



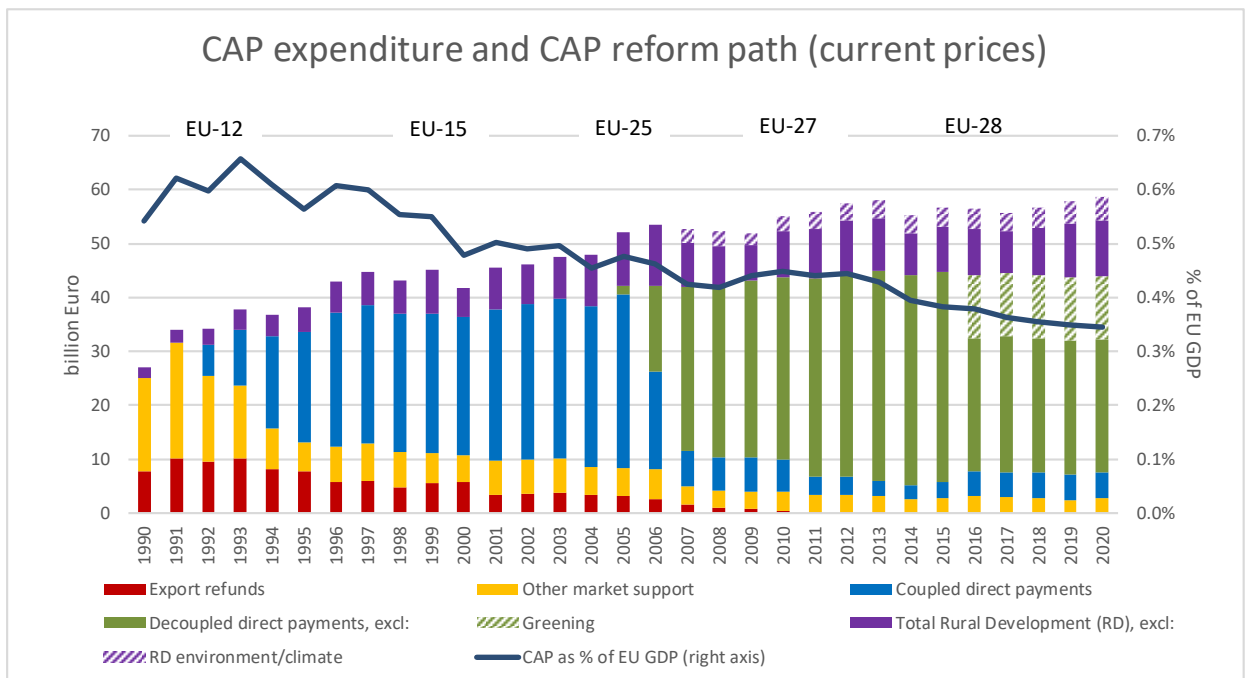
Direct payments to agricultural producers - graphs and figures

Financial year 2020





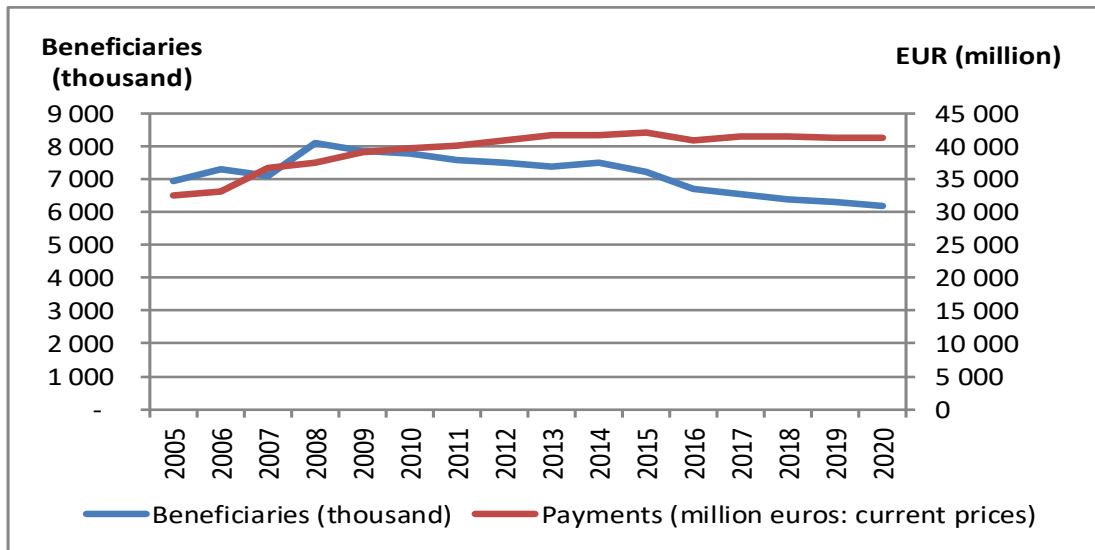
Direct payments in total CAP expenditure



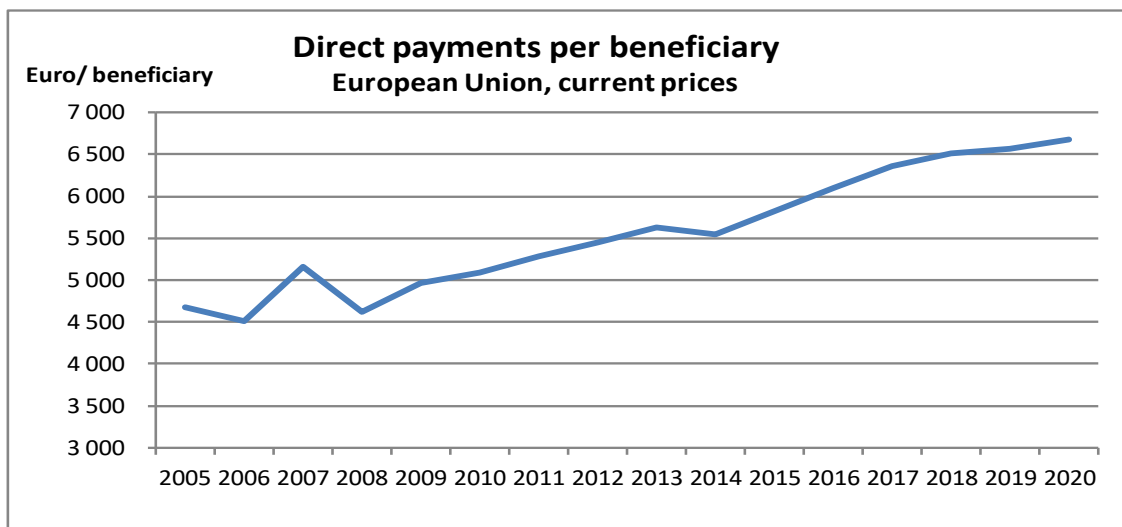
- Direct payments are a key element of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They provide income support for farmers and promote sustainability and environmentally-friendly farming practices.
- In the financial year 2020, direct payments amounted to **EUR 41.4 billion** (which represent 70% of the whole CAP expenditure) and benefited **6.2 million farms** throughout the European Union.
- Decoupled direct payments have progressively replaced coupled payments as the most important component of CAP expenditure (although coupled payments increased slightly again in recent years).



Evolution of total payments and beneficiaries*



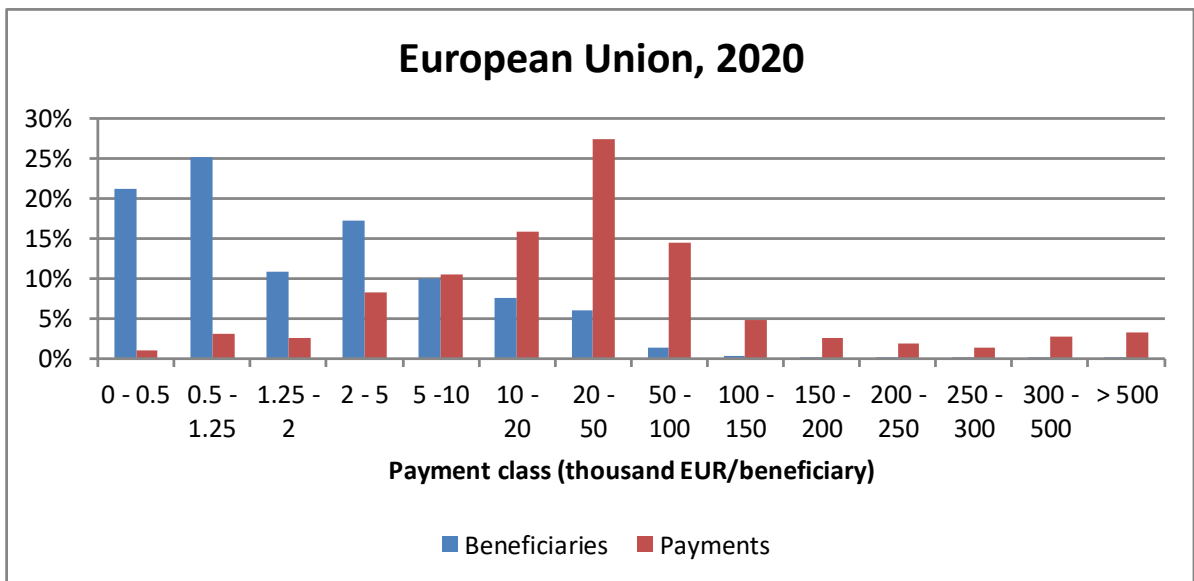
The number of beneficiaries of direct payments is decreasing (-1.5% between 2019 and 2020; increases in 2008 and 2014 are due to EU enlargements), partly because of structural adjustments in the European agricultural sector and (from 2015) also due to stricter eligibility conditions such as the higher minimum requirements and the 'active farmer' clause. The overall amount of direct payments has remained relatively constant in recent years (in nominal terms), leading to an increase in the average amount per beneficiary.



* As a general rule, direct payments claimed for calendar year N are paid in financial year N+1 (except late payments).



Distribution of direct payments by payment class



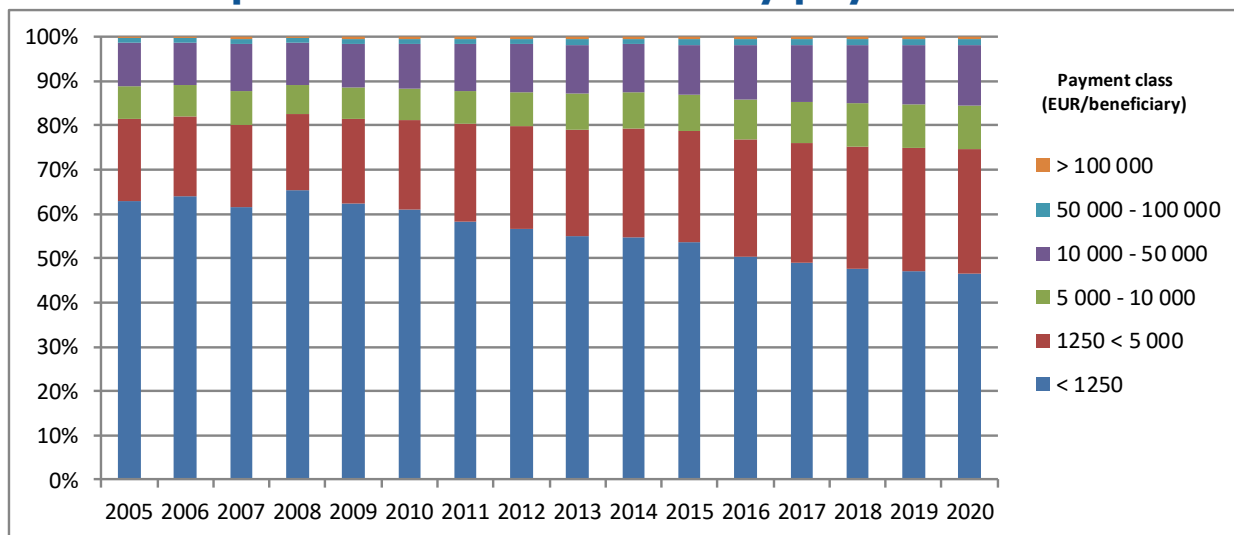
While most beneficiaries of direct payments receive rather small amounts, the greatest share of the direct payment envelope is spent on payments between EUR 10 000 and EUR 100 000.

- Roughly 75% of beneficiaries receive less than EUR 5 000. This accounts for 15% of the total direct payment envelope.
- The payment classes of EUR 10 000 to EUR 100 000 concentrate 58% of the expenditure and cover 15% of all beneficiaries.
- Only 0.5% of all beneficiaries receive more than EUR 100 000. Together, they obtain 16.6% of the total direct payment envelope.

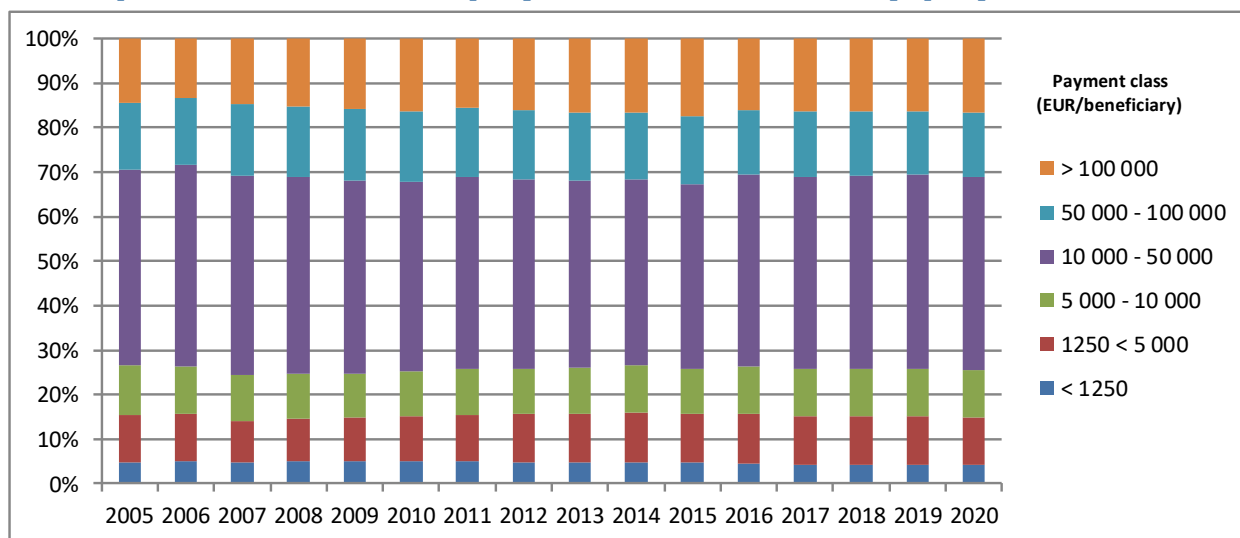


European Commission

Proportion of beneficiaries by payment class



Proportion of direct payment amounts by payment class



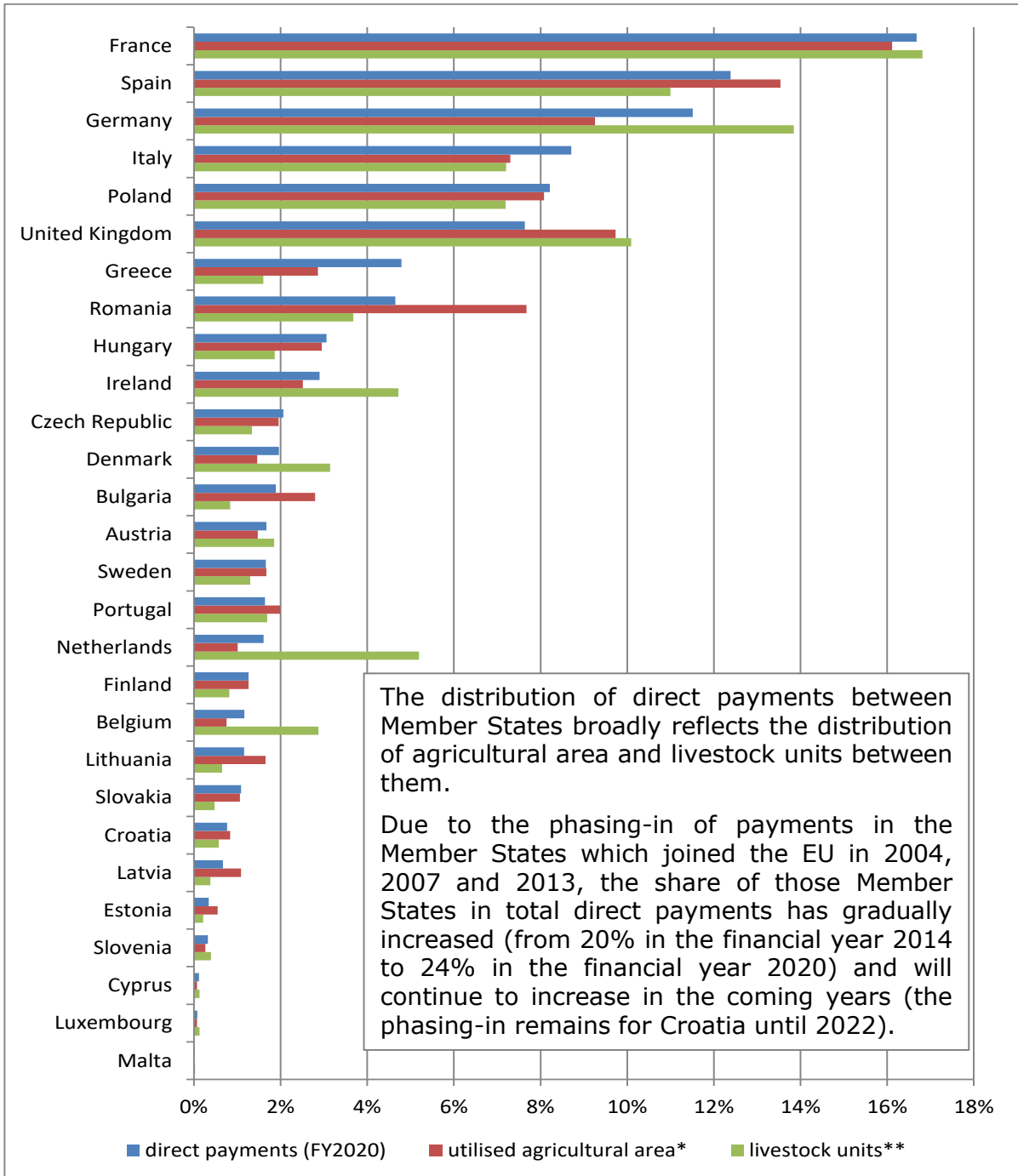
Over time, the share of beneficiaries receiving very small amounts of direct payments (up to EUR 1 250) has declined (from 63% in 2005 to 47% in 2020), leading mainly to an increase of beneficiaries in the next higher payment class (EUR 1 250 to EUR 5 000; from 19% in 2005 to 28% in 2020).

In contrast, total amounts spent in the different payment classes have changed only slightly between 2005 and 2020 (from 4.9% to 4.1% in the smallest and from 14.3% to 16.6% in the highest payment class).



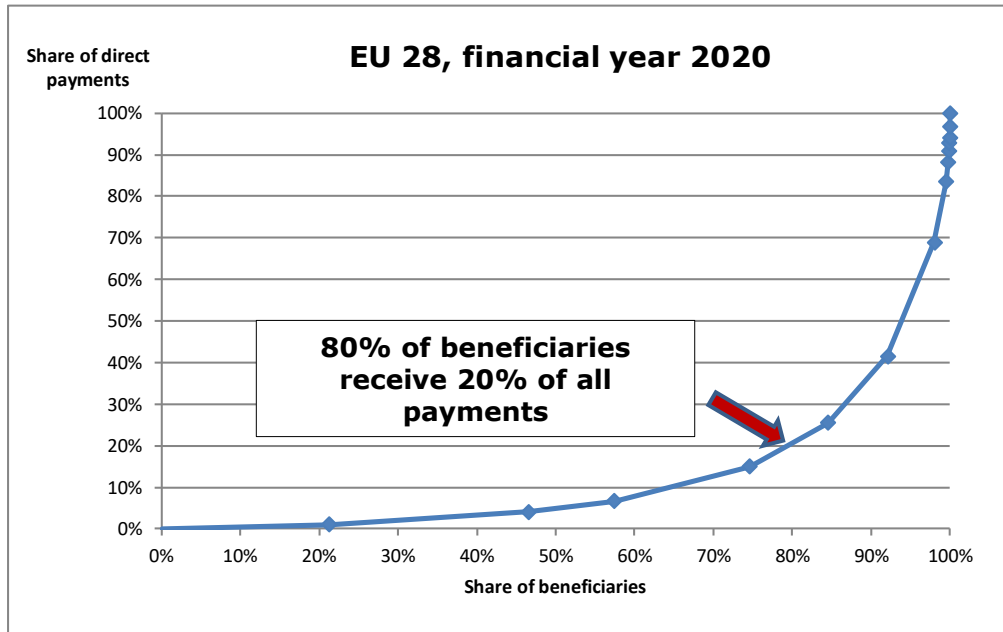
European Commission

Direct payments, agricultural area and livestock





Distribution of direct payments among beneficiaries



As is often stated, 80% of all beneficiaries receive roughly 20% of the total direct payments (or conversely, 20% of beneficiaries receive 80% of the total direct payments). Most of these 20% of beneficiaries (93%) farm between 5 – 250 hectares, and very few have more than 500 hectares (less than 2% of the big beneficiaries).

Such distribution is mainly driven by the concentration of land and the nature of the support, which is largely area-based.

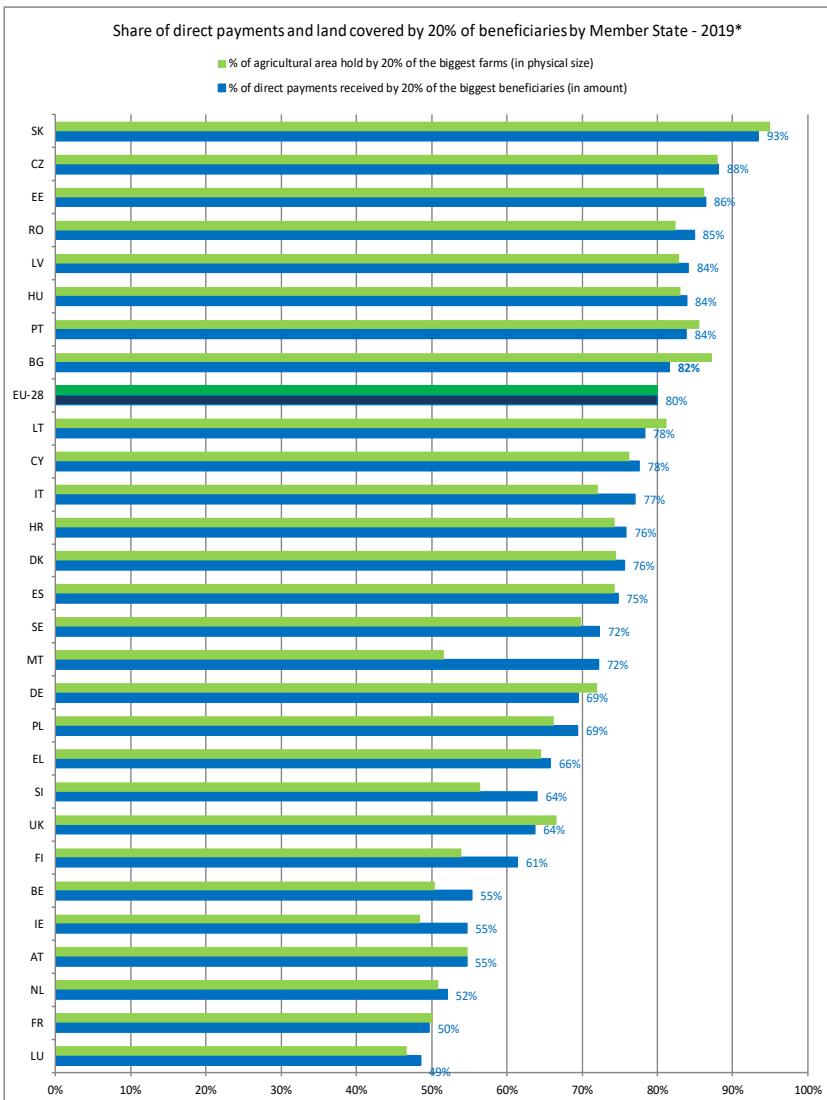
Direct payments are as concentrated as land: 20% of the largest farms in the EU concentrate 80% of agricultural land.

Medium-sized farms (between 5 and 250 ha) farm 67% of EU agricultural land and receive about 71% of direct payments. Very small farms (below 5 ha) represent almost half of all beneficiaries but farm only 4.5% of EU agricultural land and receive 5.3% of direct payments (Source: CATS).

Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	47.8%	4.5%	5.3%
5-250 ha	50.9%	67.0%	71.3%
>250 ha	1.3%	28.5%	23.3%



European
Commission



The degree of concentration of land and direct payments differs across Member States. While in Slovakia more than 90% of agricultural land is farmed by 20% of beneficiaries (who receive a corresponding share of direct payments), this figure is lowest in Luxembourg (49%).

Differences in the share of land held and direct payments received by the top 20% of beneficiaries are mostly small, with some exceptions.

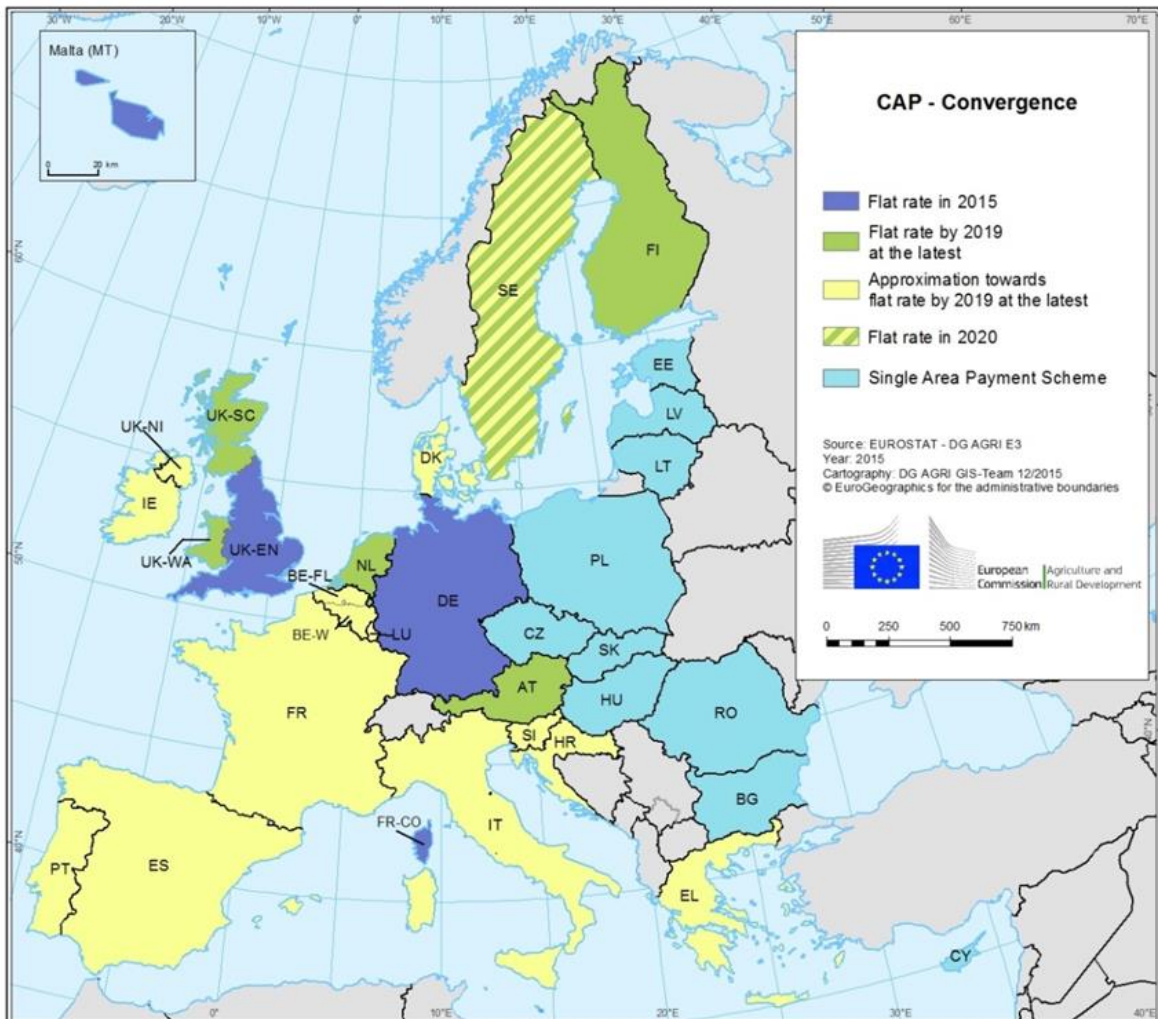
In Malta (and to a lesser degree in some other countries), direct payments are more strongly concentrated than land. The reverse is true in particular in Bulgaria, the UK and Lithuania.

