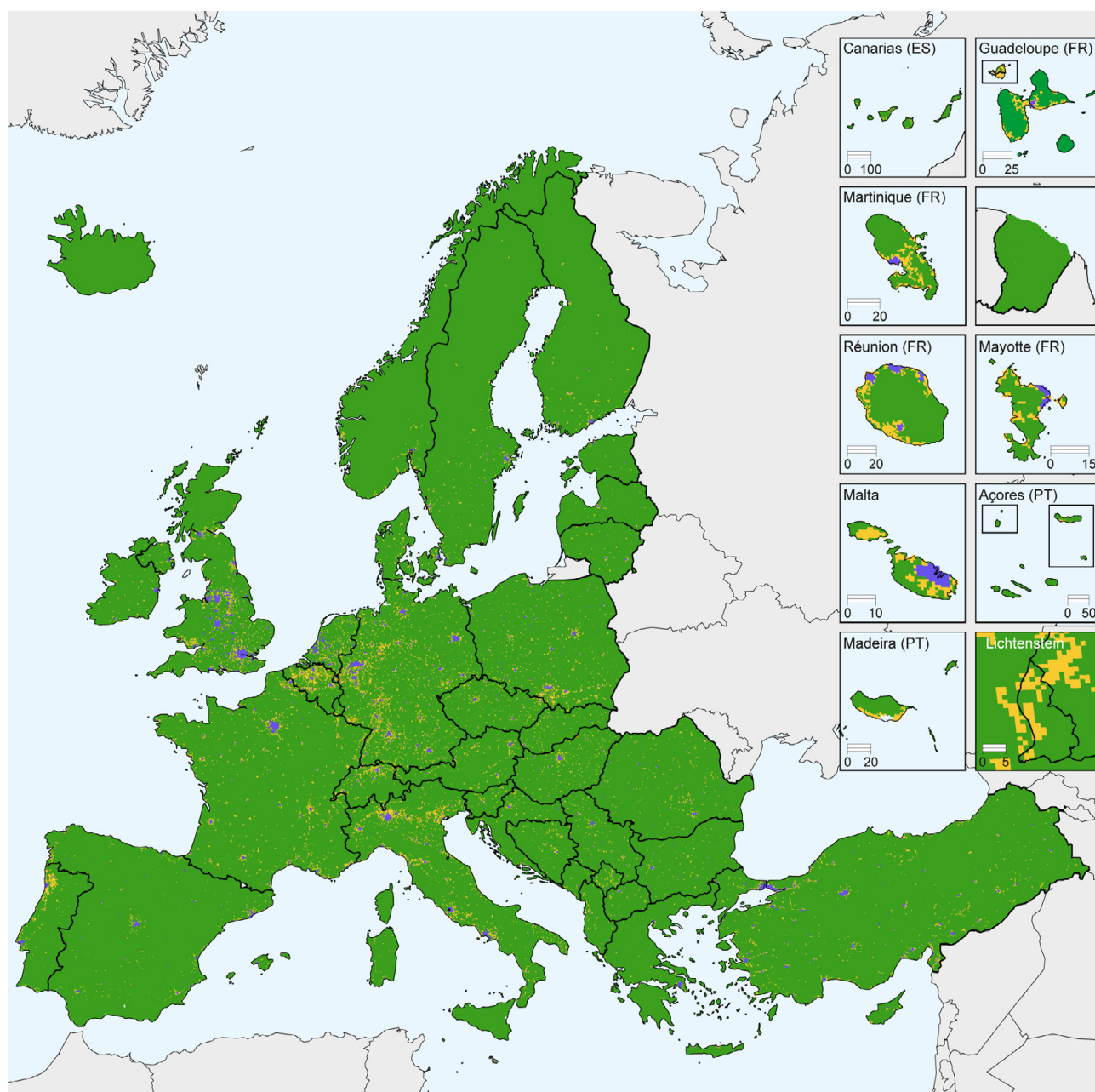
SUMMARY

- Rural areas can be defined at different levels, from the small-scale areas (grid cells or LAU) to rather large regions (NUTS 3).
- Applying different methodologies leads to differing definitions and resulting measurements.
- This publication uses the Eurostat understanding of the urban-rural typology defining NUTS 3 regions as:
 - Predominantly urban regions,
 - Intermediate regions,
 - Predominantly rural regions.
- As of 2018, 44% of the EU28 territory consisted of rural areas, 44% of intermediate regions, and 12% of urban areas.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- What understanding of urban-rural distinction is applied in your local, regional, or national context?
- If the Eurostat definitions were to apply, and using the detailed Eurostat databases, what types of regions are predominantly found in your local, regional, or national setting?
- How well do the Eurostat cartograms (see Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4) generally fit your own perceptions of local, regional or national reality when it comes to localizing rural and urban areas?

Figure 2: Urban-rural typology based on grid cells.
Cluster types based on 1 km² grid cells



- Rural grid cells:
grid cells of 1 km² outside of urban
centres and urban clusters
- Urban clusters
(moderate-density clusters):
a cluster of contiguous grid cells
of 1 km² with a density of at least
300 inhabitants per km² and
a minimum population of 5.000
- Urban centres (high-density
clusters): a cluster of contiguous
grid cells of 1 km² with a density of
at least 1.500 inhabitants per km²
and a minimum population of
50.000 after gap-filling

Note: based on GEOSTAT population grid from 2011, additional data from Columbia University, Center for International Earth Science Information Network - CIESIN (2015): GHS population grid.

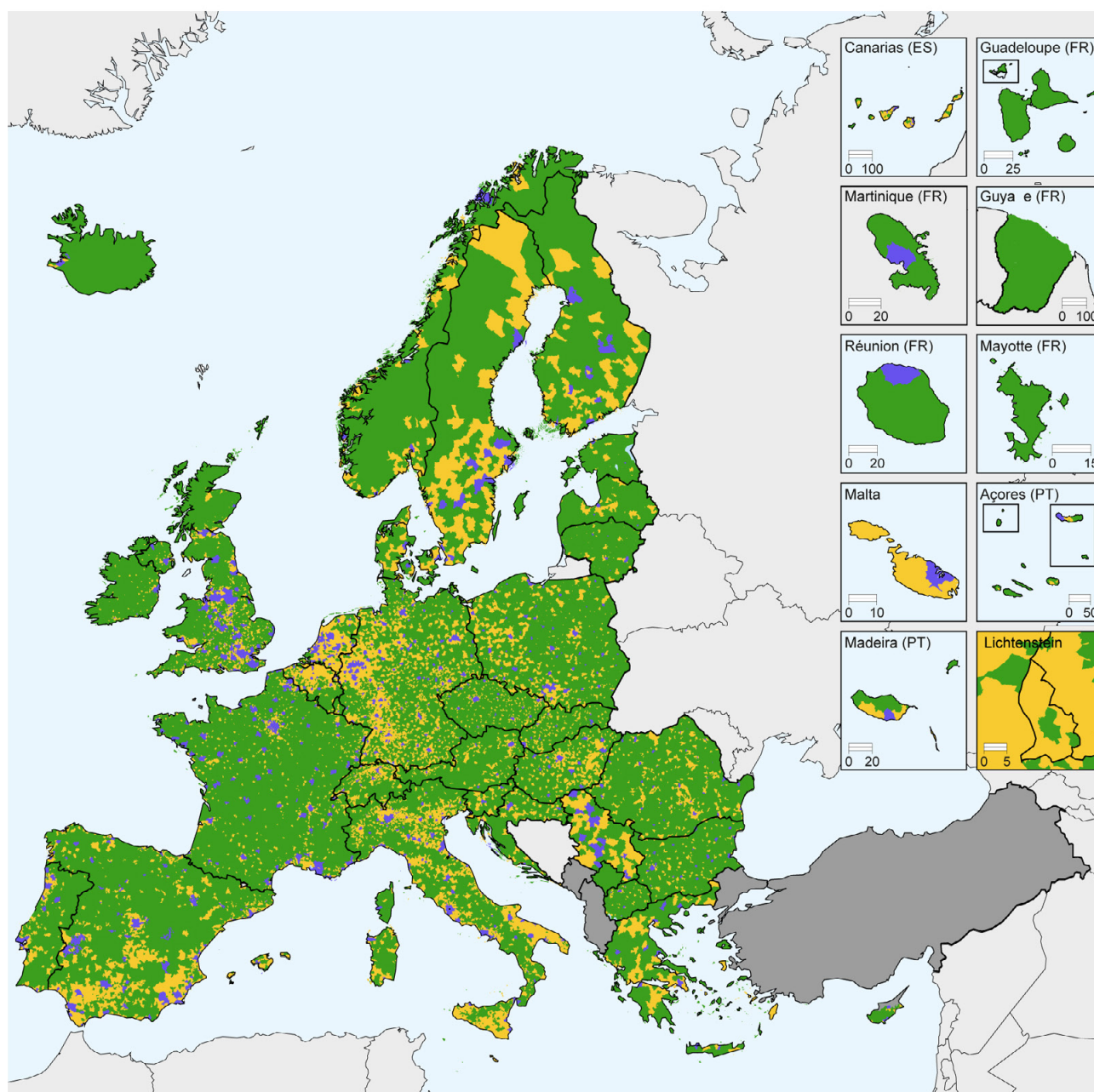
Source: Eurostat, JRC and European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy and Directorate-General Agriculture and Regional Development Eurostat 2019b.

Administrative boundaries:
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Cartography: Eurostat - GISCO, 09/2018

eurostat 

0 200 400 600 800 km

Figure 3: Urban-rural typology based on local administrative units (LAU).
Degree of urbanisation for local administrative units (LAU)



- **Rural areas**
(Thinly populated areas:
more than 50% of the population
lives in rural grid cells)
- **Towns and suburbs**
(Intermediate density areas:
less than 50% of the population
lives in rural grid cells and less
than 50% of the population lives
in urban centres)
- **Cities**
(Densely populated areas:
at least 50% of the population
lives in urban centres)
- **Data not available**

Note: based on GEOSTAT population grid from 2011, additional data from Columbia University, Center for International Earth Science Information Network - CIESIN (2015): GHS population grid, and NUTS 2016.

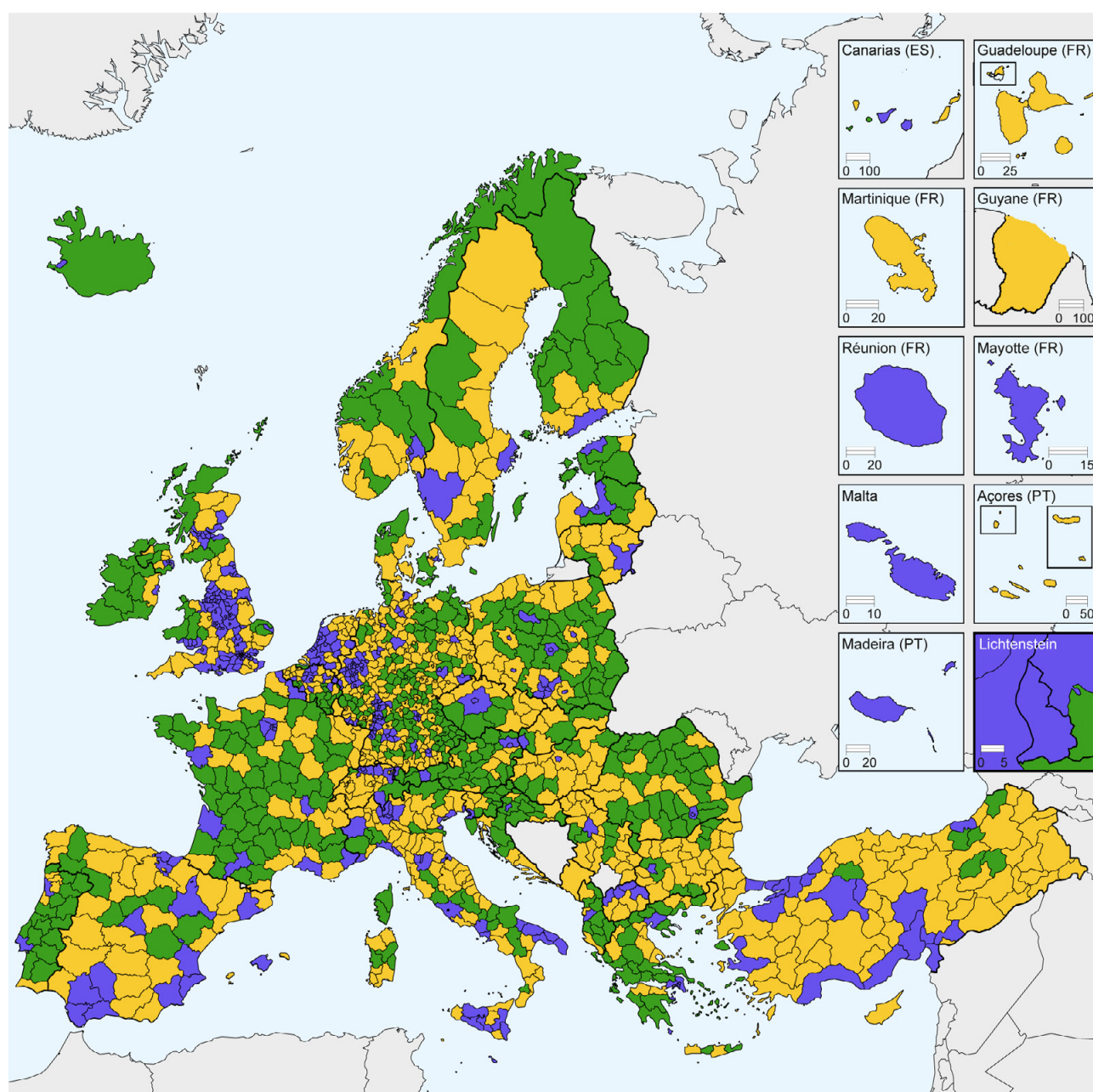
Source: Eurostat, JRC and European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy and Directorate-General Agriculture and Regional Development Eurostat 2019c.

