



Towards sustainability in Europe - status and key leverage points

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Themes



Sectors



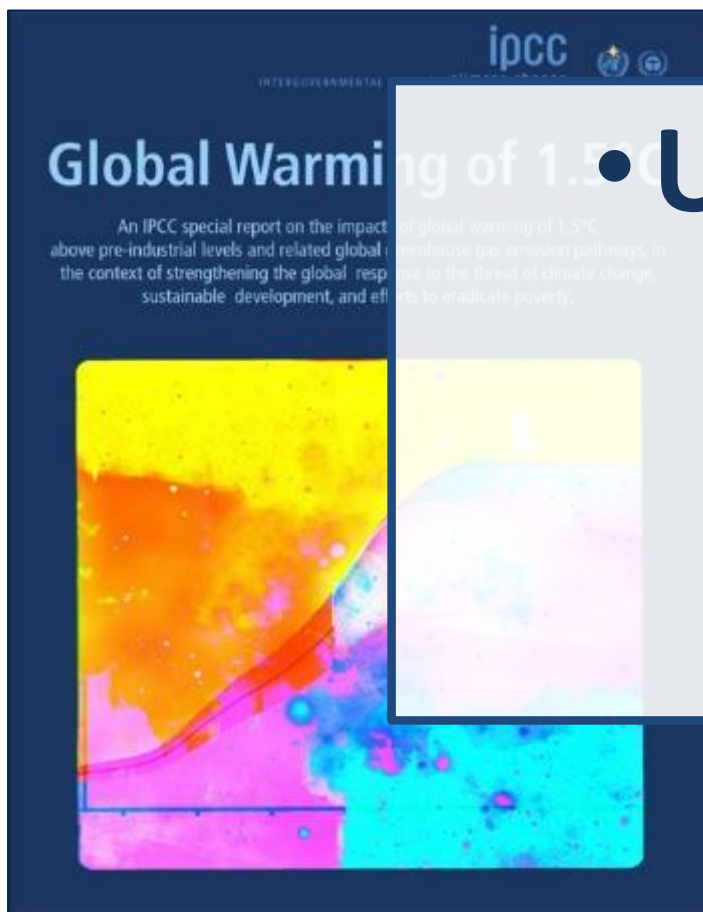
Systems and sustainability transitions



1. IPCC report on global warming of 1.5°C

2. IPBES global report on biodiversity and ecosystem services

