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هيئة تقويم التعليم والتدريب
Education & Training Evaluation Commission

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Polish Education Reforms: Policy and Evidence

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REFORMS

The 1999 school reform

- Change of the school structure
- Further decentralization
- New financing scheme
- School and teacher autonomy
- National exams
- New professional scheme for teachers

2007/2008 Curriculum Reform

- Describe the expected learning outcomes for each stage of education
- Indicate the main objectives of teaching each school subject
- Align requirements with external examinations
- Part of the Polish Qualifications Framework

National examinations and school evaluation system

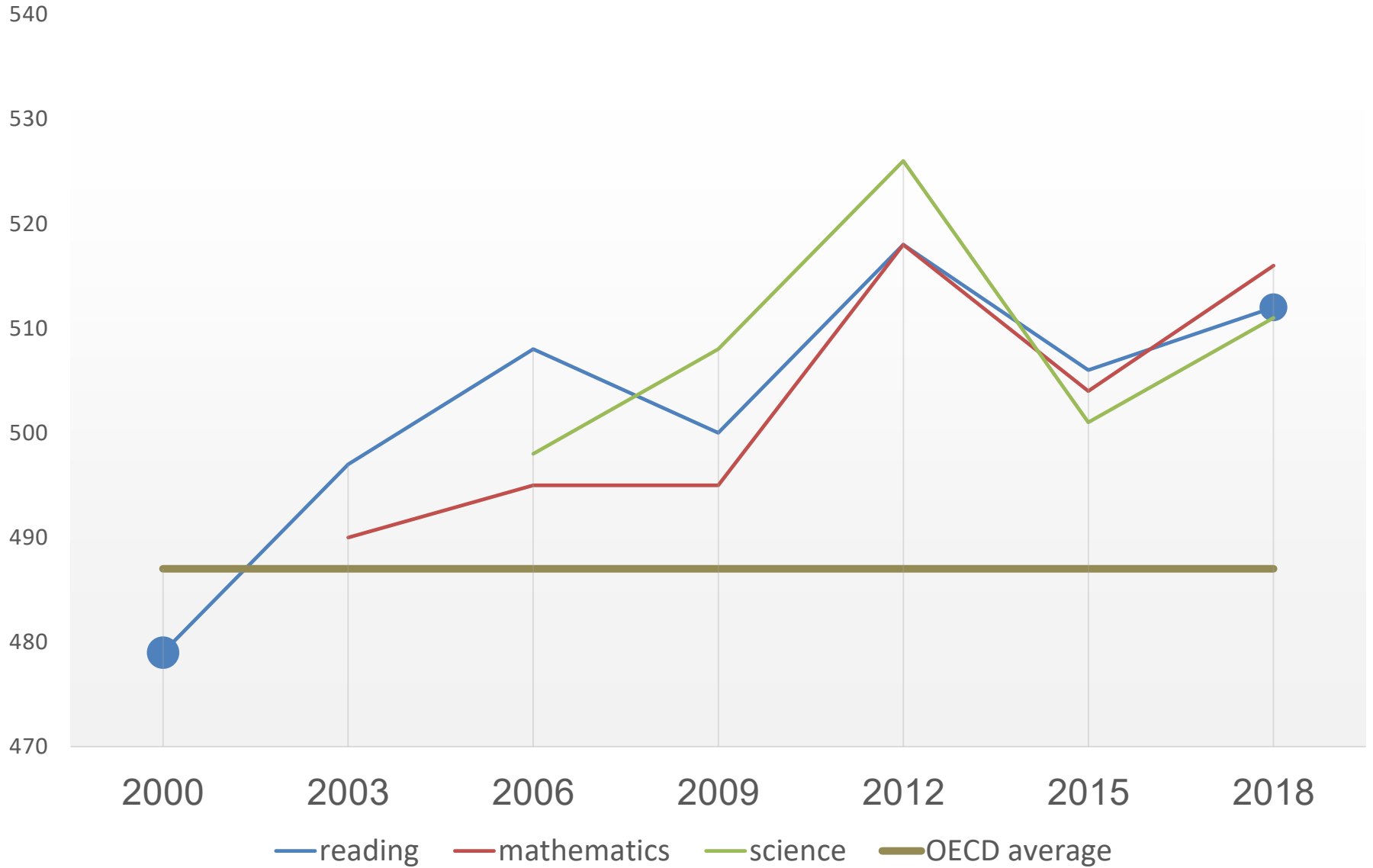
- Since 2007/2008 national examinations standards aligned with curriculum
- Standardized examinations after each stage of education (primary, lower- and upper-secondary)
- Results publicly available but only at the school level
- New school evaluation system – distinction between evaluation for improvement and administrative checks

