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From policies to practice
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Analysis of occupational accident registration system in Latvia and comparison of accident rates in various EU countries

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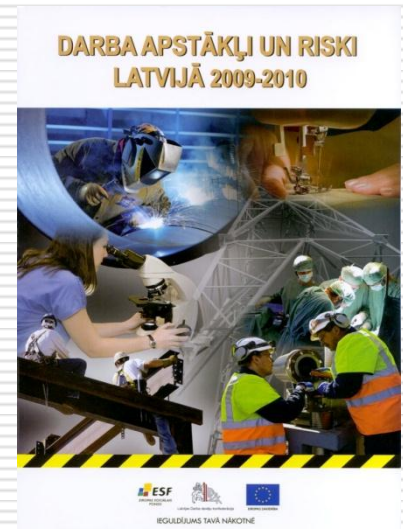
Introduction and Aim

- Work environment in Latvia has changed rapidly over last 15-20 years due to global changes and changes in Latvian occupational health and safety (OH&S) system
- However some OH&S indicators have improved significantly while others show little or no improvements
- Aim of the study was to analyse development of registration system of occupational accidents as well as its linkage with OH&S service coverage and risk awareness in Latvia and also compare it with data from other countries.



Material and methods

- Data from 2 consecutive surveys on working conditions in Latvia in 2006 and 2010 (supported by *European Social Fund*) including interviews with:
 - More than 1000 employers
 - More than 2500 employees
 - More than 200 OH&S experts
- Statistics on accidents & occupational diseases in Latvia
- Analysis of legal changes and political decisions



Occupational accidents registration - development

- ❑ System for registration since 1997 characterised by wrong approach (looking for the “guilty” person), massive paperwork and lack of enforcement and information slightly improved in 2005 together with increased penalties for not registration of accident
- ❑ Little information and awareness campaigns on accident registration
- ❑ Major change in registration system since start of 2010 aiming at easier registration and reduction of paperwork

