

Sustainability aspects of EU policies

An introduction to the support of the EU for sustainable development

Overview

Outline of the presentation (3 main questions):

- What is the EU?
- What is sustainability?
- How does the EU take sustainability aspects into account in its policies?

Part I

Some things about what the EU is and what it is not

What is the EU?

It is not:

- A country
- A federation
- An international organization like the UN

EU is something in between... Sometimes looking more like a federation and sometimes more like an international organization

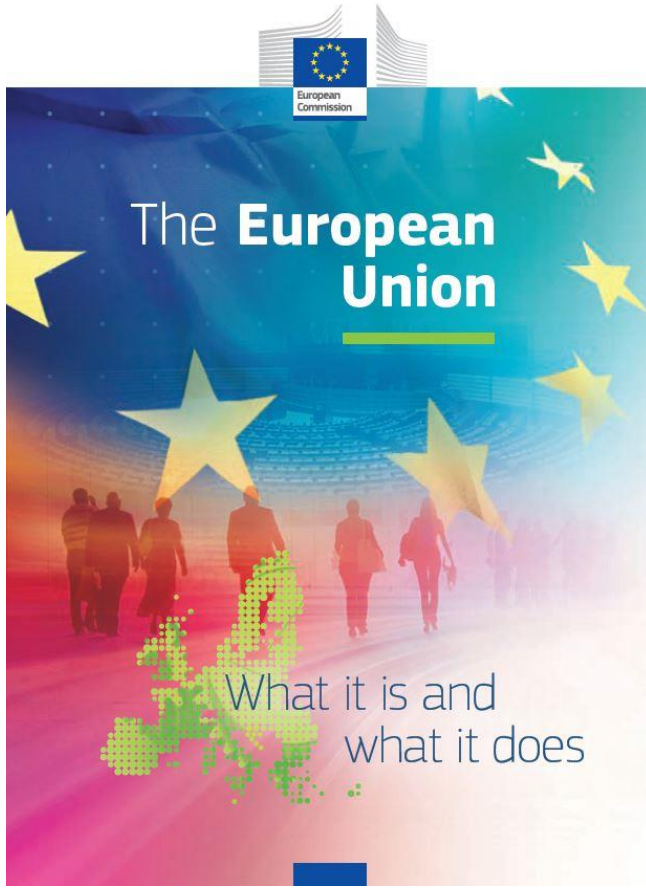
What is the EU?

The EU is a concrete entity,
you can point it out on a
map.

It has a capital... Or does it?



What does the EU do?



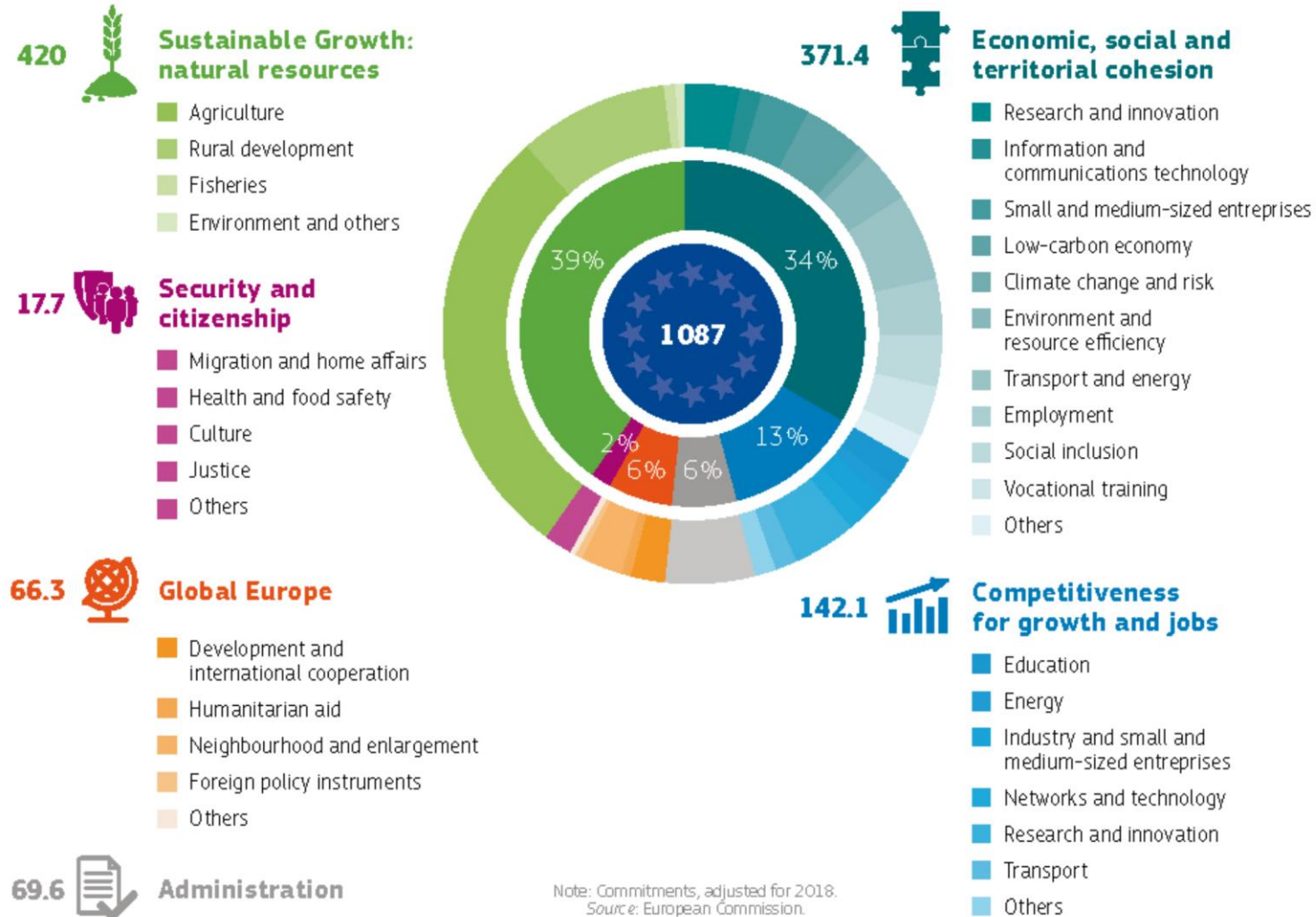
Publication: *The European Union, What it is and what it does*

