



# Every place has its role in service provision

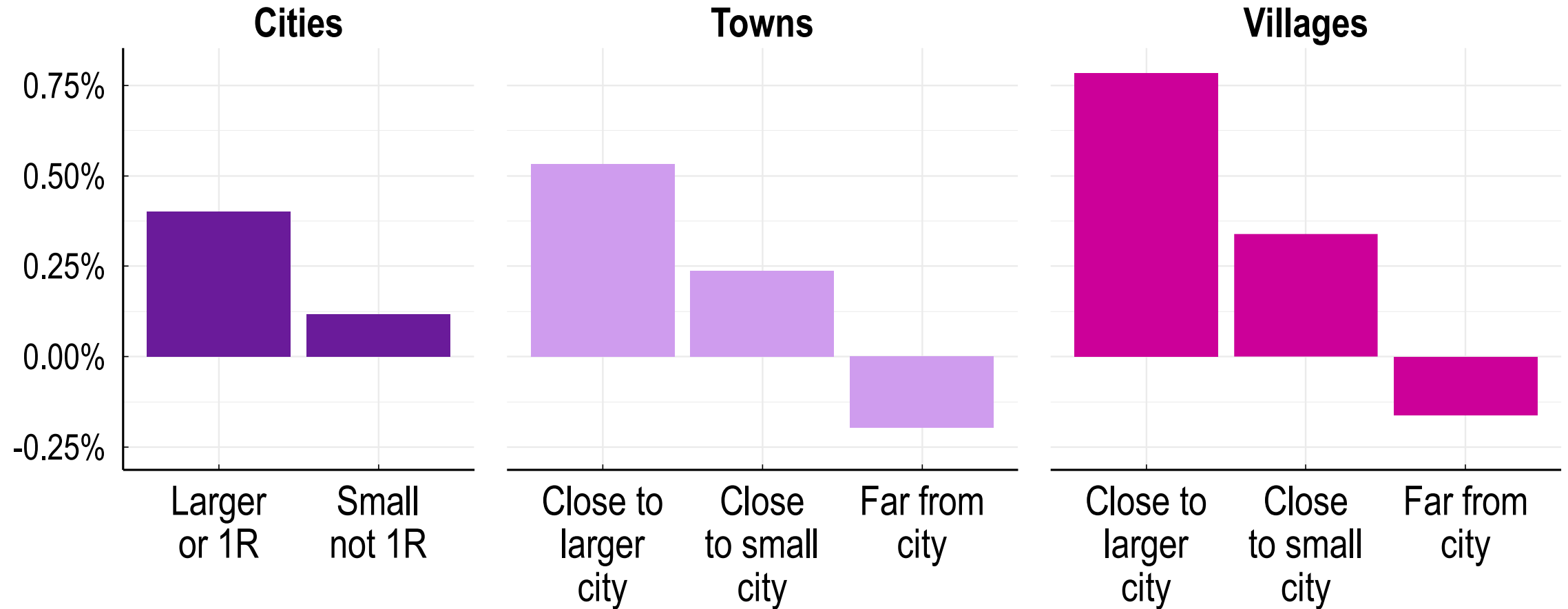
## Preparing regions for demographic change

EU Week of Regions and Cities - 8 October 2024

Ana I Moreno Monroy, Head, Territorial Statistics and Analysis  
Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE)