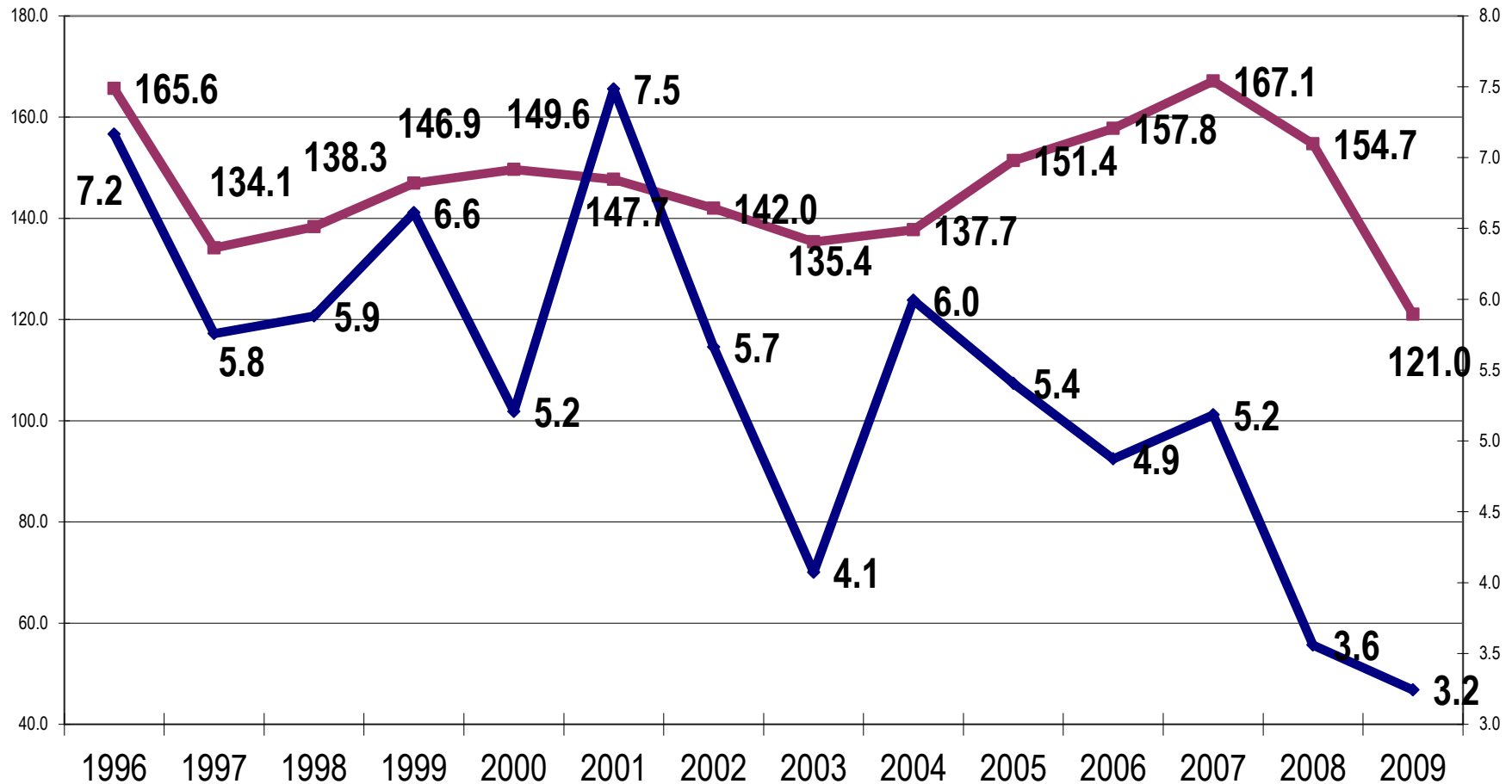


Occupational accident registration – current situation

- ❑ Rates of fatal accidents higher than EU average
- ❑ Rate of total registered accidents 15-20 times lower
