Rural Support Service
Republic of Latvia

Paying agency – transparency and efficiency of fund disbursement as a core criterion for EU membership

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About RSS

Clients - ~72,000

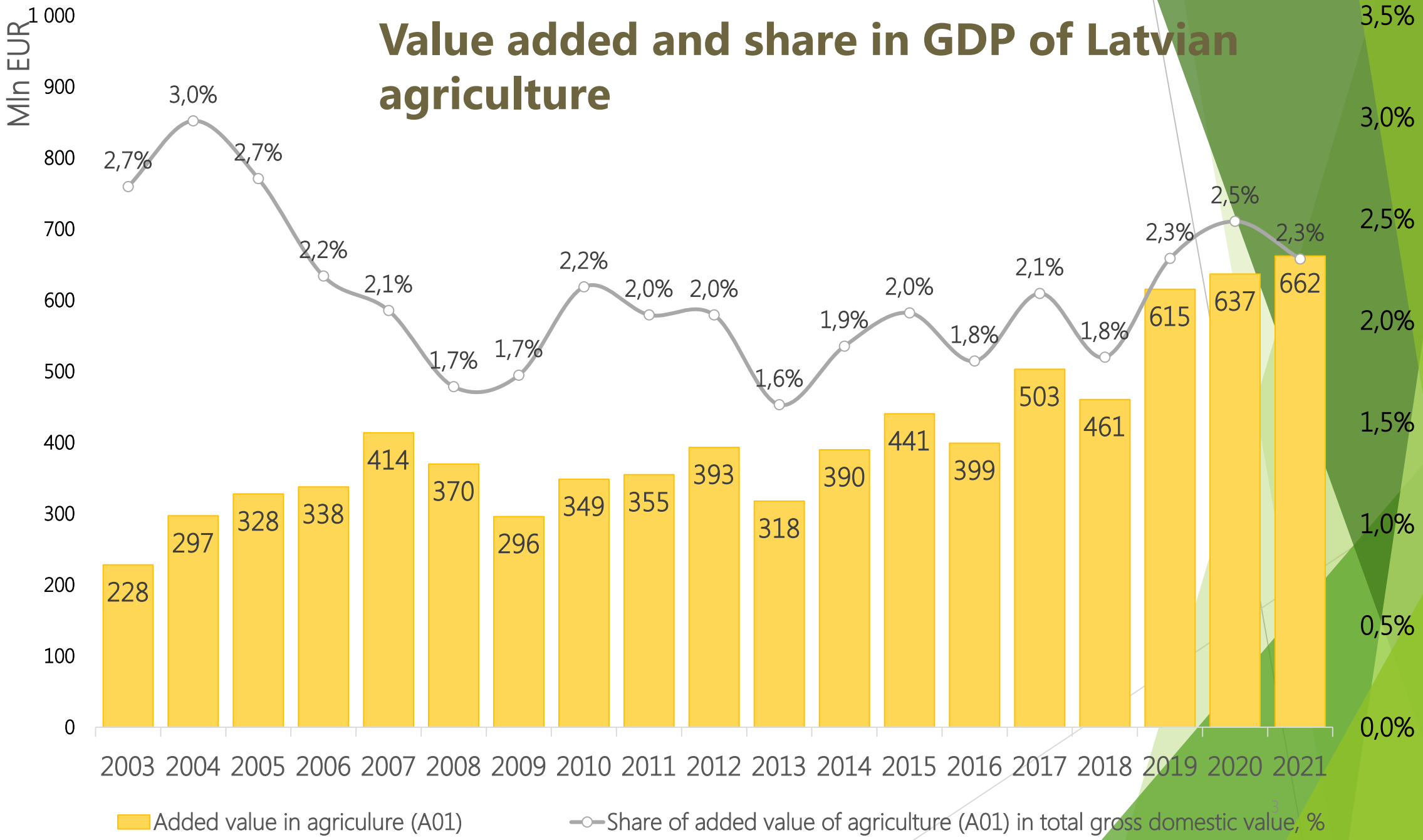
Hectares - ~1,72 mln.

