



“L’agricoltura biologica nelle politiche di sviluppo rurale comunitarie tra presente e futuro.

Esperienze della programmazione 2007-2013 e prospettive nella riforma della PAC”

"Organic Agriculture in EU Rural Development policies: present and future implications.

Experience in 2007-2013 programming period and prospects for CAP reform"

Survey of the Organic Support Payments in the EU-27

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Outline

- Background
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 - Payment rates
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Background

- Since the MacSharry reform, support payments for organic production have become a key measure under the mandatory agri-environmental programmes across the EU.
- The provision of support payments for organic conversion and production played an important role in the growth of organic farming.
- Large differences in the development of the organic sector between Member States and regions are in part due to differences in the design of subsidies for organic farming.
- Several studies compared the policy environment and subsidy payments in the Member States and their regions in the previous programme periods.



Objectives

- This study builds on these previous studies and aims to provide an overview of the organic support scheme in the EU in the current programme period.
- The overview provides detailed information on the differences in the implementation of the organic support payments in EU Member States and their regions, including:
 - payment design,
 - eligibility and management requirements
 - certification support
 - planned payment changes
 - possible combinations with other agri-environment measures.



Geographic scope

Geographic scope:

- 25 Member States (MS)
- The two small Member States Cyprus and Malta have been excluded due to their negligible area of organic farming
- No data from Romania
- No organic support payment in the Netherlands
- All 16 German Länder and cross sections of representative regions in France (9), Italy (13) and Spain (12)



Methodology

Methodology:

- The data on the organic support payments have been collated through a survey of relevant organisations in each MS in 2009
- Questionnaire
- Data available from published rural development programmes and other online sources

