



OUTSOURCING LAND IN SEARCH FOR ENERGY SECURITY: STILL A CONTROVERSIAL MATTER

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Summary

1. Introduction
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3. Land Grabbing and Energy
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 - Italy and United Kingdom
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1. Introduction

- The theme of energy security is a hard task for it is still a polemic subject;
- Its ramifications that goes beyond the energy field of study;
- There is an absence of a clear definition for energy security made it become an umbrella for several different policy goals;
- Completely different policies may called upon defending energy security interests;
- Energy security will be assessed by the optics of land grabs;
- Land grabs discusses land availability and its destination.

2. Conceptualizing Land Grabs

- **What is land grabbing?**
- To occur a land grabbing some requisites have to be observed:
 1. violation of human rights;
 2. not based on free, prior and informed consent of the affected land-users;
 3. not based on a thorough assessment, or are in disregard of social, economic and environmental impacts;
 4. not based on transparent contracts that specify clear and binding commitments about activities, employment and benefits sharing; and
 5. not based on effective democratic planning, independent oversight and meaningful participation.
- This list is illustrative, not exhaustive.



3. Conceptualizing Land Grabs

Land Grabs and Energy Security

- Connection between energy security and land grabbing may not be clear;
- Population growth will demand energy and land;
- The food crisis of 2007-08 played significant role;
- Major factors behind the crisis included:
 - reduction of the State's intervention in the agricultural sector;
 - reduced public support and investments in agriculture;
 - the decline in research and development;
 - resource-poor but cash-rich turned to those deals to secure food and energy supply.
- Land deals, consisting in large portions of land bought or leased with no precise destination guarantee future risings on prices of farmland and watercourses.

3. Conceptualizing Land Grabs

LAND GRABS AND ENERGY SECURITY

- There are countries more susceptible to the rush for farmland, the majority are poor countries with agriculture-based economies;
- Land rights and tenure are not always reinforced in these countries and so loss of access to land and natural resources;
- Social conflicts deriving from the displacement of land: In Africa up to 90% of rural land is under customary tenure, and local farmers already claim most cultivable land. The absence of formal rights to land and little access to law may worsen conflicts between investors and locals;
- Labor rights are poorly enforced.
- Pressure on environmental surroundings can be considered a social concern – affects the water and soil;
- Right to freedom of expression, assembly and association must be assured to all individuals;
- Finally, displacement of food can be another cause of conflicts.

4. Analysis of the data

- The purpose of the analysis is to:
 - I. verify if there were some increase in the search for energy security;
 - II. if in this period there were international land acquisitions or leases;
 - III. whether the country shifted position in the risk ranking.

