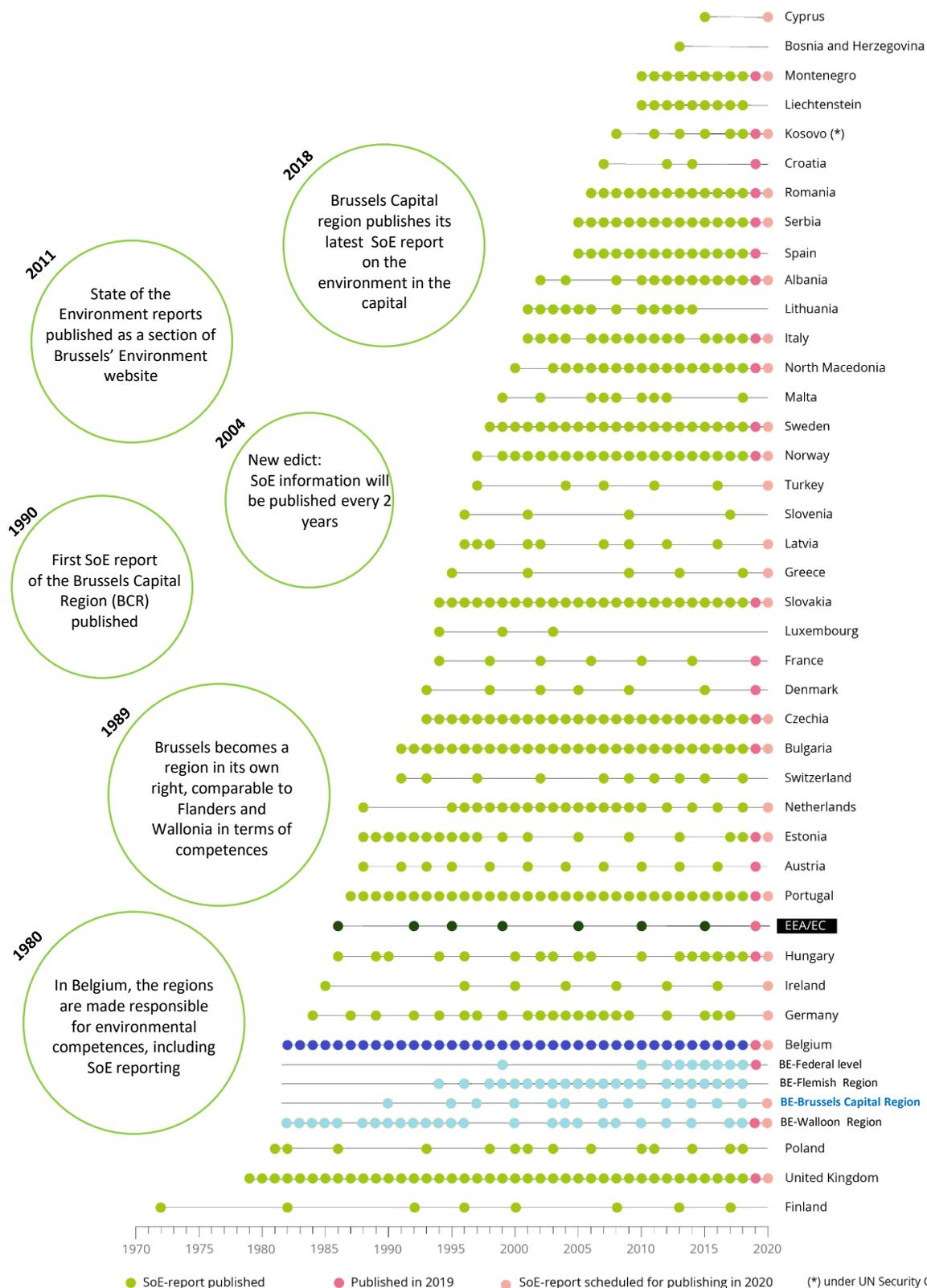


# BELGIUM

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION



(\*) under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99



Brussels Capital region publishes its latest SoE report on the Environment in the Belgian capital

