



THE IMAGE OF THE RURAL BY URBAN AND RURAL INHABITANTS

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Abstract

The central question in this research is:

To what extent is there a similarity between the characteristics of the rural according to the inhabitants of the city of Groningen and inhabitants of the rural area of Groningen?

This research contains an overview of characteristics that inhabitants of the urban and rural associate with the rural and whether these characteristics overlap. Literature research has been conducted as well as quantitative research by handing out surveys. The participants of the surveys are living in Groningen (city) or the rural parts of the province of Groningen.

People experience a place in different ways and connect different values and meanings to a place (Hurlings, 2016), this also applies to the rural (Haartsen et. al., 2003). The rural is celebrated because of the natural and idyllic environment (Woods, 2010). However, the areas are also considered remote, underdeveloped, and backward.

This research showed that there is a similarity between certain characteristics of the rural that were indicated by the urban and rural groups. However, there were also significant differences between the groups.

Future research can investigate how the residential history of a person can influence their image of the rural.

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1. Introduction

Development is taking place in which more city dwellers are exchanging the urban for the countryside. This trend has been going on for some years but is accelerated due to the corona pandemic (Nieuwsuur, 2020). Between 2009-2011, this migration trend was 8%, in 2018-2020 this grew to 11% (Hans et. al., 2022). There is a positive net effect of people moving from the Randstad to outlying regions. In 2021, more than 75 000 people moved out of the Randstad. This is 5 000 more than in 2020 (CBS, 2022b).

According to Bijker et. al. (2012), the main motivation for migration to the rural is quietness, followed by the physical qualities of the environment. Migrants from the urban frequently refer to aspects of the rural idyll when talking about their motivations to move (Bijker et. al., 2012). Rural areas being idyllic and peaceful is a popular perception in the United States and the United Kingdom (Shucksmith, 2018).

The observation of the trend of more people moving from the urban to the rural, caught the attention to do this research. The motivation for this research was curiosity about how people view the rural in the Netherlands and which characteristics they ascribe to this place. Is this also in such an idyllic way as described by Shucksmith (2018)? And can certain mentioned characteristics of the countryside be confirmed by the inhabitants of the rural or do the rural inhabitants have a completely different view? This curiosity was further fuelled after watching the documentary 'Weg uit de stad' by Stichting Beeldlijn (Weg uit de stad, 2021). In this documentary, couples who had moved from an urban area to the countryside were followed and it showed whether the image they had in mind was confirmed once they have moved there. It showed that expectations did not always meet reality.

1.1 Theoretical and societal relevance

Scientific relevance

This research attempts to make an overview of characteristics that inhabitants of the urban and rural associate with the rural and whether these characteristics overlap. According to van Dam, et. al. (2002), in geography it is acknowledged that it is important to investigate different interpretations and images of reality, such as the image of the rural. This is crucial because these images form the basis on which people will act (van Dam, et. al., 2002). Asbeek Brusse et. al. (2002) mention how the urban and rural are constantly adapting to new wishes and requirements. Therefore, the relationship between the urban and countryside appears to develop continuously. This research can help investigate these different interpretations and images of the reality of the rural and how the relationship between the urban and rural can develop.

Academic research about the motivations to migrate to the rural has been conducted before. For example, Bijker et. al. (2012) showed which motivations to move to the rural are mentioned by which mover and what the characteristics are of this mover. There is also information about the rural idyll. For example the articles of Bijker et. al. (2012), Shucksmith (2018), and Davoudi (2002).

However, there are limited studies about the images of the rural from different perspectives, especially from the perspective of rural inhabitants. This research looks at this rural image from an urban and rural perspective. By comparing the mentioned characteristics of the two groups and by comparing these images to the phenomenon of the rural idyll, this research aims to contribute insight into the differences and similarities between these images among urban and rural inhabitants.

Societal relevance

The Netherlands is experiencing a housing shortage (NOS, 2021). This results in increasing prices (Vermeulen and Rouwendaal, 2007). Apart from rising house prices, Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties (n.d.), states that insufficient supply also results in longer waiting times for social housing and overheating of the market.

Real estate association NVM and interest group of investors in real estate, IVBN, advocate for constructing more outside the urban area to reduce this deficit by abandoning the focus on inner-city building (NOS, 2021). Most people who are considering moving to the rural choose this environment based on the characteristics of the rural area, yet new opportunities for rural housing are not created. The dilemma that spatial policy in the Netherlands faces is whether this demand for rural residential places and facilities should be facilitated (van Dam et. al., 2002).

Investigating the characteristics of the rural can be useful to gain additional insight into people's expectations of the rural. This can be used when approaching the dilemma of whether the demand for building outside the urban area should be facilitated.

Another relevant point is that it can become more visible to what extent the idea of a rural idyll is present. An unjustly, dominant image of a rural idyll can have negative consequences for rural inhabitants and several elements of rural poverty (Shucksmith, 2018). The Environmental Select Committee pointed out that rural poverty, its causes, and consequences must be spoken about. Furthermore, concepts of rural idyll must be corrected and hidden poverty within the rural idyll needs to be identified and dealt with (Cloke, et. al. 2006). According to Davoudi (2002), an idyllic view of the countryside has been partly responsible for two phenomena. The first one is the failure to detect increasing issues of under-development in the rural. This is often the consequence of the agricultural decline together with limited economic diversification and a scarcity of services such as the lack of access to jobs, education, and other services that bring life to rural places.

The other phenomenon is the increasing amount of people moving from urban areas to the surrounding rural areas. Davoudi (2002) mentions that these new inhabitants are unlikely to support rural traditions. New inhabitants live in the countryside for the beauty of the landscape, not for work opportunities since most of them work in the urban. This urban-rural migration tends to be socially selective, resulting in the gentrification of rural areas, especially through the competition for housing because of the low supply (Davoudi, 2002).

1.2 Research problem

The research aims to take a closer look at the different characteristics people ascribe to the rural. A distinction was made between the inhabitants of the city of Groningen and the inhabitants of the rural parts of the province of Groningen. By comparing the results of both groups, the researcher investigated to which extent indicated characteristics differ or overlap from different perspectives. In addition to this, the researcher looks if the image people have is realistic or if the rural is unjustly being viewed as a rural idyll.

The central question in this research is:

To what extent is there a similarity between the characteristics of the rural according to the inhabitants of the city of Groningen and inhabitants of the rural area of Groningen?

To answer this question, secondary questions arise:

1. How is an image that inhabitants have about rural regions created?
2. What are rural characteristics according to scientific literature?
3. What are rural characteristics according to media?
4. What are indicated rural characteristics according to the inhabitants of the urban and rural areas of Groningen?

2. Theoretical framework

2.1 How is an image that people have about a rural area created?

How humans experience landscapes can influence which characteristics they declare as characteristics of the rural. The identity of a landscape is often a result of holistic characteristics, as well as the human perception and evaluation of a landscape (Antrop, 1988). Landscapes are dynamic and evolve continuously. The judgment of a landscape is largely based upon a certain view of utility or realizing a goal or situation. Therefore, changes in a landscape are not always recognized by people in similar ways (Antrop, 1988).

People experience a place in different ways and connect different values and meanings to this place, this also applies to the rural (Horlings, 2016). A place is a contested space because different individuals will disagree about the meaning of a rural area and its functions (Woods, 2010). A place is an important part of the sense of identity, humanity, and community of humans (Horlings, 2016) and a social creation that helps people to form a sense of belonging to a certain culture (Horlings, 2014). Behaviour, decisions, and opinions are affected by representations of the rural and different social constructs of the countryside (Haartsen, et. al., 2003). Certain characteristics of a household or individual can affect the images that people have of the countryside. Age, gender, and level of education are examples of characteristics (Haartsen, et. al., 2003). However, according to Haartsen et. al. (2003) these characteristics do not affect the image of the rural. Familiarity with the countryside, because someone lives there or used to live there, does influence the image of the rural positively. People who only lived in urban or rural areas frequently have different representations of the rural. Haartsen, et. al. (2003), mention that the images of a place are created by an individual from information that is gained through their social and physical environment during their life. For this reason, within the research, a distinction will be made between two groups: inhabitants of the urban and inhabitants of the rural. By making this distinction, the different representations of the rural of these groups were investigated.

2.2 Rural idyll

The migration toward rural areas is frequently explained in connection with the rural idyll (Bijker et. al., 2012). The rural idyll is a symbolic landscape on which several things are projected, such as identifications and ideologies (Bell, 2006).

There is an aim to create an ordered social spatialization of margin and centre (Bell, 2006). Creating the rural idyll demands forms of othering (Bell, 2006). Rural is imagined as opposed to the urban, where the rural is valued positively and the urban is criticized. This is based on binaries about who and what belongs in the rural and who and what does not (Bell, 2006).

The rural idyll has an enduring and strong ideological pull. It constantly morphs to fit into new times. Bell (2006) mentions that perhaps this rural idyll only exists in the imagination as a symbolic landscape, 'as urbanism other'. Therefore, the place to find this image of the rural is in the city, since that is where it is created (Bell, 2006).

The rural idyll is about the attraction of the countryside with a way of life that is less hurried in a quiet, green, and spacious environment (Bijker et. al., 2012). The quality of the residential area is seen as the most important pull factor (Bijker et. al., 2012). Rural society is viewed as good, safe, and caring (Shucksmith et al., 1996) and the rural idyll is envisioned as a good place to live with national identity (Shucksmith, 2018). People in the Netherlands who moved to the rural frequently refer to rural idyllic aspects as reasons for moving and picking their place of residence (Bijker et. al., 2012). Another important motivation for moving is escaping the

negative aspects of city life, the ‘city push factors’, for example, traffic jams, crowdedness, and noise. Urban society is presented as dangerous, degenerate, and disadvantaged (Bijker et. al., 2012). Rural idylls are normative, and power infused. These images seek to set up rurality in certain ways. In line with the dominant ideologies of the rural idyll, the social construction of the countryside has a pervasive influence on the perception of rural life (Shucksmith, 2018). This research investigates to what extent there is a connection between the phenomenon of the rural idyll and the images of the rural of urban and rural inhabitants.

2.3 Characteristics of the rural in scientific literature

According to Woods, the separation of ‘rural’ and ‘urban’ is one of the oldest ideas in geography. Many meanings have been ascribed and associated with ‘rural’ such as a source of food and an idyllic place. This makes ‘rural’ complex to define (Woods, 2010).

Rural areas have changed. Rural communities that are considered attractive and accessible, have experienced an in-migration of inhabitants. However, more distant communities keep struggling with an outflow of the population to urban areas (Shucksmith, 2012). Rural areas that are easily accessible are increasingly showing more urban characteristics. These characteristics relate to the individualization of society and the decrease of social structures like community associations and the role of religion. This results in changes within the heritage and identity of rural areas (Shucksmith, 2012).

The rural is a place with symbolic importance and national identity, where people can escape to quietness, innocence, and simplicity (Woods, 2010). Despite this, they are also seen as remote and underdeveloped areas which require modernization (Woods, 2010 & Shucksmith, 2012).

According to Shucksmith (2012), rural areas are considered backward regarding aspects like economy, culture, and technology. Shucksmith (2012) describes the ‘Thomas the Tank Engine’ myth, where the urban areas are the ‘engine’, and the rural areas are ‘carriages’ that are being dragged along. There is a strong assumption that sources of change, innovation, and growth are only found in urban areas (Shucksmith, 2012). The countryside is considered a place with limitations, and ignorance (Woods, 2010) and an obstacle to economic development and modernity (Shucksmith, 2012). However, Shucksmith (2012) states that rural areas should be seen as places of innovation and engines for social renewal and economic growth.

The influence of globalization on rural areas is under-researched according to Woods & McDonagh (2011). This deficiency of academic knowledge has contributed to the spread of two misleading myths about the rural and globalization. The first myth represents globalization as a domineering force that threatens the traditions of rural regions in Europe (Woods & McDonagh, 2011). The potential inflow of migrants is considered a threat by some rural inhabitants (Shucksmith et al., 1996). Shucksmith et al. (1996), points out this paradox, as the rural is considered inclusive and neighbourly, however, these values can only be protected from the ‘harmful urban values’ by being exclusive.

The second myth portrays globalization as the saviour of rural economies. An aspect of globalization is the time-space compression that was able to develop through new technologies (Woods & McDonagh, 2011). The industrial age which led to urbanization is now overturned by new technologies that are removing the benefits of clustering and proximity to the market and labour pools. Removing these barriers made it possible for rural areas to compete on the same level as cities (Woods & McDonagh, 2011).

Both narratives are described as ‘myths’ since both give a false idea of globalization in rural areas since they approach rural areas and globalization in a too simplistic way by picturing the rural as isolated and globalization as an external force that cannot be influenced by rural areas (Woods & McDonagh, 2011). The activity of the economy in rural areas is already comparable

with the productivity of urban areas (Shucksmith, 2012). The intensive agro-industries in the Dutch countryside are as much part of globalization as the urban areas (Boterman, 2020).

2.4 Characteristics of the rural in the media

90.5% of the population in the Netherlands lives in cities (Peeren & Souch, 2019). Many people lack first-hand experience with the rural. It is fictional or factual descriptions on platforms such as television, film, and art that shape images. These platforms became the most influential way to conceive rural life (Peeren, & Souch 2019). On one side, there is a city with inconveniences such as chaos and crowdedness. On the other side, there is the countryside where you can come in peace and people know each other (van den Beukel, 2022). Central to the rural idyll is the notion of a small world with security and stability of the family that is comprehensible for people. This romanticizing is encouraged by TV shows (Peeren, & Souch, 2019). An example is the show 'Boer Zoekt Vrouw' (van den Beukel, 2022). These shows present the rural as the place to come back to the authentic you and to escape the chaos of city life. However, this type of rural barely exists. Rural branding is part of Boer Zoekt Vrouw. The image in these shows is very limited and not about showing the reality of rural life (van den Beukel, 2022). It is about a consistent highlighting of rural aspects in an idealizing, idyllic way; a glossy, appealing aesthetic of country life as we can see in magazines (Peeren, & Souch, 2019). Key aspects of rural life that do not fit the picture of the rural idyll, such as crime and poverty, stay unrevealed (Peeren, & Souch 2019). Steenbekkers et. al. (2006), mention that there are some media reports about the alarming amount of alcohol consumption among young people and the increase in poverty within rural families, which show that life in the rural is not always idyllic. However, within the Dutch media, the image of the traditional village is stubbornly held regarding reporting on the countryside (Thissen, 2021). Large-scale agriculture, criminality, and other problems are not shown by the media (van den Beukel, 2022). People want to see this romanticized image. There is a need among people to have a place where everything is good and simple and where they can escape to and for a lot of people the rural fills in this role (van den Beukel, 2022).

Chapters 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 discuss characteristics of the rural and rural idyll within scientific literature and media. This research examined which of these characteristics correspond with the characteristics mentioned by the urban and rural inhabitants. The characteristics quiet, green, spacious (Bijker et. al., 2012), a place that is lacking behind (Shucksmith, 2012), and a repository for national identity (Woods, 2010) are examples of characteristics included in the survey. All the characteristics used in the survey are discussed in the theoretical framework.

2.5 Conceptual model

The conceptual model (figure 1) analyses the different and overlapping characteristics between two groups with different residential histories, the urban group and rural group, since this is a characteristic of a household or individual that affects the image of the rural (Haartsen et. al., 2003). The conceptual model is a tool for the research since it clarifies the relationship between the two different images of the rural and it takes the factor residential history into account. The model starts with two boxes with the characteristics of the rural according to rural and urban inhabitants. The identity of a landscape is for a part a result of these holistic characteristics (Antrop, 1988). Therefore, the box ‘image of the rural’ is connected to the mentioned characteristics by both groups. To investigate how these images relate to each other, the next step is comparing the images, followed by looking separately at the mentioned characteristics of the rural by the two groups. After this comparison, there will be characteristics that overlap between the inhabitants and there will be characteristics that differ.