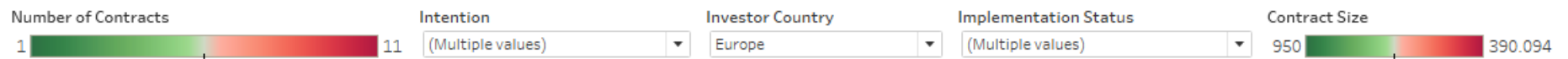
- European countries

- Land Matrix and the International Index of Energy Security Risk

4. Analysis of the data

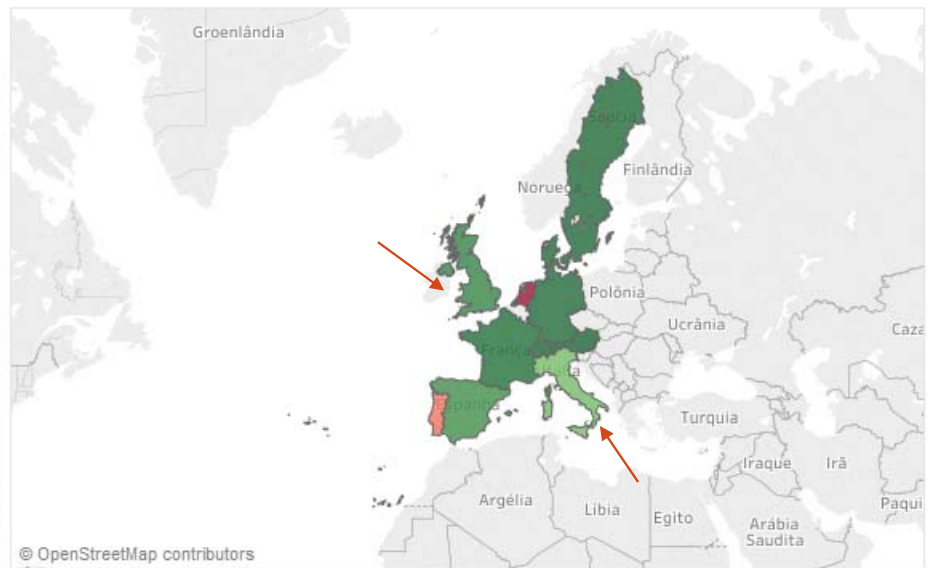
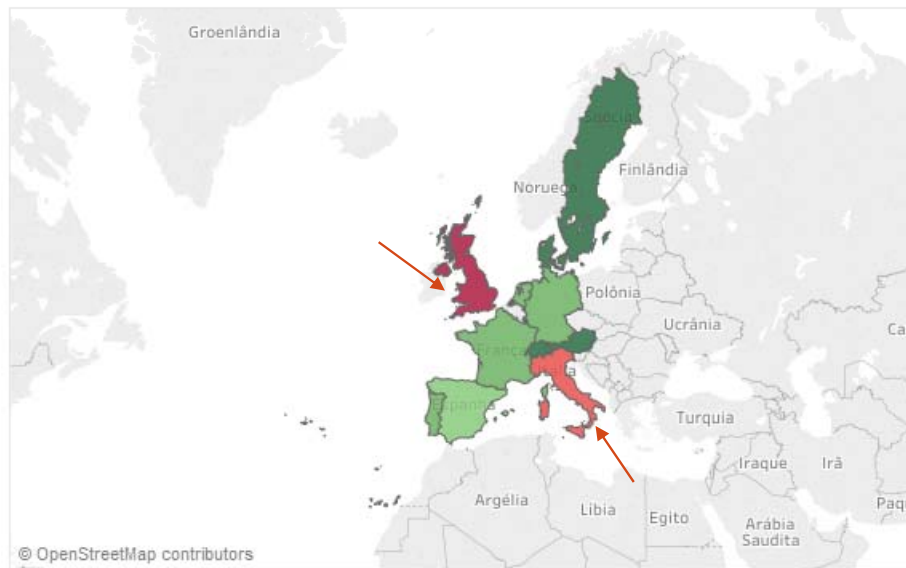
- Methodology:
- Regarding land deals:
- Intention:
 - Biofuels;
 - Renewable energies;
 - Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REED).
- Implementation status:
 - Concluded – signed;
 - Concluded – oral agreement;
 - Intended – under negotiation.
- Regarding the energy security risk index:
 - The index presents a set of complex data for analysis, they present eight metric categories with further subdivisions and indicators to compose the risk for each country;
 - To make the analysis focused some of the metrics were chosen:
 - Petroleum import exposure;
 - Natural gas import exposure;
 - Coal import exposure;
 - Total energy import exposure;
 - Energy expenditures *per capita*;
 - Retail electricity prices;
 - Energy expenditure volatility;
 - Electricity diversity;
 - Non-CO₂ emitting share of electricity generation.

