

Degree of Urbanisation of Early School Leavers

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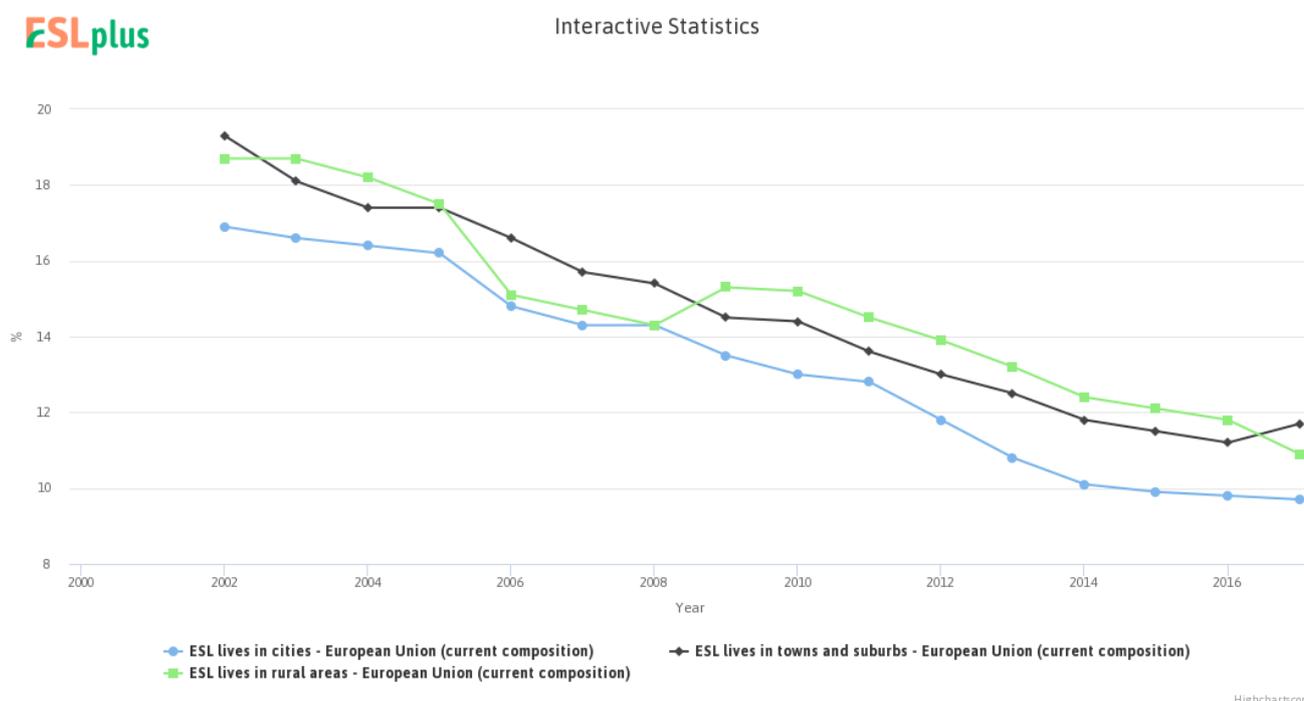
Eurostat report breakdowns of early school leaving, broken down by degree of urbanization: The Degree of urbanisation classifies local administrative units as cities, towns and suburbs, or rural areas based on a combination of geographical contiguity and minimum population thresholds applied to 1 km² population grid cells.

The categories are defined as follows:

- Cities (alternative name: densely-populated areas): at least 50% of the population live in an urban area.
- Towns and suburbs (alternative name: intermediate density areas): less than 50% live in an urban centre but more than 50% of the population live in an urban cluster.
- Rural areas (alternative name: thinly populated areas): more than 50% of the population live in rural grid cells.

Each urban centre should have at least 75% of its population in an urban setting. This ensures that all urban centres are represented by at least one town, even when this urban centre represents less than 50% of the population of an LAU2.

As we can see, the pace of improvement of ELET-rates practically does not depend on levels of urbanization, although, the trend lines suggest that rural areas show slightly less development in this aspect of education, and people living in rural areas seem to lag behind in the race. City-dwellers have the best chance of getting an upper secondary diploma.

