

Cost of Emission Reductions

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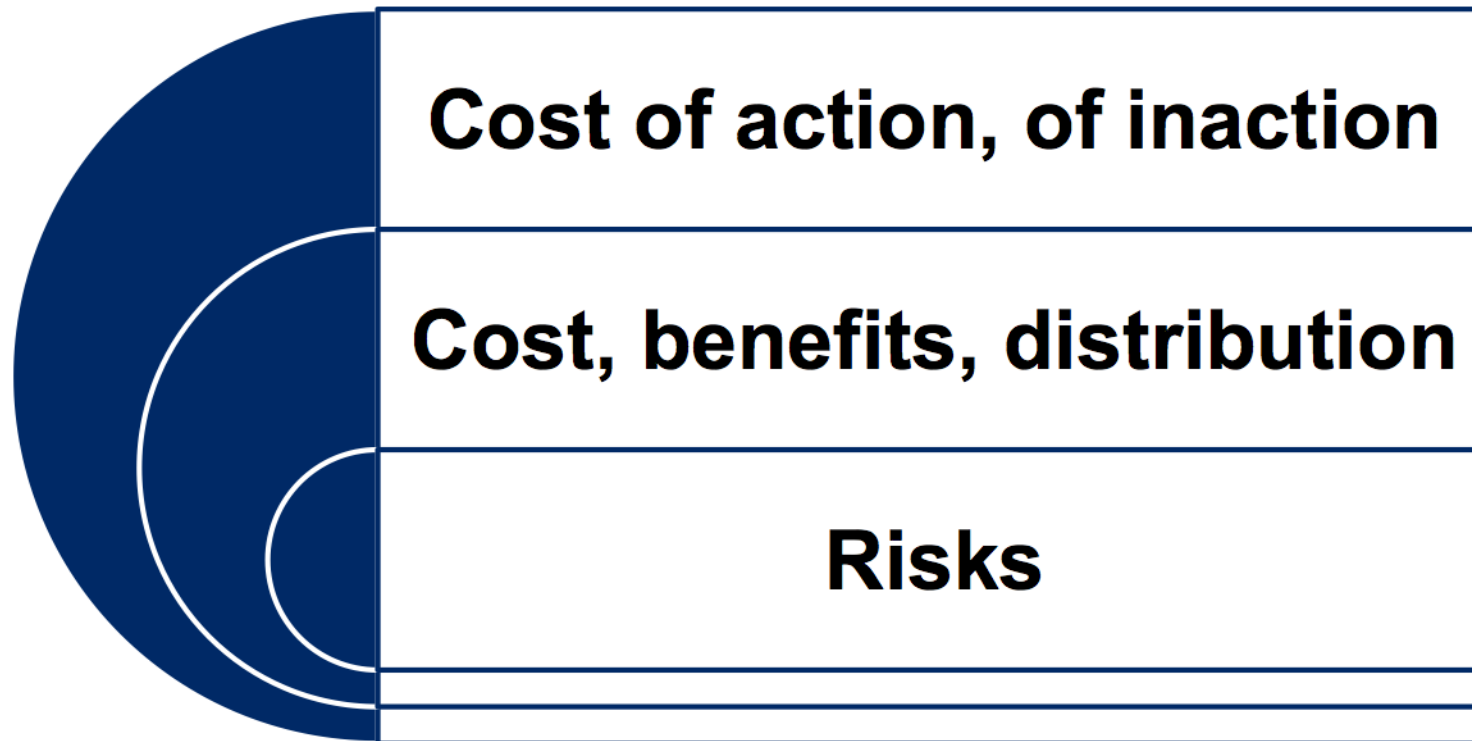
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CER-ETH

Center of Economic Research
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Cost and benefits



"Sustainable development: Development that our grandchildren would thank us for"

Cost perspectives

- **Static view:**

- Loss of consumer and producer surplus
- Better environmental quality

- **Dynamic view**

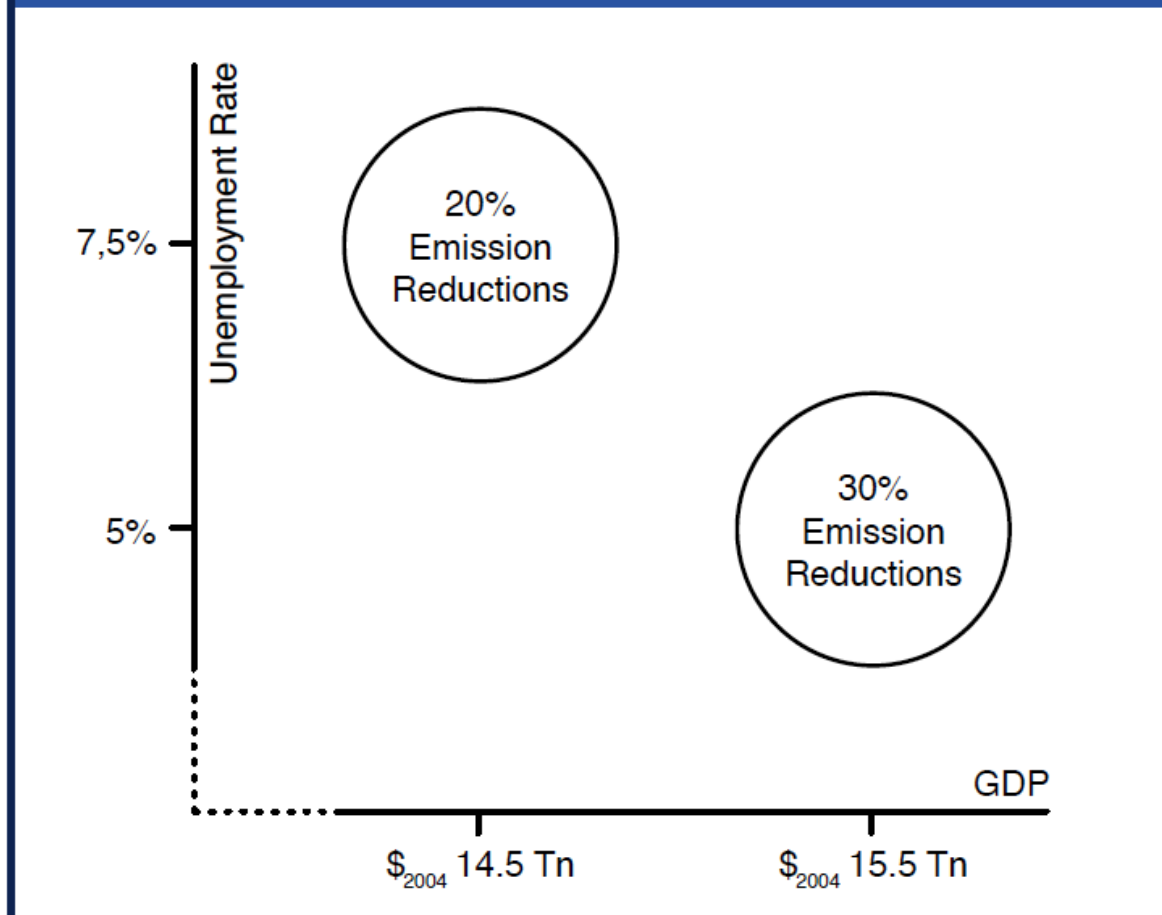
- Induced innovation and investments
- Sectoral change

- **Time horizon**

- Growth effects are important → focus here

Optimistic view: Jaeger et al. (2011)

