

Populism in Eastern Europe

1. Agrarian Populism (Margaret Canovan 1981)

- Emerged in 19th century in the U.S. and Russia
- Peasants: basis of a good society
- Agrarian economy: most important foundation for the whole state economy
- Demands:
 - Radical economic reforms
 - Better education, health services and direct participation opportunities
- Capitalism: foreign intervention brought by “aliens

2. Polish Populism

2.1 Partitioned Poland (1850s to 1920)

- .19th century: emancipation of the peasantry during the Napoleonic wars**
- .Roman catholic church supported peasantry and had anti-capitalistic view**
- .1895: Polish Peasant Party (PSL) was established**
- .1905-1907: House of Habsburg and the Tsar accepted party**
- .Until 1920: Different peasant movements fought their occupation**

2.2 Inter-War Period (1920-1939)

- After independence (1918) PSL was only 2,5 years in power with medium success until 1926 (end of democracy)
- Saw neither Marxism nor Capitalism as a good way
→ ideal: small scale farming with new technology
- WWII interrupted ongoing transformation process but youth organization had a great legacy

2.3 WWII and communist rule (1939-1989)

- .Forced labor, high taxation and discrimination led to peasant mass resistance against German rule**
- .End of WWII it was clear that Poland will fall under the UdSSR rule**
- .Polish Worker's Party (PPR) wanted fast industrialization + urbanization at the cost of rural population**

2.3 WWII and communist rule (1939-1989)

- .PSL Resistance gained support from all sides and was a serious obstacle to communist hegemony**
- .United Polish Workers' Party (UPWP) organized sister party United Peasant Party (UPP)**
- .→ attempted to attract peasants to communist party**

2.4 Collectivization Process and Legacy of youth organizations

- From 1944-1950 UPP proclaimed no collectivization of agriculture
 - In 1950 opposition among peasantry emerged since they were attached to their individual farms
 - resulted in a slow-down strike and was supported by church
 - led to food shortages in cities
- More attempts by UPP to start collectivization process again

2.5 Regained independence and EU-membership (1989-2004)

.80% of the territory was owned by family farms in 1992

.4 Mio. individual peasants + agrarian workers, skilled professionals who never lost bonds to their rural heritage

–Base for agrarian populist parties

Hypotheses 1: Tradition and religion leads to voting for populist

.Traditions are safeguarded by the church

LINK!!!

–Link between conservatism, religion and populism

.Difficulties to divide party landscape on left-right

3.1 Development of the Party System

3.1 Polish Parties

Platforma Obywatelska (PO)

- Liberal conservatism**
- Christian democratic**
- Liberalism**
- Pro-European**

**Platforma
Obywatelska**

3.1 Polish Parties

.Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (PiS)

- National-conservative
- Christian democratic
- Soft- eurosceptic
- populist



3.1 Polish Parties

.Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (PSL)

- Agrarian**
- Christian Democratic**
- Euro-sceptic**



3.1 Polish Parties

Liga Polskich Rodzin (LPR)

- Nationalist conservative
- Political Catholic
- Euro-sceptic
- Populist



3.1 Polish Parties

.Samoobrona Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (SRP)

- Agrarian**
- Nationalist**
- Christian socialist**
- Euro-sceptic**
- Populist**

