



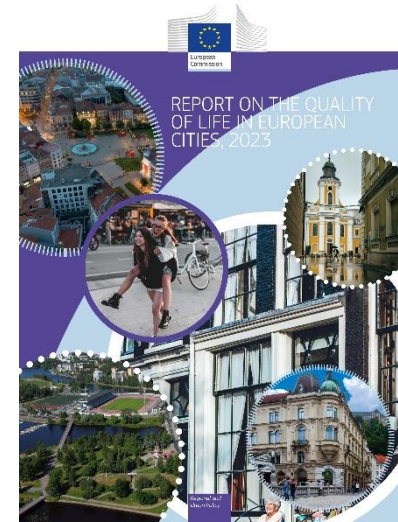
# Quality of life in European cities

2023 report and data collection

# 2023 Survey on the quality of life in European cities (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

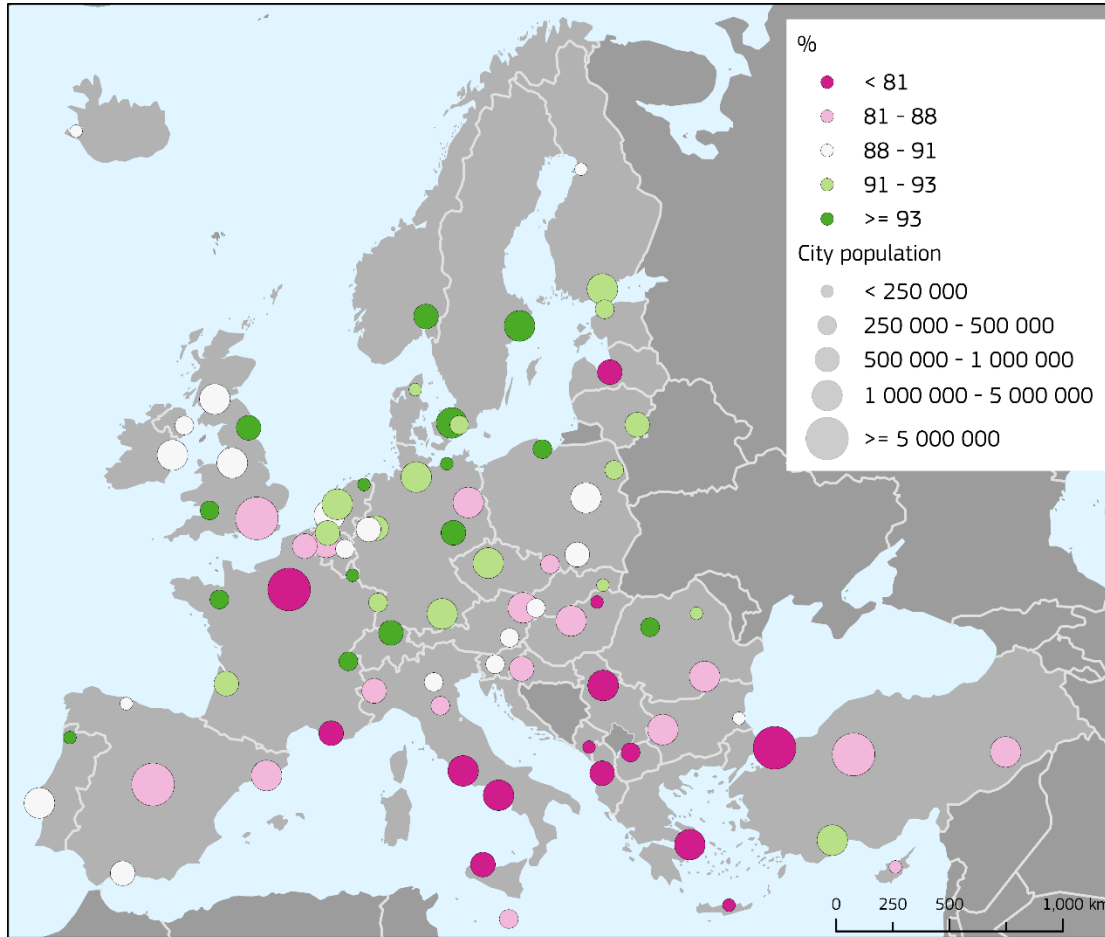
- Cities are home to around 40% of the EU population and provide access to many different employment opportunities, better access to public transport, and proximity to many destinations which can facilitate walking and cycling.
- Cities also face social and environmental problems, including poverty, high housing costs, discrimination, crime, air pollution and noise.
- In the 2014-2020 period, around 115 billion EUR Cohesion Policy funding has been invested in cities, towns or suburban areas. For the current programming period, cohesion policy support to sustainable urban development has been reinforced, through a higher level of earmarking, the new policy objective 5 and other measures.
- Since 2007, the European Commission monitors the quality of life in European cities via a dedicated (perception) survey.
- The survey covers capital cities and other major cities in the EU, EFTA, the UK, the Western Balkans and Turkey. In 2023, 83 (greater) cities were covered, collecting more than 70,000 interviews. Interviews were carried out in April 2023.

# The 2023 report: 7 chapters



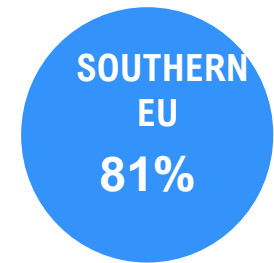
# Satisfaction with living in the city

# Are people in Europe satisfied to live in their city?



9 out of 10

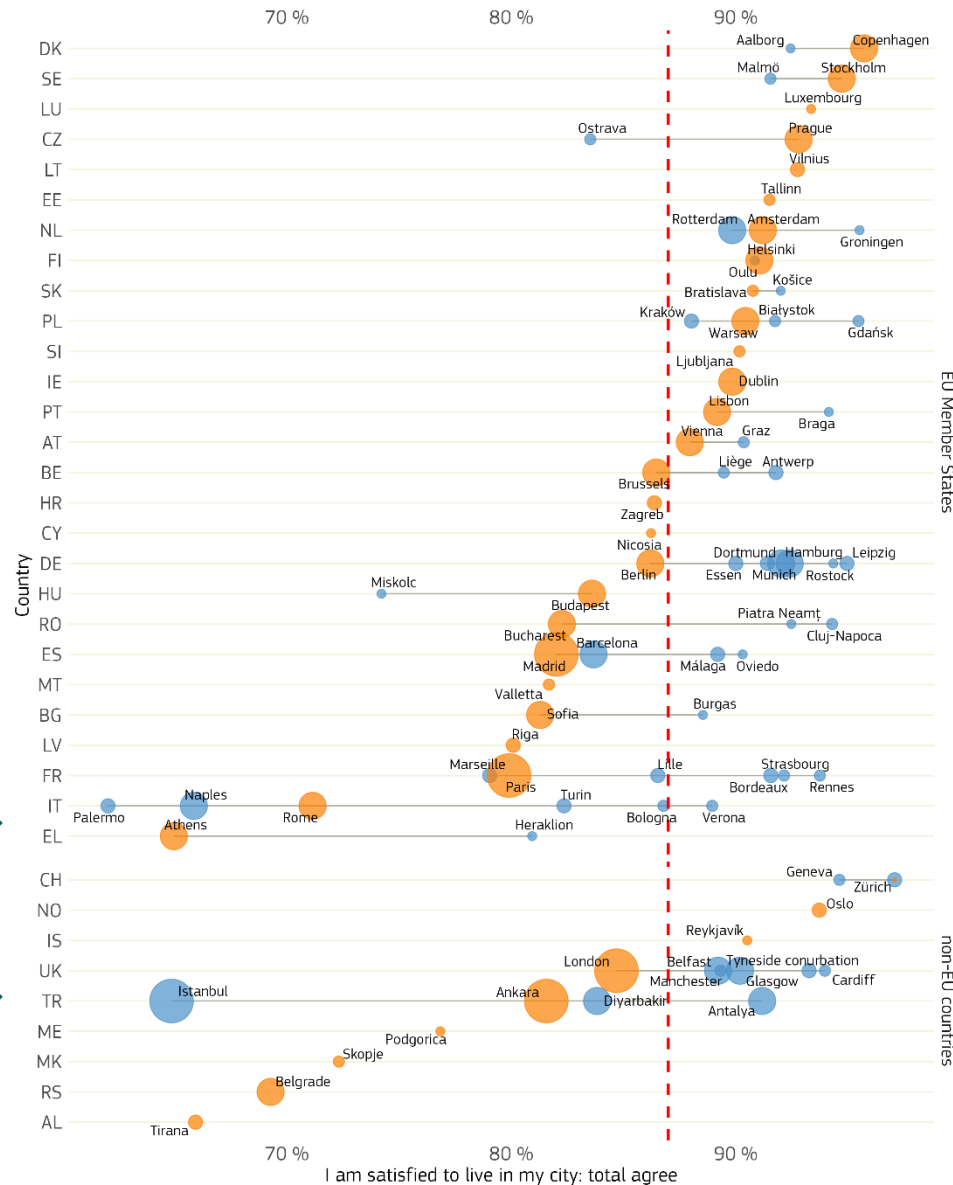
Satisfied to live in their city



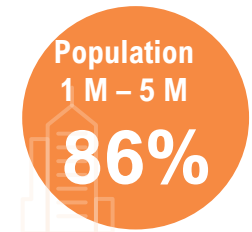
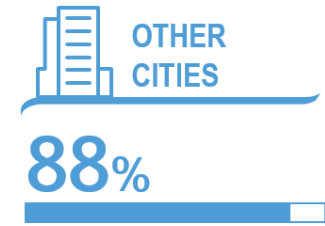
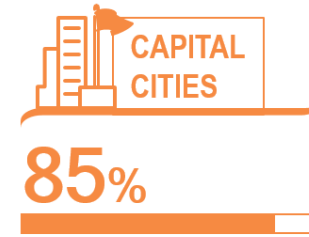
Overall satisfaction in the city  
I am satisfied to live in the city: total agree (%)

# Are people in Europe satisfied to live in their city?

Large within-country differences



I am satisfied to live in my city (% agree)

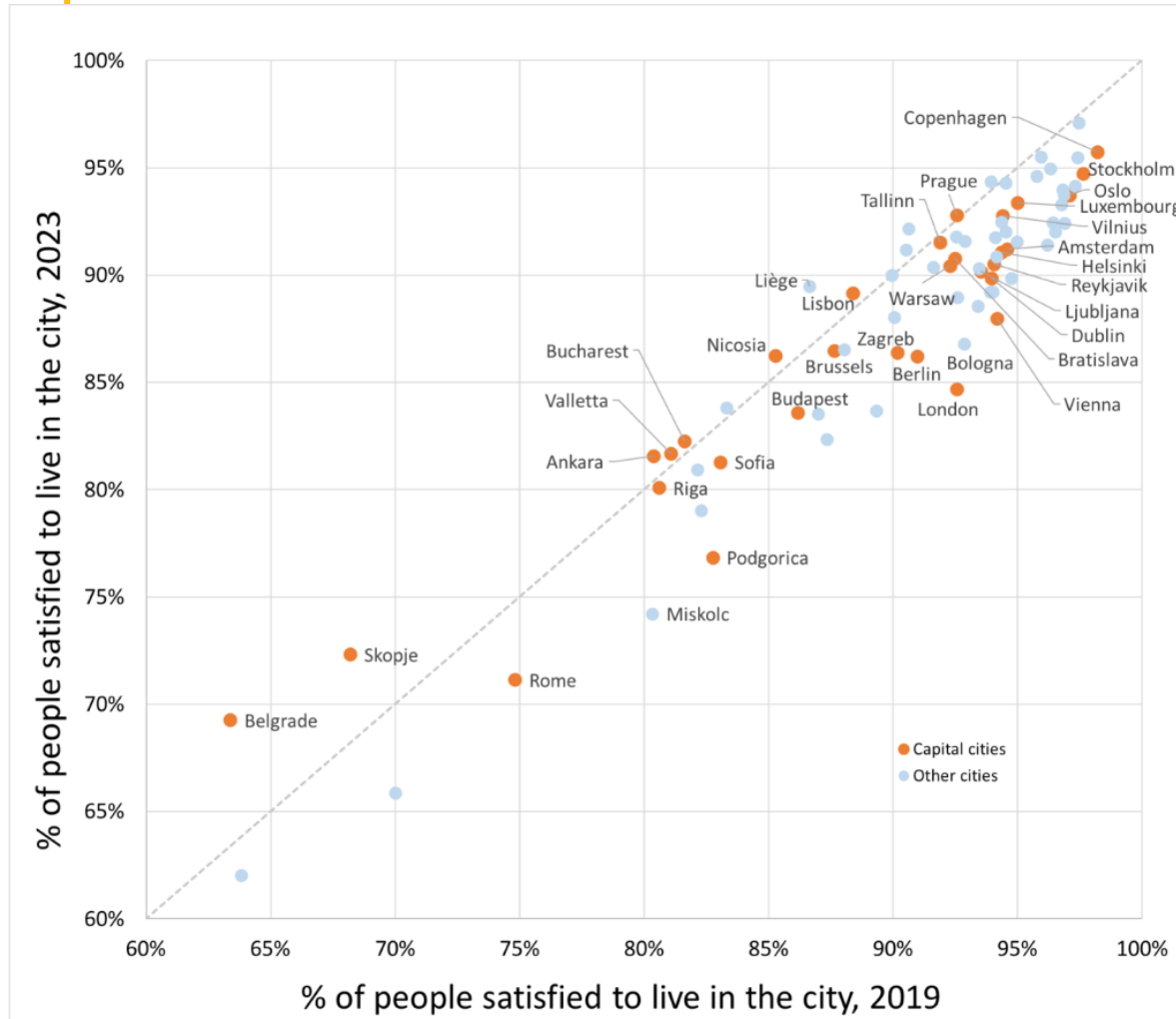


**City type**  
● Capital Cities ● Other Cities

**City population**  
● <250k ● 250k-500k ● 500k-1m ● 1m-5m ● >5m

— Cities average

# Are people in Europe satisfied to live in their city? 2019 vs 2023



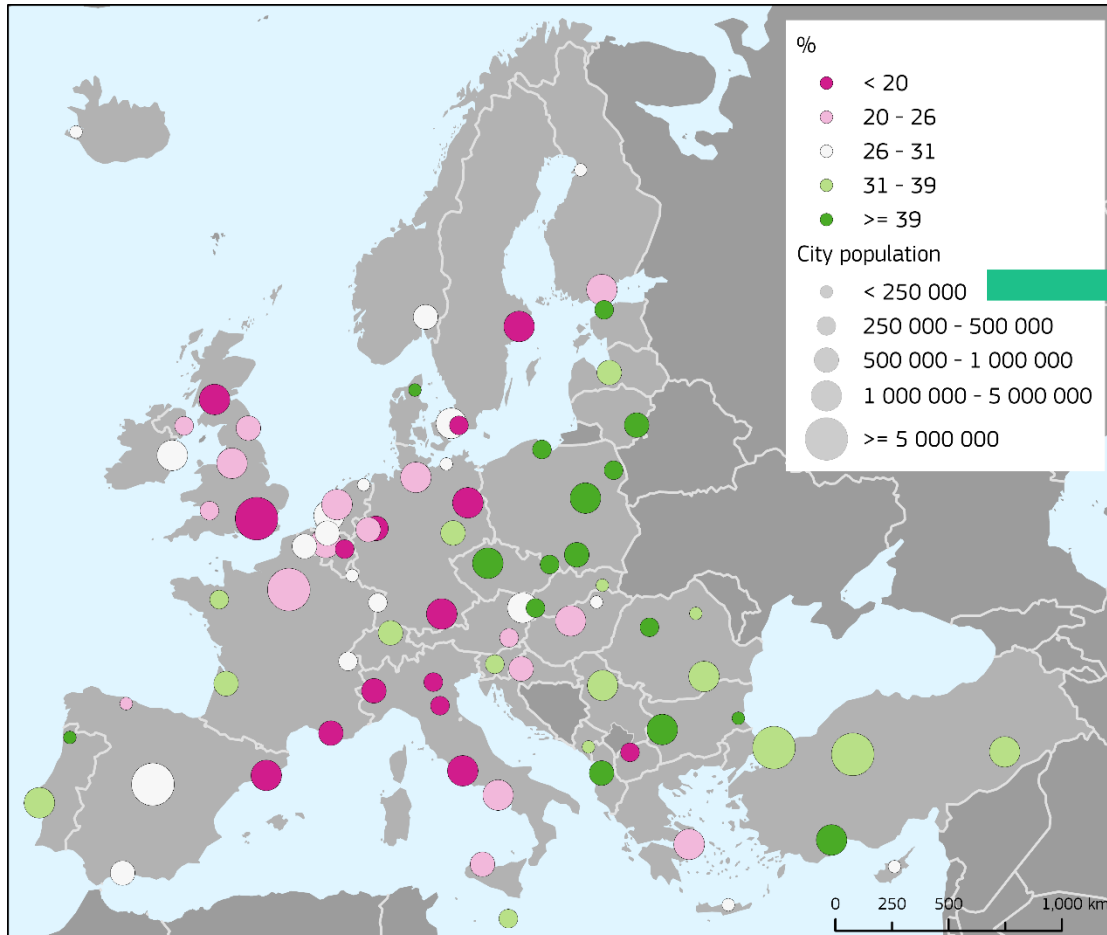
Between 2019 and 2023, the **degree of satisfaction with living in the city slightly decreased in most cities.**

A significant drop (of more than 3 pp) is observed in 34 out of the 76 cities for which a comparison is feasible.

