Assessment of different scales and scopes to define rural areas

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Motivation

- „Rural areas are large and isolated areas of an open country with low population density.”
  - Is low population able to capture or mimic the differences in all the different contexts we use?
- „Typical of the country as distinguished from the city”
  - Are all non-city areas are equal? How many classes or differences are appropriate?

Goal and usefulness of typology

- Rural areas should not be seen as „anti-urban” or as a „residue/rest”, but rather should be understand through the local economy (Saraceno, 1994).

Goal: Functioning units of interest!

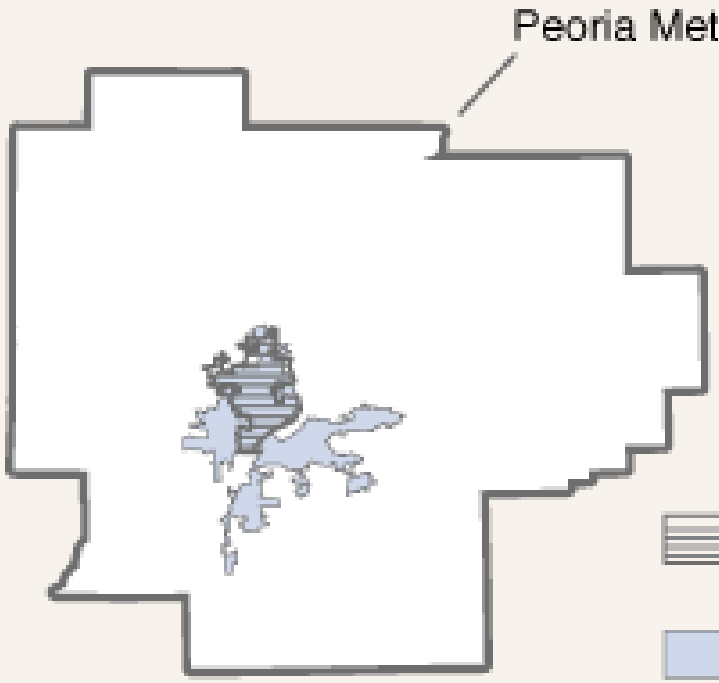
Right spatial level and content to the right policy!

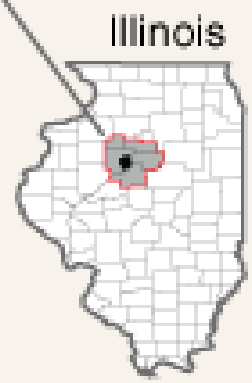
Common characteristics of rurality

- Due to their limited economic basis, they are particularly sensitive to structural changes (Wagner and Deller, 1998; Roberts, 2003)
- They face with disperse markets (Kilkenny and Otto, 1994).
- Rural areas fulfil roles related to larger and larger areas (Leon, 2005)
- Rural economies are functionally independent from urban areas, which are the – with varying extend – bases of policy (Roberts 2009).

Background – US example

Three ways to define Peoria





Question 1:
For any given urban entity, where is its boundary?

Administrative concept: Peoria City, population 112,936

Land-use concept: Peoria Urban Area, population 247,172

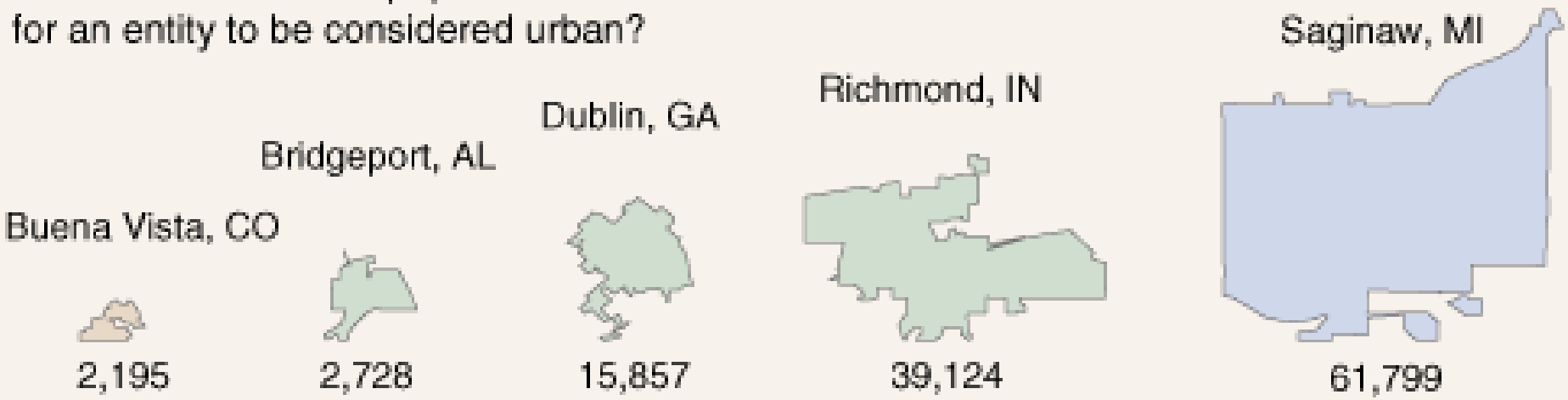
Economic concept: Peoria Metro Area, population 366,899

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Background cont.

Depending on the definition, population size thresholds range from 2,500 to 50,000 people

Question 2:
What is the minimum population size for an entity to be considered urban?



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Economic type

- Farming dependent
- Mining-dependent
- Manufacturing-dependent
- State-dependent
- Services-dependent
- Non-specialized

Policy types

- Housing stress
- Low-education
- Low-employment
- Persistent poverty
- Population loss
- Non-metro recreation
- Retirement destination

Is the typology consistent?

2009 OECD Ministerial Meeting on Regional Development

Policy family	Old Approach		New Approach
Regional	Redistribution from leading to lagging regions	→	Building competitive regions (bringing together actors and targeting key local assets)
Unit of intervention	Administrative unit	→	Functional economic areas
Strategies	Sectoral approach	→	Integrated development projects
Tools	Subsidies and state aids	→	Mix of hard and soft capital (social capital, networks)
Actors	Central government	→	Different levels of government

Source: OECD (2009) *Regions Matter: Economic Recovery, Innovation and Sustainable Growth*

Rankcorrelation between LAU1 typologies using different number of indicators to define development order

	11 mutató	15 mutató	28 mutató	19 mutató	31 mutató	1 mutató
11 mutató	1,000	0,989	0,982	0,969	0,976	0,919
15 mutató	0,989	1,000	0,988	0,969	0,974	0,903
28 mutató	0,982	0,988	1,000	0,977	0,984	0,912
19 mutató	0,969	0,969	0,977	1,000	0,983	0,891
31 mutató	0,976	0,974	0,984	0,983	1,000	0,934
1 mutató	0,919	0,903	0,912	0,891	0,934	1,000

Source: Nagy, 2009

The role of agriculture

„For people living and enterprisers in „rural areas” the source of problem more often less and less related to agriculture, and much more a question of employment possibilities and access to services.” (Blandford et al., 2008, 2010)

A revised urban-rural typology

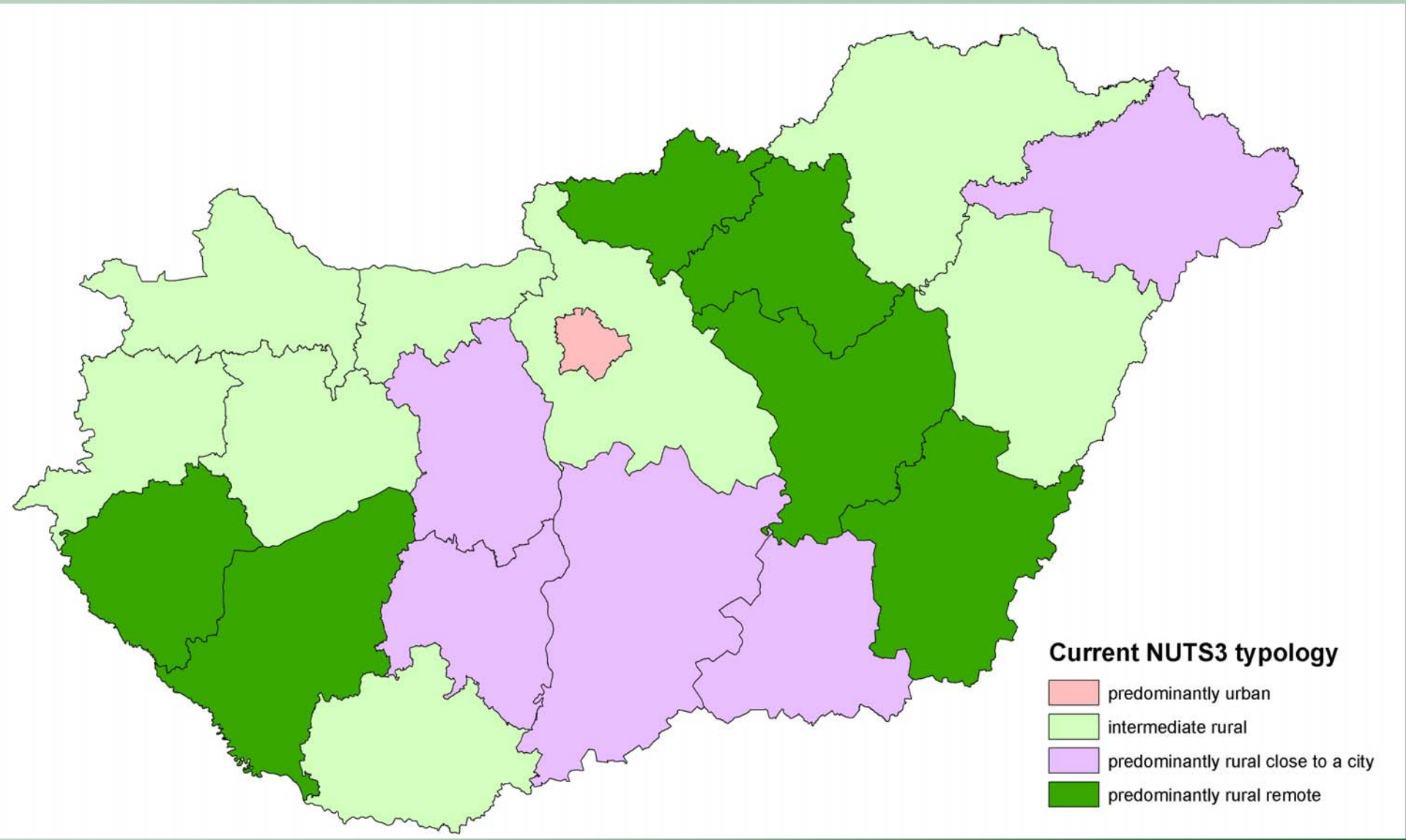
Motivation:

- The first distortion is due to the large variation in the area of local administrative units level 2 (LAU2).
- The second distortion is due to the large variation in the surface area of NUTS 3 regions and the practice in some countries to separate a (small) city centre from the surrounding region.