*claim year



European
Commission

Annex: Country graphs

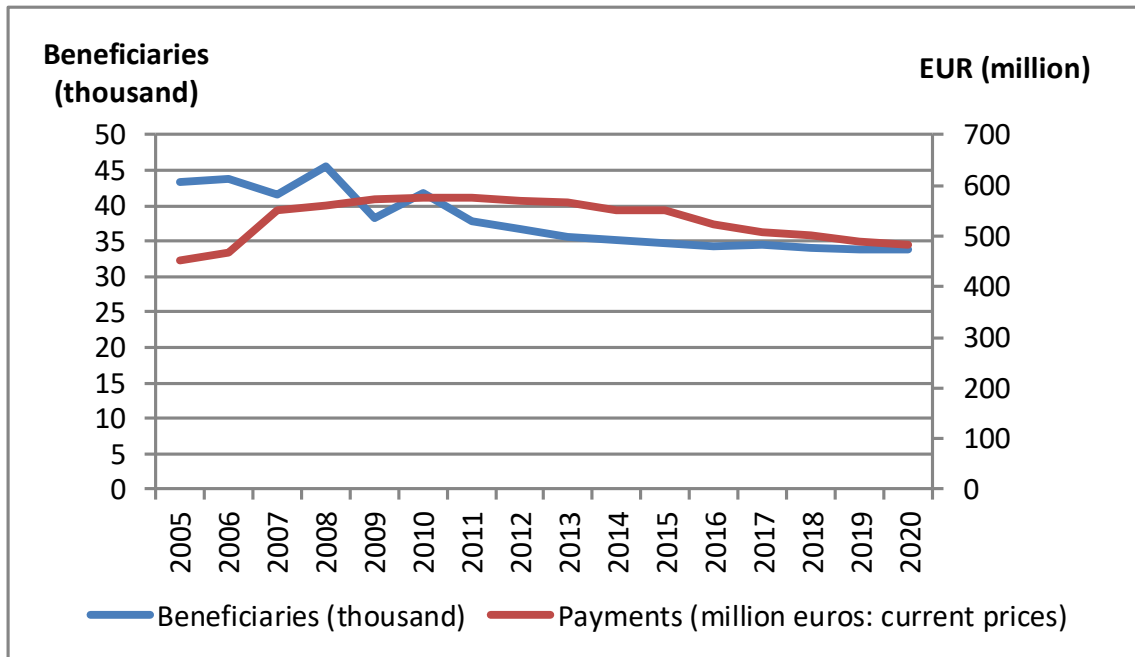




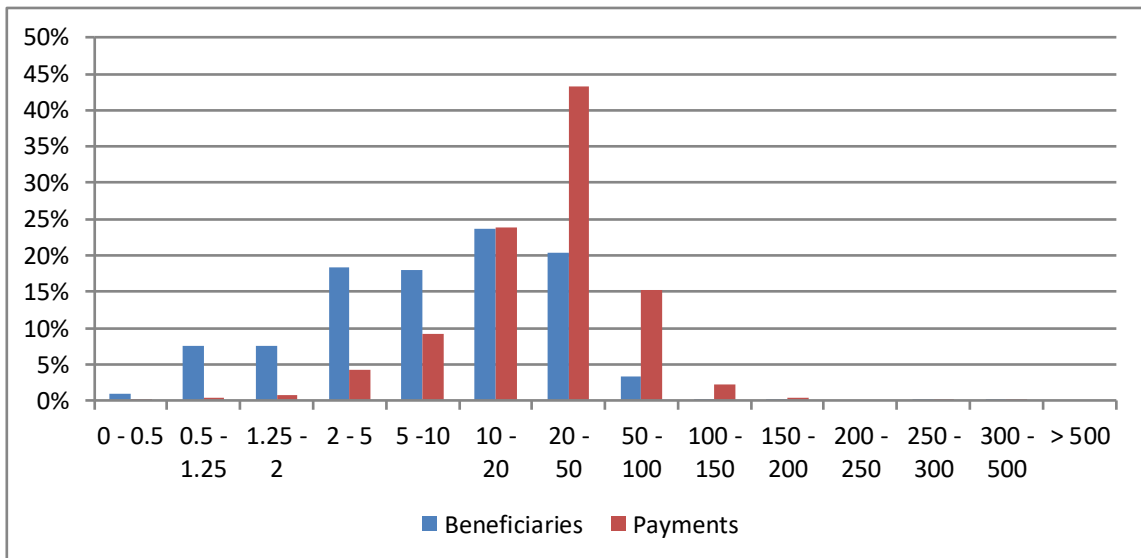
European
Commission

Belgium

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

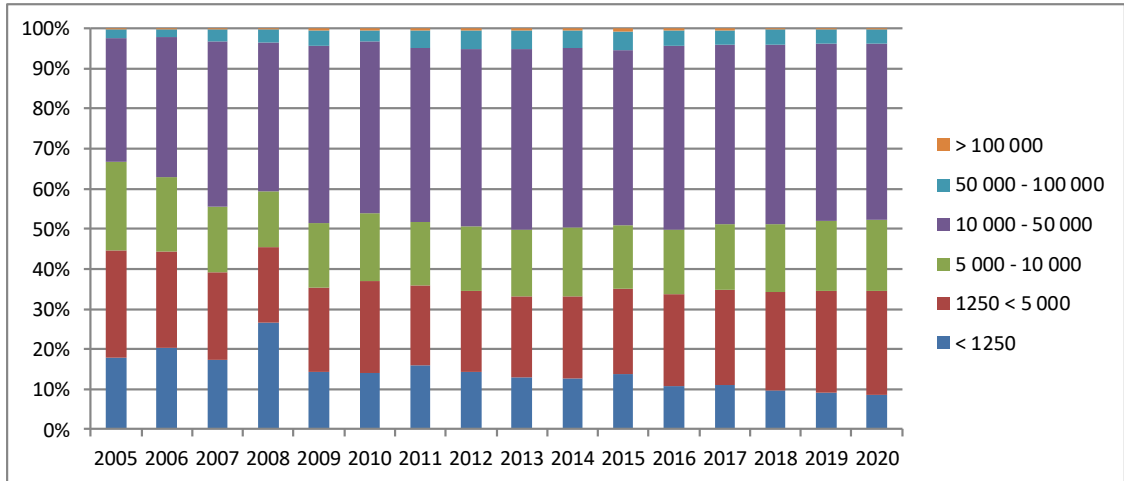


Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

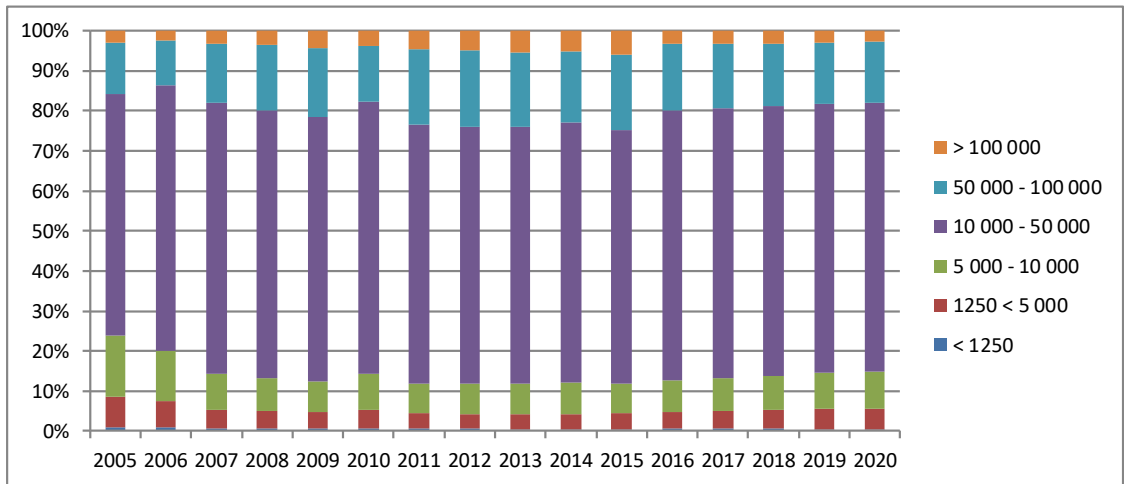




Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

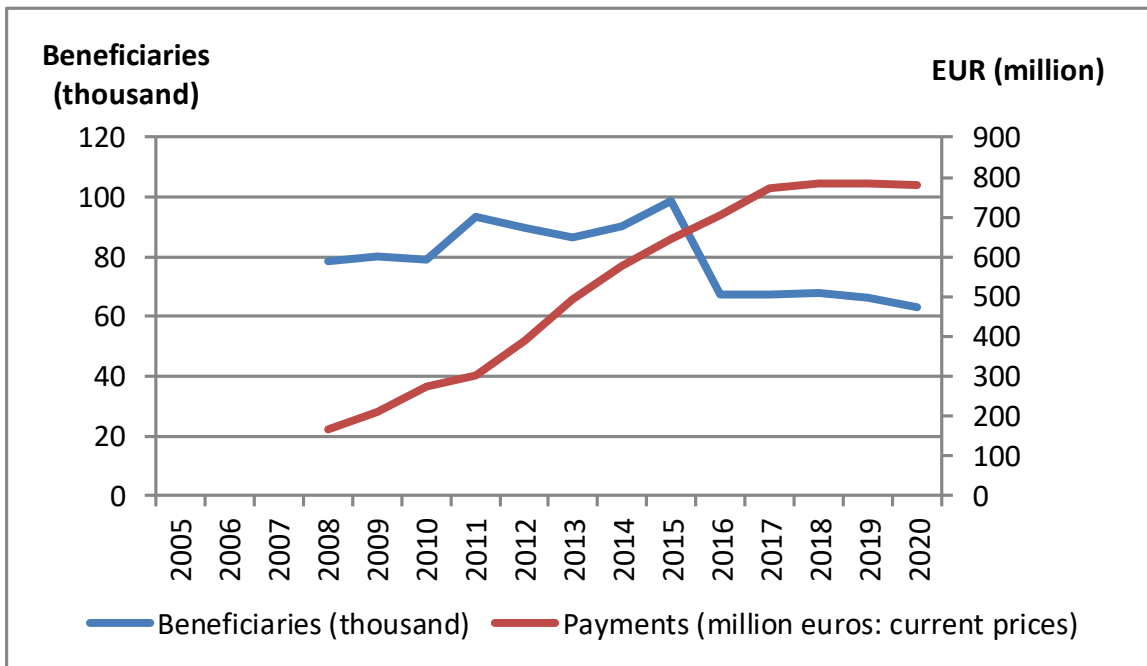
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	9.4%	0.8%	1.0%
5-250 ha	90.3%	95.8%	96.3%
>250 ha	0.4%	3.4%	2.7%



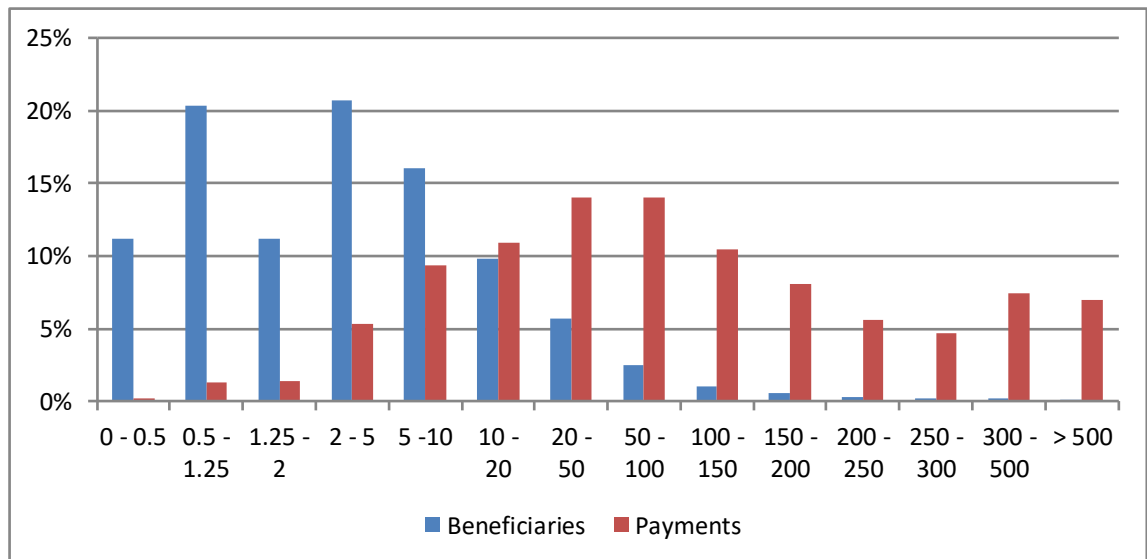
European Commission

Bulgaria

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



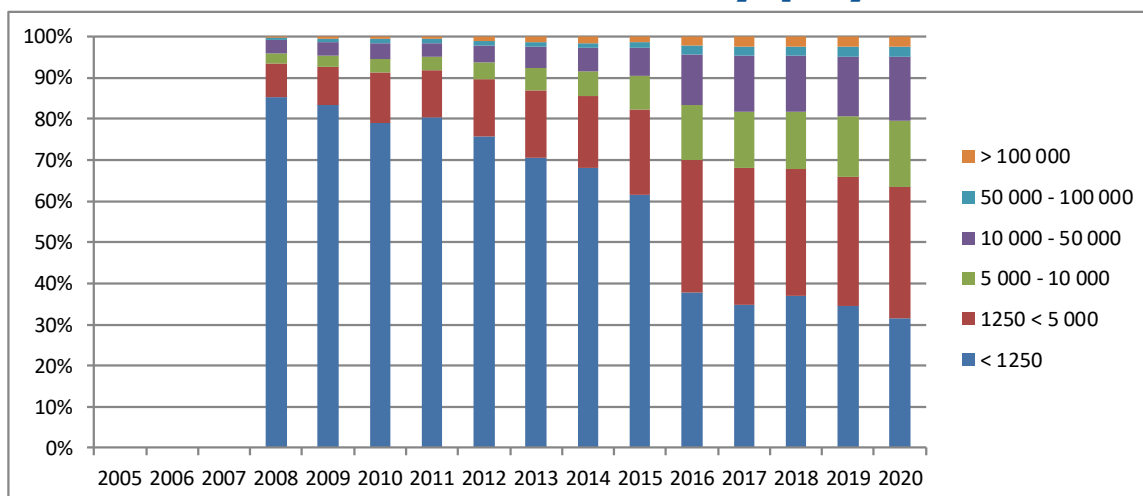
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



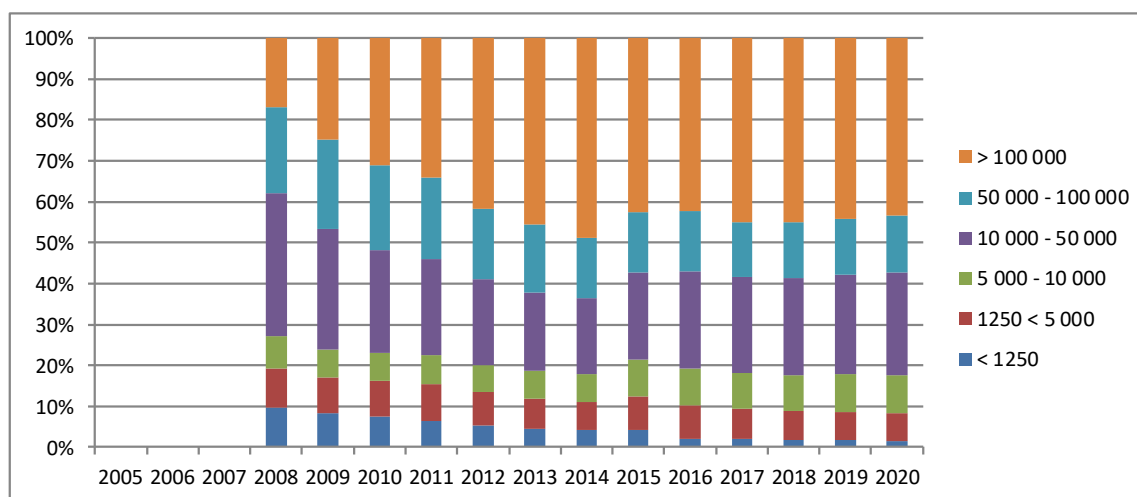


European Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

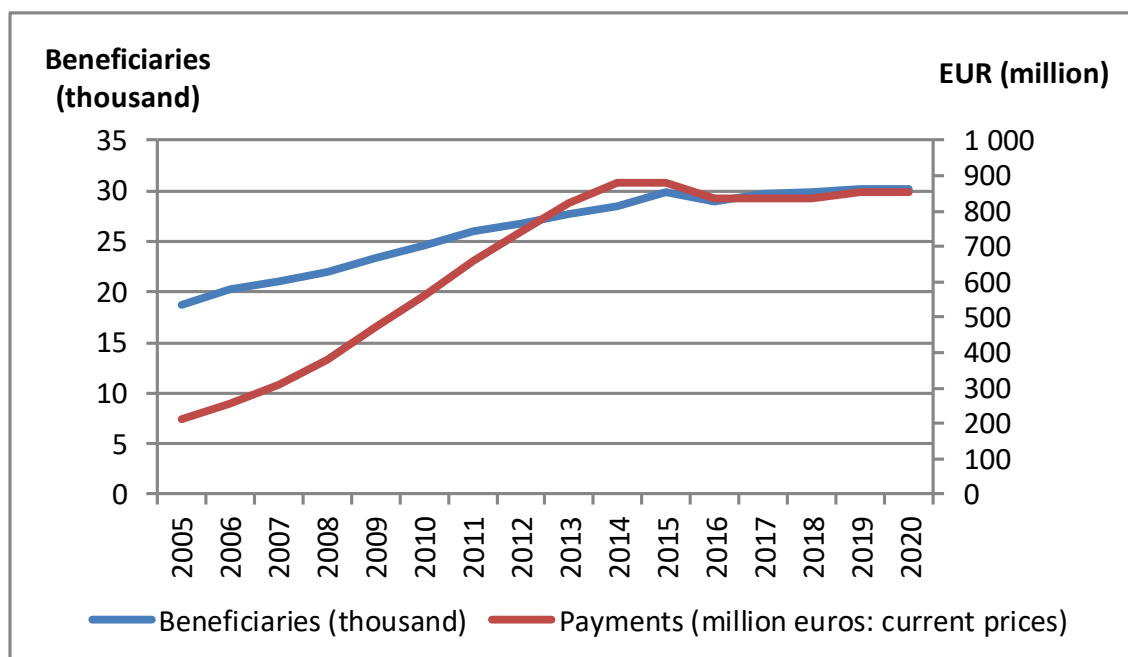
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	39.3%	1.4%	3.5%
5-250 ha	55.4%	31.0%	39.0%
>250 ha	5.3%	67.5%	57.5%



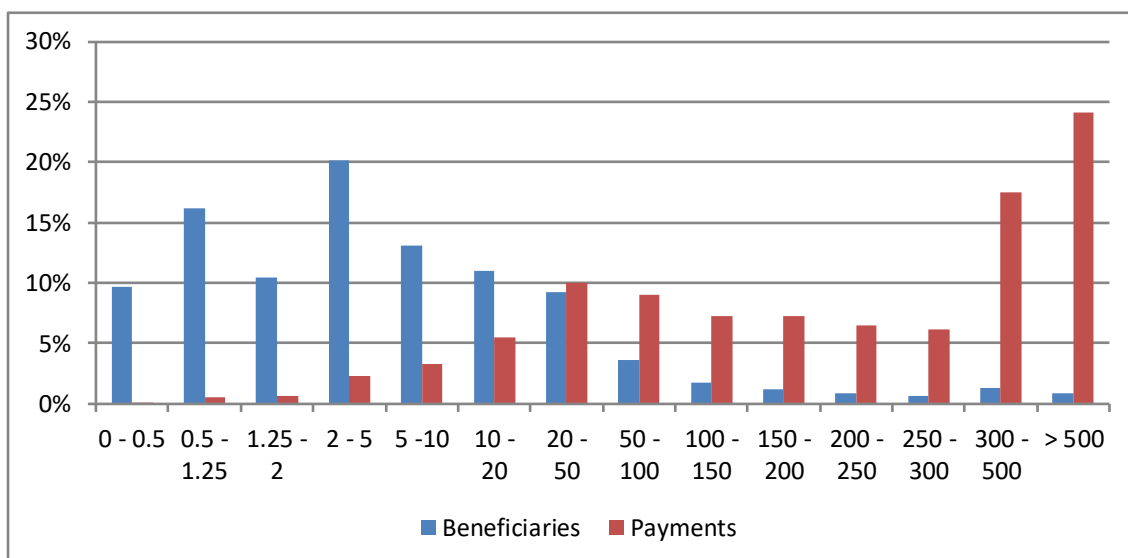
European
Commission

Czechia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



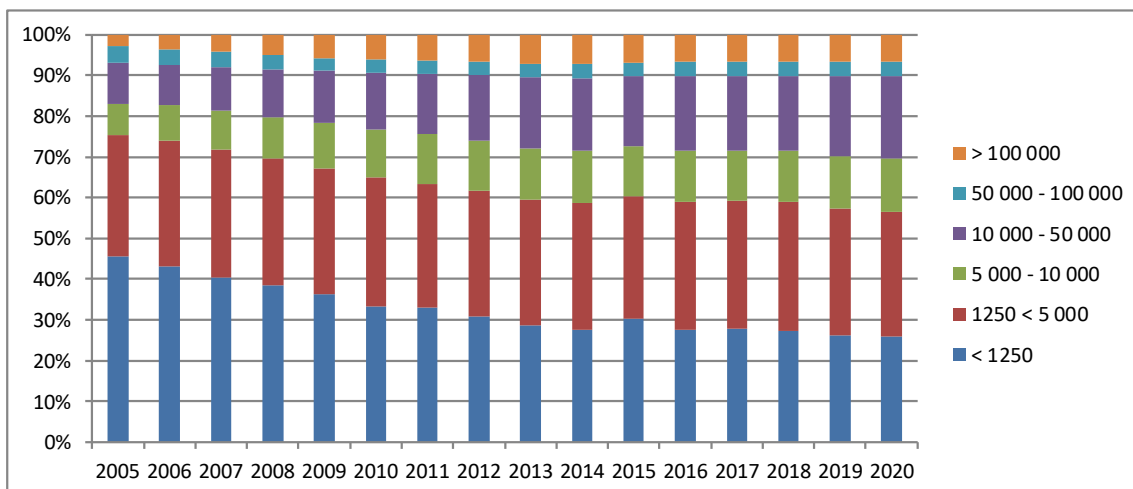
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



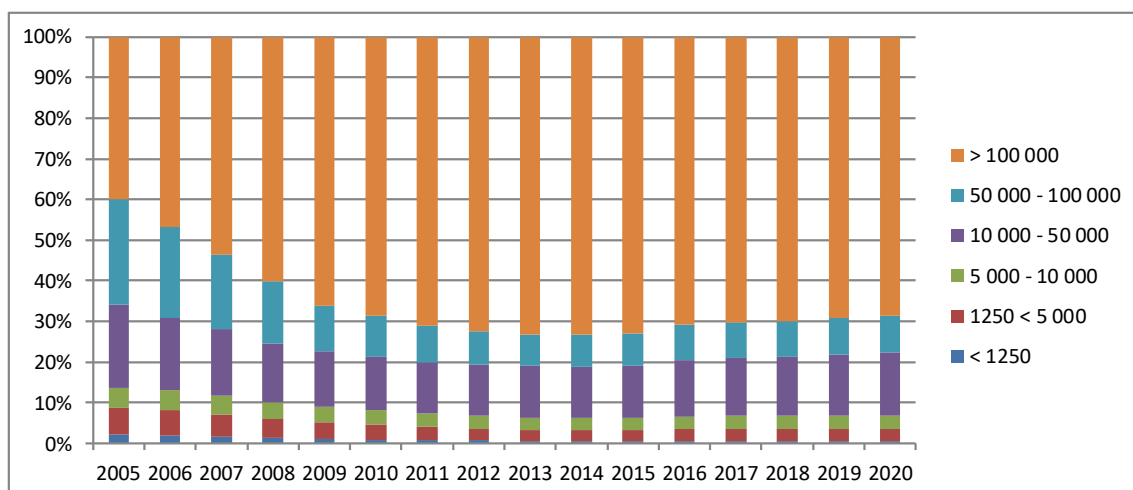


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Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

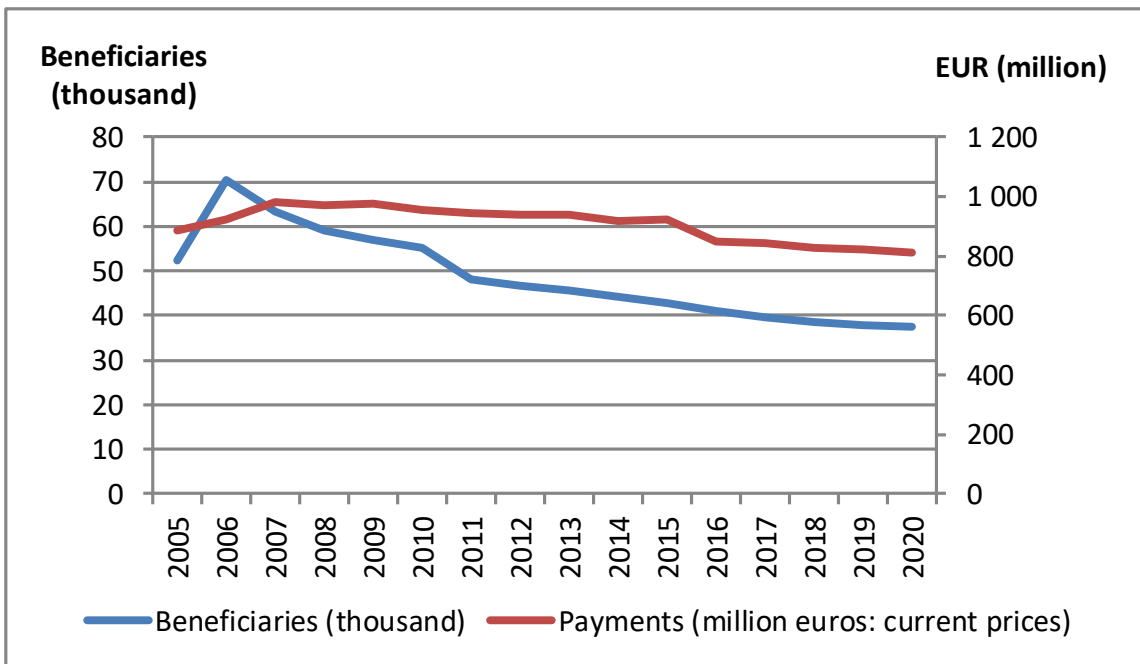
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	23.9%	0.6%	0.5%
5-250 ha	66.9%	23.6%	23.6%
>250 ha	9.2%	75.9%	75.8%



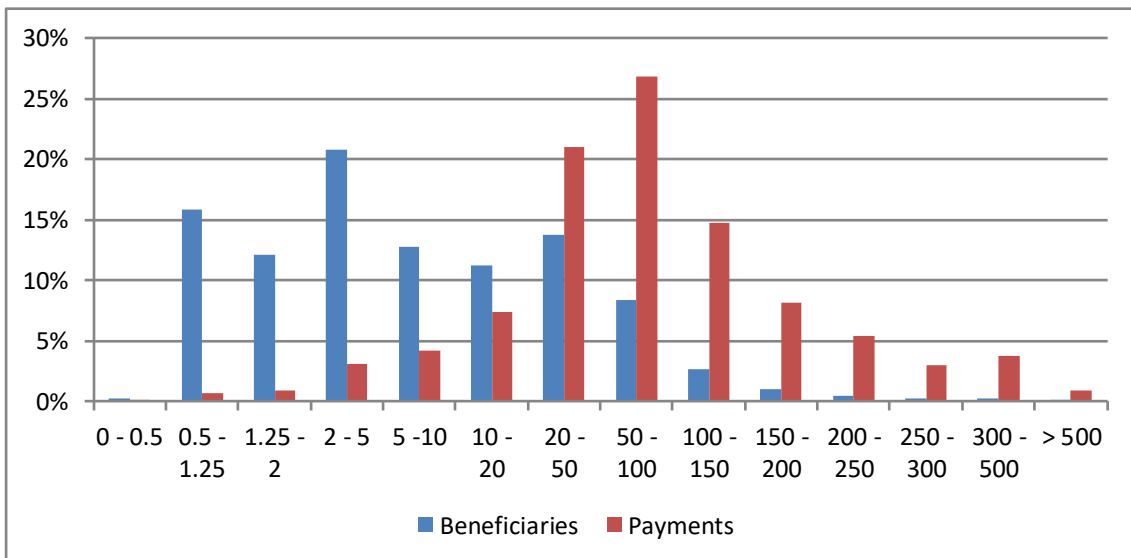
European Commission

Denmark

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



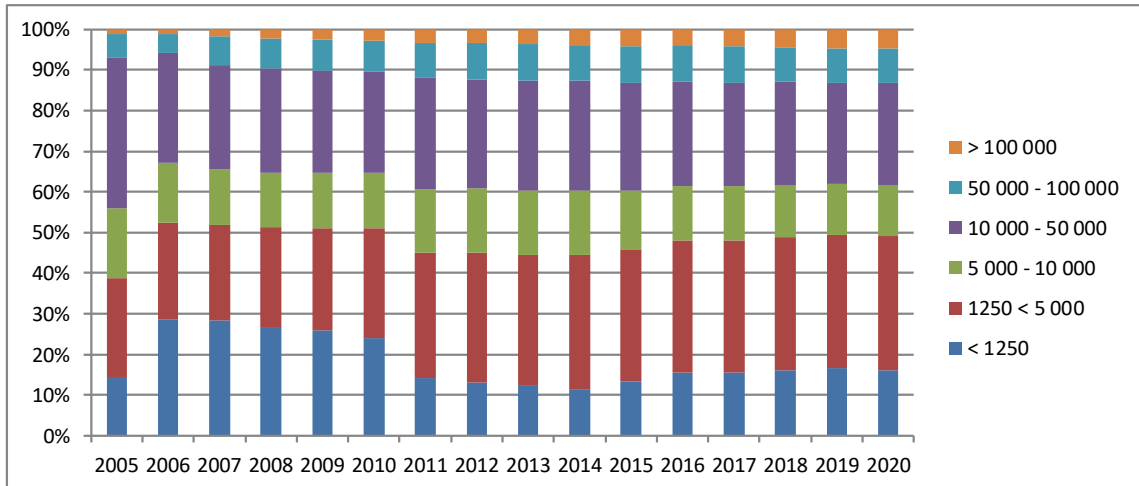
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



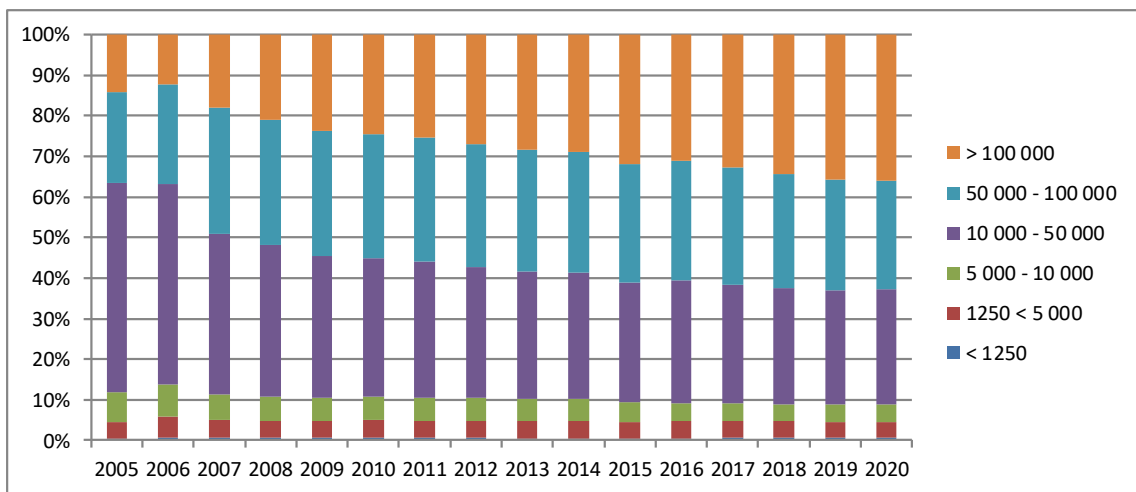


European Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

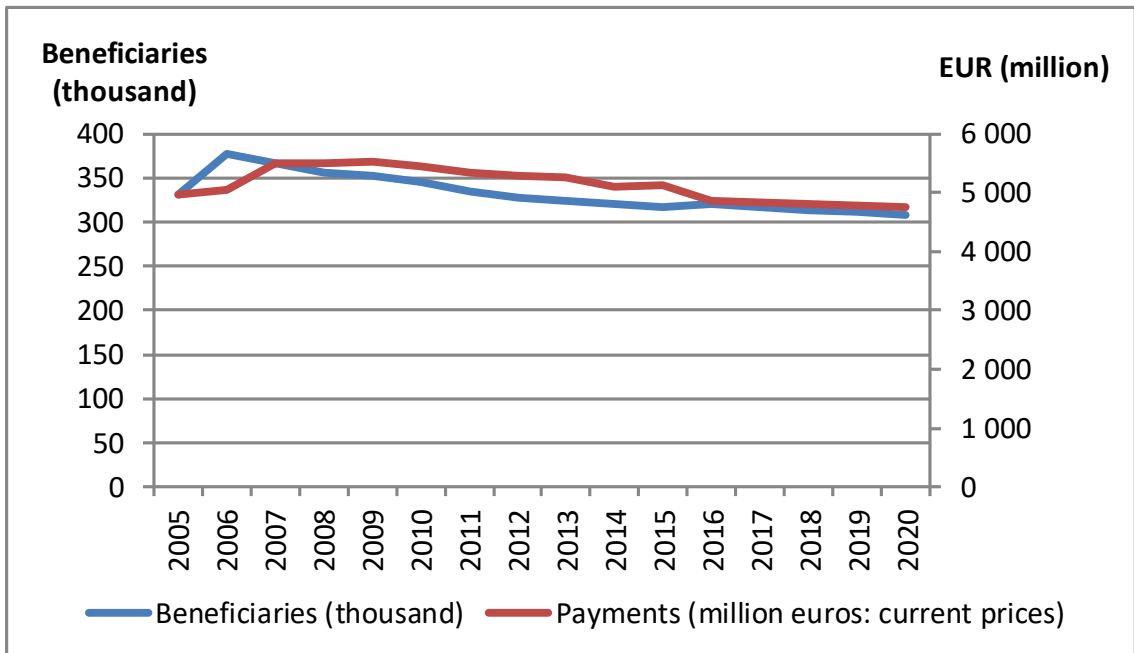
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	19.1%	0.9%	0.9%
5-250 ha	74.1%	54.0%	55.7%
>250 ha	6.8%	45.1%	43.4%



