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Trends in Rural Policy: Italy and OECD countries

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Trends impacting on rural regions

Old vs. New rural policy

A white curved arrow originates from the left side of the top text and points downwards towards the bottom text.

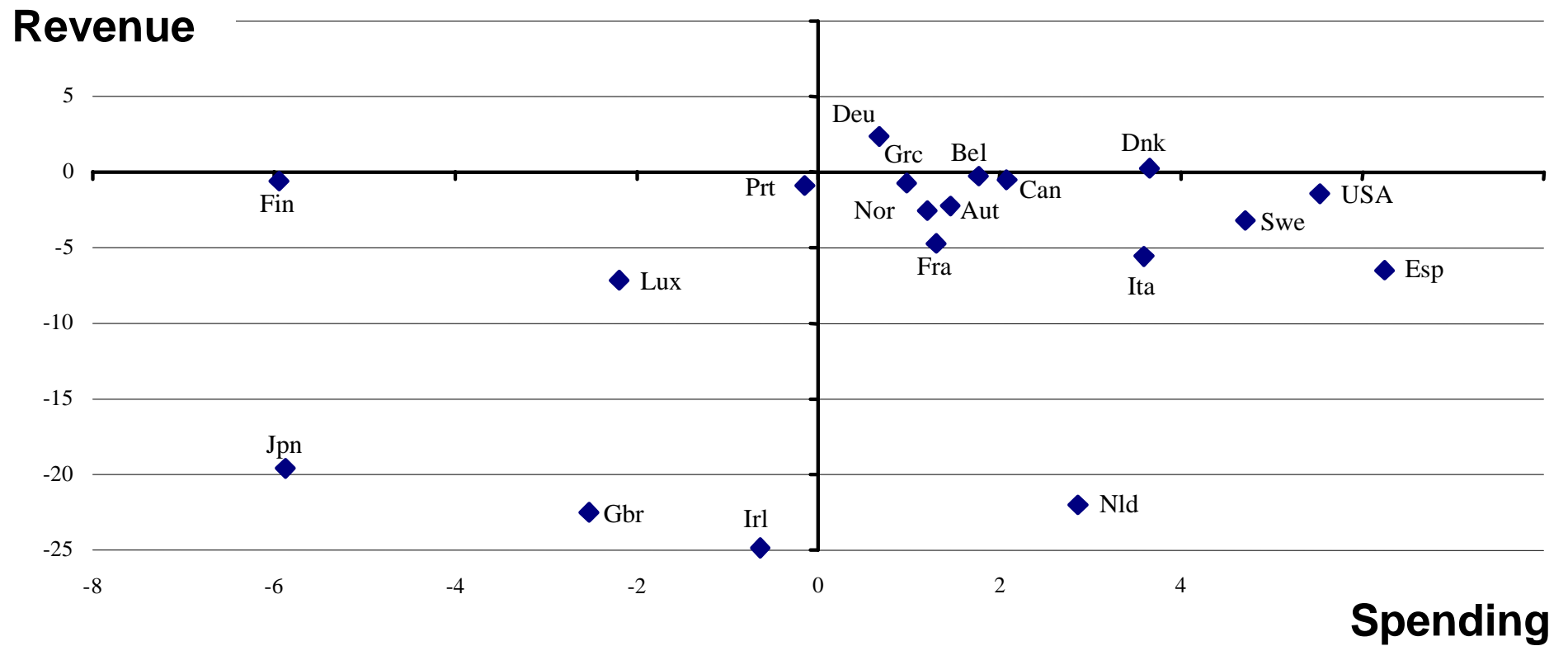
Implications for Italy ?

#1 Globalization, trade agreements, CAP reforms...

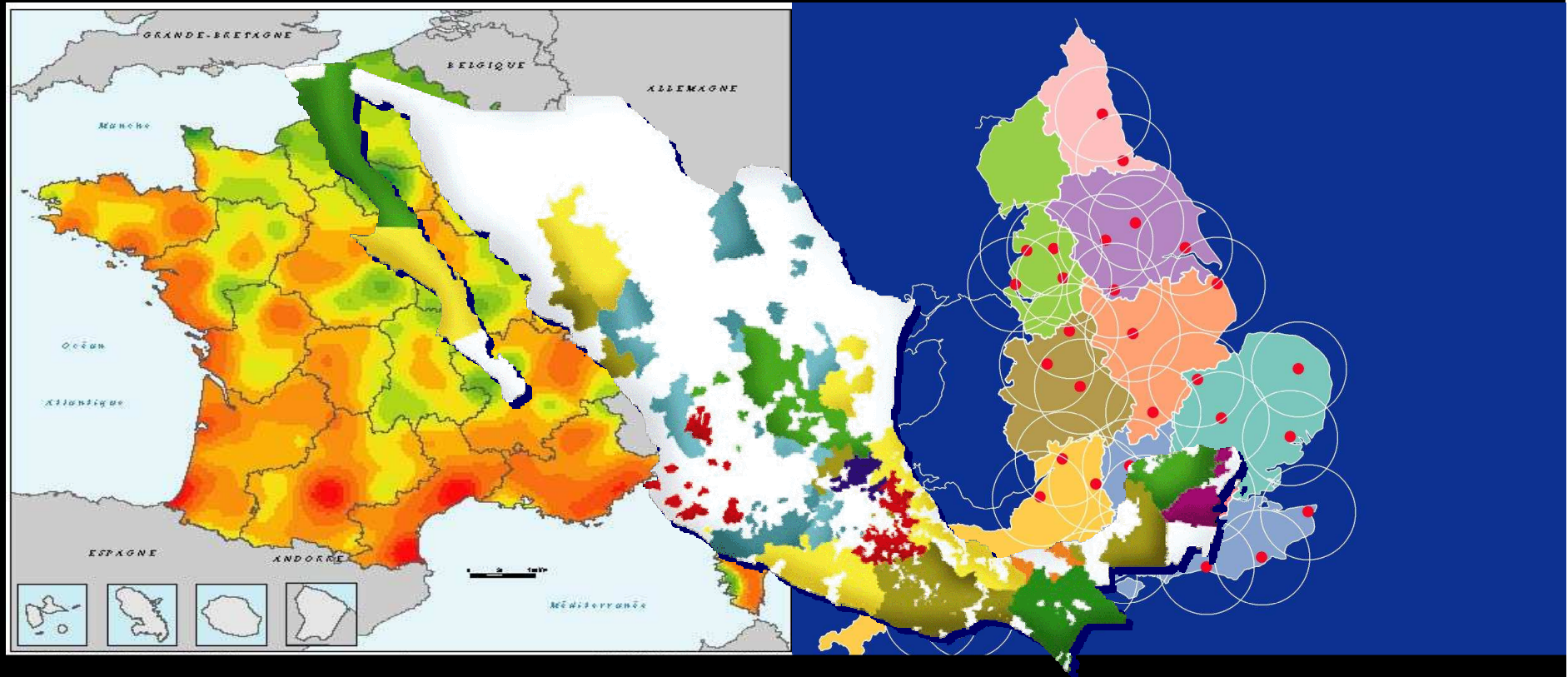
Rural per capita GDP = 64% of national averages, and declining