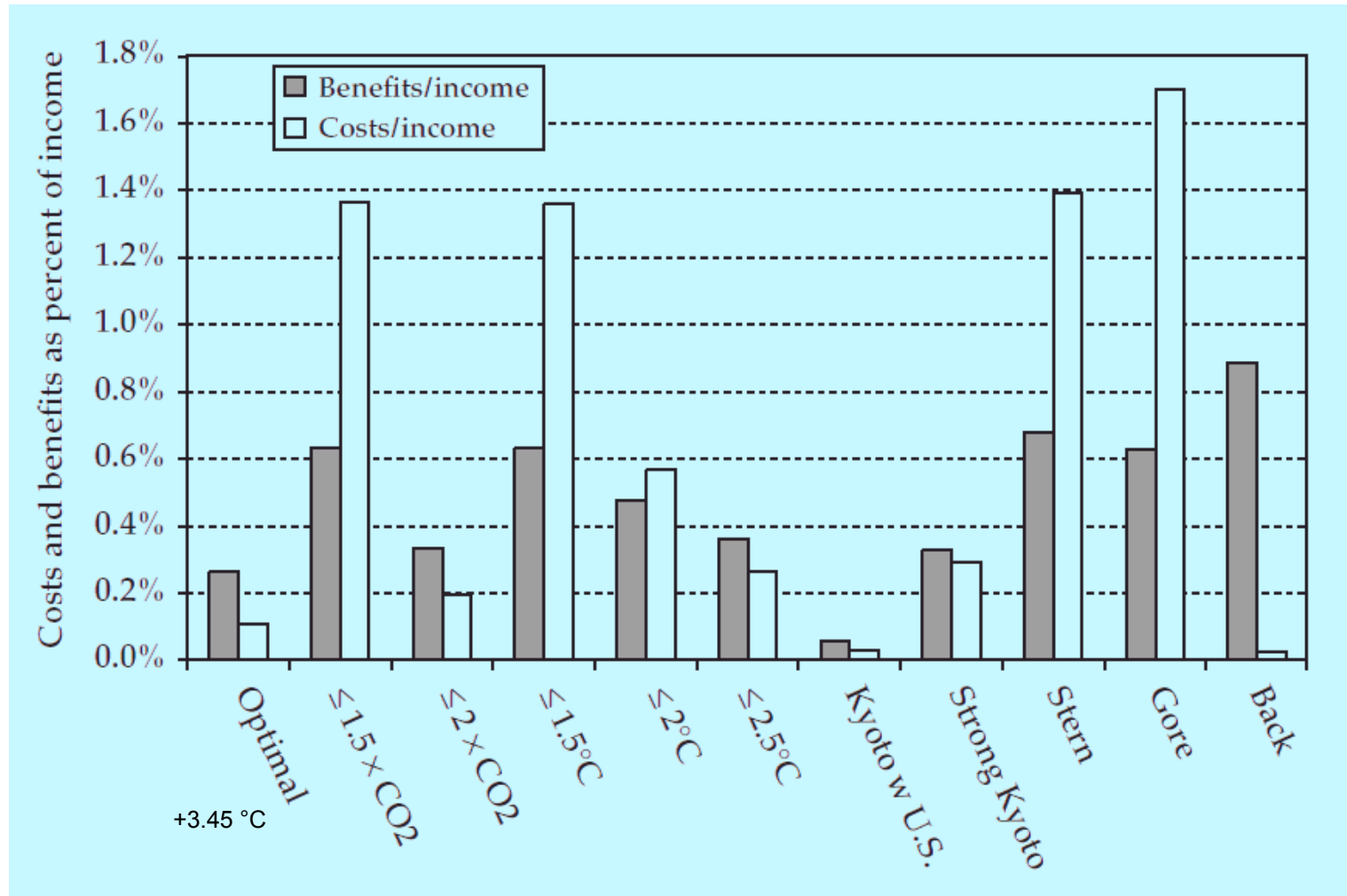
Figure 1: Two scenarios for Europe in 2020



Pessimistic view: Nordhaus (2008)

- “The ambitious programs embedded in the *Stern Review* and Gore policies are extremely expensive.”
- “The inefficiency of these approaches is due to the fact that they involve emissions **reductions that are too sharp** and **too early in time** and therefore do not allow for intertemporal efficiency.”

Nordhaus' Cost/benefit comparison



Estimated costs for CO₂-Stabilization in 2030 and 2050

	Stabilization Level (ppm CO ₂ -Equivalent)	GDP Reduction (Median, %)	GDP Reduction (Spread, %)	GDP Annual Growth Reduction (%)
2030	590 – 710	0.2	-0.6 – 1.2	< 0.06
	535 – 590	0.6	0.2 – 2.5	< 0.1
	445 – 535	not available	< 3	< 0.12
2050	590 – 710	0.5	-1 – 2	< 0.05
	535 – 590	1.3	slightly negative – 4	< 0.1
	445 – 535	not available	< 5.5	< 0.12

Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, WG III, 2007; Tables SPM.4 and SPM.6

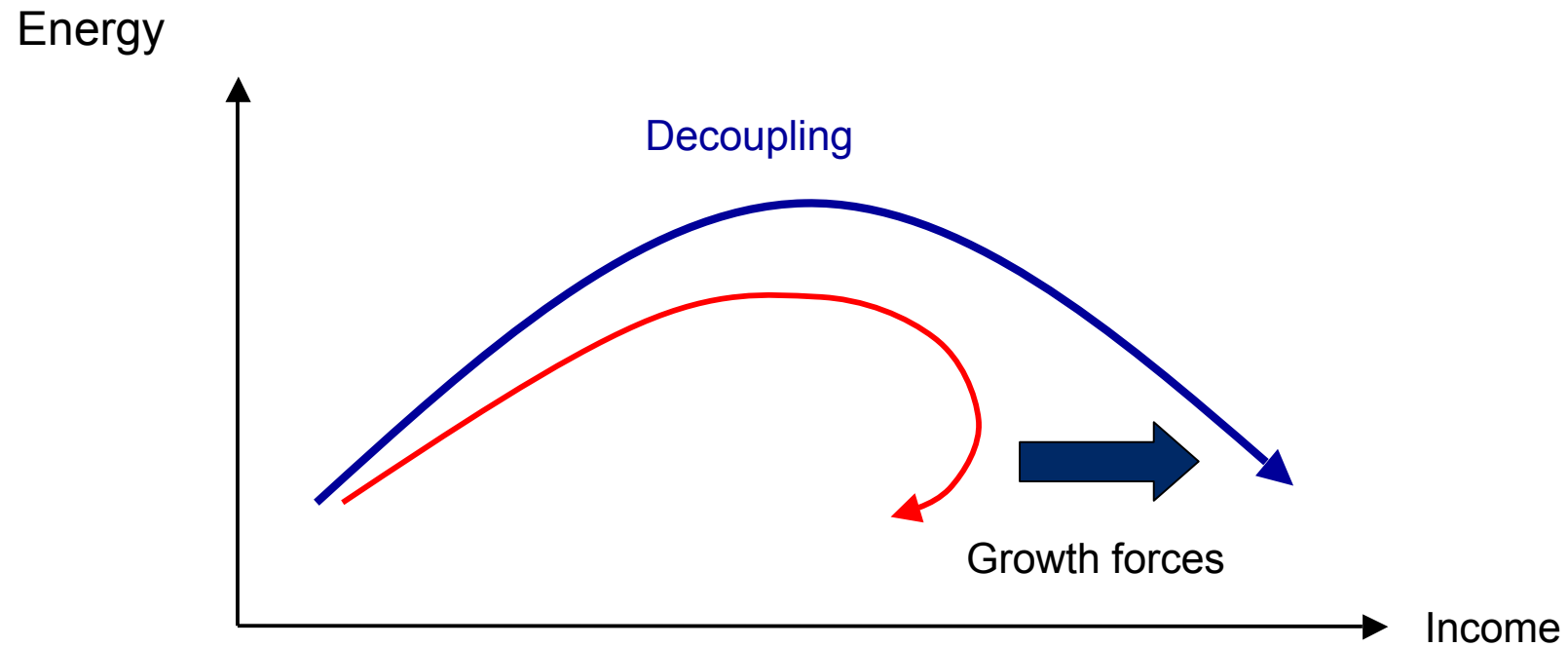
▪ Energy and income

- Supply and / or demand
- Energy «gaps»
- Cross-country comparisons

▪ Predictions of the CITE model

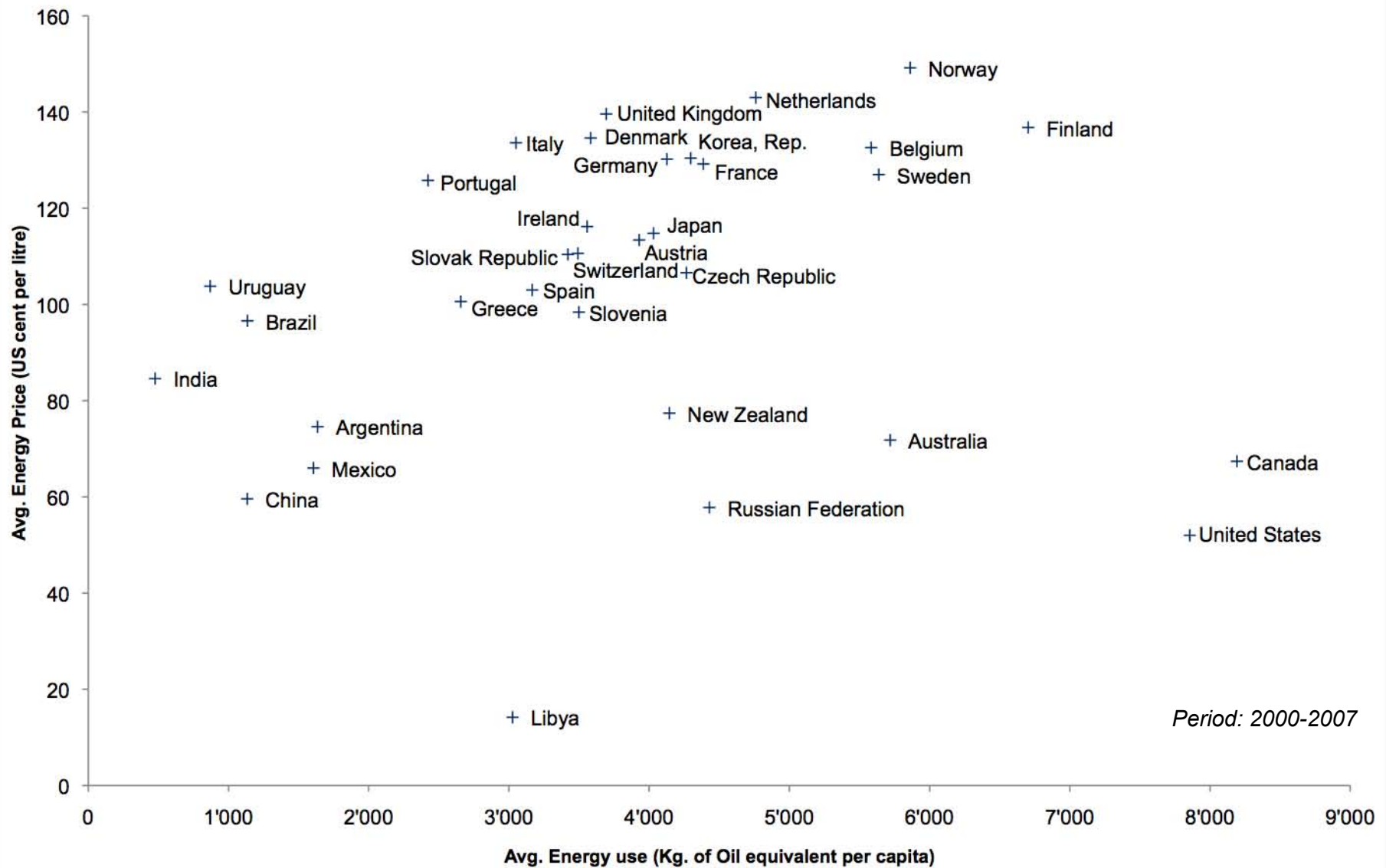
- Implementation of sharp carbon policies

