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Slovenian agriculture and rural areas in the post-accession period: achievements and challenges ahead

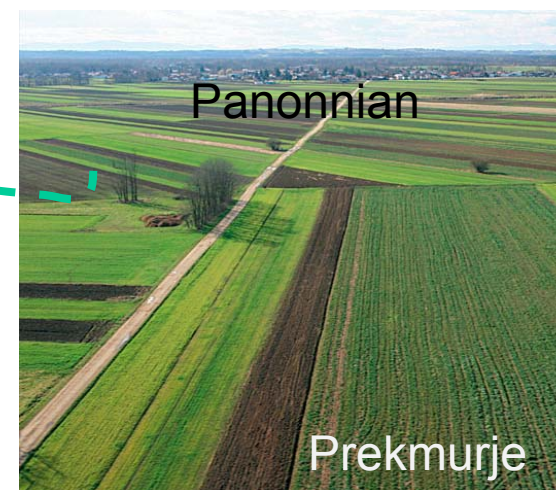
Vesna Miličić and Nouredin Driouech

Conference May 12th -15th, 2014 Rawa Mazowiecka-Poland

“Achievements and challenges in the food sector and rural areas during the 10 years after the EU enlargement”



Agricultural and Rural areas in Slovenia Country Profile



Some figures in comparison to Poland- 2013

	Slovenia	Poland
1. Population	2 058 821	38 533 299
2. Area	20 273 km ²	312 679 km ²
3. GDP per capita	16 970	10 089
4. Unemployment rate	11.1 %	10.7 %
5. Exports of agricultural products	1.6 billion EUR	17.1 billion EUR
6. Imports of agricultural products	2.5 billion EUR	12.9 billion EUR



Source: EC, 2013

Background

- Before 1991
- After 1991 independent from FYR
- 2004 – accession to the EU (10 countries)
- 2007 – EURO currency framework programmes
- significant impact on agriculture



Pre- and post-accession EU instruments

The New Member States (NMS) accession to the EU has had a significant impact on their agricultural performance using multiple EU instruments.

e.g.: **SAPARD** (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development)

ISPA (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession)

PHARE (Programme for Community Aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe)

FP (Framework programmes)



Slovenian agriculture: financial aspects

CAP expenditure (1 000 eur) - 2012

1. Direct payments: **116.145.0**

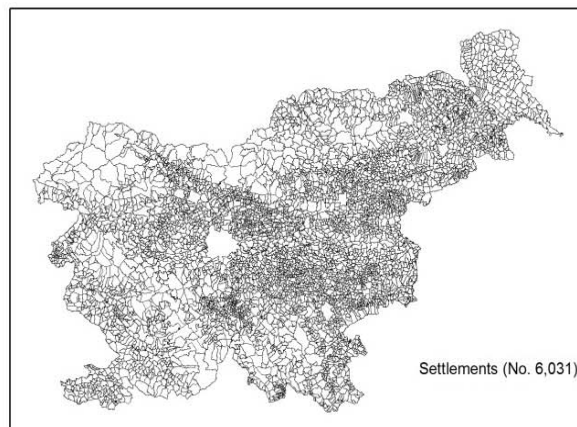
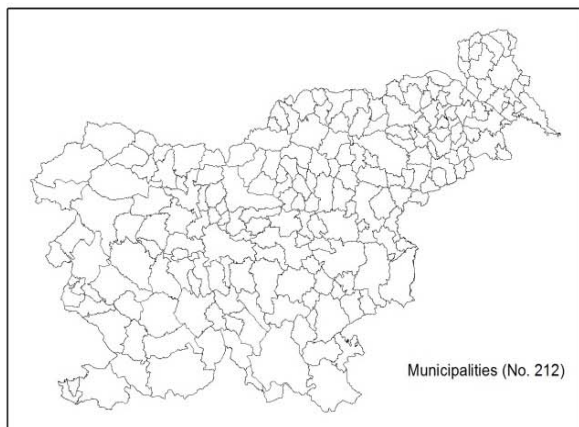
2. Market measures: **8 778.4**

- food programmes, fruit and vegetables, wine sector, pigmeat, eggs, poultry and other etc.

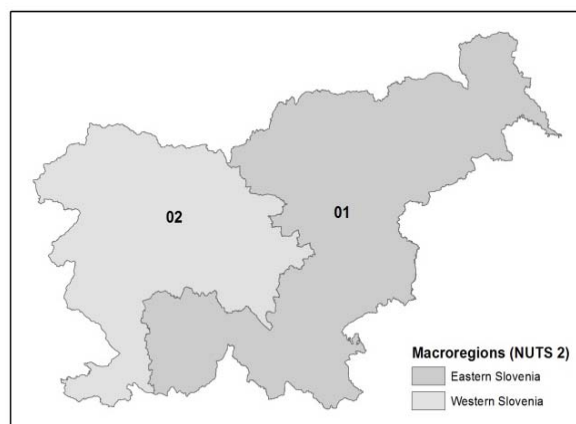
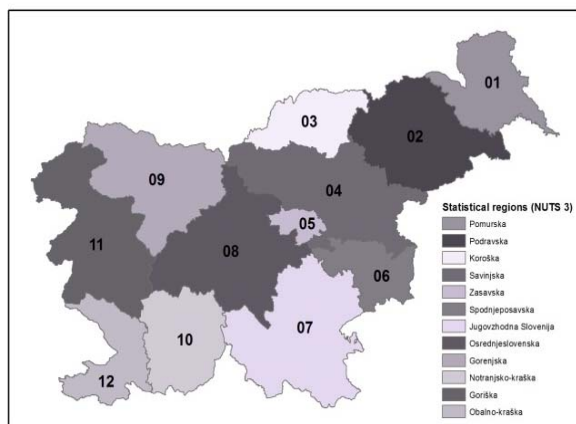
3. Rural development: **118 858.9**



Evolution of Slovenian administrative units



- **212 municipalities** (NUTS 5)
- \approx 6,000 settlements



- **12 statistical regions** (NUTS 3)
- **2 macroregions** (NUTS 2)

- The **impact of EU enlargement** on agriculture in the New Member States (NMS) has been one of the debated issues.
- The **10th anniversary** of accession is a good opportunity to analyse the achievements and challenges in the food sector and rural areas during the last 10 years after accession.

