

Partnership as the basis of Polish decentralisation model

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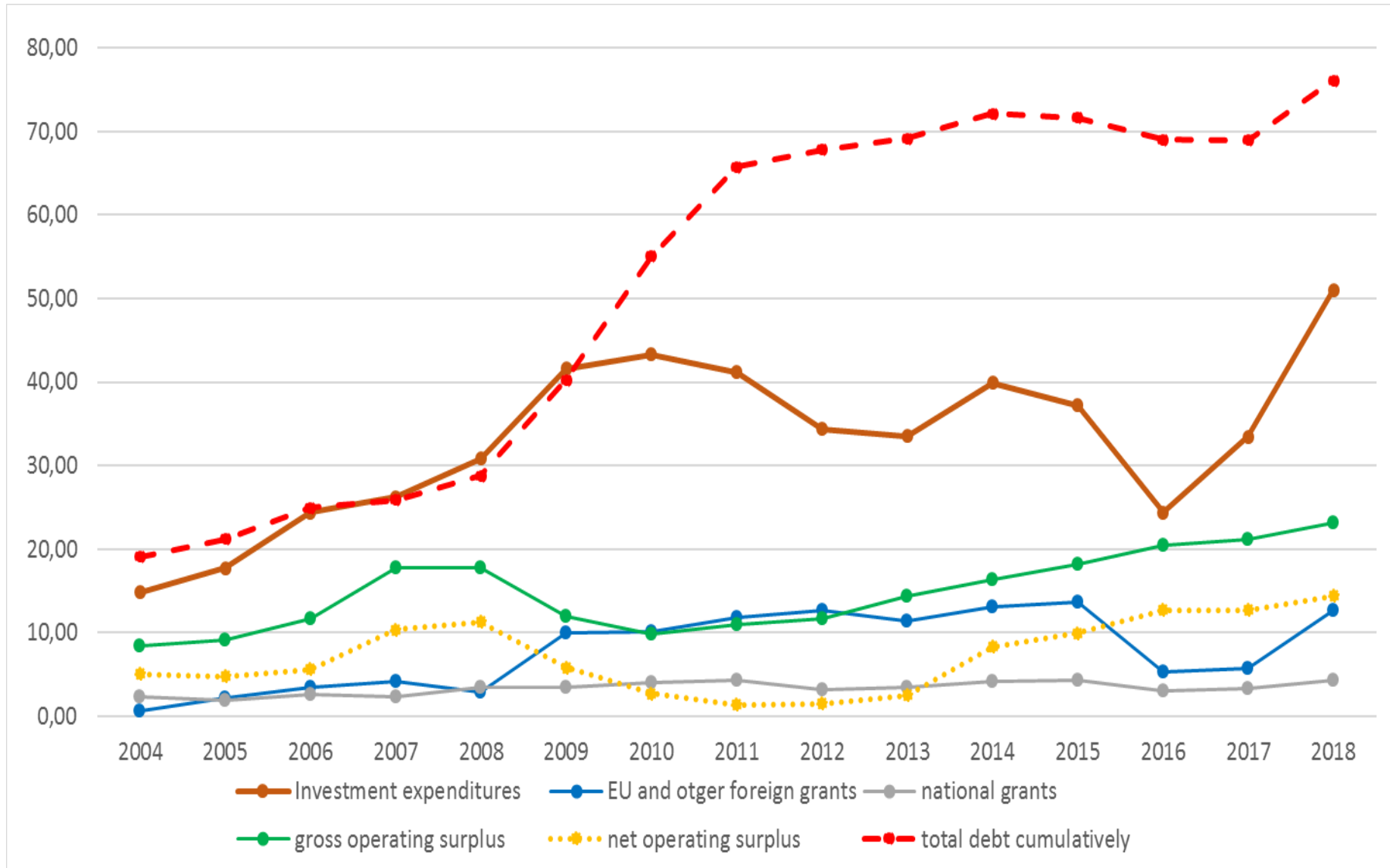
Degree of decentralisation (1)