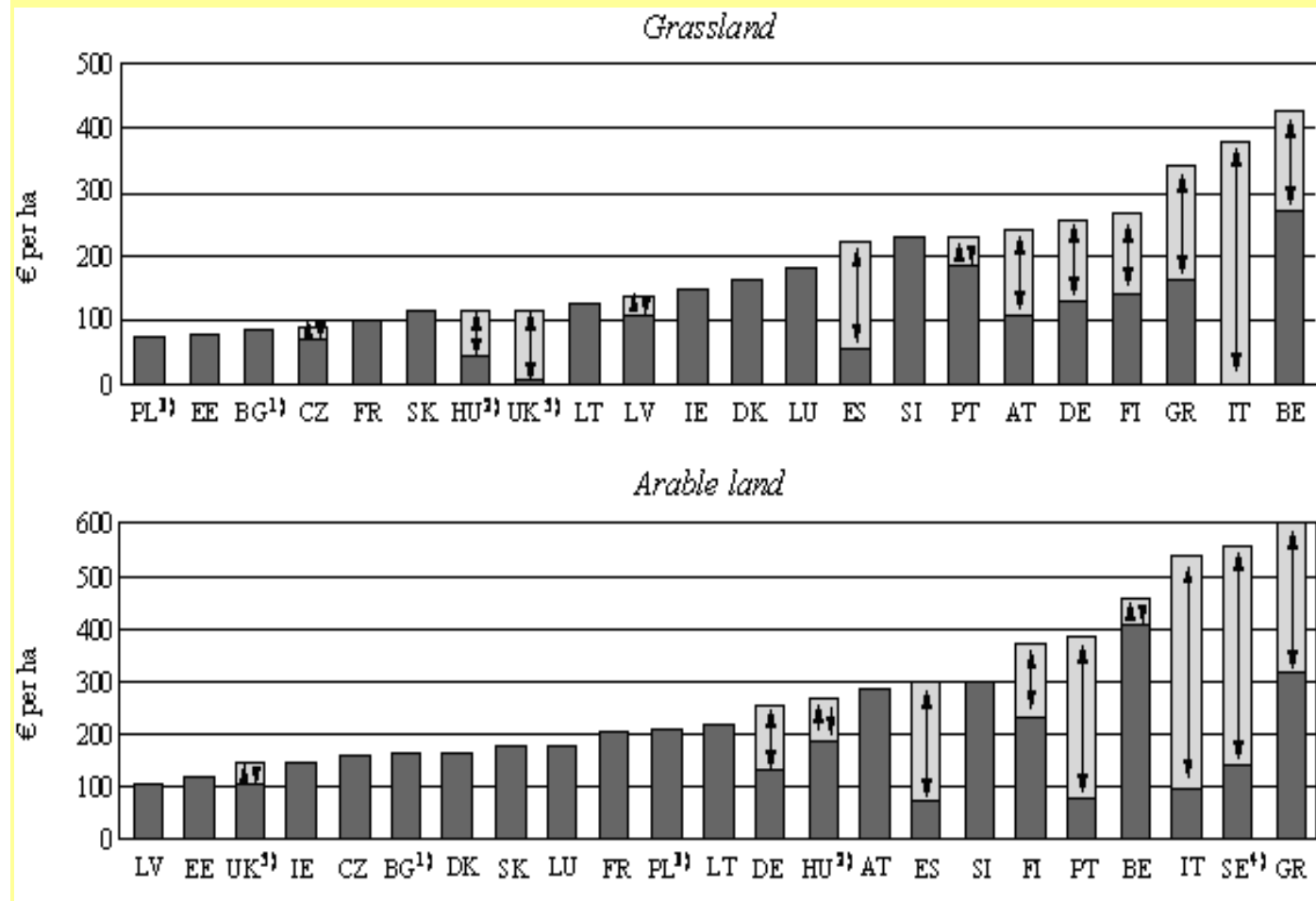


Payment rates (1/8)

- Comparison across seven widely used land use categories (grassland, arable land, annual vegetables/herbs, perennials/orchards/fruits, greenhouse crops, vineyards and olive trees).
- In cases where organic support payments are further differentiated by specific crops, payment rates have been grouped according to these seven land use categories.
- Not all seven land use categories are eligible for organic support payments in each MS.
- A more detailed look at:
 - current payment levels – examples of arable land, grassland, vineyards and olive trees
 - comparison of maintenance payment rates between 2004 and 2009 – examples of arable land and grassland

Payment rates (2/8)

Conversion payments in EU Member States (2009, average over the first five years)