Administrative boundaries:
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Cartography: Eurostat - GISCO, 09/2018v

eurostat 

0 200 400 600 800 km

Figure 4: Urban-rural typology on the level of regions (NUTS 3).



- Predominantly rural regions
- Intermediate regions
- Predominantly urban regions

Note: based on GEOSTAT population grid from 2011, additional data from Columbia University, Center for International Earth Science Information Network - CIESIN (2015): GHS population grid, and NUTS 2016.

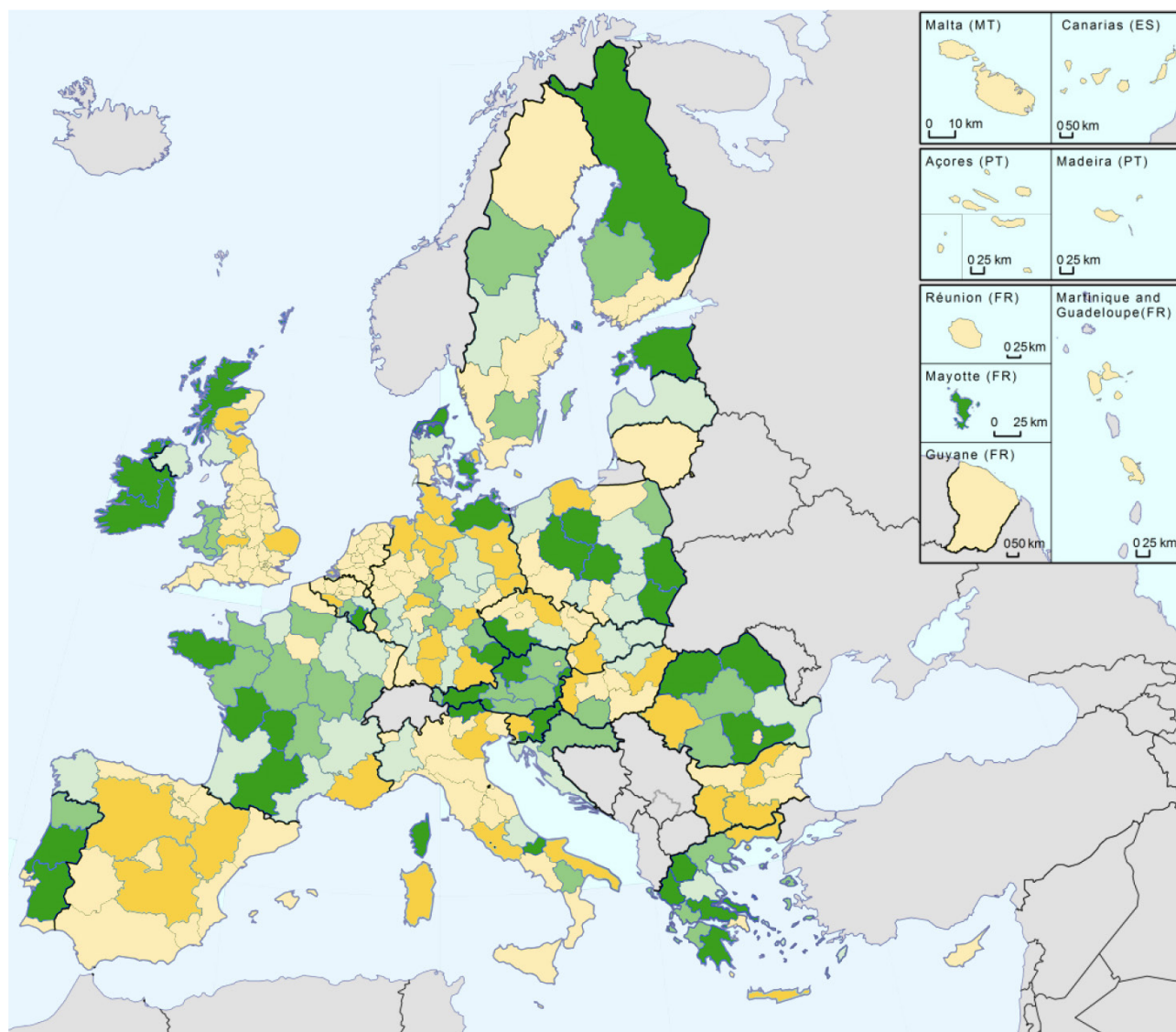
Source: Eurostat, JRC and European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy and Directorate-General Agriculture and Regional Development Eurostat 2019d.

Administrative boundaries:
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 Cartography: Eurostat - GISCO, 09/2018

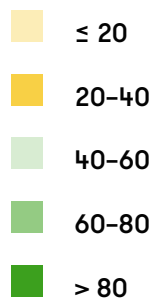
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0 200 400 600 800 km

Figure 5: Importance of rural areas calculated as percentage of rural areas out of the total territory, NUTS 3, year 2015.



Importance of rural territory
(as % of total territory)



Note: Context indicator, C.03 – Territory, 2015; NUTS level: NUTS 2;
Source: Eurostat – Population Statistics; Year: 2015; Calculations:
DG AGRI; Cartography: DG AGRI GIS TEAM 12/2018;
European Commission 2018: 13.

©EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries



0 125 250 500 750 km

1.3. Discovering Rural Youth in the EU

Youth is a concept describing a group of people sharing certain common qualities, and as such has been under continuous construction for several hundred years now, gradually shifting its definition. From purely developmental, often psychologizing, perspectives defining youth as a certain stage of development with given biological and cognitive qualities²⁰, through more sociological definitions of youth as people in transition from childhood to adulthood²¹, to a standalone and independent group of people with a specific position in society²². All of these views can be debated and compared with respect to their contributions to the development of the concept of youth and various attempts can be made (and, of course, have been made) to reconcile the different positions and come up with one universal definition of youth. Every such universal definition can be, with all likelihood, only a very temporary definition. Youth as a concept describing a particular group of people is changing as is changing the societal role of youth, its culture, connections to other stages of life, and meaning society and young people themselves attribute to the youth.

Despite this ambiguity, there are definitions which, despite not being universally valid worldwide across all contexts, are able to provide guidance in a given geographical and social context: legal definitions and policy frameworks. First and foremost, it needs noticing that biological age is the basic determinant of youth in legal and policy documents in absolute majority of cases²³, setting legal and policy definitions of youth aside from the abovementioned thinking traditions. This, apparently, is a consequence of the necessity to rather strictly define young people in such a way that they are clearly and as easily as possible identifiable for the purposes of laws and policy frameworks.

An overview of the European situation in legal and policy frameworks²⁴ suggests that six types of youth definitions could be found in the European legal and policy context in 2016 (Table 1). Apart from a handful of countries who merge either totally (*Children and youth merging model*) or partially (*Youth age model comprising also of childhood age*) young people and children into one larger category, most European countries use lower and upper age limit to define the young people in their legal and policy documents. In the European context, youth is usually defined as people in ages 14 to 30, with concrete definitions varying in the lower or upper age limits across the countries. This ambiguity in defining youth within the European legal and policy context is an important reason for utmost caution when comparing data on young people originating in different EU Member States. Information from one country can refer to different age groups than data from a neighbouring state. Last but not least, the national frameworks for defining youth will likely continually change in the future, as they are a subject of an ongoing discussion²⁵.

The situation on the level of European countries is largely in line with the approach of the EU which defines youth for the purposes of its youth policies as young people aged 15 to 29²⁶. Subsequently also the Eurostat²⁷ is using the same general²⁸ youth definition. It is noteworthy, however, that concrete EU policy measures, such as the EU youth programmes²⁹, define young people (in some cases) as wide as 13 to 30-year olds³⁰. Situation on the international level further complicates, if other transnational organizations are taken into account. As an example, the UN is defining youth as an age group of 15 to 24-year olds³¹, with an extra category of adolescents aged 10 to 19 taken into account as well and constituting a wide age group of 10 to 24-year olds³². Apparently, comparing statistics across the international organizations as well as across policy fields within the EU demands caution, since differing definitions of youth can be used.

²⁰ Covered extensively by developmental psychologists, such as Freud or Piaget. (Cf. Harlan 2016: 3; Henze 2015)

²¹ Adding to the biological, emotional, and intellectual dimension also the social aspects, such as “changing relationships with social institutions, in particular those concerned with family, work and leisure. These institutions must be successfully navigated by the individual in order to achieve the full and responsible adult maturity which is associated with citizenship in a democratic society.” (Spence 2005: 48. Cf. Henze 2015)

²² “Modern youth adopts an own status and captures an own social room with claims, such as to live their newly acclaimed energies and possibilities, and test different social roles without immediately being confronted with the heavy weight of adult life and regulations.” (Henze 2015: 6; Cf. Smólk 2014)

²³ There are exceptions, such as the case of “young farmers” who are defined not only with respect to age, but also in relation to the agricultural industry: “2. For the purposes of this Chapter, ‘young farmers’, means natural persons:

(a) who are setting up for the first time an agricultural holding as head of the holding, or who have already set up such a holding during the five years preceding the first submission of an application under the basic payment scheme or the single area payment scheme referred to in Article 72(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013; and

(b) who are no more than 40 years of age in the year of submission of the application referred to in point (a).” (European Parliament and Council of the EU 2013)

²⁴ Perovic 2016.

²⁵ As an example of such adjustments in the legal definitions and perceptions of young people, changes in legal voting age in Europe can be shown. At the beginning of the 20th century, the usual voting age was 21, with continuous changes resulting in legal voting age in most of the European countries dropping to 18 (Blais, Massicotte, Yoshinaka 2001; Ansala 2015: 6). At the same time, debate is already under way to consider young people eligible to vote since their 16th birthday (McAllister 2014; Wall 2014; Gershon 2018; Astor 2019), with some countries, like Malta and Austria in the European context, leading the suit by already lowering the legal voting age to 16 (Wagner, Johann, Kritzing, 2012; Azelton, Barrowman, Reppell Not Dated: 37).

²⁶ European Commission 2020b; European Commission 2015.

²⁷ Eurostat 2020c; Eurostat 2015: 1.

²⁸ There are specific areas in which other age limits may apply to the youth, as mentioned above in the case of young farmers, or as is the case in young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs) where the age limit of 15 to 24 applies (Eurostat 2017: 84).

²⁹ In particular, the Youth in Action programme (2007–2013) and the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme (2014–2020).

³⁰ European Commission 2011: 2; SALTO-YOUTH SEE RC 2018: 11.

³¹ UN Not Dated: 2.

³² UNFPA Not Dated: 1.

Table 1: Overview of national youth age definitions

Youth age definition model	Lower age limit in years	Upper age limit in years	Countries using the given model
Predominant European model	14 to 16	29 to 30	Andorra, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Moldova, Germany, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, Turkey, Croatia, Montenegro, Czech Republic and Spain
Shortened youth age model	13 to 16	24 to 25	Ireland, Latvia, Republic of North Macedonia, Switzerland and Sweden
Start earlier and end later youth age model	12 to 13	30	United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway and Portugal
Prolonged youth age model	12 to 16	32 to 35	Greece, Cyprus, Romania, San Marino and Ukraine
Youth age model comprising also of childhood age	3 to 7	25 to 30	France, Estonia and Iceland
Children and youth merging model	0	25 to 30	Austria, Belgium, Liechtenstein, Slovak Republic, Finland and the Netherlands

Source: Table created based on the original typology by Perovic (2016: 3). “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” changed to “Republic of North Macedonia” in line with the 2019 official development.

