



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



# OECD Rural Policy Reviews: Italy

**Presentation for Discussion at the Working Party  
on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas**

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OECD**

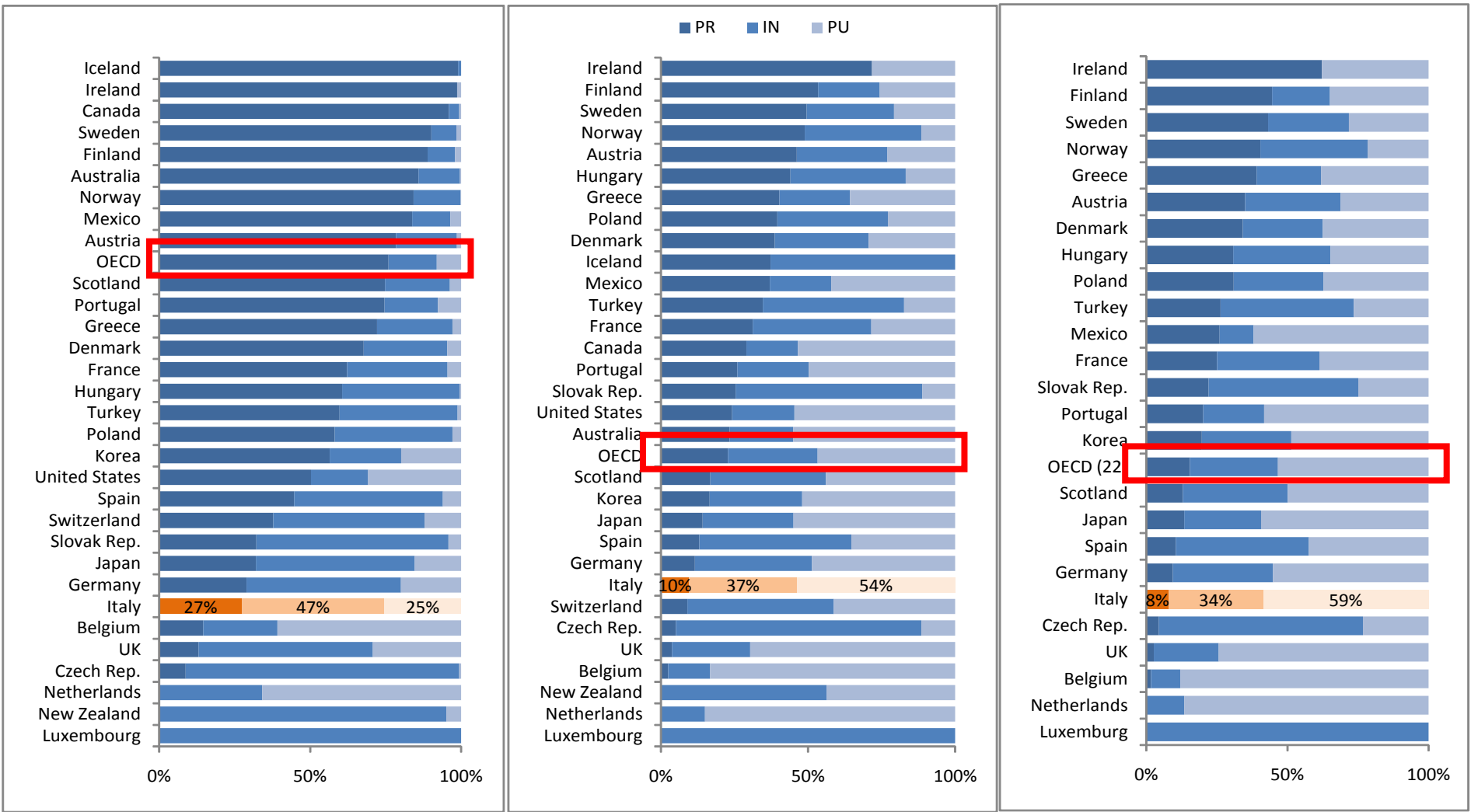
**Paris, France | December 2, 2008**

# Among the least rural countries in the OECD

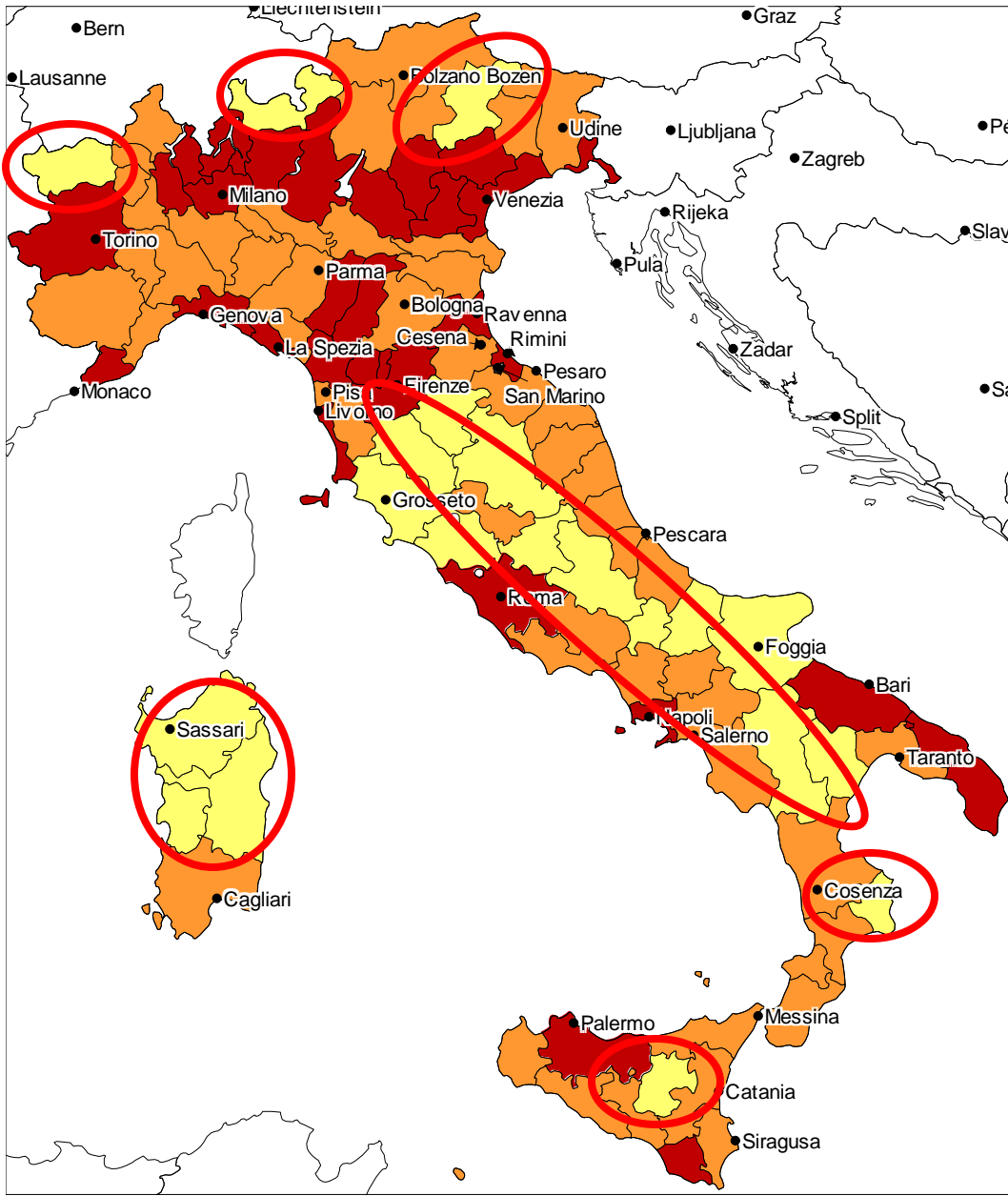
