



# TERRITORIAL DIVIDES OF TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Webinar

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# Objectives

**1) Provide a diagnostic of the territorial divides in trust in government across OECD countries.**

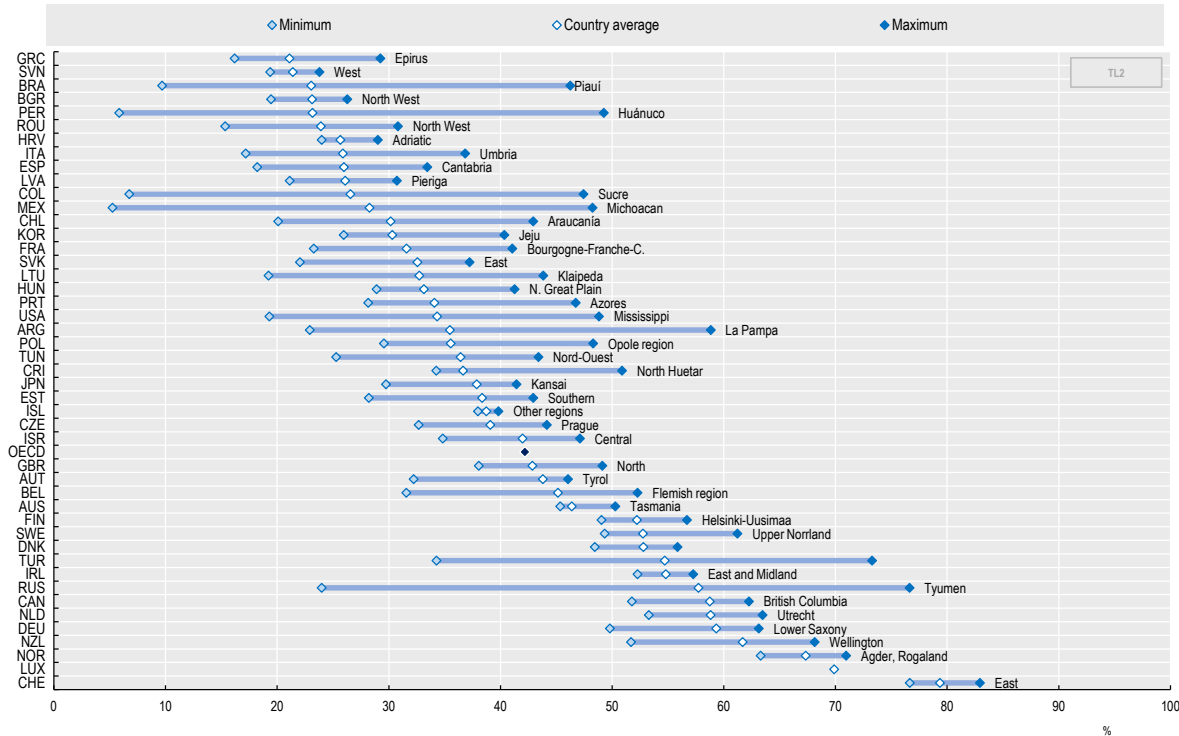
- ✓ The picture can vary quite significantly across countries.
- ✓ We also need to suggest ways forward to better measure the local and regional drivers of trust in government across countries

**2) Explore policy solutions** to bridge the trust divide across territories, notably among urban and rural areas



# Striking territorial divides

## Regional disparities in confidence in the national government



## Confidence in the national government, average 2014-2018

Note: Confidence in the government refers to the share of population aged 18+ who declare that they have confidence in the national government.  
Source: OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020, OECD estimates based on Gallup World Poll



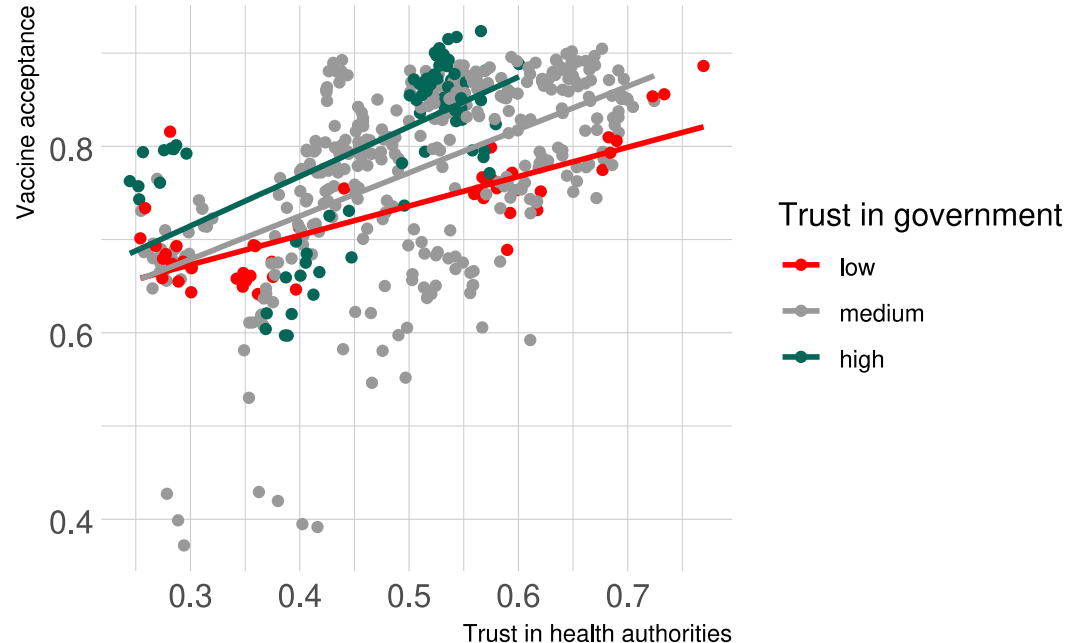
# Trust in government (TL2 regions) & COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccine acceptance increases with trust in health authorities and government