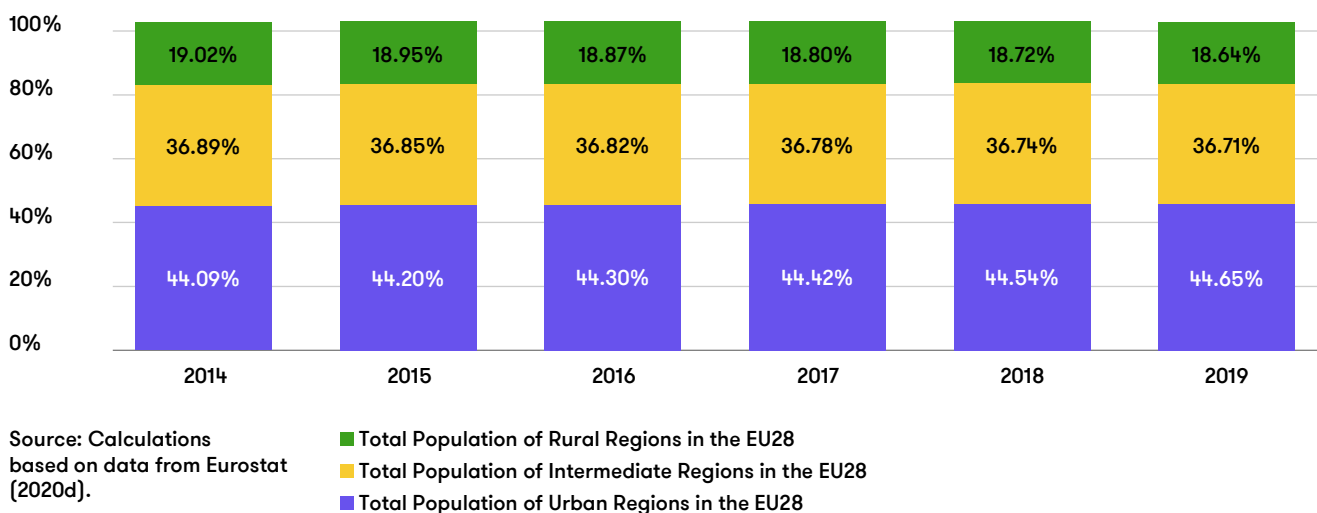
³³ These calculations are based on data from Eurostat (2020d) and are in line with information provided by the European Commission (2018:3). Again, conflicting information can be found in other official sources as other methodologies of data processing may apply. According to Eurostat (2018c), “28% of the EU’s population lived in rural area in 2015, with a somewhat higher share living in towns and suburbs (31.6%), while the biggest share of the EU-28 population lived in cities (40.4%)”. And according to the Joint Research Centre, the rural areas “hosted only about a quarter of EU’s population” (Perpiña Castillo et al. 2018: 8.).

³⁴ This is largely in line with the findings of the European Commission (2018:5) which state that between 2012 and 2017, rural areas (NUTS 3) lost about 0.5% of its total

In conclusion of this discussion, it needs to be noted that there is no universal definition of youth in use across the European countries or in the European international environment. **Given the focus of this publication on the European Youth Goals and on statistical indicators, the EU general definition of youth as encompassing young people 15 to 29 years old is used.** Therefore, the rural youth in the EU are defined as all young people between the ages of 15 and 29 who are living in rural areas as defined by the Eurostat *urban-rural typology* described above. This definition, however, cannot be considered to be an ultimate solution to defining rural youth, since there may be particular policies aimed at young people in rural areas which define youth in a different way, as is the case in young farmers mentioned above. It provides, however, a general rule based on which rural youth can be identified, while taking into account the specificities of the sectors in question.

When it comes to the general population of the EU residing in different settings, data show that only about 19% of the EU total population lived in rural areas between 2014 and 2019, while about 37% lived in the intermediate regions, and 44% to 45% resided in urban areas³³ (Figure 6). In order to better picture the number of people in question, it is useful to also show absolute numbers of different EU28 populations as shown in Figure 7. From more than 500 million people living in the EU28 between 2014 and 2019, 220 to 230 million lived in urban regions, another almost 190 million in intermediate regions, and approximately 95 million in rural regions.

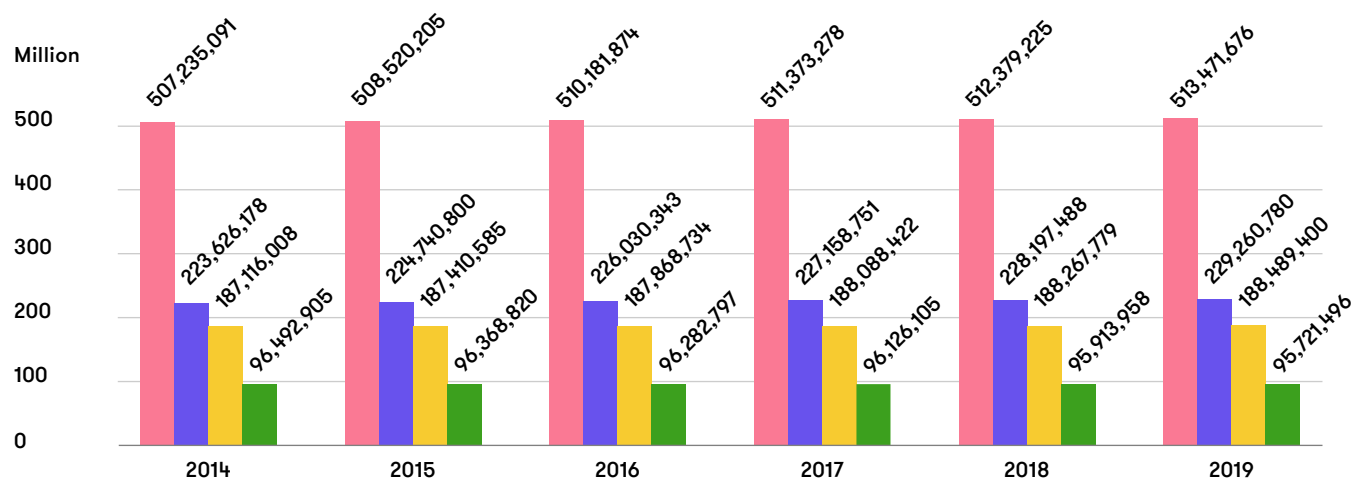
Figure 6: Total population of the EU28 by regions of residence. Percentages and time series 2014–2019.



population. Slightly different results were reported on the urban areas which, according to the European Commission (2018:5) grew in population by 1.6% and intermediate areas gained 0.9% of population. These differences can be caused by a different methodology as well as simply by different results for 2012–2017 comparison conducted by the European Commission (2018) and for 2014–2019 comparison conducted in this publication.

Both the percentage and the absolute number-based overview show that in total population including all age groups, decrease can be detected mostly in the rural regions. As shown in Figure 8, the total urban population grew by approximately 0.6% between 2014 and 2019, and the population of intermediate regions slightly decreased by about 0.2%, while the rural regions lost about 0.4% of its population³⁴.

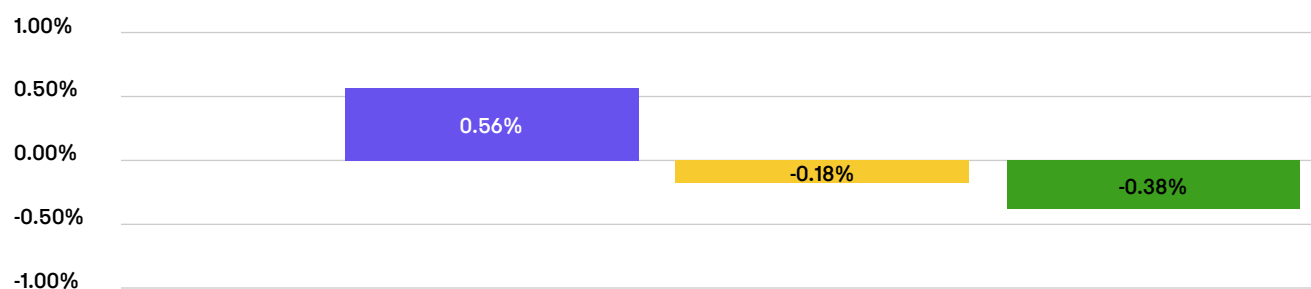
Figure 7: Total population of the EU28 and total populations of the EU28 by region of residence. Absolute numbers and time series 2014–2020.



Source: Calculations based on data from Eurostat (2020d).

■ Total Population of the EU 28
■ Total Population of Urban Regions in the EU28
■ Total Population of Intermediate Regions in the EU28
■ Total Population of Rural Regions in the EU28

Figure 8: Change in total population of the EU28 between 2014 and 2019 by regions of residence in percentages.



Source: Calculations based on data from Eurostat (2020d).

■ Change in Total Population of Urban Regions between 2014 and 2019
■ Change in Total Population of Intermediate Regions between 2014 and 2019
■ Change in Total Population of Rural Regions between 2014 and 2019

³⁵ European Commission

³⁶ European Commission 2018: 6.

³⁷ When referring to the EU Member States in this publication, the EU28, hence also including the UK, is covered by the term, unless otherwise stated. This is due to the fact that the UK had been part of the EU in the periods in question (i.e. pre-2020).

³⁸ Eurostat 2020d.

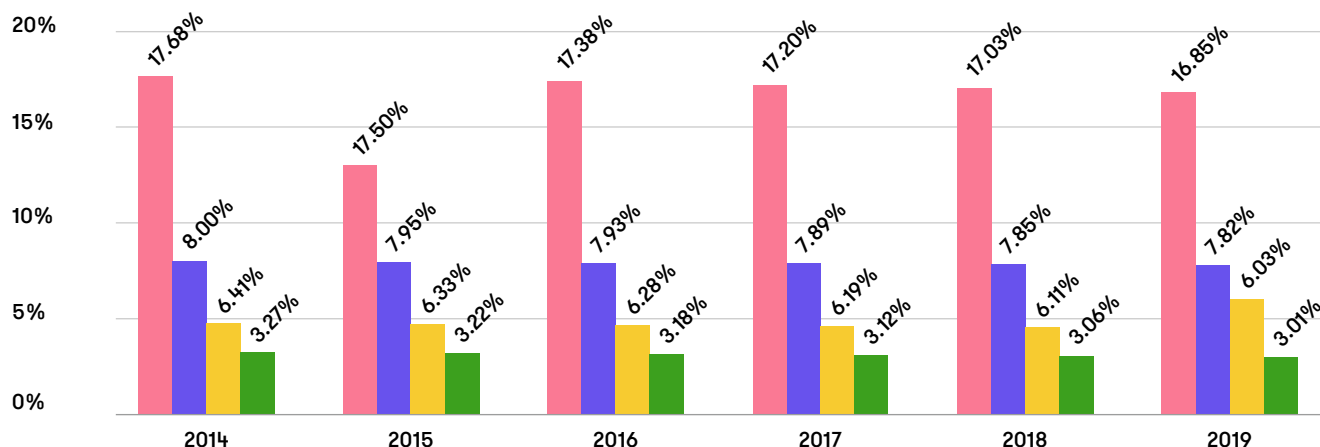
A substantially more difficult task is to find information on young people living in rural areas in the EU, as age groups which can be found in various indicators, widely vary. The CAP (Common Agricultural Policy³⁵) indicators only distinguish between three age groups: 14 and younger, 15 to 64 years of age, and 65 and older. According to this distinction, the EU population in all three types of areas (rural, intermediate and urban) consists of roughly the same proportion of people of different ages. There were between 15% and 16% of young people aged 14 or less, between 64% to 67% of population aged 15 to 64, and between 17% and 20% of older people aged 65 and over in all area types between 2012 and 2017³⁶. This suggests that, as far as the very young people of 14 or younger are concerned, there is no apparent difference in their distribution among the rural, intermediate, and urban areas. At the same time, it seems their ratio is rather consistent in all types of areas over time with no increases or decreases between 2012 and 2017. This age distinction, however, proves to be rather difficult when referring to the rural youth as defined above.

The Eurostat provides absolute numbers describing total population of the EU Member States³⁷ divided by age groups and types of regions. When it comes to age groups, the Eurostat provides several different age group divisions. In order to capture the young people as defined above (15 to 29-year olds), the following division needs to be used:

- 15 to 19-year olds,
- 20 to 24-year olds,
- 25 to 29-year olds³⁸.

In these age groups which, if tackled together, record the young people between the ages of 15 to 29, there is between, roughly, 17% and 18% of the total EU28 population, as shown in Figure 9. Out of these 17–18%, there are about 8% of young people living in urban regions, about 6% living in intermediate regions, and about 3% living in rural regions.

Figure 9: Total population of young people in the EU28 by regions of residence. Percentages based on total EU28 population and time series 2014–2019.

