

CONTEXT 4: FARM STRUCTURE

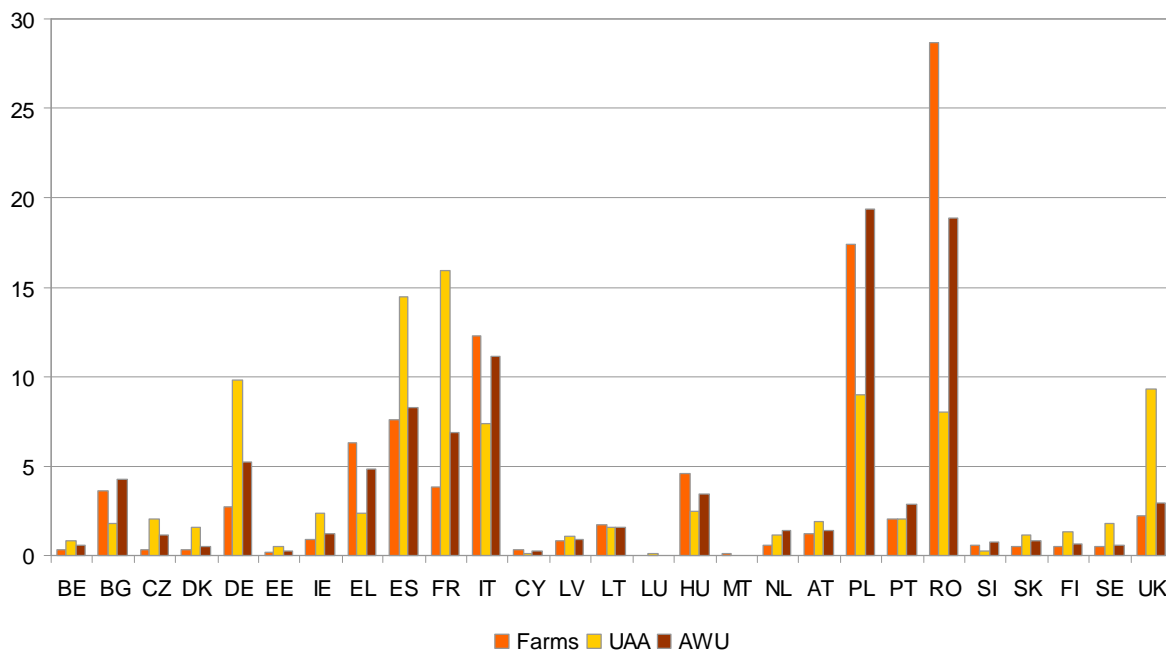
Farm structures are very diverse across the EU-27

Farm structures are extremely diverse across the EU. Some Member States comprise a large number of farms but, on the other hand, a less important share of UAA, leading to a small average farm size in physical terms. The opposite – a small number of relatively large farms – can be found in other Member States. In some cases, both extremes exist side by side in a bipolar structure, where few large farms take up the main share of land, the remainder being divided among many small holdings.

With 72% of UAA but only 42% of farms located in the EU-15...

The most important EU Member States in terms of number of farms and labour input are Romania (29% of all farms, 19% of total labour input), Poland (18% of farms, 19% of labour input) and Italy (12% of farms, 11% of labour input). In terms of UAA, the most important EU Member States are France (16% of total UAA), Spain (14%) and Germany (10%).

Graph C4 - Distribution (%) of farms, UAA and AWU among the EU Member States, 2007



More than 70% of the total UAA can be found in the EU-15, while more than half of all farms and of the agricultural labour force is located in the EU-12. The average physical farm size in the EU-15 (22 ha) is therefore significantly higher than in the EU-12 (6 ha), leading to an EU-27 average of 12.6 ha.

...the average farm size is bigger in the EU-15 than in the EU-12

Most farms in the EU-27 can be characterised as small in physical terms, since 70% of them have less than 5 ha of UAA and only 5% have more than 50 ha of UAA.

In the EU-27, the average economic size of the farm is 11.3 ESU. This is about five times the average economic size in the EU-12 (2.4 ESU) and slightly less than half of the average economic size in the EU-15 (23.8 ESU). Similar to their physical size, most EU-27 farms are characterised by a limited economic size, since 61% of them have less than 2 ESU and only 2% have more than 100 ESU.