27%  
Territory

10%  
Population

8%  
GDP



# Among the least rural countries in the OECD



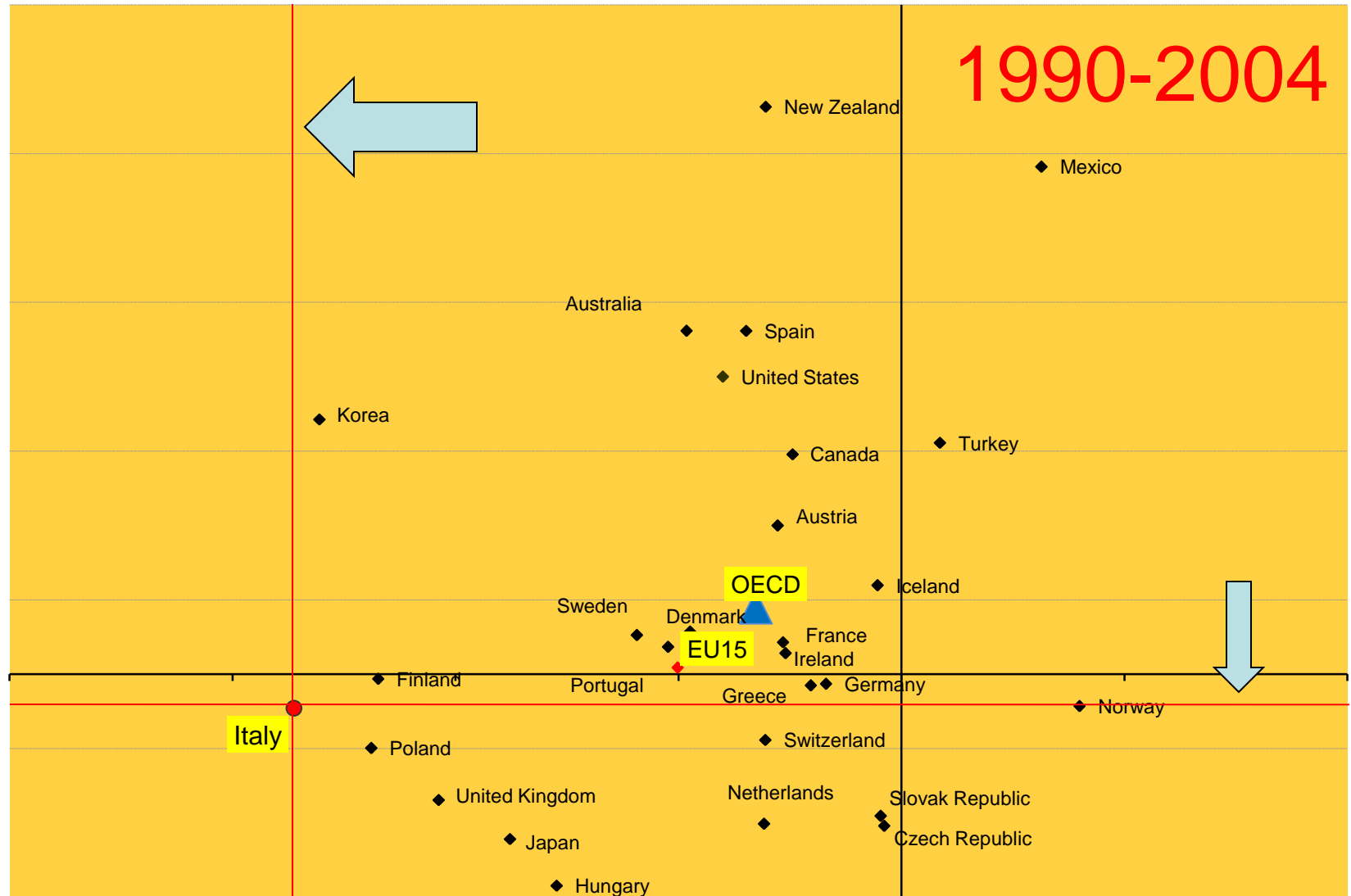
Predominantly Urban  
Regions

Intermediate Rural  
Regions

Predominantly Rural  
Regions

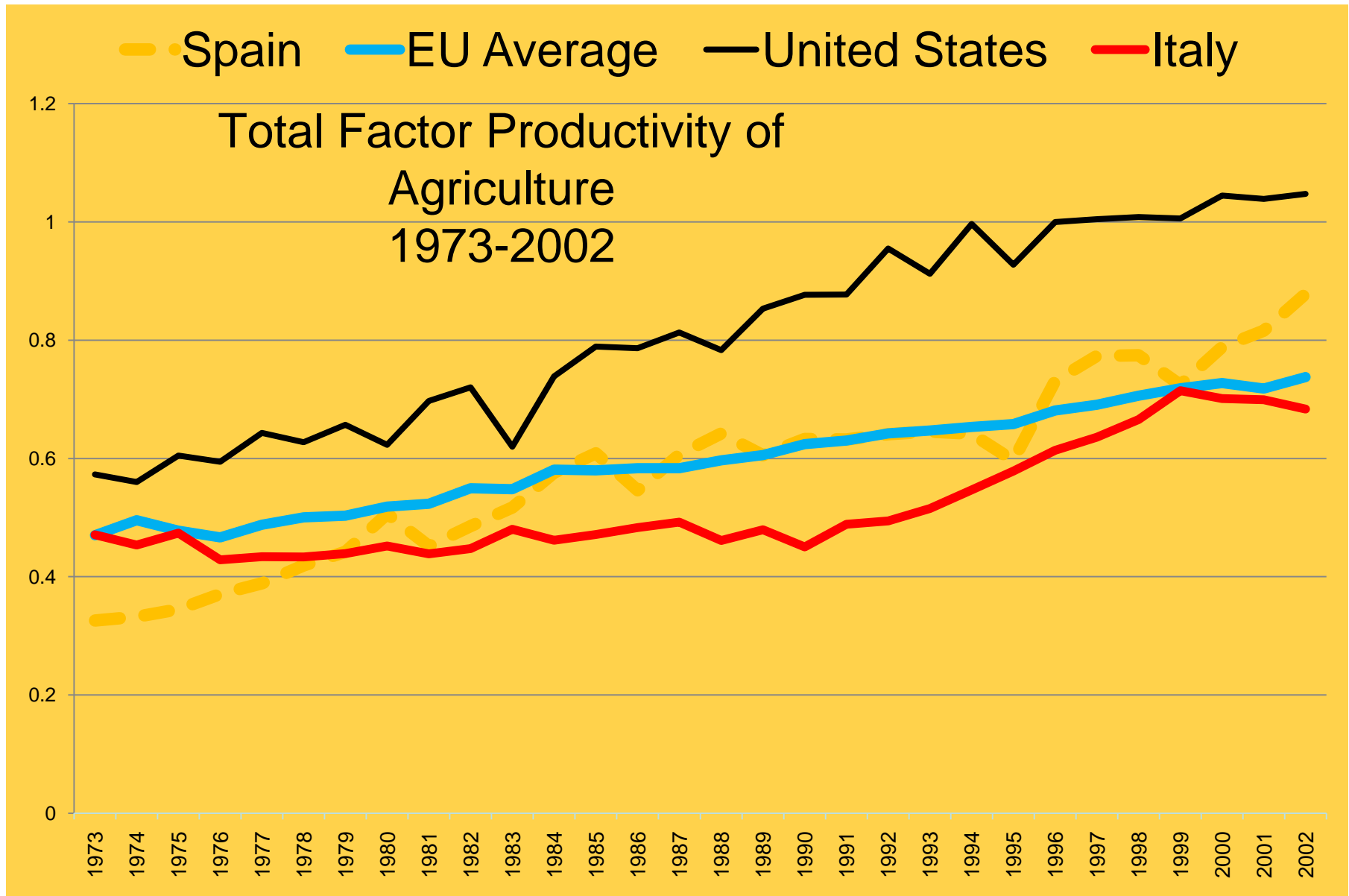
# The role of agriculture is decreasing

% Change in Agricultural Production Volume Index  
(1999-01=100)