Aid shemes – 95

Transactions – ~400,000

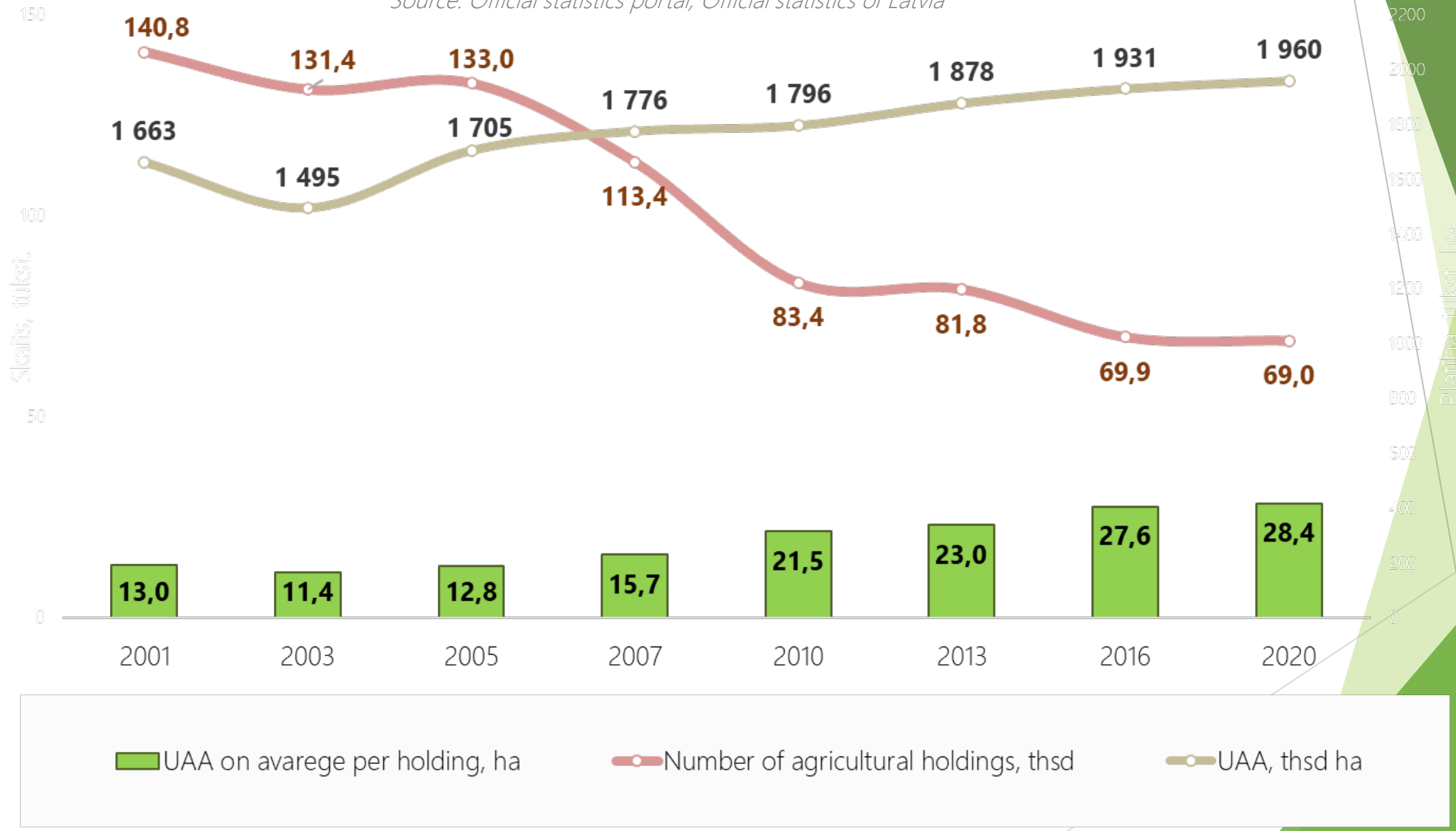
Yearly paid support > 600 mln. EUR

Value added and share in GDP of Latvian agriculture