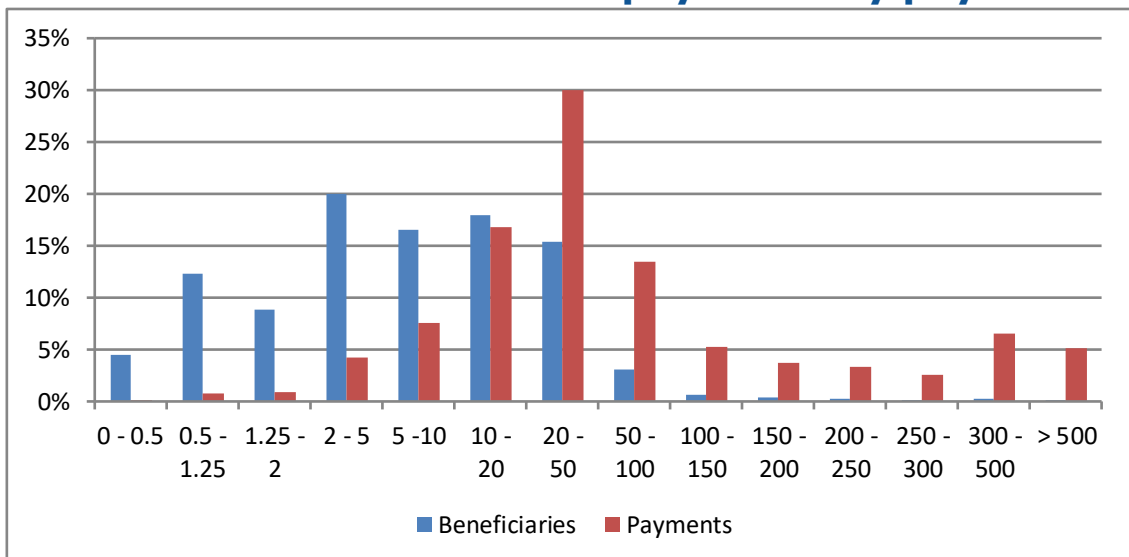
European
Commission

Germany

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



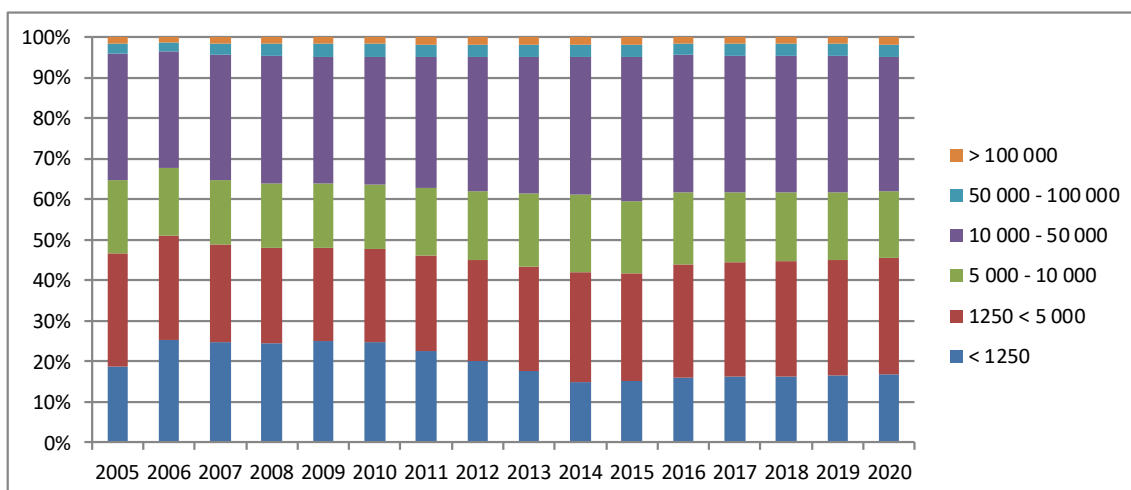
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



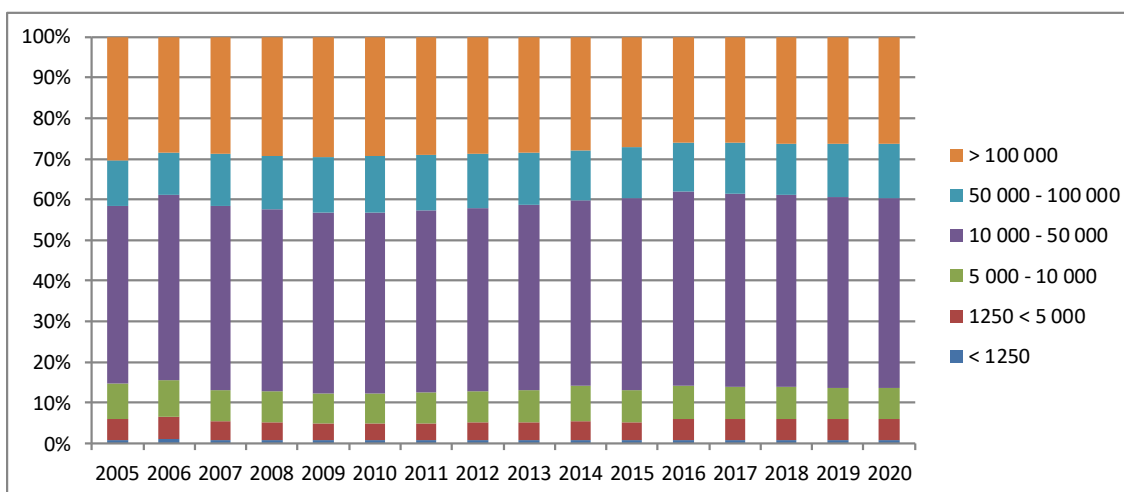


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Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

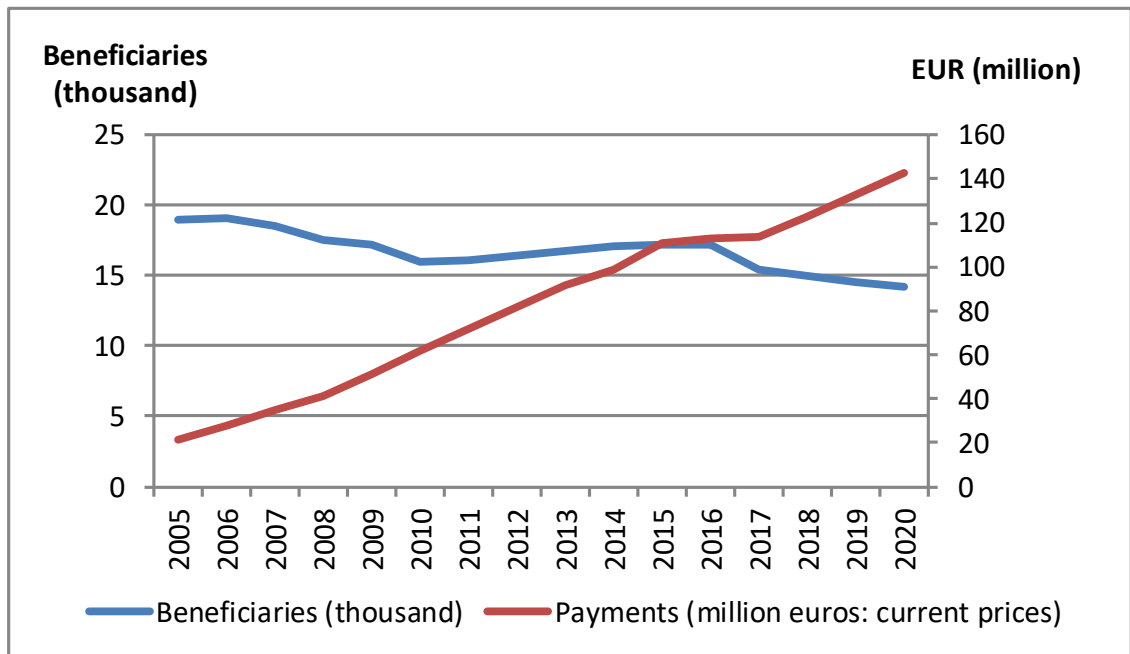
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	20.9%	1.1%	1.2%
5-250 ha	76.1%	63.6%	66.0%
>250 ha	3.0%	35.3%	32.8%



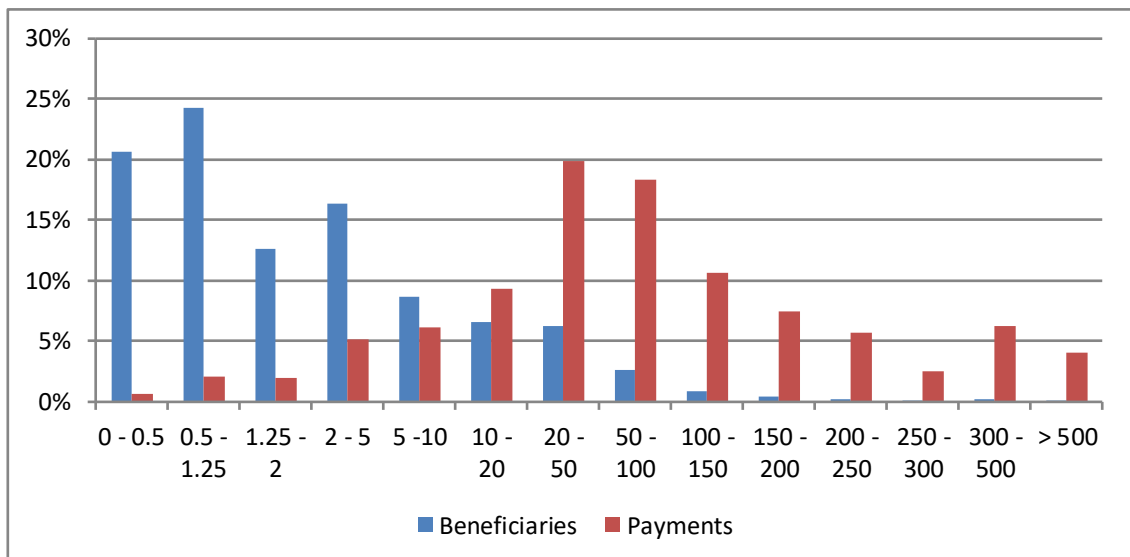
European Commission

Estonia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



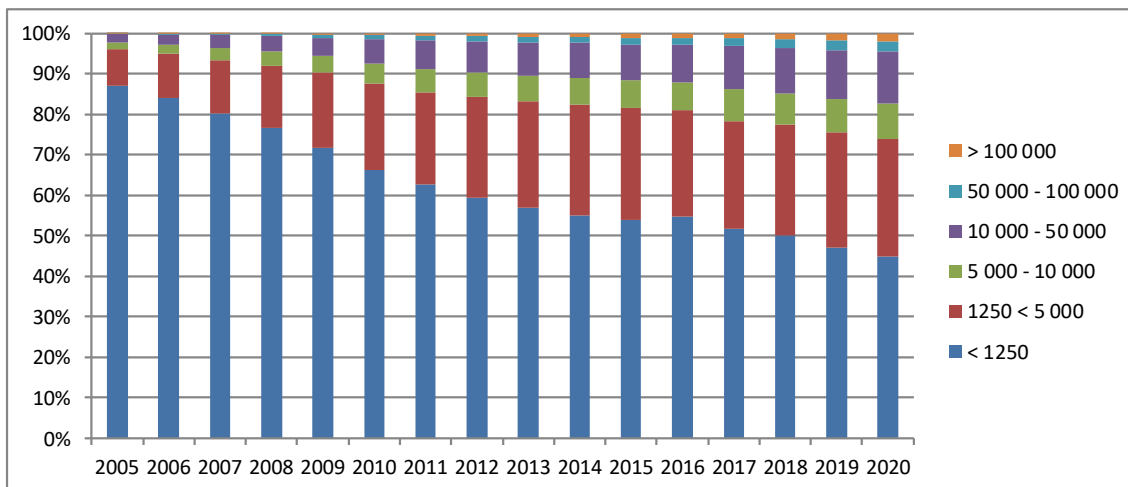
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



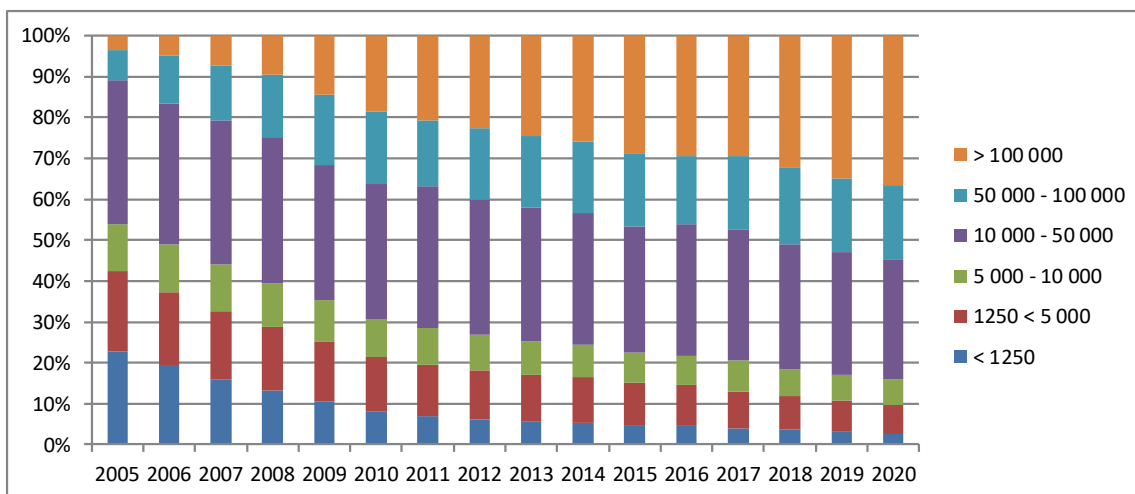


European Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



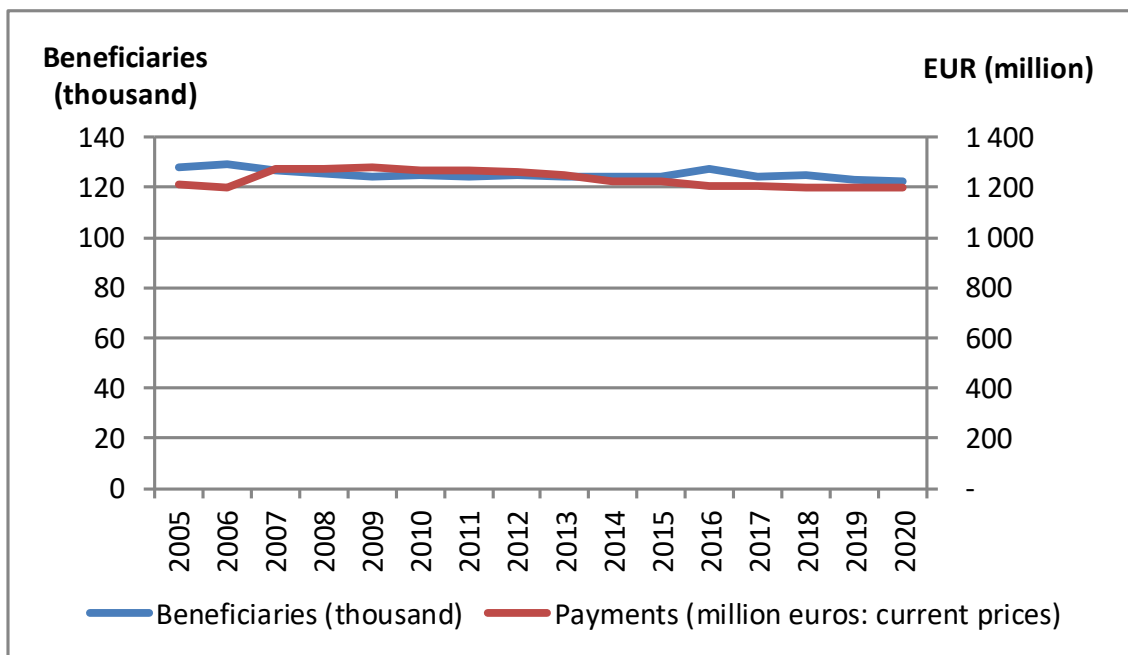
Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	29.2%	1.2%	1.2%
5-250 ha	64.5%	36.2%	37.0%
>250 ha	6.2%	62.6%	61.8%

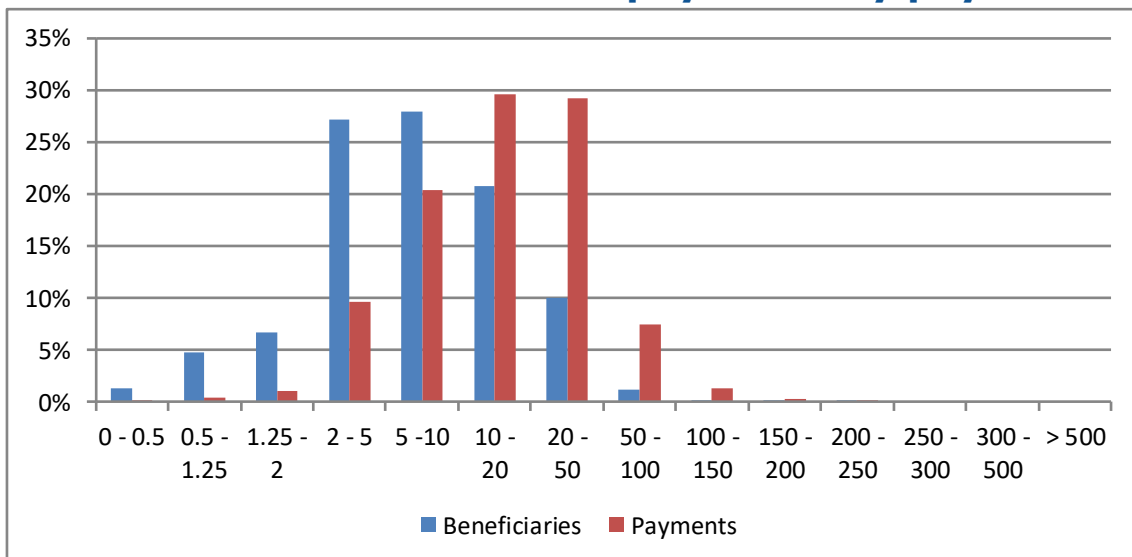


Ireland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



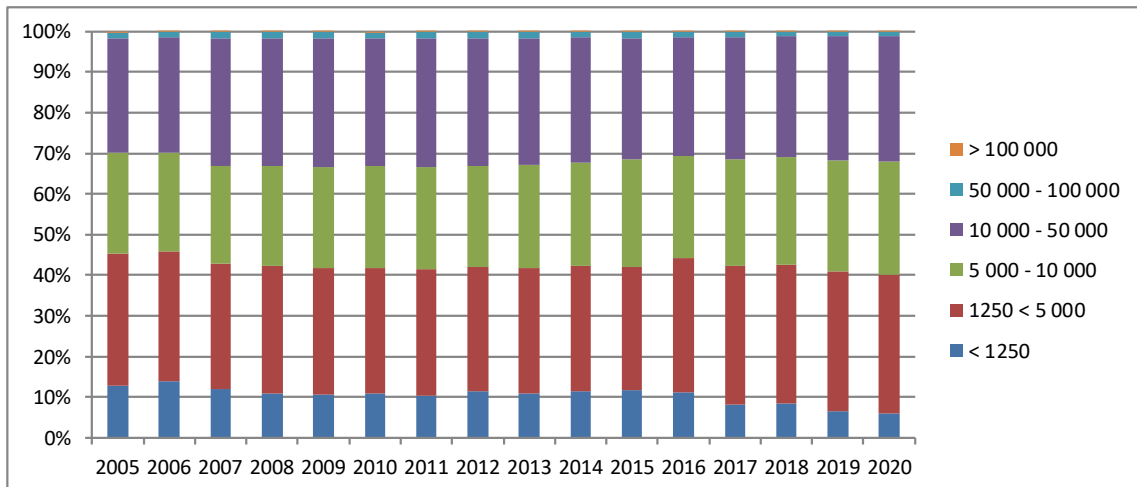
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



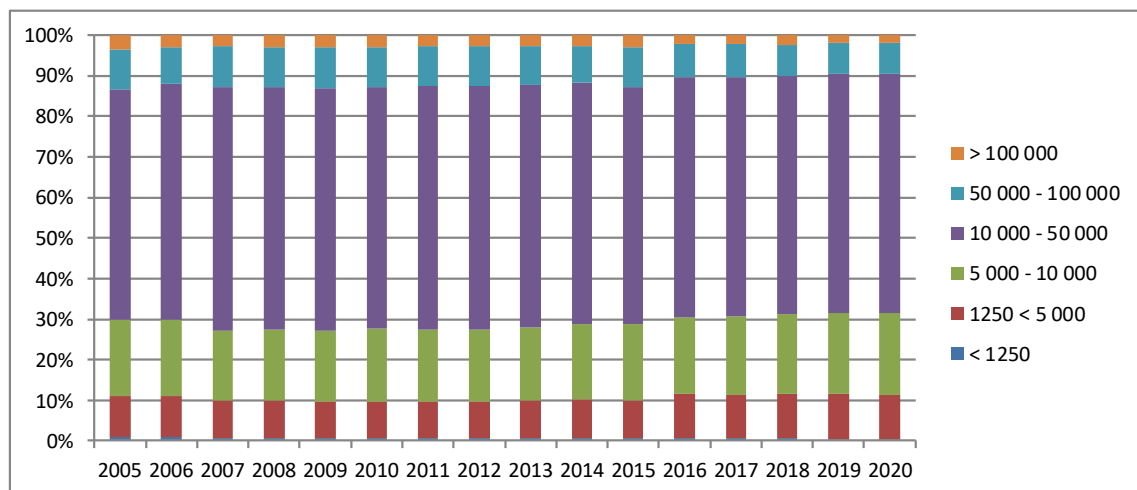


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

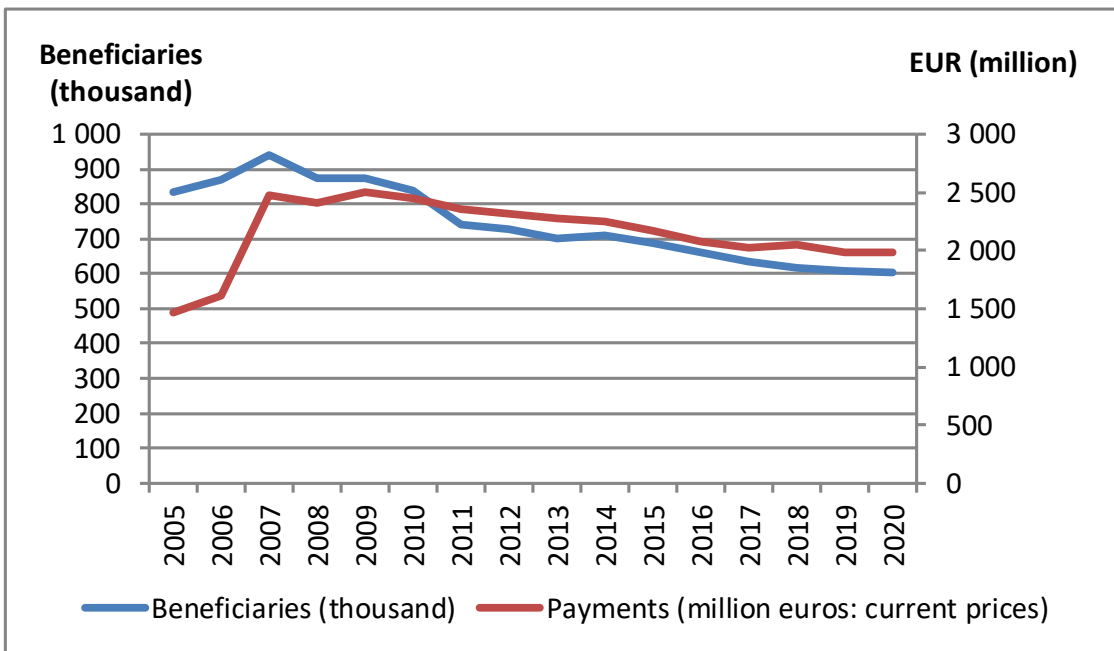
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	8.8%	0.4%	0.4%
5-250 ha	90.9%	95.9%	96.2%
>250 ha	0.4%	3.6%	3.3%



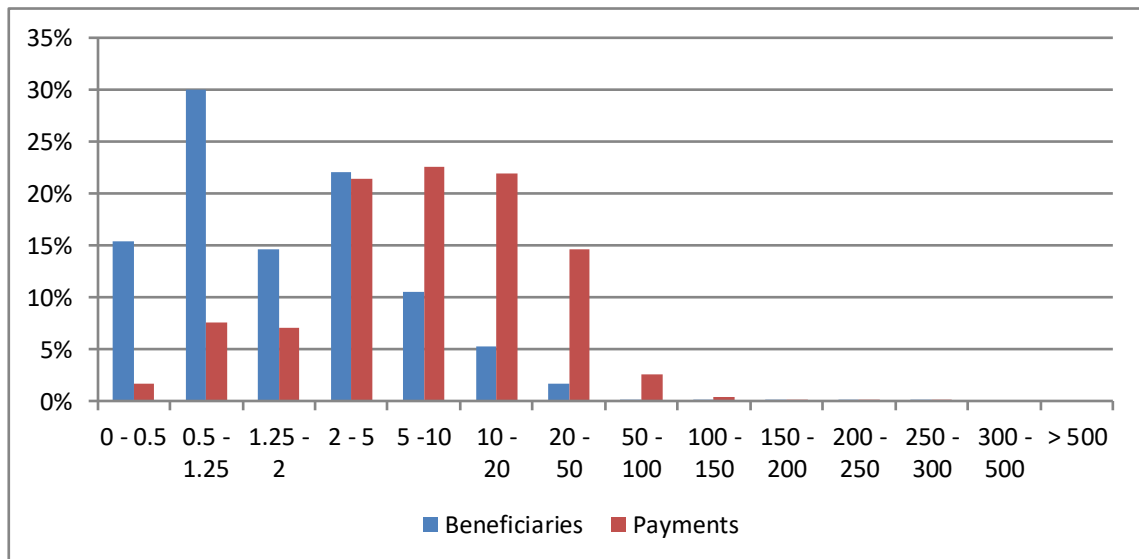
European
Commission

Greece

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

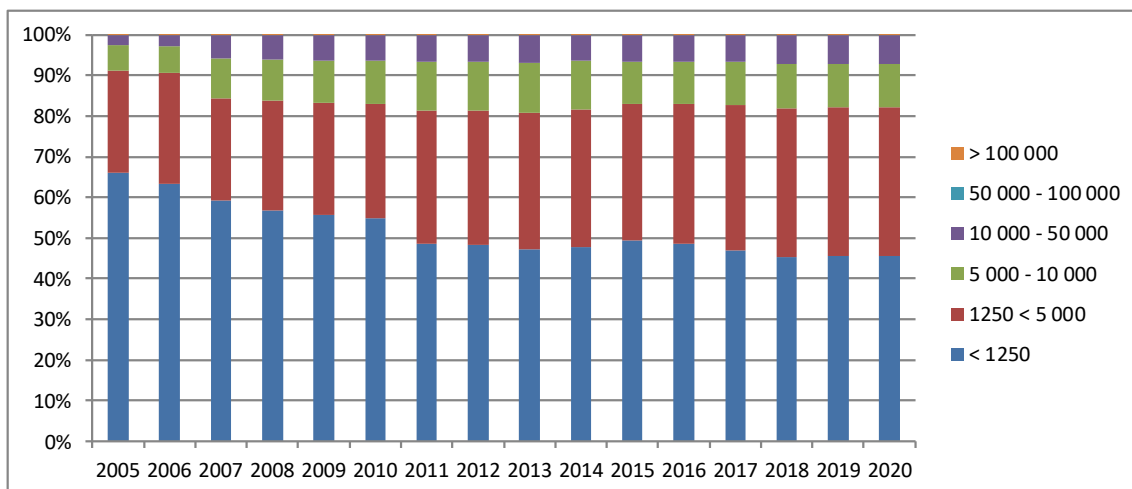


Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

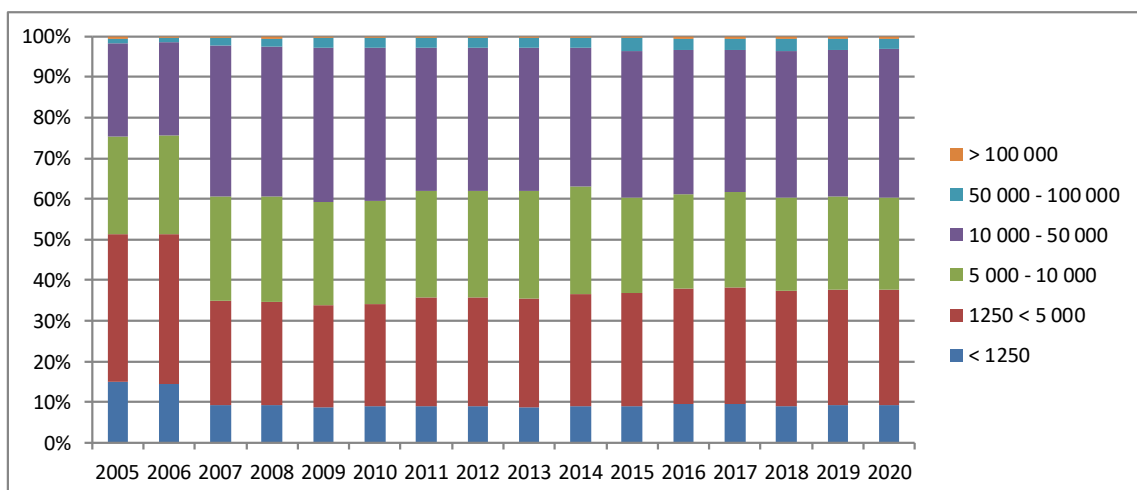




Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

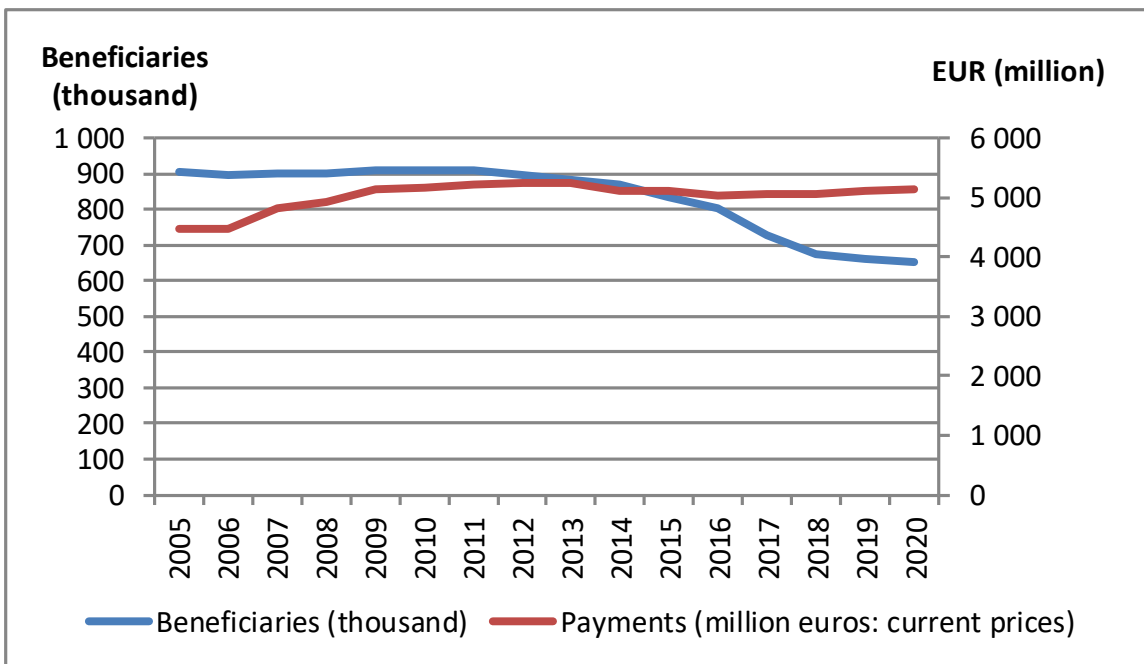
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	69.6%	22.1%	25.6%
5-250 ha	30.4%	77.6%	74.2%
>250 ha	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%