3. International Resource Panel global outlook 2019



- Urgent action needed
- Irreversibilities
- Tipping points
- Interconnected

1. Natural capital

2. Low carbon and resource efficient economy

3. Health and wellbeing

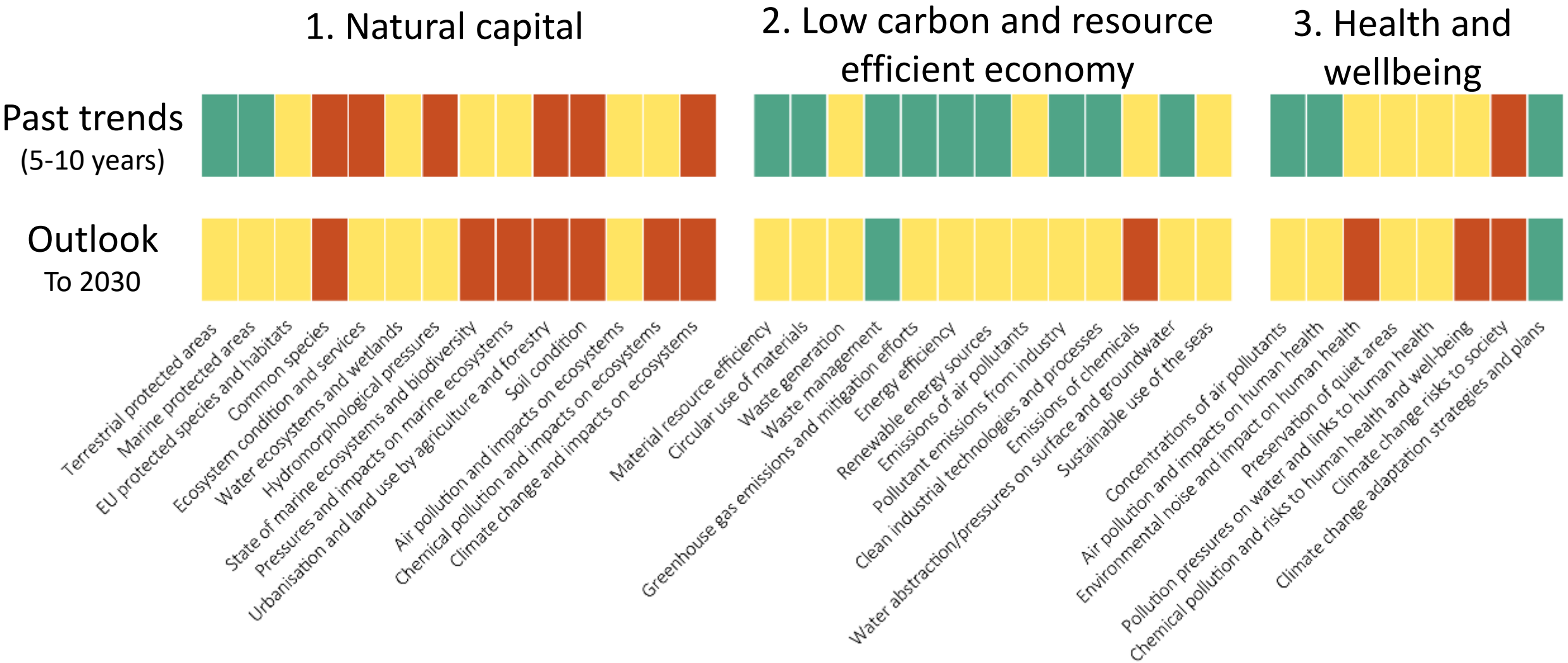
Past trends
(5-10 years)