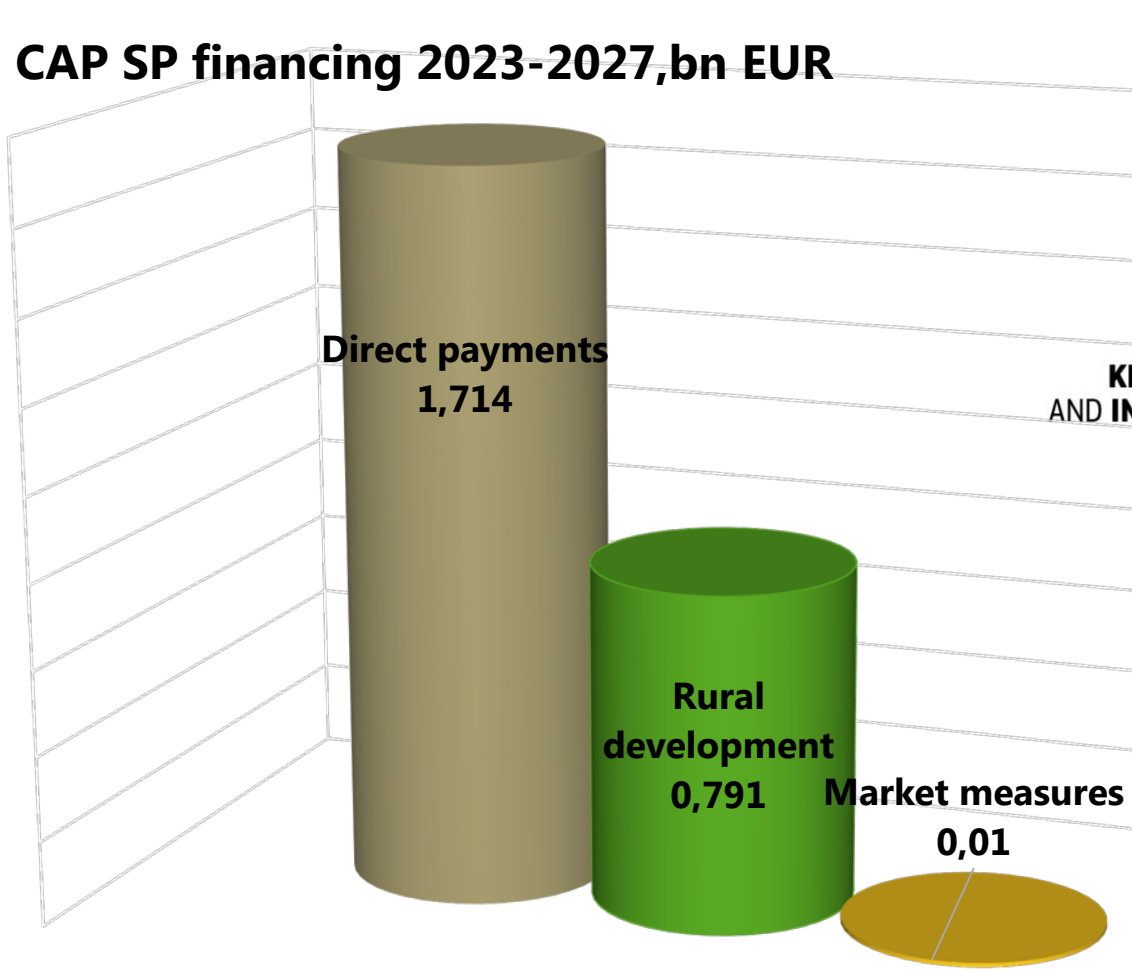


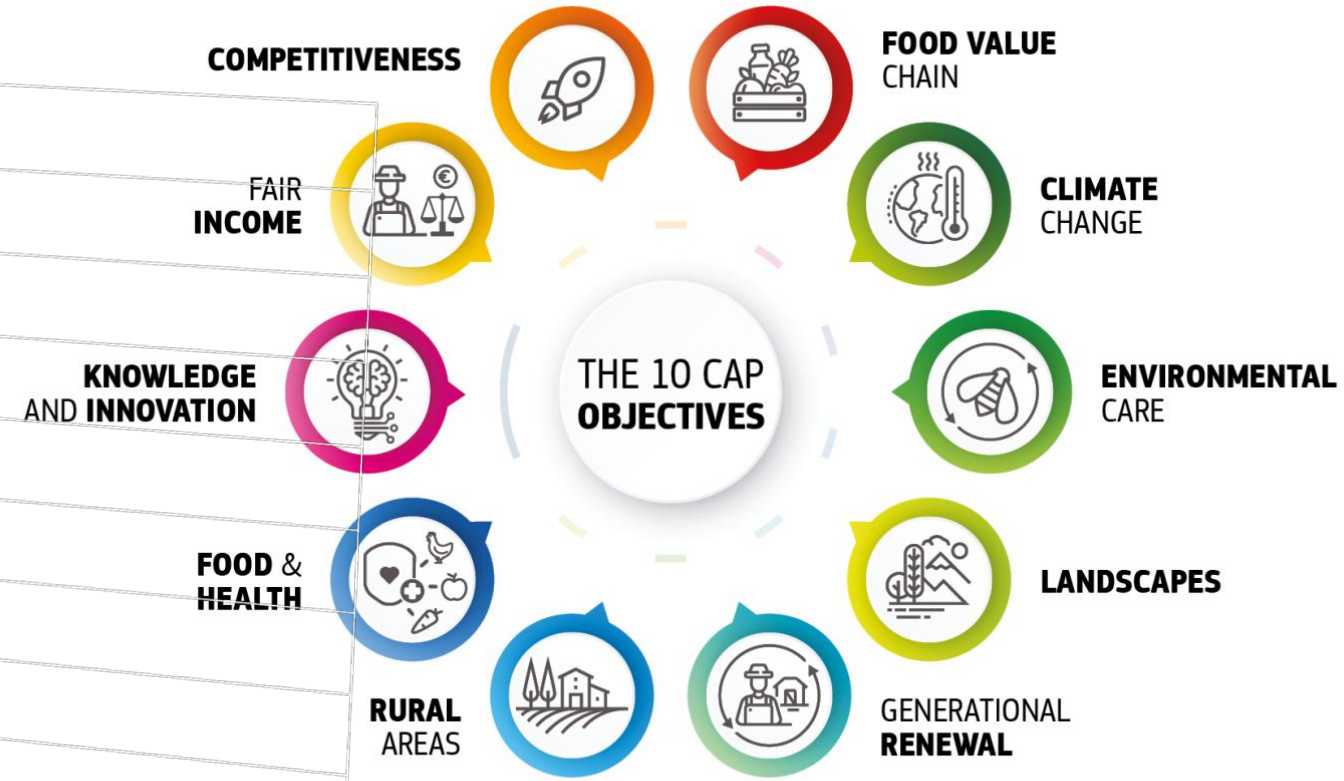
Number of agricultural holdings and utilised agricultural land (UAA)