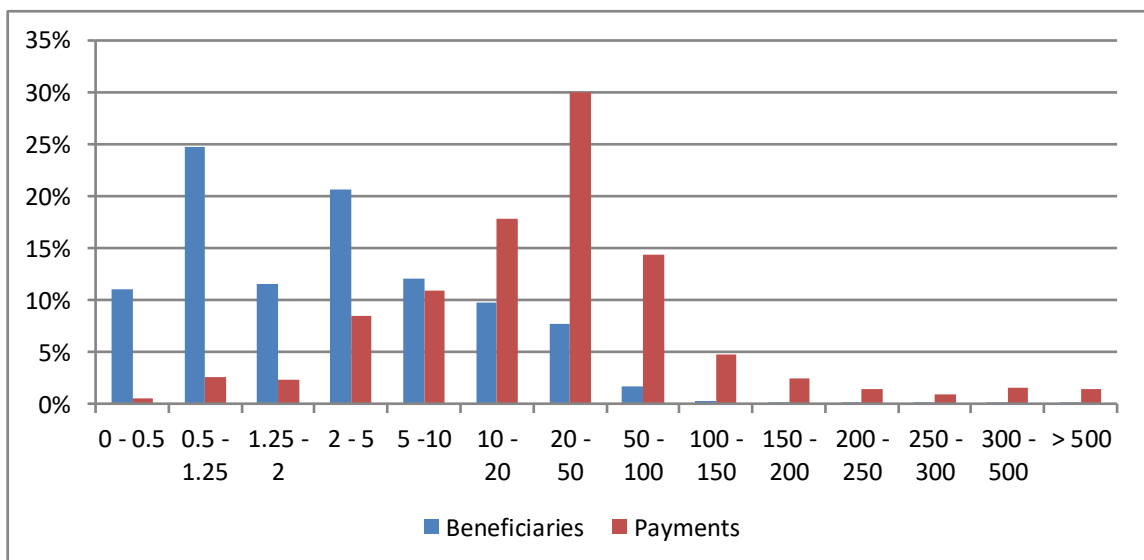
European Commission

Spain

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



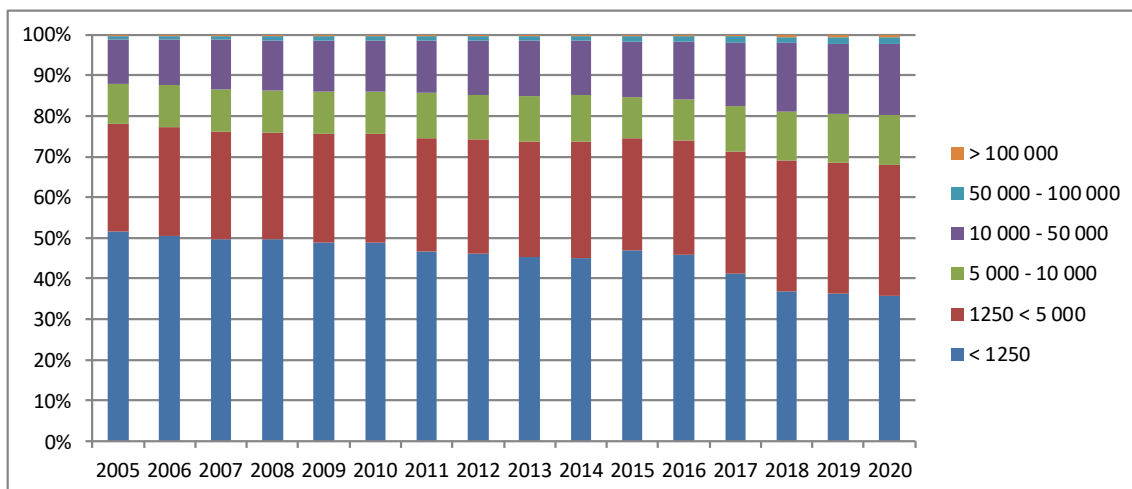
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



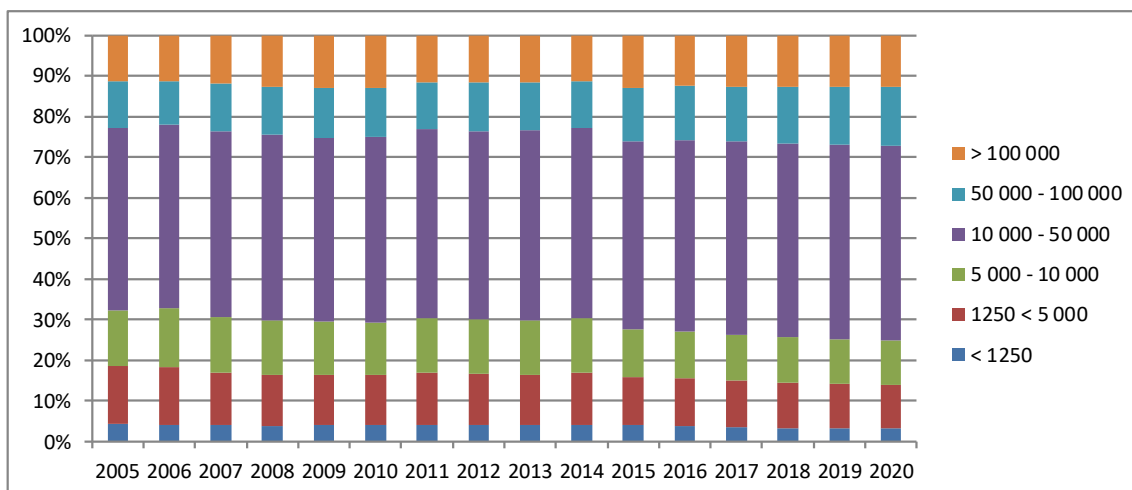


European Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

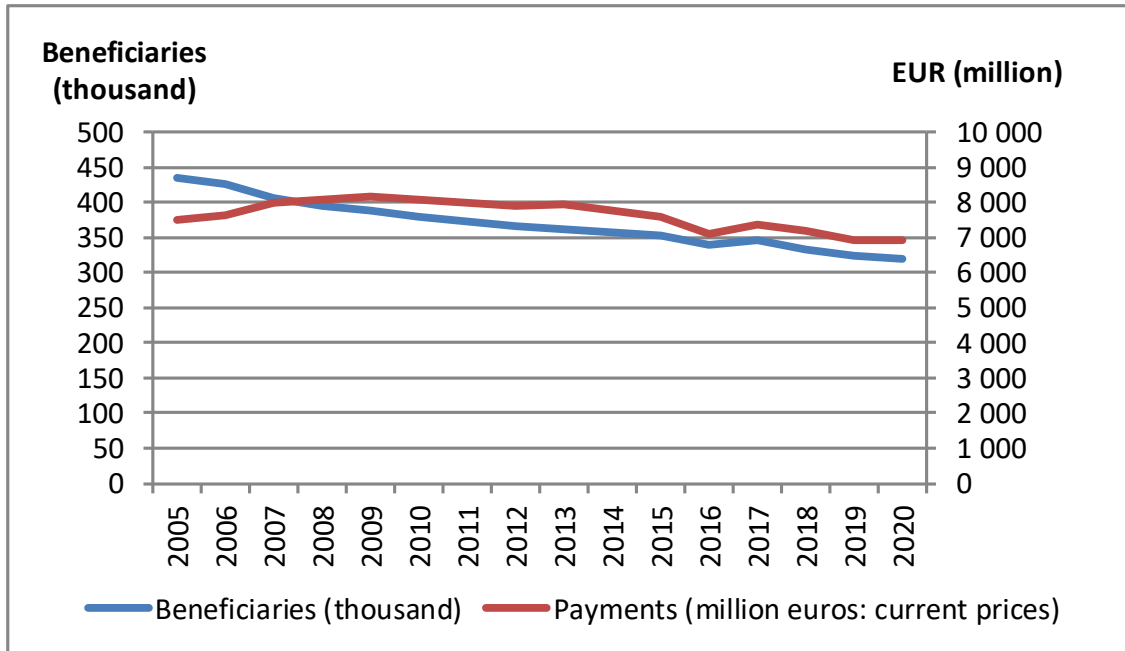
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	40.5%	3.3%	6.1%
5-250 ha	57.7%	70.0%	74.5%
>250 ha	1.8%	26.7%	19.4%



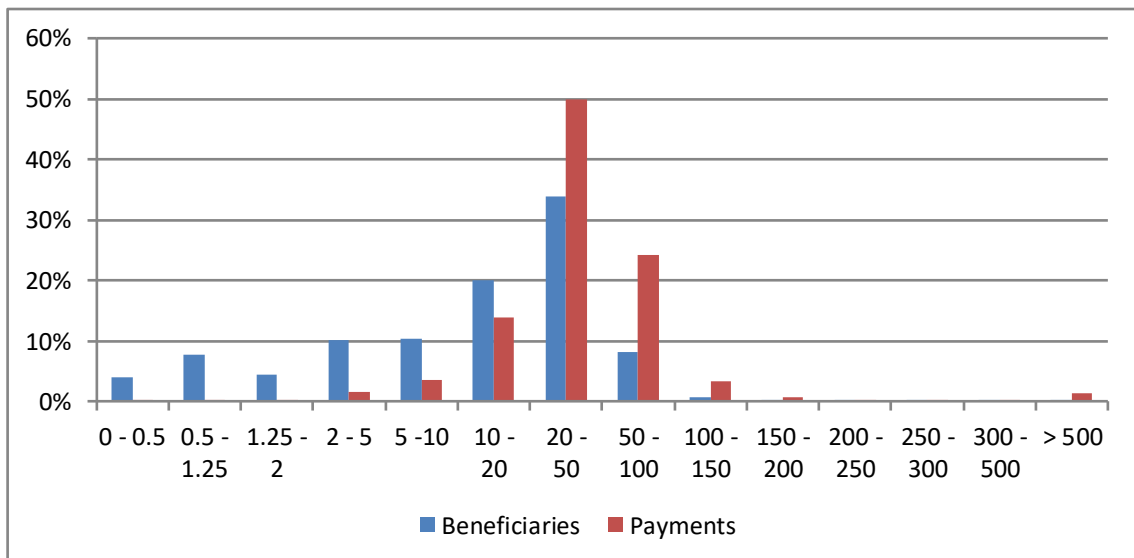
European Commission

France

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



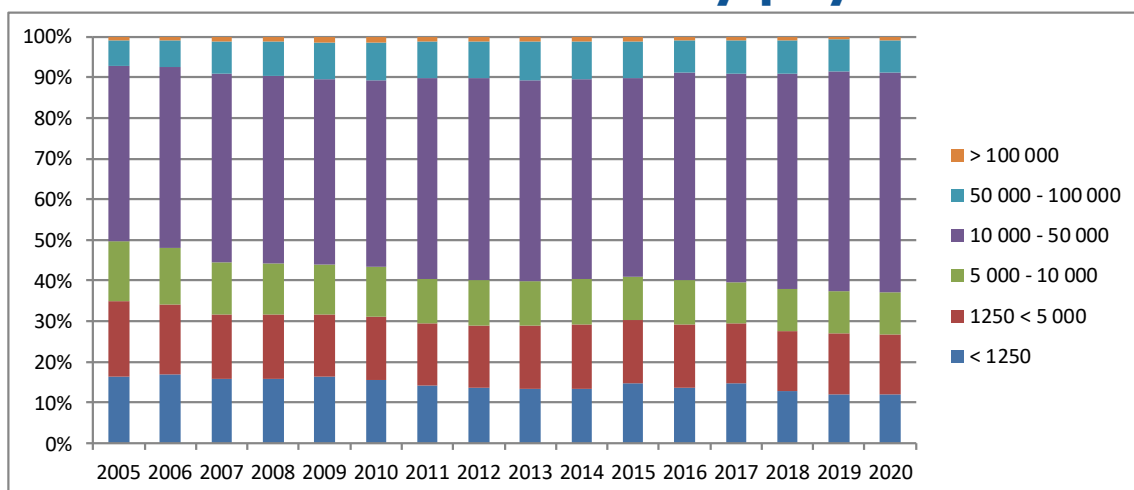
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



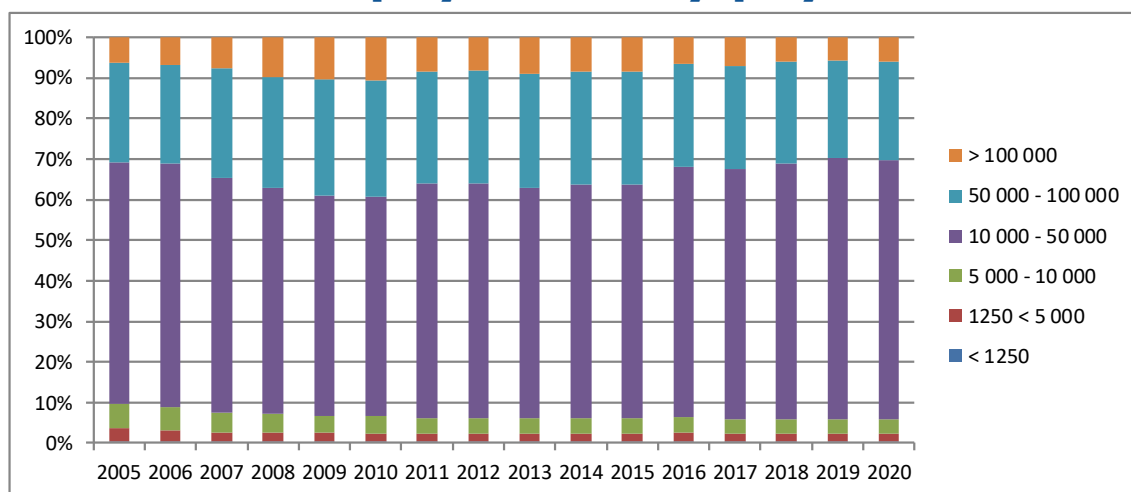


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

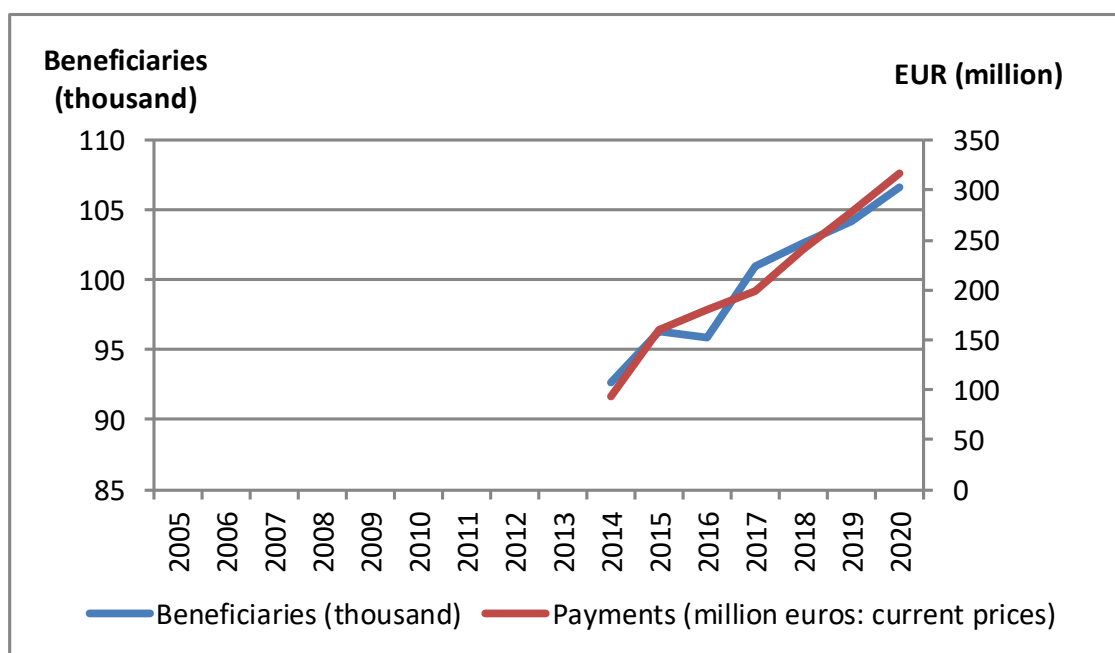
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	10.0%	0.3%	0.4%
5-250 ha	85.6%	81.6%	83.3%
>250 ha	4.4%	18.0%	16.3%



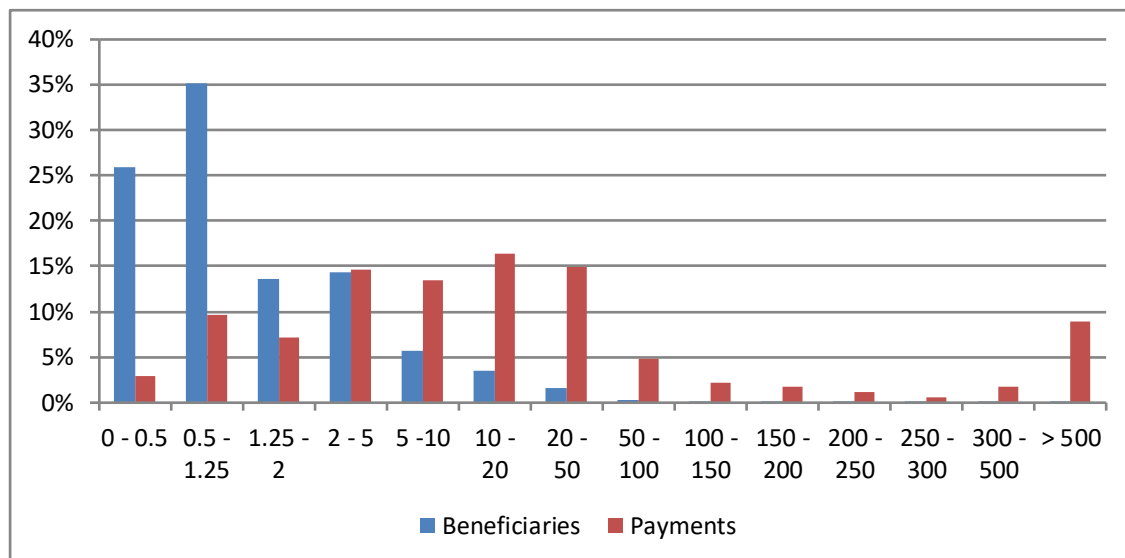
European
Commission

Croatia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

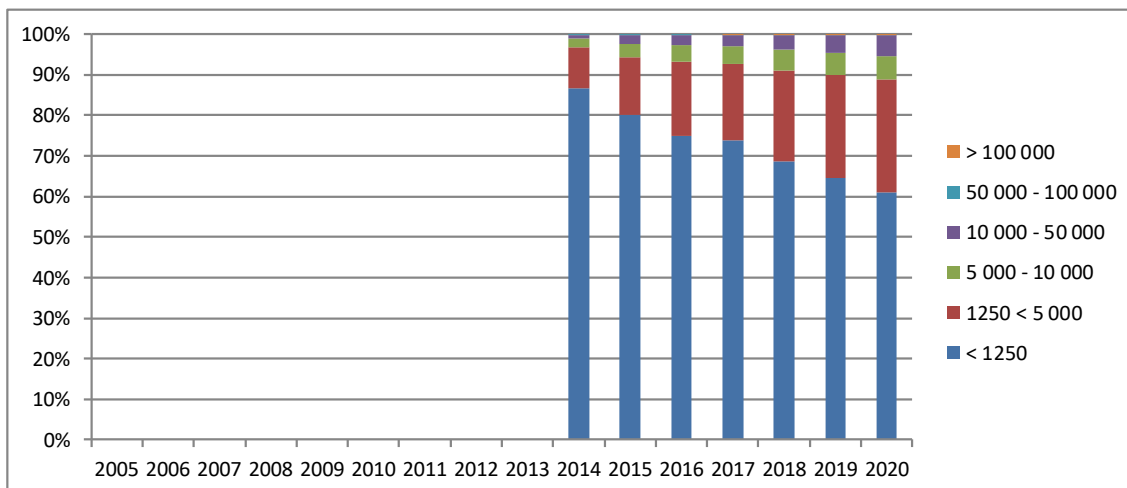


Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

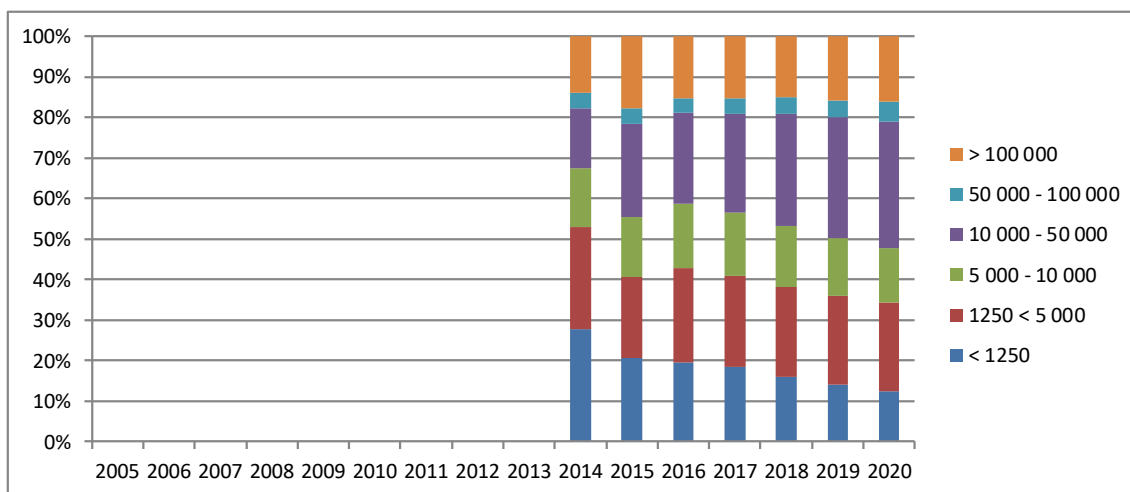




Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

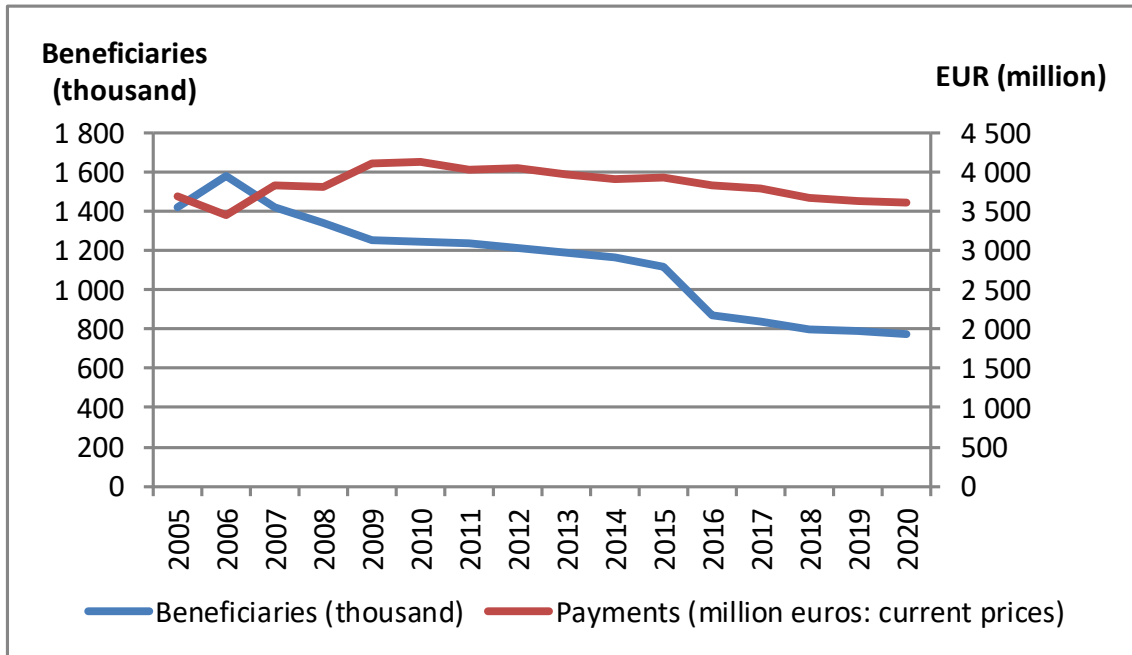
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	64.2%	15.4%	14.8%
5-250 ha	35.5%	67.7%	67.9%
>250 ha	0.2%	16.9%	17.3%



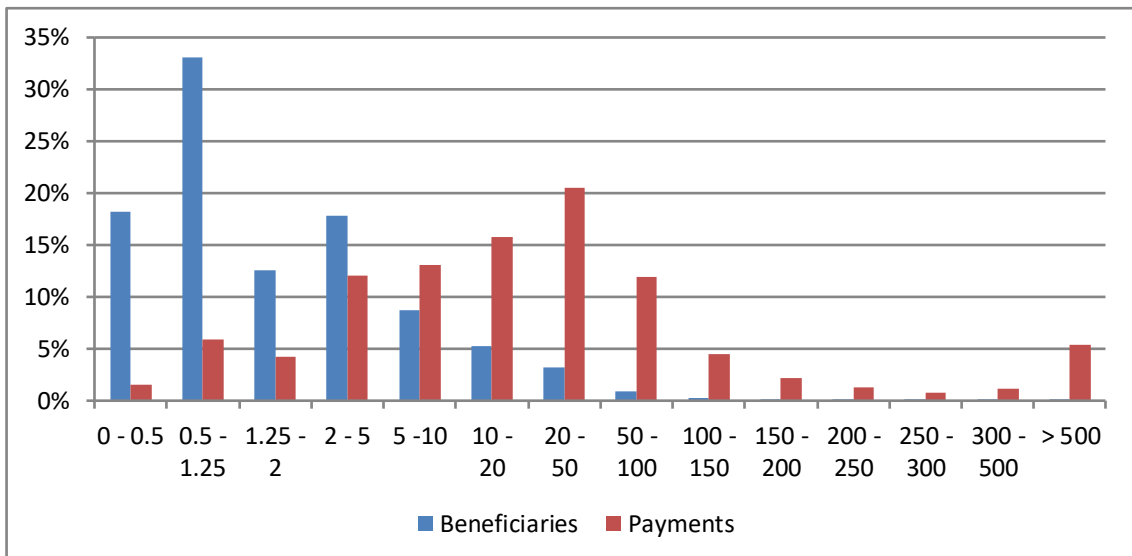
European Commission

Italy

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



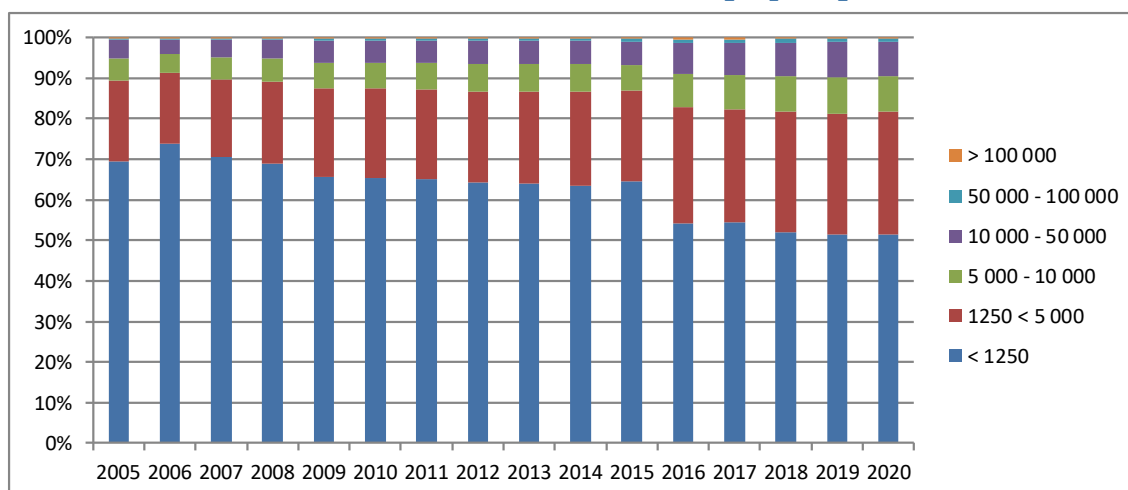
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



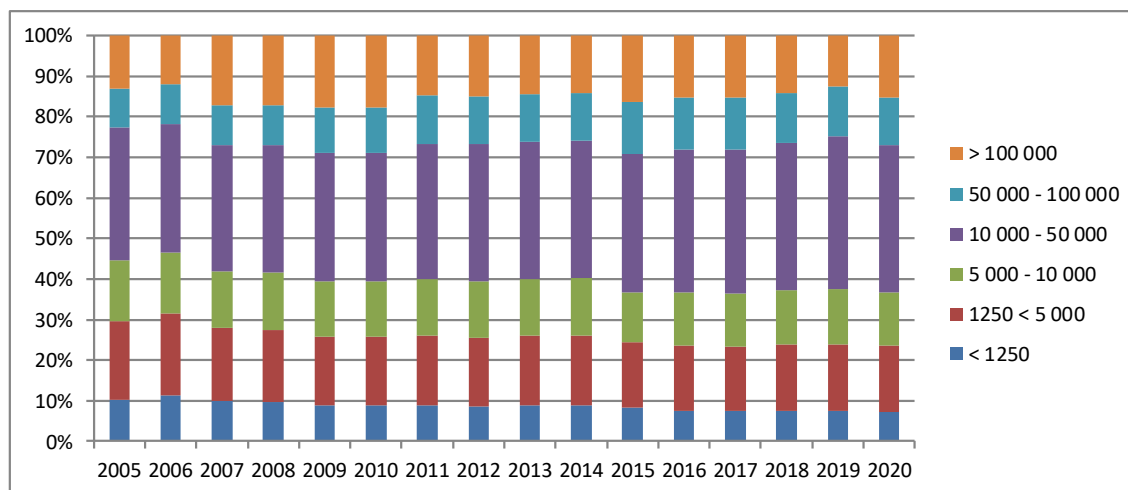


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

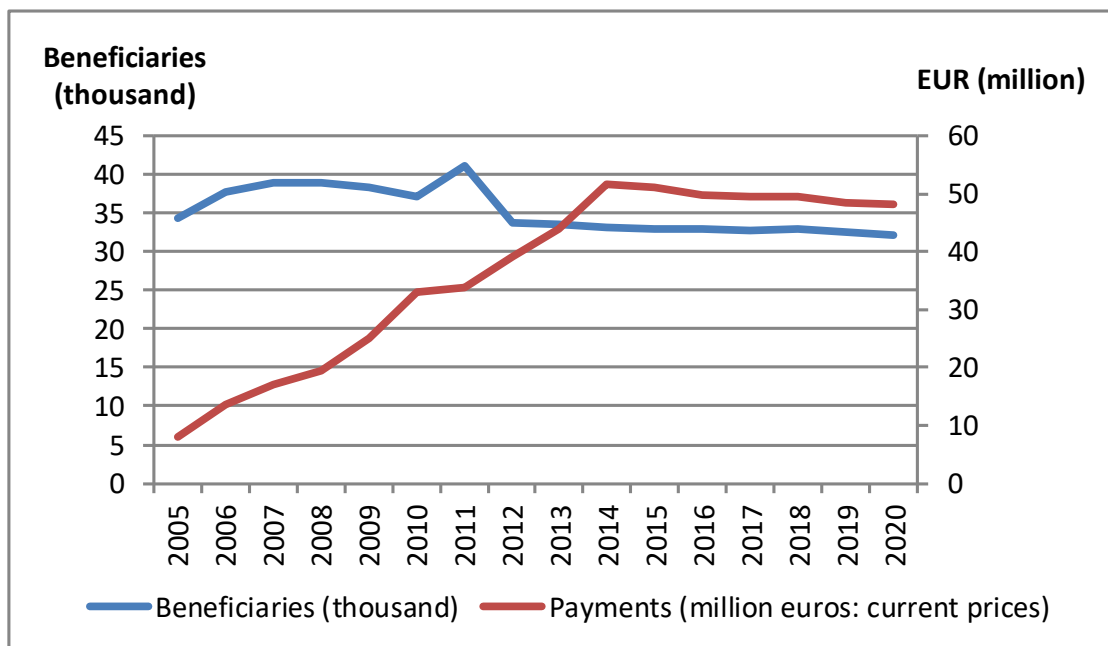
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	55.6%	9.8%	10.1%
5-250 ha	44.1%	82.4%	81.9%
>250 ha	0.2%	7.8%	8.0%



