

# Poland in the European Union

**SITE Development Day Conference: 04.12.2024**

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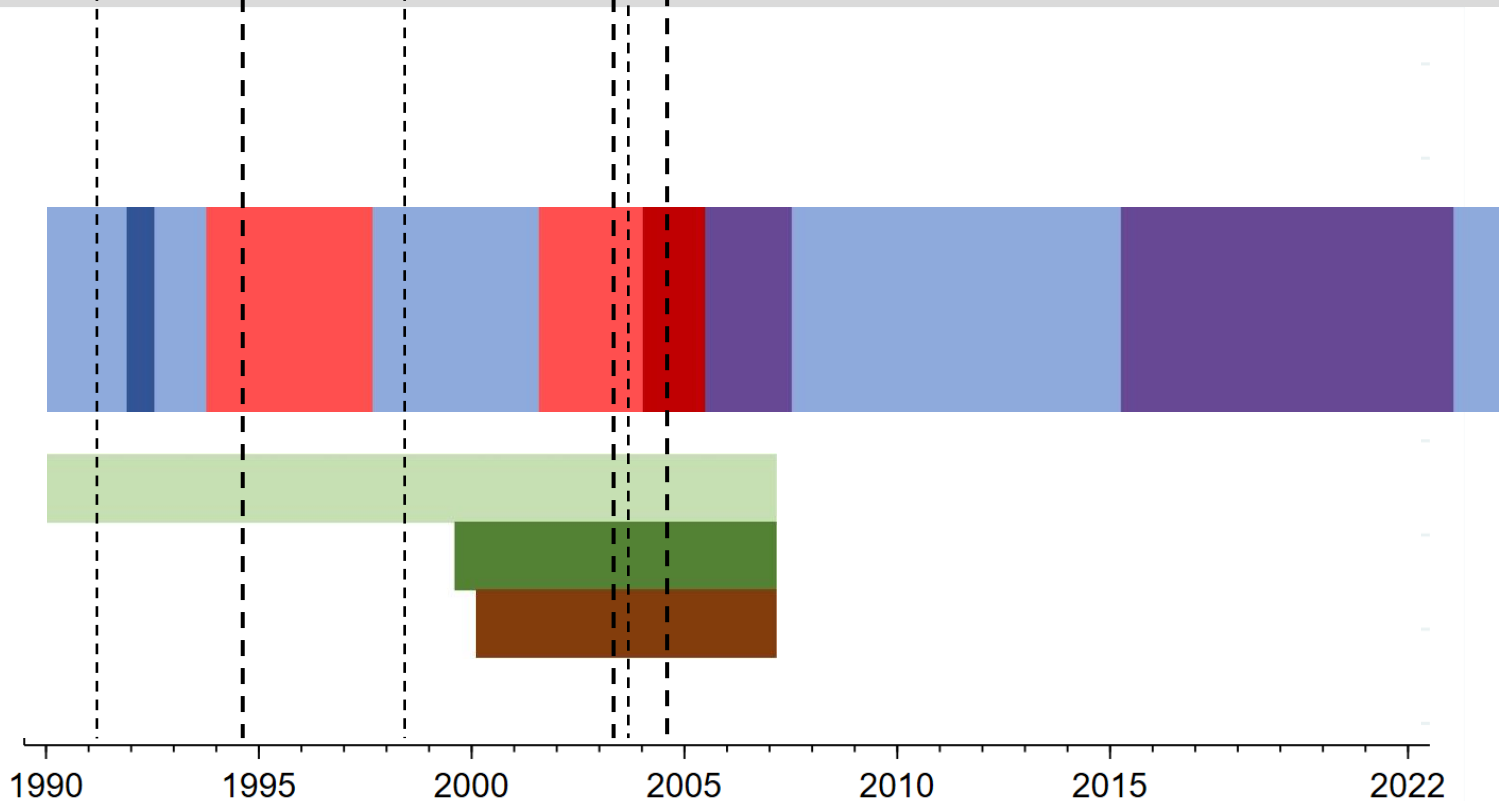
Association negotiations begin

Membership negotiations begin

REFERENDUM

Accession Treaty

Poland joins EU

## The path to accession:

- 02.1991 – association negotiations
- 04.1994 – membership application
- 03.1998 – membership negotiations
- 04.2003 – Accession Treaty
- 06.2003 – referendum
- 05.2004 – **Poland joins the EU**

