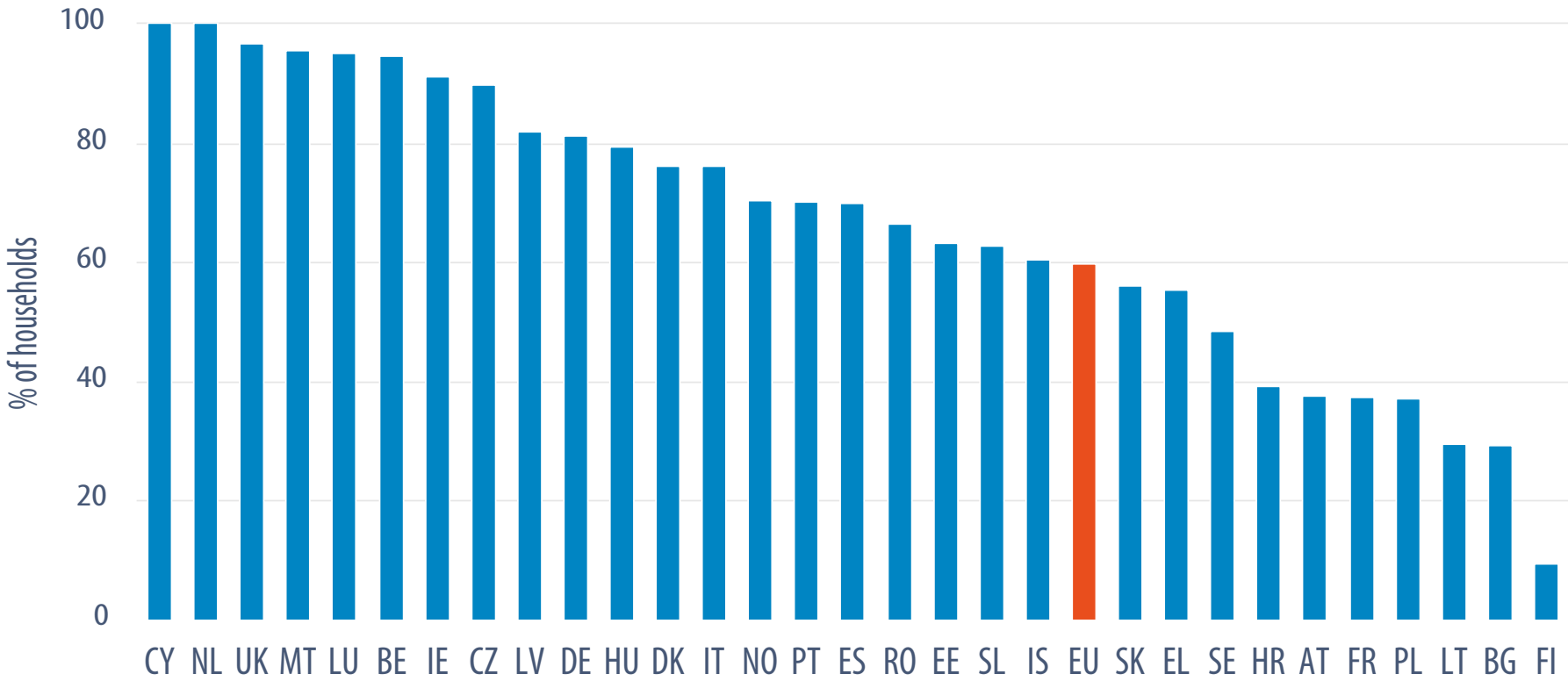


Smart villages: rural NGA broadband coverage in Europe

Rural NGA broadband coverage/availability (% of households with coverage in 2020)*



Source: European Commission, Digital Scoreboard.

* Rural areas are defined as areas with fewer than 100 people per km². There is a frequent lack of incentive for market players to invest in sparsely populated areas. This is the case in Finland, for example, which has the lowest population density in the EU (18 inhabitants per km² on average).

NGA stands for Next Generation Access broadband.

Challenges for smart village initiatives

- Digital literacy levels in rural communities
- Awareness about the concept and usefulness of smart village initiatives
- Attitudes of municipalities towards these initiatives
- Adequacy of digital infrastructure in rural areas
- Developing a fully integrated approach across a range of policy areas at regional and local levels within Member States