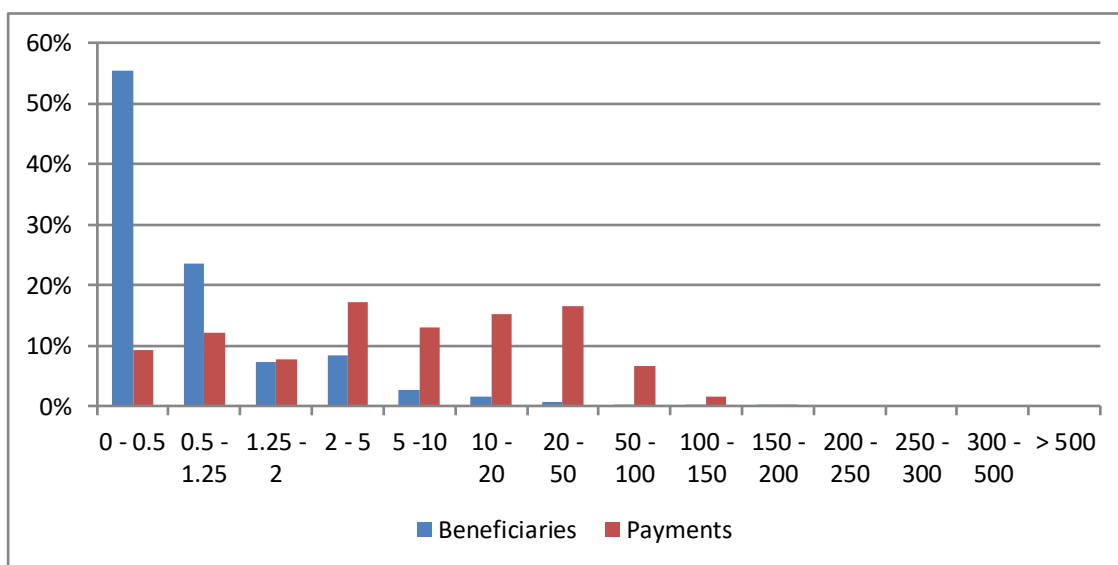
European Commission

Cyprus

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



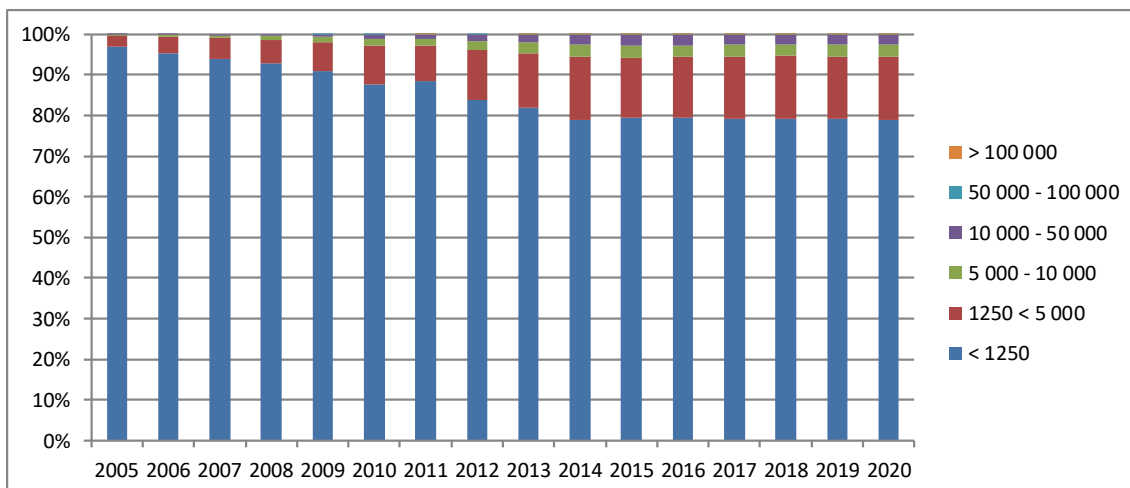
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



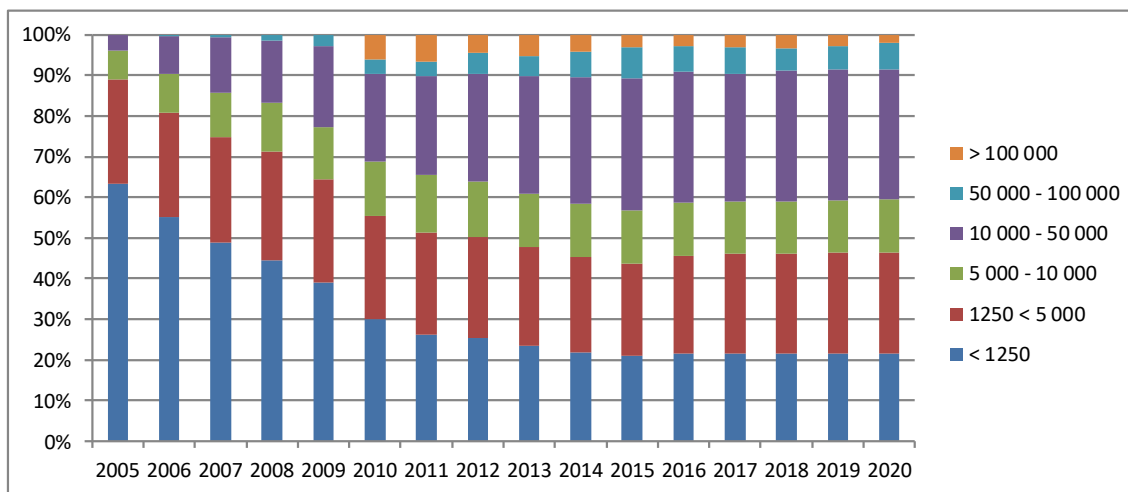


European Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

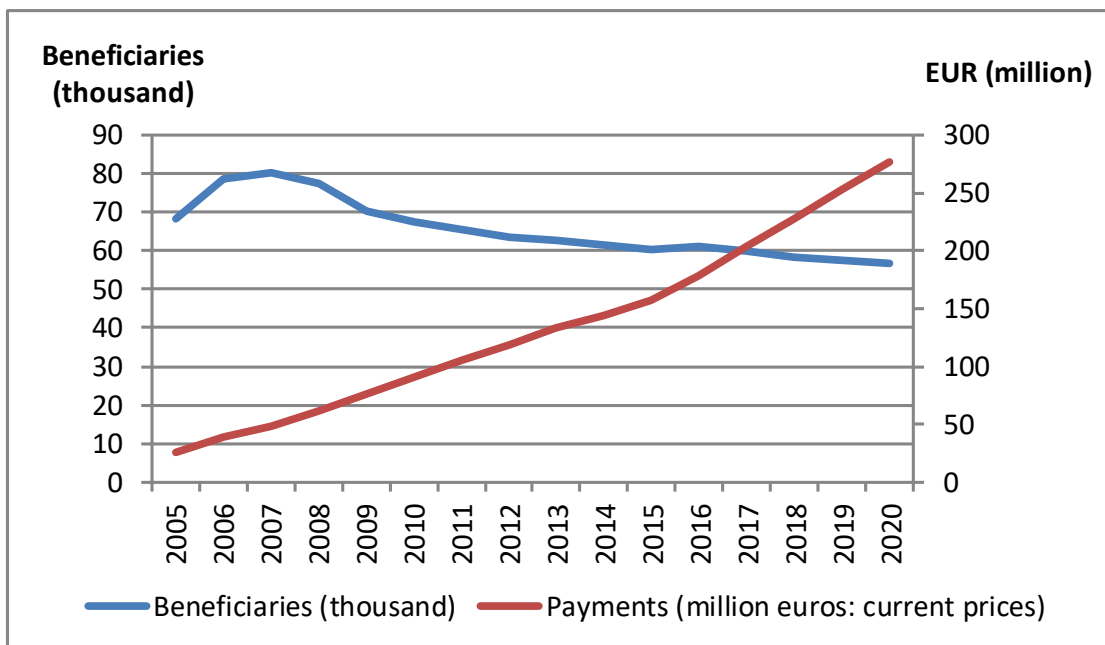
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	84.4%	27.9%	27.5%
5-250 ha	15.6%	69.3%	69.9%
>250 ha	0.0%	2.7%	2.6%



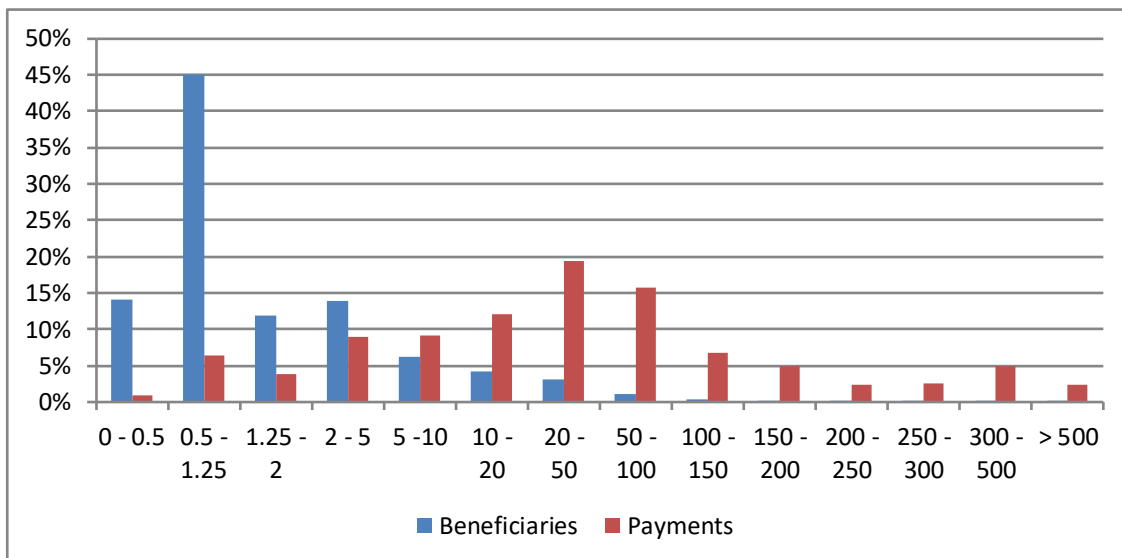
European Commission

Latvia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



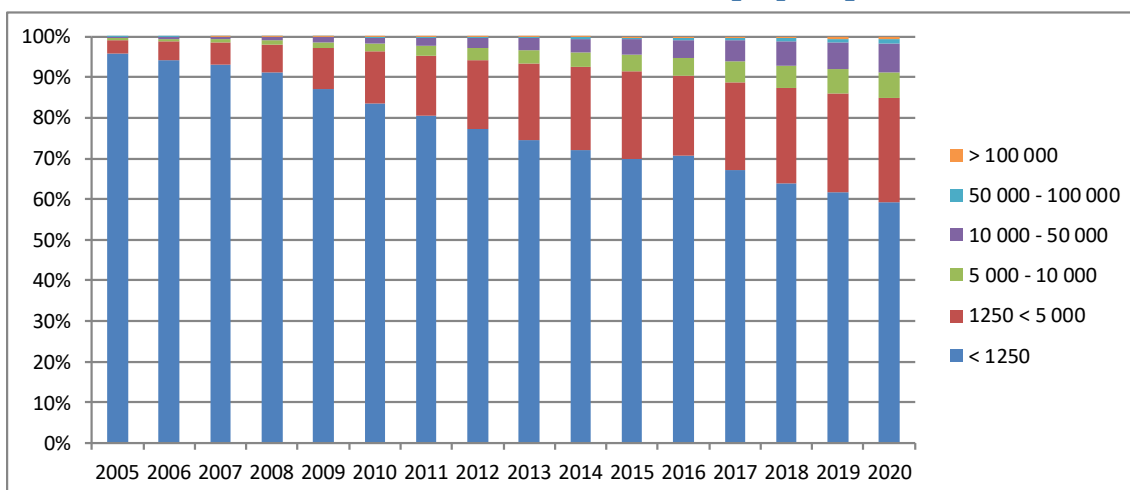
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



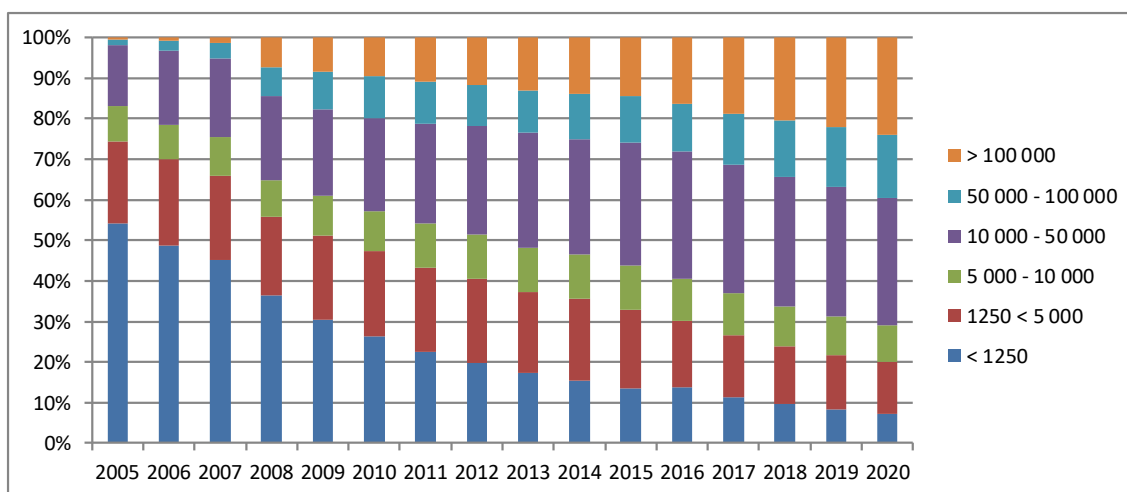


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

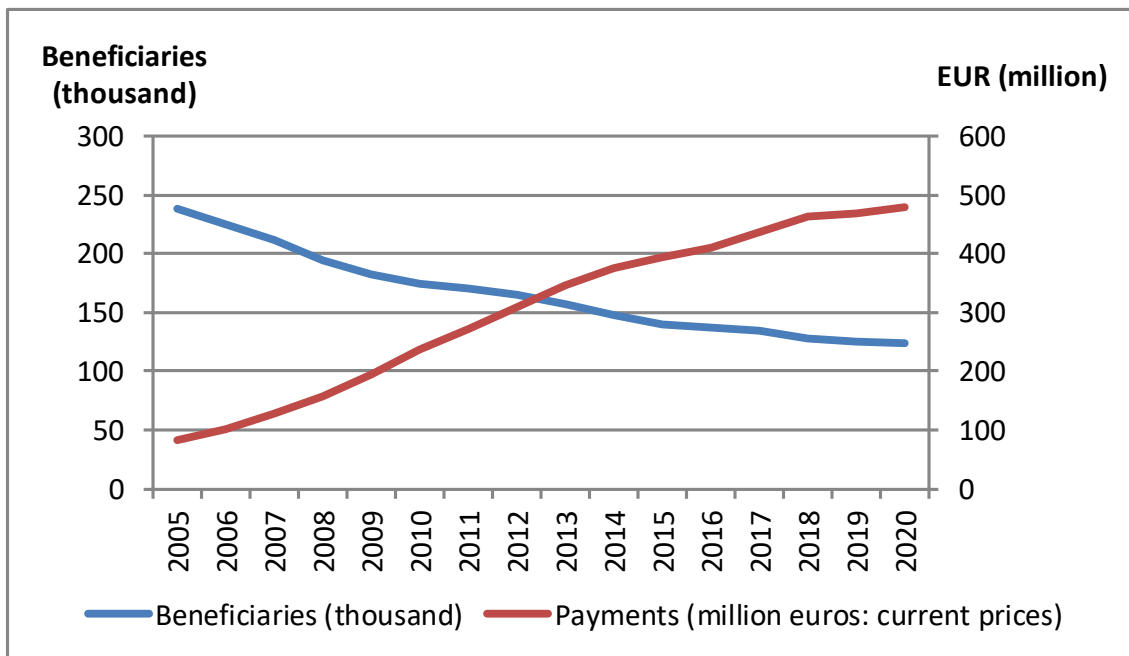
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	41.1%	3.6%	3.9%
5-250 ha	56.7%	51.8%	52.2%
>250 ha	2.2%	44.6%	44.0%



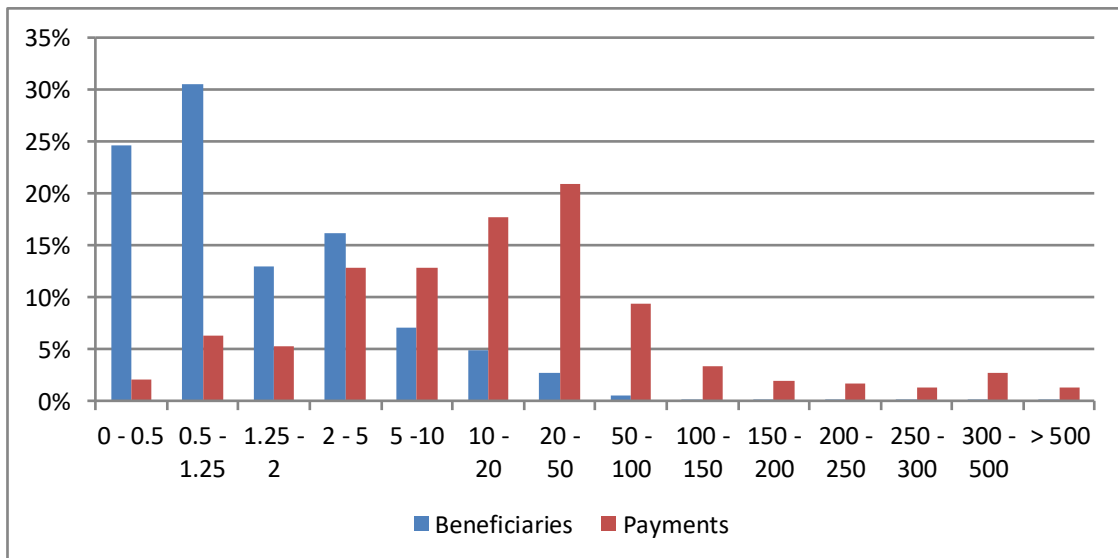
European Commission

Lithuania

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



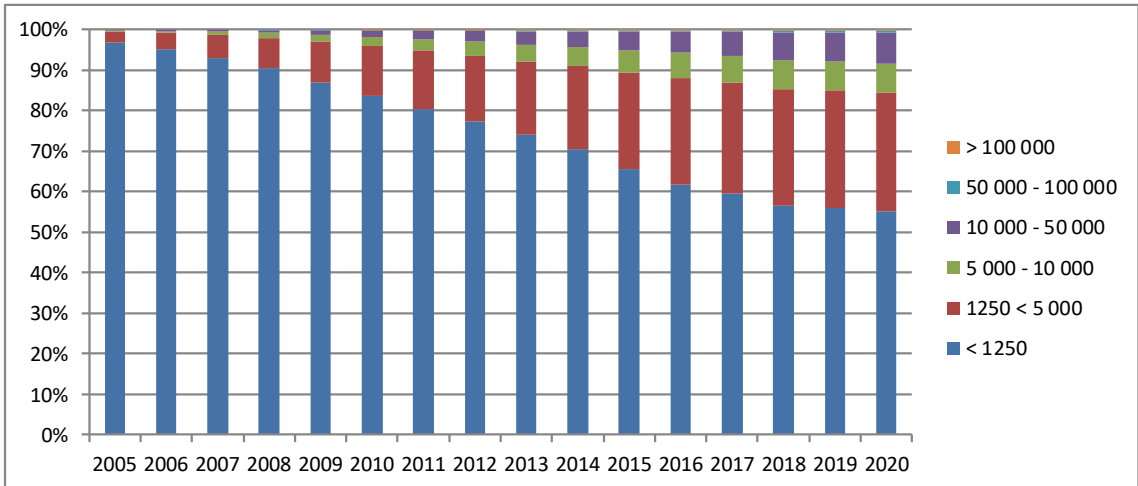
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



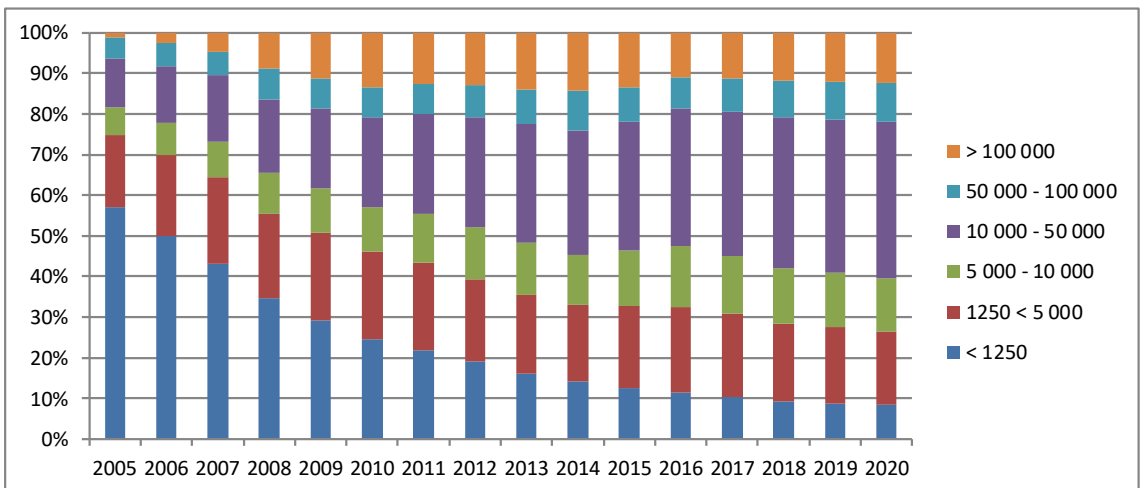


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

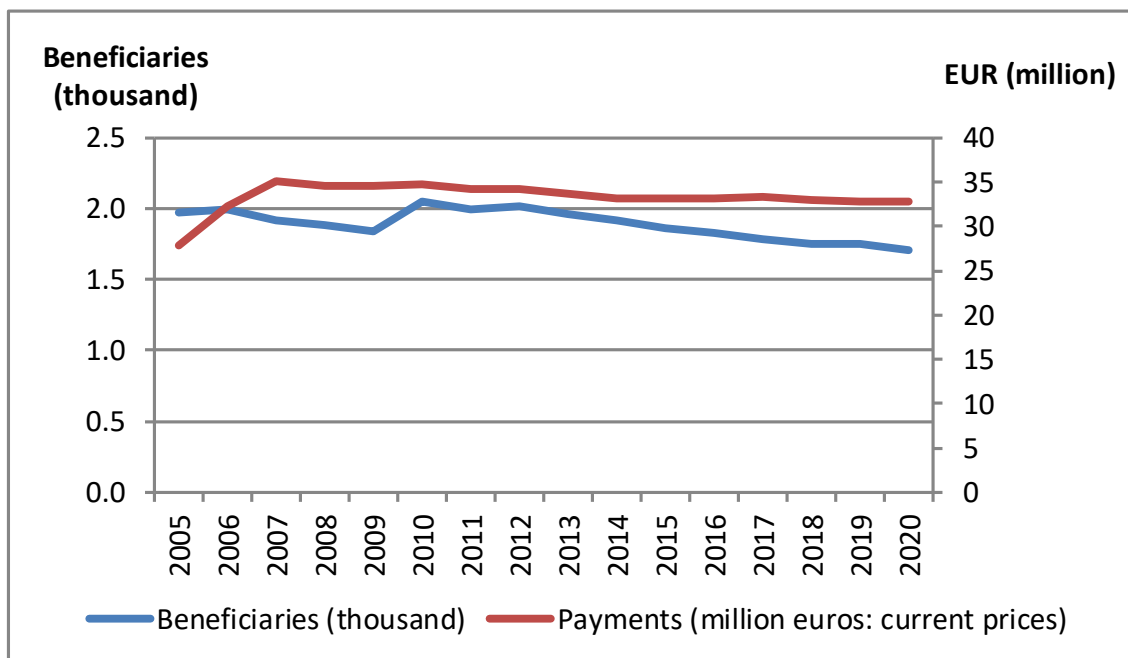
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	47.0%	5.4%	6.3%
5-250 ha	51.6%	61.8%	66.3%
>250 ha	1.4%	32.8%	27.4%



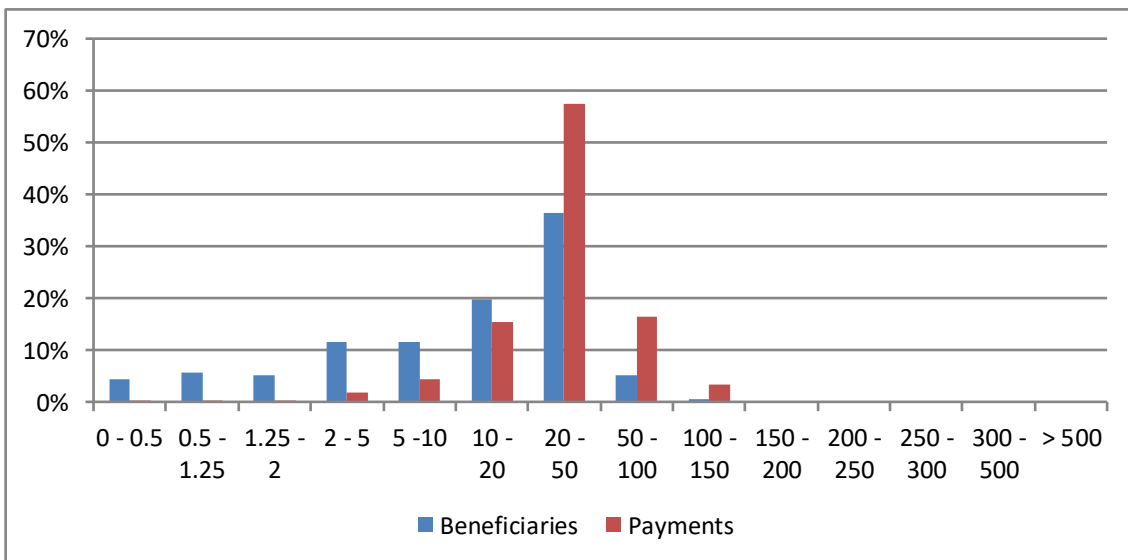
European
Commission

Luxembourg

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



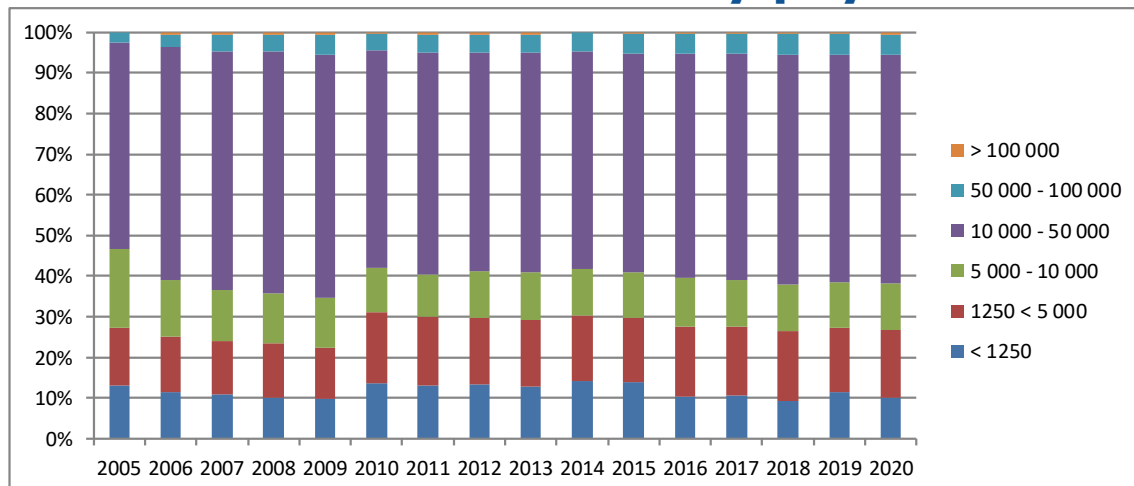
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



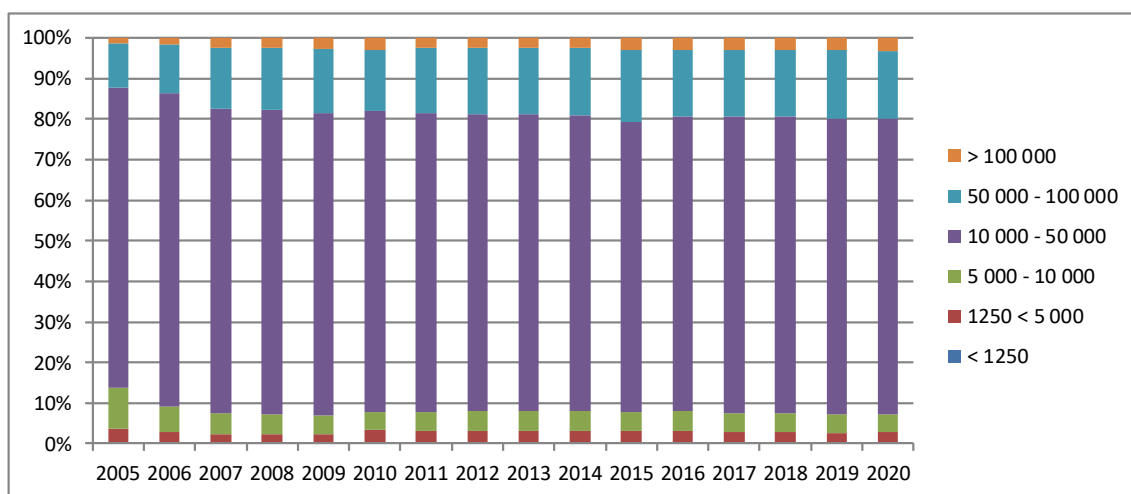


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

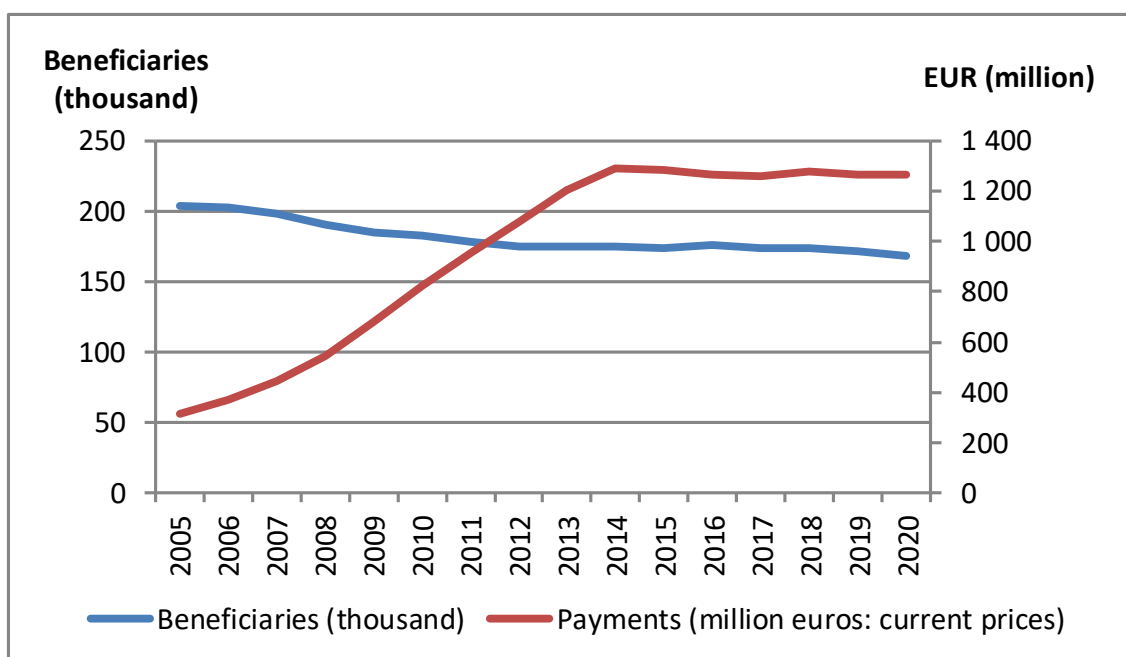
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	10.6%	0.4%	0.4%
5-250 ha	87.8%	91.9%	91.8%
>250 ha	1.6%	7.7%	7.7%