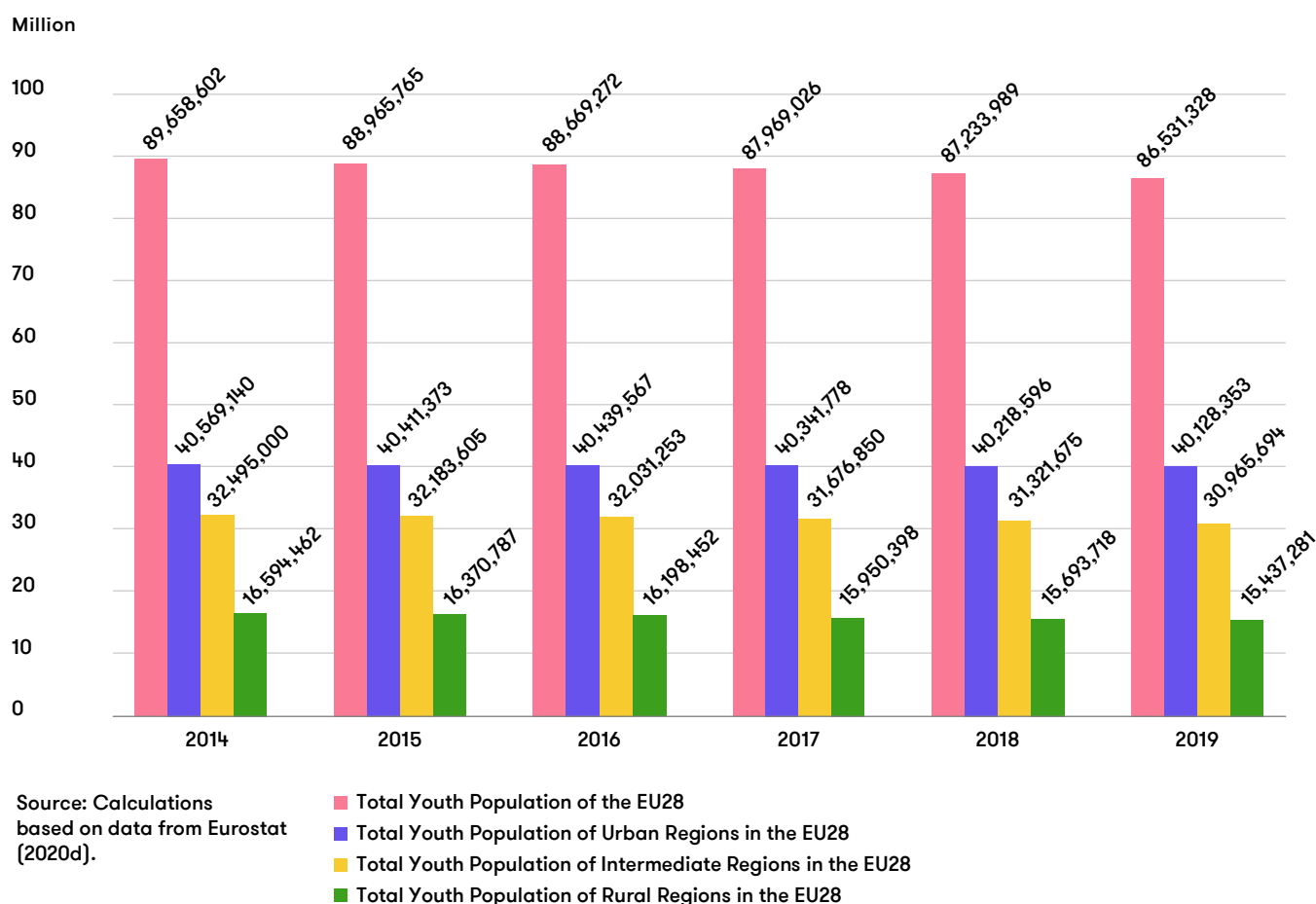


Source: Calculations based on data from Eurostat (2020d).

- Total Youth Population of the EU28
- Total Youth Population of Urban Regions in the EU28
- Total Youth Population of Intermediate Regions in the EU28
- Total Youth Population of Rural Regions in the EU28

This, again, is well illustrated using absolute numbers as shown in Figure 10. There were, in total, between 86 and 90 million of young people in the EU28. About 40 million of them lived in urban regions, about 30 million in intermediate regions, and only about 16 million resided in rural areas.

Figure 10: Total population of young people in the EU28 by regions of residence. Absolute numbers and time series 2014–2019.

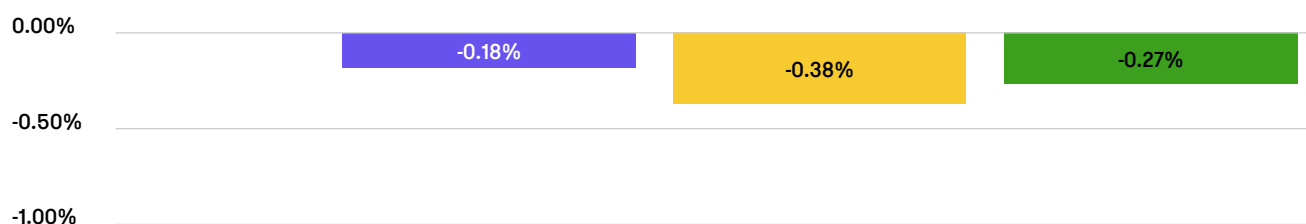


An apparent decrease in numbers of young people across all regions can be noted and is shown in Figure 11. This result is not surprising, given the overall long-term decrease in youth population in the EU28. This trend is called population aging and is well-documented. Changes caused by population aging can be clearly seen in the population pyramid comparing EU28 populations in 2001 and 2017 in Figure 12. Young people aged 15 to 29 are among the most rapidly decreasing age cohorts, with gradually increasing numbers in population of 45 years old and older. This phenomenon is caused by two main factors. First and foremost, the fertility rate drops, causing decrease in numbers of children and young people; and secondly, life expectancy increases, leading to more people living longer lives³⁹.

³⁹ Eatock 2019: I.

What is, nevertheless, interesting, is the rate of decline in different types of regions. While the decline is rather low in case of urban regions, much faster decrease in population levels can be seen in intermediate and rural areas. This suggests that while the overall trend of decreasing youth populations is present in the EU28 context, it is happening at different paces in different types of regions. This may imply that youth populations are not only decreasing due to the overall trend of population aging, but that some other influences (e.g. migrations across regions, different fertility rates, etc.) may also be contributing to speeding up the decrease of youth populations in intermediate and rural regions.

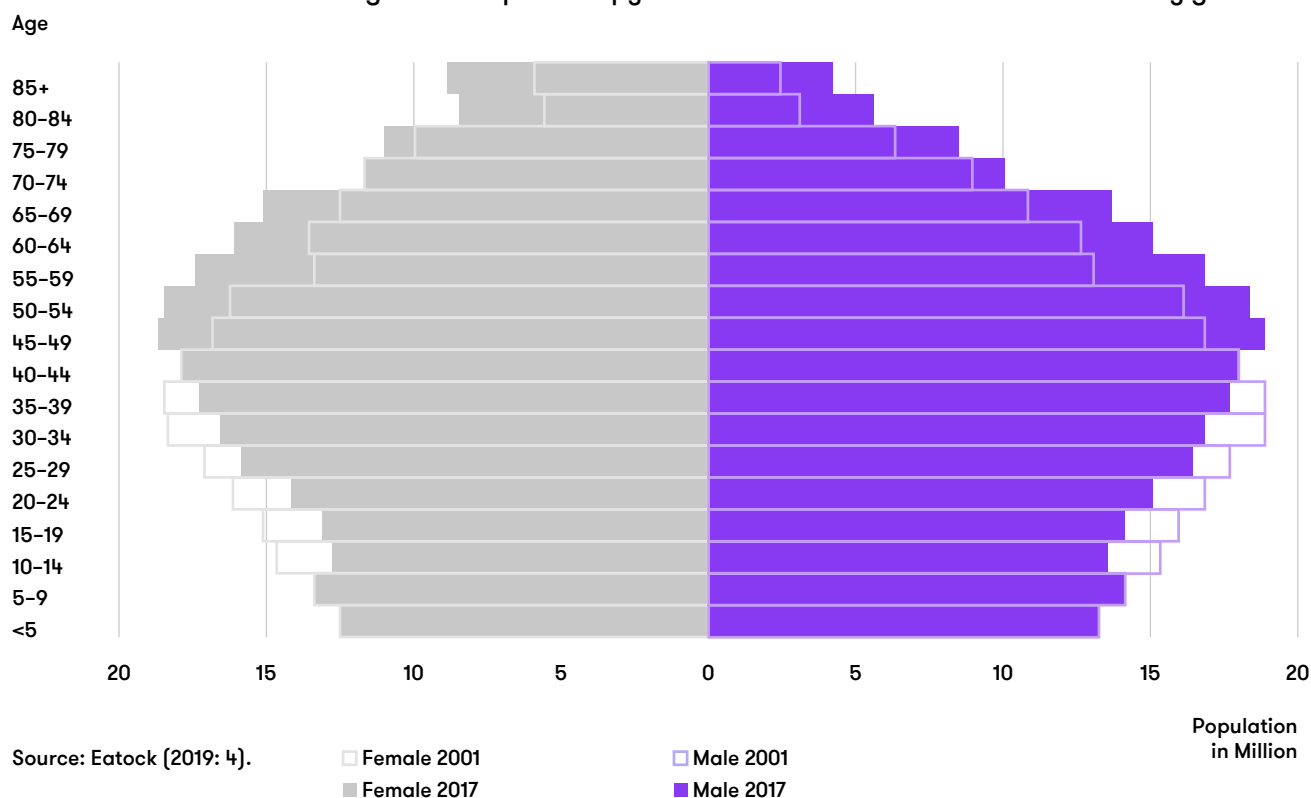
Figure 11: Change in youth population of the EU28 between 2014 and 2019 by regions of residence in percentages based on total EU28 population.



Source: Calculations based on data from Eurostat (2020d).

■ Change in Youth Population of Urban Regions between 2014 and 2019
■ Change in Youth Population of Intermediate Regions between 2014 and 2019
■ Change in Youth Population of Rural Regions between 2014 and 2019

Figure 12: Population pyramids of EU28 in 2001 and 2017 divided by gender.



In order to further explore the distribution of youth populations in different types of regions, ratios of the young people differentiated by place of residence is calculated in Figure 13. These percentages are based on the total youth population only (see Figure 10 for details on absolute numbers), and hence the total (100%) are all young people living in the EU28 in the given year (yellow bar in Figure 10). This figure is, therefore, compensating for the decrease in total youth population as the ratios always combine into 100% in total. As shown in Figure 13, the overall distribution of the young people across different settings is very similar to the one for the total EU28 population (compare Figure 13 with Figure 6). Young people are living slightly less in rural areas (long-term by roughly 0.5%) and in intermediate regions (long-term by almost 1.0%) and more in urban regions (long-term by about 1.5%).

Figure 13: Total population of young people in the EU28 by regions of residence. Percentages based on the youth population only and time series 2014–2019.