Political dynamics of democratic changes in the 1st period of reform resulted in:

- deep decentralisation,
- large scale of transfer of public property to municipalities,
- non-typical share of tasks between municipalities and other tiers of self-government units → specific share of public finances between units:

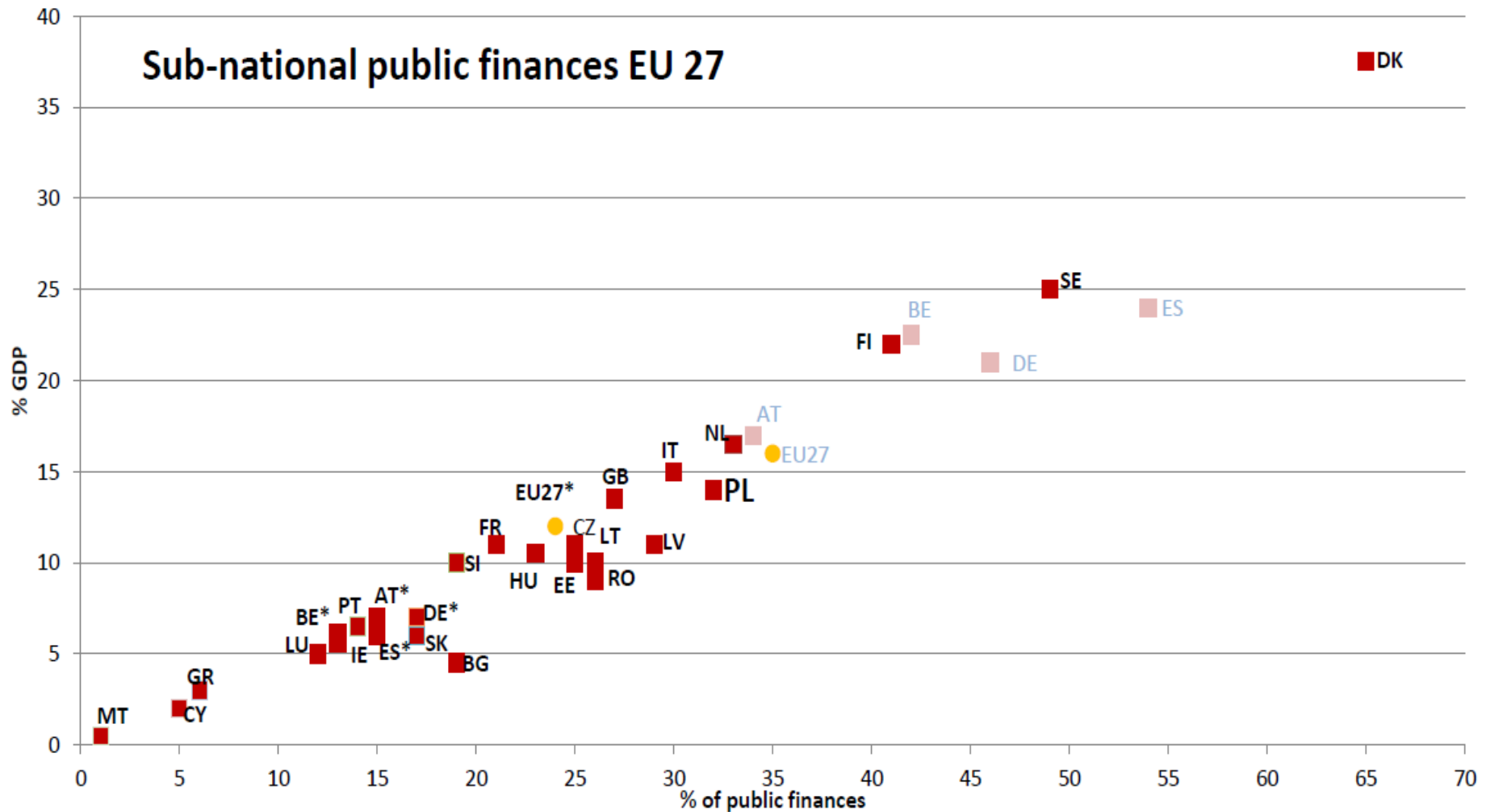
Year	Total [mln PLN]	Municipalities (gmina)	Counties (powiat)	Regions (województwo)
1999	65 358 (100%)	52 319 (80,0%)	9 784 (15,0%)	3 265 (5,0%)
2018	251 846 (100%)	206 934 (82,2%)	27 959 (11,1%)	16 954 (6,7%)