Early Education Reform

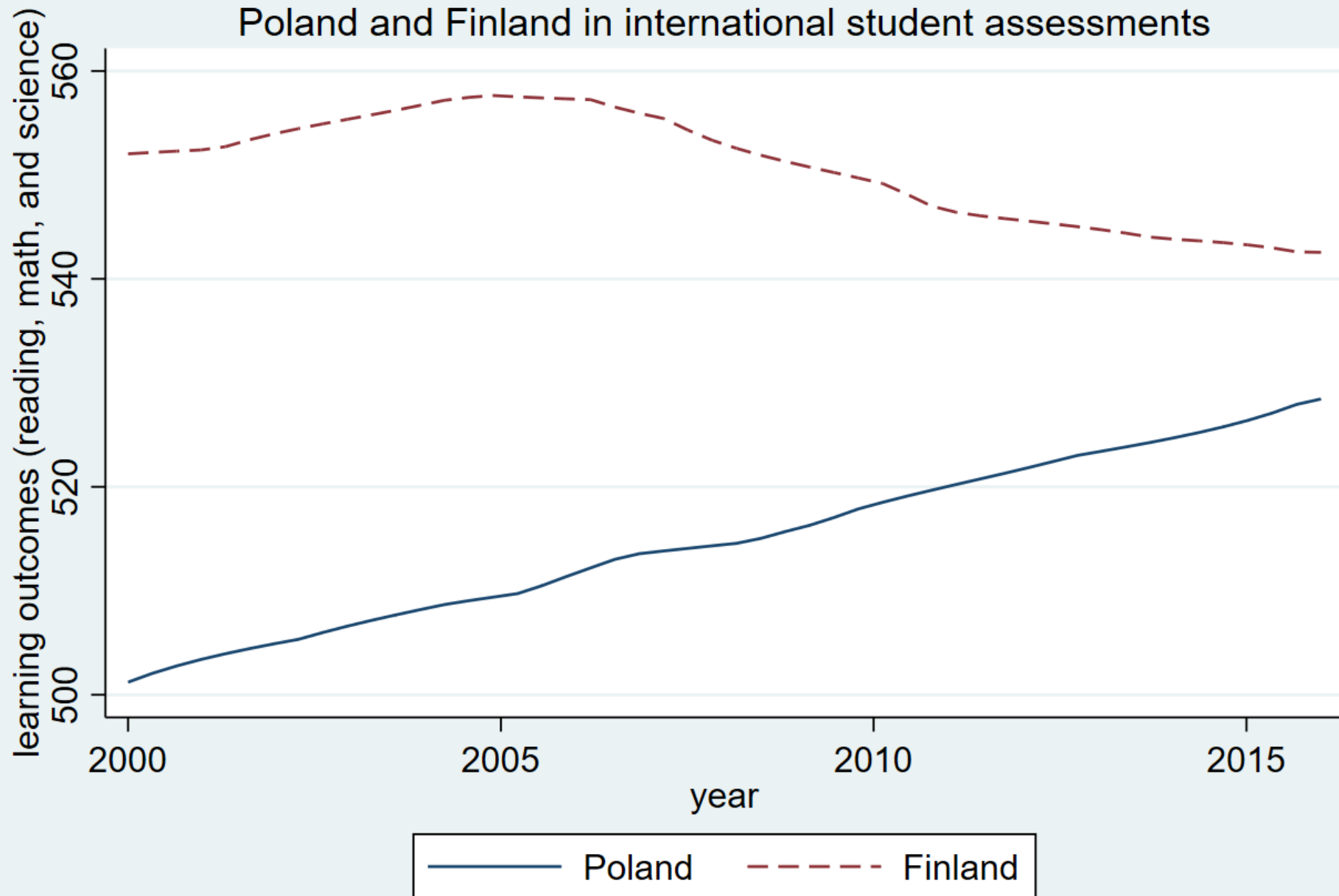
- Substantial funds for „preschool points” (2008)
- Preschool education compulsory at the age of five (2011)
- Guaranteed education for 3- and 4-year-olds (2013)
- Subsidies to local governments to lower costs of preschool education for parents
- Primary education compulsory for 6-year-olds (2015)