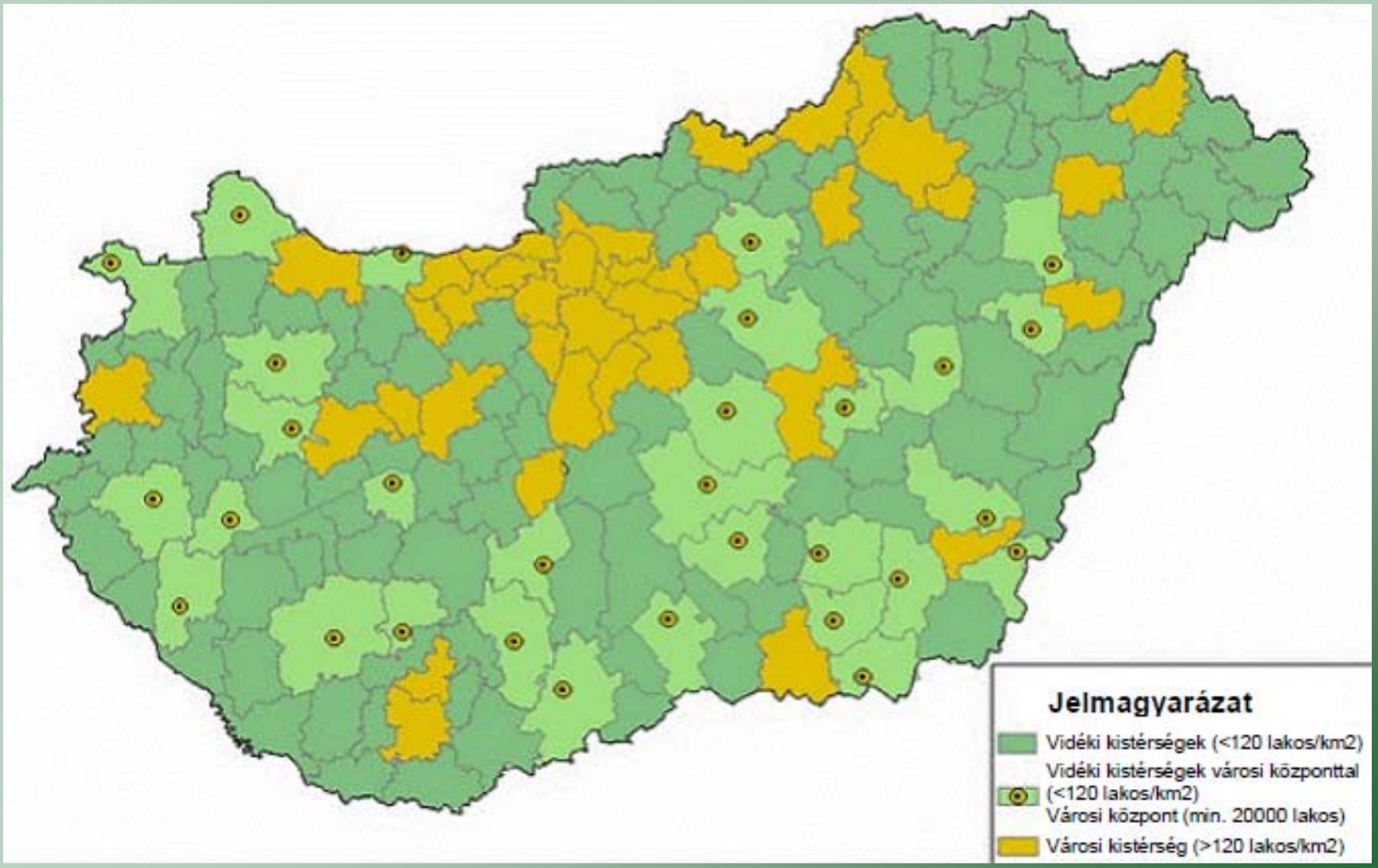
Nice improvment!

…but this is an answer to a wrong question!