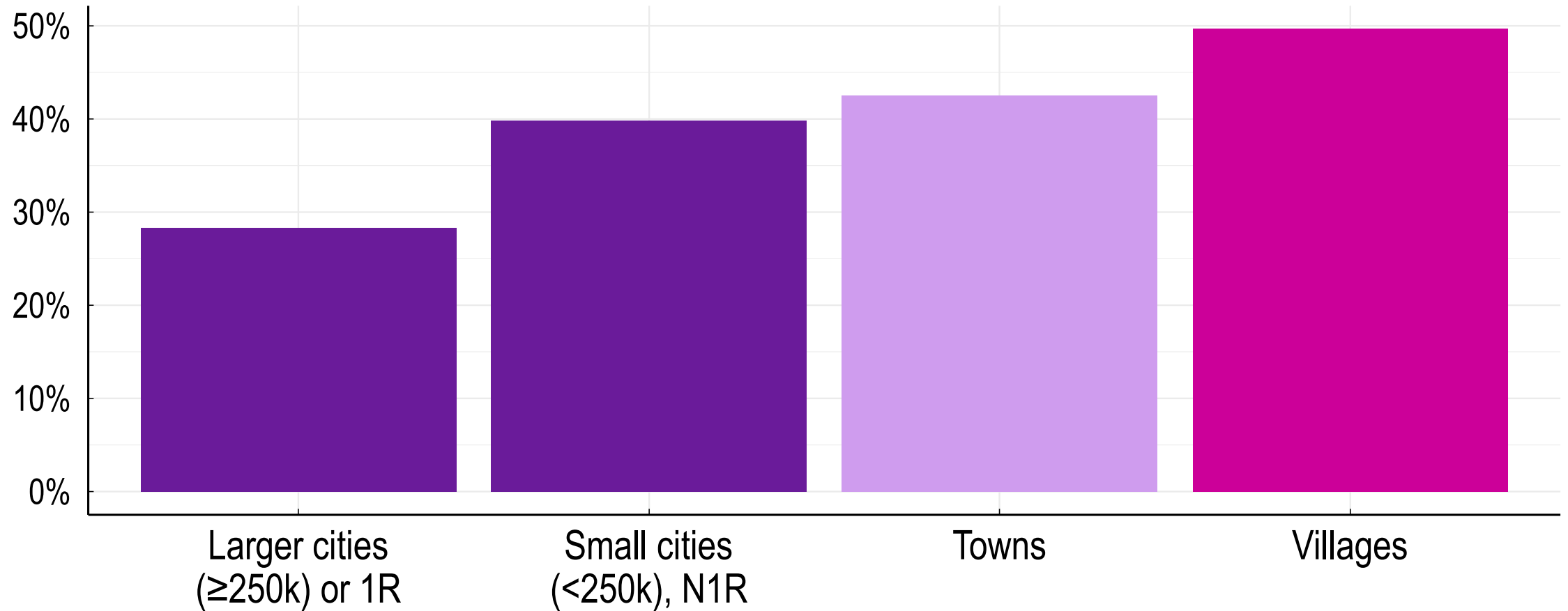


# Annual population growth rates, 2011 - 2021



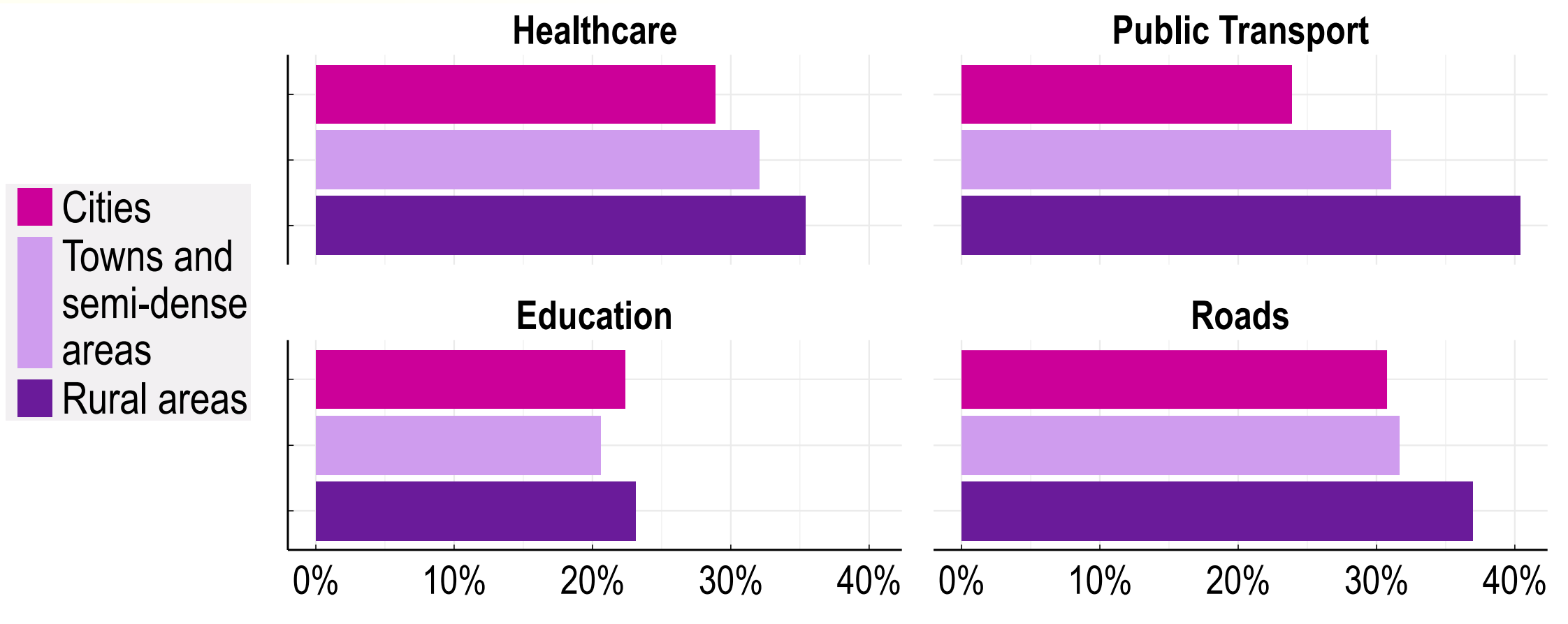


# Share with negative population change 2011-2021





# Share of people dissatisfied with





# Emerging evidence from case studies

## Preliminary cross-cutting findings

1. Significant urban-rural divides around **service accessibility** and quality
2. **Limited public transport is a key barrier hindering access to services**, especially in rural areas and for vulnerable groups
3. Workforce shortages are emerging (especially in rural area), partly due to attractiveness for professionals
4. Centralised decision-making around service delivery and **network reorganisation** for health and education may limit integrated service models

## Preliminary region specific findings

1. **Specific geography and settlement patterns create different barriers to accessing services**
2. Population is linked to service cost differences
3. Each region has unique assets that could be better leveraged to support service provision (universities, transport, etc.).
4. Variability of institutional and policy frameworks mean the scope of policy recommendations varies

*Based on Pilar 2 of the Talent Booster Mechanism provides support for 10 regions “at risk of a talent development trap*

