

European Quality of Life Survey

Challenge: A new push for European democracy

EU Datathon 2020

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About Eurofound



Mission: to provide knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies



European Quality of Life Survey: main characteristics

Survey rounds	2003, 2007, 2011, 2016
Target population	Resident population 18+ years living in private households. 28 EU Member States (which included UK prior to 31 January 2020) 5 candidate countries (AL, ME, MK, RS, TR)
Fieldwork period	September 2016 – February 2017
Sample size	Minimum N=1000 Increase in DE (n=1600), UK (n=1300), FR (n=1200), IT (n=2000), TR (n=2000)
Sampling methodology	Random probability sampling: 17 EU and TR (6 individual, 11 address registers) Random route enumeration: 11 EU and 4 CC
Sample stratification	By region and urbanisation level (except MT)
Response rate (RR3)	34% EU28; 63% in candidate countries Lowest 16% (SE), highest 70% (ME)
Interview type	Face-to-face, CAPI in all 33 countries; CATI recruitment in SE (and partially in AT) Average duration: 40 min



EQLS topics: why is EQLS data interesting?

The European Quality of Life Survey



Quality of life

- Subjective well-being (satisfaction, happiness)
- Health, mental well-being
- Living standards and deprivation
- Housing quality
- Work–life balance and care responsibilities

Quality of public services

- Education, public transport, social housing
- Specifics on healthcare (GP, hospitals)
- Childcare, long-term care, schools quality
- Access to neighbourhood services

Quality of society

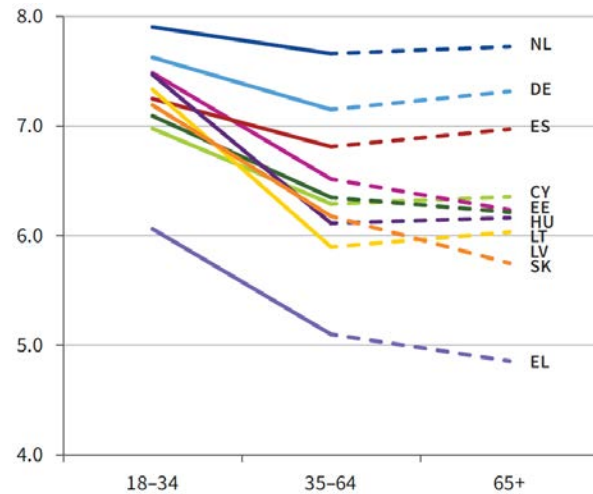
- Trust in institutions
- Social tensions
- Social exclusion
- Participation in society and community

The EQLS allows analysis of relationships between a person's living circumstances, perception of well-being and exclusion, and their trust in institutions and social/political participation.

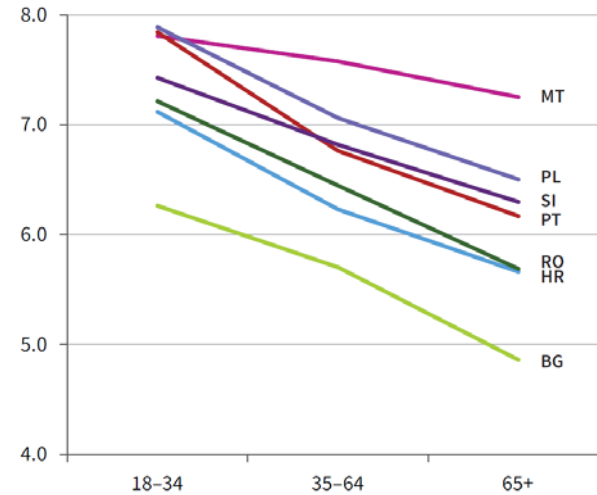
Exploring the data: Country comparisons

Age and life satisfaction: Different patterns across Europe

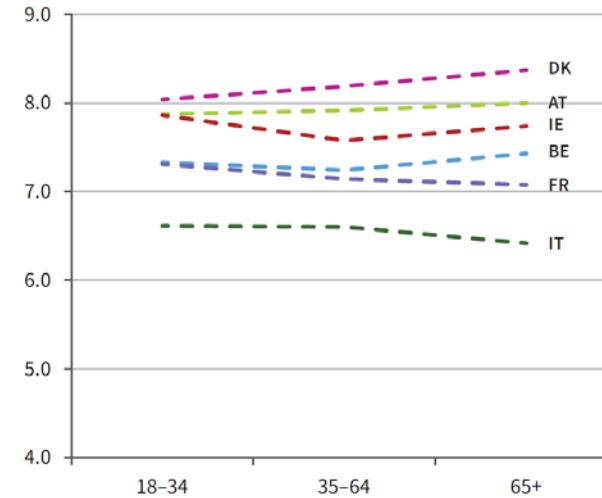
A: Life satisfaction decreases in middle age, then remains constant