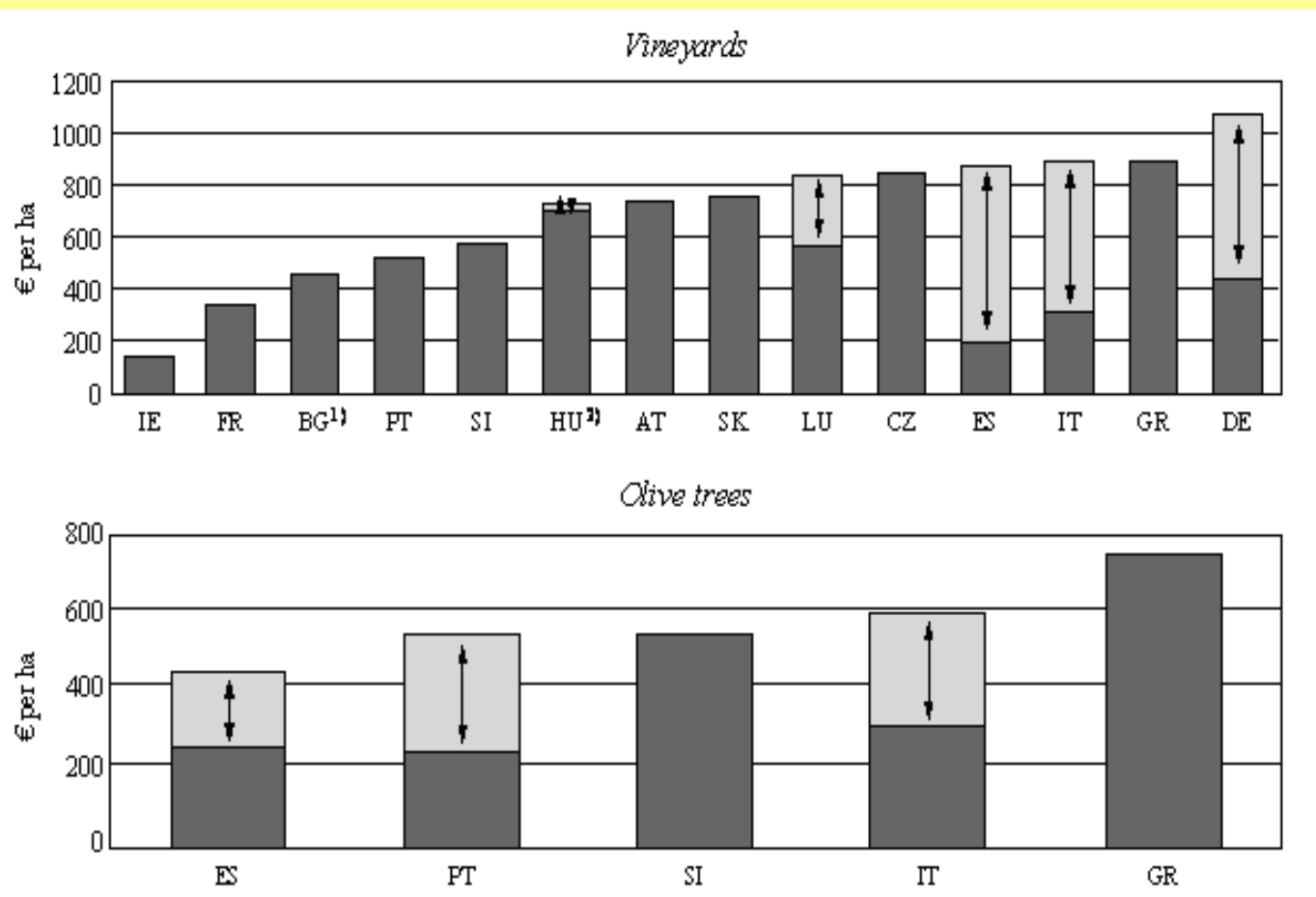


- Range within MS: Regional variations and further payment differentiations
- Ranking of MS in terms of the level of payment rate varies between different land uses, but high payment rates in BE, IT and GR
- Low payment rates in EE, BG, CZ, UK and ES
- Large variations between MS
- Arable payment rates > grassland payment rates in most MS

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)

Payment rates (3/8)

Conversion payments in EU Member States (2009, average over the first five years)

