



National climate governance in Europe

Insights from recent mapping exercises

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Topics in my talk today

1. Analytical background: what is governance?
2. National climate governance systems map
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6. Conclusions

...no long-term strategies as such ☹️ ...



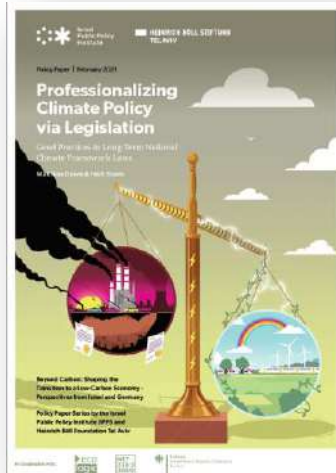
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Main references for this presentation



Evans, Nick; Duwe, Matthias (05/2021): **Overview of climate governance systems and national advisory bodies in European countries.** Ecologic Institute, Berlin / IDDRI, Paris – commissioned by the **European Environment Agency**



Duwe, Matthias., & Evans, Nick (2020): **Climate laws in Europe: Good practices in net-zero management.** Ecologic Institute, Berlin / European Climate Foundation, Den Haag

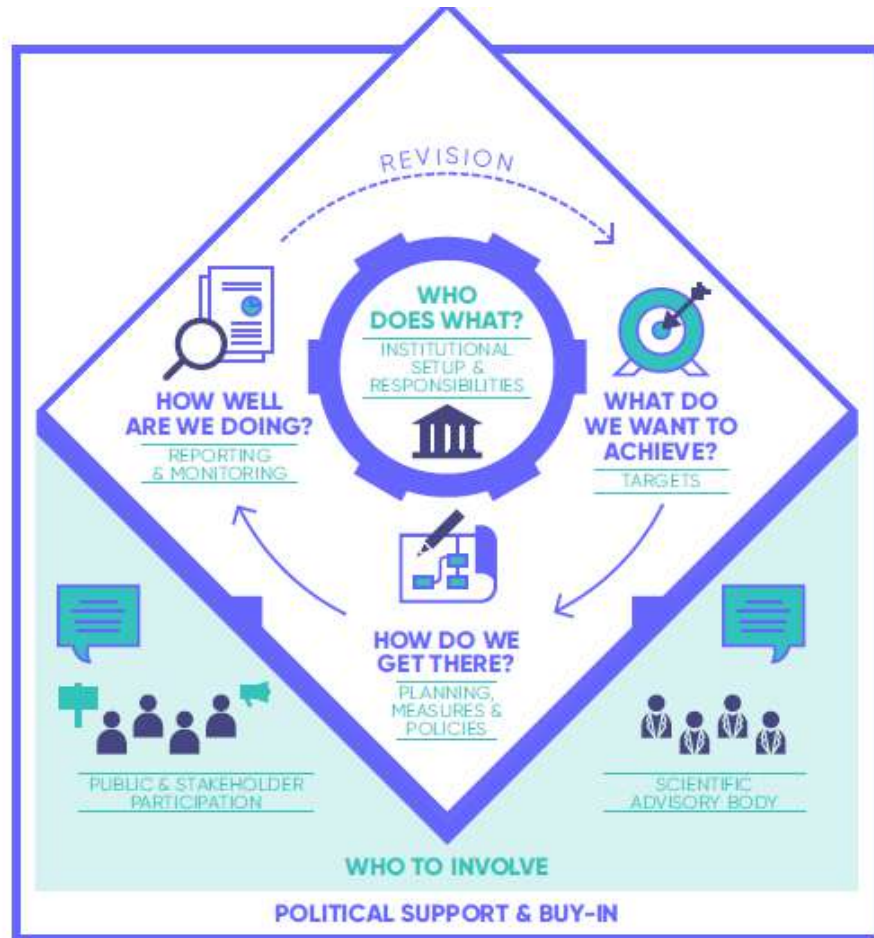


An UPDATE to that report was published in :
 Duwe, M. & Evans, N. (03/2021). **Professionalizing Climate Policy via Legislation: Good Practices in Long-Term National Climate Framework Laws.** Policy Paper Series “Shaping the Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy: Perspectives from Israel and Germany“. Israel Public Policy Institute and Heinrich Böll Foundation Tel Aviv

What do we need effective climate governance for?