#2 - Devolution

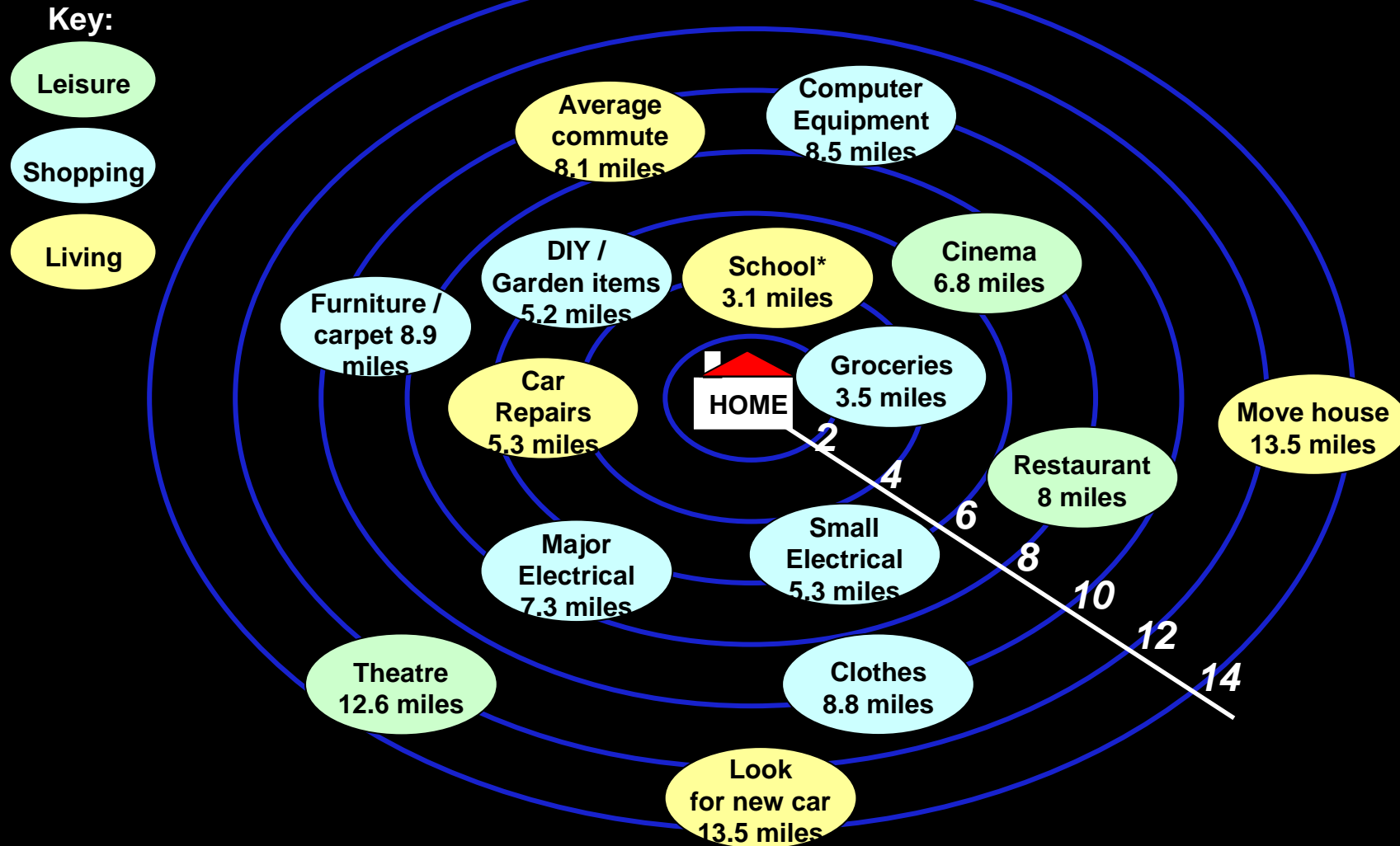


#3 - New migration (+ immigration) trends



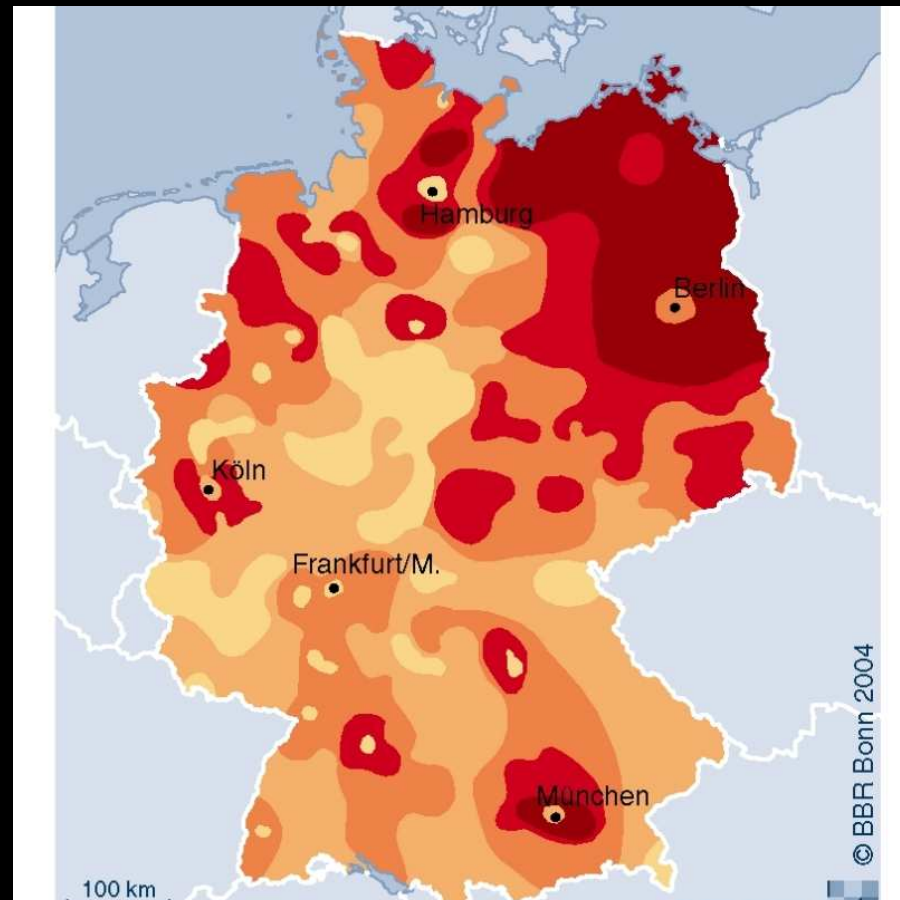
#4 - Increasing mobility of people

