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DETERMINANTS TO LEAVE AGRICULTURE AND CHANGE OCCUPATIONAL SECTOR: EVIDENCE FROM AN ENLARGED EU

Barbara Tocco, Alastair Bailey, Sophia Davidova

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Motivation

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- Large body of literature on the labour allocation decisions of farmers
- Well-functioning labour markets and a competitive multi-sectoral economy are crucial for rural development
- EU Enlargement: heterogeneous farming sectors and diverse labour markets across MS
- Structural change as an 'ongoing process' (Eurostat, 2012)

Objectives and Approach

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- Objectives of the study:
 - ▣ Examine push/pull factors which allow agricultural labour to enter non-farm economy
 - ▣ Compare some NMS and EU-15
 - Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, France and Italy
- Dataset:
 - ▣ EU-LFS micro-data
 - expanded with regional indicators
- Empirical approach:
 - ▣ 3-step multivariate probit to control for selection bias

Literature Review

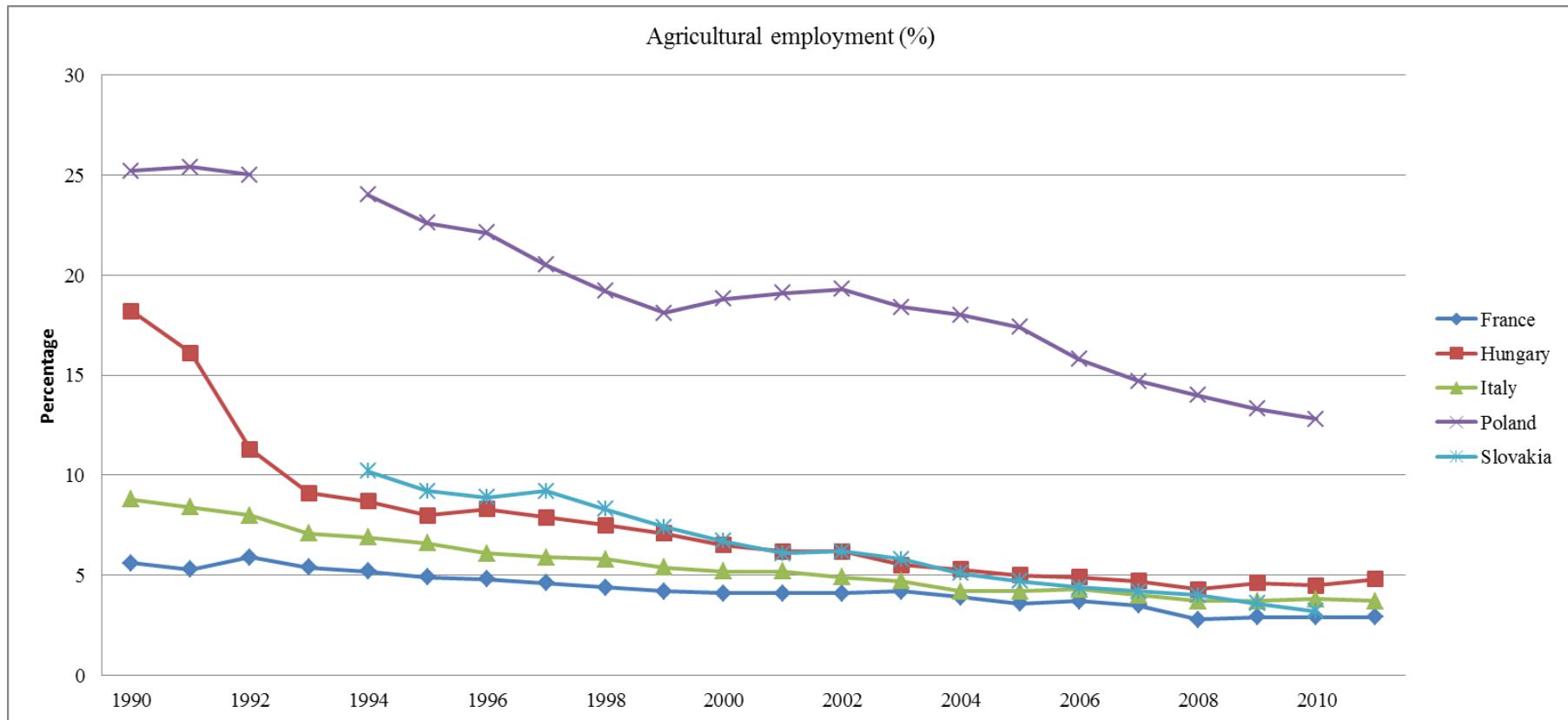
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- Relevant studies: off-farm participation, farm exit, reallocation of labour across sectors
- Human capital and life-cycle theories (Huffman, 1980; Rizov and Swinnen, 2004)
- Occupation-residential choice paradigm (Johnson, 1991)
- Geographical dispersion of agriculture and high costs of information (Huffman, 1977)
- State dependence and rigidity in off-farm labour adjustment (Corsi and Findeis, 2000)
- ‘trapped’ in agriculture?
- Selection bias: non-random sample and unobservable characteristics (Heckman, 1979)
 - ▣ Establish a first occupational match in agriculture and then exit the sector