Table C4-1 - Farm structure: number of farms, UAA and AWU

Indicator	Context 4 - Farm structure		
Sub-Indicator	Number of farms	UAA	Labour force
Measurement	No of farms	No of ha of UAA	No of AWU
Source	Eurostat - Farm Structure Survey		
Year	2007		
Unit	absolute value		
Country			
Belgium	48 010	1 374 430	65 600
Bulgaria	493 130	3 050 740	494 470
Czech Republic	39 400	3 518 070	137 310
Denmark	44 620	2 662 590	55 860
Germany	370 480	16 931 900	609 300
Estonia	23 340	906 830	32 070
Ireland	128 240	4 139 240	147 540
Greece	860 150	4 076 230	568 710
Spain	1 043 910	24 892 520	967 680
France	527 350	27 476 930	804 620
Italy	1 679 440	12 744 200	1 302 180
Cyprus	40 120	146 000	25 920
Latvia	107 750	1 773 840	104 790
Lithuania	230 270	2 648 950	180 140
Luxembourg	2 300	130 880	3 750
Hungary	626 320	4 228 580	403 420
Malta	11 020	10 330	4 220
Netherlands	76 740	1 914 330	165 110
Austria	165 420	3 189 110	163 330
Poland	2 390 960	15 477 190	2 263 150
Portugal	275 080	3 472 940	338 040
Romania	3 931 350	13 753 050	2 205 280
Slovenia	75 340	488 770	83 720
Slovakia	68 990	1 936 620	91 290
Finland	68 230	2 292 290	72 390
Sweden	72 610	3 118 000	65 470
United Kingdom	299 830	16 130 490	341 370
EU-27	13 700 400	172 485 050	11 696 730
EU-15	5 662 410	124 546 080	5 670 950
EU-12	8 037 990	47 938 970	6 025 780

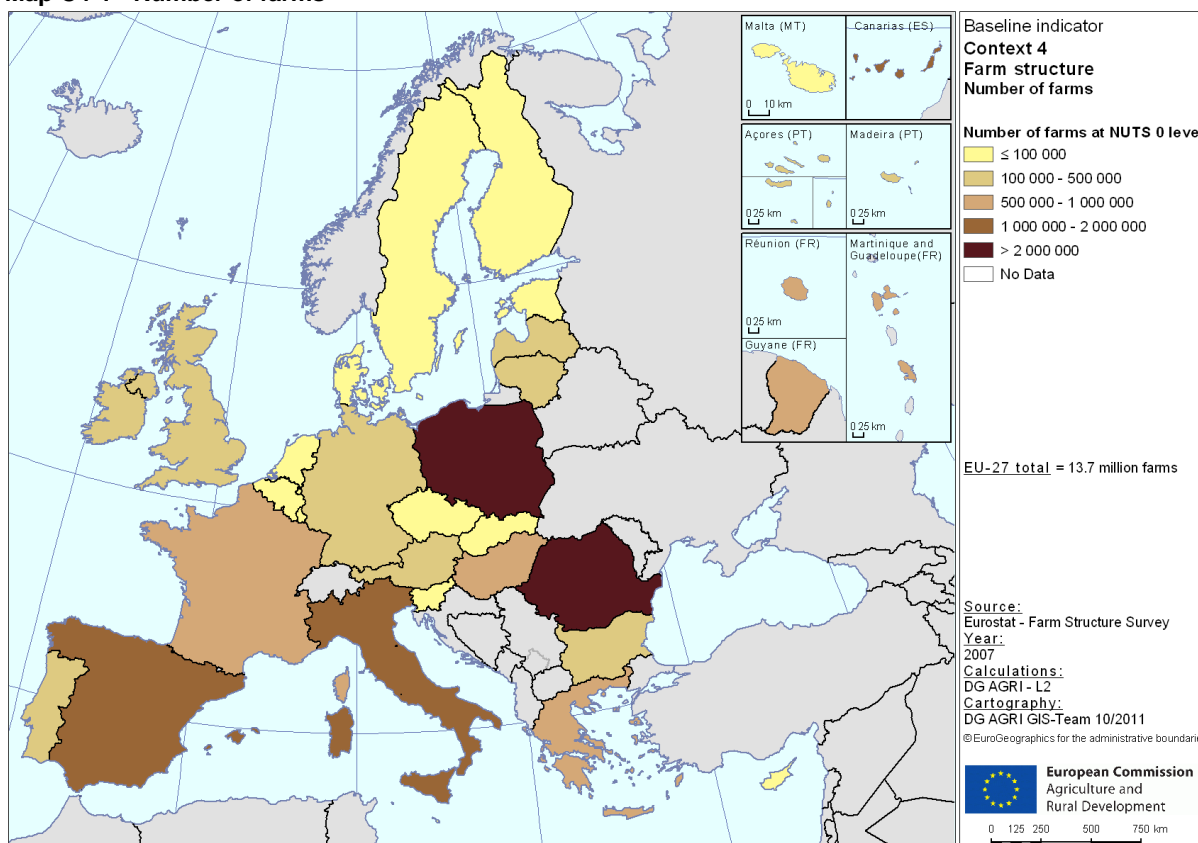
Table C4-2 - Average physical farm size and distribution

