

Zero Pollution Monitoring Assessment 2022

Production and Consumption

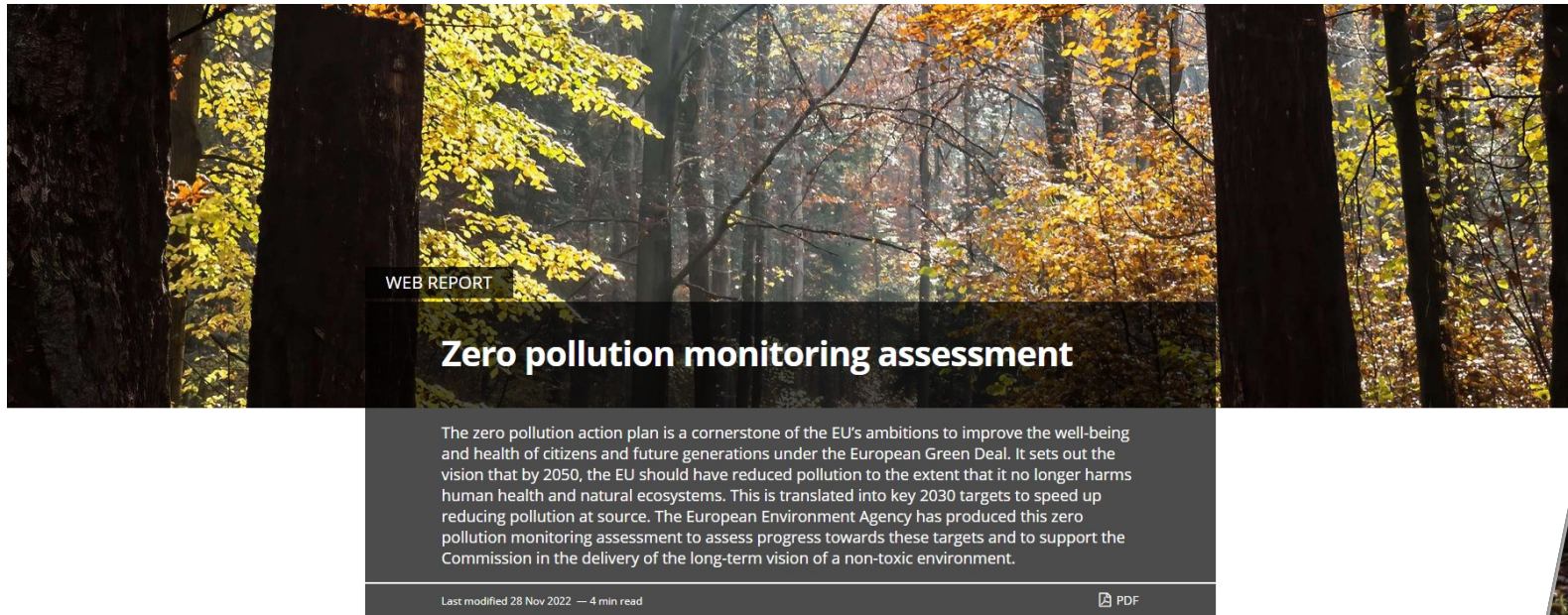
Zero Pollution Stakeholder Conference / 14 December 2022

European Environment Agency



Overview of the EEA Zero Pollution Monitoring Assessment

Web report: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/zero-pollution>



Summary
For policymakers - PDF

Structure of the report

Chapters of the zero pollution monitoring assessment 2022:

- Production and consumption chapter and associated signals
- Ecosystems chapter and associated signals
- Health chapter and associated signals
- Zero pollution cross-cutting stories

Sections of the **production and consumption** assessment:



Resource extraction



Production



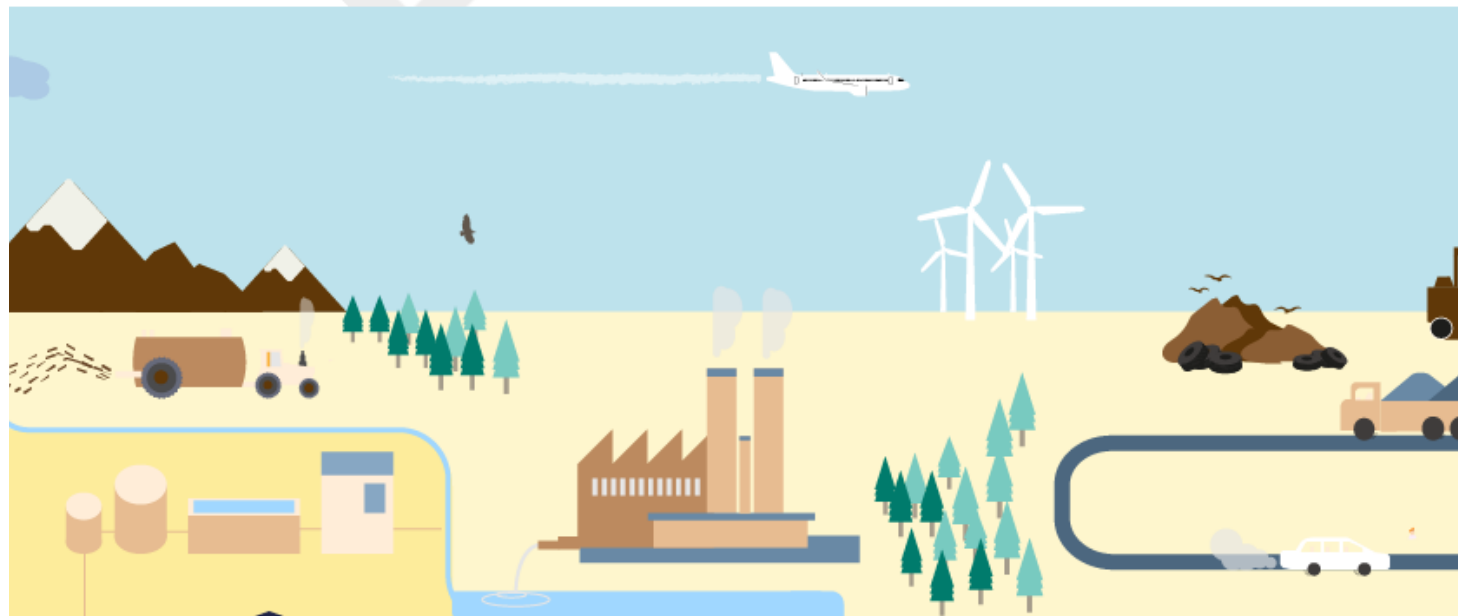
Consumption



Waste management

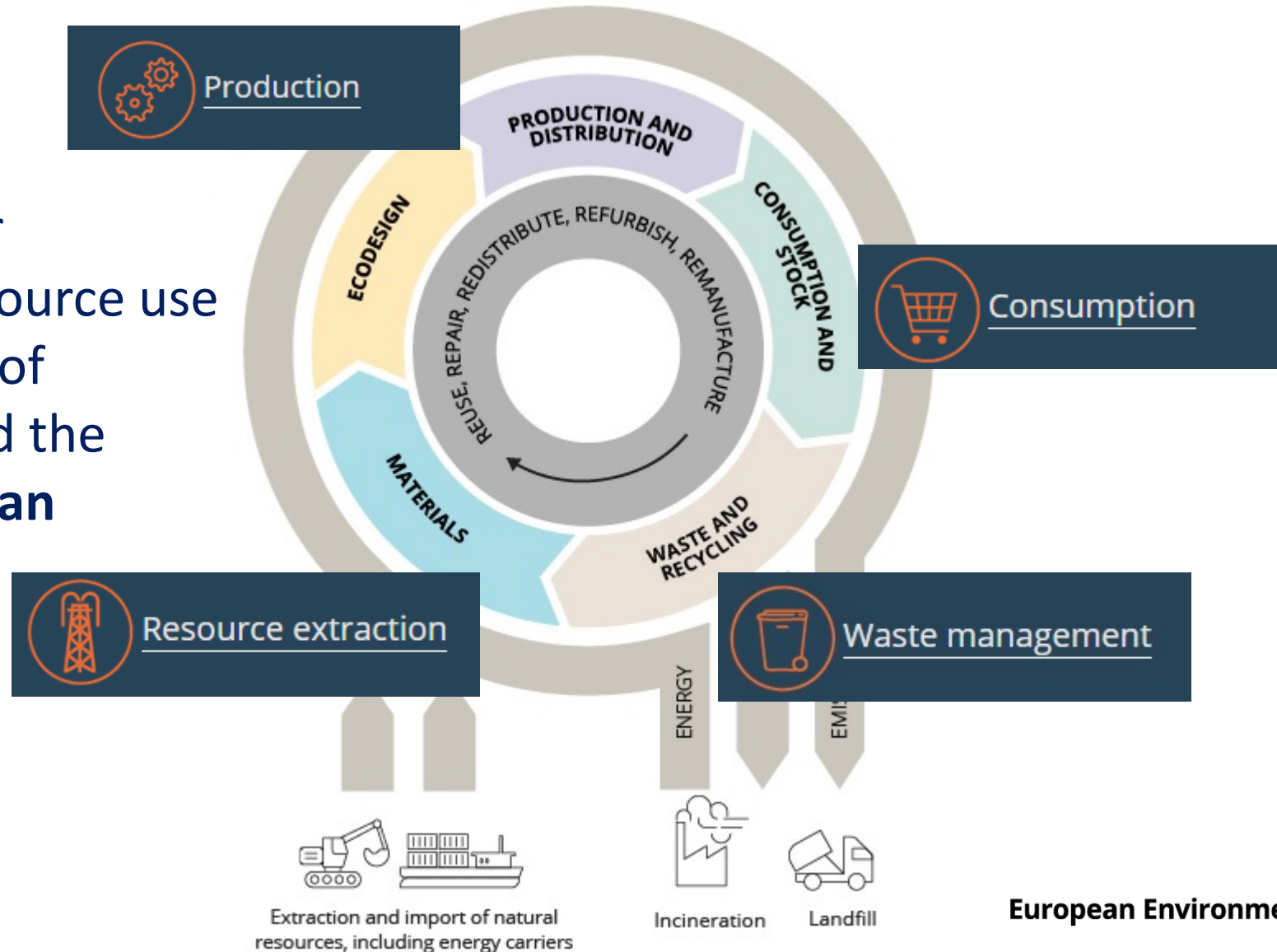


Production and consumption signals



Production and consumption - rationale

A vision of a circular economy where resource use is low, recirculation of materials is high and the **material cycle is clean**