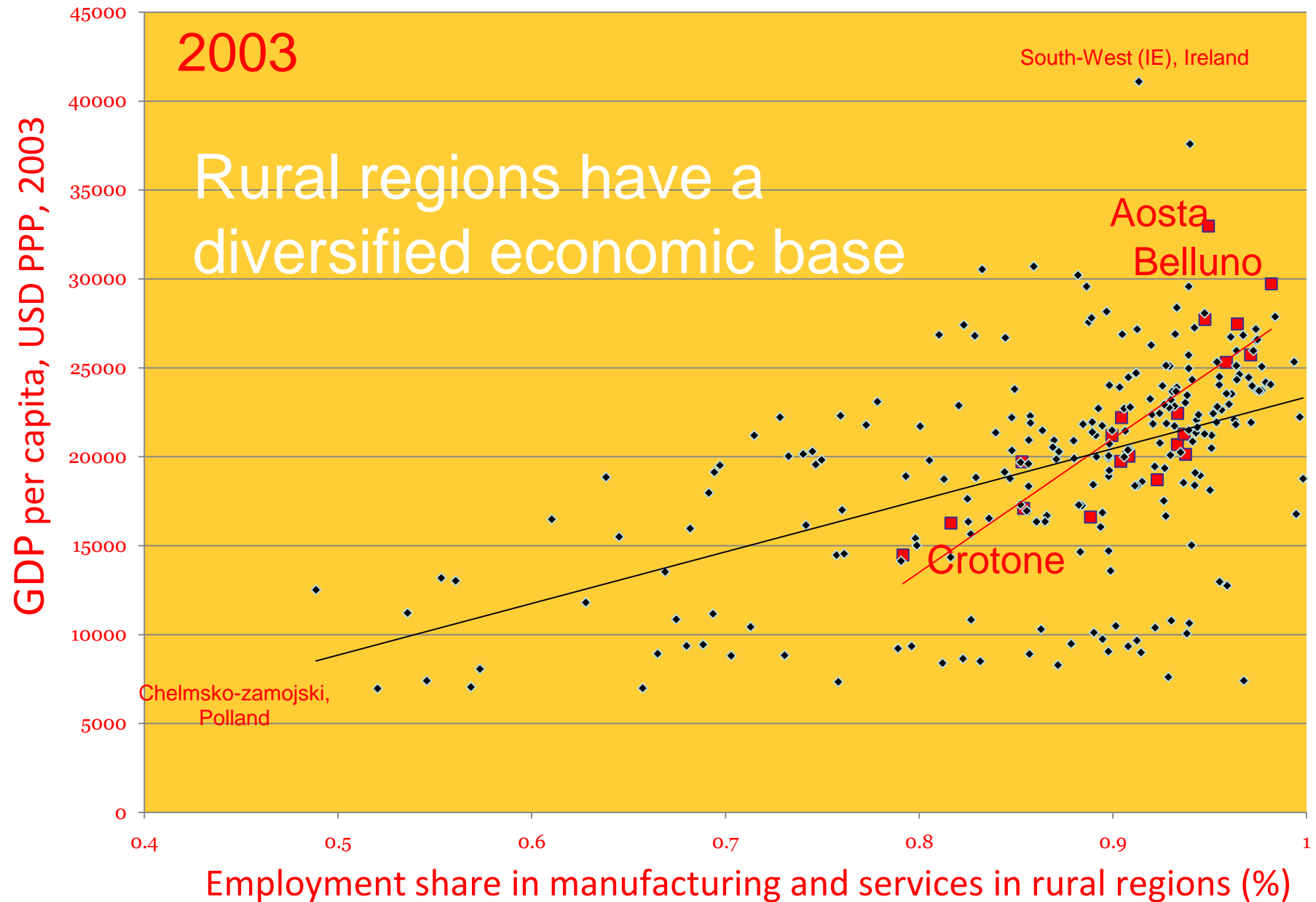


% Change in Agricultural Land Area

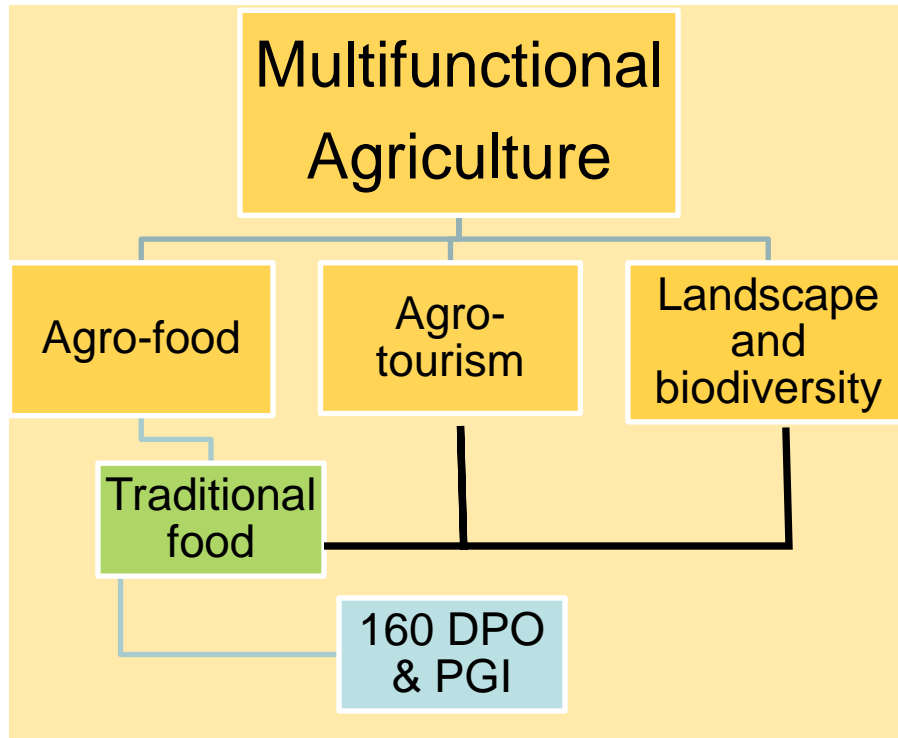
# The role of agriculture is decreasing



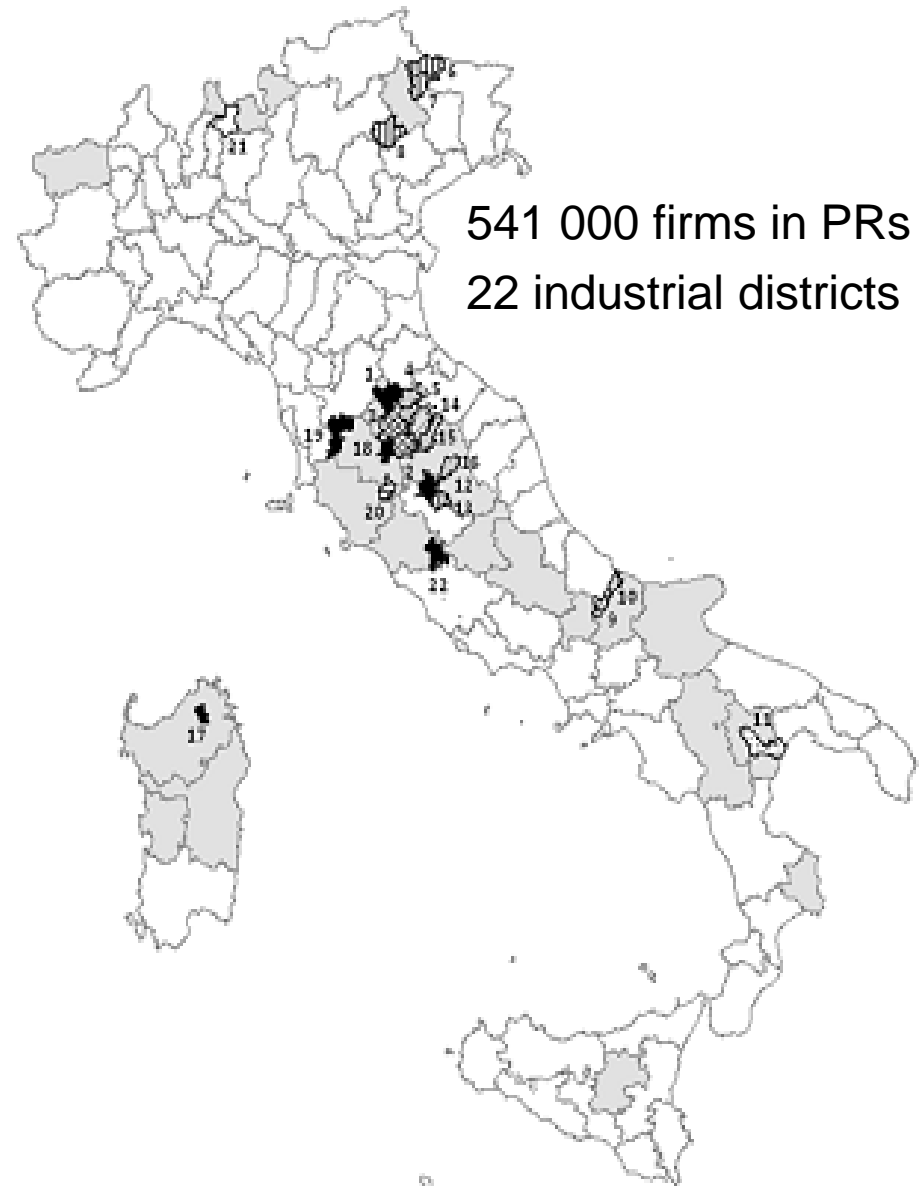
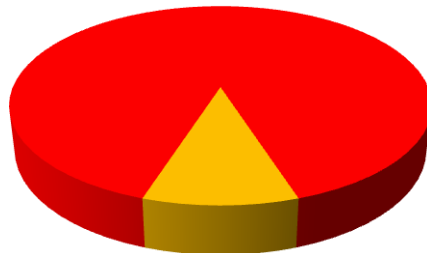
# Rural Italy performs above the OECD average



