

Introduction

The topic of environmental behaviour is increasingly being developed not only by foreign scientists but also in Lithuania. However, still too little is known in Lithuania about how society perceives environmental protection or what behaviour would contribute to promoting environmental protection and mitigating climate change.

The aim of the presentation is to explore environmental behavior patterns in Lithuania. The object of research - environmental behavior of Lithuanian population.

Research by different scientists shows that environmental behavior is related to perceptions and actions which are taken in order to preserve and not damage the natural environment.

There are many discussions about the change of human behavior by engaging in activities related to environmental protection, becoming a member of a like-minded group, or starting with one's immediate environment, etc.

Scientific results show that pro-environmental behavior of individuals can be assessed by the influence of a single element or combination of them; by the internal and external factors. As mentioned by various authors, environmental attitudes are traditionally perceived as the determining factor for achieving environmental behavior, also environmental behavior is a result of environmental education (Eilam, Trop, 2010; Thanya, Suganthan, 2023); psychological factors are important in the mechanism of pro-environmental behavior (Li et al., 2019; Diaz et al., 2020), etc. Sheasby and Smith (2023) identified that although pro-environmental behavior is called planned behavior, people do not always consciously behave as they plan or want in real. The results can be used for policy formation, education and marketing domains.

Methodology

Data. There were used European Social Survey data from round 10 (2021). Sample size of Lithuanian population – 1659.

Methods. Analysis of data includes descriptive statistics and comparison methods. Comparison method is used to identify if there exist environmental attitudes and behavior differences among different territorial units in Lithuania.

Questions which were taken in account include:

1. Do you think that climate change is caused by natural processes, human activity, or both?;
2. To what extent do you feel a personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change?;
3. How worried are you about climate change?;
4. How likely do you think it is that large numbers of people will actually limit their energy use to try to reduce climate change?;