OUTCOMES

PISA RESULTS FOR POLAND



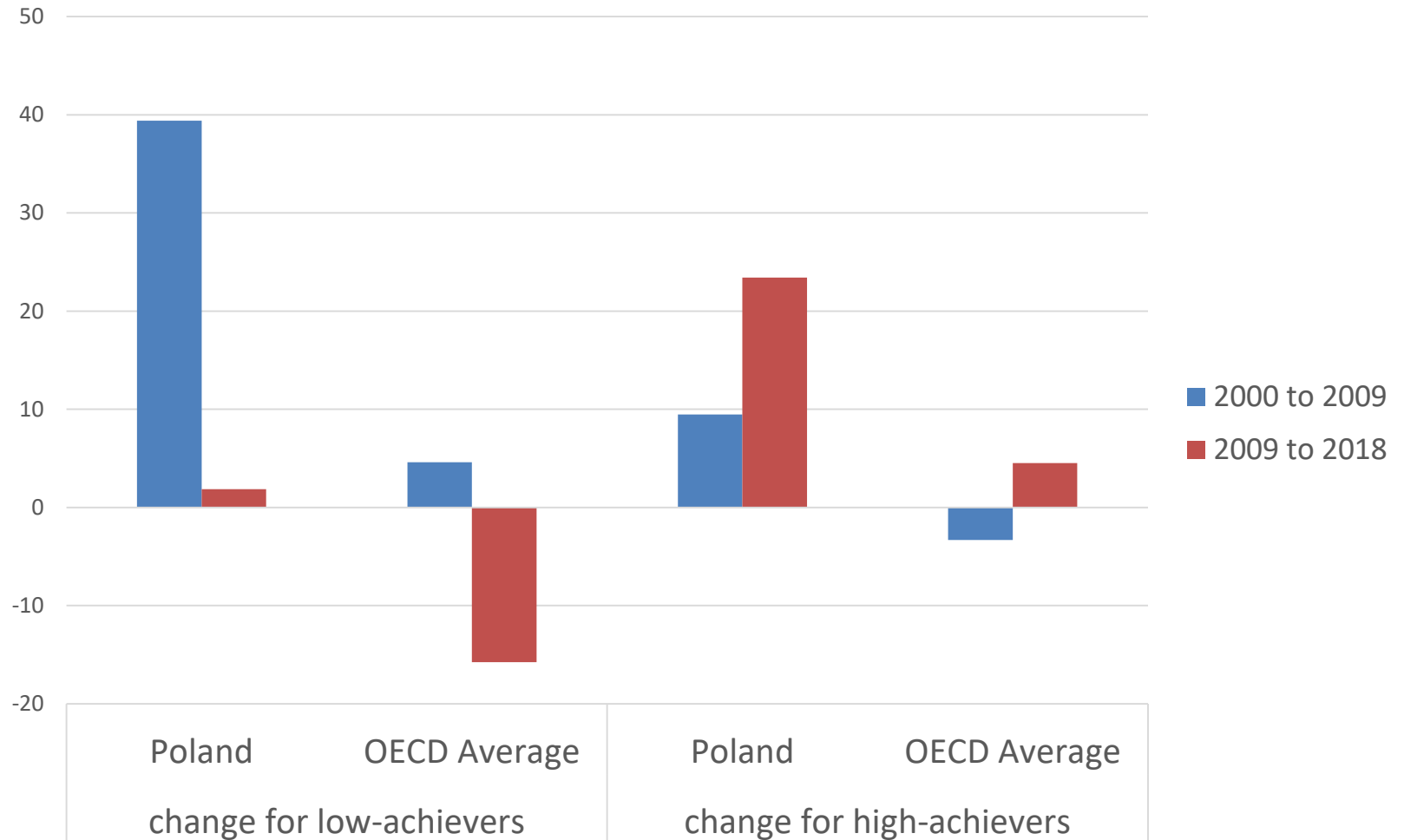
Poland and Finland in international student assessments



Source: Angrist, Djankov, Goldberg, Patrinos. Nature (2021): 1-6.