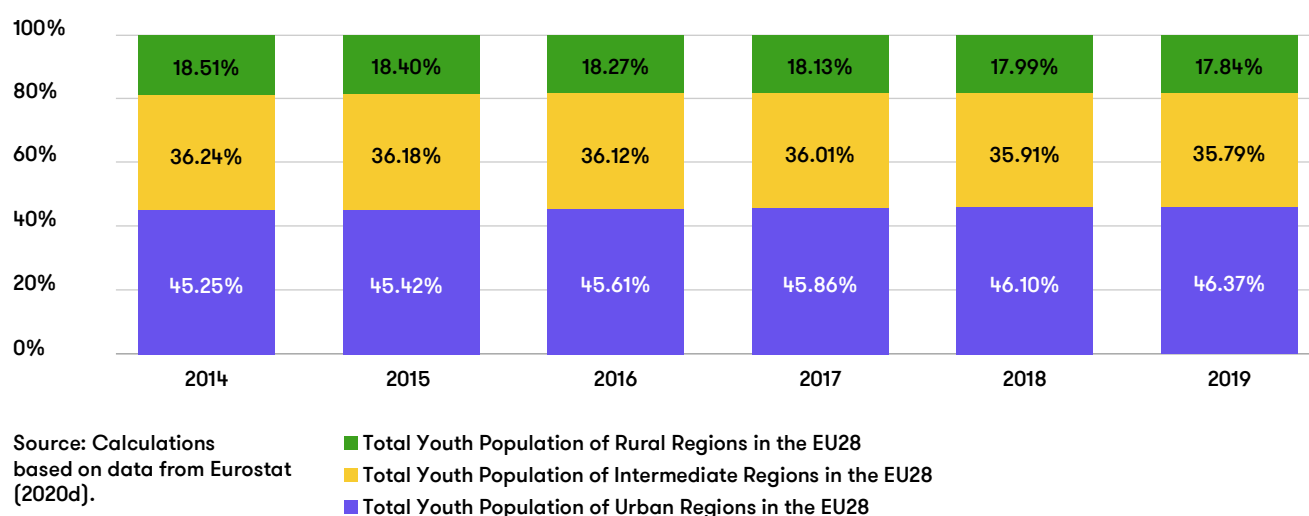
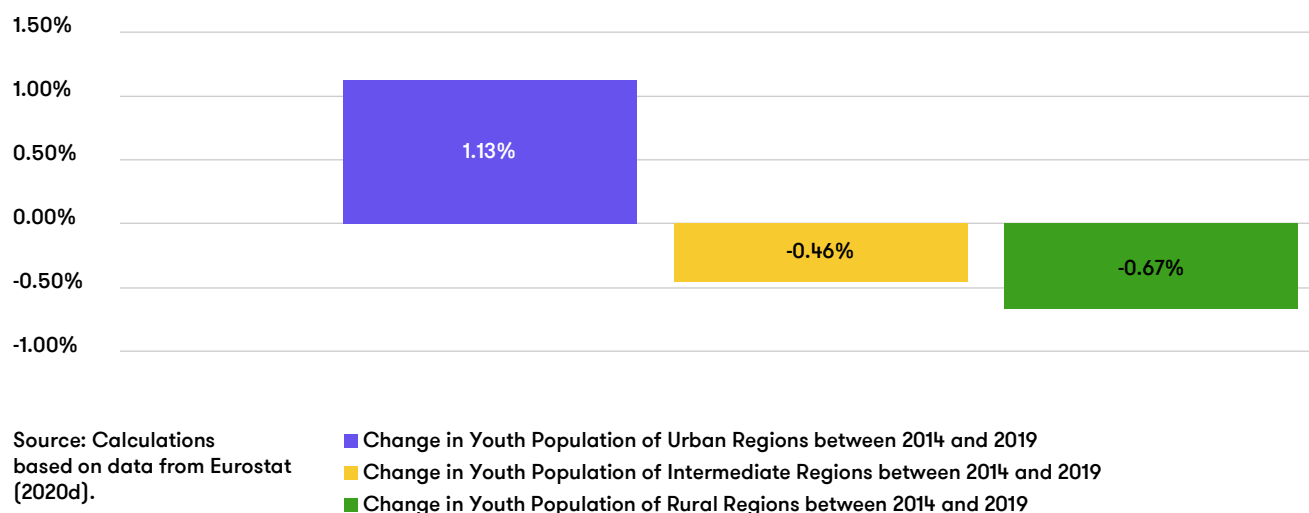


Figure 14: Change in the distribution of youth population of the EU28 between 2014 and 2019 by regions of residence in percentages based on youth EU28 population



Exploring the distribution of youth population per se across different types of regions, as presented in Figure 13, also provides a basis to see what change there is in the long term when it comes to the place of residence of young people in the EU28. Figure 14 shows that there is a long-term increase in youth populations of urban areas (by over 1.0% between 2014 and 2019), while intermediate and rural youth populations shrank (by roughly 0.5% and 0.7% respectively). These figures are providing an insight into the distribution of youth across different settings without the necessity to take into account the overall trend of population ageing as was the case in Figure 11. As a result, it is apparent that the distribution of young people in the EU28 differs across region types: young people in the EU28 are increasingly inhabiting urban areas and leaving areas with rural or intermediate nature. This trend is stronger in the youth population than the one detected in the total EU28 population.

SUMMARY

- Youth is a concept without a universally applicable definition.
- Definition of youth as a group of young people 15 to 29 years old is used in this publication in line with a commonly used youth definition in the EU policy context.
- Rural youth is defined as all young people aged 15 to 29 who live in rural areas as defined in the previous chapter.
- Between 2014 and 2019, approximately 19% (about 95 million) of the EU28 population lived in rural regions, while about 37% (about 188 million) of the EU28 population resided in intermediate areas, and 44% to 45% (223 to 229 million) of the EU28 population lived in urban areas.
- Between 2014 and 2019, total population of the EU28 urban areas increased by 0.6% while the total population of the rural areas decreased by 0.4%.
- Between 2014 and 2019, approximately 18% (15 to 16 million) of the young people in the EU28 lived in rural areas, about 36% (30 to 32 million) lived in intermediate regions, and 45% to 46% (about 40 million) lived in urban settings.
- Between 2014 and 2019, youth population of the EU28 urban areas increased by 1.1%, while the youth population of the rural areas decreased by 0.7%.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- How many people in total live in rural and urban regions in your local, regional, or national context?
- In case time series of data are available or using the detailed Eurostat databases, what trends can be identified in your local, regional, or national context?
- How do you define youth in your local, regional, or national context?
- Using your definition or using the definition from this publication, how many young people live in rural and urban regions in your local, regional, or national context?
- In case time series of data are available or using the detailed Eurostat databases, what trends can be identified in your local, regional, or national context?
- How do trends from the general population and from the youth population compare?

1.4. Discovering Rural Youth Policies in the EU

Rural policies as well as youth policies are in themselves domains of today's EU policymaking. Identifying rural youth policies is, therefore, a task which demands knowledge of both aforementioned original policy sources: rural and youth areas. European Network for Rural Development⁴⁰ (ENRD) compiled an overview of policy instruments focusing on young people in rural areas and highlighting the main overarching EU policies targeting rural youth:

- The EU Youth Strategy (EUYs),
- The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP),
- The European Employment Strategy (EES).

While the EUYS 2010–2018⁴¹ mentioned by the ENRD⁴² aimed generally at young people in the EU in a number of areas, hence also implicitly covering the rural youth, the current EUYS 2019–2027⁴³ features the European Youth Goals (described in chapter 1.1) which also include rural youth as one of the explicit target groups. While the main topical areas of the EUYS 2019–2027⁴⁴ are covered by the European Youth Goals, the main transversal areas are youth engagement, participation, and empowerment, as well as connecting youth across borders and settings. The EUYS 2019–2027 is, apparently, broad in its aims and virtually all of the objectives are applicable also to the rural youth, making all of the concrete measures and instruments of the EUYS 2019–2027 available to support rural youth. These instruments contain for example⁴⁵:

- The EU youth mobility programmes (e.g. Erasmus+: Youth in Action, the European Solidarity Corps),
- The participation frameworks (e.g. the EU Youth Dialogue, the EU Youth Strategy Platform),
- The information provision mechanisms (e.g. the European Youth Portal, the Youth Wiki),
- The knowledge-building mechanisms (e.g. Expert Groups, grant schemes supporting youth research).

The CAP⁴⁶ is in general focusing on supporting and safeguarding farmers, on sustainable management and maintenance of natural resources and rural areas, and on supporting rural economy. Apparently, rural youth is only partially constituting the target group of the CAP, nevertheless, there are specific measures which aim at targeting young people in rural areas directly, mostly aiming at young people in agricultural domain:

- Young farmers scheme,
- Start-up aid for young farmers,
- Support to young people in rural areas, including non-farmers.

The EES⁴⁷ aims at creating more and better jobs throughout the EU, and as such consists of a wide variety of instruments, with some measures targeting directly young people. Despite not aiming at rural areas explicitly, all of these measures are aiming at young people in general and covering all contexts, be it urban or rural⁴⁸:

- The Youth Guarantee (supported by the Youth Employment Initiative),
- The Quality Framework for Traineeships,
- The European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships.

All of the aforementioned policy domains well demonstrate the cross-sectoral nature of the rural youth policy: young people living in rural areas are explicitly targeted by certain policies, but at the same time covered implicitly by other policy areas, ranging from education and health-care to transportation and culture. With this finding in mind, it is possible to compile a definition of the rural youth policy. **Rural youth policy is any public policy targeting either explicitly or implicitly young people (15 to 29 years of age) in rural areas (as defined by Eurostat).** Such policies can be identified on all levels, from the local, through the regional and national, to the international.

⁴⁰ 2018.

⁴¹ Council of the European Union 2009.

⁴² 2018.

⁴³ Council of the European Union 2018, 2019.

⁴⁴ Council of the European Union 2018.

⁴⁵ Council of the European Union 2018.

⁴⁶ European Commission 2020c.

⁴⁷ European Commission 2020d.

⁴⁸ European Commission 2020e.

⁴⁹ In view of the concluding remarks above, it needs to be noted that the list of policies targeting rural youth quoted in this chapter is not complete or exhaustive, but rather serves as examples of both explicit and implicit rural youth policies.

This is an important aspect affecting the nature of indicators in the rural youth policy area. The link between an indicator and a given policy is apparent in case rural youth is mentioned as an explicit target group (e.g. in the EUYS and CAP) but can be blurry in case of more general policies, such as the ESS. Rural youth, however, should not be omitted from any policy indicator, as it constitutes, explicitly or implicitly, the target group for policy delivery across all policy domains⁴⁹.

SUMMARY

- Rural youth can become an explicit target group of a policy, such as in the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 through the European Youth Goal no.6.
- Rural youth can become an implicit target group of a policy, such as in the European Employment Strategy where all of the EU youth population is targeted.
- Rural youth policy is therefore any public policy targeting either explicitly or implicitly young people in rural areas on any policy level: local, regional, national, and international.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- Do the abovementioned EU policies manifest in your local, regional, or national context?
- What other explicit rural youth policies exist in your local, regional, or national context?
- What other policies targeting rural youth implicitly exist in your local, regional, or national context?

2.

Description and Analysis

First part of this paper clarified understanding of the basic concepts such as rural areas, youth and rural youth, and rural youth policy. This section builds on the outlined understanding of these concepts and dives into the area of indicators connected to the rural youth. **The ultimate aim of this section is to provide the reader with an overview of existent indicators on international and national levels within the EU context, to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the current indicators, and to outline threats and opportunities for the future development of these indicators.** All of this information may help not only to widen the use of existent indicators, but also to facilitate, if need be, creation of new indicators on all levels.

First, a short note on methodology is presented, summarizing sampling, the data collection, and analytical processes. Second, detailed findings are presented in line with the framework of the SWOT analysis method. Lastly, main findings are summarized, and recommendations stressed.

2.1. Notes on Methodology

Presented study aims at (a) outlining existent indicators focusing on rural youth in the EU context and (b) analyse the quality of these indicators while pointing out recommendations for improvements where possible. This enables the reader not only to glimpse what ready-to-use indicators exist as of the first half of 2020, but also to spot their strong and weak suits, be aware of them when using the existent indicators as well as when creating ones in other contexts.

⁵⁰ Stratified convenience sampling stands for a combination of two sampling strategies. The sampling is stratified as it produces analytical sample (set of indicators to be analysed) in two steps. First, indicator sources are identified, hence the strata out of which indicators can be found are named. In these sources (strata), the indicators are located, ignoring all other indicator sources (other strata) in existence. The sampling is also convenient in nature, since conditions used in identifying the indicator sources (strata) were based mostly on availability.

⁵¹ For more details please see here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/statistics-a-z/abc>

⁵² European Commission 2018.

⁵³ For more details please see here: <https://data.oecd.org/searchresults/?r=+f/type/datasets>

⁵⁴ For more details please see here: <http://www.vyzkummladez.cz/en/registr>

⁵⁵ For more details please see here: <https://www.noorteseire.ee/en/indicators>

⁵⁶ For more details please see here: <https://nuorisobarometri.tietoanurista.fi/>

⁵⁷ For more details please see here, translated using web-based tools: <https://indikaattorit.tietoanurista.fi/>

⁵⁸ For more details please see here: <https://nuorisotilastot.fi/#1/en/frontpage///null/null/null////////%22%22//%22%22///null////////e30=>

⁵⁹ For more details please see here, translated using web-based tools: <http://www.ungidag.se/>

In order to achieve these goals, stratified convenience sampling⁵⁰ was used to limit the scope of this study as well as to identify a sample suitable for analyses. Firstly, a sum of indicator sources (strata) was identified. Out of all potential sources of indicators in existence (basically all sources of statistical data in the world), only a limited number of indicator sources were included in this study, in line with conditions described below:

- Relevance of the indicator sources for the European Union on international and national levels.
- Availability of the indicator sources in the form of standalone youth-focused indicator sets.
- Availability of the indicator sources online.
- Availability of the indicator sources in English language.

When applying these conditions, the following indicator sources (strata) were identified:

- International level indicator sources:
 - European Union – Eurostat⁵¹, including CAP indicators⁵²
 - OECD – OECD Data⁵³
- National level indicator sources:
 - Czech Republic – The Youth in Numbers⁵⁴
 - Estonia – Youth Monitor⁵⁵
 - Finland – Youth Barometer⁵⁶, Well-being Indicators⁵⁷, and Youth Work Statistics⁵⁸
 - Sweden – Ung idag (Young Today)⁵⁹

All of the aforementioned indicator sources (strata) were explored in the first half of 2020 in search of the rural youth indicators. In order to be recognized as rural youth indicators, the following conditions needed to be fulfilled:

- Enabling differentiation of geographical locations either as:
 - Urban-rural distinctions, or
 - Geographical locations identifiable as urban or rural (e.g. as cartogram or names of regions, etc.).
- And at the same time, enabling differentiation of young people in line with the definition used in this study either as:
 - 15 to 29-year olds as a standalone age cohort, or
 - A set of age cohorts enabling differentiation of the 15 to 29-year olds or at least some subgroup (e.g. 15 to 18-year olds, etc.).

