



CORE organic

Joint Organic Congress

Session A 1-2-3

Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

Stefan Lange

Federal Agency for Agriculture & Food (BLE), Germany

Odense, 30th of May 2006

Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

- 1. What have been the main topics of European OF&F research in the last few years?**
- 2. Budgets and public funding regarding to research topics**
- 3. What should be the future research topics?**
- 4. How should this research be organised and financed?**

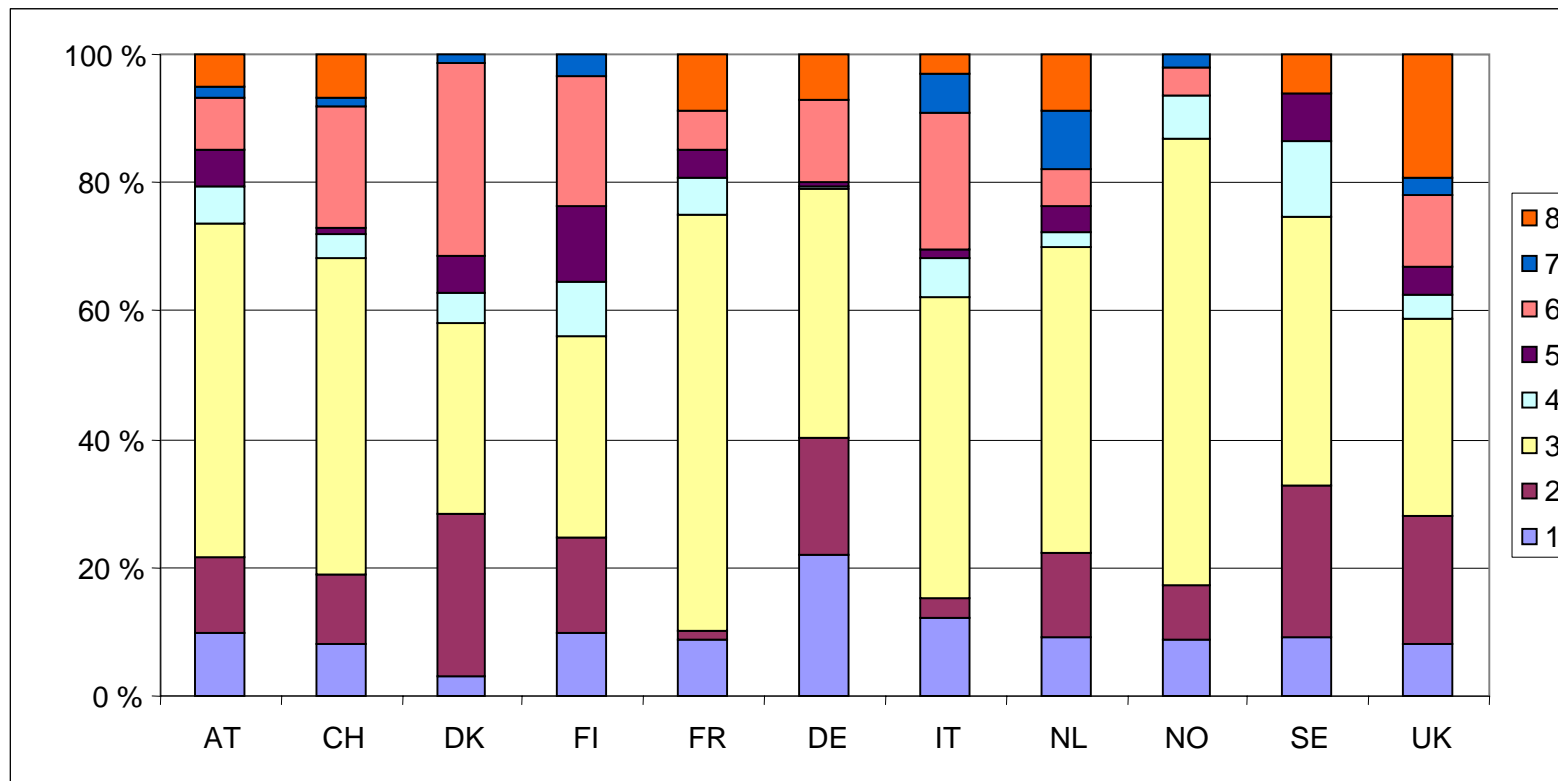
Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

- 1. What have been the main topics of European OF&F research in the last few years?**

