

Sustaining rural services and infrastructure

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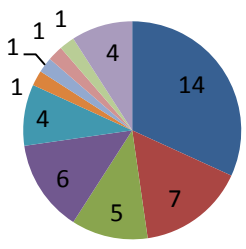
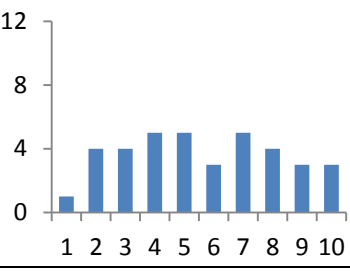
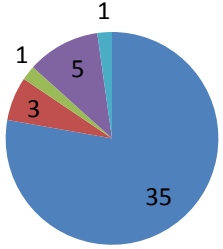
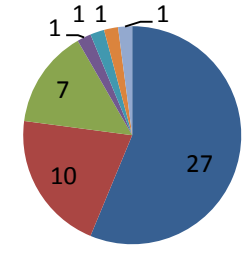
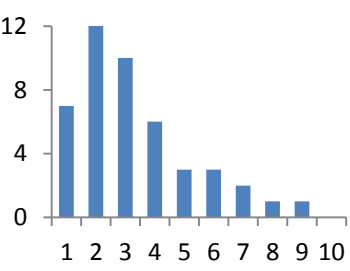
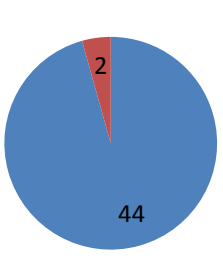
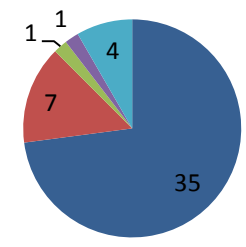
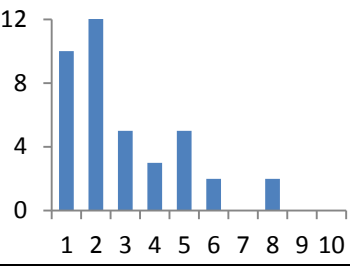
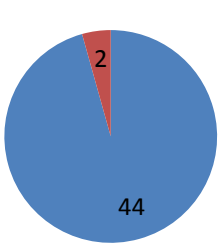
We did receive 48 answers from all regions of Latvia. Detailed answers can be seen in excel form, here are conclusions/wrapped up answers.

1. Infrastructure

Which of the following types of infrastructure are important in your rural community? Please rank in order of importance

Type of infrastructure	Please rank in order of importance from 1 to 10 (1 – very important; 10 – minimal importance)	In general terms what are the condition, sustainability and access to each in your rural community? (1 –in good condition and available; 10 – not available or in so bad condition that is not usable)	Please state who is the MAIN provider of the infrastructure: central Government, members of the community or another provider?
Drinking Water supplies			<p>Mainly in the villages/centres municipality, outside the centres (single homesteads).</p>

