Sustainability and SOER 2025

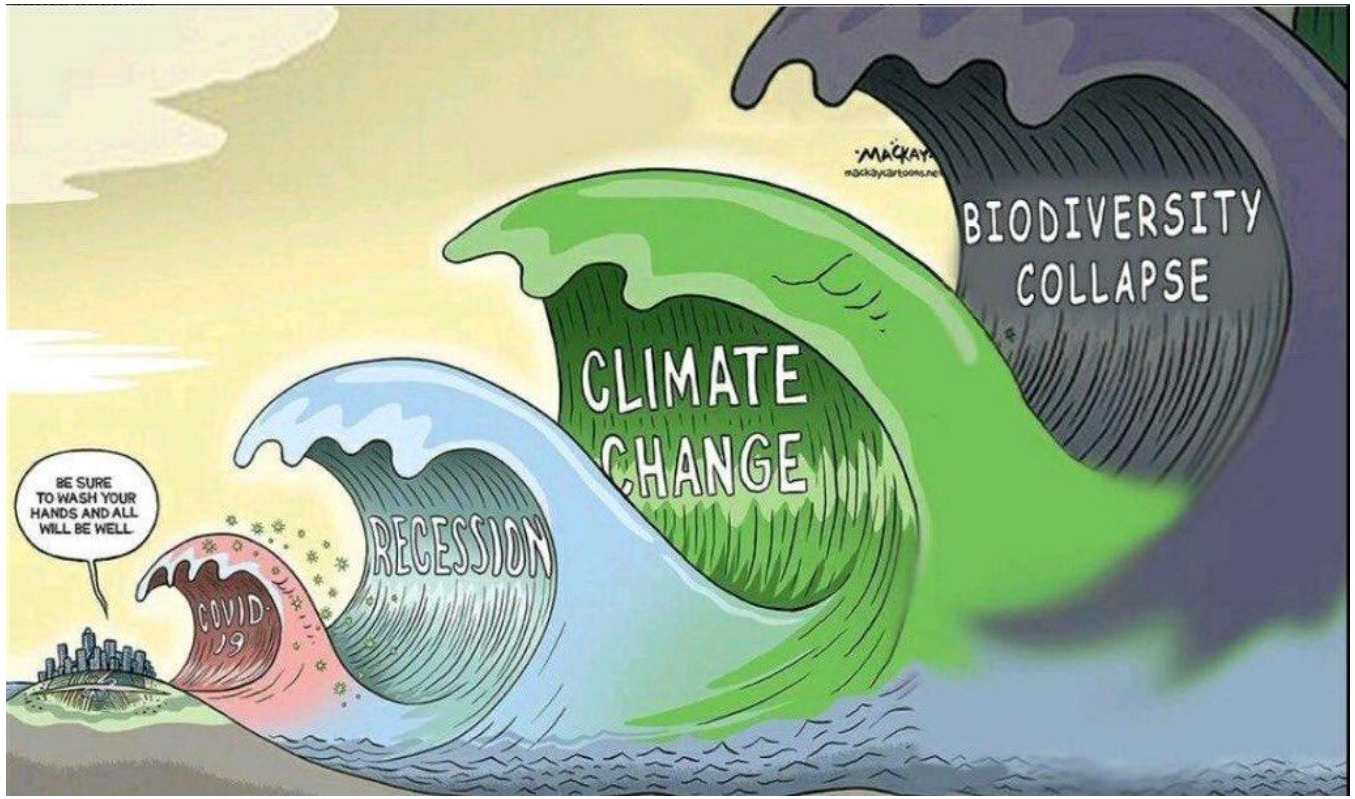
Jock Martin, European Environment Agency

Sustainability: a super-wicked problem

[Narratives for change: about the series | European Environment Agency's home page (europa.eu)]

Volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity = accelerating, systemic risks