Trends in Agricultural Employment

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□ Fast decline in the share of agricultural employment:

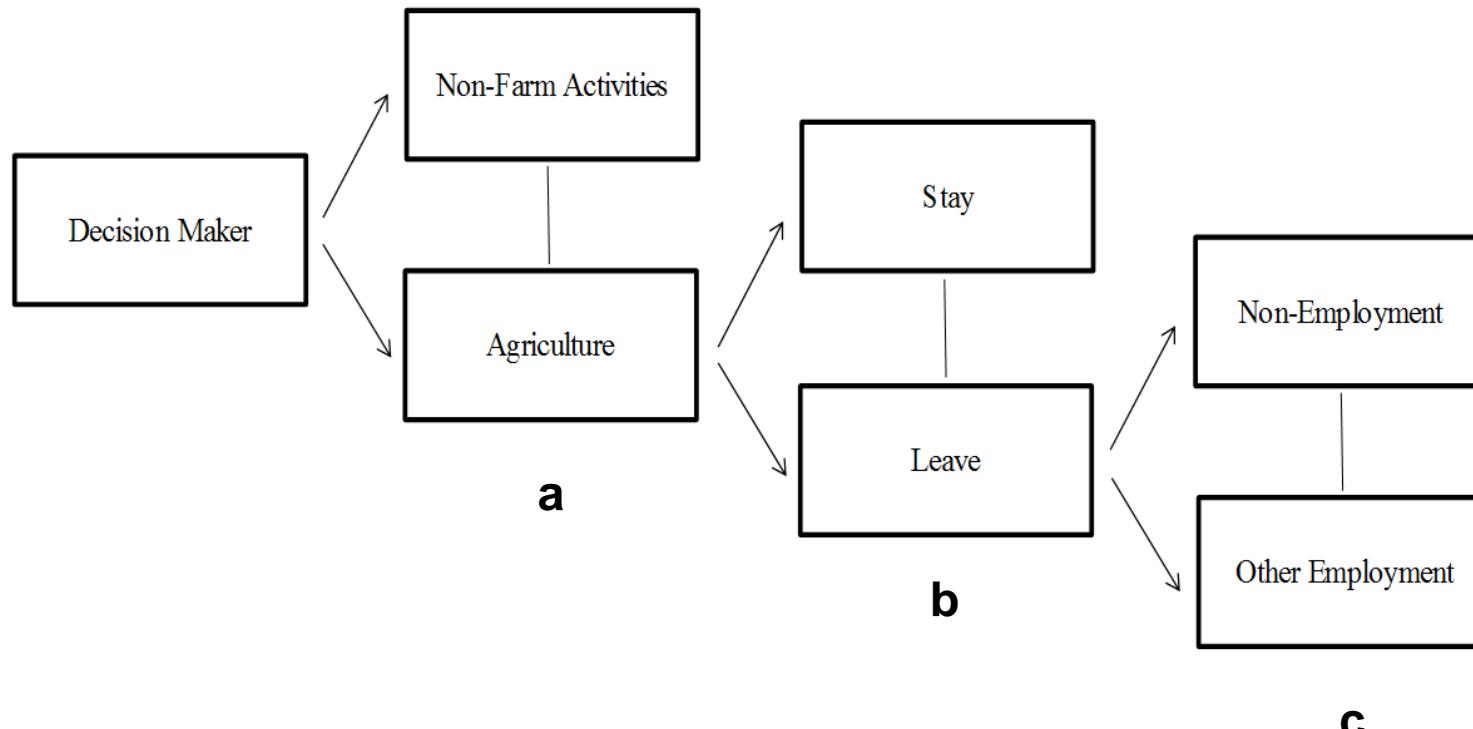


Source: Own figure based on ILO data, KILM database.