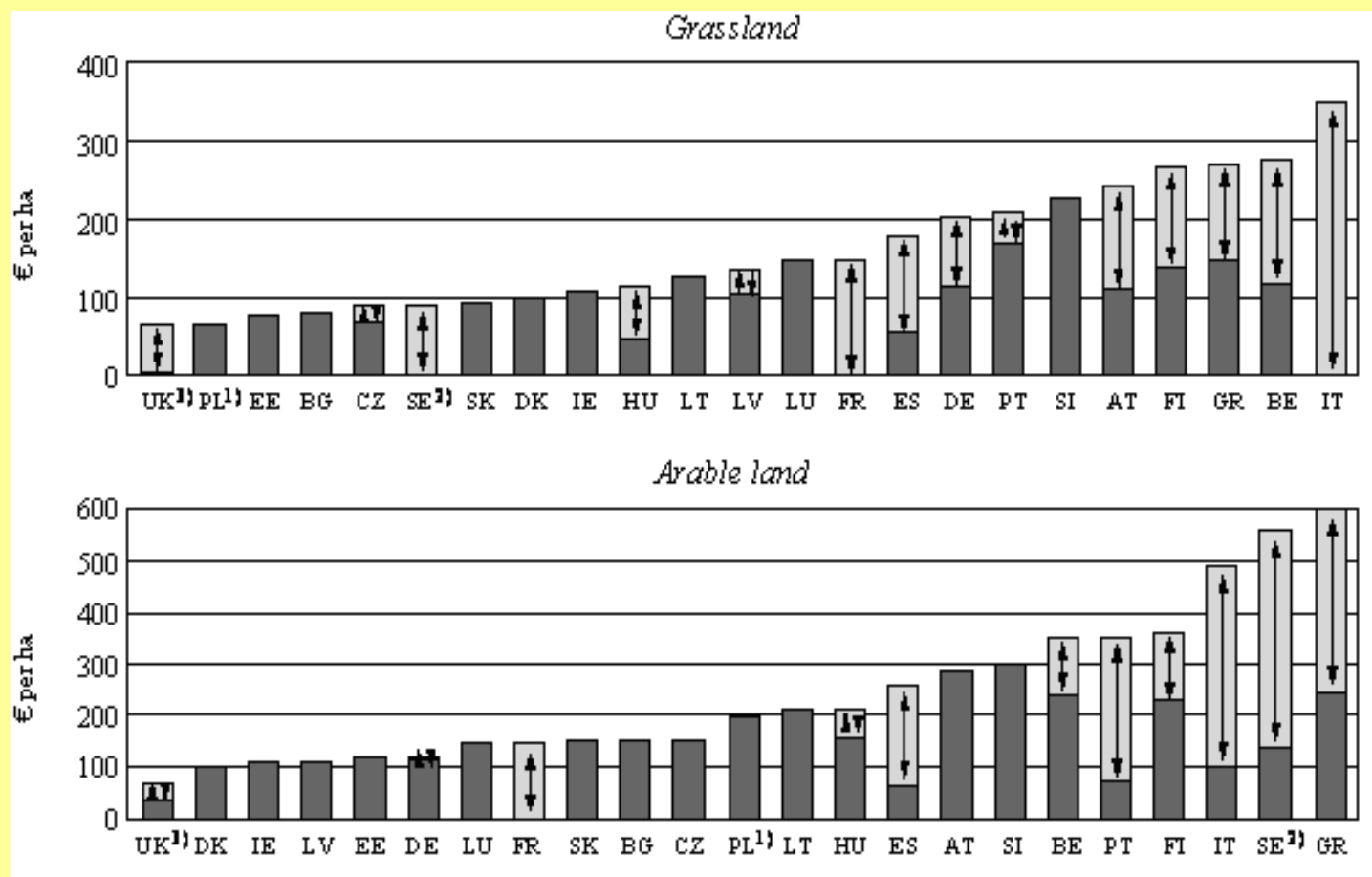


- No specific payment for vineyards in IE
- Large regional variations in payment rates for vineyards in DE, IT and ES
- Comparable low payment rates for vineyards in FR
- Highest payment rate for olive trees in GR.

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)

Payment rates (4/8)

Maintenance payments in EU Member States (2009)