Downloadable from:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2775/665897>

EU Budget

Areas financed by the EU budget (2014-2020) in billion EUR



Comparison:
 Russia's budget spending is 233 billion US\$ (yearly)

EU = Cooperation on 3 levels

As outlined in Title I of Part I of the consolidated Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

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Exclusive competence	Shared competence		Supporting competence
<p><i>"The Union has exclusive competence to make directives and conclude international agreements when provided for in a Union legislative act."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the customs union the establishing of the competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market monetary policy for the Member States whose currency is the euro the conservation of marine biological resources under the common fisheries policy Common Commercial Policy conclusion of certain international agreements 	<p><i>"Member States cannot exercise competence in areas where the Union has done so."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the internal market social policy, for the aspects defined in this Treaty economic, social and territorial cohesion agriculture and fisheries, excluding the conservation of marine biological resources environment consumer protection transport trans-European networks energy the area of freedom, security and justice common safety concerns in public health matters, for the aspects defined in this Treaty 	<p><i>"Union exercise of competence shall not result in Member States being prevented from exercising theirs in" ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> research, technological development and (outer) space development cooperation, humanitarian aid <p><i>"The Union coordinates Member States policies or implements supplemental to theirs common policies, not covered elsewhere"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coordination of economic, employment and social policies common foreign, security and defence policies 	<p><i>"The Union can carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement Member States' actions in" ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the protection and improvement of human health industry culture tourism education, youth, sport and vocational training civil protection (disaster prevention) administrative cooperation

Fisheries policy

- Exclusive competence
- Shared competence
- Supporting competence

How many inhabitants does the EU have?

- A. 327 Million
- B. 397 Million
- C. 446 Million
- D. 508 Million

EU-knowledge quiz... what building is this?



- A European Commission
- B European Council
- C European Parliament
- D European Court of Justice

Who is the boss of the EU?



A

B



C

Kom verder

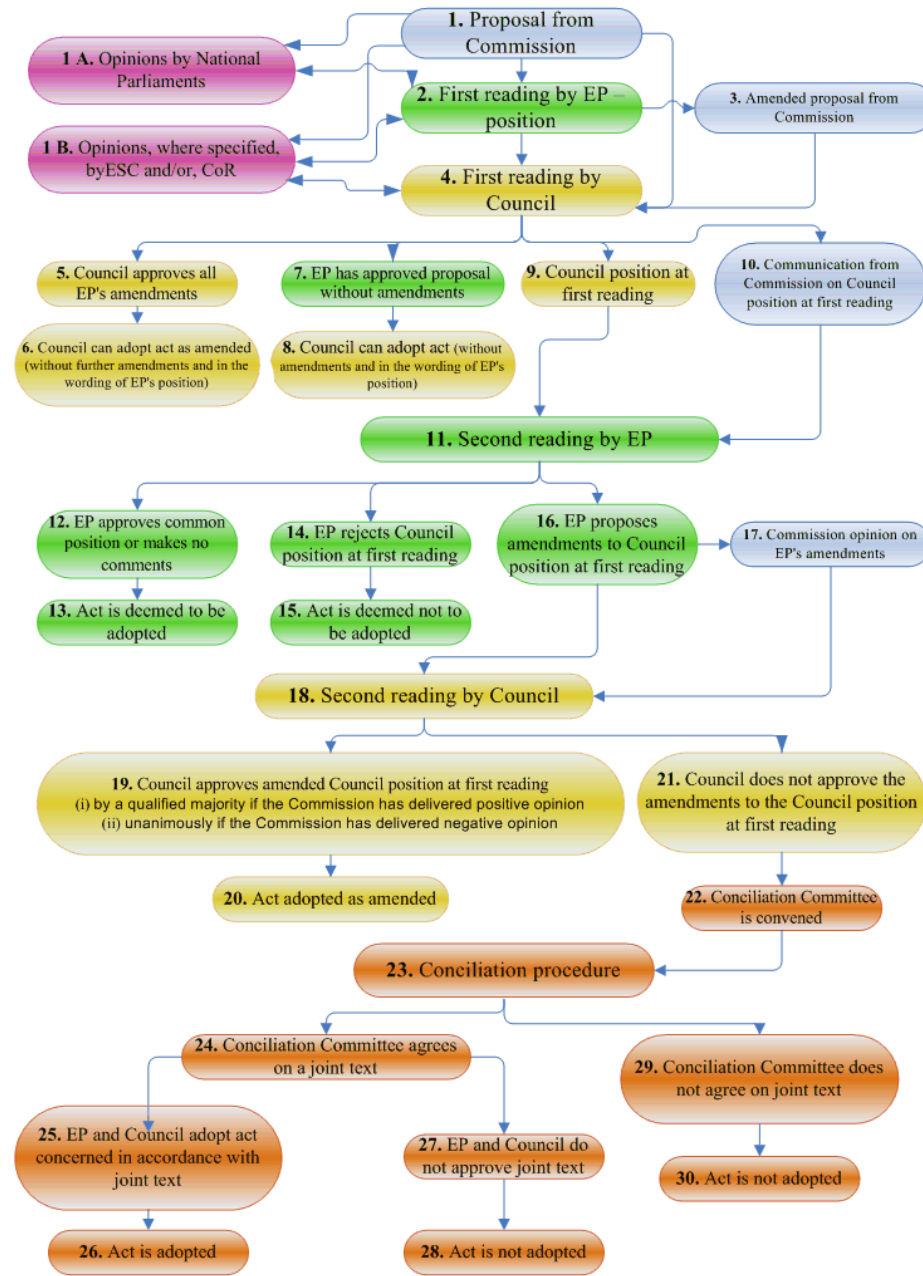


European government

Who is doing what in Europe:

- Council of Europe
- European Commission
- Council of Ministers
- European Parliament
- European Court of Justice
- European Central Bank
- Committee of the Regions





European Parliament

- 2 locations (Strassbourg and Brussels)
- 751 Members (MEPs)
- 7 European groups (Parties)
- Direct elections
- MEPs are not there for national interests.