Income

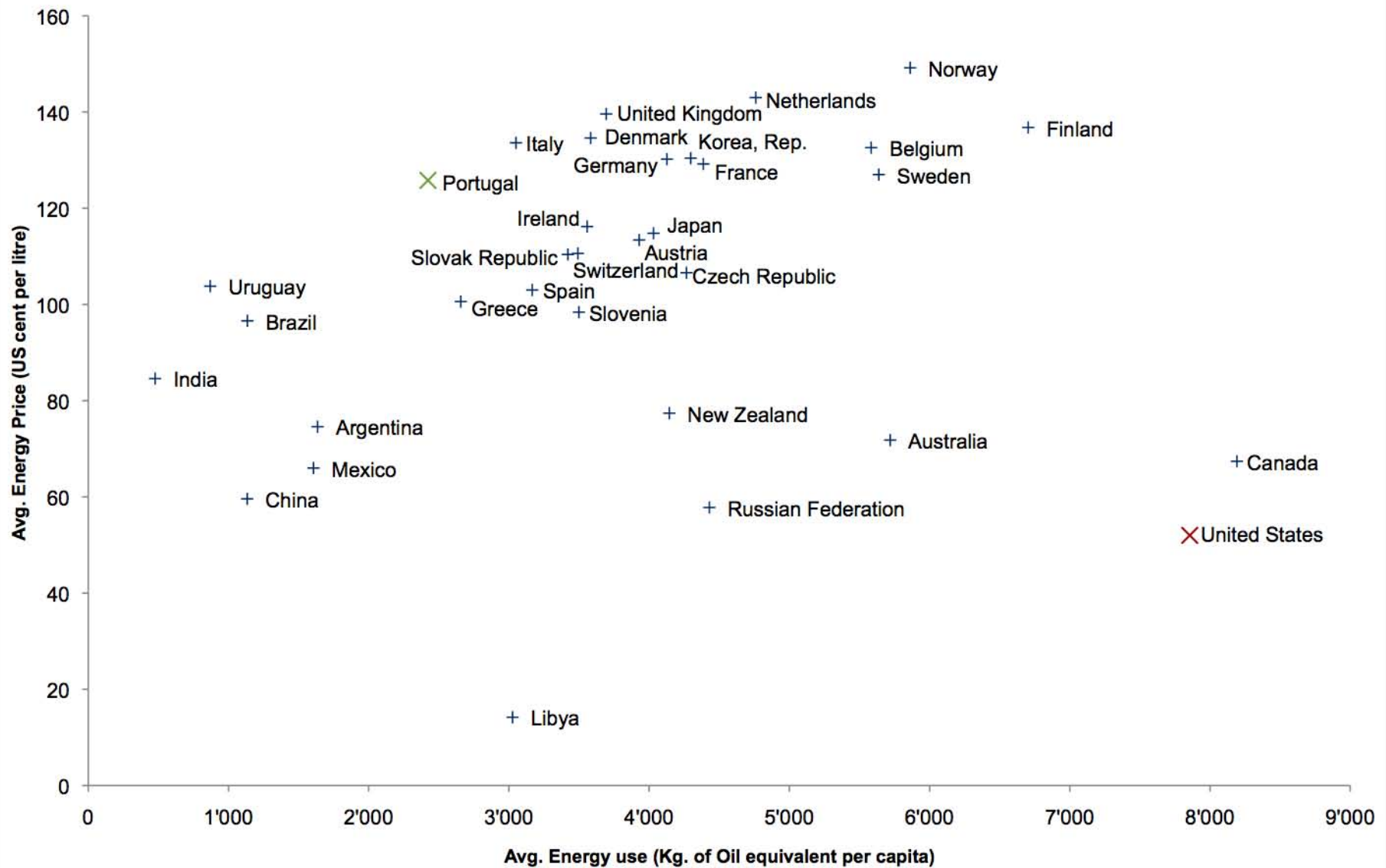


- **Energy markets and growth**

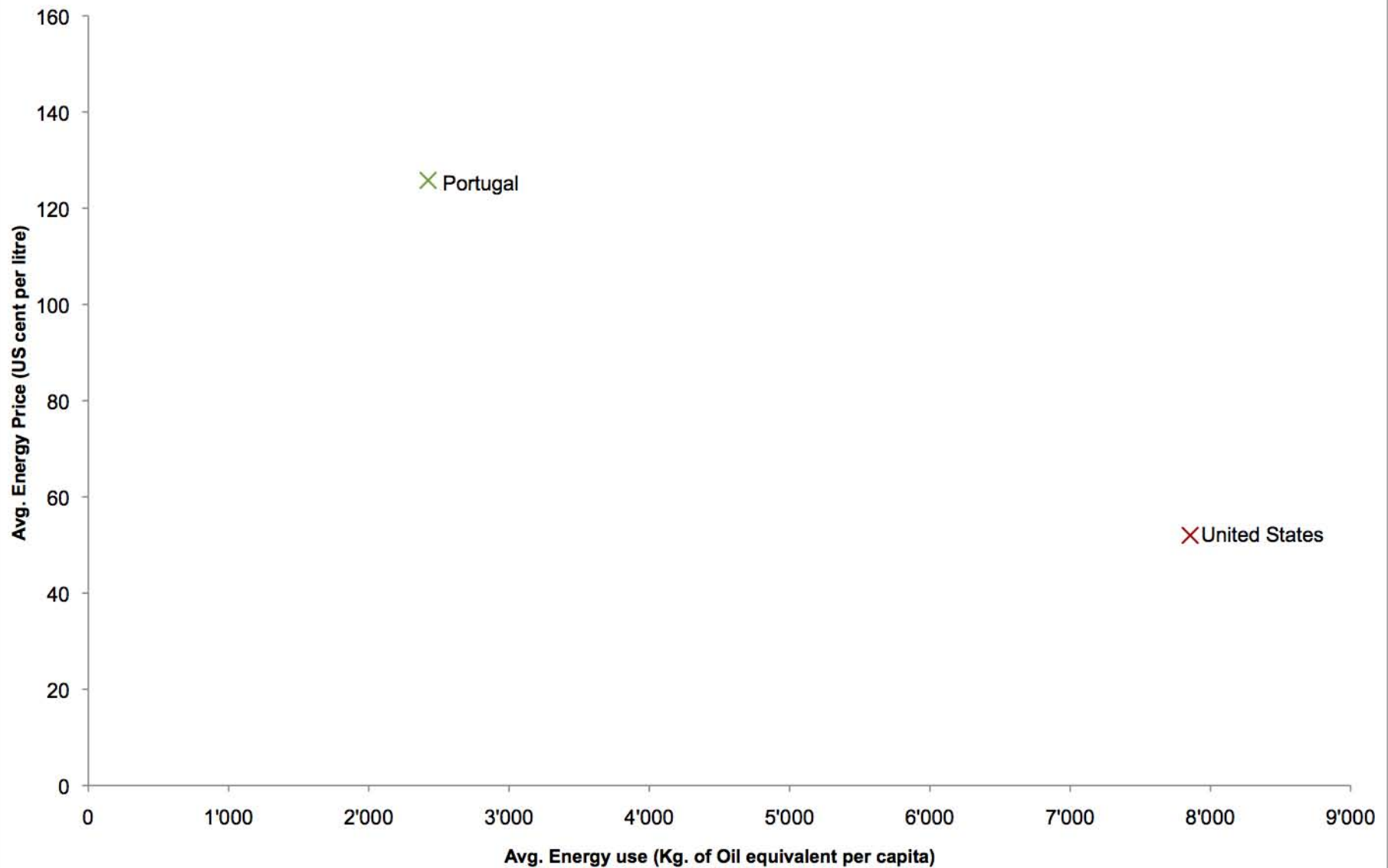
Energy use and energy price



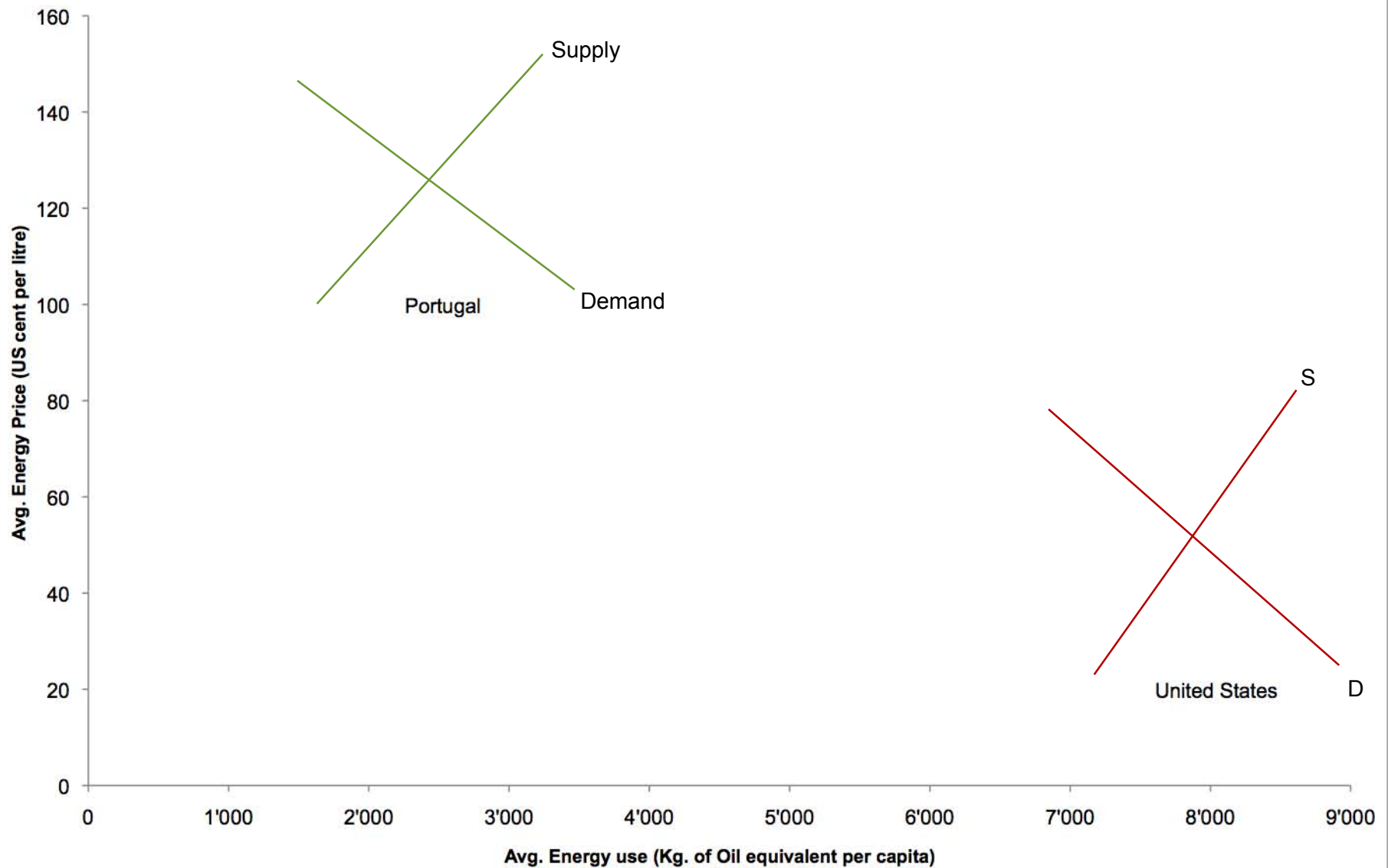
Energy use and energy price