Results

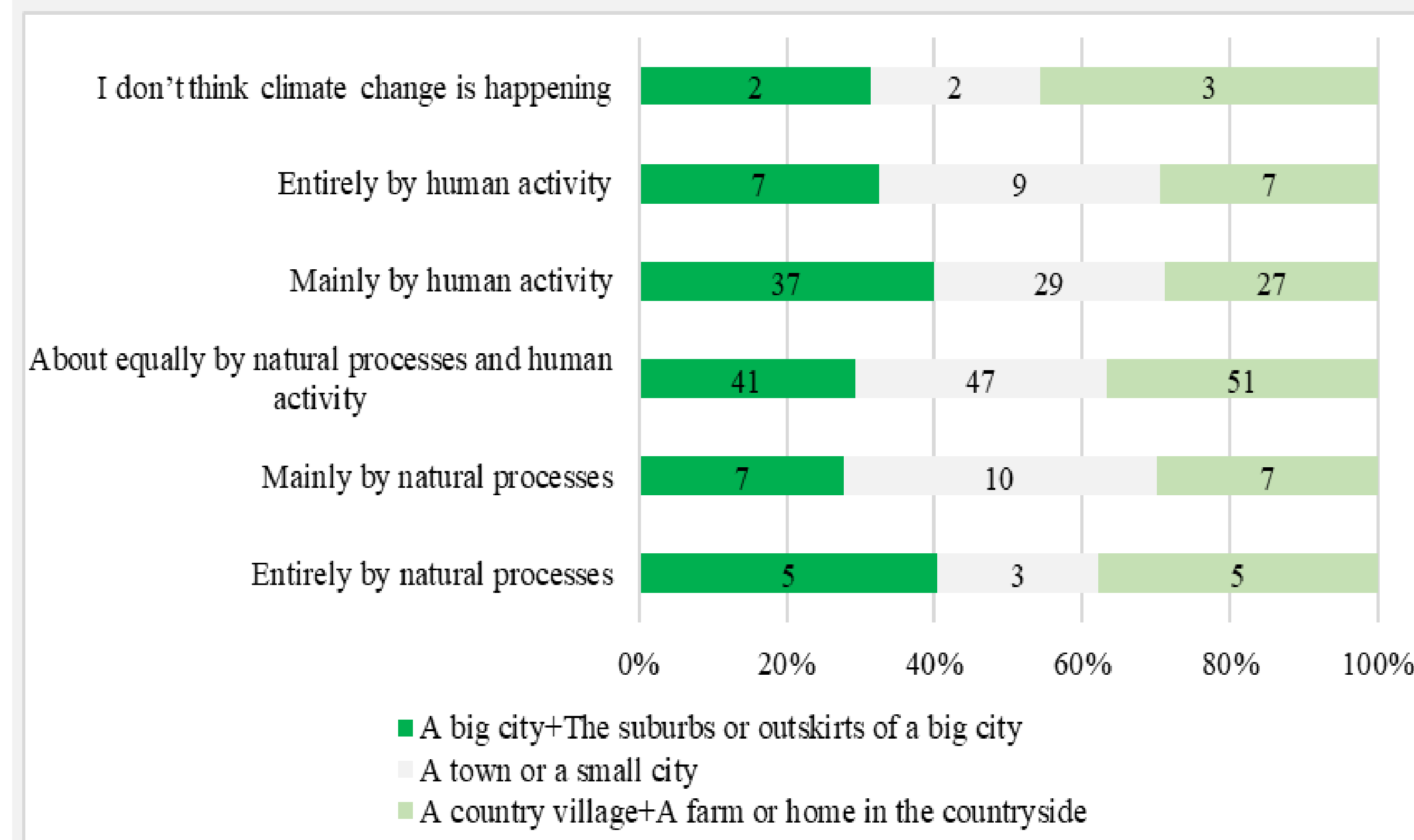


Fig. 1. Respondents' opinion on question „Do you think that climate change is caused by natural processes, human activity, or both?“, percent, N=1606 (ESS round 10, 2021)

