



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Study: Rural areas and the geography of discontent

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Starting point:

DG REGIO 2023 study on „[The geography of EU discontent and the regional development trap](#)”

Key questions of study “[Rural areas and the geography of discontent](#)” by Milieu Consulting and CASE for the CoR:

- rural-urban differences in support for Eurosceptic parties in national elections
- rural voters’ motivations for supporting Eurosceptic parties in sub-national elections



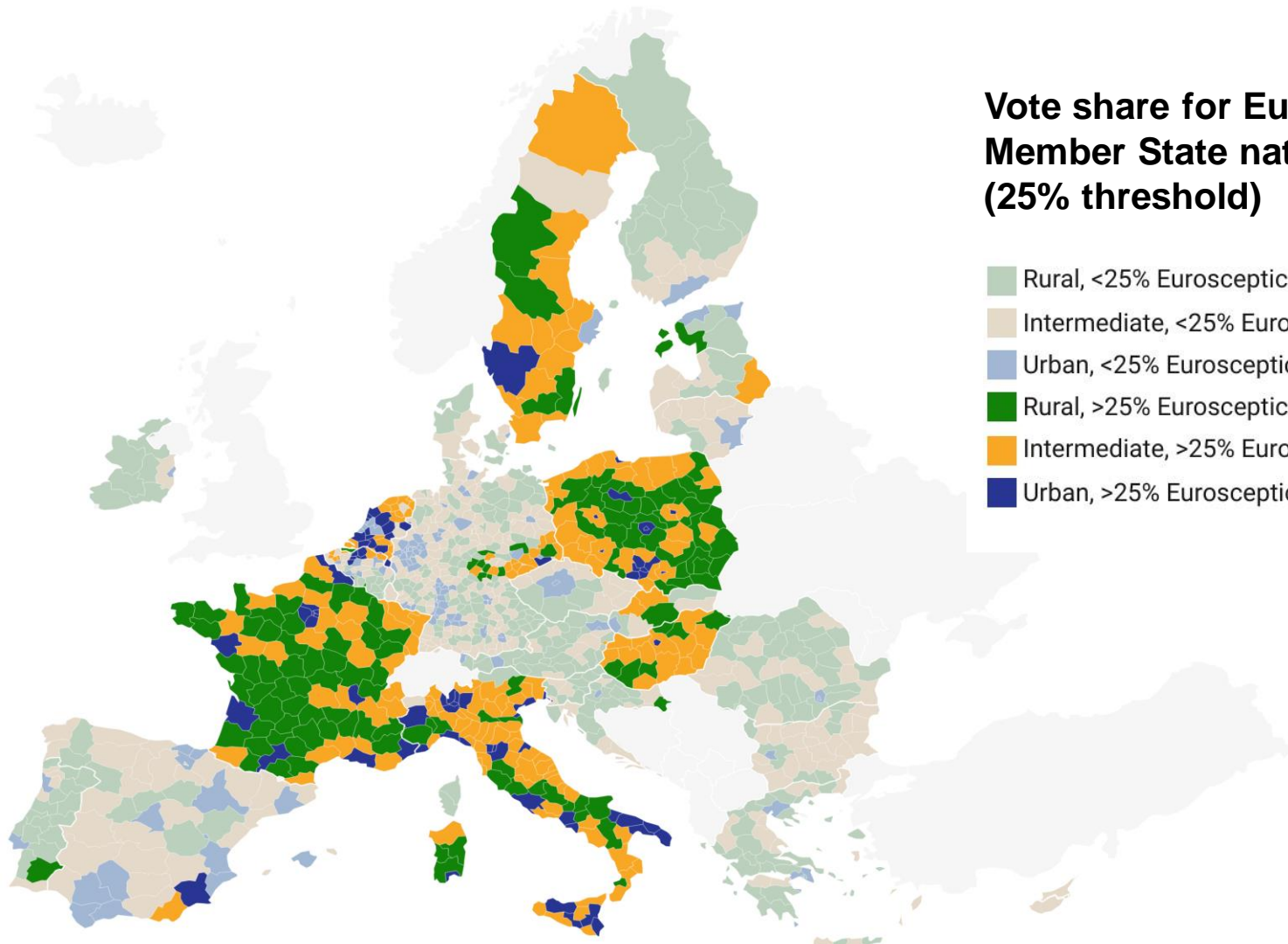
Elections analysed

- Rural-urban patterns in national elections 2018-2023
- Case studies on
 - Sub-national elections in
 - France 2021,
 - Germany (Thuringia 2019, Saxony 2019 and Hessen 2023),
 - Slovakia 2022,
 - Italy 2022-23 (Sicily, Lazio, Lombardy, Friuli-Venezia Giulia)
 - National elections in Poland: comparing 2019 and 2023
- EU elections 2019 not covered for methodological reasons



Vote share for Eurosceptic parties, Member State national elections (25% threshold)

- Rural, <25% Eurosceptic voteshare
- Intermediate, <25% Eurosceptic voteshare
- Urban, <25% Eurosceptic voteshare
- Rural, >25% Eurosceptic voteshare
- Intermediate, >25% Eurosceptic voteshare
- Urban, >25% Eurosceptic voteshare



Main findings

- Euroscepticism in EU: Spans political spectrum; varies by state history, culture
- Rural vs. urban: Stronger in rural areas; varies by Member State
- Subnational to national pattern: Starts locally, gains national momentum
- Parties adapting to rural discontent: Adjust platforms and policies
- EU policy impacts on rural areas: Real or perceived disproportionate effects e.g. of CAP and Green Deal policies, driving socio-economic challenges and cultural disparities



Merci **Obrigado** **Vã mułumim**

Děkujeme! **Hartelijk dank** **Gracias** **Tak**

Hvala **Благодарим Ви** **Paldies!** **Ačiū**

Kiitos **Thank you** **Grazzi**

Tack

Σας ευχαριστούμε **Hvala** **Ďakujem**

Köszönöm! **Aitäh** **Vielen Dank**

Grazie **Go raibh maith agaibh** **Dziękujemy!**



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