- Ultimate objective: **higher chance of successfully** achieving policy goals
=> achieve the transformation towards climate neutrality and beyond
- **Clarify how policy-making works:** who, what, when, how often, ...
- **Adopt policies**, that are effective and efficient
- **Transparency** about both procedures and degree of progress => **accountability**
- **Reliability** for all relevant stakeholders, citizens – and **inclusion** in the process
=> Investments need predictability – and investors require confidence in policy environment

What is governance? Common elements in national climate laws



Targets



Strategies & Policies



Progress monitoring



Institutional set-up / coordination



Scientific Advice



Public participation

+ political support for it

Source: Duwe/Evans (2020) – design by Noble Studio

Mapping climate governance system - methodology

Table A1: Three essential qualities of climate governance systems and their underlying criteria

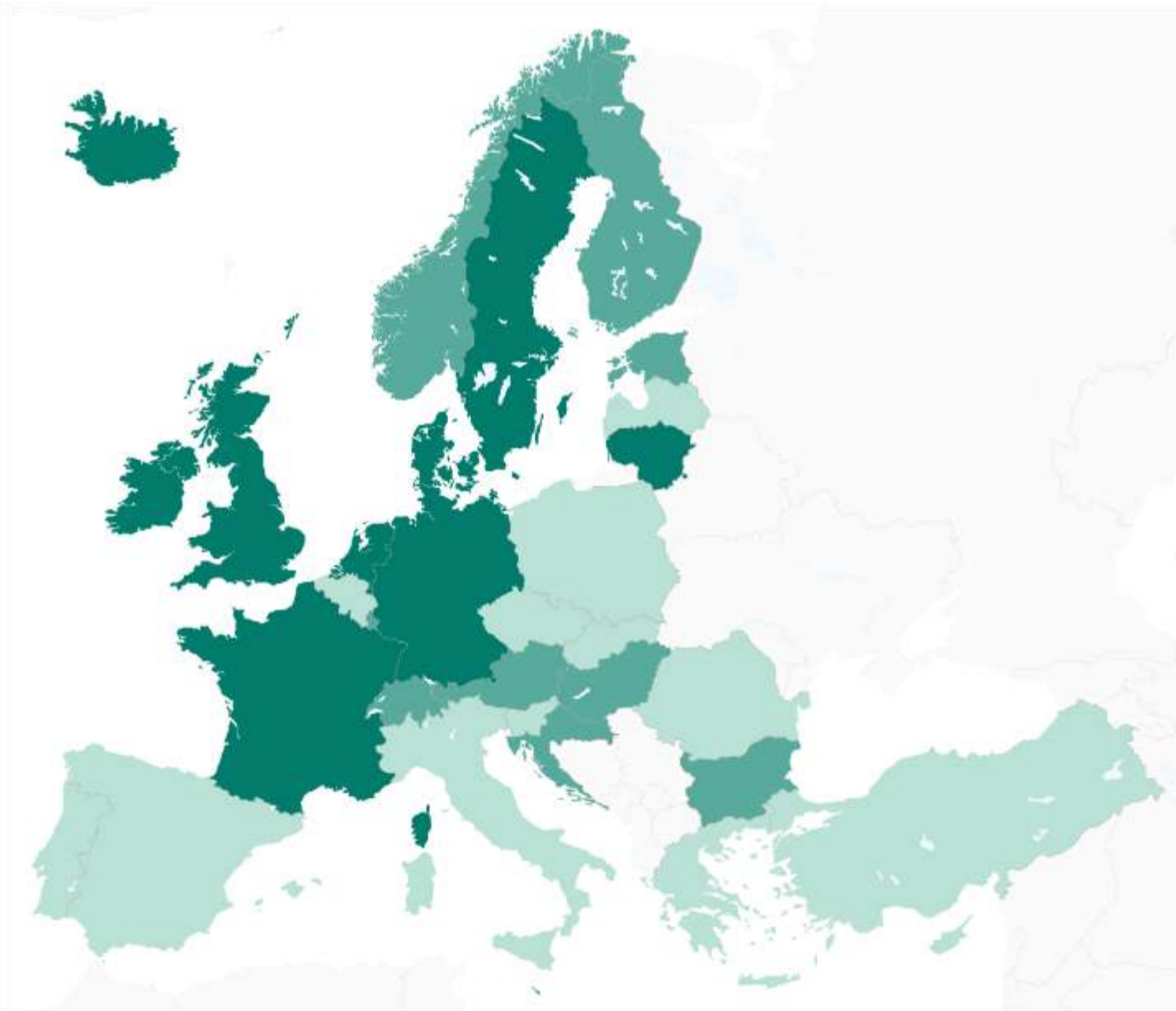
Essential quality	Underlying criteria
Formality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent and regular planning, policy-making and progress monitoring cycles • Division and delegation of responsibility among relevant ministries and governmental agencies • Inter-ministerial coordination mechanism inside government • Adoption of a national framework law
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated mechanism for public/stakeholder outreach • Level of public/stakeholder engagement • Involvement of Parliament • Dedicated national progress monitoring and reporting (beyond EU/UN obligations)
Specificity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National interim, short- and long-term economy-wide emission reduction targets (= beyond EU obligations) • Processes for setting targets • Concrete and comprehensive policy packages • Trigger mechanism • Projected impact of policies is evaluated using climate scenarios • Long-term vision and cohesion