The impacts of our consumption

Consumption – Footprint and planetary boundaries

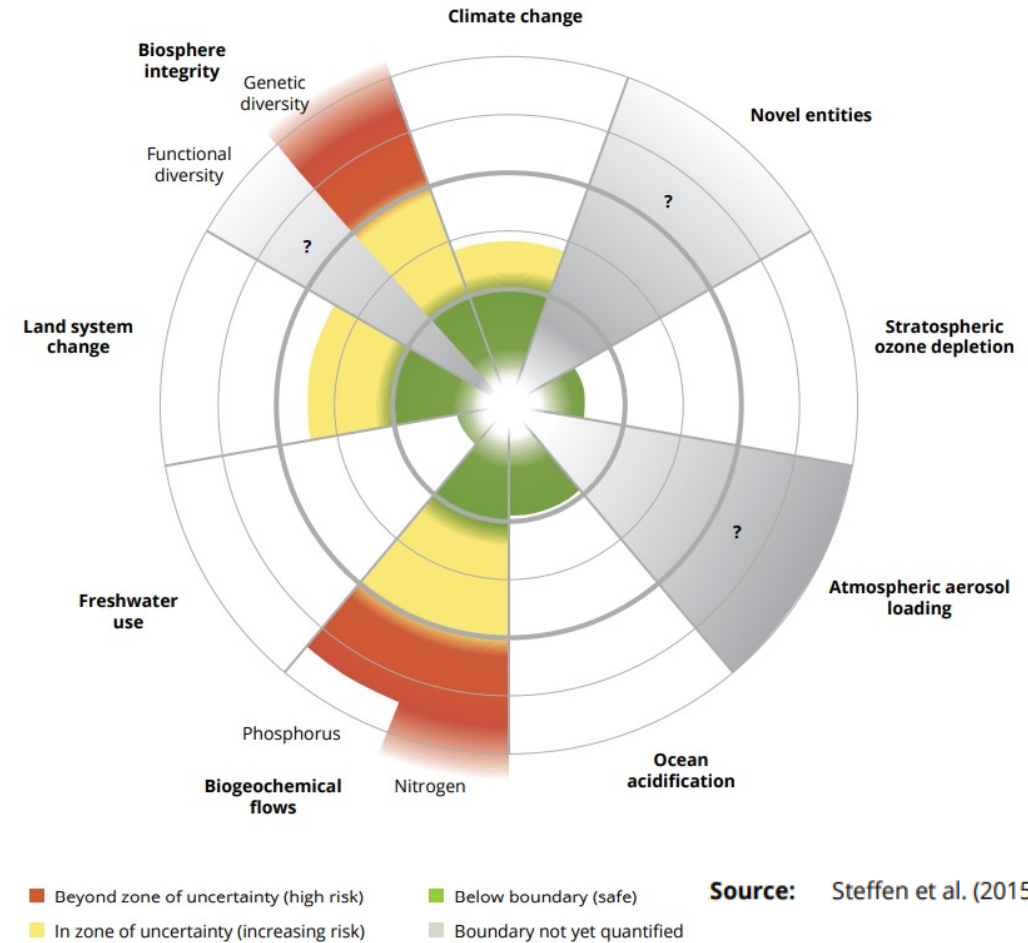


Footprint methodologies **attribute impacts to economic data on consumption**

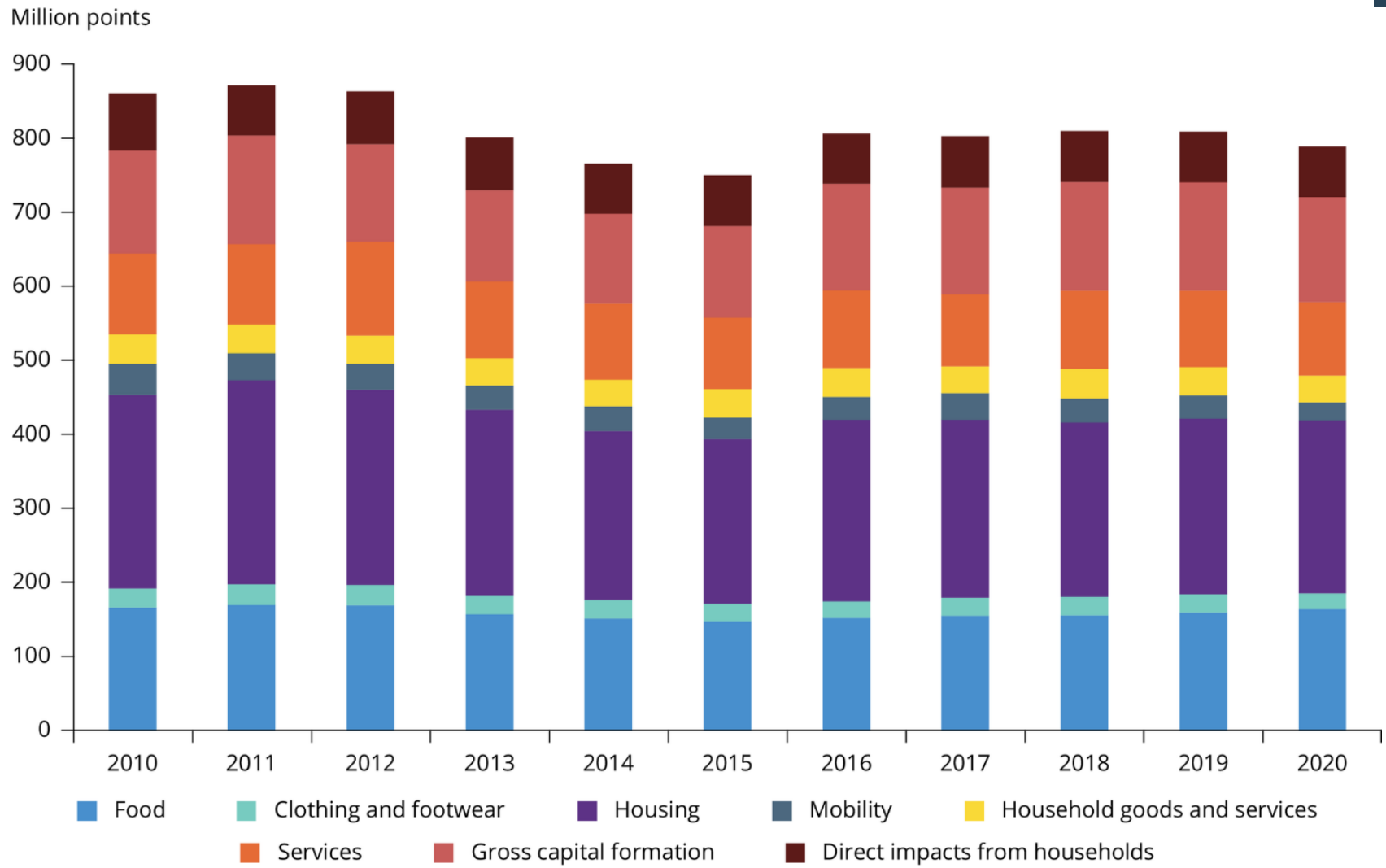
For both goods and services produced **within** and **outside** Europe

Multitude of methods are available

They **help understand** whether consumption footprints **are within or beyond the planetary boundaries**



