



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

ESPON Forum on Sustainable Urbanisation and Land-use Practices.

Lithuania spin-off

Erblin Berisha

Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning
(Politecnico di Torino)

erblin.berisha@polito.it

// ESPON SUPER spin-off Lithuanian case study

Table of content

0_Starting point - Main policy questions of spin-off

1_Methodological protocol – how to apply the SUPER GUIDE to a real context

2_Data and trends (drivers, land use change)

3_Inteventions

4_Contextual land use challenges

5_Policy recommendations - How to achieve sustainable urbanization



Set of policy questions to be addressed

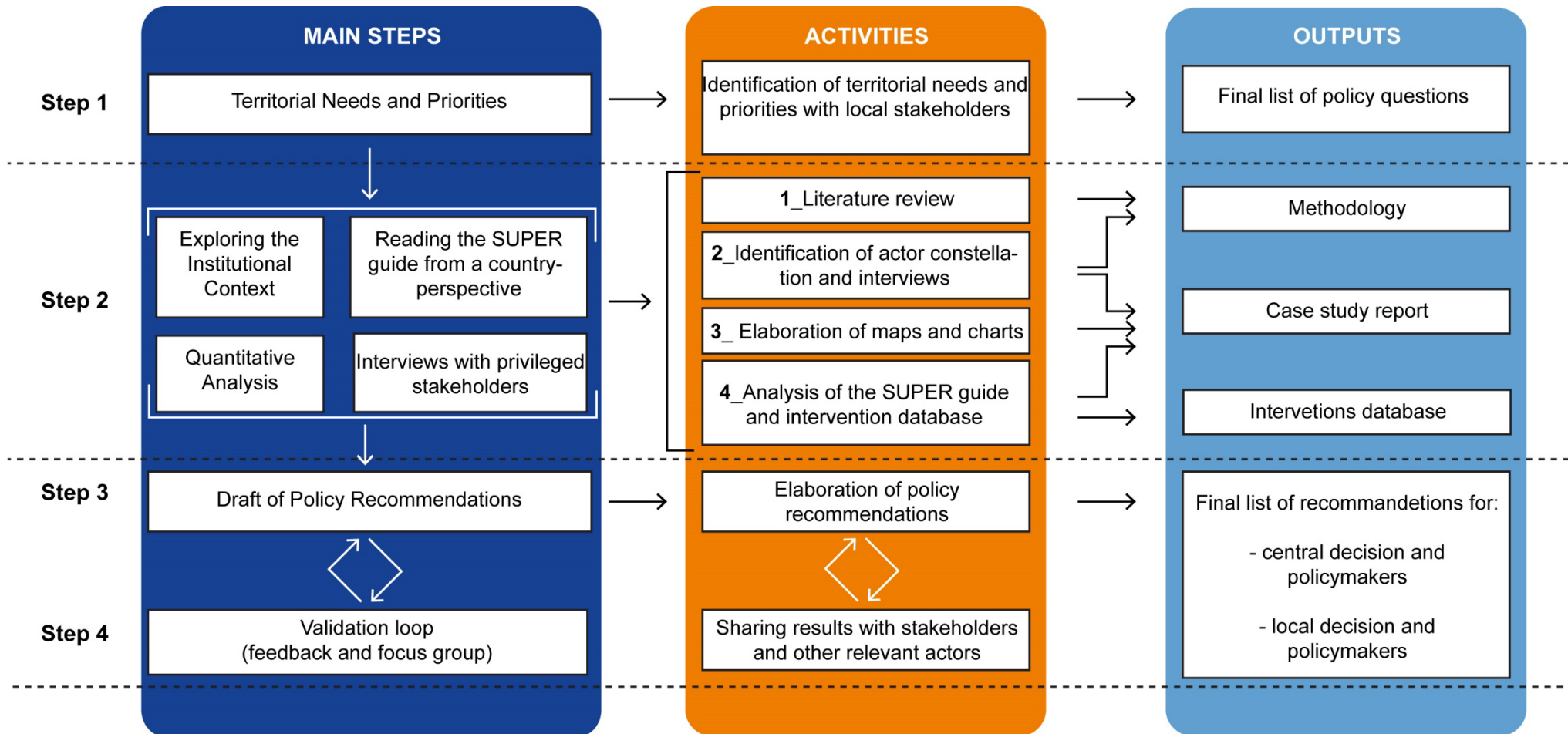
Starting point

- 1- What does the current Lithuanian land use look like?
- 2 - Which externalities play a significant role in the Lithuanian context?
- 3 - How to deal with contradictory policies?
- 4 - What successful instruments to contain urban sprawl could be used in the CPRL?
- 5 - What are the policy implications for CPRL (instruments to contain urban sprawl, success factors)?
- 6 - What specific insights from the SUPER project could be used for the further development of the CPRL?