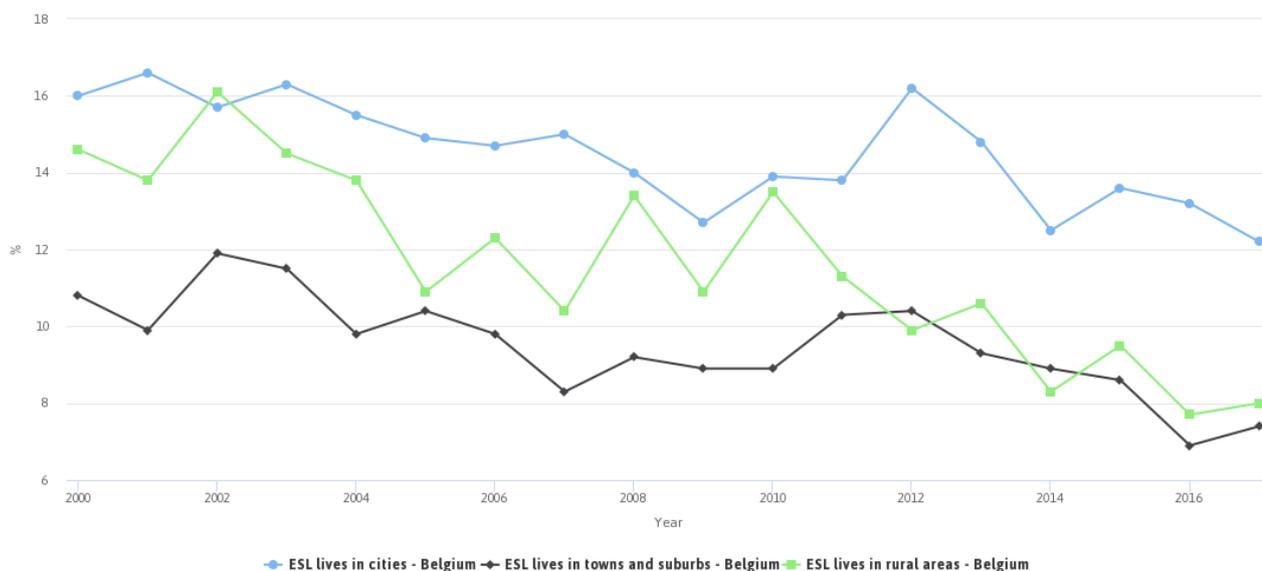


Long-term data series for city, town and village dwellers show diverse pictures if we explore ELET-rates country by country.