Average number of miles travelled (urban and rural people)



#5 - Ageing and service sustainability

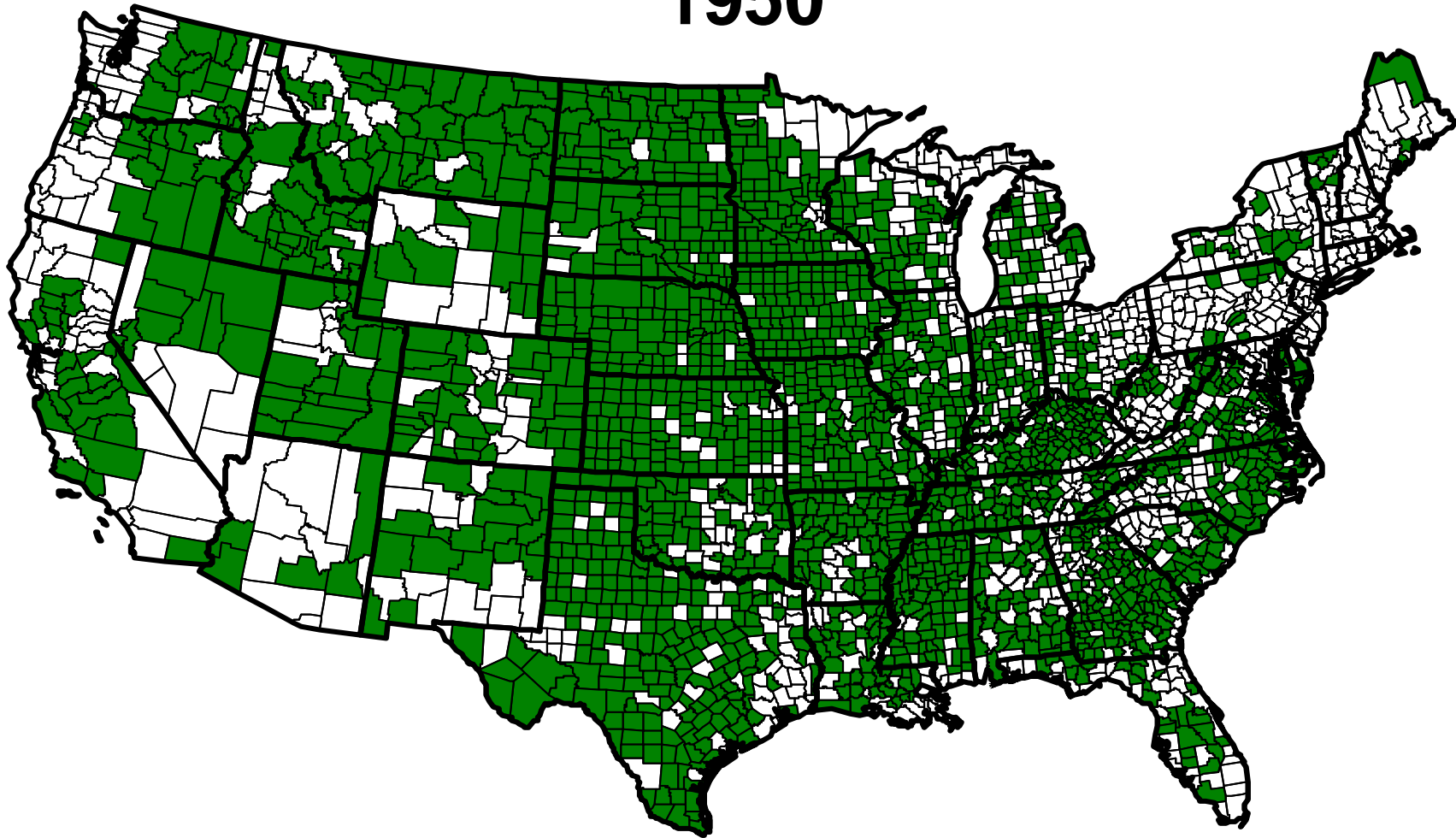
GER - Projected increases in elderly (over 75) population