The largest decreases in satisfaction can be seen in London (85 %, - 8 pp), Vienna (87 %, - 6 pp), Bologna (87 %, - 6 pp) and Miskolc (74 %, - 6 pp).

The largest increases are observed in Belgrade (69 %, + 6 pp), Skopje (MK, 72 %, + 4 pp) and Liège (BE, 89 %, + 3 pp).

# How is quality of life in my city compared to 5 years ago?



33%

28%

**31%**  
Increased  
(- 7pp wrt 2019)

**29%**  
Decreased  
(+ 5 pp wrt 2019)

**40%**  
Stayed the same  
(+ 2 pp wrt 2019)

**Eastern EU**  
**44%**

**North-western EU**  
**26%**

**Southern EU**  
**24%**

↑ ↑  
"The **quality of life** in my city **increased** compared to 5 years ago" (%agree)

**TOP 3 EU CITIES:**

**Białystok**  
**62%**

**Gdańsk**  
**60%**

**Cluj-Napoca**  
**59%**

## Quality of life in the city increased

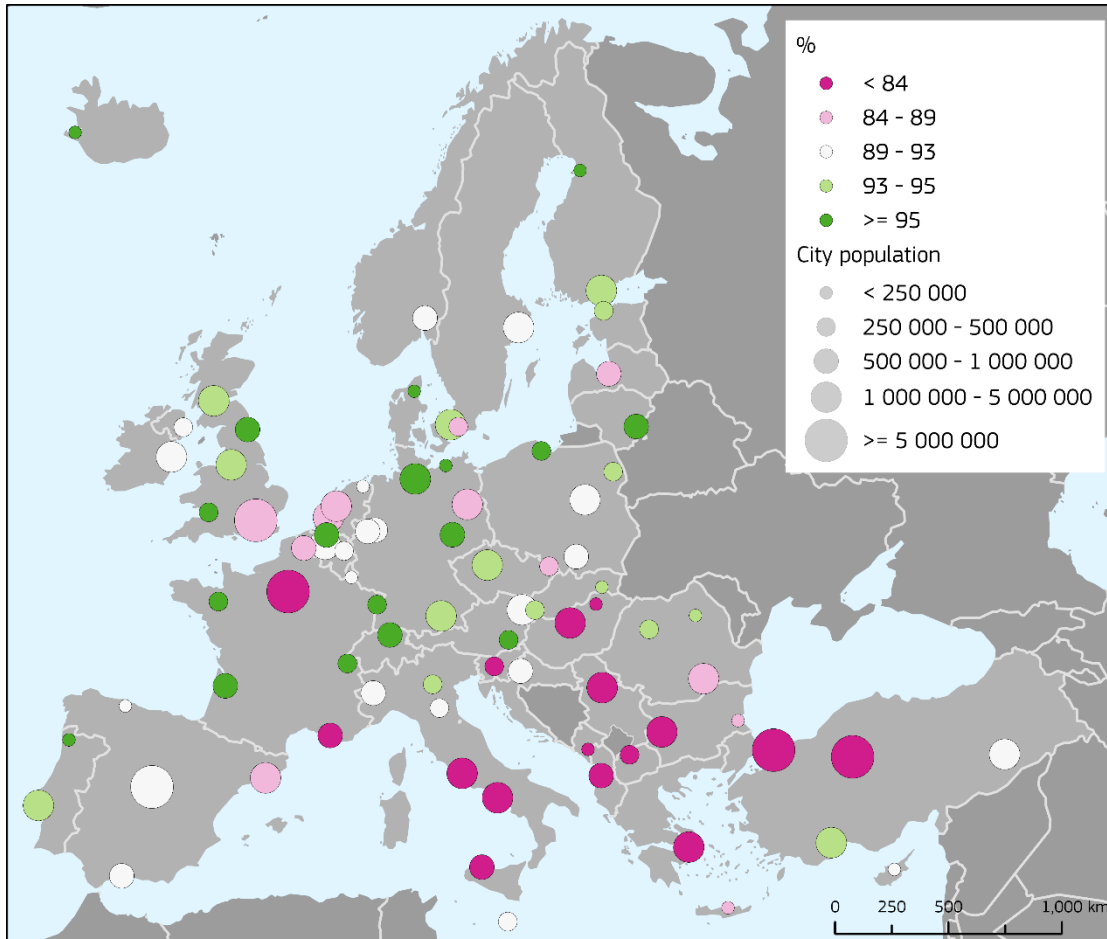
Compared to 5 years ago, quality of life in my city or area has increased: yes (%)

Source: DG REGIO, Perception survey on the quality of life in European cities, 2023

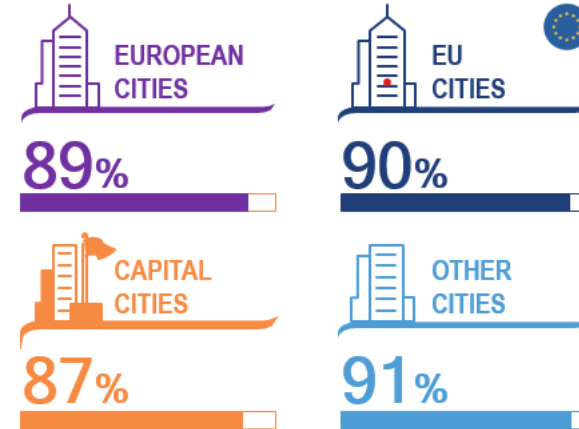
Note: Percentages are calculated over total answers after removing DK/NA



# Is my city a good place to live for people in general?



My city is a **good place to live** for people in general (% agree)\*



## TOP 3 EU CITIES



## TOP 3 EU CITIES (Highest increase vs 2019)



The city is a good place to live for people in general

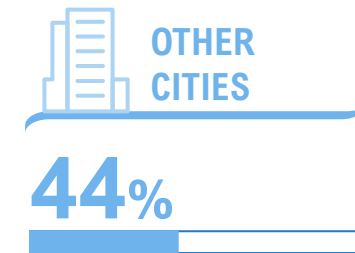
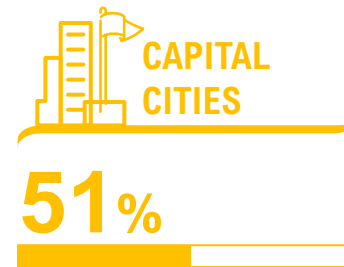
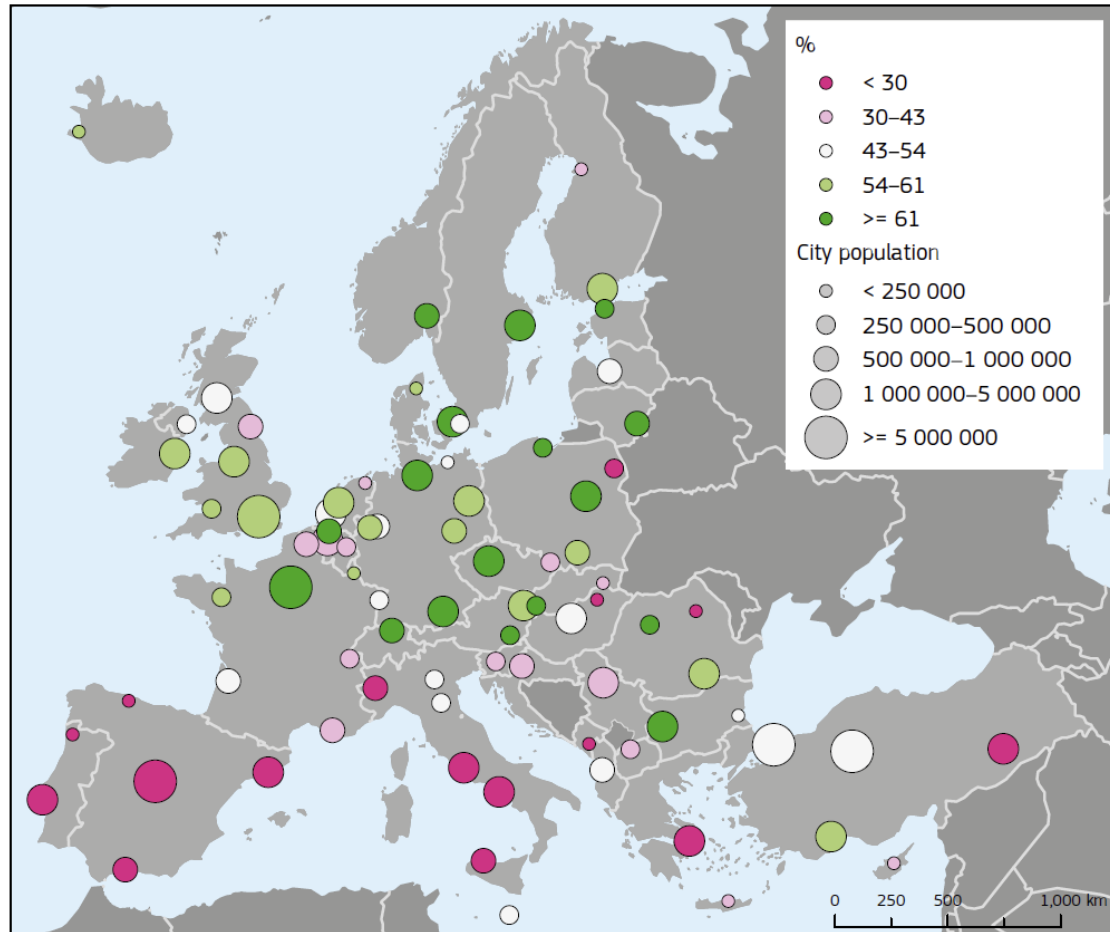
The city where I live is a good place to live for people in general: yes (%)

Source: DG REGIO, Perception survey on the quality of life in European cities, 2023

Note: Percentages are calculated over total answers after removing DK/NA

# Getting a job, finding a house and earning a living

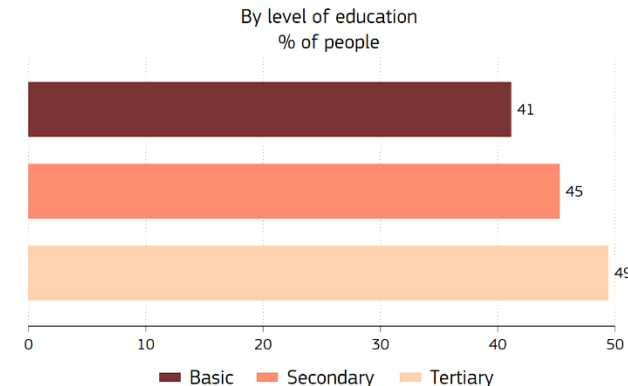
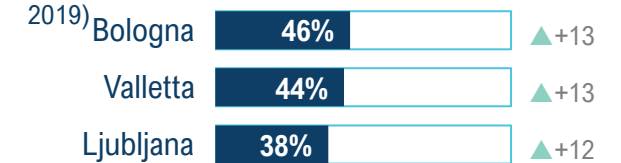
# Is it easy to find a good job in my city?



## TOP 3 EU CITIES



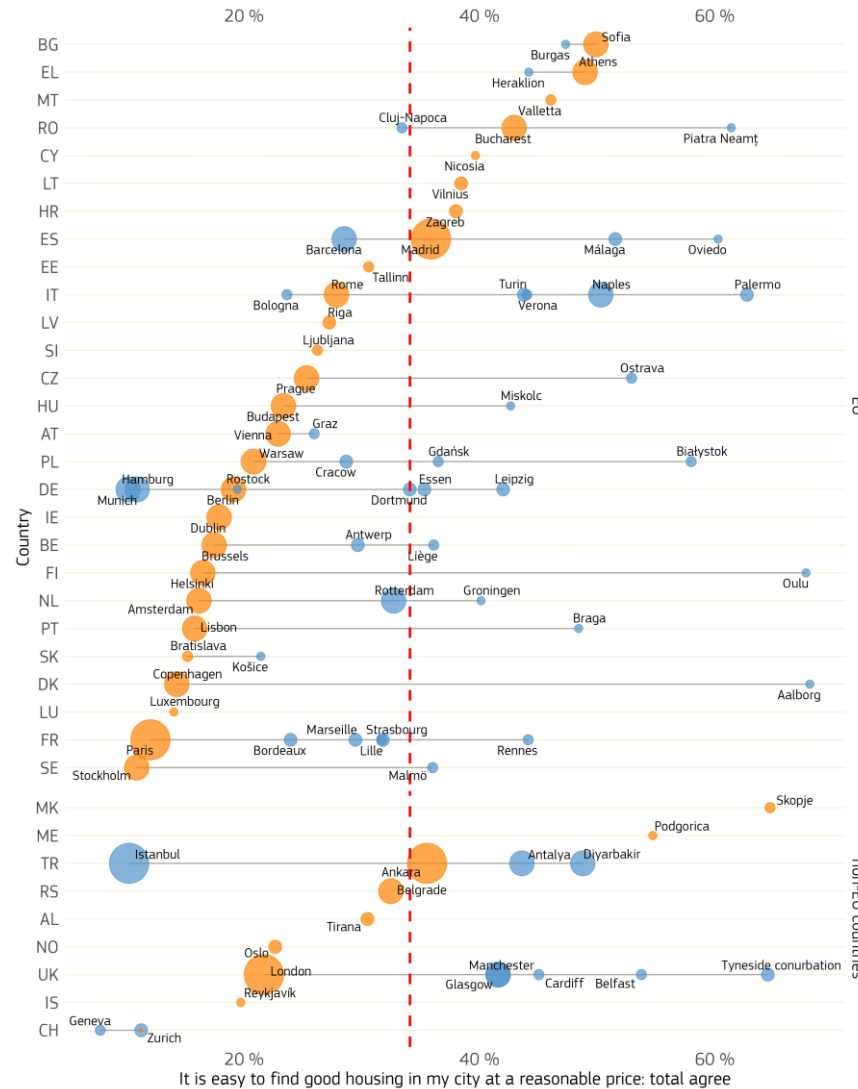
## TOP 3 EU CITIES (Highest pp increase vs 2019)



Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, *Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023*  
Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered

# Is it easy to find good housing at a reasonable price?

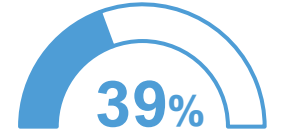
Finding good housing at a reasonable price is difficult in large and capital cities



CAPITAL CITIES



OTHER CITIES



TOP 3 EU CITIES

Aalborg	68%
Oulu	68%
Palermo	63%

TOP 3 EU CITIES

(Highest pp increase vs 2019)