1

Methodological Protocol

How to apply the SUPER Guide to a real context

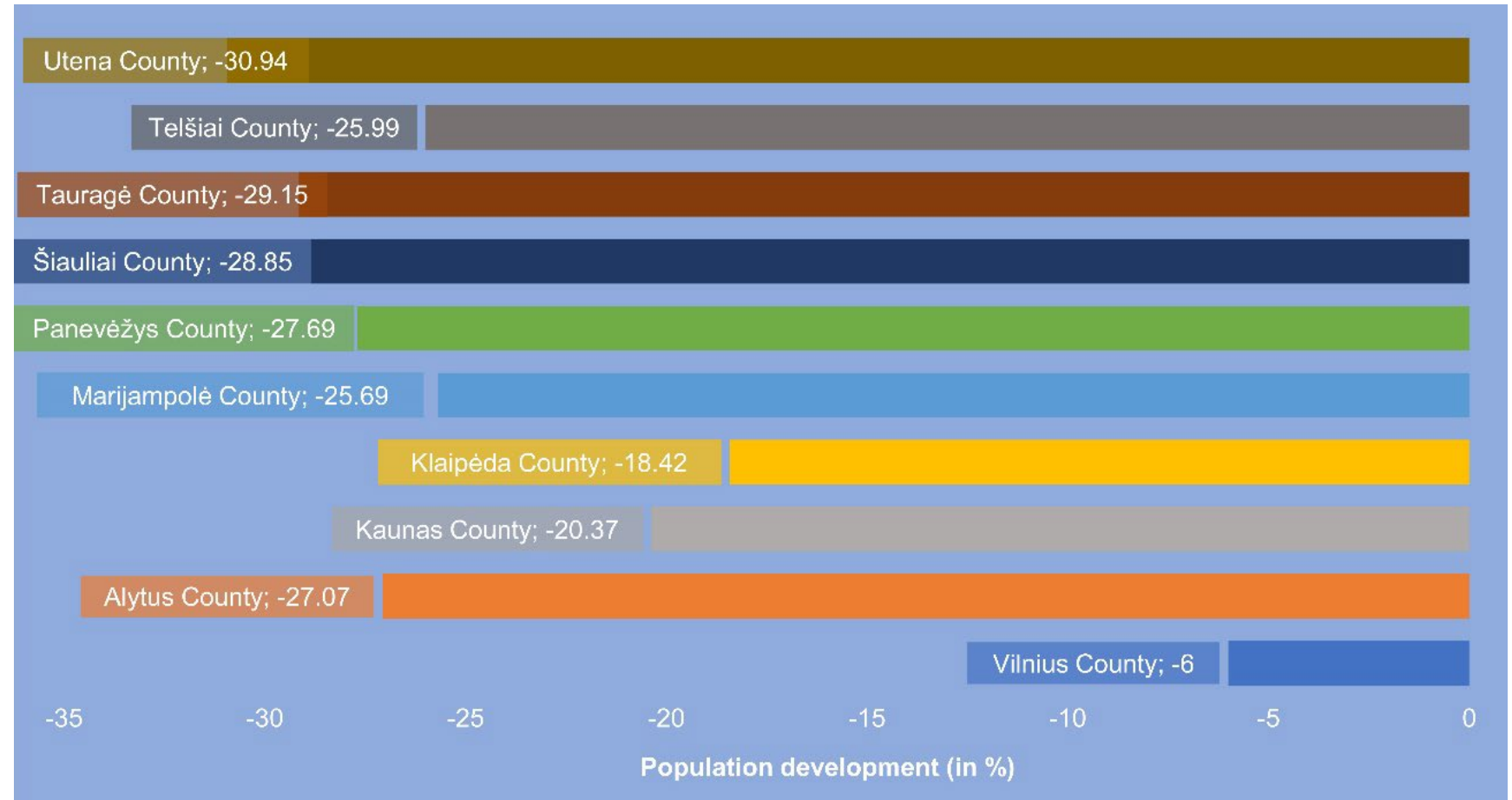


2

Data and trends of land use in Lithuania

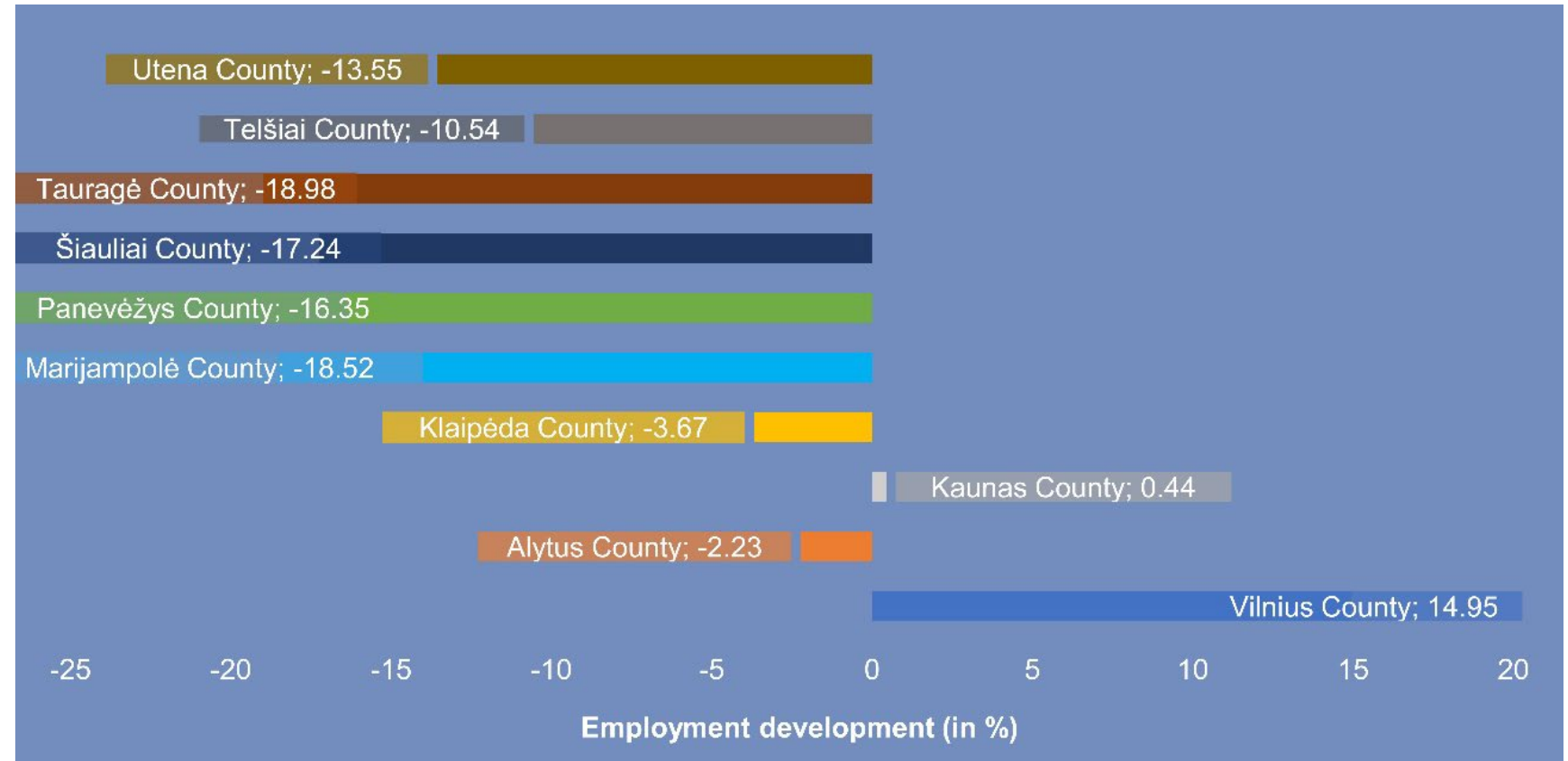
Main drivers of land use change

Long term **population development** in Lithuania (2000-2018)