B: Life satisfaction decreases with age



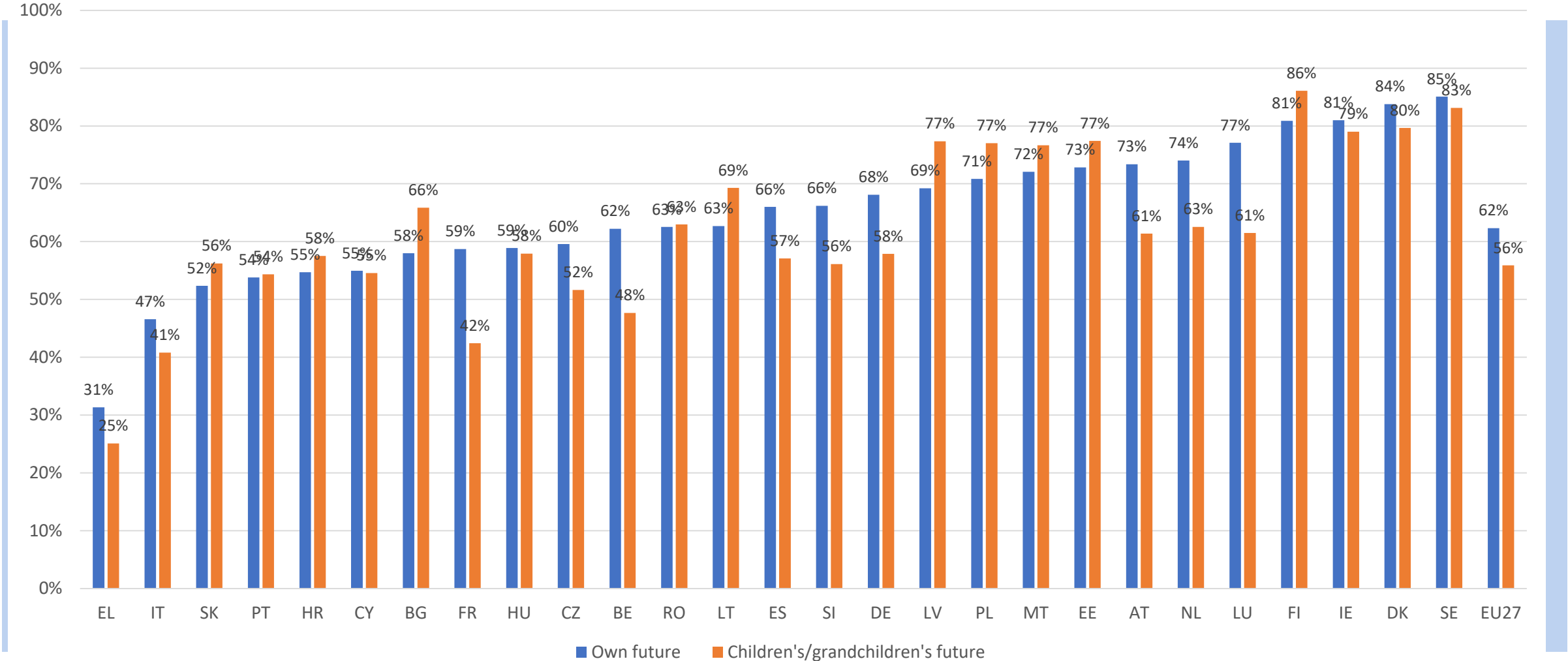
C: Life satisfaction stays the same with age



*EQLS 2016 Q4: All things considered, how satisfied would you say you are with your life these days?
Please tell me on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means very dissatisfied and 10 means very satisfied.*