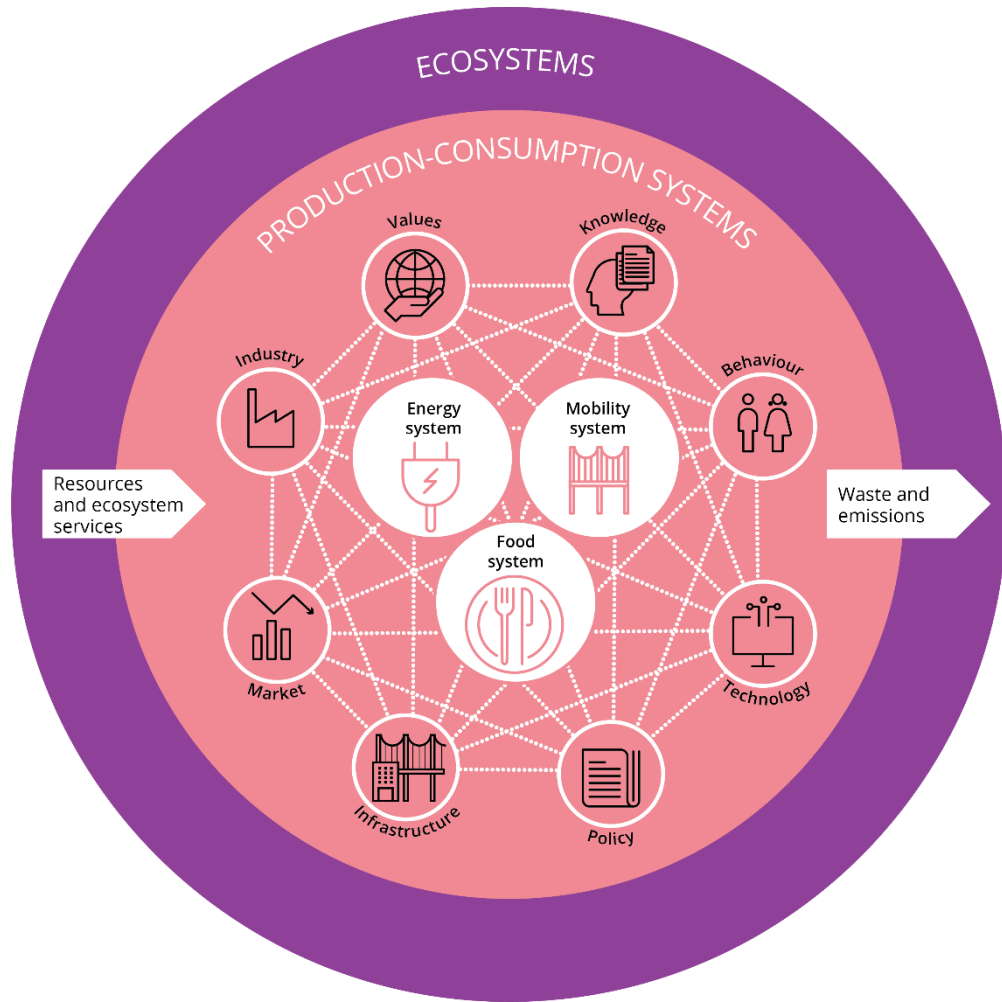


Terrestrial protected areas
Marine protected areas
EU protected species and habitats
Common species
Ecosystem condition and services
Water ecosystems and wetlands
Hydromorphological pressures
State of marine ecosystems and biodiversity
Pressures and impacts on marine ecosystems
Urbanisation and land use by agriculture and forestry
Soil condition
Air pollution and impacts on ecosystems
Chemical pollution and impacts on ecosystems