Berlin	19%	▲ +7
Helsinki	17%	▲ +6
Amsterdam	16%	▲ +6

City type

● Capital Cities ● Other Cities

City population

● <250k ● 250k-500k ● 500k-1m ● 1m-5m ● >5m

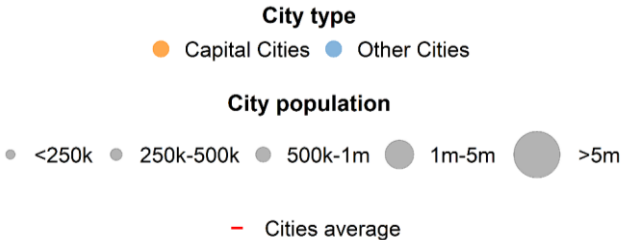
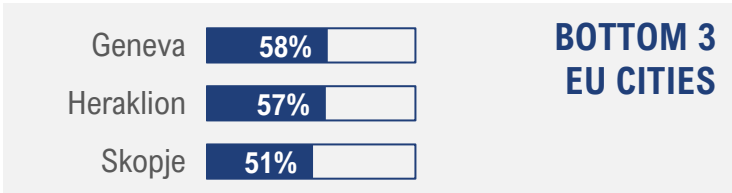
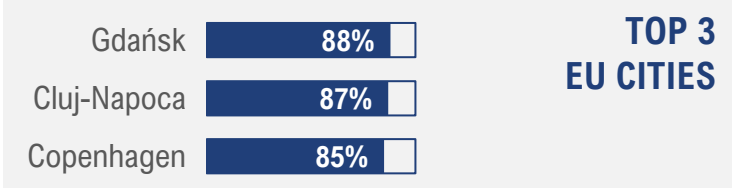
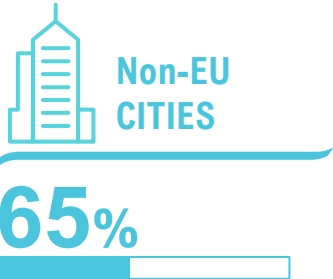
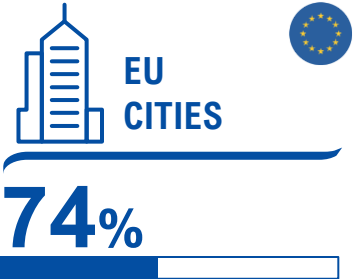
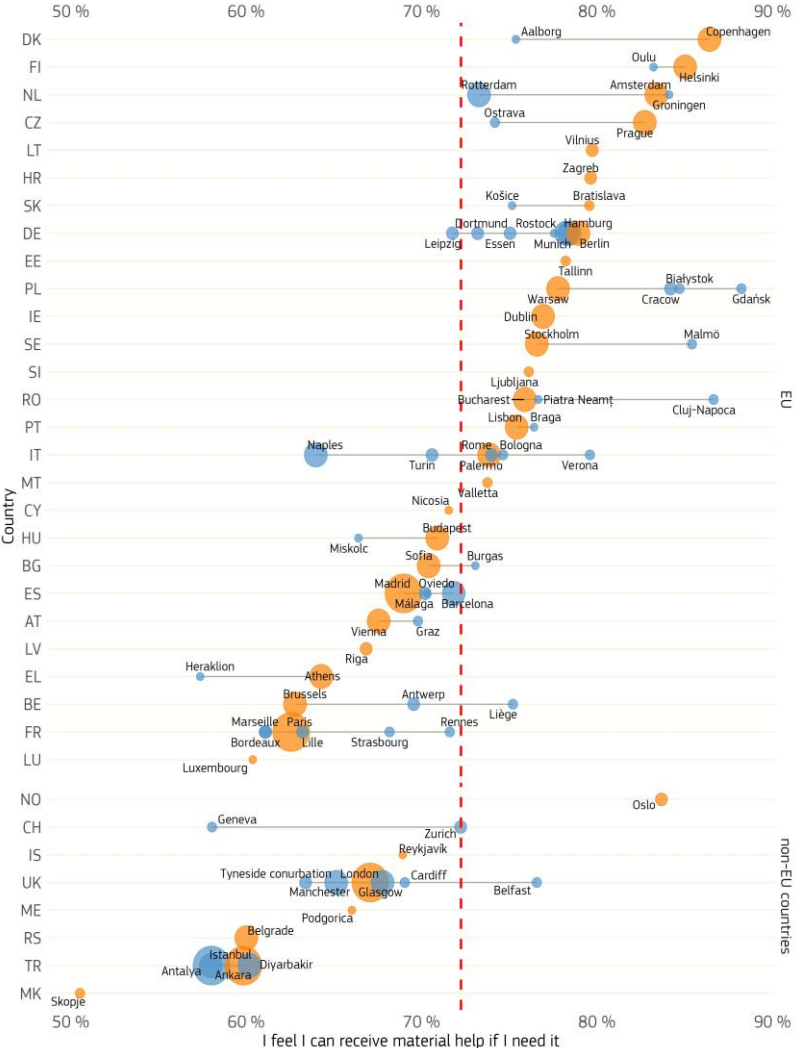
- Cities average



European Commission

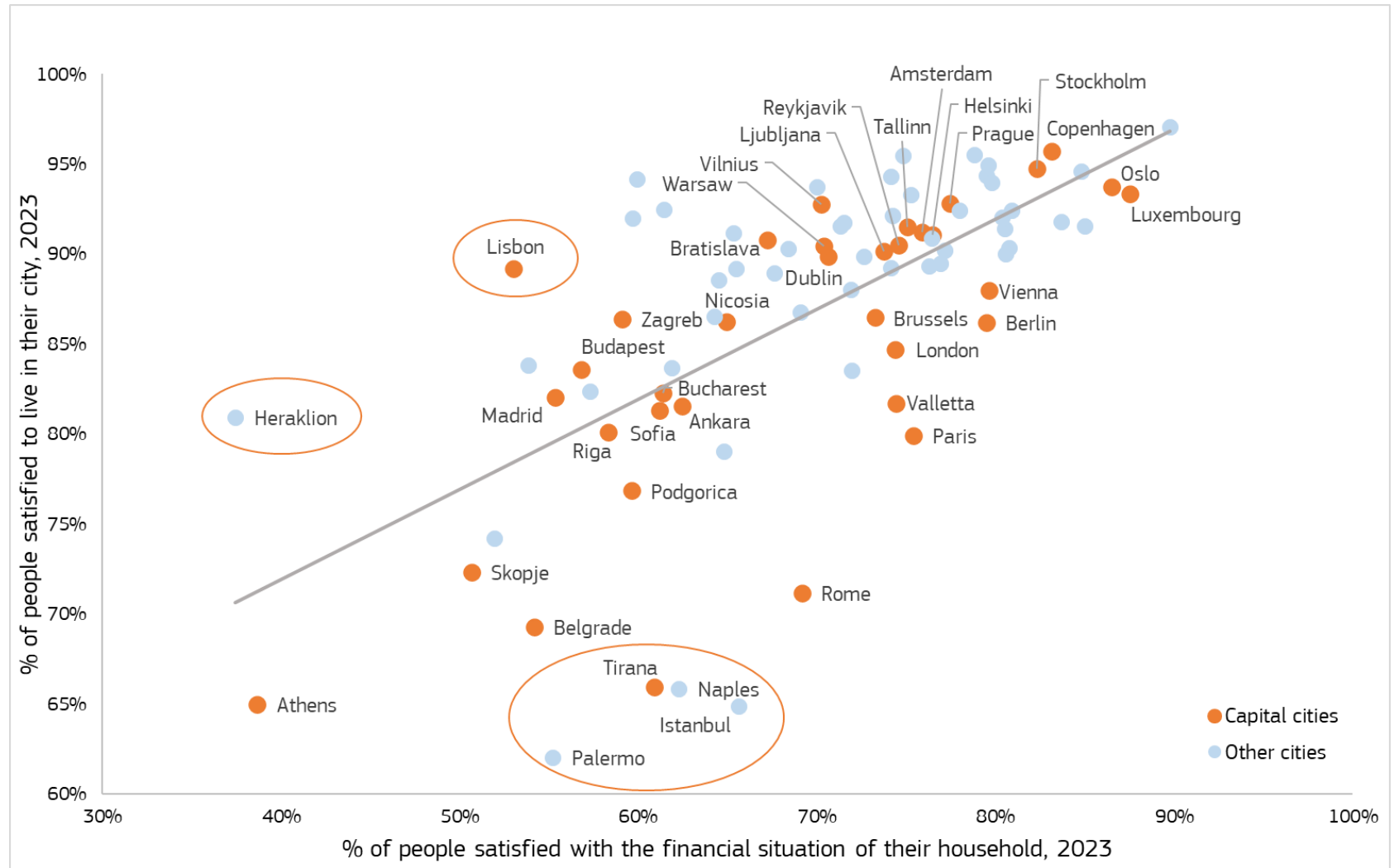
# Material help in case of need

Most people feeling they will receive material help in case of need live in EU cities



Source: EC/DG REGIO  
Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered

# The financial situation can have a substantial impact on the satisfaction with living in a city

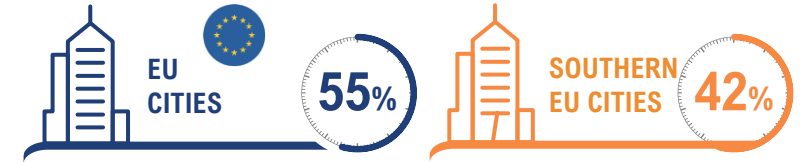
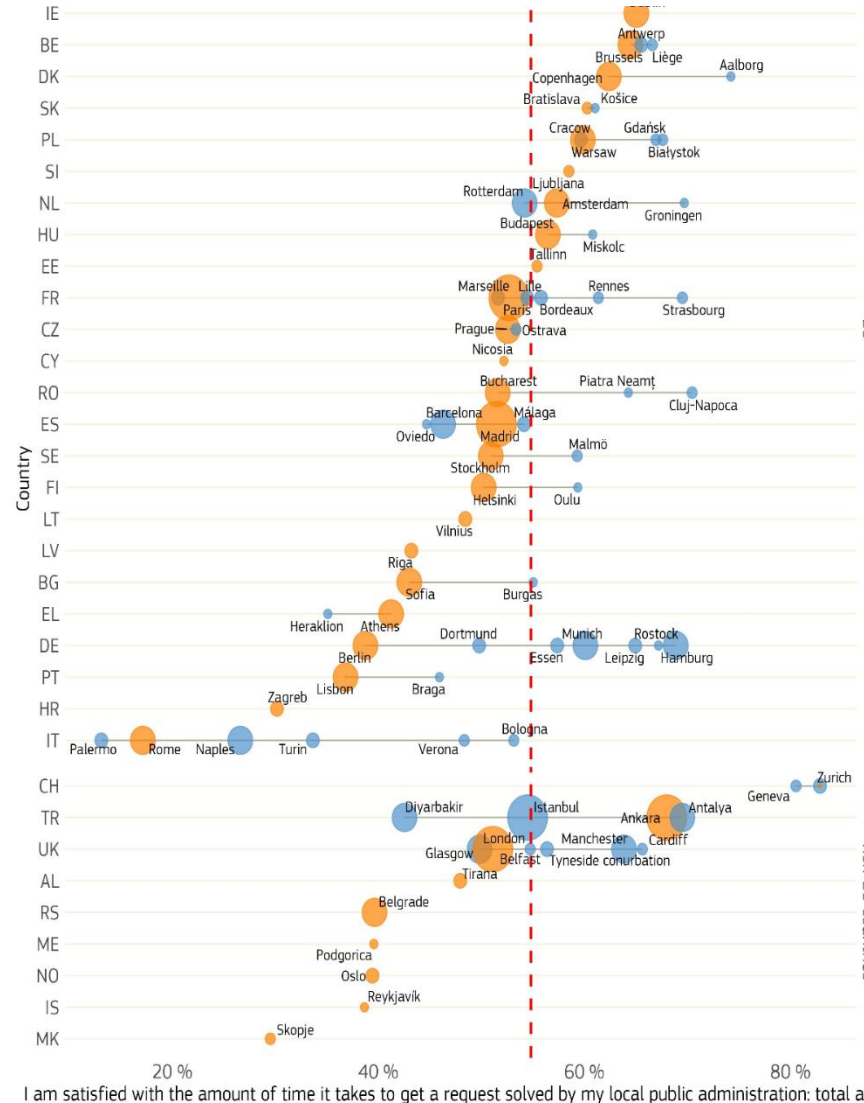


Source: EC/DG REGIO  
 Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered

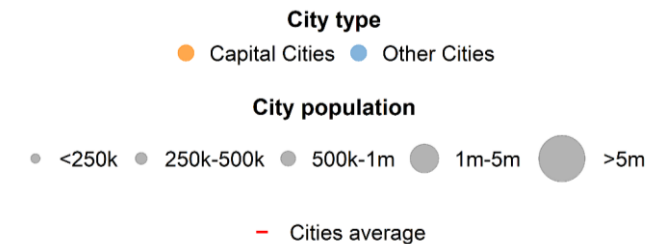
# Satisfaction with local public administration

# Satisfaction with the time it takes to get a request solved by the local administration

In around half of European cities people are satisfied with the time it takes to get a request solved



TOP 3 EU CITIES		TOP 3 EU CITIES (Highest pp increase vs 2019)	
Aalborg	74%	Sofia	43% ▲ +5
Luxembourg	72%	Verona	48% ▲ +5
Vienna	72%	Valletta	66% ▲ +3

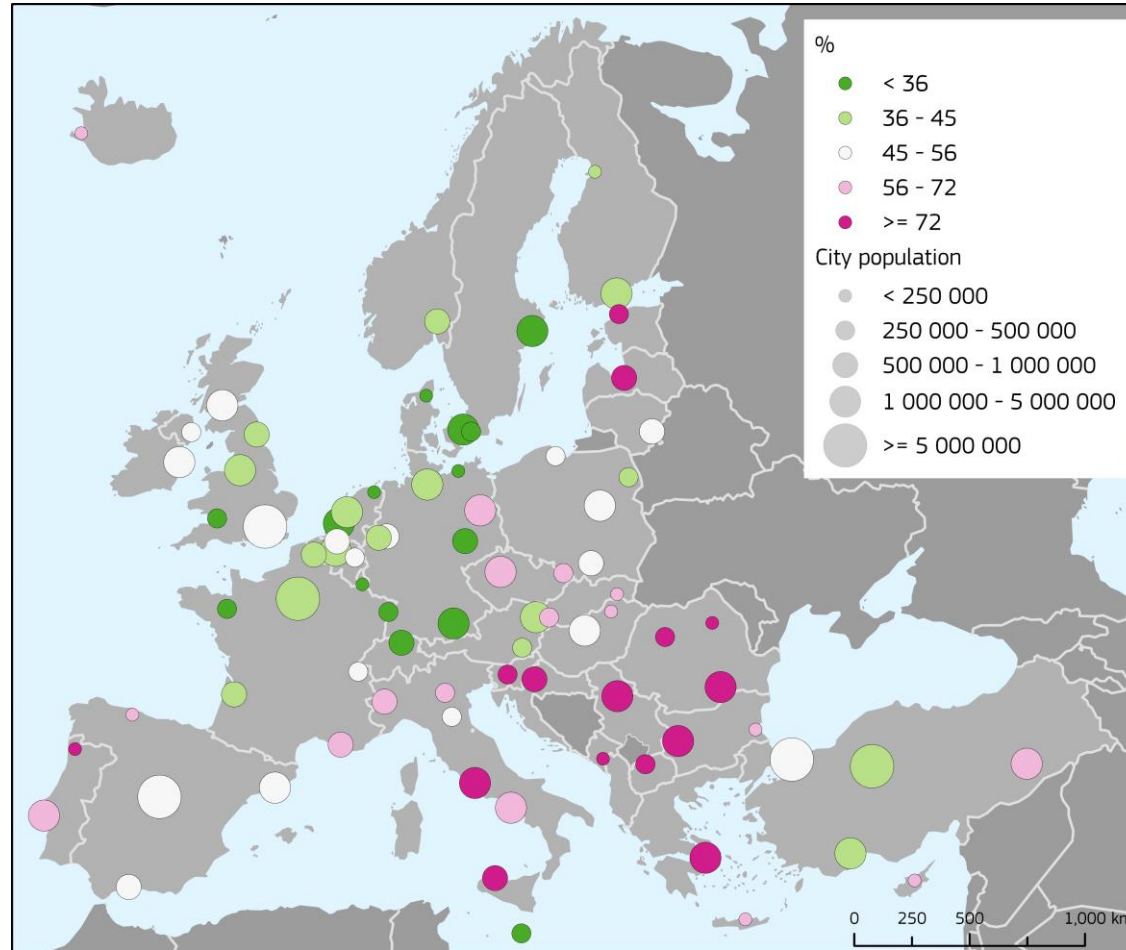


I am satisfied with the amount of time it takes to get a request solved by my local public administration: total agree