Multiple interconnected social, economic and environmental crises

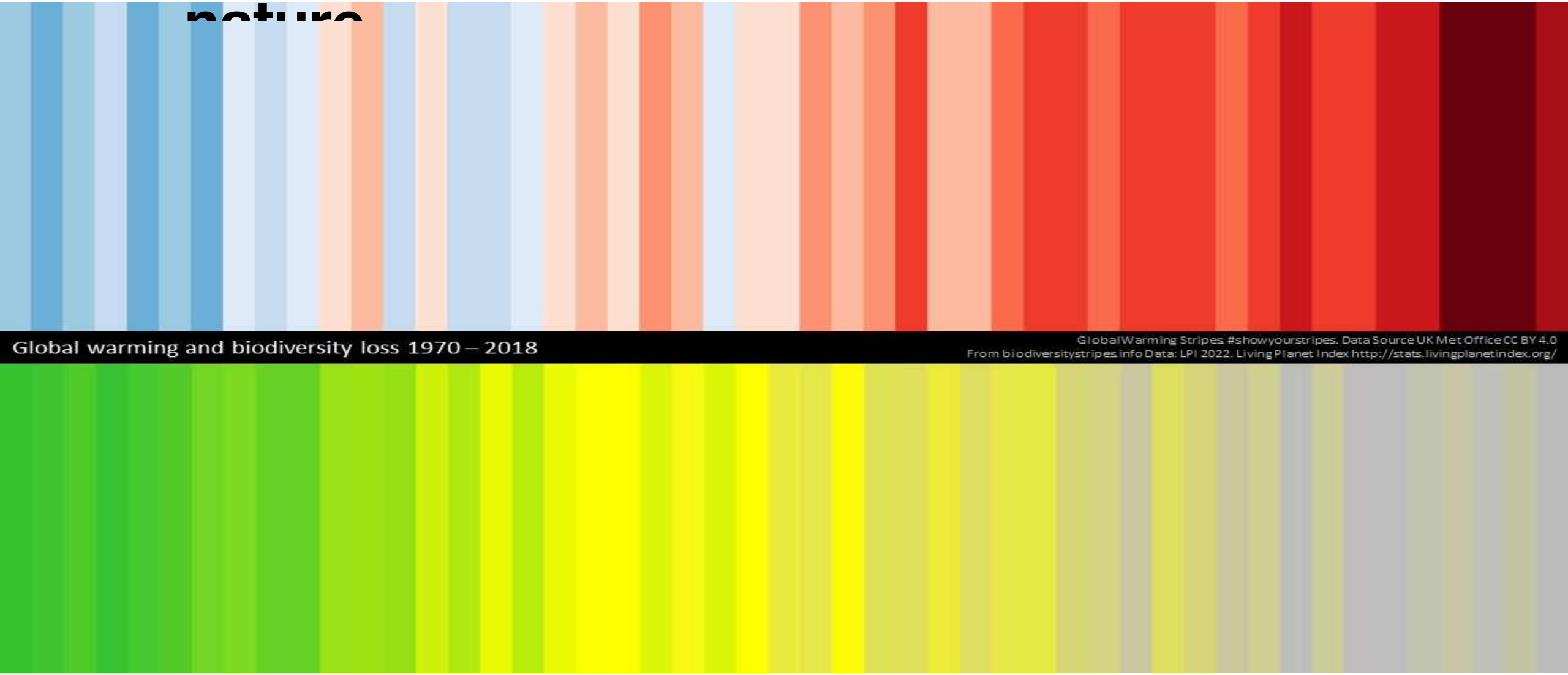


VUCA World

[Governance in complexity - Sustainability governance under highly uncertain and complex conditions — European Environment Agency (europa.eu)]