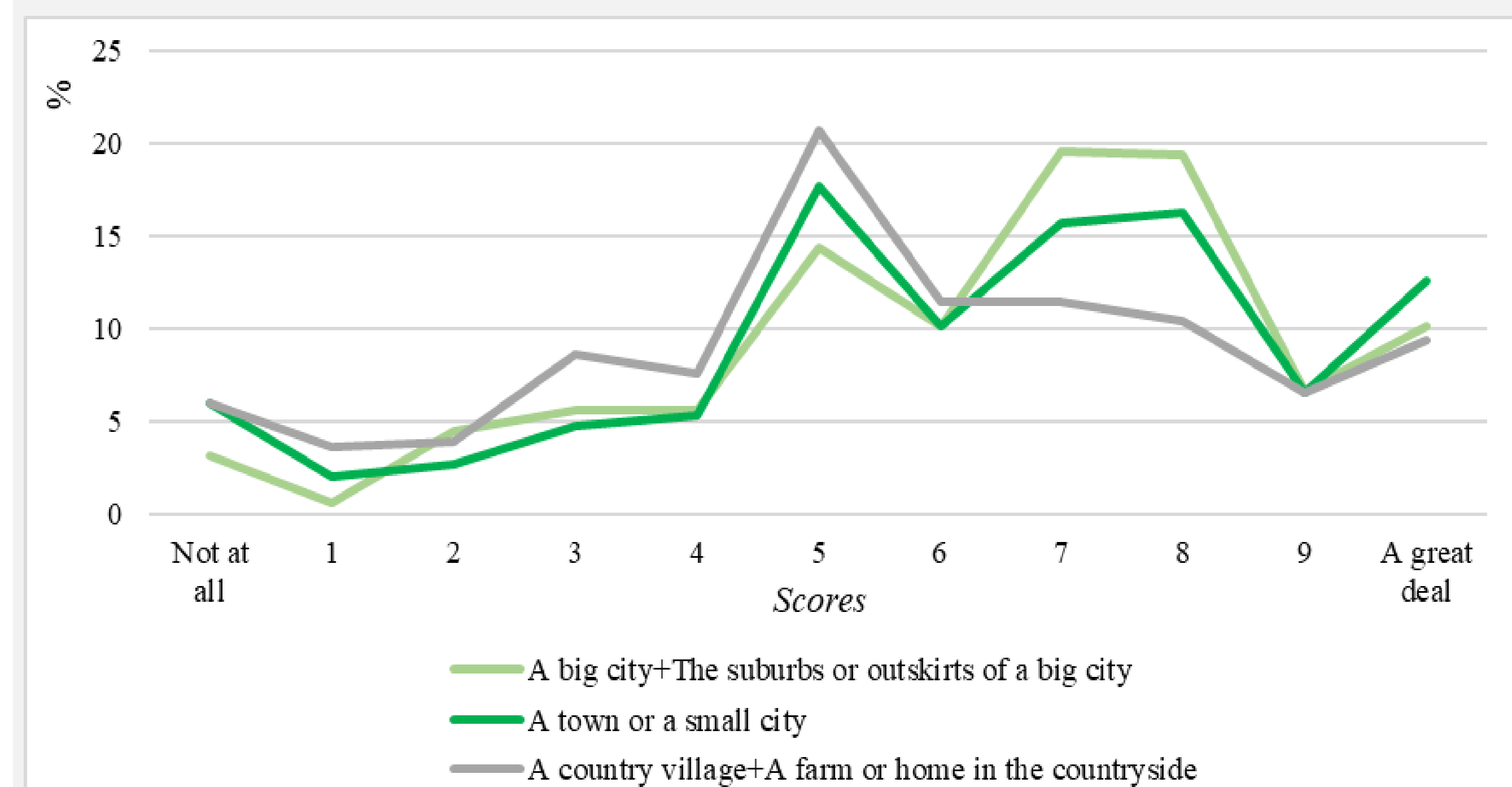


Fig. 2. Respondents' opinion on question “To what extent do you feel a personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change?“, percent, N=1576 (ESS round 10, 2021)

Research findings, based on ESS questions reveal particular insights about Lithuanian respondents opinion and behaviour concerning environmental attitudes and behavior. Results explore that in all territorial units respondents mostly believed that climate change is mostly caused about equally by natural processes and human activity; and a very small proportion said that climate change is not happening.

Fig. 2 reveals that respondents (even 60 percent who indicated 6-10 scores) feel more responsible for mitigating/reducing climate change than irresponsible, though opinions differ according to different territorial units.

The mean of respondents answers was 6,0 and Std. Deviation 2,656.

Fig. 3 disclose that more than 44 percent of respondents in all territorial units indicated they are somewhat worried about climate change; there were more worried than not worried respondents' about climate change.

