Slovenian agriculture and rural areas in the post-accession period: achievements and challenges ahead

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“Achievements and challenges in the food sector and rural areas during the 10 years after the EU enlargement”
Agricultural and Rural areas in Slovenija Country Profile

- Alpine
- Jezersko
- Mediterranean
- Portorož
- Dinaric
- Krško polje
- Panonnian
- Prekmurje
### Some figures in comparison to Poland- 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Slovenia</th>
<th>Poland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Population</td>
<td>2 058 821</td>
<td>38 533 299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Area</td>
<td>20 273 km²</td>
<td>312 679 km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. GDP per capita</td>
<td>16 970</td>
<td>10 089</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Unemployment rate</td>
<td>11.1 %</td>
<td>10.7 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Exports of agricultural products</td>
<td>1.6 billion EUR</td>
<td>17.1 billion EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Imports of agricultural products</td>
<td>2.5 billion EUR</td>
<td>12.9 billion EUR</td>
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Source: EC, 2013
Background

- Before 1991
- After 1991 independent from FYR
- 2004 – accession to the EU (10 countries)
- 2007 – EURO currency
- framework programmes
- significant impact on agriculture
Pre- and post-accession EU instruments

The New Member States (NMS) accession to the EU has had a significant impact on their agricultural performance using multiple EU instruments.

e.g.: **SAPARD** (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development)

**ISPA** (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession)

**PHARE** (Programme for Community Aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe)

**FP** (Framework programmes)
Slovenian agriculture: financial aspects

CAP expenditure (1,000 eur) - 2012

1. Direct payments: **116,145.0**

2. Market measures: **8,778.4**
   - food programmes, fruit and vegetables, wine sector, pigmeat, eggs, poultry and other etc.

3. Rural development: **118,858.9**
Evolution of Slovenian administrative units

- **212 municipalities** (NUTS 5)
- **≈ 6,000 settlements**

- **12 statistical regions** (NUTS 3)
- **2 macroregions** (NUTS 2)
- The **impact of EU enlargement** on agriculture in the New Member States (NMS) has been one of the debated issues.

- The **10th anniversary** of accession is a good opportunity to analyse the achievements and challenges in the food sector and rural areas during the last 10 years after accession.
The present work attempts to provide insights about the implications of Slovenia’s accession for its agricultural sector and rural areas.
Material and Methods

- **Secondary data** especially from FAOSTAT, EU* (EUROSTAT), WorldBank, etc.

  *European Commission - Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development  Agricultural trade statistics 2002-2013*

- **Statistical descriptive analysis** and trends of different economic, social and environmental indicators in the period 2000-2013 based on the secondary data.
Economic indicators
Economic indicators

Share of agriculture in GDP (%) between 2000 and 2010

Economic indicators

Changes in the size of agricultural holding between 2000 and 2007

Size of agricultural holding:
- < 5ha
- 5 < 20 ha
- 20 < 50 ha
- >=50 ha

Source: Eurostat, 2013
Changes in the number of agricultural holdings and agricultural labour between 2000-2007

Index

No. of holdings (1000) | Total labour force (1000 AWU)

Source: Eurostat, 2013
Economic indicators

Accession has had impacts also on agro-food markets in general and prices in particular in the New Member States.
Environmental indicators
Share of arable land (\%)

Utilised agricultural area (ha)


UAA (ha)  Arable land (\%)  Permanent grassland and meadows (\%)  Permanent crops (\%)

Source: Eurostat, 2013
LFA (less favoured areas):
- the share of UAA in less favoured mountain areas is high: 69.5 %

Natura 2000 sites:
- the share of UAA is: 21.3 %

The HNV (high nature value farmland) in agricultural area is more than 60 %.

Source: EC, 2013
Environmental indicators

Organic farming

- Utilised agricultural area (ha)
- Organic crop area (% of total UAA)

- Share of total organic crop area out of total UAA (%)

Source: Eurostat, 2013
Social indicators
Social indicators

Rural vs. urban

Rural population (% of total population) for Slovenia from 2000 to 2012. The graph shows a gradual decrease in rural population as the urban population increases. The source of the data is Eurostat, 2013.
Farmer’s education

Social indicators

Index 2010/05

50 80 110 140 170

Basic training
Practical experience only
Full agricultural training

SLO
EU-27

Source: Eurostat, 2013
Farmer’s education and farmer’s age

Source: Eurostat, 2013
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)

Employees, agriculture, female (% of female employment)

Employees, agriculture, male (% of male employment)

Take-home messages

- In general, the accession had a **positive impact** upon the agricultural sector as it resulted in a consolidation of production, higher current prices, higher export and import quantities and especially higher farmers’ incomes.

- There are **differences** among the NMS besides the overall positive picture. This diversity is due, *inter alia*, to: initial conditions, pre-accession policies, post-accession policies and the way of implementing CAP, and macro policy and institutional environment.
The EU membership has made NMS part of a large, rather competitive market, which offers tremendous opportunities for the agricultural sector but, at the same time, national agricultural sectors are faced with a significantly increased competition in their domestic markets.

It seems that the countries with consolidated farm structure (e.g. Poland, Slovenia) adjusted faster and more effectively to the demand of enlarged markets than countries emerging from painful land reform and farm restructuring processes.
Take-home messages

- EU membership has led to a **significant increase of subsidies** received by the farmers so the increase of farmers’ income. However, support is not evenly distributed and small farmers are handicapped in many ways.
General Suggestions

- Accession effects have had been mixed results.

- There are still many challenges that should be addressed by all New Member States to move towards a competitive, environmentally-friendly and sustainable agriculture sector, economically vibrant rural economies and socially inclusive rural communities.
CALL FOR BEST PRACTICES – EXPO Milano 2015
International Call for Best Sustainable Development Practices on food security

Invitation for joining the International Network for Research and Innovation on Food Security

www.feedingknowledge.net

Five research and innovation priorities for food security:
• Sustainable natural resources management;
• Quantitative & qualitative enhancement of crop products;
• Socio-economic dynamics and global markets;
• Sustainable development of small rural communities in marginal areas;
• Food consumption patterns: diet, environment, society, economy and health.
Horizon 2020 is open to everyone. For this purpose, MedSpring project intends to facilitate the process of partnership building in specific call-topics through an ad-hoc on-line brokerage event.

Find out how you can get involved: choose your topics, submit your data and build your partnership!

If you need any help, please contact us at: agora@medspring
Thank you for your attention!

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