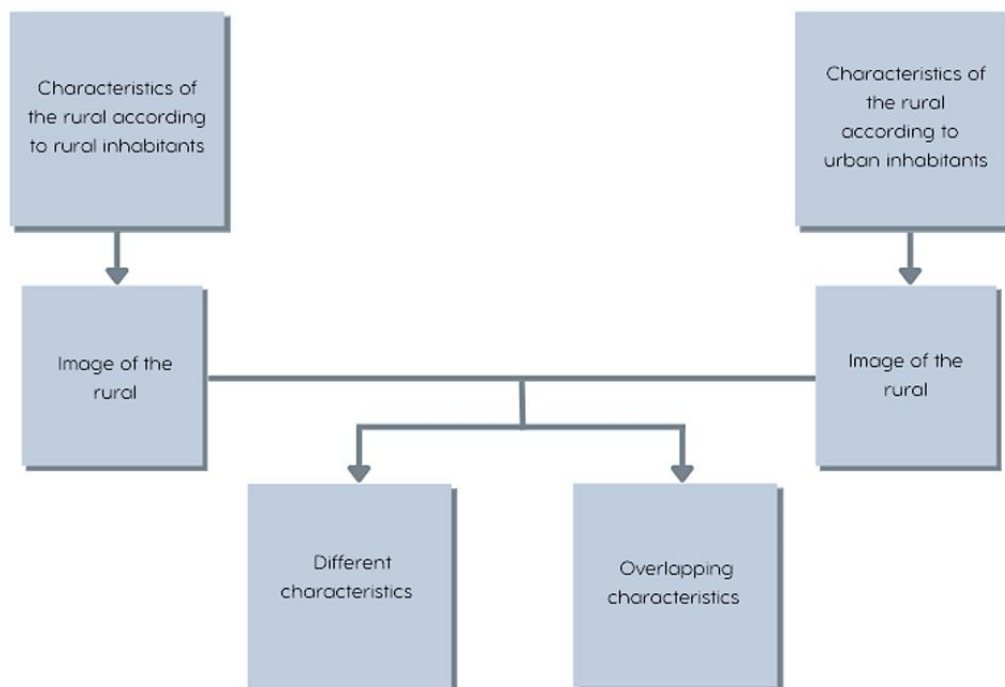


Figure 1 Conceptual model

2.6 Hypothesis

Based on the literature discussed in the theoretical framework, the hypothesis is as follows:

Characteristics such as the rural being safe and quiet overlap between the urban and rural group. Urban residents refer more to characteristics of the rural idyll, yet urban residents are more critical about the rural. People from the rural are more positive about the rural and refer less to characteristics of the rural idyll.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research

In this research, the aim was to acquire information about characteristics of the rural according to inhabitants of rural and urban areas, how these differ or overlap with one another and whether this is an idyllic image.

Groningen was taken as a case study to fit the research within the frame of a bachelor thesis. To gather data about which characteristics are mentioned most often by the two groups and to create a broad and diverse picture, it was decided to use a survey since using a survey makes it possible to reach a big and diverse group. This enabled the collection of data of the two groups and to compare and analyse the mentioned characteristics with each other by performing statistical tests. A criterion for the group of rural inhabitants was that participants must be living in a rural area within the province of Groningen. A criterion for the urban inhabitants was that they must live in the city of Groningen. Another criterion for both groups was that the participant should be 18 years or older. Participants were asked to fill in the four numbers of their ZIP-code, to check where a participant is from. If the above criteria were not met, the survey is not included in the study. The survey is included in appendix 1.

The researcher's network was asked to cooperate with the research. Since this network is mainly limited to the city of Groningen, it was necessary to ask people from rural areas of Groningen to help spread the surveys. To get more participants from the rural, community centers and the organization 'Groninger Dorpen' were approached. They send the survey to multiple of their contacts within the province. However, it was still necessary to use the possibilities of social media regarding sharing surveys and asking people to participate. Social media platforms that were used are Instagram and WhatsApp.

3.2 The distinction between urban and rural

This research is about two groups: people from the city of Groningen and people from the rural parts of the province of Groningen.

Hans et. al. (2022) talk about the difference between urban and rural by presenting a map (figure 2) where a distinction is shown between urban, moderately urban, and rural areas. This distinction is made based on differences in address densities (CBS, n.d., a). This measure for the concentration of human activities will be applied in this research to distinguish rural, moderately urban, and urban. The density of addresses is expressed in addresses per squared km (CBS, n.d., b).

CBS (n.d., b), has 5 categories:

1. Very strongly urban: average address density of 2500 or more addresses per squared km.
2. Strongly urban: average address density of 1500 to 2500 addresses per squared km.
3. Moderately urban: average address density of 1000 to 1500 addresses per squared km.
4. Little urban: average address density of 500 to 1000 addresses per squared km.
5. Not urban: average address density of 500 addresses or less per squared km.

In this research, the category '*very strongly urban*' (1) will be considered as urban area. For the rural area, this is the category '*not urban*' (5) (CBS, n.d., b).

The category of a certain area can be found via a map developed by CBS (n.d., a). By filling in a ZIP-code, the map indicates the category of urbanity of this area (CBS, n.d., a). This made it

clear to the researcher whether the completed survey could be included in the research, and if so, under which category.

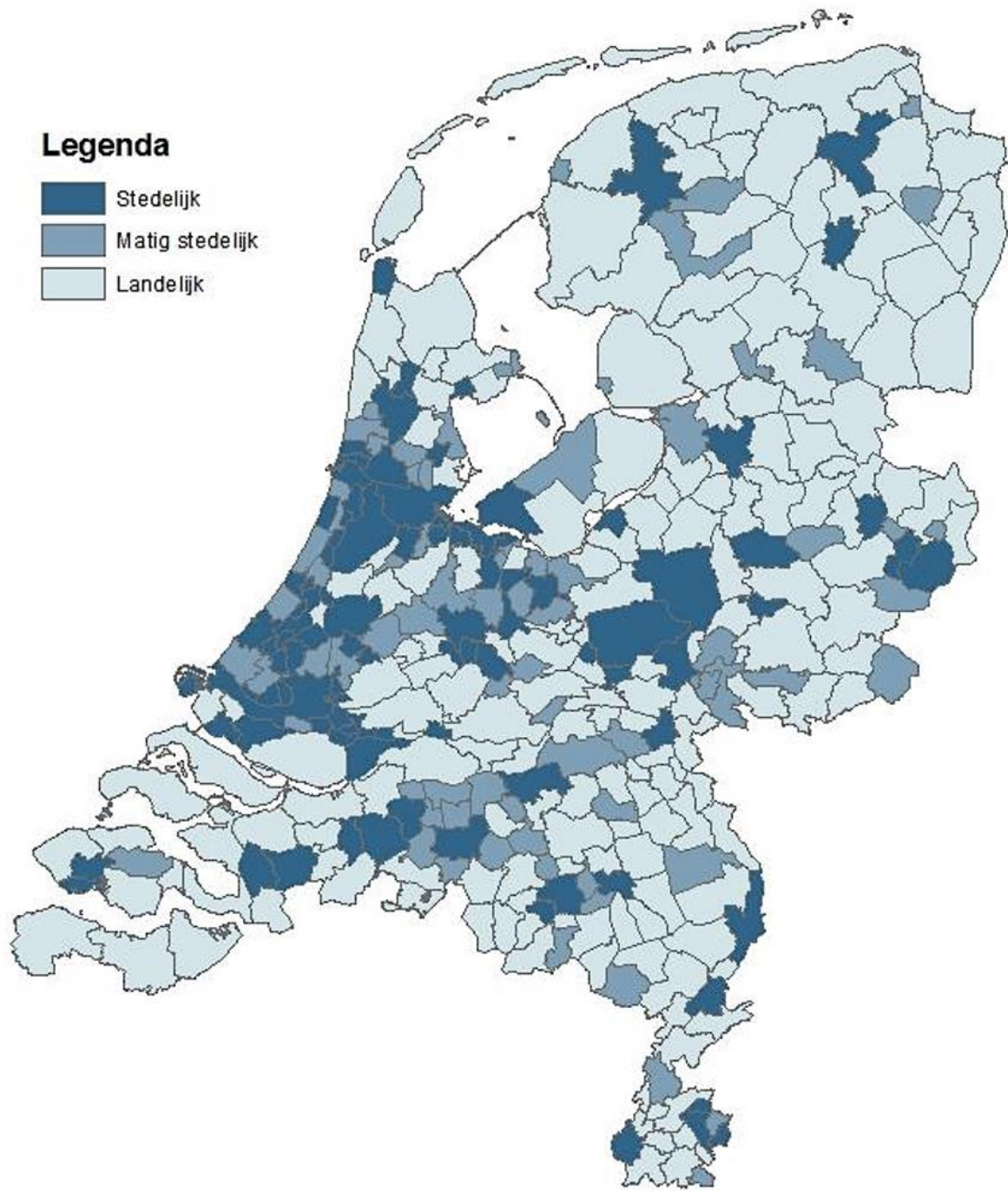


Figure 2 Map with the 5 urban/rural categories by Hans et. al. (2022)

3.3 Data analysis scheme

Primary data was collected with a quantitative research method (surveys). The variables are qualitative since they can be placed into categories and are defined by their placement in a category. The data is ordinal because it can be put in order and it is not possible to calculate an average (Burt, et. al., 2009). The independent variable is the place of residence of the participant, so an urban or rural area. The dependent variable is the extent of accuracy of the mentioned characteristics in the survey. There are two independent groups, and the investigation studies how they differ on the variable of interest, which is the indicated characteristics ascribed to the rural area. The data analysis scheme is shown in figure 3.

The Mann-Whitney U test is performed in SPSS to test the equality of two populations. The Mann-Whitney U test seemed suitable since it requires two independent samples on an ordinal level of measurement (Burt, et. al., 2009). The null hypothesis of the test is: *In the population, the inhabitants of the urban area and the inhabitants of the rural area are equal concerning the indicated characteristics ascribed to the rural area.* The alternative hypothesis is: *In the population, the inhabitants of the urban area and the inhabitants of the rural area are not equal concerning the indicated characteristics ascribed to the rural area.*

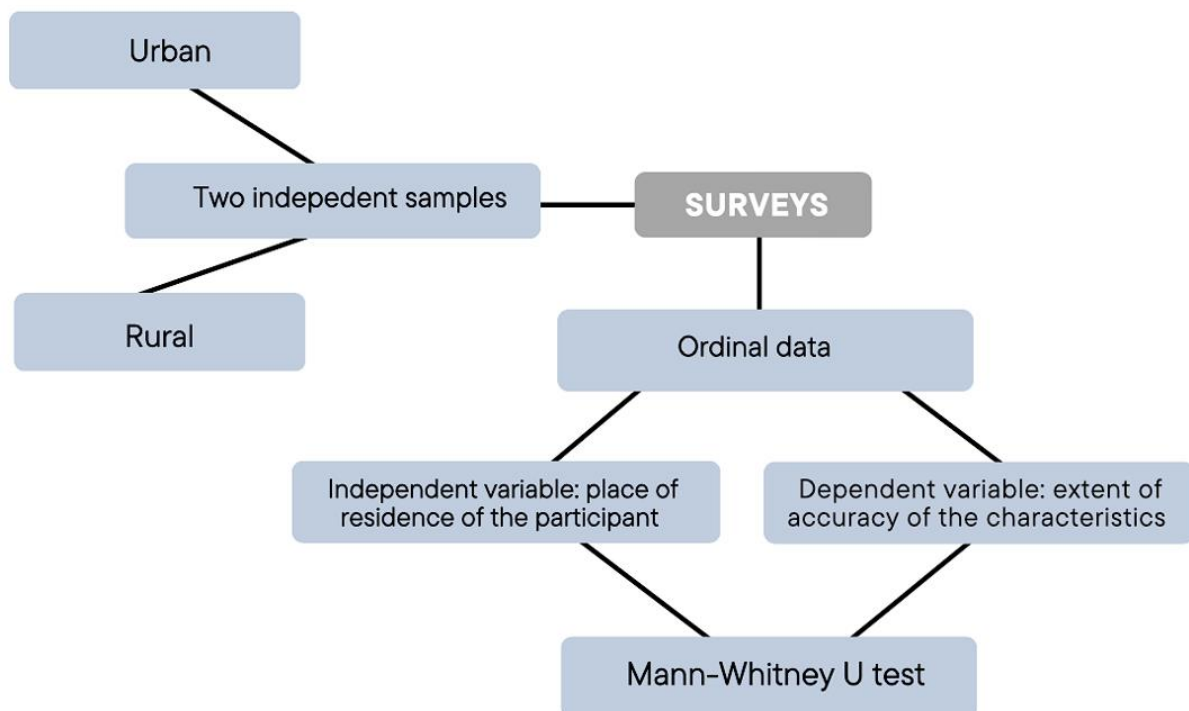


Figure 3 Data analysis scheme

Data from CBS (2022a) is used to test the representativeness of the sample. The data of the sample is compared with the database of Groningen from CBS (2022a). The test used is a Single Sample Chi-Square test. The complete calculation and explanation can be found in appendix 9. To use the data from CBS, it was necessary to put the data from the sample into the same categories as the data from CBS. For example, with regards to education, CBS uses three levels: lager onderwijs, middelbaar onderwijs, and hoger onderwijs. CBS (2022a) describes which level of education falls into which category. This was applied to the data from the sample. The data about age and gender were also put into the same categories as the CBS data.

3.4 Ethical considerations

An attempt was made to make clear to the participants what the purpose of the research was and who collected the data. Before the participant started with the survey, it was stated that it was possible to stop filling in the survey at any point. However, withdrawing the survey after submitting was not possible.

The researcher obtained informed consent by stating, before the survey started, to the participants that they were taking part in research and what was required of them. The survey is included in appendix 1.

The surveys are anonymous, which was communicated to the participants. The data of the participants will be handled with care. The data is stored on the laptop of the researcher, which is only available to the researcher and needs a password to get access. The data are anonymous and only necessary questions were asked to limit the collection of personal data. However, some personal data was needed such as gender and level of education to check whether the sample was representative. The four digits of the ZIP-code were asked to check the area where the participant is from. It was explained to the participant why this information is needed.

The data is only used for this research and will not be shared with other parties. After the grading of the thesis, the data will be destroyed.

4. Empirical findings

4.1 Distribution of the sample and representativity

A total of 161 surveys were collected. 127 were valid and used in the research. The data of the rural group consists of 61 respondents. The urban group has a total of 66 respondents (figure 4).

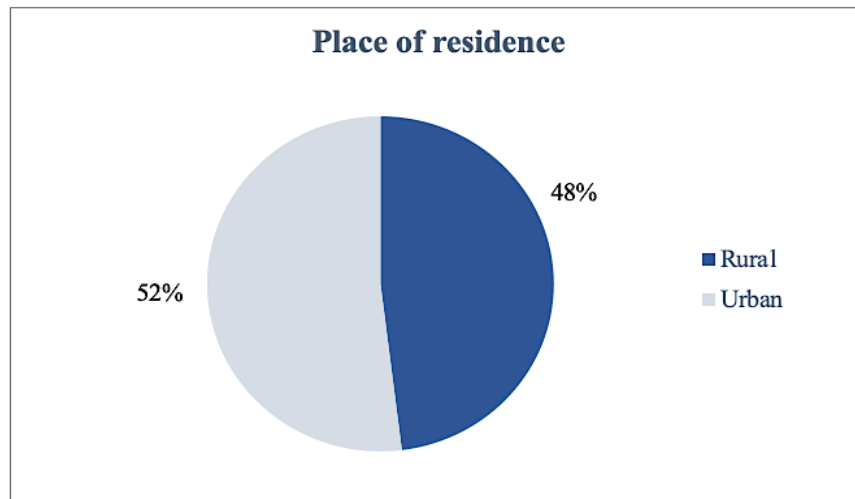


Figure 4 Distribution of the place of residence of the participants

The data about gender, age, and level of education was used to carry out a single chi-square test to check the representativeness of the sample. Graphs and pie charts with the distribution of these characteristics of only the sample are included in appendix 5 and 6. The calculation and the outcome of the test are presented in appendix 9.

The survey is representative regarding gender and age. Figures 5 and 6, show the distribution of these categories in percentages.