Consumption footprint



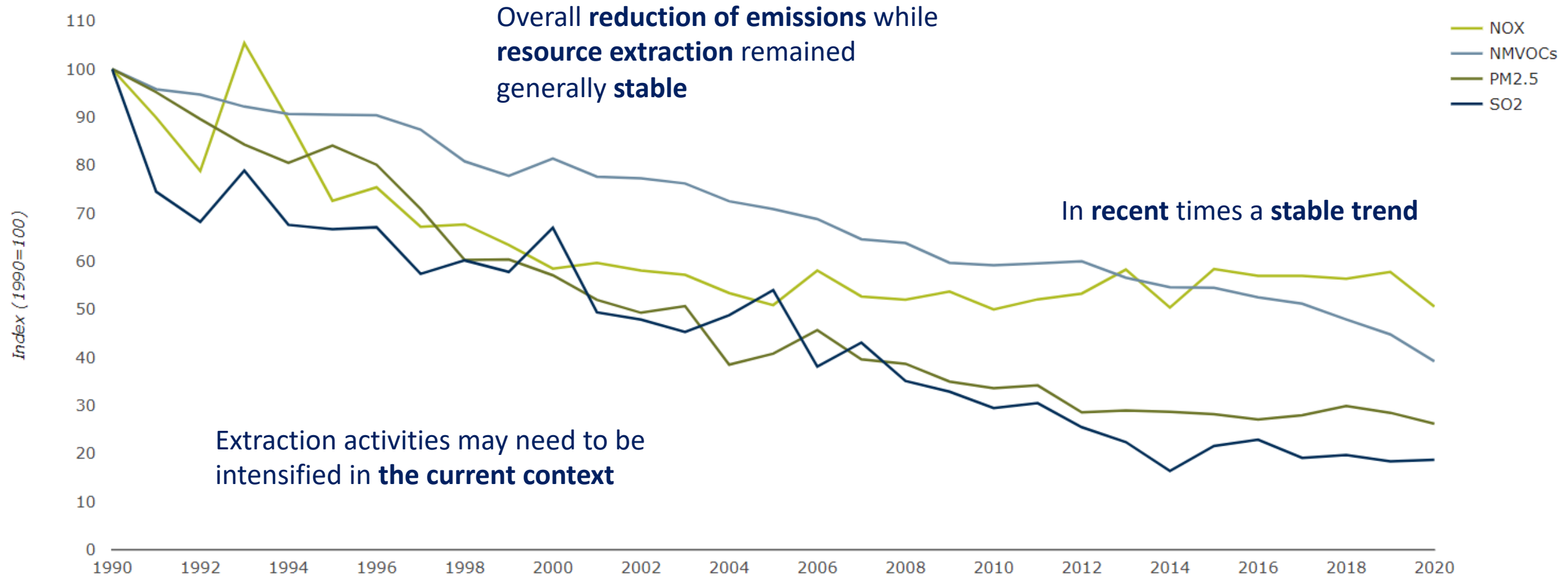


- **Persistent high levels** of impacts associated to our levels of consumption.
- Key indicators, such as the consumption footprint, material footprint and chemical consumption, show **no signs of significantly reducing**.
- Europe's consumption patterns are unsustainable. **Europe is exceeding various planetary boundaries**



Extraction and processing of resources

Extraction – Emissions of air pollutants

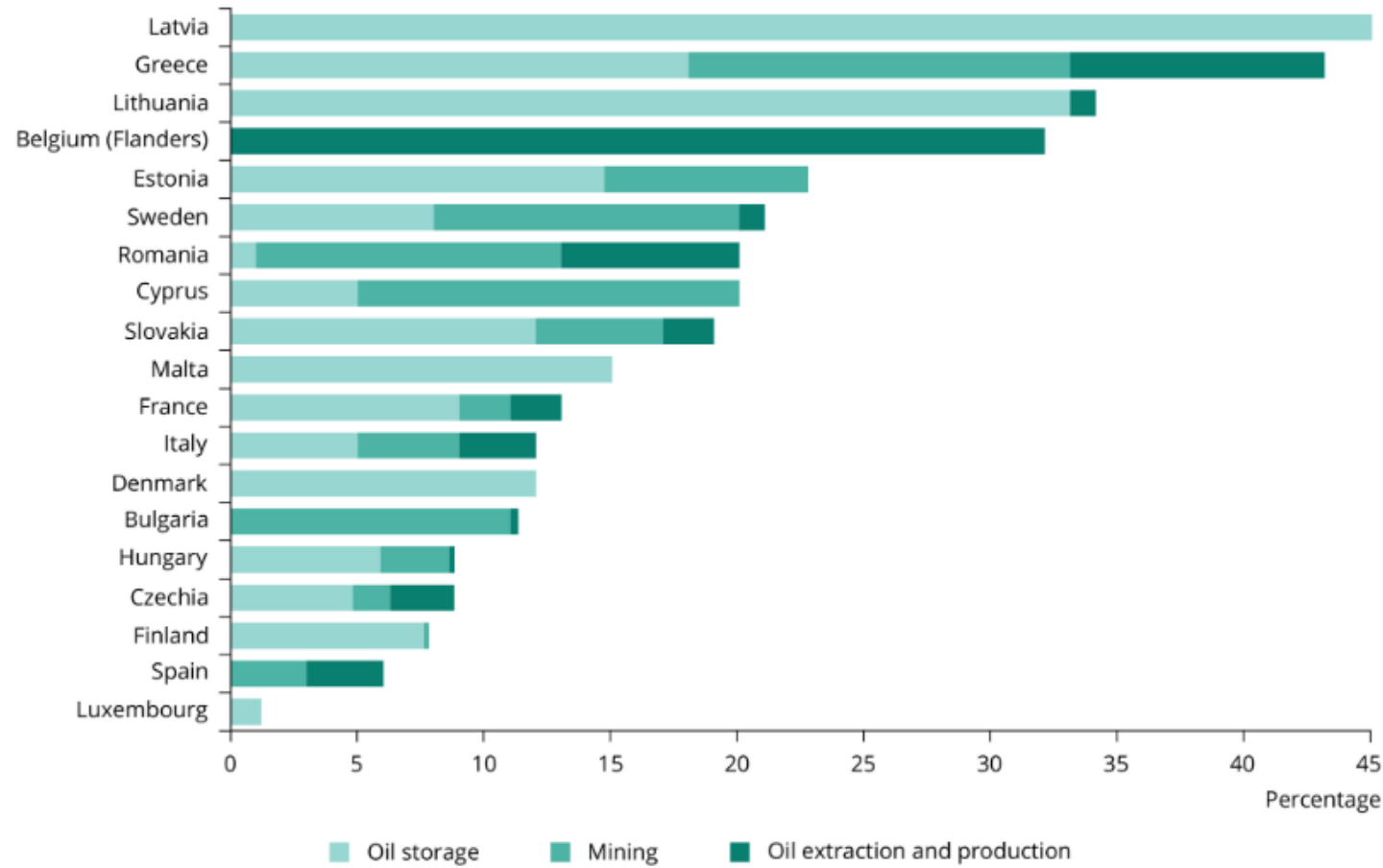


Source: EEA, Reporting under the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive



Extraction – Significant for soil contamination

Figure 5. Percentage of contaminated sites by polluting activity related to the extractive sector



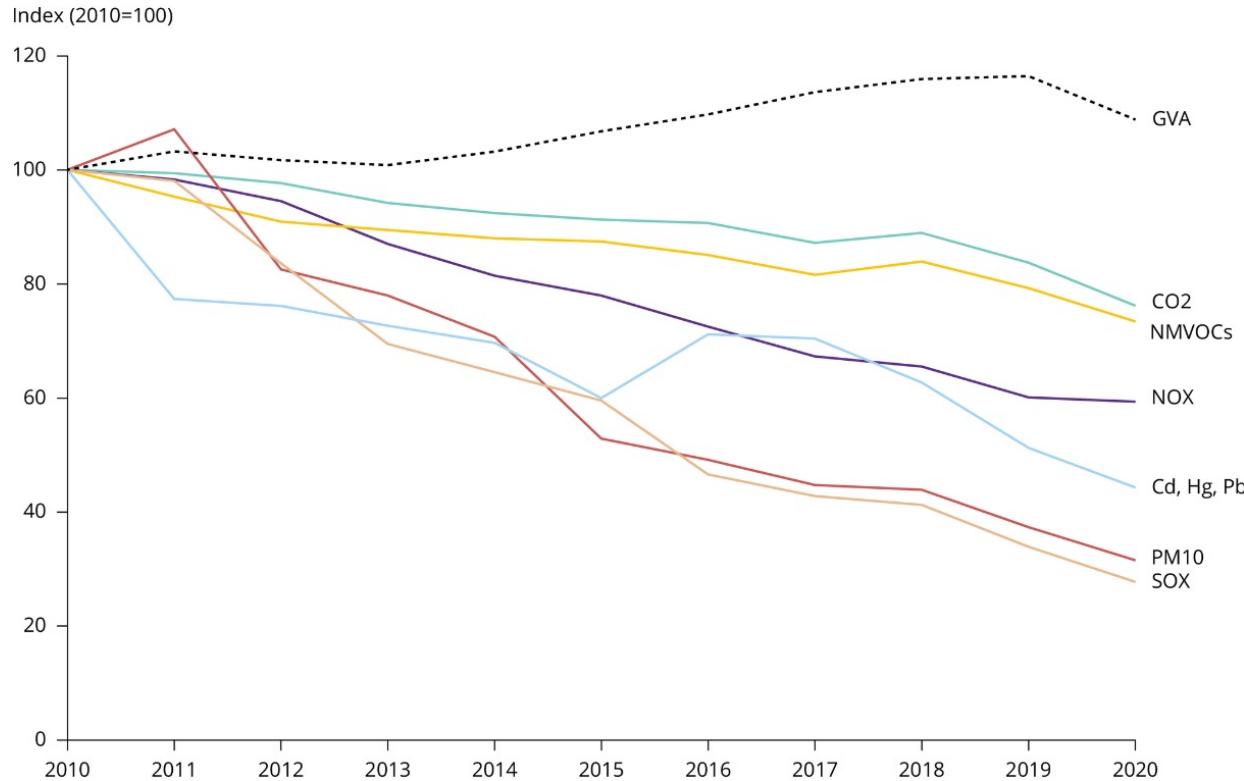
While knowledge gaps are apparent, resource extraction appears as a **significant contributor** to the soil contamination issue