Subject Categories

- Farming Systems
- Animal Husbandry
- Crop Husbandry
- Soil
- Food Systems
- Values, standards & certification
- Environmental aspects
- Knowledge management

Analysis of research projects



Relative amount of research projects in CORE participating countries in 2005

1= Farming systems

2= Animal husbandry

3= Crop husbandry

4= Soil

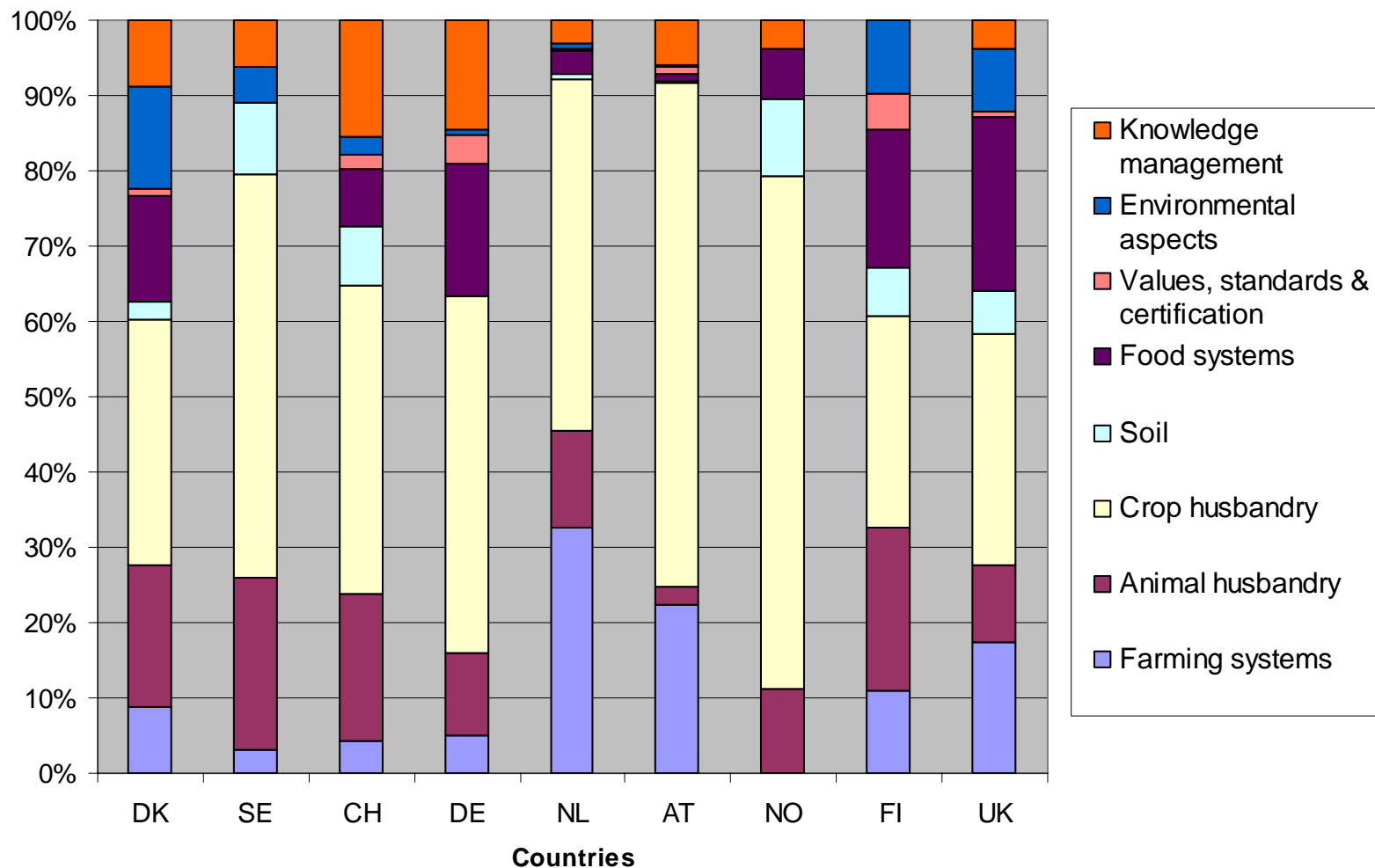
5= Environmental aspects

6= Food systems

7= Values, standards and certification

8= Knowledge management

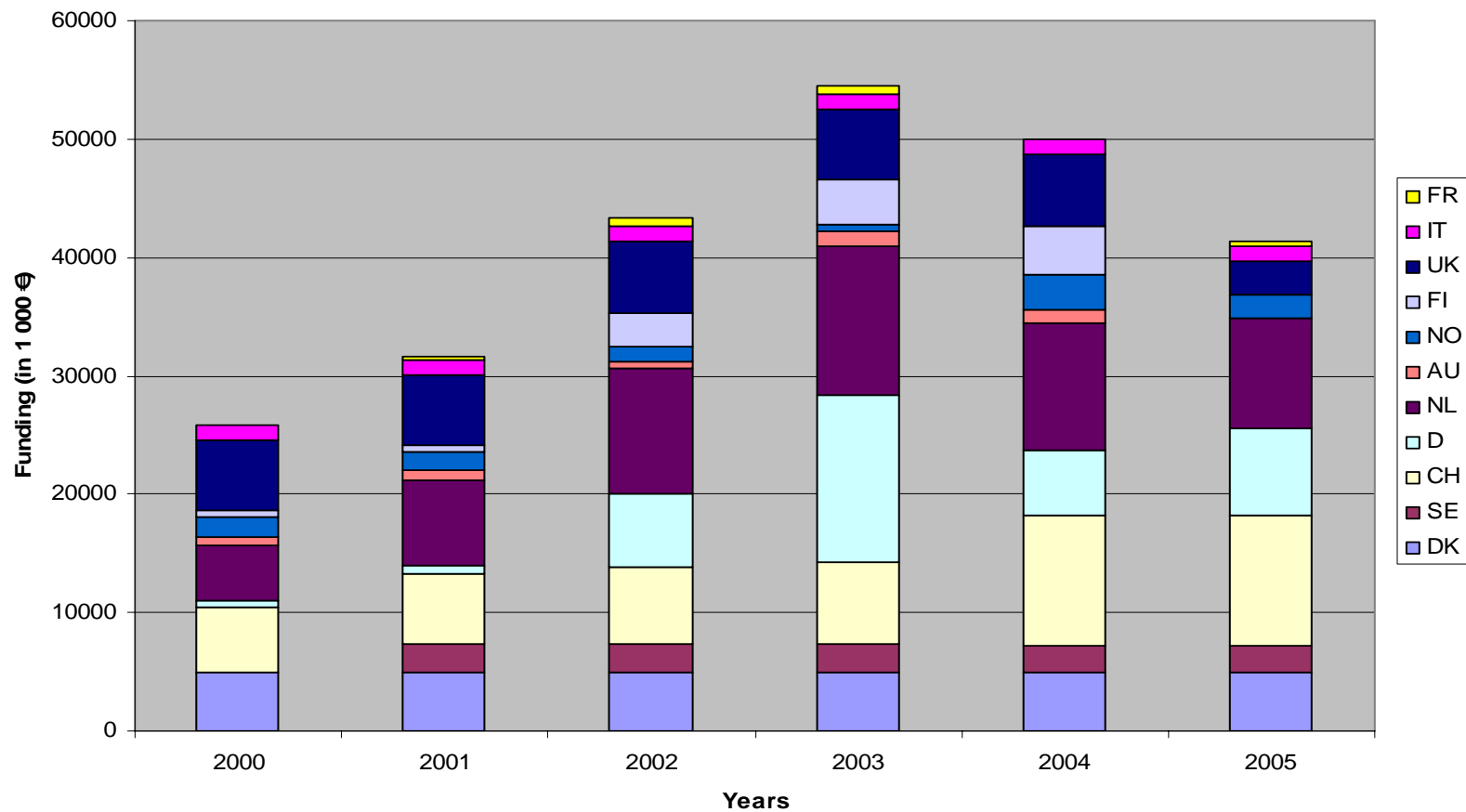
Research Share according to Subject Categories of European Countries involved in CORE Organic in 2004



