



Towards zero pollution: A cleaner environment for people and ecosystems

Hans Bruyninckx | Zero pollution stakeholder conference | 14 December 2022

A systemic approach to sustainability (and pollution) challenges

- First climate-neutral continent
 - Biodiversity Strategy 2030
 - New Circular Economy Action Plan
 - **Zero** - Link with sectoral policies
 - Farm to Fork
 - Just Transition
 - Sustainable Growth
 - Future of Mobility
- The political, economic, investment, ..., priority for Europe
 - Strong systemic transitions logic
 - Interconnected
 - Longer time horizon
 - Social dimension
 - Innovation, digitalization
 - Governance agenda

"Our *most pressing* challenge is keeping our planet healthy. This is the *greatest responsibility* and opportunity of our times."

'Existential threats'

Ambitious, innovative, interconnected, systemic



A systemic approach to sustainability (and pollution) challenges

- First **climate-neutral** continent
- **Biodiversity** Strategy 2030
- New **Circular Economy** Action Plan
- **Zero pollution** Action Plan
- **Farm to fork** strategy
- **Just transition**
- **Sustainable** European **Investment** Plan
- Future ready economy – new **industrial strategy**



A systemic approach to sustainability (and pollution) challenges

- First **climate-neutral** continent
- **Biodiversity** Strategy 2030
- New **Circular Economy** Action Plan
- **Zero pollution** Action Plan
- **Farm to fork** strategy
- **Just transition**
- **Sustainable** European **Investment** Plan
- Future ready economy – new **industrial strategy**



A systemic approach to sustainability (and pollution) challenges

- First **climate-neutral** continent
- **Biodiversity** Strategy 2030
- New **Circular Economy** Action Plan
- **Zero pollution** Action Plan
- **Farm to fork** strategy
- **Just transition**
- **Sustainable** European **Investment** Plan
- Future ready economy – new **industrial strategy**

“Our *most pressing challenge* is keeping our planet healthy. This is the *greatest responsibility* and opportunity of our times.”



A systemic approach to sustainability (and pollution) challenges

- First **climate-neutral** continent
- **Biodiversity** Strategy 2030
- New **Circular Economy** Action Plan
- **Zero pollution** Action Plan
- **Farm to fork** strategy
- **Just transition**
- **Sustainable** European **Investment** Plan
- Future ready economy – new **industrial** strategy

“Our *most pressing challenge* is keeping our planet healthy. This is the *greatest responsibility* and opportunity of our times.”

‘Existential threats’



A systemic approach to sustainability (and pollution) challenges

- First **climate-neutral** continent
- **Biodiversity Strategy 2030**
 - **The political, economic, investment, ..., priority for Europe**
- **New Circular Economy Action Plan**
 - **Strong systemic transitions logic**
- **Zero-pollution Action Plan**
 - **Link with sectoral policies**
- **Farm-to-fork strategy**
 - **Interconnected**
- **Just transition**
 - **Longer time horizon**
 - **Social dimension**
- **Sustainable European Investment Plan**
 - **Innovation, digitalization**
- **Future-ready economy – new industrial strategy**
 - **Governance agenda**

“Our *most pressing* challenge is keeping our planet healthy. This is the *greatest responsibility* and opportunity of our times.”

‘**Existential threats**’

Ambitious, innovative, interconnected, systemic

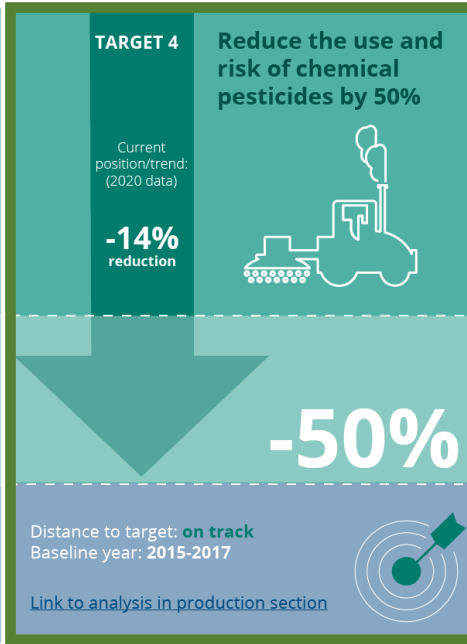
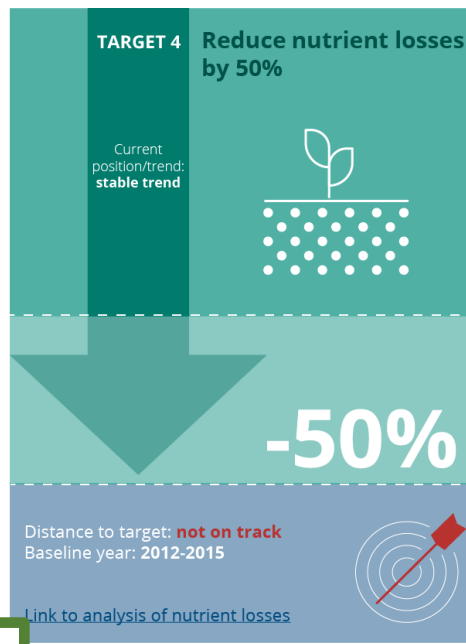
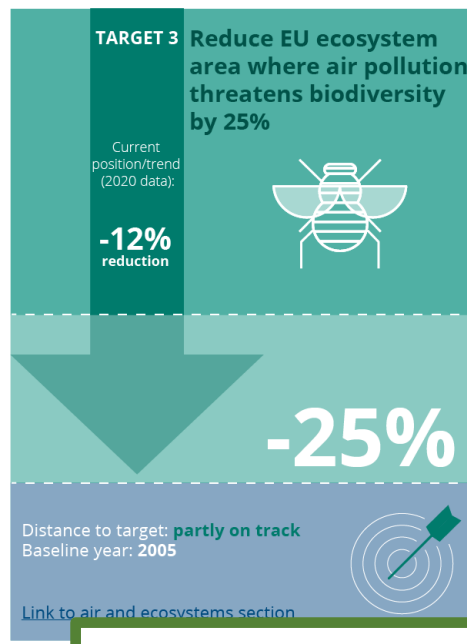
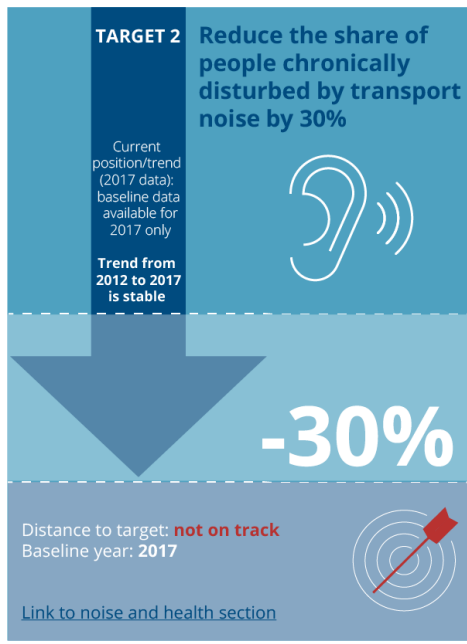
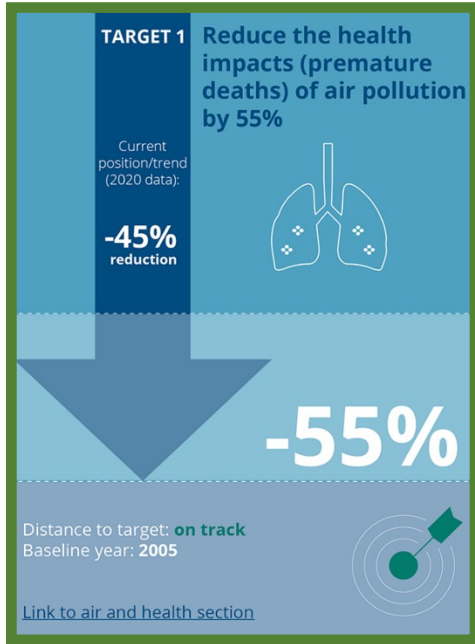