Once the indicator was identified as consistent with the conditions above and thus considered to be a rural youth indicator for the purposes of this study, it was catalogued together with its last known online position (as of the time of extraction, i.e. in the first half of 2020), and its short description. All in all, 145 relevant indicators were found and are listed in the Appendix to this publication. Out of the 145 relevant indicators which constituted the analytical sample for this study:

- 52% (75 indicators) were found in Eurostat sources,
- 26% (38 indicators) were found in Finnish sources,
- 11% (16 indicators) were found in Swedish sources,
- 10% (14 indicators) were found in Estonian sources,
- 1% (2 indicators) were found in OECD sources,
- 0% (0 indicators) were found in the Czech sources.

All of these rural youth indicators (the whole analytical sample of this study) were processed using SWOT analysis approach. The aim of this process was to discover strengths and weaknesses one should be aware of when using the indicators, and to explore opportunities and threats present when further developing the existent indicators or when attempting to establish completely new ones. Outcomes of the SWOT analysis are detailed in the next chapter.

As for the limitations of this study, the stratified convenience sampling constitutes the most profound one. Notably, it excludes sources from many EU Member States as well as from many international organizations, but also all national statistical offices as well as any other sources which, despite being potentially relevant, are not available in English or translatable easily via web-based engines. Reasons for these limitations are partly stemming from the resources available to conduct this study and partly from the intentional focus on the youth field as such. This study is, therefore, deliberately giving priority to such online sources which are primarily aiming at youth as such over those which cover youth only as one of many other groups, as is often the case in national statistical offices. This is not entirely true in case of the Eurostat, but as it is the main source of the data on the EU level, it could not have been omitted. Lastly, the study focuses on the EU environment and this, again, can be seen as a limitation in applicability across contexts.

All of these limitations are to some extent mitigated by (a) explicitly acknowledging this publication to be a result of an *exploratory study in one given context*, not of a representative or exhaustive research; and by (b) using the SWOT analysis to process the data, an approach rather qualitative in nature underlining specificities of the indicators identified within this particular study.

2.2. SWOT Analysis of the Rural Youth Indicators

The analytical sample of rural youth indicators identified in this study was processed using the SWOT analysis guidelines. Firstly, the main properties of the analytical sample of rural youth indicators is described using two basic categories: strengths and weaknesses. Each of these categories is described with relation to the content of the indicators, i.e. to the ideas the indicators depict, and with relation to the form of the indicators, i.e. to the way they are presented in their respective online locations. Secondly, opportunities and threats are explored, providing insights into possible future developments of the rural youth indicators.

2.2.1. Strengths

When considering strengths of the rural youth indicators in the domain of **content**, it must be noted that **basic data are available in basic domains**, such as:

- democratic participation⁶⁰,
- demography,
- education,
- employment,
- health, including mental health,
- lifestyle,
- social welfare⁶¹,
- youth work⁶².

⁶⁰ Indicators available at national level only.

⁶¹ Indicators available at national level only.

⁶² Indicators available at national level only.

Despite not all of these universally available in all contexts, with some only present in Eurostat data and some only found in indicators used at national levels, these are generally areas in which rural youth indicators can be found. Basic information on youth in rural areas are, therefore, available.

As for the **form** of presentation of these indicators, **basic formats are available** in vast majority of cases: figures in tables or visualized in charts. In most of the rural youth indicators, **basic interactivity is ensured** by enabling the user to show subgroups (e.g. gender categories), limit time series, or distinguish between geographical locations. In some cases, cartograms are available, either as static ones showing one particular layout, or as basic interactive ones which offer the same basic options described above.

2.2.2. Weaknesses

In terms of **content**, besides basic areas, **many gaps can be identified in the domains covered by rural youth indicators**. Among others, these are examples of areas which are not covered by the rural youth indicators:

- access to information, including data on disinformation,
- data connectivity,
- equality and inclusion,
- environment and sustainability, including climate emergency,
- housing,
- infrastructure, including access to public services,
- internationalisation, including hosting and sending international activities as well as individual mobility engagements,
- leisure time,
- out-of-school learning,
- transportation, including public transport,
- youth organizations, including NGOs.

Covering these and other domains is crucial to ensure detailed understanding of the rural youth beyond the basic policy areas.

Moreover, **definitions of key concepts are not consistent** not only across indicator sources (e.g. between the rural youth indicators found at Eurostat and the ones found at the national levels), but in some cases also within one indicator source (e.g. across Eurostat indicators). This leads to indicators in which age groups are defined in different fashion, making them not only incomparable to other indicators, but also potentially obscuring youth in some areas at all.

When assessing **form** of presentation of the rural youth indicators, several weaknesses were identified. Firstly, **time series are a problematic aspect**, with indicators which contain data with either incomplete (e.g. 2010–2012 only), interrupted (e.g. 2010–2012 and 2015–2018), or missing time series (e.g. data available for 2011 only). Such indicators provide a fragmented picture with a limited or missing chance to analyse trends in the given domains. It can be recommended to collect data in time series in all possible cases. If such data collection is demanding in terms of logistics or resources, time series can be adjusted to contain data for every two, three or four years, hence providing at least some potential for trend analysis.

Secondly, **presentation of indicators online is very often unintuitive and cumbersome**, making rural youth indicators hard to locate as well as hard to browse through. Indicators are often found in different locations, even for indicators covering the same policy domain. Once the indicators are located, exploring the data can be difficult due to lack of tutorials, especially in case of more complex visualisations. Bookmarking can also be difficult, especially in case of interactive indicators, as these often return to default, if bookmarked and reloaded. In this case, it can be recommended to look to the national level for examples of good practice, as there are some well-done online indicator sets to get inspired by (e.g. the Swedish indicator source).

Another weakness of the rural youth indicators is a **limited presentation of data types**, as the user is often offered either ratios (percentages) or absolute numbers (total figures), but rarely both. This does not only present a problem in reading the data (e.g. 3% of the total EU28 population being young people living in rural areas can sound modest until we learn that these account for about 15 million young people, see Figure 9 and Figure 10), but also creates room for error as users need to calculate the other data type on their own. It can be recommended to include different data types into interactive presentations of the data in order to make these easily available, therefore strengthening the understanding of the data and limiting space for errors.

As mentioned above, currently **the rural youth indicators are rarely presented using advanced static or interactive data presentation options**. Despite this general trend, examples of good practice can be identified on both the international (e.g. Eurostat Statistical Atlas⁶³) and national (e.g. Swedish or Finnish interactive presentations) levels. It can be recommended not only to enable such features across further indicators, but also to allow for additional combinations of indicators in the visualisations and to allow for exports of such custom-made visualisations. That way, users could find more precise answers to their questions, for example creating a cartogram depicting data only for female youth in rural regions who do not participate in regular youth work activities. Moreover, such cartogram could include an interactive button showing progress across the time series, hence clearly showcasing which regions are improving and where the situation is worsening over time. These are mere examples of how interactivity of the data presentation could be increased, therefore making the rural youth indicators more accessible to wider audiences.

⁶³ Eurostat 2019b, 2019c, 2019d.

2.2.3. Opportunities

Several opportunities were identified in rural youth indicators in terms of **content**. Firstly, **new or renewed policy frameworks should be used to revise, update, widen and upscale the existent rural youth indicators**. Revisions should aim at unifying definitions and indicators used across different policies or policy fields. In case of age groups, data collection should be done on the individual level so that different age groups can be calculated directly by the interactive presentation online tool, making them flexible and fitting to any stakeholder's immediate need. Urban-rural differentiations can be, again, included from the smallest grids to the large NUTS 3 regions in order to be applicable across a wide variety of contexts. Updating indicators should focus on including urban-rural distinctions as well as detailed age categories across all indicators. Widening rural youth indicators could help capture areas which are currently not covered (see subchapter 2.2.2 on weaknesses for details). And upscaling should better connect the indicators to the existent policies. In all of these steps, existent national level indicators can serve as examples of good practice, as some areas (e.g. youth work) are well covered by some Member States and not present in other indicator sources.

Rural youth indicators should also be well integrated into one-time surveys and in-depth studies in order to create a well-founded knowledge basis, rather than parallel data sources. Such one-time surveys or studies include, of course, all evaluative efforts linked to policies in place, but also other pieces of research focusing on rural youth. Indicators are therefore complemented with further information and the studies are provided with reasonable baseline data to build on. Linking studies and indicators should also be made explicit when presenting the data from both the study and the indicator in order to support spreading the results among interested stakeholders.

And last but not least, **indicators uniquely found in different contexts can serve as an inspiration for setting up new indicators on all levels**. This can work just as well between Member States which inspire each other as between the Member States and Eurostat where good practices can also be shared. Apart from using know-how already present in other contexts, using indicators already existent elsewhere contributes to enhancing comparability between the Member States and between the national and international level in case of Eurostat.

Form of the data presentation of rural youth indicators can also be improved in the future. **New types of data visualisation should be employed**, featuring various cartograms, time series visualisations, interactive maps allowing for different layouts and zooming functions, as well as instinctive switching between ratios and absolute figures whenever needed. Download and bookmarking options should be improved as well, enabling the users to save and share any custom-made visualisations, as is now the case in Eurostat bookmarking and download options.

2.2.4. Threats

Content of the rural youth indicators can be also influenced negatively in the future. **Omitting urban-rural and age distinctions in indicators linked to policies which cover rural youth implicitly** can lead to data which are not providing enough detail to follow developments in rural youth. Rural youth can, in that case, become an invisible group in population. It can be recommended to revise such indicators and enable rural youth to be identified as one of the target groups across all public policies.

Another threat may come from **further diverging definitions of youth and rural areas across policy contexts and indicator sets**. For example, if different definition of youth is applied in the agricultural area, then indicators in this area are providing information on different age groups than other indicators focused on youth in general. Similarly, different definitions on the EU level and on the level of Member States can present obstacles, such as legal voting age differs from country to country. Mitigation strategies in case of this threat were already described above and consist of either striving for unified definitions or for providing such data which are dynamically applicable across various definitions, as they simply offer possibilities of setting custom age limits and choosing from numerous geographical distinctions.

When it comes to the **form** of presentation, indicators can be negatively influenced by **negligence in areas of searchability and structuring**. Creating a wide data corpus across different indicators also requires high online searchability (good visibility) and a well-thought structure (easy navigation). National level indicators provide good practice examples, presenting youth indicators as standalone webpages with its own structure and logic. Spreading indicators across numerous webpages or presenting indicator data in a fashion which is hard to navigate rapidly limit both searchability and usefulness. This may lead to a decrease in usage of indicators, therefore severely limiting their potential added value or rendering them completely meaningless.

STRENGTHS

Content

- Basic data are available in basic domains.

Form

- Basic formats are available.
- Basic interactivity is ensured.

WEAKNESSES

Content

- Not all domains are covered.
- Definitions of key concepts are not consistent.

Form

- Time series are a problematic aspect.
- Presentation is often unintuitive and cumbersome.
- Presentation of data types is limited.
- Advanced interactivity in data presentation is not available.

OPPORTUNITIES

Content

- New or renewed policy frameworks should be used to revise, update, widen and upscale the existent rural youth indicators.
- Rural youth indicators should also be well integrated into one-time surveys and in-depth studies.
- Indicators uniquely found in different contexts can serve as an inspiration for setting up new indicators on all levels and across contexts.

Form

- New types of data visualisation should be employed.

THREATS

Content

- Omitting urban-rural and age distinctions in indicators linked to policies which cover rural youth implicitly leads to obscuring rural youth as a distinct policy target group.
- Further diverging definitions of youth and rural areas across indicators can decrease comparability and usefulness of the indicators.

Form

- Negligence in areas of structuring and searchability can lead to invisible and meaningless indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Content

- Keep and build on basic indicators and add advanced ones from more policy fields.
- Get inspired by indicators used by various Member States or other bodies.
- Link indicators to the policy goals, if possible, and use renewals of the policy frameworks as opportunities to upgrade existent indicator sets.
- Include indicators for rural youth into policy fields where young people in rural areas are also implicitly covered.
- Define basic concepts in line with existent definitions or provide for various options in data visualisations (e.g. dynamic age group calculations, etc.).
- Use indicators as baselines for in-depth studies and link the indicators well to one-off surveys.

Form

- Ensure high searchability by collecting indicators in one central hub.
- Present data in a clear structure and intuitive user interface, offer tutorials if needed.
- Keep and build on basic presentation formats while adding more advanced ones, including interactive dynamic visualisations and cartograms.
- Collect indicator data in time series and make the period of data collection appropriate to available resources (e.g. every two or three years).
- Offer indicator data in both absolute and relative numbers (total figures and percentages).