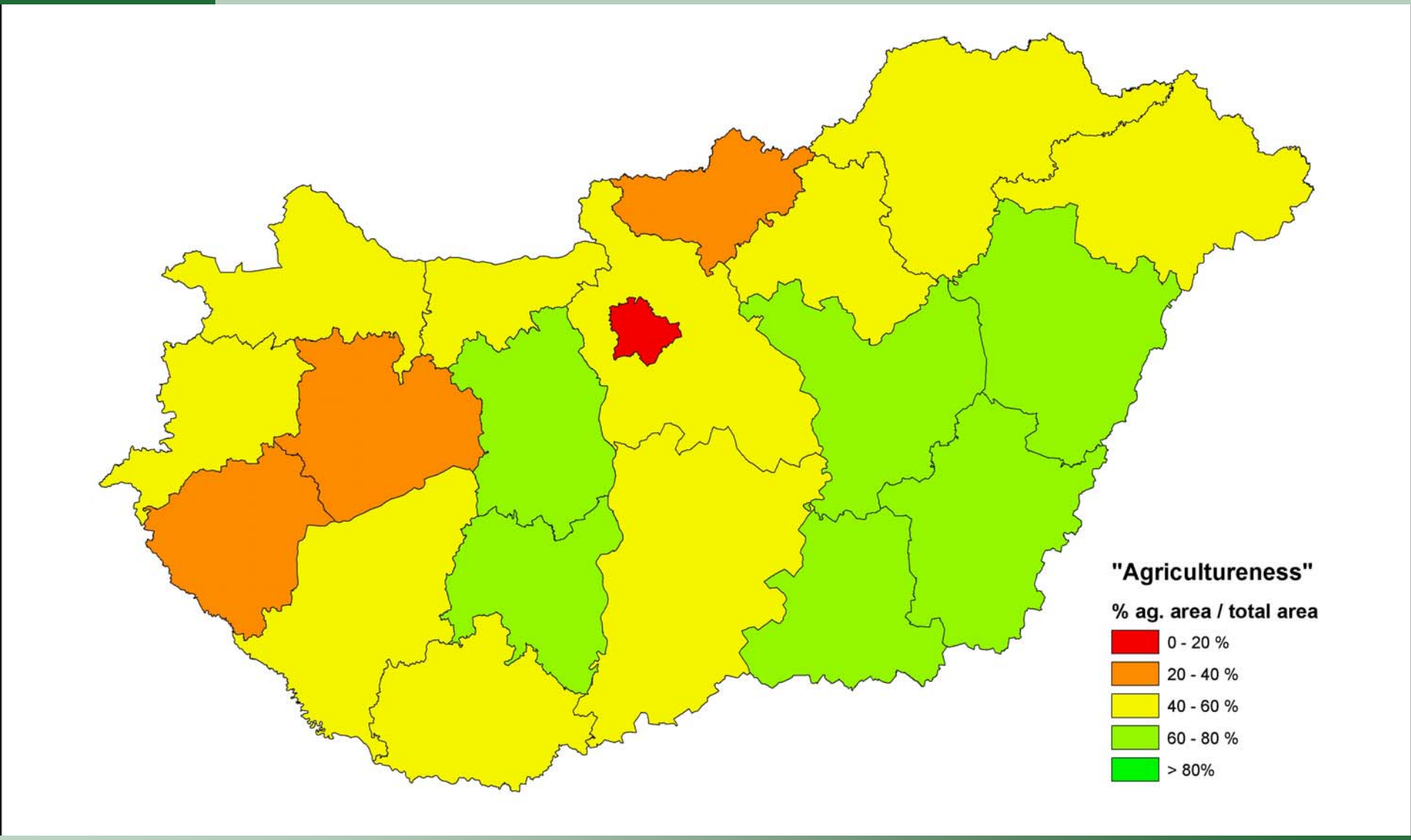
Current NUTS3 typology



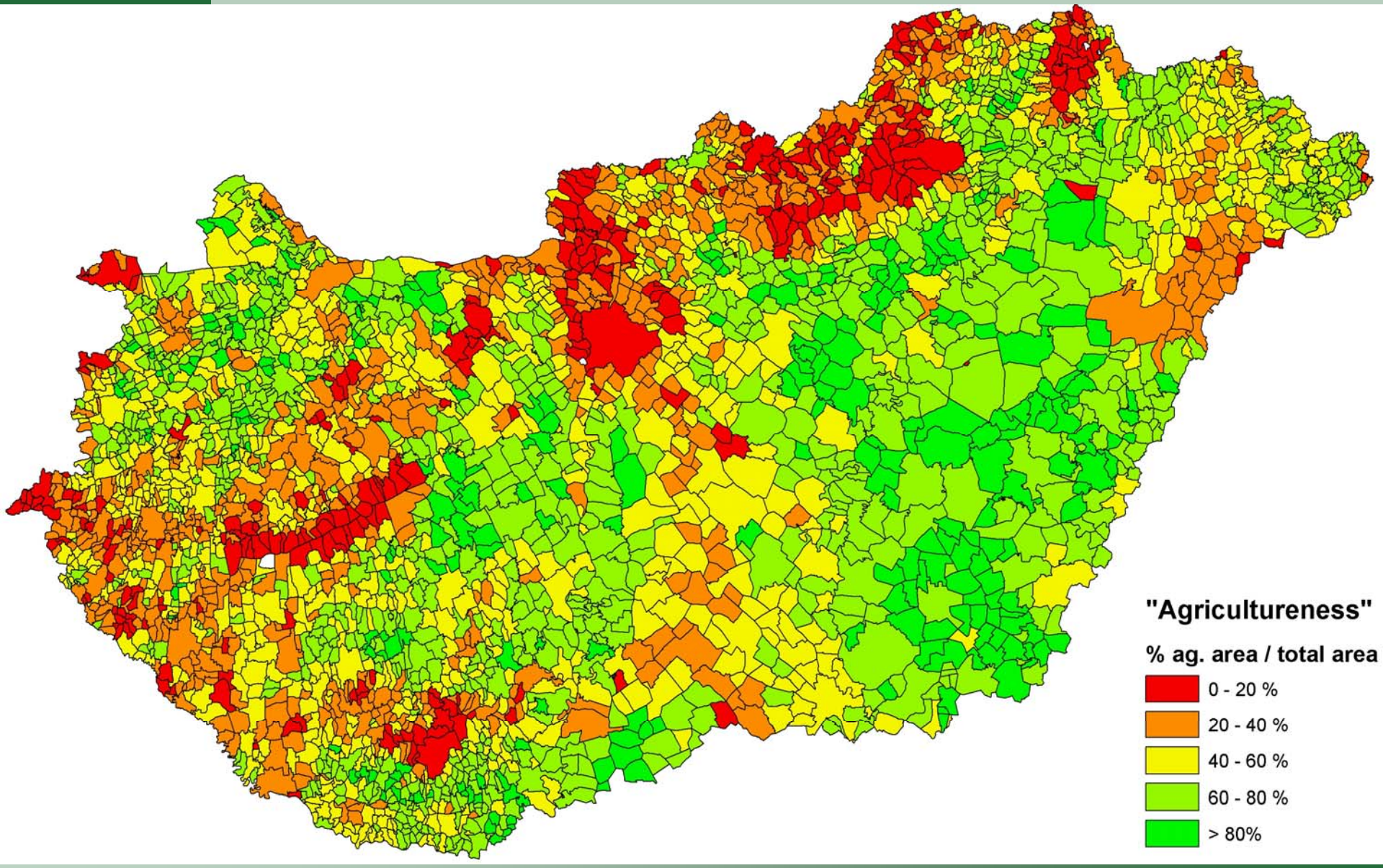
LAU1 typology



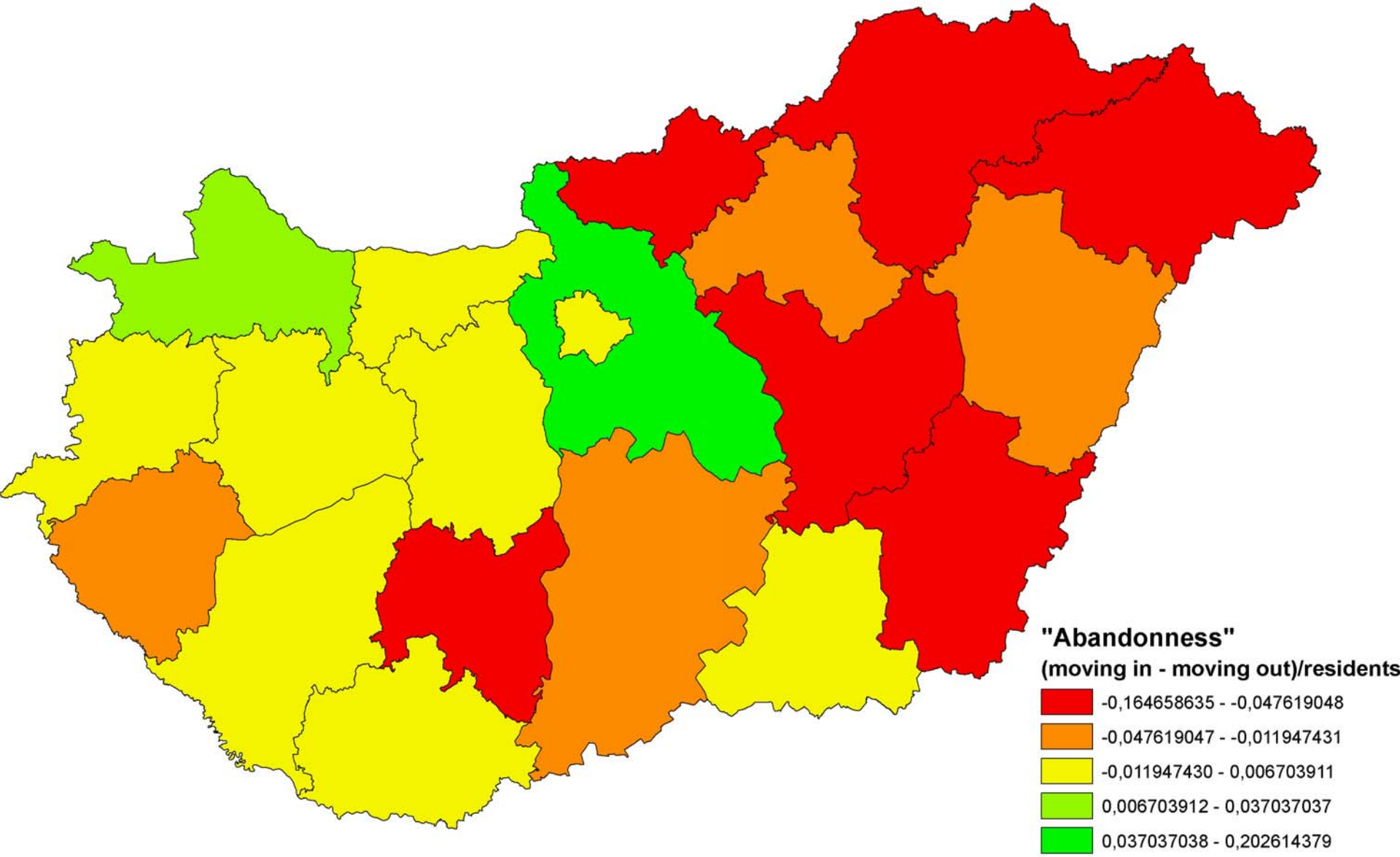
„Agricultureness” at NUTS3