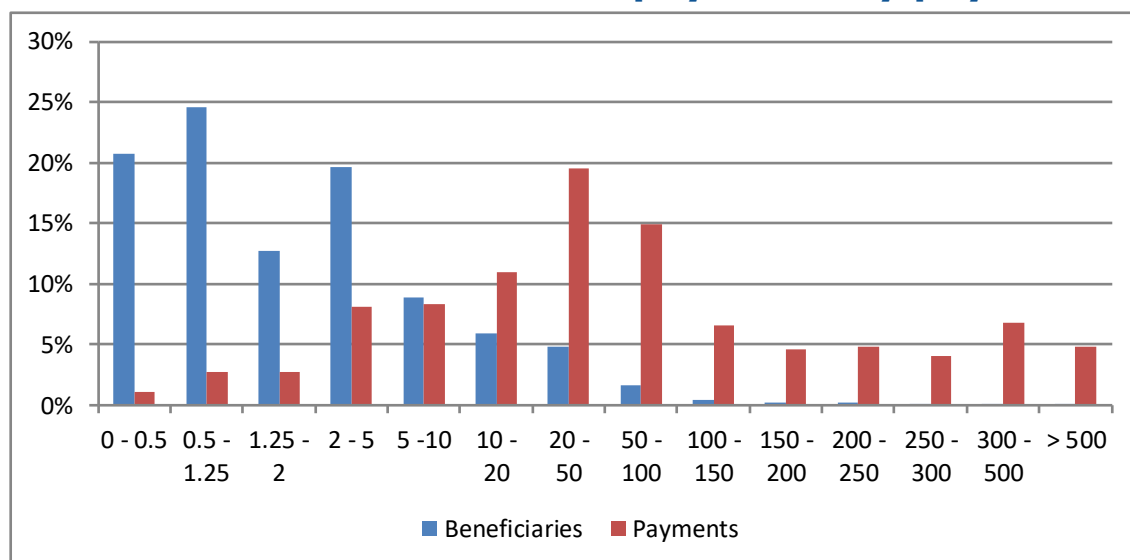
European Commission

Hungary

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



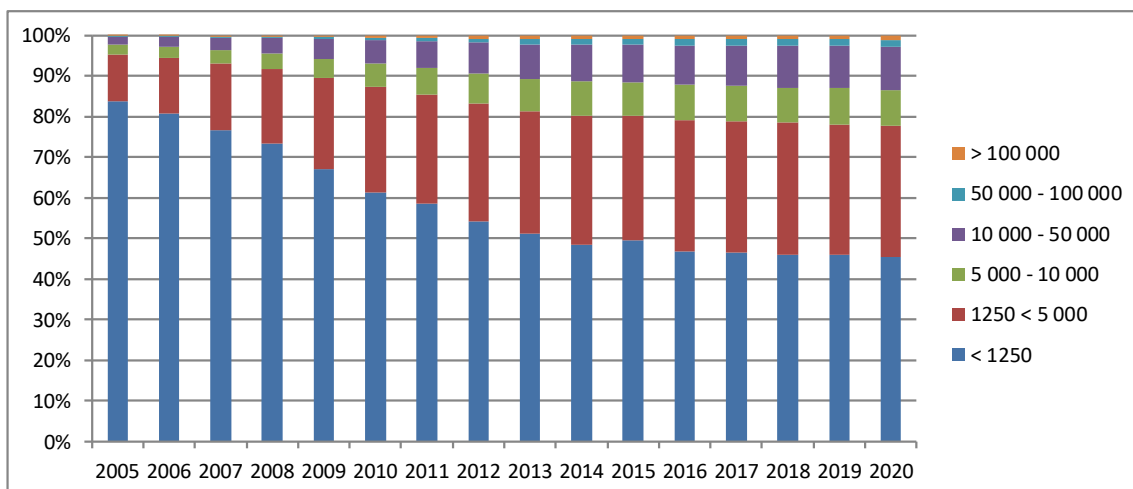
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



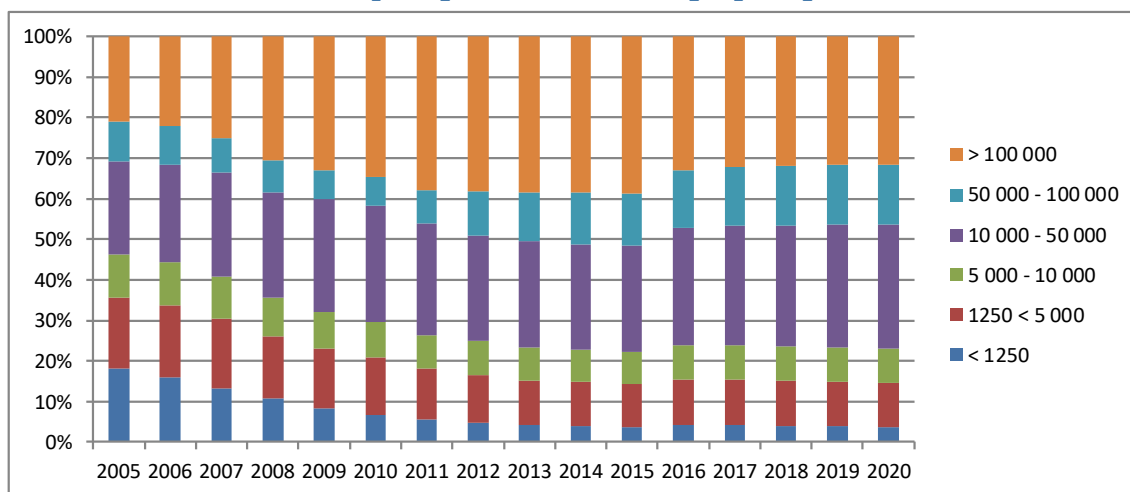


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

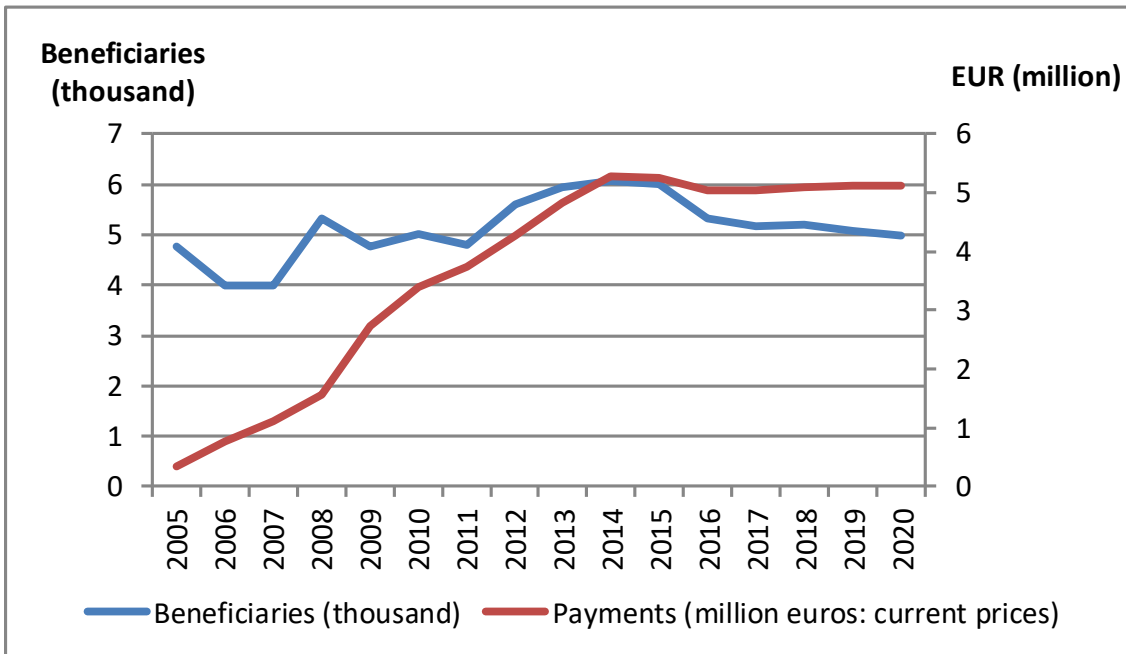
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	44.2%	3.7%	4.0%
5-250 ha	53.7%	55.6%	54.4%
>250 ha	2.1%	40.7%	41.6%



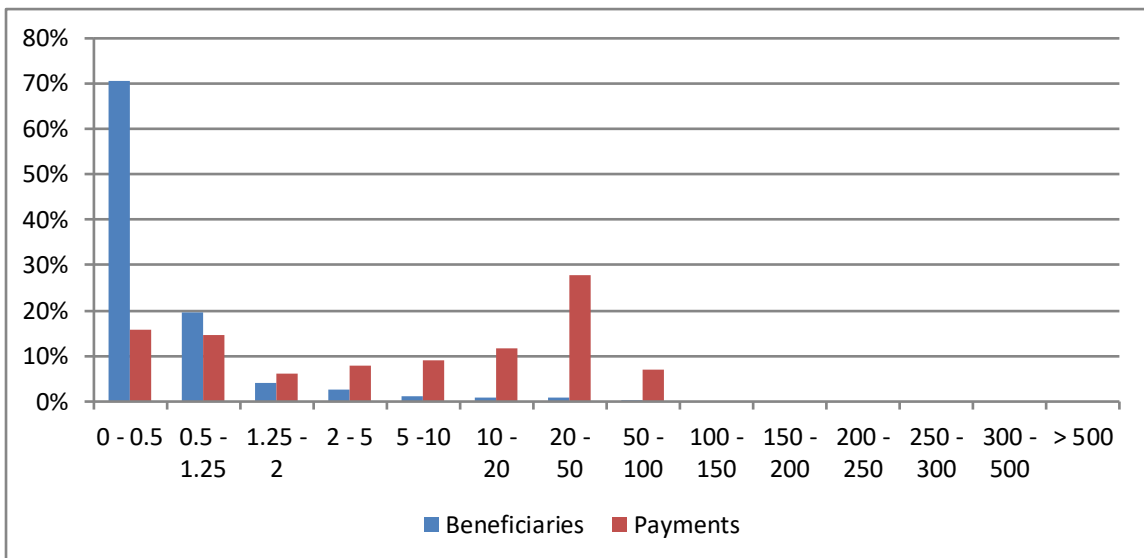
European Commission

Malta

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



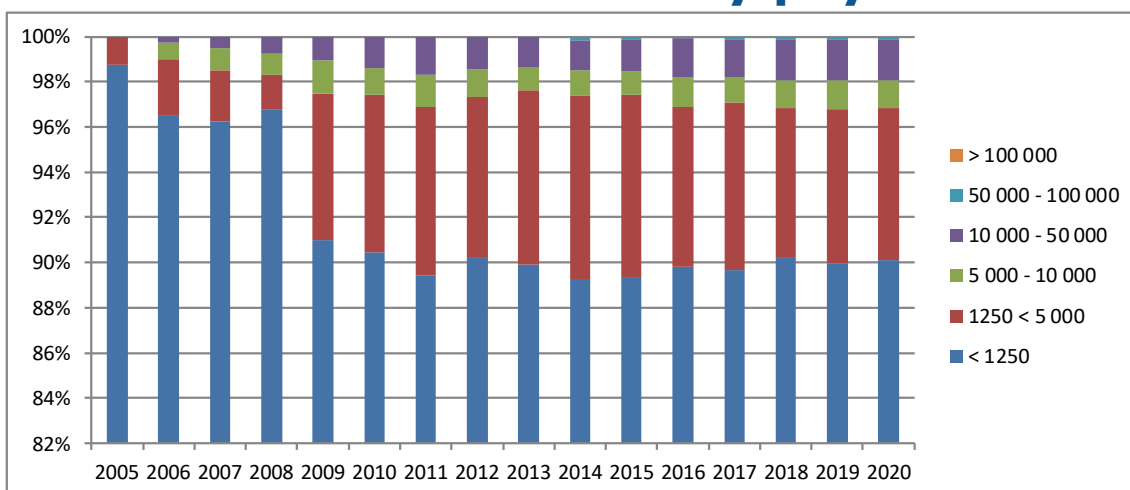
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



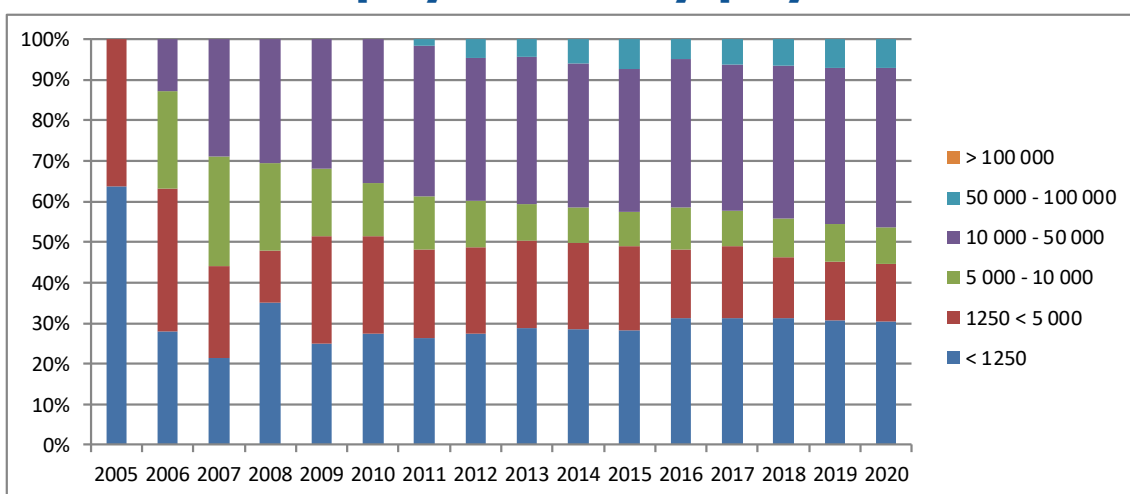


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



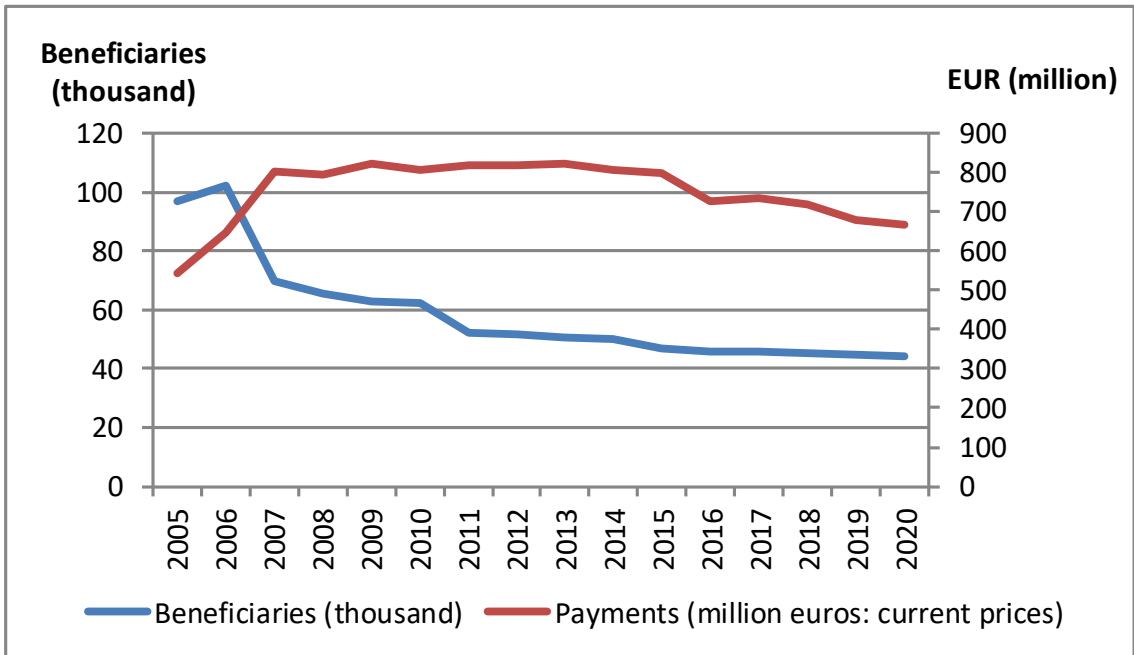
Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	95.9%	79.6%	75.3%
5-250 ha	4.1%	20.4%	24.7%
>250 ha			

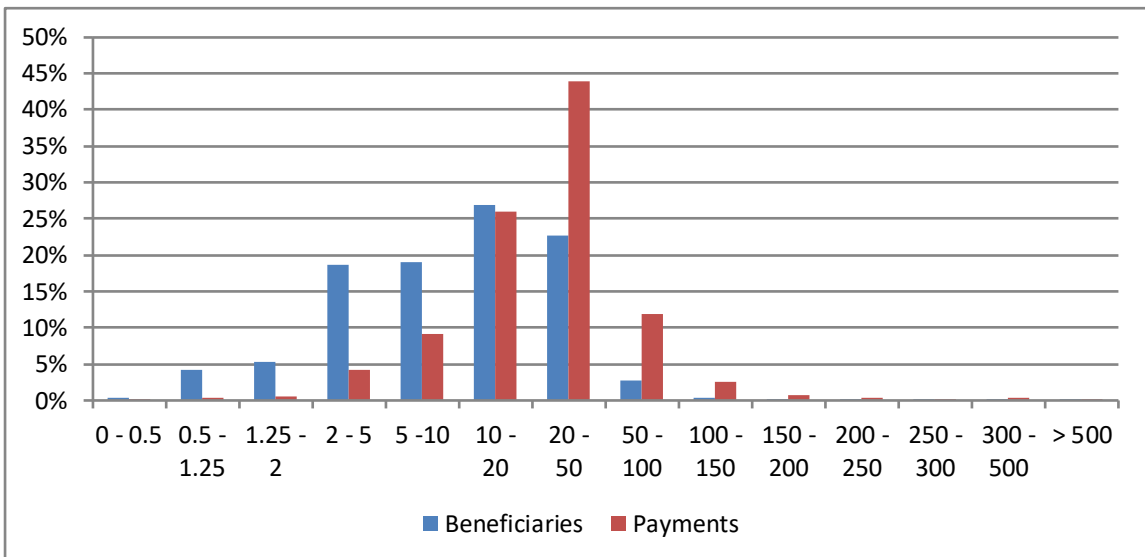


The Netherlands

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



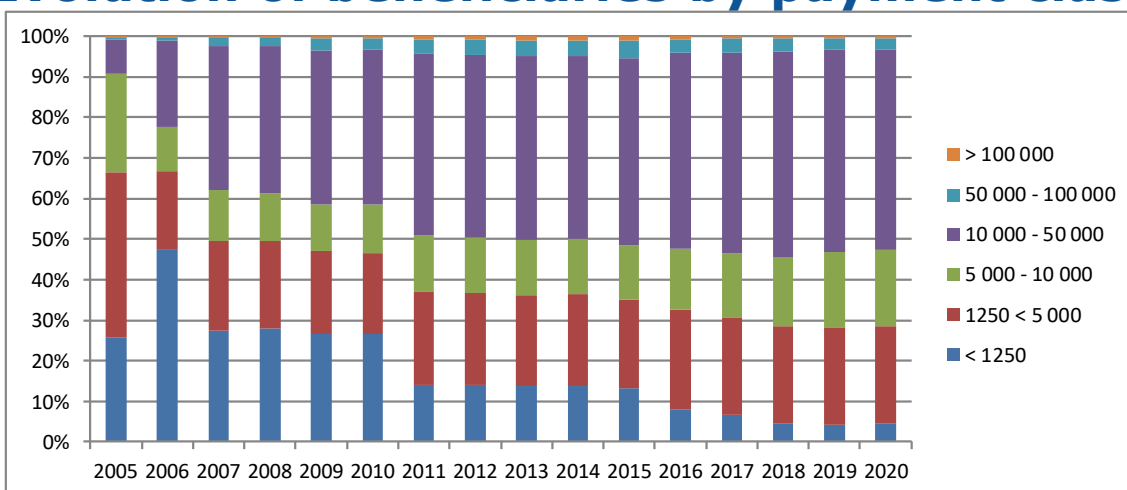
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



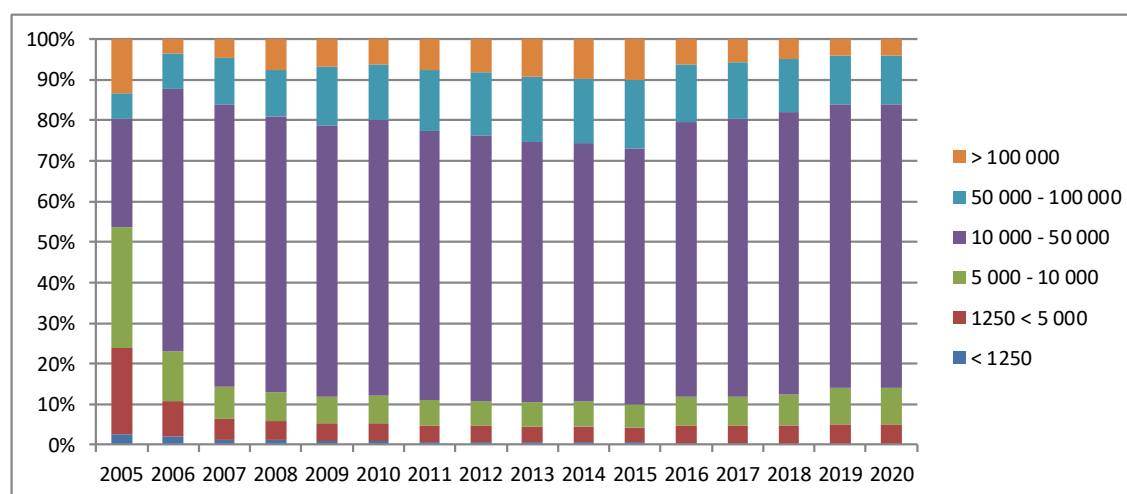


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

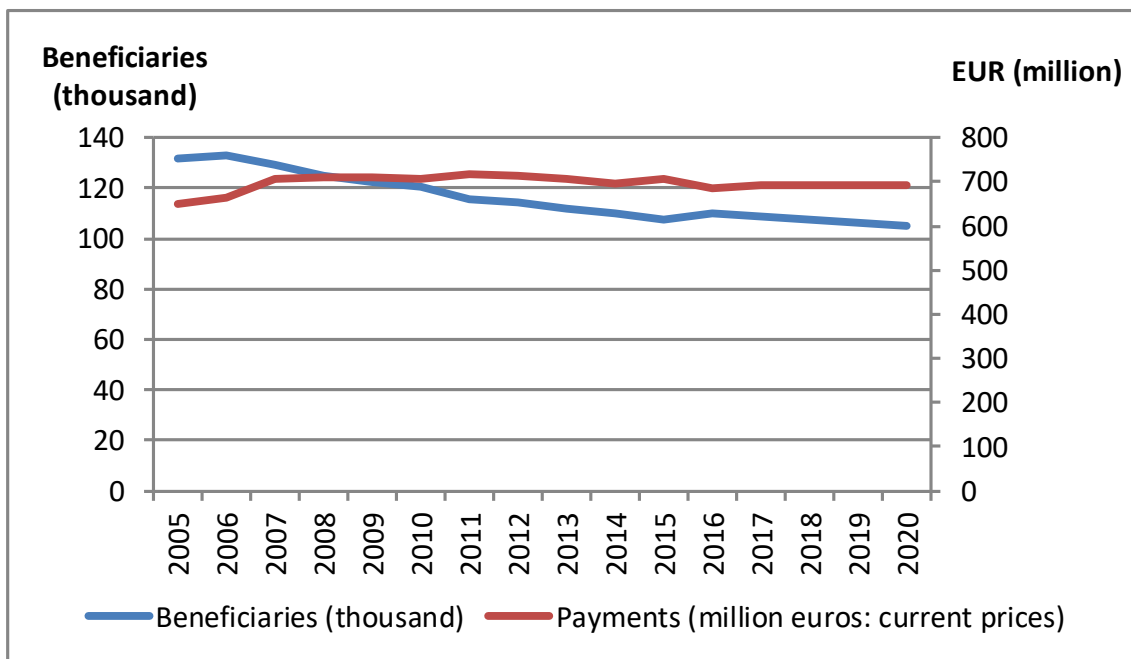
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	8.7%	0.7%	0.7%
5-250 ha	90.8%	94.6%	94.8%
>250 ha	0.5%	4.7%	4.5%



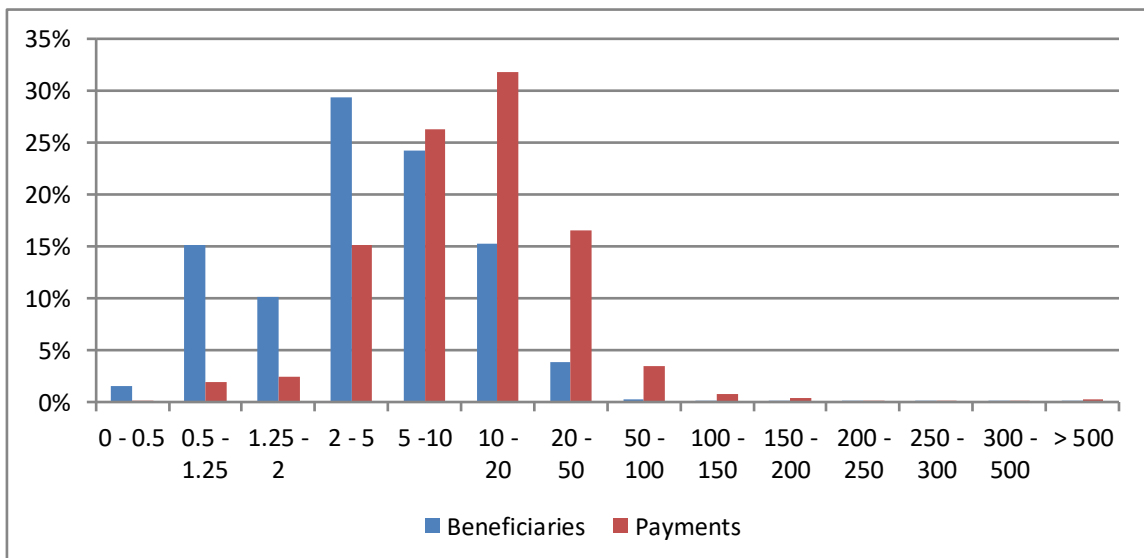
European
Commission

Austria

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



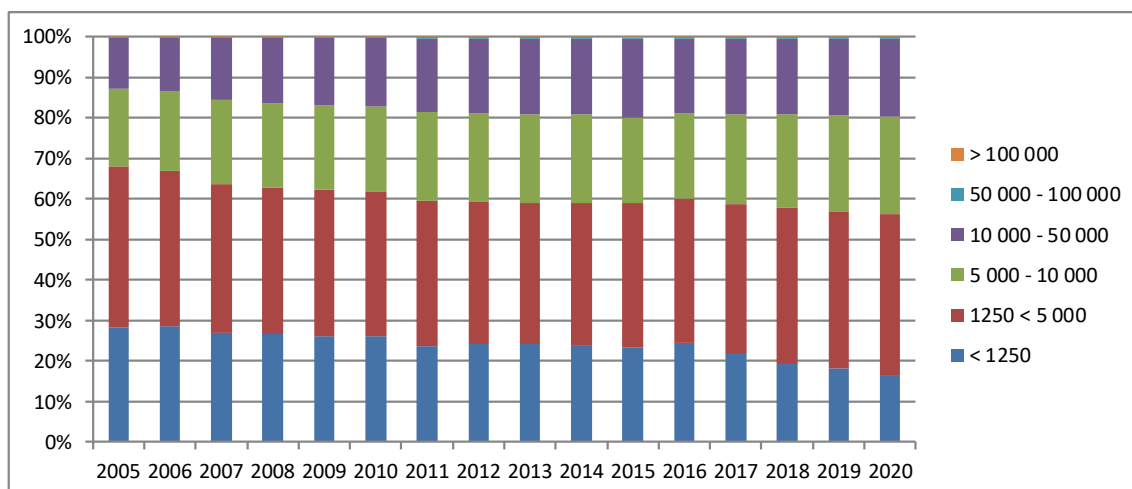
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



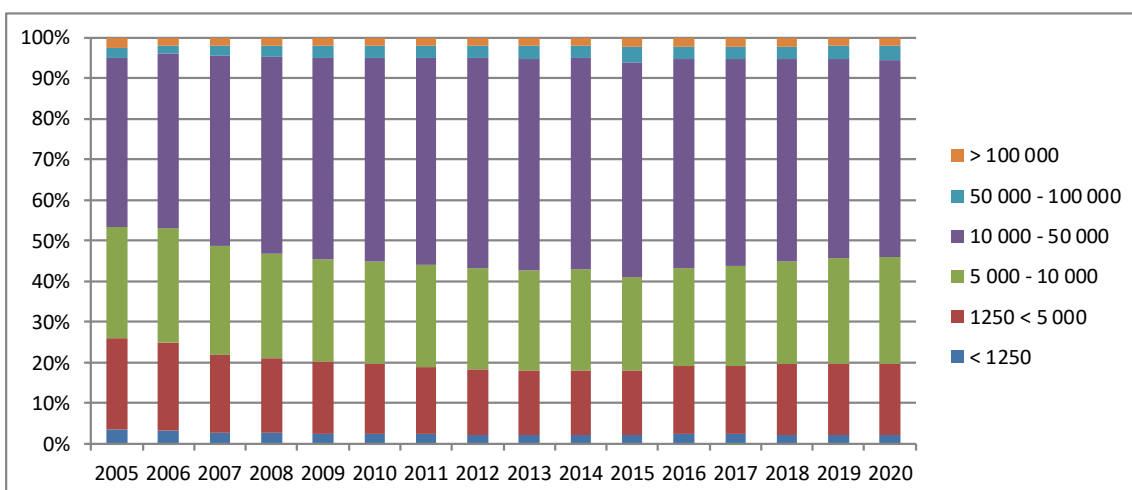


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

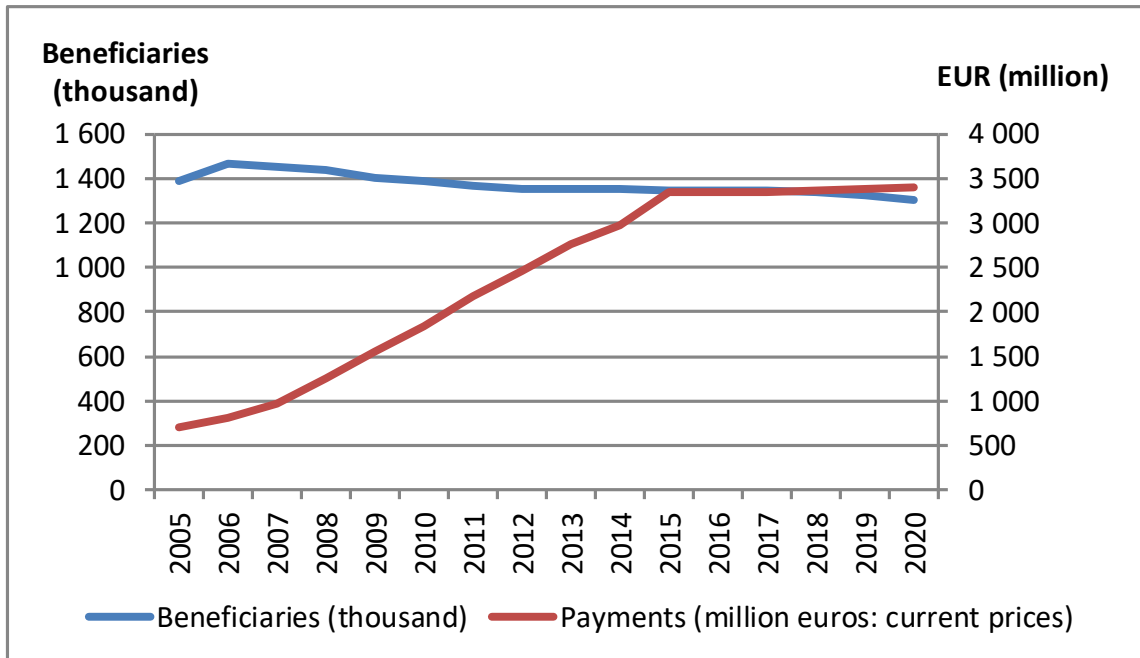
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	19.9%	2.8%	2.8%
5-250 ha	80.0%	94.0%	94.2%
>250 ha	0.2%	3.2%	3.1%



