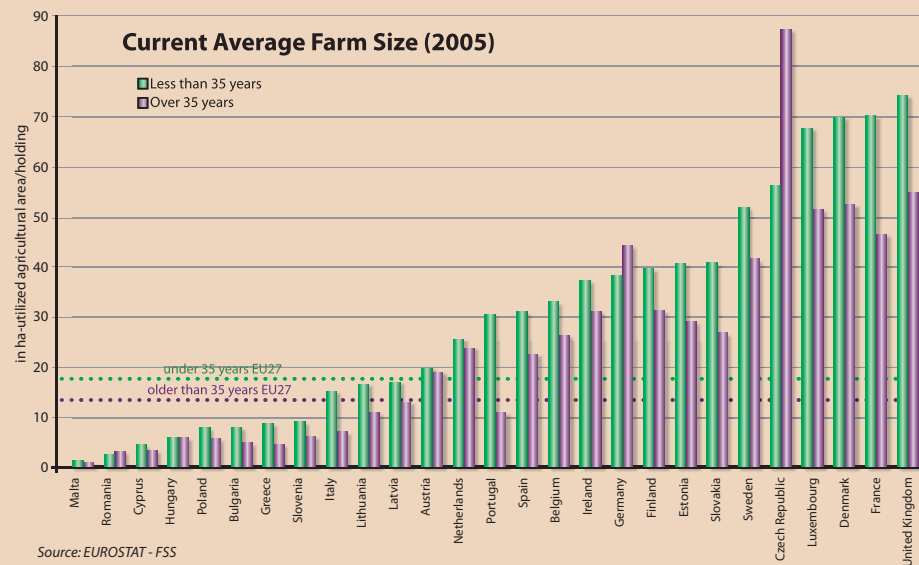
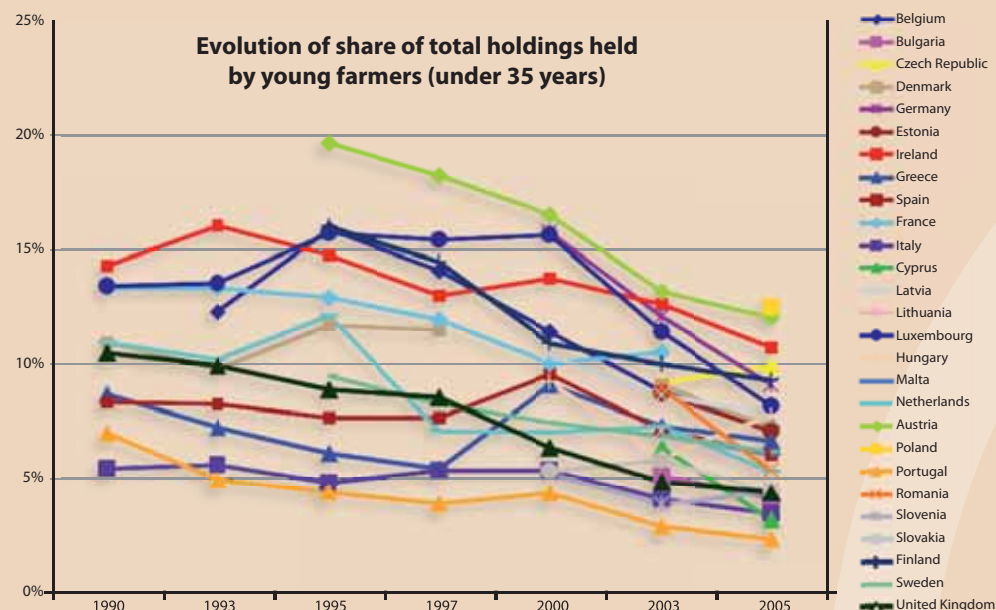




FARM STRUCTURES



The average farm size of young farmers in EU-27 is 15.9 ha, somewhat larger than that of farmers over 35 years of age (11.6 ha)