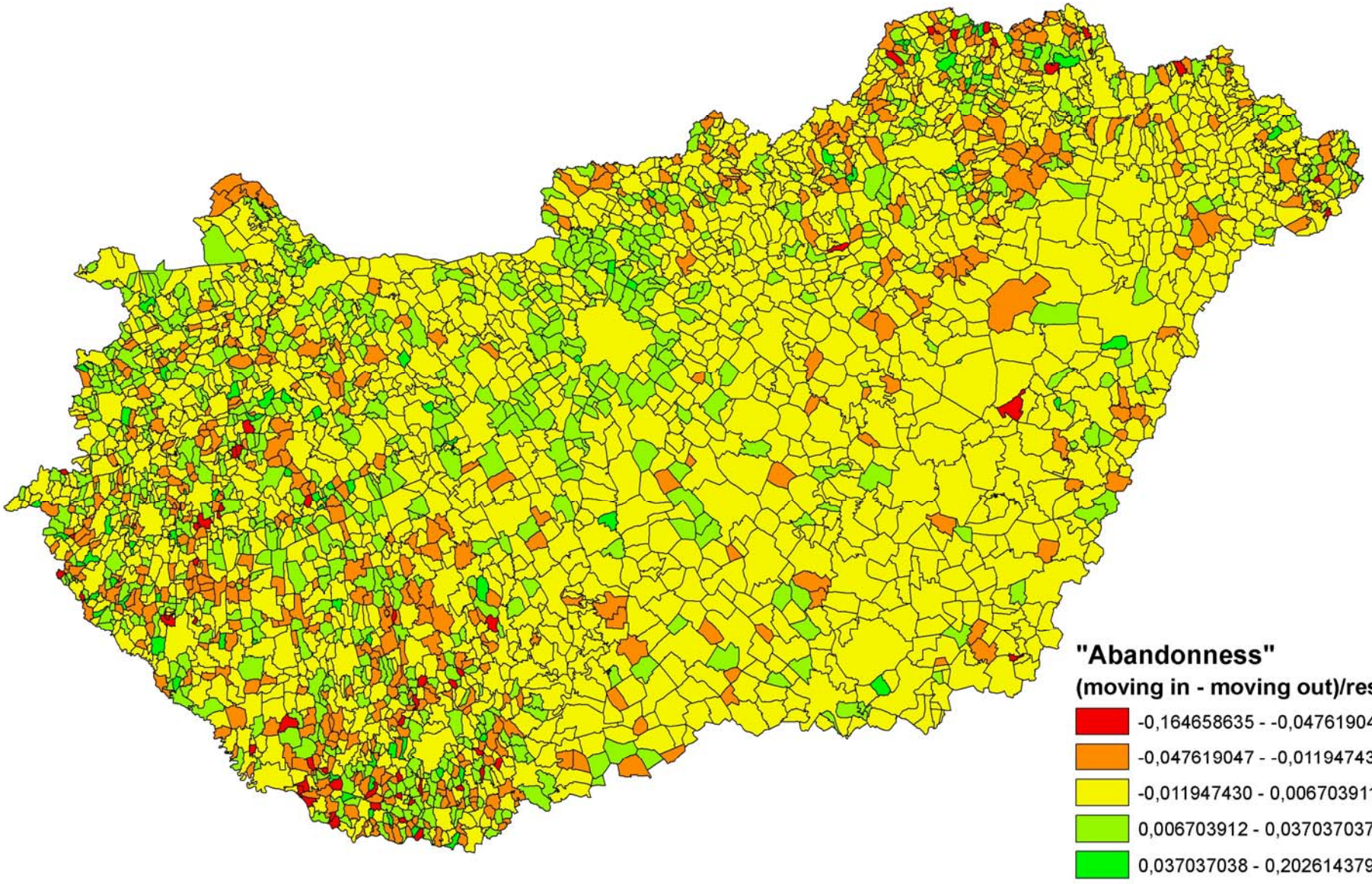
„Agricultureness” at LAU2



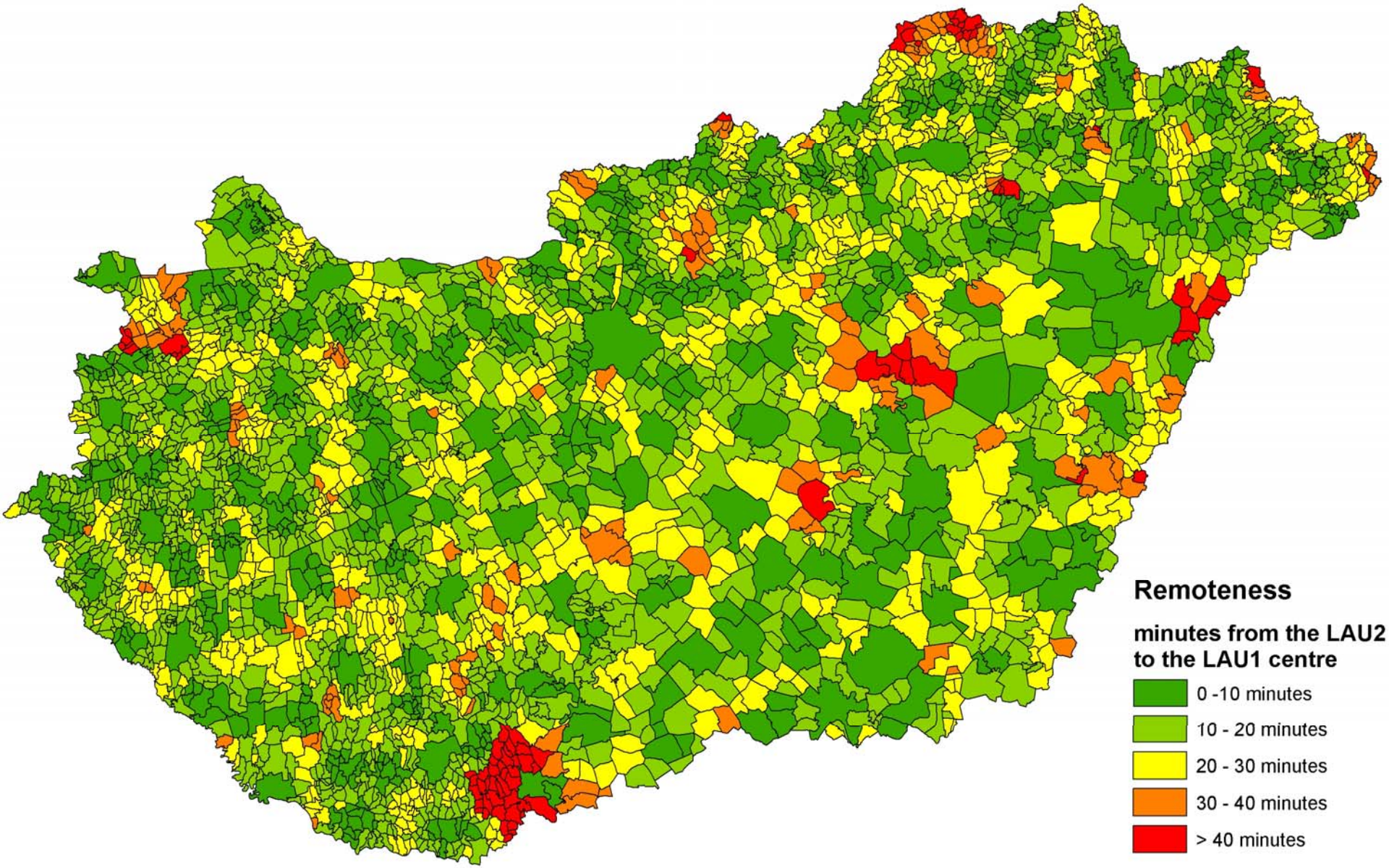
„Abandonness” at NUTS3



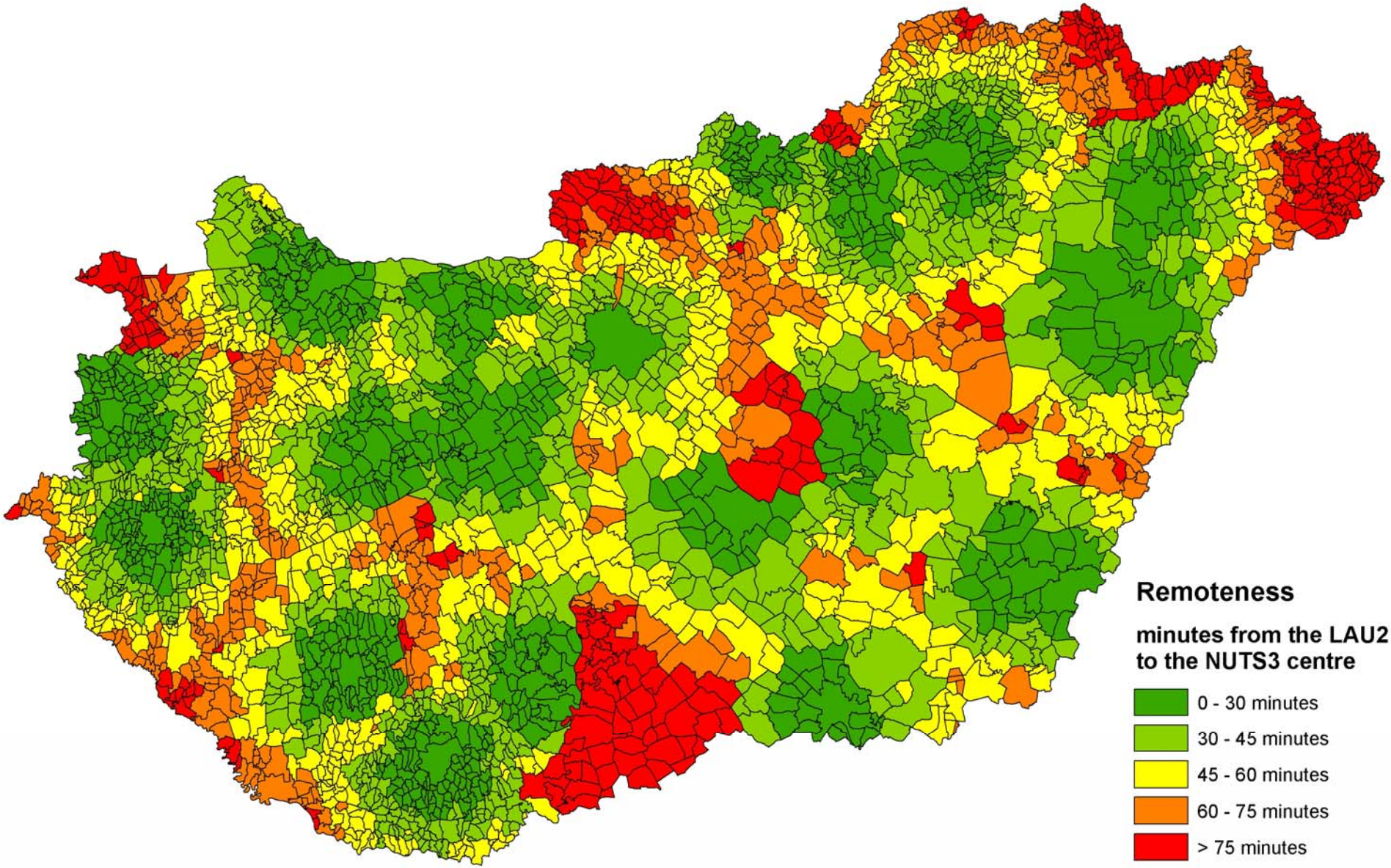
„Abandonness” at LAU2



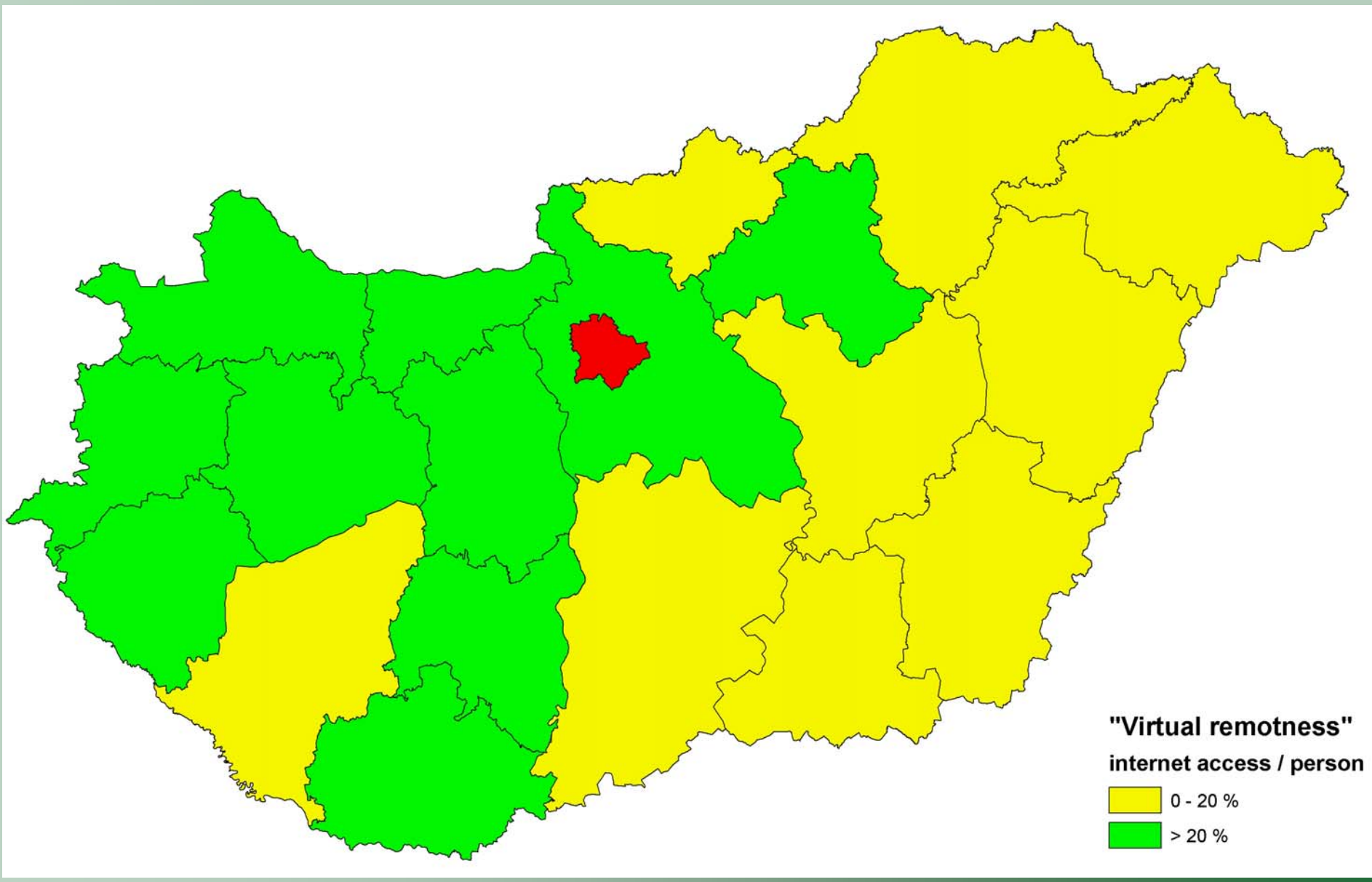