Climate change and impacts on ecosystems

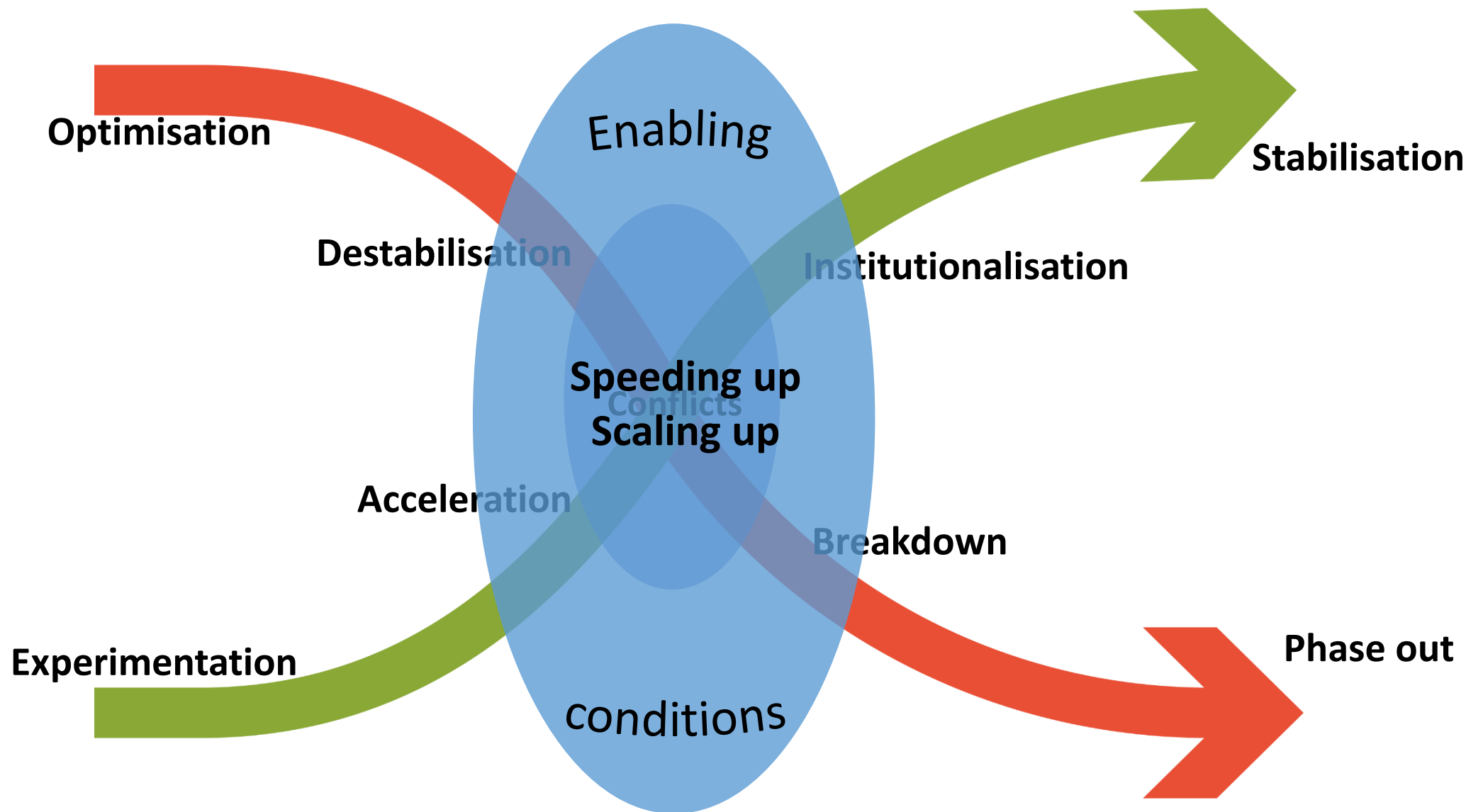
Material resource efficiency
Circular use of materials
Waste generation
Waste management
Greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation efforts
Energy efficiency
Renewable energy sources
Emissions of air pollutants
Pollutant emissions from industry
Clean industrial technologies and processes
Emissions of chemicals
Water abstraction/pressures on surface and groundwater
Sustainable use of the seas