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- **Baseline**
System defined largely by higher level **climate commitments** (e.g. EU and UN)
- **Light framework**
System defined by a **climate law** or other **government document**, may be missing key elements, such as transparency mechanisms or target-setting processes
- **Robust framework**
Formal system defined by a **climate law** or other **government document**, **regular action and planning cycles** and **strong monitoring and transparency processes**

Source: design by EEA, based on data compiled by Ecologic Institute/IDDRI. From: Evans/Duwe (2021)



Results

Name	Description	Determining criteria: Measures for formality, ac- countability, specificity*	#	Countries
Category 1: EU/UN Baseline (13 countries)				
EU/UN baseline	<i>No system other than dedicated ministry; policy system defined by EU policy cycles; no national monitoring other than EU/UN requirements; NECP serves as policy package (may have additional sectoral policies or plans)</i>	LLL, MLL, LML, LLM	7	Belgium, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey
EU/UN baseline plus	<i>Little or no formalised governance structure, follows the EU cycle but with additional elements, such as, e.g., national monitoring, a dedicated stakeholder dialogue, national action plan, internal coordination mechanism etc.</i>	LML, MLL, MMM (without climate law)	6	Cyprus, Czechia, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Spain
Category 2: Light framework (11 countries)				
Formal, weak spot	<i>Governance system set forth in law or other form but accountability and/or detail is low.</i>	HLM, HML, MMM, MML (with climate law)	5	Bulgaria, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta
Informal, without some detail <u>or</u> transparency	<i>Governance system somewhat formally established but missing one or more key elements in practice</i>	MMH, MHM	3	Estonia, Norway, Switzerland
Formal, without some detail <u>and</u> transparency	<i>Strong law or coherent governance system on paper missing one or more key elements in practice</i>	HMM	3	Austria, Croatia, Finland
Category 3: Robust framework (9 countries)				
Informal, strong	<i>No law or weak or low detail in law but otherwise robust institutions, policy-processes and accountability mechanisms</i>	MHH	2	Lithuania, Netherlands
Formal, without some detail	<i>Strong framework but specifics on, e.g., long-term planning or target setting process could be stronger</i>	HHM	3	Iceland, Ireland, Sweden
Formal, without some transparency	<i>Formalised governance system with strong detail but room for improvement on accountability</i>	HMH	1	Germany
Formal, strong	<i>Robust framework with high level of detail and degree of accountability</i>	HHH	3	Denmark, France, United Kingdom