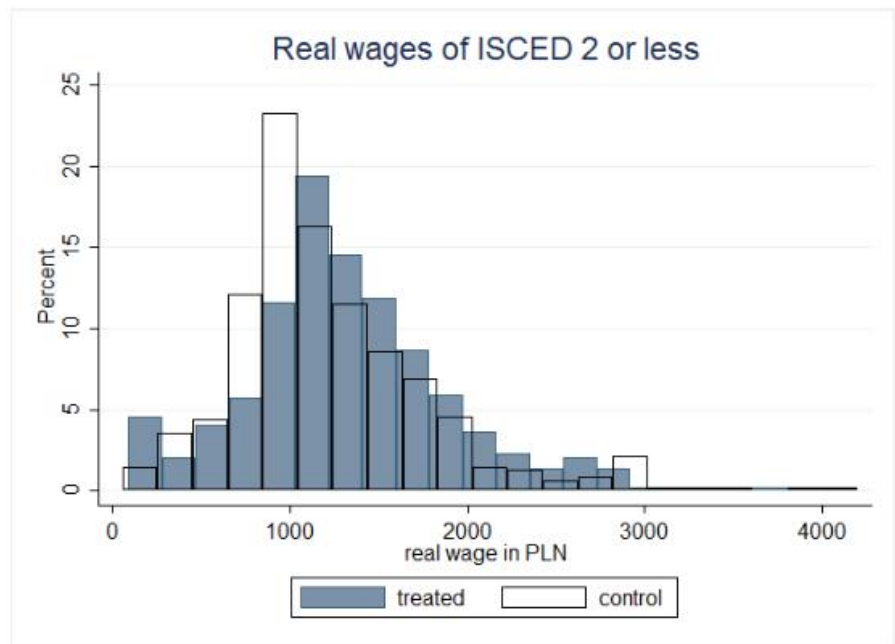
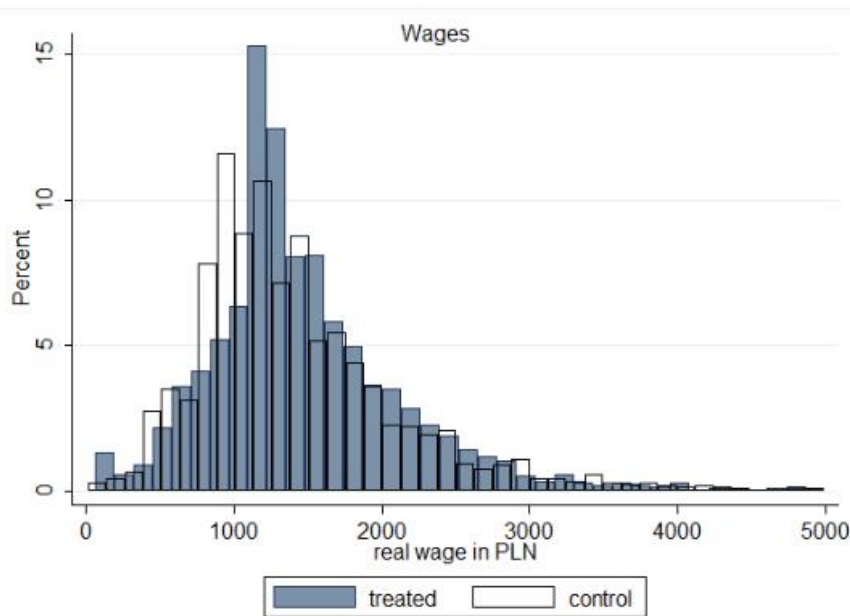
2000-2009: large improvement among low-achievers