Concentrations of air pollutants
Air pollution and impacts on human health
Environmental noise and impact on human health
Preservation of quiet areas
Pollution pressures on water and links to human health
Chemical pollution and risks to human health and well-being
Climate change risks to society
Climate change adaptation strategies and plans





- Recognise fundamental **drivers** and system **interlinkages**
- Adopt transformative **policy frameworks**
- Fill crucial **policy gaps**:
 - Food
 - Land and soil
 - Chemicals
- Leverage the power of **cities, businesses and communities** for society-wide action



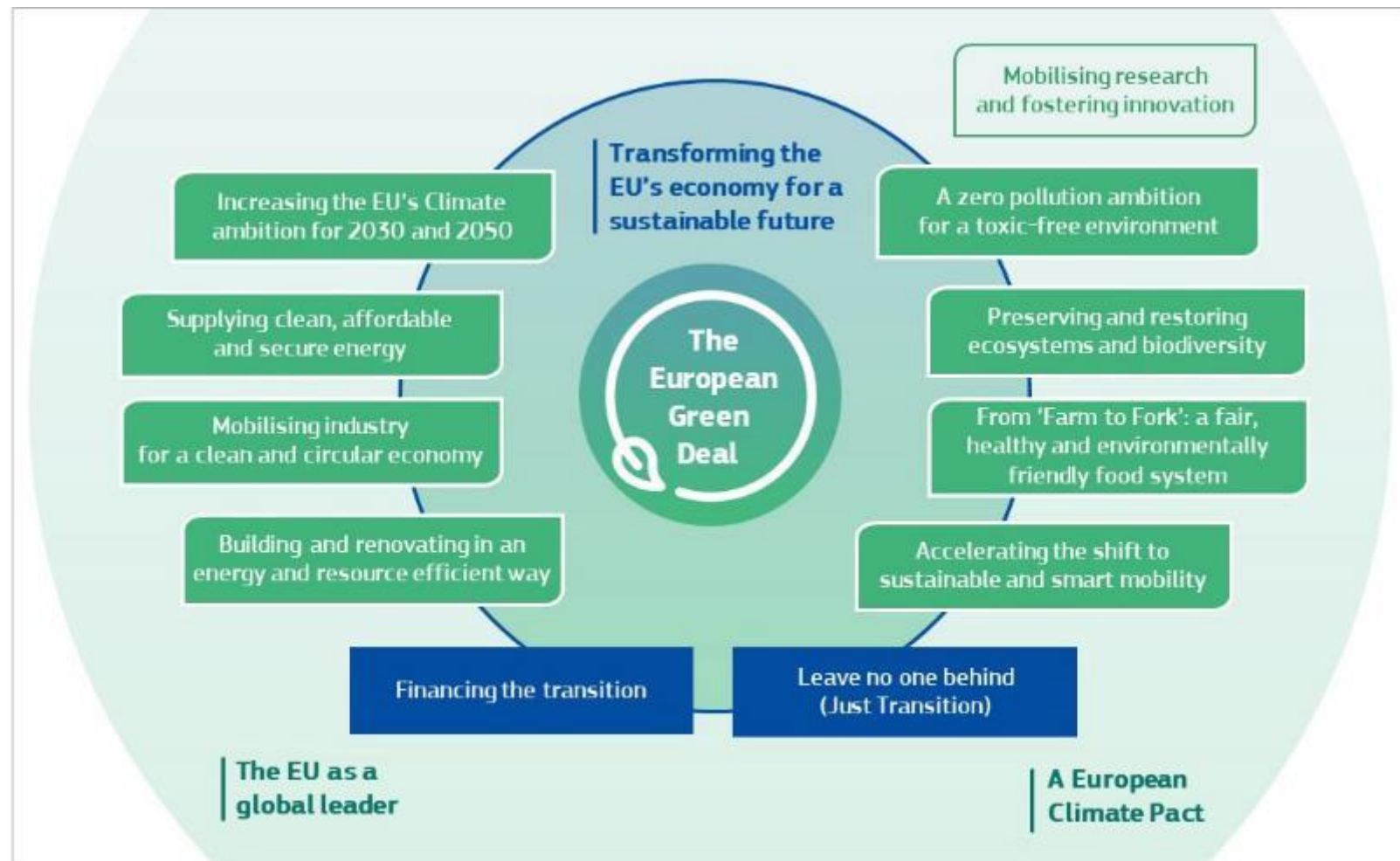
The window is closing: bold action is needed

SOER2020



1. Realise the unfulfilled potential of existing environmental policies
2. Embrace sustainability as the framework for policy making
3. Lead international action towards sustainability
4. Foster innovation throughout society
5. Scale up investments and reorient the finance sector to support sustainability projects and businesses
6. Manage risks and ensure a socially fair transition
7. Build more knowledge and know-how





Key action: fostering innovation throughout society

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- Many seeds for transitions exist: technologies, social practices, business models, institutions, etc.
- Innovation policy needs to promote diversity, explore impacts and build coalitions of stakeholders



- Diverse policies can help new innovations and practices to spread and compete with established approaches
- Governments can promote social innovations by helping networking, learning, knowledge sharing.

INSTRUMENT	EXAMPLES
Regulatory incentives	Agricultural inputs, food safety standards
Economic incentives	Environmental taxes (meat tax, waste tax)
Financial measures	Grants, rural development programmes
Market creation	Public procurement (e.g. food in schools)
Information provision	Measuring food product sustainability, labelling



Transitions bring **surprises, trade-offs and unintended consequences**. Navigating these requires:

- **anticipatory governance**: e.g. foresight, horizon scanning, modelling, etc.
- **adaptive governance**: monitoring, learning and reorientation