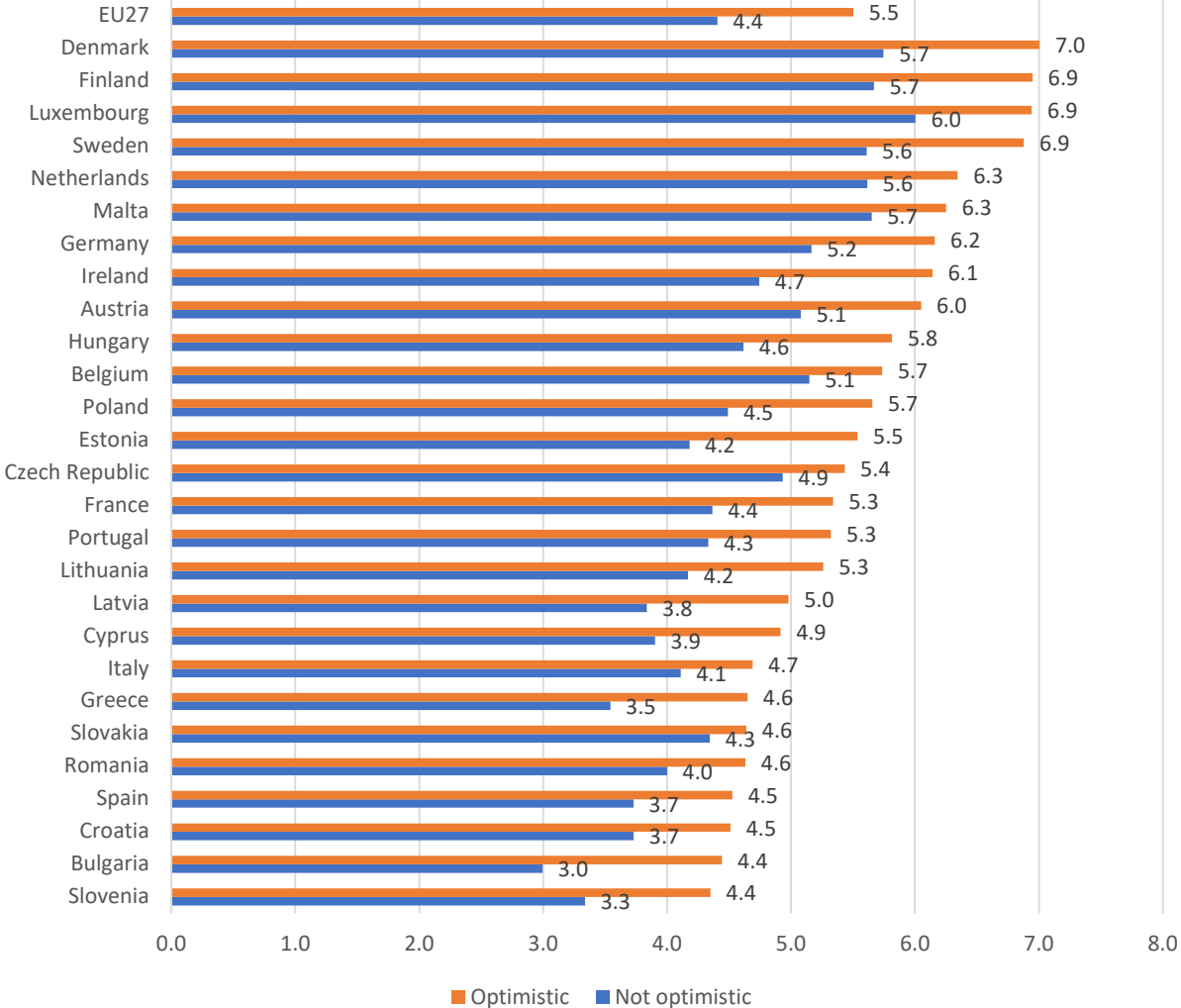
Exploring the data: Country comparisons

Optimism about children's and grandchildren's future

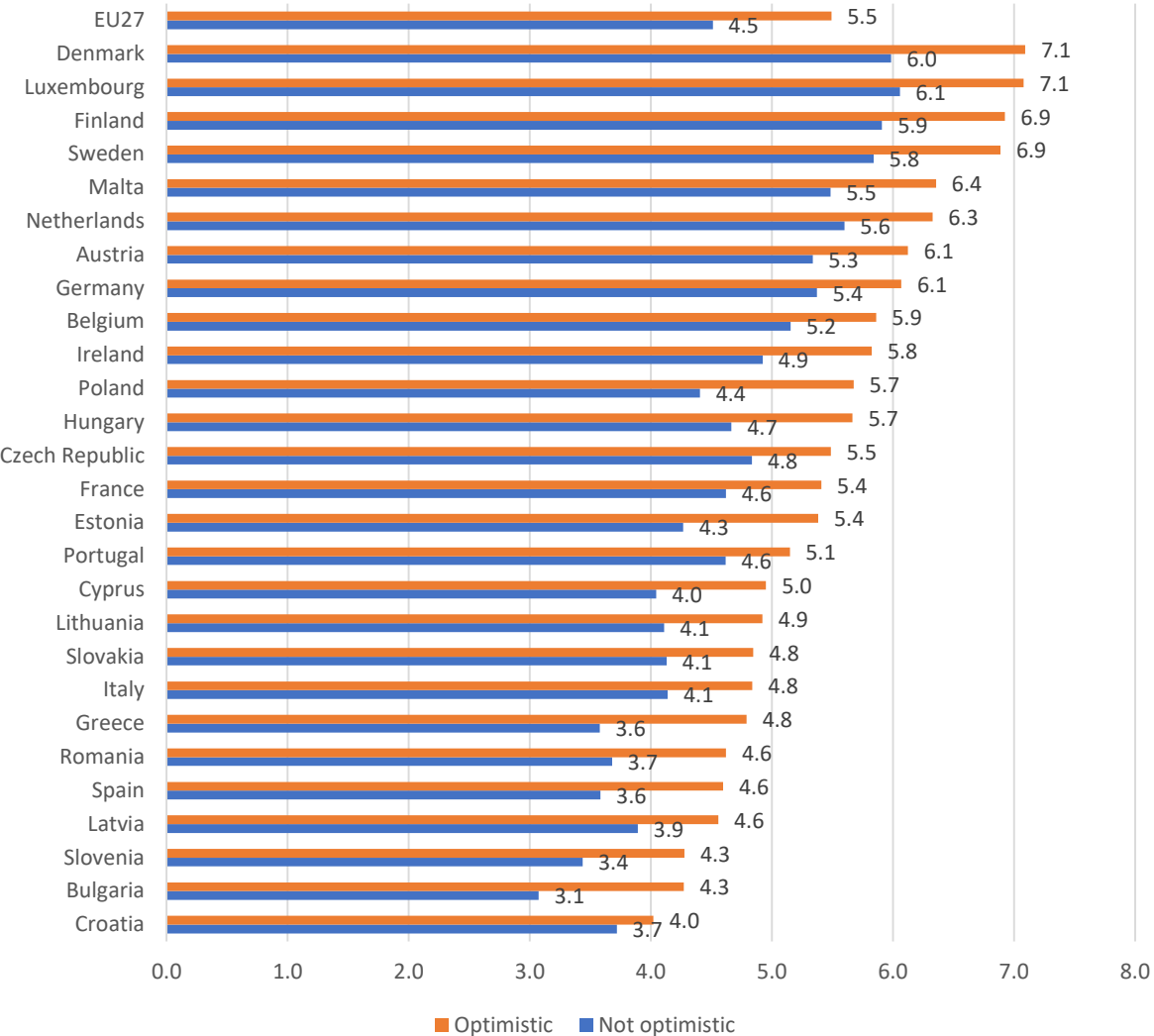


Exploring the data: Relationships between variables

Satisfaction with democracy according to optimism about own future



Satisfaction with democracy according to optimism about children's/grandchildren's future



Exploring the data: Quality of public services

	Quality of health services		Quality of education system		Quality of public transport		Quality of childcare services		Quality of long-term care services		Quality of social housing		Quality of state pension system		Overall rank
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	
AT	8.0	1	7.4	4	7.6	2	7.7	4	7.5	3	7.1	1	6.1	4	7.3
BE	7.6	5	7.3	5	6.5	15	6.8	14	6.9	4	6.2	8	5.7	8	6.7
BG	5.7	23	5.8	26	6.0	20	6.2	22	4.4	27	3.9	27	3.3	26	5.0
CY	5.1	26	5.9	24	5.7	26	6.4	18	5.3	24	4.4	25	4.9	13	5.4
CZ	6.8	12	6.8	12	6.7	14	7.0	12	6.1	14	5.3	15	4.6	15	6.2
DE	7.3	8	7.0	11	7.2	3	7.3	8	6.9	5	6.0	10	5.3	11	6.7
DK	7.4	7	7.7	3	6.8	13	7.5	6	6.4	10	6.9	5	6.0	5	7.0