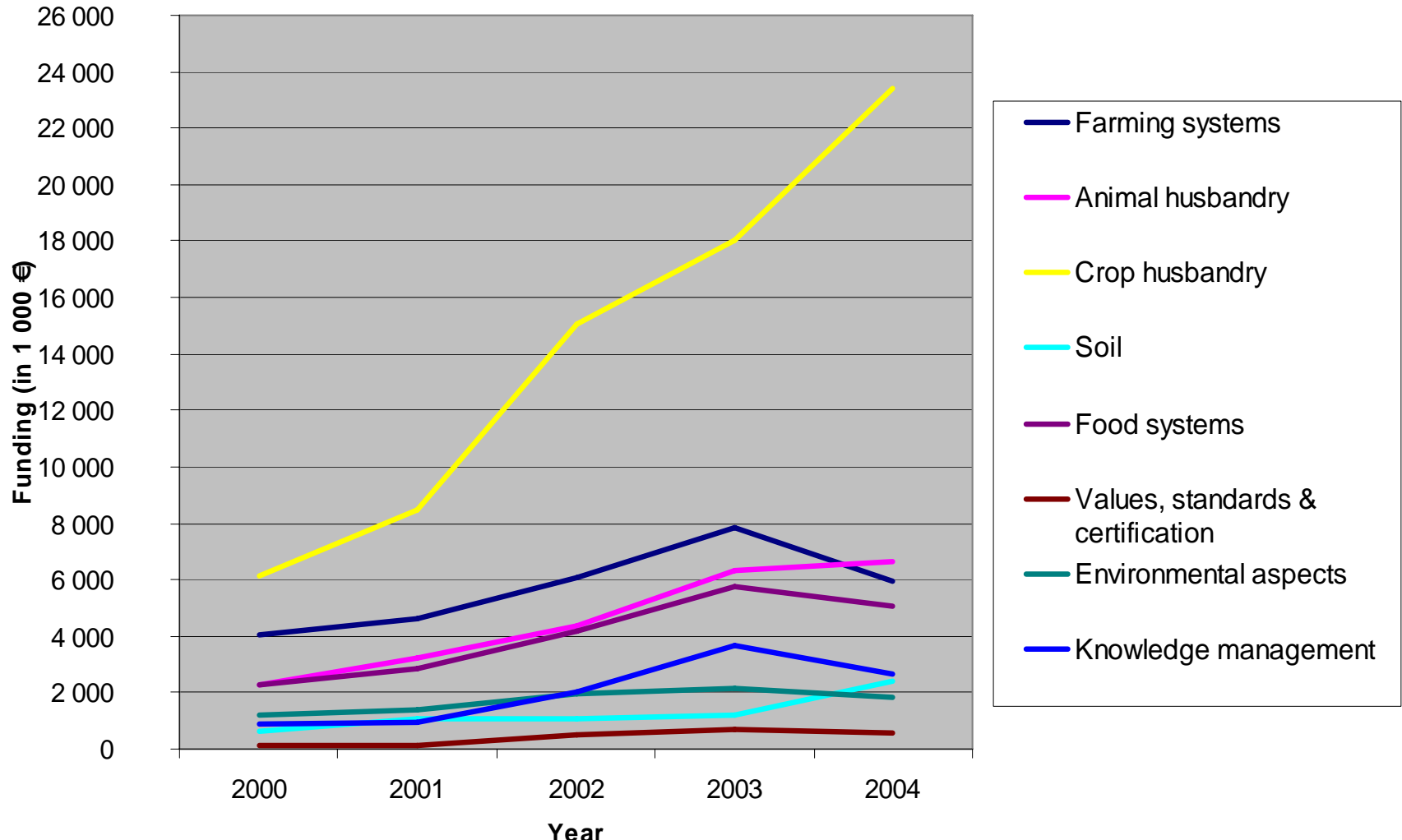
Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