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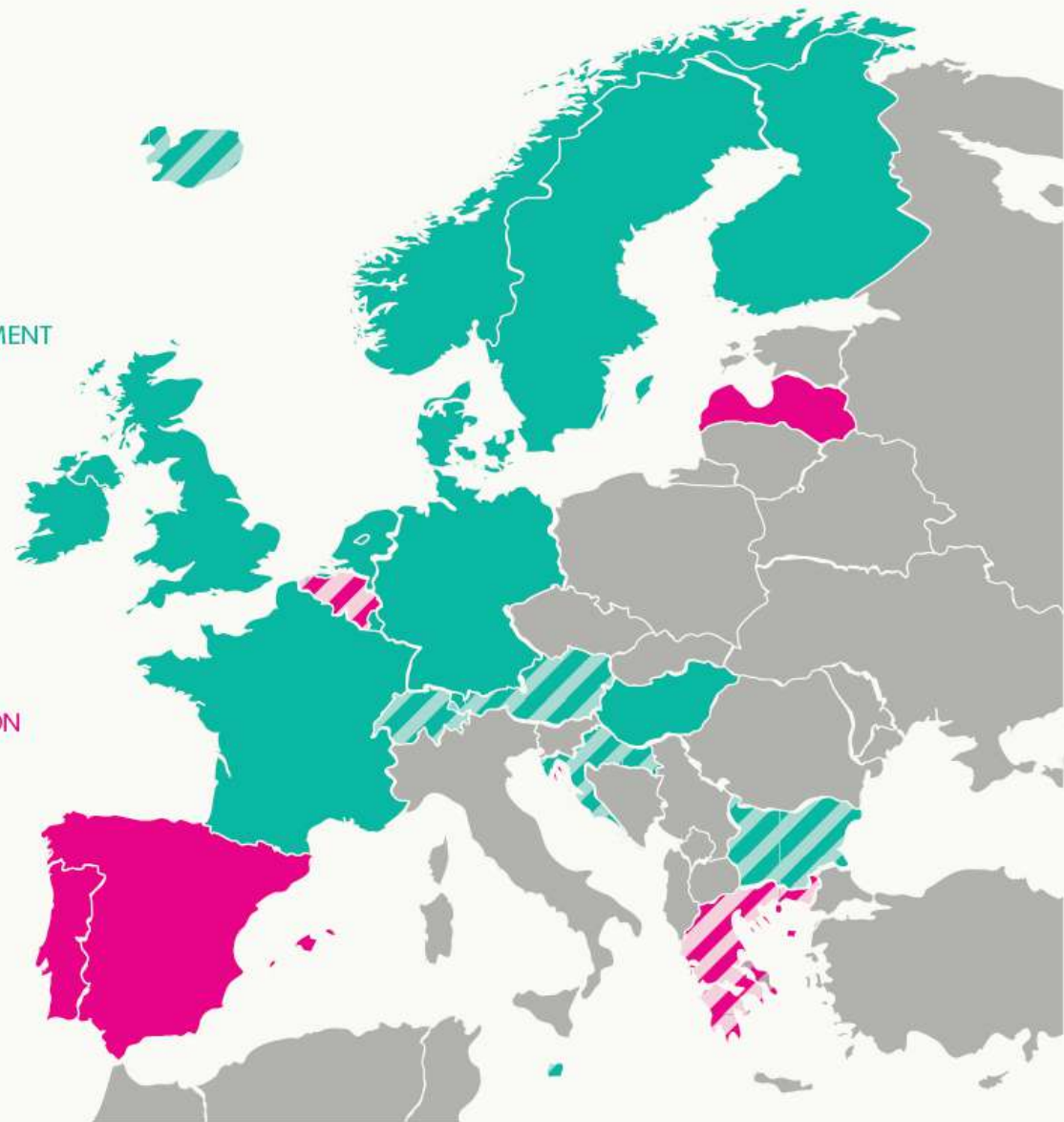
STATUS QUO: EU

The majority of EU Member States already has a national climate law or is preparing one—but not all laws include a long-term perspective (yet).



Source: *IPPI Policy Paper 2021*

Ecologic Institute research based on a range of sources (including legislative databases, direct legal texts, news reports and personal contacts)