4. Analysis of the data



Number of Contracts

Contracts Size



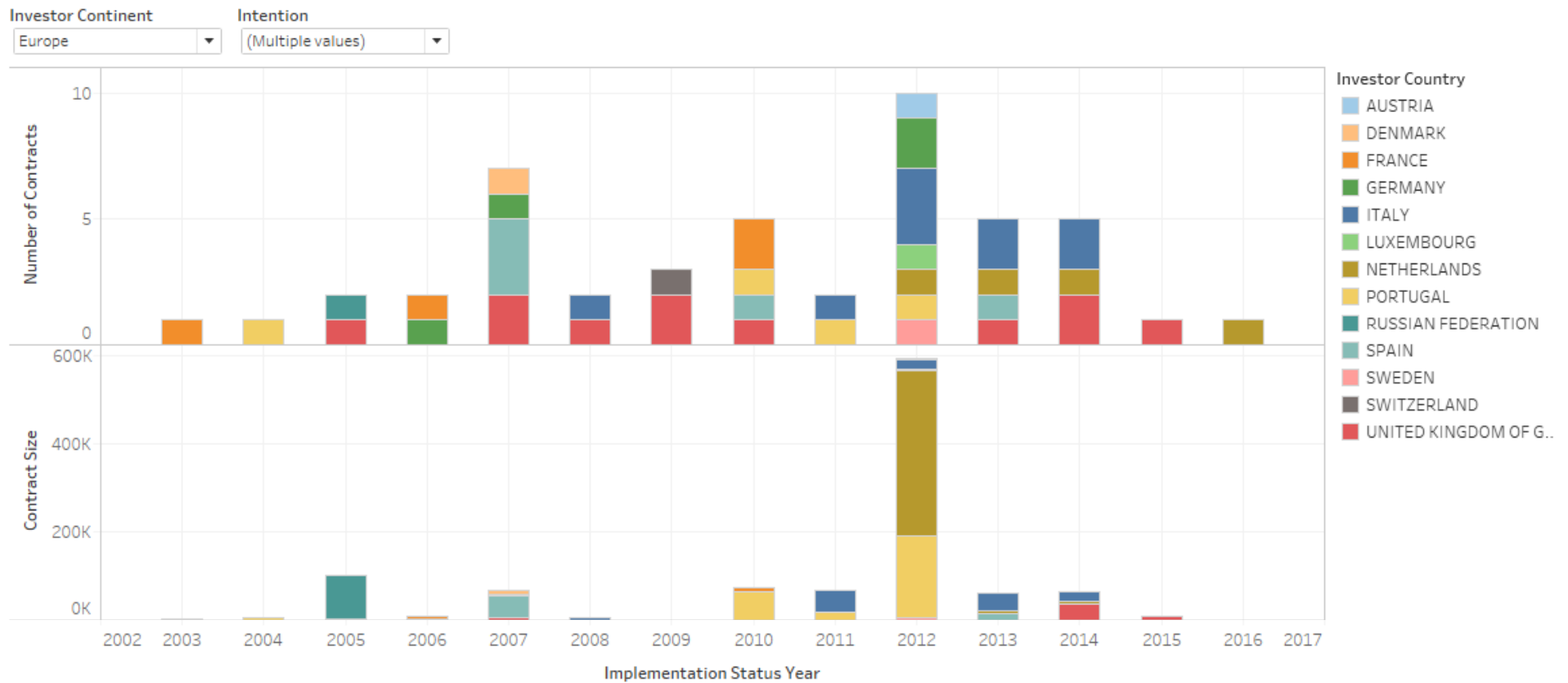
Implementation Status Year

2000



2016

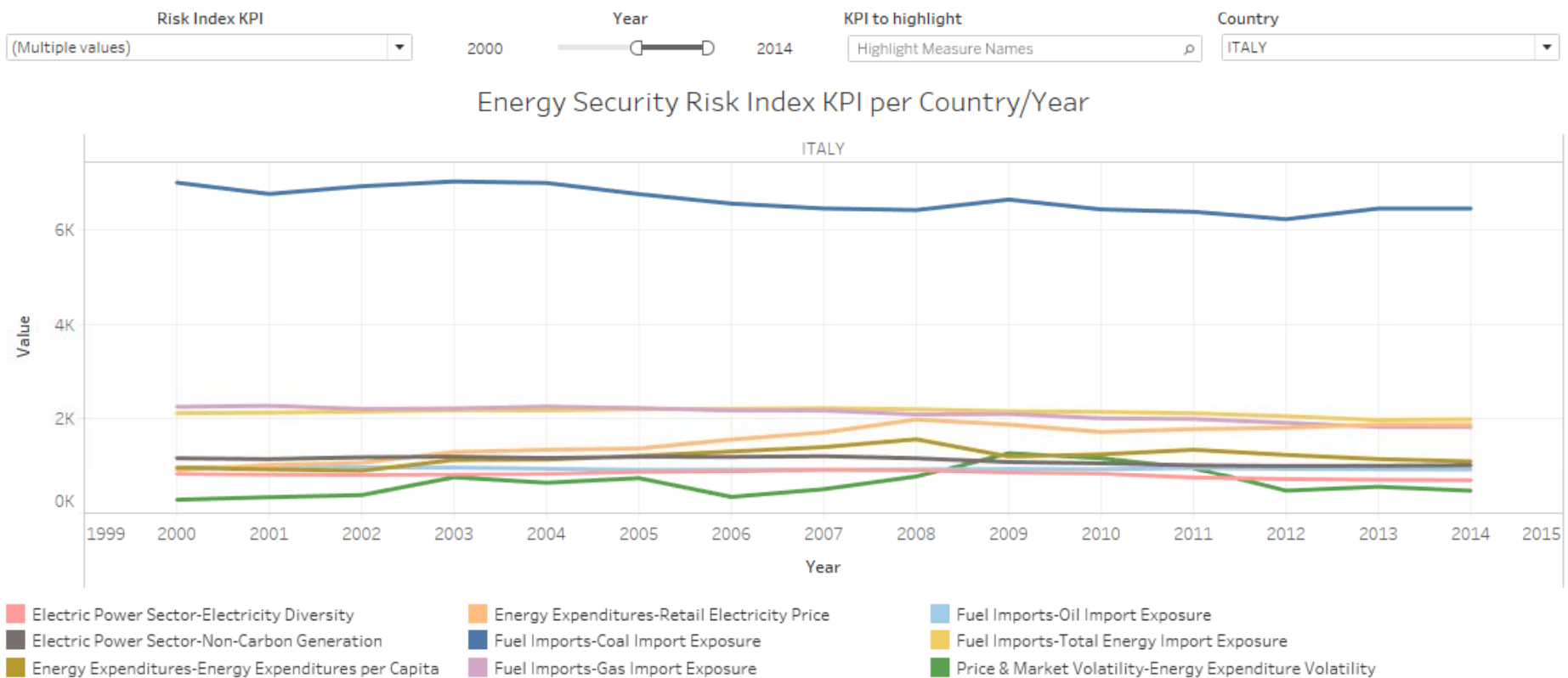