# Measuring access within regions matters

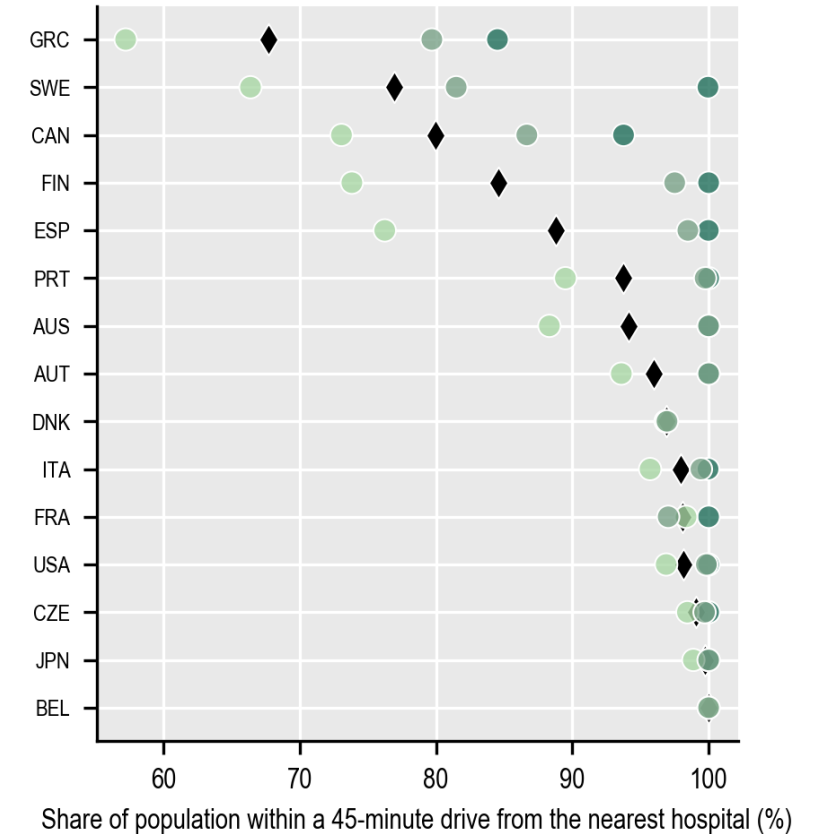
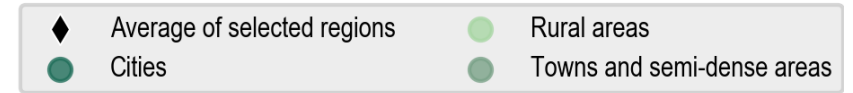
Within regions far from a midsize/large FUA:

 1% of people in **cities**

 3% in **towns and semi-dense areas**

 11% in **rural areas**

cannot reach a general hospital within 45 minutes



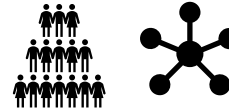
**Access to hospitals in regions far from a midsize/large FUA**  
 Source: OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2024, forthcoming

# Getting to services in towns and villages

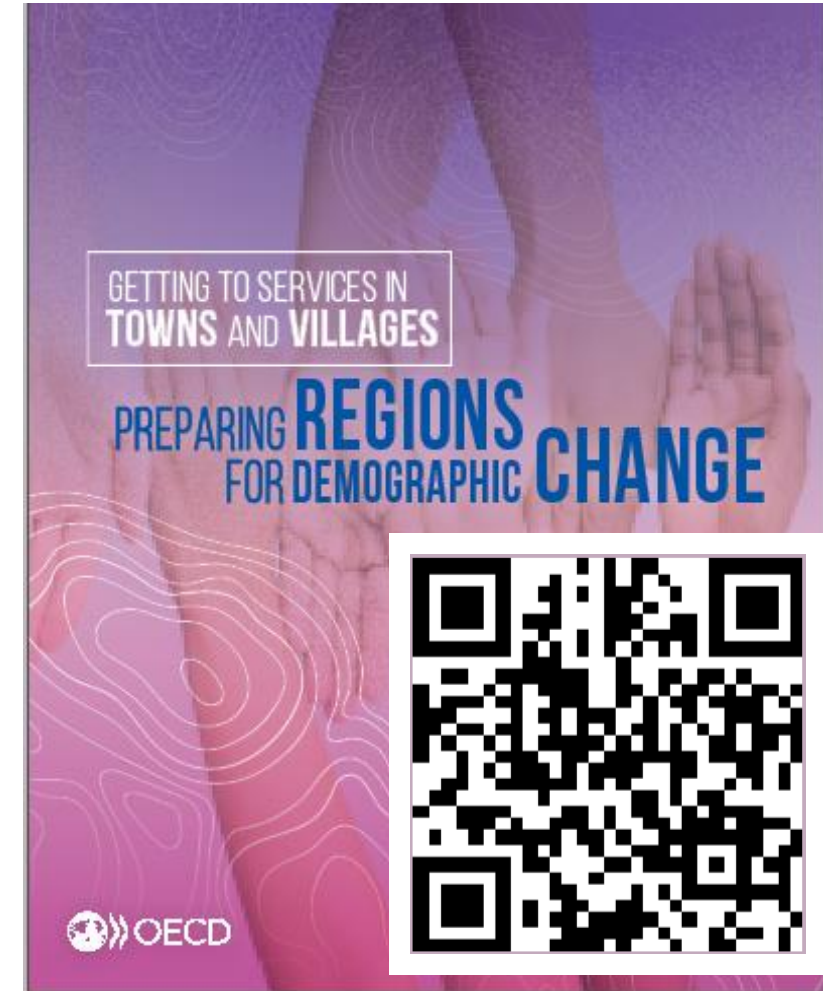
- Analyse the role that settlements of all sizes (including small cities, towns & villages) play in **service provision**