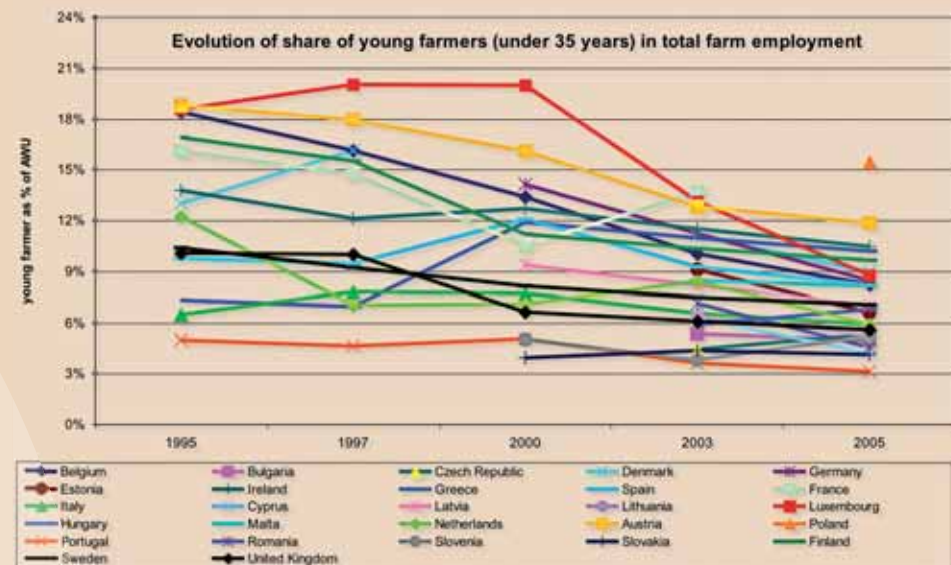
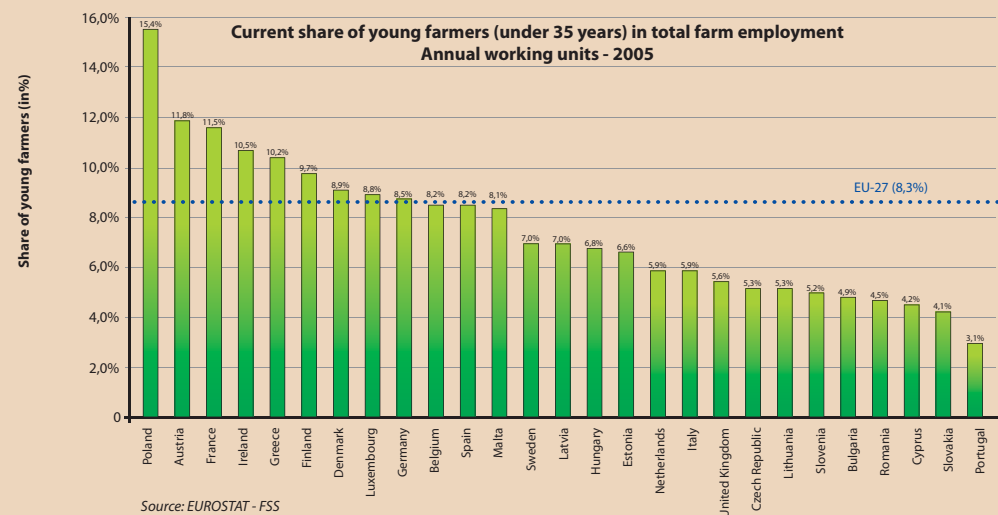


The share of total holdings held by young farmers is currently 7% of the total and is still in decline in most EU-27 Member States



FARM EMPLOYMENT

The share of young farmers in total farm employment is currently 8% of the total and is still in decline in most EU-27 Member States





Rural Development Measures for Young Farmers under the CAP

- **Setting up of young farmers**

A setting up support (combination of premium and interest rate subsidy up to max. of 55 000 euros) can be provided

3 conditions apply:

- The person applying must be < 40yrs old and setting up for the 1st time
- They must be skilled and competent to farm
- They must submit a business plan for the development of their farming activities

- **Modernisation of farms**

A support can be provided to improve the overall performance of the agricultural holding with a possibility to offer a higher support rate for young farmers (+ 10 %)

- **Other RD measures not specifically designed for young farmers but also relevant for them such as vocational training, use of advisory services, etc**

- **RD measures in 2000-2006** – Almost all Member States included young farmers in their RD programmes (around 1.7 billion euros from the EC budget over the period)

- **RD measures for 2007-2013** – Member States have still to submit programmes but of those received most again include measures for young farmers



WHAT EUROPEANS THINK¹:

- Almost 9 out of 10 (88 %) Europeans say that they think **agriculture and the rural areas are important** for Europe's future.
- **The main priorities of the CAP** should be:
 - ensuring the safety and health of agricultural products (41 %),
 - providing farmers with a decent standard of living (37 %) and
 - ensuring fair prices for consumers (35 %).
- **The CAP is performing quite well** in ensuring availability of supplies (positive evaluations outnumbering negative by 33 %), encouraging quality production (16 %) and - in one of the most important EU policy areas - ensuring the health and safety of agricultural products (with positive evaluations outnumbering negative by 14 %).
- Europeans give a **whole-hearted endorsement of the 'cross-compliance' principle**, with very high proportions saying that they think a reduction of direct payments is justified in the cases of failing to reach food safety (86 %), animal welfare (84 %) and environmental (83 %) standards.
- **They welcome the phasing out of production-based subsidies to be replaced by direct payments to farmers and more money for Rural Development policy.**
- Many Europeans believe that **farmers** have a **particular responsibility**:
 - in providing healthy and safe food (55 %)
 - in protecting the environment (29 %)
 - both in supplying the population with a diversity of quality products and ensuring the welfare of farm animals (20 %).

¹ Main findings of the special Eurobarometer survey (n.276) on "Europeans, agriculture and the CAP- 2006" (run Nov. - Dec. 2006, published 29 April 2007).