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# ATTITUDES OF POPULATION TOWARDS THEIR WELLBEING AND CLIMATE CHANGE INTERFACE: TERRITORIAL DIMENSION

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### Introduction

This paper discloses wellbeing and climate change interface issue what becomes a challenge in many countries of the world. Attitudes of population about their wellbeing and how it is related with climate change is still developing topic in social sciences. Wellbeing of population is affected by various factors, both positive and negative, but impact of climate change is growing and affects various spheres of human life, despite where they live. Accordingly, the research problem was formulated - how wellbeing evaluations of Lithuanian population are related to climate change?

### Research Aim

This article aims to disclose wellbeing perception of the Lithuanian population in the context of climate change based on the territorial dimension.

### Materials and Methods

There were used such research methods: literature analysis and synthesis, descriptive analysis, comparative method, statistical methods (Pearson Correlation coefficient), graphic representation. In order to evaluate the wellbeing interface with climate change issue the data from European Social Survey the Round 8 (2016 year) and Round 9 (2018 year) were used. The research is based on the respondents' attitudes towards such questions: *In general, are you satisfied with your current life? In general, are you happy? Questions related to climate change in ESS Round 8 (2016 year): How worried about climate change? To what extent feel personal responsibility to reduce climate change? Question/statement related to nature and environment in ESS Round 9 (2018 year): Important to care for nature and environment.*

### Results

Personal responsibility to reduce climate change according to the place of residence is indeed important for those who score higher, no matter where they live. In all residential areas, respondents mostly scored 5-8 points. Those who said "A great deal" when they feel personal responsibility to reduce climate change were mostly in Town and small city, and those who said "Not at all" were mostly in cities. However, it was also noticed that in most place of residence 0-4 points was indicated by a significant number of respondents. This allows to state that the place of residence and the environment are important for those respondents who tend to act in a way that seeks to mitigate climate change possibly due to their overall wellbeing (Table 1).

Data analysis revealed that both in Round 8 and in Round 9, there were more respondents who were more satisfied with life than dissatisfied. In both Rounds, more respondents rated their satisfaction with life at 7-9 scores. This suggests that due to various factors, people view their lives positively enough, no matter where they live (Figure 1).