EE	6.1	16	7.0	9	7.1	5	7.2	10	5.8	18	5.9	11	4.4	18	6.2
EL	4.6	28	5.7	27	6.0	22	5.5	27	4.4	26	4.0	26	2.6	27	4.7
ES	7.2	11	6.6	16	6.9	10	6.6	16	6.4	9	5.7	12	5.3	12	6.4
FI	7.6	4	8.3	1	6.9	9	7.9	2	6.7	7	6.9	3	7.0	2	7.3
FR	7.4	6	6.7	14	6.8	11	6.5	17	6.9	6	6.4	6	5.6	9	6.6
HR	6.0	21	6.1	22	5.9	23	6.2	23	5.8	17	5.0	20	4.5	16	5.6
HU	5.7	27	6.3	19	6.8	12	7.1	11	6.3	12	5.2	17	4.5	17	6.0
IE	5.9	25	7.3	6	5.8	25	6.1	24	5.9	16	5.0	19	5.9	6	6.0
IT	5.8	28	6.2	20	5.6	27	6.0	25	5.5	22	4.9	22	4.4	19	5.5
LT	6.3	19	6.5	17	7.0	7	6.9	13	6.0	15	4.9	23	3.8	23	5.9
LU	7.9	2	7.1	8	7.8	1	7.7	3	7.7	1	6.9	4	7.9	1	7.6
LV	4.8	37	5.9	25	7.1	6	6.4	20	5.6	20	5.2	16	3.6	24	5.5
MT	7.8	3	7.8	2	6.0	21	8.0	1	7.7	2	7.0	2	5.8	7	7.2
NL	7.3	10	7.3	7	7.2	4	7.3	7	6.4	11	6.3	7	6.5	3	6.9
PL	5.4	35	6.7	13	6.3	18	6.7	15	5.7	19	4.6	24	4.4	20	5.7
PT	6.3	18	6.5	18	5.8	24	6.2	21	5.0	25	5.3	14	4.2	21	5.6
RO	5.9	26	6.2	21	6.5	16	5.9	26	5.5	21	5.0	21	4.7	14	5.7
SE	7.3	9	7.0	10	7.0	8	7.7	5	6.1	13	6.0	9	5.5	10	6.7
SI	6.0	24	6.6	15	6.4	17	7.2	9	6.6	8	5.4	13	3.8	22	6.0
SK	5.6	33	6.0	23	6.3	19	6.4	19	5.4	23	5.2	18	3.6	25	5.5
EU27	6.7		6.7		6.6		6.7		6.2		5.6		5.0		6.2