Decision Tree and Sample Frequencies

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- Individuals are faced with the following labour decisions:



- Three sequential probits: a) working in agriculture; b) leaving agriculture; c) switching occupational sector (other employment)

Decision Tree and Sample Frequencies

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Table 1. Sample frequencies and shares of labour outcomes

Country	Total employment		Agricultural employment		Exit agriculture	
	Non-farm	Agriculture	Stay	Leave	Non-employment	Other employment
France	47,188 (96.7)	1,587 (3.3)	1,389 (87.5)	198 (12.5)	102 (51.5)	96 (48.5)
Hungary	225,651 (93.7)	15,099 (6.3)	13,394 (88.7)	1,705 (11.3)	997 (58.5)	708 (41.5)
Italy	499,394 (95.3)	24,536 (4.7)	21,585 (88.0)	2,951 (12.0)	1,653 (56.0)	1,298 (44.0)
Poland	124,492 (82.1)	27,150 (17.9)	25,622 (94.4)	1,528 (5.6)	812 (53.1)	716 (46.9)
Slovakia	92,486 (95.3)	4,565 (4.7)	4,149 (90.9)	416 (9.1)	275 (66.1)	141 (33.9)

Note: Numbers in brackets indicate shares of each sub-sample.

Source: EU-LFS.

Decision Tree and Sample Frequencies

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Table 2. Sample transitions from the agricultural sector

	France		Hungary		Italy		Poland		Slovakia	
Transitions	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Stays in agriculture	1,389	87.52	13,394	88.71	21,585	87.97	25,622	94.37	4,149	90.89
To other sectors	96	6.05	708	4.69	1,298	5.29	716	2.64	141	3.09
Industry	24	1.51	368	2.44	511	2.08	427	1.57	84	1.84
Services	72	4.54	340	2.25	787	3.21	289	1.06	57	1.25
To non-employment	102	6.43	997	6.60	1,653	6.74	812	2.99	275	6.02
Unemployment	46	2.90	350	2.32	308	1.26	143	0.53	136	2.98
Inactivity	56	3.53	647	4.29	1,345	5.48	669	2.46	139	3.04
Total	1,587	100	15,099	100	24,536	100	27,150	100	4,565	100

Note: Frequencies and percentages refer to transitions based on the agricultural sample.

Source: EU-LFS.

Empirical Methodology

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- Approach: 3-step multivariate probit with selection
- Observed binary outcomes:

$$y_j^{agriempl} = (x_j\beta + u_{1j} > 0) \quad \text{selection into agricultural employment} \quad (1)$$

$$y_j^{leave} = (w_j\gamma + u_{2j} > 0) \quad \text{selection into leaving agriculture} \quad (2)$$

$$y_j^{otherempl} = (z_j\delta + u_{3j} > 0) \quad \text{outcome for switching occupational sector} \quad (3)$$

where $y_j^{leave} > 0$ if $y_j^{agriempl} = 1$ and missing otherwise; and $y_j^{otherempl} > 0$ if $y_j^{leave} = 1$ (and thus $y_j^{agriempl} = 1$) and missing otherwise.

Data and Samples

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- Dataset:
 - ▣ EU-LFS micro-data, expanded with:
 - Eurostat New Cronos Database - NUTS2 regions
 - Farm Structure Survey (FSS) - NUTS2 regions
- Pooled-cross section of consecutive years: 2003-08
 - ▣ Two consecutive periods: t and t-1
 - ▣ Pooled LFS: 2004, 2006, 2008
- 3 Sub-samples (3 dependent variables):
 - ▣ People in total employment (agri employment=1)
 - ▣ People in agricultural employment (leave=1)
 - ▣ People who exit agriculture (other employment=1)