Treaty of Rome: European Economic Community



The goal of the European Union?



The goal of the European Union?



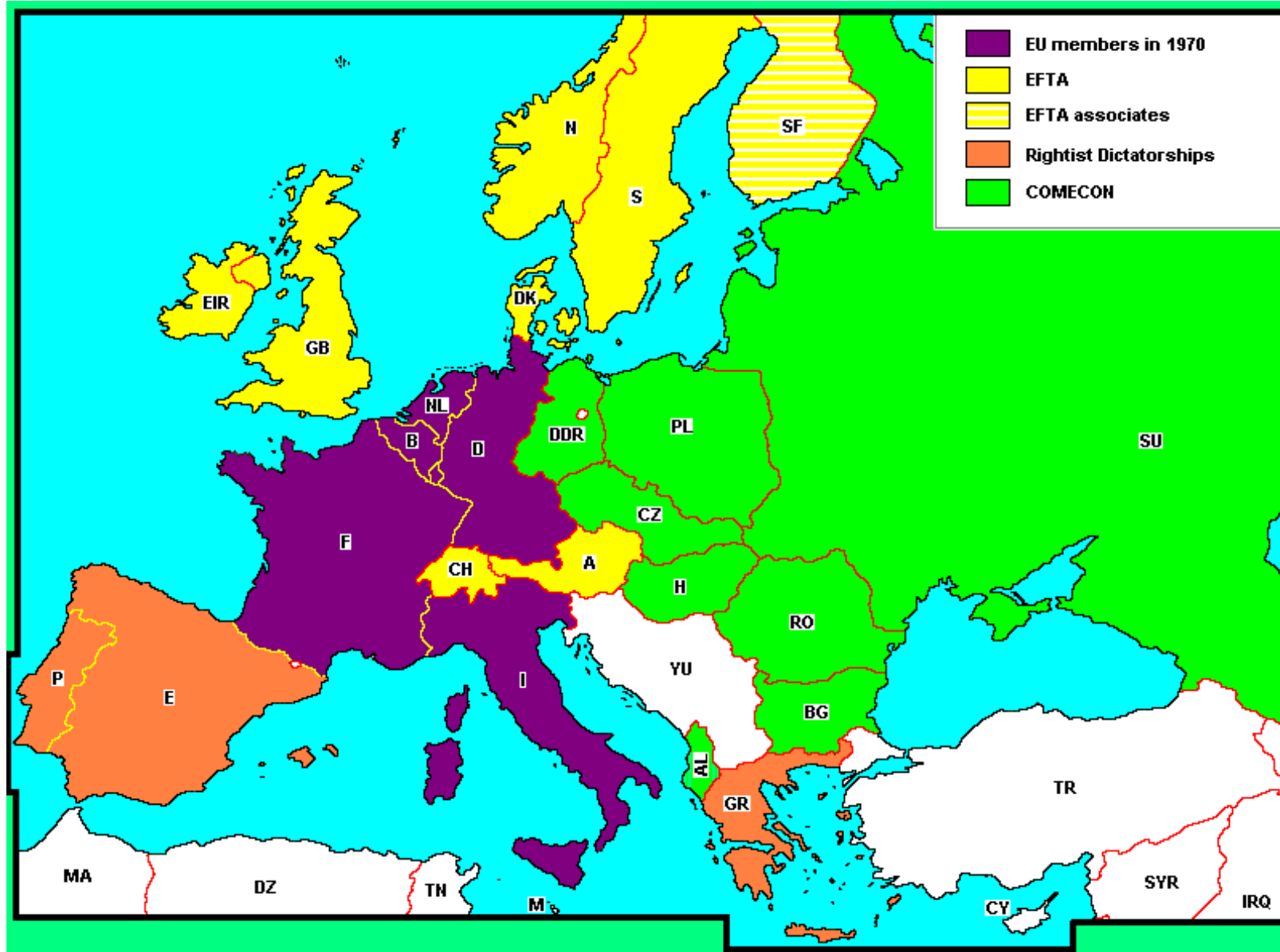
Goals of the EU for 2020



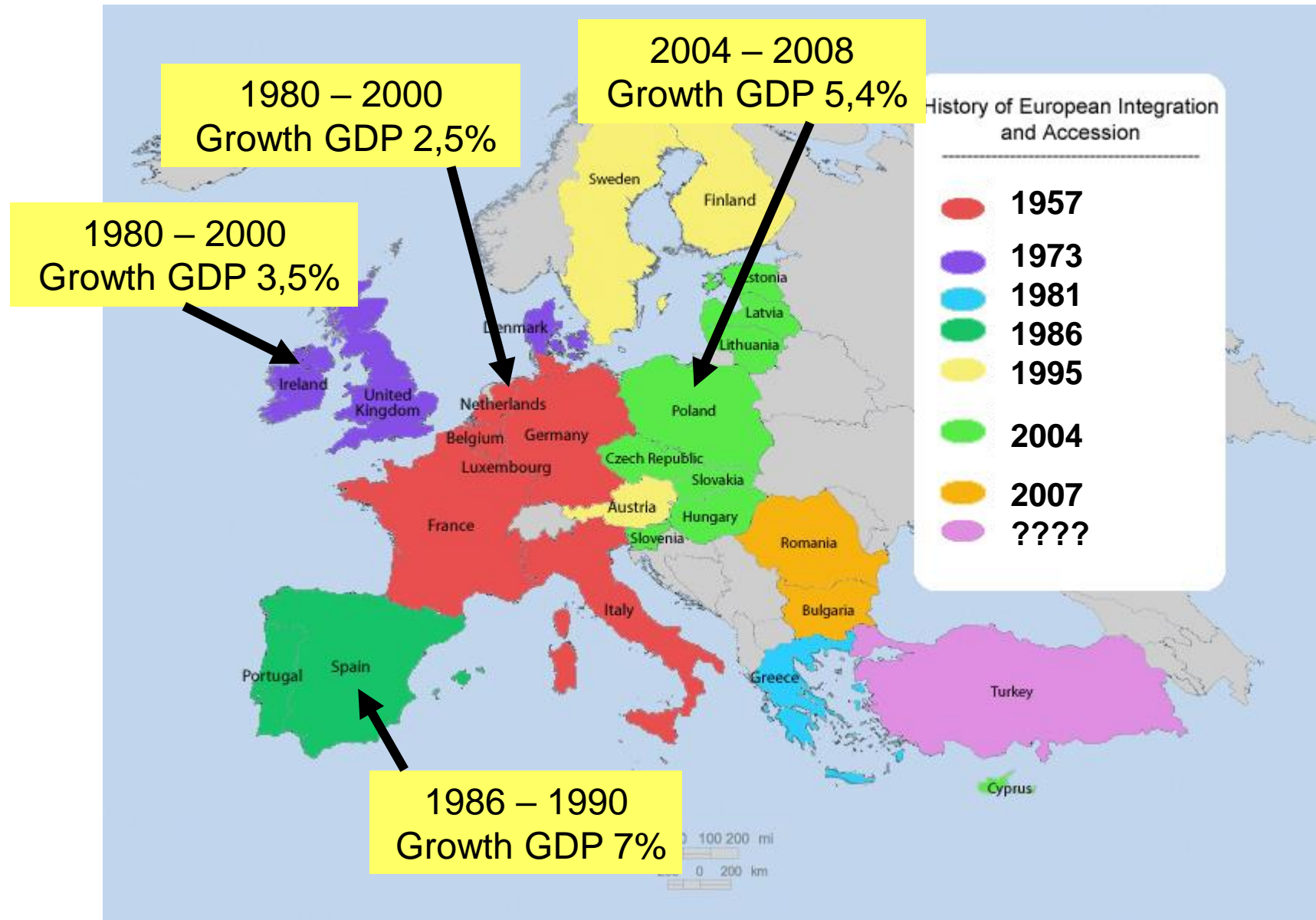
Europe 2020: Seven flagship initiatives

Smart Growth	Sustainable Growth	Inclusive Growth
Innovation « <i>Innovation Union</i> »	Climate, energy and mobility « <i>Resource efficient Europe</i> »	Employment and skills « <i>An agenda for new skills and jobs</i> »
Education « <i>Youth on the move</i> »	Competitiveness « <i>An industrial policy for the globalisation era</i> »	Fighting poverty « <i>European platform against poverty</i> »
Digital society « <i>A digital agenda for Europe</i> »		

Where was Europe in 1970?



The European union of the 2000s



Bare necessities for survival in the Netherlands

1. A bicycle



Bare necessities for survival in the Netherlands

2. A strong lock (usually more expensive than the bike)



Bare necessities for survival in the Netherlands

3. Umbrella



Below the sea level



Kom
verder



Dikes



Part II

Sustainability

What is sustainability?

Defining sustainability is difficult, it is a sort of “catch-all” word that could therefore quickly lose its meaning.

The definition is also rather dependant on the country you are from:

- How is “sustainability” defined most of the time in Russia?
- Is it also how you would define it?
- Do you use the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

Cleantech region



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ENGLISH SUMMARY

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CLEANTECH REGION: TOWARDS A CLEAN SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Heading towards a brighter future. That is our aim in the Cleantech Region. The Stedendriehoek municipalities of Apeldoorn, Brummen, Deventer, Epe, Lochem, Voorst and Zutphen are working together with entrepreneurs, education and research towards an energy-neutral, waste-free and sustainable economy and society. Economy and ecology go hand in hand.