Source: Official statistics portal, Official statistics of Latvia

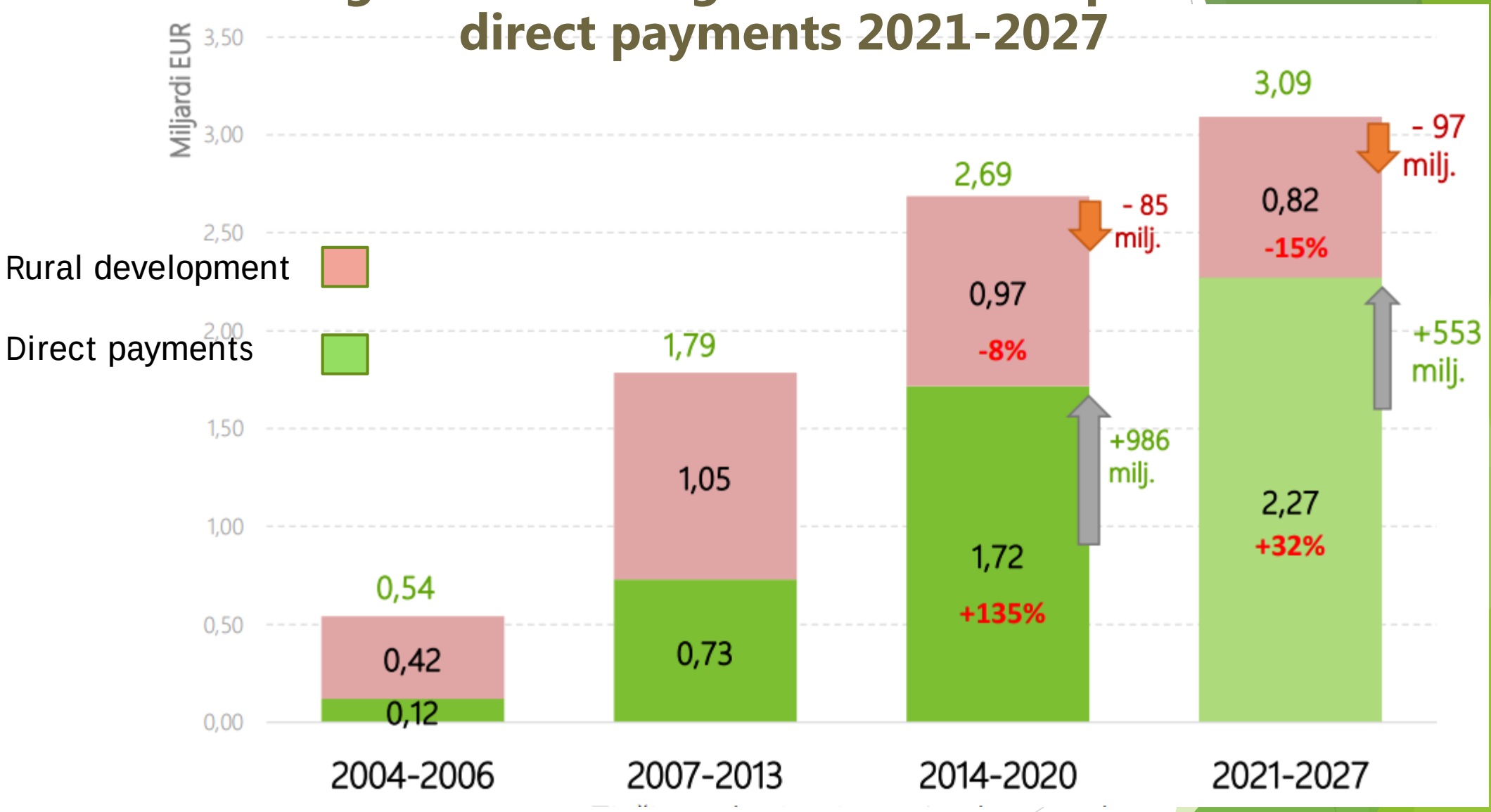


CAP Latvia` s Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027





Changes in financing of rural development and direct payments 2021-2027



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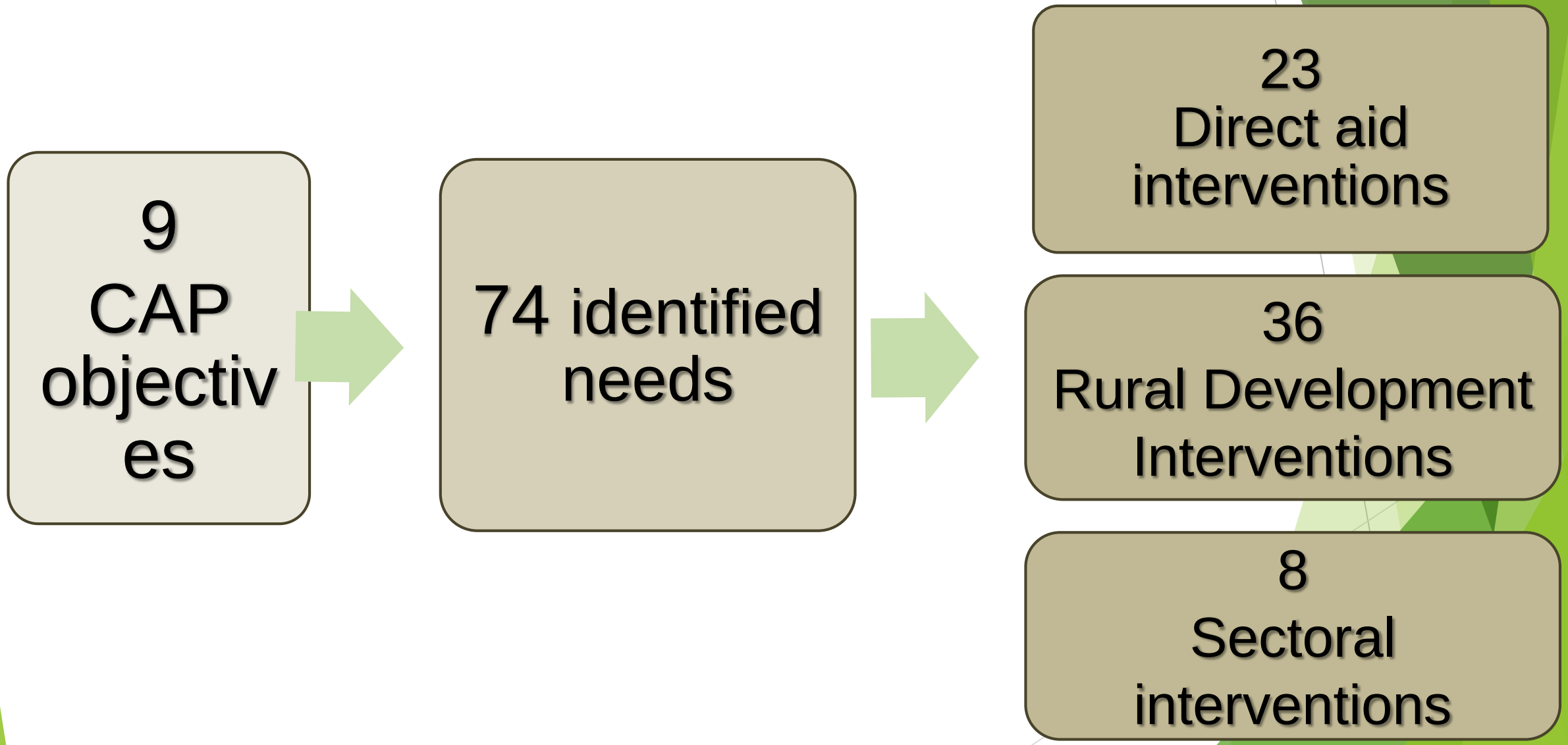


Institutions involved in management of EAFRD

- Managing authority – Ministry of Agriculture
  - developing RDP
  - developing national legal acts
  - organising Monitoring Comittees
- Paying Agency – Rural Support Service
  - Payment approval
  - Execution of payments
  - Keeping records
- Certifying institution - KPMG

RSS administers the EU and state support for rural development, agriculture, forestry and fisheries:

- Accepts and assesses project applications
- Makes decisions on allocation or rejecting of financing
- Keeps records of the granted financing and controls the use of it

Establishement of RSS

- Availability of preacession assistance for candidate countries – SAPARD (2000-2006)
- Need to seperate policy making from administration
- Need to establish independent institutions:
  - Managing authority – Ministry of Agricylture
  - National competent authority – Ministry of Finance