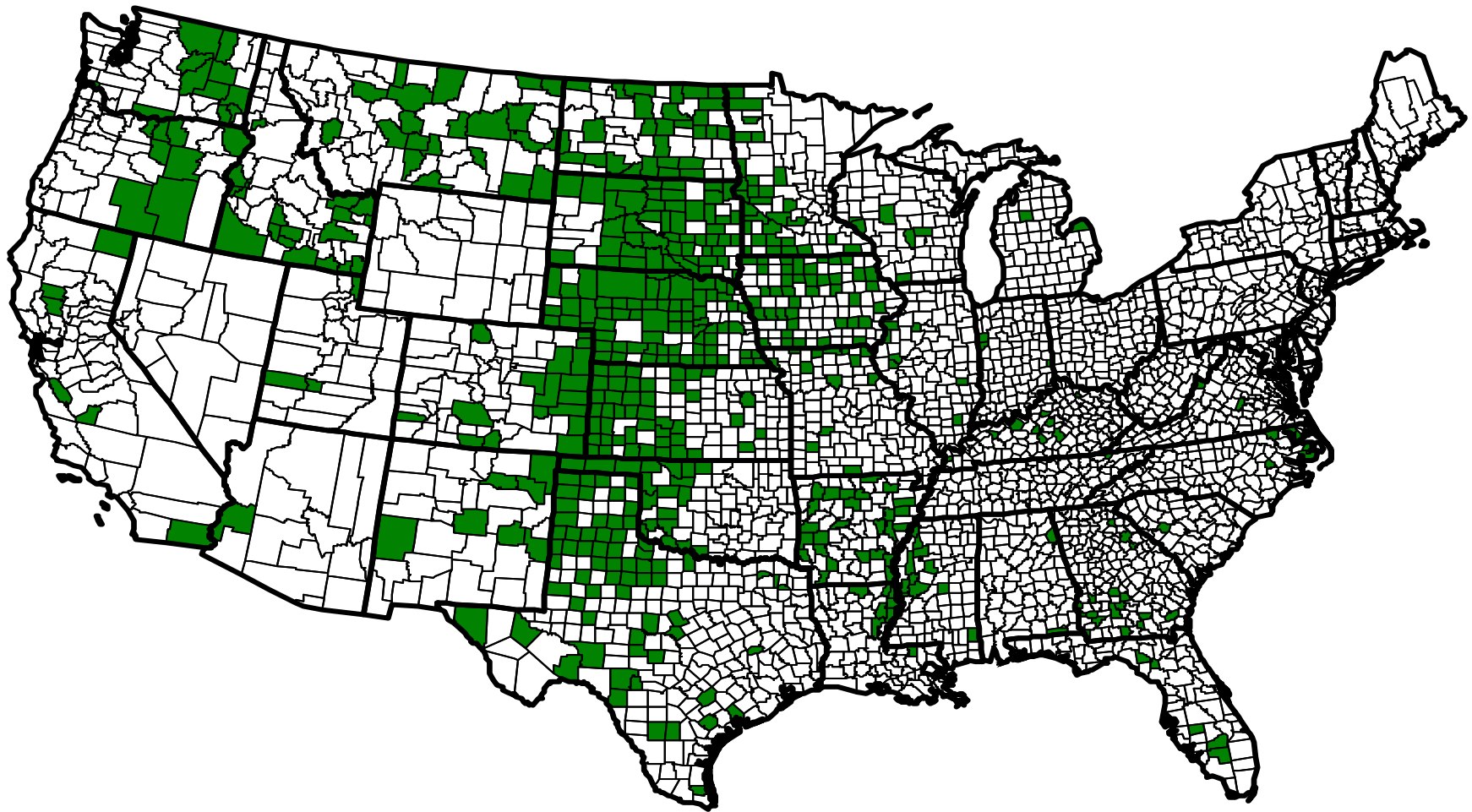
2020 + 45% (west), + 75% (east)

6 - Changing profile of rural economies: an example

1950



1990



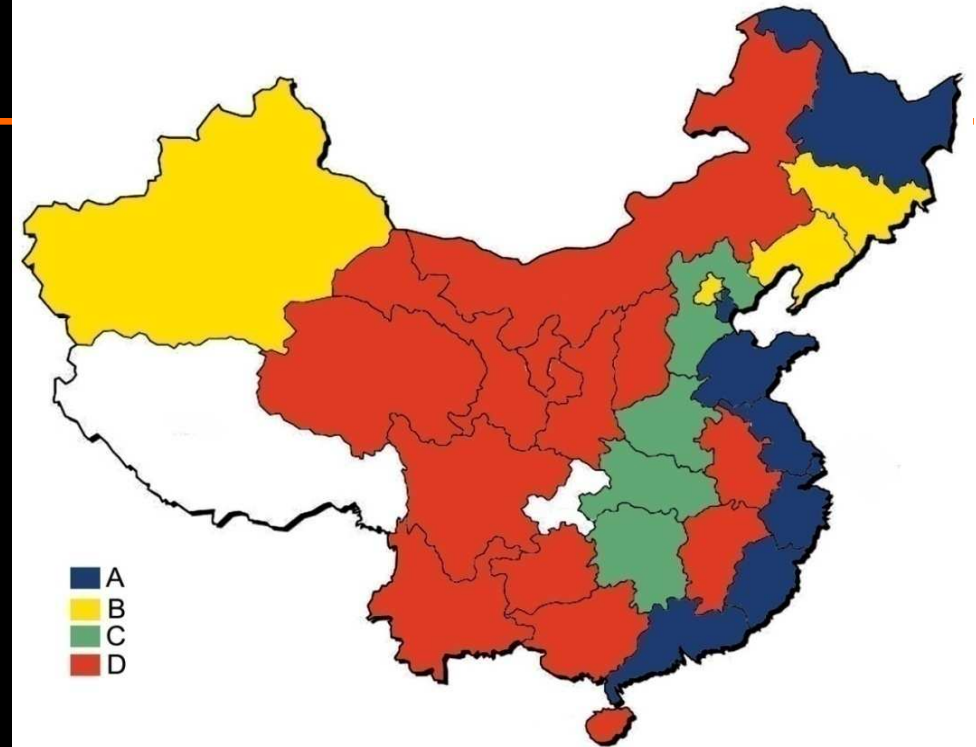
How are governments coping with all this ?