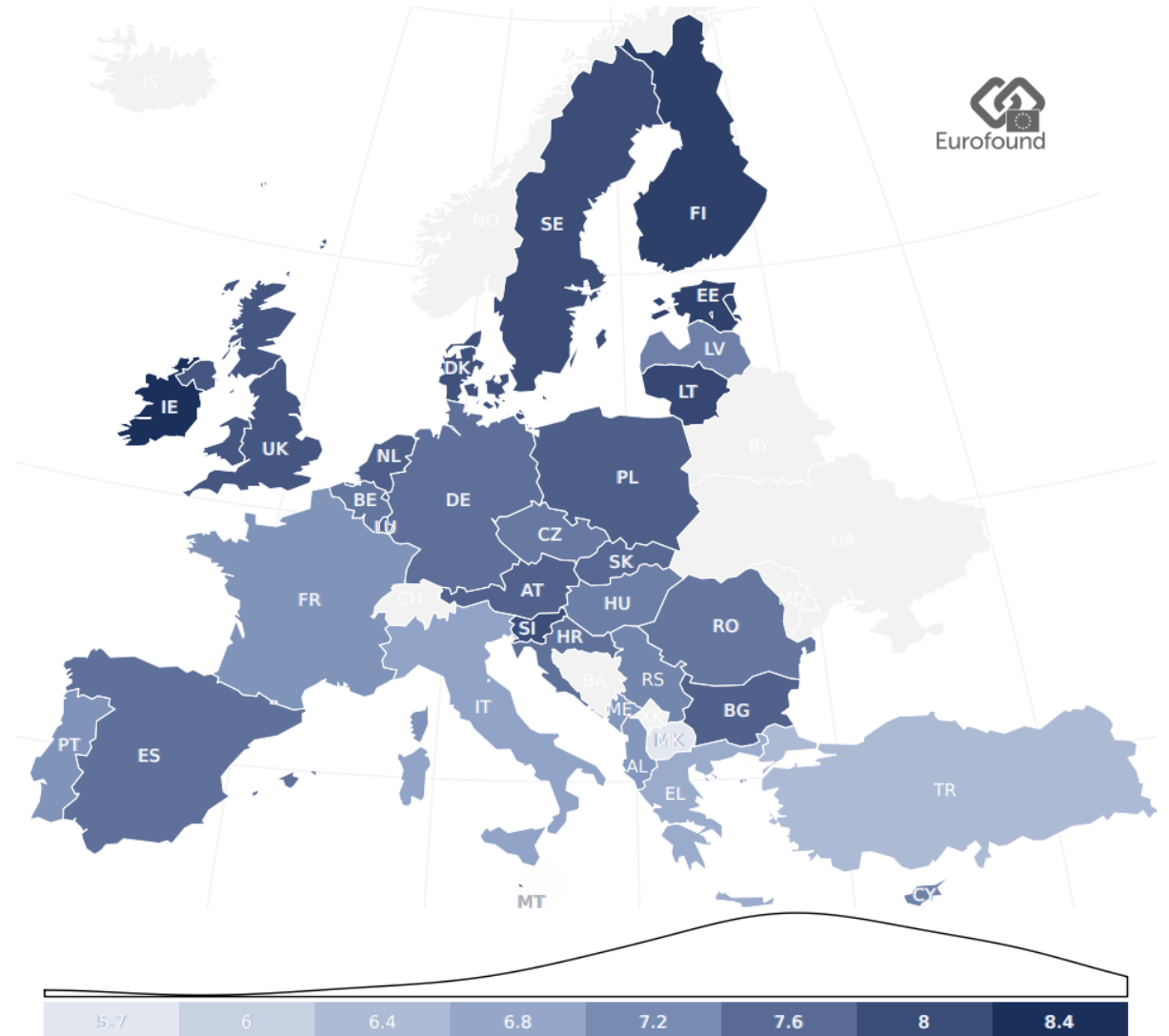
Exploring the data: Quality of public services