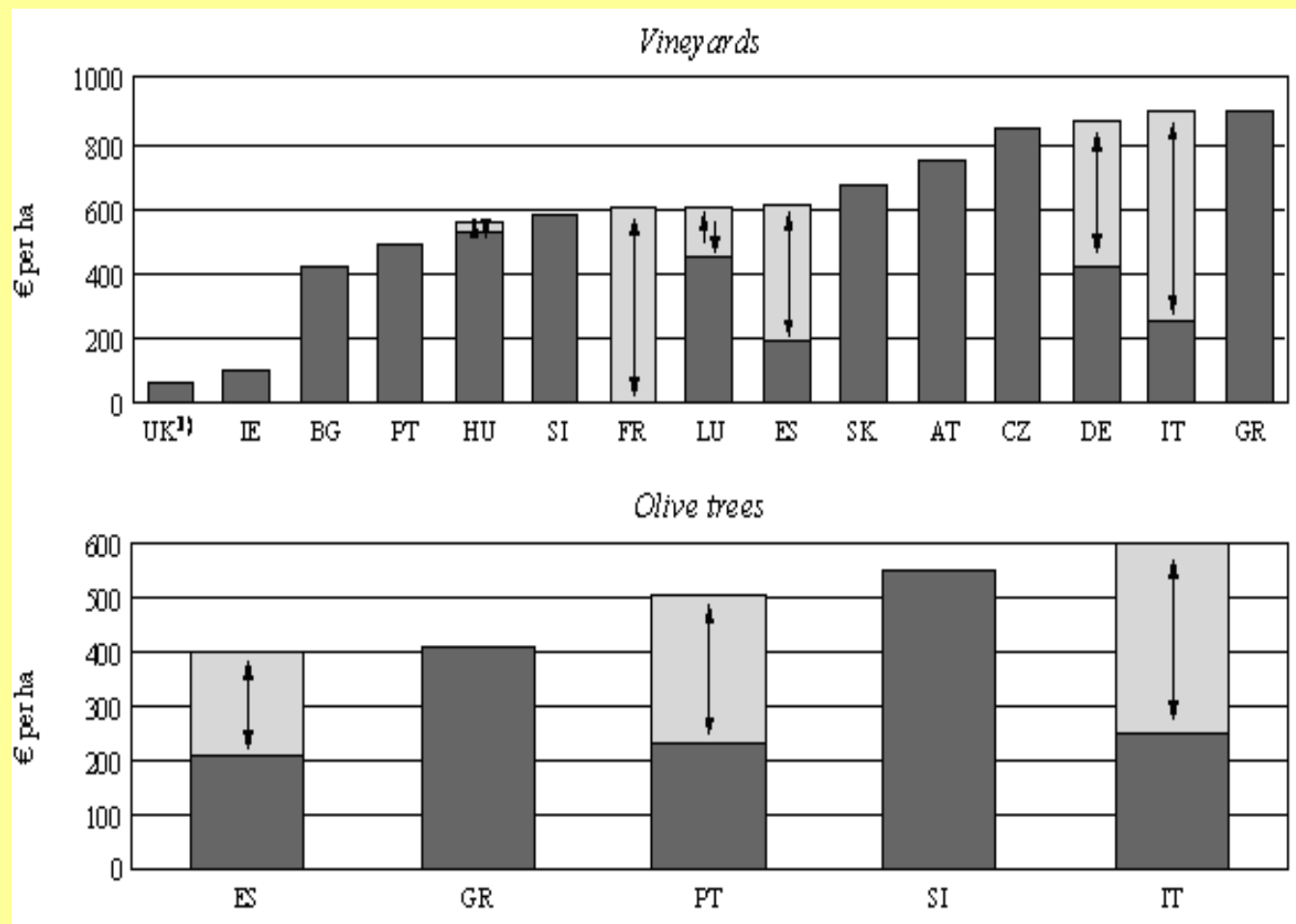


- Same MS with highest payments
- Low payment rates in UK, EE and ES
- MS with relative high conversion support continue to provide relative high maintenance support.
- Large variations between MS
- Arable payment rates > grassland payment rates in most MS

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)

Payment rates (5/8)

Maintenance payments in EU Member States (2009)



- No specific payment for vineyards in IE and UK
- Large regional variations in payment rates for vineyards in IT, ES and DE and FR
- Comparable low payment rates for vineyards in FR (except Ile-de-France)
- Highest maintenance support for olive trees in IT and SI.