3 'classical' policy failures

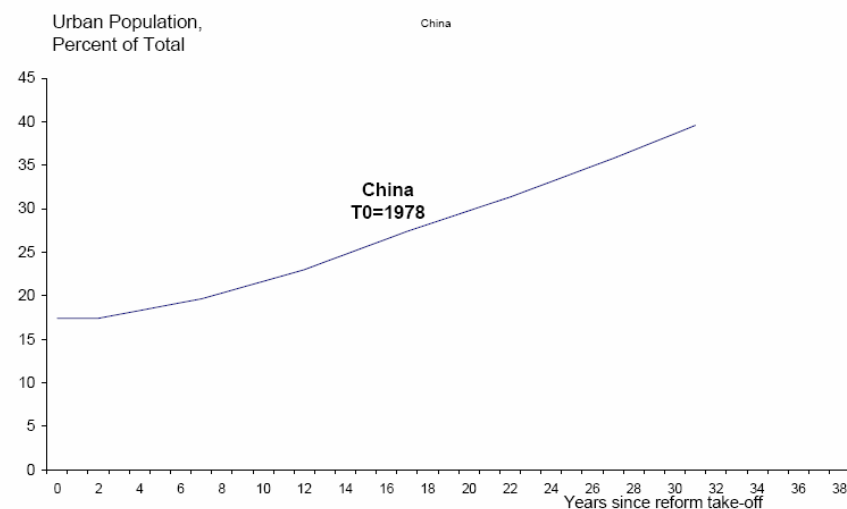
(1) the boiling frog

China

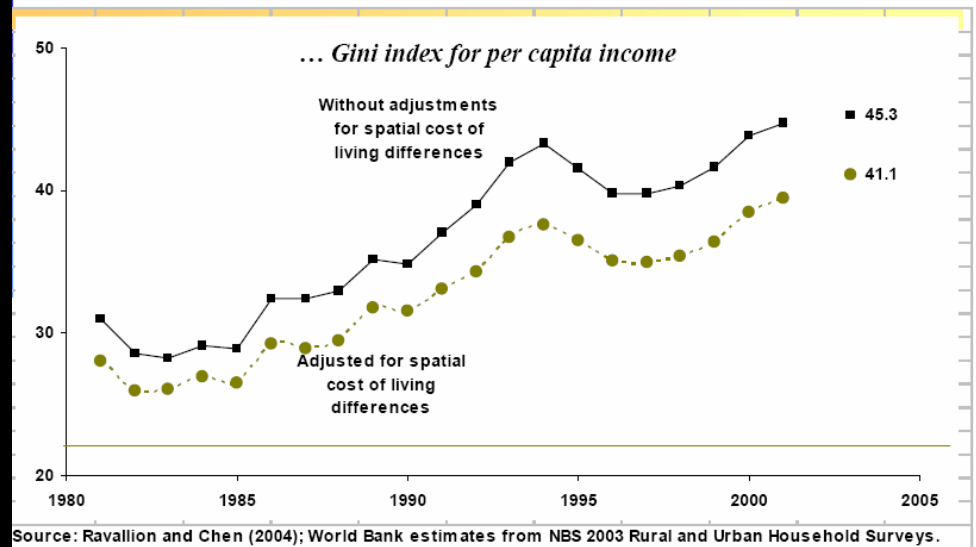
(2) top-down,
redistributive approach'.



