



European
Commission

The 2016 EU Agricultural Outlook Conference

*A few facts on the structure of EU
agriculture*

*Gesa Wesseler
DG AGRI E.3
European Commission*

with the support of EUROSTAT

Brussels, 6-7 December



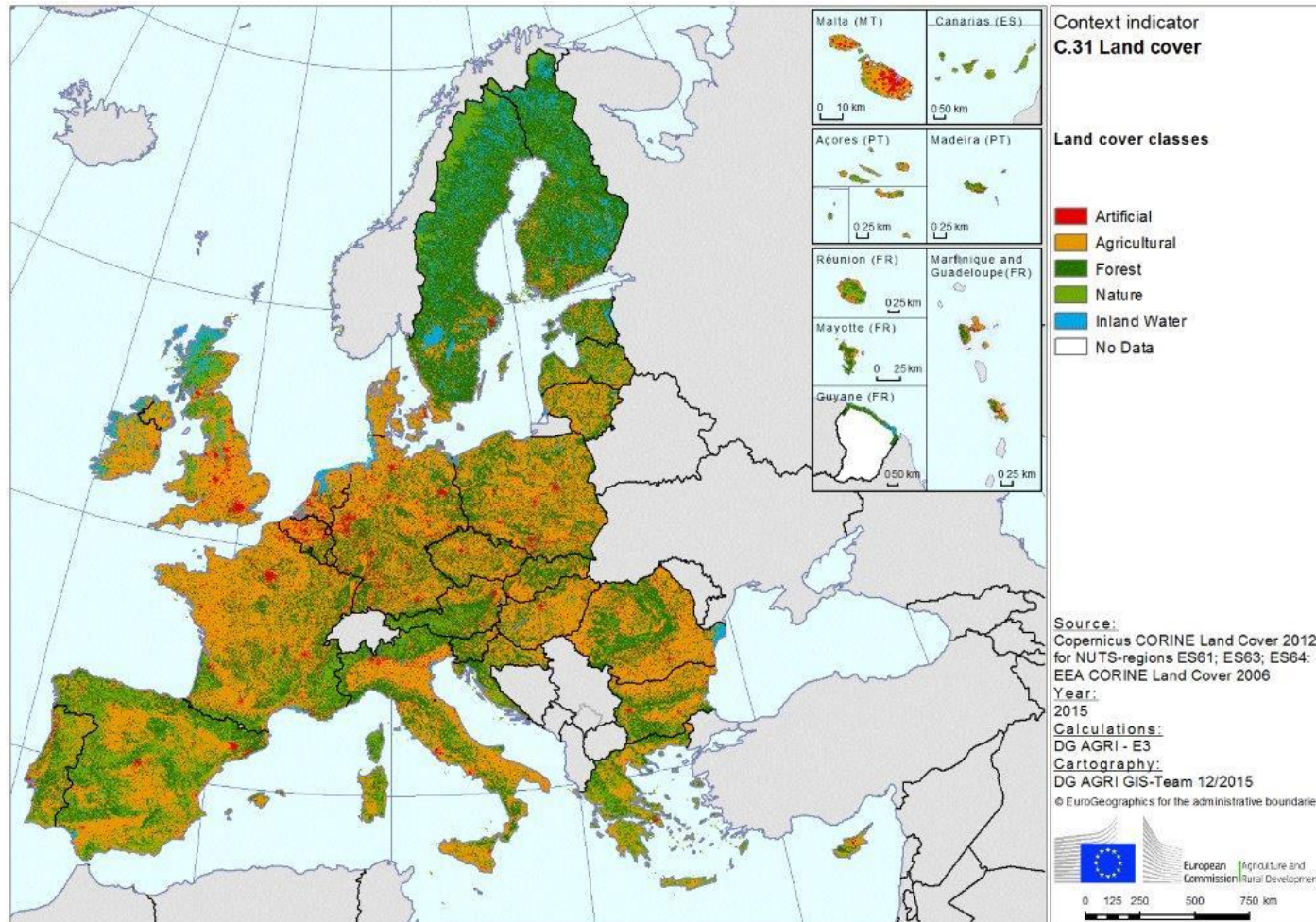