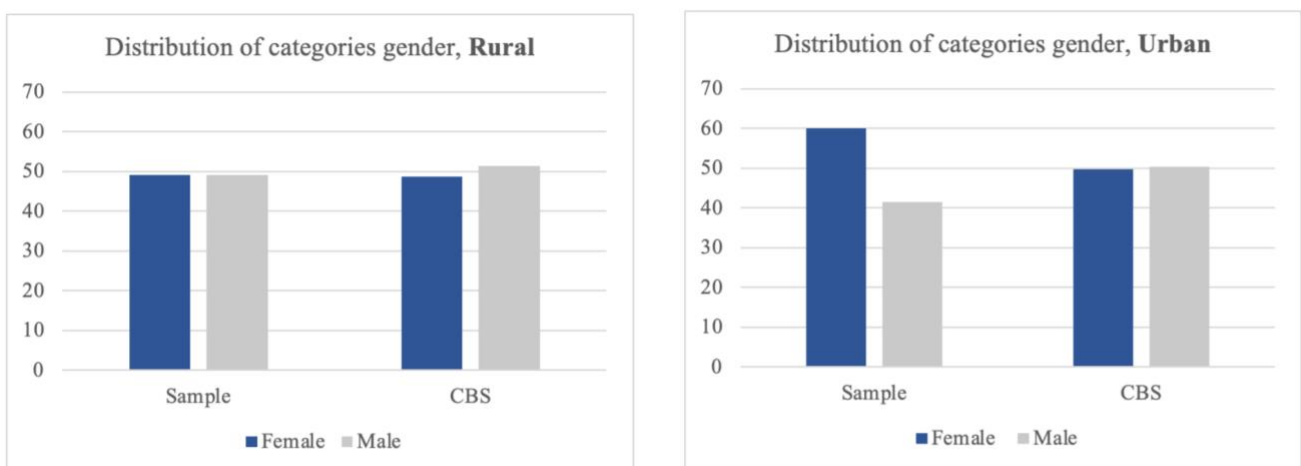


Figure 5 Graphs showing the distribution of the gender categories per rural and urban area

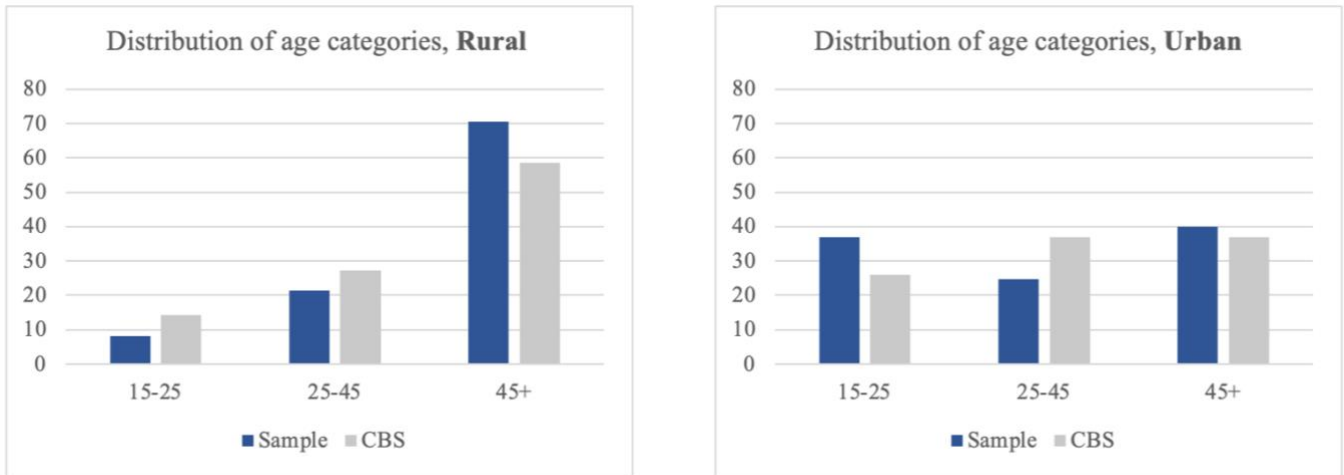


Figure 6 Graphs showing the distribution of the age categories per rural and urban area

The survey is not representative concerning the level of education. Therefore, the results are not applicable to the entire population and a repetition of this study may lead to different results. In figure 7, graphs with the percentages of education levels within the sample within the database of CBS (2022a) are presented. The graphs show how some levels of education are over-represented or under-represented in comparison with the CBS data.

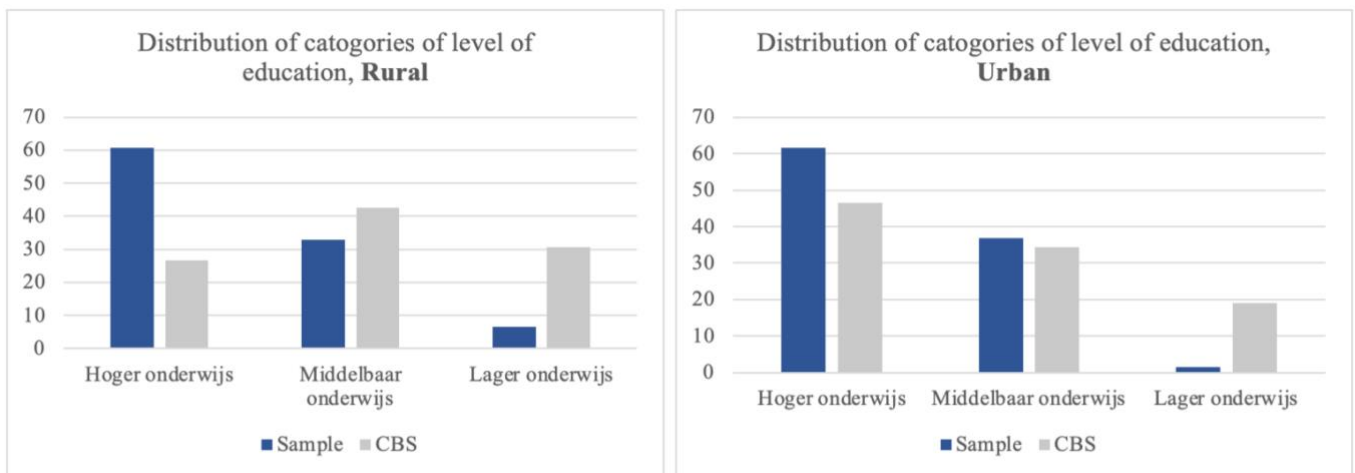


Figure 7 Graphs showing the distribution of the level of education categories per rural and urban area

4.2 Indicated rural characteristics

The data in figure 8 aims to answer, ‘*What are indicated rural characteristics according to the inhabitants of the urban and rural areas of Groningen?*’.

The respondents were asked to answer the question ‘*Which of the following features do you consider most characteristic of the countryside? Select three.*’ The participant could pick three out of ten features. The characteristics used in the survey are based on the theoretical framework. Figure 8 shows how frequently characteristics were mentioned. The characteristics lack of facilities, social cohesion, good place to live, lack of diversity, and friendly/pleasant (gemoedelijk) show the greatest differences in percentages between the two groups.

The rural group mentioned the characteristics good place to live 15% more than the urban group and friendly/pleasant (gemoedelijk) was mentioned 5.61% more.

In comparison with the rural group, the characteristic lack of facilities was mentioned 12.4% more often by the urban group. Lack of diversity was mentioned 4.72% more and social cohesion 6.26% more often. The characteristic social cohesion fits in the picture of the rural idyll (van den Beukel, 2022).

The difference in frequencies that the other characteristics were mentioned is smaller between the two groups, namely 2.11% or less. These characteristics include quietness, social control, safety, lagging behind area, and authenticity. Quietness is a characteristic that is mentioned by both groups often. This element fits in with the image of the rural idyll (Bijker et. al., 2012).

Rural				Urban			
	Kenmerk	Aantal	%		Kenmerk	Aantal	%
1	Goede woonplek	43	23.50	1	Rust	40	20
2	Rust	40	21.86	2	Weinig voorzieningen	39	19.5
3	Gemoedelijk	24	13.11	3	Sociale cohesie	30	15
3	Sociale controle	24	13.11	4	Sociale controle	22	11
4	Sociale cohesie	16	8.74	5	Goede woonplek	17	8.5
5	Weinig voorzieningen	13	7.10	6	Tekort aan diversiteit	16	8
6	Veilig	7	3.83	7	Gemoedelijk	15	7.5
7	Tekort aan diversiteit	6	3.28	8	Authentiek	7	3.5
8	Authentiek	4	2.19	9	Veilig	6	3
8	Achtergebleven gebied	4	2.19	10	Achtergebleven gebied	3	1.5
	Anders	2	1.09		Anders	5	2.5

Figure 8 List of mentioned rural characteristics by the rural and urban groups

4.3 Results of the statements

The statements from the survey were tested by using a Mann-Whitney U test. The exact results of the test within SPSS are included in appendix 7.

The results of the Mann-Whitney U test showed a significant difference between the groups regarding five statements (figure 9). The P-values are below 0.05, so the alternative hypothesis was accepted. This means that for these statements, the two populations (so the urban and rural group) are not equal. For the other 3 statements, the P-value is higher than 0.05, which means that the H0 was accepted and that the two populations are equal.

Question	P-value	Significant?	H0/H1
1. Het leven op het platteland is minder gehaast in vergelijking met de stad.	0.043	Significant	H1
2. Het leven op het platteland is landelijk, vreedzaam en aantrekkelijk door de eenvoud.	0.003	Significant	H1
3. Het platteland is een plek die in verschillende opzichten achterloopt op de stad. Modernisering is daarom nodig.	0.190	Not significant	H0
4. Het platteland is een rustige, groene omgeving met veel ruimte.	0.108	Not significant	H0
5. Het platteland is een veilige plek met weinig criminaliteit.	0.010	Significant	H1
6. Op het platteland kun je de pure Nederlandse identiteit nog vinden.	0.022	Significant	H1
7. Het platteland is een plek met oude tradities.	0.957	Not significant	H0
8. Het platteland is een plek waar je kunt ontsnappen aan de ongemakken en problemen van de stad, zoals vervuiling, geluidsoverlast en drukte.	0.025	Significant	H1

Figure 9 P-values of each statement of the survey after performing a Mann-Whitney U test

Significant statements

Regarding statements 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8 (figure 9), the two populations are not equal. The piecharts of statement 2 are included in figure 10. 72% of the rural group (strongly) agreed with the rural being spacious, peaceful, and attractive and 8% (strongly) disagreed, whereas only 49% of the urban group (strongly) agreed and 27% (strongly) disagreed.

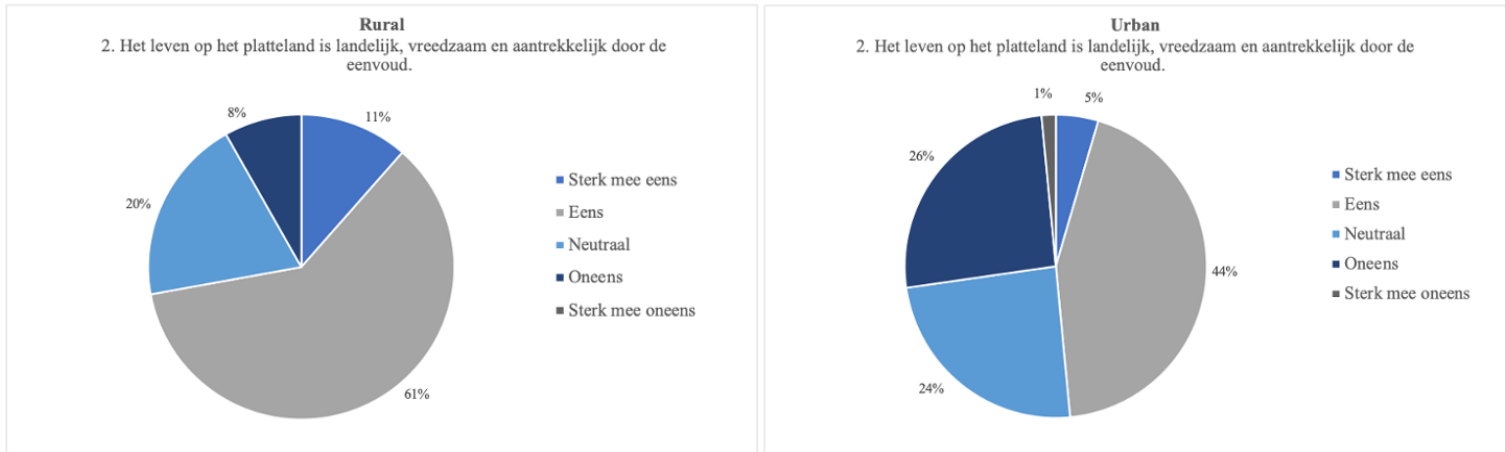


Figure 10 Piechart of the distribution of the responses on statement 'Het leven op het platteland is landelijk, vreedzaam en aantrekkelijk door de eenvoud'. Left graph rural. Right graph urban.

A similar distribution can be observed with the other significant statements, such as statement 5 (figure 11). 64% of the rural participants (strongly) agreed with the statement about the rural being a safe place with little criminality. Only 45% of the urban participants (strongly) agreed.

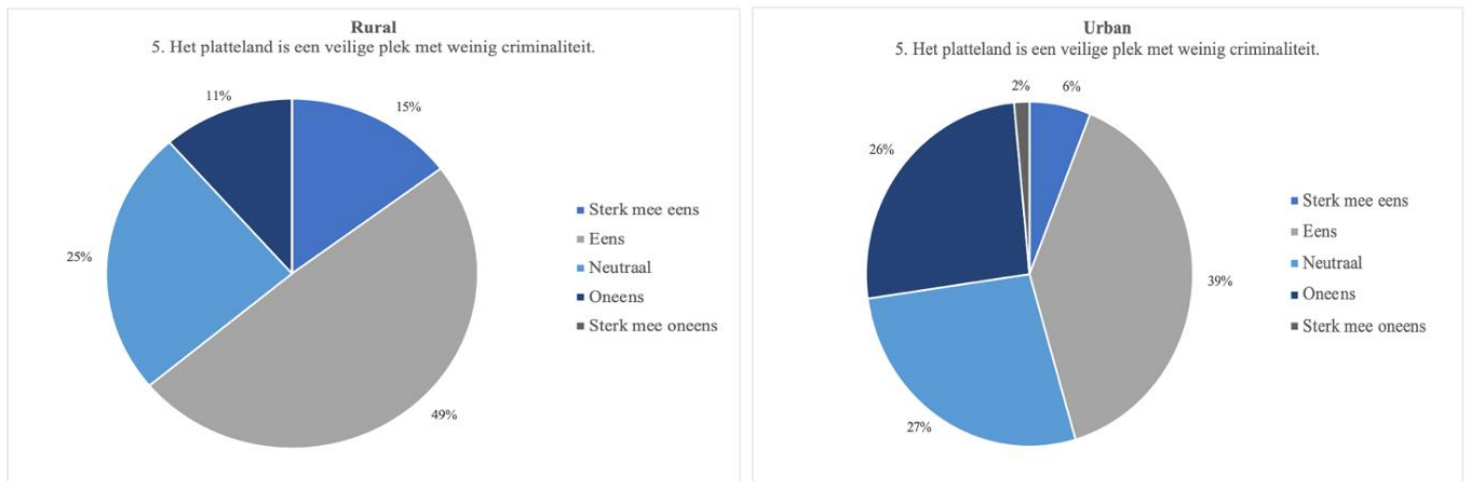


Figure 11 Piechart of the distributions of the responses on statement 'Het platteland is een veilige plek met weinig criminaliteit'. Left graph rural. Right graph urban.

Regarding statement 6, (figure 12) 52% of the urban group (strongly) disagreed with the statement about the rural being a place where the traditional Dutch identity is present and 24% (strongly) agreed. Only 28% of the rural group (strongly) disagreed with this and 36% agreed.

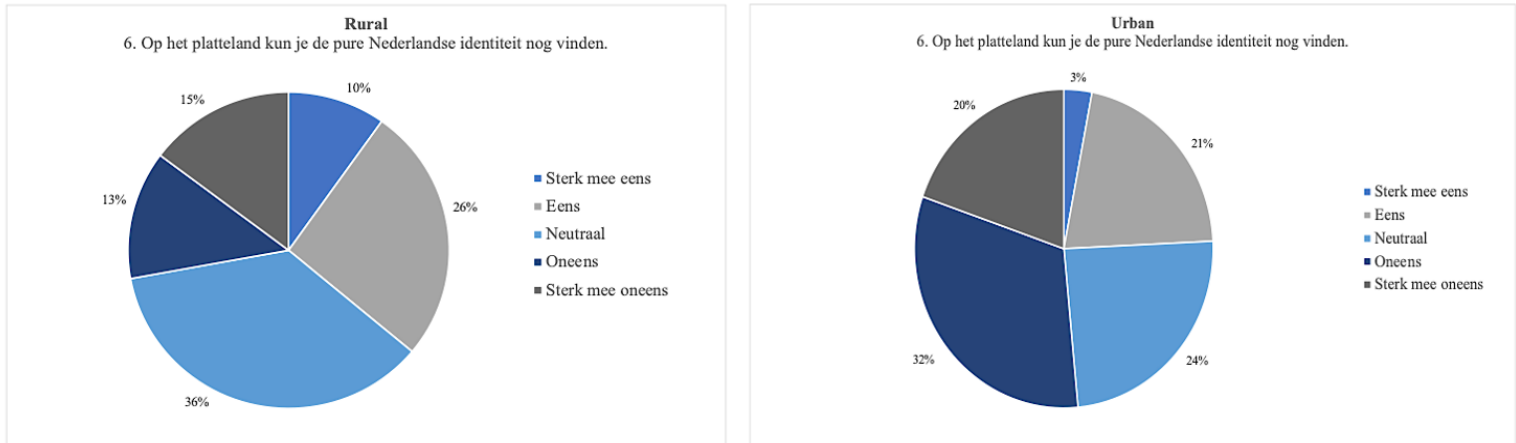


Figure 12 Piechart of the distributions of the responses on statement 'Op het platteland kun je de pure Nederlandse identiteit nog vinden'. Left graph rural. Right graph urban.