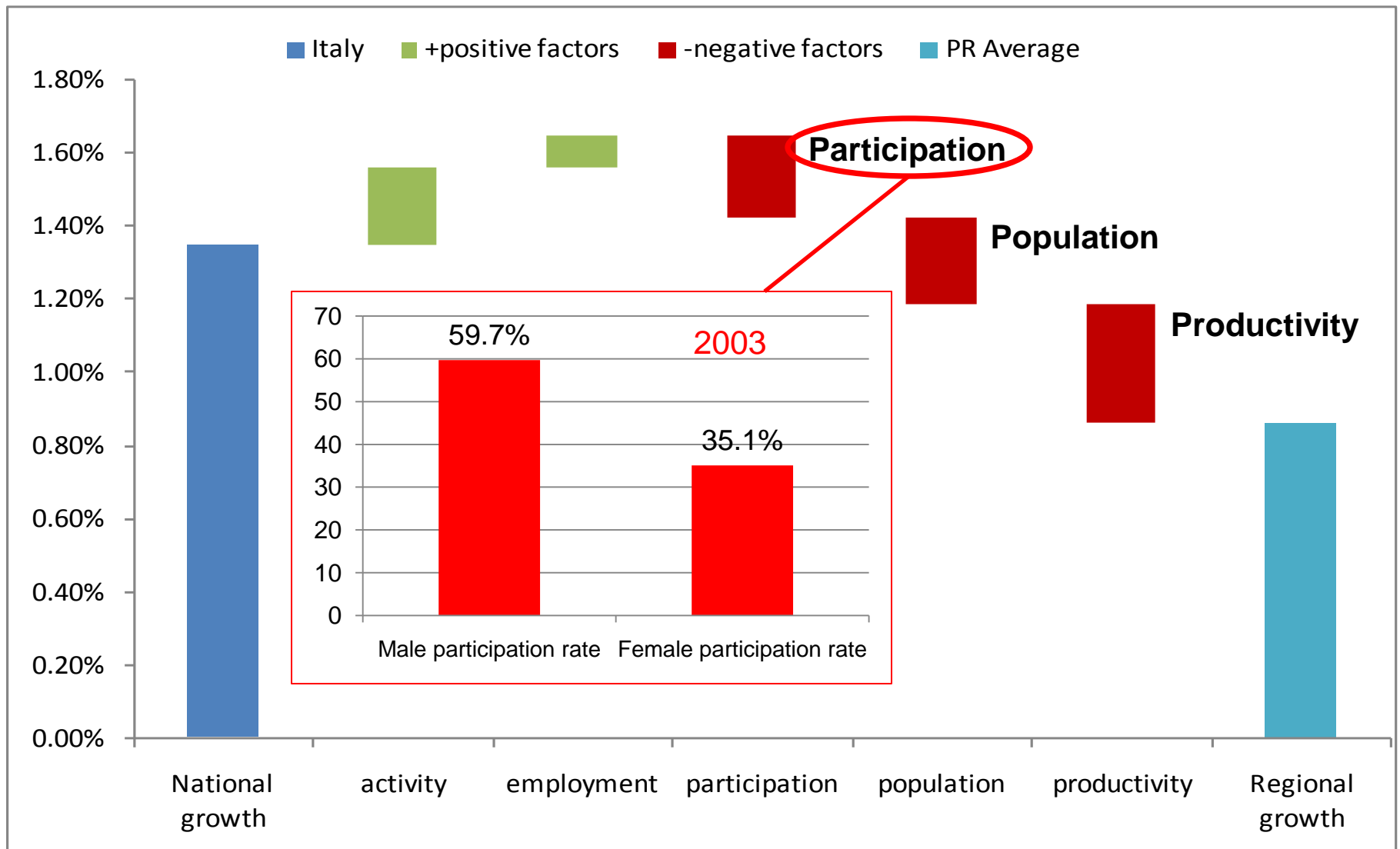
# Rural regions have a complex industrial mix



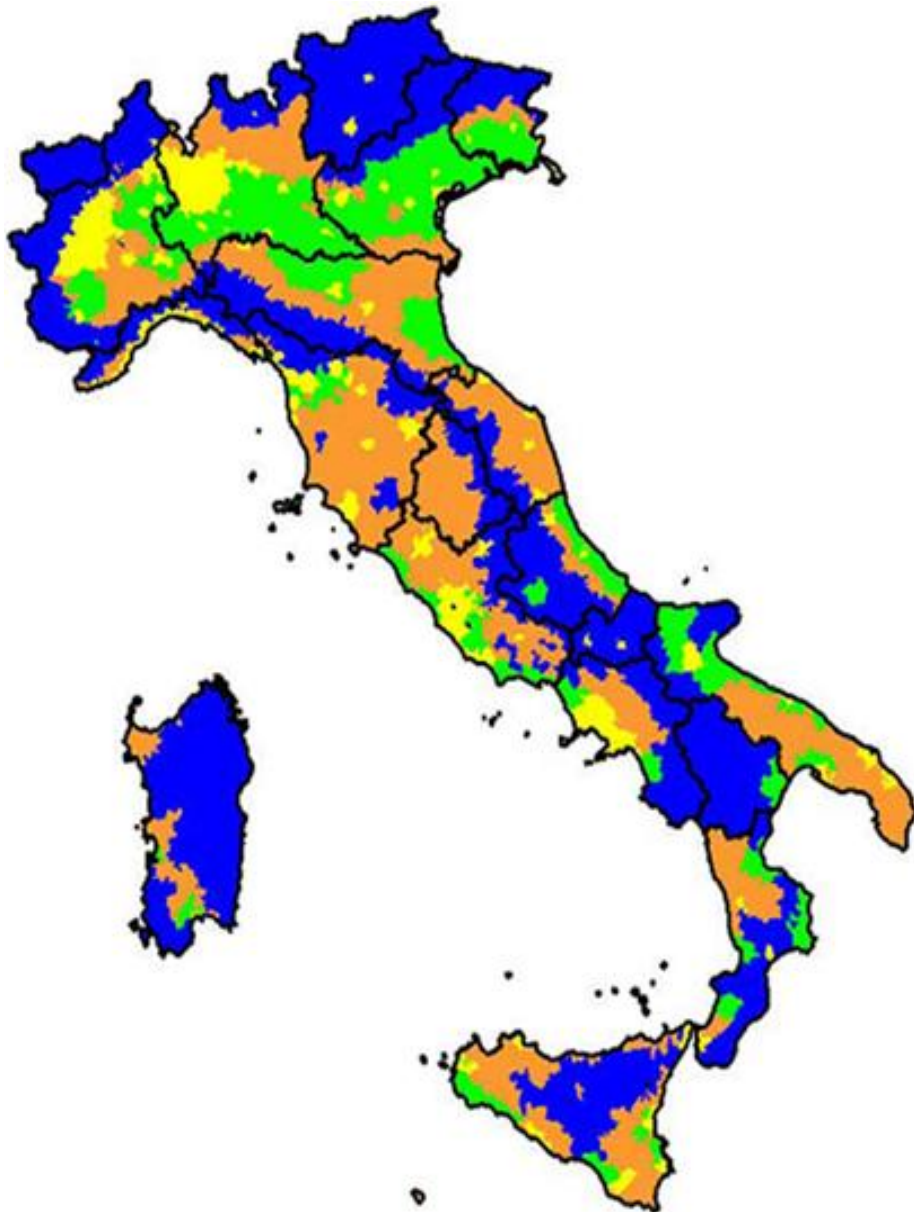
Agro-food



# There is still a gap for rural regions



# Using Italy's territorial classification...



## Rural areas with intensive agriculture

- **RR IA** - 1 632 municipalities, 22% population, 253 inhabitants/sq. km. 38% of agriculture's value added.