4. Analysis of the data



5. Case Studies - Italy



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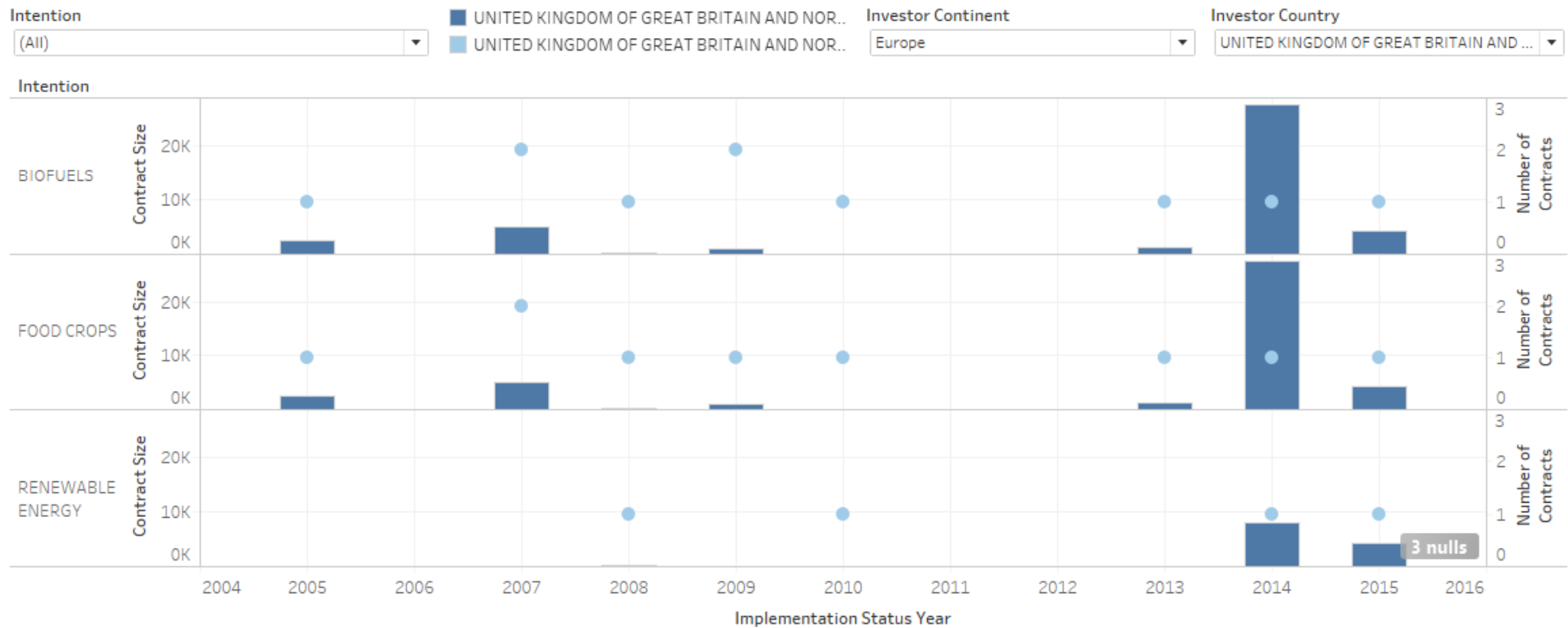
5. Case Studies - Italy