Main drivers of land use change

Long term
**development of
employment in
Lithuania (2000-2016)**



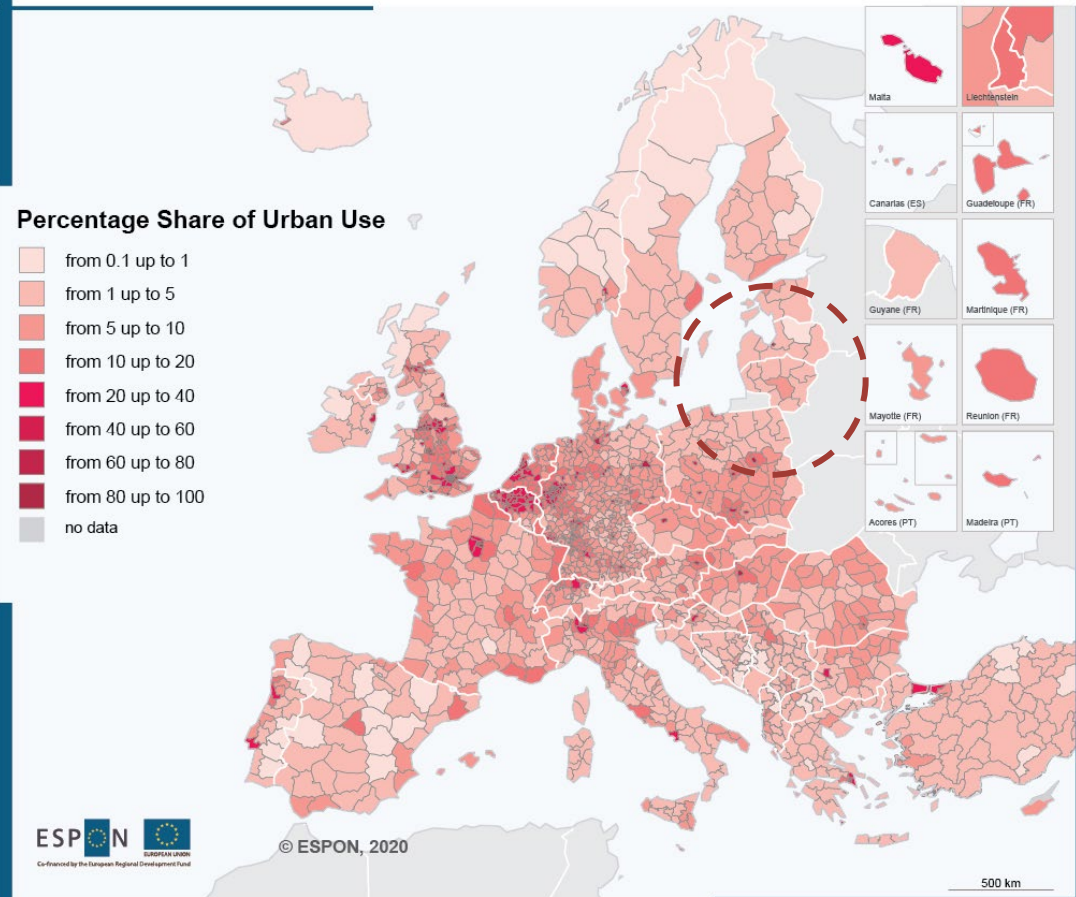
Land use change

Lithuania is one of the least urbanised countries in Europe. All Lithuanian counties have less than 5% urban use except Kaunas County, which is still under 10%.