- ❑ Accident rates in selected industries differ significantly



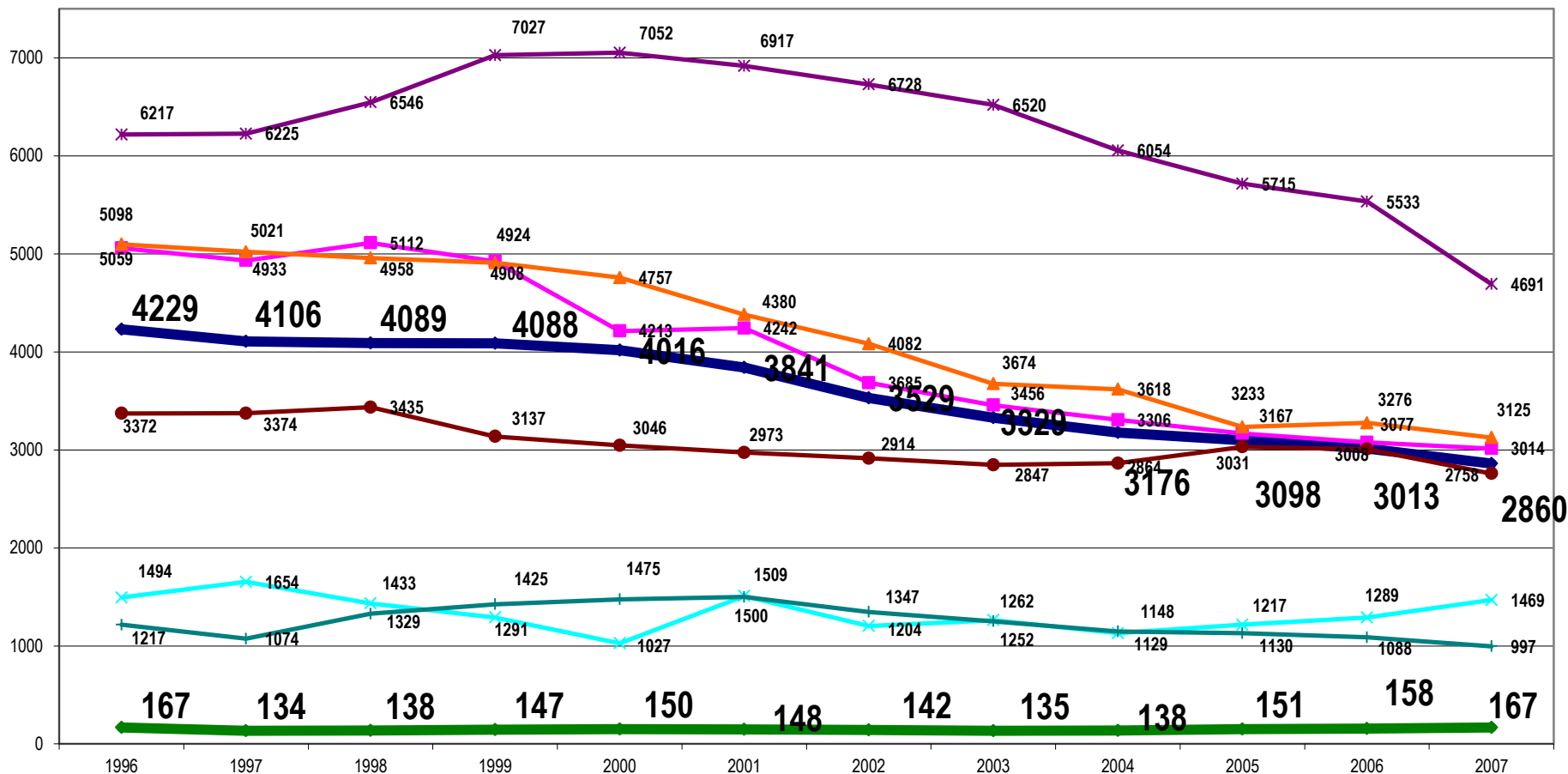
Incidence of occupational accidents in Latvia (per 100 000)