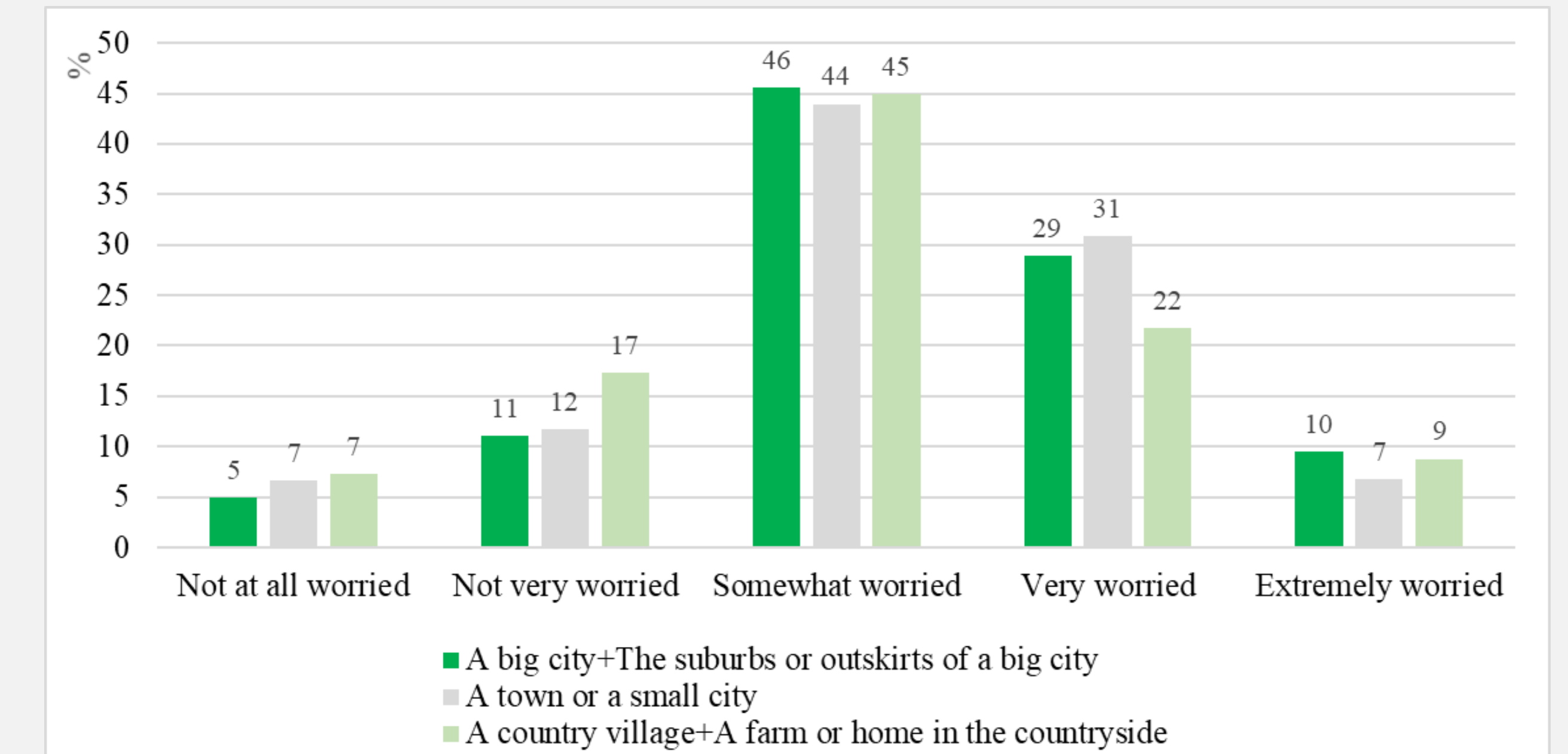


Fig. 3. Respondents' opinion on question „How worried are you about climate change?“, percent, N=1601 (ESS round 10, 2021)

Fig. 4 reveals that 0-4 scores indicated 52 percent of respondents; 6-10 scores indicated just 28 percent of respondents. Not so optimistic is that only a small part of respondents pointed out that large numbers of people will actually limit their energy use to try to reduce climate change.