- **Comparing the data from The Land Matrix and The Risk Index:**

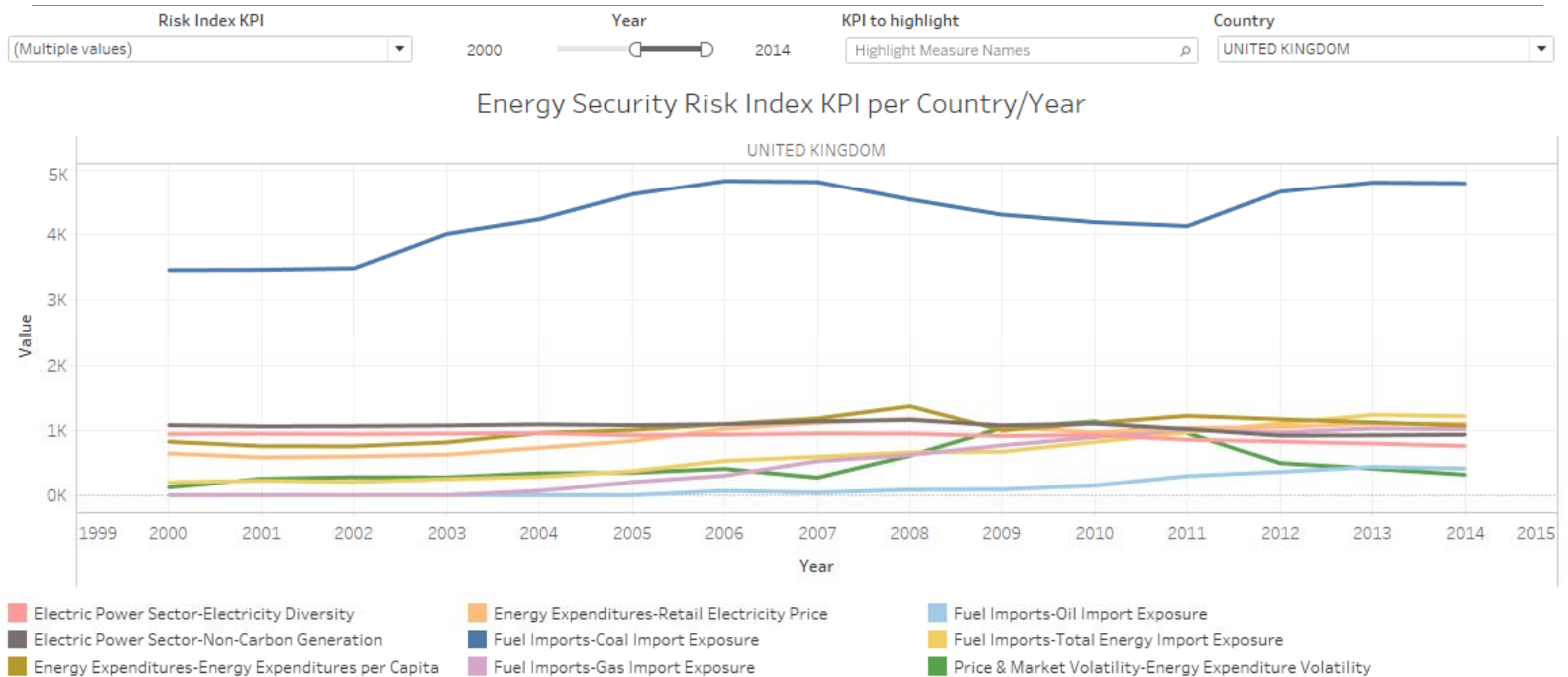
- **Italy**

- Began its operation regarding large-scale land acquisitions in 2011;
- The size of delas vary in size;
- Show several overlaps on contracts of food crops and biofuels;
- Italy is the only country from Europe to seek land to for REED;
- The susceptibility of the economy to large swings in expenditures for all forms of energy was na indicator that suffered.
- The movement of this indicator can be explained by the 2007-08 food crisis (the movement up means risk going up);
- The decline and stabilization of the risk due to investments seen on 2012 onwards.
- Italy relies on imported fuels – petroleum and natural gas;
- Invest on renewables for electricity.