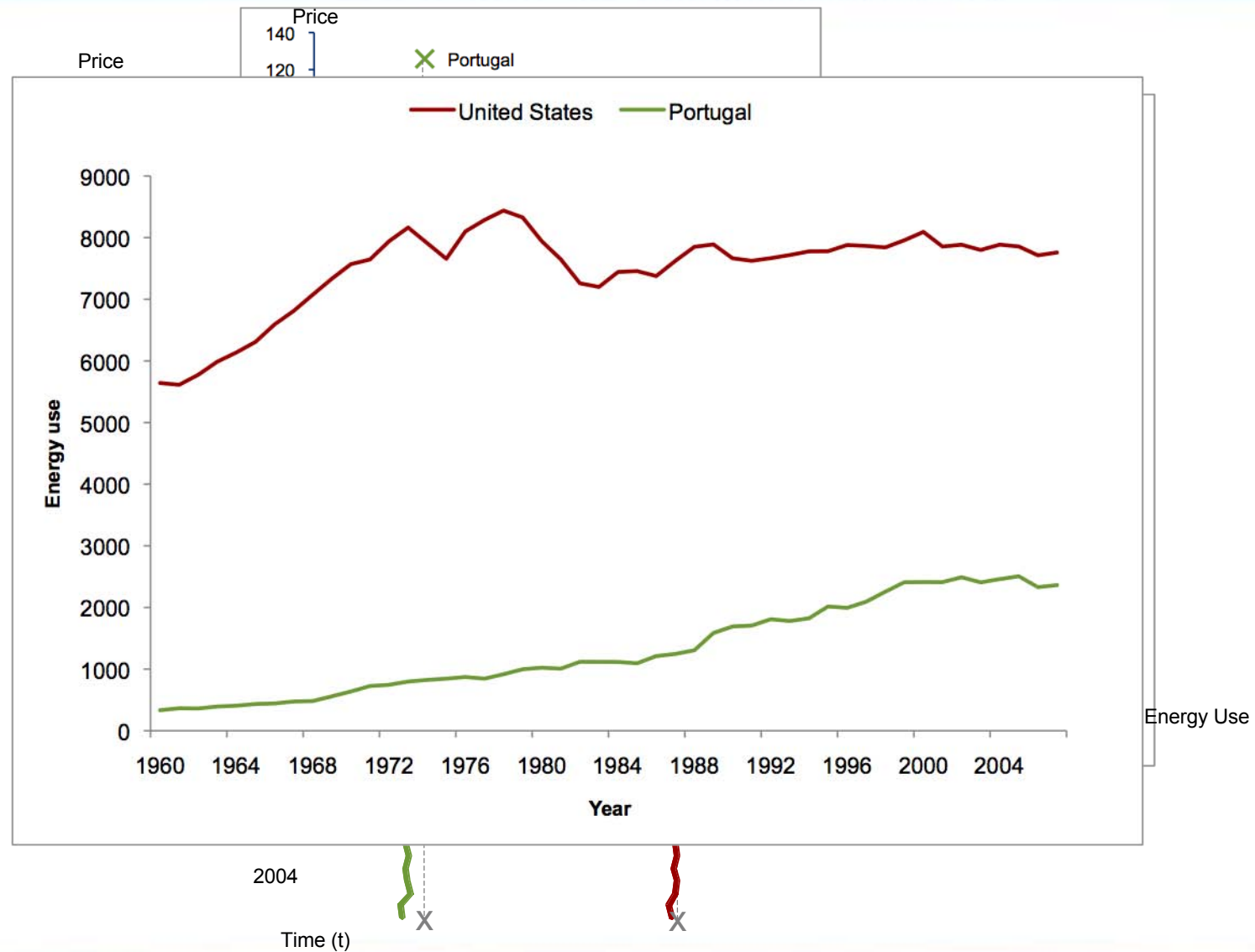
Energy use and energy price



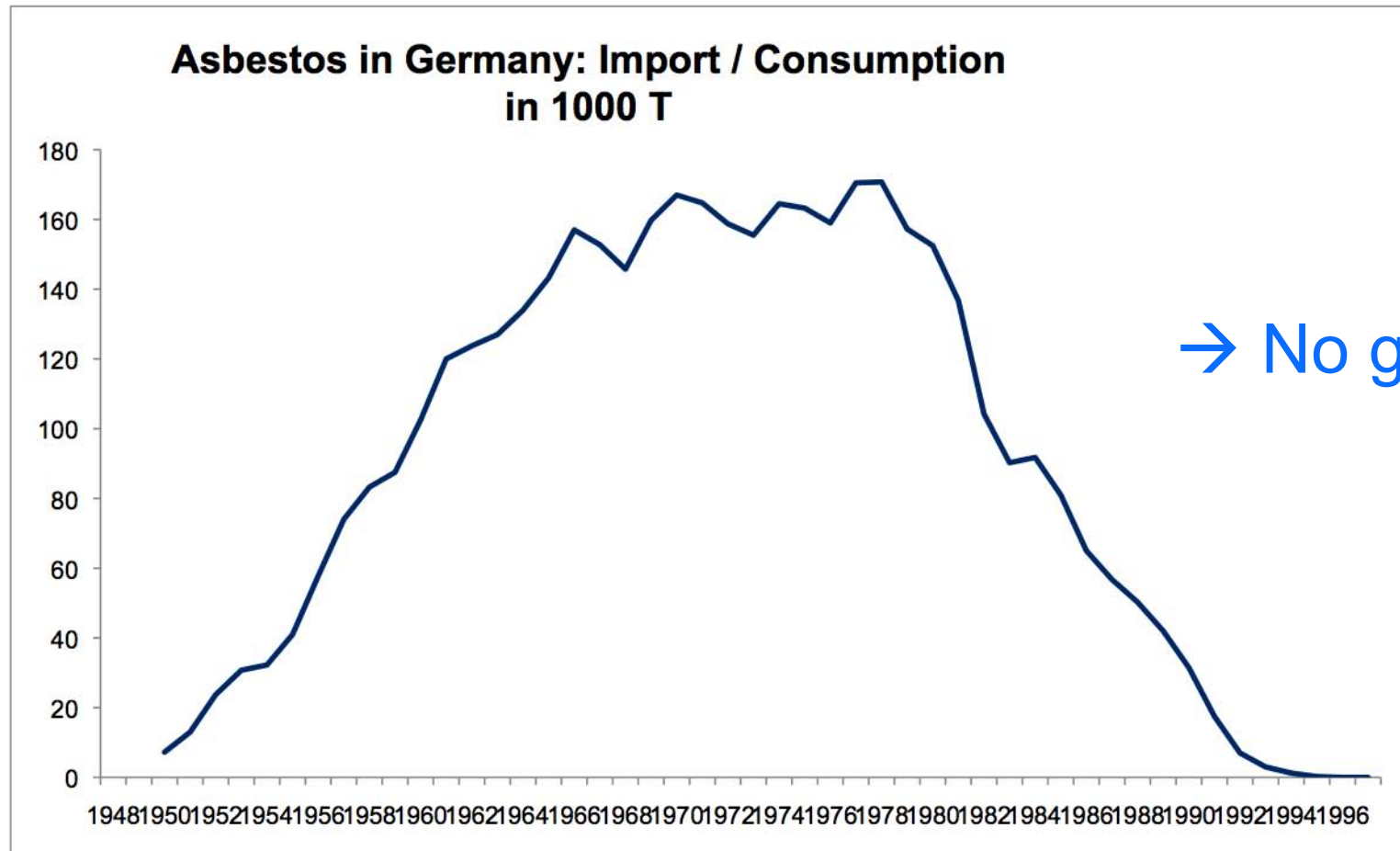
Energy use and energy price



Energy Path

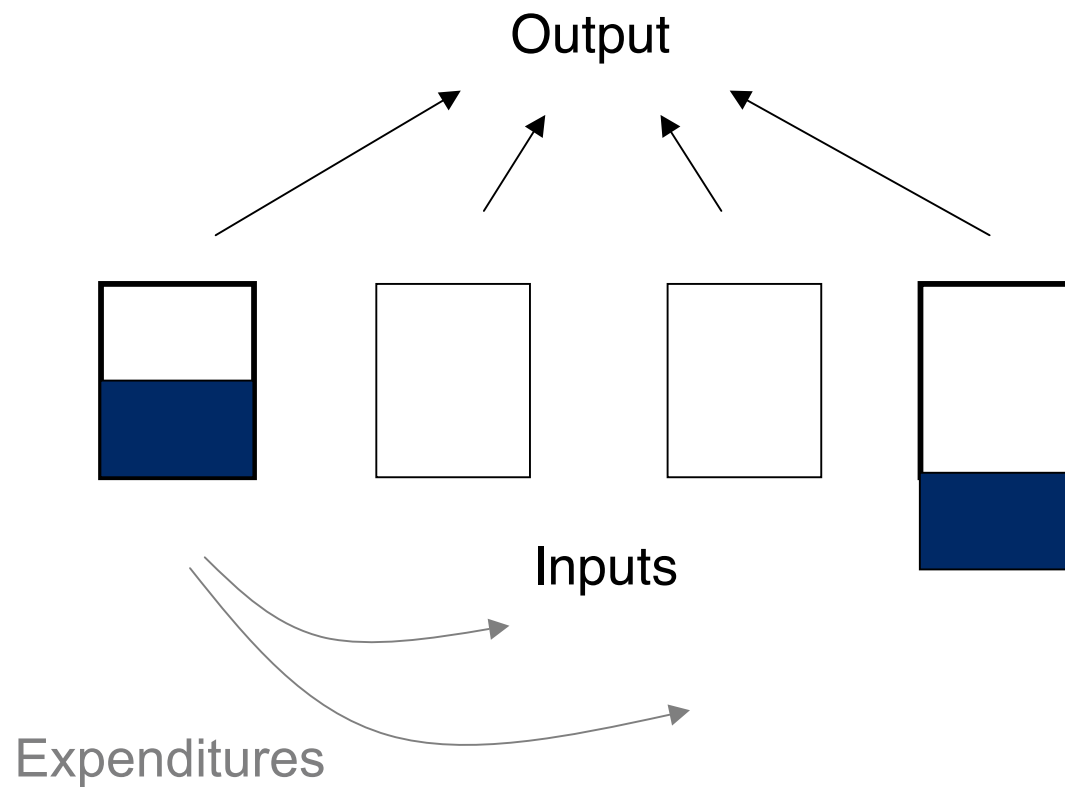


Analogy: Asbestos