2050 Zero Pollution Ambition

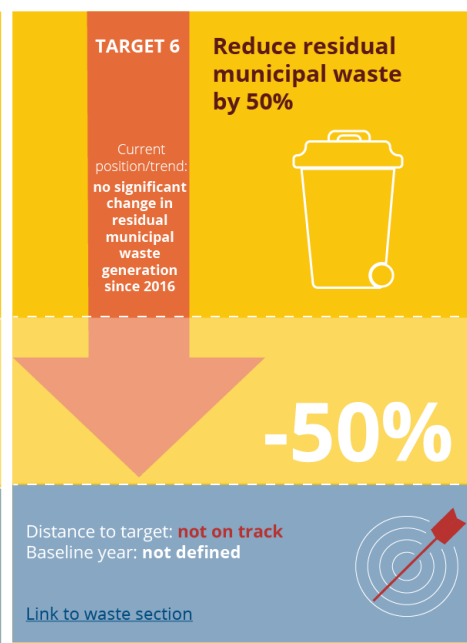
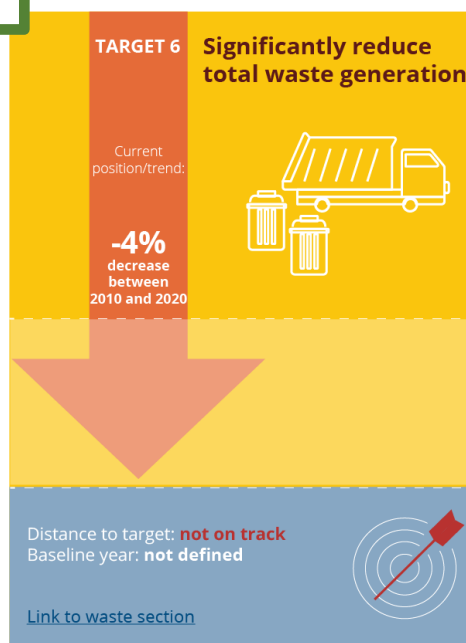
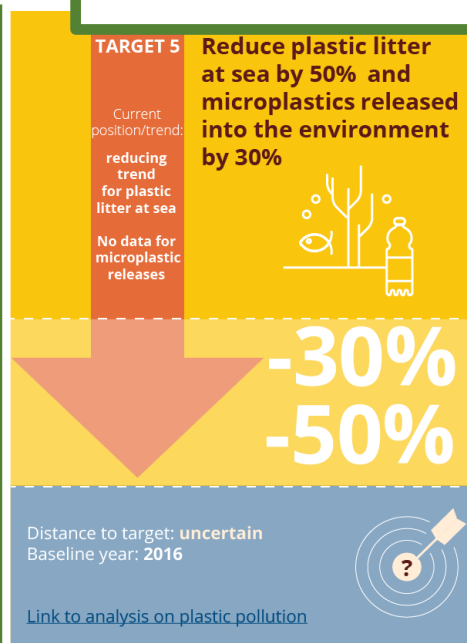
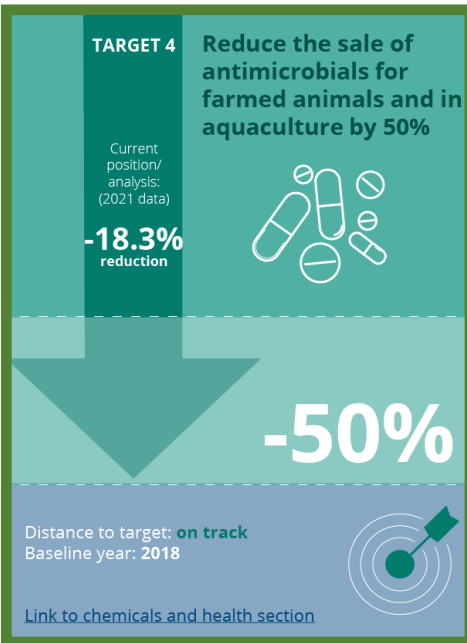
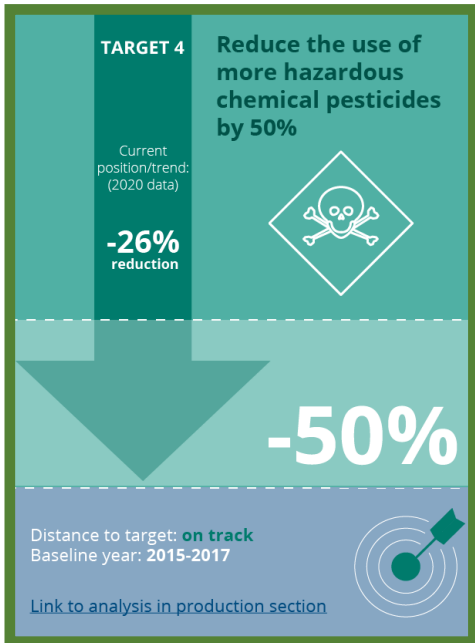


“ Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment

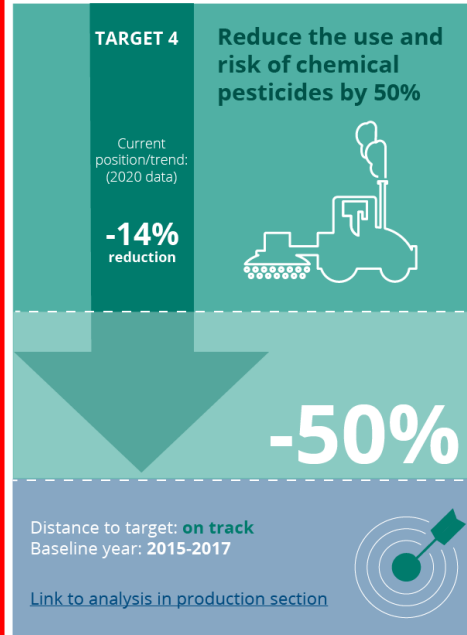
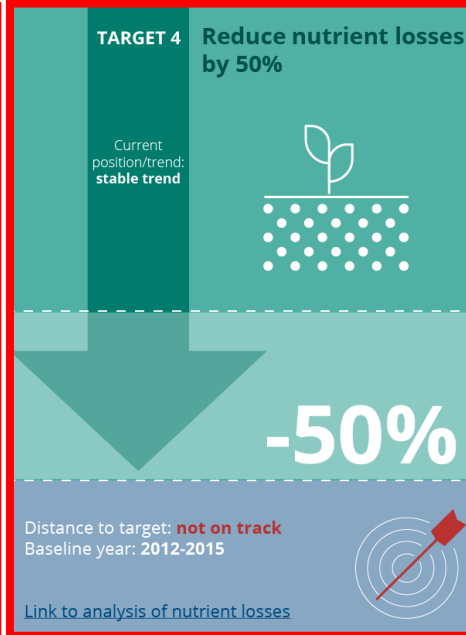
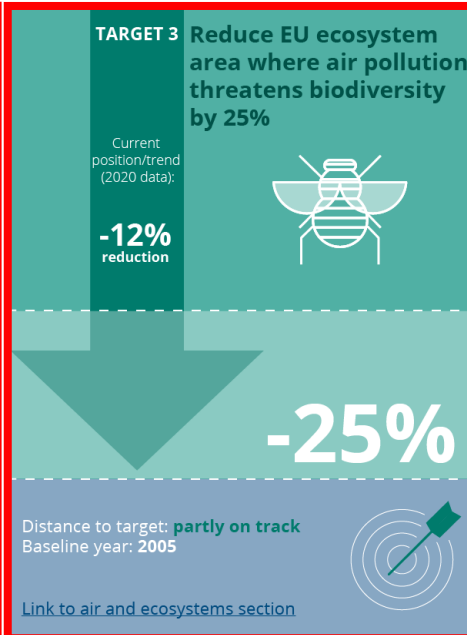
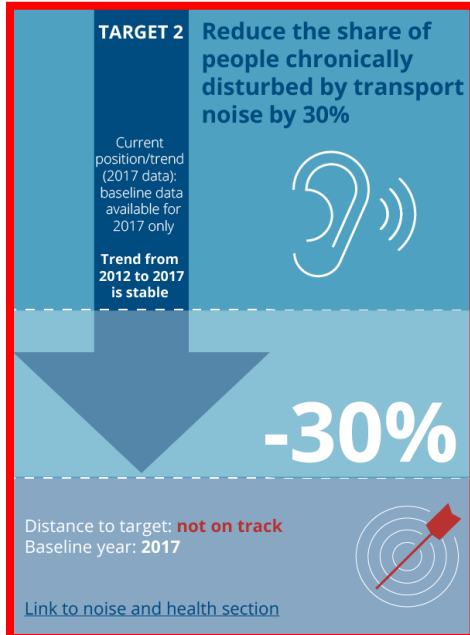
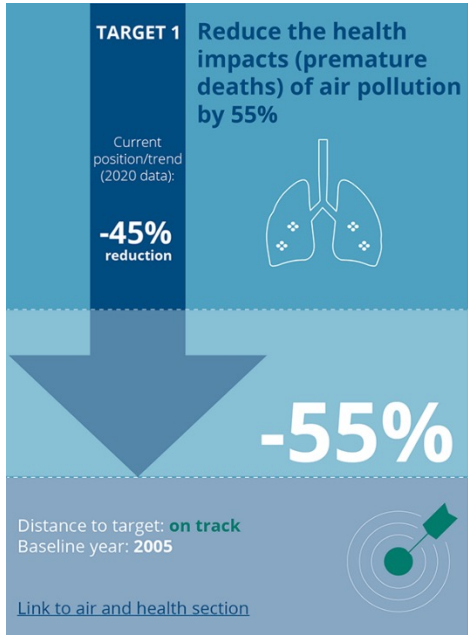
2030 targets and monitoring