*„I want Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050. (...) I will put forward the **first ever European Climate Law** which will set the 2050 target into law. “*

Ursula von der Leyen, 16 July 2019

Proposal for a law was put forward on 4th March 2020

Compromise in April 2021

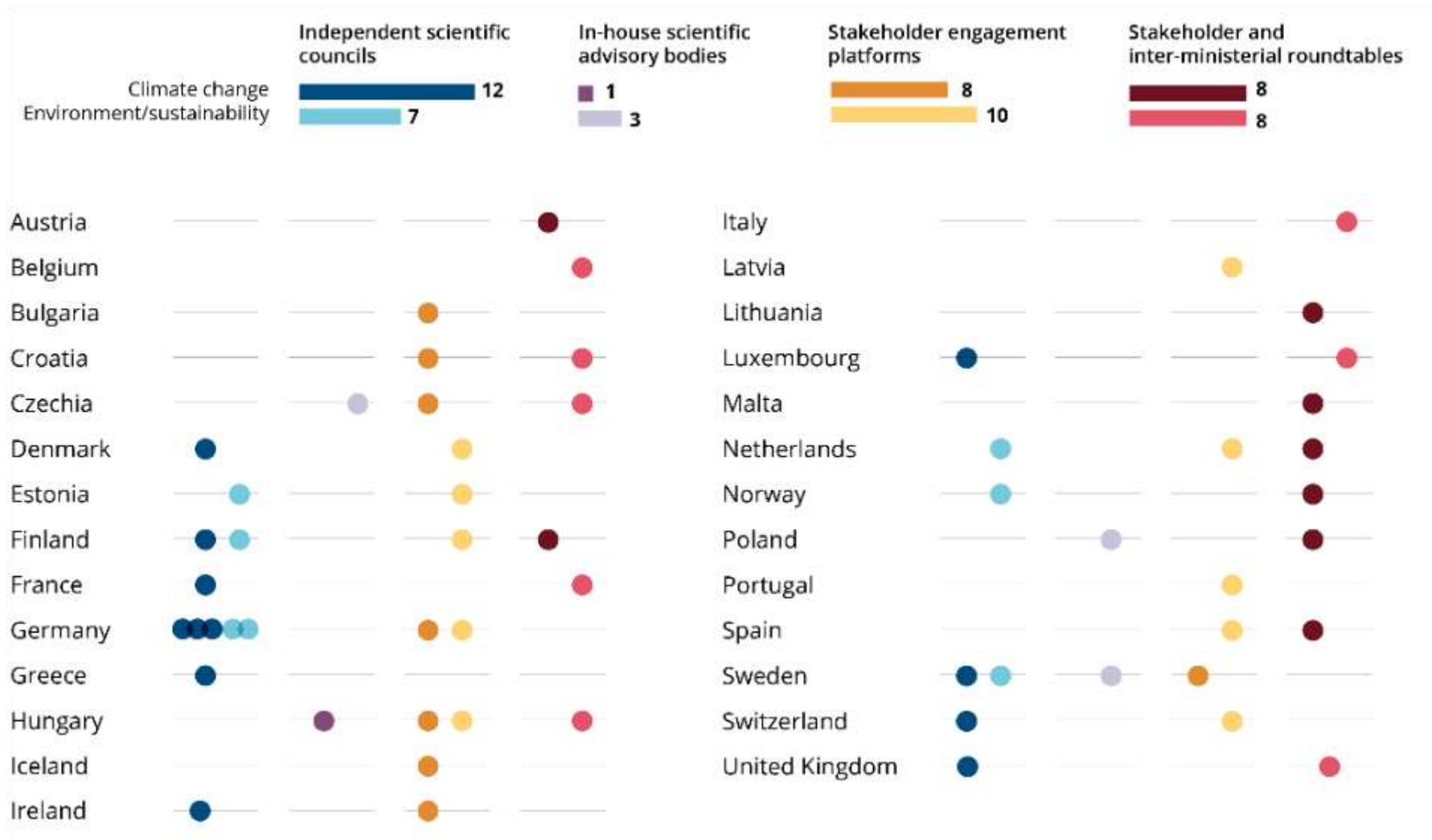
Introduces several new mechanisms, including a „consistency check“ of national measures every 5 years