- Assess the influence of their population size and their relative position in the **settlement network**



- Relate the settlement geography and services provision to **demographic change**

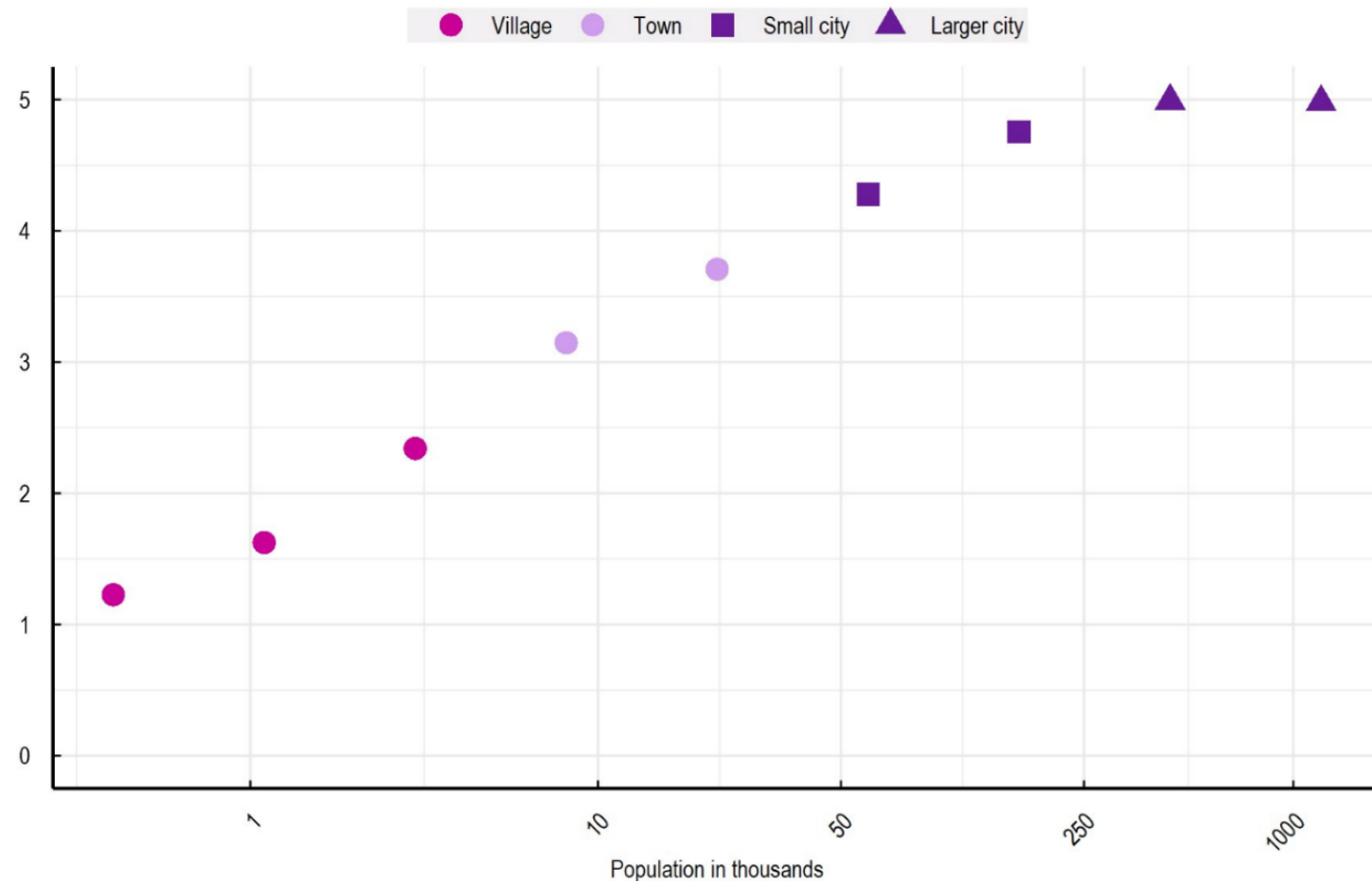




# Services increase in population

Index of service completeness: At least one:  