Having a look to production

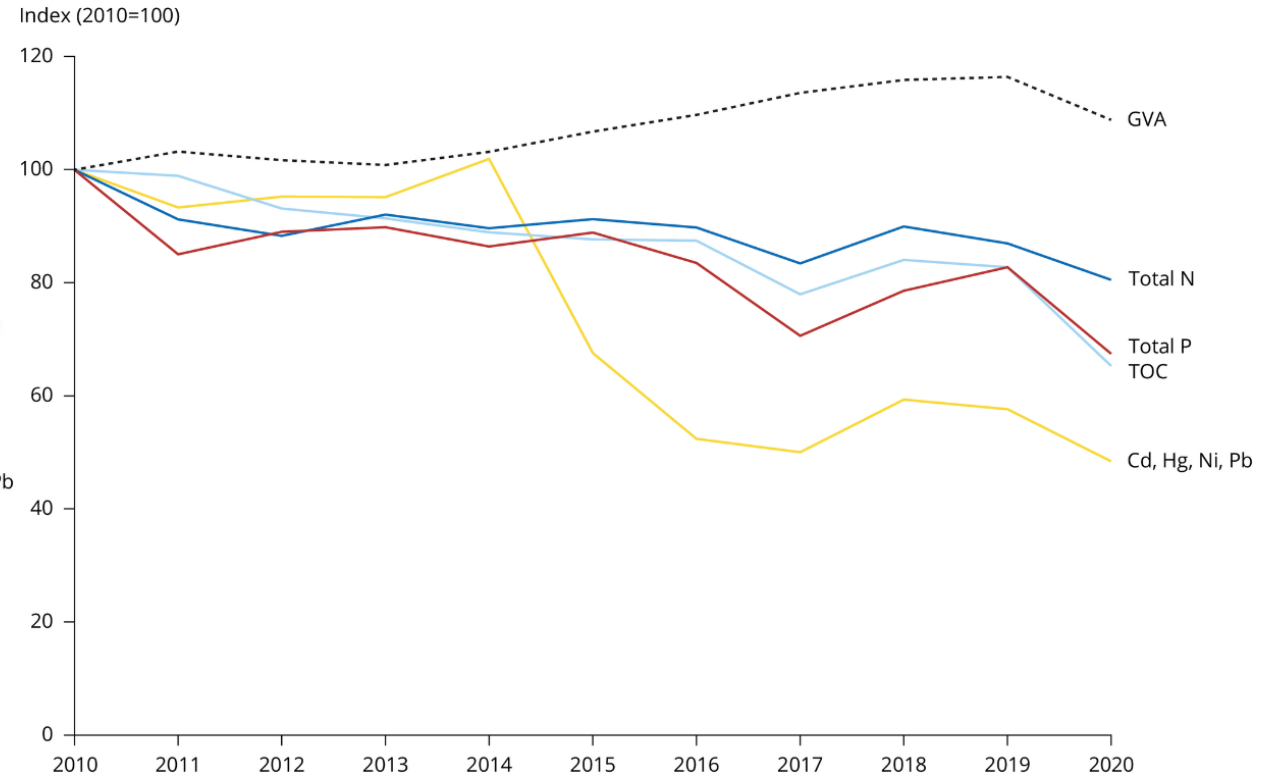
Production – Impacts from industry



Industrial emissions to air



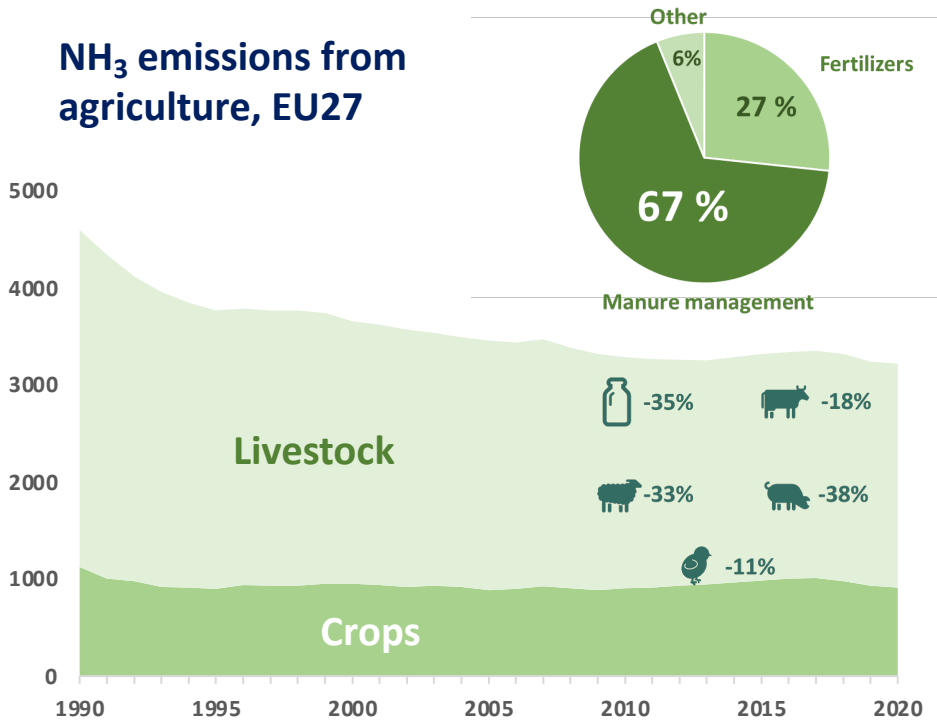
Industrial emissions to water



Source: EEA, Data reported to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register