— Total number of occ. accidents per 100 000

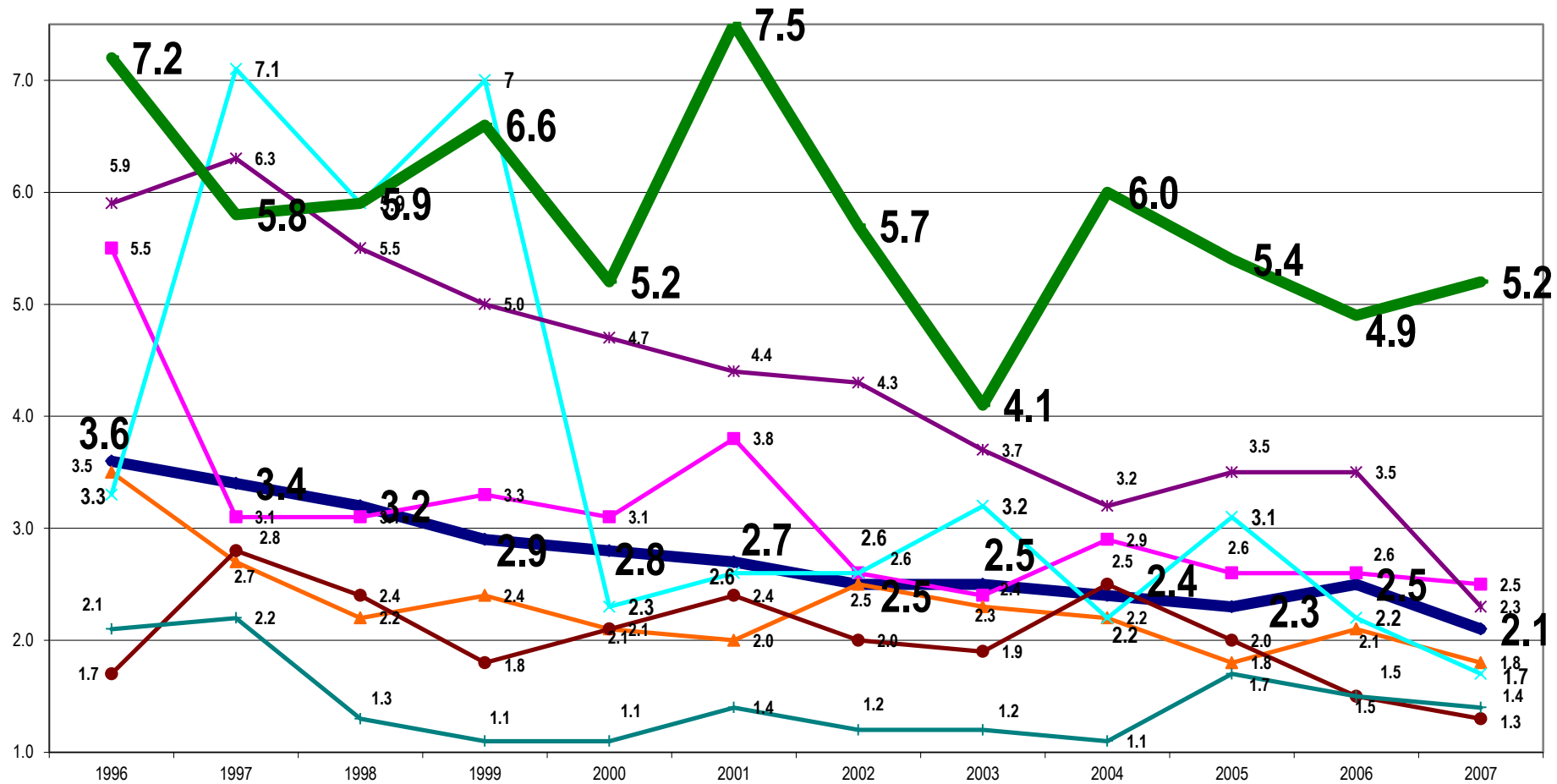
— Lethal occ. accidents per 100 000

Comparision of total accident rates (per 100 000) in EU (data: Eurostat)