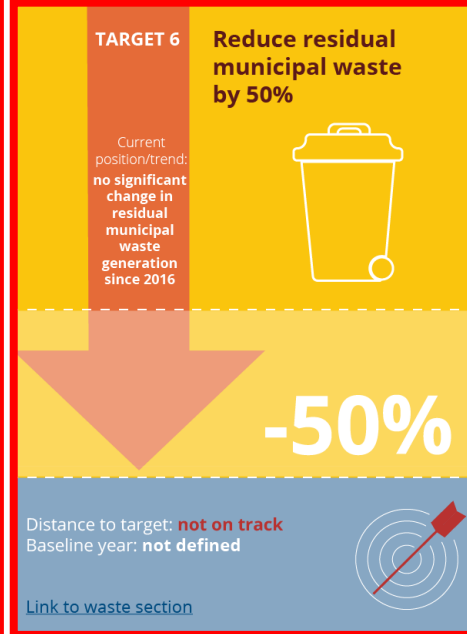
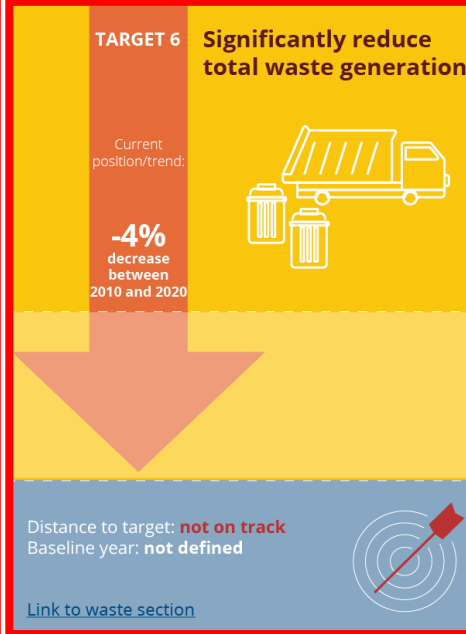
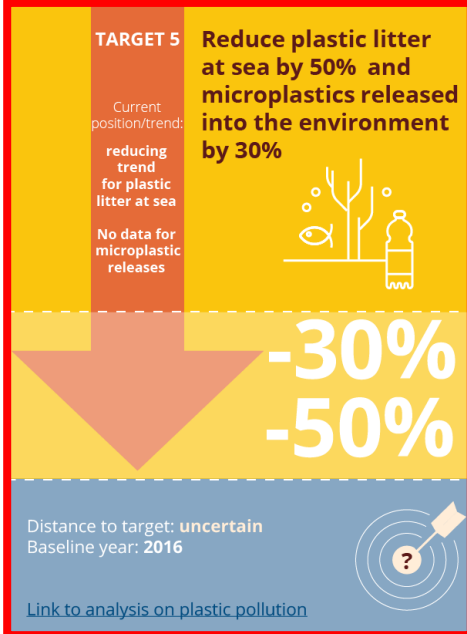
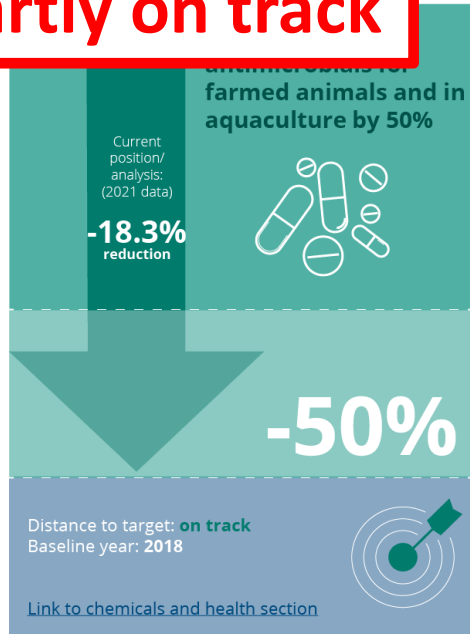
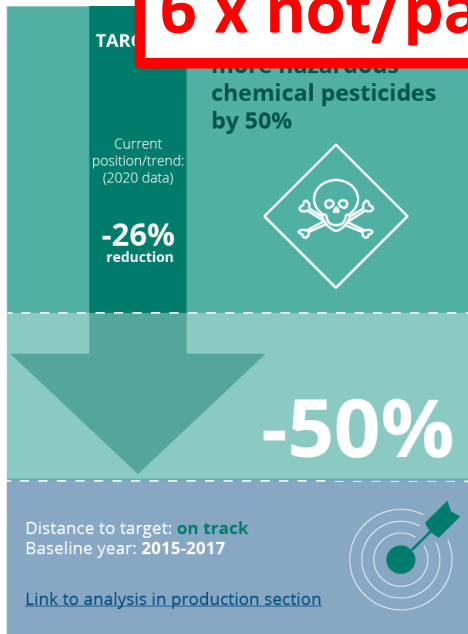
4 x on track



