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Statistics relating to the trading of goods by the European Community and its Member States

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Free movements of goods between Member States

The European Communities became formally a single market on 1st January 1993

- The physical frontiers were removed from between Member States
- Customs declarations available only for trade with non-member countries
- Loss of statistical data source for trade between Member States



Setting up two different statistical systems

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Intrastat

- Community goods
- Goods in free circulation
- Goods which enter/leave the reporting Member State supplied from or bound for another Member State;
- Collected monthly directly from companies
- Close link to the VAT system

Extrastat

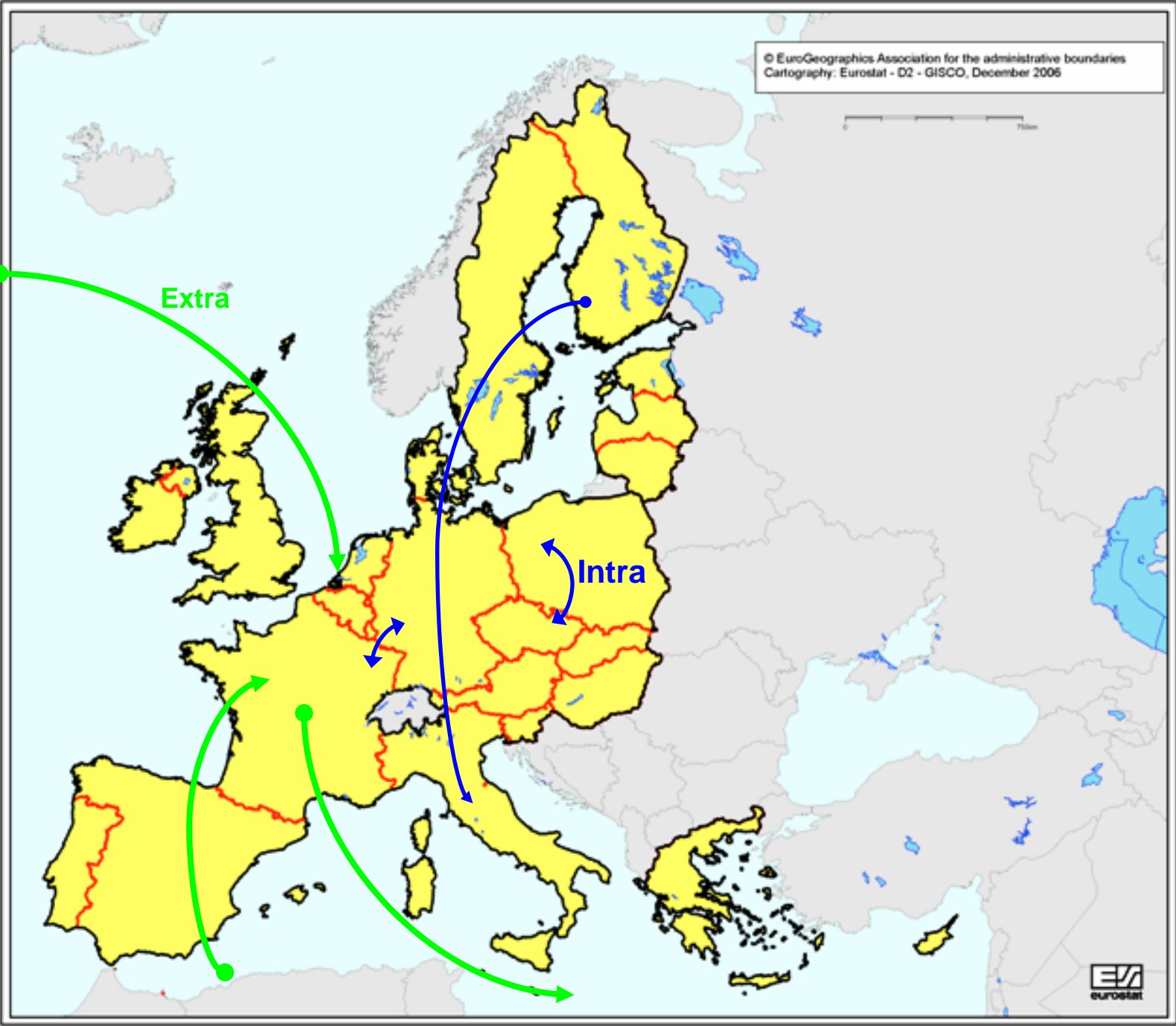
- Non-Community goods
- Special trade system
- Goods which enter from or leave for a non-member country to/from the reporting Member State
- Collected from Customs declarations