2008-2018: higher improvement among high-achievers



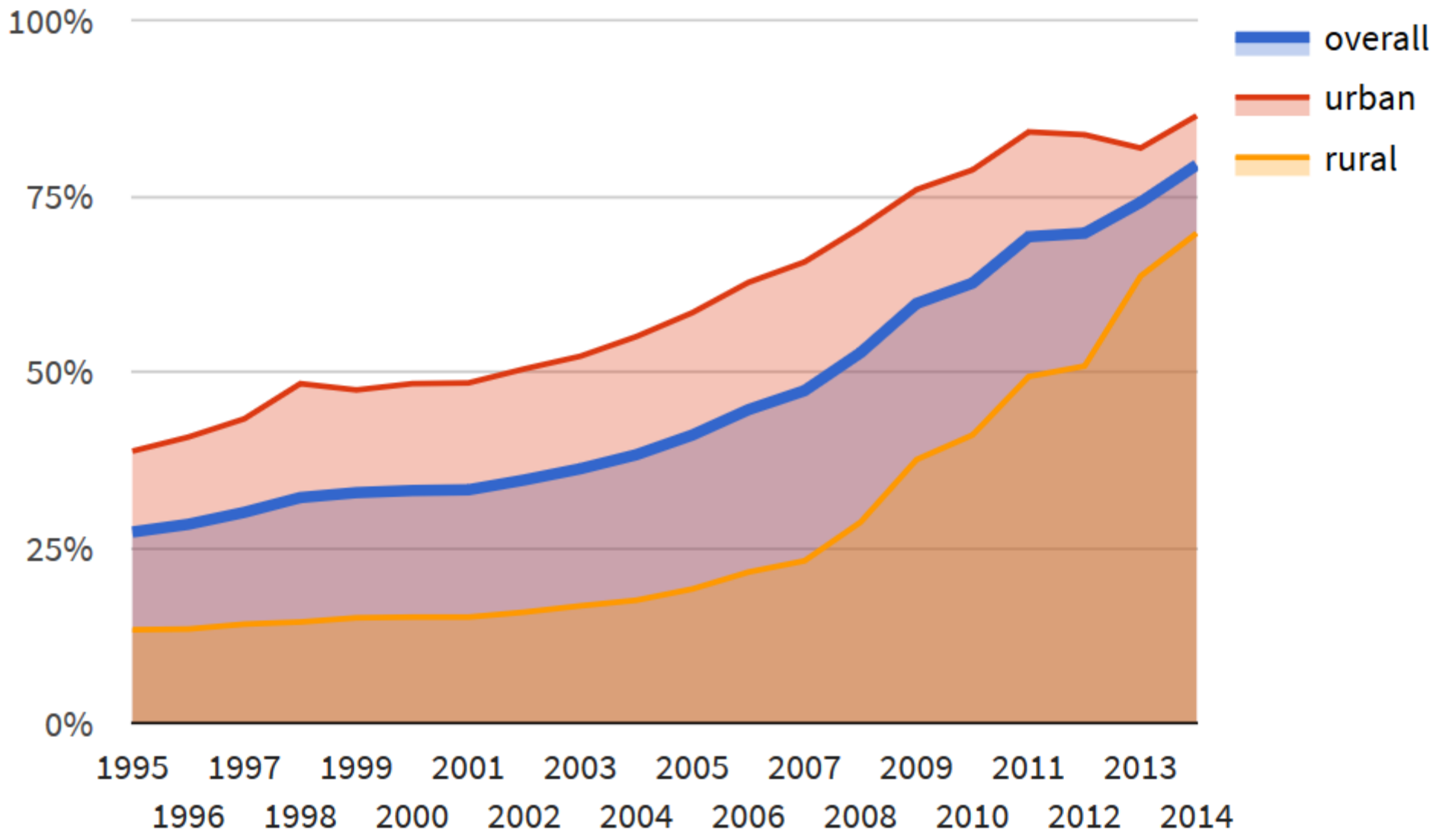
Labor market outcomes: higher wages and lower chance of unemployment