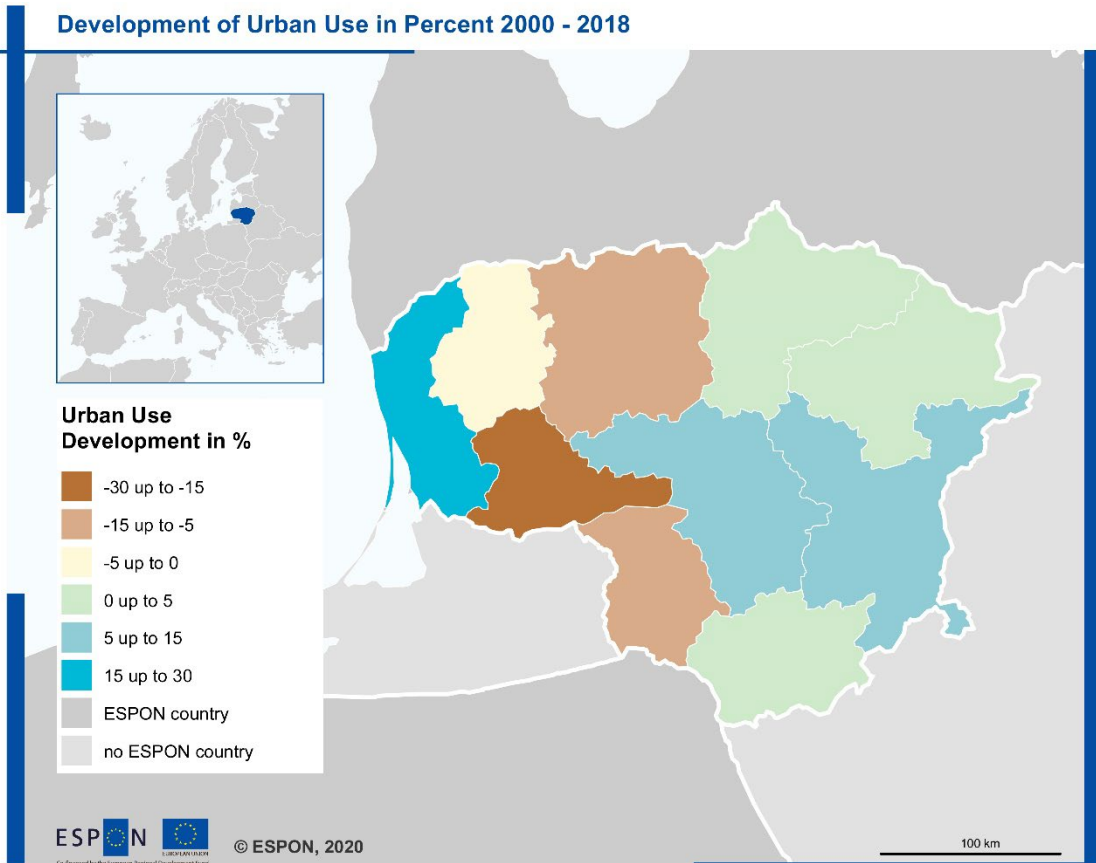
Share of Urban Use 2018

Percentage Share of Urban Use



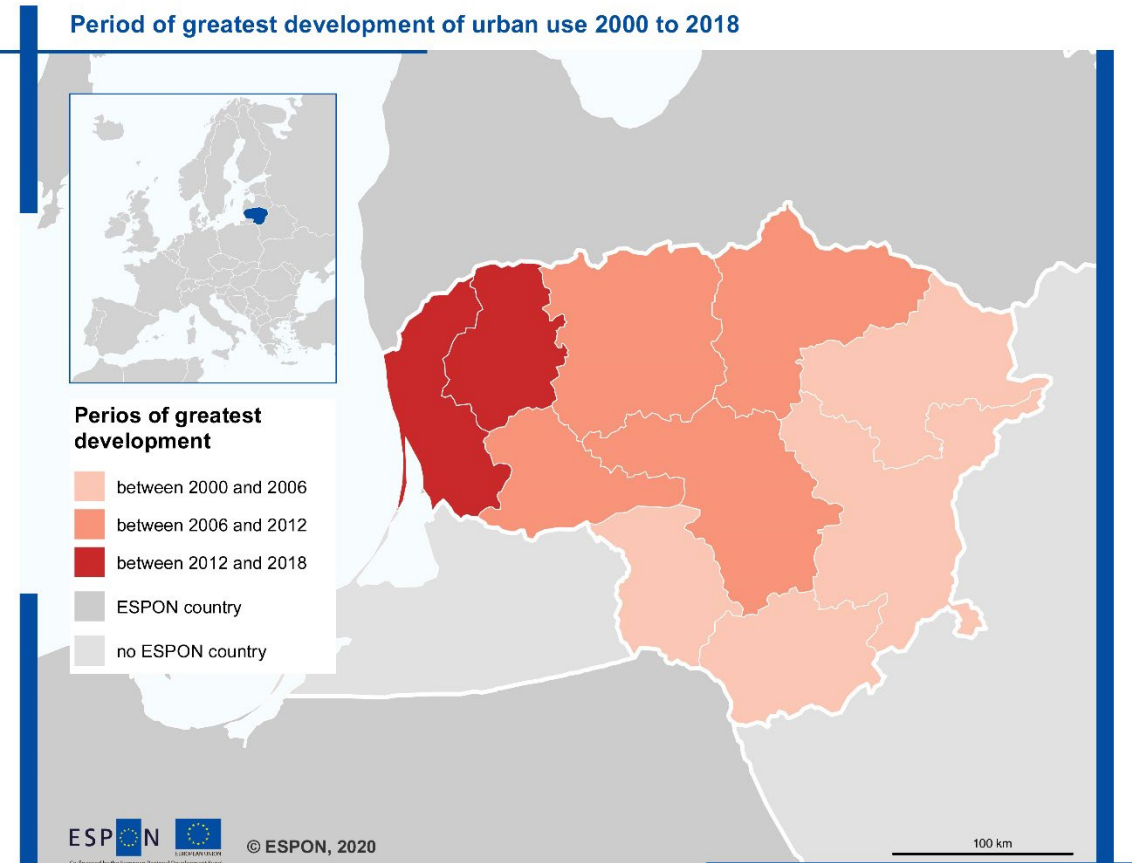
Land use change

Long-term development of urban use in Lithuania
2000 - 2018



Territorial level: NUTS 3 (version 2016)
Source: ESPON SUPER, 2020
Origin of data: Corine Landcover, 2019
© UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