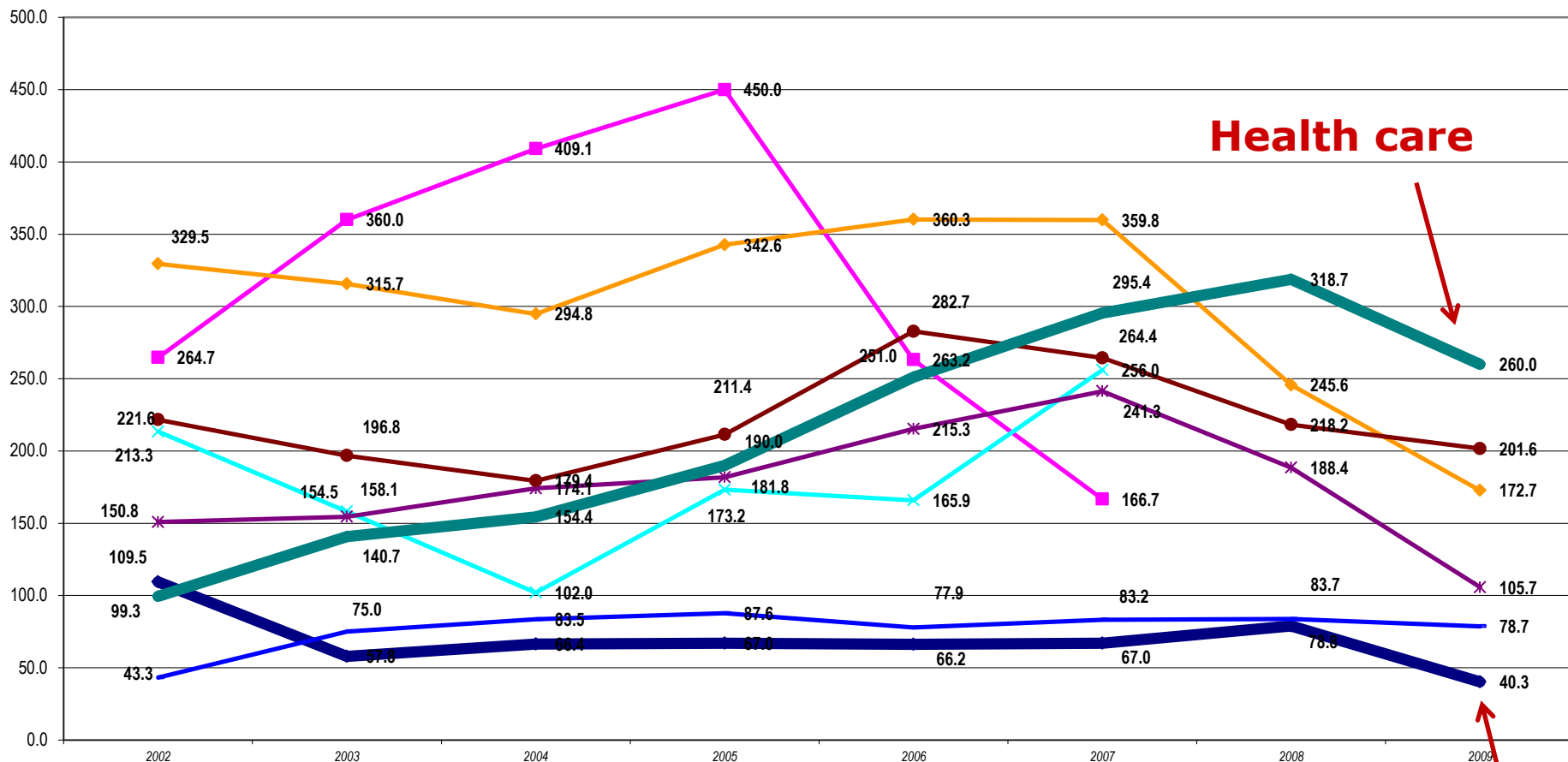
— ES (15)
 — Belgium
 — Germany
 — Ireland
 — Spain
 — Finland
 — Sweden
 — Latvia

Comparision of lethal accident rates (per 100 000) in EU (data: Eurostat)



■ ES (15)
 ■ Belgium
 ■ Germany
 ■ Ireland
 ■ Spain
 ■ Finland
 ■ Sweden
 ■ Latvia

Incidence of occupational accidents in Latvia (per 100 000) in various industries