Pharmacy, School, Bank,  
Hospital, University

Some specialized services are only provided in larger places

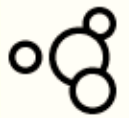




# Proximity matters



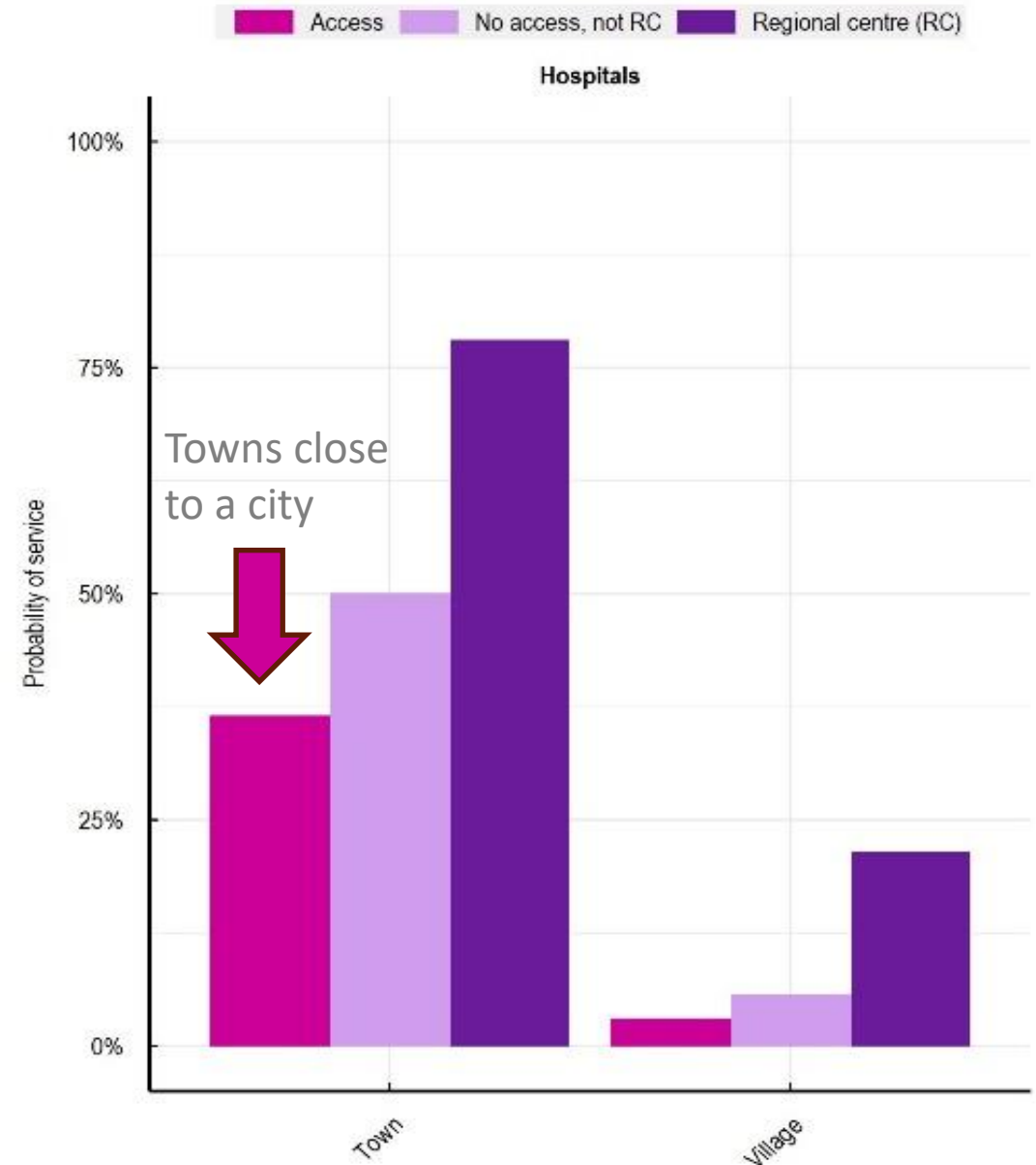
Towns & villages farther from cities have more services...