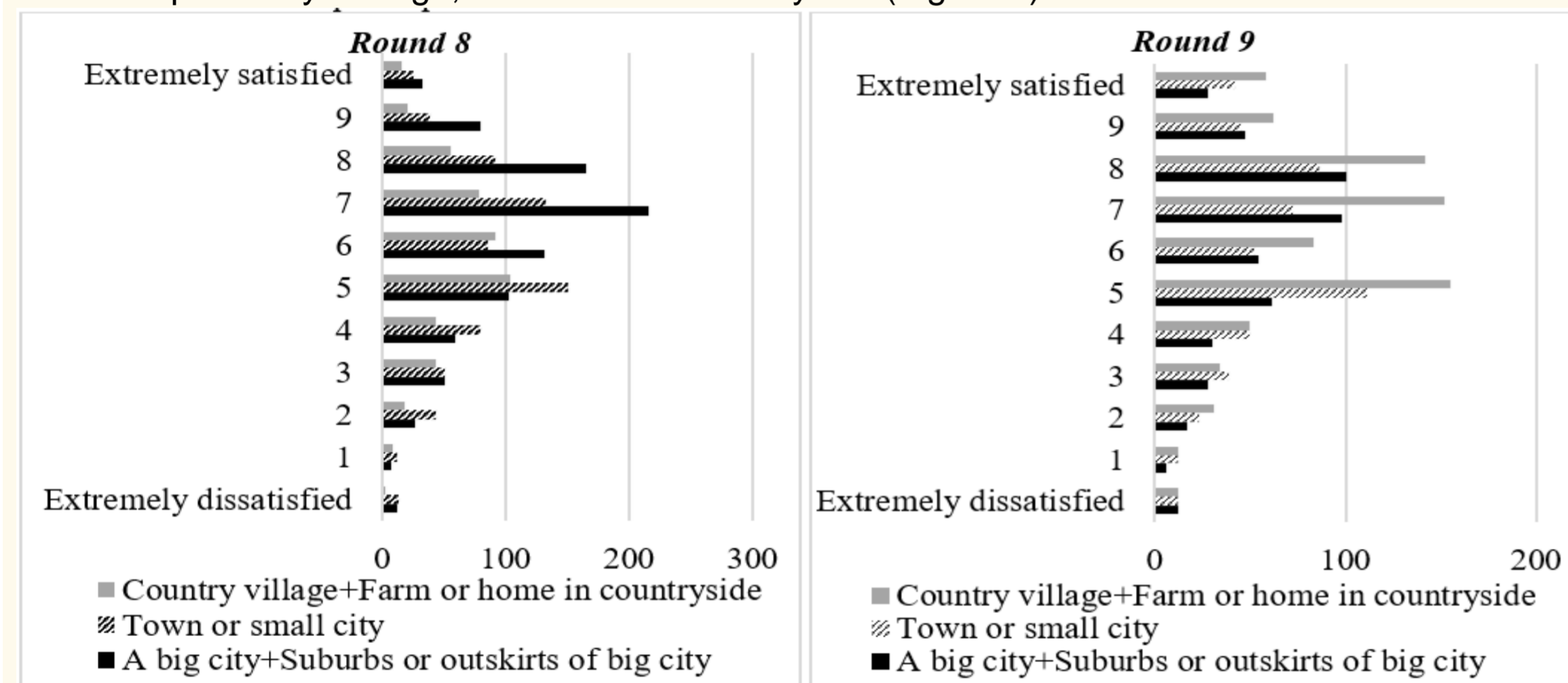


Figure 1. Respondents opinion about how they are satisfied with life as a whole according to place of residence (in scores)