Source: HVBG/DGUV (2005)

Growth forces: More with less?



„Magic of the Marketplace“

Market economies are flexible in the long run



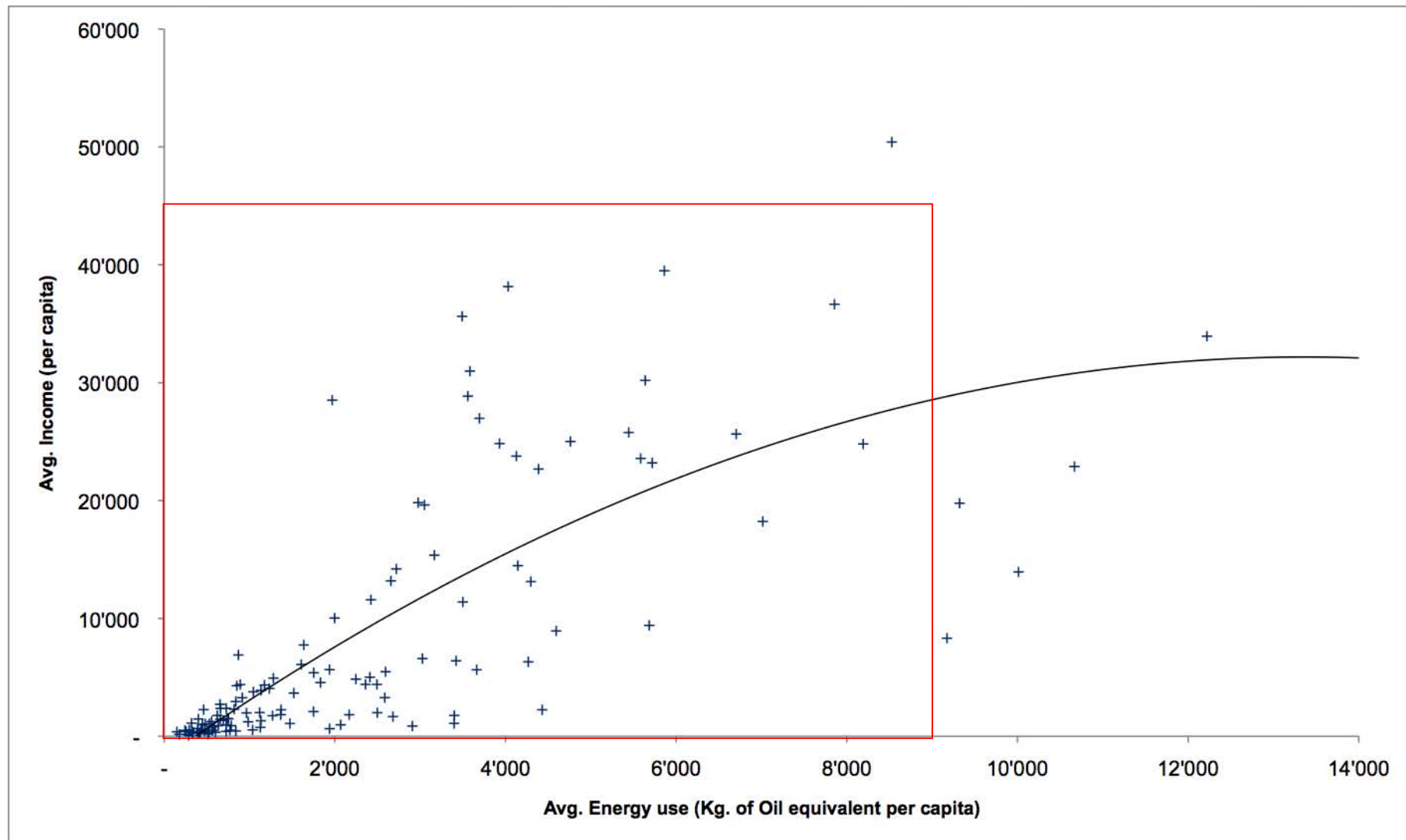
They can deal with limitations and restrictions