Satisfaction with curriculum and activities in schools

EQLS 2016 Q85

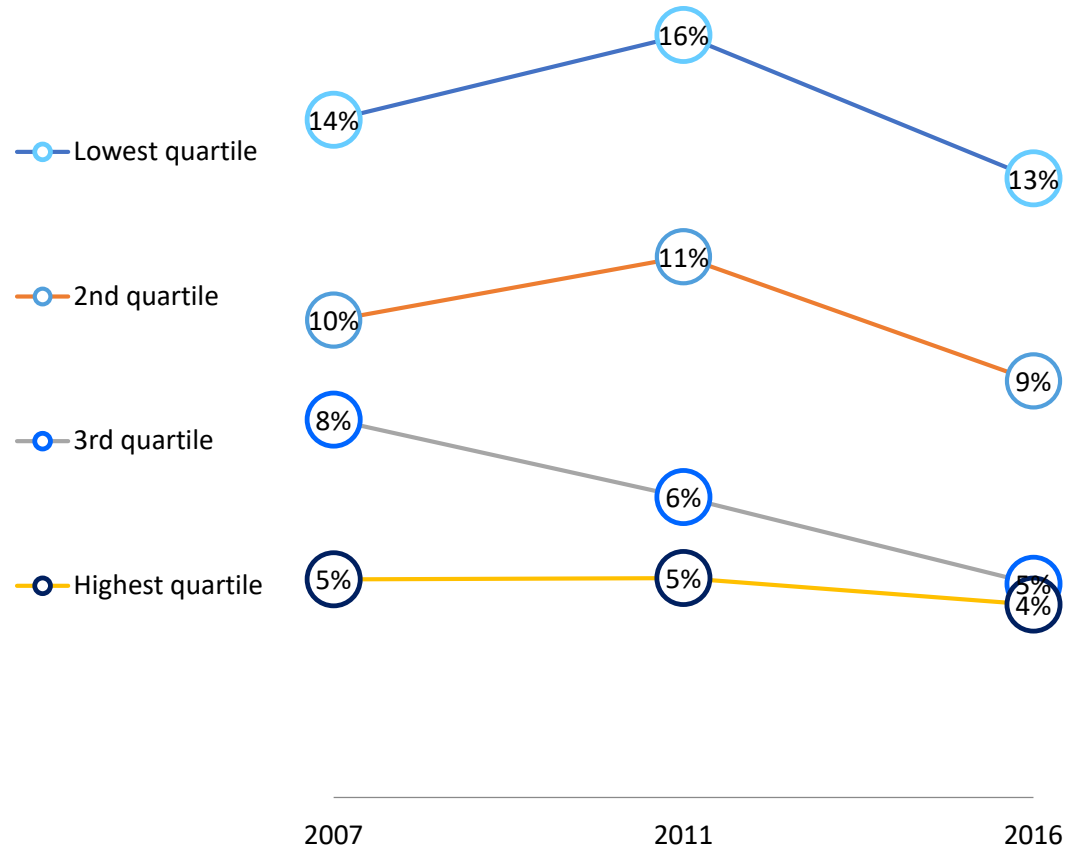
You mentioned that your child or someone in your household attended school. On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 means very dissatisfied and 10 means very satisfied, please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with each of the following aspects.