European Environment Agency

Planet Earth since 1970: More heat, less nature

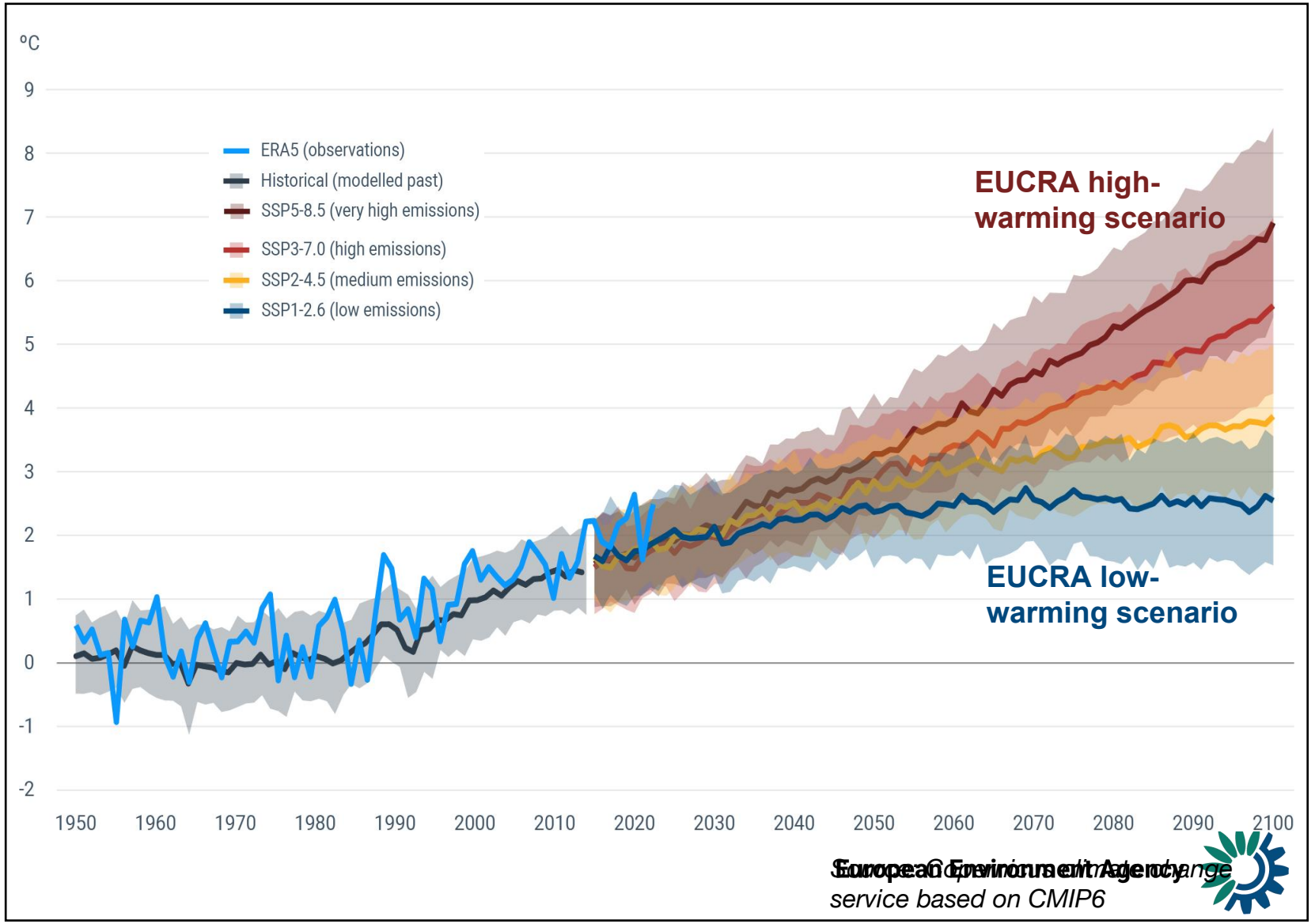


#ShowYourStripes

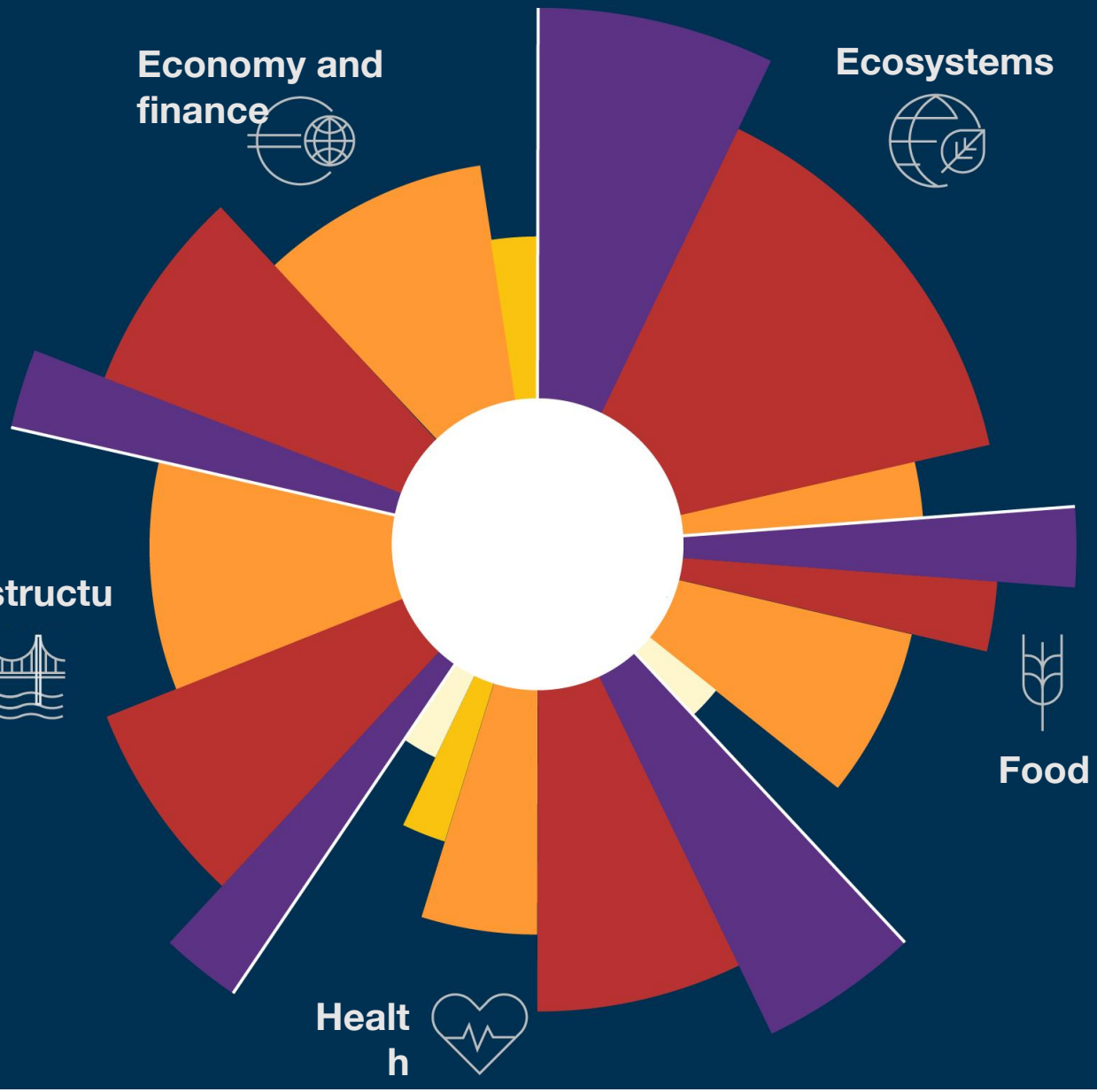
#BiodiversityStripes

European Environment Agency

2024: another year of extreme weather and increasing climate risks?



EUCRA: major climate risks for Europe in five clusters



- Urgent action needed