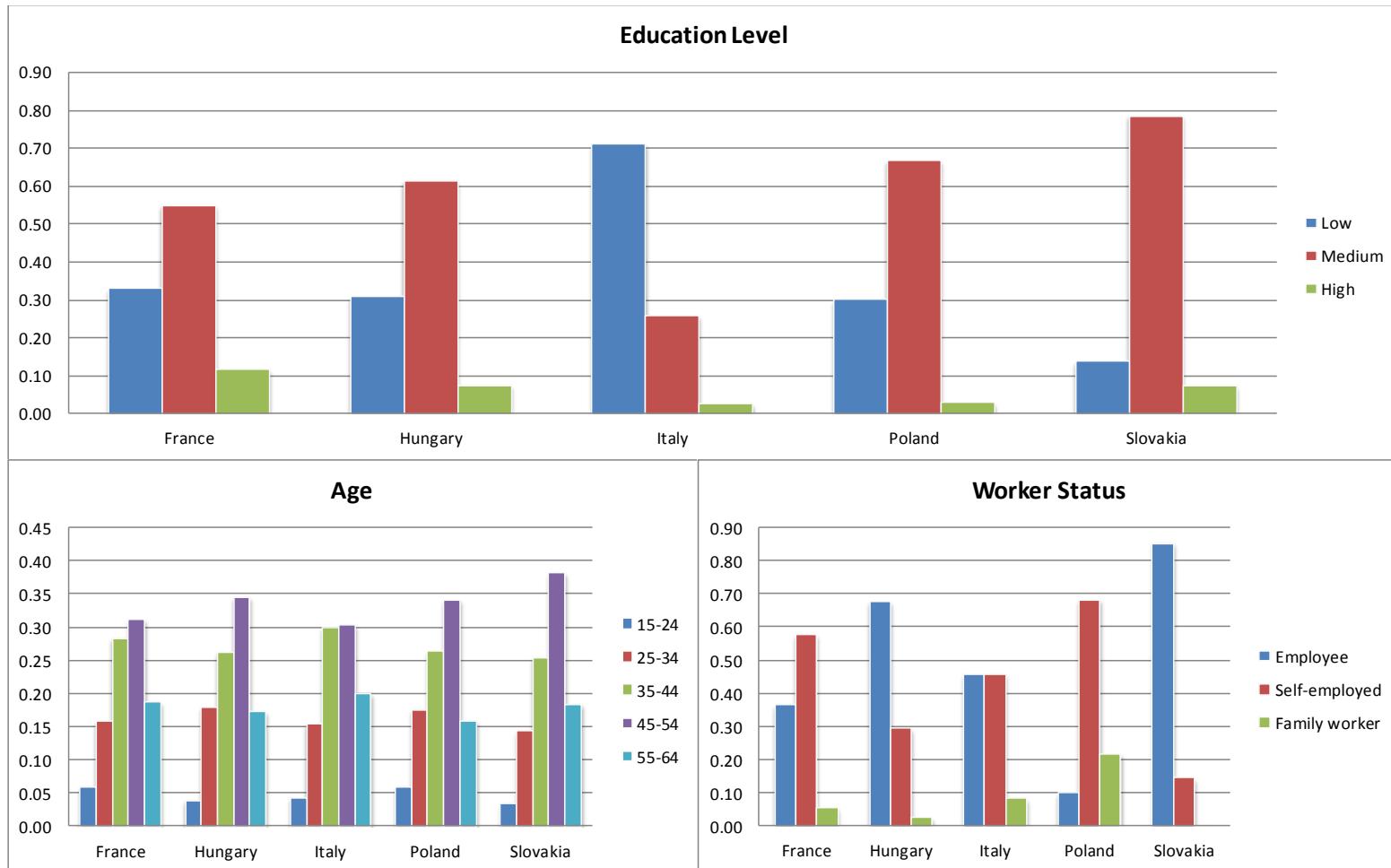
Variables for Empirical Estimation

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- Covariates:
 - ▣ gender, age, educational level, field of education, marital status, children, professional status (EU-LFS)
 - ▣ population density, unemployment rate, wage ratio, labour ratio (NUTS2 regions, Eurostat New Cronos)
 - ▣ full-time agricultural labour, agricultural area, farm size, production structure (NUTS2 regions, FSS)
- Exclusion restrictions:
 - ▣ Prob (agri employment) → field of education
 - ▣ Prob (leave) → regional farm indicators (farm size, production system, full-time agricultural labour)