The big picture



**175 million ha
land**
=> *roughly 40%
of EU land cover*

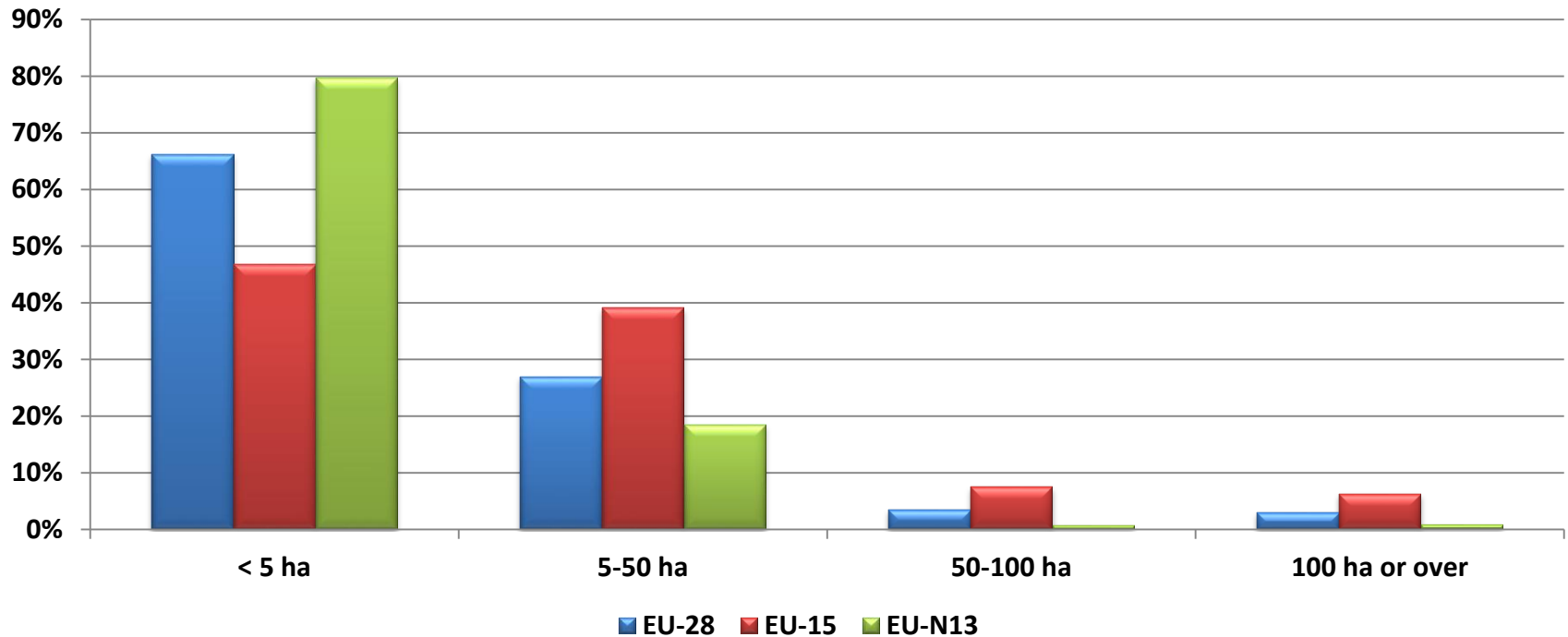
11 million farms
=> *16 ha per farm*

22 million people
(around 9 million
full-time equivalent
jobs)
=> *4.4% of total
employment*