  - Paying authority – Rural Support Service
  - Certification body – independent external institution

South Vidzeme Regional Agricultural Departament
North Kurzeme Regional Agricultural Departament
North - Eastern Regional Agricultural Departament
Central unit
Lielriga Regional Agricultural Departament
South Kurzeme Regional Agricultural Departament
Zemgale Regional Agricultural Departament
East Latgale Regional Agricultural Departament
Midland Regional Agricultural Departament
South Latgale Regional Agricultural Departament

Accreditation of RSS

- Follow strict EU requirements (stricter than for EU countries)
- Accreditation done by EU auditors (three accreditation audits)

- Approval of payment function: accept, assess and control projects, make decisions about payments
- Execution of payments: payments to beneficiaries
- Accounting for payment : ensure reliable accounting

- «Four eye principle»
- Separation of functions

Accreditation of RSS

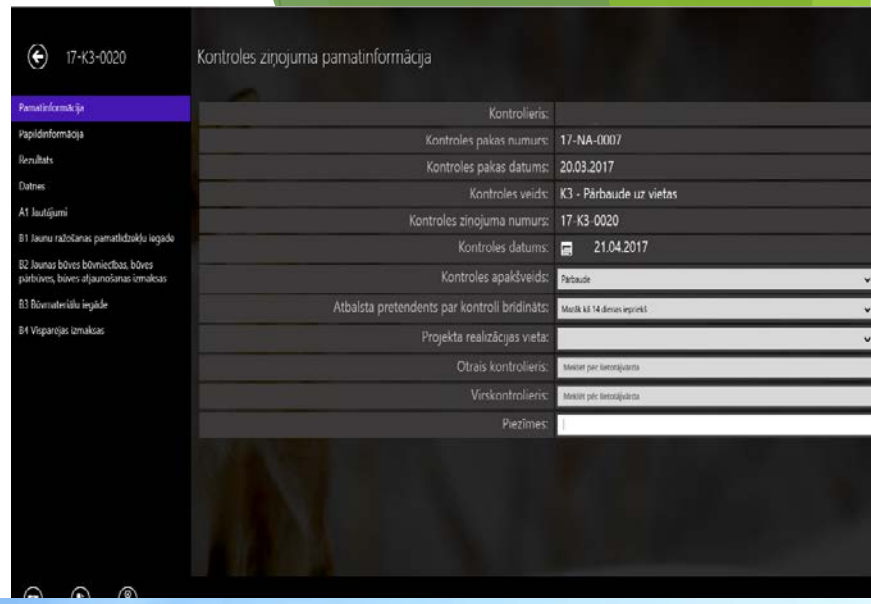
- Audit trail
  - Implement strict procedures for each function in written form
  - Each decision is supported by control sheet filled and signed by responsible employee
- Initially no IT system needed
- Establishement of regional structure with 9 offices