2018

State of the Environment reports published as a section of 'Brussels' Environment website

2011

EU Directive on Public Access to Environmental Information

2003

New edict on the access to environmental information, including SoE reporting, in the Brussels Capital Region

2004

UNECE Aarhus Convention on the Access to Environmental Information

1998

Edict on the making-up of a State of the Environment in the Brussels Capital region

1992

Edict on access to environmental information in Brussel Capital Region

1991

First SoE report of the Brussels Capital Region (BCR) published

1990

Brussels becomes a region in its own right. Creation of Brussels Environment

1989

Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment

1972

The regions in Belgium are made responsible for environmental reporting, including SoE

1980

United Nations milestones

European Union milestones

EEA milestones

Milestones Brussels Capital Region

## State of the environment tools and building blocks

### TOPICS COVERED

#### Themes

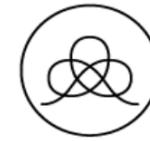
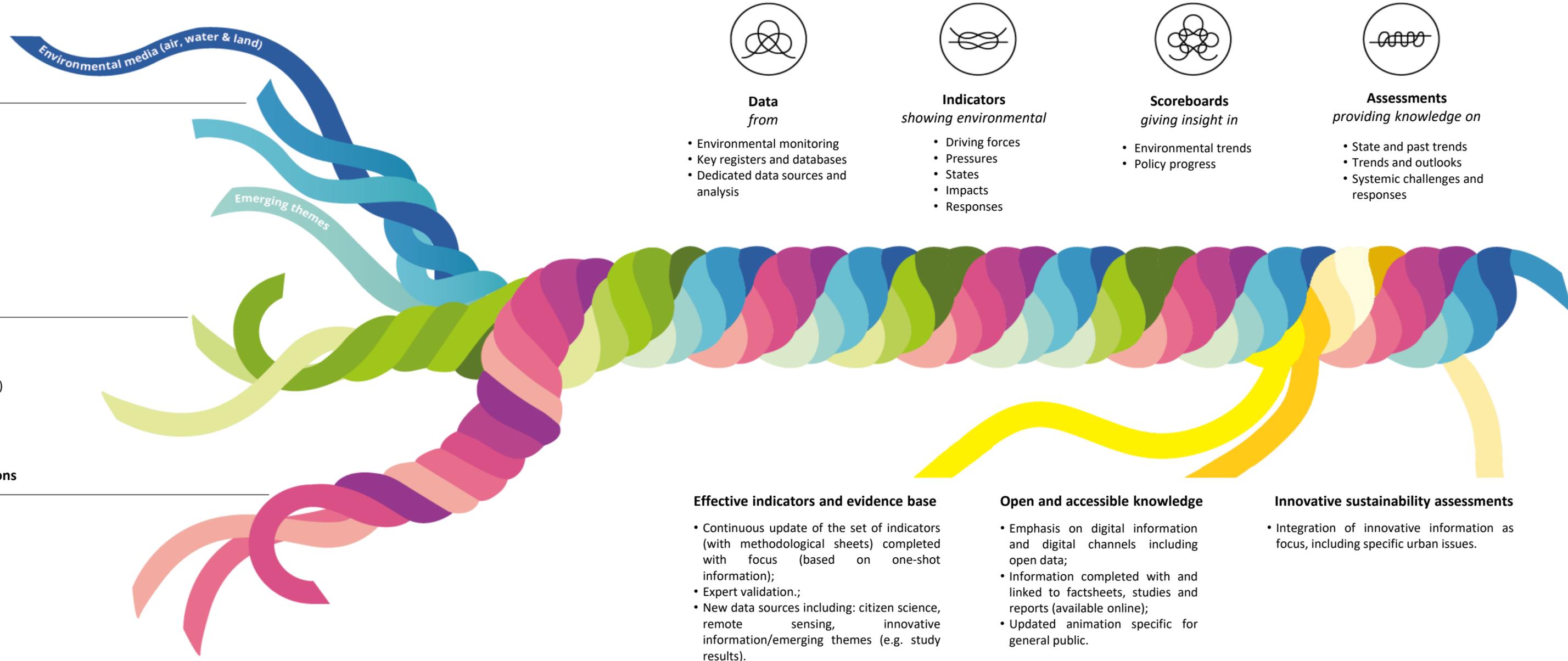
- Noise
- Green spaces and biodiversity
- Environment and health
- Waste – resources
- Air and climate
- Water and aquatic environment
- Soils