The present work **attempts to provide insights** about the implications of Slovenia's accession for its **agricultural sector and rural areas.**



- Secondary data especially from FAOSTAT, EU* (EUROSTAT), WorldBank, etc.

European Commission - Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development **Agricultural trade statistics 2002-2013*

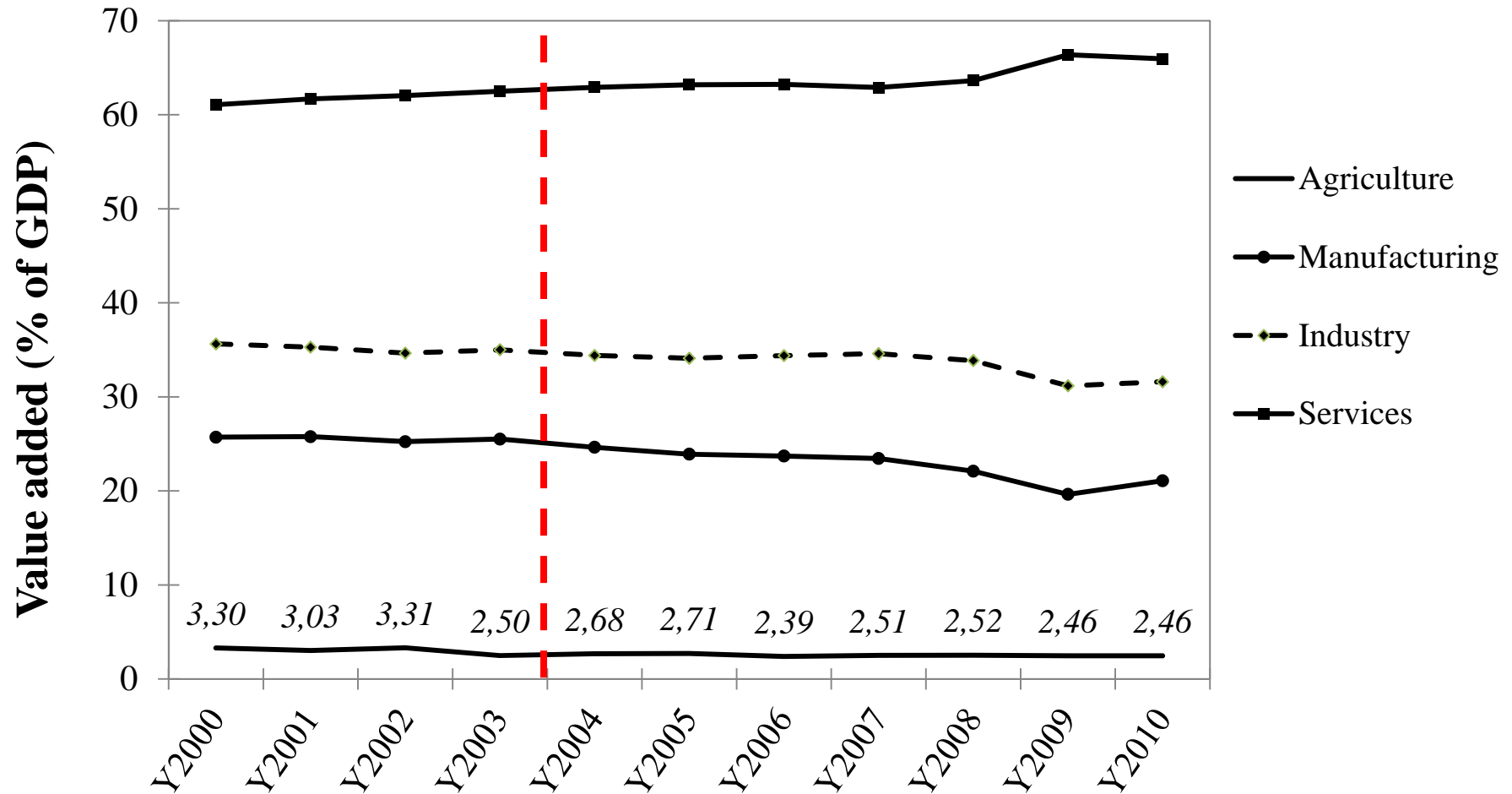
- Statistical descriptive analysis and trends of different **economic, social and environmental indicators** in the period 2000-2013 based on the secondary data.