Information system of RSS

- Developed since 2003 to administrate EAFRD, EMFF, EAGGF, state aids etc.
- Developer is outsourced IT company
- Annually administrate more than 300 000 applications
- 400,000 financial transactions
- Data ~ 3 TB
- App forms ~7 000, buttons ~26 500
- 12 web services with other IS
- 600 internal users
- E-application system (external) ~70 000 users
- Implementation of Area Monitoring System

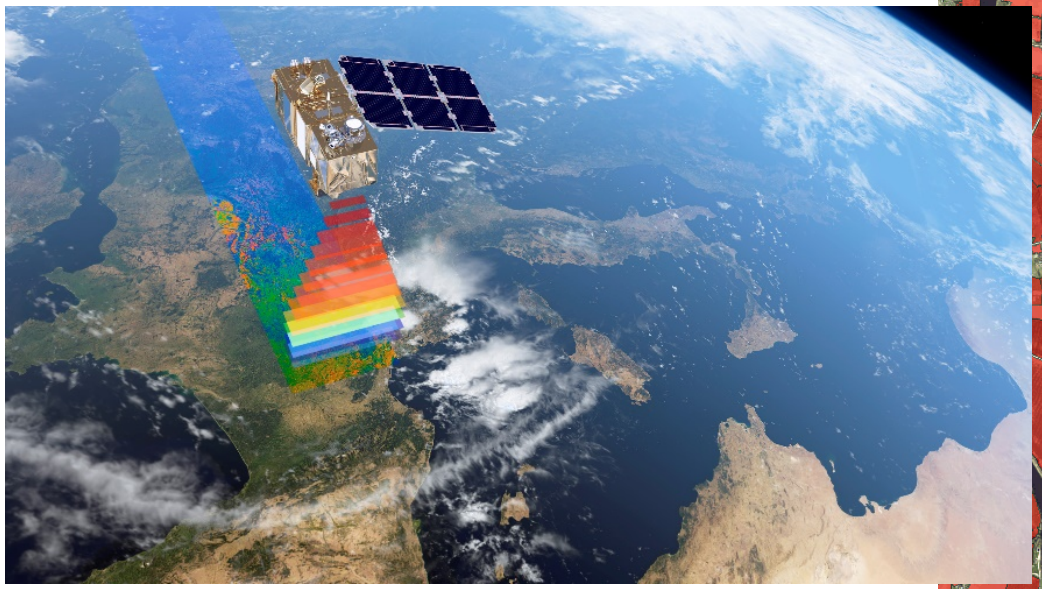
Mobile controls

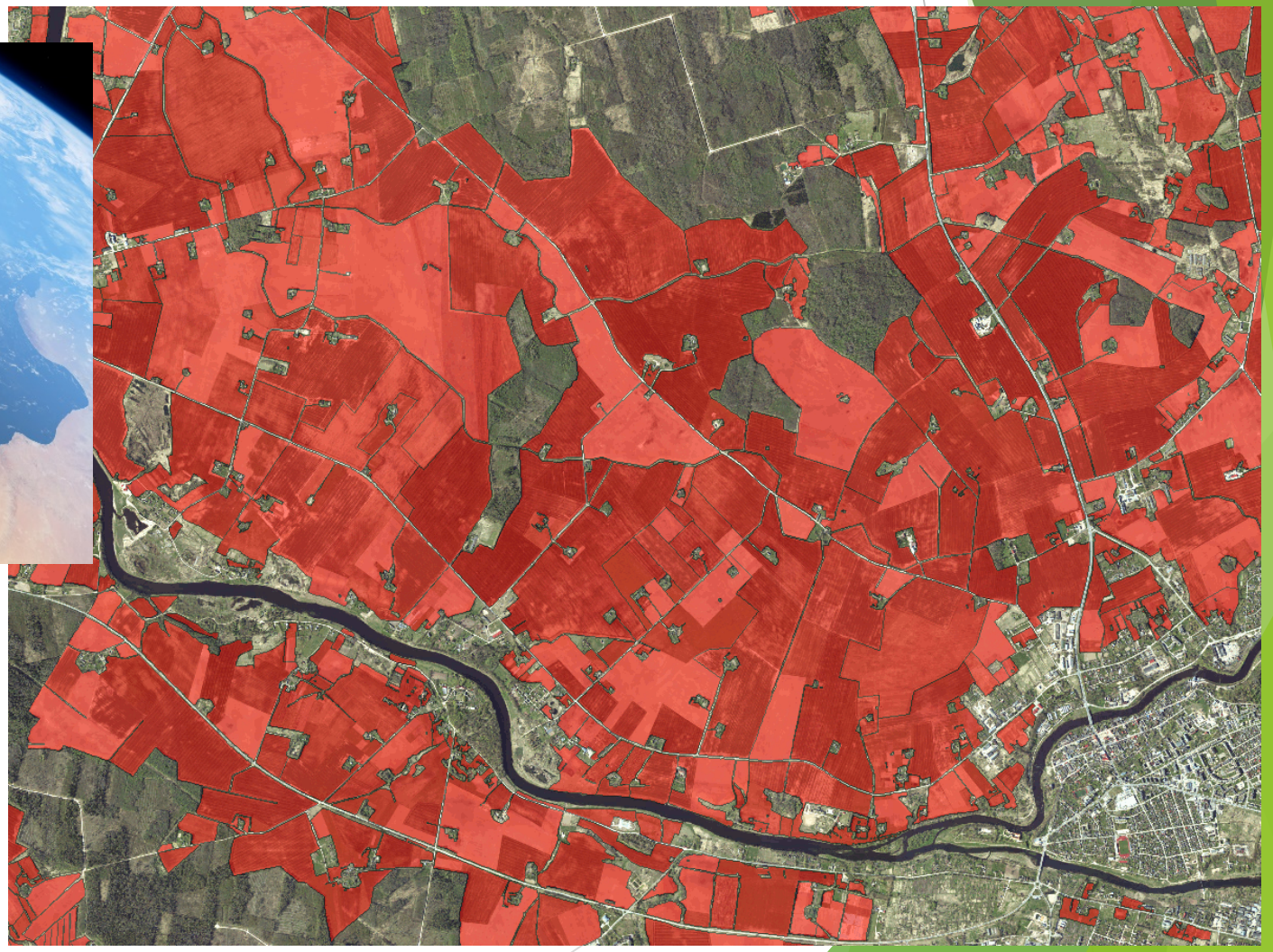
- Mobile application for on-the-spot controls by using *Tablets*
- While performing the control all the paper work (information about the project, control sheets, etc.) is electronically available
- The mobile application is connected to all RSS IT system and subsystems, the cross-checks could be performed on the spot
- The photos are fixed with coordinates
- At the end of mobile control the control report is generated
- Benefits – traceability, time, effectiveness