„Remotness” to the LAU1 centre



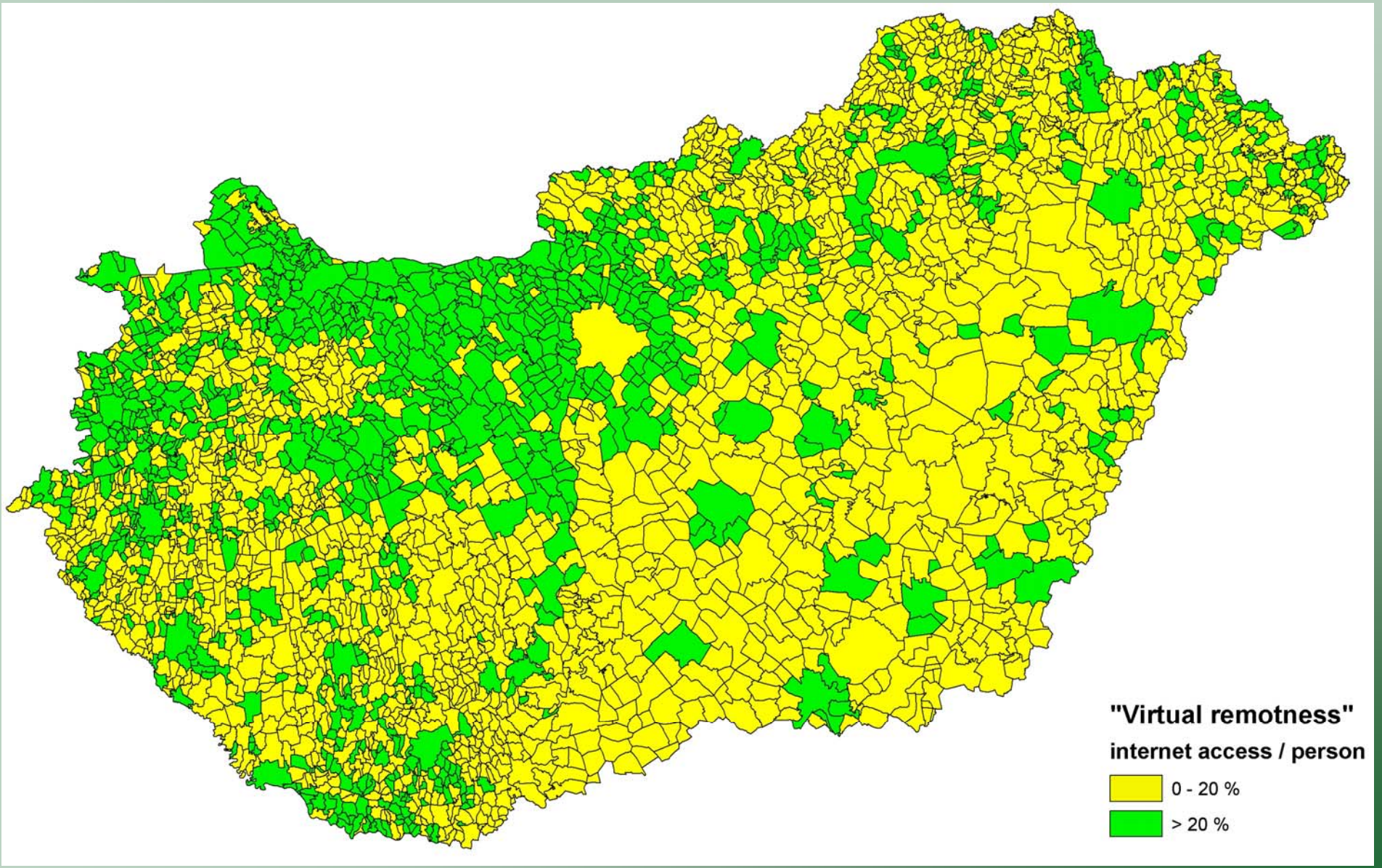
„Remotness” to the NUTS3 centre



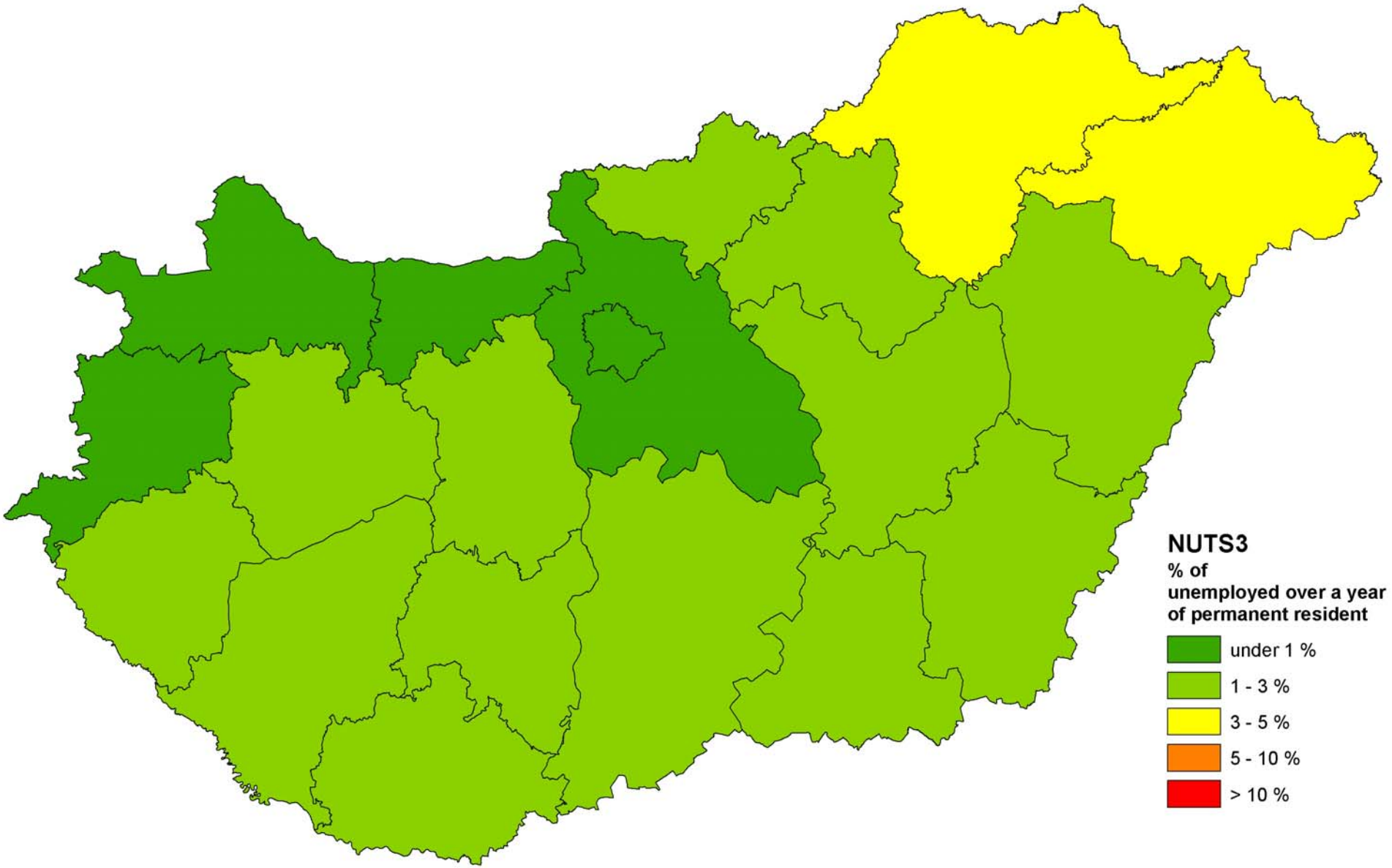
„Virtual remotness” at NUTS3