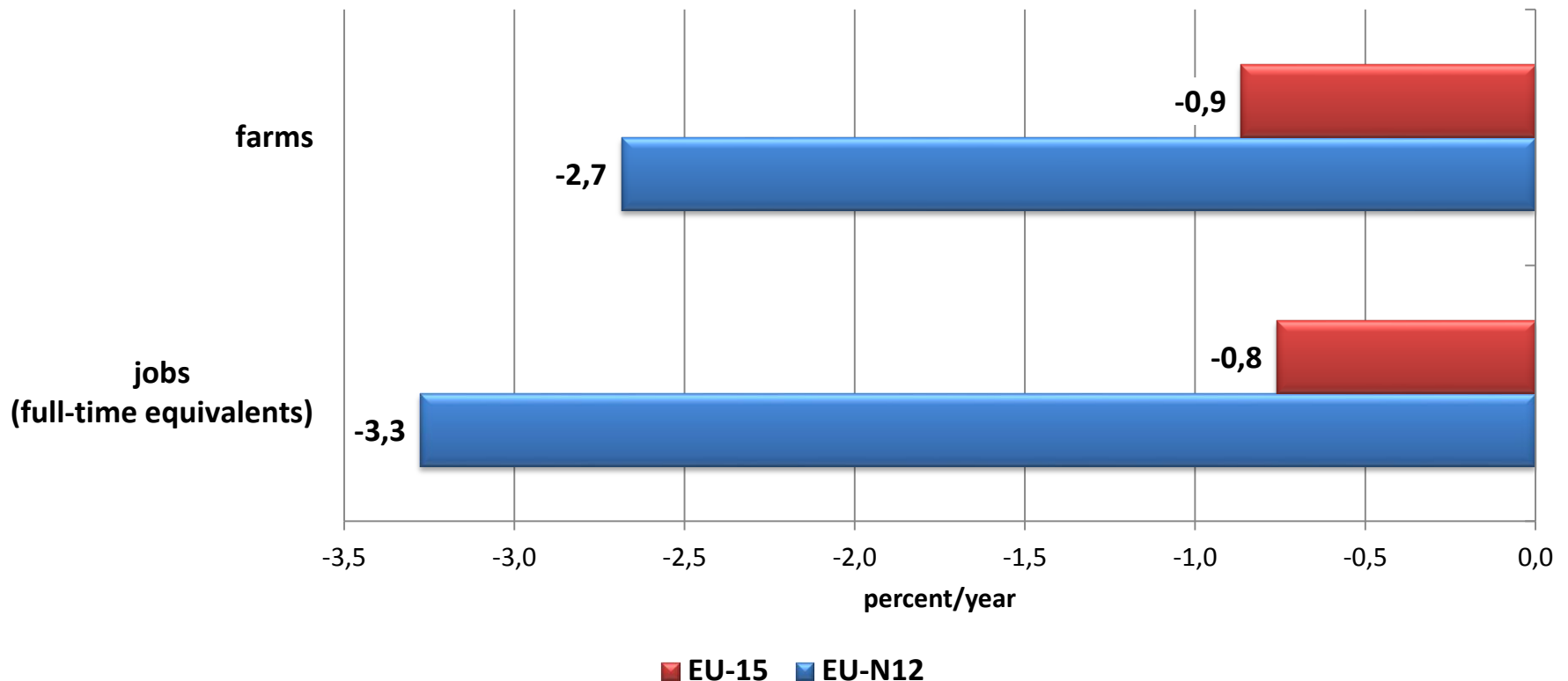
Distribution of farms by size of farmland