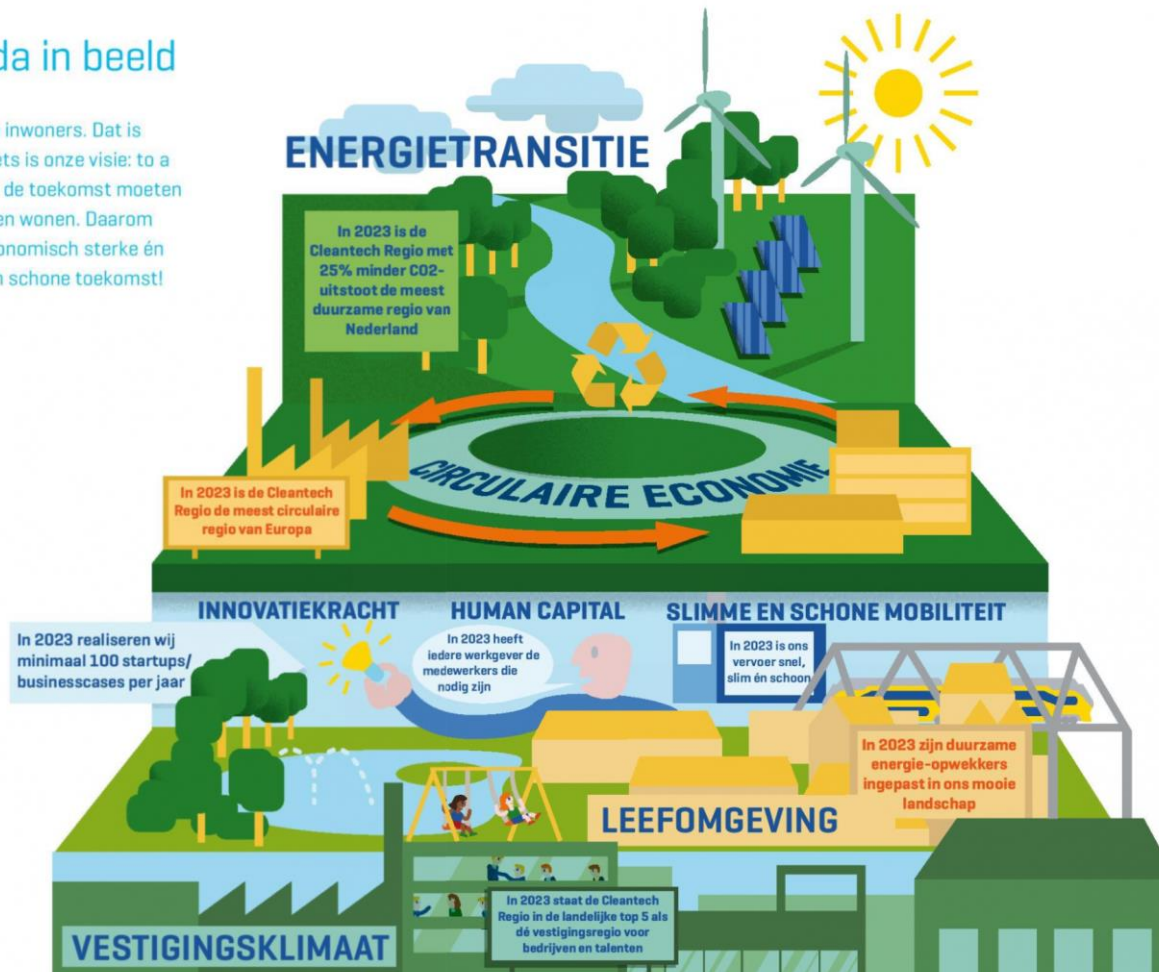
Regional agenda

Thema's agenda in beeld

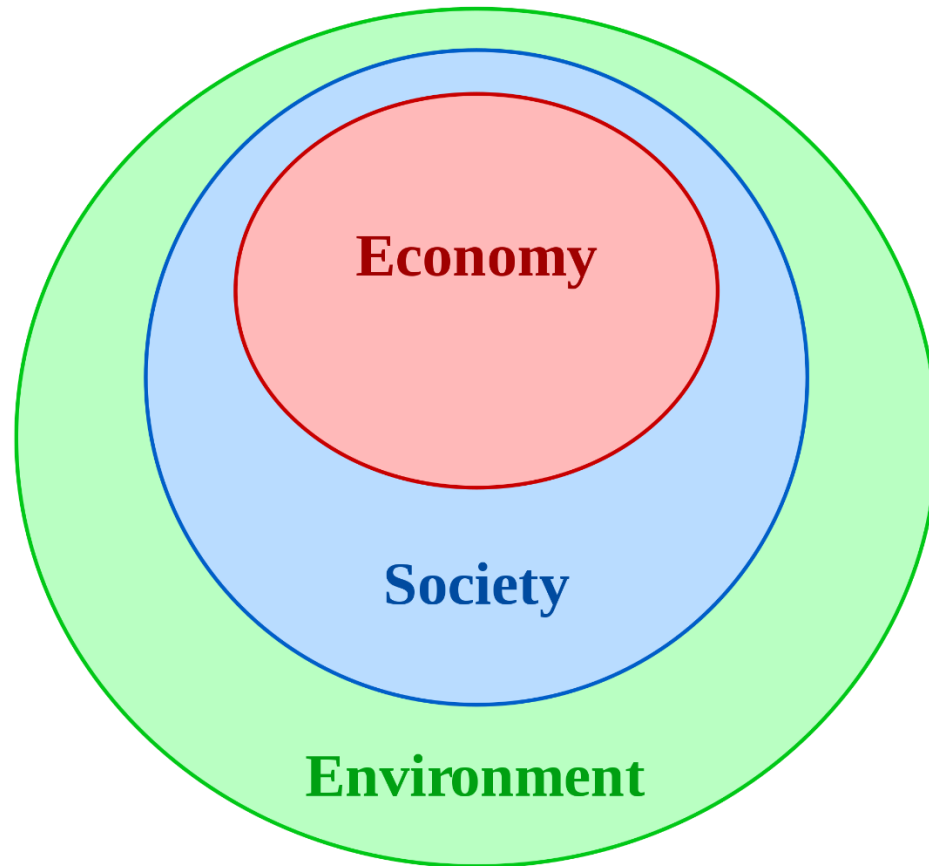
Duurzame welvaart voor onze inwoners. Dat is ons ultieme doel. Niet voor niets is onze visie: to a sustainable prosperity. Ook in de toekomst moeten wij fijn kunnen leven, werken en wonen. Daarom werken wij samen aan een economisch sterke én schone regio. Samen naar een schone toekomst!

Tophema's energietransitie en circulaire economie

Vanuit de Agenda Cleantech Regio 2019-2023 besteden we de meeste aandacht aan twee tophema's: energietransitie en een circulaire economie. Waarom mag duidelijk zijn. We moeten af van aardgas en fossiele brandstoffen. We maken haast met vermindering van onze CO₂-uitstoot en zetten in op (her)gebruik met hernieuwbare grondstoffen. Dat levert ons óók nieuwe cleantech business en cleantech banen op. Innovatiekracht, de (top)talenten die nodig zijn en schone mobiliteit: zonder kunnen wij onze ambities niet realiseren. Dat geldt ook voor onze fijne leefomgeving en goede vestigingsklimaat. We zorgen dat de Cleantech Regio aantrekkelijk is en blijft voor (nieuwe) inwoners, toptalenten en ondernemers.



Sustainability



What is sustainability?

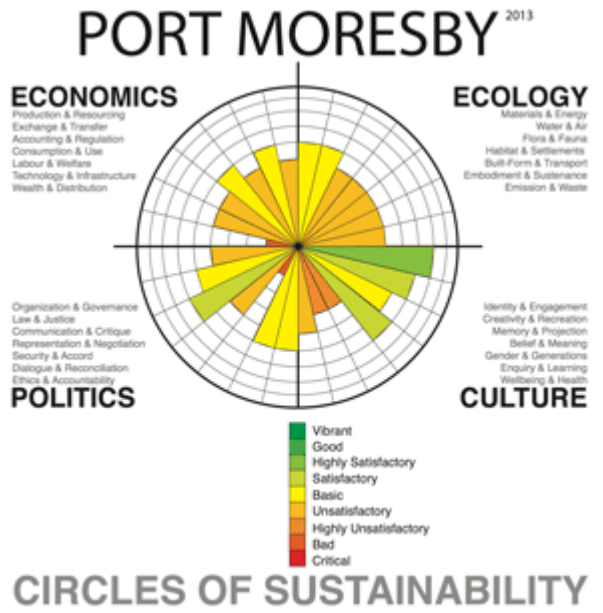
Internationally, it is often defined as the “Triple-bottom-line”

Meaning:

- People
- Planet
- Profit/Prosperity

What is sustainability?