Indicator	Context 4 - Farm Structure			
Sub-Indicator	Average physical farm size	Physical farm size distribution		
Measurement	ha / farm	Share of farms in different size classes		
Source	Eurostat - Farm Structure Survey			
Year	2007			
Unit	absolute value	%		
Subdivisions		< 5 ha	>= 5 - < 50 ha	>= 50 ha
Country				
Belgium	28.6	25.4	56.3	18.3
Bulgaria	6.2	94.9	3.9	1.3
Czech Republic	89.3	50.4	33.0	16.7
Denmark	59.7	3.7	62.0	34.2
Germany	45.7	22.6	54.4	23.0
Estonia	38.9	36.1	52.8	11.1
Ireland	32.3	6.5	75.7	17.7
Greece	4.7	76.2	23.0	0.8
Spain	23.9	52.8	37.5	9.7
France	52.1	24.7	37.9	37.4
Italy	7.6	73.3	24.3	2.4
Cyprus	3.6	86.5	12.6	1.0
Latvia	16.5	40.9	54.4	4.7
Lithuania	11.5	60.5	36.5	3.0
Luxembourg	56.8	17.9	34.0	48.1
Hungary	6.8	89.4	8.6	1.9
Malta	0.9	97.4	2.6	0.0
Netherlands	25.0	28.0	57.5	14.5
Austria	19.3	33.5	59.7	6.8
Poland	6.5	68.5	30.5	1.0
Portugal	12.6	72.6	23.9	3.6
Romania	3.5	89.8	9.8	0.4
Slovenia	6.5	59.0	40.4	0.5
Slovakia	28.1	87.2	8.6	4.2
Finland	33.6	9.7	69.6	20.7
Sweden	42.9	15.0	60.3	24.7
United Kingdom	53.8	39.8	35.5	24.7
EU-27	12.6	70.4	24.5	5.1
EU-15	22.0	54.5	34.6	10.9
EU-12	6.0	81.6	17.4	1.0

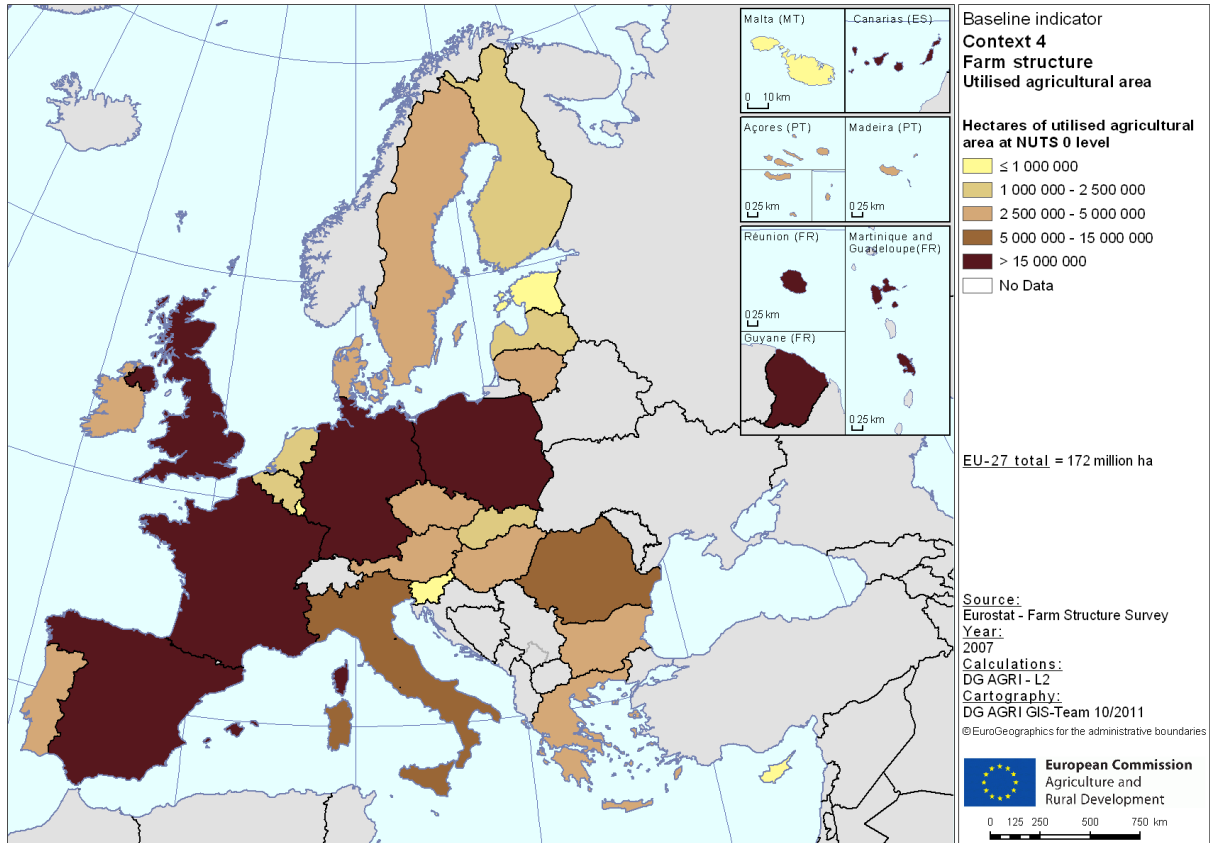
Table C4-3 - Average economic farm size and distribution