Especially those that are “regional centres”

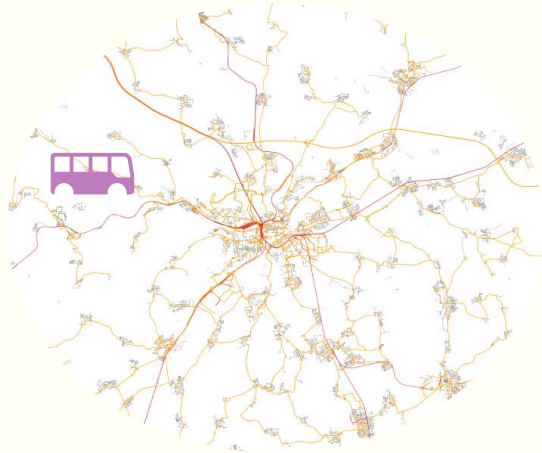


Many towns & villages far from cities provide crucial access to local services.



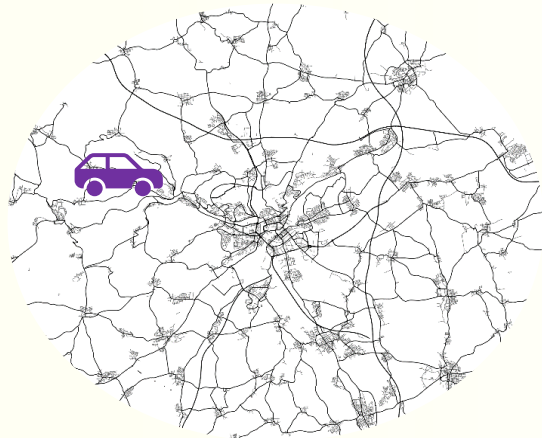


# Public transport connections matter



Yes

Better **public transport** correlates with **↑** services in the settlement



No

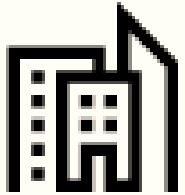
Better **car access** correlates with **↓** services in the settlement



# Service provision alone does not counteract negative demographic trends



More services, but lower **population growth**, in towns far from cities



Overall, **access to a city** matters more than services for population growth



**Transport connectivity** to regional centres, towns and cities can help promote access for everyone

# OECD work on rural service delivery and demographic change:



Thanks to DDP for data access through



[ana.morenomonroy@oecd.org](mailto:ana.morenomonroy@oecd.org)

Twitter: @OECD\_local

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local](http://www.linkedin.com/company/oecd-local)

Website: [www.oecd.org/cfe](http://www.oecd.org/cfe)