Production – Impacts from agriculture

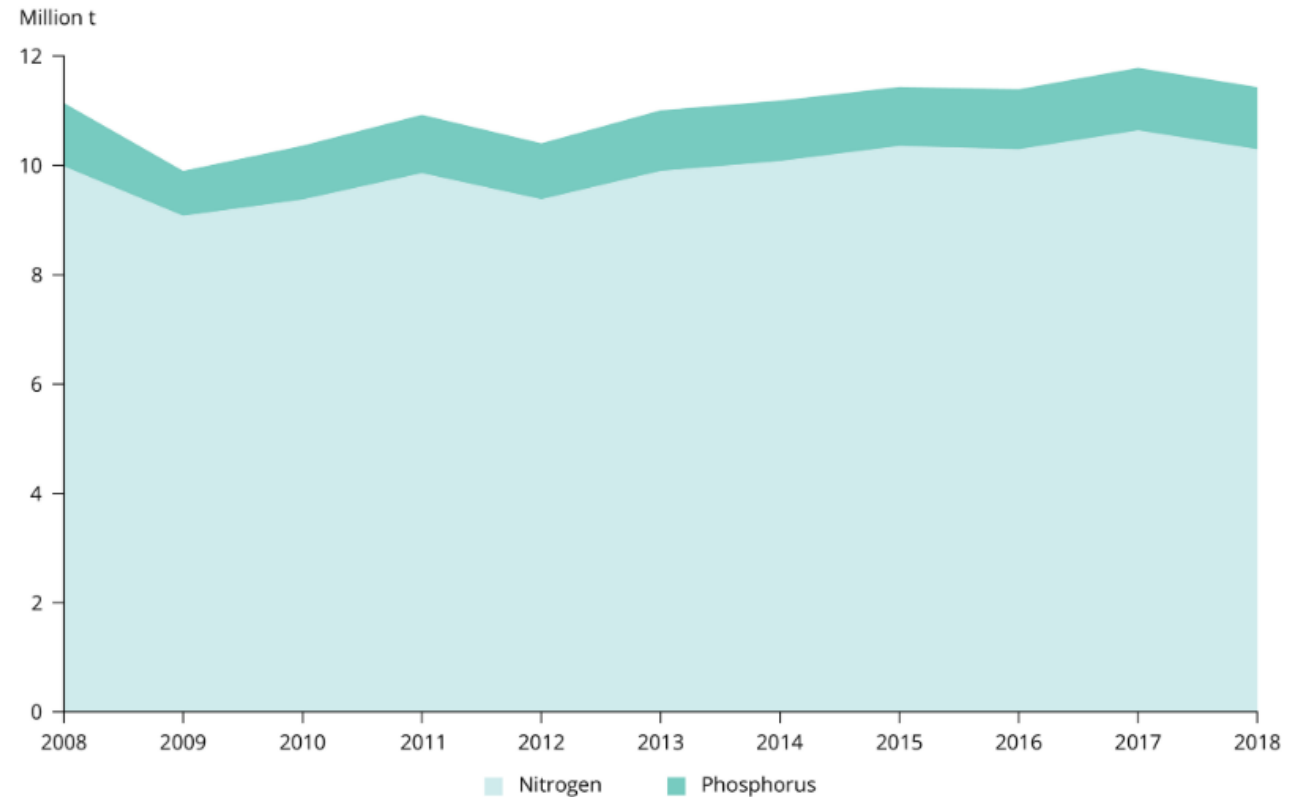
NH₃ emissions from agriculture, EU27



Source: EEA, Reporting under the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive

22 countries still need to reduce significantly their ammonia emissions to meet NECD targets

Use of fertilisers in agriculture, EU27



Source: Eurostat



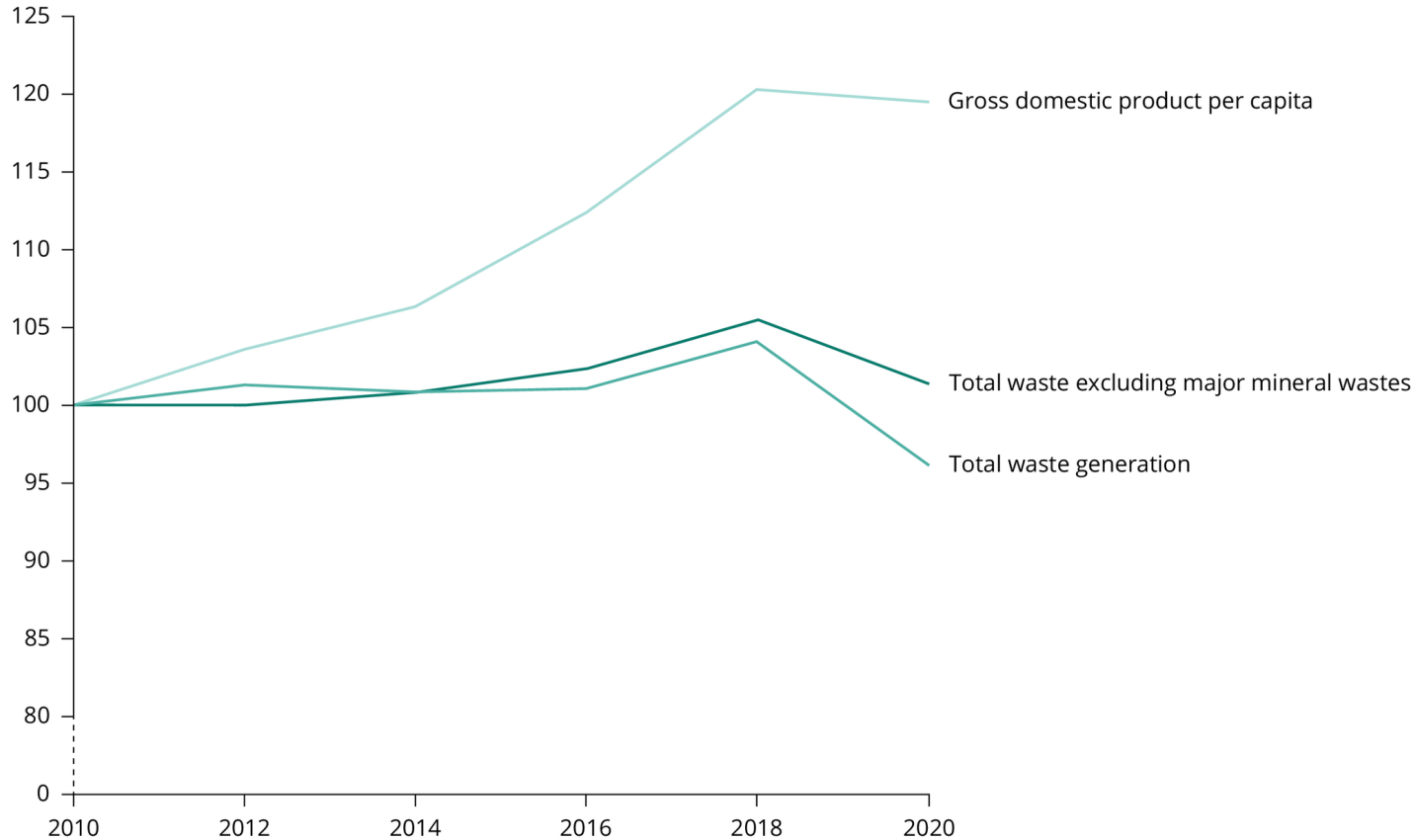
Closing material loops to achieve our vision of circularity

Waste – waste generation



Waste generation, EU27

Percentage



Source: Eurostat

TARGET 6 Significantly reduce total waste generation

Current position/trend:

-4% decrease between 2010 and 2020

Distance to target: **not on track**
Baseline year: **not defined**

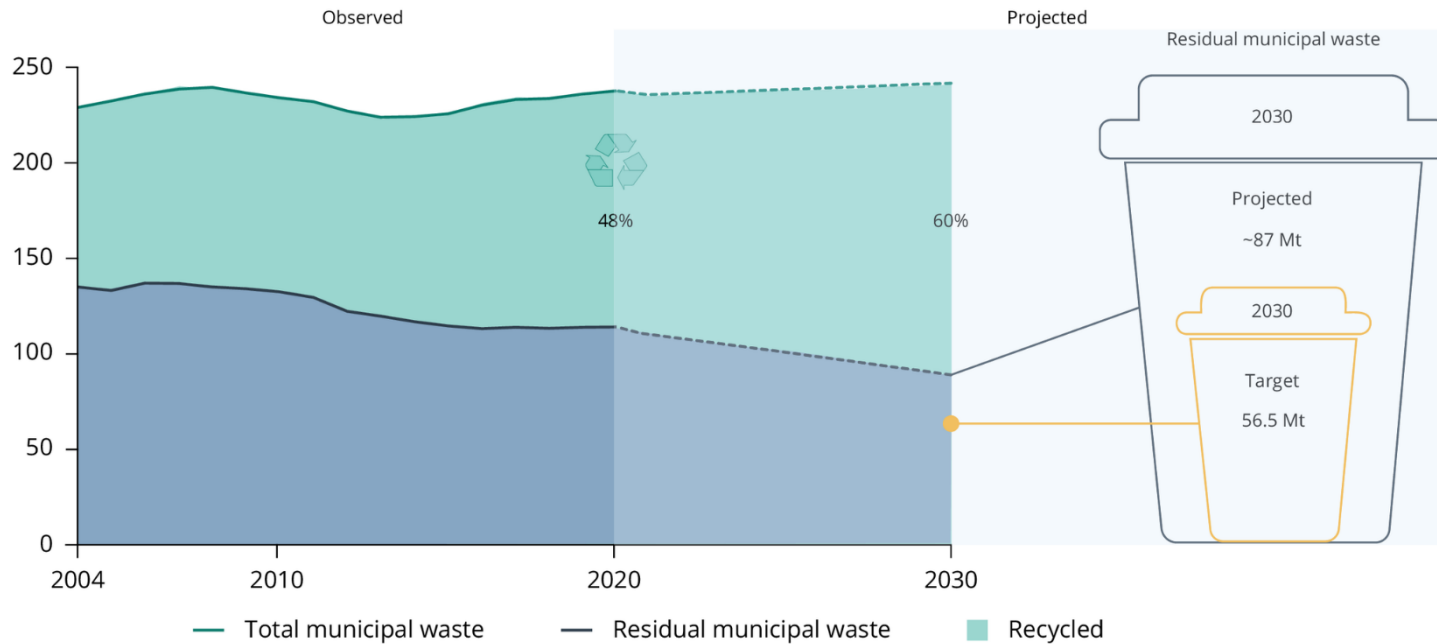
[Link to waste section](#)



Waste – residual municipal waste

Municipal waste generation, recycled and residual, EU27

Municipal waste (Mt)



Source: Eurostat and EEA own analysis

TARGET 6 Reduce residual municipal waste by 50%

Current position/trend: no significant change in residual municipal waste generation since 2016

2030
Projected -87 Mt

2030
Target 56.5 Mt

-50%

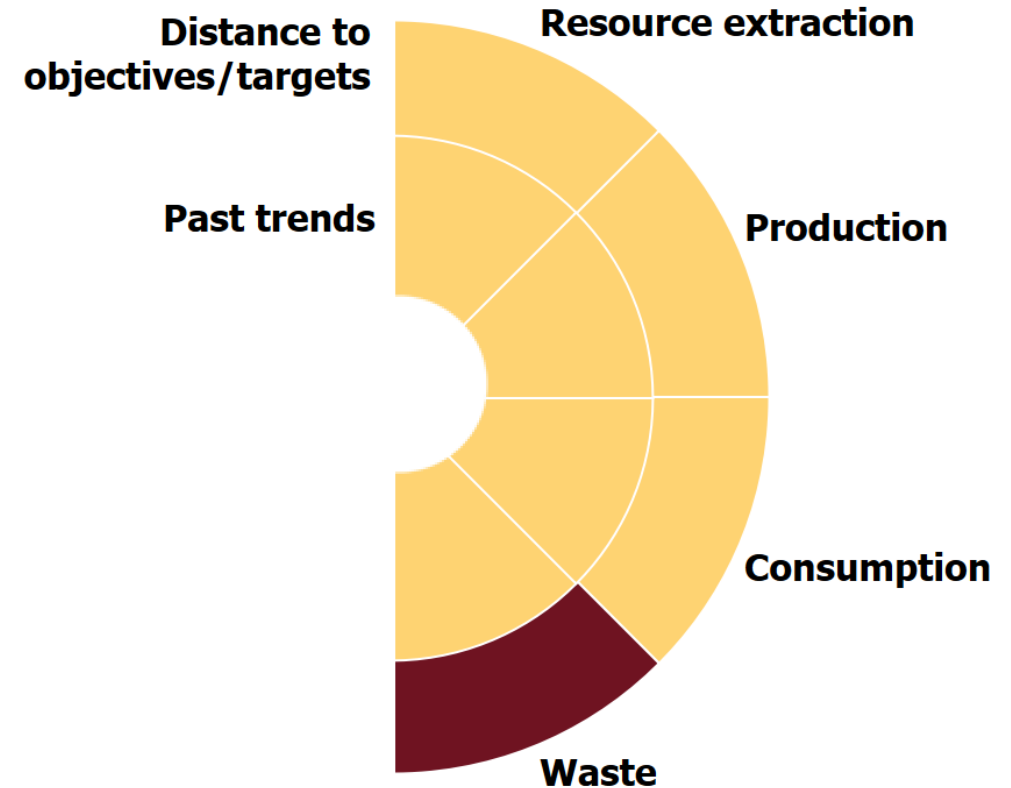
Distance to target: **not on track**
Baseline year: **not defined**

[Link to waste section](#)



Conclusions

- Europe's production and consumption systems are a barrier to a more sustainable and circular economy
- Less pollution from extraction in Europe overall, while progress is slower in recent times
- Improvements in air pollution from industry, while progress in reducing emissions and impacts from agriculture will need significant additional efforts
- Zero Pollution waste targets unlikely to be met: prevention of waste generation is key for achieving both



A photograph of a forest path in autumn. The path is made of stone slabs and is covered with fallen leaves. Large, dark tree trunks frame the path on both sides. The foliage is in shades of yellow and orange. In the distance, a person wearing a red jacket is walking away from the camera. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Thank you

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