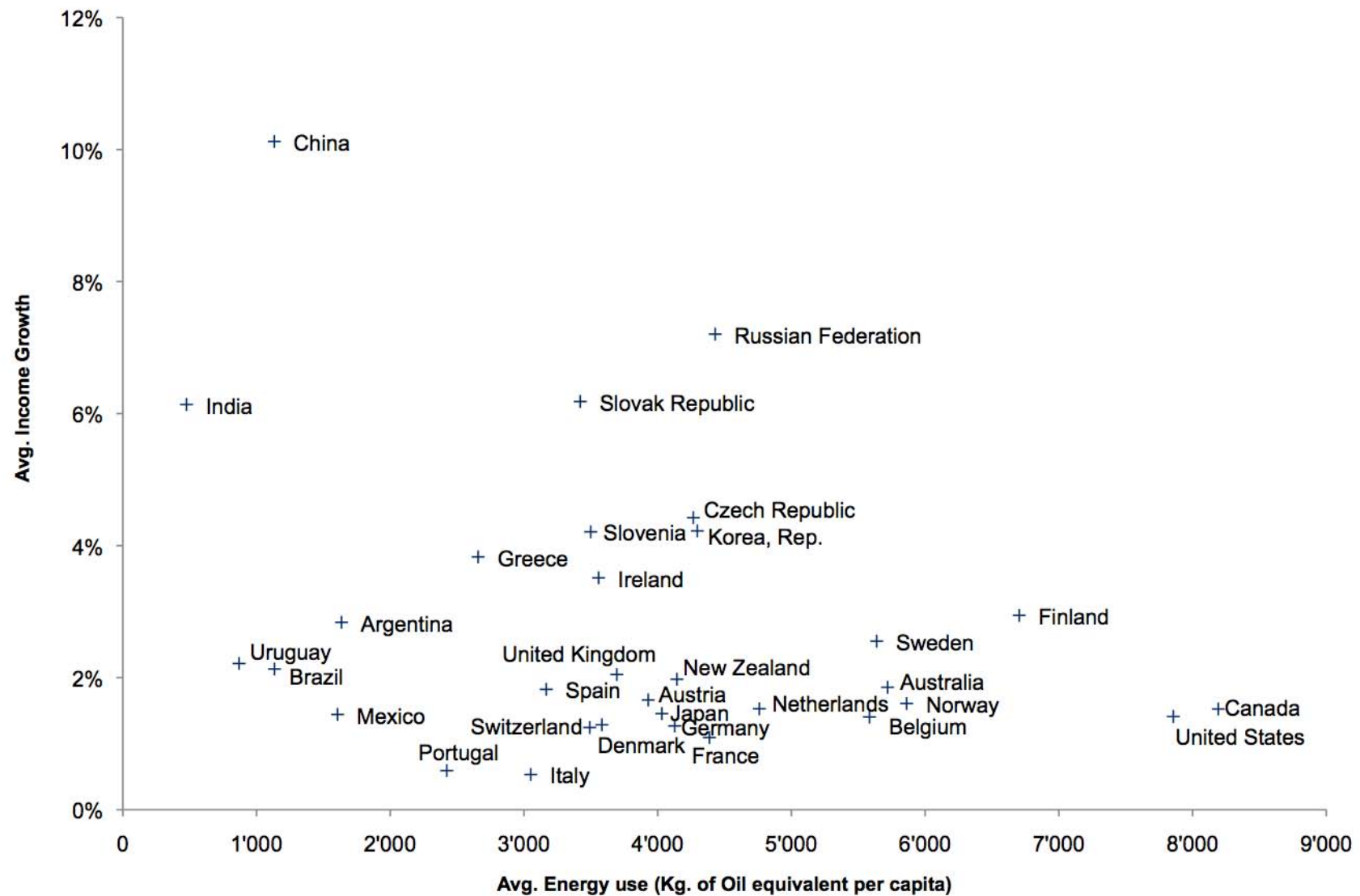
Induced innovation and investments



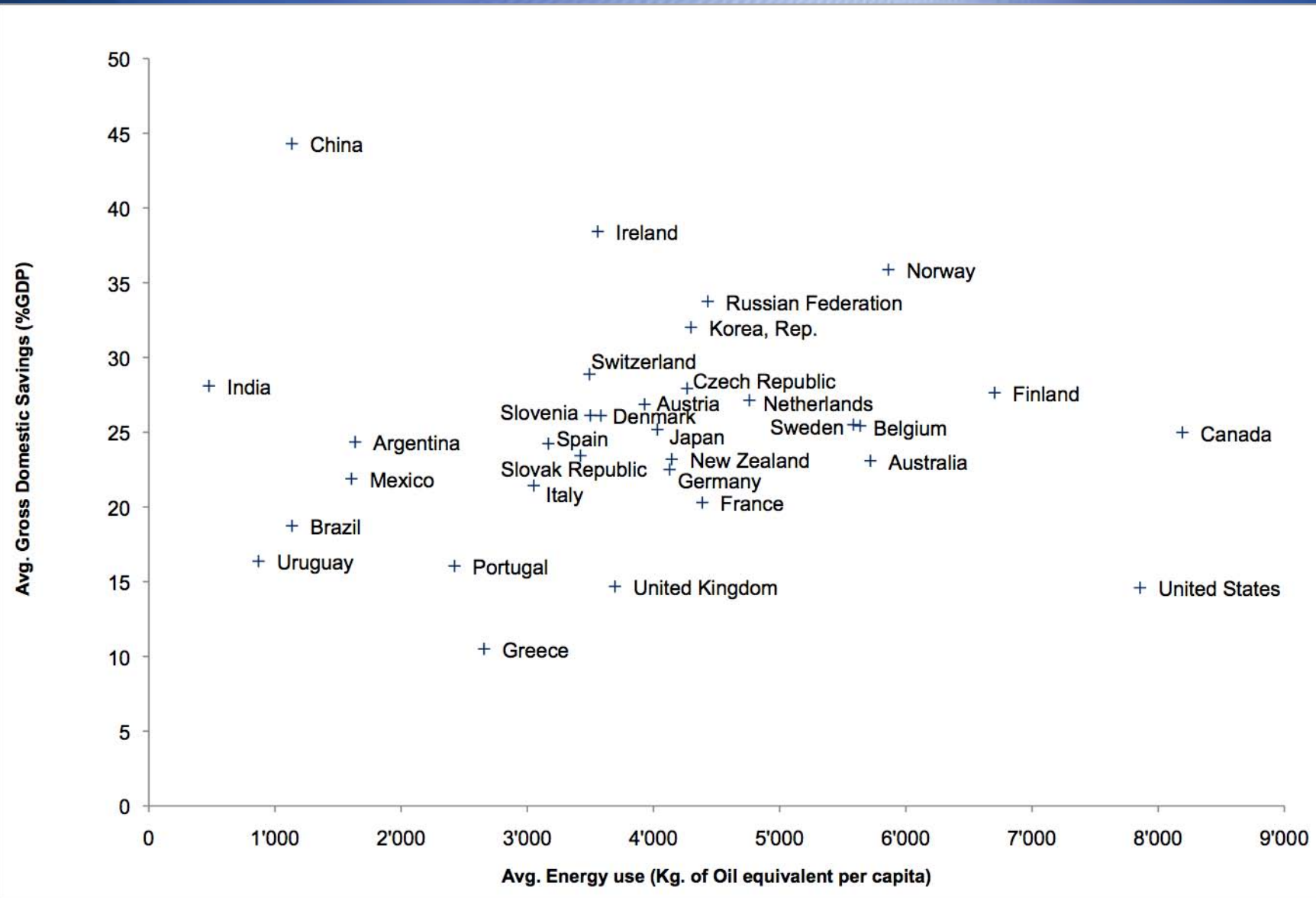
Energy use and income (avg. 2000-2007)



Energy use and income growth (2000-2007)



Energy use and investments (2000-2007)



2 Degrees Celsius Target

- **Reduction of CO₂ emissions**

- 30 % by 2020 and
- 80 % by 2050 (relative to 1990)