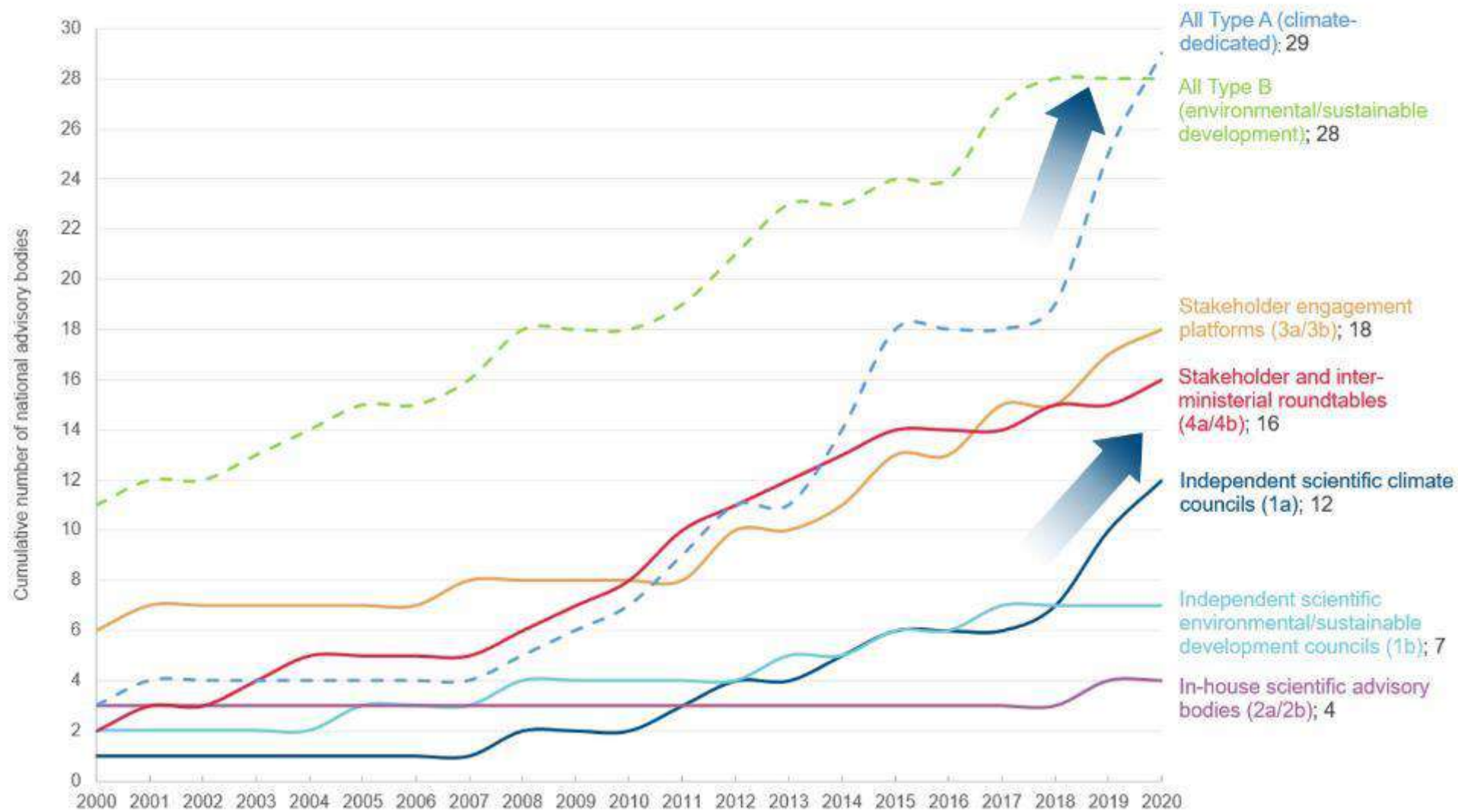
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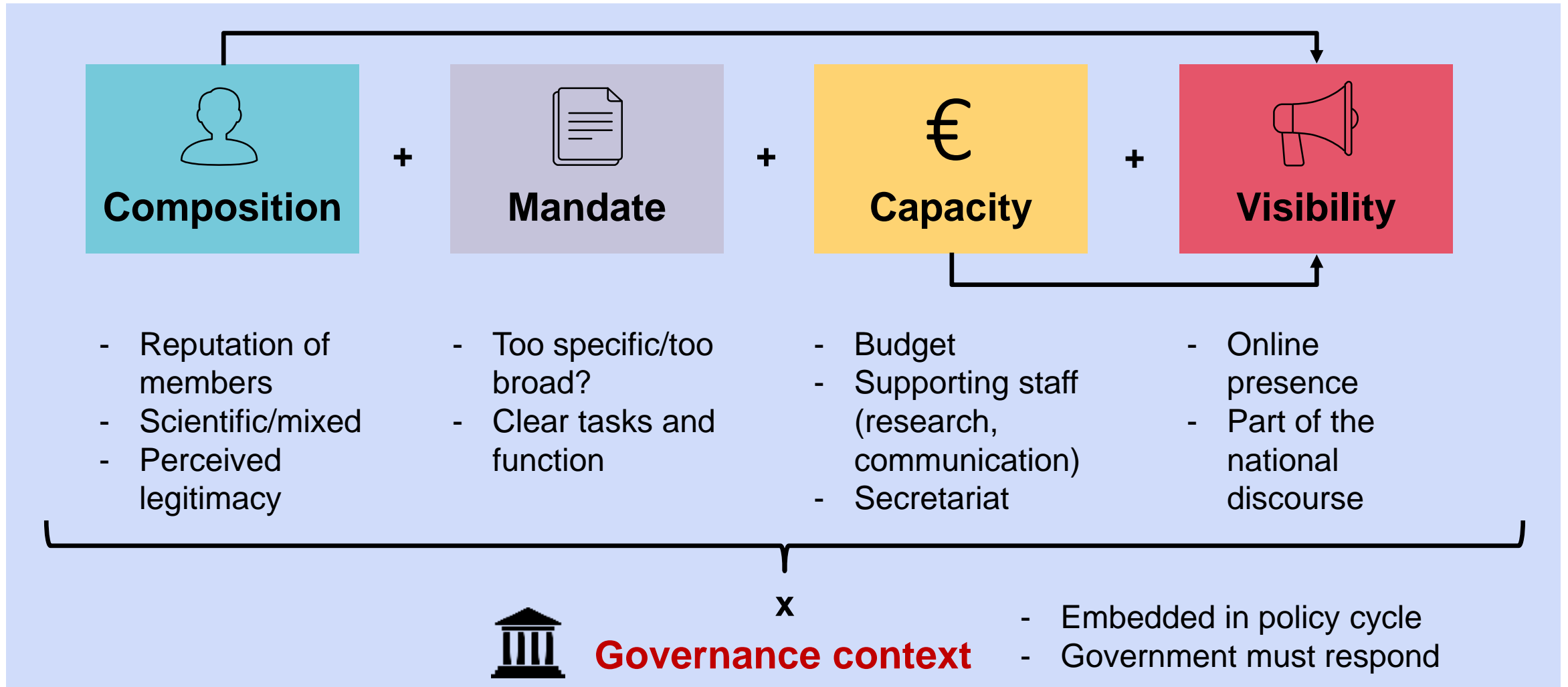
Source: design by EEA, based on data compiled by Ecologic Institute/IDDRI