- 2. Budgets and public funding regarding to
research topics**

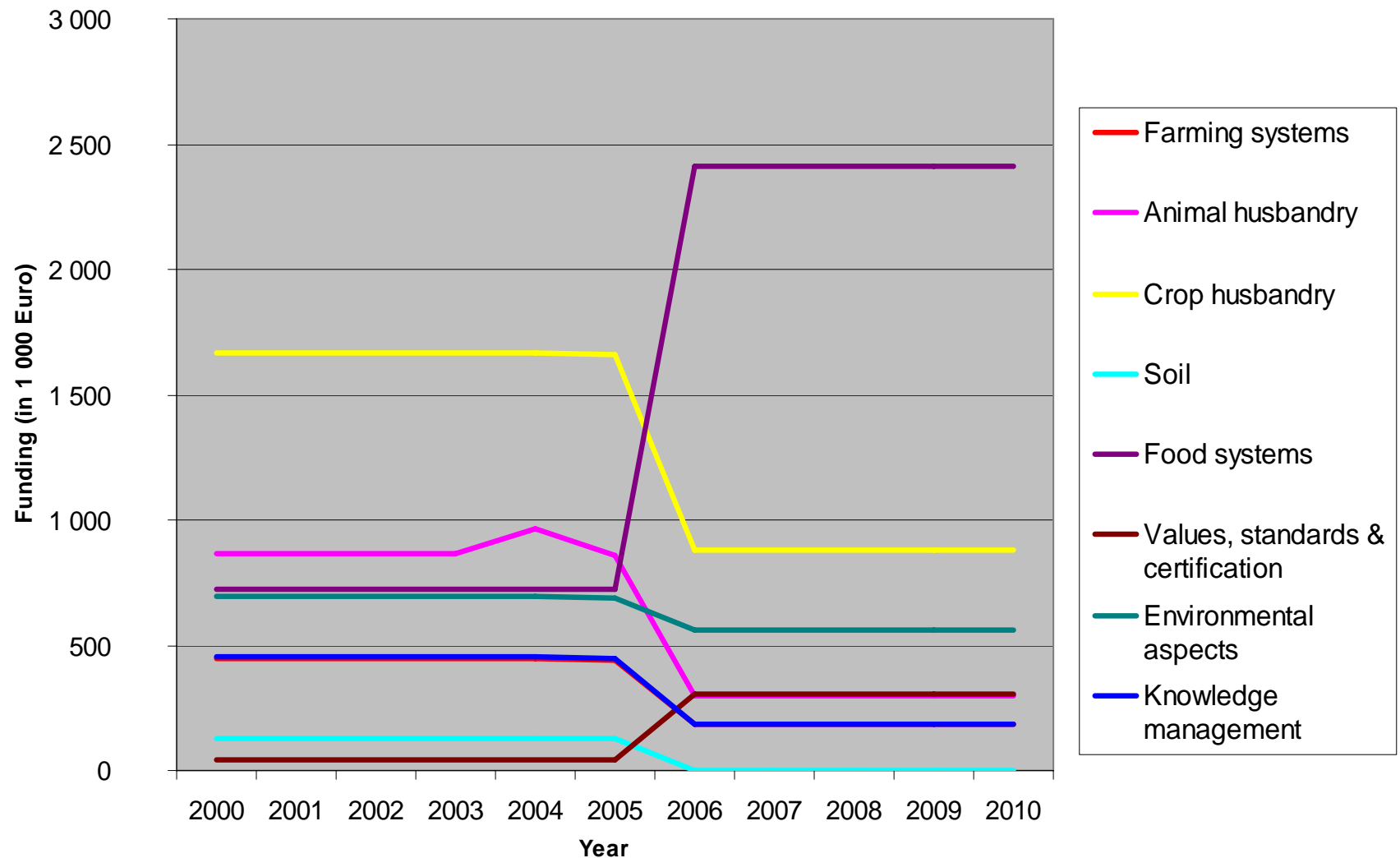
Research Programme: Total Funding (2000-2005) according to CORE Countries