Economic indicators

Economic indicators

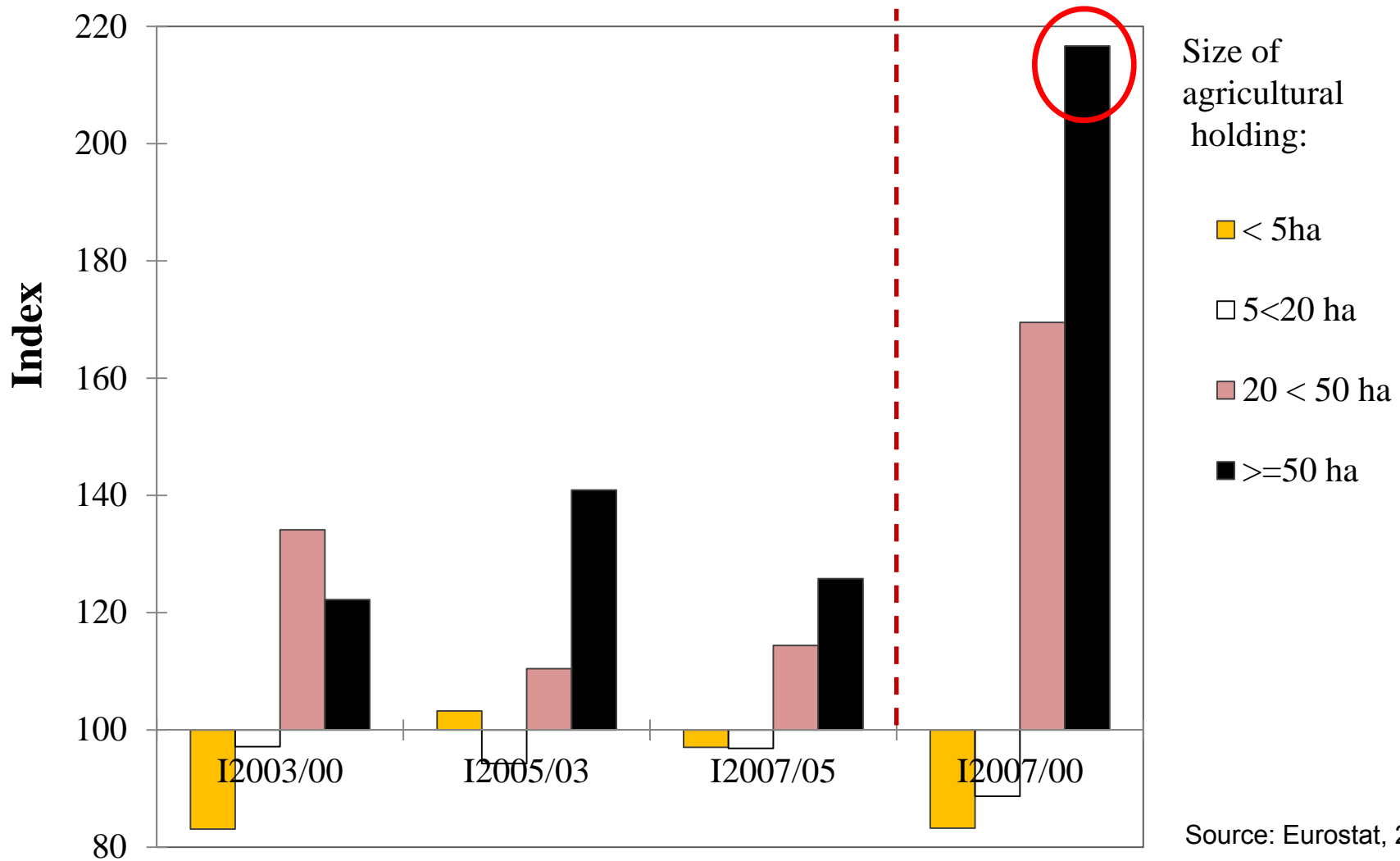
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) between 2000 and 2010