Period of greatest development of urban use in
Lithuania, 2000 - 2018

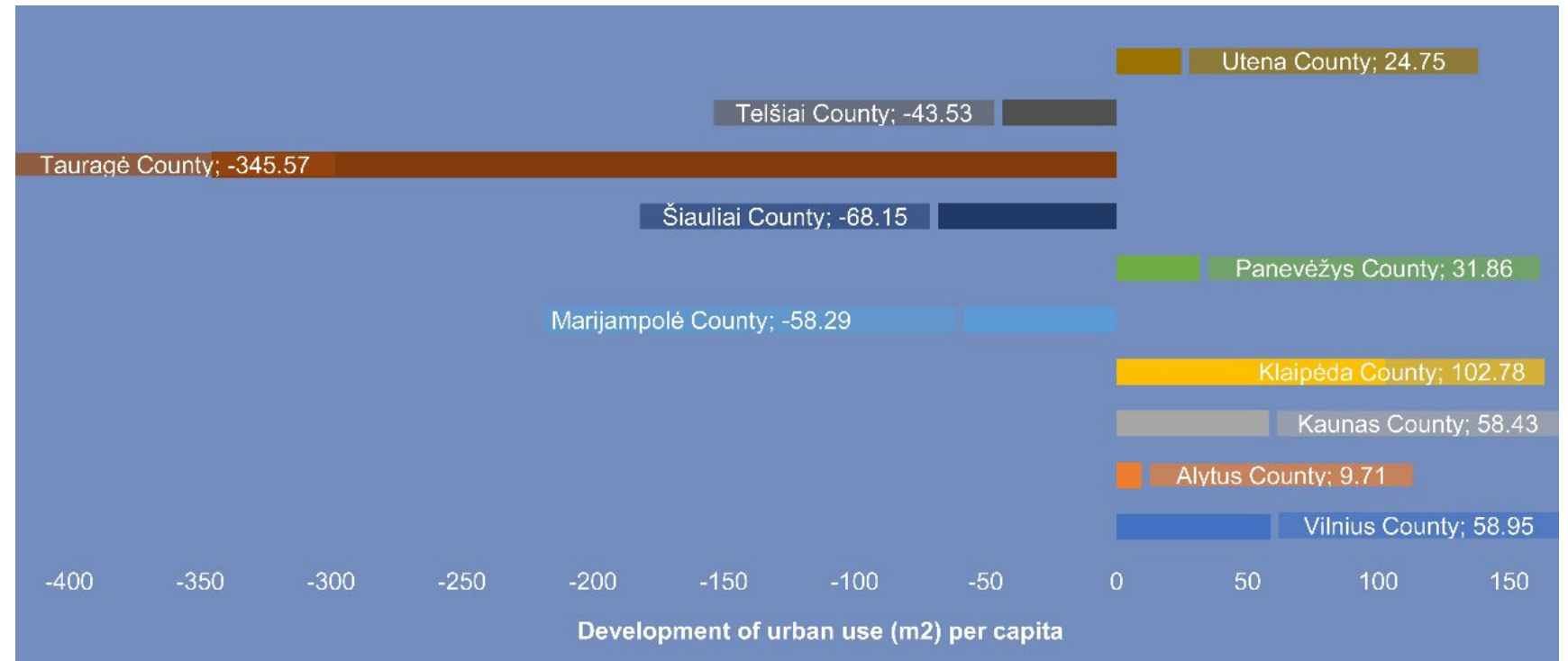


Territorial level: NUTS 3 (version 2016)
Source: ESPON SUPER, 2019
Origin of data: Corine Landcover CHA data 2019
© UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

Land use change

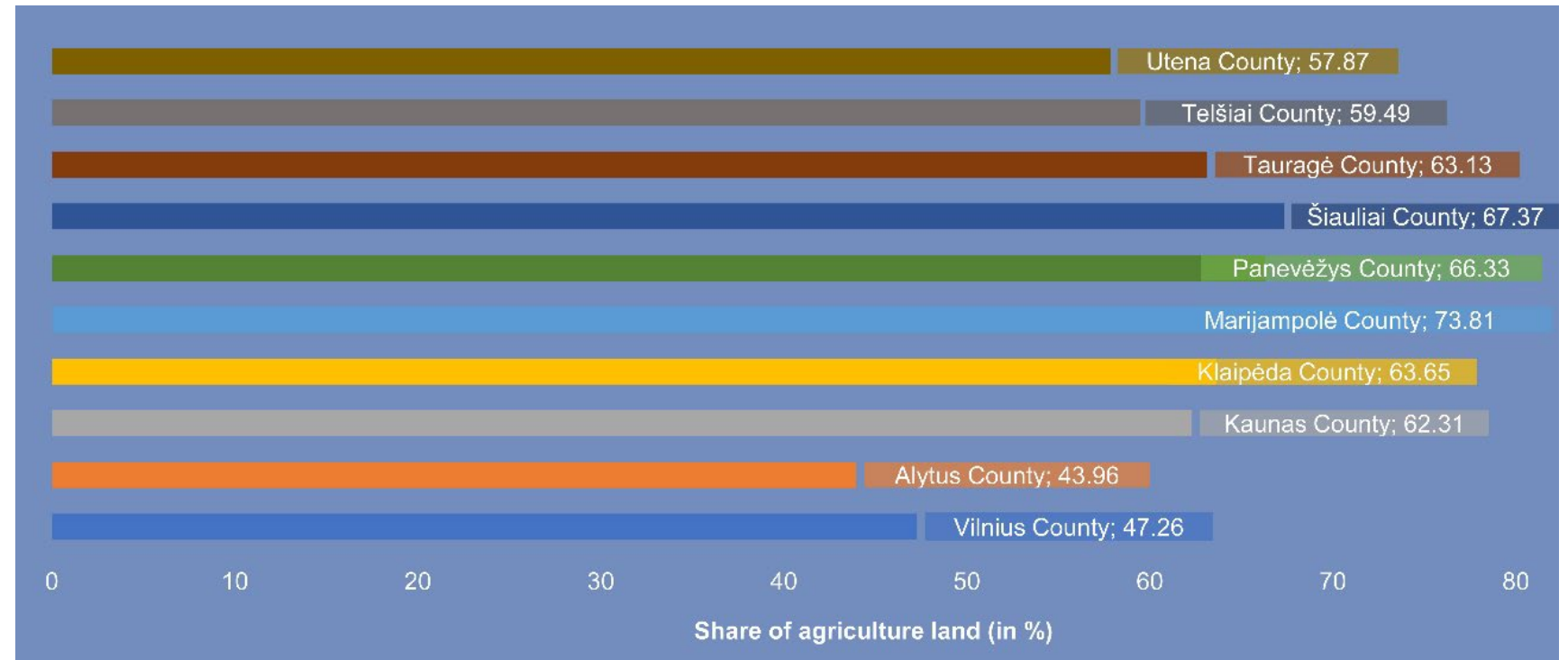
Development of **Urban Use per capita** in Lithuania, 2000 – 2018

6 out of 10 counties gained more urban land than population, while this was the opposite for the remaining 4 counties.