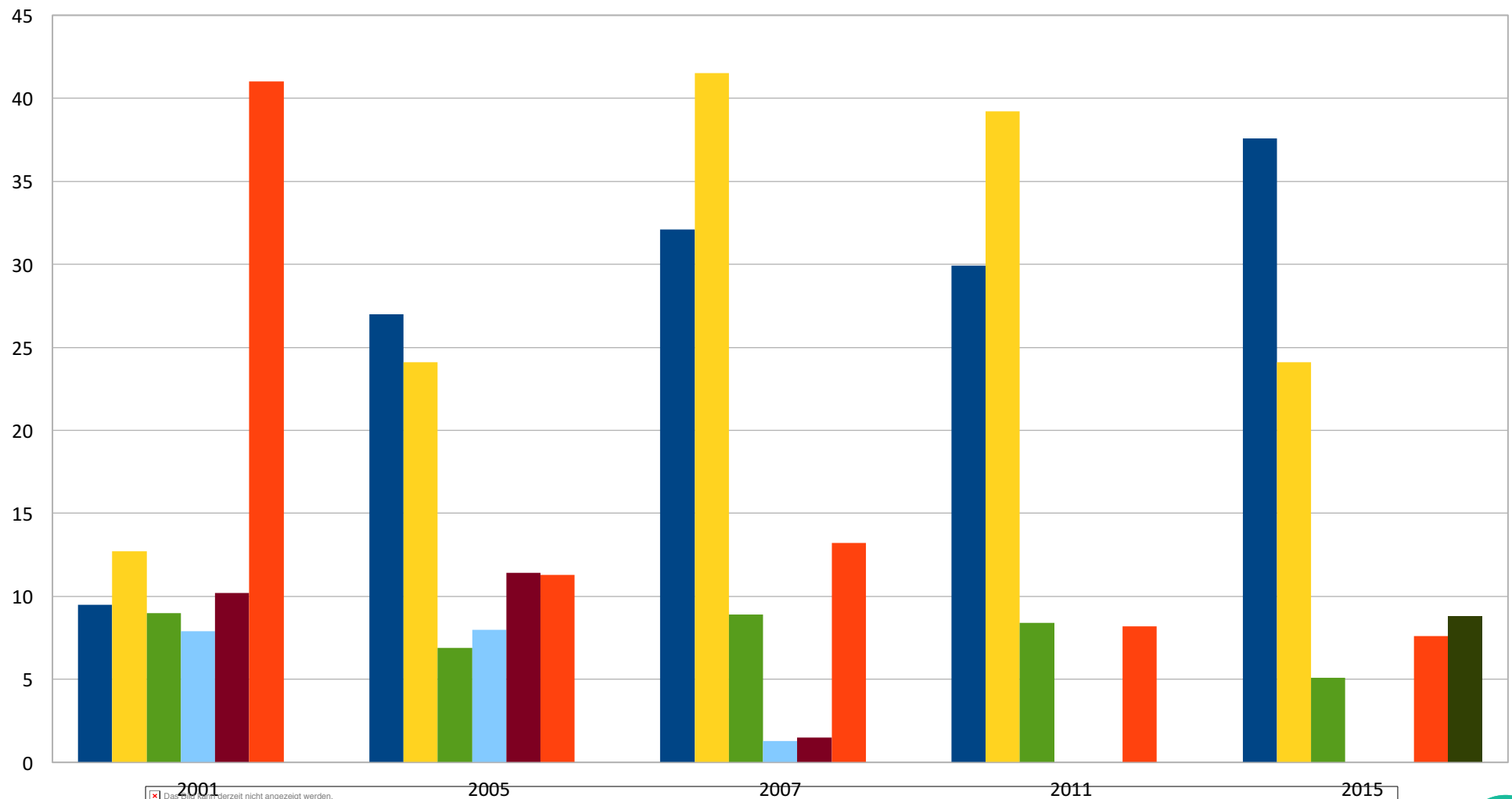


3.1 Polish Parties

- **Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD)**
- **Lewica i Demokraci (LI)**
- **Zjednoczona Lewica (ZL)**
- Alliances of left (and liberal) parties