Source: World Development Indicators,
The World Bank, 2013

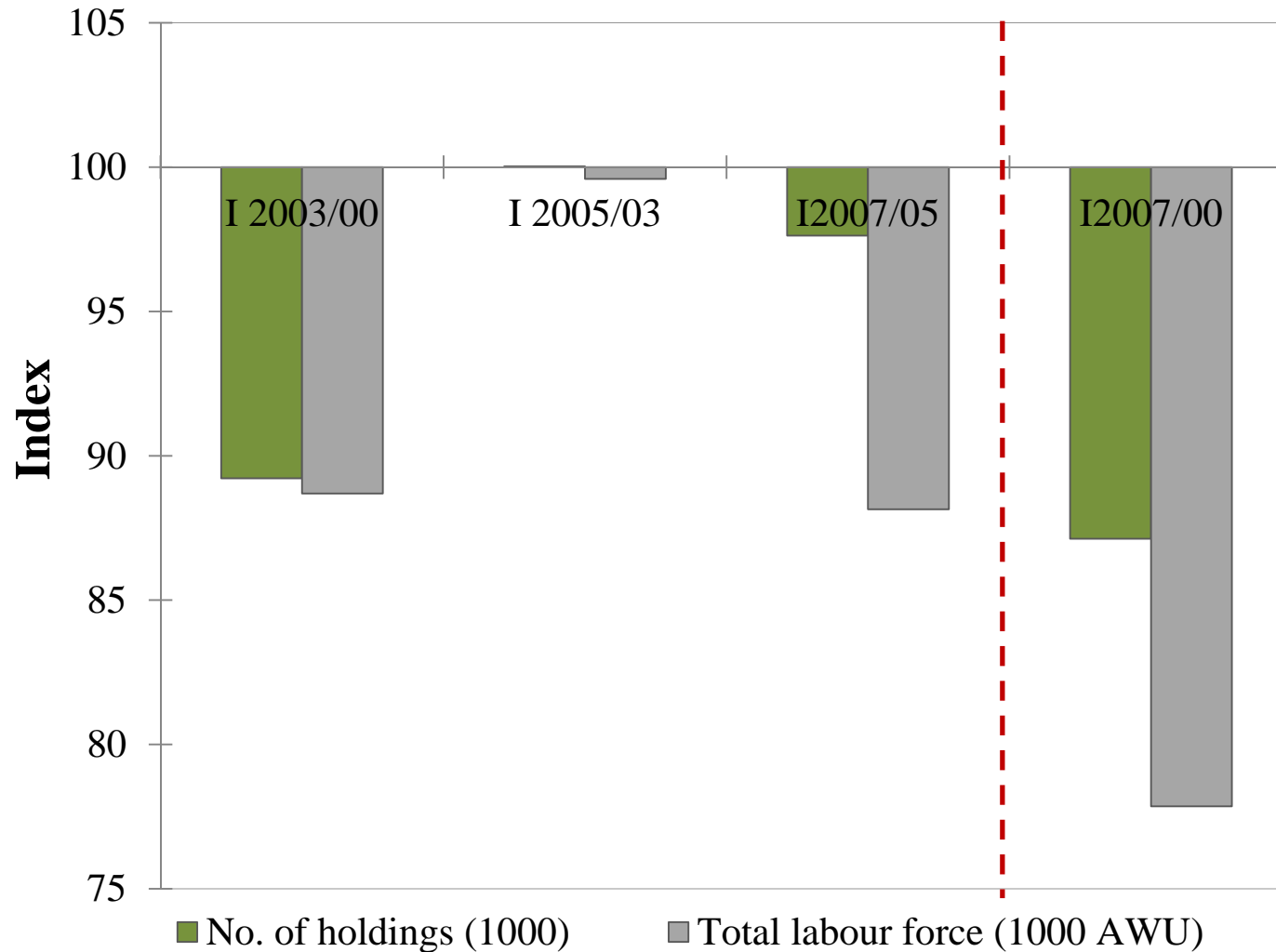
Economic indicators

Changes in the size of agricultural holding between 2000 and 2007



Economic indicators

Changes in the number of agricultural holdings and agricultural labour between 2000-2007



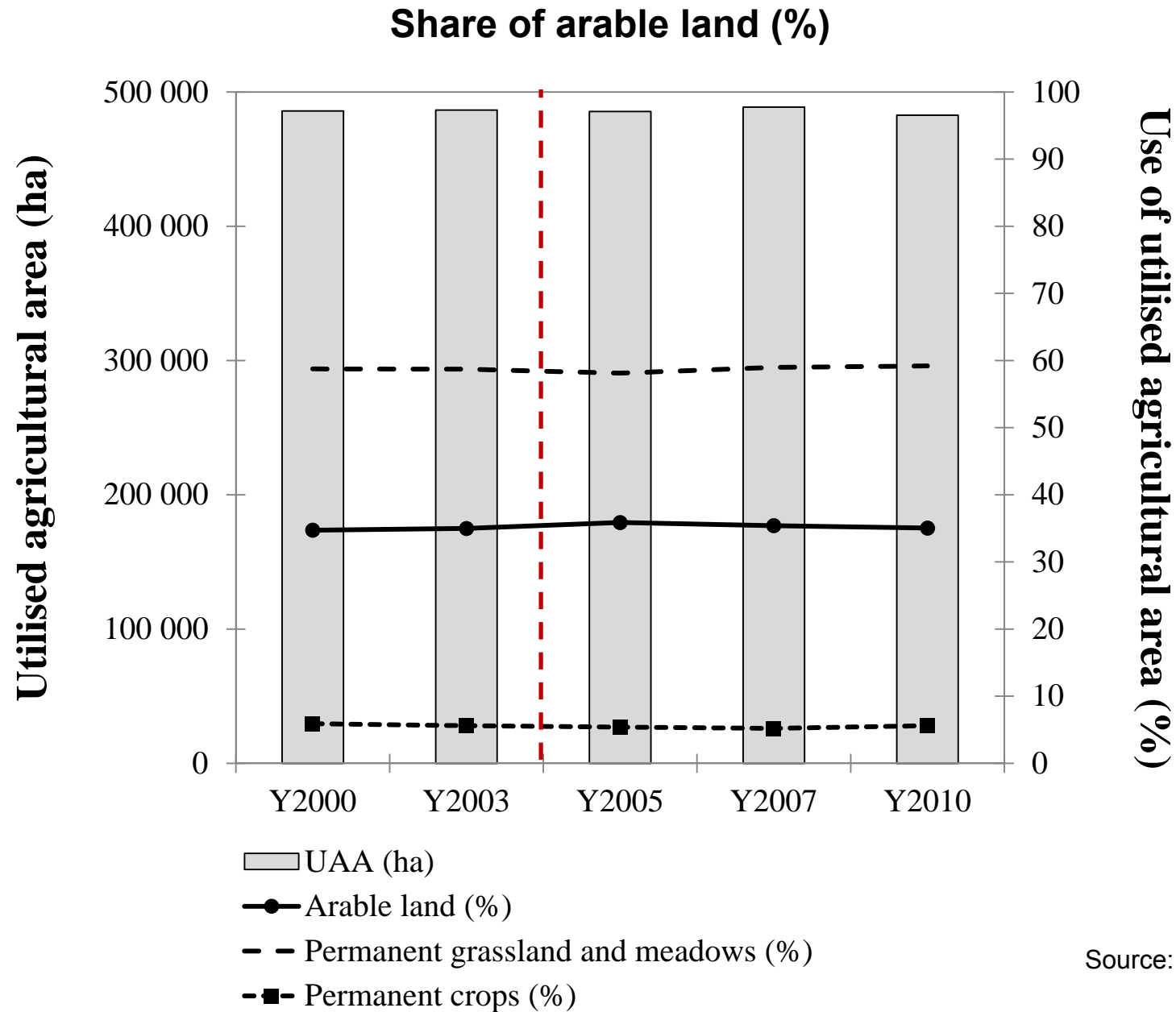
Source: Eurostat, 2013

Economic indicators

Accession has had impacts also on agro-food markets in general and prices in particular in the New Member States.