Non urban land use change

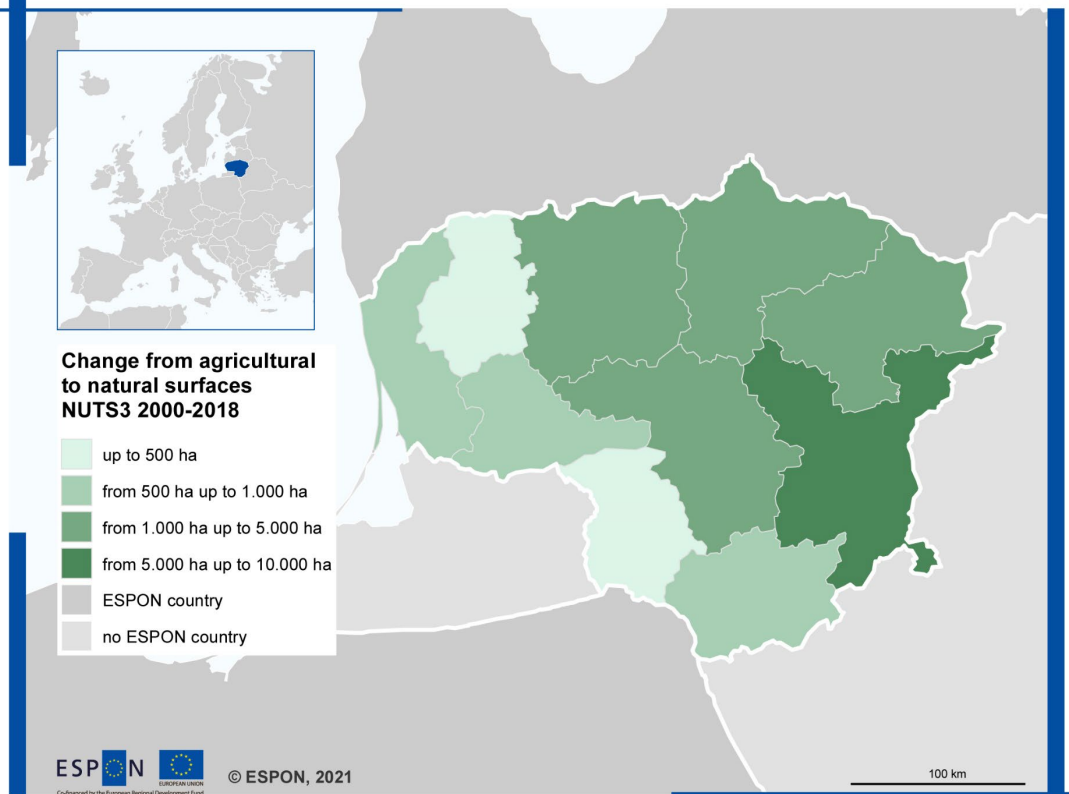
Share of agriculture areas in Lithuania, 2018



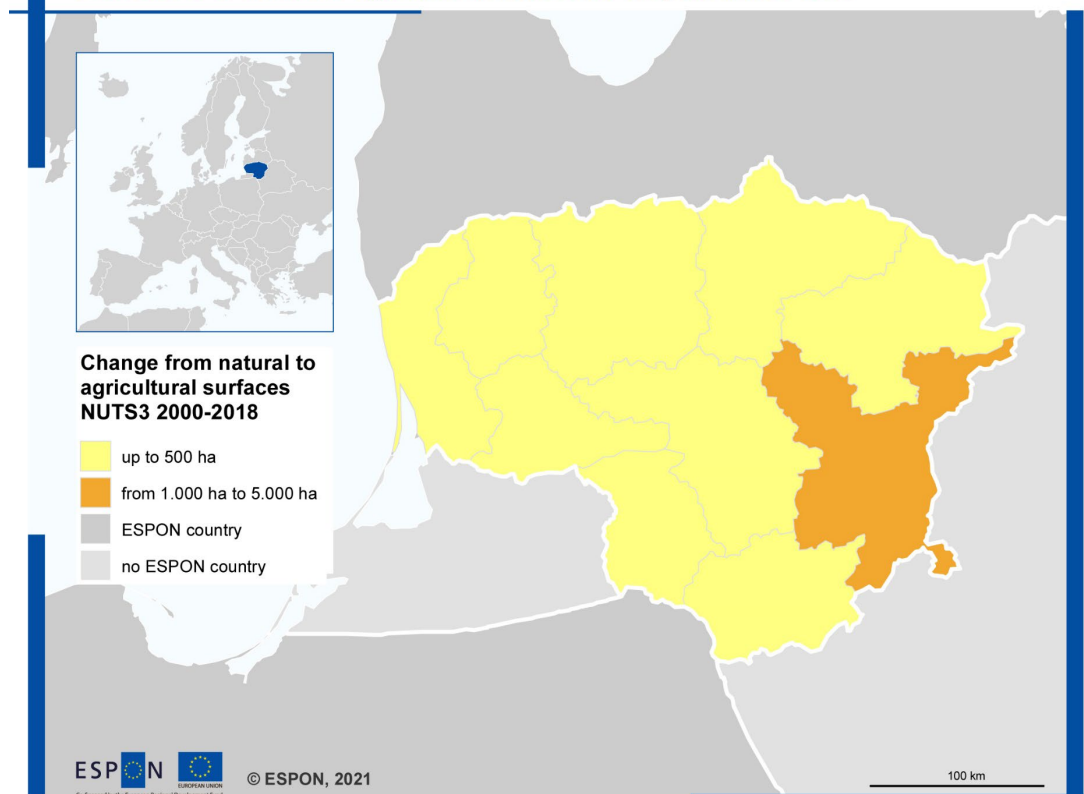
Non urban land use change

Conversion of agricultural to natural surface and vice versa in Lithuania, 2000 - 2018