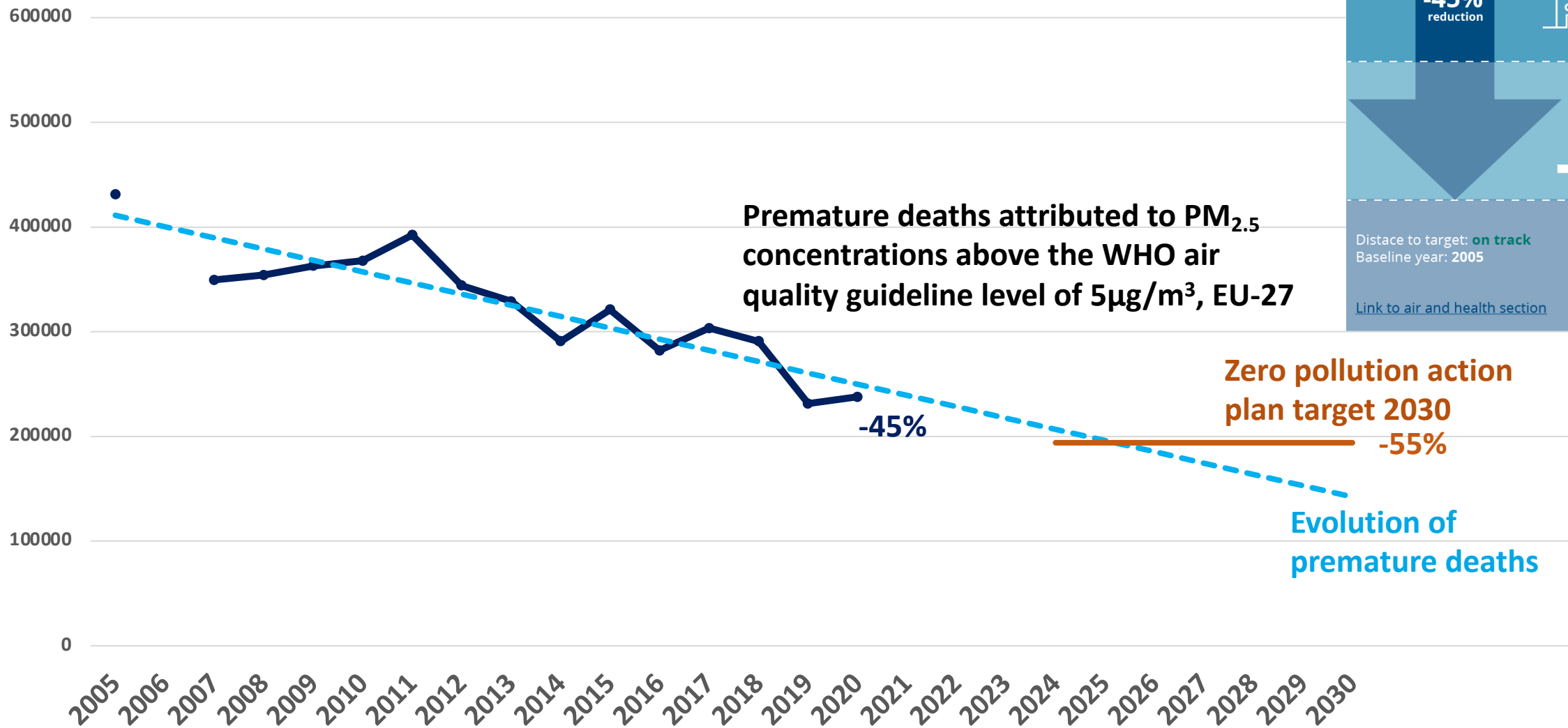
2030 targets and monitoring



6 x not/partly on track




Reducing the health impacts of air pollution



TARGET 1 Reduce the health impacts (premature deaths) of air pollution by 55%


Current position/trend (2020 data):

-45% reduction



Distance to target: **on track**
Baseline year: 2005

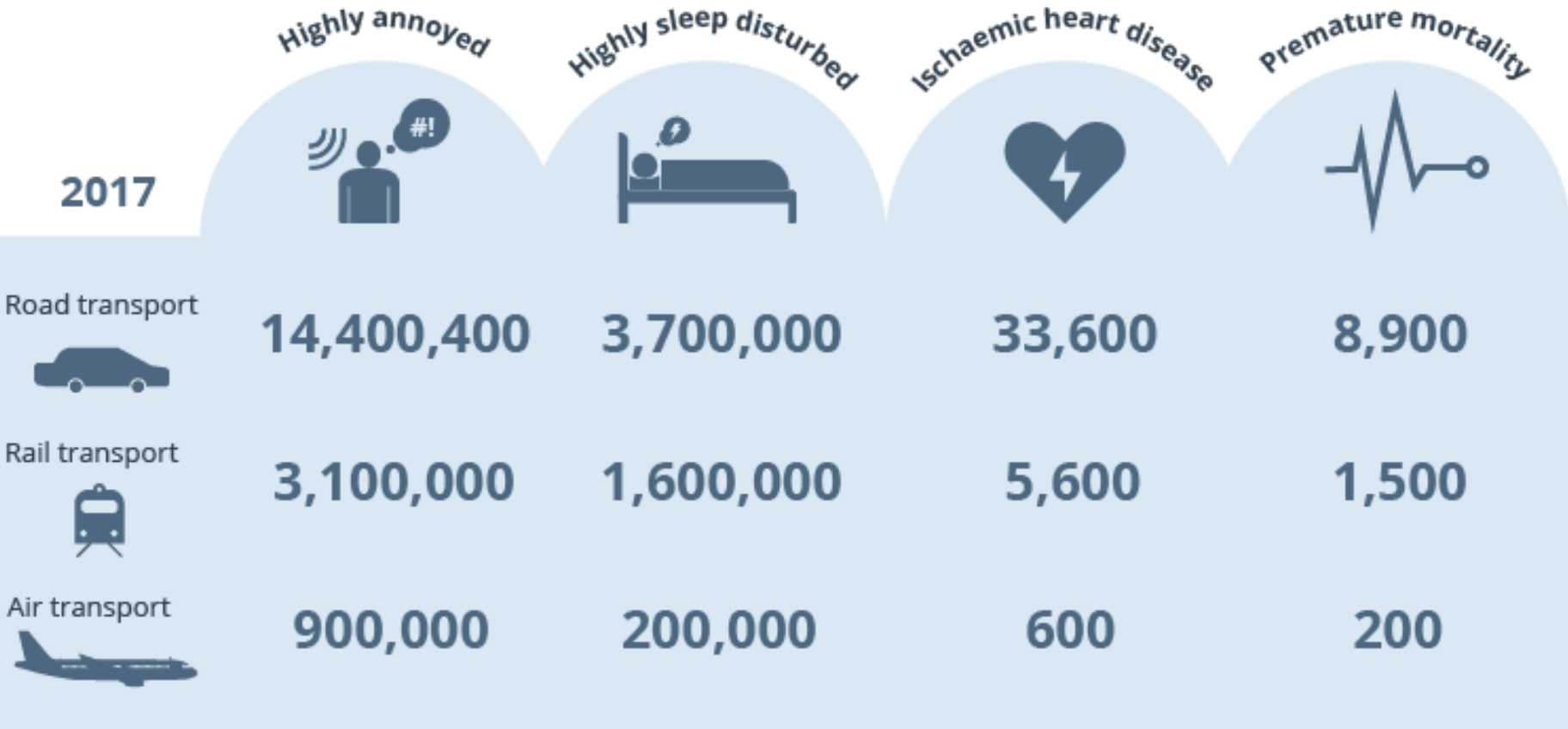
[Link to air and health section](#)



-55%



Slow progress on reducing the impacts of transport noise



TARGET 2 Reduce the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise by 30%