EU farms by land size (ha) 2013

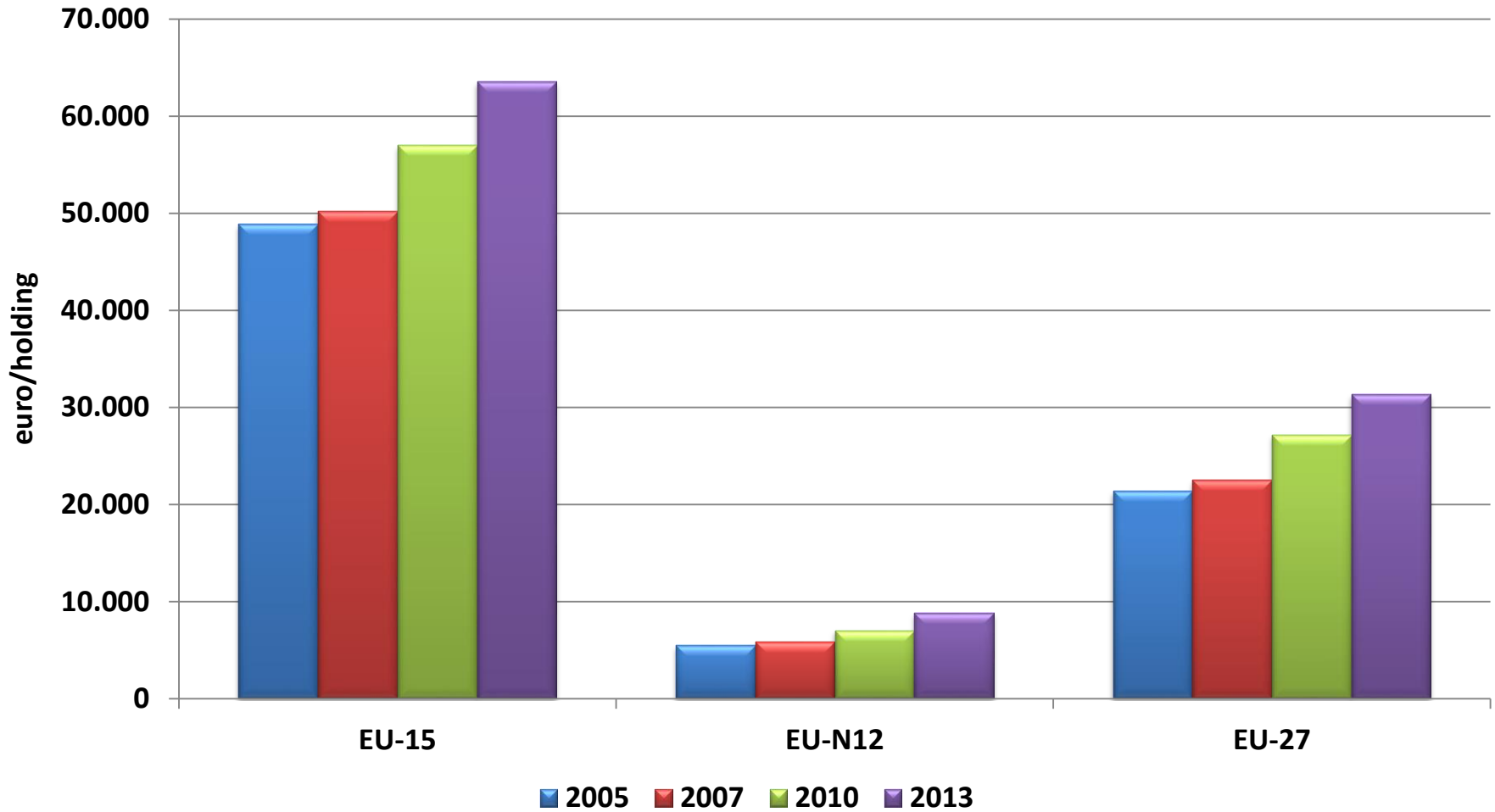


Trends in farm numbers, jobs and land

(Average annual rate of change 2003-2013)