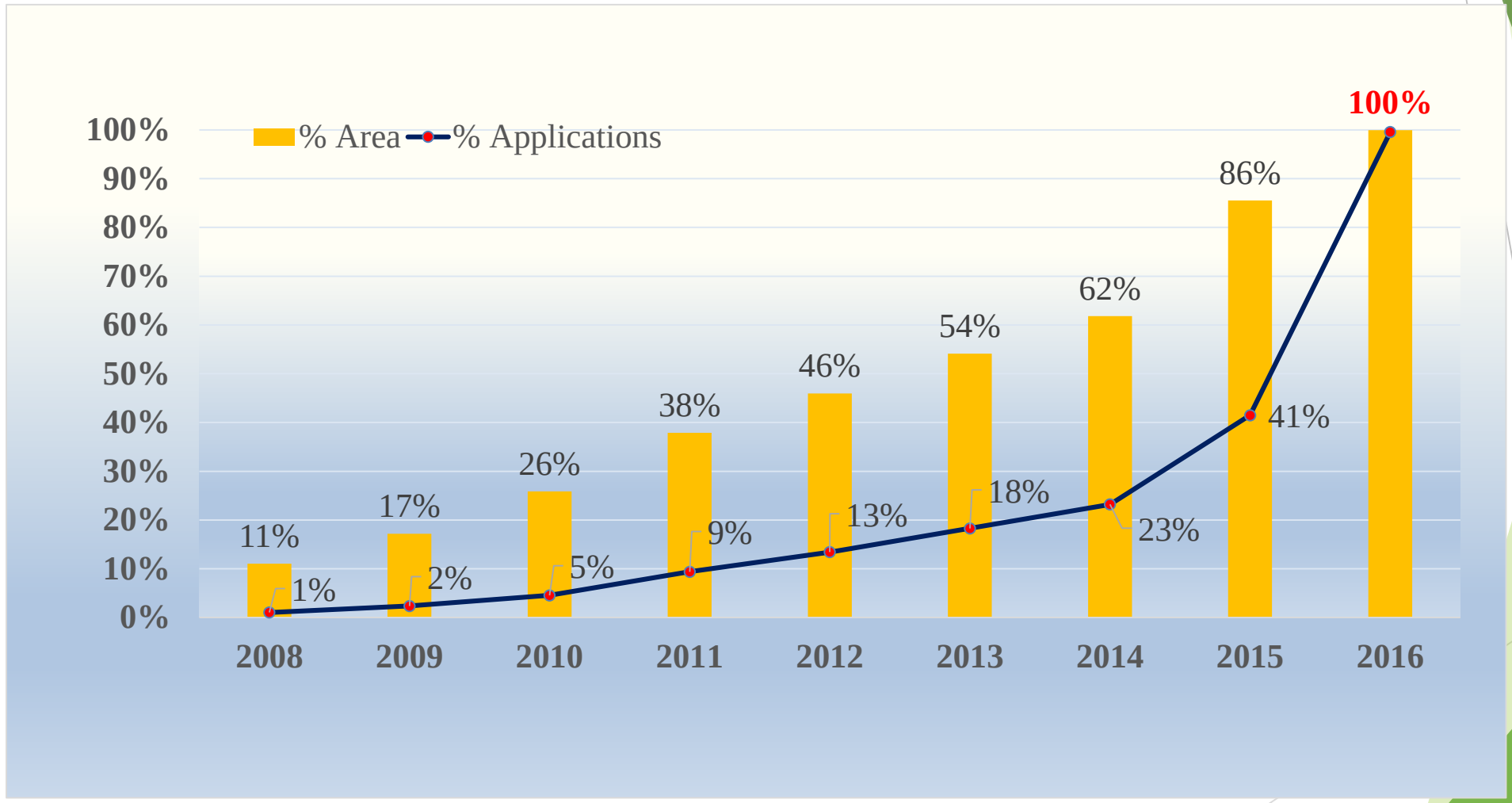
Use of drones in the control of investments and area payments