Health care

Agriculture

■ Lauksaimniecība, medniecība un mežsaimniecība - Kopā

■ leguves rūpniecība un karjeru izstrāde

◆ Apstrādes rūpniecība - Kopā

◆ Elektroenerģija, gāzes un ūdens apgāde

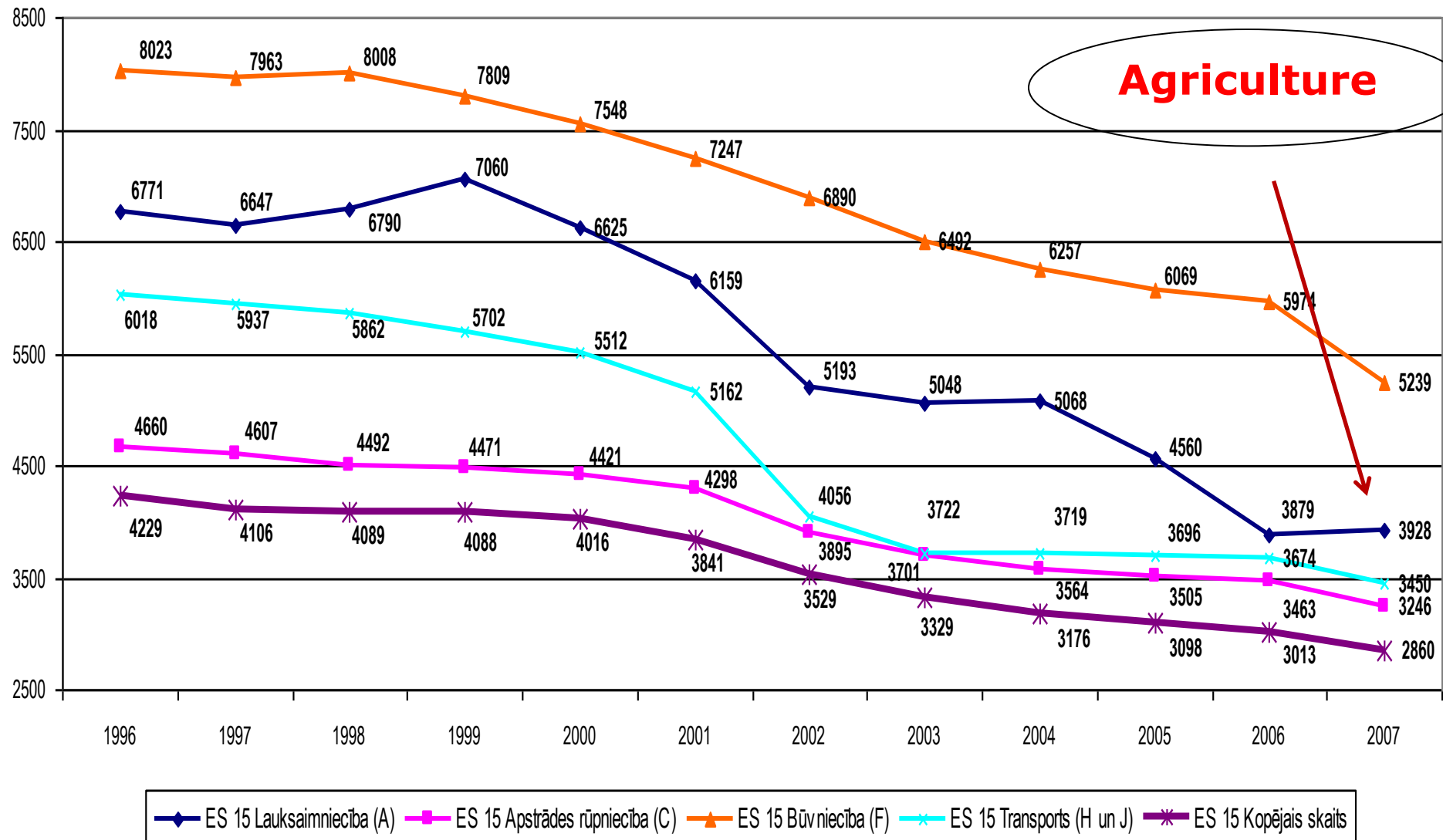
✱ Būvniecība

● Transporta nozare

■ Veselības un sociālā aprūpe

■ Pārējās nozares pēc NACE kodiem

Comparison of total accident rates (per 100 000) in EU (data: Eurostat) in selected industries



How many occupational accidents there are in Latvia?

- ❑ European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) (year 2000) data shows that there is 920 accidents per 1 fatal accident
- ❑ EU Survey data (2007) shows that 3.2% of workers suffers in accidents every year
- ❑ So in Latvia in 2011 there could have been:
 - ❑ **30 360 accidents** (according to ESAW)
 - ❑ **31 040 accidents** (according to surveys)