- More action needed
- Further investigation
- Sustain current action
- Watching brief

European Environment Agency

EU Policy Response: 8th EAP progress report

Methodology key

Will the targets be met by 2030?

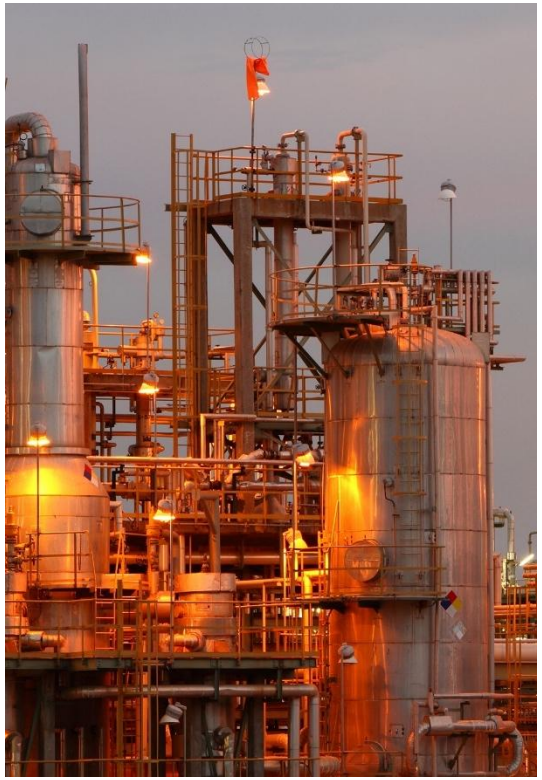
- It is very likely
- It is likely but uncertain
- It is unlikely but uncertain
- It is very unlikely
- It is unclear