There was not a big difference between the two groups concerning statements 1 and 8. However, when performing a Mann-Whitney U test, the outcomes did show a statistical difference. The results of statements 2, 5, and 6 indicated that rural inhabitants refer more to characteristics of the rural idyll than the urban inhabitants since a small world with security (Peeren, & Souch, 2019 and Shucksmith et. al., 1996), the rural being a quiet, green, and spacious environment (Bijker et. al., 2012) with national identity (Shucksmith, 2018) are all connected to the rural idyll.

Insignificant statements

There is no significant difference between the two populations concerning statements 3, 4, and 7. The distribution of statement 3 is overlapping between the two groups (figure 13). 25% of the rural group (strongly) agreed with the rural lagging behind and being a place in need of modernization and 57% (strongly) disagreed. Within the urban group, 29% (strongly) agreed and 45% (strongly) disagreed. Both groups did not often mention the rural lacking behind.

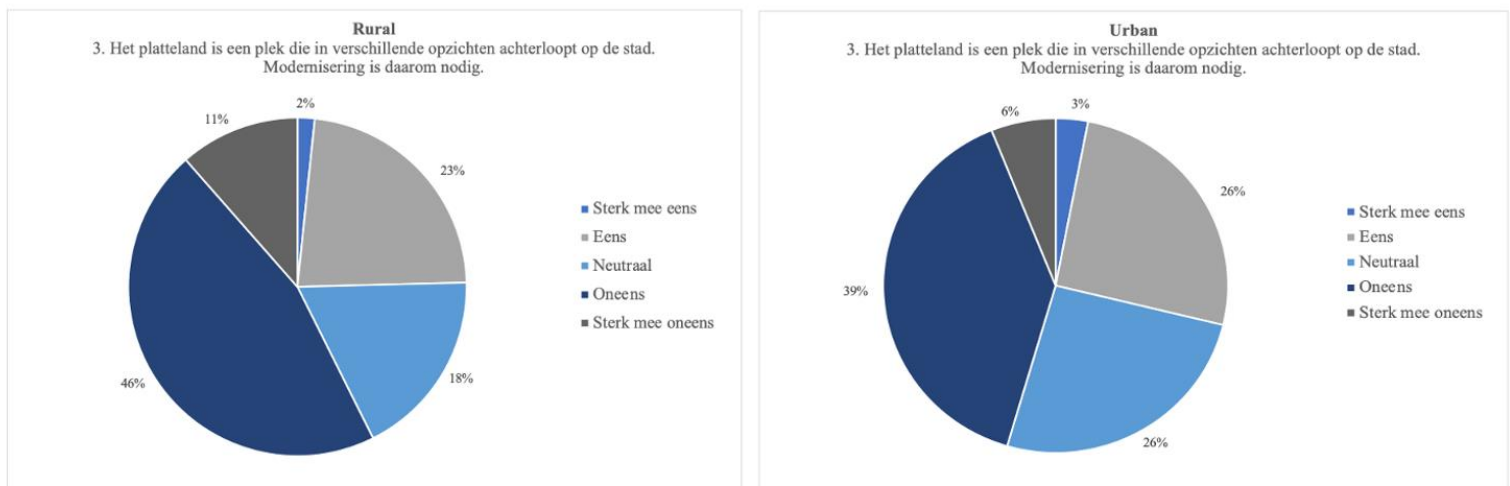


Figure 13 Piechart of the distributions of the responses on statement 'Het platteland is een plek die in verschillende manieren achterloopt op de stad. Modernisering is daarom nodig'. Left graph rural. Right graph urban.

The distribution of statements 4 and 7 are also similar. The majority of both groups (strongly) agreed with the rural being a quiet, green, and spacious environment with old traditions.

5. Discussion

As mentioned before, the survey is not representative. The results are not applicable to the entire population and repetition of this study may lead to different results.

The three most indicated rural characteristics by the rural participants are a good place to live, quietness, and friendly/pleasant (gemoedelijk). For the urban participants, these characteristics include quietness, lack of facilities, and social cohesion. Quietness, social control, safety, lagging behind area, and authenticity were mentioned about the same times by both groups.

The survey showed that the rural group referred more to the rural idyll in comparison with the urban group. Friendly/pleasant (gemoedelijk) is a characteristic of the rural usually associated with the rural idyll (Bijker et. al. (2012), as is the rural being a good place to live (Shucksmith, 2018). The characteristic quietness is mentioned by both groups often. This element is also linked to the rural idyll (Bijker et. al., 2012). The number of times that safe and quiet were mentioned are similar. This result is consistent with the hypothesis.

The survey showed no significant difference between the two populations concerning statements 3, 4, and 7. The two groups (strongly) disagreed with the rural being a place that lacks behind and needs modernization. This is not in line with the theory discussed in chapter 2.3. Research pointed out that rural is frequently seen by some as underdeveloped areas which require modernization (Woods 2010 and Shucksmith, 2012).

Both groups (strongly) agreed with the rural being a quiet, green, and spacious environment with old traditions. The characteristics quiet, green, and spacious are connected to the rural idyll (Bijker et. al., 2012).

There was a significant difference concerning statements 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8. The majority of the rural (strongly) agreed with statements referring to characteristics such as the rural being spacious, peaceful, simple, safe, and a place with a pure Dutch identity. The urban participants (strongly) agreed significantly less with these statements.

The results show several differences in the images of the rural between the two groups. But as the theoretical framework showed, people experience a place in different ways and connect different values and meanings to a place (Horlings, 2016), this also applies to the rural (Haartsen et. al., 2003). Urban residents frequently have different representations of the rural than rural inhabitants (Haartsen et. al., 2003).

Based on the survey results, the rural group refers more to characteristics of the rural idyll than the urban group. This is not in line with the expectation and some of the literature in the theoretical framework. Bell (2006) mentioned that the place to find the rural idyll is in the urban because that is the place where it is created. Peeren, & Souch (2019) mentioned how people that don't have first-hand experience of life in the countryside, create idyllic images via media platforms.

The rural group referred less to negative statements and characteristics such as a lack of diversity and facilities. The rural group was more positive about the rural compared with the urban group, this was expected.

The article of Haartsen et. al. (2003) can provide a possible explanation for this since it concludes that people who used to live in the countryside are usually more positive about the rural in comparison with people who never lived in the countryside.

6. Conclusion

In this research, an attempt was made to answer the question: *To what extent is there a similarity between the characteristics of the rural according to the inhabitants of the city of Groningen and inhabitants of the rural area of Groningen?*

The quantitative research showed that the three most indicated rural characteristics according to the urban group were quietness, lack of facilities, and social cohesion. Indicated characteristics according to the rural inhabitants were a good place to live, quiet, and friendly/pleasant (gemoedelijk). Characteristics that were mentioned about the same time by both groups include quietness, social control, safety, lagging behind area, and authenticity.

A difference between the indicated characteristics of both groups is that the survey showed the rural group referring more to characteristics of the rural idyll than the urban group.

There was a significant difference regarding five of eight statements used in the survey.

The statements about the rural being a quiet, green, and spacious environment with old traditions and the rural being a place that lacks behind and needs modernization, showed no significant difference between the groups.

This research showed that there is a similarity between certain characteristics of the rural between the inhabitants of the city of Groningen and the inhabitants of the rural areas of Groningen. However, there were also significant differences between the groups concerning the indicated characteristics.

7. Reflection

Finding statistics about the areas concerned via CBS was difficult. In the research, the areas that fell into the categories 'very strongly urban' and 'not urban' were used to make a distinction between urban and rural areas (CBS, n.d., b). However, there was no data available that only applied to the areas within these categories.

Data about the province of Groningen and the municipality of Groningen has been used. This data does not distinguish between these categories. However, as figure 2 shows, the province also includes areas that are urban or moderately urban. This may have led to the use of data that was not entirely applicable since this data also contains data from areas that are not 'very strongly urban' or 'not urban'.

This study only looked at the current place of residence of participants. For further research, it might be interesting to look further into the residential history of an individual and how this can influence their rural image.

The literature pointed out that urban inhabitants have a romanticized image of the rural (Peeren, & Souch, 2019), this was however not confirmed by this research. It may be interesting to investigate whether the image of the rural became more realistic over the years and if so, what the causes of this trend are.

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9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Enquête scriptie RUG

Dank u wel voor het meedoen met dit onderzoek. Mijn naam is Lena van Bolhuis en dit onderzoek maakt deel uit van mijn bachelors scriptie van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, faculteit Ruimtelijke Wetenschappen. Het kost ongeveer 5 à 10 minuten om de enquête met 14 vragen in te vullen.

Deelname aan het onderzoek is vrijwillig. Als u besluit dat u toch niet wil deelnemen, hoeft u niet uit te leggen waarom. U kunt uw deelname op elk gewenst moment beëindigen door de internetbrowser te sluiten. Wanneer u de enquête heeft ingeleverd op het eind, zullen de door u ingevulde antwoorden mee worden genomen in het onderzoek.

Het doel van het onderzoek is om meer inzicht te krijgen in wat mensen karakteristieke kenmerken vinden van het platteland. Door de resultaten van verschillende groepen met elkaar te vergelijken, wil ik nagaan in hoeverre deze aangegeven kenmerken van elkaar verschillen.

Er wordt gevraagd naar uw leeftijd en postcode (alleen de vier cijfers). Dit wordt gevraagd om er zeker van te zijn dat er enkel volwassenen met het onderzoek mee doen en om te kijken vanuit welke regio in Groningen (stedelijke of landelijke regio) de enquête is ingevuld.

Daarna volgen wat vragen over hoe u naar het platteland kijkt en welke eigenschappen u typisch vindt.

Ik wil u erop wijzen dat er geen foute of goede antwoorden zijn. Het wordt erg op prijs gesteld als u zo eerlijk en spontaan mogelijk wilt antwoorden vanuit uw interpretatie. U kunt de enquête invullen waar en wanneer u dat het beste uitkomt.

Er zal met zorg met de gegevens worden omgegaan en de verkregen informatie wordt vertrouwelijk verwerkt. Alle gegevens zijn anoniem en zullen ook zo worden opgeslagen en verwerkt. De gegevens worden enkel voor dit onderzoek gebruikt en zullen niet met andere partijen worden gedeeld. Na de beoordeling van mijn scriptie worden de verzamelde data vernietigd.

Mocht u nog vragen hebben dan kunt u contact met mij opnemen via mijn mailadres:

l.a.j.van.bolhuis@student.rug.nl

Door te beginnen met de enquête, verklaar ik (de deelnemer) dat:

- Ik naar tevredenheid ben geïnformeerd over het onderzoek.
- Ik heb begrepen wat er van mij verwacht wordt.
- Ik de gelegenheid heb gehad om vragen te stellen over het onderzoek.
- Ik weet dat mijn deelname vrijwillig is.

- Ik weet dat mijn deelname op elk moment beëindigt kan worden, zonder dat het nodig is om uit te leggen waarom.
- Ik ga akkoord met de deelname aan dit onderzoek.
- Ik ga akkoord dat mijn ingevulde enquête wordt gebruikt voor een scriptie onderzoek.

1. Life in the countryside is less rushed compared to the city.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	12%	25%
Agree	59%	57%
Neutral	23%	11%
Disagree	6%	7%
Strongly disagree	0%	0%

2. Life in the countryside is rustic, peaceful, and attractive because of its simplicity.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	5%	11%
Agree	44%	61%
Neutral	24%	20%
Disagree	26%	8%
Strongly disagree	1%	0%

3. The countryside is a place that lags behind the city in several aspects. Modernization is therefore necessary.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	3%	2%
Agree	26%	23%
Neutral	26%	18%
Disagree	39%	46%
Strongly disagree	6%	11%

4. The countryside is a quiet, green area with plenty of space.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	30%	41%
Agree	58%	54%
Neutral	8%	5%
Disagree	3%	0%
Strongly disagree	1%	0%

5. The countryside is a safe place with little crime.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	6%	15%
Agree	39%	49%
Neutral	27%	25%
Disagree	26%	11%
Strongly disagree	2%	0%

6. You can still find the pure Dutch identity in the countryside.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	3%	10%
Agree	21%	26%
Neutral	24%	36%
Disagree	32%	13%
Strongly disagree	20%	15%

7. The countryside is a place with old traditions.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	4%	5%
Agree	59%	57%
Neutral	23%	25%
Disagree	11%	11%
Strongly disagree	3%	2%

8. The countryside is a place where you can escape the inconveniences and problems of the city, such as pollution, noise, and crowds.		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>
Strongly agree	14%	26%
Agree	64%	63%
Neutral	12%	8%
Disagree	10%	3%
Strongly disagree	0%	0%

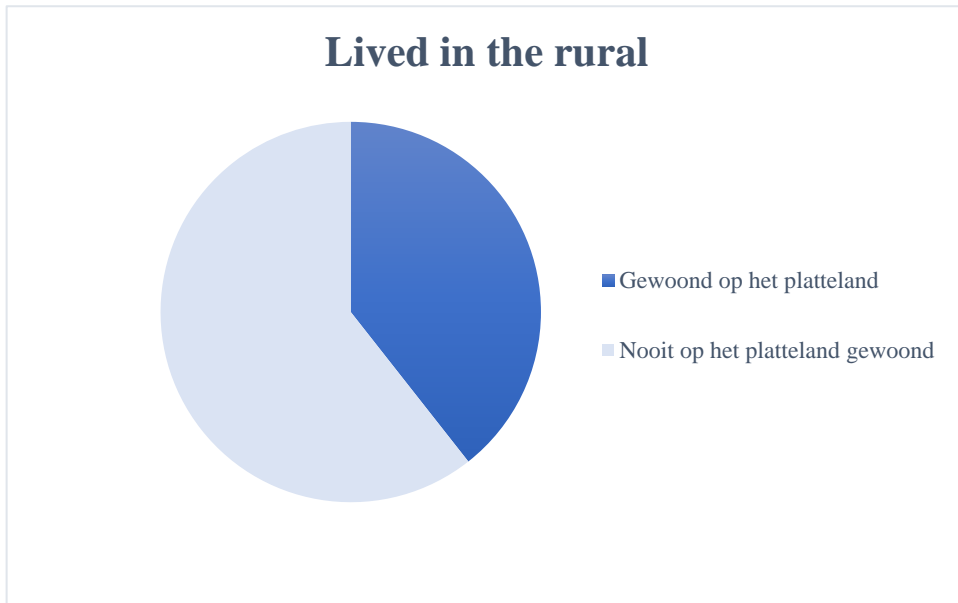
Appendix 2: Responses questionnaire - Urban

The individual responses of the participants are not included in this version because of privacy reasons.

Appendix 3: Responses questionnaire – Rural

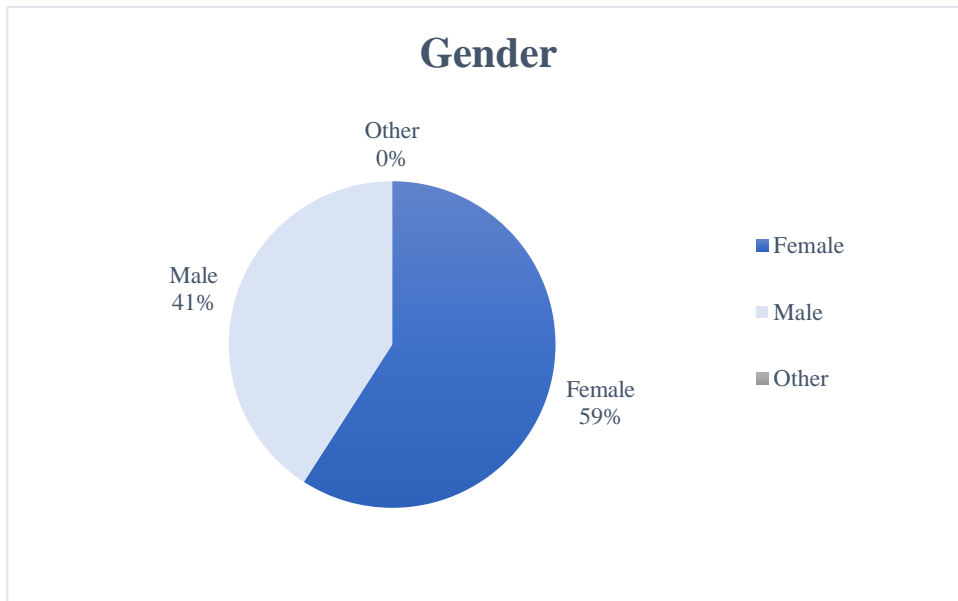
The individual responses of the participants are not included in this version because of privacy reasons.