Environmental indicators



Source: Eurostat, 2013

LFA (less favoured areas):

- the share of UAA in less favoured mountain areas is high: **69.5 %**

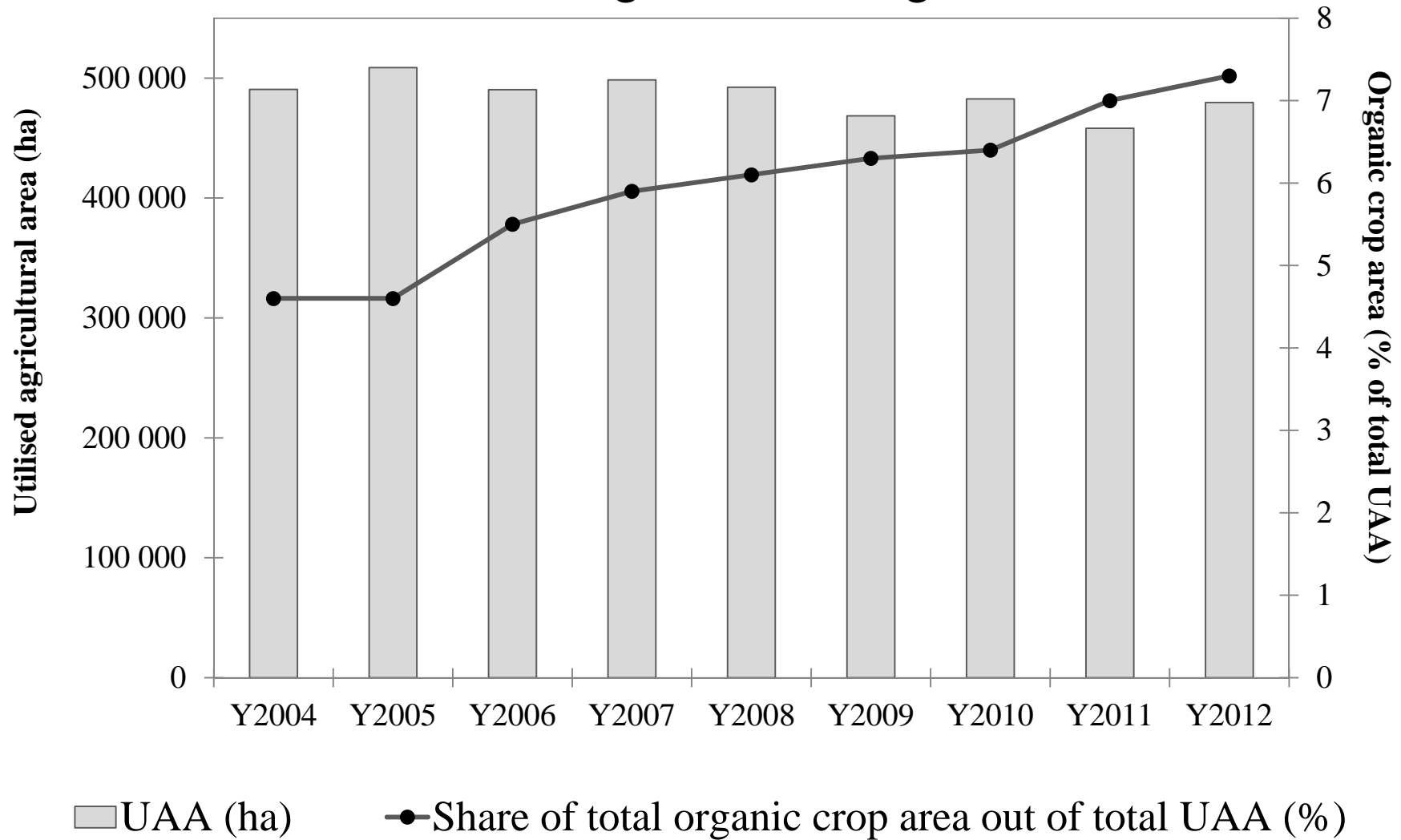
Natura 2000 sites:

- the share of UAA is: **21.3 %**

The **HNV** (high nature value farmland) in agricultural area is **more than 60 %**.