[New Political Guidelines]

European Environment Agency

Reconfiguring energy, food, mobility, urban and industrial systems

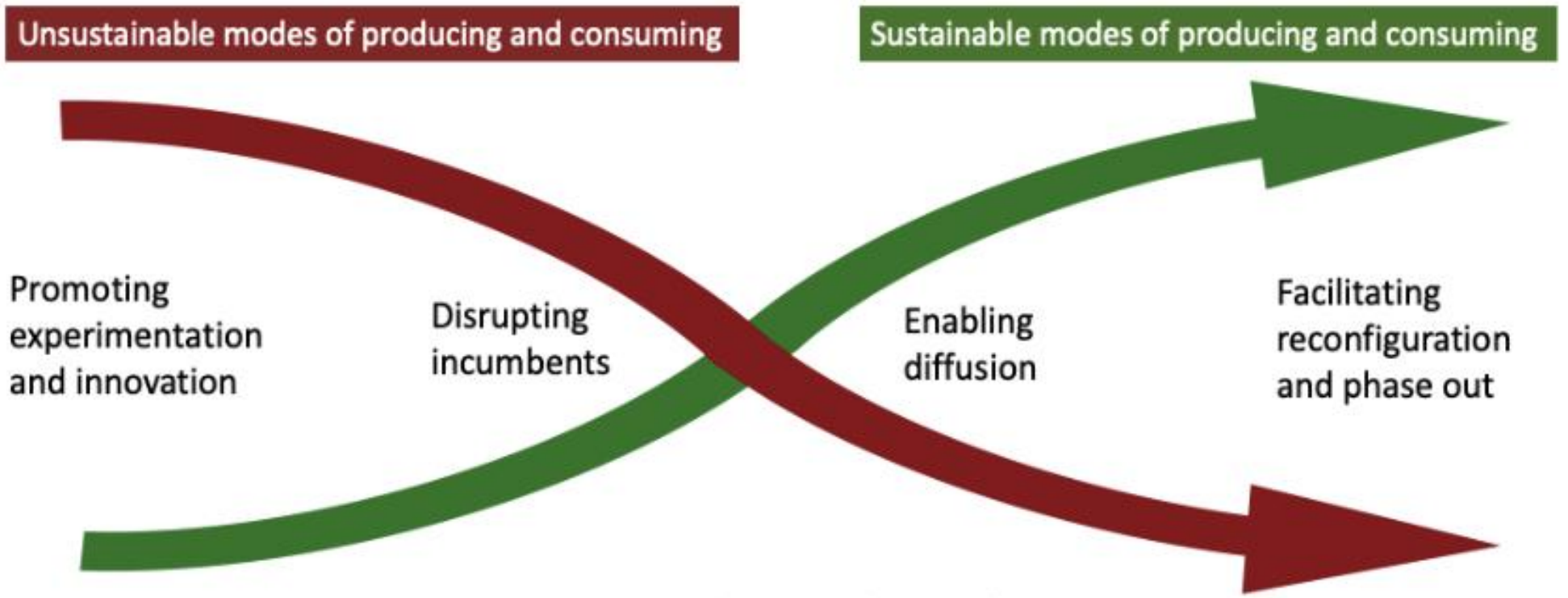


[Europe's sustainability transitions outlook — European Environment Agency (europa.eu)]

European Environment Agency

Innovative solutions to drive system transitions



E.g. innovation, environmental policies:

- Strict regulation
- R&D, demonstration
- Promoting experiments
- Missions
- Network building

E.g. environmental, sectoral, industrial, fiscal policies:

- Carbon pricing
- Removing harmful subsidies
- Market creation
- Adoption subsidies
- Backing winners

E.g. welfare, education, employment, regional policies:

- Phase-out measures
- Compensating losers
- Offsetting inequities
- Retraining
- Regional assistance

