The Life You *Choose*

THE MADE REAL BLUEPRINT / STEP 1

I want to wake with the light in a small house with land, *and work three mornings a week at the bookkeeping I am good at.*

I want two hours outside every day and people close enough to eat with. I want to stop being afraid of January.

Anna · 20 October 2026

01 Picture — 02 Explore — 03 Decide

MY WORKING DIRECTION

What I am choosing between

A

Rent a small house with land near Góis for a year

Not sure yet: Whether winter there is bearable alone

B

Buy a cheap place inland and renovate slowly

Not sure yet: The real renovation cost, and whether I have the skill

What I want to protect

My three clients. My sister. My morning hour. Being able to say exactly what I think.

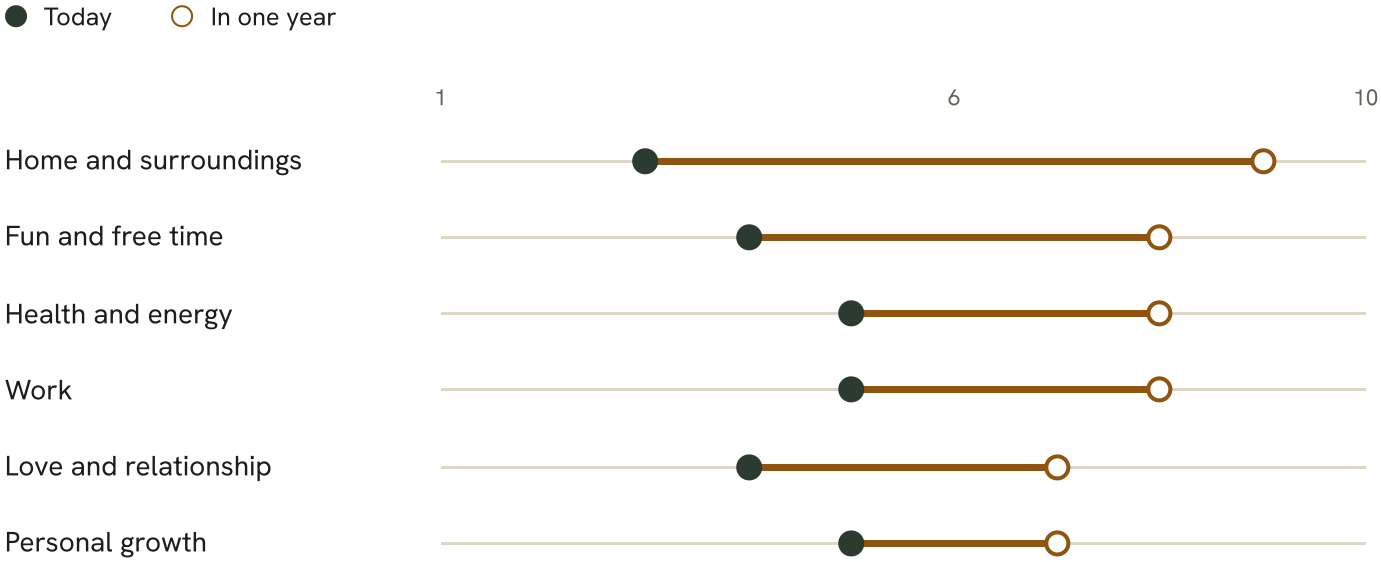
FREEDOM · NATURE · PEACE OF MIND · HEALTH · FAMILY · SIMPLICITY · INDEPENDENCE

A direction to investigate. Let go for now: Buying and renovating inland: I do not have the skill or the stomach for it yet. And the Algarve: the price and the crowds are the opposite of what I wrote down.

MY STARTING POINT

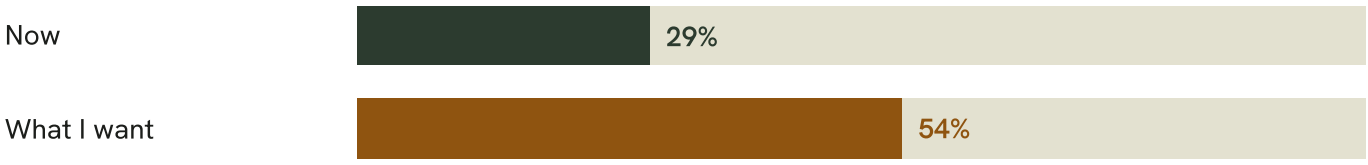
What I want more of

Work and money are steady; free time and home are where the gaps are. Family and friends is the one area I would not want to trade for anything.



My own scores, 1–10. The second mark is where I want to be in a year, not something already achieved.

TIME I DECIDE FOR MYSELF



32 of my 112 waking hours a week are mine to choose. The second figure is what I am aiming at.

THE FIRST BLOCK I TAKE BACK

Thursday. I will ask in the next two weeks to make it a home day, and use the morning for the house search instead of the evening.

I have managed a difficult change before: I coordinated my father's care for two years while keeping every client. Lotte's directness and Hendrik's loyalty are things I can lean on again.

MONEY AND MOMENTUM

A first money picture

These are my own figures for a month in the new life, and the income I can count on.

Monthly costs **€2,245**



Income I can count on **€1,650**



€595 **short each month**

On the costs and income recorded here.

€11,000 is recorded for the change itself. €20,700 is left to live on after the one-time costs, deposits and a €8,000 reserve.

WHAT MY NEW LIFE MUST GIVE ME

Outside space of my own · Fast, reliable internet · A doctor within 30 minutes · Reachable from the Netherlands in a day · Neighbours, not isolation · A town with a market

MY NEXT SMALL STEP, WITHIN TWO WEEKS

Book an eight-day visit inland in February and ask for Thursdays at home

Questions to settle: That the internet is good enough to keep my clients. That €780 really rents a house with land. That I can bear February there alone. That my clients do not mind the address.

REVIEW / 1 MARCH 2027, AFTER THE VISIT

Continue if I can work my days there without a single apology to a client, and if February does not frighten me. Change direction if the internet fails. Stop if eight days alone there make me lonely rather than quiet.

Dealbreakers I carry forward: Somewhere I cannot work because the internet drops. Being more than a day's travel from my sister. A place where I would be the only person for a kilometre.