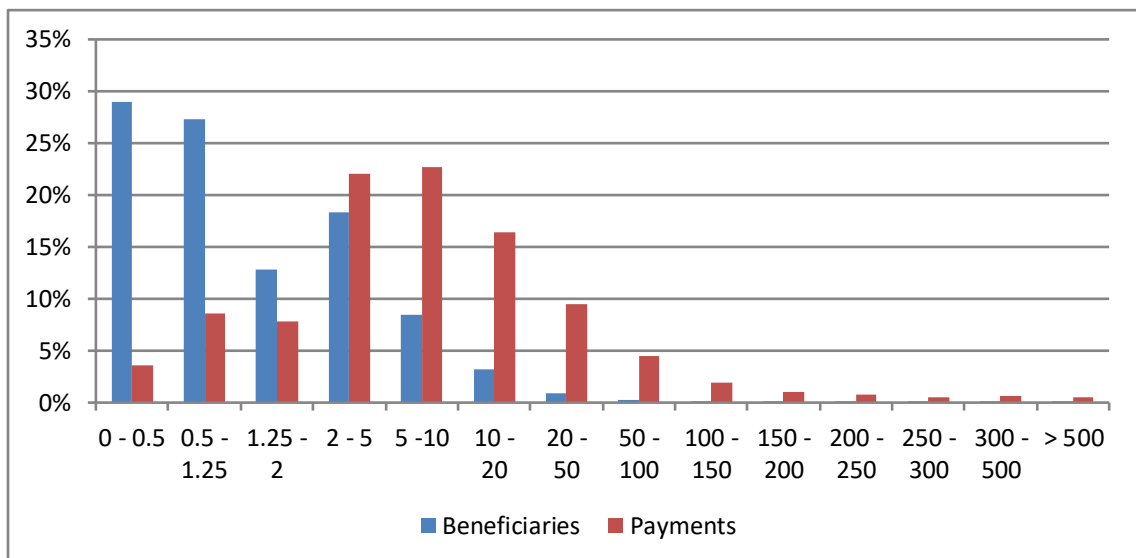
European
Commission

Poland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



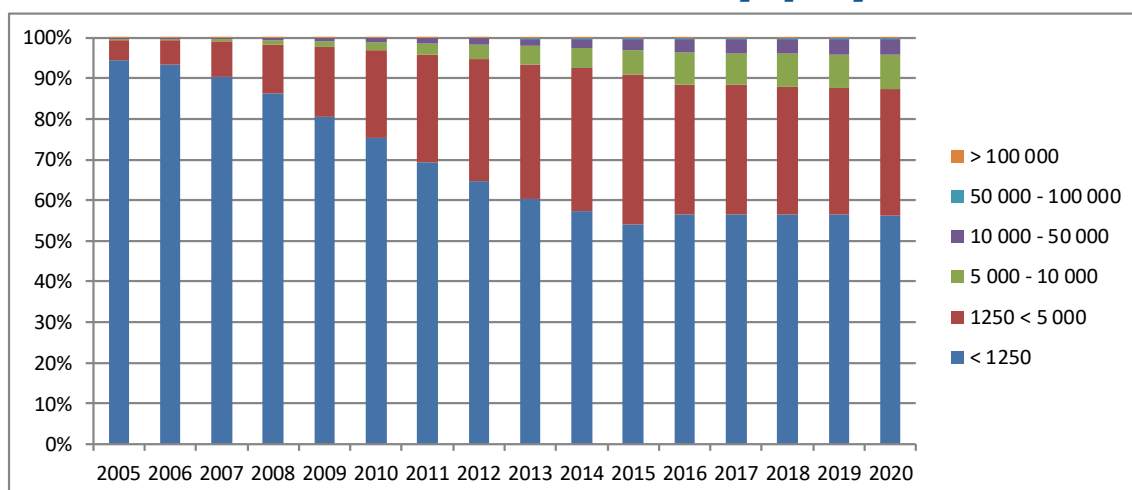
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



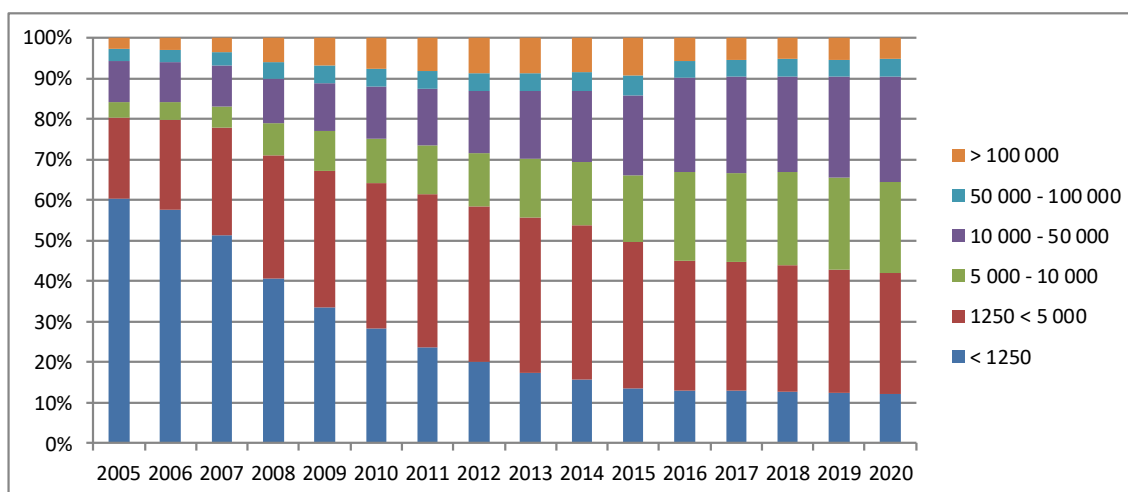


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

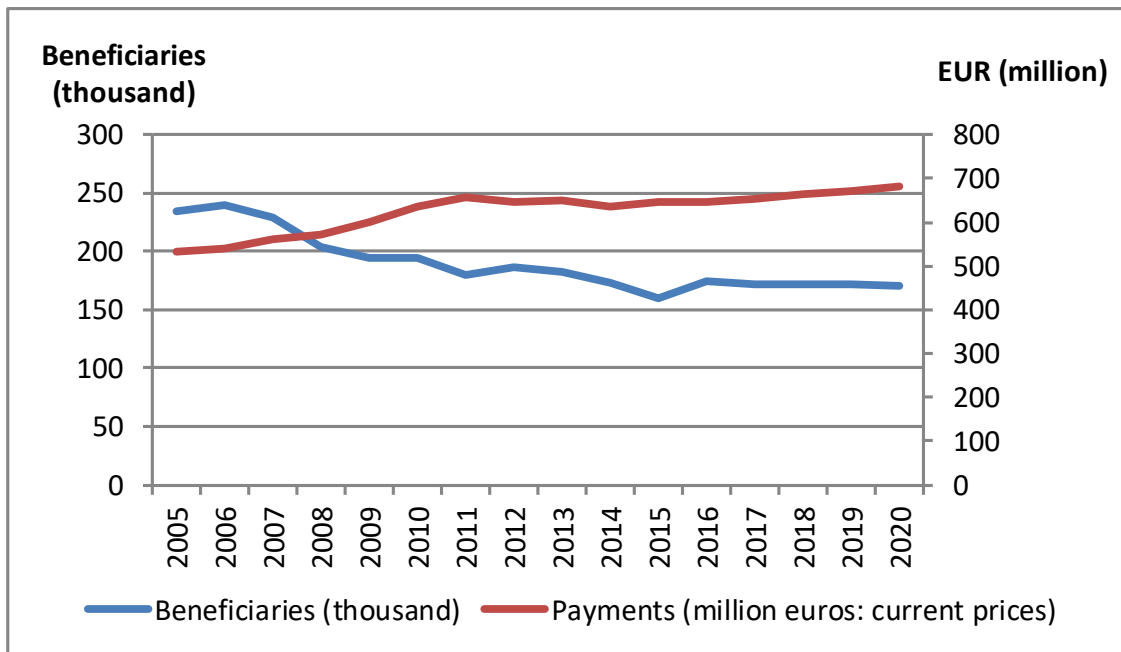
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	51.3%	12.2%	10.2%
5-250 ha	48.4%	76.3%	80.1%
>250 ha	0.2%	11.5%	9.7%



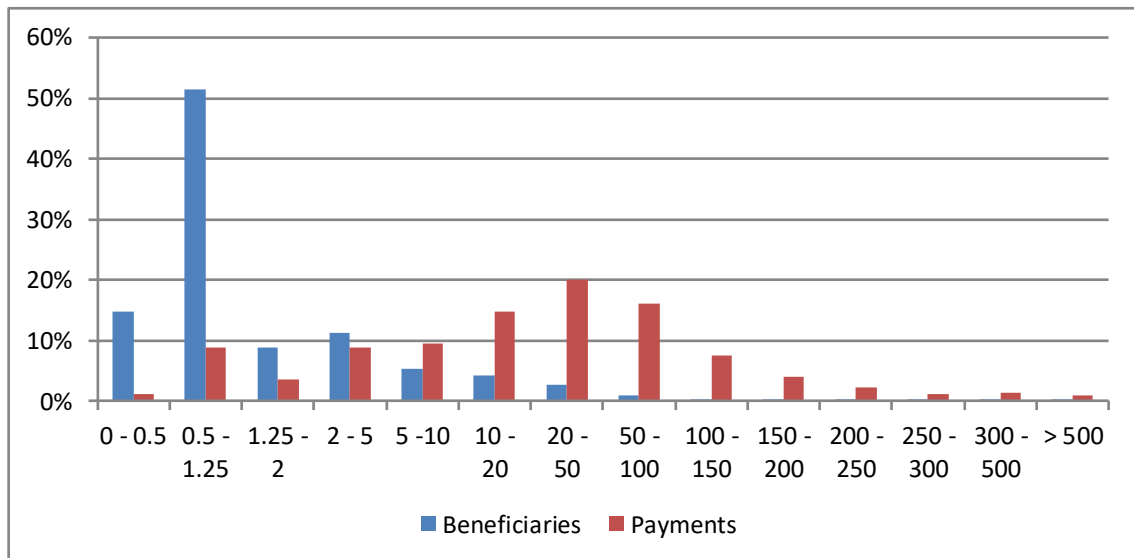
European Commission

Portugal

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



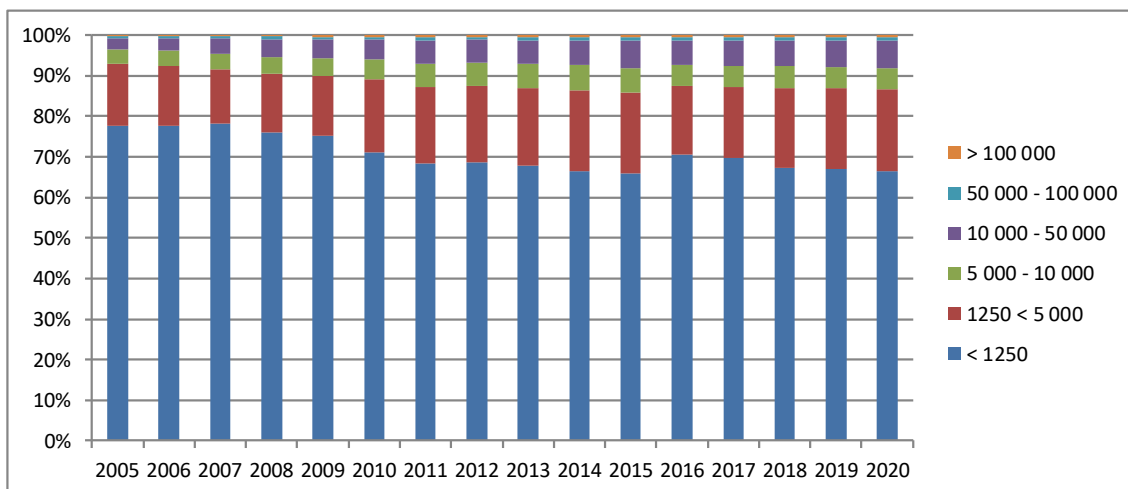
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



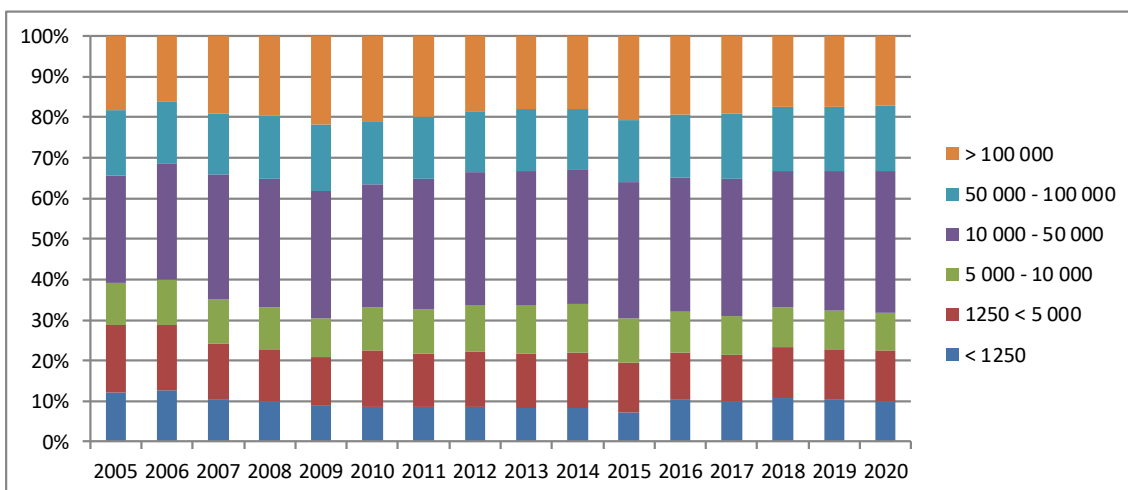


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



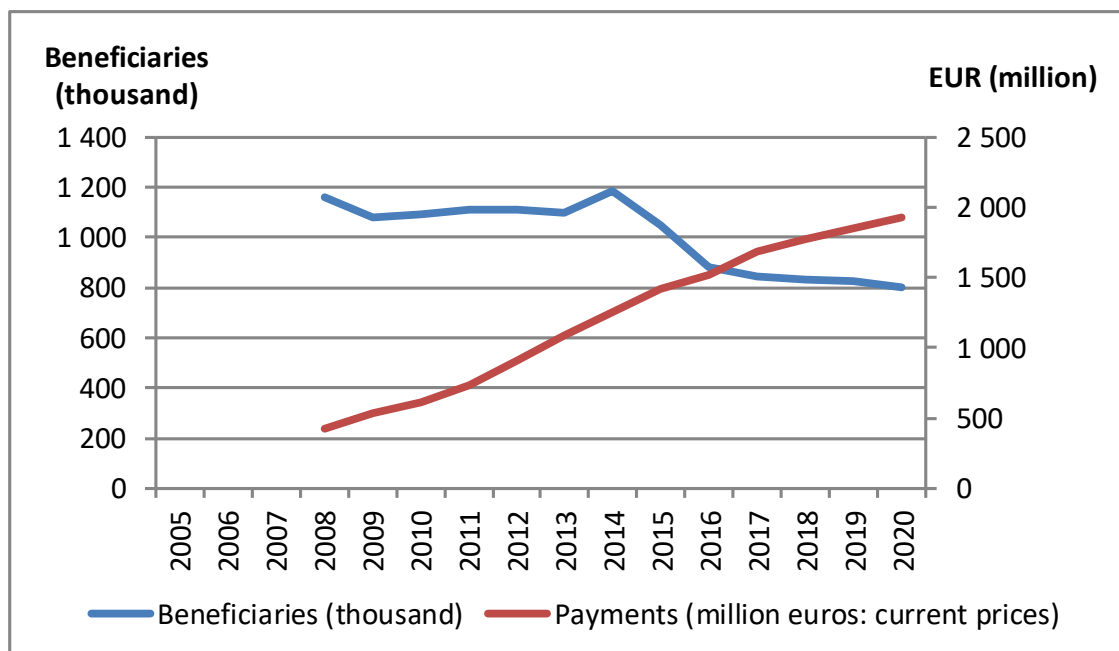
Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	65.1%	6.8%	12.5%
5-250 ha	33.4%	49.7%	54.8%
>250 ha	1.5%	43.5%	32.8%

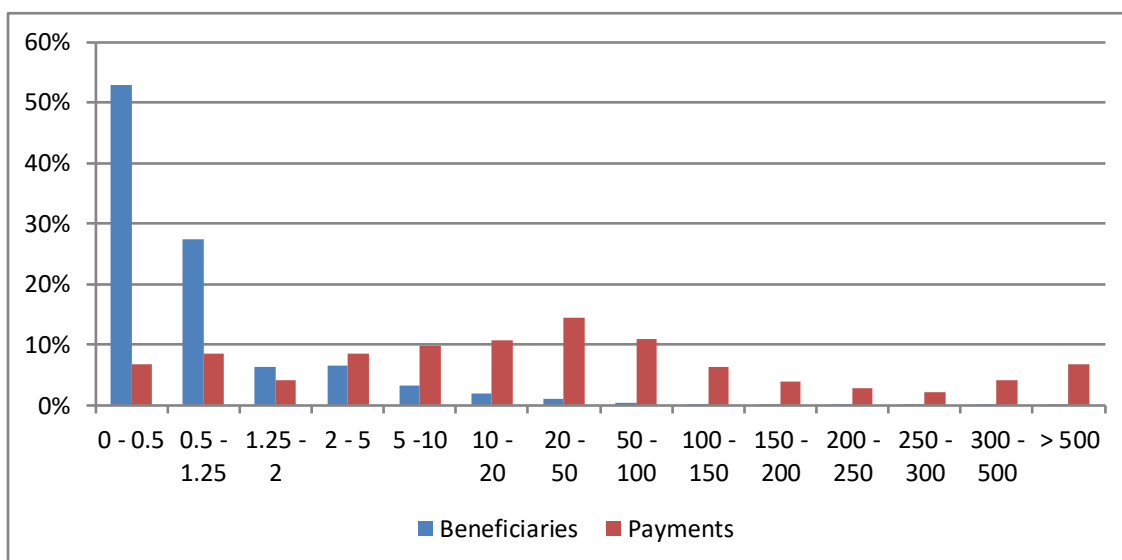


Romania

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



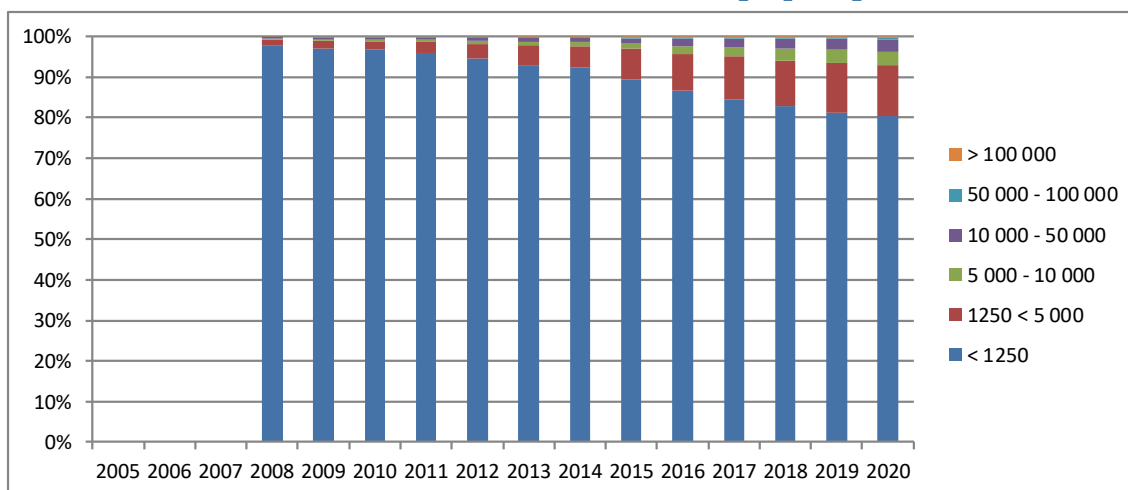
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



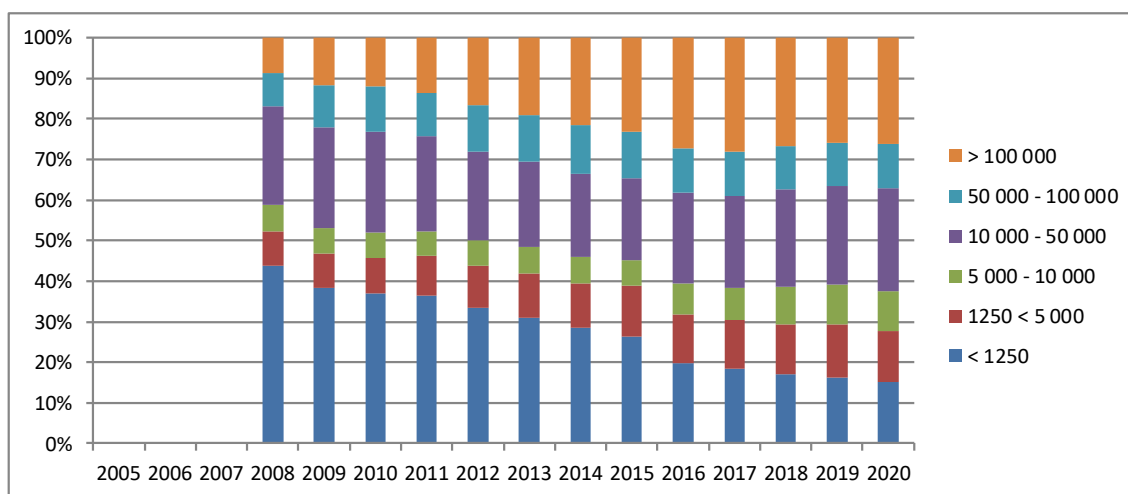


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

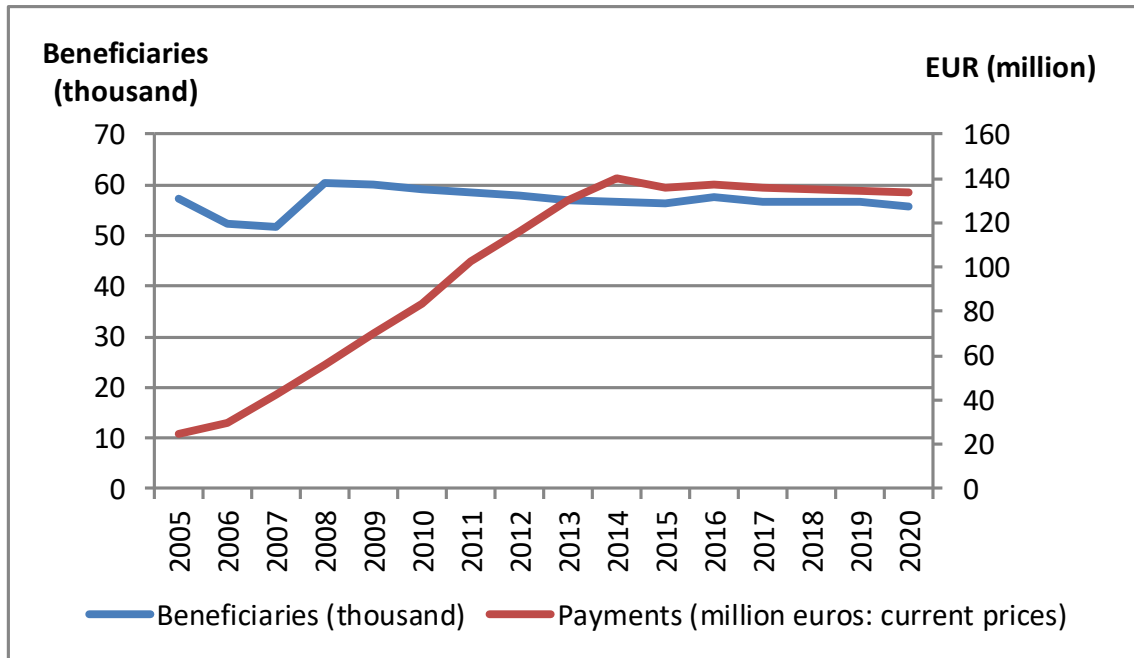
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	73.6%	14.4%	13.2%
5-250 ha	25.7%	43.8%	48.9%
>250 ha	0.7%	41.9%	38.0%



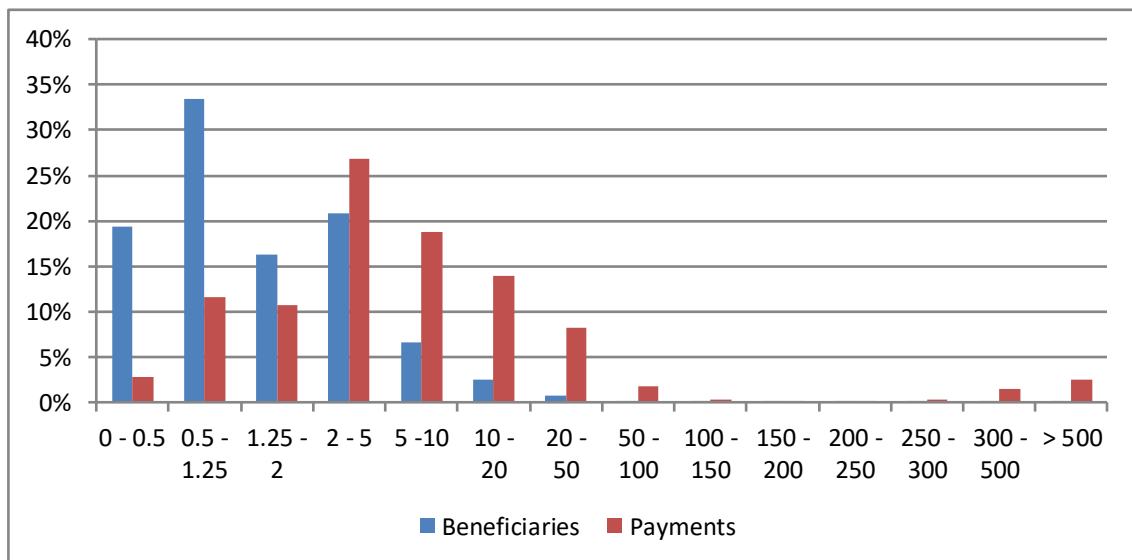
European Commission

Slovenia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



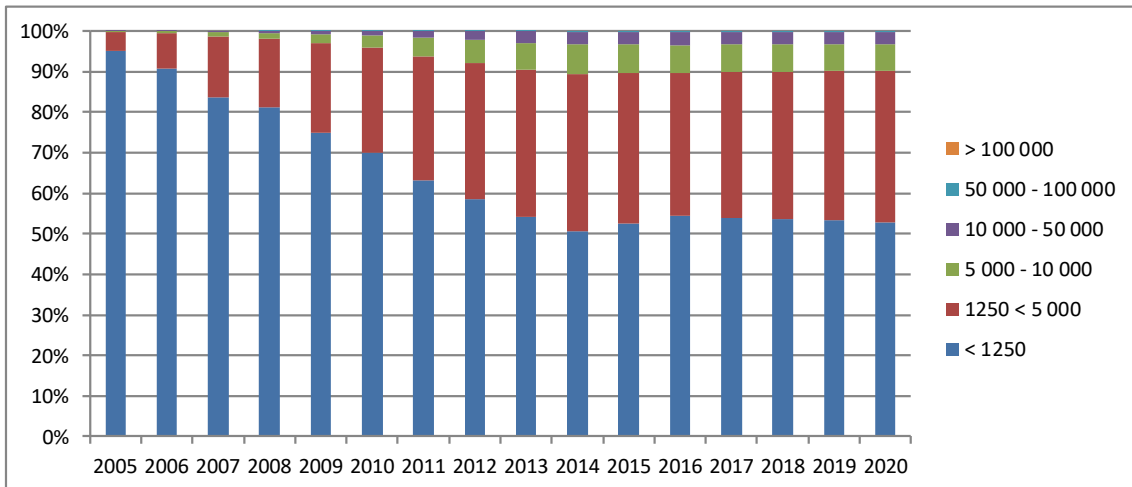
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



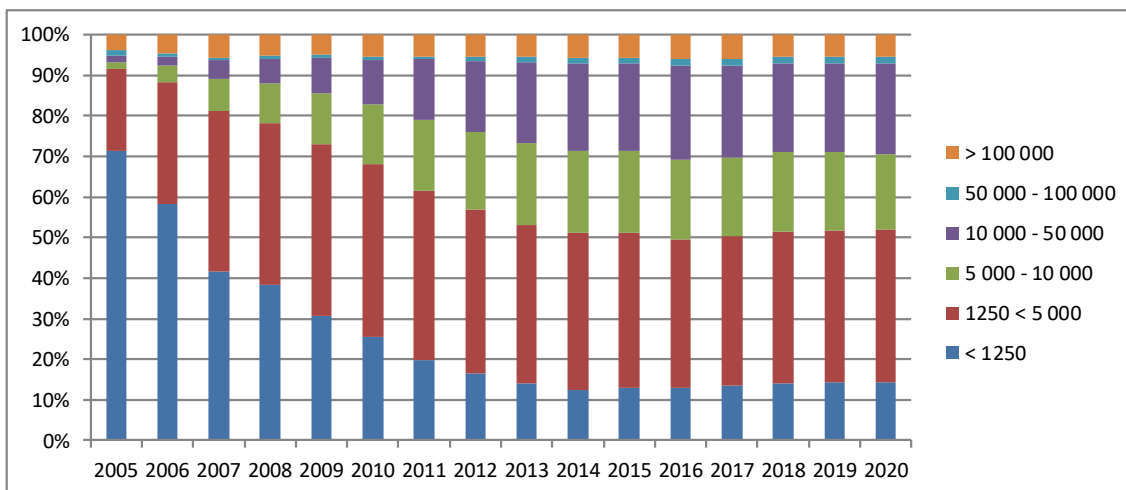


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

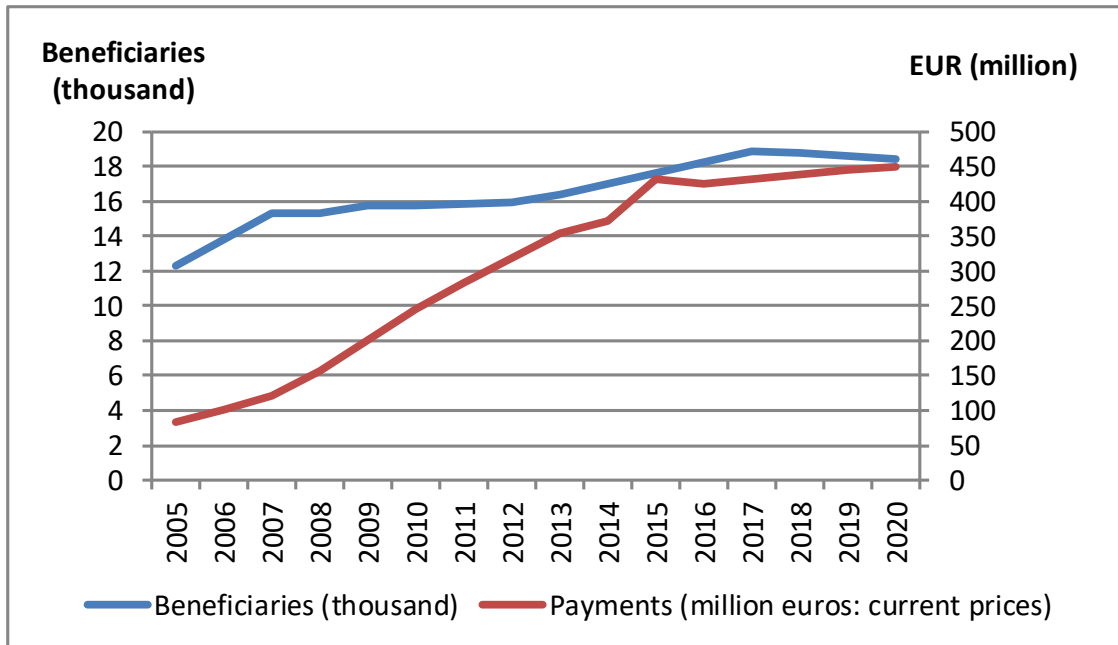
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	53.2%	18.8%	15.5%
5-250 ha	46.7%	76.3%	78.6%
>250 ha	0.0%	5.0%	5.8%