Hard truths: trade-offs between sustainability outcomes

State and Outlook of Europe’s Environment

STRN

TIPC
INNOVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

futureearth
research for global sustainability

Transformations Community

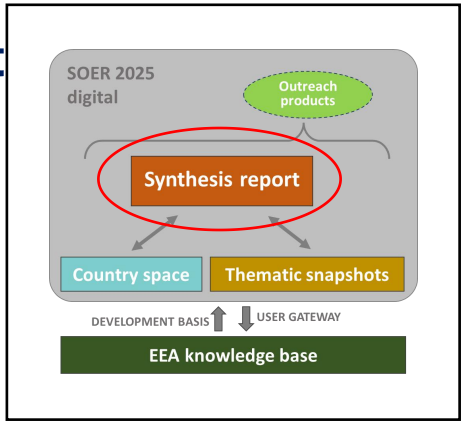
European Political Strategy Centre

From understanding systemic challenges to generating ‘solutions-oriented’ knowledge

State and Outlook of Europe's Environment 2025

SOER 2025 synthesis report – objectives and scope

- A concise, **integrated narrative that connects the dots** and focusses on responses and solutions.
- An **assessment on sustainability** in the context of environment and climate and socio-economic and geopolitical change, anchored in the EU's visions 2050 for a sustainable Europe.



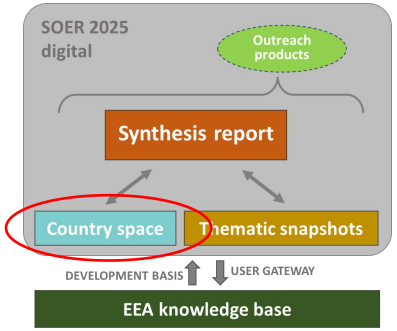
Scope (agreed structure)

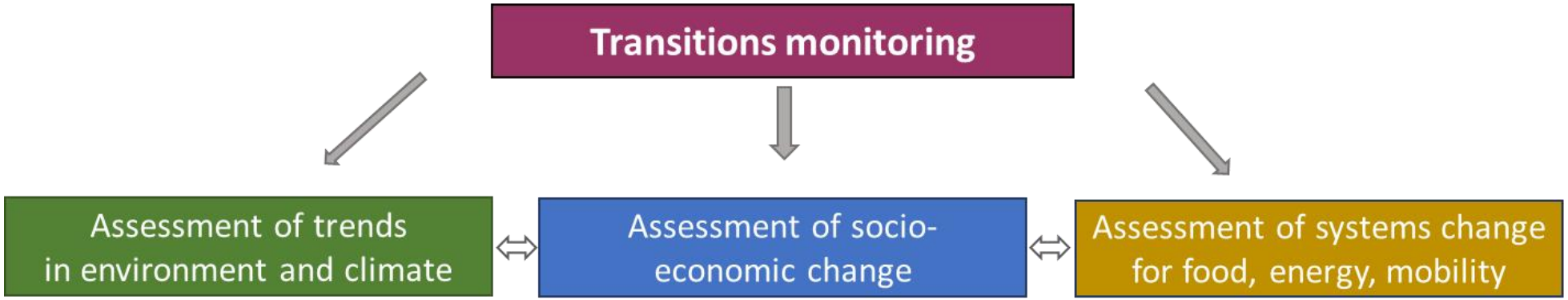
Concise PDF report (max 100 A4 pages)

Setting the scene → Changing policies and sustainability visions → **What** is the progress towards sustainability? European trends and outlooks → **Why** is it challenging to achieve Europe's sustainability visions? → **How** can Europe accelerate actions to achieve its sustainability visions? → Making it happen

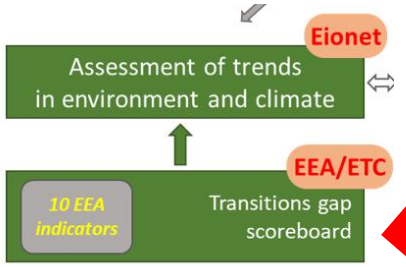
Transitions Monitoring - SOER 2025 country space