Indicator	Context 4 - Farm Structure			
	Average economic farm size	Economic farm size distribution		
Measurement	ESU / farm	Share of farms in different size classes		
Source	Eurostat - Farm Structure Survey			
Year	2007			
Unit	absolute value	%		
Subdivisions		< 2 ESU	>=2 - <100 ESU	>= 100 ESU
Country				
Belgium	70.3	7.8	66.4	25.8
Bulgaria	2.2	89.1	10.6	0.3
Czech Republic	41.2	50.5	43.0	6.5
Denmark	80.2	3.4	73.8	22.9
Germany	49.5	14.4	73.6	12.0
Estonia	7.6	68.7	29.9	1.4
Ireland	19.4	16.2	81.7	2.1
Greece	7.2	34.0	65.8	0.2
Spain	20.6	21.1	75.6	3.3
France	53.6	13.0	71.2	15.8
Italy	14.9	33.8	63.8	2.4
Cyprus	8.0	49.9	49.0	1.1
Latvia	3.1	78.8	20.9	0.3
Lithuania	2.5	82.8	17.0	0.2
Luxembourg	51.7	7.0	79.1	13.9
Hungary	3.2	86.0	13.7	0.4
Malta	4.9	56.4	43.3	0.2
Netherlands	111.3	0.0	64.8	35.2
Austria	16.7	29.4	68.7	1.9
Poland	3.6	67.9	31.9	0.2
Portugal	6.6	57.5	41.7	0.8
Romania	1.0	94.0	6.0	0.0
Slovenia	5.9	43.0	56.7	0.3
Slovakia	7.2	88.7	9.9	1.4
Finland	24.2	8.8	88.2	3.0
Sweden	24.7	33.6	61.7	4.7
United Kingdom	31.4	47.6	43.9	8.5
EU-27	11.3	60.8	36.9	2.2
EU-15	23.8	28.4	66.4	5.2
EU-12	2.4	83.7	16.1	0.2