Current position/trend (2017 data): baseline data available for 2017 only

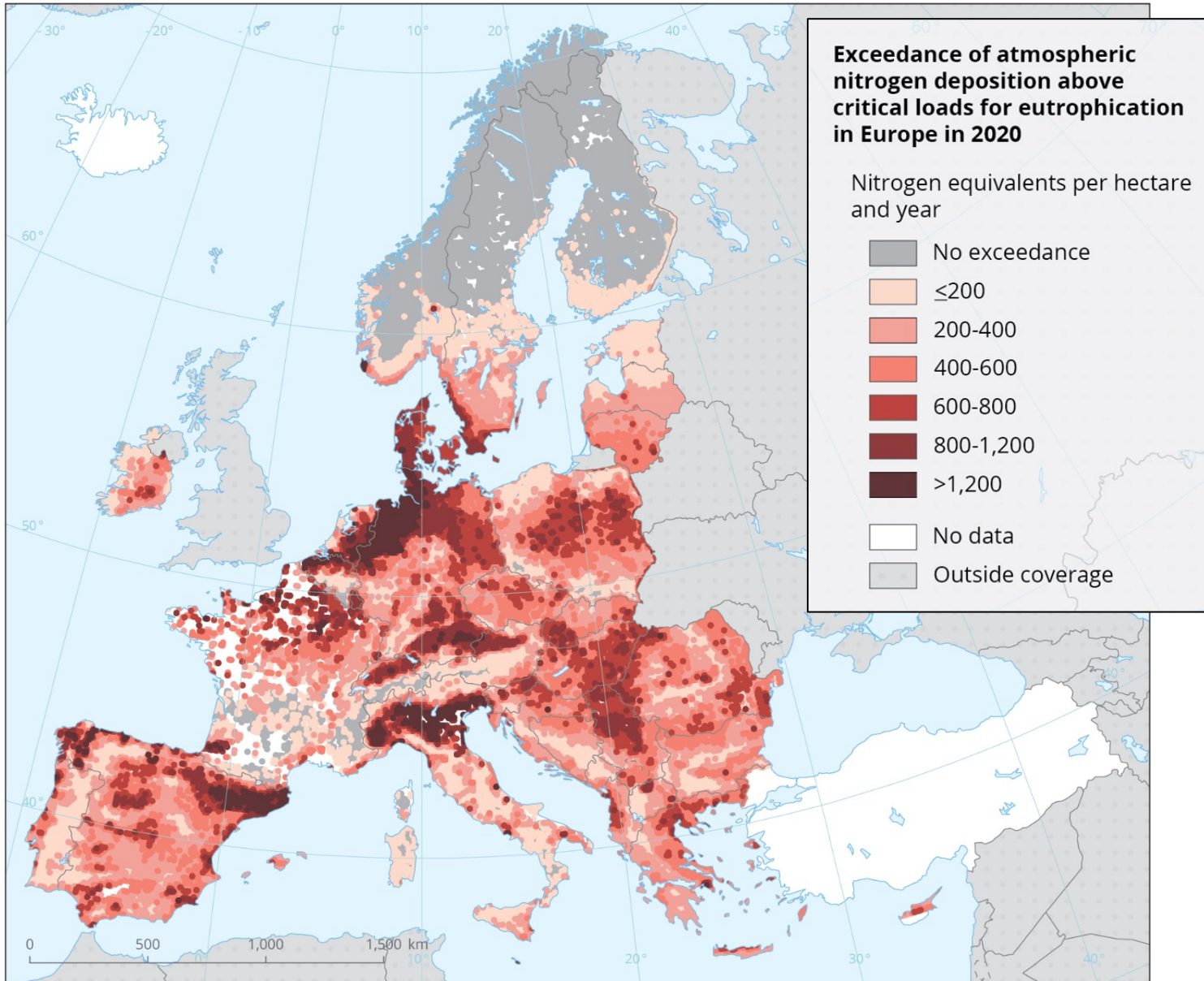
Trend from 2012 to 2017 is stable

-30%

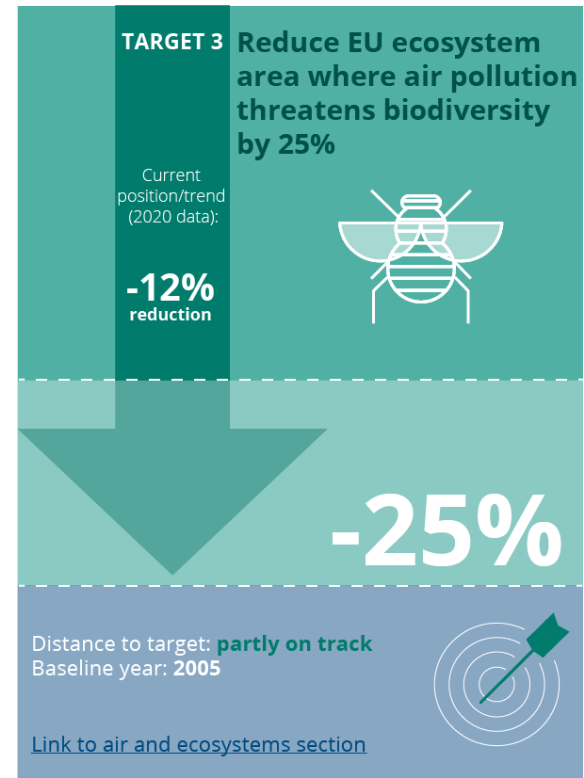
Distance to target: **not on track**
Baseline year: 2017

[Link to noise and health section](#)

