

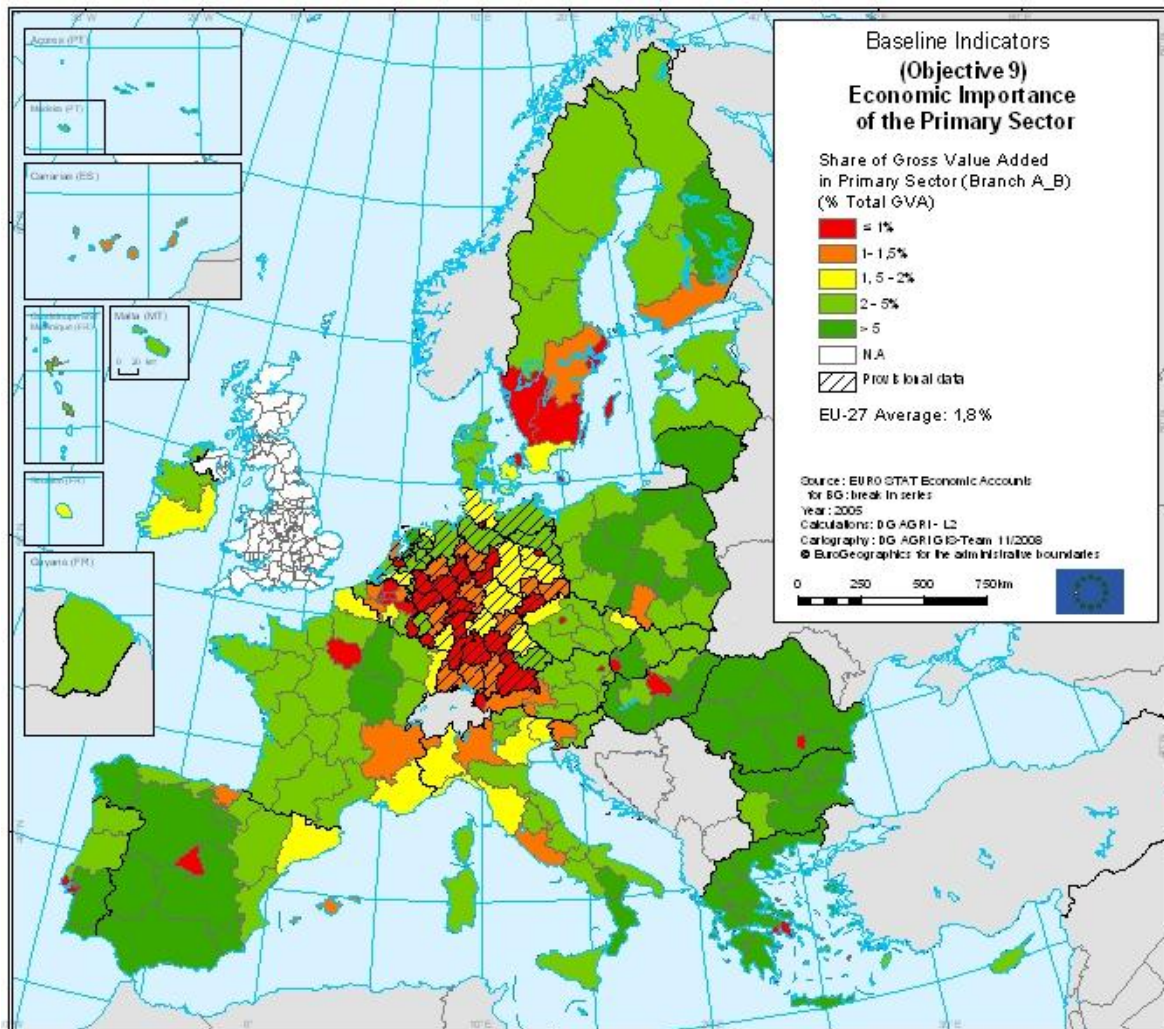
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## Annex 5 – Maps on socio-economic and agri-environmental situation of EU regions

Socio-economic factors, agro-ecological conditions, and farm structures, of EU regions determine their adaptive capacity and ultimate their vulnerability to potential adverse climatic changes. The maps below show some of these regional characteristics.