Distribution of real wages in 2005 PLN of treatment and control group



Source: Drucker, Horn, Jakubowski, forthcoming

Share of 3-to-5-year-olds in preschools



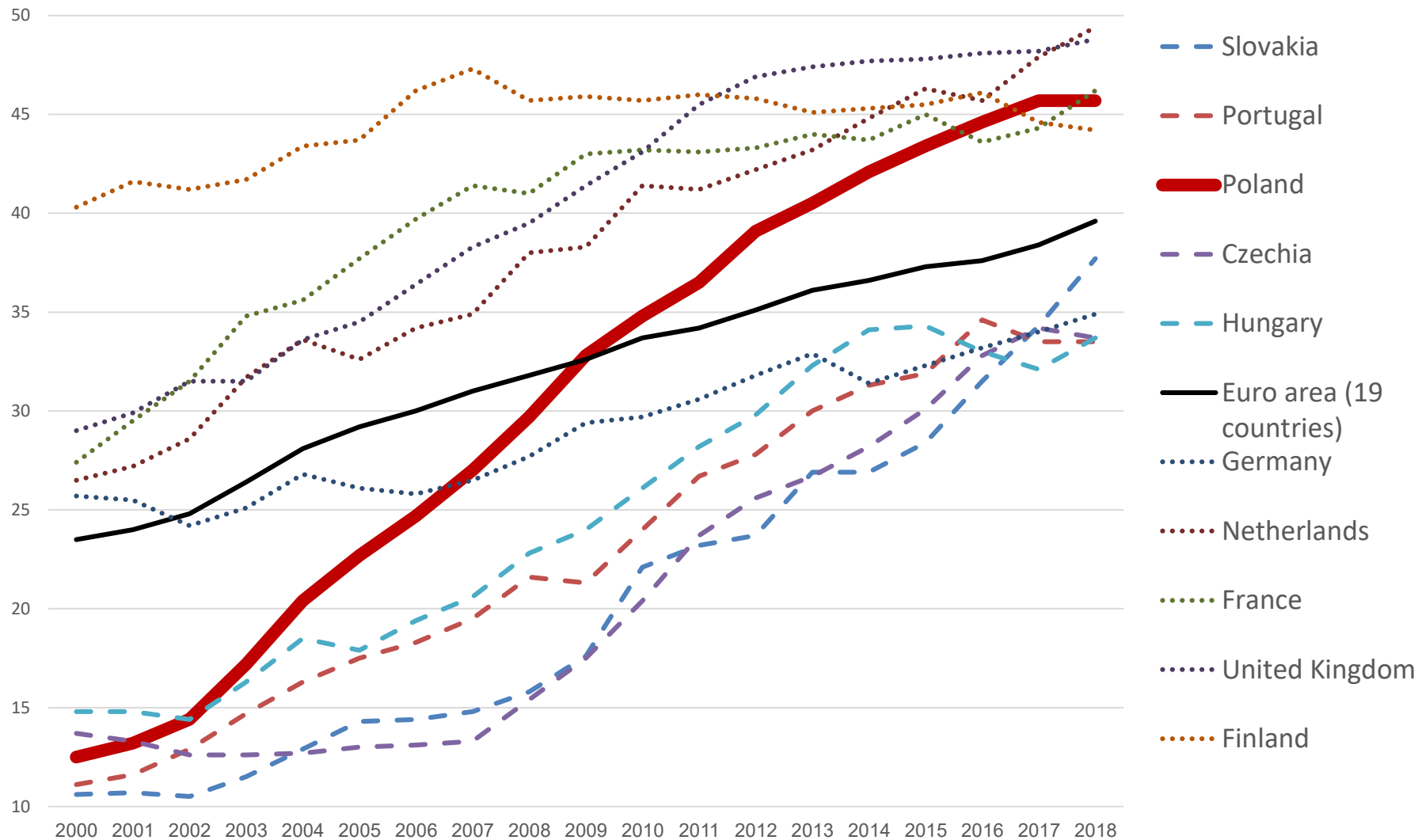
15 years of reforms

- **Main characteristic: expansion of comprehensive education**
- **But also: school autonomy, soft accountability, teacher professionalization, coherent curriculum**

Age	3-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Before 1999	Voluntary preschool with no government guarantees		"0"	Primary								
After 1999			"0"	Primary						Lower secondary		
Changes 2008 to 2015	Place guaranteed	Compulsory	Primary						Lower secondary			One year of common curriculum
Since 2016	Place guaranteed		"0"	Primary school								

Fig. 5 Changes in the provision of preschool education and compulsory education with the general curriculum (in green)

Tertiary educational attainment – the percentage of the population aged 30 to 34.



Source: Jakubowski, 2021; Eurostat, indicator SDG_04_20.

References

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- Jakubowski M., Patrinos H., Porta E., Wisniewski J., 2016. "The effects of delaying tracking in secondary school: evidence from the 1999 education reform in Poland," Education Economics.
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