- **Example of Switzerland**

- Instrument: Carbon tax

- **CITE Simulation Model (ETH)**

- Endogenous growth due to endogenous innovation and investments

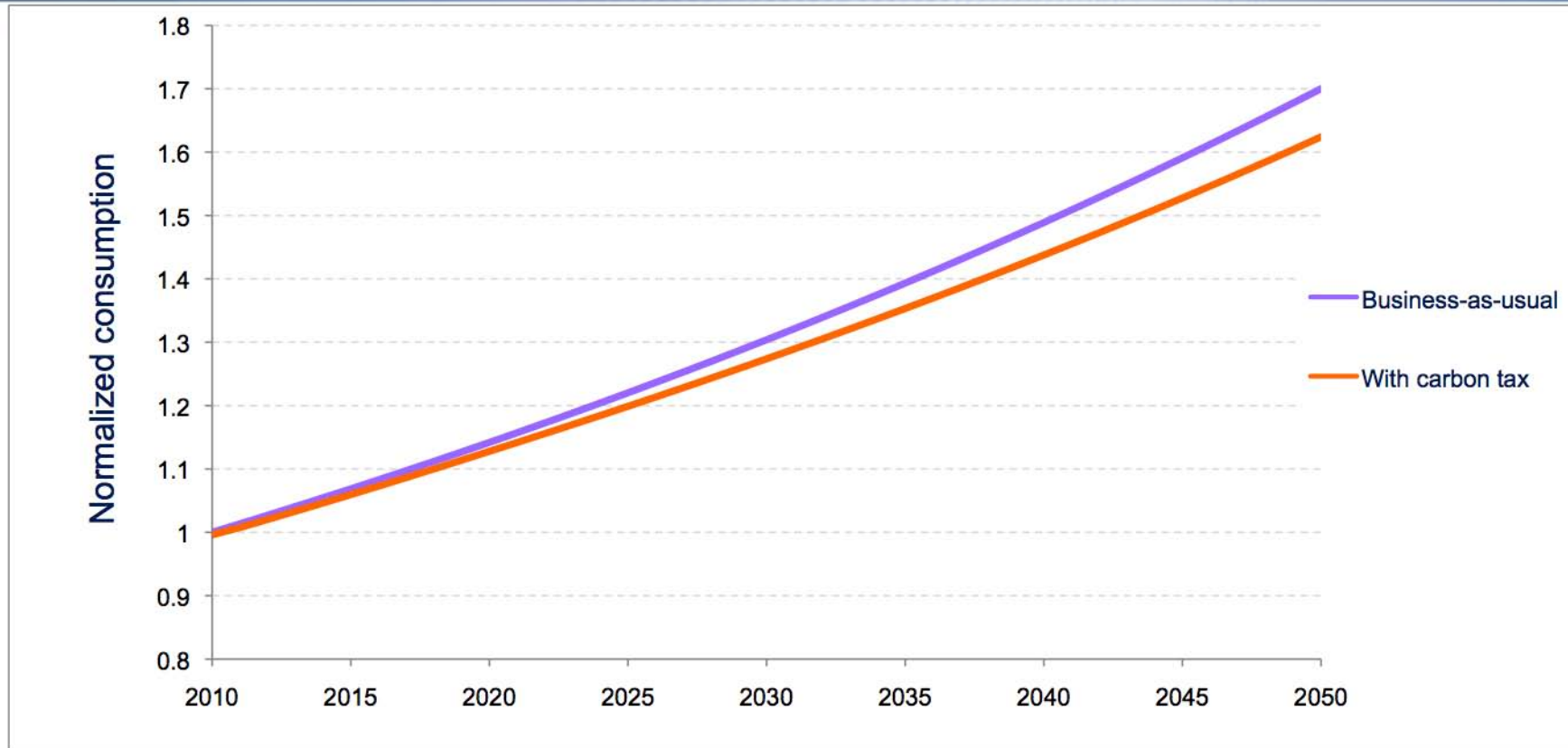
Sectors

12 production sectors (10 „regular“ sectors plus energy and oil)

Machinery industry (MCH)		Construction (CON)	
Chemical industry (CHM)		Transport (TRN)	
Insurances (INS)		Agriculture (AGR)	
Banking (BNK)		Other industries (OIN)	
Health (HEA)		Energy (EGY)	
Other services (OSE)		Oil (OIL)	

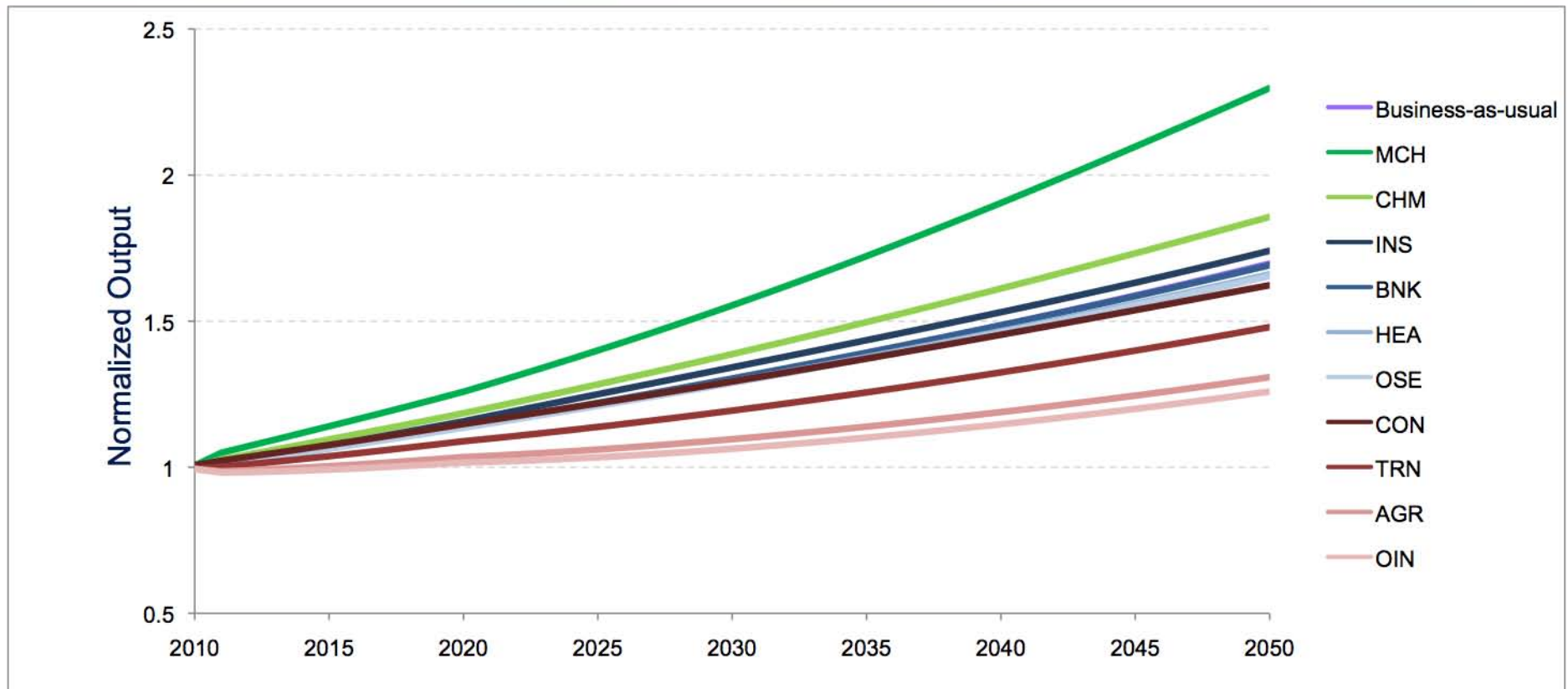
- «Other industries» includes heavy industries such as steel and cement
- «Other services» includes public sector, hotels etc.

Results: Consumption



- Effects on consumption are relatively moderate
- Consumption in 2050 lags about 3 years behind the «BAU»
- How relevant is BAU?

Results: Sectors



- Robust positive growth in all the sectors
- Policy leads to structural change

Conclusions

- **Knowledge, investments, and technologies** are decisive for decreasing the cost of emission reductions
- Adjustment to (much) lower energy use does not cause significant income losses, provided that prices guide the process **continuously**
- **Green sectors** will have higher growth
- Voluntary action of firms: highly welcome, but in the aggregate not strong enough; there remains a **role for active policies**
- «All we need now is the political will» (Paul Krugman, NYT)

A photograph of the large, dark dome of the ETH Zurich main building, set against a clear blue sky. The dome has a smaller, ornate cupola on top. The building's facade below the dome features a series of arched windows.

Thank you!