Circles of sustainability



Circles of Sustainability
Practical tools for creating sustainable cities and communities

HOME ABOUT ▾ CIRCLES ▾ TOOLS ▾ CITIES ▾ PROJECTS ▾ PRINCIPLES ▾ PUBLICATIONS ▾ SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY EVENTS ▾

USE (URBAN SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE)

SUSTAINABILITY NEEDS A HOLISTIC APPROACH

Circles of Sustainability builds sustainability across all the domains of social life — ecological, economic, political and cultural (Profile Circles)

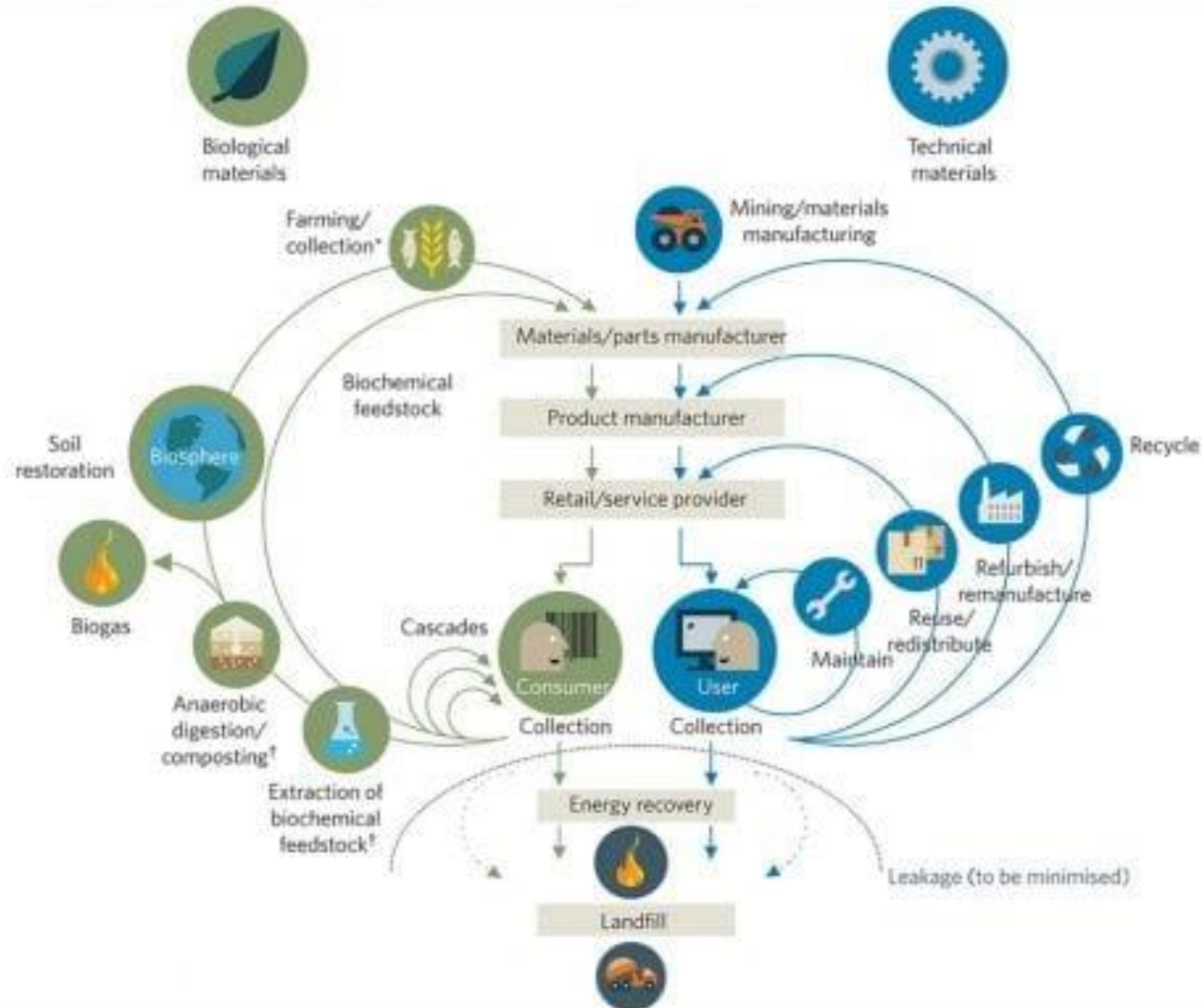
What is sustainability?

Conscious business:

Understanding what are consequences of your actions.



What is sustainability? Circular Economy?



What is sustainability?

Circular economy:

Very complicated to measure, tedious and time-intensive collection of data from individual companies about material flows.

For example:

- Difficult to account for down-cycling of materials.
- Companies often have no clue what happens with their rest