5. Case Studies – United Kingdom



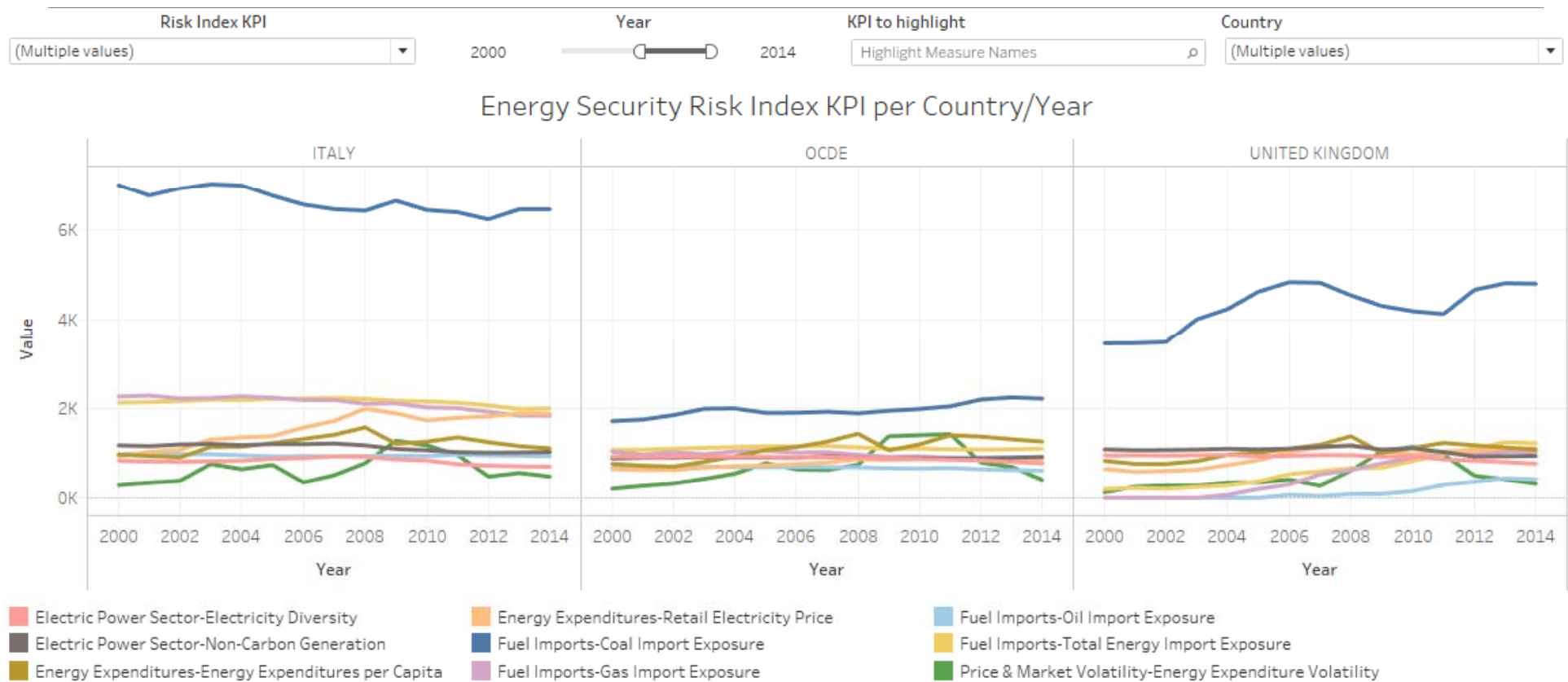
5. Case Studies – United Kingdom



5. Case Studies – United Kingdom

- **Comparing the data from The Land Matrix and The Risk Index:**
- **United Kingdom:**
 - The UK has a longer history with large-scale land deals;
 - Until 2010 the contracts were smaller in sizes and numbers;
 - After 2013 the investments got bigger and began to include renewables in the portfolio;
 - The same overlaps between food crops and biofuels occur;
 - Interesting enough the year that the UK began its investments on renewables was the same year its energy security risk dropped points in the energy security index;
 - factors contributing to this trend have to do with rising risks surrounding natural gas and coal imports and very high retail electricity prices

5. Case Studies – OCDE



6. Main Findings and Conclusions

- The evolution over the time of large-scale land deals is decaying;
- The explanation for that is not evident neither in the literature nor in the data;
- Accurate data on large-scale land deals are hard to find and process;
- It was possible to identify a great portion of overlapping in the destination of the contracts;
- That may suggest an intention to conceal the true nature of what is being done to the land;
- The assessment of whether land grabbing is happening or not still depends on freedom of access of information and land tenure reinforcement;
- It was not definitely proven whether energy security acts as driver to land grabbing more than food security.

Thank you!

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