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)



Payment rates (6/8)

Comparison of maintenance payment rates between 2004 and 2009

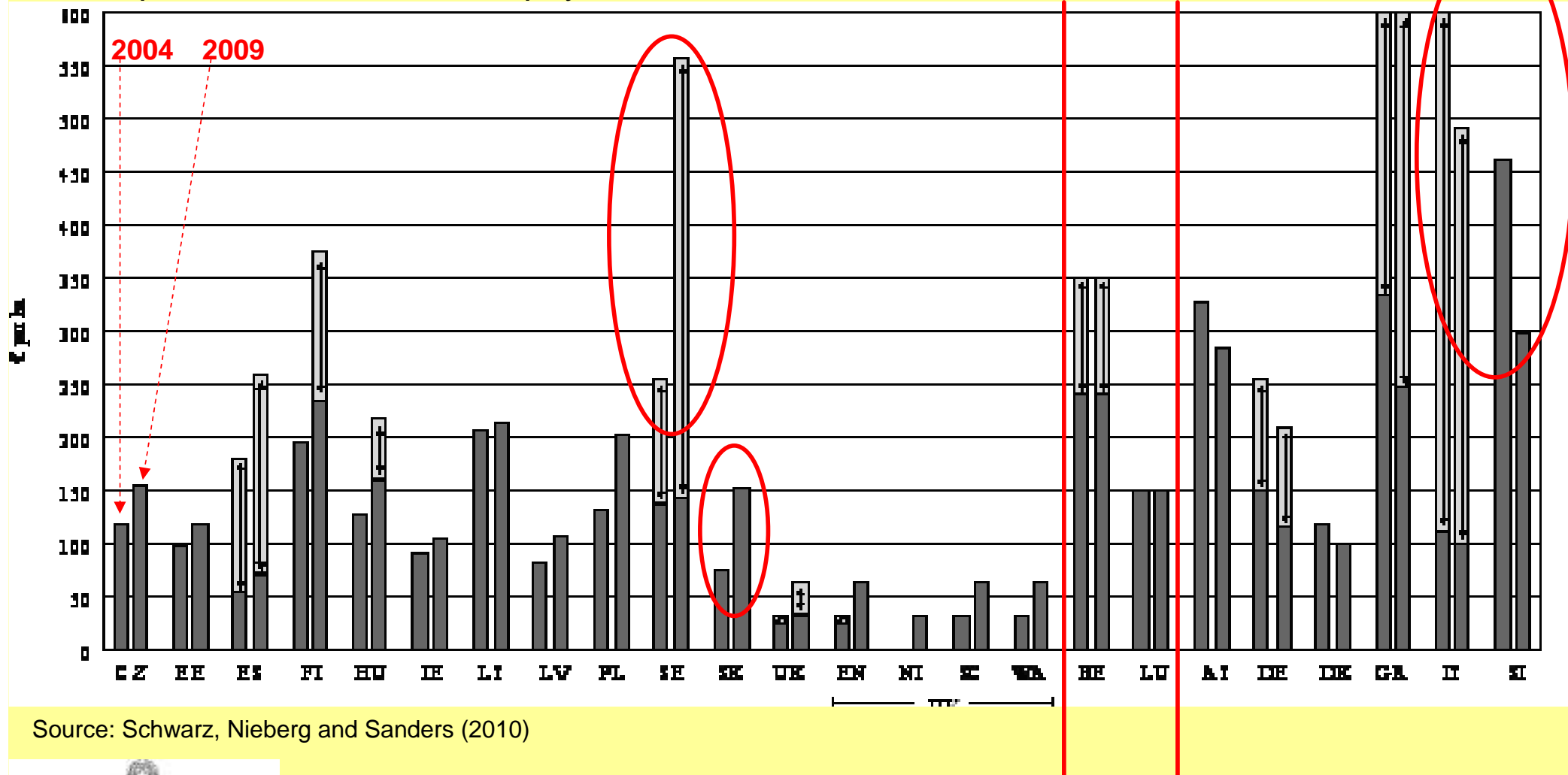
- Maintenance payment rates have increased in the majority of MS
- Only AT, DK and some DE and IT regions have decreased payment rates across the four land types.
- Relatively homogenous changes within MS (except LT, SI, WA and some regions in DE, IT and ES).