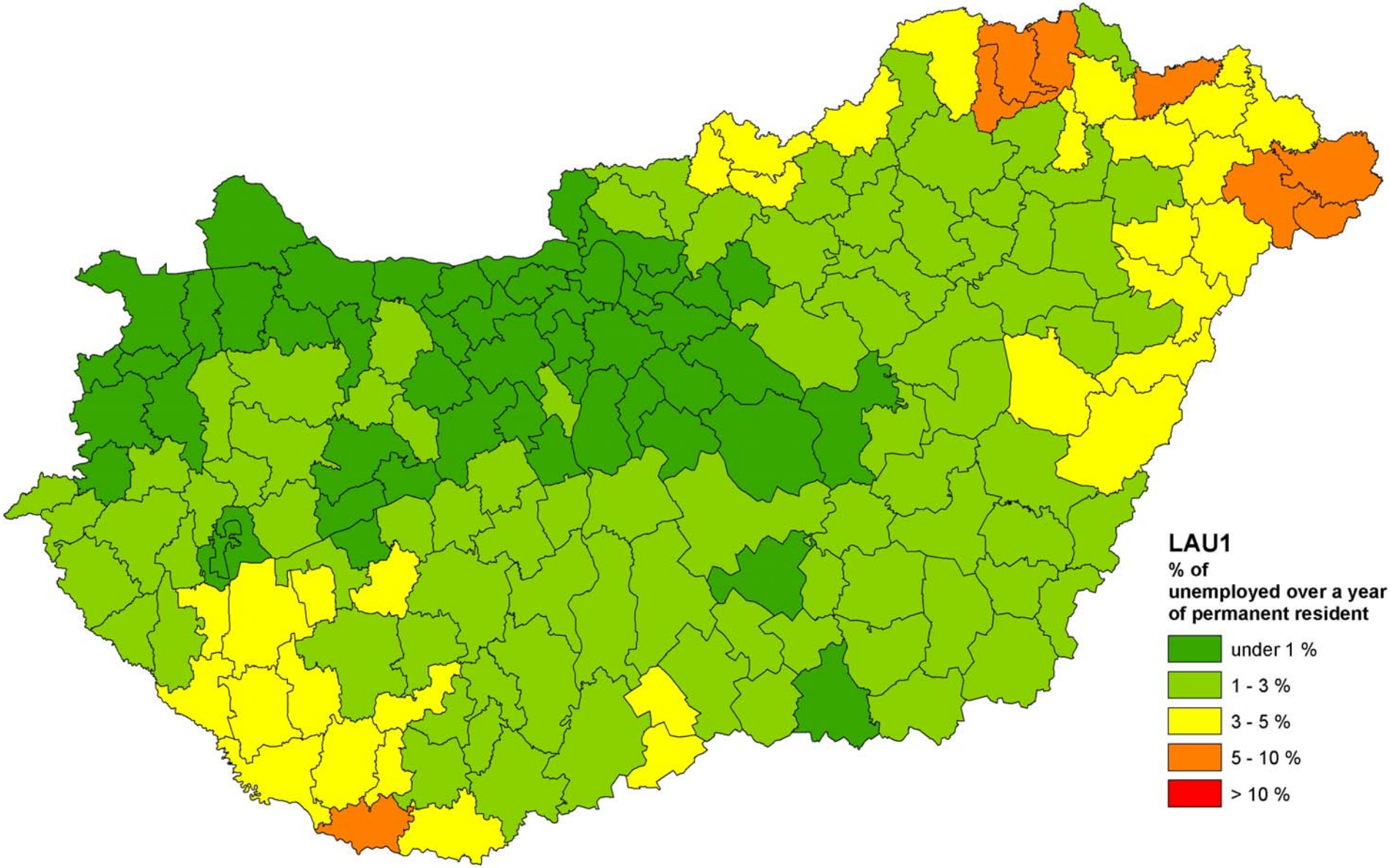
„Virtual remotness” at LAU2



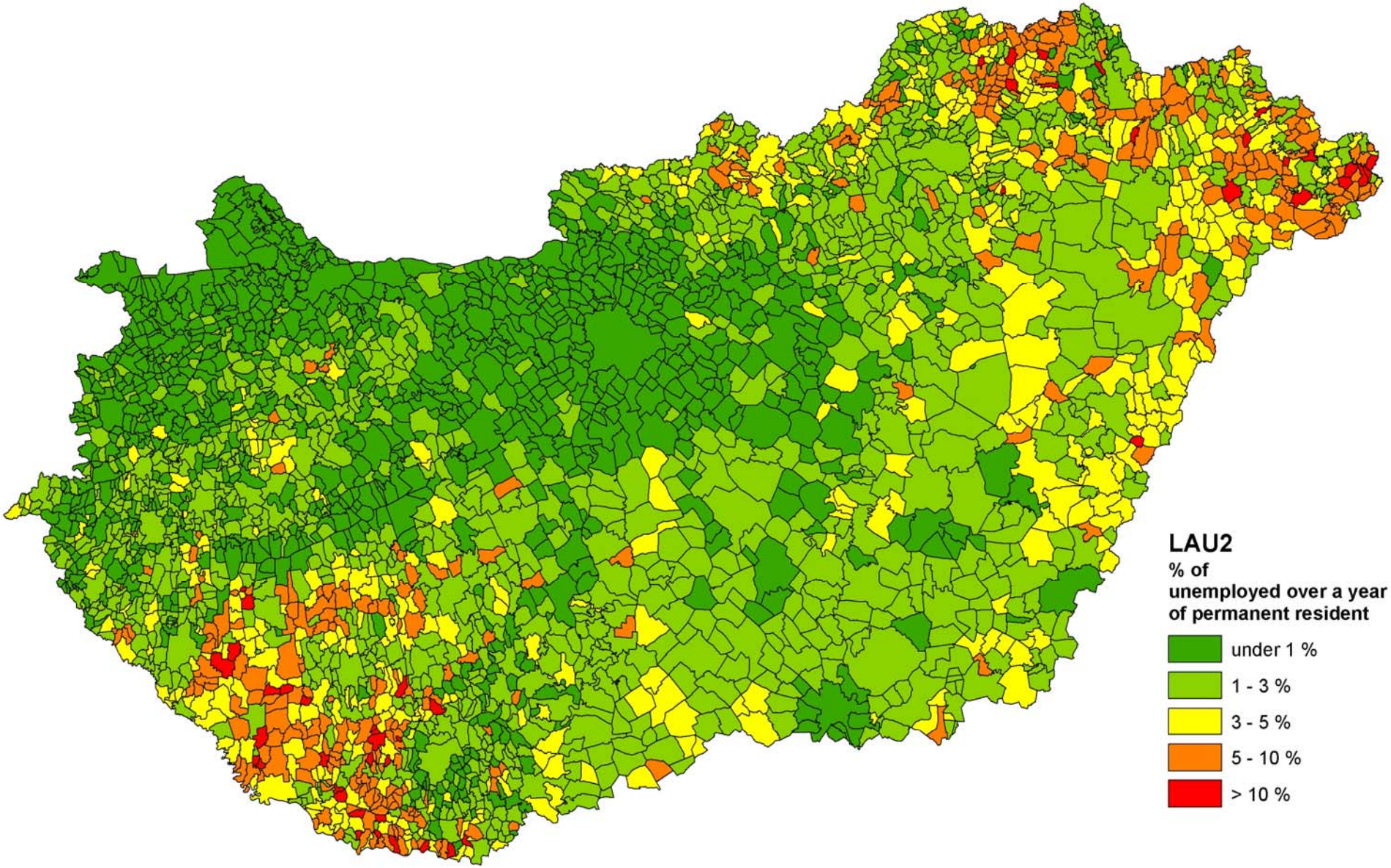
Long term unemployment at NUTS3



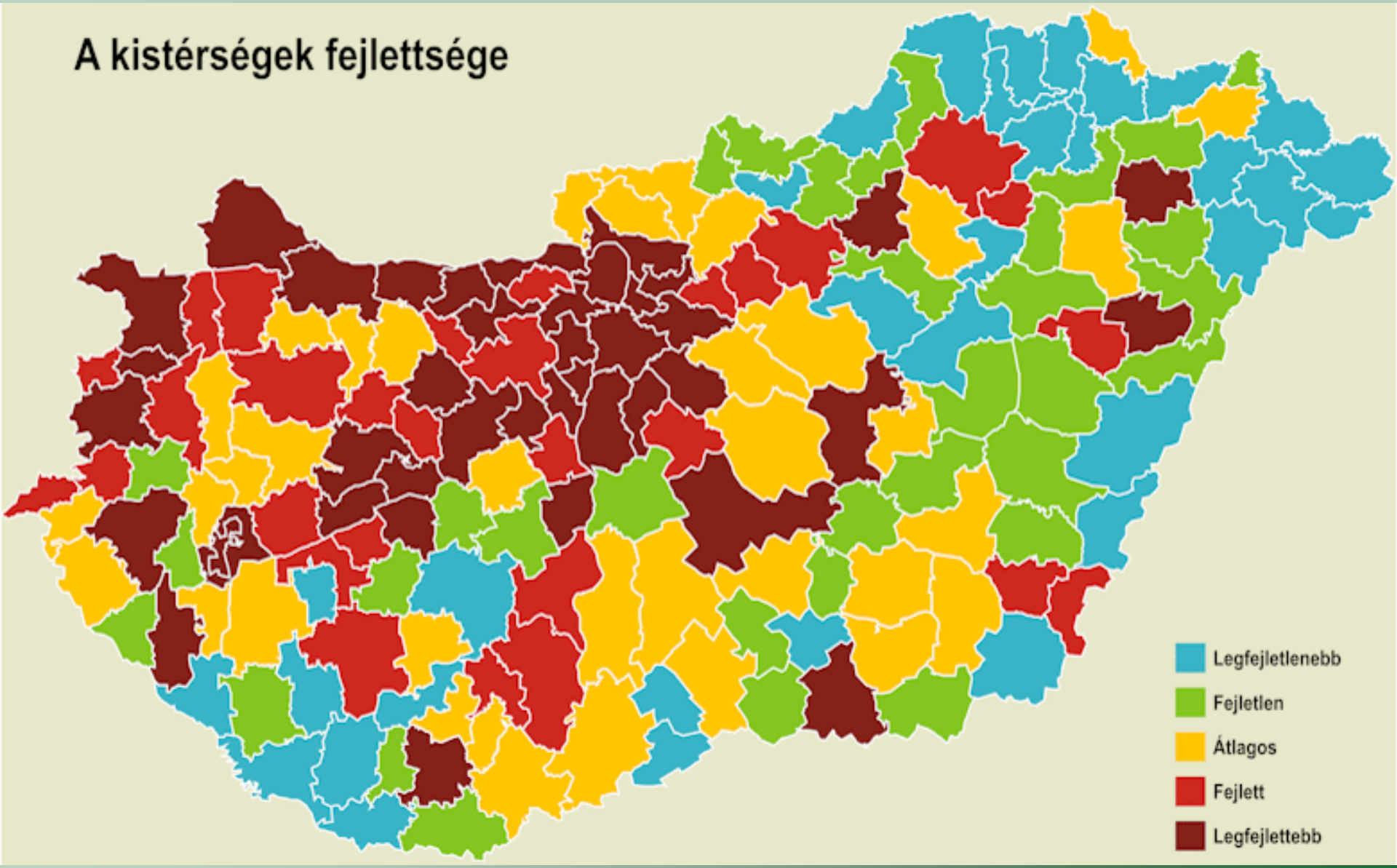
Long term unemployment at LAU1