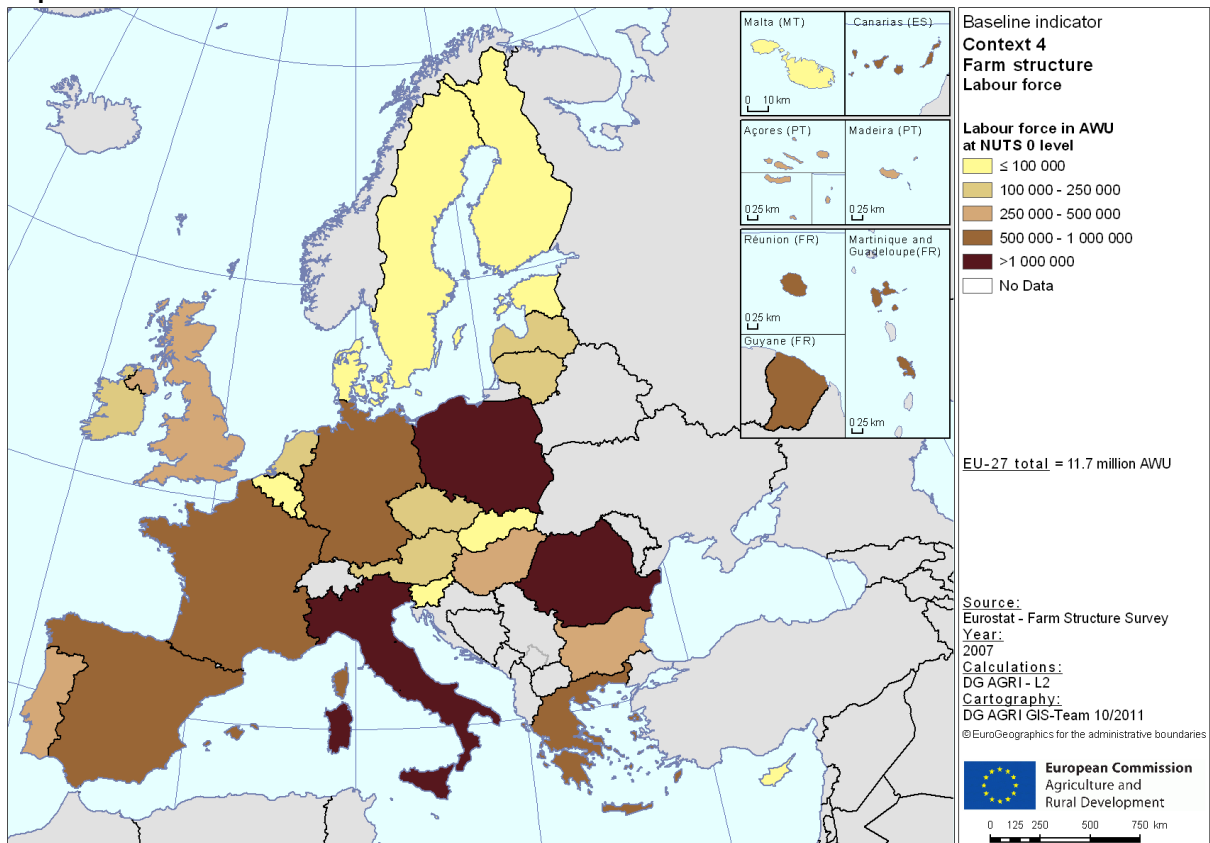
Map C4-1 - Number of farms



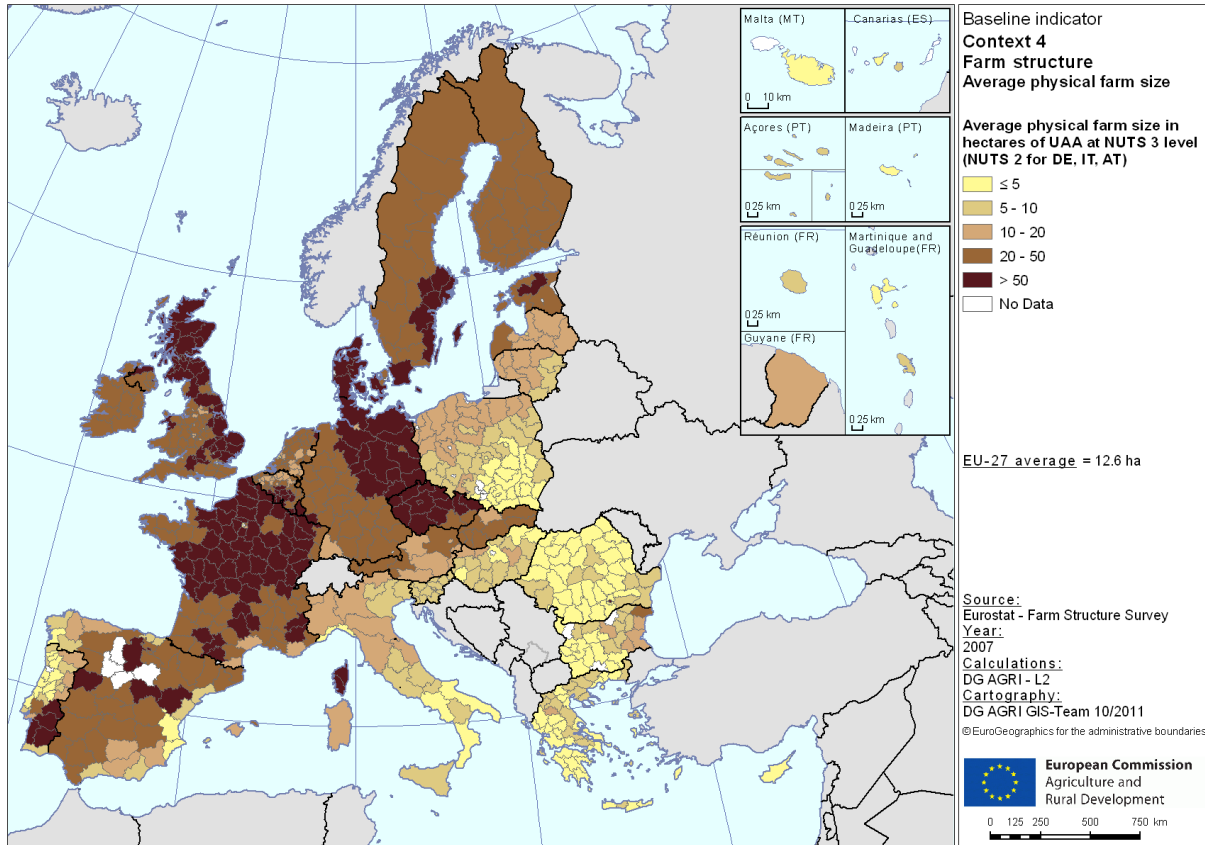
Map C4-2 - Hectares of UAA