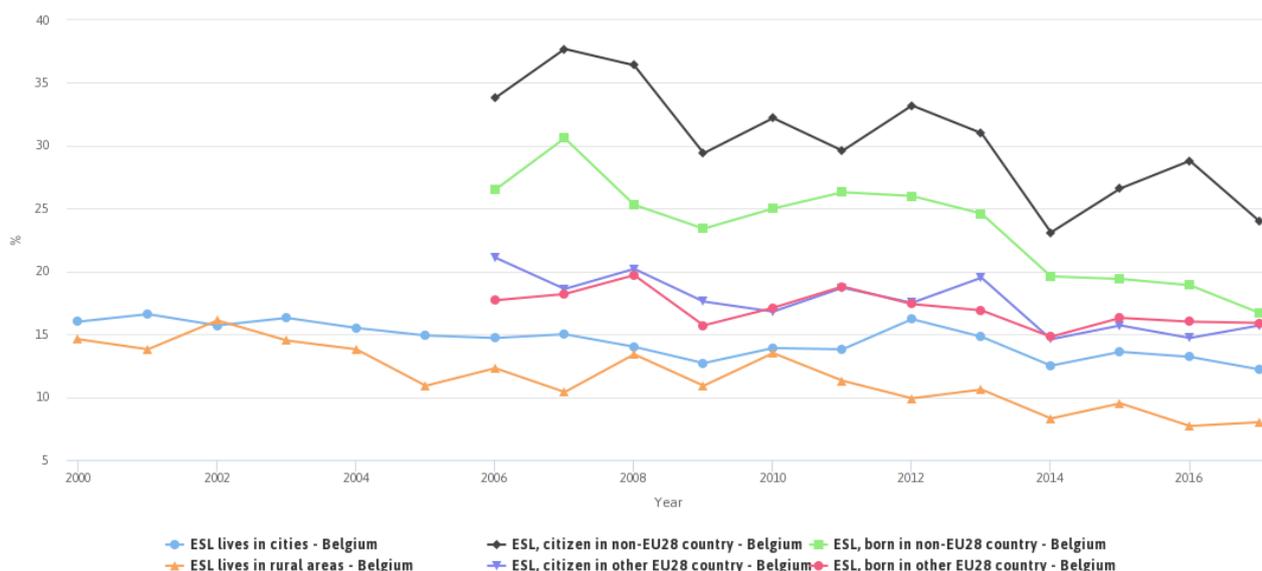
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Of all of the studied nations, **Belgian rural areas** show the most improvement and performance and city dwellers lag much behind. Immigrants live mostly in cities and people of foreign origin rarely live in villages (see also variables broken down *ESL-rate by citizenship* and *ESL-rate by place of birth*). This fact might be behind the large – more than 5 per cent – and growing, differences between city rates and other regional rates in Belgium.



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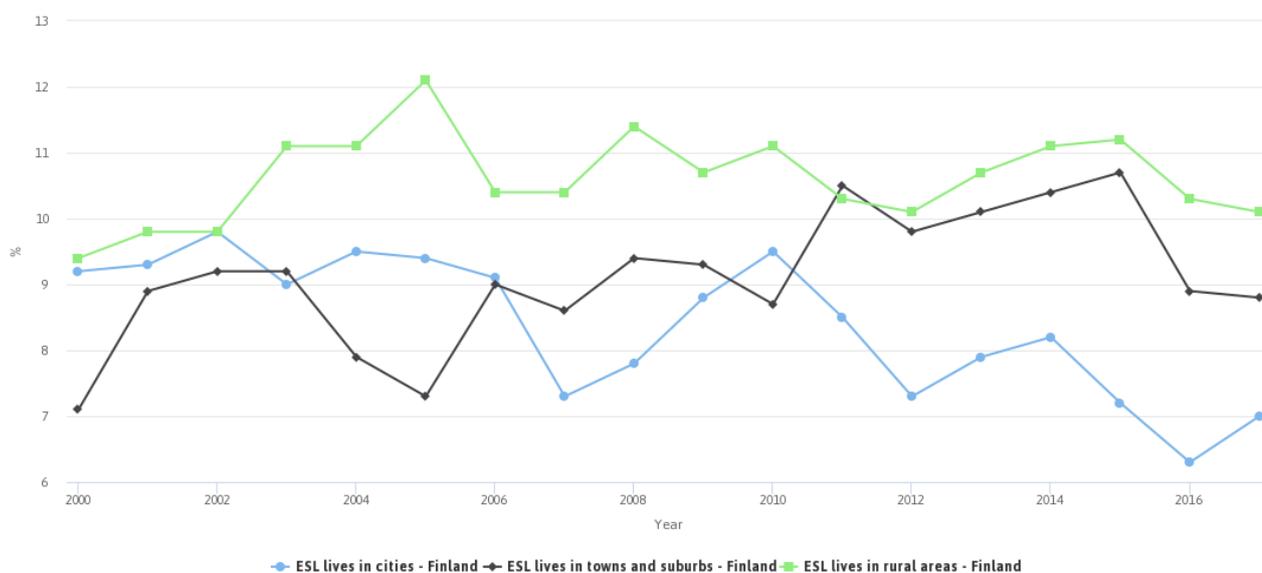


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There are markedly different trends in **Finland**. In cities, in this case, it means first of all the Helsinki area and some smaller cities, where trends are getting better rapidly, while for smaller towns we can observe an even increasing trendline. For village-dwellers, the chances of obtaining an upper secondary diploma do not improve either. In neighboring Sweden, trendlines indicate improvement in each category, but city-dwellers' advantages (or privileges) are obvious.