Investment dynamics [bIn PLN]



Degree of decentralisation (2)

(OECD, 2015)



Transfer of public („state“) property

- Large scale - to the municipalities (1990 - 1998...)
 - result = municipal property [% of area]:
 - rural municipalities - 3 %,
 - towns and medium-size cities - 20 %,
 - larger and big cities (legally:
cities with county rights) - 30 %,
- Legal problems (ownership, re-privatisation)
- Over 1 million pieces of property without owners (temporary in local or state administration)

Two types of decentralised competences

Own tasks (main):

- Local / regional development and spatial planning,
- Local public services and infrastructure, housing,
- Education,
- Local (reg.) social policy,
- Local and regional roads,
- Local and regional public transportation,
- Culture, heritage,
- Recreation and sports,
- Health care,
- Environment protection,
- Public safety
- Property management.

Delegated powers (among others):

- Civic administration (citizens registers, IDs...),
- Building administration,
- Cadastre,
- Central social policy,
- Cars' registers and driving licences' issuing,
- State property management (county),
- Some branches of special administration.

Other types of tasks' transfers

- Central government administration's tasks (voluntary transfer, based on administrative contract),
- Other LG unit's tasks (voluntary transfer, based on bilateral administrative contract),
- Other units' tasks (voluntary transfer, based on councils decisions, full legal and financial transfer of task described in agreement's text),
- Municipal unions (voluntary membership, full legal transfer of tasks described in unions' statutes).
- Other forms of co-operation (joint-stock companies, associations, consortia, special legal status groups).

Supervision

In the area of **own tasks** (**legality only**):

- Voivode (on behalf of Prime Minister),
- Regional Accounts Chamber (financial).

In the area of **delegated powers** (**legality, efficiency and efficacy**):

- Voivode and/or ministries.

In the area of **contracted tasks**:

- Transferring unit; based on the contract's rules.

Co-operation – the beginning

- 1990 – self-organisation under art. 84 of the Local Government Act: Association of Polish Cities (earlier acting in the period 1917-1939), Union of Metropolitan Cities (foundation); Union of Small Towns;
- April 18th, 1991 – 2nd Black Procession (1st – 1791) → Sejm (art. 36 in the Rules of the Chamber);
- 1992 – 1st National Conference of Mayors;
- 1993 – 1st Congress of the Association of Rural Municipalities;
- **May 21st, 1993** – Prime Minister appoints **The Joint Committee of Central and Local Government** (minister and vice-ministers and representatives nominated by national municipal organisations).

Co-operation – intermediary stage

- The Joint Committee...;
- Parliamentary Committees;
- Presidency – (under)secretary of state assigned to co-operation with local governments;
- Several ministries: public administration - basic; land management and infrastructure - good, finances - regular but difficult; education - difficult;
- Representatives in some public institutions and consultative bodies
- 1999 – creation of counties and regions.

Co-operation – final stage

- **2005** – The Law on The Joint Committee of Central and Local/Regional Government and Polish representatives in the EU Committee of the Regions;
- Parliamentary Committees;
- Presidency – (under)secretary of state assigned to co-operation with local governments;
- Several ministries: public administration - basic; **development** – excellent, infrastructure - good, finances - regular but difficult; education - difficult;
- Representatives in some public institutions and consultative bodies (most often **based on law**).