Country	Grassland					Arable land					Annual vegetables					Perennials, fruits				
AT																				
BE ³⁾																				
CZ																				
DE	↑	↑	=	↓	↓	↑	=	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	=	↓	↓	↑	↑	=	↓	↓
No. regions	1	1	2	8	2	3	1	8	2		1	2	2	5	4	1	3	1	5	5
DK																				
EE																				
ES ⁴⁾	↑				na	↑	↑	=	↓	na	↑	↑	=		na	↑	↑	=		↓
No. regions	6				5	6	1	1	2	1	8	1	1		2	6	2	1		3
FI ⁵⁾																				
FR ⁶⁾																				
GR ⁷⁾																				
HU ⁸⁾																				
IE																				
IT ⁹⁾	↑	↑	↓	↓	na	↑	=	↓	↓	na	↑	↑	=	↓	na	↑	=	↓		na
	1	1	3	3	5	1	2	3	4	3	1	3	2	3	4	3	3	4		2
LT																				
LU																				
LV																				
PL																				
SE																				
SI																				
SK																				
UK-EN ¹²⁾																				
UK-NI																				
UK-SC																				
UK-WA																				



Payment rates (7/8)

Comparison of maintenance payment rates for arable land between 2004 and 2009



Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)



Payment rates (8/8)

Some general key aspects:

- Payment rates for the same land/crop types vary greatly between MS and regions
- Only few countries have implemented uniform payment rates across the different land use categories.
- Roughly half of the countries have implemented higher payment rates for the first two or three years of conversion payments
- 10 MS have constant payment rates throughout the conversion and maintenance periods.
- Payment rates have generally increased from 2004 to 2009 (Only in four countries payment rates have been decreased across the four main land types).
- In most cases, MS revised the rate of conversion and maintenance payments for a specific land type in the same direction.



Payment limits (1/2)

Payment limits and modulation

Country	AT	BE ¹⁾	BG	CZ	DE ²⁾	DK	EE	ES ³⁾	FI	FR ⁴⁾	GR	HU	IE
Limit													
Maximum limit (size or amount)	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Minimum limit (size or amount)	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modulation	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

Country	IT ^{5,6)}	LT	LU	LV	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK
Limit												
Maximum limit (size or amount)	✓	✓	-	-	na	-	-	nd	-	-	-	✓
Minimum limit (size or amount)	✓	-	-	✓	na	✓	✓	nd	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modulation	✓	-	-	-	na	✓	✓	nd	-	-	-	-

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)

- Only seven countries have implemented maximum payment limits
- Only three countries do not require a minimum level.
- Only seven countries apply a size modulation of the conversion and maintenance payment rates, generally divided into three or four steps.

Payment limits (2/2)

Stocking rates

Limit		Country													
		AT	BE ¹⁾	BG	CZ	DE ²⁾	DK	EE	ES ³⁾	FI	FR ⁴⁾	GR	HU	IE	
Stocking rate	Min	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	
	Max	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	

Limit		Country												
		IT ^{5,6)}	LT	LU	LV	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK	
Stocking rate	Min	✓	-	✓	✓	na	-	-	nd	-	✓	✓	-	
	Max	✓	-	✓	-	na	-	-	nd	✓	-	✓	-	

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)

- Maximum stocking rates per hectare below 2 LU/ha are implemented in six countries (lowest maximum stocking rate of 0.5 LU/ha)
- Minimum stocking rates per hectare are implemented in the majority of the MS and vary between 0.2 LU/ha and 1 LU/ha



Eligibility of crops

- Some countries defined broad land and crop types, while other countries specified specific crops eligible for payments.
- Generally, four land and crop types can be identified which are not eligible for support in several countries:
 - Set-aside land
 - Permanent grassland
 - Greenhouse production
 - Energy crops
- Examples for specific restrictions of the crop eligibility include:
 - Bolzano (Italy): eligibility of cereals is limited to old local cultivars
 - Finland: exclusion of reed canary grass.