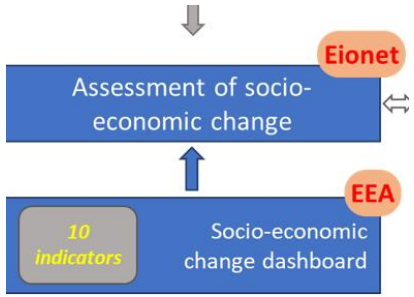
- **Assessments for each country about its transition towards sustainability** (transitions monitoring), for the 32 EEA member countries and 6 cooperating countries
  - Supported by two indicator dashboards composed of established EEA indicators and ESTAT indicators
  - Co-developed between the EEA and its network of environment and climate experts at national level (Eionet)

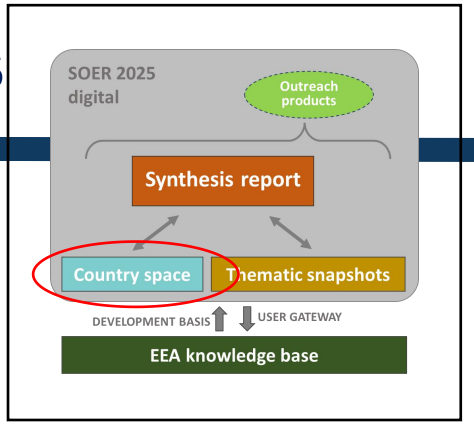




Transitions Monitoring indicators chosen for dashboards







Established EEA indicators

Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Area under organic farming
- Terrestrial protected areas

Climate change
- LULUCF emissions
- GHG emissions
- Climate-related economic losses

Clean energy transition
- Share of renewable energy in energy consumption
- Energy consumption

Resource use and circular economy
- Total waste generation
- Circular material use rate

Environment and human health
- Health impacts of exposure to fine particulate matter in Europe

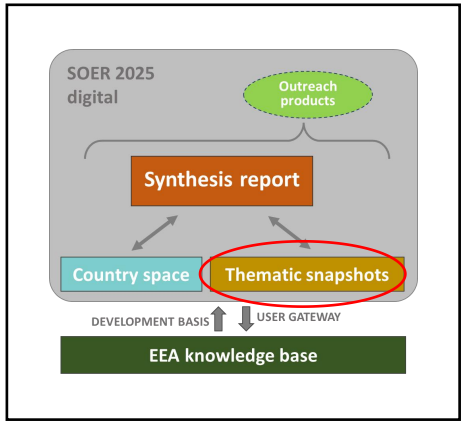
Established EEA or ESTAT indicators

Economic dimension (5 indicators)
- Environmental protection expenditure
- Fossil fuel subsidies
- Gross value added of the EGSS sector
- Eco-innovation index
- Share of environmental taxes in total tax revenue

Social dimension (5 indicators)
- Energy poverty
- Gini coefficient of equivalised disposable income
- Employment in the EGSS
- Public expenditure on tertiary education
- Consumption footprint

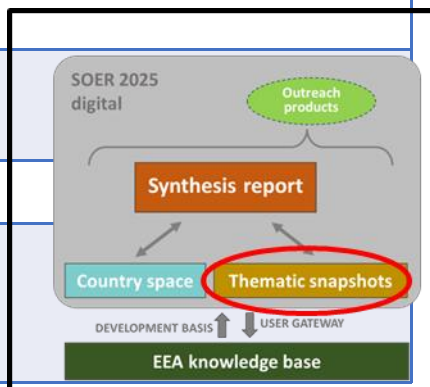
SOER 2025 thematic snapshots

- Concise, digital and **comparable online overview** of key trends in environment and climate in Europe
- Short key messages and summary assessment covering:
  - past trends,
  - outlook to 2030/50,
  - prospects of meeting policy targets,
  - robustness assessment
- Eg, state of Europes Biodiversity, financing the transition, air pollution impacts on human health