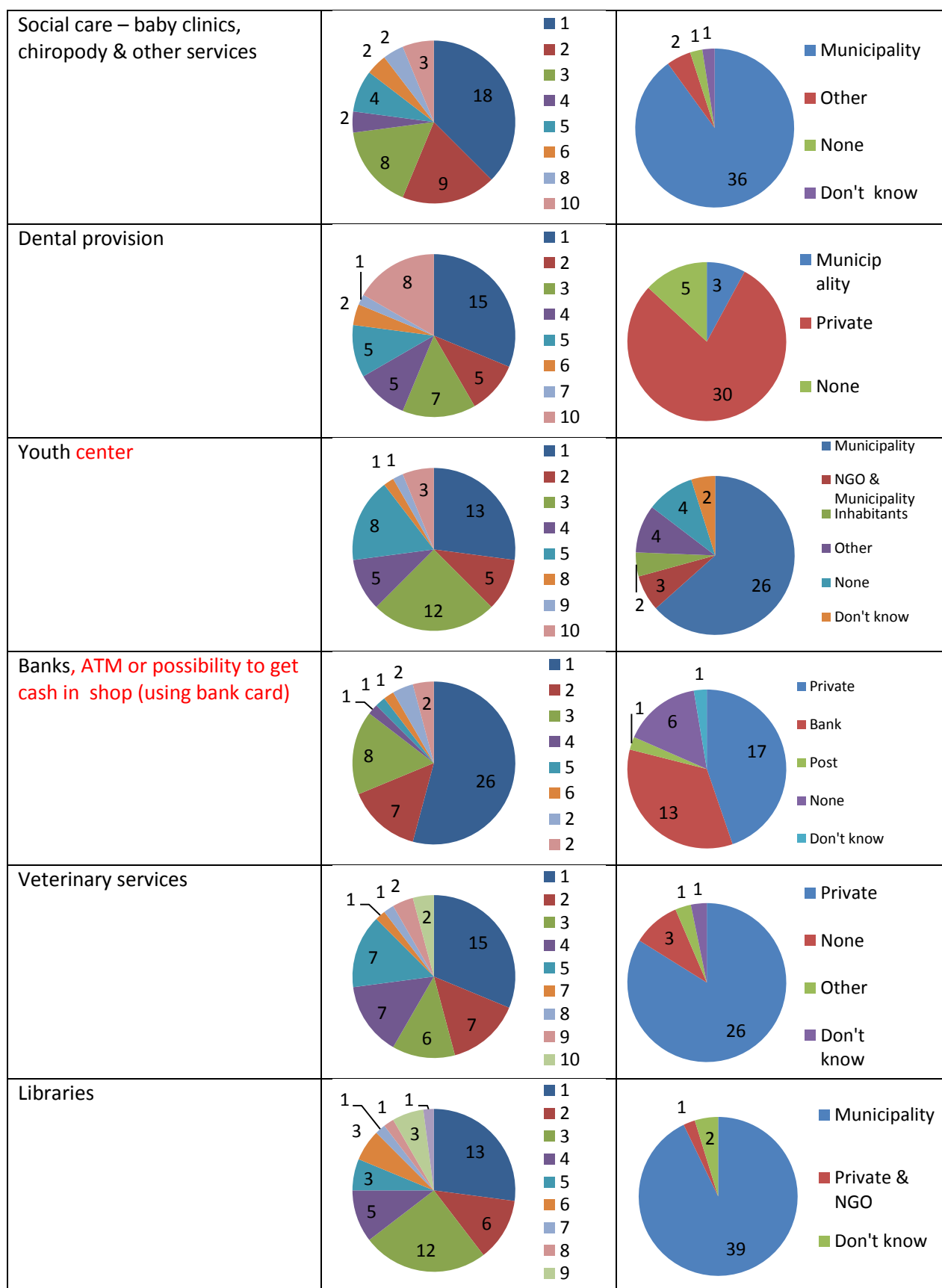
Irrigation Water supplies	<p>1 2 3 10</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Municipality Private</p>
Electricity supplies	<p>1 2 3 10</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Company (private or state owned) Private No electricity</p>
Sewerage provision	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Municipality Private</p> <p>Mainly in the villages/centres municipality, outside the centres (single homesteads).</p>
Public lighting	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>Municipality No lights Private Don't know</p>
Roads	<p>1 2 10</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p>	<p>Municipality Municipality and state Other</p> <p>In Latvia there are State and Municipality (also local private) roads maintained by different companies, municipalities etc.</p>
Transport			

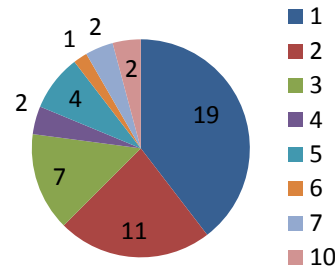
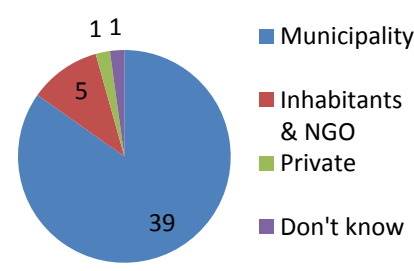
Pavements			
Internet			
Telecommunications			
Rural economy related infrastructure (banks, markets and business facilities which could include cold storage and milk collection)			
<p>We would be interested to know of providers other than the MAIN provider as well as any other comments you wish to make.</p> <p>Mainly services are located in the villages/centres municipality, outside the centres (single homesteads), supported by municipality</p>			

2. Rural Services

Which of the following services are important in your rural community?

Rural Services	Please rank in order of importance from 1-12 (1 – very important; 10 – minimal importance)	Please state who is the main provider of the service: central Government, members of the community or another provider?
Education facilities – infant, kindergarten		
Education facilities –primary and secondary school		
Education facilities – higher education and university		
Health – Doctor and hospitals		
Shops		