Appendix 4: Responses questionnaire in pie chart and table regarding distribution residential area

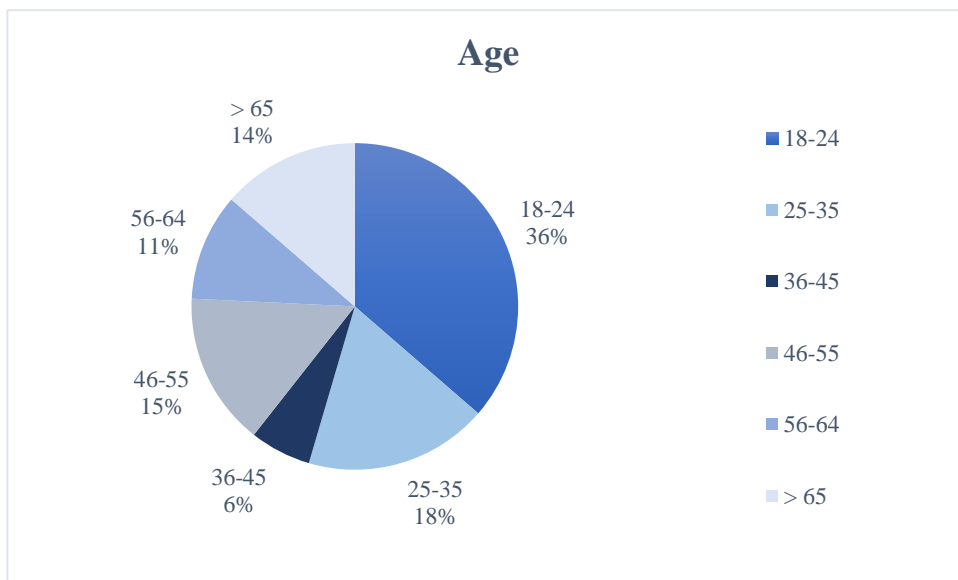


Area	Amount
Urban	66
Rural	61
Total	127

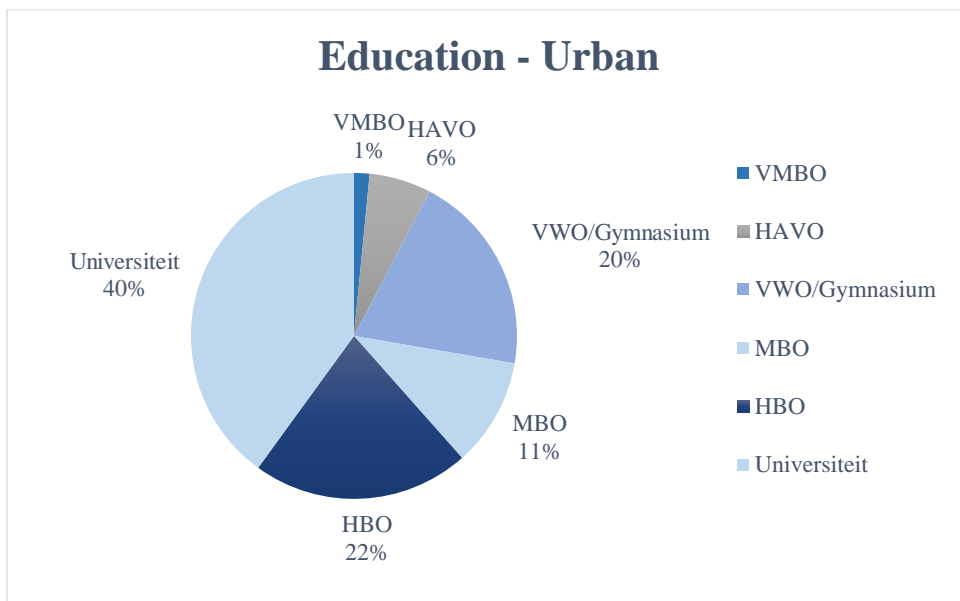
Appendix 5: Characteristics participants, pie charts and tables – Urban



Gender	Frequency	%
Female	39	59,1
Male	27	40,9
Other	0	0

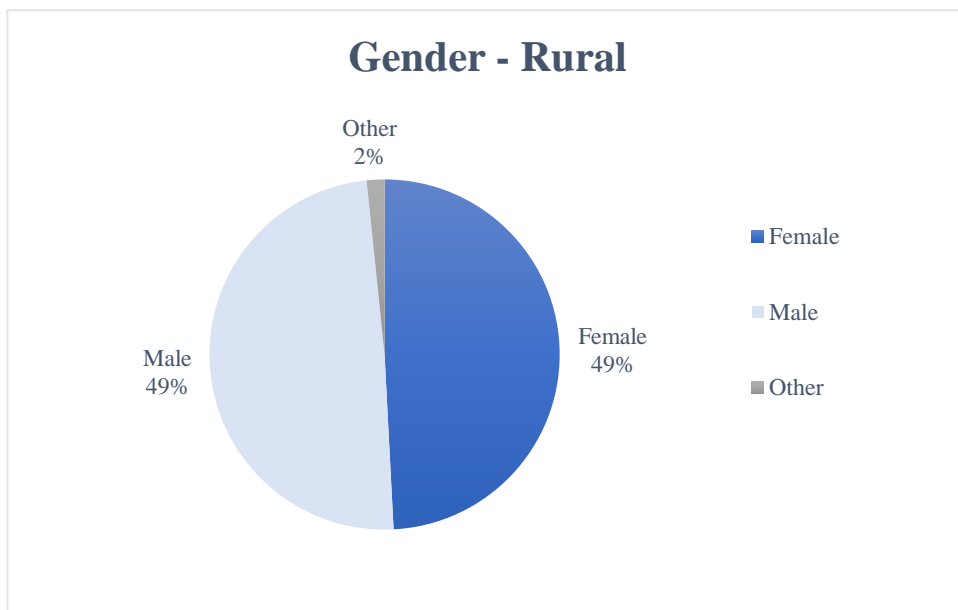


Age	Frequency	%
18-24	24	36,4
25-35	12	18,2
36-45	4	6,1
46-55	10	15,2
56-64	7	10,6
> 65	9	13,6

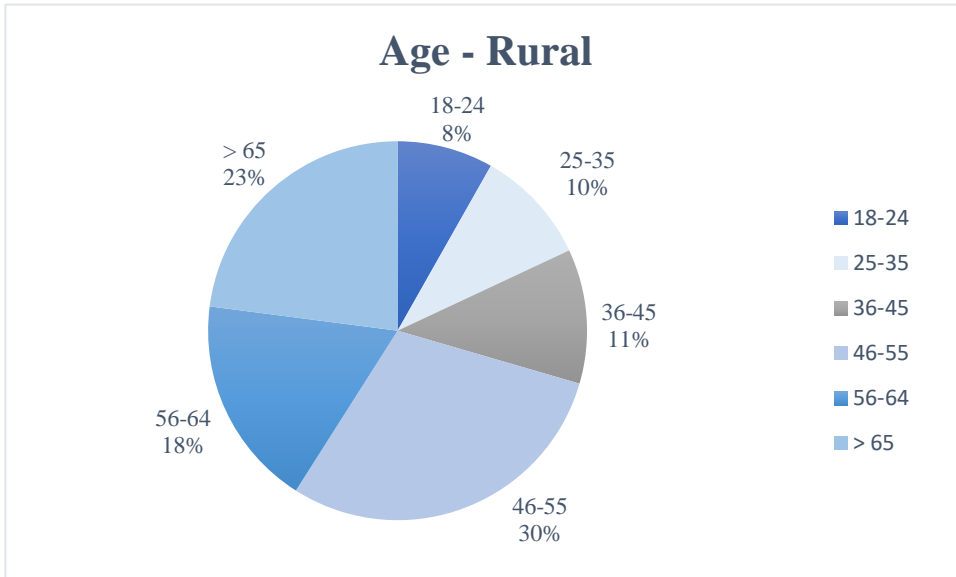


Education	Frequency	%
Basisonderw	0	0
VMBO	1	1,5
HAVO	4	6,1
VWO/Gymn	13	19,7
LBO	0	0
MBO	7	10,6
HBO	14	21,2
Universiteit	26	39,4

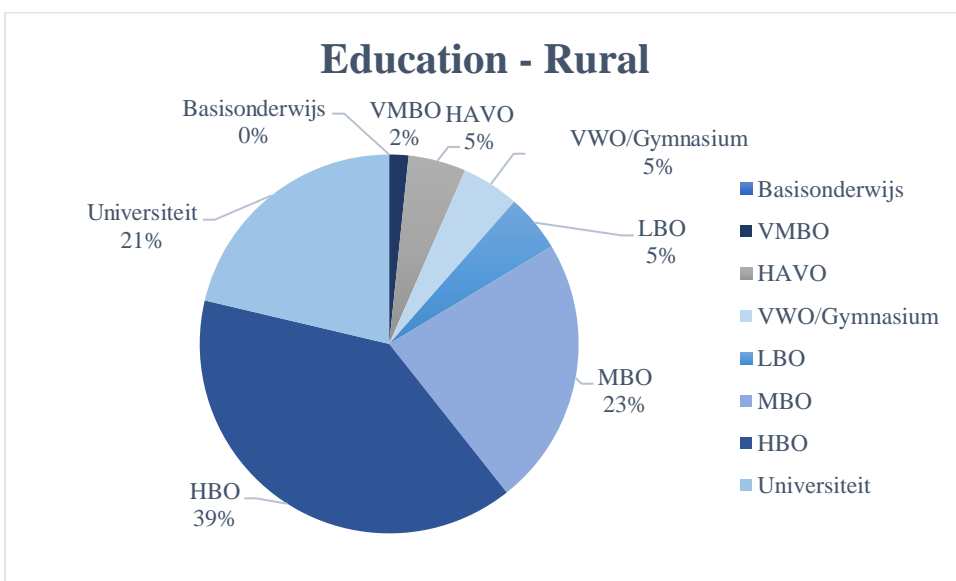
Appendix 6: Characteristics participants, pie charts and tables– Rural



Gender	Frequency	%
Female	30	49,2
Male	30	49,2
Other	1	1,6



Age	Frequency	%
18-24	5	8,2
25-35	6	9,8
36-45	7	11,5
46-55	18	29,5
56-64	11	18
> 65	14	23



Education	Frequency	%
Basisonderw	0	0
VMBO	1	1,6
HAVO	3	4,9
VWO/Gymn	3	4,9
LBO	3	4,9
MBO	14	23
HBO	24	39,3
Universiteit	13	21,3

Appendix 7: Results Mann-Whitney U test

If the p-value (= Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) in the tables below) is less than or equal to 0.05, the H0 will be rejected.

If the p-value (= Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) in the tables below) is greater than 0.05, the H0 will not be rejected.

Test Statistics^a

1. Het leven op het platteland is minder gehaast in vergelijking met de stad.

Mann-Whitney U	1639.000
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Wilcoxon W	3530.000
Z	-2.020
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.043

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 1: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 1 ‘Het leven op het platteland is minder gehaast in vergelijking met de stad’.

Test Statistics^a

2. Het leven op het platteland is landelijk, vreedzaam en aantrekkelijk door de eenvoud.

Mann-Whitney U	1420.500
Wilcoxon W	3311.500
Z	-3.113
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.002

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 2: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 2 ‘Het leven op het platteland is landelijk, vreedzaam en aantrekkelijk door de eenvoud’.

Test Statistics^a

3. Het platteland is een plek die in verschillende opzichten achterloopt op de stad. Modernisering is daarom nodig.

Mann-Whitney U	1755.500
Wilcoxon W	3966.500

Z	-1.312
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.190

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 3: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 3 ‘Het platteland is een plek die in verschillende opzichten achterloopt op de stad. Modernisering is daarom nodig’.

Test Statistics^a

4. Het platteland is een rustige, groene omgeving met veel ruimte.

Mann-Whitney U	1718.500
Wilcoxon W	3609.500
Z	-1.609
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.108

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 4: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 4 ‘Het platteland is een rustige, groene omgeving met veel ruimte.’

Test Statistics^a

1. Het platteland is een veilige plek met weinig criminaliteit.

Mann-Whitney U	1508.500
Wilcoxon W	3399.500
Z	-2.582
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.010

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 5: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 5 ‘Het platteland is een veilige plek met weinig criminaliteit’.

Test Statistics^a

2. Op het platteland kun je de pure Nederlandse identiteit nog vinden.

Mann-Whitney U	1553.500
Wilcoxon W	3444.500
Z	-2.284
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.022

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 6: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 6 ‘Op het platteland kun je de pure Nederlandse identiteit nog vinden’.

Test Statistics^a

3. Het platteland is een plek met oude tradities.

Mann-Whitney U	2003.000
Wilcoxon W	4214.000
Z	-.054
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.957

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

Table 7: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 7 ‘Het platteland is een plek met oude tradities’.

Test Statistics^a

8. Het platteland is een plek waar je kunt ontsnappen aan de ongemakken en problemen van de stad, zoals vervuiling, geluidsoverlast en drukte.

Mann-Whitney U	1612.000
Wilcoxon W	3503.000
Z	-2.248
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.025

a. Grouping Variable: urban/rural

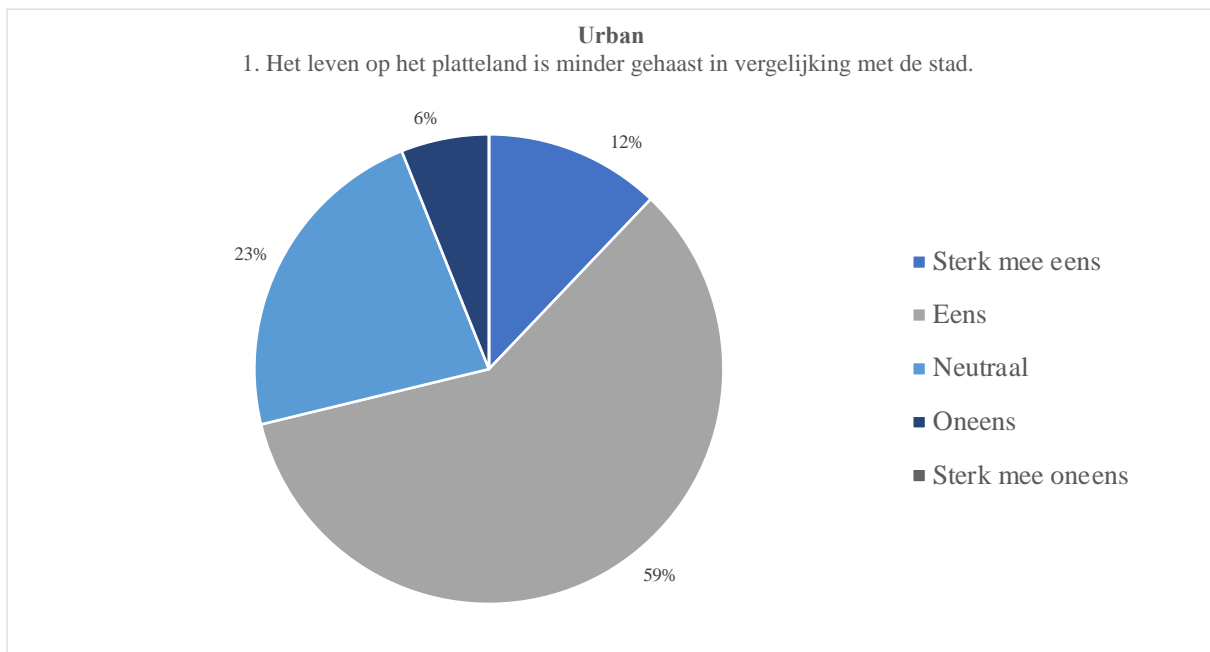
Table 8: Mann-Whitney U Test results on question 8 ‘Het platteland is een plek waar je kunt ontsnappen aan de ongemakken en problemen van de stad, zoals vervuiling, geluidsoverlast en drukte’.