Area Monitoring System
Detection of crops and activity by satelite imagery





Digitalisation – use of electronic application system



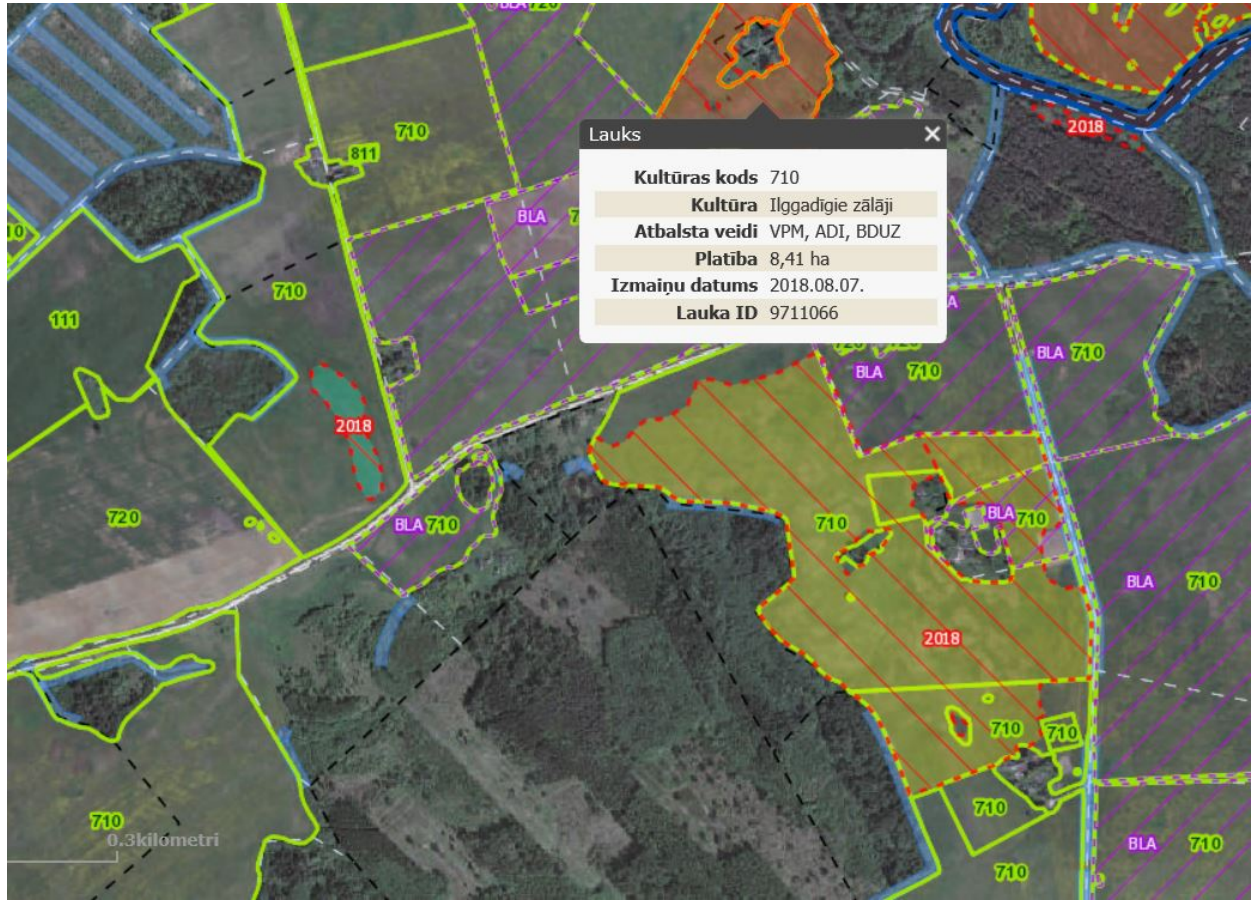
Area of automatisation – «green corridor» principle

- Many applications are similar and can be standardised
- IT systems have inbuilt checks – less errors possible
  - IACS – Integrated administration and control system
  - Project management system
- Human eye can not find more errors than is done allready by IT system
- Possible for direct payments as well as for projects

Green corridor in the evaluation of direct payments

- Different GIS layers
- Preprepared application template
- IT checks during application process: warnings and guidance to farmers
- About 67% of applications go to payments without human evaluation

Open data - Land Parcel Identification System public map



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Thank you for your attention!

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