Kom verder



Example: ReShare



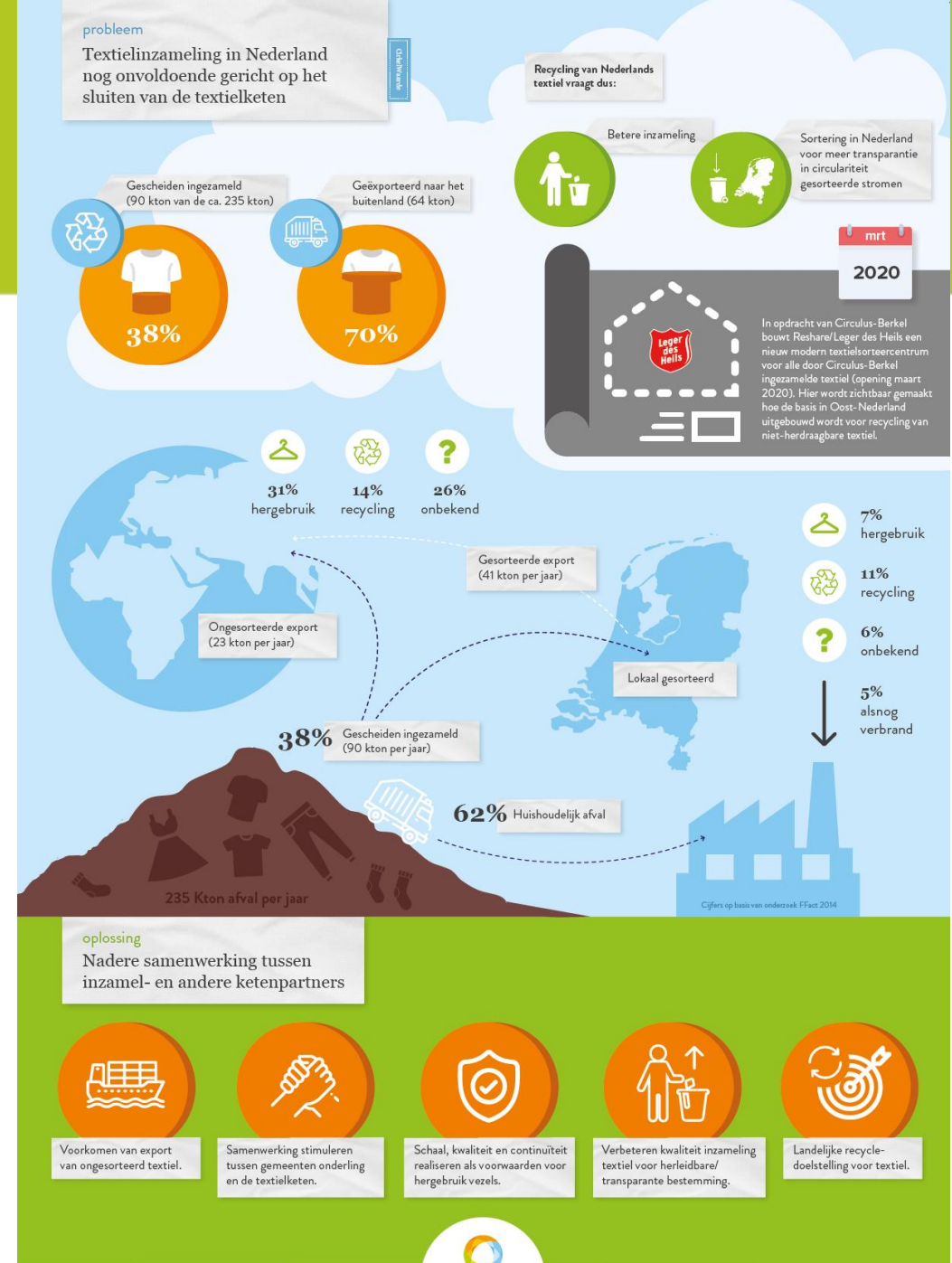
ReShare

kledinghergebruik



Closing the loop of the textile industry

- Very complicated process...
- Closing the loop is possible, but not profitable.



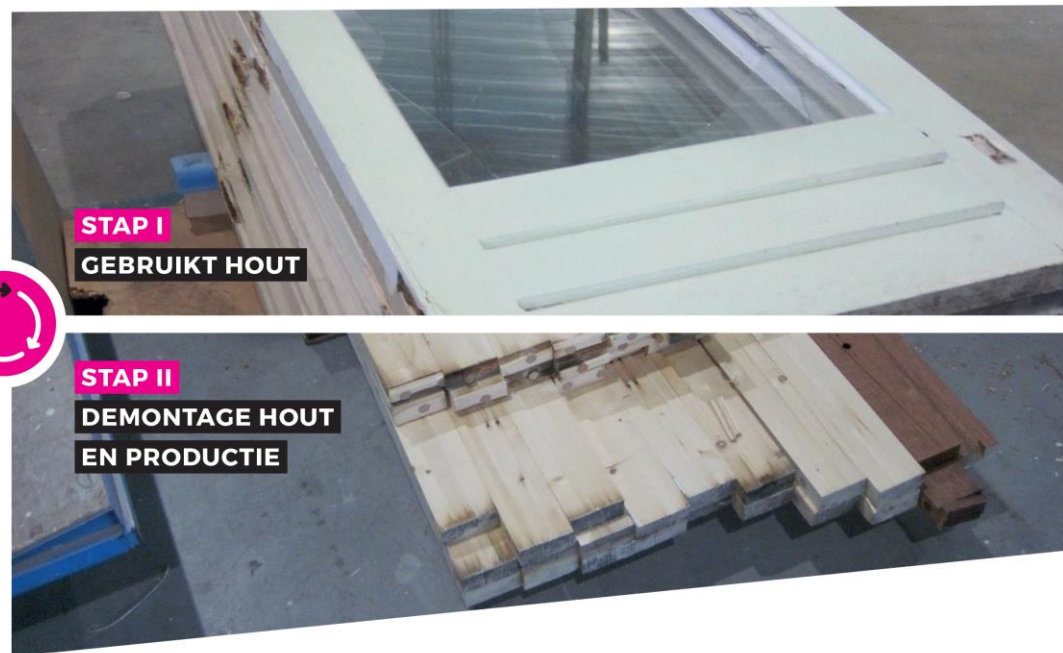
Example: Circular windowframe

WE DOEN STAPPEN TERUG OM VOORUIT TE GAAN

CIRCULAIR KOZIJN



**RESULTAAT
CIRCULAIR KOZIJN**



**STAP I
GEBRUIKT HOUT**

**STAP II
DEMONTAGE HOUT
EN PRODUCTIE**

Sustainability aspects of (EU) policies

In principle a difficult question... Who would like (ever) to argue that his/her policy measures are not sustainable?

Part III

Case study:

Sustainability aspects of EU policies

Sustainability of policies

In general there is the so-called „precautionary approach“

Even if there is not (yet) enough scientific proof that something harms the environment, policy measures should still be taken to prevent further damage, if there is a strong suspicion.

Example: Climate change and as consequence the climate policy or policies regarding (potentially) toxic chemicals.