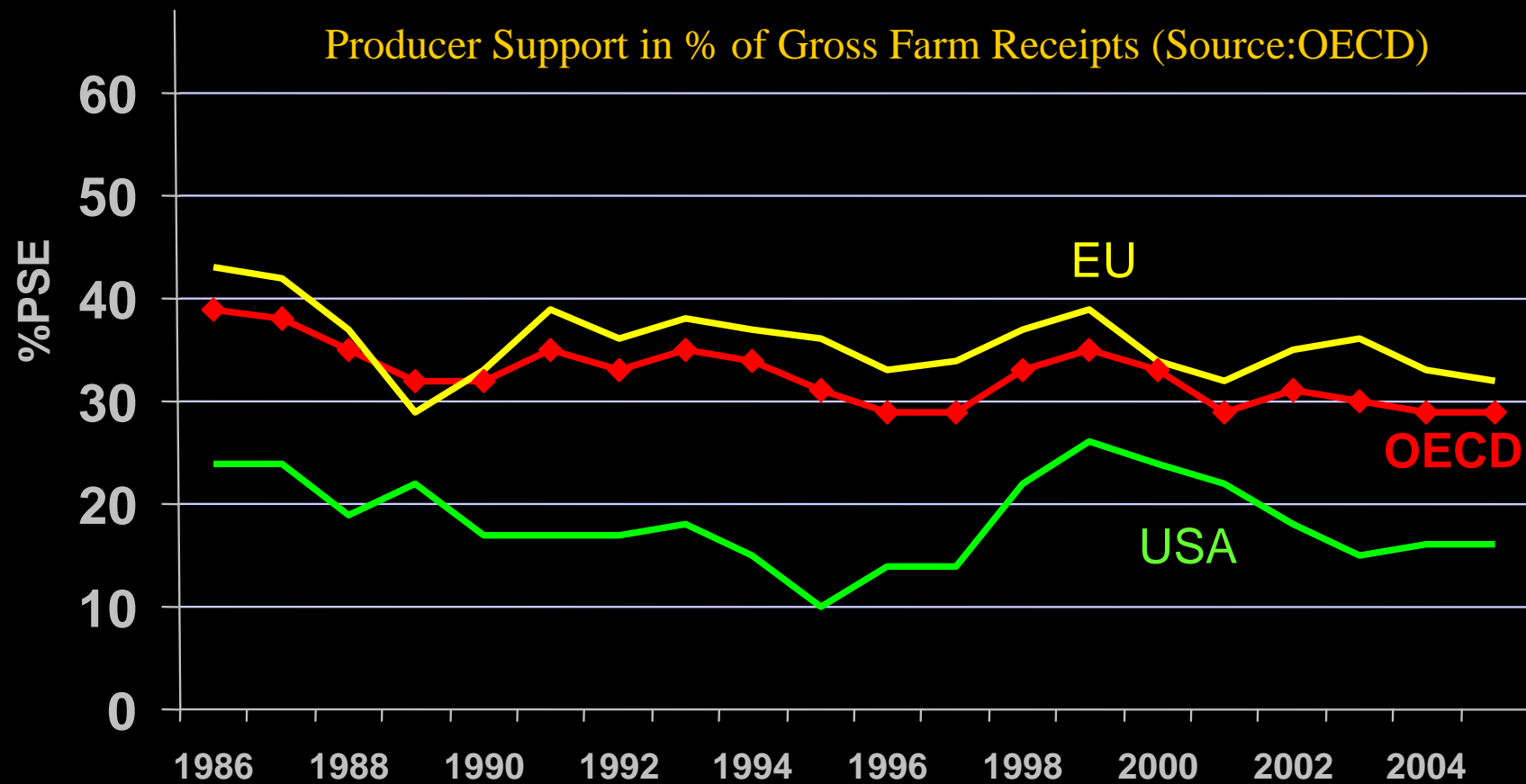
...urbanization



Rising Income Inequality



(3) Limits of agric. policy: 1,3% of OECD GDP

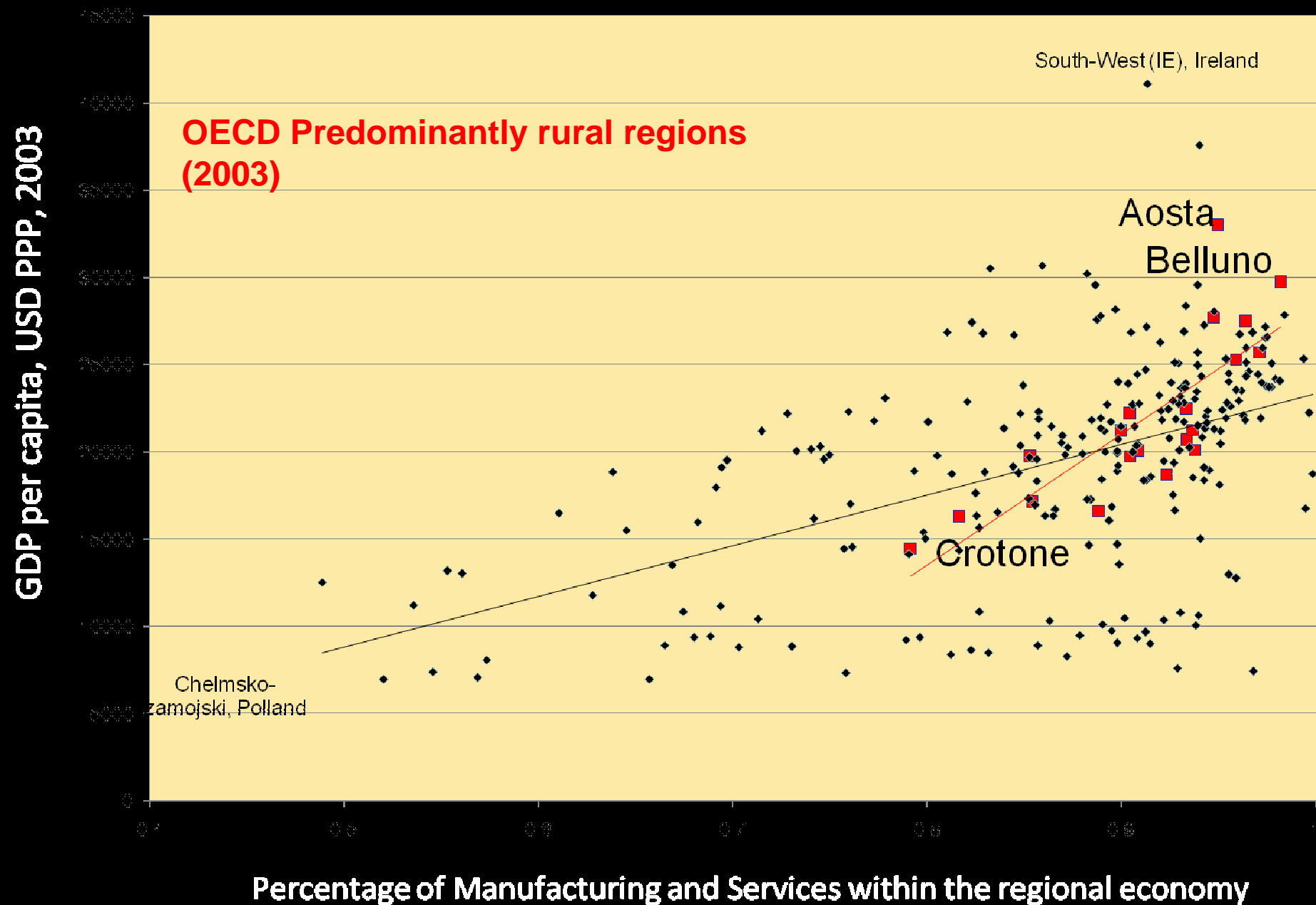


inefficient, ineffective, inequitable

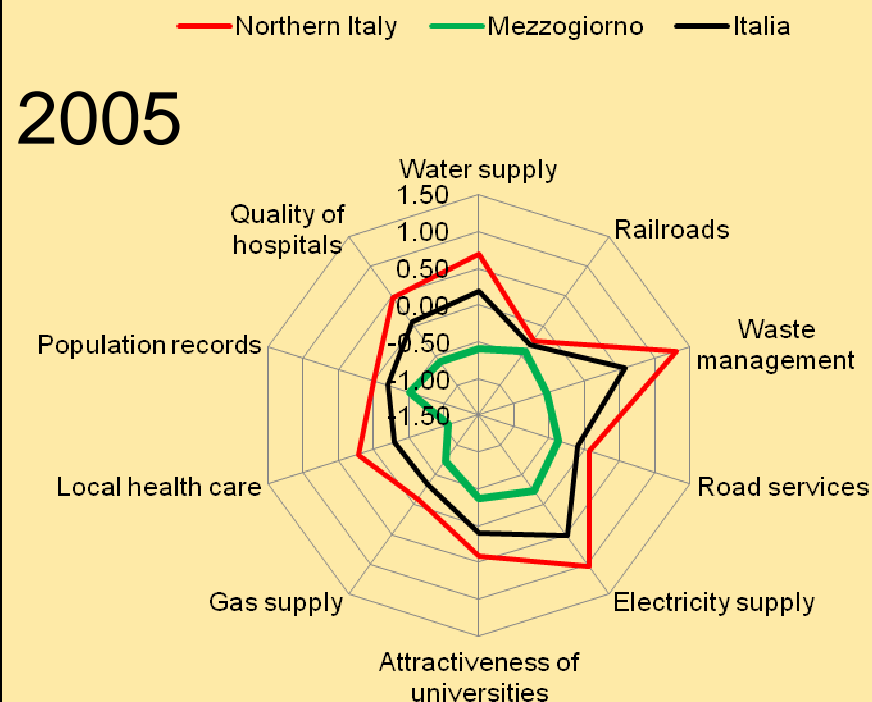