Some Descriptive Statistics

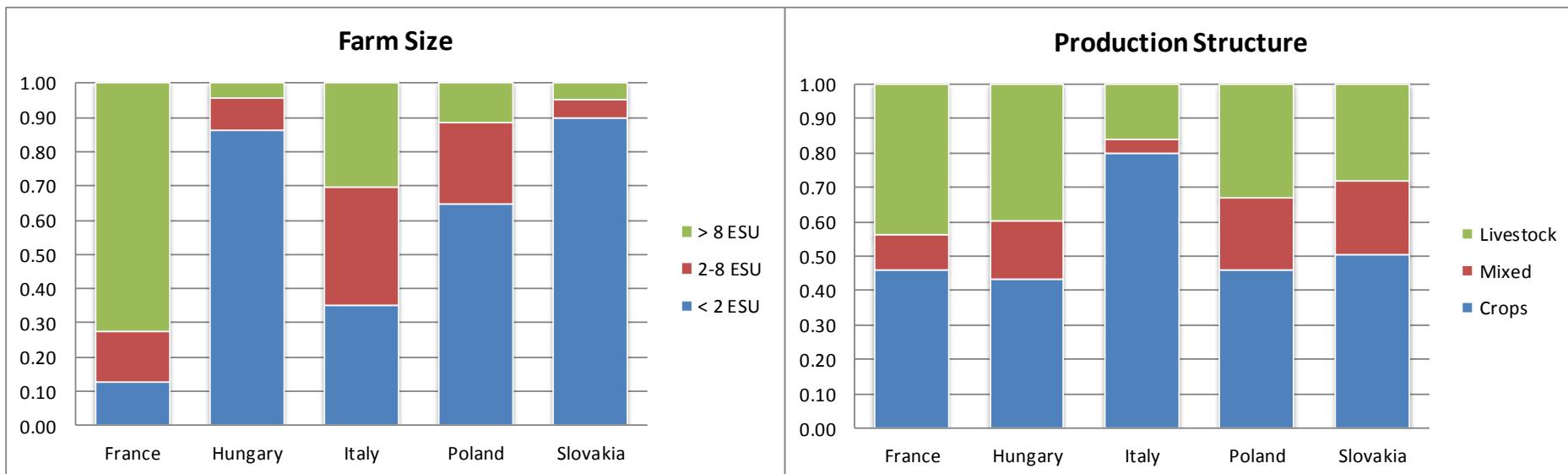
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Source: Own figure based on the EU-LFS.

Some Descriptive Statistics

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Source: Own figure based on the EU-LFS.

Estimation Results

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- The estimation results in the next tables provide an answer to the following research questions:
 - What is the ‘best bundle’ of characteristics to establish a first occupational match and work in agriculture?
 - What are the determinants to dissolve the match and thus leave the agricultural sector?
 - What are the differences of those who switch occupational sector from those who retire or become unemployed?

Table 3. Determinants of agricultural employment

Variable	France	Hungary	Italy	Poland	Slovakia
Male	0.102**	0.425***	-0.003	0.026	0.368***
Married	0.002	0.008	0.026***	-0.133***	-0.015
Age 15-24	0.181***	-0.268***	-0.053***	-0.027	-0.480***
Age 25-34	0.068	-0.206***	-0.086***	-0.056***	-0.405***
Age 35-44	0.063	-0.063***	-0.039***	-0.041***	-0.181***
Age 55-64	-0.020	0.054***	0.070***	0.048**	0.035
Low education	0.443***	0.332	0.408***	0.528***	0.522***
High education	-0.325***	-0.350***	-0.488***	-0.811***	-0.353***
General	0.168	-0.237	-0.244***	-0.857***	-0.300
Teacher training & education science	0.171	-0.713**	-0.370***	-0.673***	-0.982***
Humanities, languages & arts	-0.159*	-0.797**	-0.196***	-1.110***	-0.755***
Social sciences, business & law	0.051	-0.302	-0.212***	-0.697***	-0.191
Sciences, maths & computer	0.029	-0.499	-0.165***	-0.580***	-0.409*
Engineer, manufacturing & construction		-0.236	-0.142***	-0.417***	-0.217
Agriculture & veterinary	1.794***	0.951***	1.100***	0.586***	0.982***
Health & welfare	-0.455***	-0.795**	-0.388***	-1.371***	-1.136***
Services	-0.146	-0.531*	-0.236***	-0.432***	-0.380*
Children	-0.143***	-0.032**	-0.034***	-0.007	0.047**
Female with children	0.103	0.063***	0.095***	0.265***	-0.019
Self-employed	1.296***	0.704***	0.573***	2.091***	0.108***
Family worker	1.874***	1.548***	1.083***	3.036***	0.363
Population density	0.001*	-0.001	-0.000***	-0.002***	0.005
Unemployment	-0.020*	0.027***	0.024***	-0.015***	0.034
Wage ratio	-0.030**	-0.212***	-0.016***	0.028***	-0.268
Labour ratio	-0.007***	-0.005*	-0.005***	-0.009**	-0.016
Farm size <2 ESU	0.571	1.556	-0.585***	-0.589***	-5.294
Farm size >8 ESU	2.605***	10.995**	0.247***	-0.192	-11.506
Agricultural area	-1.091*	0.914***	0.188***	2.008***	-0.301
Full-time agricultural labour	-1.155**	-0.011	-1.119***	-1.784***	-13.299
Livestock production	0.474***	1.690***	0.478***	0.616***	-0.423
Mixed production	-1.764***	1.318**	0.741***	-0.072	0.094
Year 2005-6		-0.077*	0.007	-0.190***	-0.175
Year 2007-8	-0.064*	-0.202***	0.009	-0.405***	
Constant	-2.500***	-4.575***	-1.861***	-2.231***	4.131
Number of observations	48.775	240.750	523.930	151.642	97.051