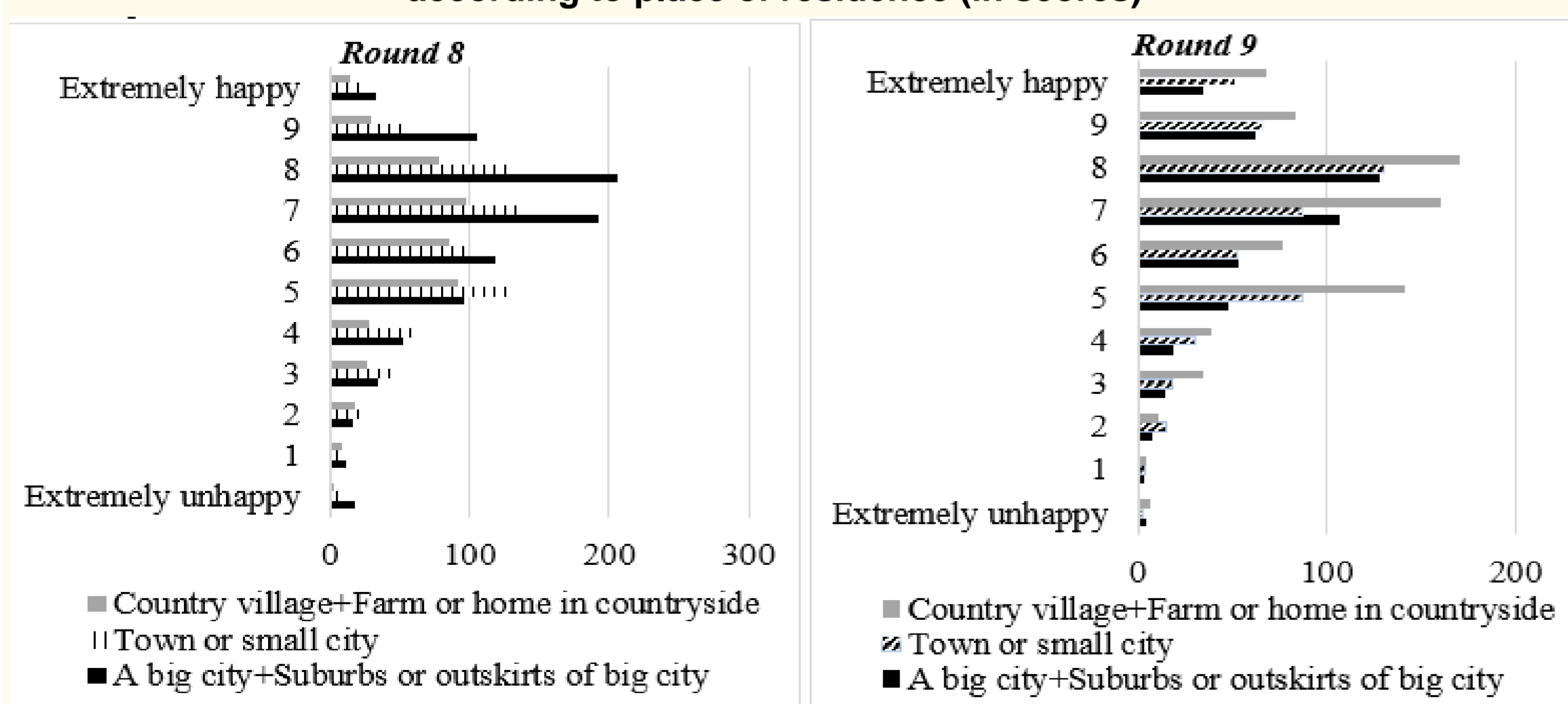


Figure 2. Respondents opinion about how they are happy according to place of residence (in scores)

Data about the attitude to personal happiness (Figure 2) are also more positive than negative. In both Rounds, we see that respondents indicated a high enough score of 7 or 8. Although happiness is more associated with emotions and positive events at some point in life, the results suggest that residents may feel happy living in both city, town or rural areas.

### Conclusions:

- The interface between human wellbeing, subjective health and climate change following territorial dimension is little studied, so this becomes an opportunity to learn more about these phenomena by focusing on a territorial approach and other human related factors.
- Research results disclosed that perception of wellbeing and its evaluations in relation to climate change were mostly positive in ESS Round 8 and varies on average between 7 and 9 scores, while correlation between wellbeing and climate change variables is very weak. The links between wellbeing and health were significant for respondents, regardless of where the respondents lived, but the aspects of health and wellbeing are still largely missing in big international research or assessed inconsistently as observed in the ESS case. It was found that around 80 percent of respondents explored that their wellbeing is linked to a positive attitude towards nature and environment. These data showed that while respondents tend to care about the environment, it still seems difficult to link environmental change and its possible impact on climate change. This is largely due to the need to raise human environmental awareness.

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Table 1  
Respondents attitude to what extent they feel personal responsibility to reduce climate change according to place of residence (in scores)

Evaluation (scores)	A big city+Suburbs or outskirts of big city	Town or small city	Country village+Farm or home in countryside	Total
	Not at all	54	43	22
1	59	34	25	118
2	68	43	34	145
3	78	48	47	173
4	84	39	31	154
5	129	106	76	311
6	102	80	57	239
7	84	103	56	243
8	44	76	34	154
9	15	34	7	56
A great deal	29	38	17	84
Total	746	644	406	1796

Distribution of respondents' attitude shows that there were more worried than not worried about the climate change. Equally 27 percent of living in cities and towns pointed that they tend to be more concerned about climate change. In rural areas were 16 percent of such respondents. So far, such assessments suggest that until a person personally feels the effects of climate change, their attitude towards climate change is indifferent, or he / she does not know what effect it is feeling. However, most who are aware of the impact of climate change on society realize that it is everyone's priority and responsibility to care for nature and the living environment (Figure 3).