Source: EC, 2013

Organic farming

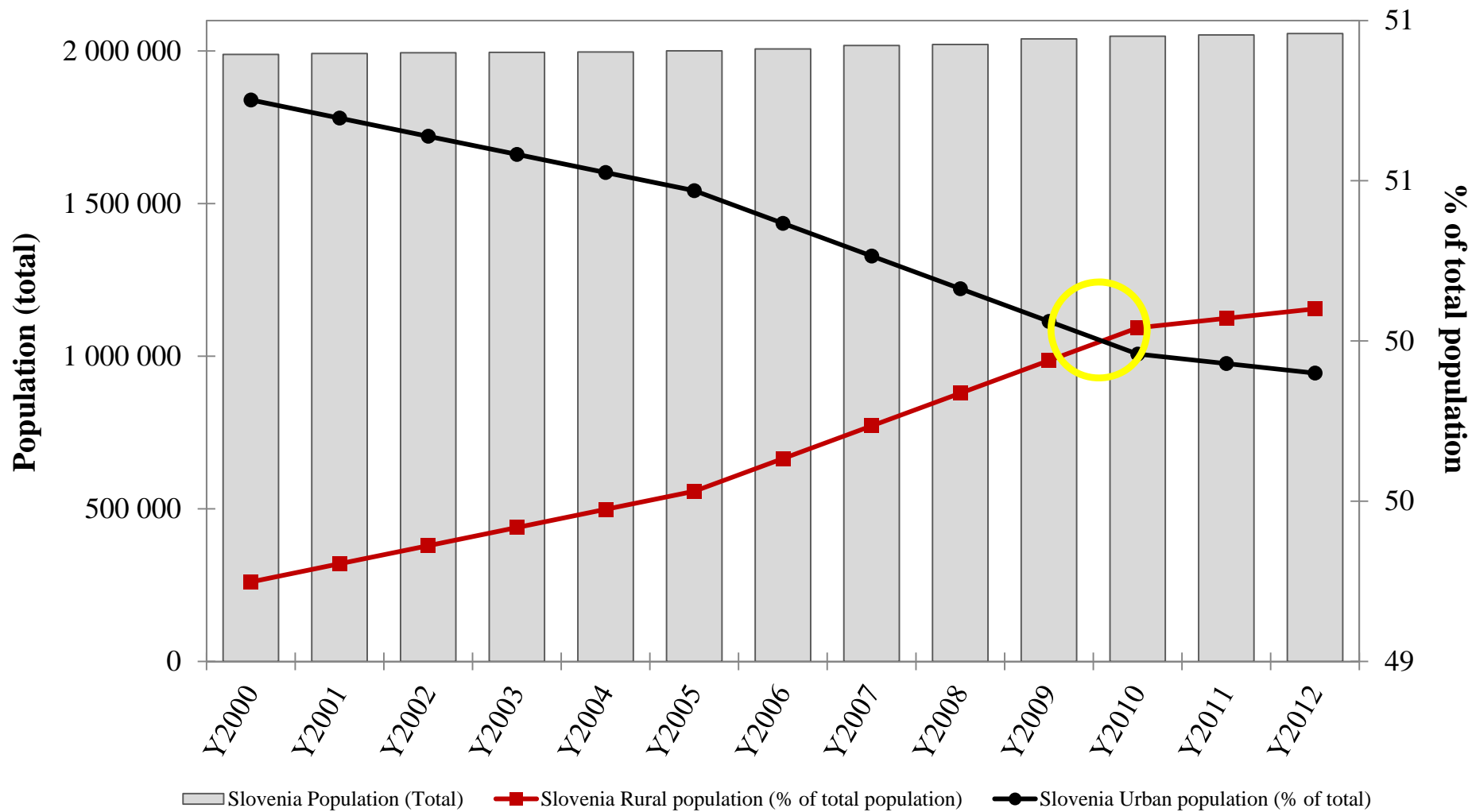


Source: Eurostat, 2013

Social indicators

Social indicators

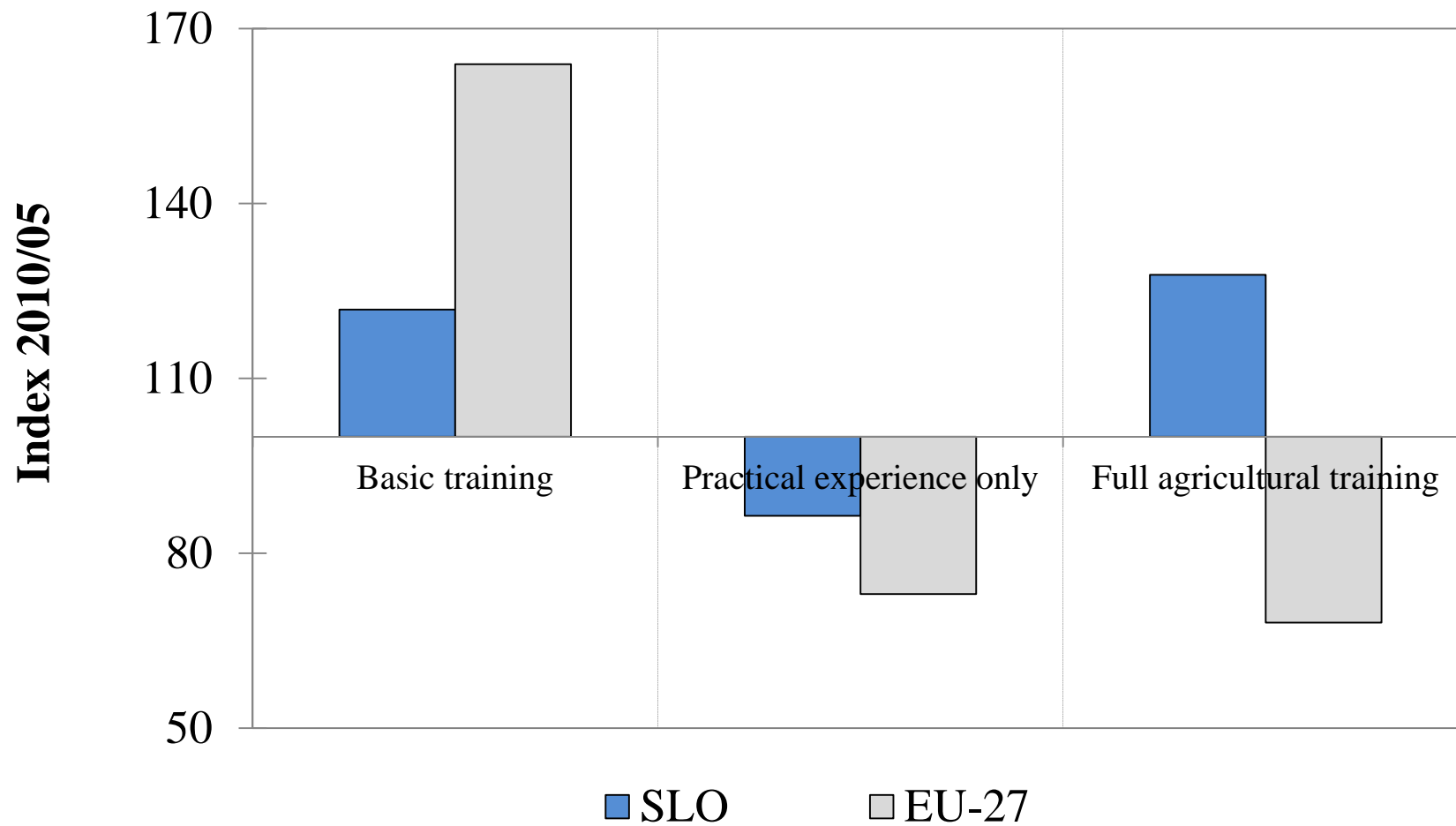
Rural vs. urban



Source: Eurostat, 2013

Social indicators

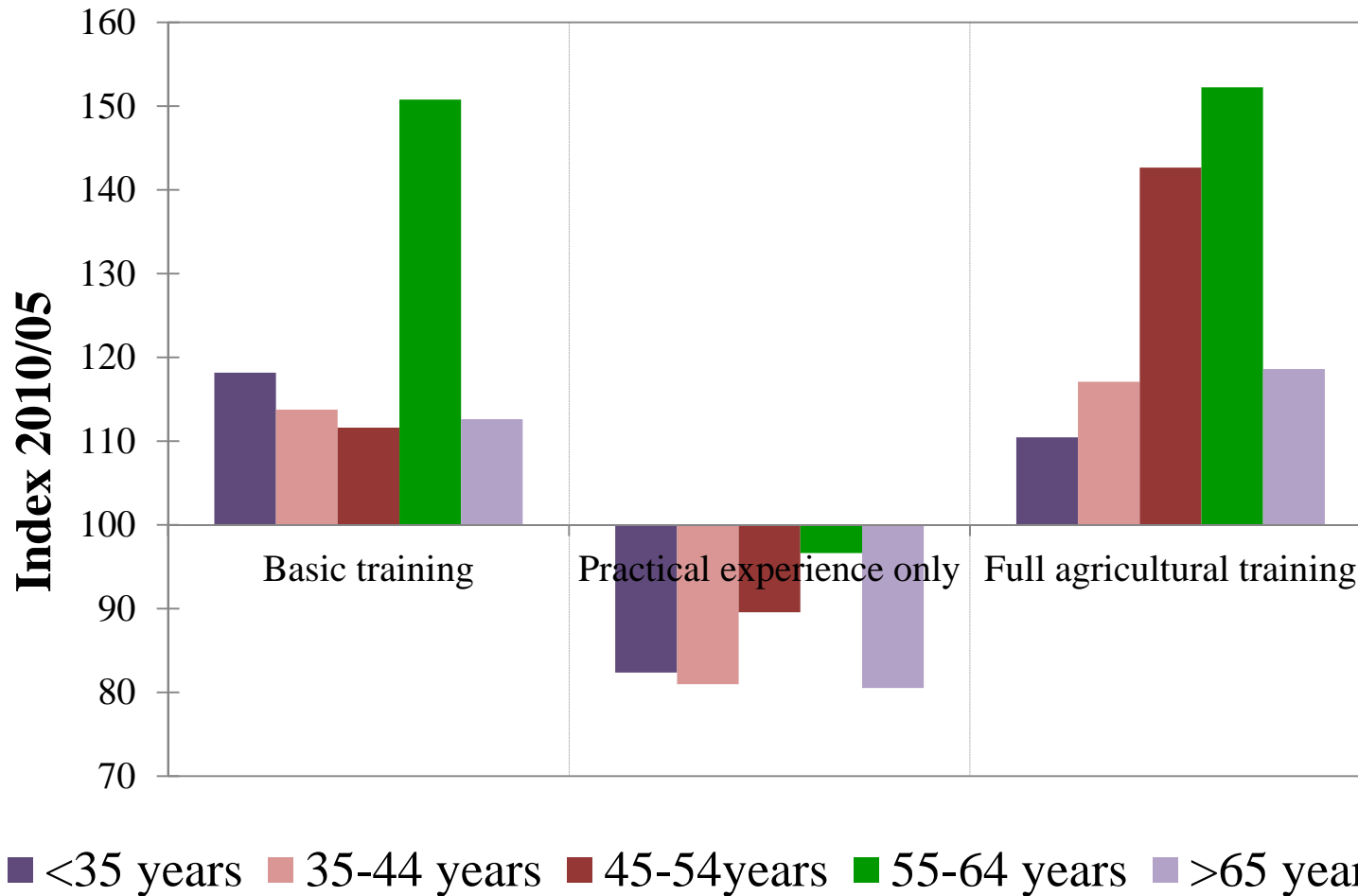
Farmer's education



Source: Eurostat, 2013

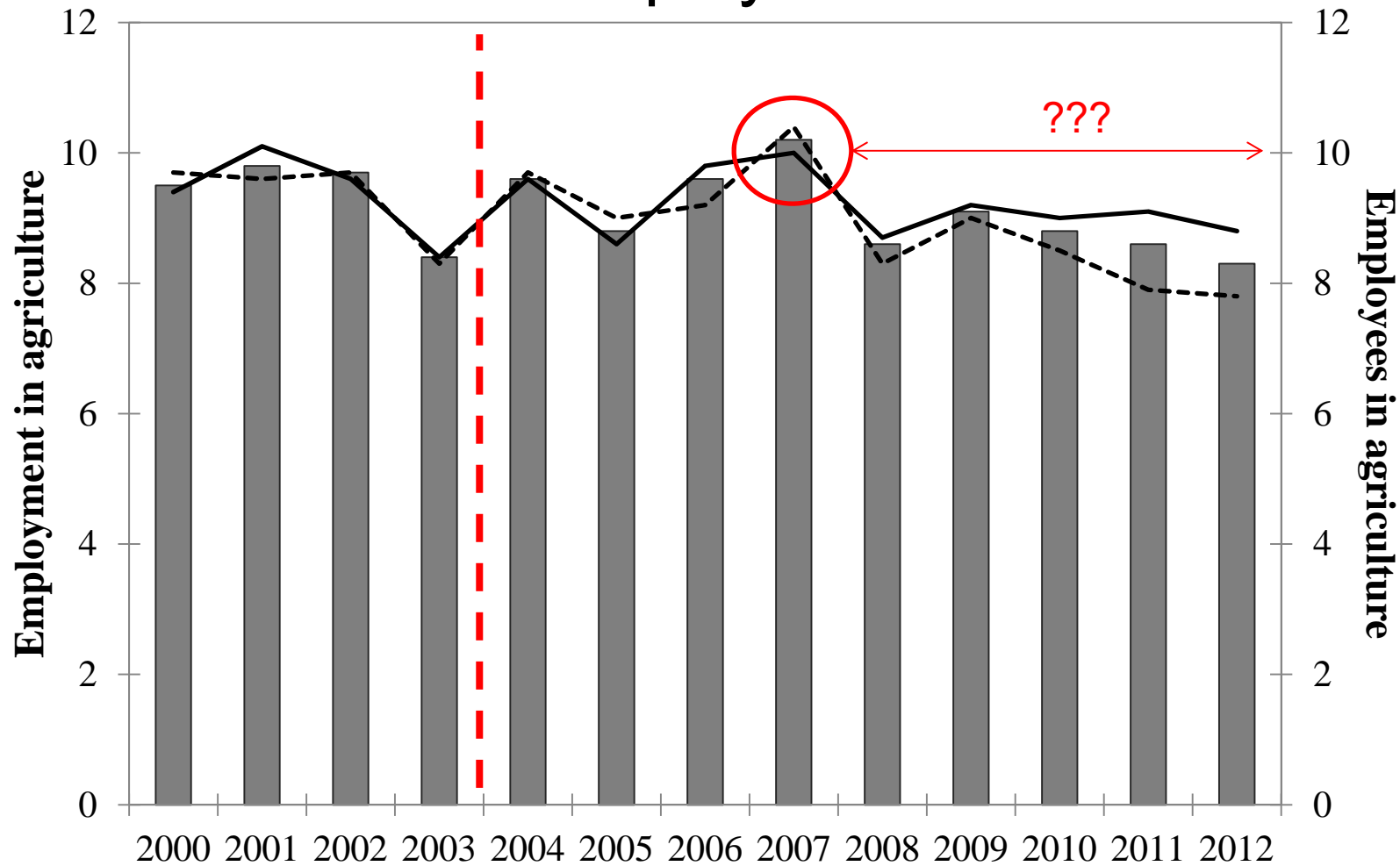
Social indicators

Farmer's education and farmer's age



Source: Eurostat, 2013

Employment



- Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)
- - - Employees, agriculture, female (% of female employment)
- Employees, agriculture, male (% of male employment)

Source: World Development Indicators,
The World Bank, 2013

Take-home messages

- In general, the accession had a **positive impact** upon the agricultural sector as it resulted in a consolidation of production, higher current prices, higher export and import quantities and especially higher farmers' incomes.
- There are **differences** among the NMS besides the overall positive picture. This diversity is due, *inter alia*, to: initial conditions, pre-accession policies, post-accession policies and the way of implementing CAP, and macro policy and institutional environment.