Table 4. Determinants of leaving agriculture

Variable	France	Hungary	Italy	Poland	Slovakia
Male	-0.182	-0.032	-0.399***	-0.021	-0.131
Married	0.229**	-0.108***	-0.083***	-0.167***	-0.202***
Age 15-24	0.628***	0.268***	0.257***	0.512***	0.193
Age 25-34	0.342**	0.263***	0.076**	0.305***	0.454***
Age 35-44	0.152	0.084**	-0.011	0.060	0.248***
Age 55-64	0.760***	0.482***	0.365***	0.677***	0.687***
Low education	0.177*	0.288***	-0.017	0.015	0.305***
High education	-0.051	0.057	0.314***	-0.061	-0.314***
Children	-0.205	-0.020	0.019	0.029	-0.047
Female with children	0.197	0.084	-0.051	0.017	0.368***
Self-employed	-0.558***	-0.457***	-0.538***	-0.404***	-0.381***
Family worker		-0.142	-0.515***	-0.206*	
Population density	0.002	0.001	-0.000***	-0.000	-0.002
Unemployment	0.004	0.065***	0.008	0.025***	0.036
Wage ratio	-0.016	-0.204	-0.008	0.002	-0.771
Labour ratio	-0.007	-0.002	0.001	0.004	0.053
Farm size <2 ESU	-1.208	10.506**	-0.616**	-1.107**	-15.379
Farm size >8 ESU	-1.143	19.224	-0.299	-1.687***	-4.044
Agricultural area	-0.178	1.935***	0.218**	0.688	-0.868
Full-time agricultural labour	-0.324	13.351**	-1.061***	-0.731	32.310
Livestock production	-0.045	-1.376**	0.583***	-0.083	-3.143
Mixed production	0.661	3.107*	0.831	-0.656	15.626
Year 2005-6		-0.017	0.152***	-0.039	-0.298
Year 2007-8	0.240**	0.014	0.143***	0.155	
Constant	-0.567	-13.782***	-1.394***	-1.423*	9.165
Lambda	0.301***	0.304***	0.398***	0.235***	0.200***
Number of observations	1.496	15.099	24.536	27.150	4.562

Table 5. Determinants of switching occupational sector

Variable	France	Hungary	Italy	Poland	Slovakia
Male	-0.208	0.152	0.877***	0.567***	0.270
Married	0.002	0.191**	0.077	0.463***	0.354
Age 15-24	0.237	-0.138	-0.451***	-0.647***	0.212
Age 25-34	-1.049**	0.179	-0.122	-0.046	0.157
Age 35-44	-0.249	0.099	0.014	0.407***	0.173
Age 55-64	-1.403**	-1.322***	-1.113***	-2.913***	-1.400***
Low education	-0.349	-0.629***	-0.532***	-0.237**	-0.166
High education	-0.342	0.009	0.103	0.212	0.591
Children	0.021	0.109	0.152*	0.006	0.423*
Female with children	0.004	-0.828***	-0.347***	0.004	-0.808*
Self-employed	-0.095	0.687***	0.674***	1.776***	-1.333***
Family worker		0.547*	0.791**	1.805***	
Population density	0.002	-0.001	0.000	0.004***	-0.016
Unemployment	-0.137**	-0.094***	-0.067***	-0.019	-0.147
Wage ratio	0.019	0.502*	0.051**	-0.019	1.332**
Labour ratio	-0.005	-0.010	0.008**	-0.075***	0.030
Agricultural area	-0.226	-1.320**	0.086	-1.071	0.318
Year 2005-6		-0.179	0.388***	0.022	0.101
Year 2007-8	-0.271	-0.286*	0.133	0.620*	-0.515
Constant	1.702	2.934***	1.101**	3.715*	0.674
Lambda 2	0.394	-1.061***	-0.892**	-2.122***	0.120
Number of observations	198	1,705	2,951	1,528	416