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BACKUP: Nordhaus

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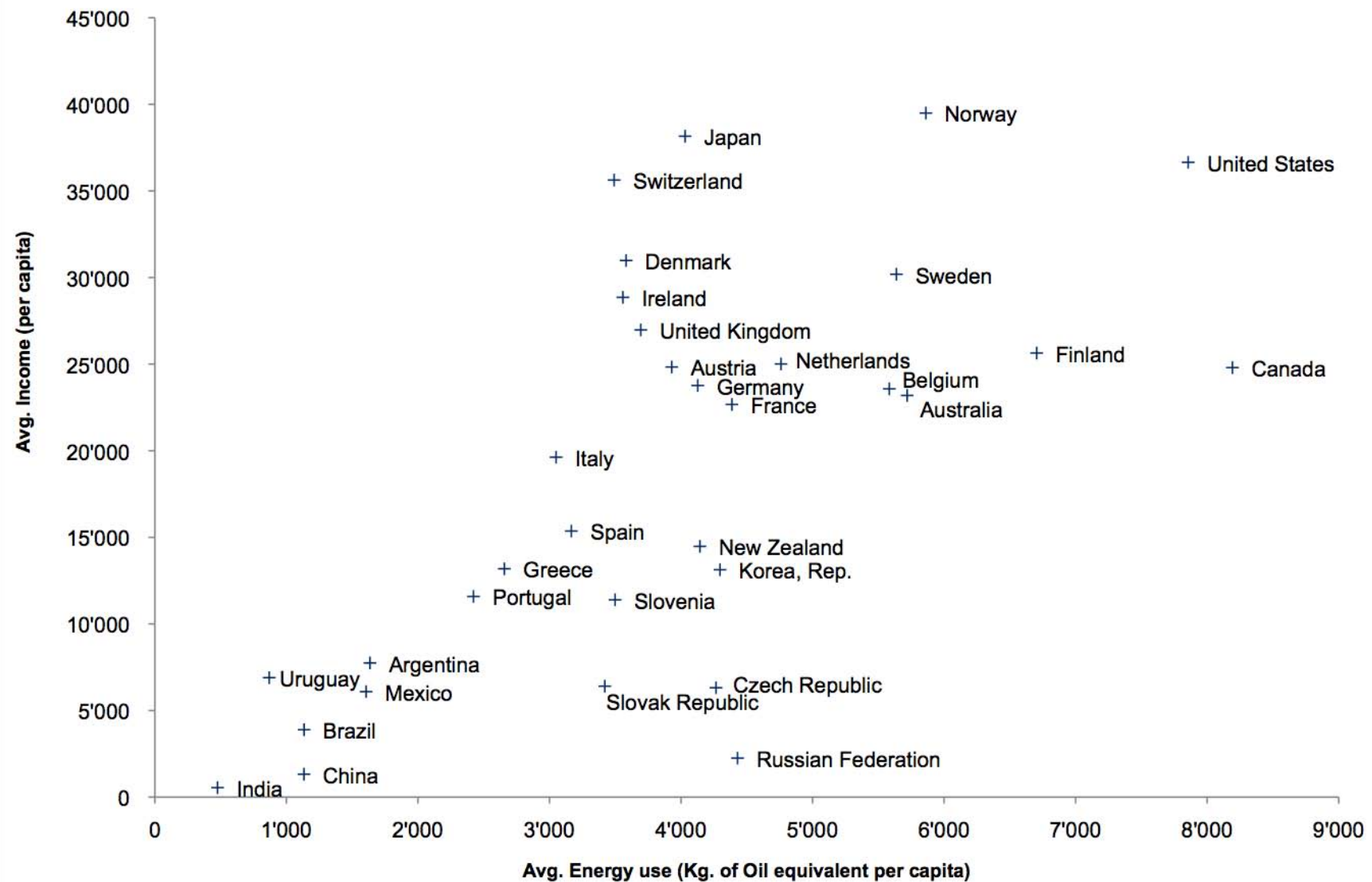
Results of the DICE-2007 Model Runs

Table 5-8. Projected Global Mean Temperature Change by Policy

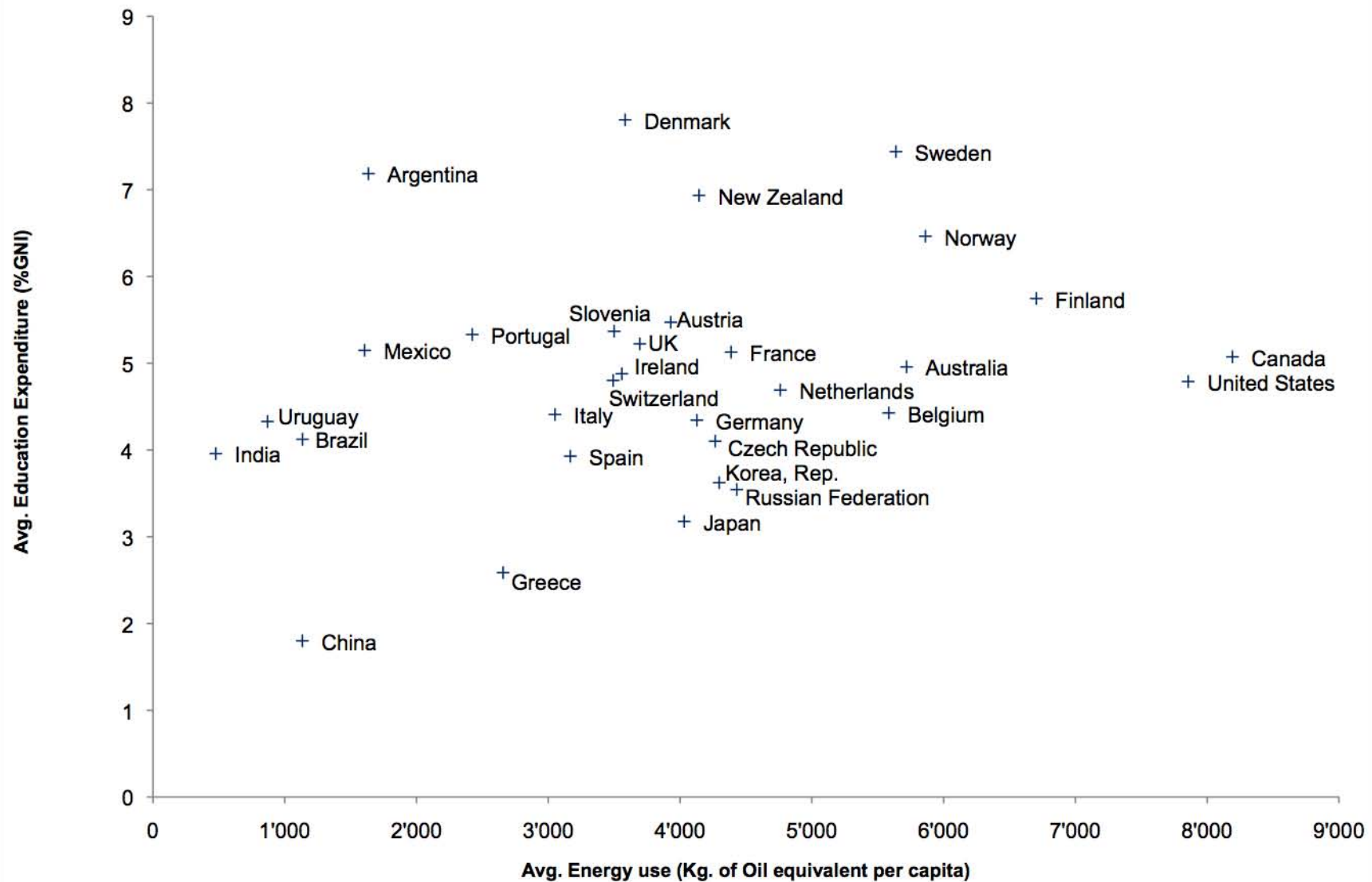
	2005	2015	2025	2050	2100	2200
Policy	(Temperature increase from 1900, degrees C)					
<i>No controls</i>						
250-year delay	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.82	3.06	5.30
50-year delay	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.81	2.72	3.52
<i>Optimal</i>	0.73	0.95	1.17	1.68	2.61	3.45
<i>Concentration limits</i>						
Limit to $1.5 \times \text{CO}_2$	0.73	0.94	1.10	1.36	1.61	1.78
Limit to $2 \times \text{CO}_2$	0.73	0.95	1.16	1.67	2.48	2.84
Limit to $2.5 \times \text{CO}_2$	0.73	0.95	1.17	1.68	2.61	3.45
<i>Temperature limits</i>						
Limit to 1.5°C	0.73	0.94	1.12	1.43	1.50	1.50
Limit to 2°C	0.73	0.95	1.15	1.61	2.00	2.00
Limit to 2.5°C	0.73	0.95	1.16	1.66	2.41	2.50
Limit to 3°C	0.73	0.95	1.17	1.68	2.57	2.99
<i>Kyoto Protocol</i>						
Kyoto with						
United States	0.73	0.96	1.18	1.76	2.94	5.23
Kyoto w/o						
United States	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.81	3.05	5.29
Strengthened	0.73	0.95	1.17	1.66	2.39	3.26
<i>Stern Review</i>						
<i>discounting</i>	0.73	0.89	1.03	1.31	1.52	1.27
<i>Gore proposal</i>	0.73	0.95	1.14	1.42	1.49	1.58
<i>Low-cost backstop</i>	0.73	0.80	0.84	0.86	0.90	0.83

Note: Increases are relative to the 1900 average.

Avg. energy use vs. Avg. Income (2000-2007)



Avg. energy use vs. Avg. Education Expenditure (2000-2007)



Avg. energy use vs. Avg. R&D Expenditure (2000-2007)