## Intermediate rural areas

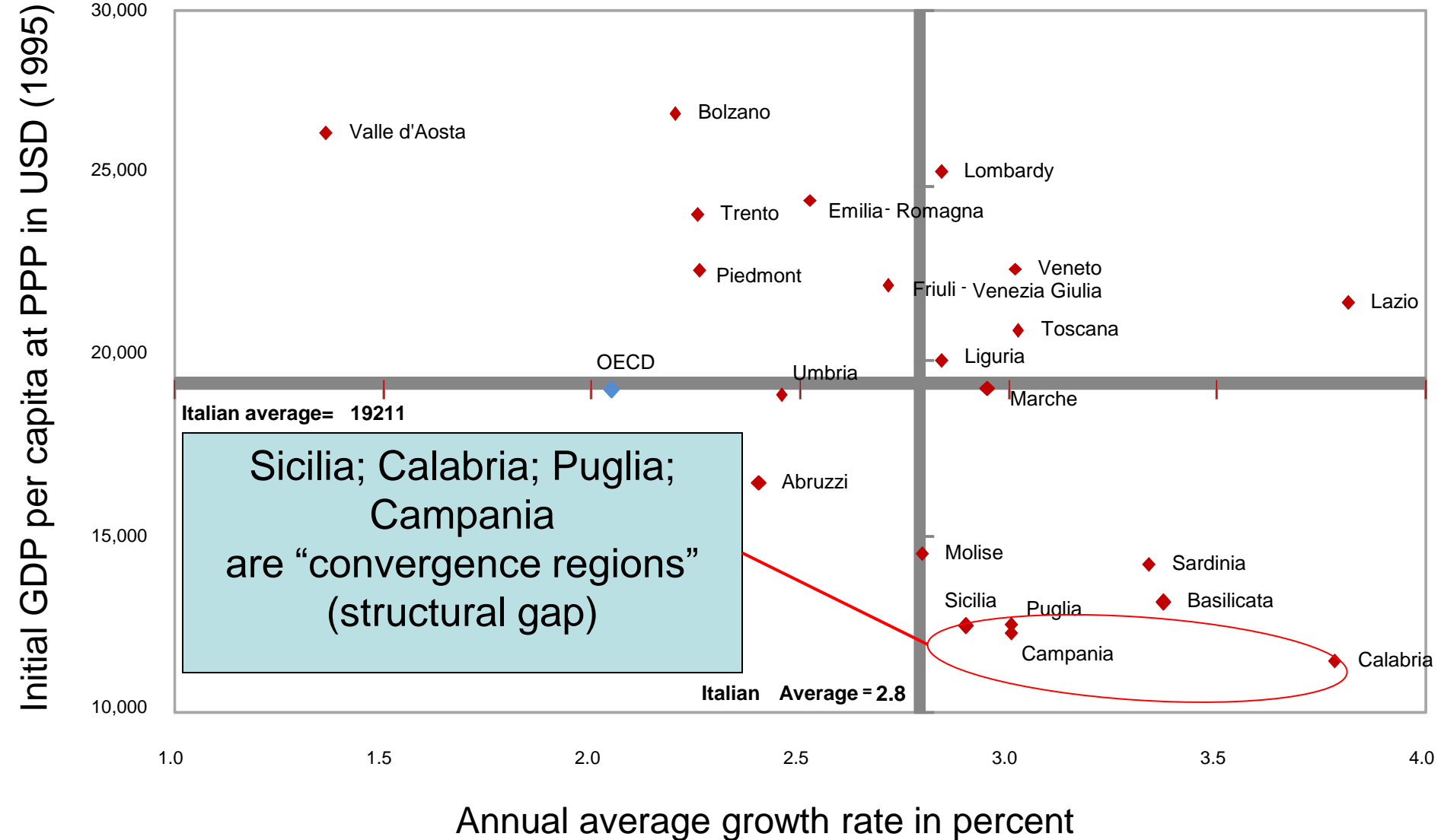
- **IRR** - 2 676 municipalities, 24% population, 32% of the national territory. Farming: -12% UAA, and -27% employment.

## Rural areas with comprehensive development problems

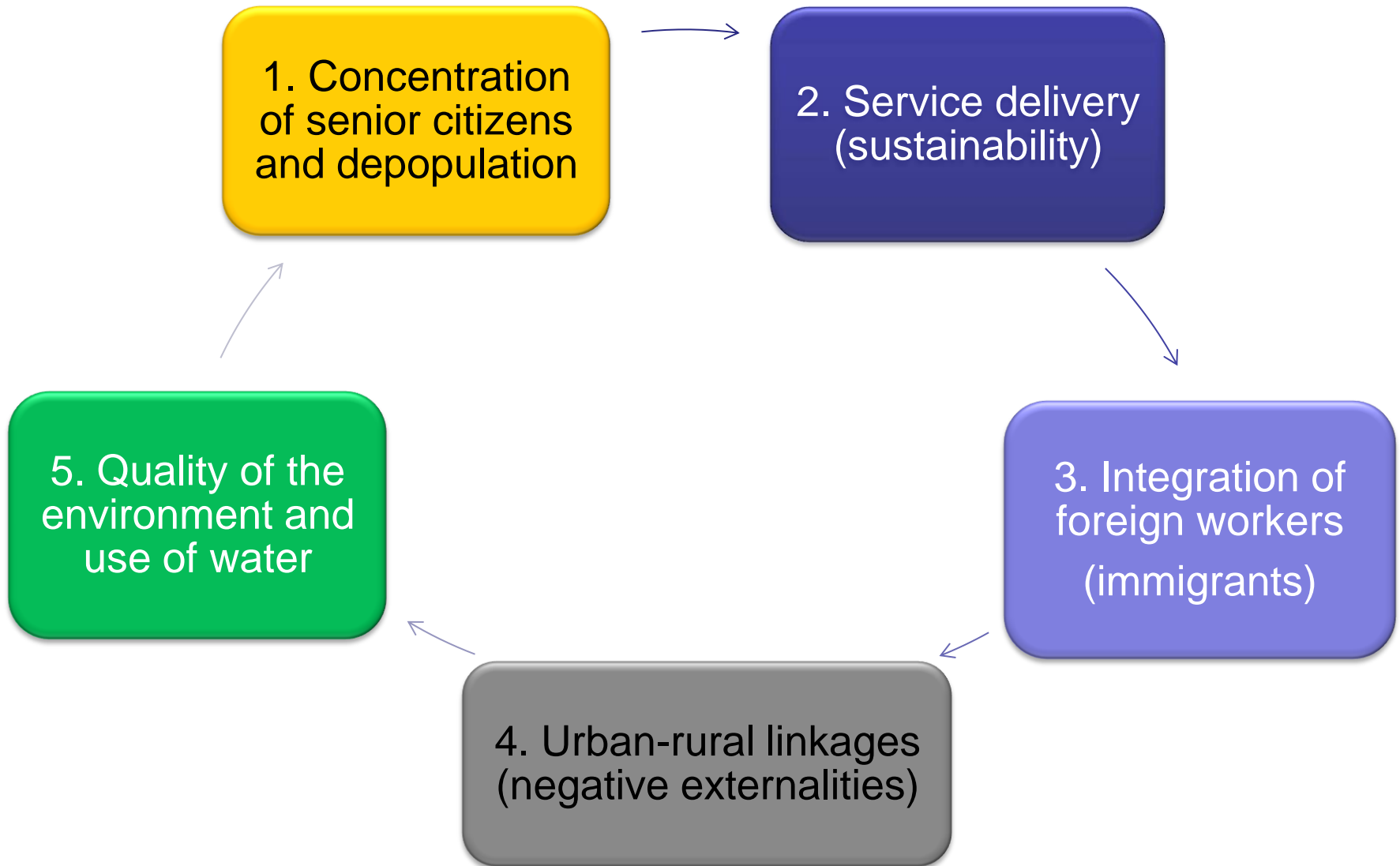
- **RR DP** - 2 759 municipalities, 12% of Italy's population. 54 inhabitants/sq. km.