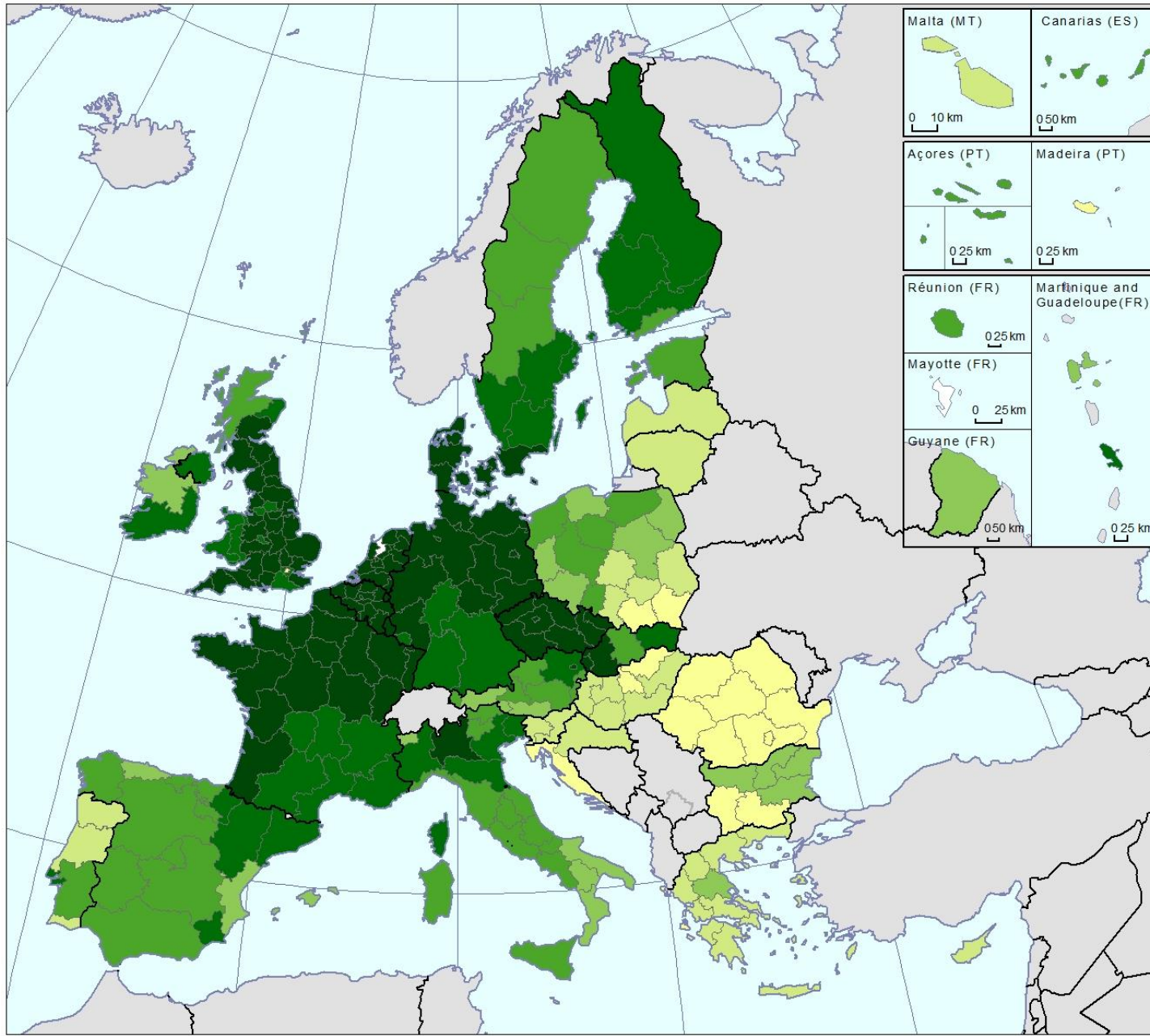
Economic farm size growth



Economic farm size

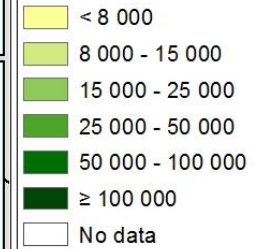


across the EU



Context indicator
C.17 - Agricultural holdings
Average economic farm size

Average economic farm size
in SO per holding at NUTS 2 level



EU-28 average =
EUR 30 536 / holding

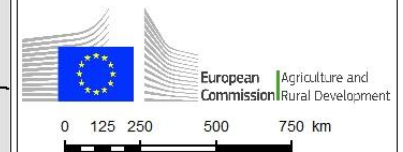
Source:
Eurostat - Farm Structure Survey
(ef_kvaareg)