Example: Electric Pulse Fishing

- Read the documents handed out to you (in a group).
- Find good arguments for your position in the debate
- Develop a speech to attack or defend pulse fishing
- You can also use internet for any further data sources if you like

Materials

- Pro electric pulse fishing:
<http://www.pulse-fishing.eu/>

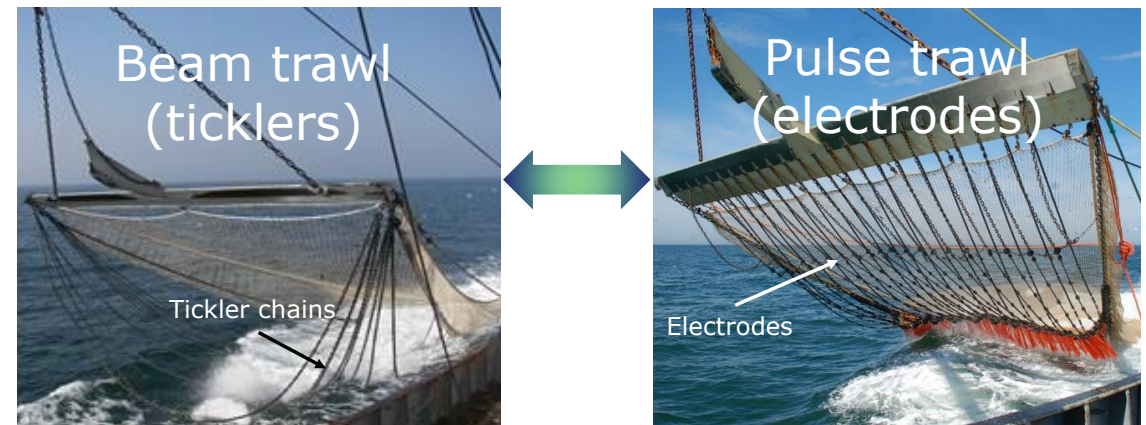
- Material:

(see embedded Powerpoint, click on it to activate it)

Effects of pulse trawls on marine ecosystem:
checking the facts

Adriaan D. Rijnsdorp

Strasbourg, January 15, 2018



Materials

- Anti-electric pulse fishing:

<https://www.bloomassociation.org/en/our-achievements/electric-fishing/>

- Document:

<https://www.slowfood.com/slowneurope/wp-content/uploads/ElectricFishing-EN-V8-ilovepdf-compressed.pdf>

The debate



Ministry of Economic Affairs

Pulse Fishing

Pulse trawling as a promising alternative to beam trawling

Beam trawl

Beam trawling works by dragging tickler chains across the seabed to startle the fish and make them leap into the net. Tickler chains dig into the seabed, disturb the sediment and cause mortality of organisms in the trawl track.

Pulse trawl

- Improved selectivity of sole.
- Reduced fuel consumption.
- Reduction of discarded benthic fauna and undersized fish.
- Lower mechanical injuries, except for cod.
- Indication of higher survival of discarded sole and plaice.

Composition of the catch

Beam trawling

Pulse trawling

Fuel consumption

-46%*

* > 300 hp cutters

Discards reduction

Undersized fish: **23%**
 Benthic fauna: about **50%**

- About **18%** reduction in the seafloor swept per fishing hour.
- **50%** reduced penetration of the gear into the seafloor.

Pulse trawl effects

- Multi-annual research program
 - A 4 year research program started in 2016 to study the size selectivity and the effects on environmental aspects, fish species and other marine organisms.
 - An international steering group guides the research and the annual international stakeholder dialogue meeting.
 - The ICES WGELECTRA is involved and the 2016 advice of ACOM has been accommodated in the research project.

References

ICES. 2018. Report of the Working Group on Electrical Trawling. IJmuiden, Netherlands, 17-19 2018. ICES CM 2018/EOSG:10. 155 pp.

Overzee, H. van. 2018. Vergelijking vangst boomkor- en pulsotrang. Wageningen: Wageningen Marine Research, briefrapportage nr. 1825408.

Turenhout M.N.J. et al. 2016. doi: 10.18174/396469

Van der Reijden et al., 2017. doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fsx019

Want to know more?
 Visit pulsefishing.eu

October 2018

Conclusion: What is a sustainable policy?

Could you apply the Triple-Bottom-Line here?

- People?
- Planet?
- Profit?

What would you advise the European Union?

END PULSE FISHING

STOP UK FISHING GROUNDS BECOMING BARREN WASTELANDS



  mike-hookem.org



Economic effects of the ban on electric pulse fishing:

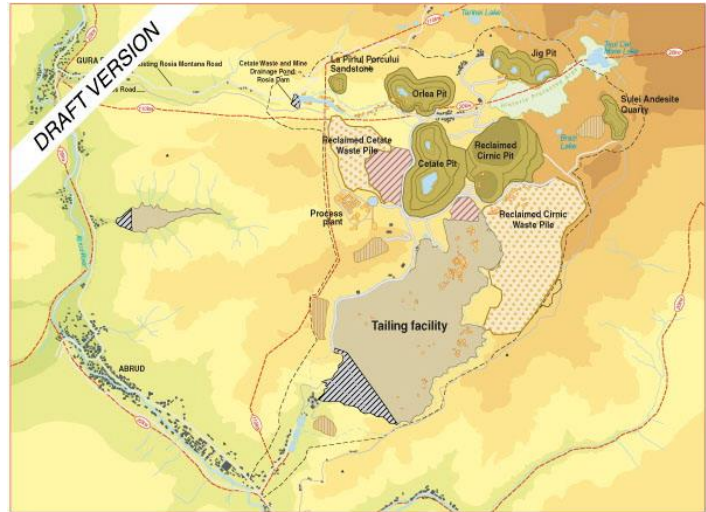
https://www.wur.nl/upload_mm/a/a/e/415acf5e-ba3e-4dc2-ae1c-4a5c399d3714_Economic%20aspects%20of%20electric%20pulse%20fishing.pdf

Example: Regional development

What if an economic troubled region can develop exports and sell abroad products for a good price...

Should you as EU help develop such policies? Even if it would mean high extraction of raw materials?

Example: Rosia Montana



Source: Societate Comerciala Rosia Montana Gold Corporation S.A.

Questions & Answers