- Liberal/conservative
- Conservative
- Socialist/rural
- Socialist
- Conservative/populist

### Pre-accession assistance

- PHARE/IPA – PL & HU Assistance for Restructuring their Economies
- SAPARD – Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
- ISPA – Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession

Association negotiations begin

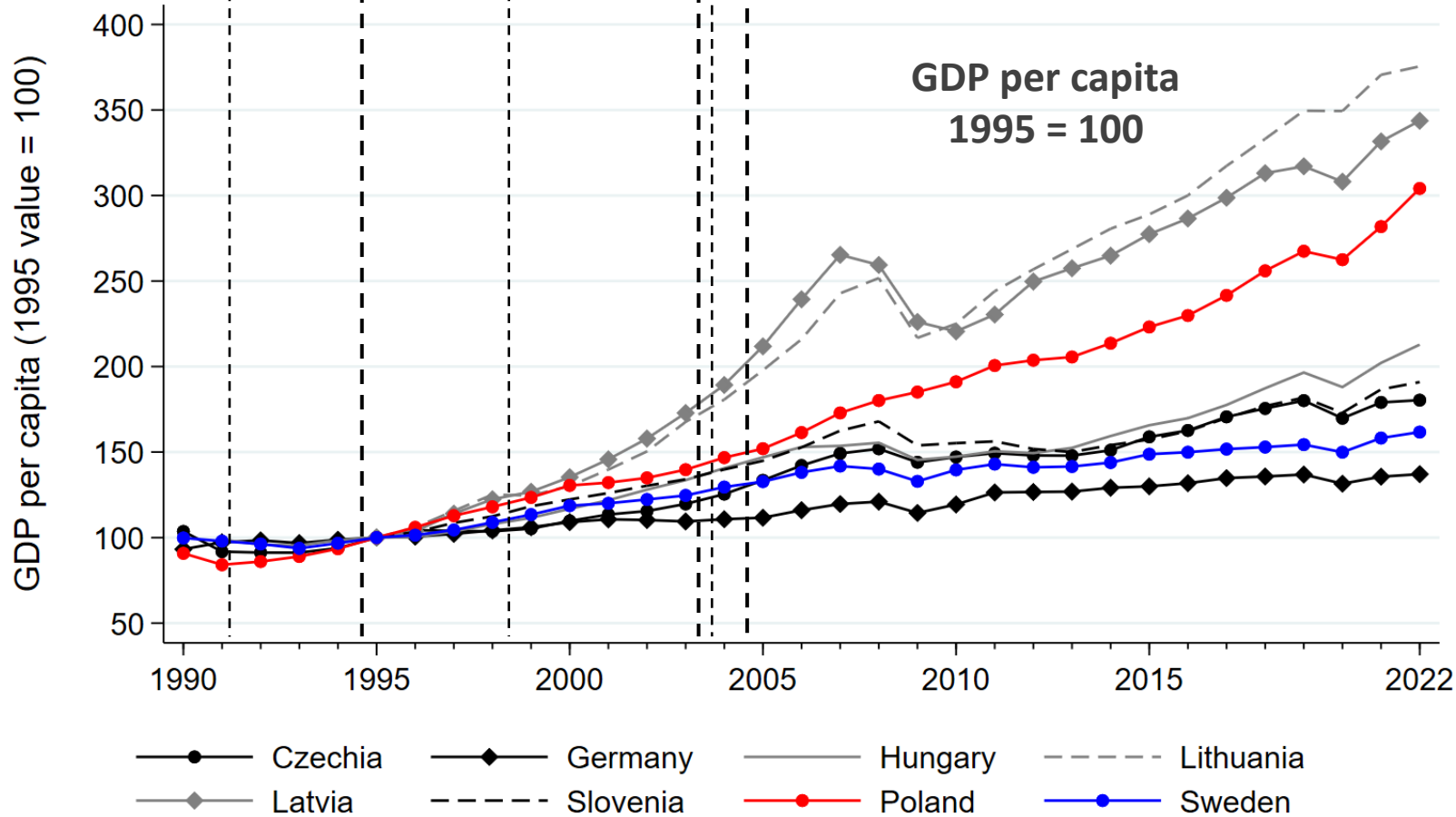
Membership application

Membership negotiations begin

Accession Treaty

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### Economic conditions:

- stable economic growth
- falling inflation: from 70% in 1991 to 3.5% in 2004
- high unemployment: 6.6% in 1991, 20.6% in 2004

Association negotiations begin

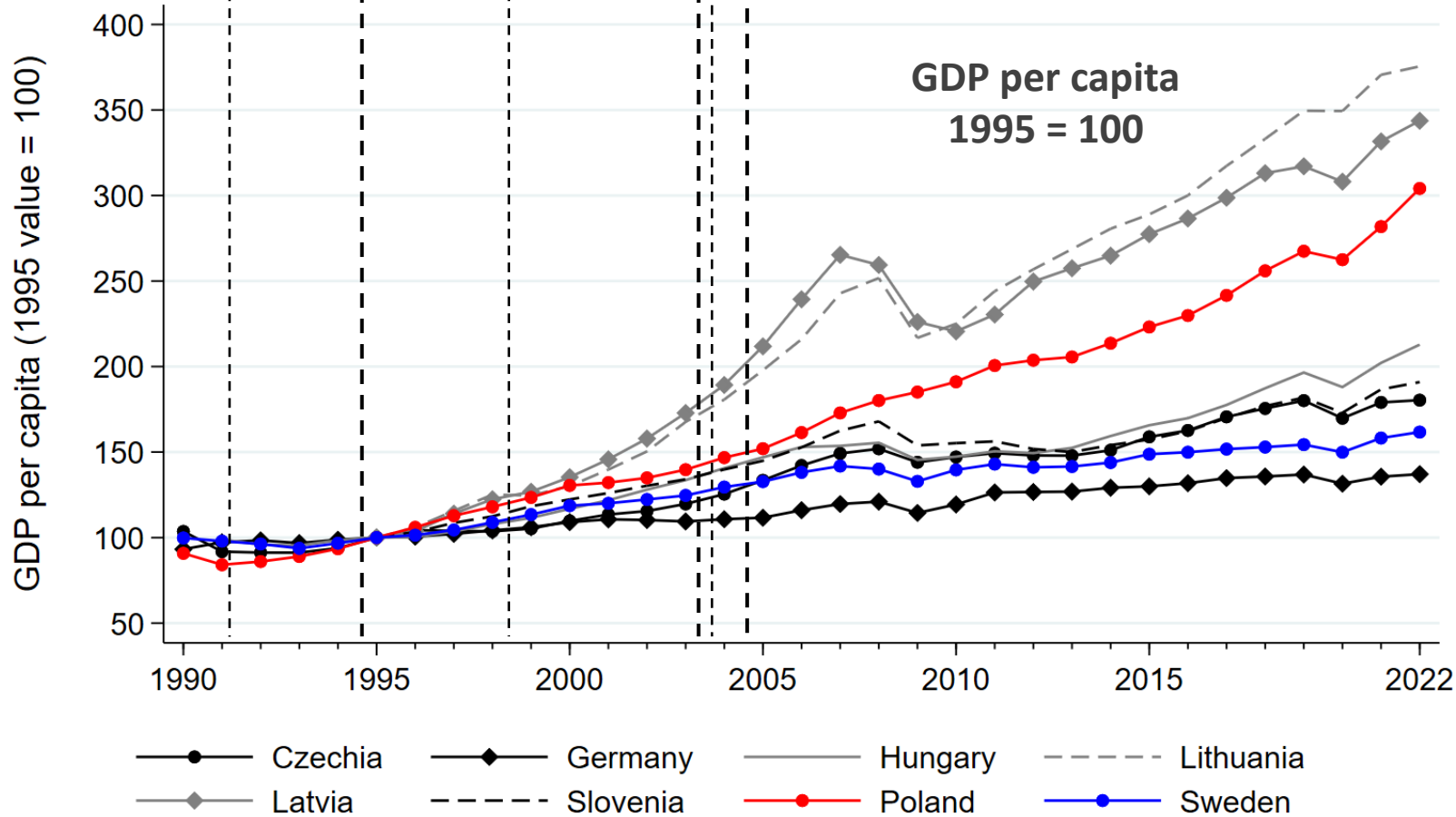
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### World Bank (2017):

- EU accession as anchor for institutions guiding reforms
- EU infrastructure funds used to connect markets and support participation in global value chains