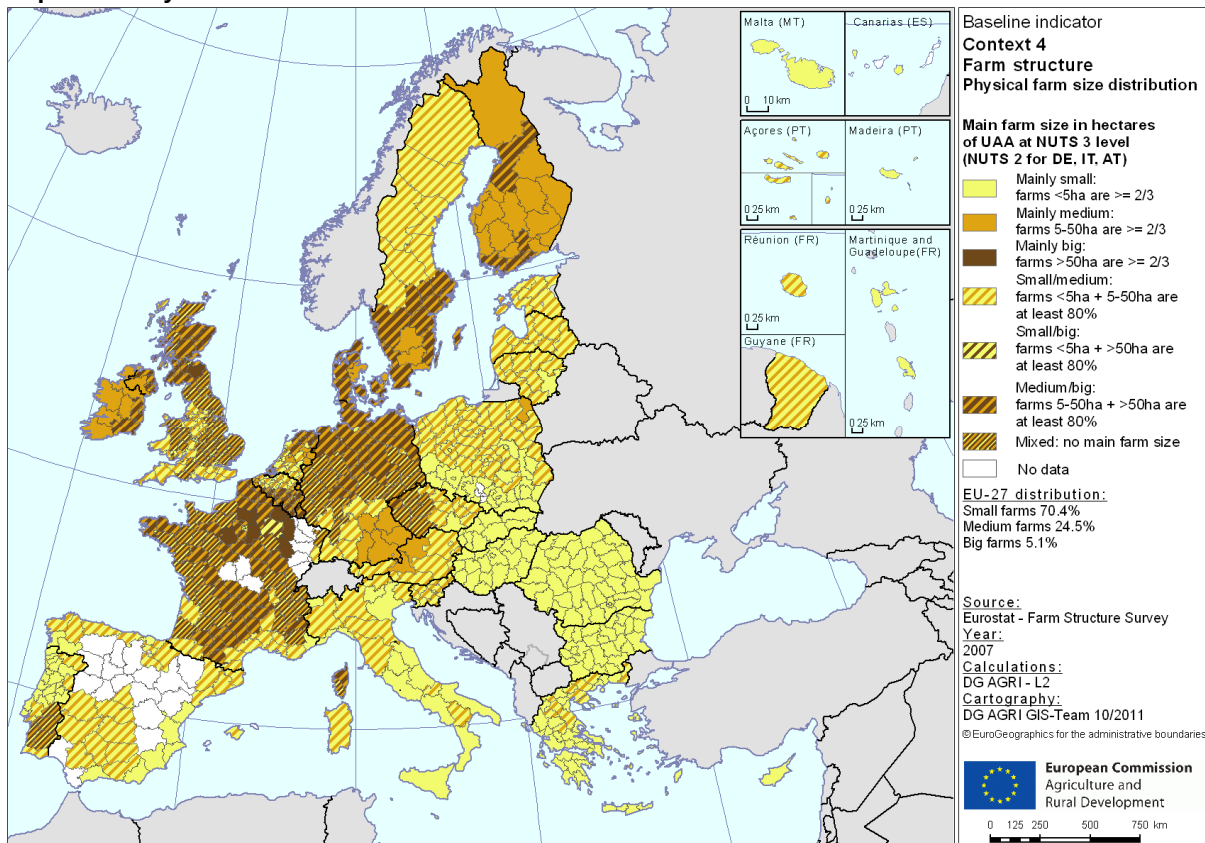
Map C4-3 - Labour force in AWU



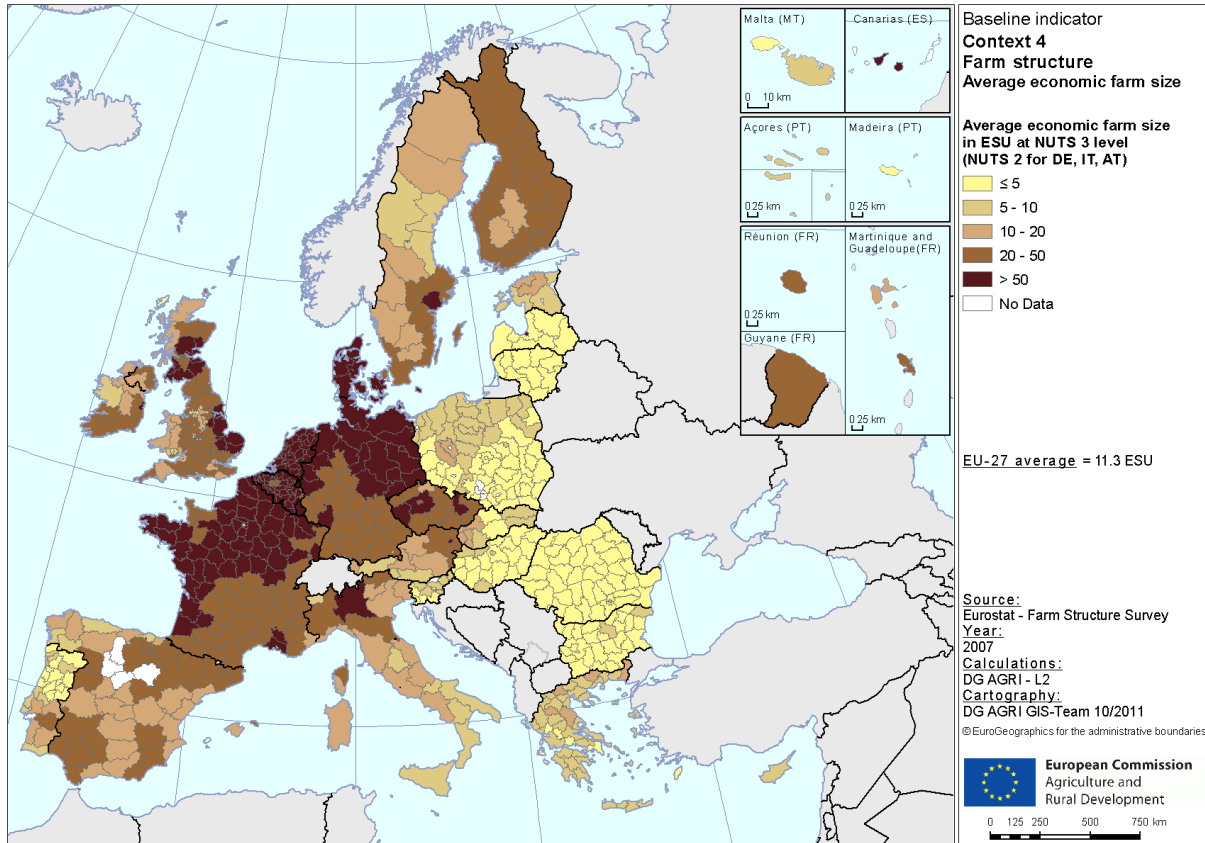