Note: Estimates for trust in health authorities and vaccine acceptance are calculated for TL2 regions on the basis of answers from respondents who declared they had not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine at the time of the survey during 2021-Q1. Trust in government is only available at the national level so each TL2 region is assigned the national average.

Source: Own elaboration based on data from OECD (2021), Trust in government (indicator) (Accessed on 22 June 2021) and COVID-19 World Symptom Survey Data API <https://covidmap.umd.edu/api.html>

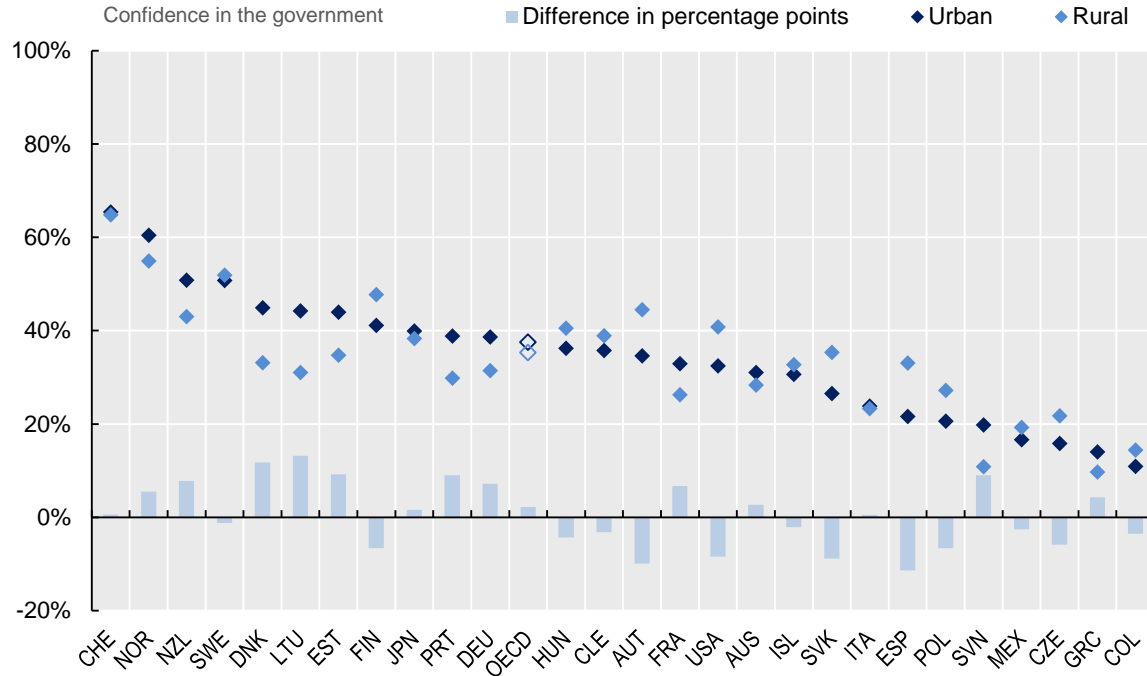
Source: Trust in government: understanding its territorial divides (OECD, forthcoming)