Source: EC/DG REGIO  
Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered



# Perceived corruption in the local public administration

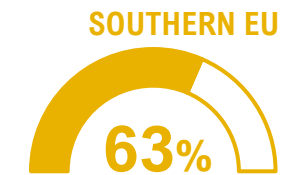
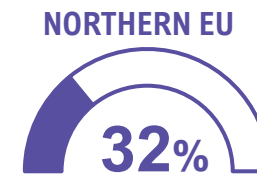
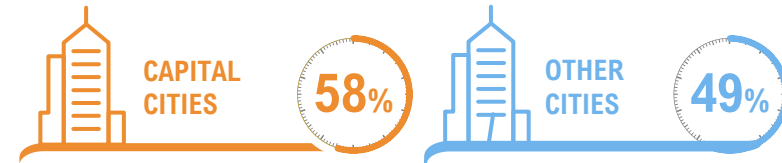
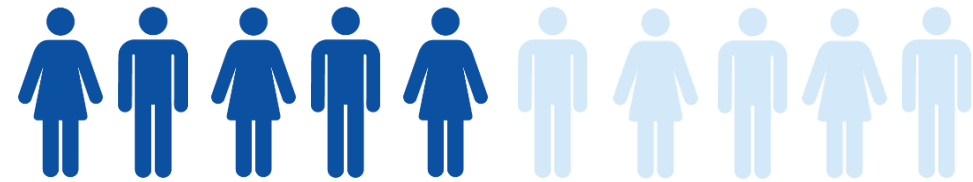


**Local public administration in the city: CORRUPTION**  
There is corruption in the local public administration in the city: total agree (%)

Source: EC/DG REGIO  
Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered

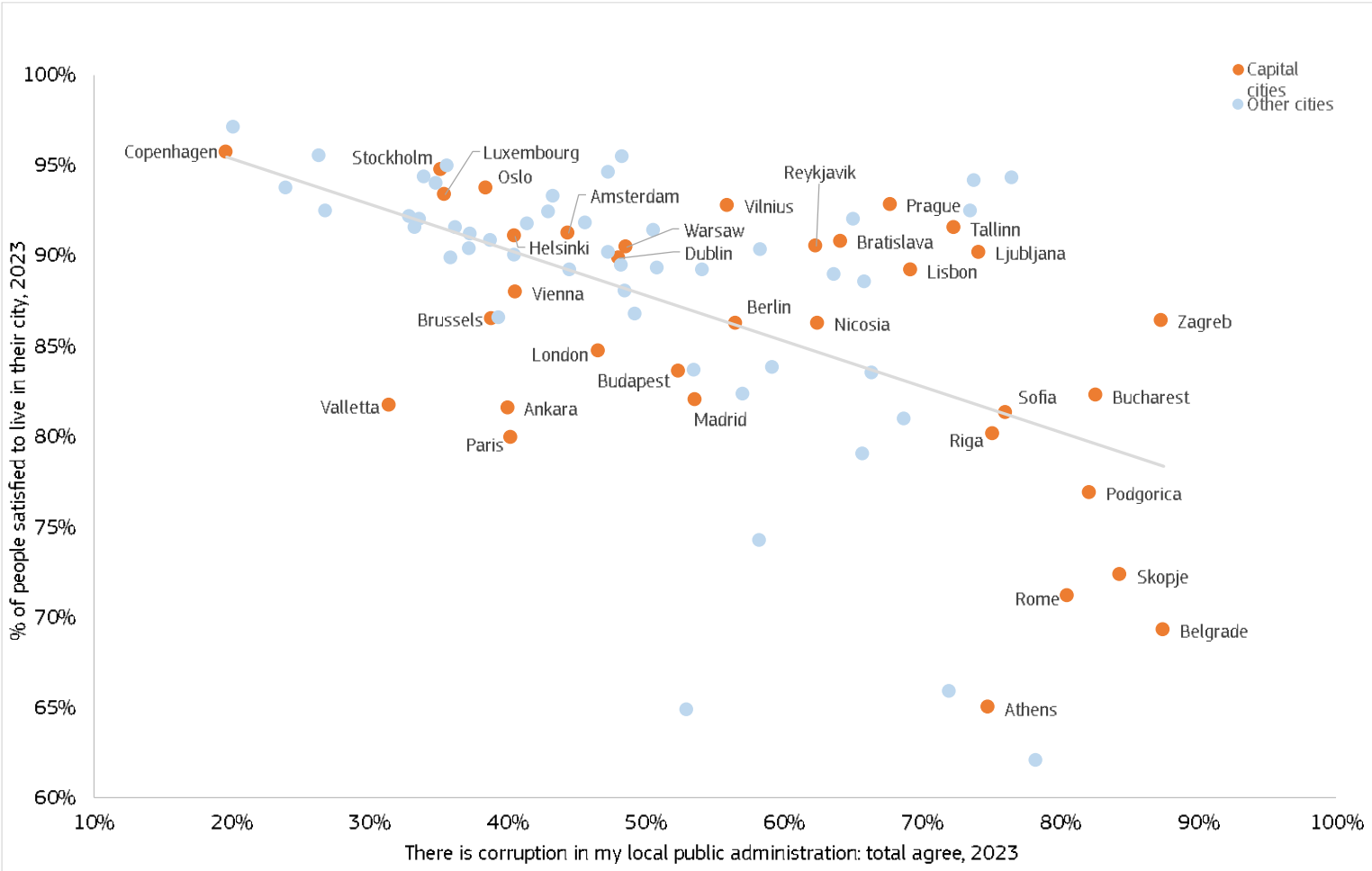
## 5 out of 10

### Agree that there is corruption in the local public administration of their cities



# The less corruption is perceived in the local public administration of the city.....

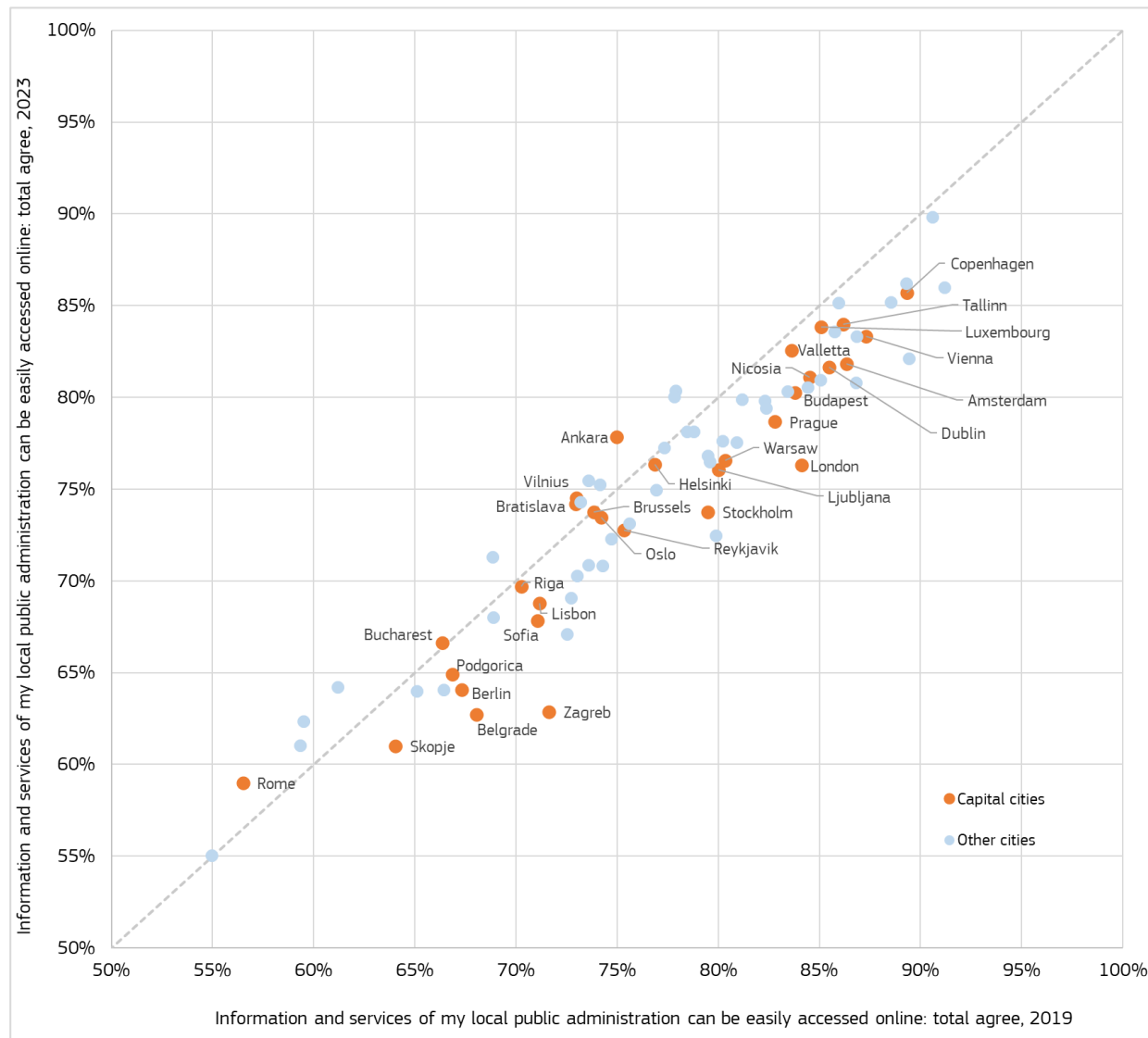
...the more people are satisfied to live in the city



Source: EC/DG REGIO  
Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered

# Access to information and services in the local public administration, 2019 vs 2023

In 9 out of 10 cities the information and services of their local public administration were less easily accessible online in 2023 compared to 2019



Source: EC/DG REGIO

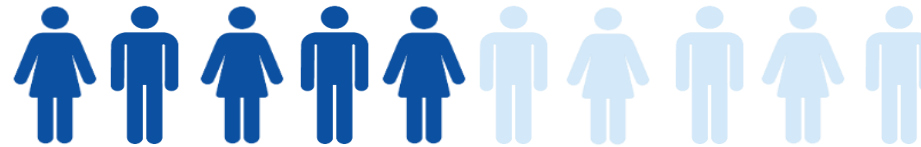
Note: %s based on all respondents, excluding don't know/not answered  
Time comparison can be made for 73 cities



# Moving around the city

# Transport mode used on a typical day

➤ Cars



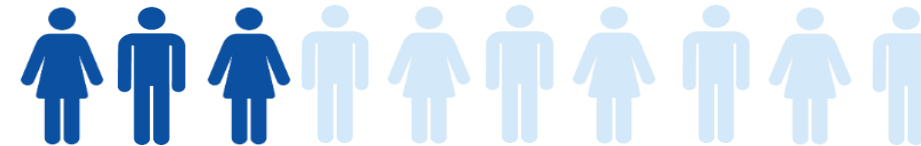
5 out of 10

➤ Public transport



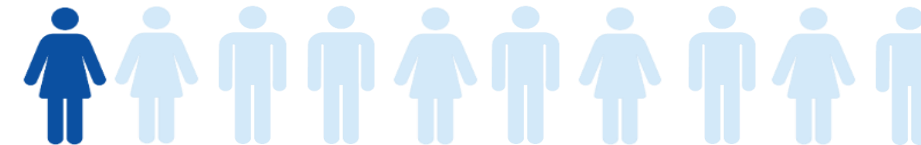
4 out of 10

➤ Walking



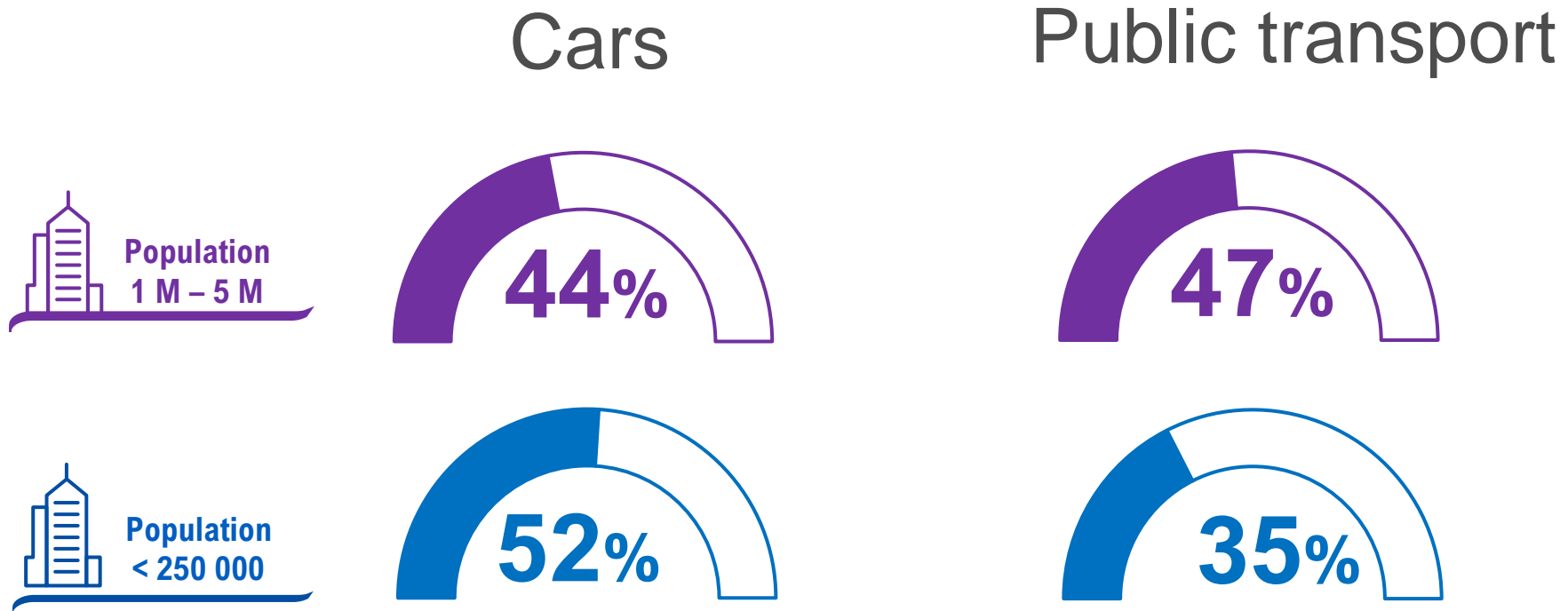
3 out of 10

➤ Cycling



1 out of 10

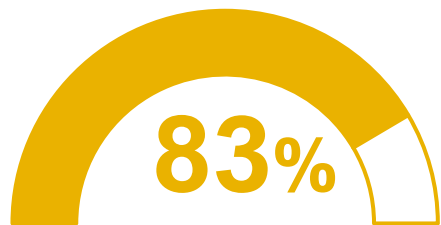
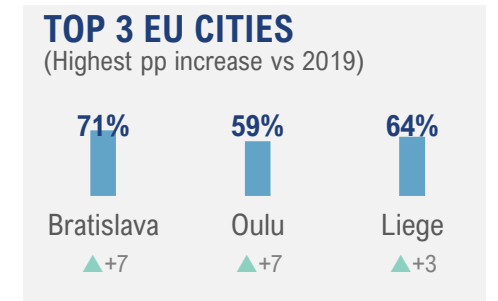
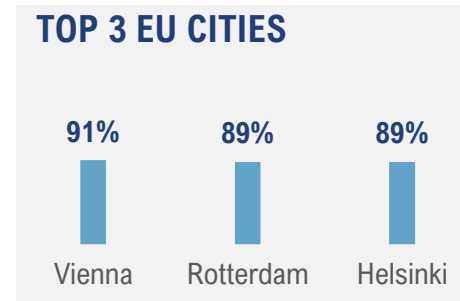
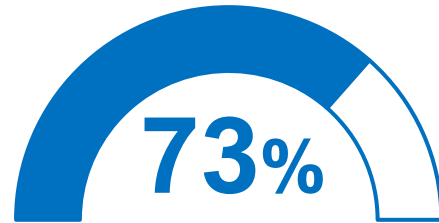
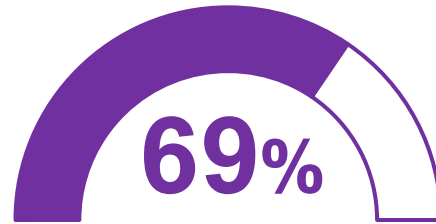
# Transport mode used on a typical day