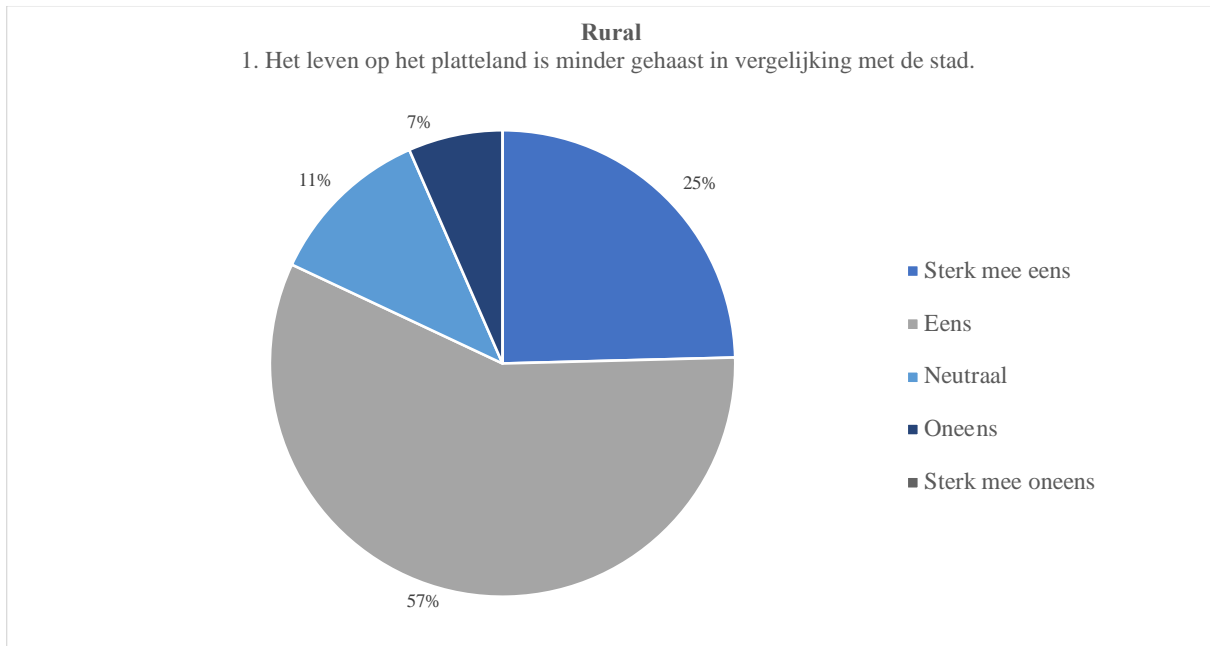
Appendix 8: Significance and P-value per question

Question	P-value	Significant?	H0/H1
1. Het leven op het platteland is minder gehaast in vergelijking met de stad.	0.043	Significant	H1
2. Het leven op het platteland is landelijk, vreedzaam en aantrekkelijk door de eenvoud.	0.003	Significant	H1
3. Het platteland is een plek die in verschillende opzichten achterloopt op de stad. Modernisering is daarom nodig.	0.190	Not significant	H0
4. Het platteland is een rustige, groene omgeving met veel ruimte.	0.108	Not significant	H0
5. Het platteland is een veilige plek met weinig criminaliteit.	0.010	Significant	H1

6. Op het platteland kun je de pure Nederlandse identiteit nog vinden.	0.022	Significant	H1
7. Het platteland is een plek met oude tradities.	0.957	Not significant	H0
8. Het platteland is een plek waar je kunt ontsnappen aan de ongemakken en problemen van de stad, zoals vervuiling, geluidsoverlast en drukte.	0.025	Significant	H1

Appendix 9: Result statements survey in tables and pie charts – Urban and rural



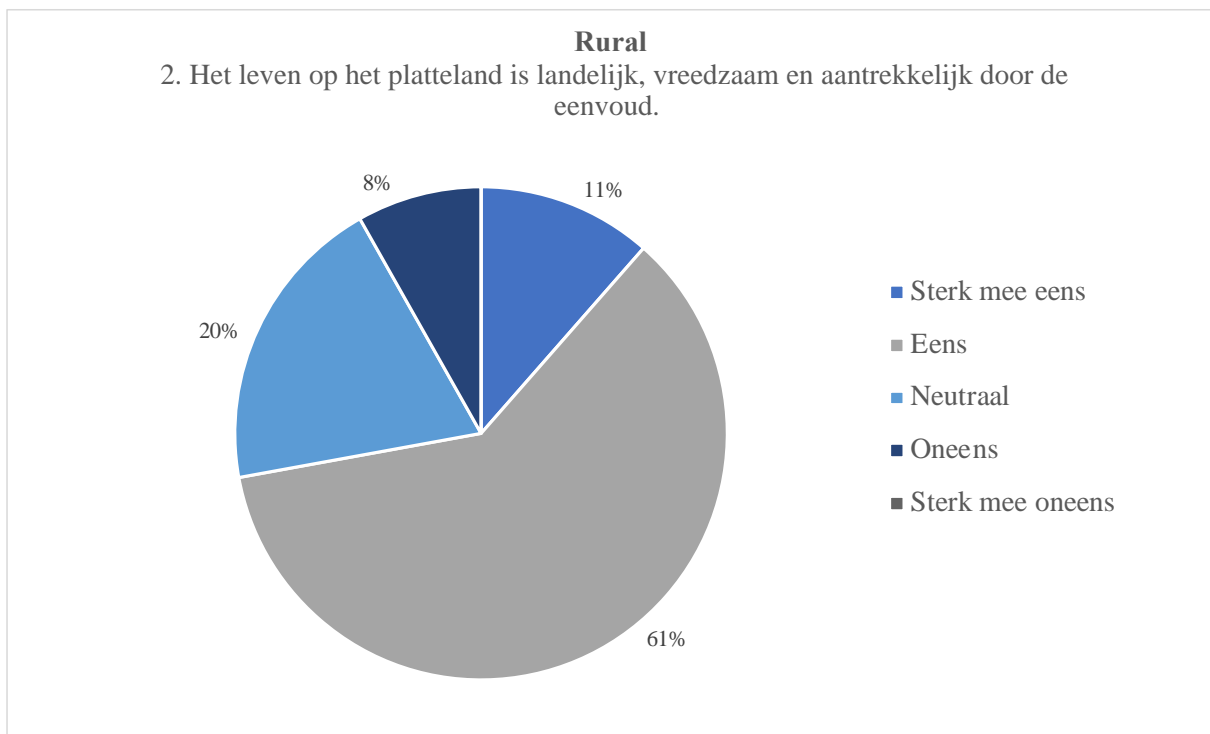
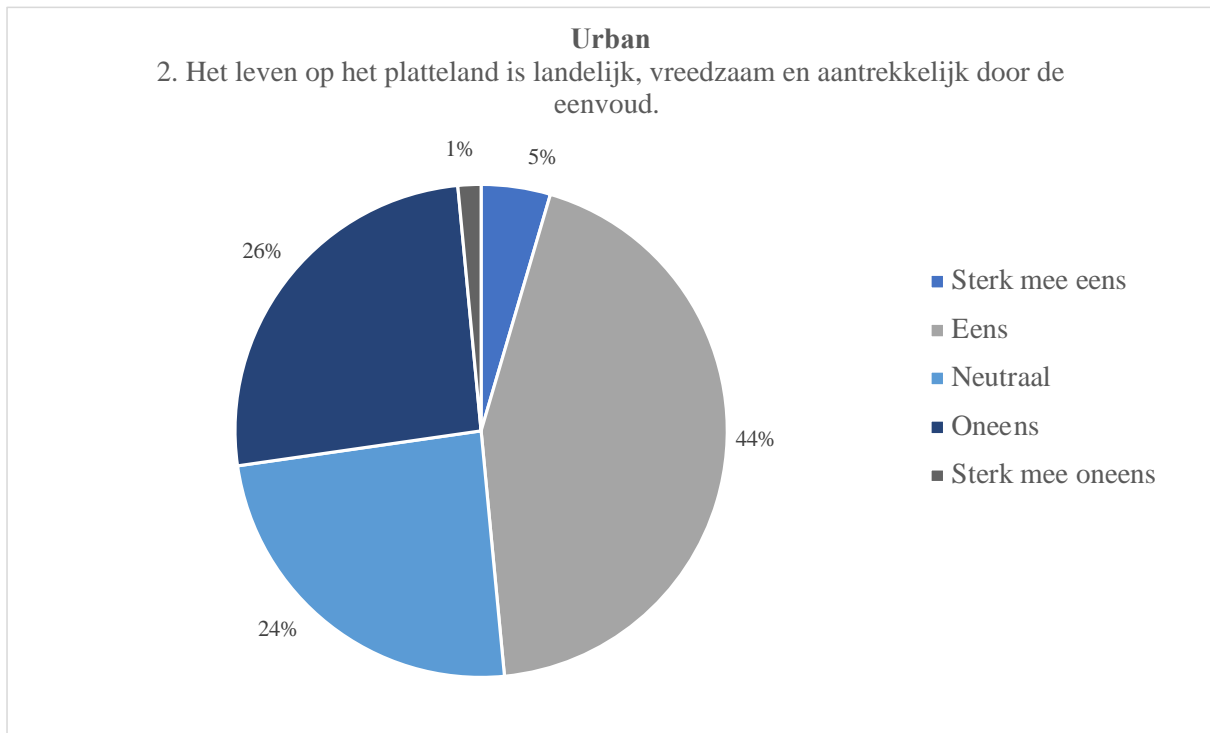


6. Het leven op het platteland is minder gehaast in vergelijking met de stad.

	Rural
Sterk mee eens	15
Eens	35
Neutraal	7
Oneens	4

6. Het leven op het platteland is minder gehaast in vergelijking met de stad.

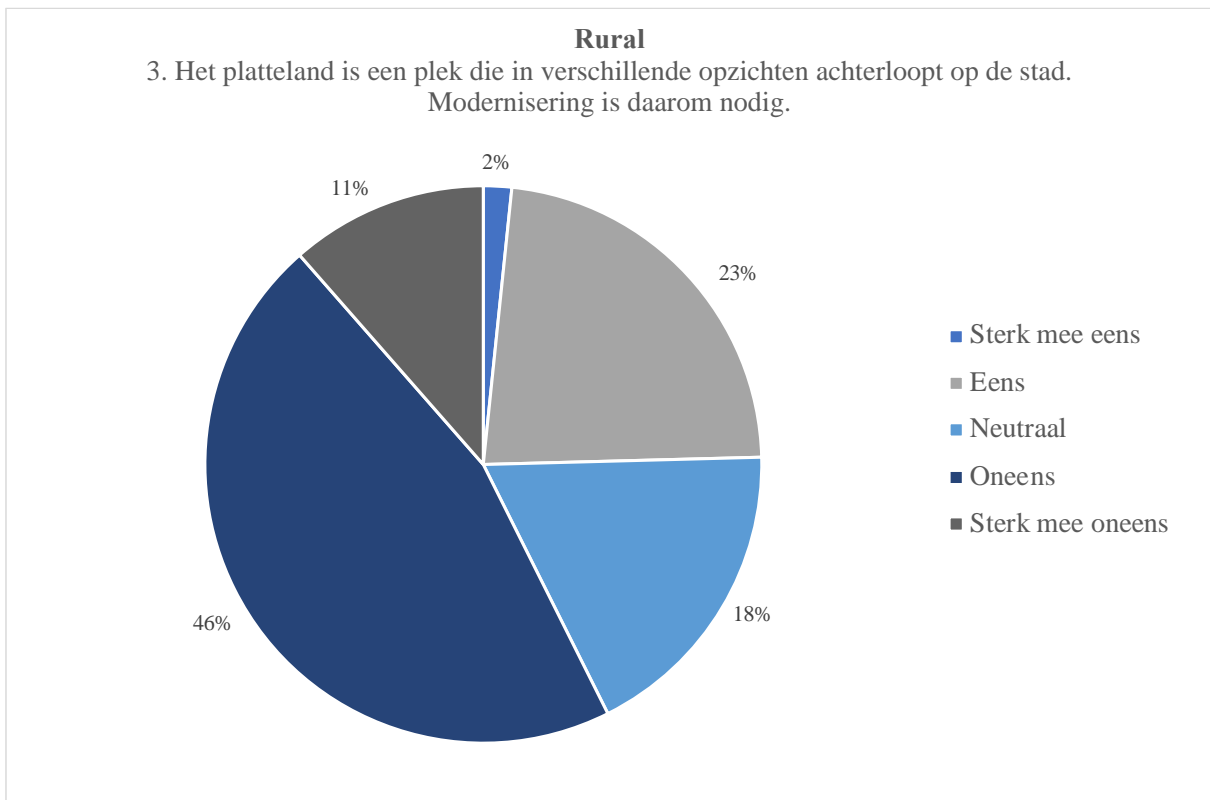
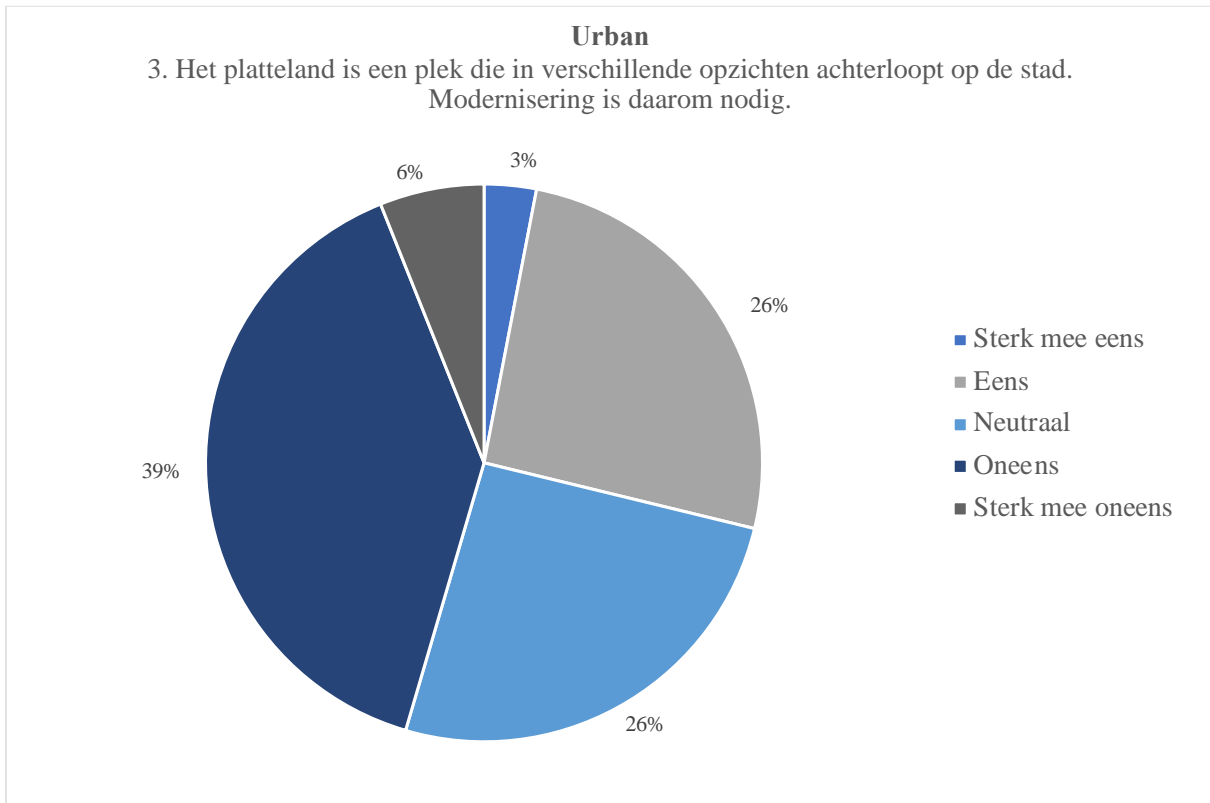
	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	15	8
<i>Eens</i>	35	39
<i>Neutraal</i>	7	15
<i>Oneens</i>	4	4
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	0	0



2. Het leven op het platteland is landelijk, vreedzaam en aantrekkelijk door de eenvoud.

	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	7	3
<i>Eens</i>	37	29
<i>Neutraal</i>	12	16