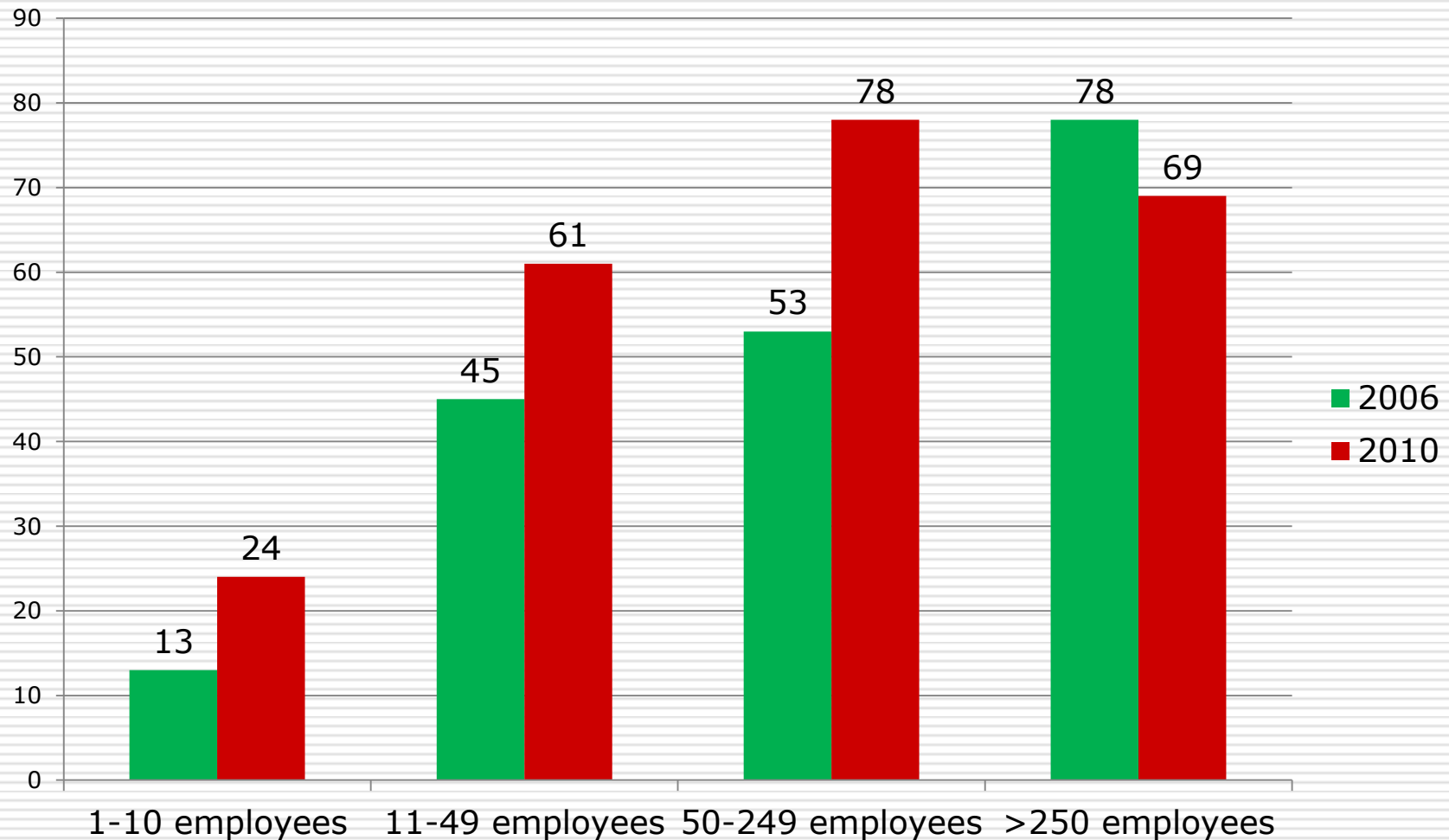


Possible reasons for under-reporting?