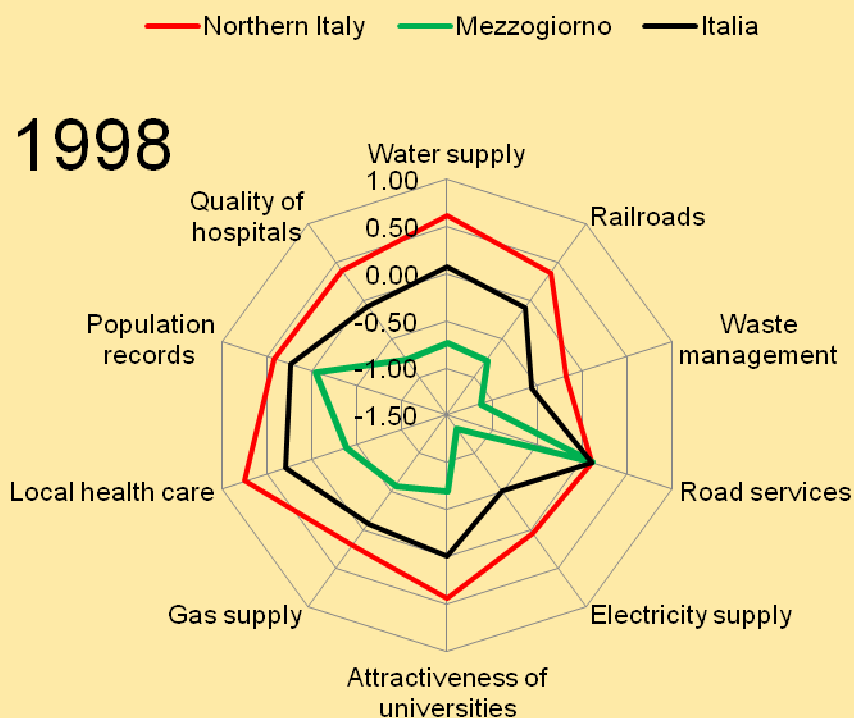
..and rural Italy? Rapid change, complex dynamics

- ✓ Economic diversification <...>
- ✓ Ageing: 31% is +65
- ✓ Services: quality and accessibility
- ✓ Immigration: integration of foreign workers
- ✓ Environment: underused, undervalued, under threat