# The geography of trust

## Urban-rural divides in confidence in the national government



Confidence in the national government, by urban-rural group, average 2017-2020

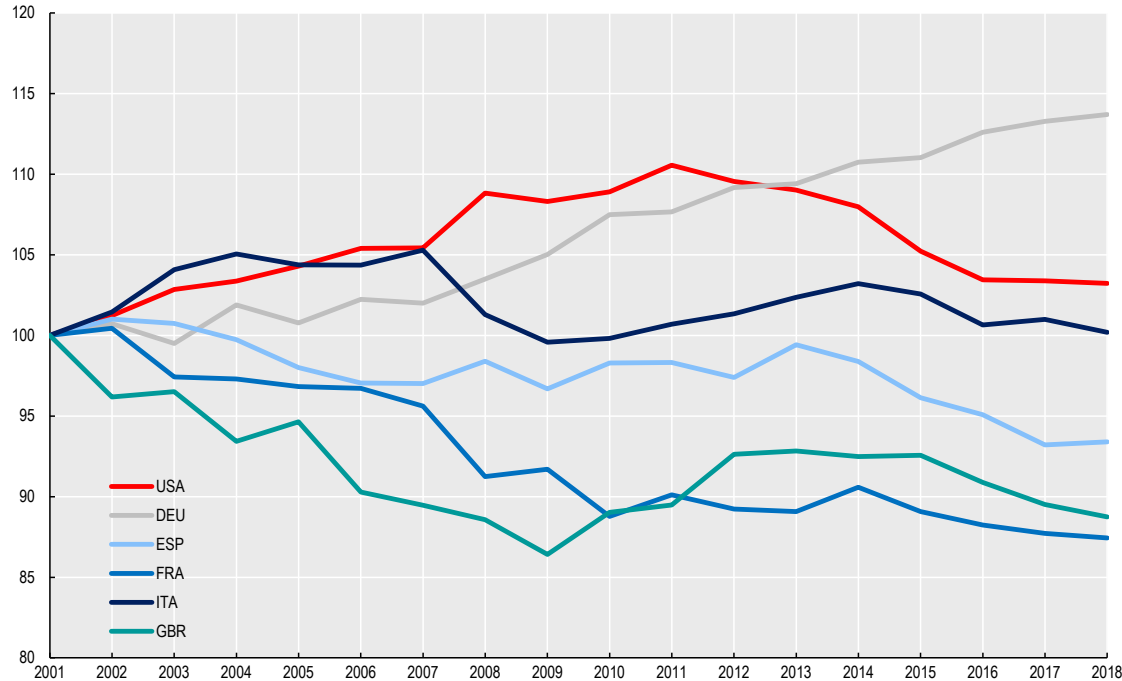
Source: OECD calculations based on World Values Survey (WVS) Wave 7, 2017-2020



# Long-term economic decline

## Remote regions have not converged towards metro regions' GDP per capita

Remote region share of metro region GDP, USD per head, constant prices, constant PPP, base year 2015, Index 2001=100



Remote regions share of metro regions GDP, USD per head, constant prices, constant PPP, base year 2015, Index 2001=100.

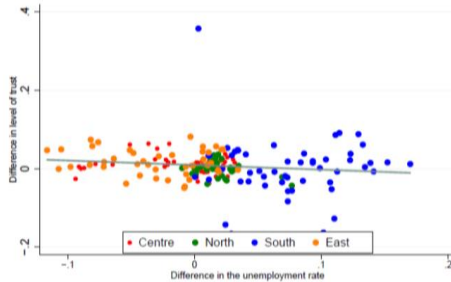
Note: Remote regions corresponds to regions remote from cities, metro regions corresponds to regions with a large or very large city.  
Source: OECD Regional Statistics, Regional Economy, Economic indicators by access to city typology, Country level



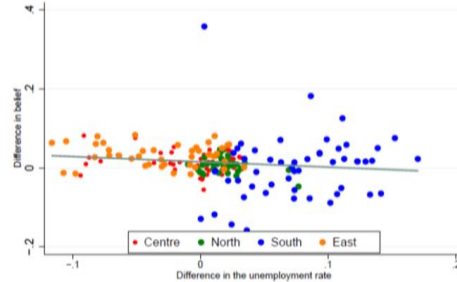
# Labour market outcomes

Labour market outcomes are strong predictors of changes in trust, EU

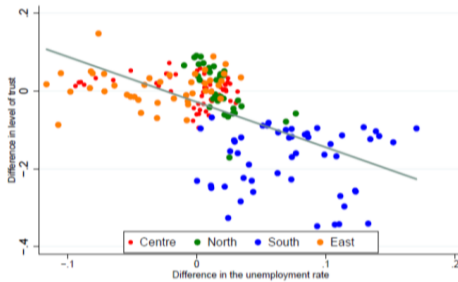
a) Difference in trust towards other people and difference in total unemployment, before and after the crisis



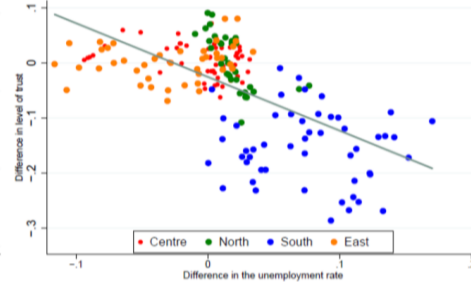
b) Difference in belief that other people are helpful and difference in total unemployment, before and after the crisis



c) Difference in trust in the national parliament and difference in total unemployment, before and after the crisis



d) Difference in trust in politicians and difference in total unemployment, before and after the crisis



Difference in trust and total unemployment, before and after the Great Recession, TL2 regions

Source: Yann Algan, Sergei Guriev, Elias Papaioannou and Evgenia Passari, The European trust crisis and the rise of populism, EBRD Working Papers (2018)



# Limitations and avenues for future research

## Data limitations

- The comparability across empirical studies on the drivers of trust in regions is limited
- We lack comparative data on regional divides in trust in government

## Need for more cross-country and disaggregated data

- Extend geographical information retrieved through the OECD Trust Survey, e.g. the degree of urbanisation
- Leverage complementary sources of microdata, e.g. the Facebook COVID-19 World Survey Open Data

## Need to focus on policy solutions and MLG frameworks

- Particular focus on regions in long-term decline





# THANK YOU!

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