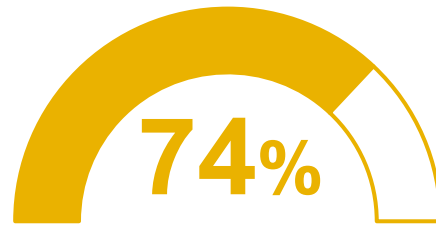
# Satisfied with living in the city vs satisfied with public transport in the city



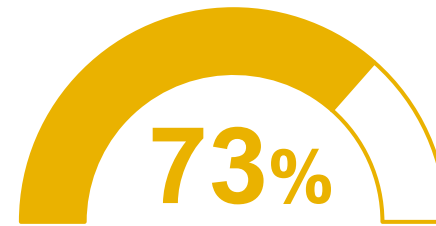
# People satisfied with public transport in the city



Safe  
Accessible



Frequent



Reliable

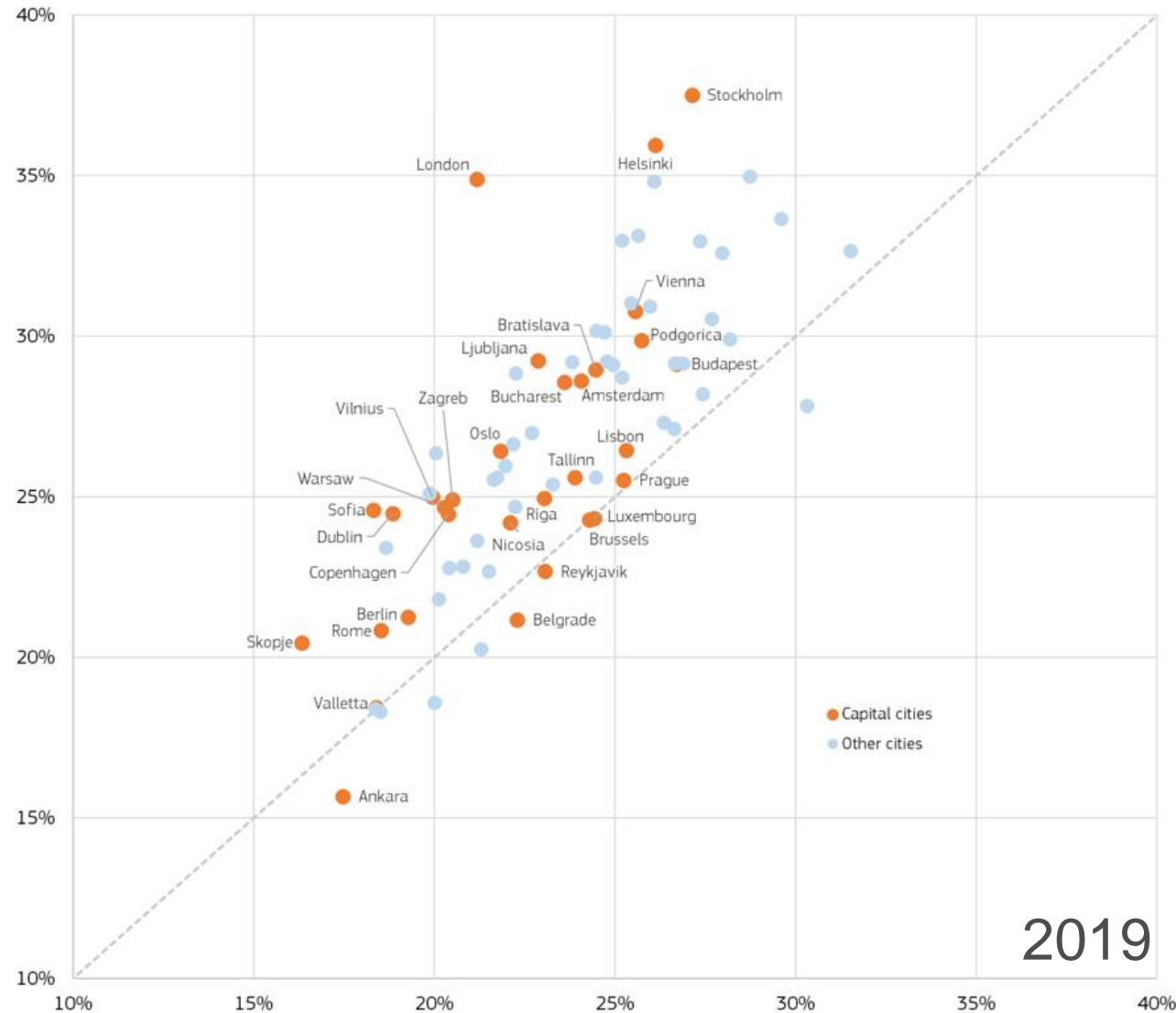


Affordable



# Percentage of people walking on a typical day

2023



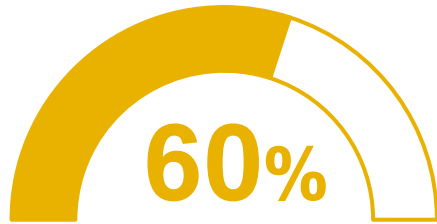
an increase of  
15 % (or 3 pp)

2019

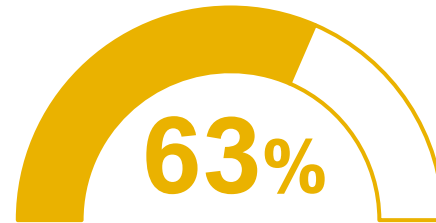
# Healthy cities

# Are people in European cities satisfied with:

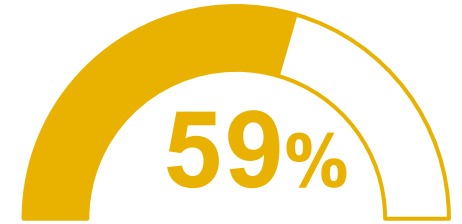
Air quality



Noise level



Cleanliness

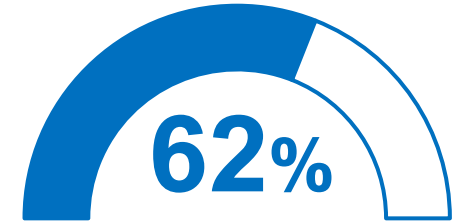
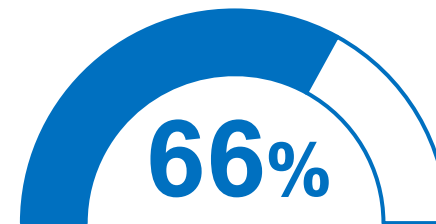
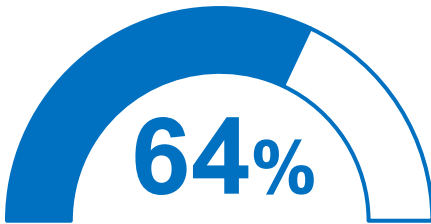
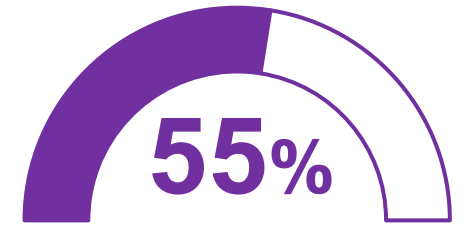
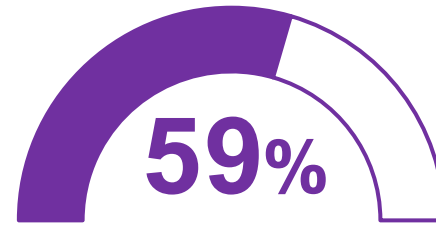
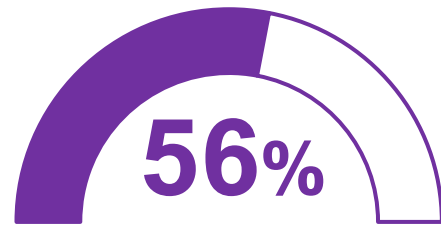


# Are people in European cities satisfied with:

Air quality

Noise level

Cleanliness

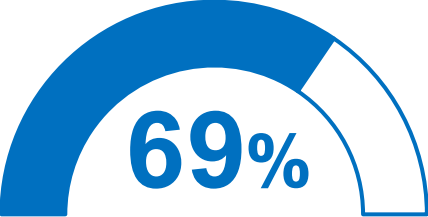
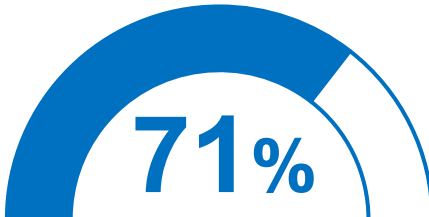
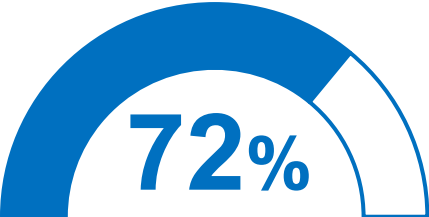
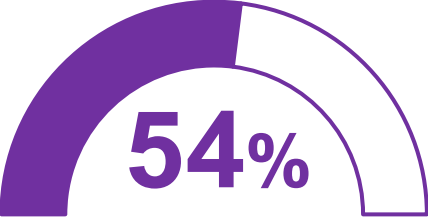
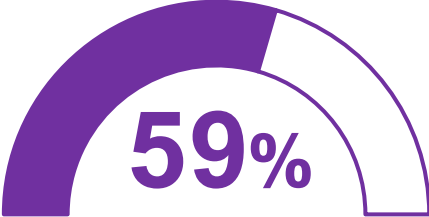
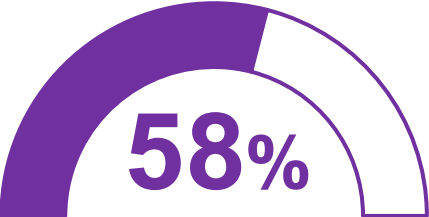
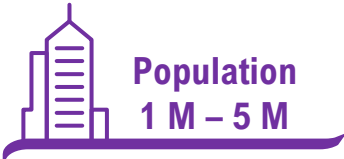


# Are people in European cities satisfied with:

Air quality

Noise level

Cleanliness

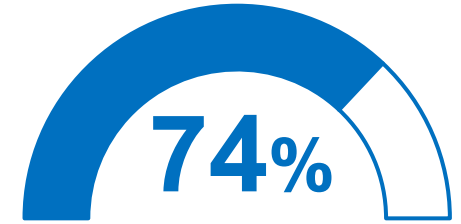
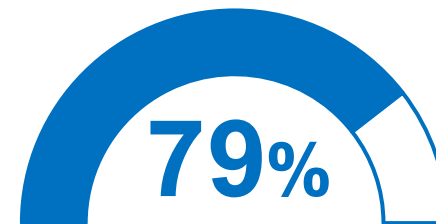
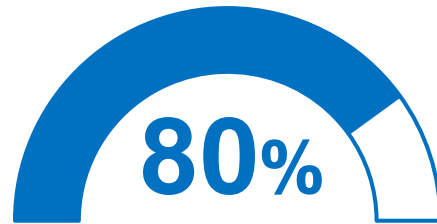
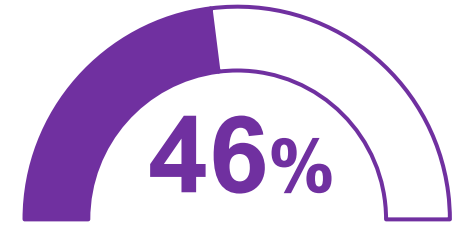
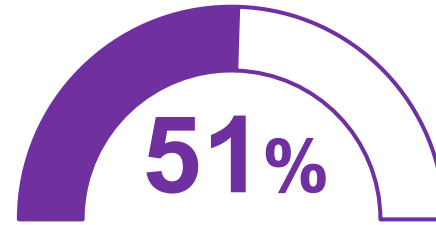
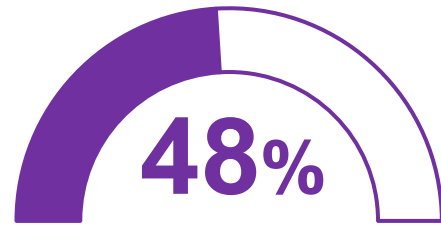


# Are people in European cities satisfied with:

Air quality

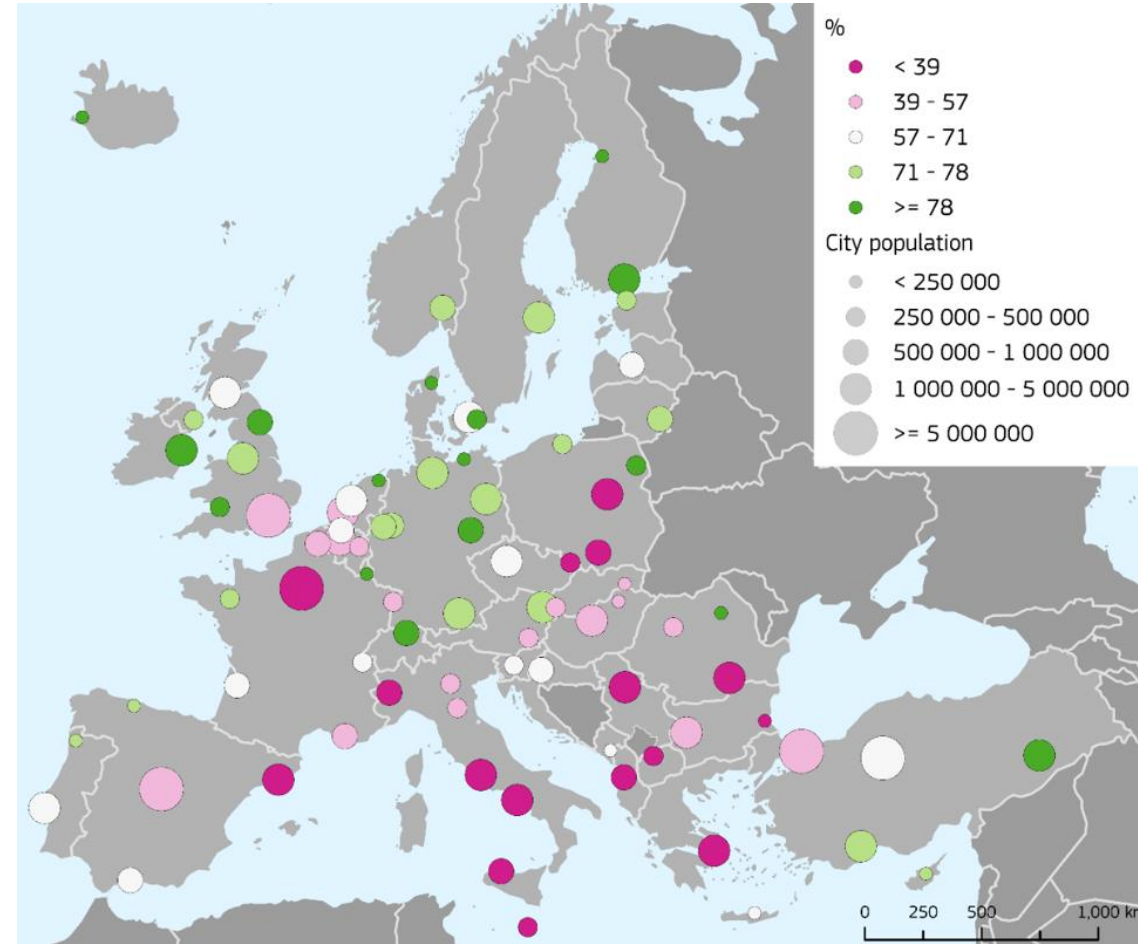
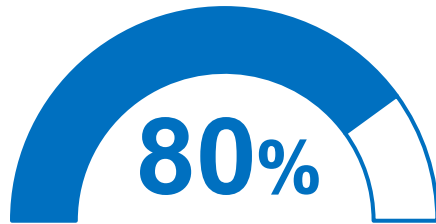
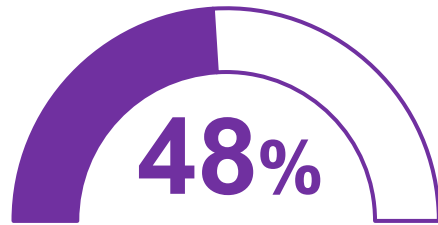
Noise level