Italy: rural economic diversification

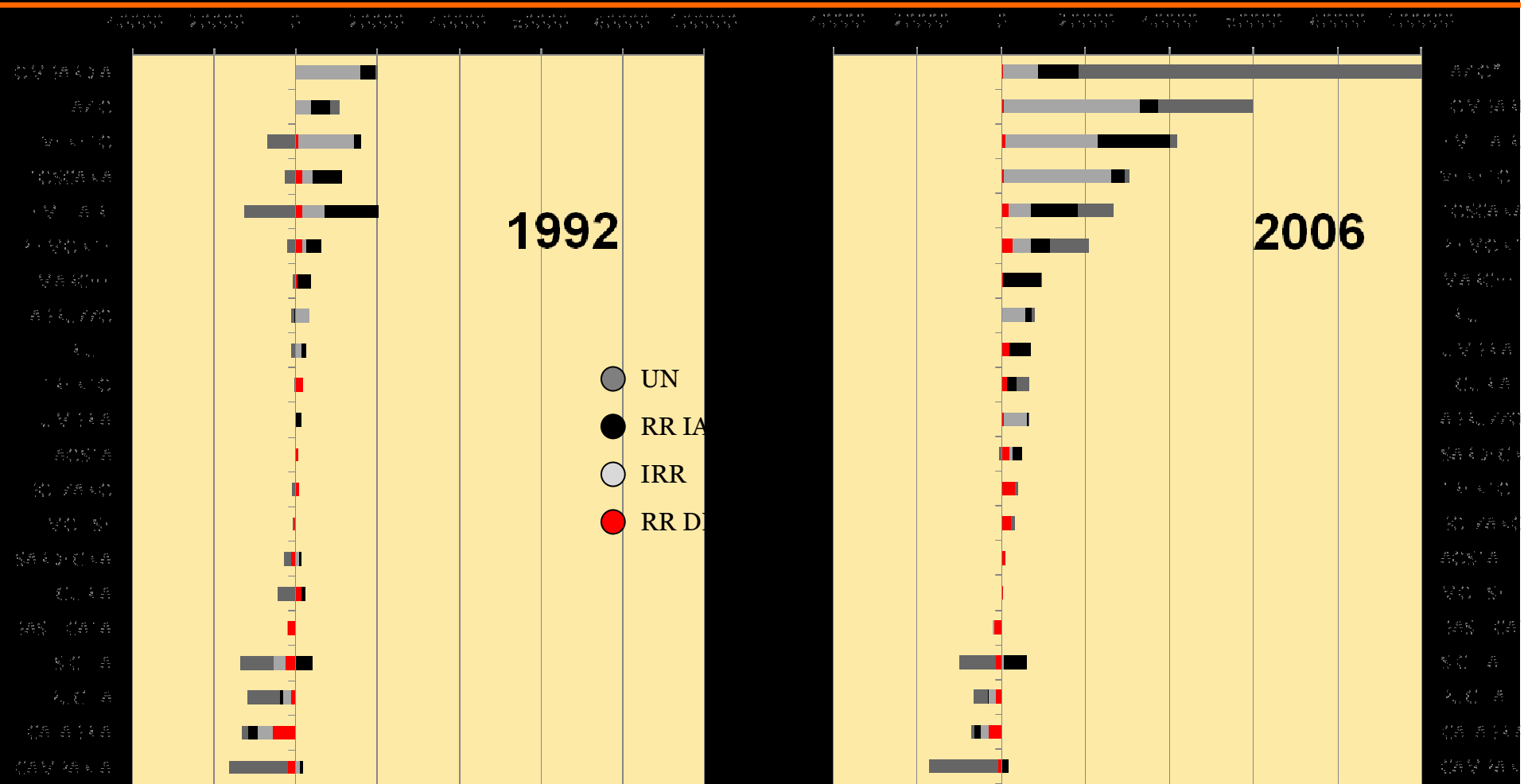


Quality and accessibility of rural services



- Ex. health services for an ageing population

Integration of immigrants



- Foreign workers have been concentrating in urban regions
- Yet, a relevant part of them live in rural regions

What are we learning ?

Rural policy will not solve Italy's pressing challenges...

...but provides *part* of the solution.

Towards a new rural policy: *a lot* of innovation...

In the OECD: PITs, LSPs, Growth Agreements, Regionen Aktiv, Canadian community futures, Mexico's PDRs and microregions...

...and in developing Countries: India, Central and South America, China...

At national...and local levels: Oresund, Tuscany, Basque Country, Scotland, Quebec, Extremadura ...

...some common principles...

The “New Rural Paradigm”: where does Italy stand?

Old

New

Approach

sectoral

integrated

Objectives

compensation

*enhancing regional
competitiveness*

Tools

financial subsidies

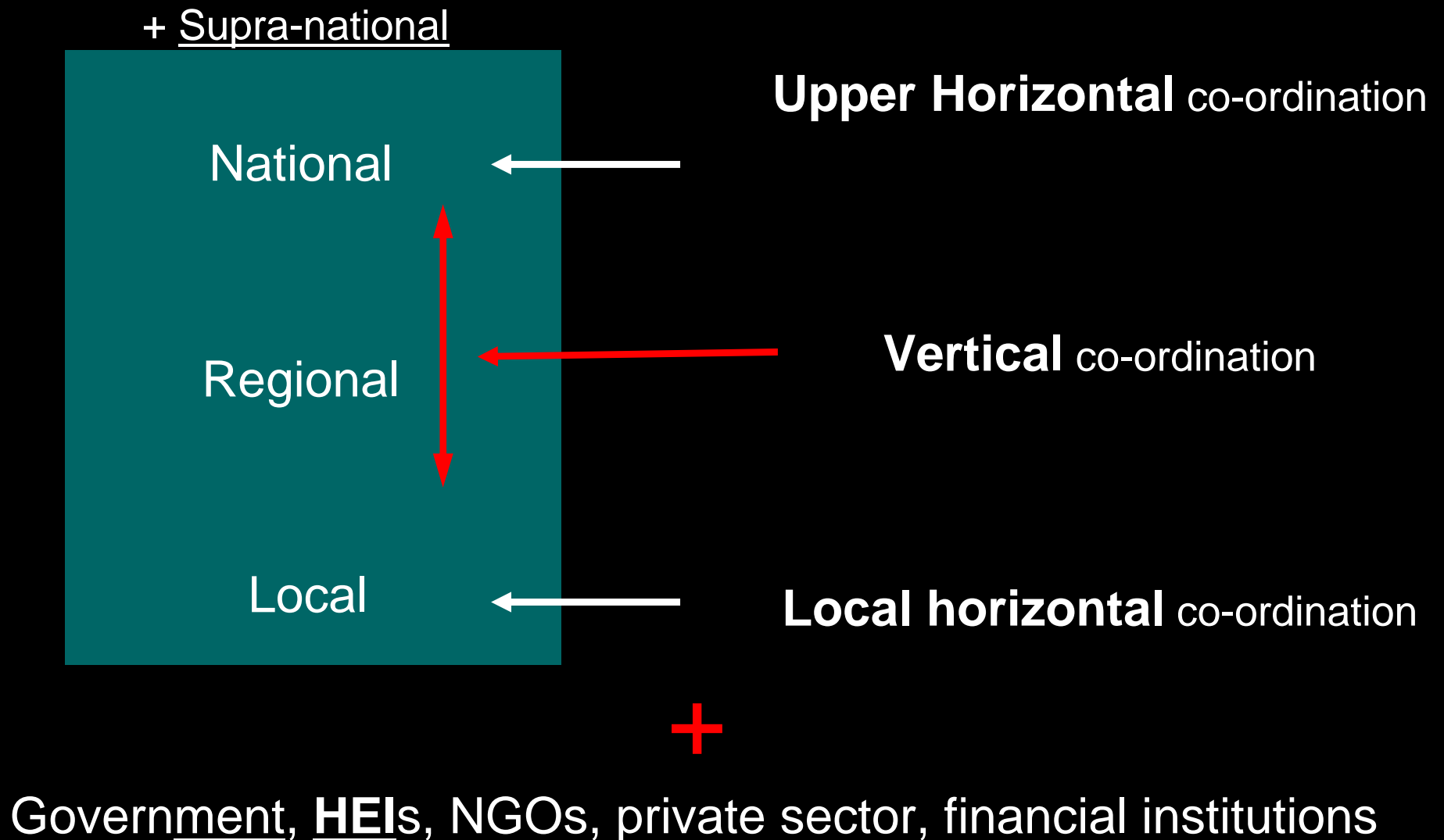
investments

Actors

central government

*multiple levels of gov.,
NGOs and private
sectorS*

A matter of strategic governance



Challenges ahead

- beyond antagonism with/ protagonism of agr. policy
- coherence with regional policy (ex.: definitions)
- involvement of sectoral ministries and 'proofing'...

Summing up

- ✓ Rapid change, diversity of rural areas...
- ✓ ...suggest to bet on an integrated approach...
- ✓ ...that valorises local resources and knowledge



rural areas and people = source of national development

for more information:
www.oecd.org/gov