3.2 Development - Parliamentary Elections since 2001



2001 Das Bild kann zurzeit nicht angezeigt werden.

2005

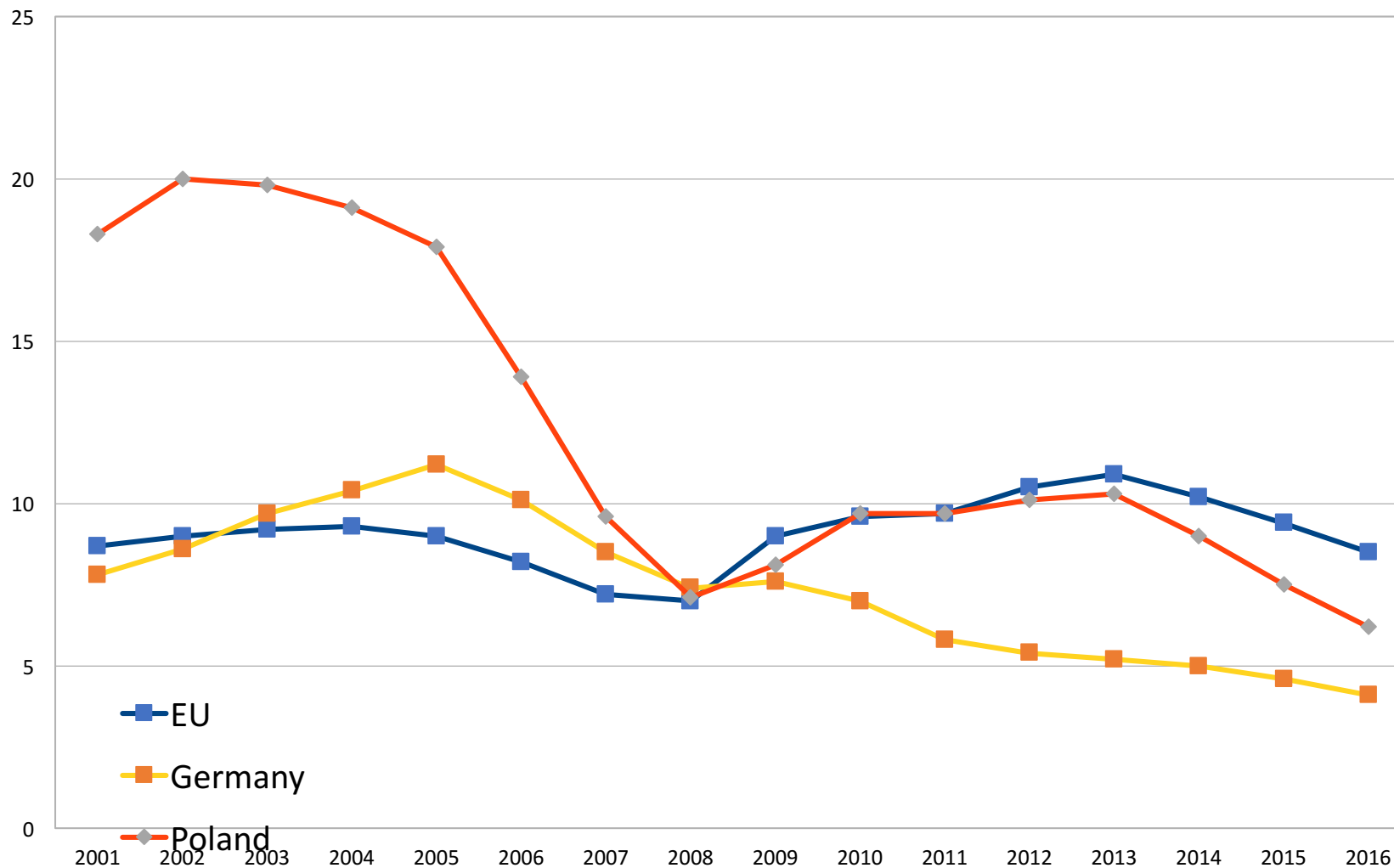
2007

2011

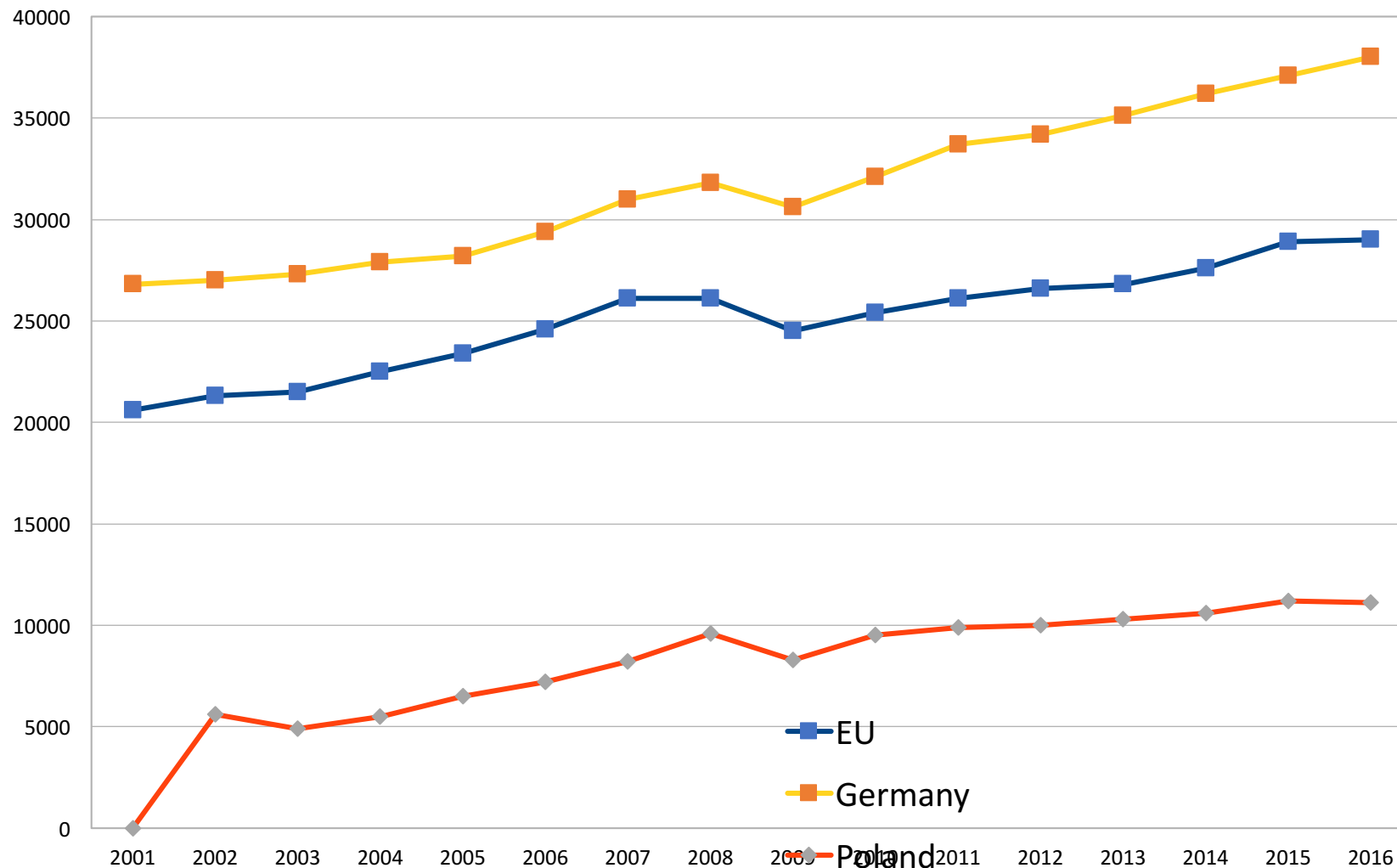
2015

4.1 Rise of the PiS

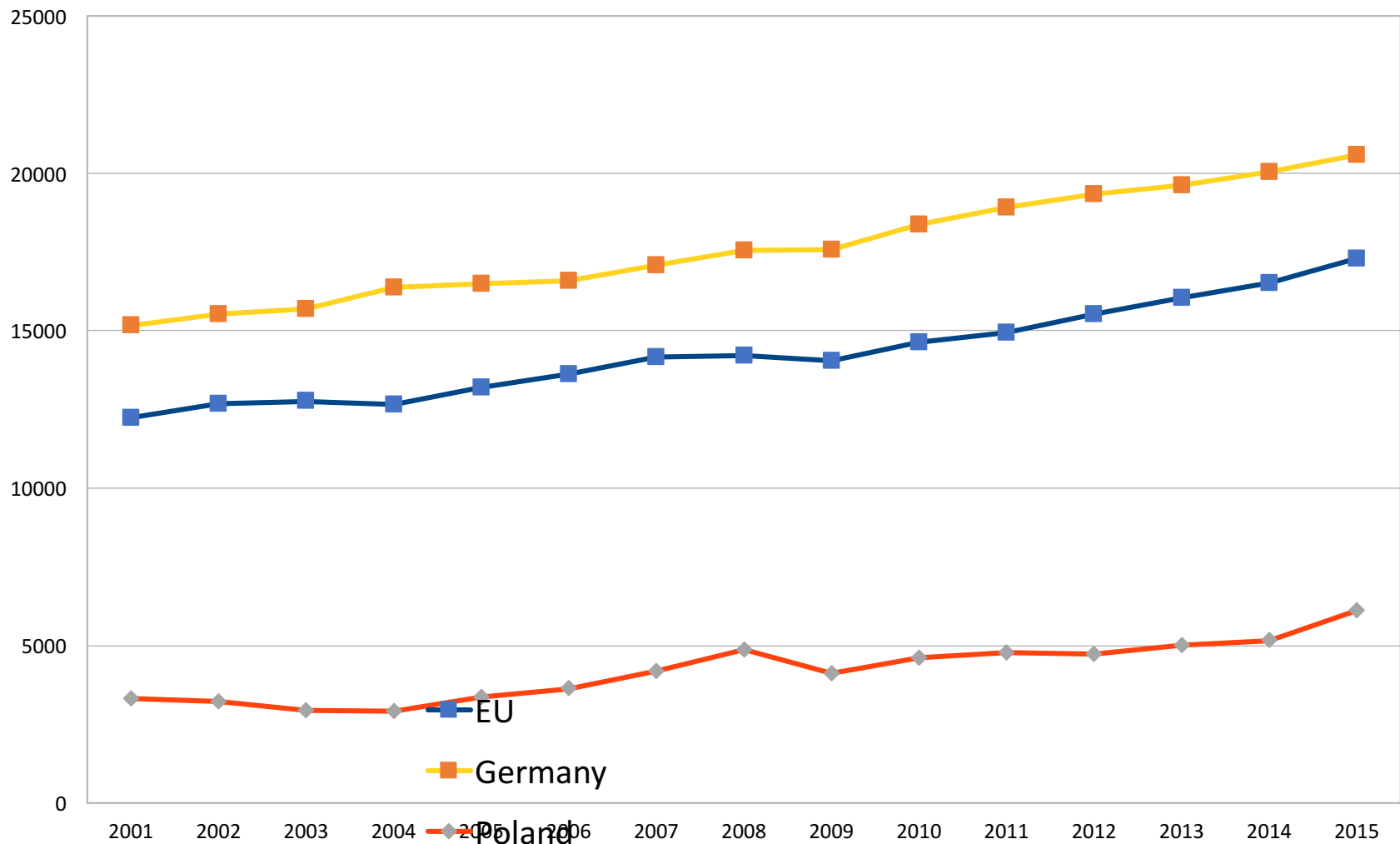
4.1 Poland 2015 - Unemployment



4.1 Poland 2015 – GDP per capita



4.1 Poland 2015 – Net Wages



4.2 Reasons

- .PO's weakness**
- .Creation of very successful narratives**
- .PiS softened its image**
- .Promise of very generous economic reforms**
- .Voter Mobilization & support of Catholic Church**
- .EU-crisis**
- .Majoritarianism**

5. Conclusion Poland

- Erosion of checks and balances
- conservative catholic values gain increasing importance
- Voters influenced by moral and cultural rather than socio-economic issues
- Weakness of moderate parties in addition to the majority vote system helped populists
- Agrarian populism is replaced by post-peasant populism