Year:
2013

Calculations:
DG AGRI - E3

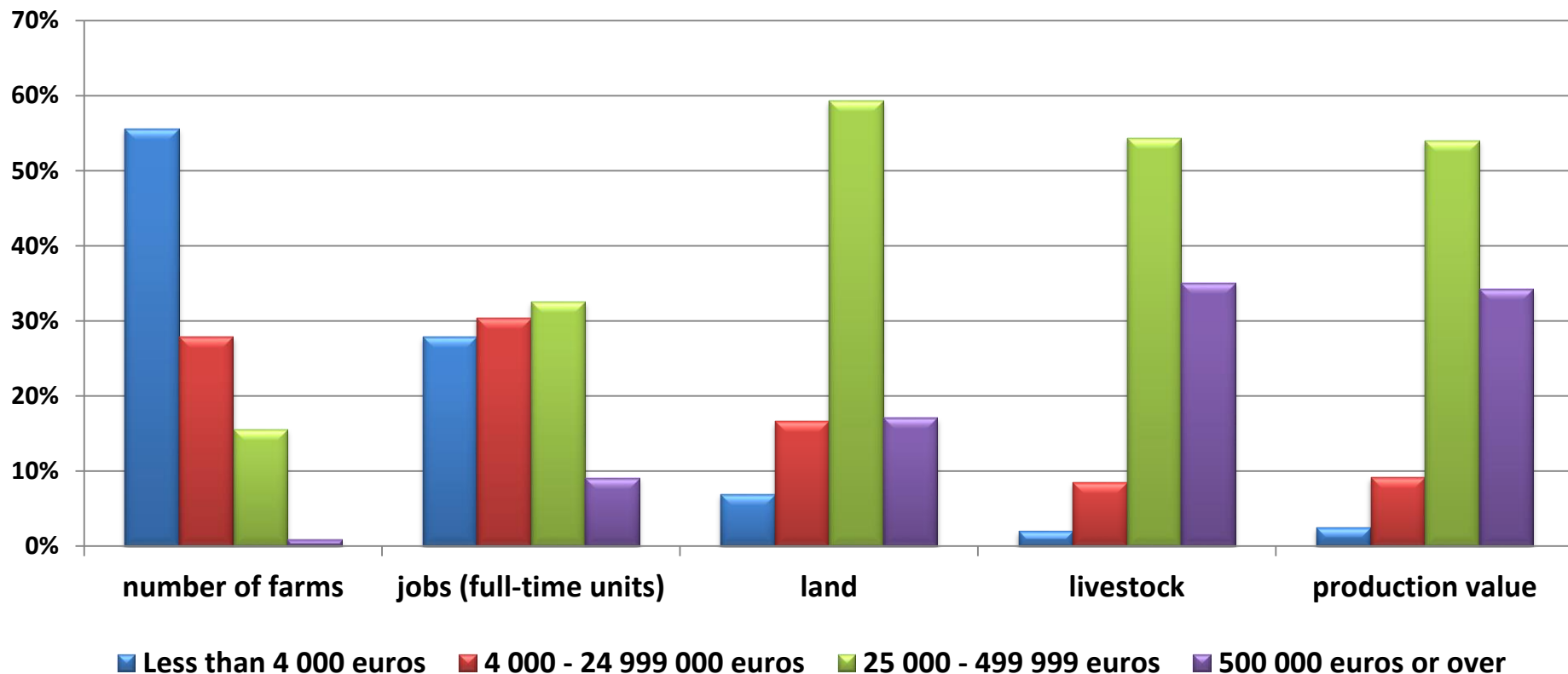
Cartography:
DG AGRI GIS-Team 11/2016

© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries



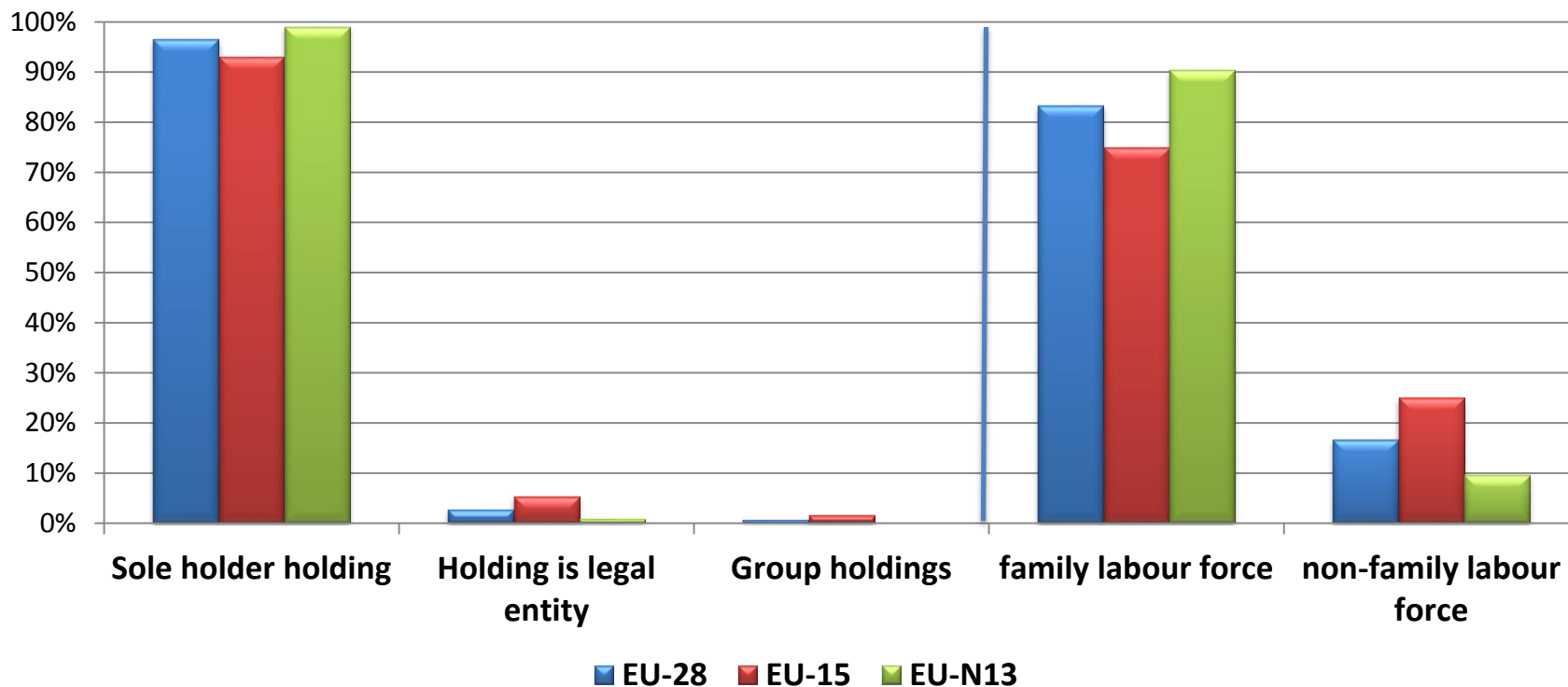
Key farm parameters by economic size class