Cleanliness



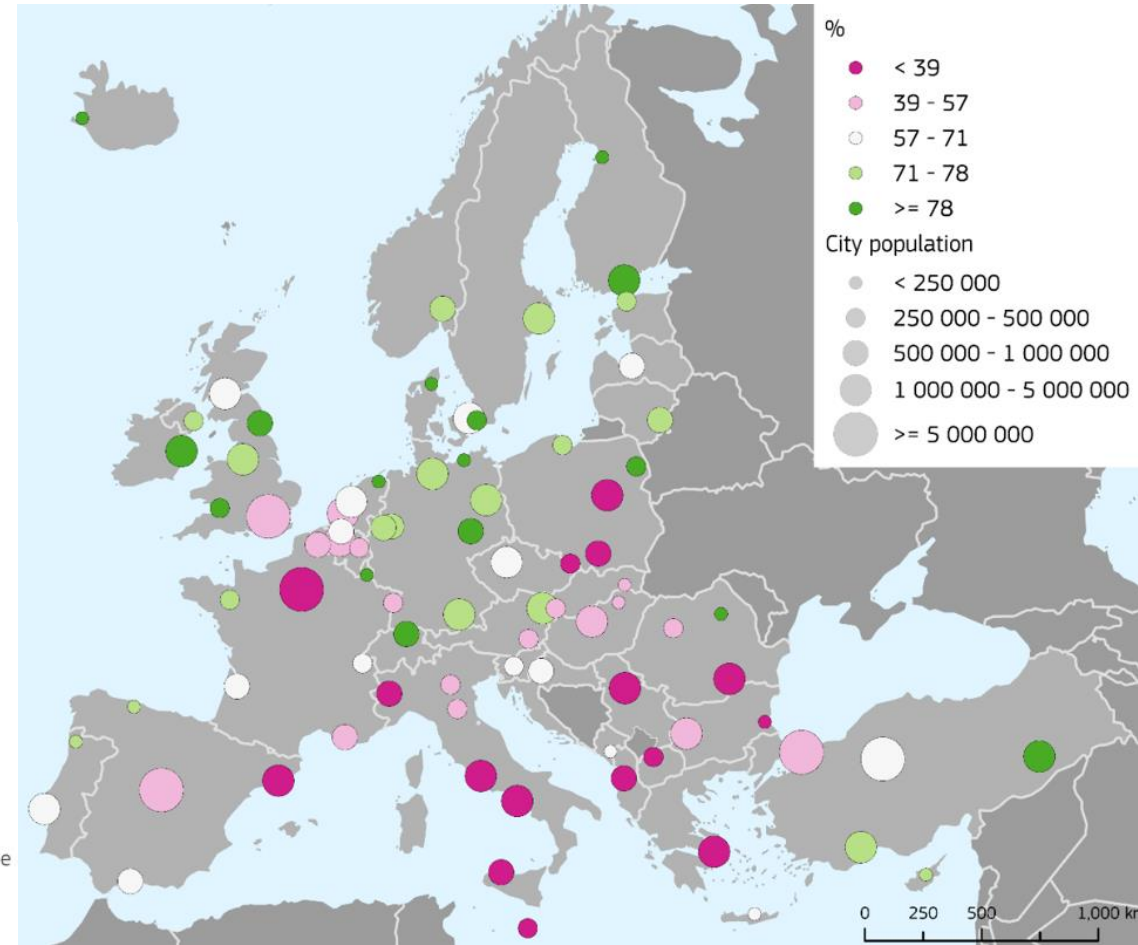
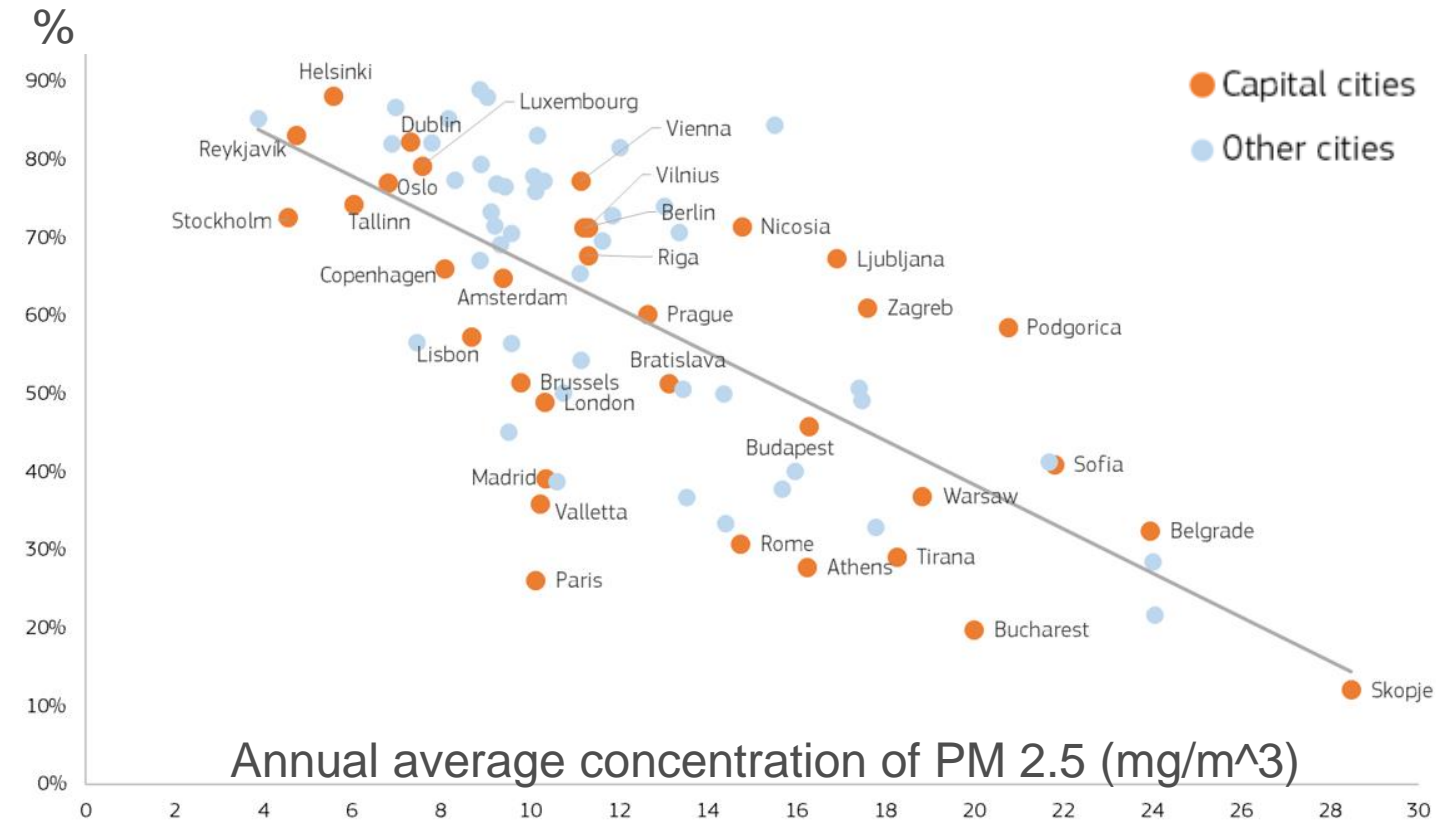
# Are people in European cities satisfied with:

## Air quality



# Are people in European cities satisfied with:

## Air quality



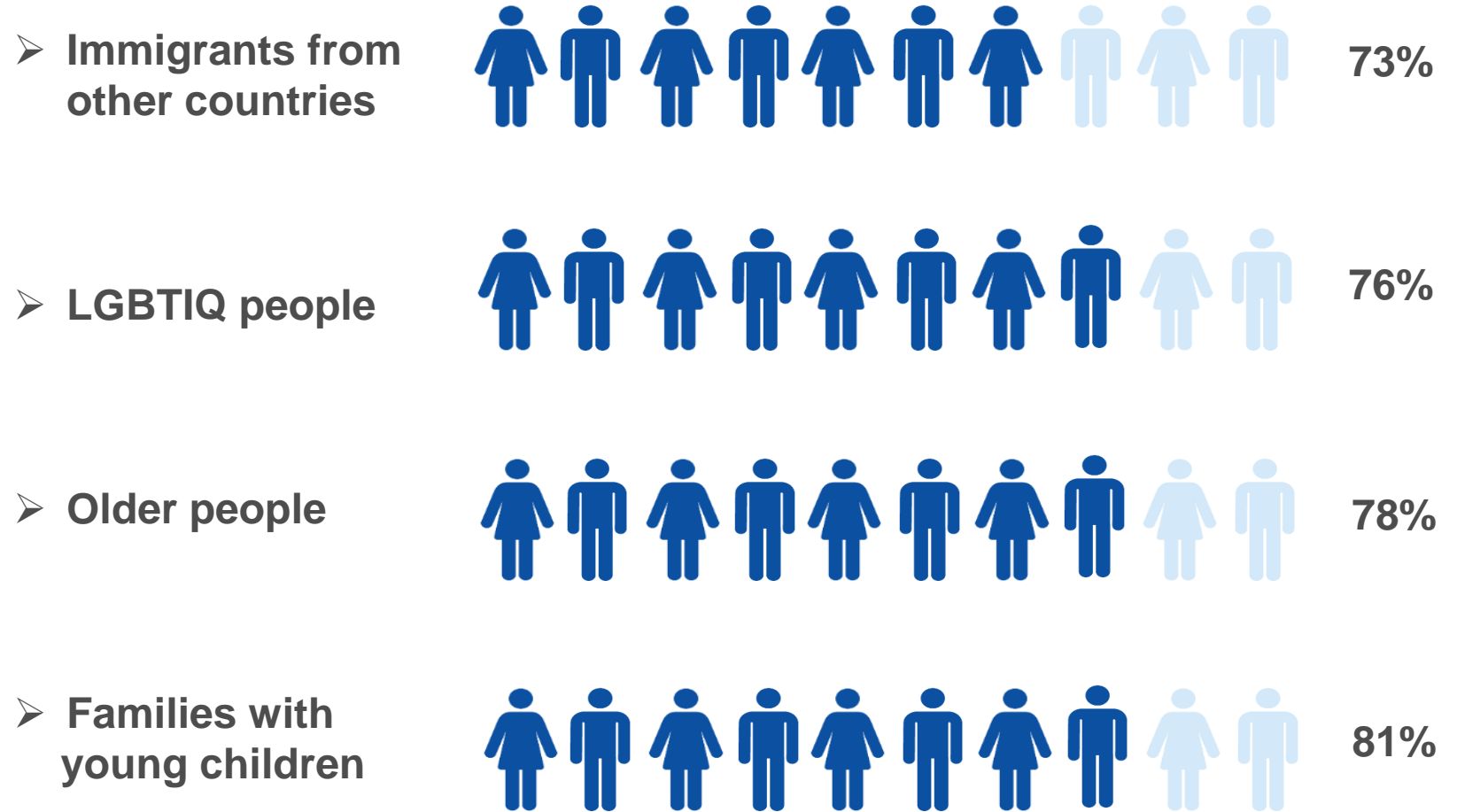
Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, *Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities*, 2023; DG Regional and Urban Policy and Joint Research Centre elaborations. NB: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered). Concentration of heavy particles is based on EEA air-quality grid data (Air quality indicators 2020) from 80 available cities



# An inclusive city for all

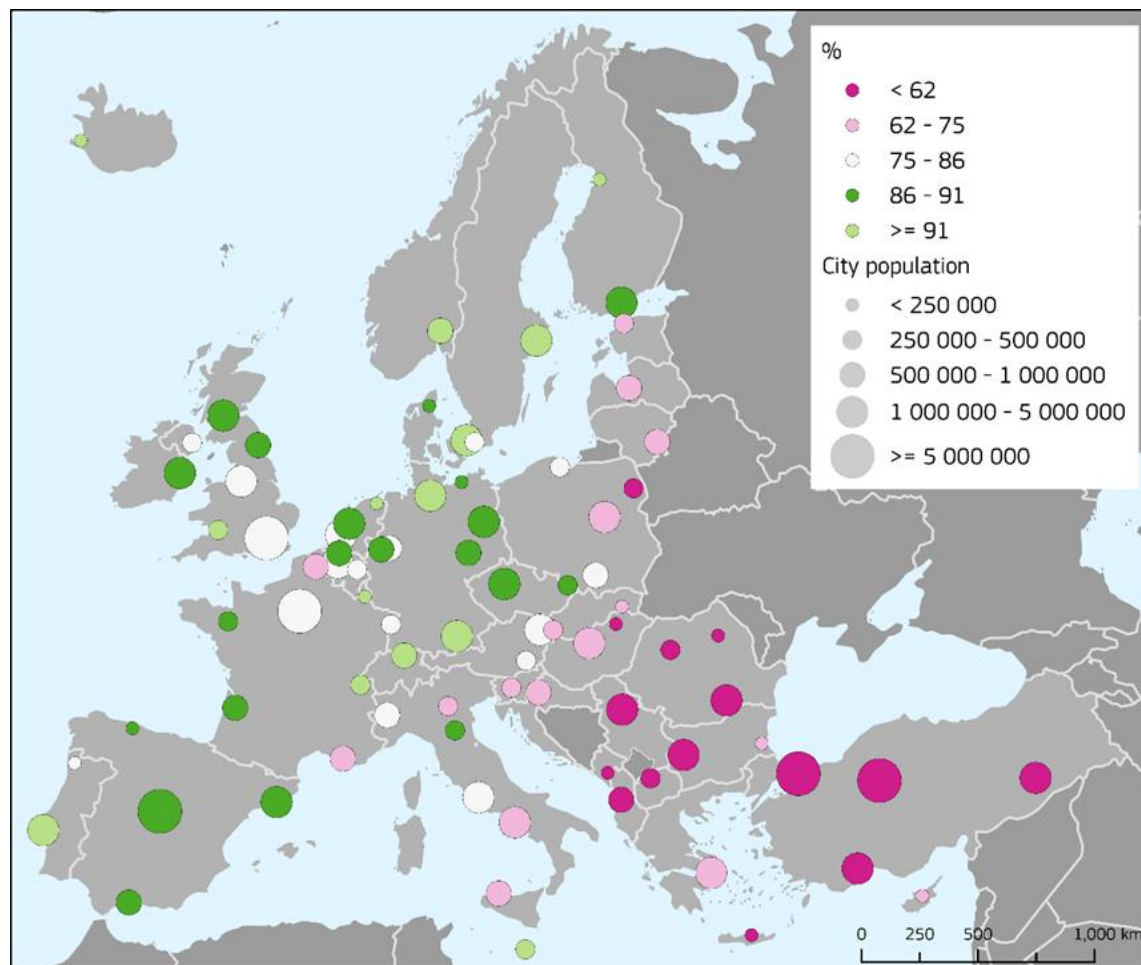
## Share of residents saying that their city is a good place to live for ....

The city is a good place to live for different kinds of people and communities



Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

# LGBTIQ inclusiveness



## The city is a good place to live for LGBTIQ people

The city where I live is a good place to live for gay or lesbian people: yes (%)

Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.

Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

## Cities seen as better places for LGBTIQ people to live than the rest of the country (+7 pp)

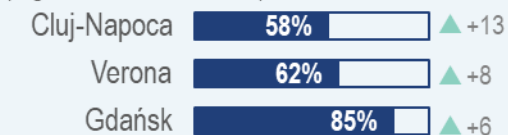


### TOP 3 EU CITIES



### TOP 3 EU CITIES

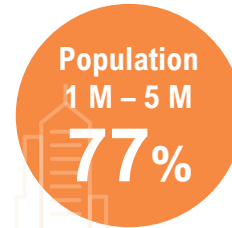
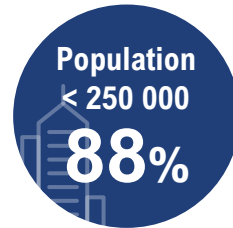
(Highest increase vs 2019)



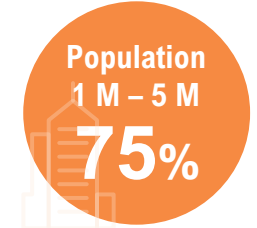
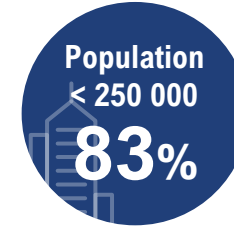
# The inclusiveness of smaller cities and non-capital cities

Smaller cities are seen as better places for older people and families with young children

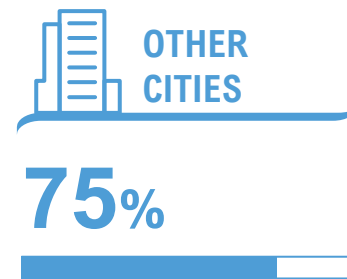
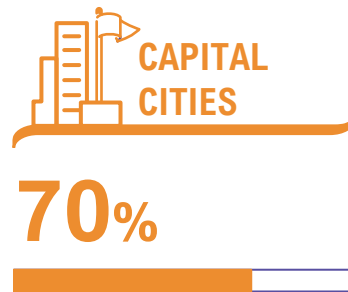
My city is a good place to live for families with young children



My city is a good place to live for older people



My city is a good place to live for immigrants from other countries

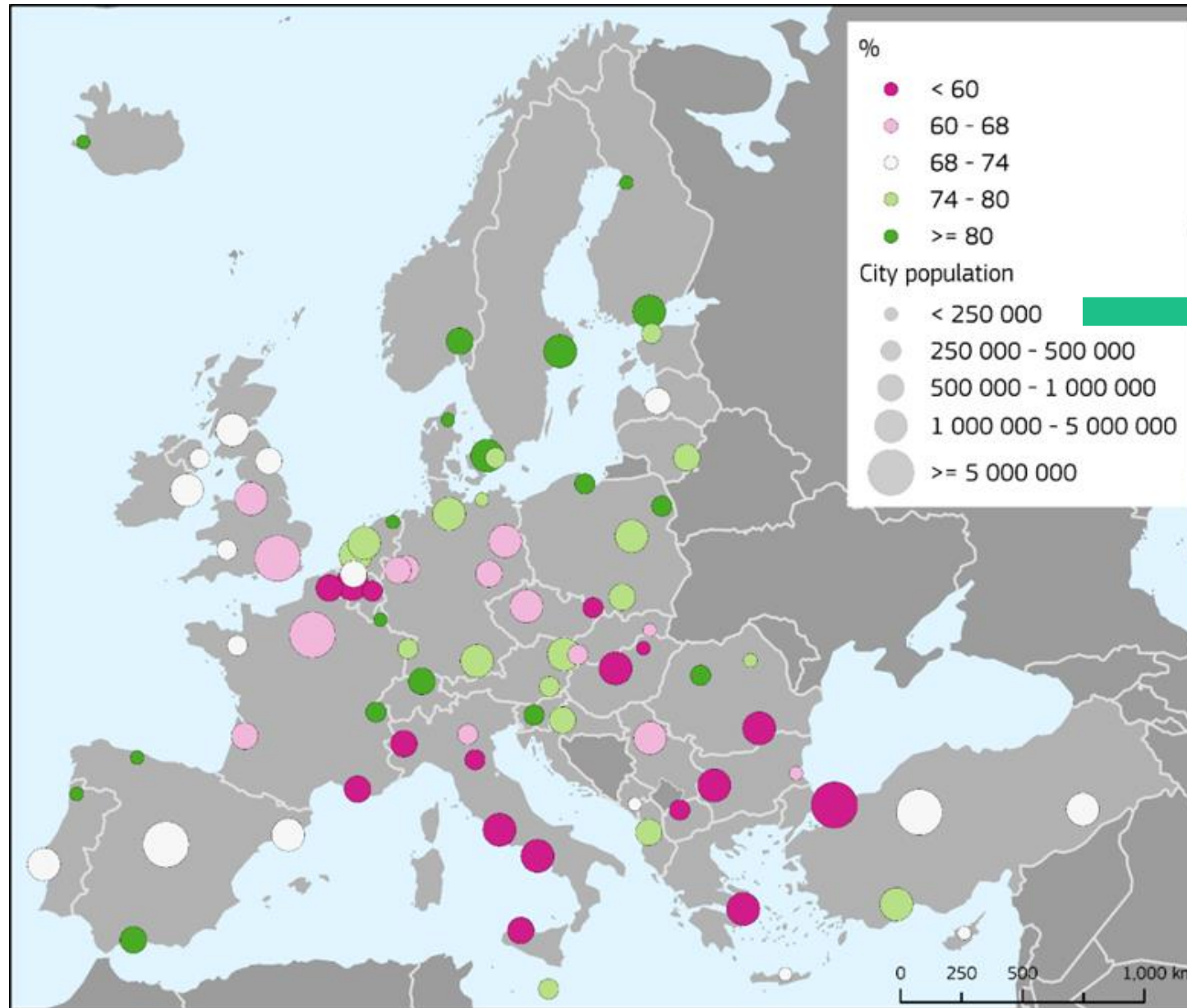


Non-capital cities are seen as a better place for migrants

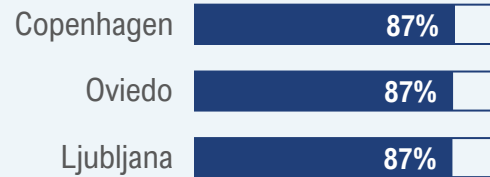
Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

# A safe and cohesive city

## More people feel safe in smaller cities

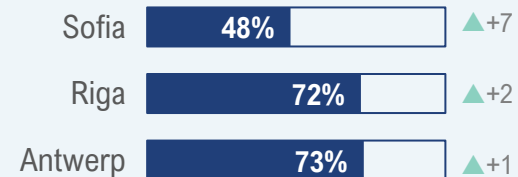


### TOP 3 EU CITIES



### TOP 3 EU CITIES

(Highest pp increase vs 2019)



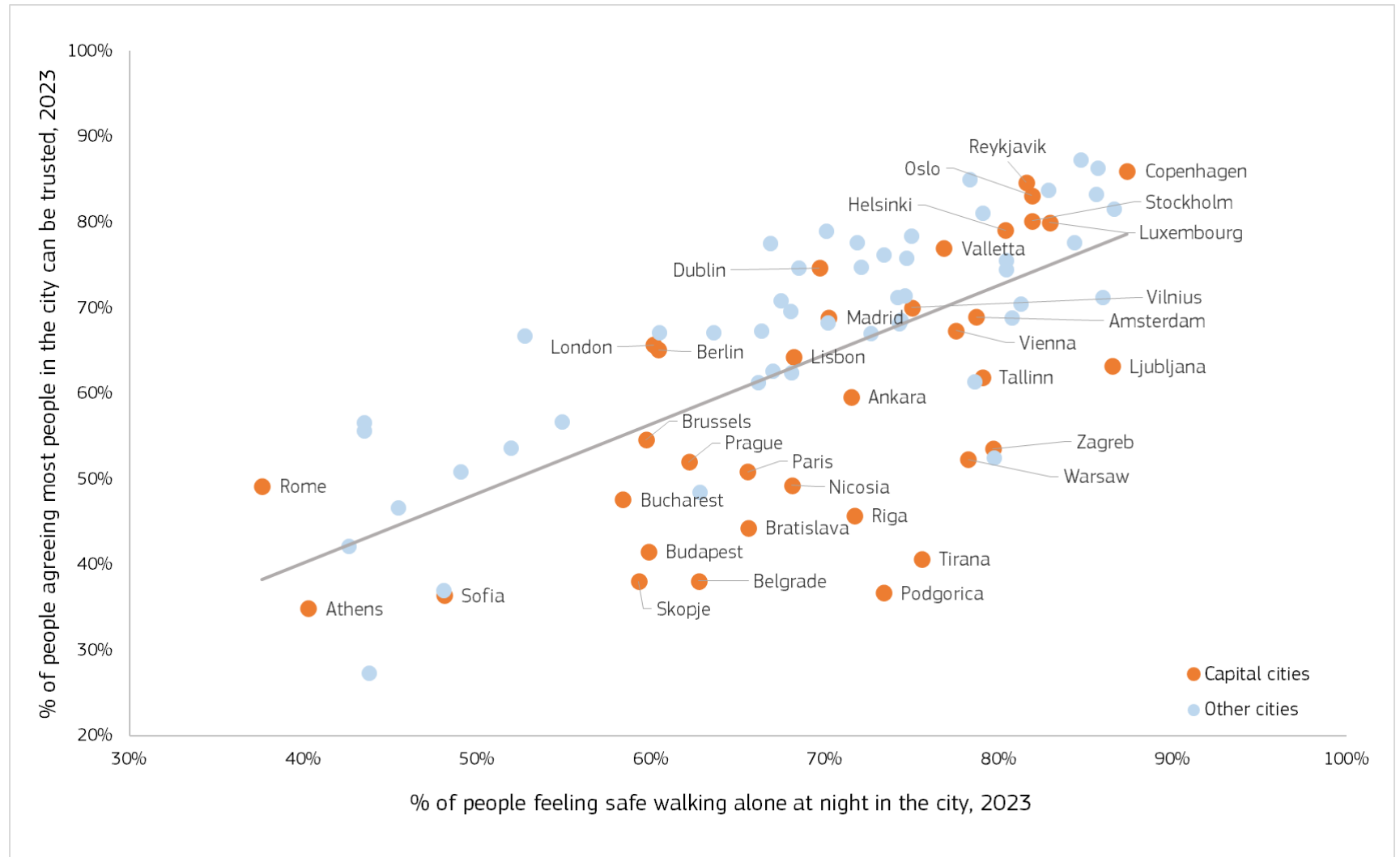
### Safety in the city

I feel safe walking alone at night in the city: total agree (%)

Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.

Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

The more people  
can be trusted ...

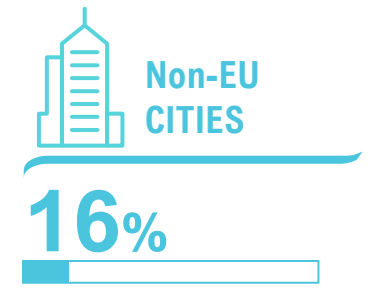
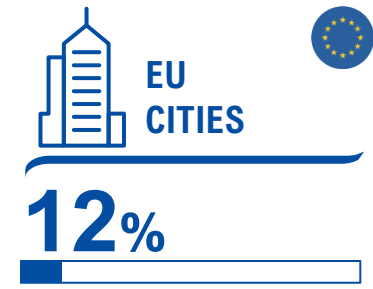


Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

... the more respondents feel safe

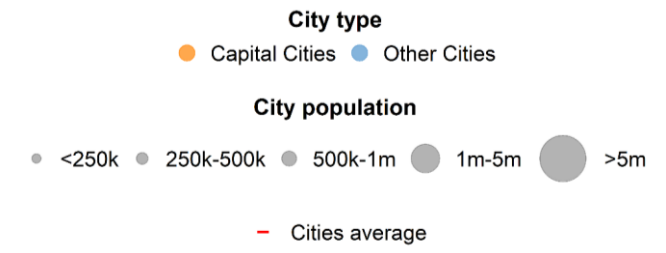
13% of people felt lonely most of the time during the previous 4 weeks

Aged 15-24: 15%  
 ↑↓  
 Aged 55+: 11%



**BEST PERFORMING EU CITIES**

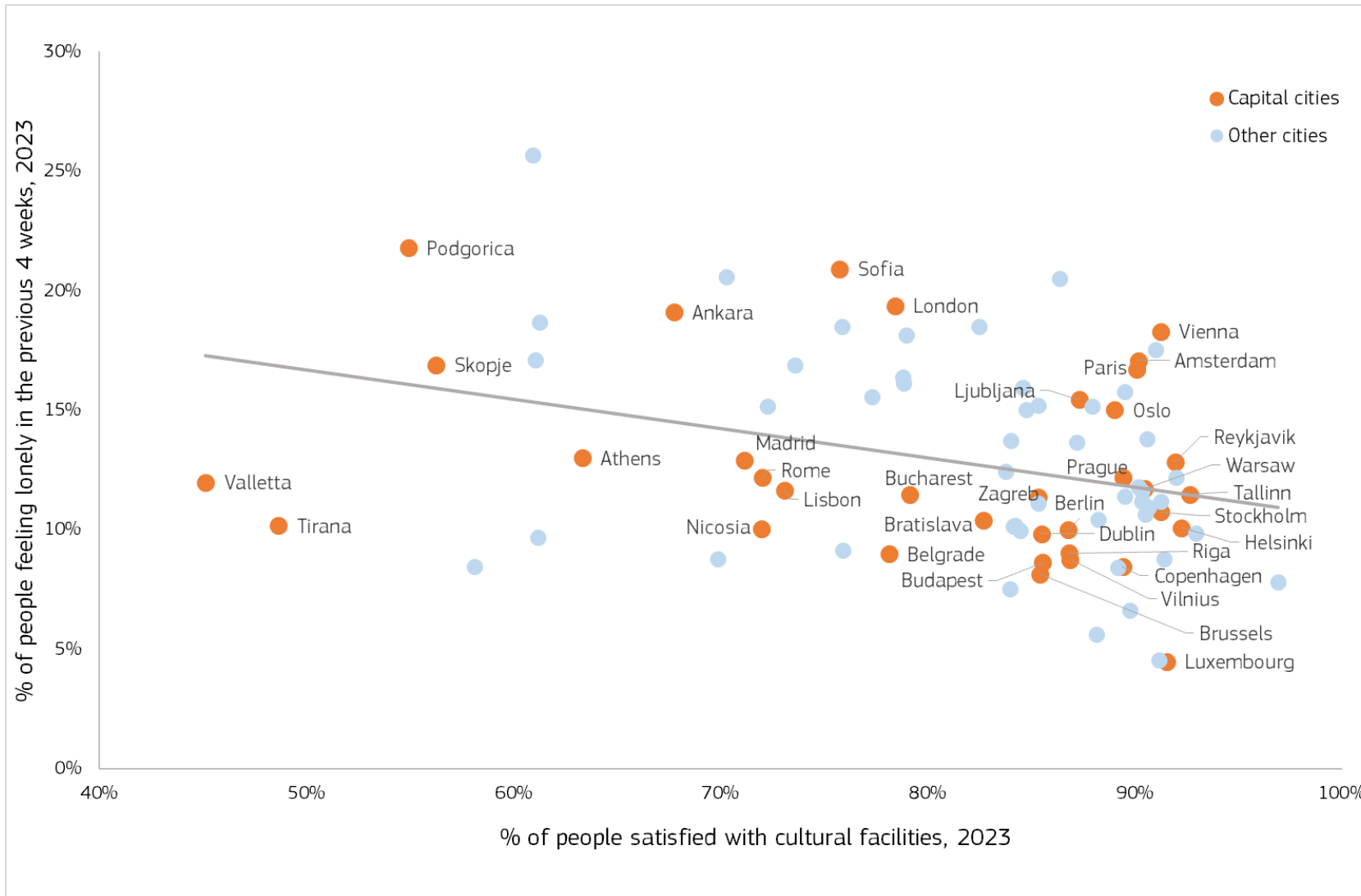
Luxembourg	4%
Strasbourg	5%
Antwerp	7%



Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
 Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know/not answered').