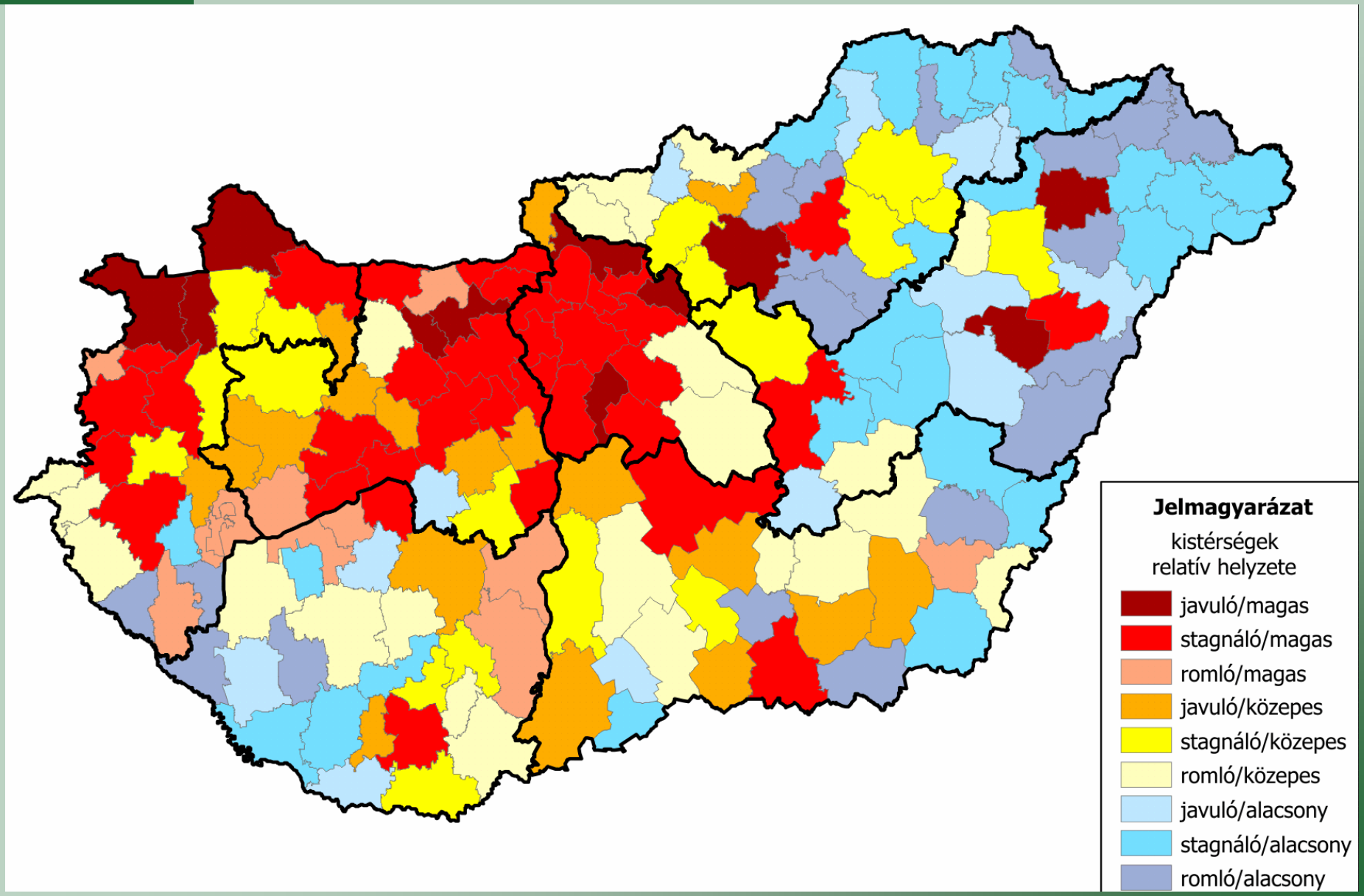
Long term unemployment at LAU2

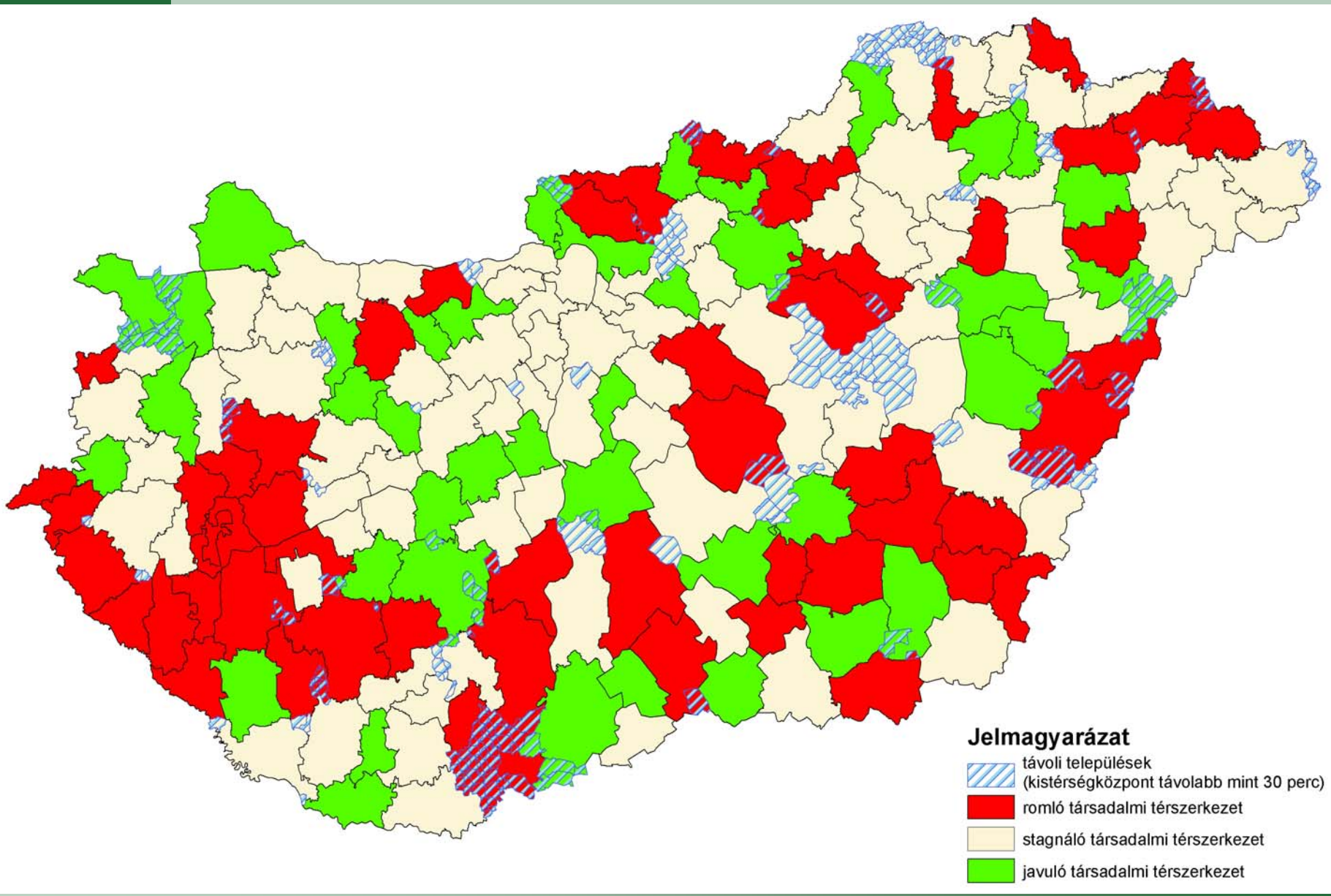


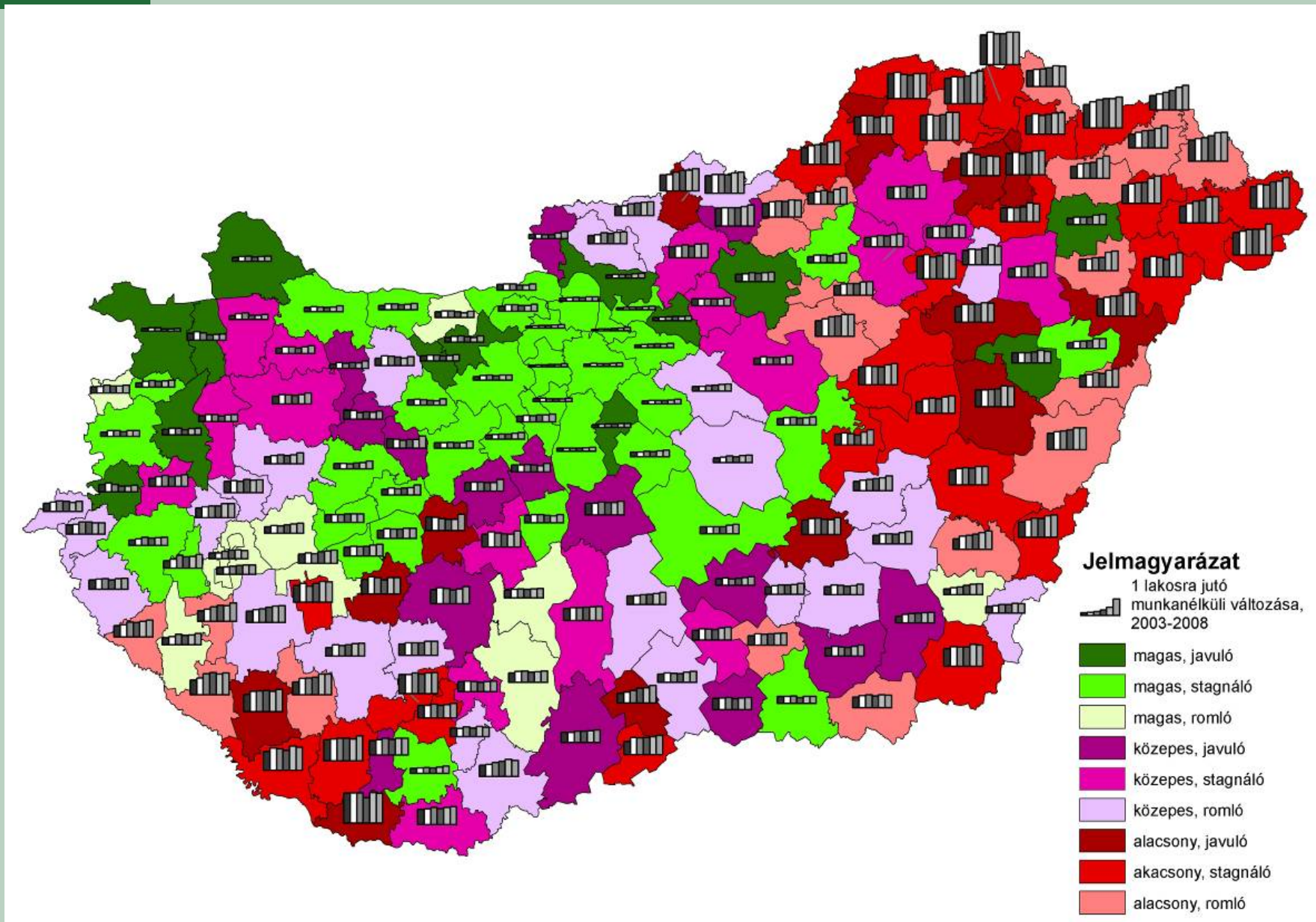
Kistérségek fejlettségi típusok szerint, 2007