Interactive Statistics

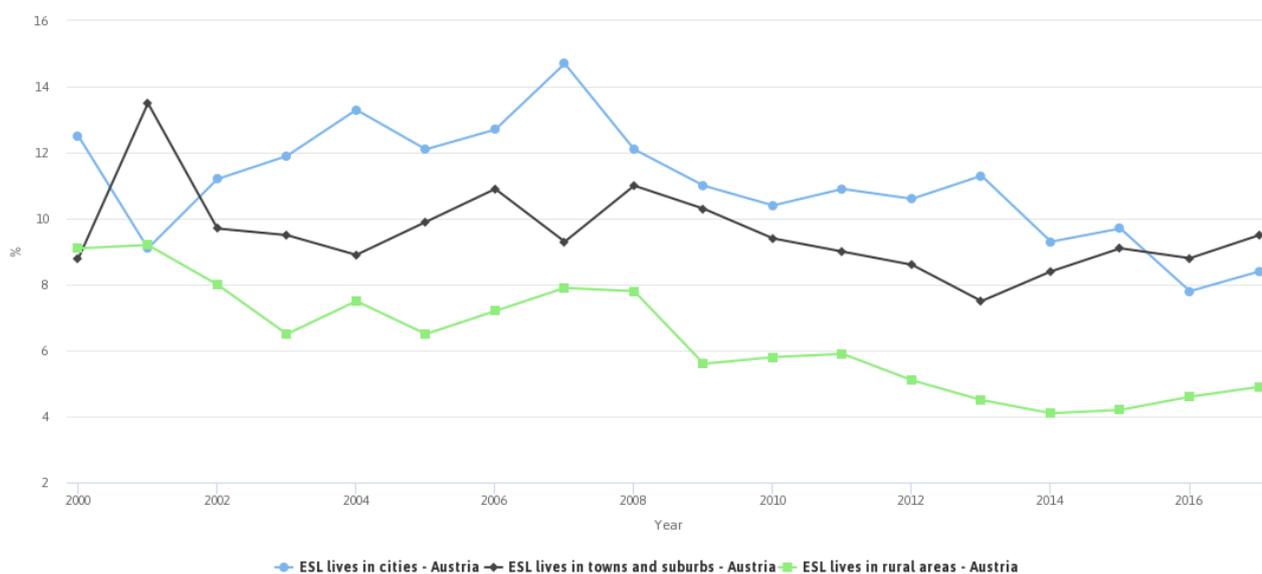


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In **Austria**, we can observe improvement in each category, but pastoral rural areas offer the best chances for students to get an upper secondary certificate. Although the ELET-rate of city-dwellers is the worst, it is not bad taking into consideration that at least 40 per cent of primary school pupils have an immigrant background.