# The more people are satisfied with cultural facilities...



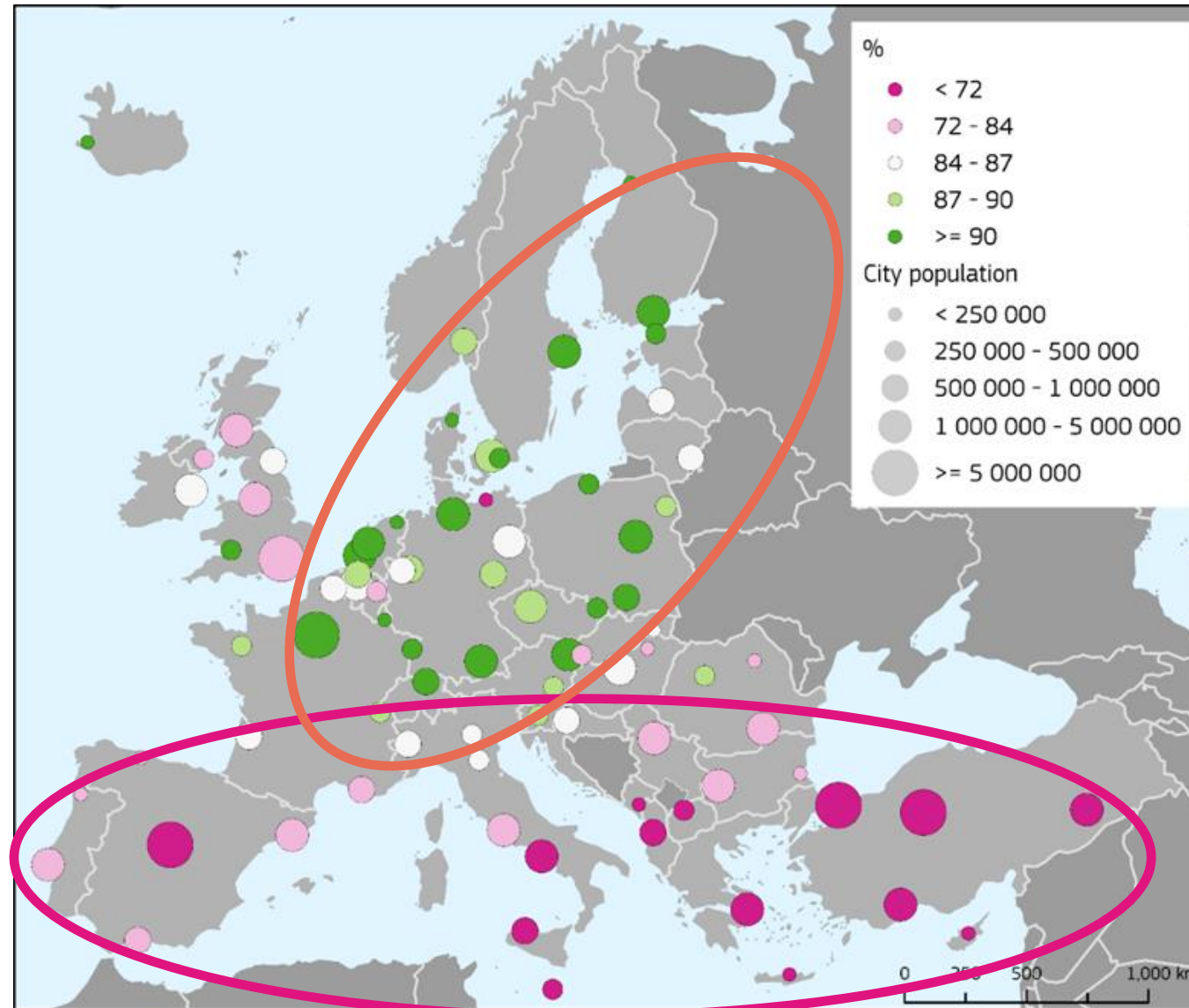
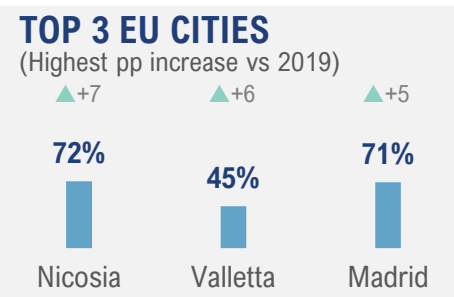
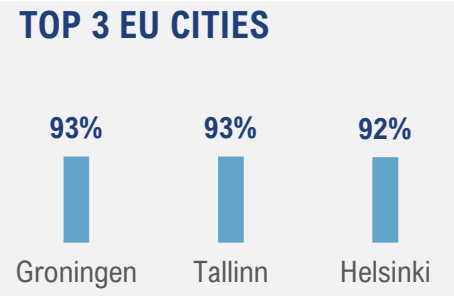
... the less respondents feel lonely

Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

# Culture, parks and public spaces in the city



## Cultural facilities: 8 out of 10 residents are satisfied (81%)



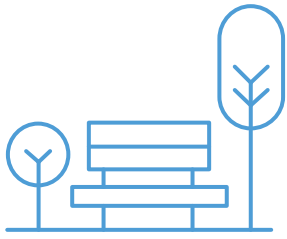
**Northern EU:  
91%**



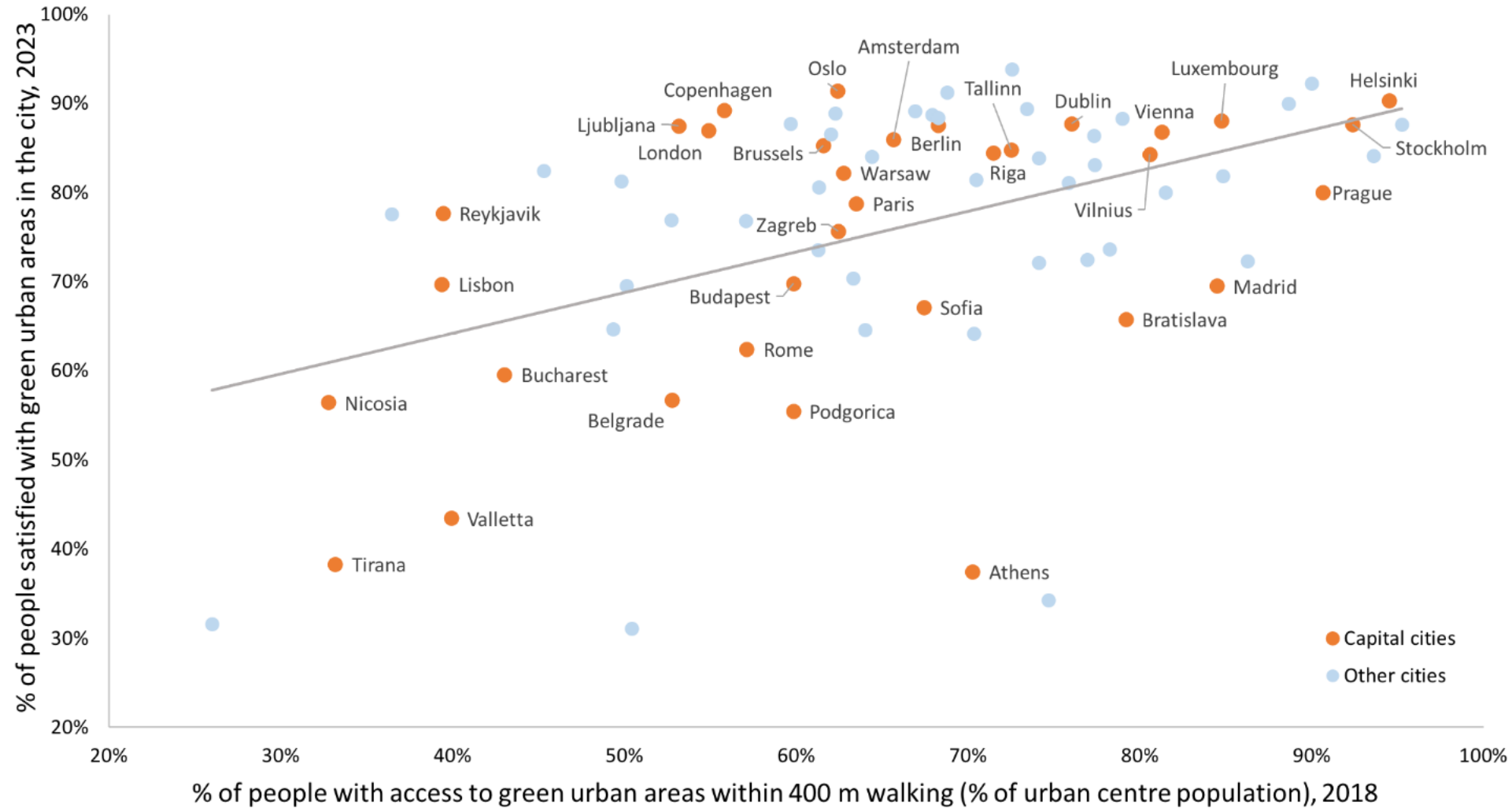
**Southern EU:  
71%**

**Cultural facilities in the city**  
Cultural facilities such as concert halls, theatres, museums and libraries in the city: total satisfied (%)

Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).



The more people have access to green spaces ...



Source: DG Regional and Urban Policy, Survey on the Quality of Life in European Cities, 2023.  
 Note: Percentages are based on all respondents (excluding 'don't know'/not answered).

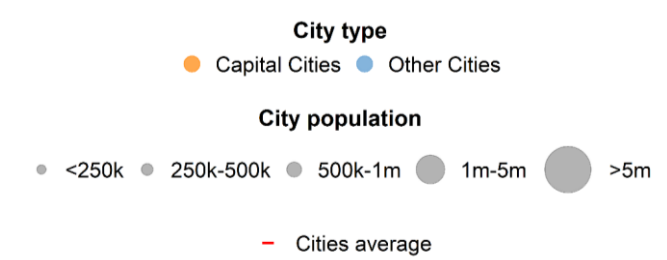
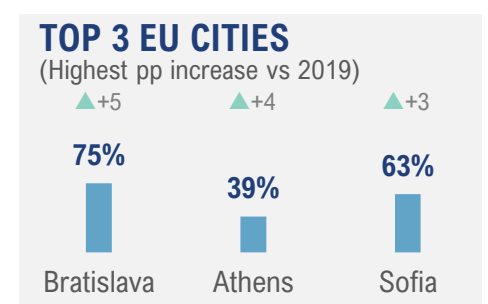
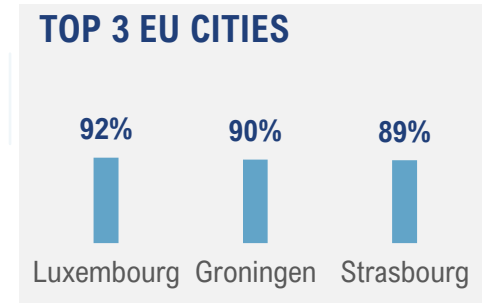
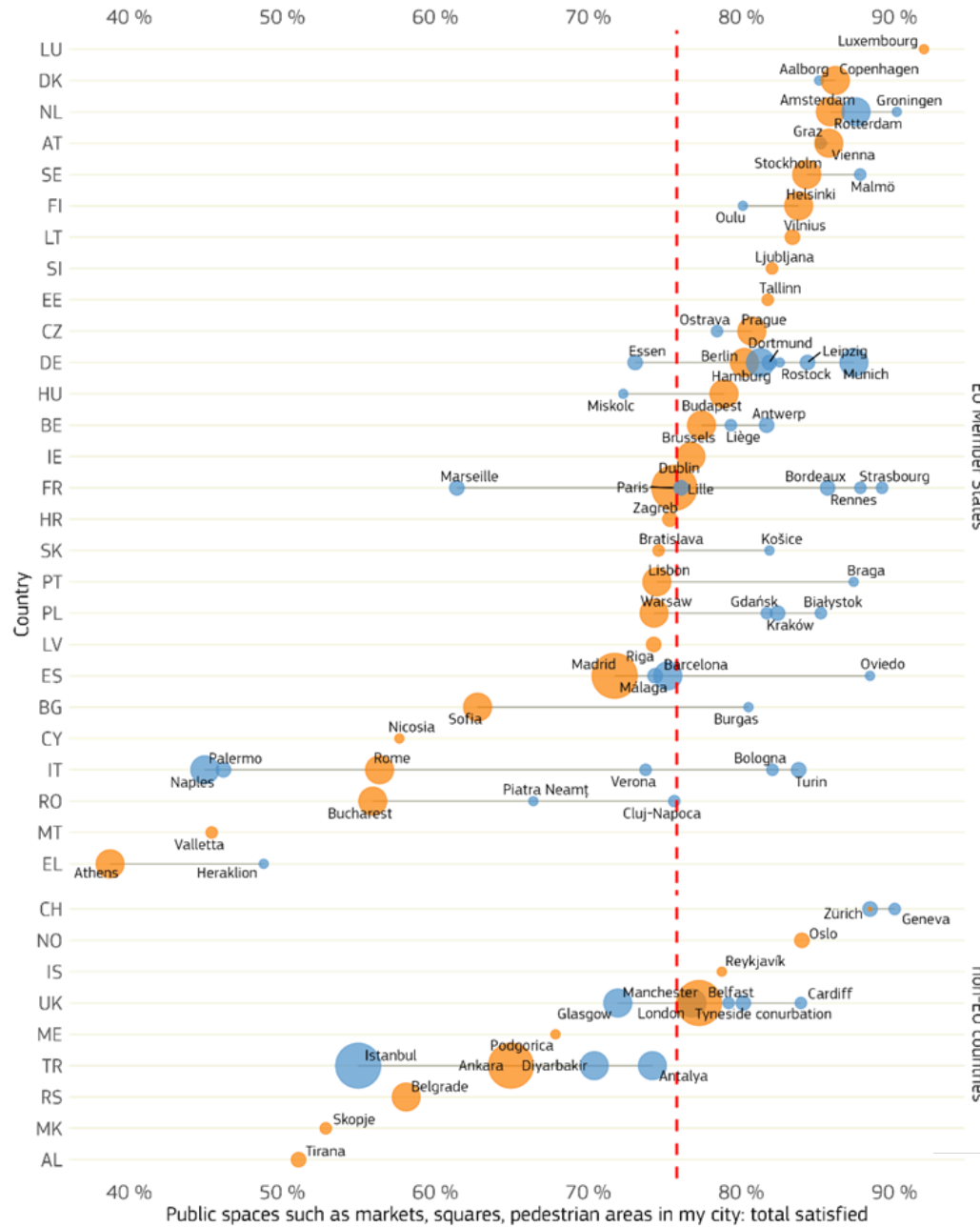
... the more they are satisfied with green spaces



# People in non-capital cities are more satisfied with their public spaces

**CAPITAL CITIES**  
72%

**OTHER CITIES**  
78%



# Main results

- Overall satisfaction across European cities **has declined** compared to the satisfaction levels recorded in 2019, **but remains high**, with almost **nine out of ten** people reporting to be satisfied with living in their city
- Improvement in domains linked to job opportunities in cities, less in inclusiveness.
- **Cities in eastern Member States are catching up.** As was already in 2019, we observe significant improvements in perceived quality of life in Eastern EU cities, in particular when directly asked.
- **Smaller cities** are perceived as being more aging-friendly, but also a better place to live for families with young children. People feels safer walking alone at night in smaller cities. And they perceive their city as being cleaner and less noisy than people living in larger cities.
- People in **non-capital cities** are more satisfied with the availability of public spaces and health care, and with housing affordability. Non-capital cities are also seen as a better place to live for migrants and for families with young children, and people in non-capital cities are more satisfied with their local public administration.

For questions: [REGIO-B1-PAPERS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:REGIO-B1-PAPERS@ec.europa.eu)

Available on the dedicated [website](#):

- [Report](#)
- Interactive tools
- Maps and dot plot charts for download
- Data by city and (anonymized) microdata
- Accompanying material (i.e. technical and evaluation reports)

Data also available on EUROSTAT website on [Regions and cities](#)