Take-home messages

- The EU membership has made NMS part of a large, rather **competitive market**, which offers tremendous opportunities for the agricultural sector but, at the same time, national agricultural sectors are faced with a significantly **increased competition** in their **domestic markets**.
- It seems that the countries with **consolidated farm structure** (e.g. Poland, Slovenia) adjusted faster and more effectively to the demand of enlarged markets than countries emerging from painful land reform and farm restructuring processes.

Take-home messages

- EU membership has led to a **significant increase of subsidies** received by the farmers so the increase of farmers' income. However, support is not evenly distributed and small farmers are handicapped in many ways.



General Suggestions

- Accession effects have had been **mixed results**.
- There are still many **challenges** that should be addressed by all New Member States to move towards a **competitive, environmentally-friendly** and **sustainable** agriculture sector, **economically** vibrant rural economies and **socially** inclusive rural communities.



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International Call for Best Sustainable Development Practices on food security



VIDEO
Call for Best Practices



**Invitation for joining the International Network for Research and Innovation
on Food Security**

www.feedingknowledge.net

Five research and innovation priorities for food security:

- Sustainable natural resources management;
- Quantitative & qualitative enhancement of crop products;
- Socio-economic dynamics and global markets;
- Sustainable development of small rural communities in marginal areas;
- Food consumption patterns: diet, environment, society, economy and health.

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Partnership building: find people and organization for H2020 calls [Scoop.it!](#)

Partnership building

European Commission

HORIZON 2020

If you need any help, please contact us at: agora@medspring

Thank you for your attention!



Slovenian contact: vesna.milicic@bf.uni-lj.si





Noureddin Driouech
driouech@iamb.it