Conclusions

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- Overall, the largest labour outflows from agriculture are associated with the retirement of people
- Self-employed and family workers are generally less likely to leave agriculture
- Low levels of education represent important constraints for entering non-farm employment
- Higher population density, lower unemployment, higher non-farm wages and higher non-farm employment are all positively associated with movements to other occupational sectors
- Farm characteristics, captured by the diverse organisational and production structures, are found to have mixed results on explaining outflows of agricultural labour across MS

Some Policy Implications

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- Investments in human capital
 - ▣ Broaden agricultural education to improve transferable skills
- Creation of accessible jobs in rural areas

→ Improve factor mobility for better functioning of labour markets

Table A.1. Definitions of variables

Variable	Definition	Source
Male	1 = male; 0 = female	EU-LFS
Married	1 = married; 0 = otherwise	EU-LFS
Age	Five dummies for different age bands: 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64	EU-LFS
Education level	Three dummies (ISCED classification): low (lower secondary), medium (upper secondary), high (tertiary)	EU-LFS
Education field	Dummies for highest field of education or training successfully completed: a)general programmes; b)teacher training and education science; c)humanities, languages and arts, foreign languages; d) social sciences, business and law; e) sciences (life science and physical science), mathematics and statistics, computing (computer science and computer use); f) engineering, manufacturing and construction; g) agriculture and veterinary; h) health and welfare; i) services; j) other fields; k) only lower secondary	EU-LFS
Children	1 = Presence of children <15 years; 0 otherwise	EU-LFS
Female with children	Interaction of: Female*Children	EU-LFS
Professional status	Three dummies: employee, self-employed, family worker	EU-LFS
Population density	Inhabitants per km2 (NUTS2 region)	Eurostat New Cronos
Unemployment	Unemployment rate (%) (NUTS2 region)	Eurostat New Cronos
Wage ratio	Average compensation per employee in non-agriculture relative to the average compensation per employee in agriculture (NUTS2 region)	Eurostat New Cronos
Labour ratio	Number of people employed in non-agriculture relative to the number in agriculture (NUTS2 region)	Eurostat New Cronos
Farm size	Three dummies for the economic size of farms (standard gross margin) as a share of total holdings (NUTS2 region): <2 ESU, 2-8 ESU, >8 ESU	FSS- Eurostat
Agricultural area	Utilised agricultural area (UUA) over total area (hectares) (NUTS2 region)	FSS- Eurostat
Full-time agricultural labour	Share of total family labour force full-time employed in agriculture over total family labour force in agriculture (NUTS2 region)	FSS- Eurostat
Production structure	Three dummies for typology of farming system (based on standard gross margin) as a share of total holdings (NUTS2 region): crop production, livestock production, mixed production	FSS- Eurostat
Years	Three dummies for years of analysis: 2003-04, 2005-06, 2007-08	EU-LFS