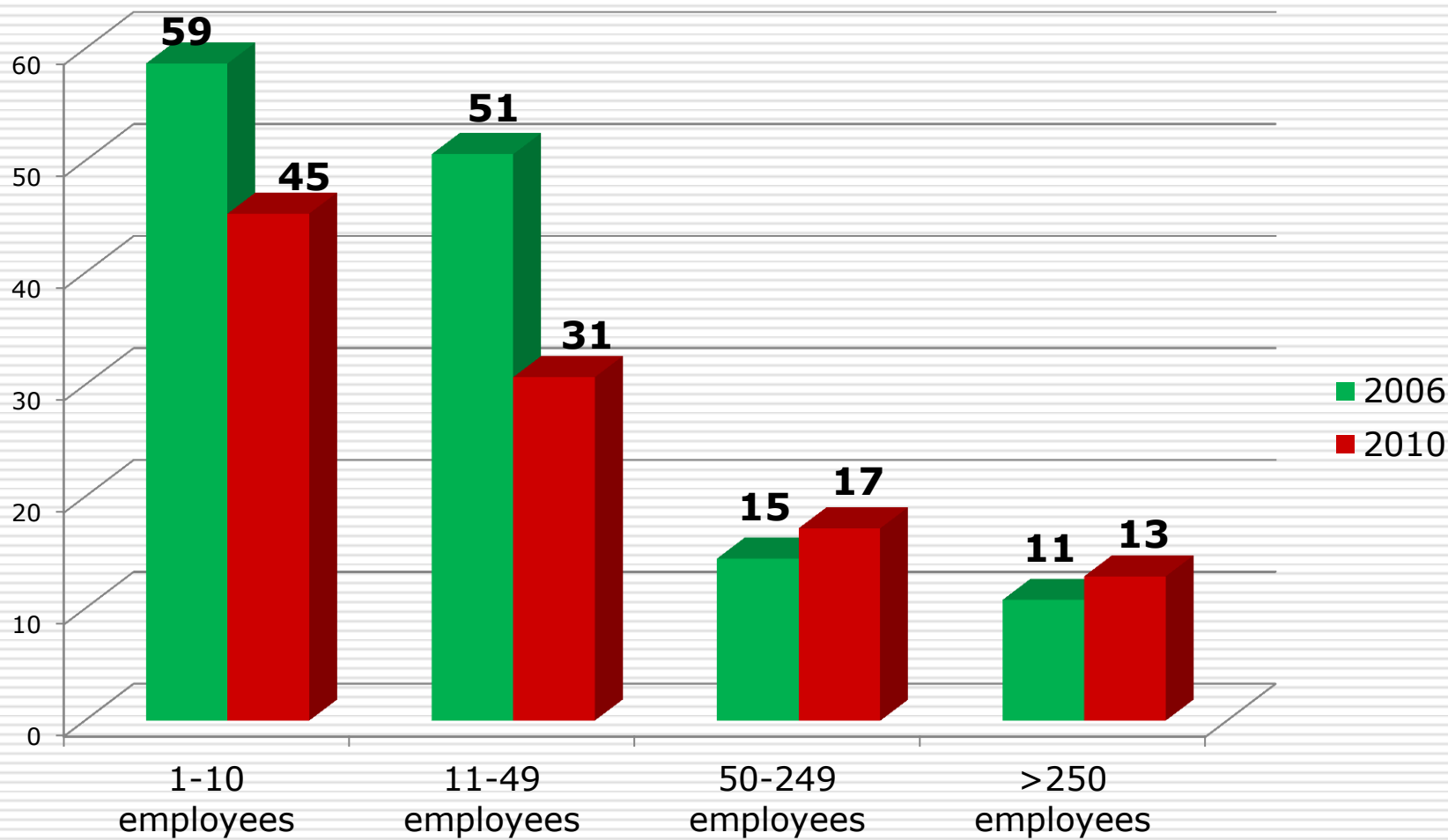
- ❑ Low awareness rates of accidents and near misses (missing safety culture)
- ❑ Low coverage of risk assessment especially in SME
- ❑ Low reporting rates both by employees and employers
- ❑ Historical heritage regarding the «hiding» habits and fear for sanctions
- ❑ And probably more...



Percentage of companies that has performed workplace risk assessment and had drawn up the action plan in 2006 and 2010



Percentage of accidents not reported by the number of employees in 2006 and 2010



Main conclusions

- ❑ Changes and efforts in improvements of registration of all occupational accidents in Latvia have not been sufficient and effective
- ❑ huge proportion of occupational accidents **is not registered**
- ❑ Different and complex approach shall be taken to increase reporting of occupational accidents by improving coverage of risk assessment and work conditions
- ❑ Unregistered accidents – huge long term health damage potential (20% more than 1 month work disability)