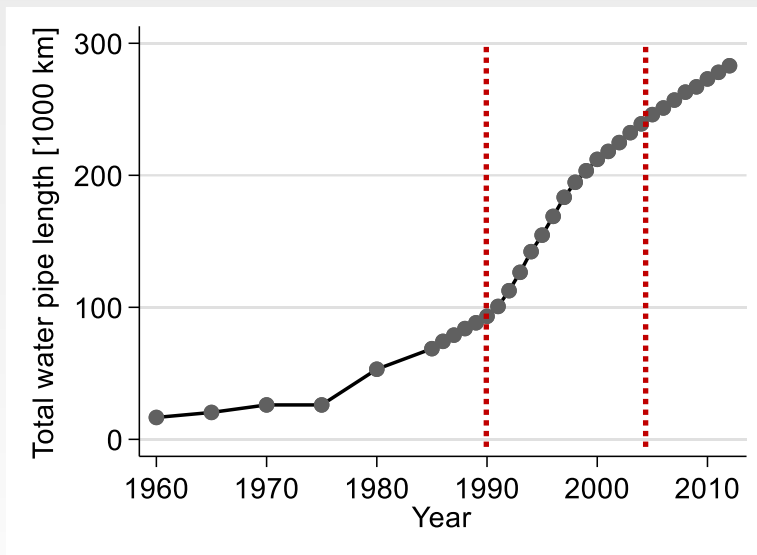


# Poland in the European Union:

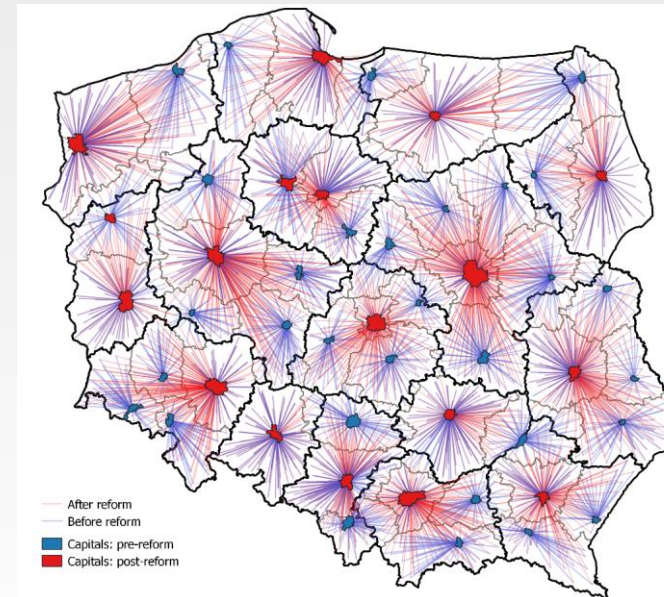
## Key factors behind Poland's success:

⇒ effective use of pre-accession funds:  
infrastructure development

Total length of water pipes 1960–2012

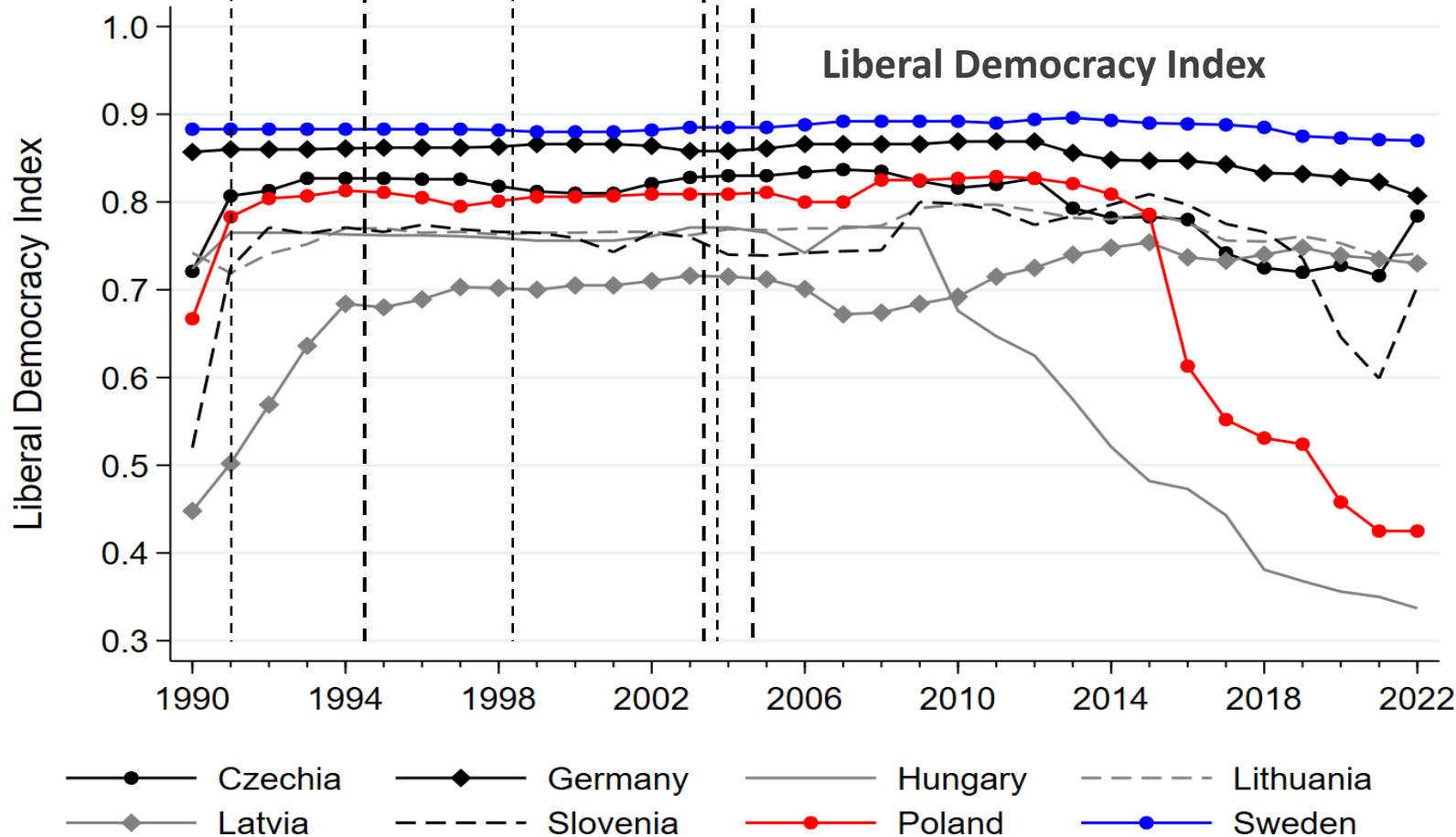
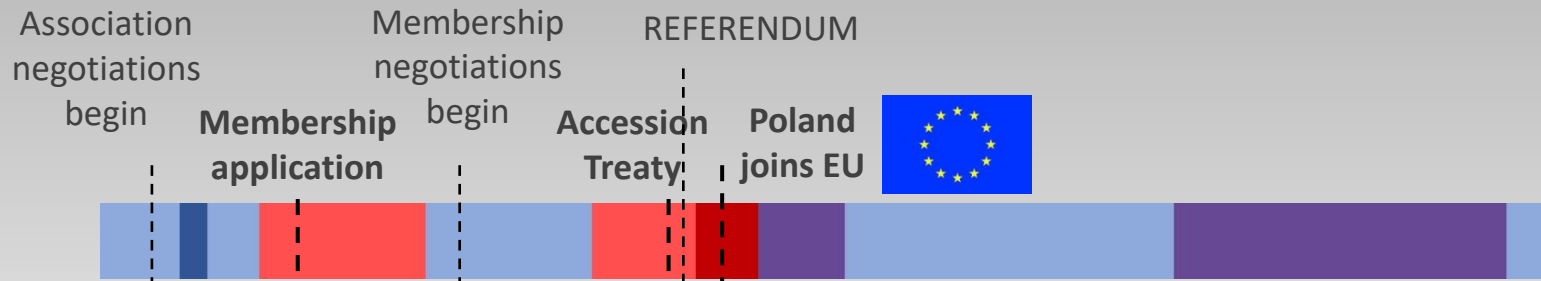


⇒ support in design and implementation of major structural reforms (1999): healthcare, education, pensions, administrative system



1999 administrative reform -  
regional capitals and distance  
from municipalities

Source: Myck & Najstubb (2019, 2020)



## Developments after 2004:

- Stable and rapid GDP growth after accession, in 2015:
  - very low inflation
  - unemployment at 10%
- YET: turn towards populist governments prepared to question the value of EU membership (despite high EU approval ratings)
- EU membership/institutions critical in restoring the democratic government in October 2023

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# Thank you!

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