Figure: Development of national climate advisory bodies in Europe 2000-2020



Source: Ecologic Institute/IDDRI

Having an impact: Success factors and barriers





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MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS CLIMATE NEUTRALITY NEEDS IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

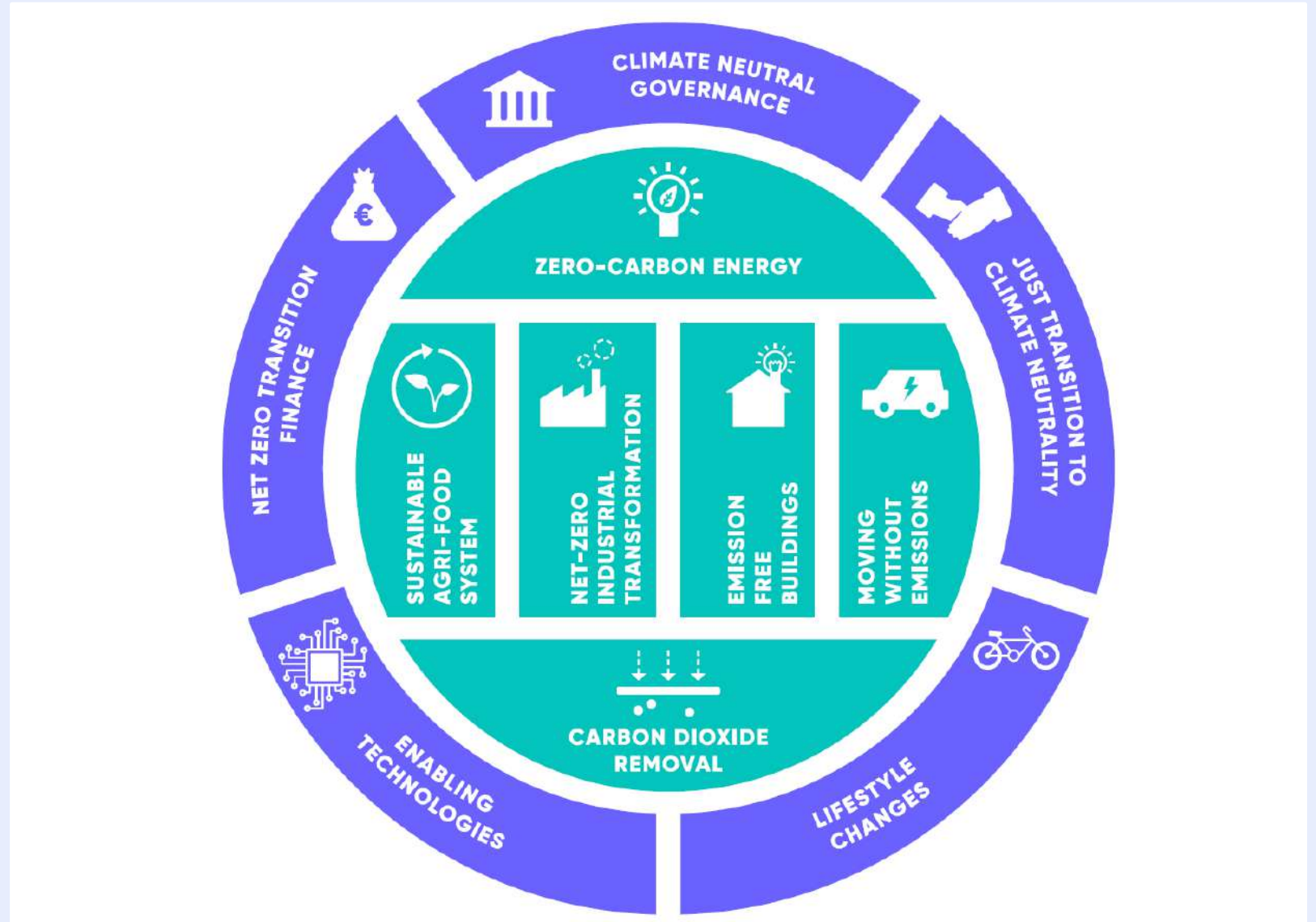
INDICATORS AND THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

The long-term objectives and pathways in the Paris Agreement have helped generate a much stronger focus on the transformational nature of the changes required to tackle the climate crisis – and on what it means to reach net zero and net negative emissions. This new focus has been aided by the drafting of 2050 strategies at national and EU level, the adoption of climate neutrality as a new long-term goal for the European Union. This has been made the core objective of the European Green Deal (EGD) and it has been enshrined in the EU Climate Law. The 2030 climate target for the EU has been strengthened as a result, one can argue.

The EU now needs to keep track of whether it is triggering the changes needed to achieve the long-term goal of climate neutrality – and it does not (yet) have an adequate monitoring framework to do this.