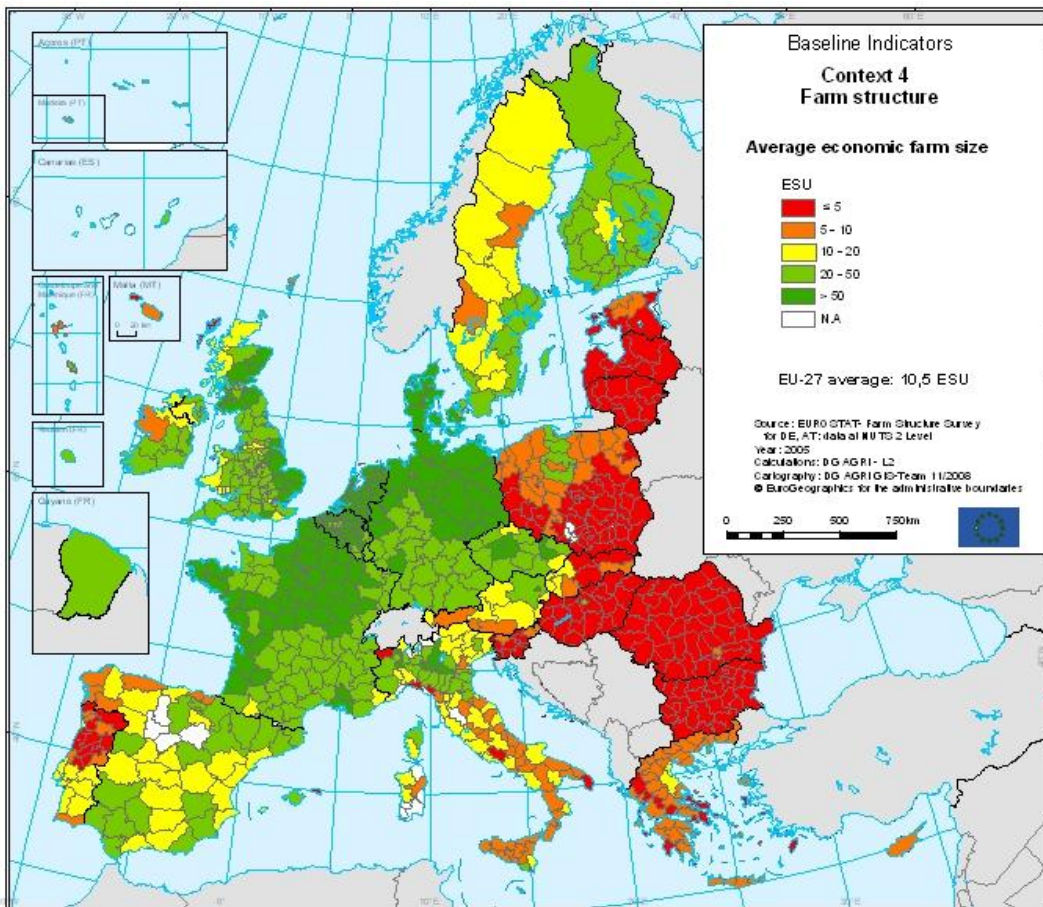
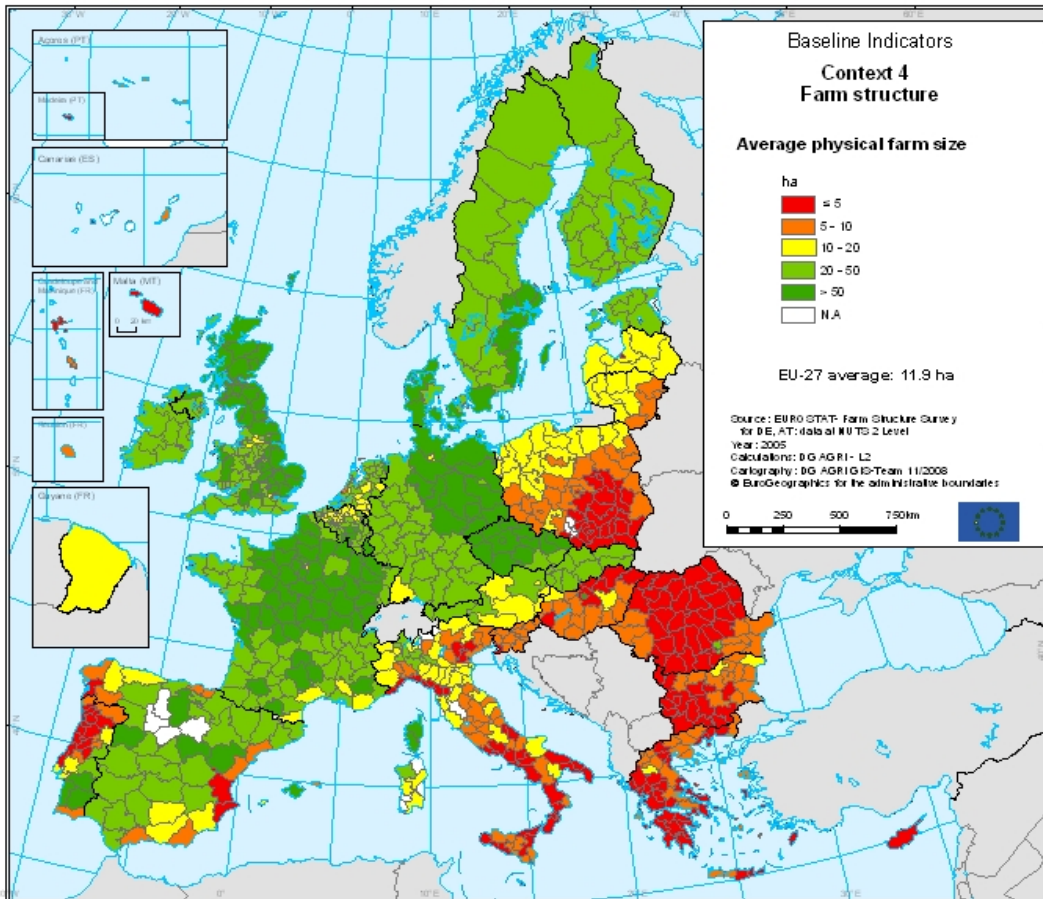
In the EU, South-eastern and Mediterranean areas are often characterised as the most vulnerable because of high exposure to negative impacts and the socio-economic fragility of rural areas. In these areas agriculture is a significant sector in terms of employment and relative share in the economy, and they are already under pressure due to other environmental factors such as water scarcity. In such areas, a loss in agricultural potential would impose a larger relative income loss than over the rest of EU. Climate change may also create new constraints for farming in mountain areas, considered as particularly vulnerable because the agronomical handicaps and socio-economic pressures they face are likely to be exacerbated by climate impacts.

### Economic importance of primary activities in regional economies



**Source:** "Rural development in the EU: statistical and economic information, 2007", European Commission, DG for agriculture and rural development.

Age surface and economic dimension of farms



Age structure and level of education of farmers