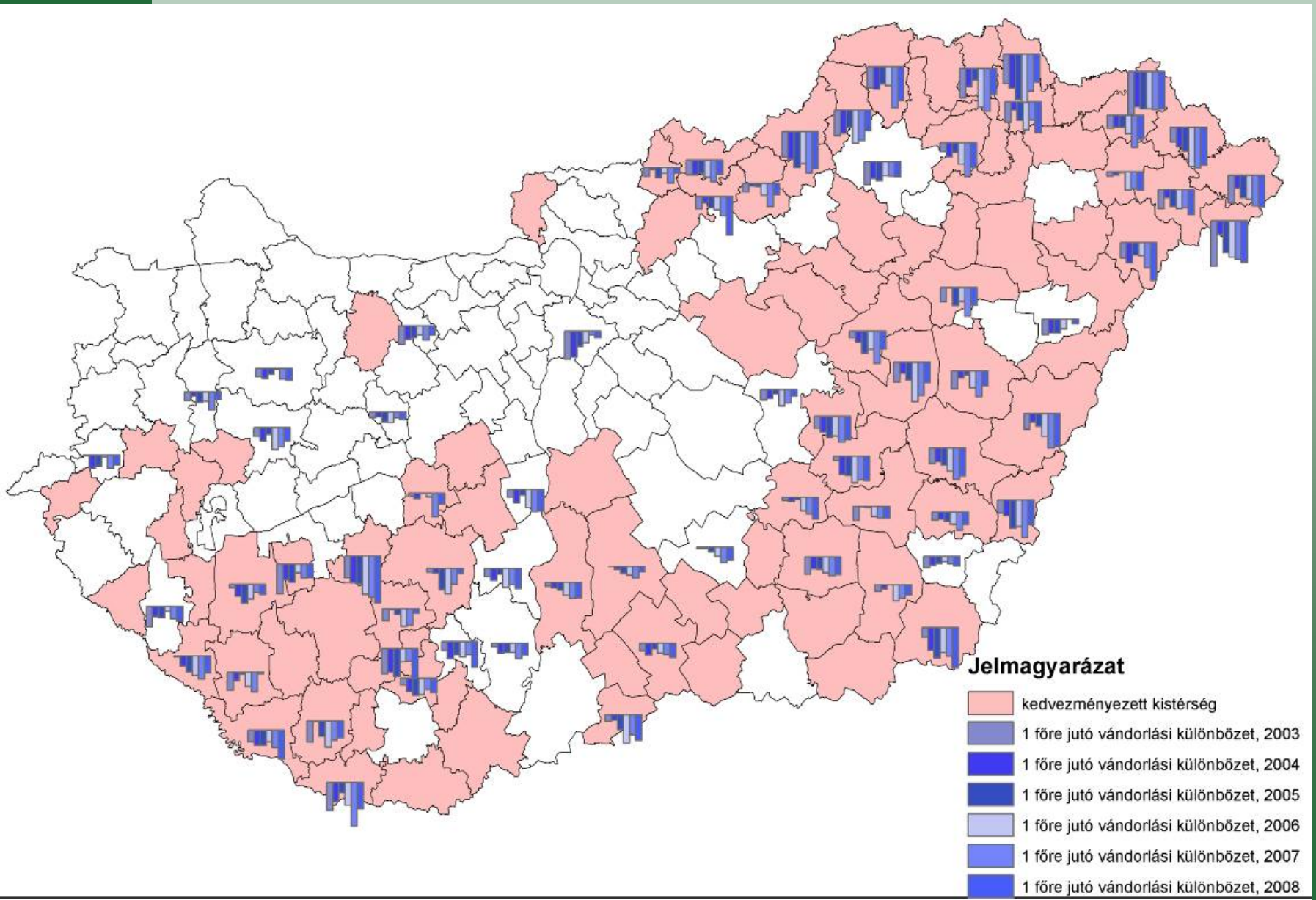


Társadalmi-gazdasági térszerkezet 2007-ben és változásai 2003-2007 között




Jelmagyarázat
távoli települések
(kistérségközpont távolabb mint 30 perc)
romló társadalmi térszerkezet
stagnáló társadalmi térszerkezet
javuló társadalmi térszerkezet


Jelmagyarázat
1 lakosra jutó munkanélküli változása, 2003-2008
magas, javuló
magas, stagnáló
magas, romló
közepes, javuló
közepes, stagnáló
közepes, romló
alacsony, javuló
akacsony, stagnáló
alacsony, romló


Jelmagyarázat
kedvezményezett kistérség
1 főre jutó vándorlási különbözet, 2003
1 főre jutó vándorlási különbözet, 2004
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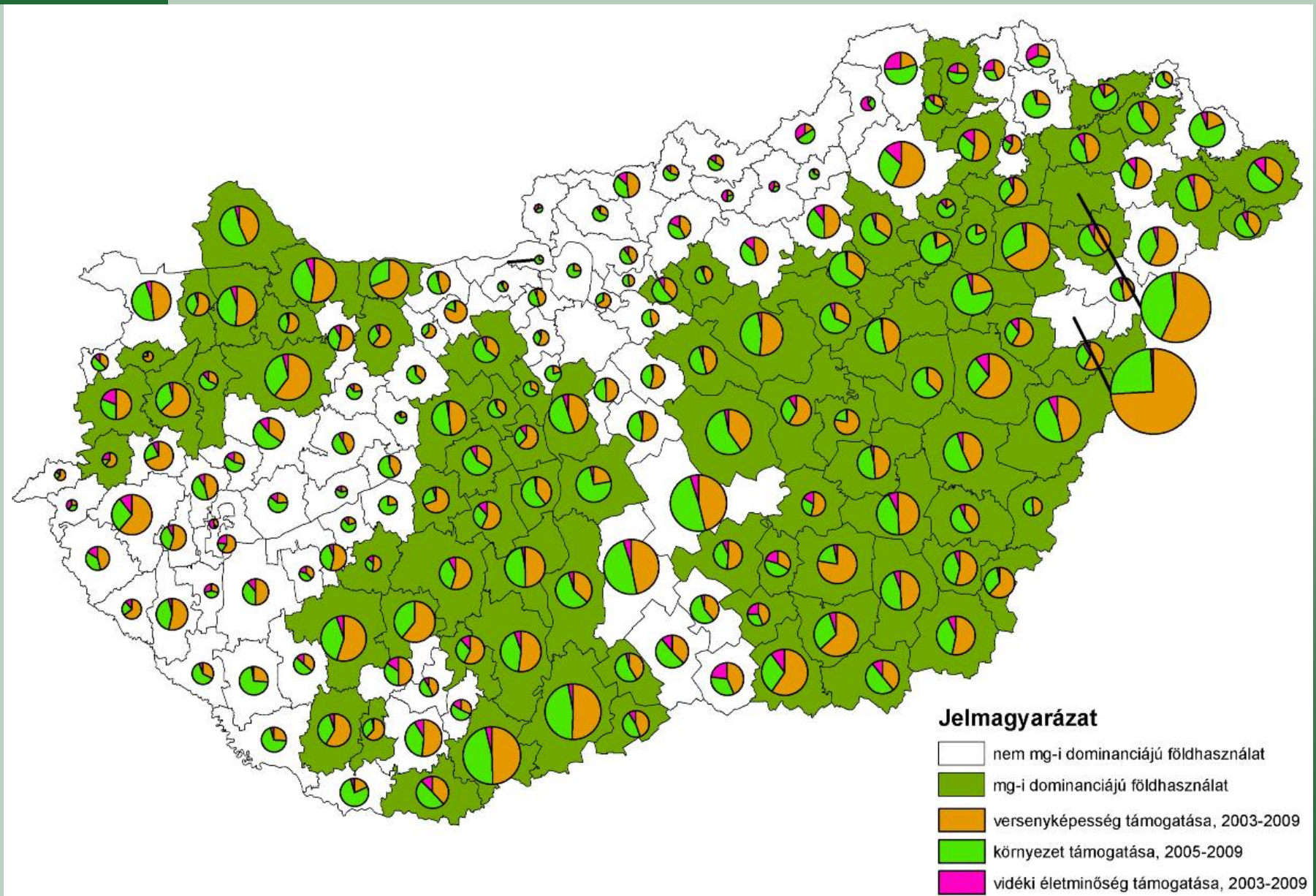
1 főre jutó vándorlási különbözet, 2007
1 főre jutó vándorlási különbözet, 2008

Különböző közigazgatási egységek legfontosabb fizikai, statisztikai paraméterei, 2009

	Mezőgazdasági terület (ha)	Teljes terület (ha)	Népesség (fő)
	kistérség		
Átlag	29228	53464	57649
Medián	24385	49067	36627
Szórás	19547	25631	132306
Minimum	3318	11795	6632
Maximum	94797	148307	1712210
	település		
Átlag	1619	2951	3182
Medián	875	1869	837
Szórás	2435	3676	31824
Minimum	0	56	12
Maximum	37097	52513	1712210


Jelmagyarázat
nem mg-i dominanciájú földhasználat
mg-i dominanciájú földhasználat
versenyképesség támogatása, 2003-2009
környezet támogatása, 2005-2009
vidéki életminőség támogatása, 2003-2009

Különböző közigazgatási egységek legfontosabb fizikai, statisztikai paraméterei

	Legkisebb település területe (ha)	Legnagyobb település területe (ha)	Átlagos település területe (ha)	Kistérség településeinek száma (db)
Átlag	689	6273	2444	18
Medián	240	3813	1297	16
Szórás	1175	6115	2817	12
Minimum	154	627	201	1
Maximum	8204	37097	18920	65