#### Sectors

- Industry
- Tertiary
- Households
- Transport (within air & energy chapters)

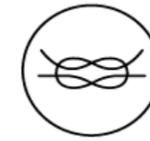
#### Systems and Sustainability transitions

- Energy
- Climate
- Environment for a sustainable city



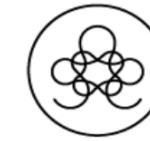
#### Data from

- Environmental monitoring
- Key registers and databases
- Dedicated data sources and analysis



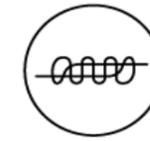
#### Indicators showing environmental

- Driving forces
- Pressures
- States
- Impacts
- Responses



#### Scoreboards giving insight in

- Environmental trends
- Policy progress



#### Assessments providing knowledge on

- State and past trends
- Trends and outlooks
- Systemic challenges and responses

#### Effective indicators and evidence base

- Continuous update of the set of indicators (with methodological sheets) completed with focus (based on one-shot information);
- Expert validation.;
- New data sources including: citizen science, remote sensing, innovative information/emerging themes (e.g. study results).

#### Open and accessible knowledge

- Emphasis on digital information and digital channels including open data;
- Information completed with and linked to factsheets, studies and reports (available online);
- Updated animation specific for general public.

#### Innovative sustainability assessments

- Integration of innovative information as focus, including specific urban issues.

## Advances in national state of the environment reporting

## State of the Environment reporting at multiple scale in Belgium The example of Brussels Capital Region

State of the Environment reports and synthesis play an important role towards changes in the mode of operation (production/consumption) of our society, as such a reporting provides structured and quality information and knowledge for decision-makers and civil society.

In order to effectively manage the environment, the existing situation must first be known and understood: e.g. the state of the various components of the environment, the pressures exerted on it and the prospects for development in the Brussels Region. Reports on the State of the Environment, pulse of the Brussels living environment, are intended to take stock via indicators (based on updated datasets) and focus (based on one-shot information) analyses.

The first edition of such a report in Brussels Capital Region dates back to 1990. Currently, a detailed report is published every 4 years and a synthesis report every 2 years. The latest published version incorporates information of 2015 and 2016 (or more recent if available), and earlier.

The reports are structured in 10 chapters (structured classically according to themes/systems/environmental media). The information tends to aim at the specialized public. It is the fruit of a partnership with various thematic experts of Brussels Environment, as well as with external experts. Since 2011, reports have been published online, and are supported by complementary documentation (for experts) and by an animation (for the general public).

The underlying objective is to contribute to the principle of the right to environmental information (see the pillars of the Aarhus Convention), and to offer citizens and other socio-economic actors (consulting firms, world organizations, decision-makers, etc.) the means to get involved in environmental affairs, through the communication of information on the state of the environment. These reports are therefore a support to the processes that will lead to the essential changes in the mode of operation (production/consumption) of our society. They are also used, for example, for the chapter concerning the current and planned situation within the environmental impact assessments of plans and programs.

The current challenge is to reach a continuous update of the information on the web in place of specific 2-year publications, and to include emerging themes in an urban context within a society in transition.

**Source:** based on Activity Report 2018 of Brussels Environment and Belgian answer to OECD round table document on environmental information.