Place to meet (village or community hall or centre)		
<p>Other service</p> <p>What service would be needed, but you don't receive it (How far is the one you use now)?</p> <p>None – 6</p> <p>School (10km) – 2</p> <p>Good roads – 5</p> <p>Cycling and pedestrian roads by main roads – 2</p> <p>Cleaning the roads from snow</p> <p>ATM (35 km, 20km, 8km) – 5</p> <p>Bank (50km, 80km, 91 km) – 3</p> <p>Youth activities in villages – 1</p> <p>Youth centre (30km) – 1</p> <p>Sport base (15km, 30km) – 2</p> <p>Concerts (27km) – 1</p> <p>Community hall (25km) - 2</p> <p>Shop (25km) - 1</p> <p>Library (25km) - 1</p> <p>Petrol Station (40km) – 1</p> <p>Police (30km, 40km) – 2</p> <p>Dentist (20km, 20km, 30km, 30km, 40km) – 5</p> <p>Family doctor - 4</p> <p>Vet (40km) – 2</p> <p>Physiotherapist (50km) – 1</p> <p>Other comments:</p> <p>Almost all services are in the village centres, or often cities. Almost nothing is available in single homesteads (almost no mobile services).</p> <p>One stop agencies were not created systematic and according to inhabitant and entrepreneurs needs, but technically created differently in each sector with no synergies and needs.</p>		
3. In general terms are services equally distributed, sustainable and accessible in your rural communities?		Yes or No?

<p>4. Where within the structure of the settlement are services generally located?</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Village centre</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City centre</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Different locations</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Count	Village centre	23	City centre	22	Different locations	2	Other	1
Location	Count										
Village centre	23										
City centre	22										
Different locations	2										
Other	1										
<p>5. What main factor inhibits the better provision or threatens the future viability of rural services and infrastructure?</p>	<p>Population in rural areas decreasing (critically in border areas, mainly moving to cities, abroad)– 21</p> <p>Bad road infrastructure (decreasing mobility) – 12</p> <p>Lack of financial resources - 6</p> <p>Low paying capacity in rural areas– 5</p> <p>Public transport in rural areas - 2</p> <p>Passive inhabitants to take part in the municipalities actions– 3</p> <p>Political decisions – 3</p> <p>Location far from the centres, customers - 2</p> <p>No job places in rural areas– 1</p> <p>Increasing costs of services – 1</p> <p>Tax policy – 1</p> <p>Interest from municipality to cooperate with active inhabitants -1</p> <p>Local government can't engage in the provision of services -1</p> <p>Passive municipalities actions to support entrepreneurship - 1</p> <p>Cooperation – 1</p> <p>Quality of services in rural areas – 1</p>										
<p>6. What main factor favours the provision, viability and improvement of rural services and infrastructure?</p>	<p>Increasing population (incl. professionals)– 7</p> <p>Good road infrastructure – 6</p> <p>Financial support (EU funds) for support for infrastructure and services– 6</p> <p>Initiatives form active inhabitants supported by municipality – 6</p> <p>Interested and open for cooperation municipalities - 5</p> <p>Cooperation – 4</p> <p>Decreasing costs of services - 3</p> <p>Changing tax policy – 3</p> <p>More working places in rural areas – 3</p> <p>Support for youth in rural areas - 2</p> <p>Nothing would help - 2</p> <p>Marketing – 2</p> <p>Development of enrepreneuersip- 1</p> <p>Higher salaries in rural areas – 1</p> <p>Higher and more dense population – 1</p> <p>Change of mind-set of politicians (to support rural areas) – 1</p> <p>Business libraries as community centres – 1</p> <p>Developing tourism - 1</p> <p>Different – 1</p>										

For the Country lead organisation:

Please provide the information below together with your summary of the information collected in Questions 1 to 6 above.

A. Settlements	Please state the % of population for each of these settlements in your Country?	Do you regard this category of settlement as rural? Please state yes or no
Cities (Riga)	639 630	No
Large towns (8 regional importance)	373316	No
Other towns Small town sometimes called a Market town	326781	Yes
Villages	629 230	Yes
Scattered residences/hamlet		Yes
State other		
Total	1 968 957	

Note that for the purposes of this survey a small town or village should not have a population of more than £10,000.

Other comments:

B. Please provide case studies and examples, positive and negative, in provision of infrastructure and rural services. If appropriate, please name the project and donors if any.

Mobile care complex provide help in rural areas - Samaritan Association of Latvia has created 6 specially equipped vehicles which provide mobile care services. These vehicles have an autonomous power generator, shower with warm and cold water, a toilet, gas stove, washing machine, refrigerator, and specialized equipment for cutting hair and for foot care. This project is quite unique in Europe, with the creation of these vehicles it has enabled us to bring the service to the people and not the people to the services.

Video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13NdcRsJleI>

C. What does your analysis imply for future action by rural people, service providers, governments and the European institutions?

- More on this already answered in points No 5 and 6;
- Understanding of services that are needed for comfortable living is the same for all people in rural areas (it doesn't differ based on the size or distance from the city);
- Mainly the needed services are general (not for special target group or interests) – this comes as first need, afterwards just special interests, like those supporting entrepreneurship, diversifying of services etc.