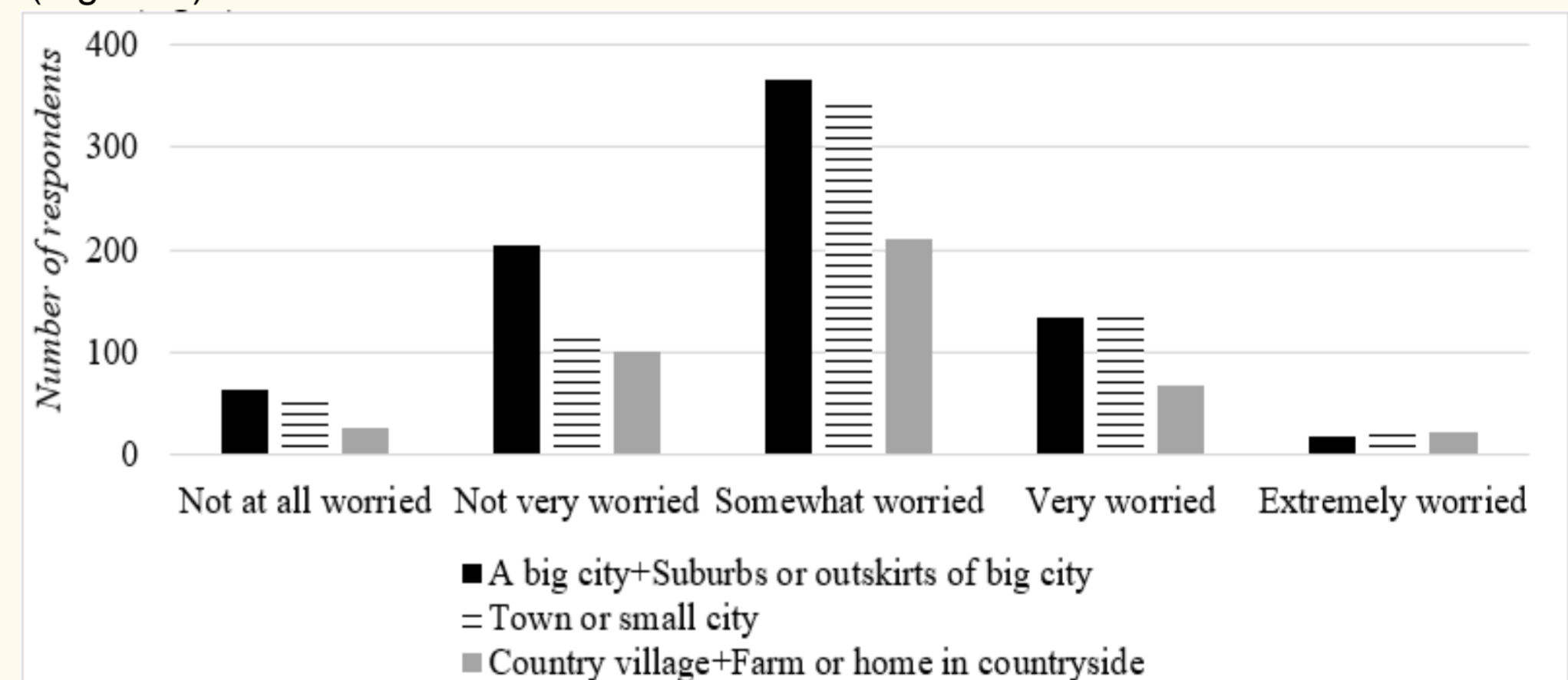


Figure 3. Respondents' attitude to how they are worried about climate change according to place of residence (own elaboration)

In both Rounds correlation between place of residence and satisfaction with life and happiness was observed negative and very weak. This implies that wellbeing variables are more affected by other factors than the place of residence. Correlation between worries and personal responsibility about the climate change revealed positive, but also very weak relations. This can be explained by the fact that not all people concern into the problem of climate change in the same way, and this problem is more often exacerbated when it affects them personally or their wellbeing in general. Wellbeing and subjective health relations were identified like negative and weak. There was observed positive and average correlation ( $r=0,512$ ) between feel of responsibility to reduce climate and worries about climate change. This can be assumed as positive change in respondents' mindsets and potential actions.