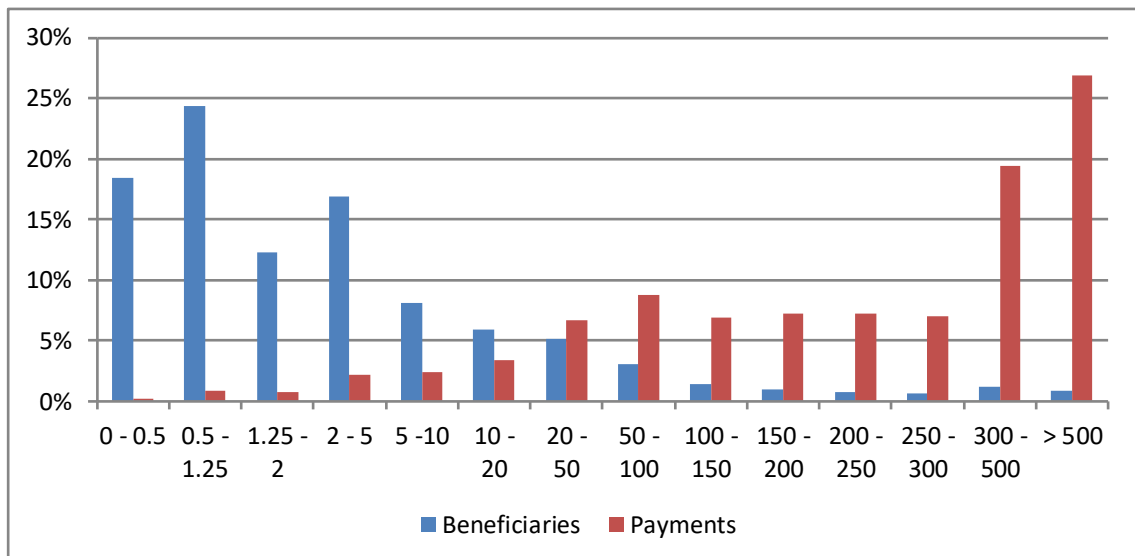
European Commission

Slovakia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



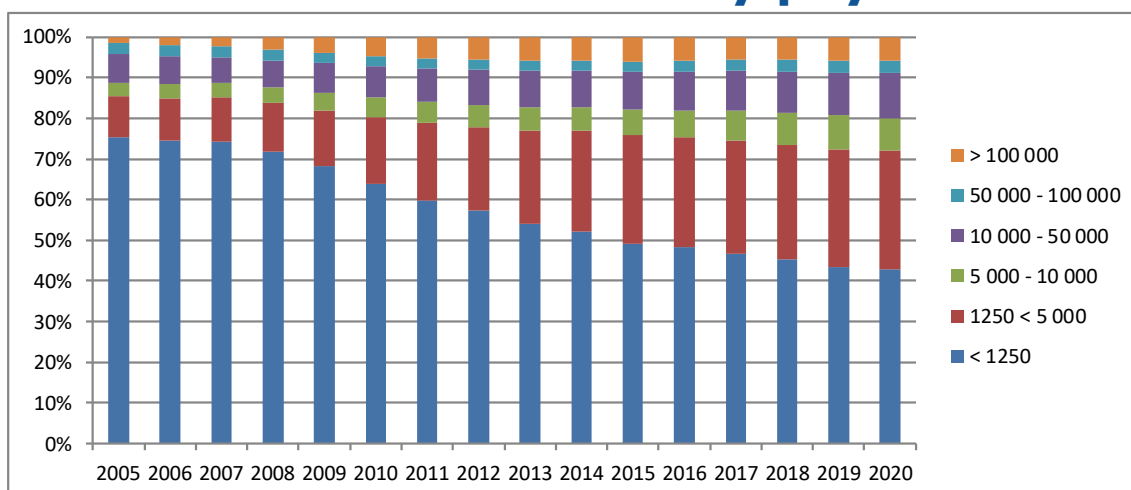
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



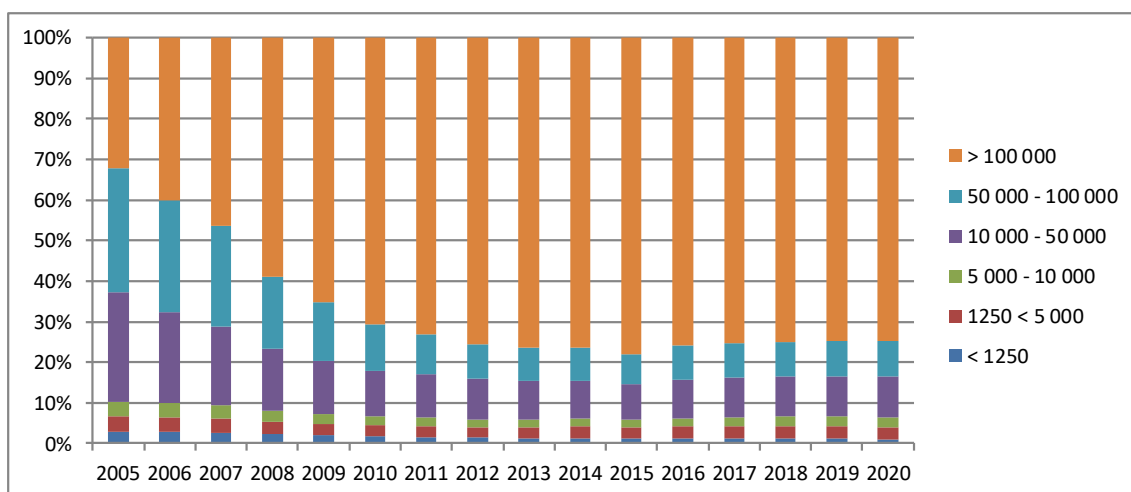


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

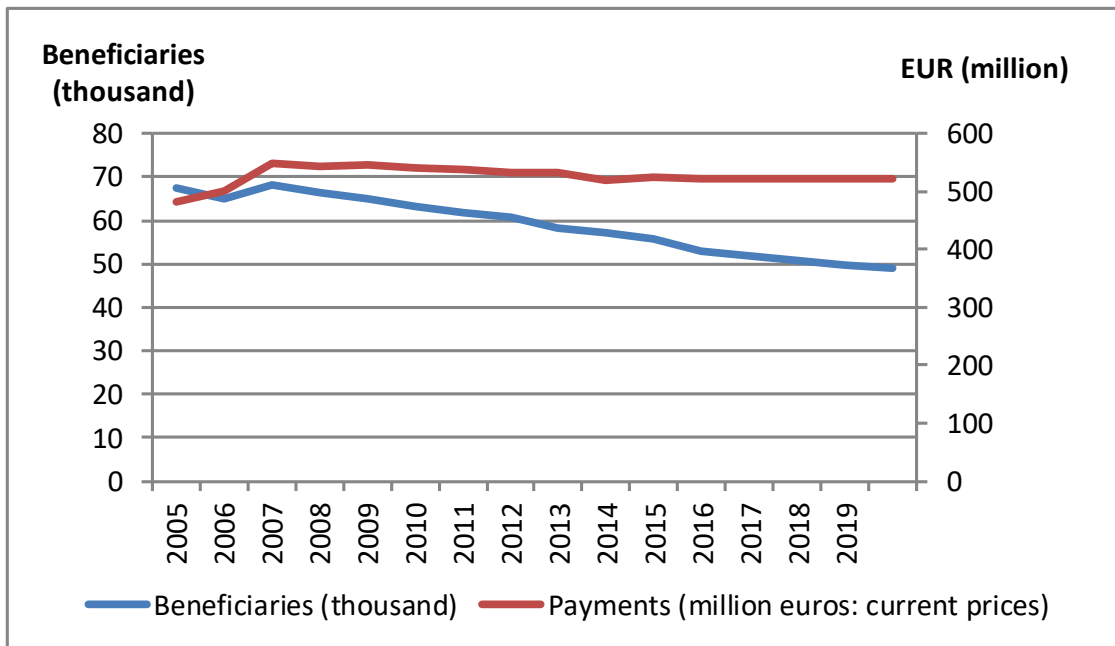
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	39.5%	1.0%	1.0%
5-250 ha	52.0%	17.8%	17.2%
>250 ha	8.4%	81.2%	81.9%



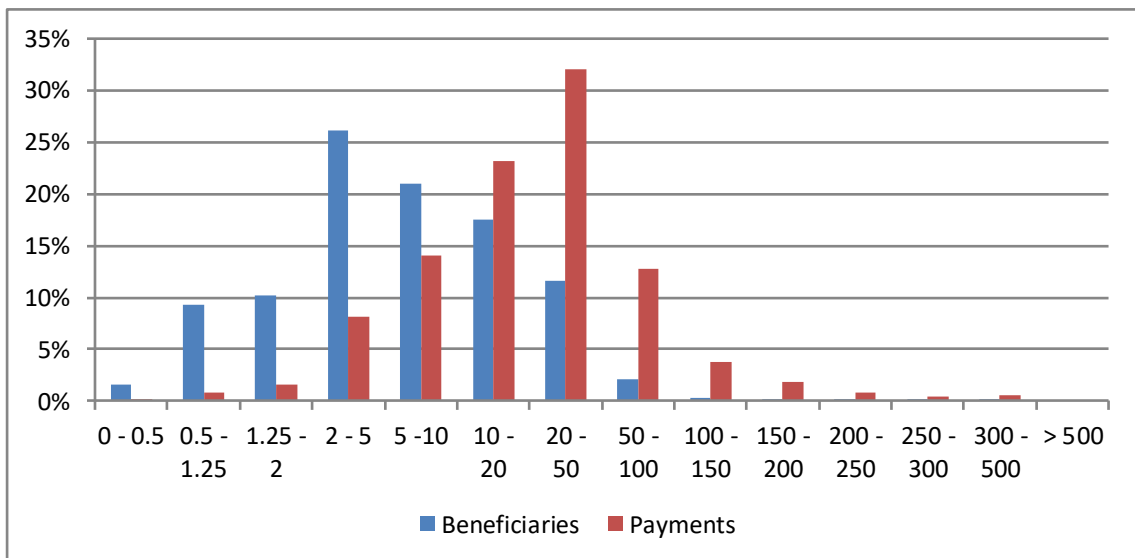
European
Commission

Finland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



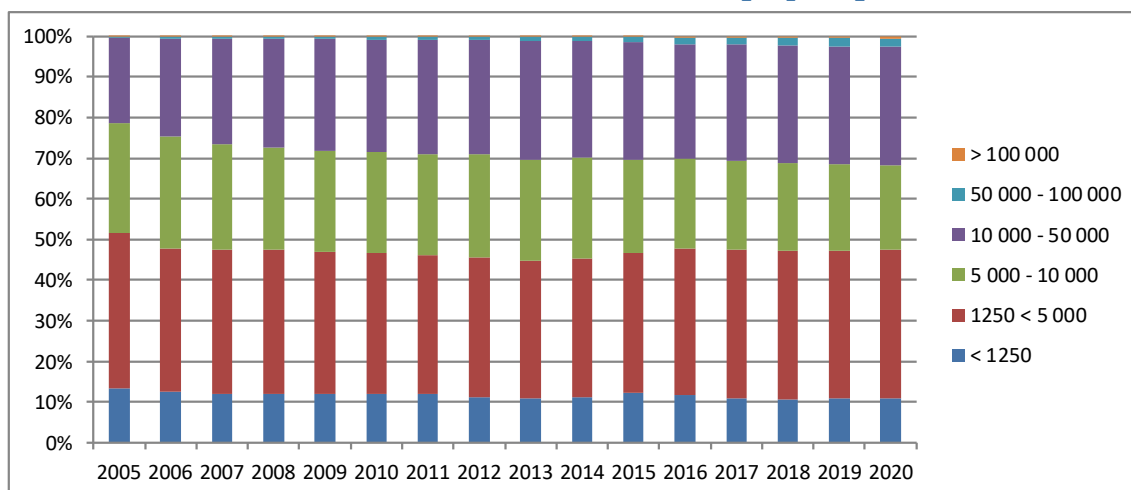
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



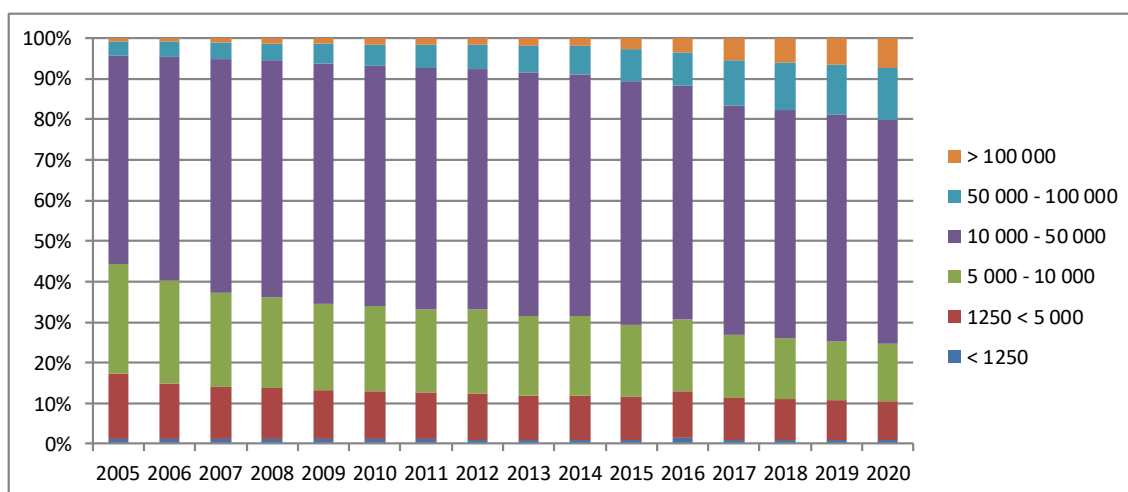


European Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

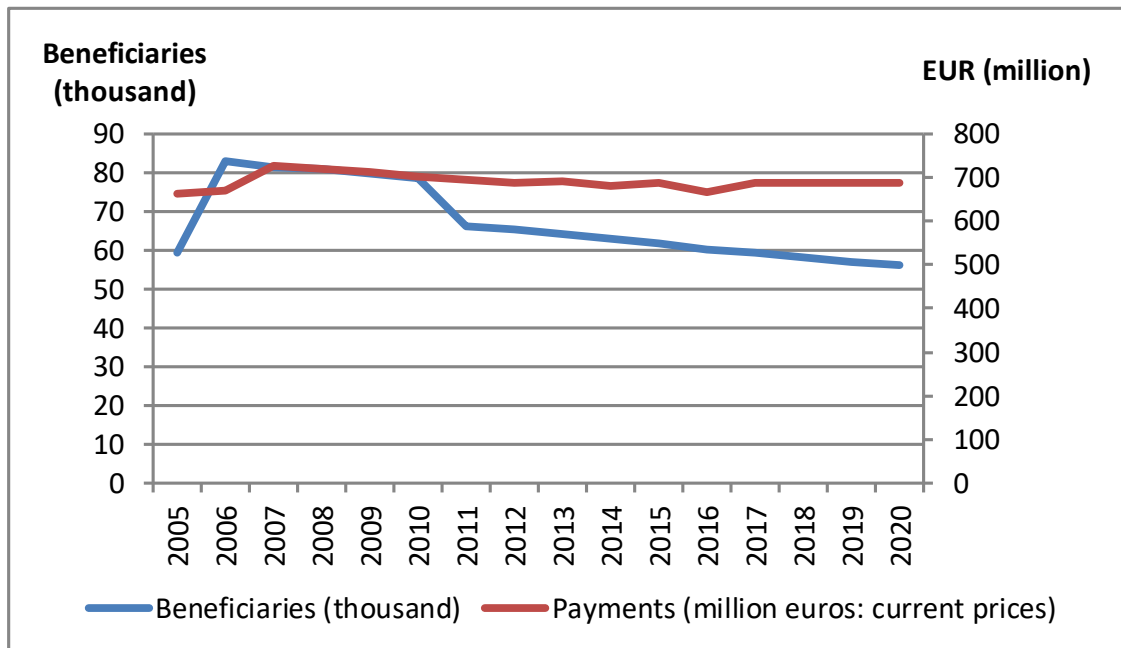
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	4.1%	0.3%	0.2%
5-250 ha	94.8%	91.7%	90.9%
>250 ha	1.1%	8.0%	8.8%



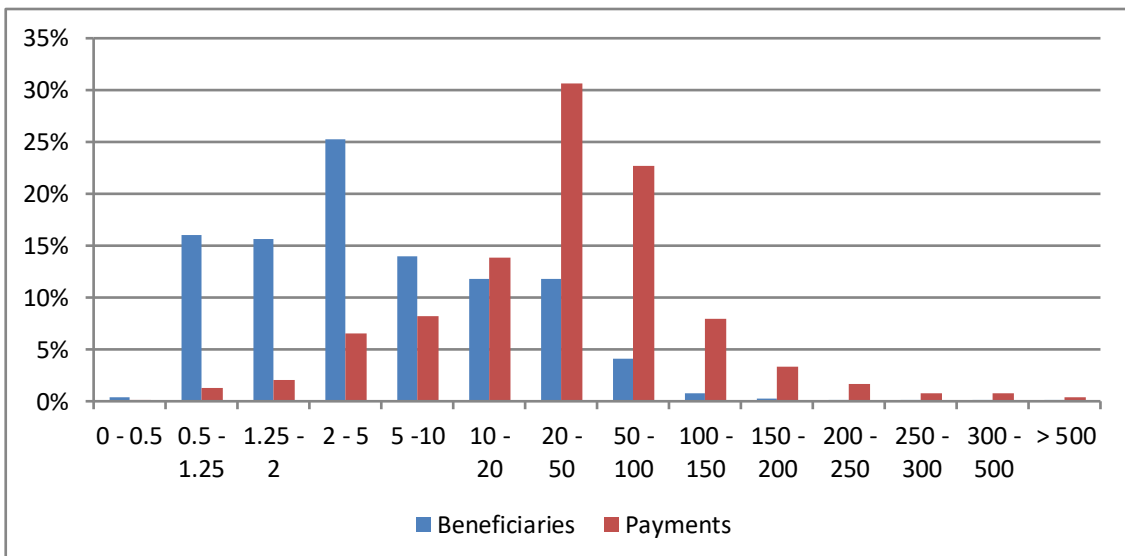
European Commission

Sweden

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



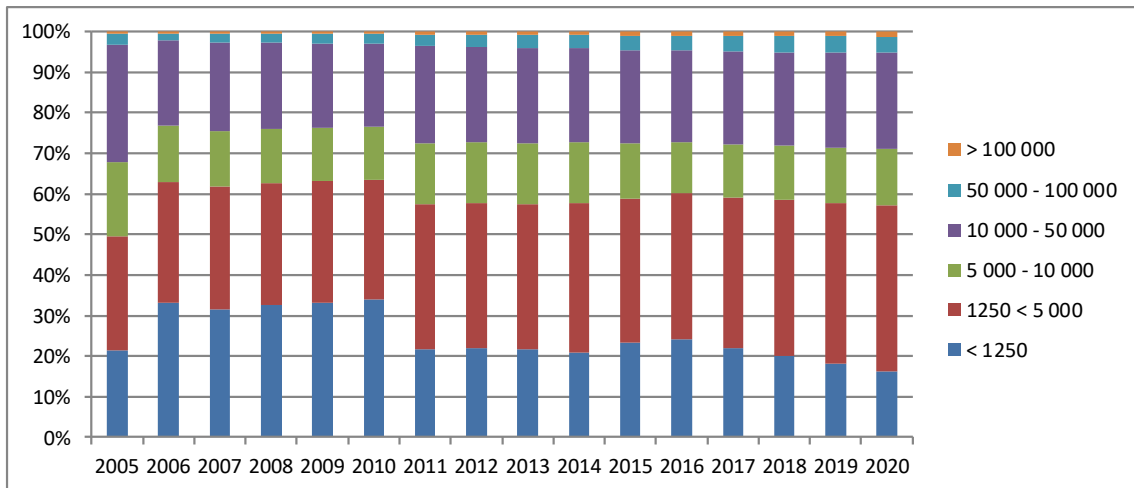
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



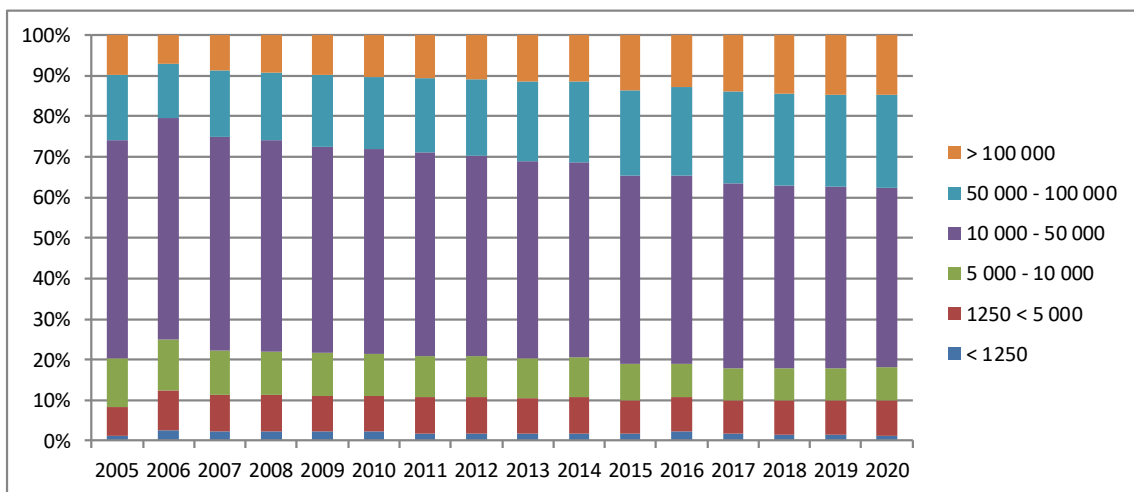


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

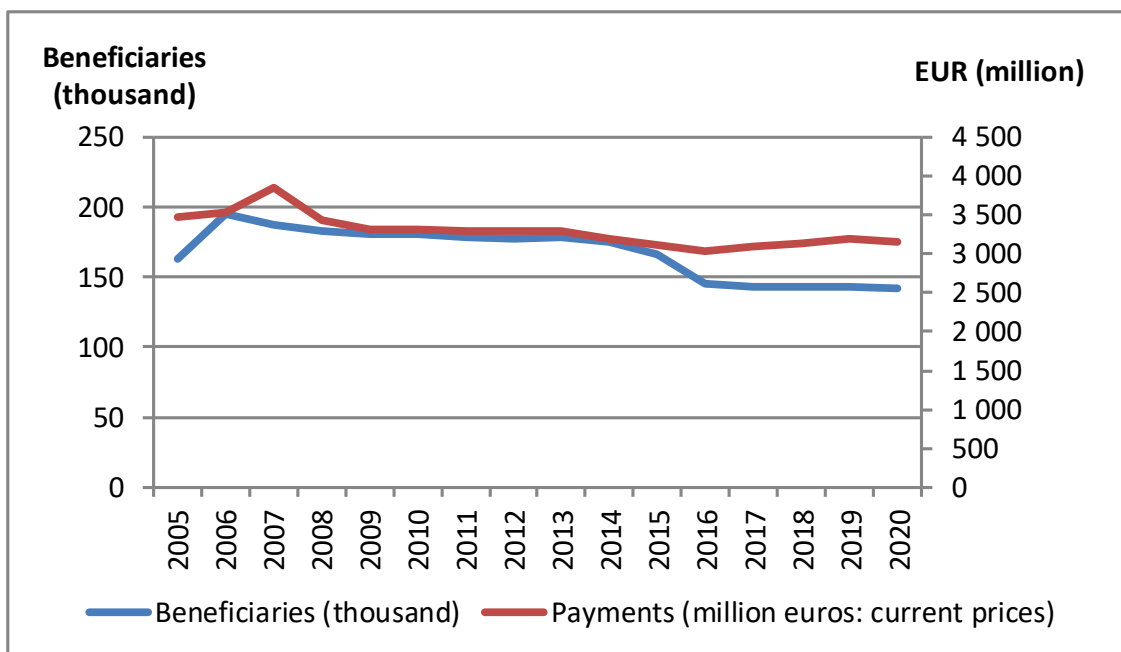
Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	8.5%	0.7%	0.6%
5-250 ha	87.9%	69.8%	70.1%
>250 ha	3.6%	29.5%	29.3%



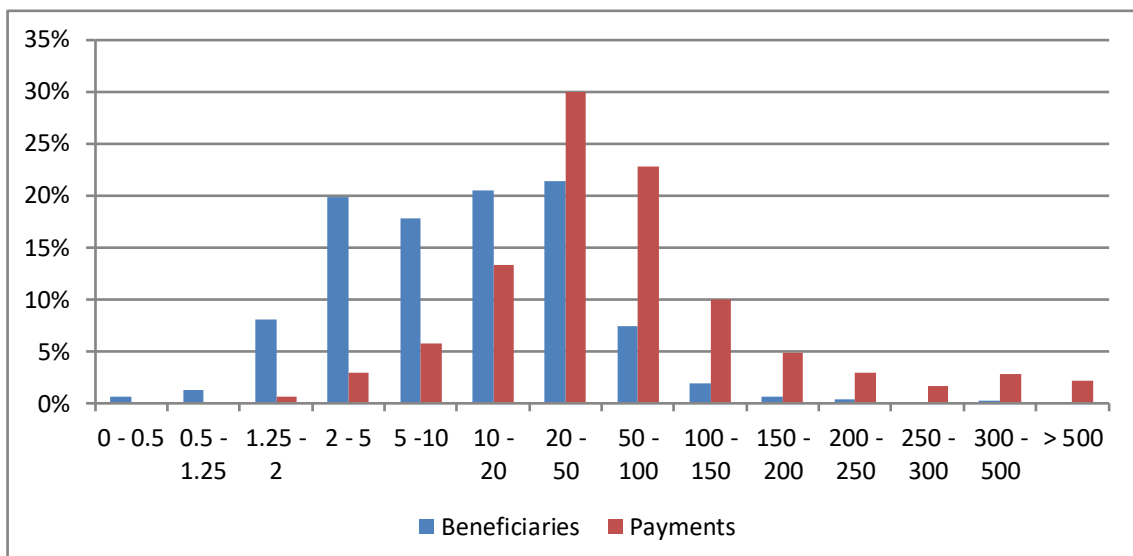
European
Commission

United Kingdom

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments



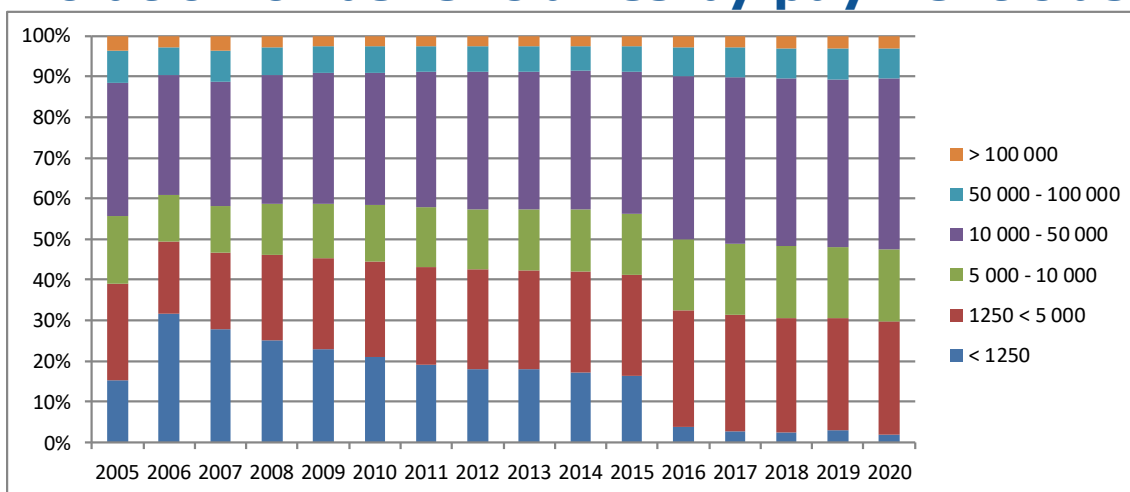
Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class



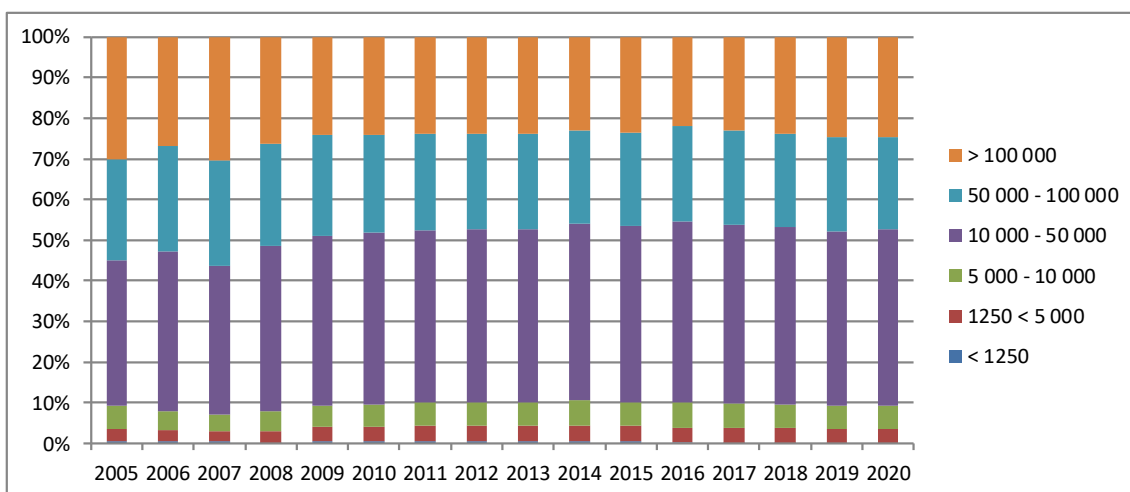


European
Commission

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class



Evolution of payments by payment class



Beneficiaries, area and payments by size class

Farm size class	Beneficiaries	Area	Direct payments
<=5ha	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%
5-250 ha	89.7%	51.2%	59.2%
>250 ha	8.5%	48.8%	40.7%