- Quality of the facilities (building, room, equipment)*
- Expertise and professionalism of staff/teachers*
- Personal attention you were/ this person was given, including staff/teachers' attitude and time devoted*
- Being informed or consulted about this person's education*
- The curriculum and activities*



Exploring the data: Monitoring trends

Proportion of people reporting bad health, by income quartile (EU27, %)



EQLS 2016 Q48

In general, how is your health?

1. *Very good;*
2. *Good;*
3. *Fair;*
4. **Bad;**
5. **Very bad**

EU27 data

Source: Eurofound (2017), European Quality of Life Survey 2016: Quality of life, quality of public services, and quality of society, <http://bit.ly/EQLS-overview>

Exploring the data: Monitoring trends

Difficulty making ends meet

2007																												
FI	LU	SE	DK	IE	UK	NL	AT	DE	ES	LT	MT	SI	EE	FR	IT	EU28	BE	PT	CZ	SK	PL	LV	CY	RO	HR	EL	HU	BG
3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	6%	7%	7%	8%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%	13%	13%	14%	14%	14%	15%	24%	25%	26%	30%	30%	32%	37%	43%
2011																												
DK	LU	AT	SE	FI	DE	MT	NL	UK	IE	PT	IT	BE	FR	EU28	SI	ES	LT	CZ	PL	EE	CY	HR	RO	SK	LV	HU	BG	EL
3%	3%	5%	6%	7%	10%	11%	11%	13%	13%	14%	15%	16%	17%	17%	18%	19%	19%	20%	23%	23%	29%	29%	32%	32%	34%	37%	40%	50%
2016																												
SE	LU	FI	AT	DE	IE	DK	UK	NL	MT	CZ	EE	PL	SI	BE	EU28	PT	HU	FR	ES	LT	IT	SK	LV	CY	RO	BG	HR	EL
3%	5%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	9%	11%	13%	14%	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%	17%	18%	19%	19%	20%	22%	27%	32%	33%	34%	58%

EQLS 2016 Q88

A household may have different sources of income and more than one household member may contribute to it. Thinking of your household's total monthly income: is your household able to make ends meet....?

1. *Very easily*
2. *Easily*
3. *Fairly easily*
4. *With some difficulty*
5. ***With difficulty***
6. ***With great difficulty***