Conclusions

All in all, 145 indicators were identified in course of this exploratory study and are listed in the Appendix to this publication together with their online location, ready to be used. This, in itself, is a positive result as it shows there are data on rural youth which are readily available to stakeholders all across Europe. Despite downsides such as basic presentation techniques or cumbersome user interface, these should be utilized as much as possible in connection to rural youth policies in place on local, regional, and national levels, as well as towards international evaluation efforts or comparative studies. Browsing through the Appendix gives an opportunity to get a grasp of what indicators are potentially useful in getting a better insight into policies in place: What does the healthcare situation look like in rural regions of Portugal or Ireland? How does it differ from those in Austria or Finland? What policies are in place at the location which brings the best results in the healthcare area? How can these policies be adjusted and implemented in the context of rural areas which struggle in that particular aspect? All of the aforementioned questions are the prime reason for the existence of this publication: To ignite thinking of the rural youth in terms of knowledge-based insights.

What next steps can be taken in order to fully utilize this newly gained knowledge? Most importantly, mind the initial chapters of this publication as they outline complexity of approaches in both identifying the rural areas and defining young people. As such, these chapters should serve as reminders of careful data reading and interpretation as not always all indicators tell the same story, despite being called by the same (or very similar) titles. Secondly, see what available indicators are directly applicable and look for others in the context of specific topics or geographical locations. Places to explore further are statistical offices on national or regional levels as well as local administrations which may also collect information highly useful in determining the state of rural youth in the particular area. Lastly, if necessary and possible, create indicators fitting specific needs and contexts, keeping in mind recommendations above. If new indicators are created, sharing the data with wide public increases usefulness and value of the energy invested in indicator creation by giving as wide an audience as possible a chance to use the data in their own work.

As shown in this publication, it is also important to stress that the rural youth policy is a very wide and cross-sectoral domain. The cross-sectoral nature leads to a rather wide applicability of all indicators found in the course of this study and presented in the Appendix. It is just as possible to utilize these indicators to probe situation of young people living in rural areas as it is to explore those living in urban spaces or to combine the results and see the overall picture for all young people in a given region or on a given national level. Using indicators collected in this study to explore various policy domains not limited to the rural youth policy is not only possible, but highly recommendable. How does political participation of young people differ across Member States? How does it differ between the urban and rural settings? How does it compare to other age groups? There are many more questions to be asked and answers to be found.

Existence of the rural youth indicators and data stemming from them in itself does not improve lives of the young people in the European countryside. Using these data in connection to concrete policies in place or in connection to policies currently debated, gives the indicators and the data its purpose and value. And vice versa, the indicators and data can give legitimacy to the policies based on them as they demonstrate the reasons behind the given policy measures. Igniting a meaningful use of the rural youth indicators in support of young people is the utmost goal of this publication.

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Appendix

ID	Indicator Title	Data Description	Years Available	Origin
1	Population by sex, age, migration status and degree of urbanisation	The ad-hoc module “labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants” aimed at comparing the situation on the labour market for first generation immigrants, second generation immigrants, and nationals, and further to analyse the factors affecting the integration in and adaptation to the labour market.	2014	EUROSTAT
2	Unemployment rates by sex, age, citizenship and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
3	Employment rates by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (%)	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
4	Unemployment rates by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (%)	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
5	Self-employment by sex, age, citizenship and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
6	Employment by sex, age, job tenure and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
7	Unemployment by sex, age, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
8	Self-perceived health by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2009–2018	EUROSTAT

9	Correction of vision problems by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
10	Frequency of alcohol consumption by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
11	Daily smokers of cigarettes by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
12	Quarterly population by sex, age, degree of urbanisation and labour status (1 000)	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2017–2019	EUROSTAT
13	Activity rates by sex, age, educational attainment level, citizenship and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
14	Population by educational attainment level, sex, age and degree of urbanisation (%)	<p>The folder ‘population by educational attainment level (edat1)’ presents data on the highest level of education successfully completed by the individuals of a given population.</p> <p>The folder ‘transition from education to work (edatt)’ covers data on young people neither in employment nor in education and training – NEET, early leavers from education and training and the labour status of young people by years since completion of highest level of education.</p> <p>The data shown are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data (EU-LFS).</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
15	Annual population by sex, age, degree of urbanisation and labour status (1 000)	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
16	Population by sex, age, country of birth, labour status and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT

17	Hazardous alcohol drinkers by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
18	Current depressive symptoms by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
19	Smoking of tobacco products by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
20	Population by educational attainment level, sex, age, country of birth and degree of urbanisation (%)	<p>The folder 'population by educational attainment level (edat1)' presents data on the highest level of education successfully completed by the individuals of a given population.</p> <p>The folder 'transition from education to work (edatt)' covers data on young people neither in employment nor in education and training – NEET, early leavers from education and training and the labour status of young people by years since completion of highest level of education.</p> <p>The data shown are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data (EU-LFS).</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
21	Unemployment rates by sex, age, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
22	Severity of current depressive symptoms by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
23	Population by educational attainment level, sex, age, citizenship and degree of urbanisation (%)	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
24	Employment rates by sex, age, educational attainment level, citizenship and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT

25	Self-employment by sex, age, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
26	Persons reporting an accident resulting in injury by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
27	Overall perceived social support by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
28	Frequency of fruit and vegetables consumption by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
29	Physical and sensory functional limitations by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
30	Self-reported use of non-prescribed medicines by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
31	Self-reported use of prescribed medicines by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
32	Self-reported consultations of a medical professional by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
33	Self-reported use of home care services by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
34	Persons reporting a chronic disease, by disease, sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT

35	Self-reported last colonoscopy by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
36	Body mass index (BMI) by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
37	Performing health-enhancing physical activity by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
38	Frequency of heavy episodic drinking by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
39	Self-reported vaccination against influenza by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
40	Daily exposure to tobacco smoke indoors by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
41	Daily consumption of fruit and vegetables by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT

42	Performing (non-work-related) physical activities by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
43	Effort involved in performing work-related physical activity by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
44	Self-reported unmet needs for dental examination by sex, age, main reason declared and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey contains a small module on health, composed of 3 variables on health status and 4 variables on unmet needs for health care.</p> <p>The variables on health status represent the so called Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), and measures 3 different concepts of health:</p> <p>Self-perceived health Chronic morbidity (people having a long-standing illness or health problem) Activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems)</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
45	People having a long-standing illness or health problem, by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
46	Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination by sex, age, main reason declared and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey contains a small module on health, composed of 3 variables on health status and 4 variables on unmet needs for health care.</p> <p>The variables on health status represent the so called Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), and measures 3 different concepts of health:</p> <p>Self-perceived health Chronic morbidity (people having a long-standing illness or health problem) Activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems)</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
47	Employment rates by sex, age, educational attainment level, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT

48	Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex, age, country of birth and degree of urbanisation (NEET rates)	<p>The folder ‘population by educational attainment level (edat1)’ presents data on the highest level of education successfully completed by the individuals of a given population.</p> <p>The folder ‘transition from education to work (edatt)’ covers data on young people neither in employment nor in education and training – NEET, early leavers from education and training and the labour status of young people by years since completion of highest level of education.</p> <p>The data shown are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data (EU-LFS).</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
49	Participation rate in education and training (last 4 weeks) by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>Lifelong learning encompasses all learning activities undertaken throughout life with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competences, within personal, civic, social or employment-related perspectives. The intention or aim to learn is the critical point that distinguishes these activities from non-learning activities, such as cultural or sporting activities.</p> <p>Participation in education and training is a measure of lifelong learning. The participation rate in education and training covers participation in formal and non-formal education and training. The reference period for the participation in education and training is the four weeks prior to the interview. Participation rates in education and training for various age groups and by different breakdowns are presented.</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
50	Temporary employees by sex, age, educational attainment level, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
51	Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex, age, citizenship and degree of urbanisation (NEET rates)	<p>The folder ‘population by educational attainment level (edat1)’ presents data on the highest level of education successfully completed by the individuals of a given population.</p> <p>The folder ‘transition from education to work (edatt)’ covers data on young people neither in employment nor in education and training – NEET, early leavers from education and training and the labour status of young people by years since completion of highest level of education.</p> <p>The data shown are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data (EU-LFS).</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
52	Part-time employment by sex, age, educational attainment level, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
53	Activity rates by sex, age, educational attainment level, country of birth and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT

54	Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (NEET rates)	<p>The folder ‘population by educational attainment level (edat1)’ presents data on the highest level of education successfully completed by the individuals of a given population.</p> <p>The folder ‘transition from education to work (edatt)’ covers data on young people neither in employment nor in education and training – NEET, early leavers from education and training and the labour status of young people by years since completion of highest level of education.</p> <p>The data shown are calculated as annual averages of quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data (EU-LFS).</p>	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
55	Self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problem by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
56	Part-time employment by sex, age, educational attainment level, citizenship and degree of urbanisation	The source for the regional labour market information down to NUTS level 2 is the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). This is a quarterly household sample survey conducted in all Member States of the EU, the United Kingdom, EFTA and Candidate countries.	2009–2018	EUROSTAT
57	Transition from employment to unemployment by sex, age and degree of urbanisation – annual averages of quarterly transitions, estimated probabilities	<p>Flow statistics are experimental statistics derived from the longitudinal component of the EU-LFS data. They identify the flows between different labour market statuses between consecutive quarters.</p> <p>Flow statistics are published in the section ‘LFS main indicators’, which is a collection of the main statistics on the labour market derived from the EU-Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). However, the flow indicators are calculated with special methods which justify the present page.</p>	2011–2018	EUROSTAT
58	Transition from unemployment to employment by sex, age and degree of urbanisation – annual averages of quarterly transitions, estimated probabilities	<p>Flow statistics are experimental statistics derived from the longitudinal component of the EU-LFS data. They identify the flows between different labour market statuses between consecutive quarters.</p> <p>Flow statistics are published in the section ‘LFS main indicators’, which is a collection of the main statistics on the labour market derived from the EU-Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). However, the flow indicators are calculated with special methods which justify the present page.</p>	2011–2018	EUROSTAT
59	Time spent on health-enhancing (non-work-related) aerobic physical activity by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT

60	Persons providing informal care or assistance at least once a week by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among Member States (MS) the health status (including disability), health determinants (including environment) and use and limitations in access to health care services of the EU citizens.</p> <p>The general coverage of the survey is the population aged 15 or over living in private households residing in the territory of the country.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
61	Self-reported last breast examination by X-ray among women by age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
62	Self-reported screening of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes risks by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
63	Absence from work due to personal health problems by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
64	Self-reported time elapsed since last visit to a medical professional by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
65	Self-reported consultation of mental healthcare or rehabilitative care professionals by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT
66	Persons providing or not informal homecare services by sex, age, degree of urbanisation, most frequent activity status and addressee of care	NA	2016	EUROSTAT
67	Self-reported last colorectal cancer screening test by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	NA	2014	EUROSTAT

68	Self-reported hospital in-patient and day-patient admissions by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>Non-expenditure health care data provide information on institutions providing health care in countries, on resources used and on output produced in the framework of health care provision.</p> <p>Data on health care form a major element of public health information as they describe the capacities available for different types of health care provision as well as potential 'bottlenecks' observed. The quantity and quality of health care services provided and the work sharing established between the different institutions are a subject of ongoing debate in all countries. Sustainability – continuously providing the necessary monetary and personal resources needed – and meeting the challenges of ageing societies are the primary perspectives used when analysing and using the data.</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
69	Persons providing informal care or assistance by sex, age, degree of urbanisation, most frequent activity status and frequency	NA	2016	EUROSTAT
70	Persons by sex, age, household type, income group, degree of urbanisation and main reason for not meeting needs for formal education	NA	2016	EUROSTAT
71	Self-reported unmet needs for specific health care-related services due to financial reasons by sex, age and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey contains a small module on health, composed of 3 variables on health status and 4 variables on unmet needs for health care.</p> <p>The variables on health status represent the so called Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), and measures 3 different concepts of health:</p> <p>Self-perceived health Chronic morbidity (people having a long-standing illness or health problem) Activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems)</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
72	Self-reported unmet needs for health care by sex, age, specific reasons and degree of urbanisation	<p>The European Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey contains a small module on health, composed of 3 variables on health status and 4 variables on unmet needs for health care.</p> <p>The variables on health status represent the so called Minimum European Health Module (MEHM), and measures 3 different concepts of health:</p> <p>Self-perceived health Chronic morbidity (people having a long-standing illness or health problem) Activity limitation – disability (self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems)</p>	2014	EUROSTAT
73	Subsistence and welfare » At-risk-of-poverty rate of single parents: At-risk-of-poverty rate of single parents by type of settlement	<p>At-risk-of-poverty rate by type of household: adult and child(ren). The share of single parents with an equalised yearly disposable income lower than the at-risk-of-poverty threshold.</p>	2005–2013	EE-YOUTH MONITOR