Conversion requirements

Gradual and part conversion

Country	AT	BE	BG	CZ	DE	DK	EE	ES	FI	FR	GR	HU	IE
Limit													
Possibility of gradual conversion	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Possibility of part conversion	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓

Country	IT	LT	LU	LV	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK
Limit												
Possibility of gradual conversion	-	✓	✓	✓	na	-	-	nd	✓	✓	-	✓
Possibility of part conversion	(✓)	✓	-	✓	na	✓	-	nd	✓	✓	✓	✓

Source: Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders (2010)

- Gradual conversion to organic farming is possible in the majority of the MS.
- The restriction of converting the whole farm does only exist in six countries.
- Farmers in the Czech Republic receive higher grassland payments, if the whole farm is managed organically.



Certification support

- Organic certification support payment:

→ BE, DE, ES, FR, IE, LT, NL

- Other support mechanisms for certification cost:

- Certification costs are reflected in a higher conversion payment

→ BG, GR (non-food crops), LV, UK

- Support through measure 132

→ AT, GR (food crops), IT, PL, SI

- Support according to article 69 Reg 1782/2003

→ SE

- Certification free of charge

→ DK

- No support

→ CZ, EE, FI, HU, LU, PT, SK



Combination with other AEMs

- In Finland and England organic support must be undertaken in combination with basic agri-environment measures
 - organic support as a top-up of the basic payment.
 - In other MS, such as EE, combinations with basic level AEM are optional.
 - Danish farmers receive maintenance support from the Environmental Farming Scheme, also during the conversion period.
- What options exist for farmers to top-up organic support payments through other AEMs for the same piece of land?
- Principal combination categories defined in RDPs taking into account complementarities and compatibilities between different measures
 - Combination options exist across most key areas of AEMs:
 - Grassland maintenance
 - Other biodiversity measures
 - Soil-related measures
 - Endangered animals
 - Conversion or arable land to grassland
 - Conservation of landscape features
 - Traditional crop types



Combination with other AEMs

- Highest “top-up payments” for erosion measures and steep slope management of organic vineyards and meadows (e.g. AT and DE)
- Focus on traditional crop types and local/endangered livestock races (e.g. ES regions, GR, IT regions)
- Focus on grassland management and biodiversity and wildlife options (e.g. PL, SI)
- Several top-up options across several key AEM areas exist in:
 - AT, BE, CZ, DE, some IT regions, PL, SE, SI, SK and UK
- No options for combinations were reported from:
 - BG, most ES regions, FR, some IT regions and LT
- Combination with Natura 2000 payment:
 - HU



Conclusions (1/2)

In summary:

- Payment rates for the same land/crop types vary greatly between Member States and regions
- Generally, relatively high payment rates exist in Belgium, some Italian regions, Germany and Greece, but the ranking varies between crop/land types
- Few countries have further increased payment rates in 2010
- Impact of high payment rates can be reduced by scheme access problems
- Higher payment rates do not reflect complex additional conversion/management requirements beyond organic standards
- Payment rates have generally increased from 2004 to 2009
- In most cases, MS changed the rate of conversion and maintenance payments for a specific land type in the same direction (exceptions exist for arable land).



Conclusions (2/2)

In summary (cont.):

- While most MS have implemented minimum payment limits, maximum payment limits and payment modulation are less frequently implemented.
- Generally, MS implement a selection of maximum and minimum payment limits, payment modulation and maximum and minimum stocking rates, instead of all or none.
- Set-aside land, permanent grassland, greenhouse production and energy crops are not eligible for organic support in several MS.
- Gradual and part conversion is possible in most MS.
- Various approaches to support certification cost are implemented, while a third of MS do not provide support for certification cost.
- Most MS provide the option of combining organic support with other AEMs on the same piece of land.



grazie per l'attenzione
thank you for your attention

contatti contact

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