# ...and the north-south economic divide

1995 - 2005



## ...to assess challenges for rural regions

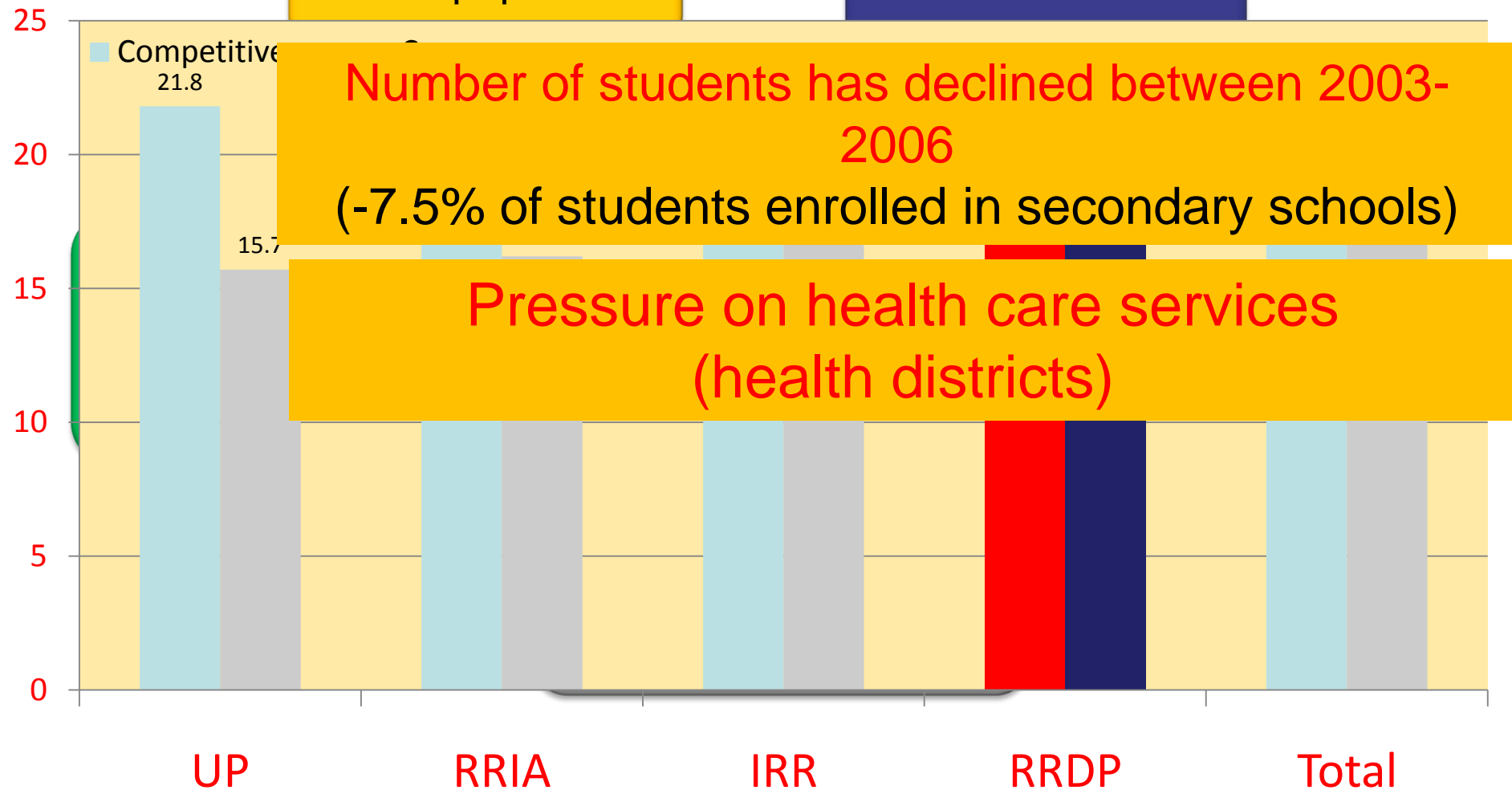


# ...to assess challenges for rural regions

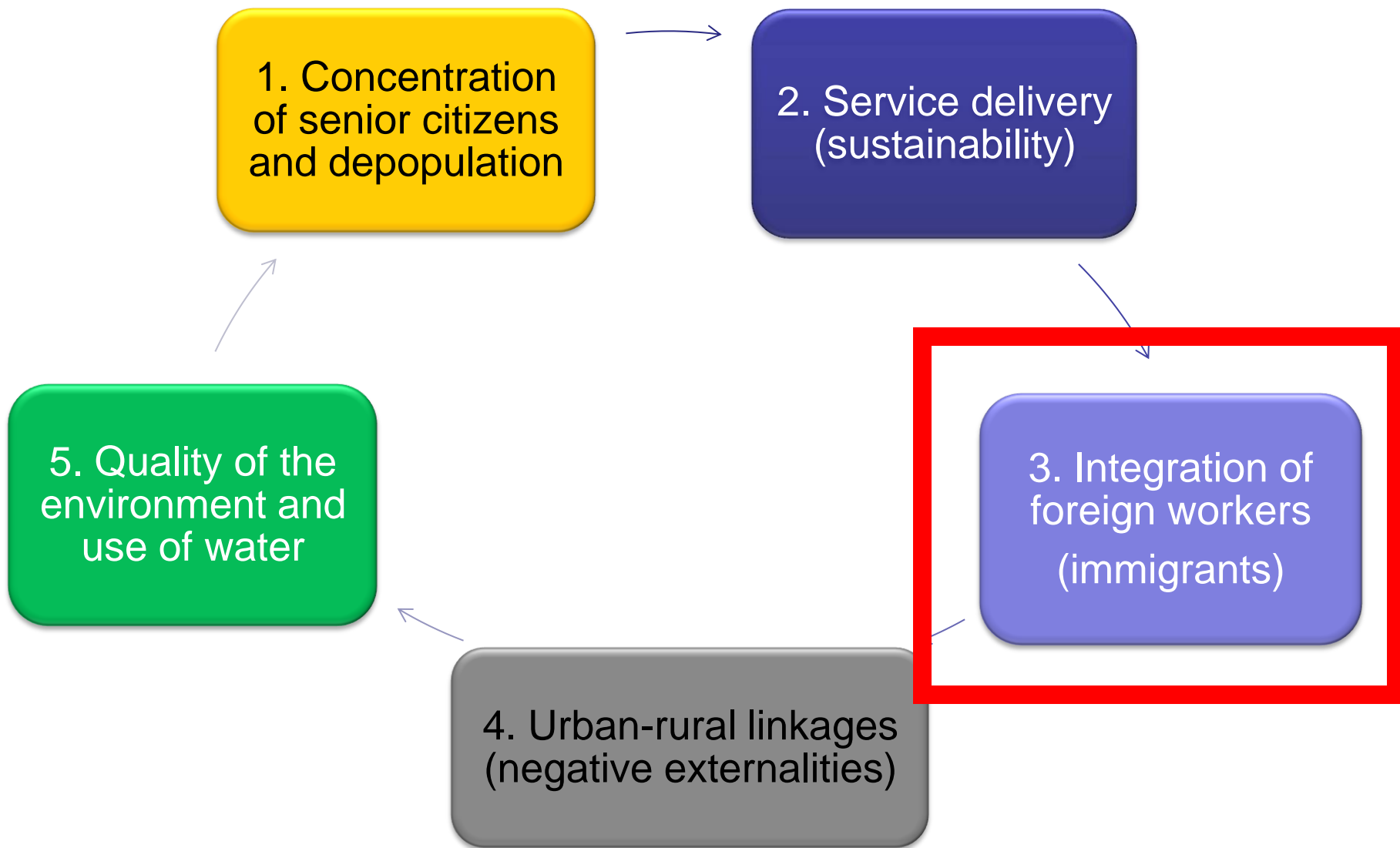
1. Concentration of senior citizens and depopulation