74	Subsistence and welfare » At-risk-of-poverty rate of households with three or more children: At-risk-of-poverty rate of families with three or more children by type of settlement	At-risk-of-poverty rate by type of household: adult and child(ren). The share of single parents with an equalised yearly disposable income lower than the at-risk-of-poverty threshold.	2005–2013	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
75	Health » Under-aged birthgivers : Under-aged birthgivers by type of settlement	<p>The number of under-aged birthgivers by age (13, 14, 15, 16, 17 years old).</p> <p>Urban settlement – a city, a city without municipal status or town. Rural settlement – a small town or a village.</p> <p>Unit: number, number per 1000 women of the same age</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, age, type of settlement</p> <p>Note: Including women who gave stillbirths. Women who gave multiple births are considered as one birthgiver.</p>	2005–2016	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
76	Demography » Urban-rural internal migration of young people: Urban-rural internal migration of young people by gender	<p>A change of residence from one settlement unit (urban or rural) to another (urban or rural) within Estonia by young (7 to 26 years old) people.</p> <p>Urban settlements – cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlement – a small town or village.</p> <p>Unit: number</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of departure settlement, type of destination settlement, gender</p>	2005–2016	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
77	Demography » Urban-rural internal migration of young people: Urban-rural internal migration of young people by gender; net migration	<p>A change of residence from one settlement unit (urban or rural) to another (urban or rural) within Estonia by young (7 to 26 years old) people.</p> <p>Net migration – the difference between immigration and emigration.</p> <p>Urban settlements – cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlement – a small town or village.</p> <p>Unit: number</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of departure settlement, type of destination settlement, gender</p> <p>Source: Statistics Estonia</p>	2005–2013	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
78	Demography » Urban-rural internal migration of young people: Urban-rural internal migration of young people; net migration	<p>A change of residence from one settlement unit (urban or rural) to another (urban or rural) within Estonia by young (7 to 26 years old) people.</p> <p>Net migration – the difference between immigration and emigration.</p> <p>Urban settlements – cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlement – a small town or village.</p> <p>Unit: number</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of departure settlement, type of destination settlement</p>	2005–2013	EE-YOUTH MONITOR

79	Demography » Urban-rural internal migration of young people: Urban-rural internal migration of young people	<p>A change of residence from one settlement unit (urban or rural) to another (urban or rural) within Estonia by young (7 to 26 years old) people.</p> <p>Urban settlements – cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlement – a small town or village.</p> <p>Unit: number</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of departure settlement, type of destination settlement</p>	2005–2013	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
80	Labour market » Labour status of young (15 to 26 years old) people: Labour status of young (15 to 26 years old) people by type of settlement	<p>The number of young (15 to 26 years old) people in labour force (unemployed and employed) and the number of inactive young people.</p> <p>Urban settlements – include cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlements – include small towns and villages.</p> <p>Unit: number</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, labour status, type of settlement</p> <p>Source: Statistics Estonia, Estonian Labour Force Survey (LFS)</p> <p>Note: The data for 2000–2012 has been revised based on corrected population numbers from Estonian Office of Statistics. More information regarding methodology of labour force survey calculations is available here: http://www.stat.ee/76254 (Estonian language)</p>	2005–2014	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
81	Labour market » Employment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people: Employment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people by type of settlement	<p>Employment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people – the share of the young (15 to 26 years old) employed in the working-age population.</p> <p>Urban settlements – include cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlements – include small towns and villages.</p> <p>Unit: percent</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of settlement</p> <p>Note: The data for 2000–2012 has been revised based on corrected population numbers from Estonian Office of Statistics. More information regarding methodology of labour force survey calculations is available here: http://www.stat.ee/76254 (Estonian language)</p>	2005–2014	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
82	Labour market » Unemployment rate among young people (15 to 26 years old): Unemployment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people by type of settlement	<p>Unemployment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people – the share of young (15 to 26 years old) unemployed in the labour force.</p> <p>Urban settlements – include cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlements – include small towns and villages.</p> <p>Unit: percent</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of settlement</p> <p>Note: The data for 2000–2012 has been revised based on corrected population numbers from Estonian Office of Statistics. More information regarding methodology of labour force survey calculations is available here: http://www.stat.ee/76254 (Estonian language)</p>	2005–2014	EE-YOUTH MONITOR

83	Labour market » Long-term unemployment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people: Long-term unemployment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people by type of settlement	<p>Long-term unemployment rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people – the share of young (15 to 26 years old) people who have been unemployed for a year or longer of total labour force of the same age.</p> <p>Urban settlements – include cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlements – include small towns and villages.</p> <p>Unit: percent</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of settlement</p> <p>Note: The data for 2000–2012 has been revised based on corrected population numbers from Estonian Office of Statistics. More information regarding methodology of labour force survey calculations is available here: http://www.stat.ee/76254 (Estonian language)</p>	2005–2014	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
84	Labour market » Labor force participation rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people: Labour force participation rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people by type of settlement	<p>Labour force participation rate / activity rate of young (15 to 26 years old) people – the share of the youth (15 to 26 years old) labour force (total number of the employed and unemployed) in the working-age population.</p> <p>Urban settlements – include cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlements – include small towns and villages.</p> <p>Unit: percent</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, type of settlement</p> <p>Note: The data for 2000–2012 has been revised based on corrected population numbers from Estonian Office of Statistics. More information regarding methodology of labour force survey calculations is available here: http://www.stat.ee/76254 (Estonian language)</p>	2005–2014	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
85	Labour market » Inactivity among young (15 to 26 years old) people and its reasons: Inactivity among young (15 to 26 years old) people and its reasons by type of settlement	<p>Economically passive/inactive young (15 to 26 years old) people – persons who do not wish or are not able to work.</p> <p>Urban settlements – include cities, cities without municipal status and towns. Rural settlements – include small towns and villages.</p> <p>Unit: number, percent</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, value, reason of inactivity, type of settlement</p> <p>Note: The data for 2000–2012 has been revised based on corrected population numbers from Estonian Office of Statistics. More information regarding methodology of labour force survey calculations is available here: http://www.stat.ee/76254 (Estonian language)</p>	2005–2017	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
86	Demography » Number of young (7 to 26 years old) people: Number of young (7 to 26 years old) people by local government	<p>The number of young (7 to 26 years old) people by age at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>Unit: number</p> <p>Disaggregated by: year, local government</p>	2012–2017	EE-YOUTH MONITOR
87	Number of young people	Number of young people aged 15 to 29	1990–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
88	Number of young people with foreign languages	Number of foreign-speaking young people aged 15 to 29	1990–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS

89	Youth unemployment	outh unemployment,% of the labor force aged 18 to 24	1991–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
90	Retirement of young people due to mental and behavioral disorders	Proportion of the population aged 16 to 24 receiving a disability pension due to mental and behavioral disorders in the population of the same age	1990–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
91	Pharmacological treatment of mental health problems	Persons aged 18 to 24 who have been reimbursed for antidepressants, as% of total population of same age	1994–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
92	Medication for mental health problems 2	Persons aged 18 to 24 entitled to special reimbursable medicines for psychosis, as% of total population of same age	1990–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
93	abortions	Abortions in women under 25 per thousand women aged 15 to 24	1990–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
94	Placed outside the home	Proportion of the population of the same age aged 0 to 17 placed outside the home	1991–2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
95	Young people receive income support	Long-term recipients of income support aged 18 to 24, as% of total population of same age.	1991–2016	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
96	Young municipal election candidates	Number of municipal election candidates aged 18 to 29	2012 a 2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
97	Young municipal councilors	Number of municipal councilors aged 18 to 29	2012 a 2017	FI-WELLBEING INDICATORS
98	Amount of 0 to 28-year-olds	Amount of 0 to 28-year-olds	2018	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
99	Amount of 15 to 28-year-olds	Amount of 15 to 28-year-olds	2018	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
100	Outreach youth work	Reached / amount 15 to 28-year-olds	2019	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
101	Outreach youth work	In contact / amount 15 to 28-year-olds	2019	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
102	Youth workshop activities	Amount of young people in workshops / Amount of 15 to 28-year-olds	2019	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
103	Youth groups	Youth groups / 15 to 18-year-olds/100	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS

104	Members of youth groups	Members of youth groups / 15 to 18-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
105	Youth evenings	Youth evenings / (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
106	Participants in youth evenings	Participants in youth evenings / (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
107	Youth work events	Youth work events / (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
108	Participants in youth work events	Participants in youth work events / (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
109	Youth work trips	Youth work trips (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
110	Participants in youth work trips	Participants in youth work trips / 15 to 18-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
111	Youth work camps	Youth work camps / (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
112	Days spent in youth work camps	Days spent in youth work camps / (15 to 18-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
113	Participants in youth work camps	Participants in youth work camps / 15 to 18-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
114	Young adult groups	Young adult groups / (19 to 29-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
115	Members of young adult groups	Members of young adult groups / 19 to 29-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
116	Scout groups	Scout groups / (7 to 22-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
117	Members of Scout groups	Members of scout groups / 7 to 22-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS

118	Scout events	Scout events / (7 to 22-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
119	Participants in Scout events	Participants in scout events / (7 to 22-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
120	Scout trips	Scout trips / (7 to 22-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
121	Participants in Scout trips	Participants in scout trips / 7 to 22-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
122	Scout camps	Scout camps / (7 to 22-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
123	Days spent in Scout camps	Days spent in Scout camps / (7 to 22-year-olds/1000)	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
124	Participants in Scout camps	Participants in Scout camps / 7 to 22-year-olds	2016	FI-YOUTH WORK INDICATORS
125	Unemployed for more than three months	Percentage of registered unemployed who have been unemployed for more than 90 days, 16 to 24 years, 2011–2019. Percent.	2011–2019	SE-UNGLDAG
126	Registered unemployed	Young people who are openly unemployed and applicants in programs with activity support, 16 to 24 years, 2011–2019. Percent	2011–2019	SE-UNGLDAG
127	Neither work nor study (uvas)	The proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 who neither work nor study	2007–2017	SE-UNGLDAG
128	Working or studying for programs with activity support	Percentage of young people who have gone to work or education after programs with activity support 16 to 24 years, 2011–2019. Percent.	2011–2019	SE-UNGLDAG
129	Payment order	Number of young people who were responding in payment order applications, 18 to 24 years, 2012–2018. Quantity.	2012–2018	SE-UNGLDAG
130	Low economic standard	Percentage of young people, with and without children, living in their own households with a disposable income per consumption unit that is less than 60 percent of the median income for all, 20 to 24 years. 2011–2019. Percent.	2011–2018	SE-UNGLDAG
131	Debt for recovery	Number of young people with debts in the Office of the Crown Prosecution Service, 18 to 24 years, 2012–2018.	2012–2018	SE-UNGLDAG
132	Wrecked or threatened with eviction	The number of applications for eviction among young people, 18 to 24 years, 2012–2019.	2012–2019	SE-UNGLDAG

133	Daily care according to SoL and LVU	Percentage of young people who have been cared for 24 hours in accordance with the Act on the Care of Young Persons (LVU) or the Social Services Act (SoL), 13 to 17 years, 2011–2018. Number per 1,000 individuals.	2011–2018	SE-UNGLDAG
134	Sickness benefit, sickness benefit and activity allowance	Number of young people with sickness benefit, sickness benefit or activity allowance, 16 to 24 years, 2012–2018. Number per 1,000 insured.	2012–2018	SE-UNGLDAG
135	Chlamydia	Chlamydia cases reported among young people, 16 to 24 years, 2010–2019. Per mille.	2010–2019	SE-UNGLDAG
136	Voted in general elections	Voter turnout in European Parliament elections, 18 to 24 years, 2004–2014. Percent.	2004, 2009 and 2014	SE-UNGLDAG
137	Voted in general elections	Voting in municipal council, 18 to 24 years, 2002–2018. Percent.	2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018	SE-UNGLDAG
138	Voted in general elections	Voting in county council, 18 to 24 years, 2002–2018. Percent.	2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018	SE-UNGLDAG
139	Voted in general elections	Voter turnout in parliamentary elections, 18 to 24 years, 2002–2018. Percent.	2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018	SE-UNGLDAG
140	Without upper secondary education	Percentage of young people who do not study and who do not have upper secondary education, 16 to 24 years, 2008–2018. Percent.	2008–2018	SE-UNGLDAG
141	Regional Education	Share of population by educational attainment in the population aged 25 to 64	2016–2018	OECD
142	Regional Education	Share of population by educational attainment in the population aged 25 to 34	2016–2018	OECD
143	Youth unemployment rate	Youth unemployment rate for the age group 15 to 24 (% of active population)	2017	EUROSTAT: CAP
144	Farm managers by age groups	Farm managers by age groups: Less than 35 years	2016	EUROSTAT: CAP
145	Agricultural training of farm managers	Agricultural training of farm managers: Number, Less than 35 years	2016	EUROSTAT: CAP