Map C4-4 - Average physical farm size



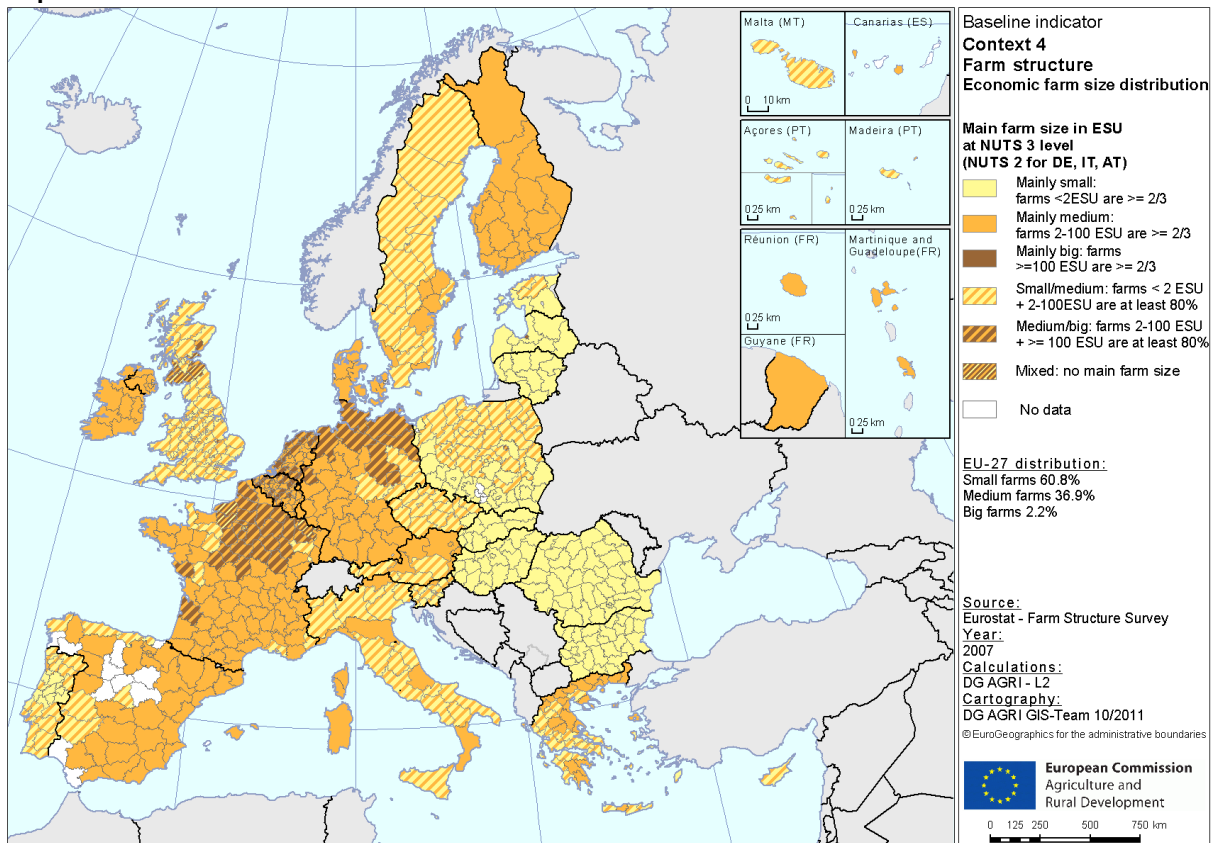
Map C4-5 - Physical farm size distribution