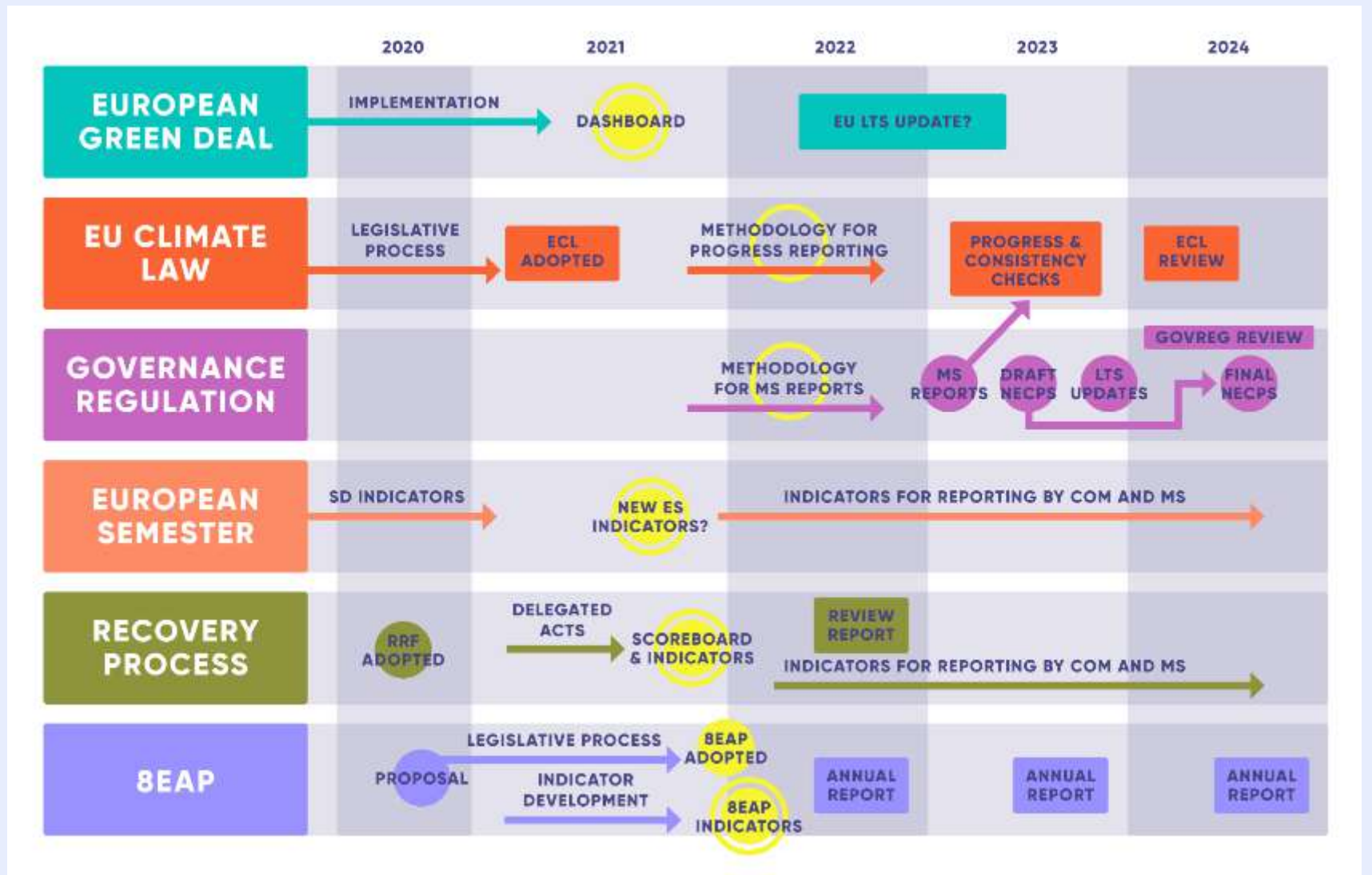


Sectoral and horizontal elements



Source: own presentation; visuals by Nobel Studio

Timeline of relevant processes



Source: own presentation; visuals by Nobel Studio



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Key messages

- ▶ Climate governance systems in Europe display varying levels of development, some need improvement
- ▶ EU legislation provides a minimum standard for all – but many MS go beyond it
- ▶ Climate framework laws are proliferating, enhance national climate governance
- ▶ Nearly all EU Member States have some type of climate advisory body, scientific councils growing in importance – but need specific mandate and adequate resources
- ▶ Progress monitoring is essential – but a new approach is required to track change towards climate neutrality. Most efficient: a system developed at EU level that MS can apply also

Thank you for your attention

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