Interactive Statistics

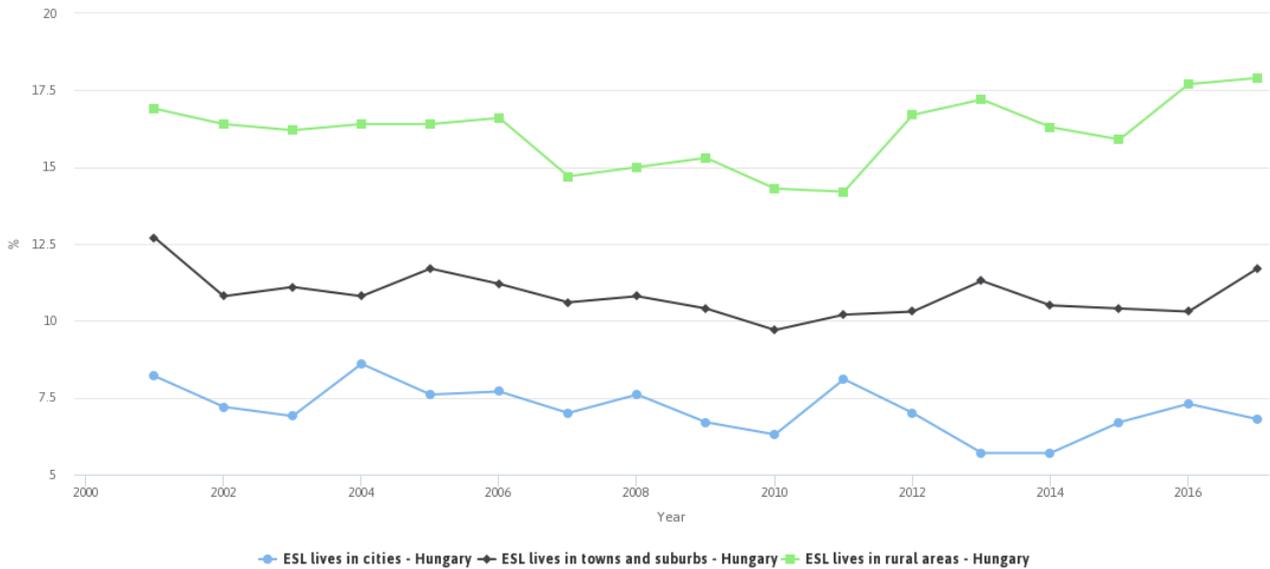


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In neighbouring **Hungary**, trends differ markedly from the Austrian one. Here there are large differences between the categories of urbanisation and they are even growing.



Interactive Statistics

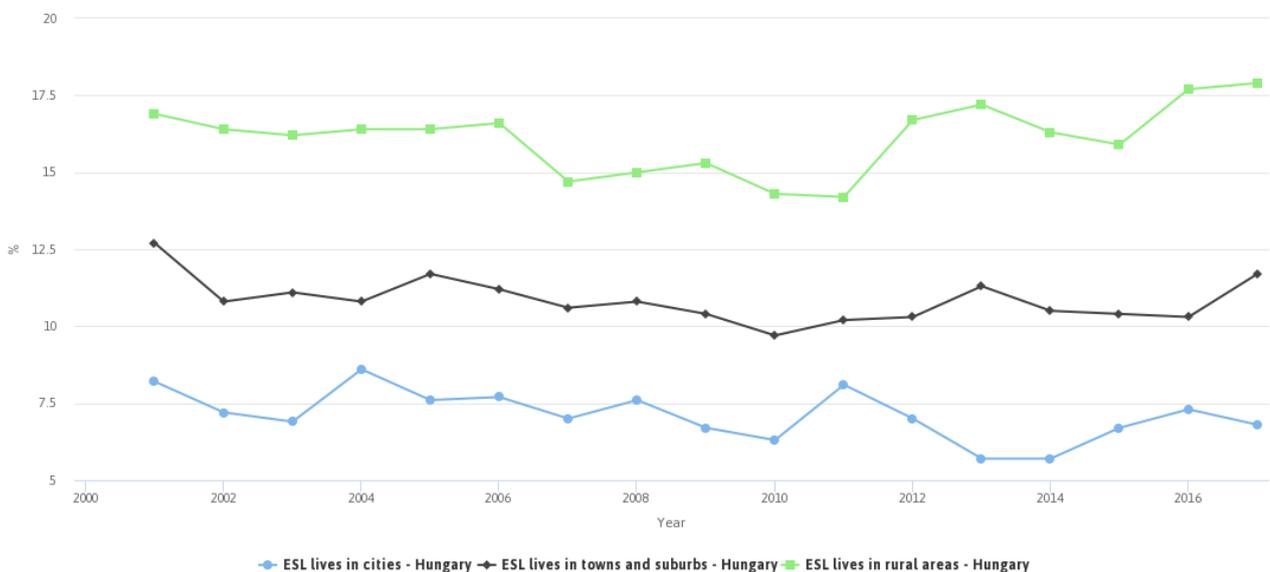


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Spain is very different from Hungary. In Spain there is rapid improvement equally in each category.



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