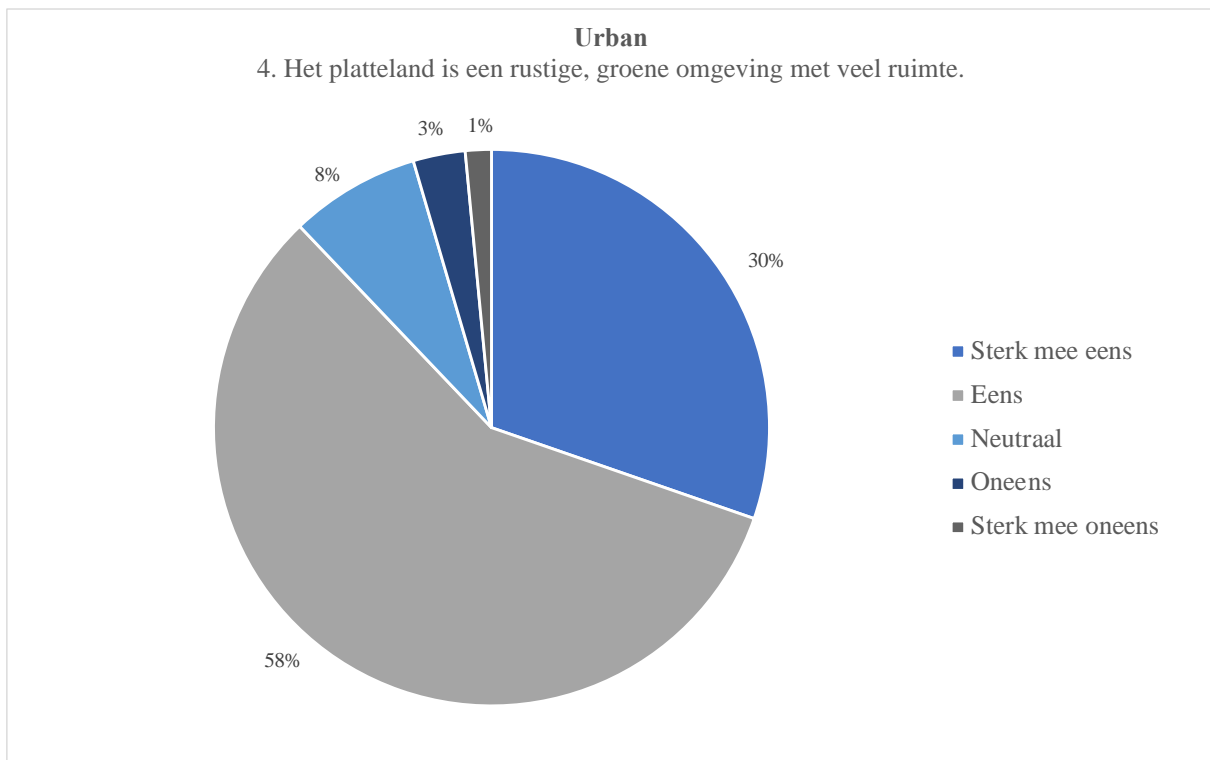
<i>Oneens</i>	5	17
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	0	1

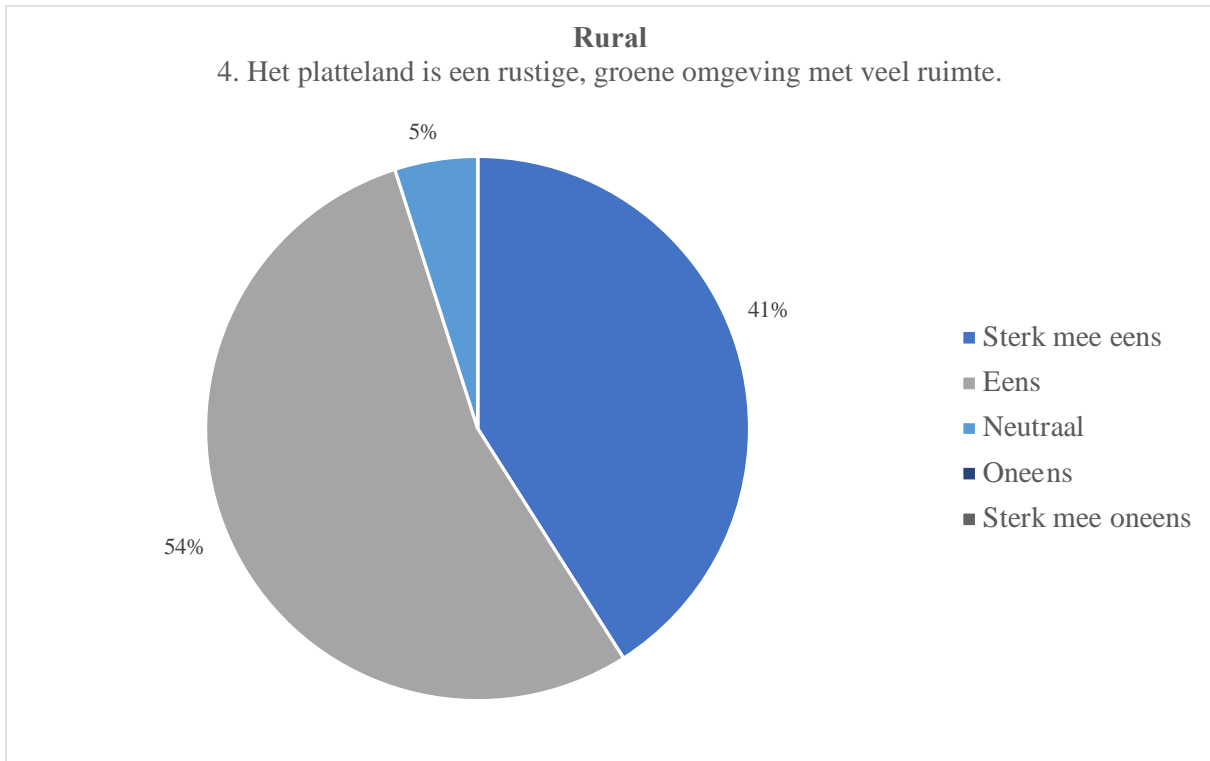


3. Het platteland is een plek die in verschillende opzichten achterloopt op de stad. Modernisering is daarom nodig.

	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	1	2
<i>Eens</i>	14	17
<i>Neutraal</i>	11	17
<i>Oneens</i>	28	26
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	7	4

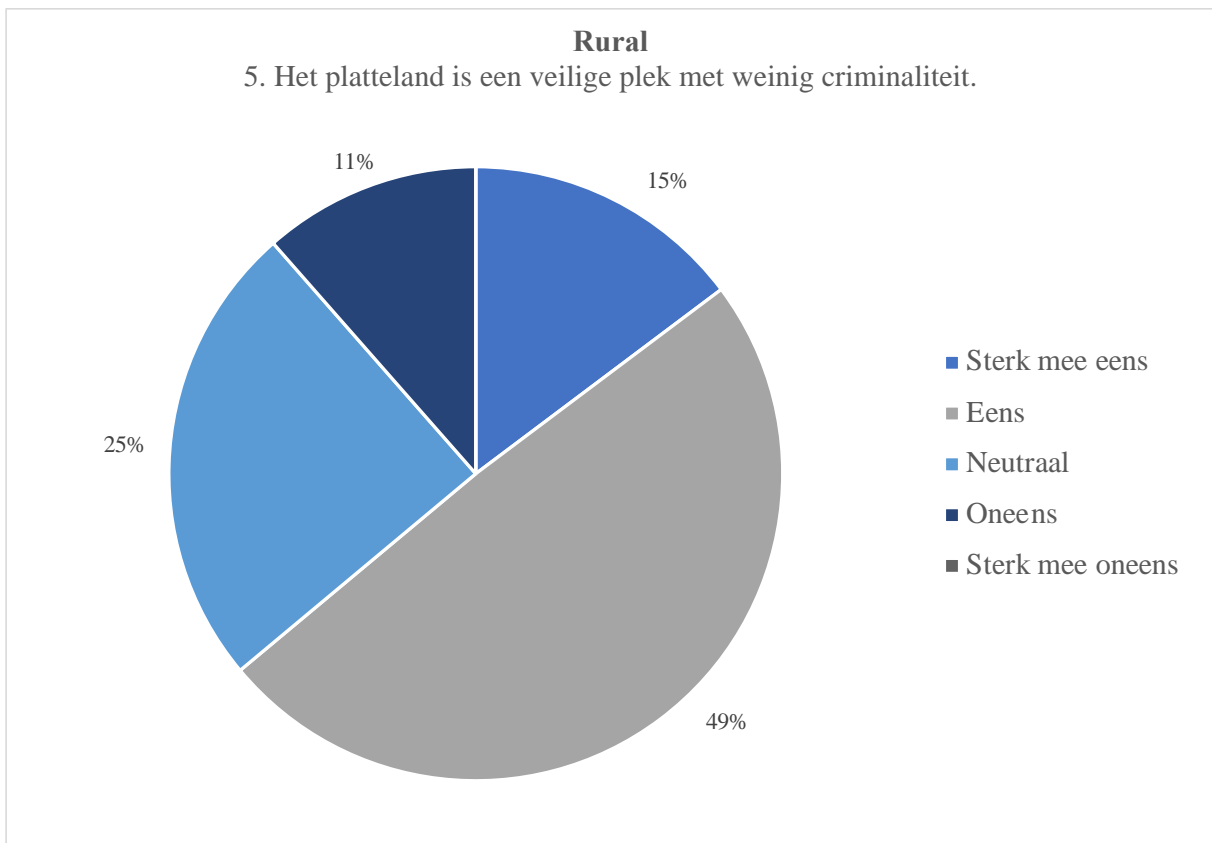
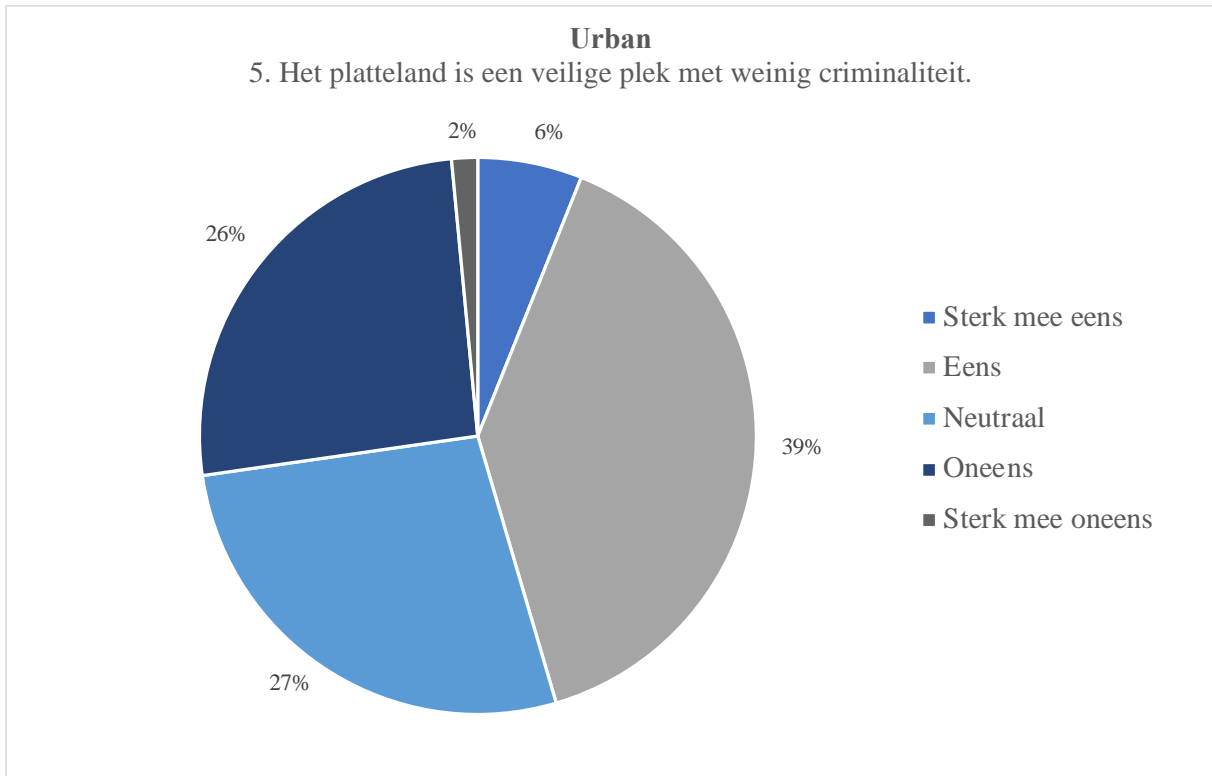
Gender	Frequency	%
Female	39	59,1
Male	27	40,9
Other	0	0





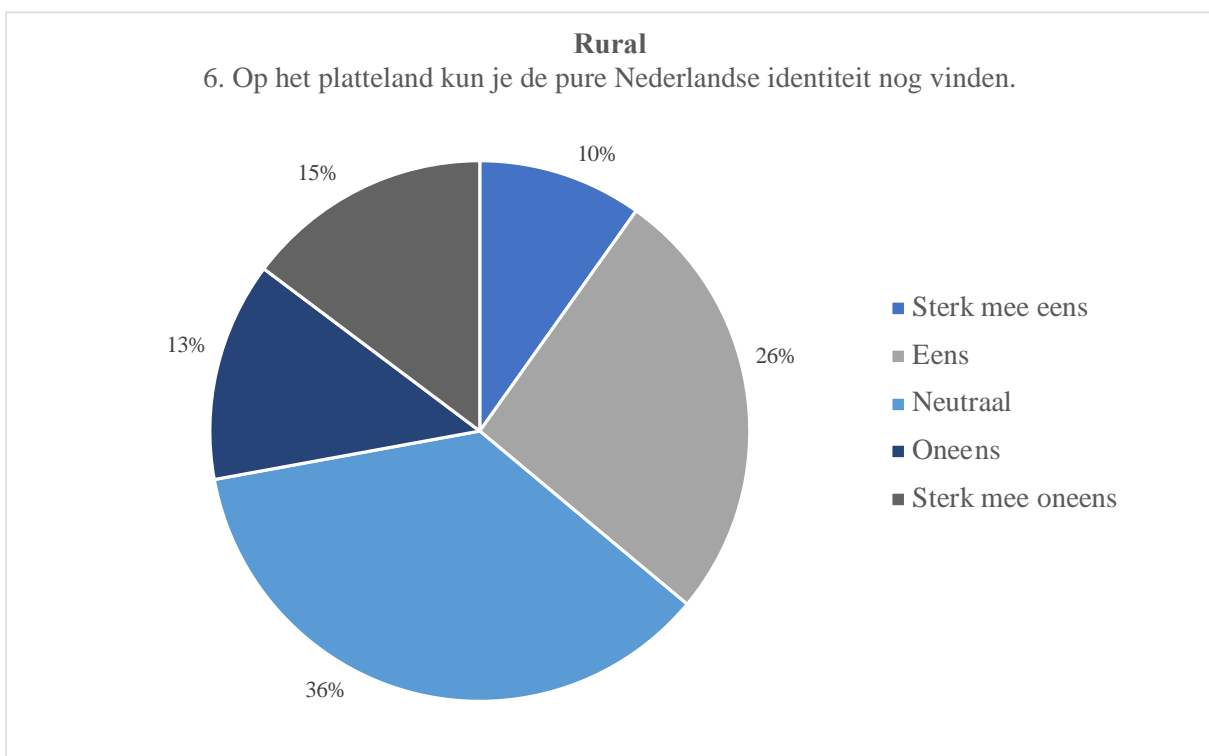
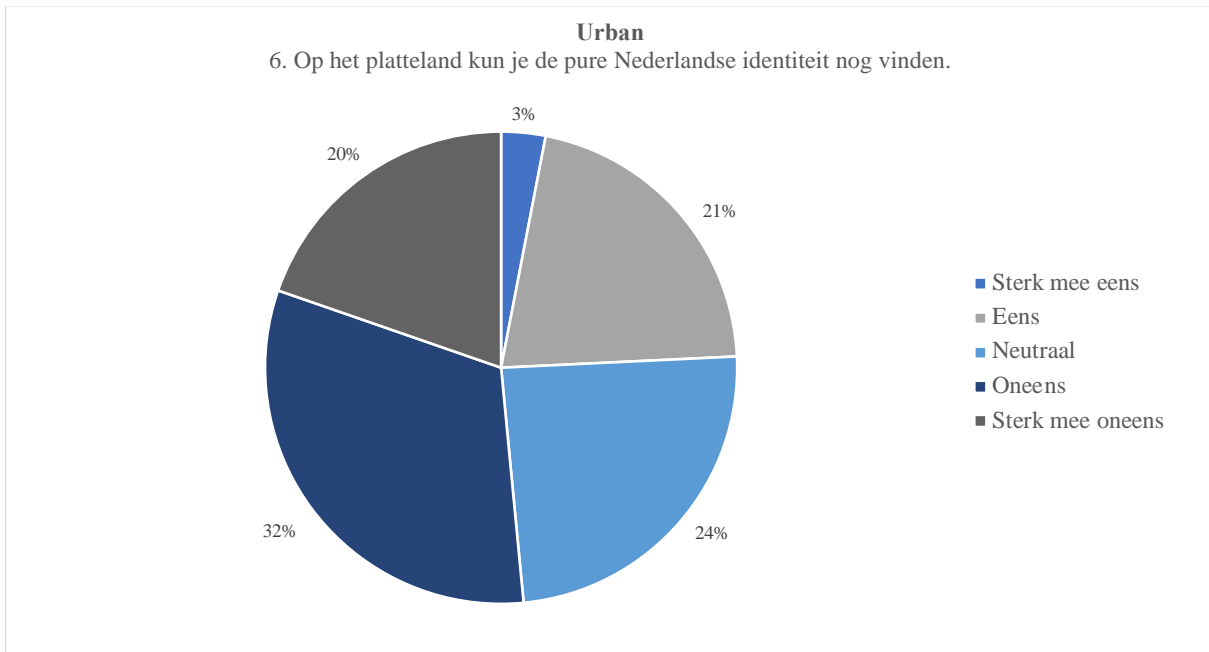
4. Het platteland is een rustige, groene omgeving met veel ruimte.