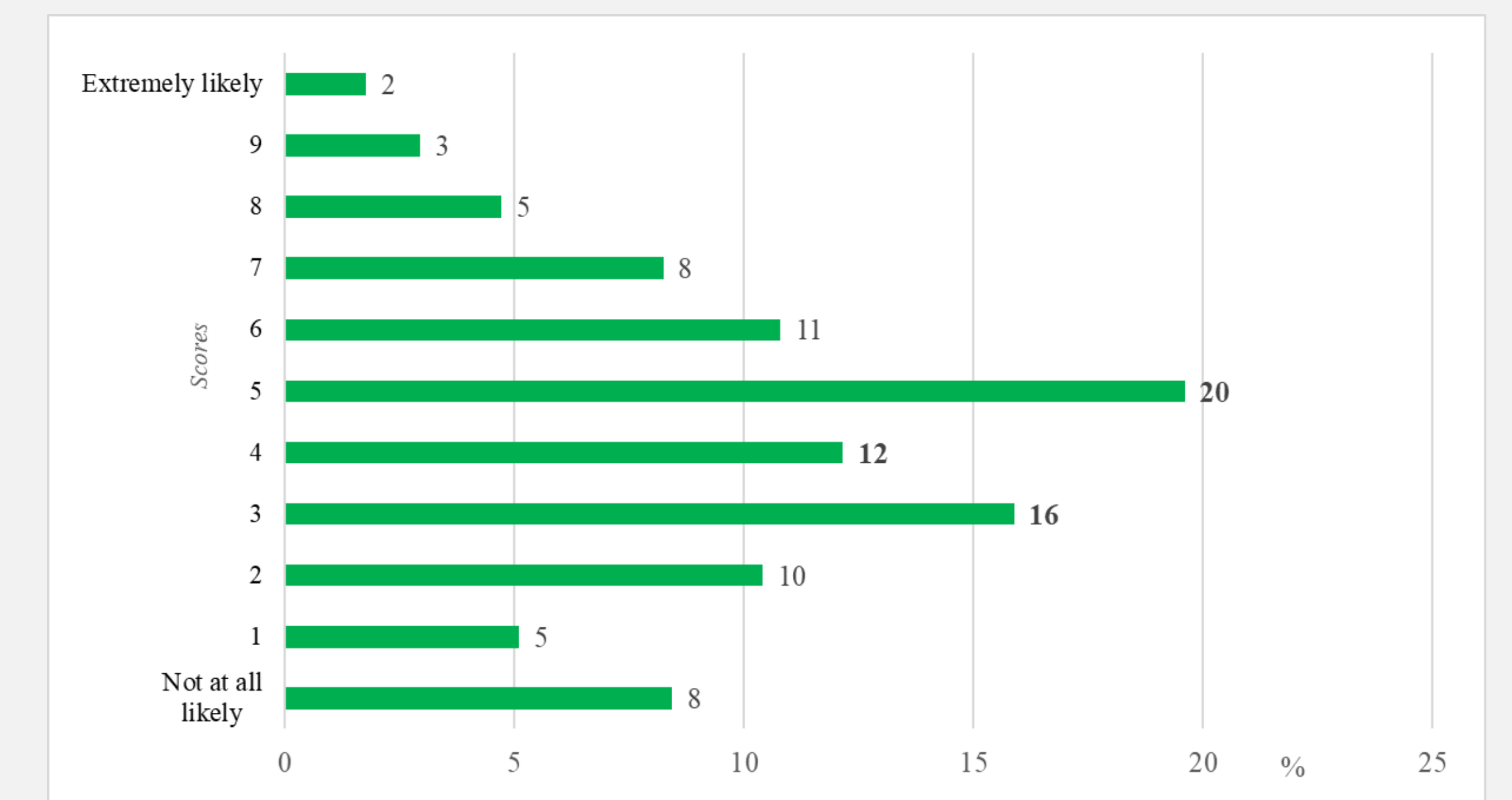


Fig. 4. Respondents' opinion on question „How likely do you think it is that large numbers of people will actually limit their energy use to try to reduce climate change?“, percent, N=510 (ESS round 10, 2021)

Main conclusions

- Environmental behavior described by ESS round 10 data, disclosed that Lithuanian respondents' behavior is more focused on nature protection and environmental behavior in most territorial units.
- Most of respondents (indicated 6-10 scores) understand possible positive impact of personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change, but it is a bit fluctuating in separate territorial units.
- The biggest part of respondents admits that a large part is concerned and worried about climate change, but not everyone believes that a large part of people would take steps to actually reduce energy consumption whether to reduce climate change.