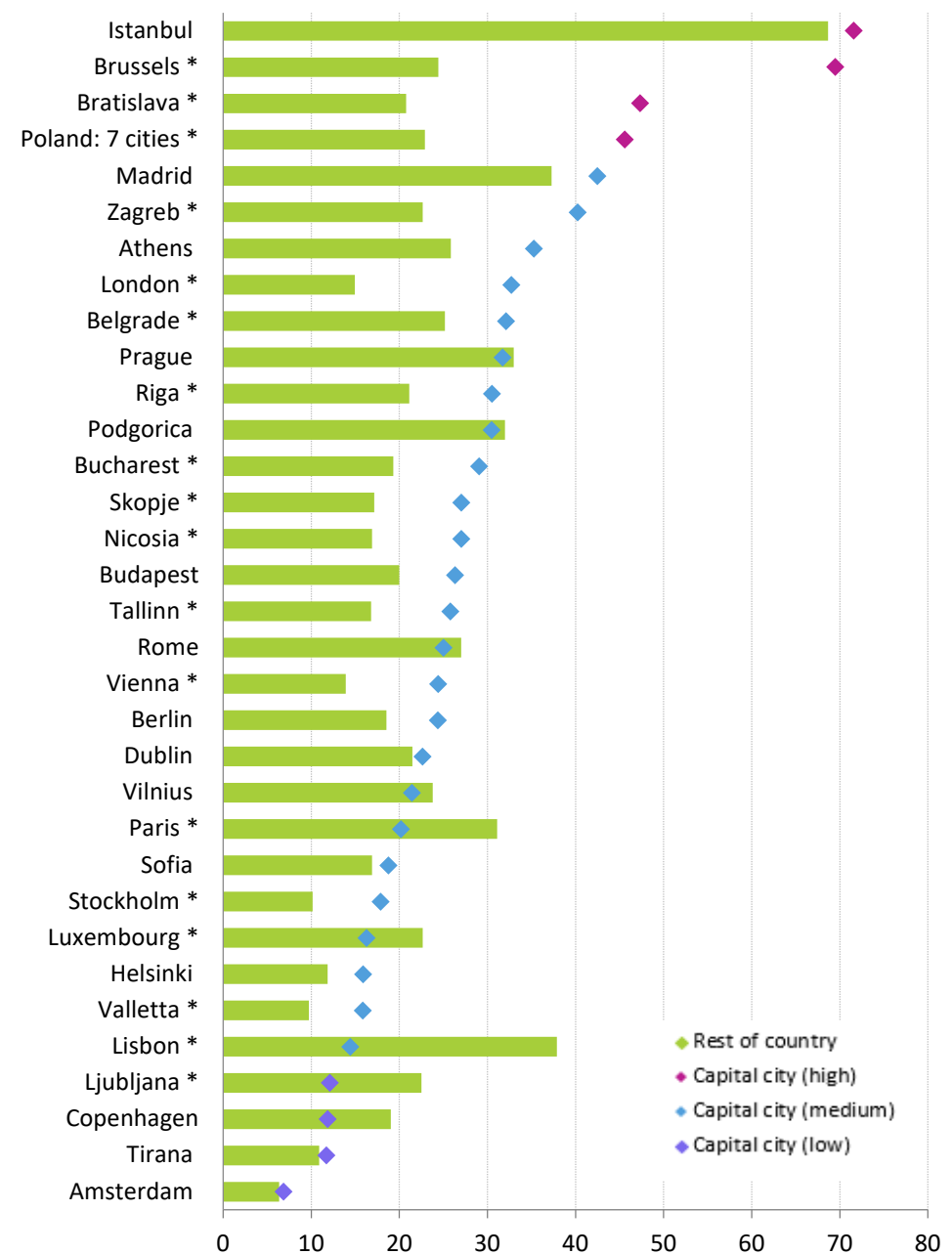
Exploring the data: Urban–rural divide

Housing insecurity (%): Capital cities compared to the rest of the country, 2016

EQLS 2016 Q26

How likely or unlikely do you think it is that you will need to leave your accommodation within the next 6 months because you can no longer afford it?

1. *Very likely*
2. *Rather likely*
3. *Neither likely nor unlikely*
4. ***Rather unlikely***
5. ***Very unlikely***



How is the EQLS linked to other datasets? (examples)

EU-SILC and other Eurostat surveys	<p>Common definition of background variables, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">HouseholdSelf-defined employment statusDisabilityUrbanization (DEGURBA) and region (NUTS3) <p>EU-SILC can be used for population size estimates (number of people/households with certain characteristics), EQLS can complement with wellbeing and quality of society measures</p>
Data matching with EU-SILC	<p>Test of matching on health, deprivation, working hours</p> <p>Target variables on unmet need for medical services crossed with quality of services</p> <p>Link to presentation (Ahrendt, Leoncikas, Riobóo Lestón, 2019)</p>
Combined analysis with European Working Conditions Survey	<p>Common variables on work-life balance</p> <p>Reconciling work and life in the EU (Wilkens et al, 2019)</p>
EQLS data used in international indices	<p>Gender Equality Index (EIGE)</p> <p>Active Ageing Index (UNECE)</p>

Publication series based on EQLS 2016 data (web links)

- [EQLS 2016 overview report](#)
- [Societal change and trust in institutions](#)
- [Social cohesion and well-being in Europe](#)
- [Social insecurities and resilience](#)
- [Social and employment situation of people with disabilities](#)
- [Quality of health and care services in the EU](#)
- [Life and society in the EU candidate countries](#)
- [Is rural Europe being left behind?](#)
- [Household composition and well-being](#)
- [What makes capital cities the best places to live?](#)

Dataset characteristics and weights

Waves	2003, 2007, 2011, 2016 – in integrated datafile containing all four waves
Total sample size per wave	26257, 35634, 43636, 36908
Sampling design	Multistage, clustered, stratified random sampling design <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PSUs2. Addresses3. Households4. Respondents
Weighting design	Selection probability (design) weights Post-stratification weights: age x gender, region x urbanisation, household size, employment status Supra-national weights
Weights in the dataset	Wcalib <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Available for all waves, all countries- Use for correct confidence intervals and significance at country level- Can be used for all country and within-country estimates- Do not use for cross-country averages, country groups Wcalib_crossnational_EU28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Available for 2nd, 3rd and 4th wave- Use for EU27 averages- Same result for countries as Wcalib, but incorrect confidence intervals- For EU average in 1st wave, instead use Y03_EU28wt, and filter EU countries

How can you access the data?

Access to the EQLS microdata:

UK Data Service

European Quality of Life Survey Integrated Data File, 2003-2016

<https://beta.ukdataservice.ac.uk/datacatalogue/studies/study?id=7348>

Free after registration

SPSS format

Other relevant links:

EQLS source questionnaire:

<http://bit.ly/EQLS-Q>

Selected graphs:

<http://bit.ly/EQLS-interactive>

Data visualisation (main results):

<http://bit.ly/EQLS-SMT>

More about the EQLS:

<http://bit.ly/EQLS-info>