	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	25	20
<i>Eens</i>	33	38
<i>Neutraal</i>	3	5
<i>Oneens</i>	0	2
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	0	1



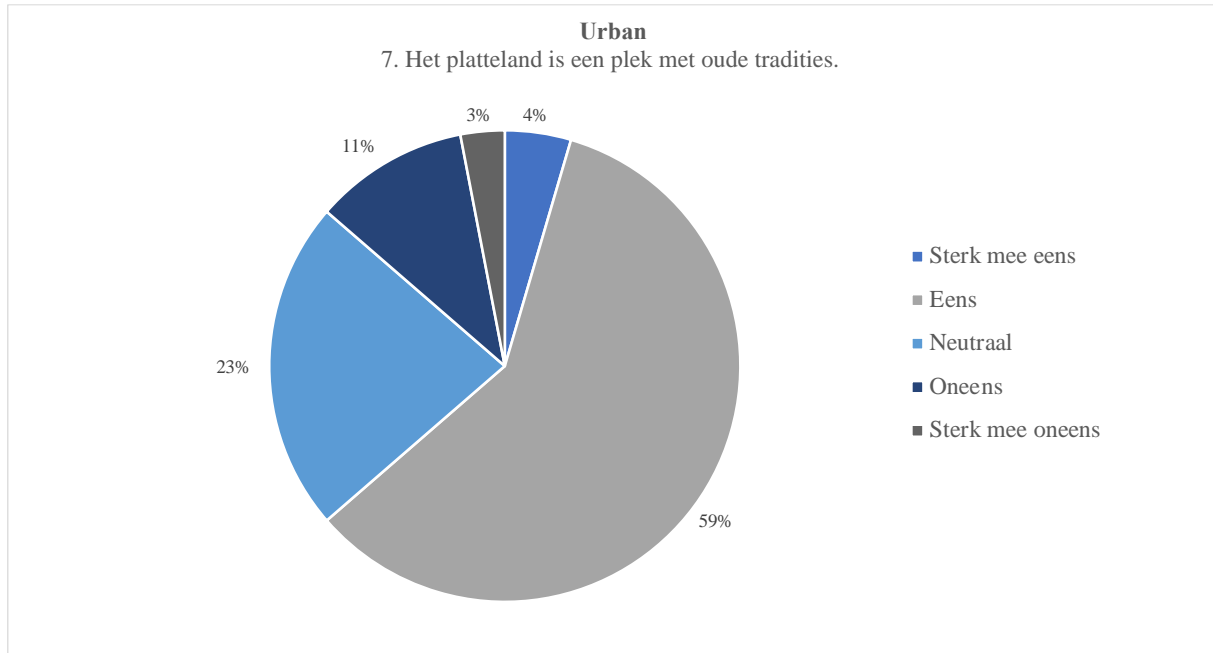
5. Het platteland is een vellige plek met weinig criminaliteit.

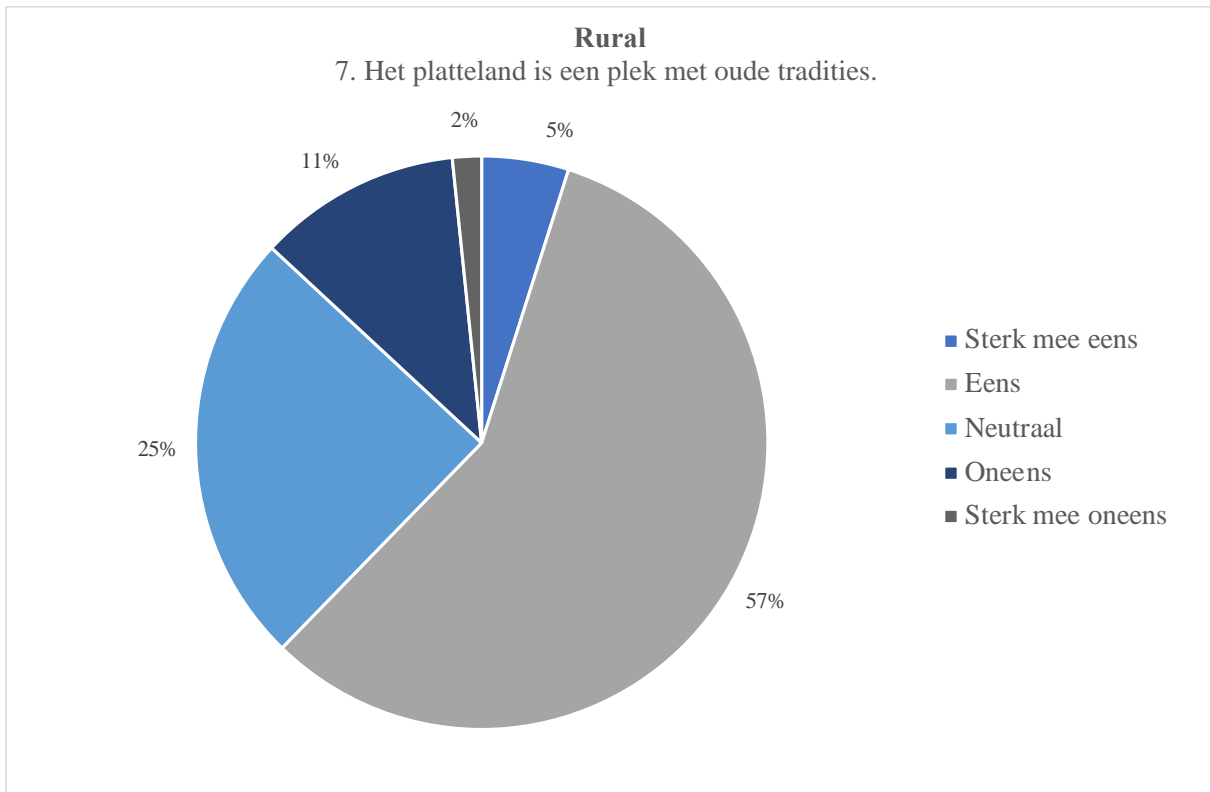
	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	9	4
<i>Eens</i>	30	26
<i>Neutraal</i>	15	18
<i>Oneens</i>	7	17
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	0	1



6. Op het platteland kun je de pure Nederlandse identiteit nog vinden.

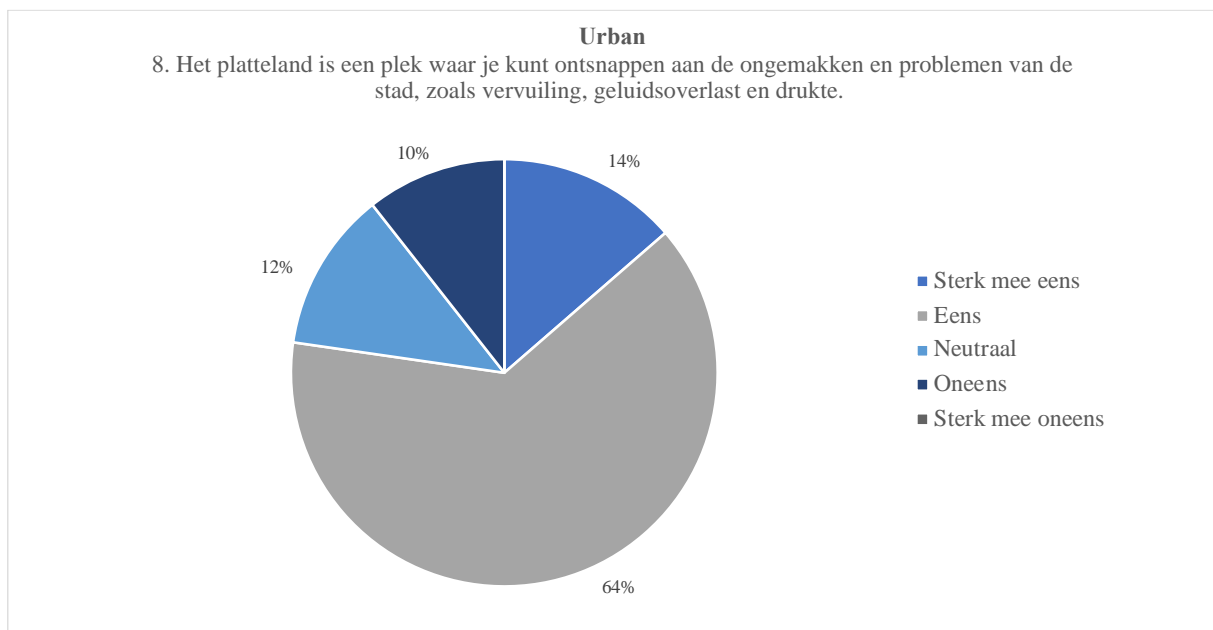
	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	6	2
<i>Eens</i>	16	14
<i>Neutraal</i>	22	16
<i>Oneens</i>	8	21
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	9	13

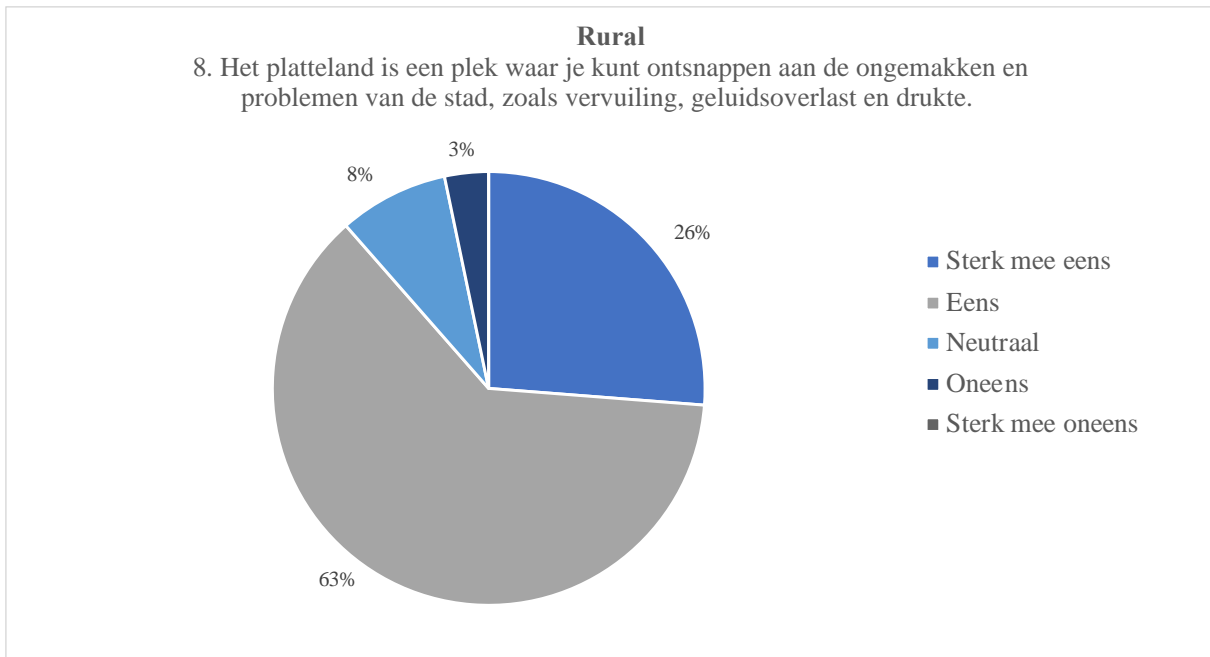




7. Het platteland is een plek met oude tradities.

	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	3	3
<i>Eens</i>	35	39
<i>Neutraal</i>	15	15
<i>Oneens</i>	7	7
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	1	2





8. Het platteland is een plek waar je kunt ontsnappen aan de ongemakken en problemen van de stad, zoals vervuiling, geluidsoverlast en drukte.

	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
<i>Sterk mee eens</i>	16	9
<i>Eens</i>	38	42
<i>Neutraal</i>	5	8
<i>Oneens</i>	2	7
<i>Sterk mee oneens</i>	0	0

Appendix 10: Calculation representativity sample

To test the representativeness of the sample, a single sample chi-square test has been used. This calculation is done by hand. The data that was used to perform this test was data from the sample in this research and data from CBS (CBS, 2022a). The CBS could provide the researcher with data from the different regions of Groningen. The researcher added all data from rural regions together, resulting in a database with data from only the region of the city of Groningen, and data from only the rural regions in Groningen. As mentioned earlier in the reflection chapter, it cannot be guaranteed that there is no data from areas of a different category within both the data of the rural regions and the urban region (i.e., a piece of data of a rural area within the data of the region of the city of Groningen). The sample data was added together. The rural and separate characteristics (age, gender, and level of education) were added together. This resulted in 3 tables in which the different 3 characteristics of the rural were shown. The same was done for the urban.

The database from the CBS was also separated by the characteristics age, gender, and level of education. This resulted in the table (1) below, where above the black line the results of the sample are visible and below the black line the results of the database of the CBS are shown:

SAMPLE									
Rural/education			Rural/age			Rural/Gender			
		%			%			%	
Hoger onderw	37	60,7	15-25	5	8,2	Female	30	49,2	
Middelbaar c	20	32,8	25-45	13	21,3	Male	30	49,2	
Lager onderv	4	6,6	45-...	43	70,5	Other	1	1,6	
Totaal	61		Totaal	61		Totaal	61		
<hr/>									
Urban/education			Urban/age			Urban/Gender			
		%			%			%	
Hoger onderw	40	61,5	15-25	24	36,9	Female	39	60	
Middelbaar c	24	36,9	25-45	16	24,6	Male	27	41,5	
Lager onderv	1	1,5	45-...	26	40	Other	0	0	
Totaal	65		Totaal	65		Totaal	65		
<hr/>									
CBS									
Rural/education			Rural/age			Rural/Gender			
		%			%			%	
Hoger onderw	70000	26,8	15-25	37000	14,2	Female	126000	48,7	
Middelbaar c	111000	42,5	25-45	71000	27,3	Male	133000	51,4	
Lager onderv	80000	30,7	45-...	152000	58,5	Other	0	0	
Totaal	261000		Totaal	260000		Totaal	259000		
<hr/>									
Urban/education			Urban/age			Urban/Gender			
		%			%			%	
Hoger onderw	88000	46,6	15-25	49000	25,9	Female	94000	49,7	
Middelbaar c	65000	34,4	25-45	70000	37	Male	95000	50,3	
Lager onderv	36000	19,1	45-...	70000	37	Other	0	0	
Totaal	189000		Totaal	189000		Totaal	189000		

Table 1 Used data for Chi Square test. In the top of the table the data from the sample is shown. Below the black line, the data from CBS is shown (CBS, 2022, a).

The researcher used three categories for gender, namely male, female, and other. However, CBS only used 2 categories: male or female. To be able to calculate the significance, the researcher decided to not include 'other' in the calculation. Among the 126 participants, there was 1 person who identified as 'other'. This person is not included in the calculation for significance with regard to gender.

To calculate the single sample chi-square test, the chi-square had to be calculated. Therefore, the following formula was used (Burt, et.al., 2009):

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

X^2 = Chi squared

O_i = Observed value

E_i = Expected value

The next step is to calculate the degrees of freedom (df). This is the number of rows - 1. In the case of education and age, there are three rows. This results in a df of 2. Because gender has only two rows (male and female), the calculation is 2 - 1. This results in a df of 1. The critical chi-square value for alpha is 5% and can be read in a chi-square distribution table by looking at the degrees of freedom and the probability level. In the case of education and age, this is 2 and 0.05. This results in a critical value of 5,991. In the case of education, this is 1 and 0.05, which results in a critical value of 3.841.

If the calculated chi-square value is higher than the critical value, the test is significant which means that there is a deviation between the sample and the population. If the chi-square value

is lower than the critical value, the test is not significant, there is no deviation between the sample and the population. The sample is representative.

The outcomes of the chi-square calculation with the critical value are shown in the tables (2, 3, and 4)

	Chi-square	Critical value	Significant?
Education Rural	38,9533578	5,991	Significant
Education Urban	13,6806262	5,991	Significant

Table 2 Values education Chi-square test

	Chi-square	Critical value	Significant?
Age Rural	3,87396841	5,991	Not significant
Age Urban	5,78961039	5,991	Not significant

Table 3 Values age Chi-square test

	Chi-square	Critical value	Significant?
Gender Rural	0,05953408	3,841	Not significant
Gender Urban	2,31071465	3,841	Not significant

Table 4 Values gender Chi-square test

In the table, it is shown that the chi-square is higher than the critical value concerning the education within the urban and rural regions. The test is significant, there is a deviation between the sample and the population. The test is not representative.

With regard to age and gender in both regions, the chi-square is lower than the critical value. This means that the test is not significant and that there is no deviation between the sample and the population. The test is representative.