Conversion of agricultural to natural surfaces in the period 2000-2018

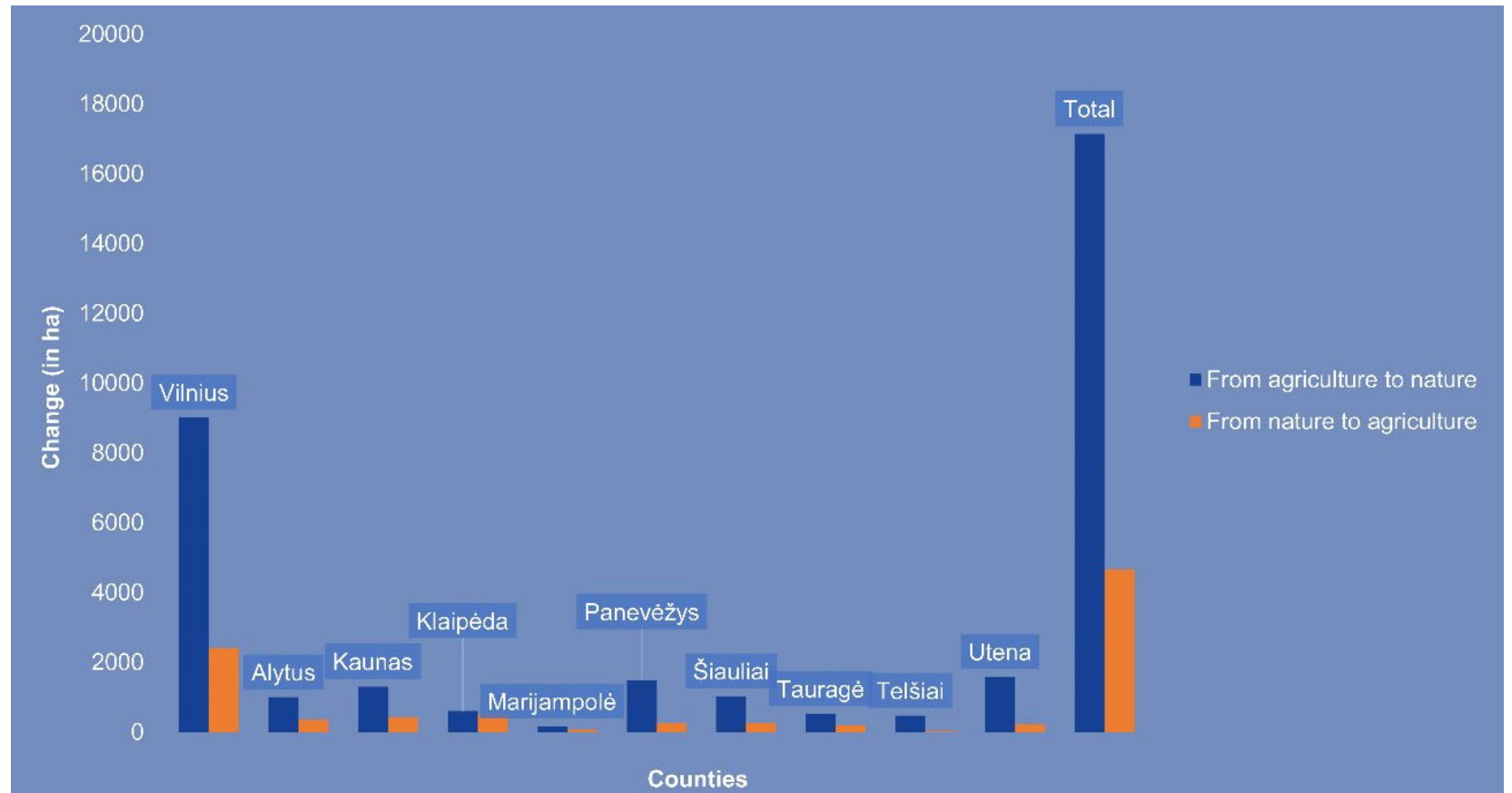


Conversion of natural to agricultural surfaces in the period 2000-2018



Non urban land use change

Land change from agricultural to natural and vice versa in Lithuania, 2000 - 2018



Multiple development models





Interventions

Interventions that address sustainable land use in Lithuania

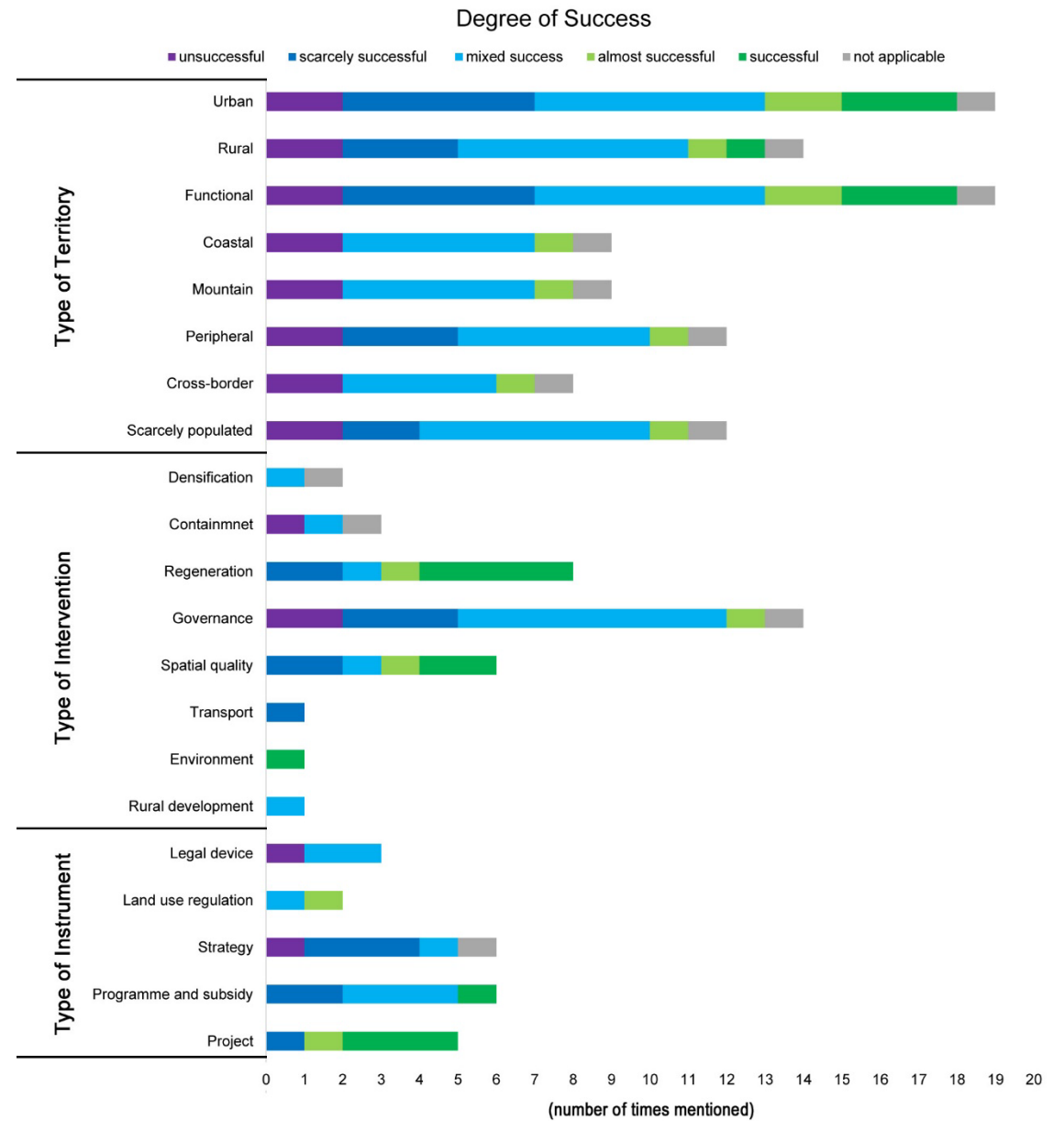
No.	Interventions	Type of intervention
1	Regional Housing Policy	Programmes
2	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP)	Land-use regulations
3	Comprehensive plan of municipality	Land-use regulations
4	National Landscape Management Plan	Land-use regulations
5	Lithuanian Urban development policy guidelines	Visions and strategies
6	Territorial planning norms	Rules and legal devices
7	New Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania	Visions and strategies
8	Lithuanian land law	Rules and legal devices
9	Local Action Groups	Programmes
10	PAUPYS	Project
11	Real Estate Tax Act	Rules and legal devices
12	Integrated Territorial Development Programmes in Vilnius	Programmes
13	Shopping mall - Akropolis	Project
14	Strategic Development Plan of Kaunas City - Municipality Up To 2022	Visions and strategies
15	Ogmios City	Project
16	White Bridge Project	Project
17	Bike path and riverfront reuse in Vilnius	Project
18	Renovation of Heritage Buildings Programme of Kaunas	Programmes
19	Integrated Territorial Development Programmes	Programmes
20	Free Economic Zone	Programmes
21	Marijampolė Free Economic Zone (Baltic FEZ)	Programmes
22	Local Action Plan for Žirmūnai triangle in Vilnius	Visions and strategies