Map C4-6 - Average economic farm size



Map C4-7 - Economic farm size distribution



Baseline indicator for context	4 - Farm structure
Measurement of the indicator	<p>This indicator consists of five sub-indicators :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of farms - UAA - Labour force - Average physical farm size and distribution - Average economic farm size and distribution
Definition of the indicator	<p>The first three sub-indicators provide basic information on the total number of farms, ha of UAA and AWU for each EU Member State. Quantities are presented in absolute figures and serve as a basis for the calculation of the other sub-indicators.</p> <p>The average physical farm size (measured in ha of UAA per farm) gives information on the average size of a farm in one region, according to determined size classes.</p> <p>To minimise the effect of outliers which might influence the average data, the farm distribution by physical farm size classifies regions according to the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mainly small: farms with less than 5 ha of UAA represent at least two thirds of all farms; - mainly medium: farms from 5 to less than 50 ha of UAA represent at least two thirds of all farms; - mainly big: farms with at least 50 ha of UAA represent at least two thirds of all farms; <p>If none of the above conditions holds true, regions are classified according to the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small/medium: the sum of small (with less than 5 ha of UAA) and medium (from 5 to less than 50 ha of UAA) farms represents at least 80% of all farms; - small/big: the sum of small (with less than 5 ha of UAA) and big (with at least 50 ha of UAA) farms represents at least 80% of all farms; - medium/big: the sum of medium (from 5 to less than 50 ha of UAA) and big (with at least 50 ha of UAA) farms represents at least 80% of all farms; - mixed: none of the small, medium and big size classes represents more than two thirds of all farms and none of them summed up with another class represents at least 80% of all farms. <p>As for the physical farm size, the average economic farm size (measured in ESU per farm) gives information on the average size of a farm in one region, according to determined size classes.</p> <p>Also in this case, to minimise the effect of outliers which might influence the average data, the farm distribution by economic farm size classifies regions according to the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mainly small: farms with less than 2 ESU represent at least two thirds of all farms; - mainly medium: farms from 2 to less than 100 ESU represent at least two thirds of all farms; - mainly big: farms with at least 100 ESU represent at least two thirds of all farms; <p>If none of the above conditions is true, regions are classified according to the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small/medium: the sum of small (with less than 2 ESU) and medium (from 2 to less than 100 ESU) farms represents at least 80% of all farms; - small/big: the sum of small (with less than 2 ESU) and big (with at least 100 ESU) farms represents at least 80% of all farms; - medium/big: the sum of medium (from 2 to less than 100 ESU) and big (with at least 100 ESU) farms represents at least 80% of all farms; - mixed: none of the small, medium and big size classes represents more than two thirds of all farms and none of them summed up with another class represents at least 80% of all farms.
Unit of measurement	<p>Farms: number of farms UAA: number of ha Labour force: number of AWU Average physical farm size: ha/farm Average economic farm size: ESU/farm Distributions of farms according to physical and economic farm size classes: %</p>
Source	Eurostat – Farm Structure Survey 2007