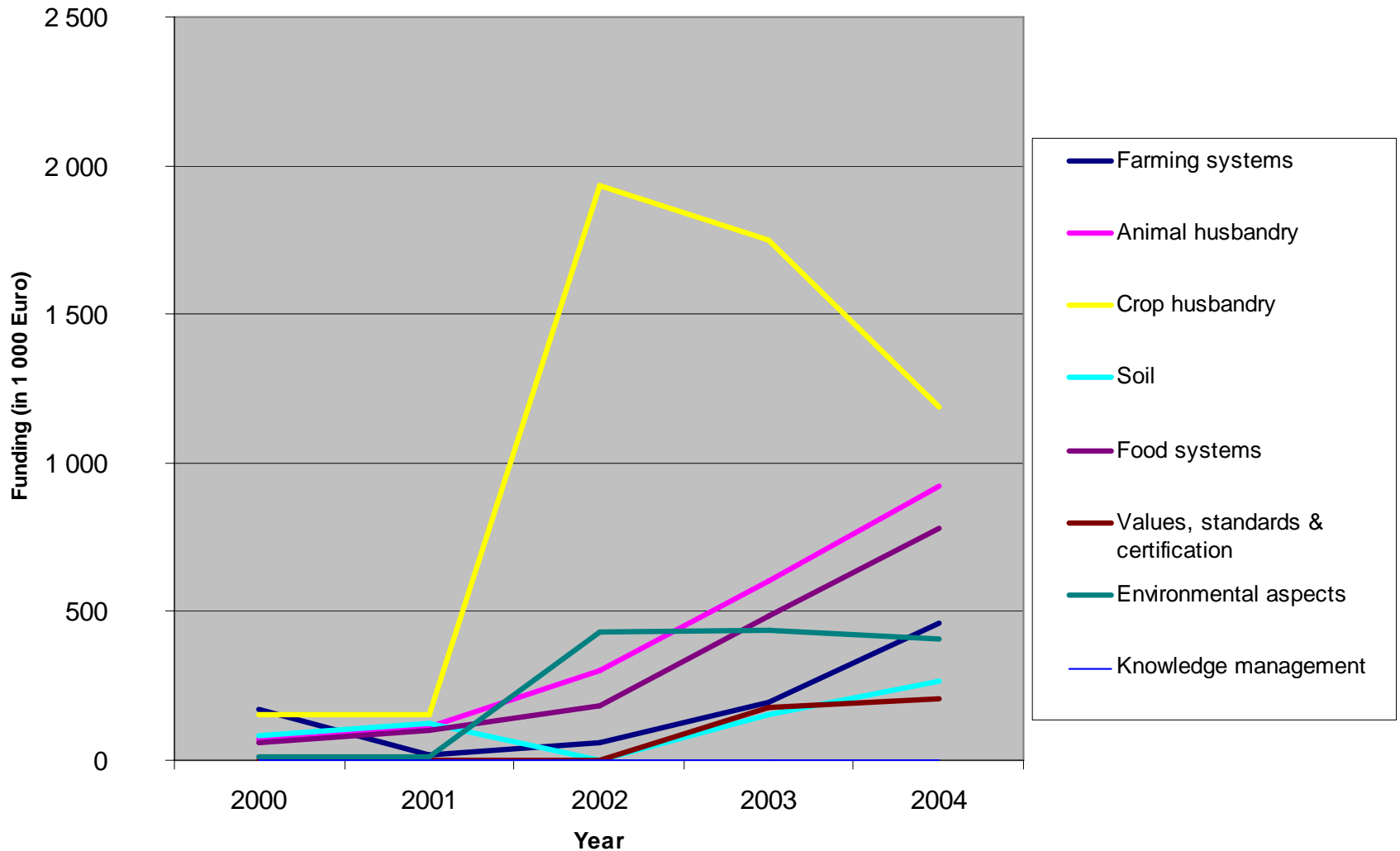
Development of Funding according to Subject Categories between 2000-2004 in 11 European Countries