EU-28, 2013



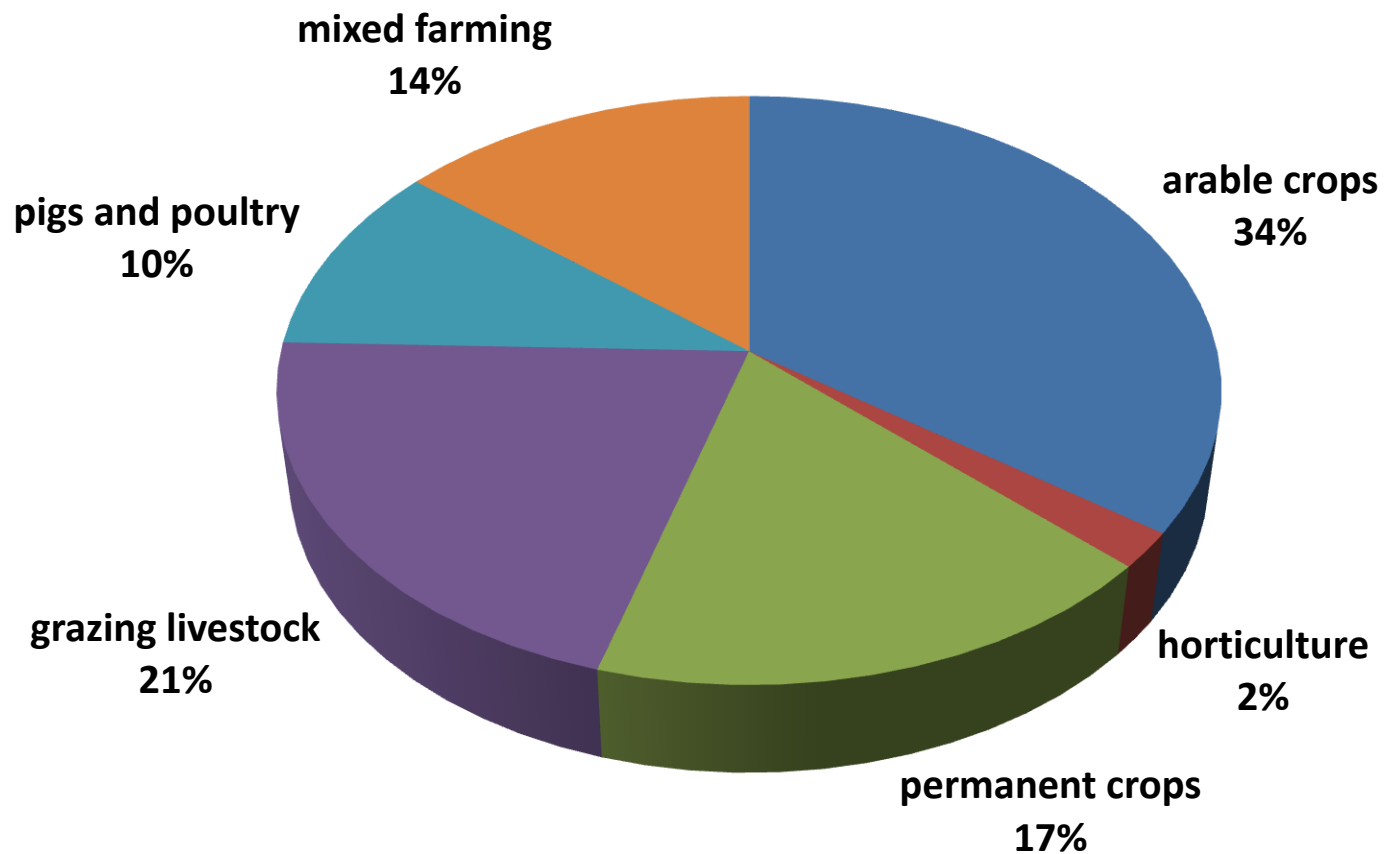
Dominance of family farms

Legal form of EU farms and labour force, 2013



Main activities of EU farms

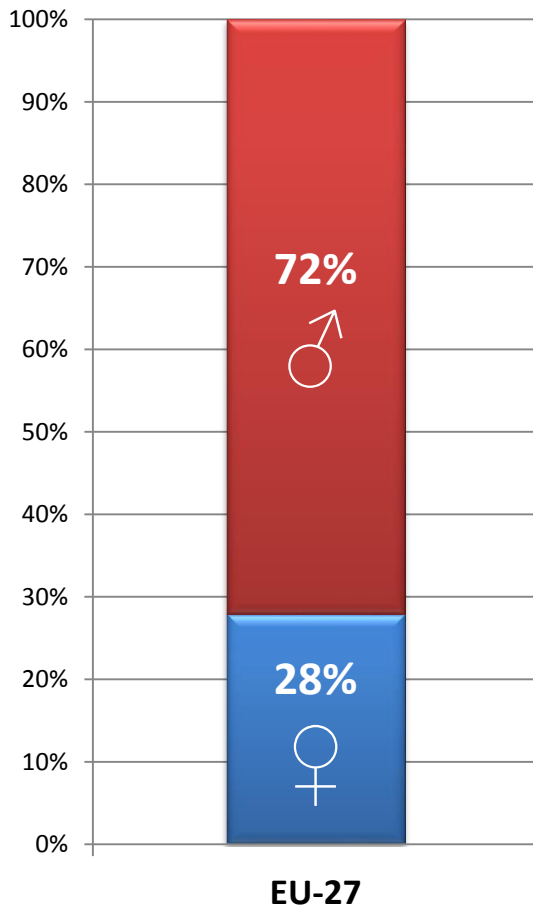
EU-28, 2013



The farmer

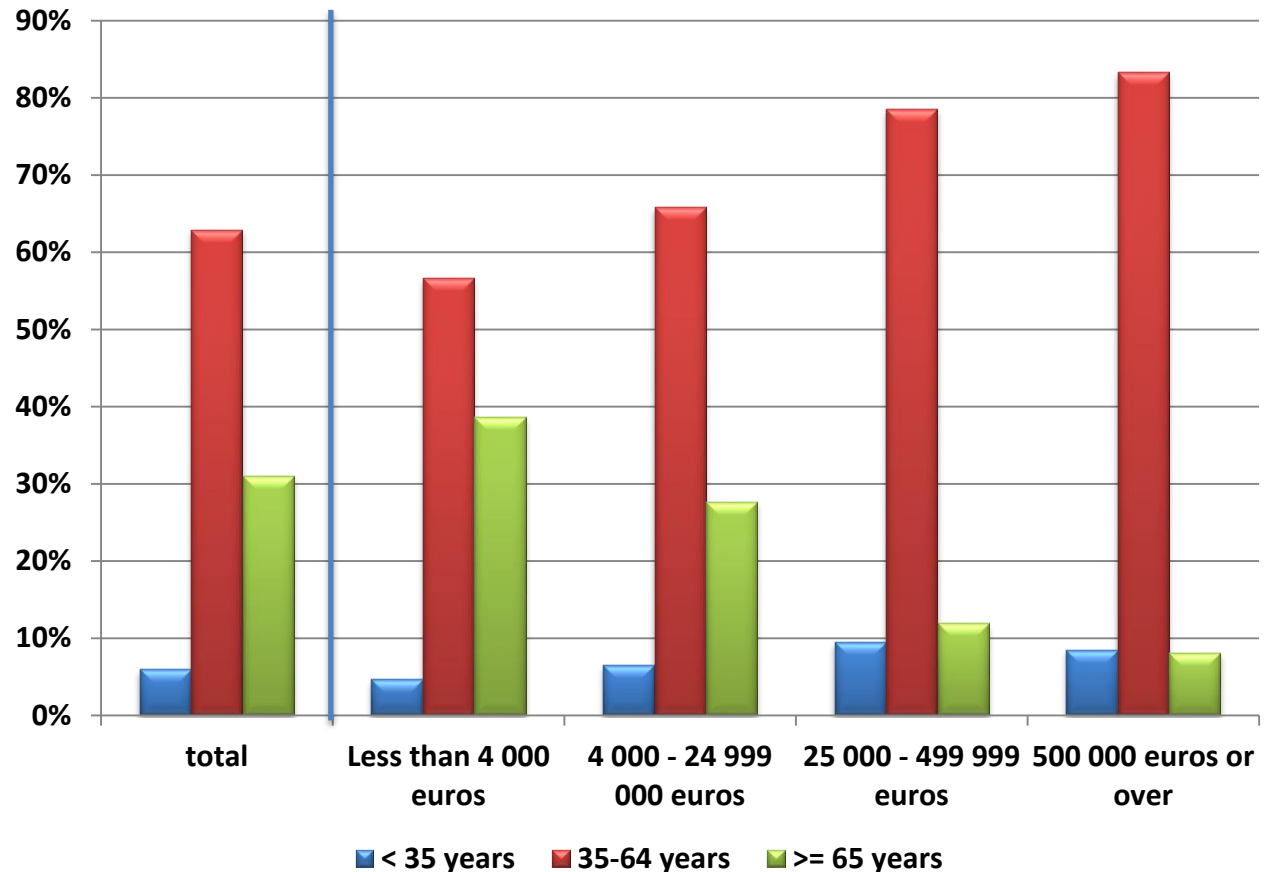


Farmers' gender



Farmers' age by farm size

EU-28, 2013





Take away messages

- EU farms are very diverse across countries, size classes and farm types, reflecting differences in natural, economic, legal, historical and social parameters.
- Structural change is a continuous adaptation process to changing constraints.
- Small and medium-sized family farms are still the main organisational form in EU agriculture, although the bulk of production comes from bigger (family and other) farms.

=> The farmer on his little red tractor (has bought a bigger one and) rides on!