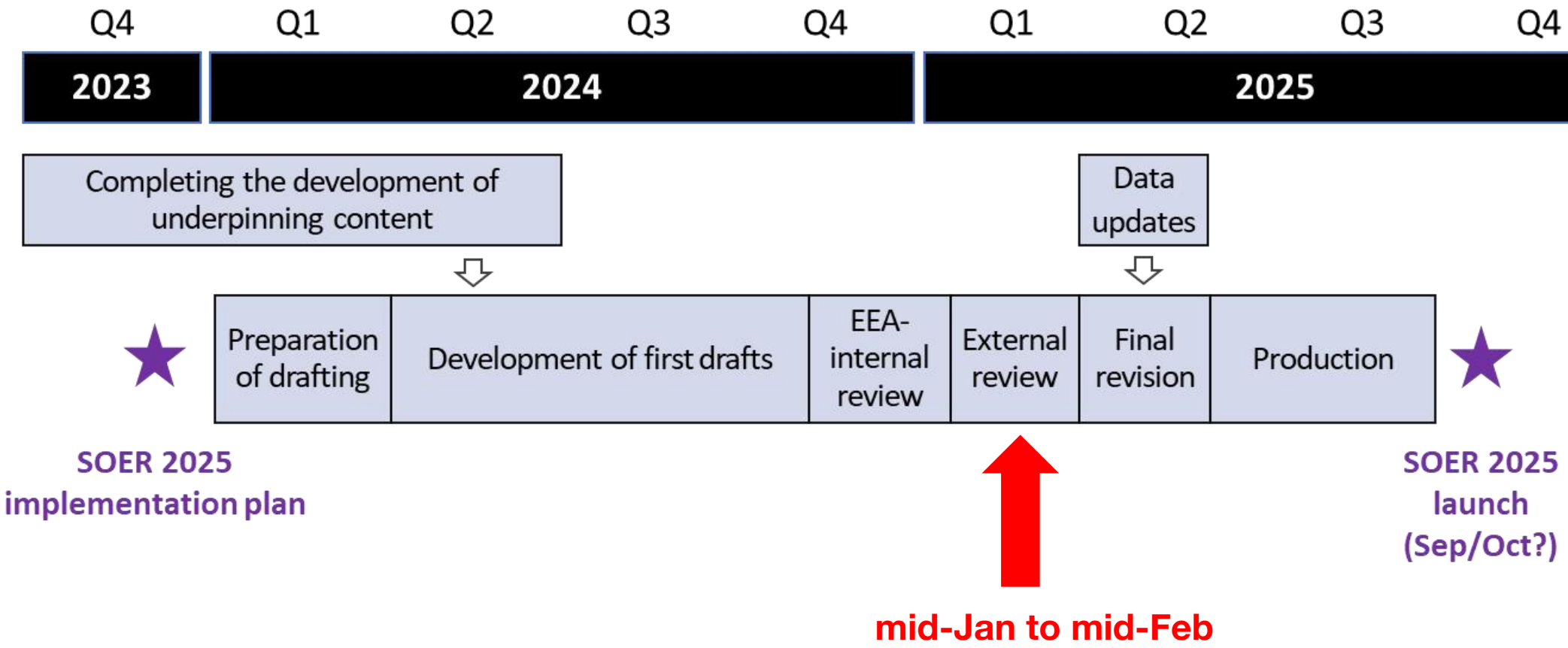


Thematic snapshots – preliminary definition (by EEA work area)

Work Area 1	Work Area 2	Work Area 3	Work Area 4	Work Area 5
1 State of Europe's biodiversity – terrestrial, freshwater + marine	1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	1 Emissions of pollutants to air	1 Safe and sustainable by design and production	1 Transformative innovation
2 Pollution of ecosystems – terrestrial, freshwater + marine	2 Improving mobility system sustainability	2 Air pollution and impacts on human health	2 Longer and better use of products	2 Green employment
3 Protected areas – terrestrial + marine	3 Achieving energy system transition	3 Environmental noise and impacts on human health	3 Lowering material-intensive consumption	3 Market-based instruments for transitions
4 Water and climate impacts	4 Removing CO2 from the atmosphere	4 Water pollution and human health	4 Waste as a resource	4 Justice in transitions
5 Ecosystems and climate impacts	5 Reducing ozone depleting substances	5 Chemical pollution and human health	5 Circular use of materials	5 Financing the transition
6 Land use/land take	6 Managing climate risks to the economy	6 Environmental health inequalities	6 Circular economy financing and governance	
7 Soil degradation	7 Managing climate risks to society		7 Benefits of a circular economy	
8 Biodiversity financing	8 Climate action financing		8 Consumption footprint	
	9 Governance of climate change mitigation and adaptation			



The timeline towards SOER 2025



!! This timeline applies to all three key SOER 2025 outputs (i.e. synthesis report, thematic snapshots, country space) !!

Thank you