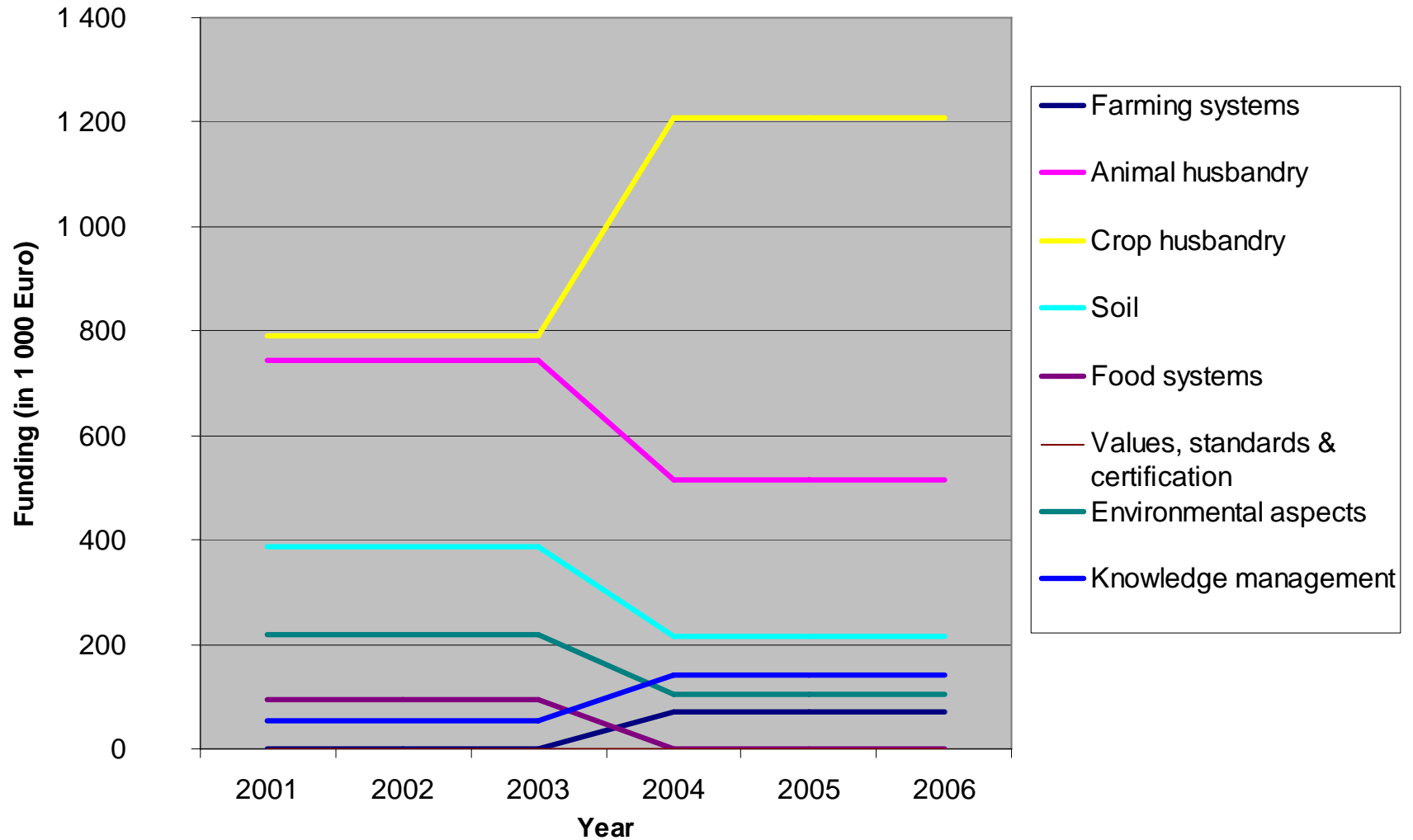
Denmark: Development of Funding according to Subject Categories between 2000-2010



Finland: Development of Funding according to Subject Categories between 2000-2004



Sweden: Development of Funding according to Subject Categories between 2000-2006



Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

3. What should be the future research topics?

In general:

The **basis** for the future of European OF&F is an **excellent process and product quality**.

Keeping and developing these benefits of organic agriculture for rural development, environment and consumers basically **means to focus on quality leadership** instead of cost leadership.

Focussing on output maximisation along the legal periphery leads to conventionalisation. Practitioners should be enabled to **optimise their farming systems**.

Research has to follow these priorities!

Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

3. What should be the future research topics?

Important research contents, e.g.:

- Animal husbandry / animal health management
- Food quality issues (e.g. process quality as a part of product quality)
- Soil fertility
- Local & regional aspects of OF&F: potentials, influences, barriers
- Technical development
- Improvement of information and knowledge transfer (vertical / horizontal)

Research methodology / organisation:

- Real interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary research – a challenge both for scientists and funding bodies!
- Re-integration of disciplinary research findings into the holistic context
- Co-operation across disciplinary borders, co-operation across national borders

Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

4. How should this research be organised and financed?

One answer: Transnational research and funding structures !

A brilliant tool: CORE Organic !

The goals of CORE Organic partners:

- Increasing the exchange of information
- Transnational coordination of national research funding programmes
- Developing best practise to evaluate organic research
- Identification of common research needs
- Establishing a common funding pool (3 Mio. €/ year)
- Realising common calls (September 2006)
- Common evaluating of proposals
- Common funding and monitoring of transnational research projects

Overview of European research in Organic Food & Farming

What is the added value of the initiative CORE Organic?

National research funding programmes mainly focus on national topics – **CORE structure can overcome these isolated priority setting!**

Guidelines of national research funding programmes often have restrictions (e.g. funding only for national scientists, projects have to run only in the own country) – **CORE structure can overcome these barriers!**

National research often tries to cover all aspects of OF&F – **CORE structure can help to avoid double work, inefficient use of resources etc.!**

EU funding for OF&F research in 2006: approx. **6 Mio. €**; all national research programmes of CORE Countries in 2006: **60 Mio €**

CORE structure can bundle these scattered national budgets to a **“network” of resources.**

In opposite to temporary EU project funding this is **a brilliant precondition for permanent research and collaboration!**