Interventions that address sustainable land use in Lithuania

Scale of interests/geographical distribution	Type	n.	Type of territories	Type	n.	Type of interventions	Type	n.	Type of instruments	Type	n.
	NUTS0	6		Urban	11		Densification	2		Legal device	3
	NUTS1	0		Rural	5		Containment	3		Land-use regulation	2
	NUTS2	0		Functional	11		Regeneration	8		Strategy	6
	NUTS3	3		Coastal	2		Governance	14		Programme and subsidy	6
	LAU 1	13		Mountain	1		Spatial quality	6		Project	5
	LAU 2	0		Peripheral	3		Transport	1		Other	0
	Other	0		Cross-border	0		Environment	1			
				Scarcely populated	3		Rural development	1			
		Other (nation)	9	Other	0						
Total	22	Total	45*	Total	36*	Total	22*				

* the total varies because interventions may be included in multiple categories.

Degree of success of the interventions



4

Contextual land use challenges

Challenges from data-territorial analysis:

- Lithuania is faced with a considerable demographic decline (some counties have lost over 30% of their inhabitants since 2000). This fact should be taken into account when identifying the future development trajectories;
- Not all parts of the country are characterised by similar urban development patterns and trends. National priorities and instruments should take local specificities into account;
- No linear relationship exists between demographic trends and urbanization. Various counties continue to urbanize as their population falls;
- Urbanization and land-use patterns are not in synchronicity. Urbanization is accelerating in some territories (e.g. Klaipeda), while in others (e.g. Vilnius) this is decelerating. This calls for customized solutions for urbanization and land use;
- There has been a net change from agricultural to natural land of about 12,500 ha over the 2000-2018 period, which corresponds approximately to 0.2% of Lithuania's total surface area. This is more likely a product of rural abandonment than nature policies;

Challenges from interventions analysis:

- *Lacking strategical approach* - until now there has been insufficient institutional and political long-term reasoning, which has contributed to the implementation of short-term visions.
- *Lacking coordination* - another sensitive issue is the coordination of major sectoral initiatives impacting land use. Sectoral initiatives are sometimes not well coordinated with spatial planning.
- *Lacking cooperation* - administrative fragmentation has increased economic and even fiscal competition between municipalities.
- *Lacking shared cultural behaviour* – due to a series of socioeconomic, cultural and political contingencies, sustainable land use has not been at the top of the political agenda.
- *Rigidity of plans* – in many cases plans indirectly support diffuse urbanization. This is done by overestimating demographic trends and thereby issuing too many development rights.

5

Policy recommendations

How to achieve sustainable urbanization: recommendations for

National level – Decisionmakers

- *Set clear and future-oriented objectives*
- *Take a collaborative approach*
- *Use open and coordinated implementation mechanisms*

National level – Policymakers

- *Interventions may have side effects*
- *Incentives and disincentives can impact sustainable urbanization*
- *Monitoring and assessment are crucial for reflexive policymaking*

How to achieve sustainable urbanization : recommendations for

Local level – Decisionmakers

- *Contextualize objectives and policies*
- *Create conditions for a place-based political cooperation*
- *Be open to and supportive of public participation*

Local level – Policymakers

- *No single spatial planning instrument is sufficient*
- *Be aware of unwanted effects and trade-offs*
- *Sustainability dimensions should be integrated*
- *Institutional capacity building matters*

General lessons learned

- *Applied research can benefit from spin-offs application to test findings validity and operability in practice;*
- *By filtering-out (building general concepts) and filtering-in (identifying tailored solutions) as researchers we are able to elaborate customized recommendations that support domestic policy and decisionmakers in addressing their challenges;*
- *By acting in this way we can increase the «policy transferability potentials».*



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// Thank you

Erblin Berisha, Politecnico di Torino