75% of ecosystems remain at risk from air pollution



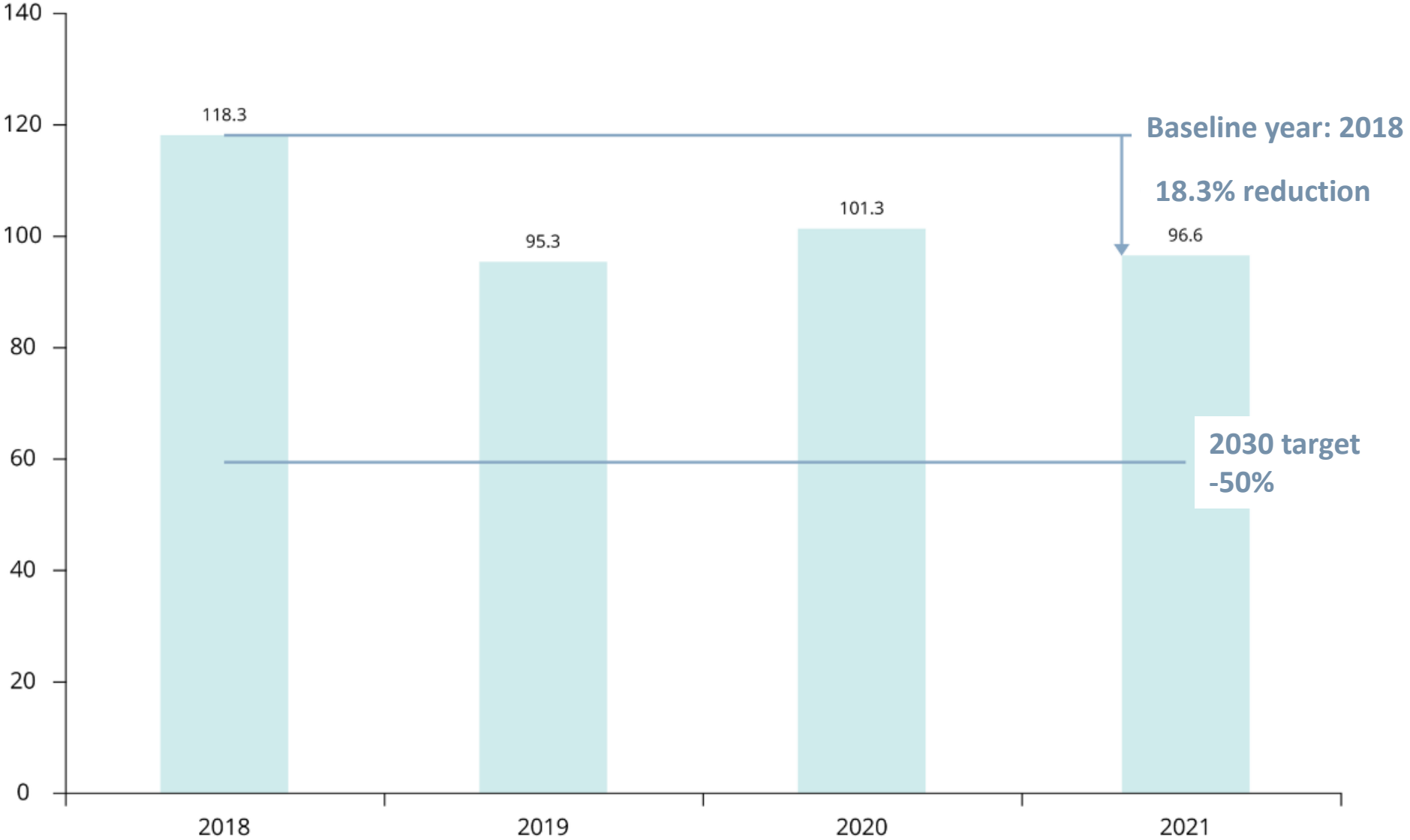
Reference data: ©ESRI



EMEP (2022), data on critical loads from the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE, forthcoming).

Tackling anti-microbial resistance

Milligrams per Population Correction Unit (mg/PCU)



TARGET 4 Reduce the sale of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%

Current position/analysis: (2021 data)
-18.3% reduction

-50%


Distance to target: **on track**
Baseline year: 2018

[Link to chemicals and health section](#)

No evidence of reduced nutrient loss

TARGET 4 Reduce nutrient losses by 50%


Current position/trend: **stable trend**



-50%

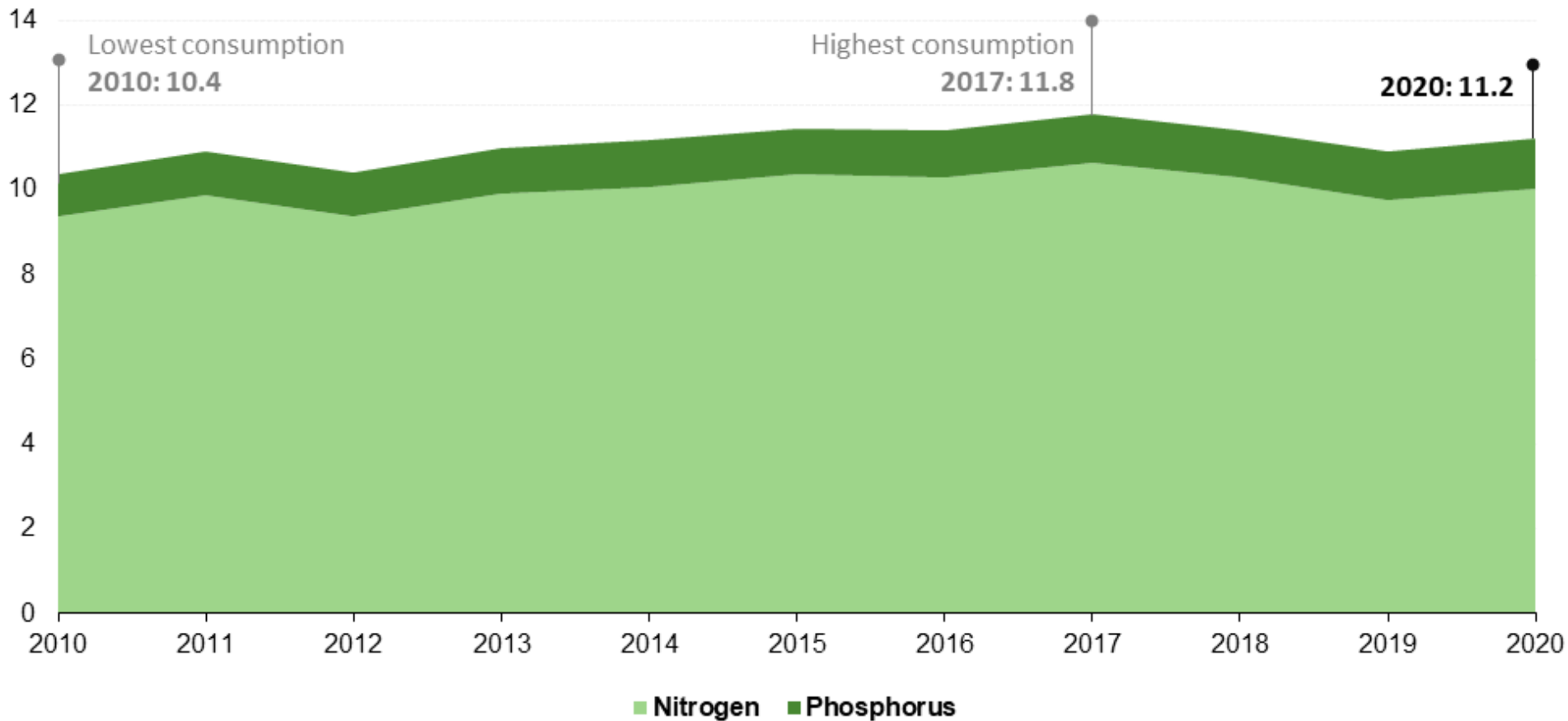
Distance to target: **not on track**
Baseline year: 2012-2015

[Link to analysis of nutrient losses](#)