2. Service delivery (sustainability)

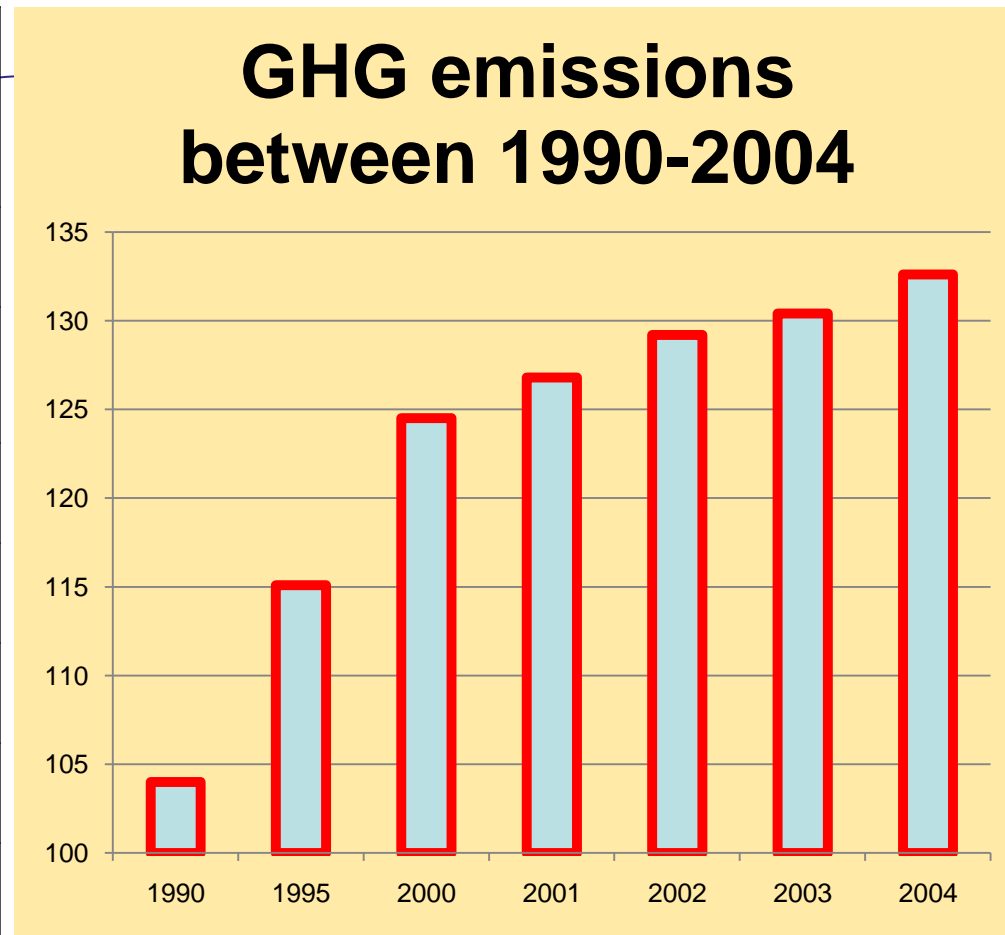


## ...to assess challenges for rural regions

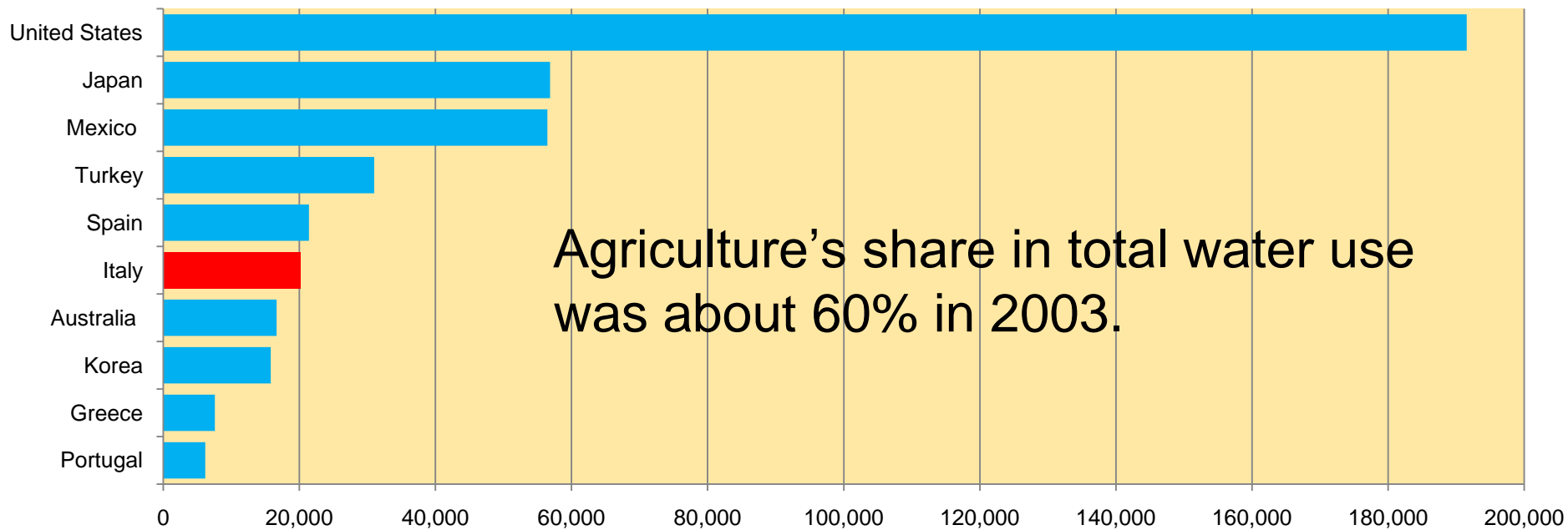


# ...to assess challenges for rural regions

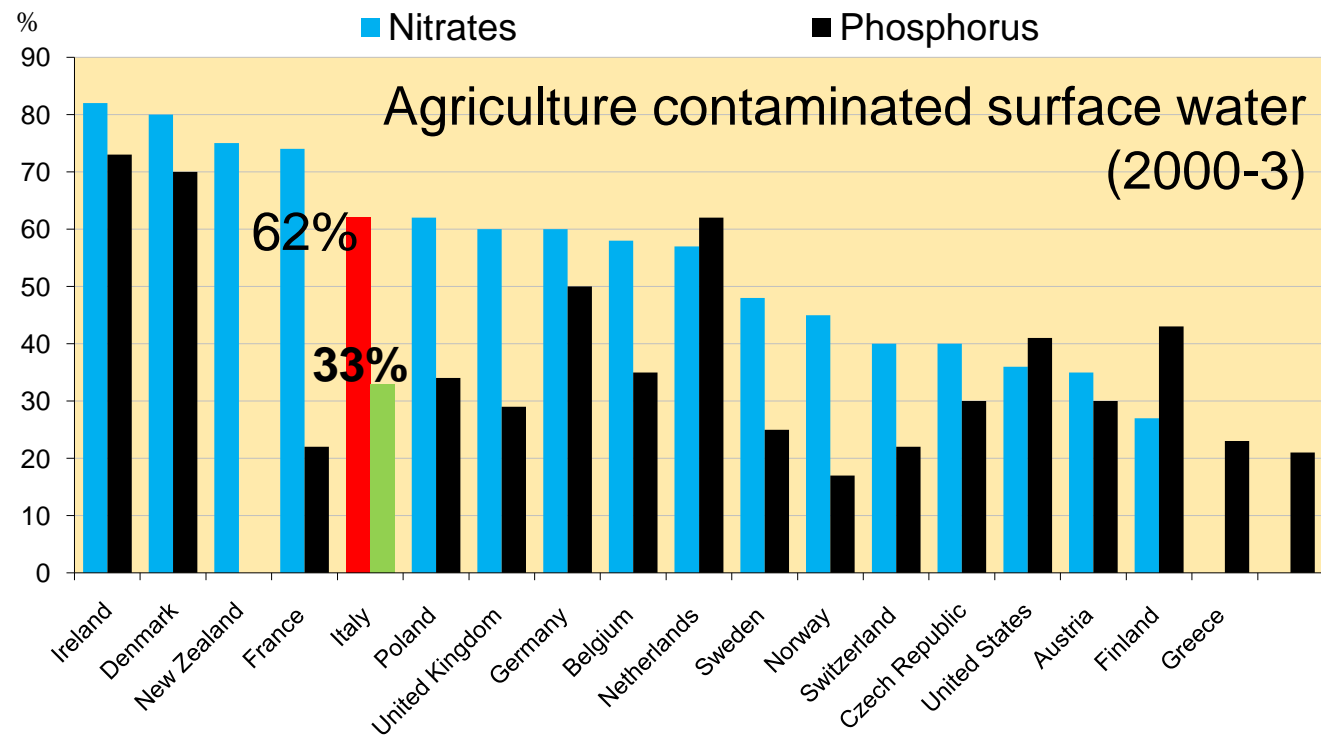
Worker commutes 2001	UN	RR IA	IRR	RR DP
<b>Italy</b>	117	81	77	76
<b>Emilia- Romagna</b>	125	99	90	76
<b>Veneto</b>	128	91	82	86
<b>Puglia</b>	128	69	67	63
<b>Trento</b>	131			86
<b>Bolzano</b>	147			84
<b>Sardinia</b>	150	67	78	73