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Extra

Intra





The Intrastat system

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- Comparability with Extrastat trade flows is kept (e.g. same detailed nomenclatures & periodicity)
- A threshold system exempting about 70-80% of traders from reporting
- A change from administrative data sources to direct data collection



.... and its further characteristics

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- Statistical reporting burden becomes apparent
- Reduced data collection (8 elements)
- Implementation of simplified reporting measures
- Trade data not collected has to be estimated
- Identification and monitoring of parties reporting for
Intrastat (trader register)



Ensure data quality

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- Exhaustiveness and quality control using fiscal information (VAT system)
- Asymmetries and reconciliation exercises
- Adjustments for trade below the threshold and late response
- Revisions
- Harmonisation of concepts, definitions, and methods
- Implementation of electronic data collection and validation tools
- Quality reporting



Institutional Arrangements

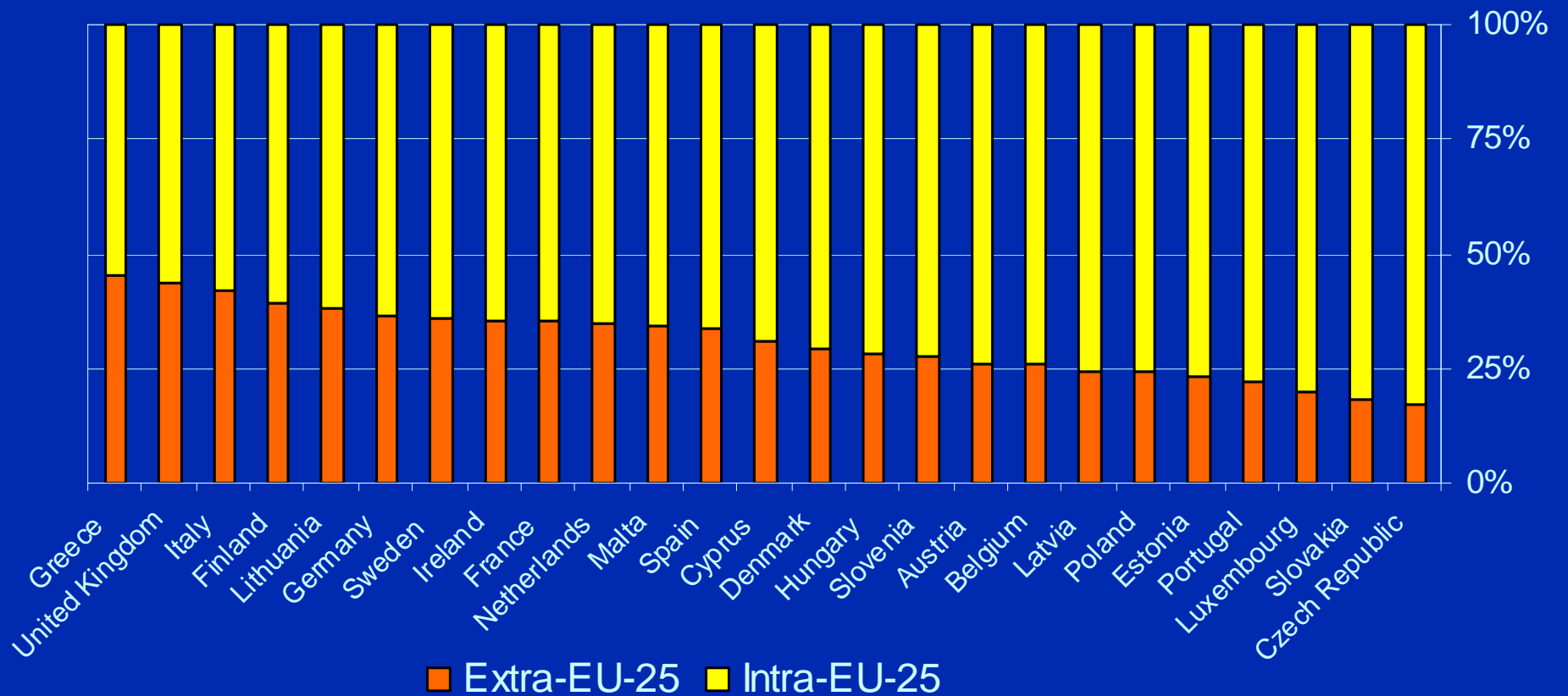
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- Distribution of responsibilities between Community and National level
- Supporting measures (EDICOM programme)
- National organisational and administrative structure concerning Intrastat data collection, processing and dissemination



Intra and Extra EU-25 trade 2005

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Challenges of European trade statistics

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- Accurate allocation of Extra-trade flows to Member States under Centralised Customs Clearance
- Further simplification of Intrastat reporting (e.g. diminishing the number of respondents by implementing a single flow system or increasing the exemption threshold)