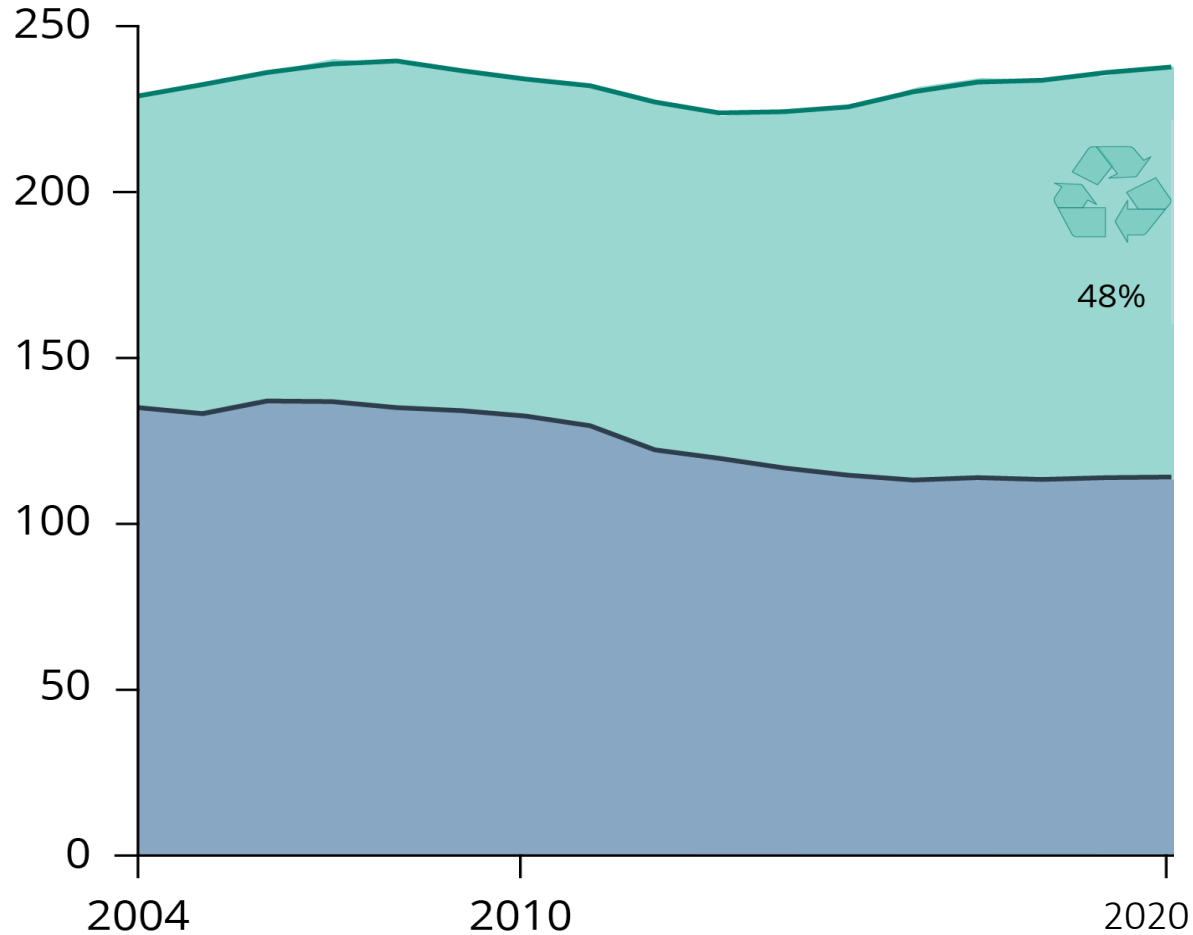
Mineral fertiliser consumption by agriculture

(million tonnes, EU, 2010-2020)

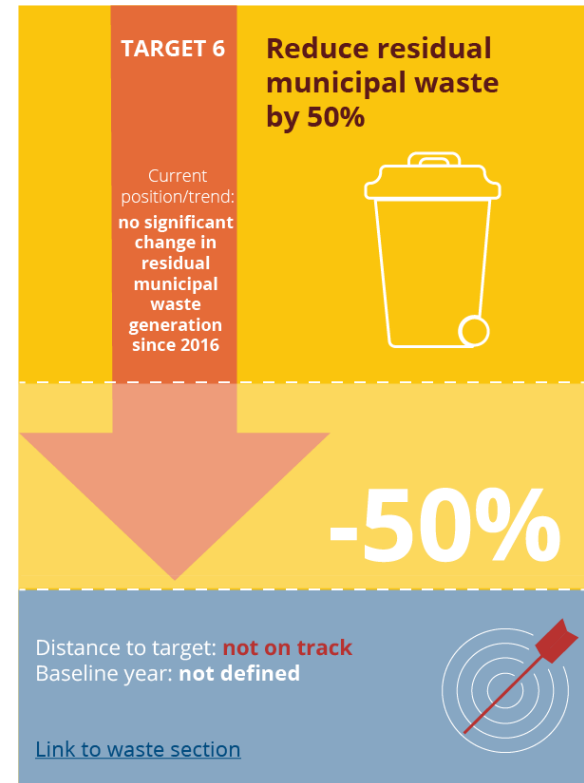


Little progress in reducing waste

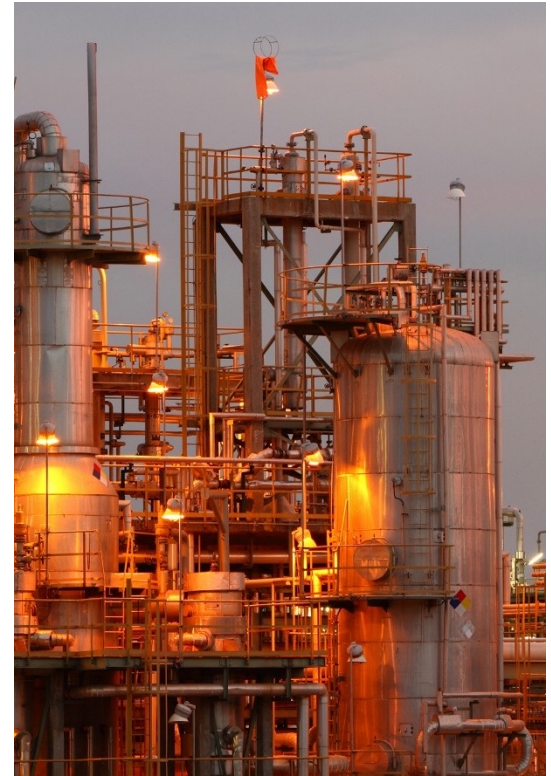
Municipal waste (Mt)



- Total municipal waste
- Residual municipal waste
- Recycled



50+ years with pollution on the agenda: Reconfiguring energy, food, mobility and industrial systems





Thank you

Hans Bruyninckx | Zero pollution stakeholder conference | 14 December 2022