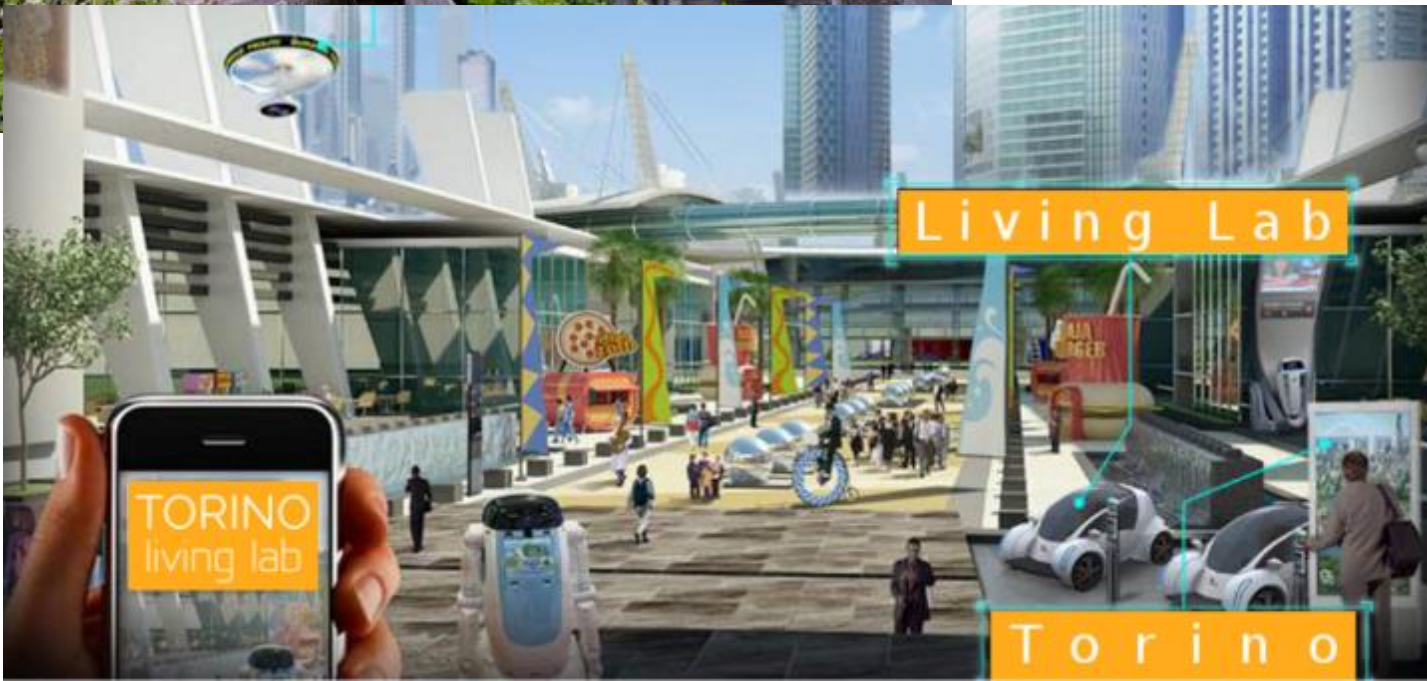
Often major lock-ins in rural areas due to lack of economic diversity and alternatives.

Diverse policy areas are needed to enable socially fair transitions: sectoral, education, employment, welfare, regional, etc.



Cities as hubs of innovation and networking

- Experimentation, learning, sharing
- Potential to transform systems at local scales
- Far-reaching impacts on value chains



- Support for **experimentation, innovation, upscaling, diffusion**
- Reorienting the **financial sector**
- **Predictable pathways and incentives** – getting price right
- Aligning **public budgets** with sustainability goals





Today's knowledge system is not geared to support the governance of transitions.

An **EU knowledge strategy** could help create, organise and use diverse knowledge:

- societal systems – actors, lock-ins, trends, etc.
- big data, artificial intelligence
- practice-based evidence: innovations, impacts, successes, failures
- early warning: harms and opportunities
- new skills, infrastructures, institutions

To wrap up



- Europe has opportunities in the next decade to make its economy fit for the 21st century.
- With the European Green Deal, sustainability has become a key overarching principle guiding policies and actions.
- Now it is time to turn ambitions of the European Green Deal into practice. The implementation and enforcement of its aspirations will determine whether Europe will be successful or not.





Thank you

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