Table A.2. Descriptive statistics of the total sample

Variable	France (N = 48,775)		Hungary (N = 240,750)		Italy (N = 523,930)		Poland (N = 151,642)		Slovakia (N = 97,051)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Dependent = agricultural employment	0.03	0.18	0.06	0.24	0.05	0.21	0.18	0.38	0.05	0.21
Male	0.53	0.50	0.54	0.50	0.60	0.49	0.54	0.50	0.56	0.50
Married	0.52	0.50	0.61	0.49	0.65	0.48	0.74	0.44	0.69	0.46
Age 15-24	0.07	0.25	0.06	0.24	0.05	0.22	0.07	0.26	0.07	0.26
Age 25-34	0.24	0.43	0.25	0.43	0.21	0.41	0.26	0.44	0.25	0.43
Age 35-44	0.28	0.45	0.26	0.44	0.32	0.47	0.27	0.44	0.27	0.44
Age 45-54	0.28	0.45	0.30	0.46	0.29	0.45	0.30	0.46	0.30	0.46
Age 55-64	0.13	0.34	0.13	0.33	0.13	0.34	0.10	0.30	0.11	0.32
Low education	0.26	0.44	0.15	0.36	0.40	0.49	0.11	0.31	0.05	0.21
Middle education	0.45	0.50	0.66	0.47	0.45	0.50	0.68	0.46	0.79	0.41
High education	0.30	0.46	0.18	0.39	0.15	0.36	0.21	0.40	0.16	0.37
General	0.01	0.09	0.08	0.27	0.04	0.19	0.07	0.26	0.04	0.20
Teacher training & education science	0.01	0.08	0.06	0.23	0.03	0.18	0.04	0.20	0.04	0.21
Humanities, languages & arts	0.06	0.24	0.01	0.11	0.05	0.21	0.02	0.15	0.01	0.12
Social sciences, business & law	0.24	0.43	0.15	0.36	0.18	0.38	0.13	0.34	0.15	0.36
Sciences, maths & computer	0.06	0.23	0.02	0.12	0.04	0.19	0.04	0.19	0.02	0.13
Engineer, manufacturing & construction	0.22	0.42	0.39	0.49	0.15	0.35	0.35	0.48	0.49	0.50
Agriculture & veterinary	0.03	0.17	0.04	0.19	0.02	0.13	0.08	0.27	0.06	0.24
Health & welfare	0.07	0.26	0.05	0.21	0.03	0.18	0.04	0.19	0.05	0.21
Services	0.04	0.19	0.06	0.24	0.03	0.16	0.11	0.31	0.08	0.28
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.22	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.04
None	0.26	0.44	0.15	0.36	0.40	0.49	0.11	0.31	0.05	0.21
Children	0.40	0.49	0.33	0.47	0.38	0.49	0.45	0.50	0.36	0.48
Female with children	0.19	0.39	0.14	0.34	0.15	0.35	0.20	0.40	0.15	0.36
Employee	0.90	0.30	0.88	0.32	0.75	0.43	0.74	0.44	0.88	0.32
Self-employed	0.10	0.30	0.11	0.32	0.23	0.42	0.21	0.41	0.12	0.32
Family worker	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.13	0.04	0.21	0.00	0.02
Population density	271.53	328.99	157.71	136.12	222.22	120.31	138.59	80.22	128.29	64.57
Unemployment	8.46	1.77	7.39	2.46	7.01	4.58	13.86	4.57	14.21	5.78
Wage ratio	4.32	1.65	1.86	0.38	3.71	1.82	10.58	6.36	1.44	0.31
Labour ratio	67.17	85.01	30.21	26.64	28.06	16.37	7.24	6.20	25.71	18.30
Farm size <2 ESU	0.12	0.06	0.88	0.04	0.34	0.09	0.67	0.13	0.90	0.02
Farm size 2-8 ESU	0.14	0.05	0.08	0.03	0.33	0.07	0.22	0.07	0.06	0.01
Farm size >8 ESU	0.74	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.33	0.12	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.01
Agricultural area	0.95	0.05	0.68	0.09	0.70	0.14	0.85	0.04	0.77	0.27
Full-time agricultural labour	0.43	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.20	0.12	0.15	0.06	0.03	0.01
Crop production	0.55	0.26	0.42	0.05	0.77	0.15	0.46	0.08	0.54	0.18
Livestock production	0.34	0.24	0.41	0.07	0.18	0.14	0.33	0.09	0.26	0.13
Mixed production	0.11	0.06	0.16	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.20	0.03	0.20	0.06
Year 2003-4			0.12	0.33	0.11	0.32	0.02	0.14	0.11	0.31
Year 2005-6	0.44	0.50	0.46	0.50	0.45	0.50	0.48	0.50	0.44	0.50
Year 2007-8	0.56	0.50	0.42	0.49	0.44	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.45	0.50

Model Prediction and Validity of Restrictions

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- ✓ Likelihood-ratio and Wald Test provide support for the model
- ✓ Predicted probabilities close to sample frequencies
- ✓ Joint significance of exclusion restrictions
 - Exception: France for farm indicators
- ✓ Statistical significance of lambda in favour of selection mechanism
 - Exceptions: France and Slovakia in last outcome equation (Table 5)
 - Weak identification variables in this case