4. Urban-rural linkages  
(negative externalities)



## 5. Quality of the environment and use of water



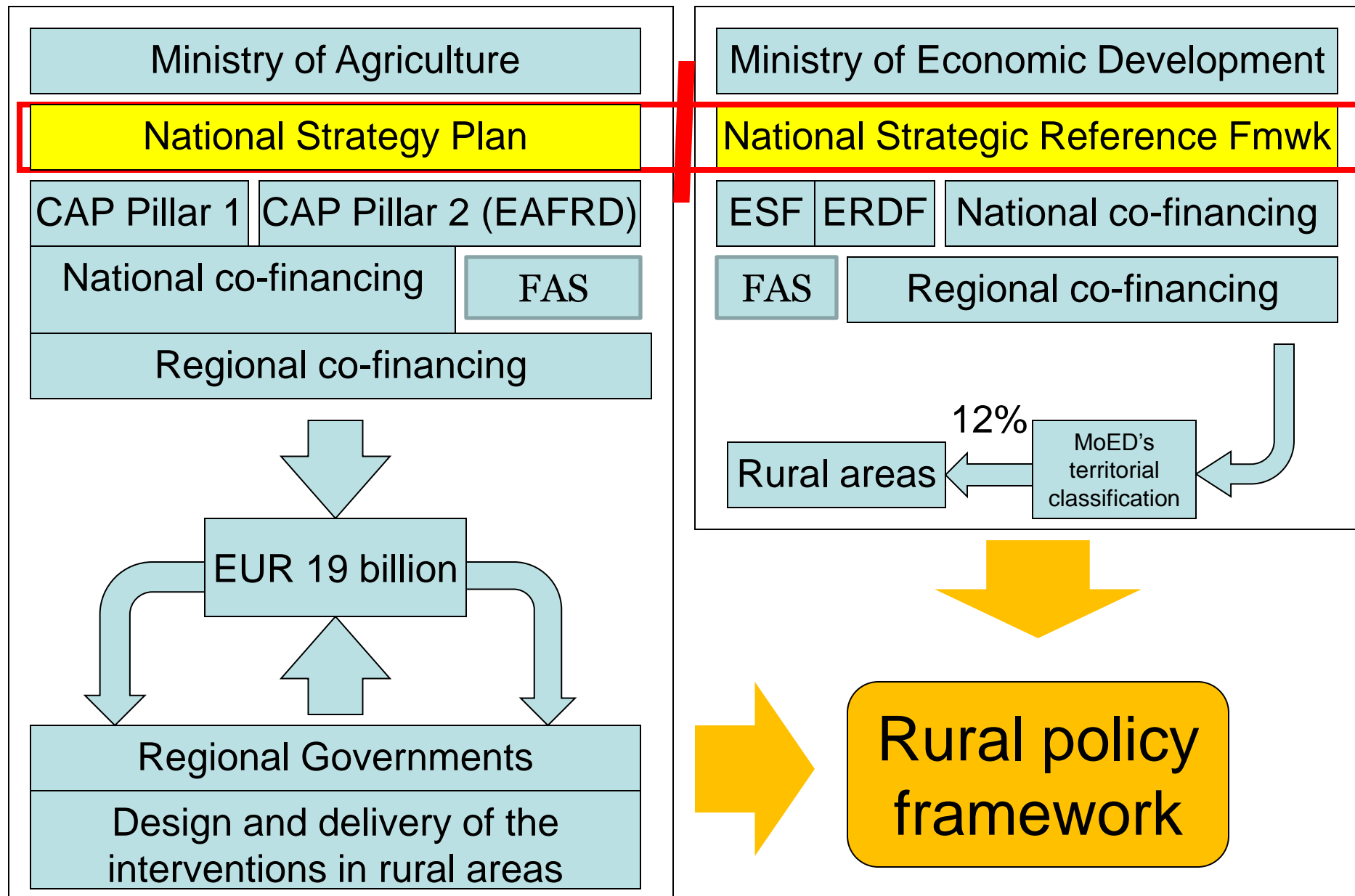
...to assess challenges for rural regions

## Organised Crime

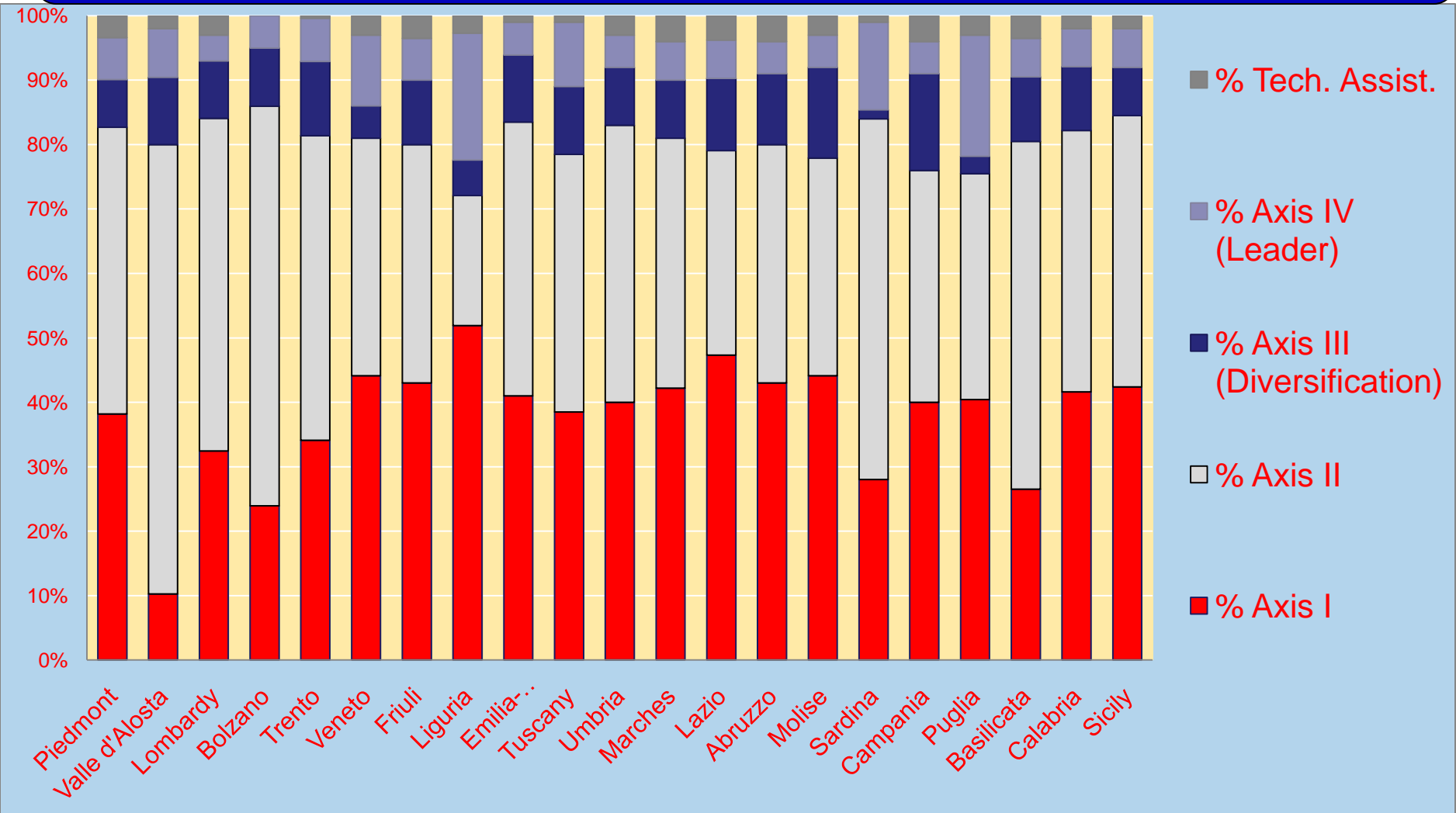
## Analysing rural policy in Italy is complex

- The rural policy framework is influenced by agricultural and regional development policies.
- The EU framework is adapted at the regional level. Within this context:
  - There are 21 different rural development plans (one per region) guided by the Ministry of Agriculture; AND
  - there are 3 different models of rural policy governance to guide implementation at the regional level .
- The Ministry of Economic Development also plays a role through the Regional Policy

# The policy framework is complex



## 1. Maintains its sectoral focus



## The rural policy ...

2. With a limited focus on place-based policies like LEADER initiatives

3. Still favours “capacity to spend” over efficient programming (action of regional governments)

4. ...and the ability of Regional Policy to focus on rural regions is constrained by its wider mandate

# Recommendations

- Adopt a comprehensive rural development approach
- Promote institutional coordination, both at the central level and with regional administrations.
- Improve the current territorial classification
- Include territorial analysis in the policy setting.
- Capitalise on the Rural Network (Rete Rurale) to rural proof policies and give voice to rural instances

## Main issues for discussion

- 1. Integrating foreign immigrants in rural communities**
- 2. Decentralised power + different governance models at the regional level. Evaluation of local impacts**
- 3. Give voice to rural communities (role of Rural Networks)**



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