TOWNS GET CLIMATE ACTIVE

What can small towns do to an effective climate adaptation governance

Ivone Pereira Martins, EEA

European Environment Information and Observation Network - Eionet

Member countries
Cooperating countries

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
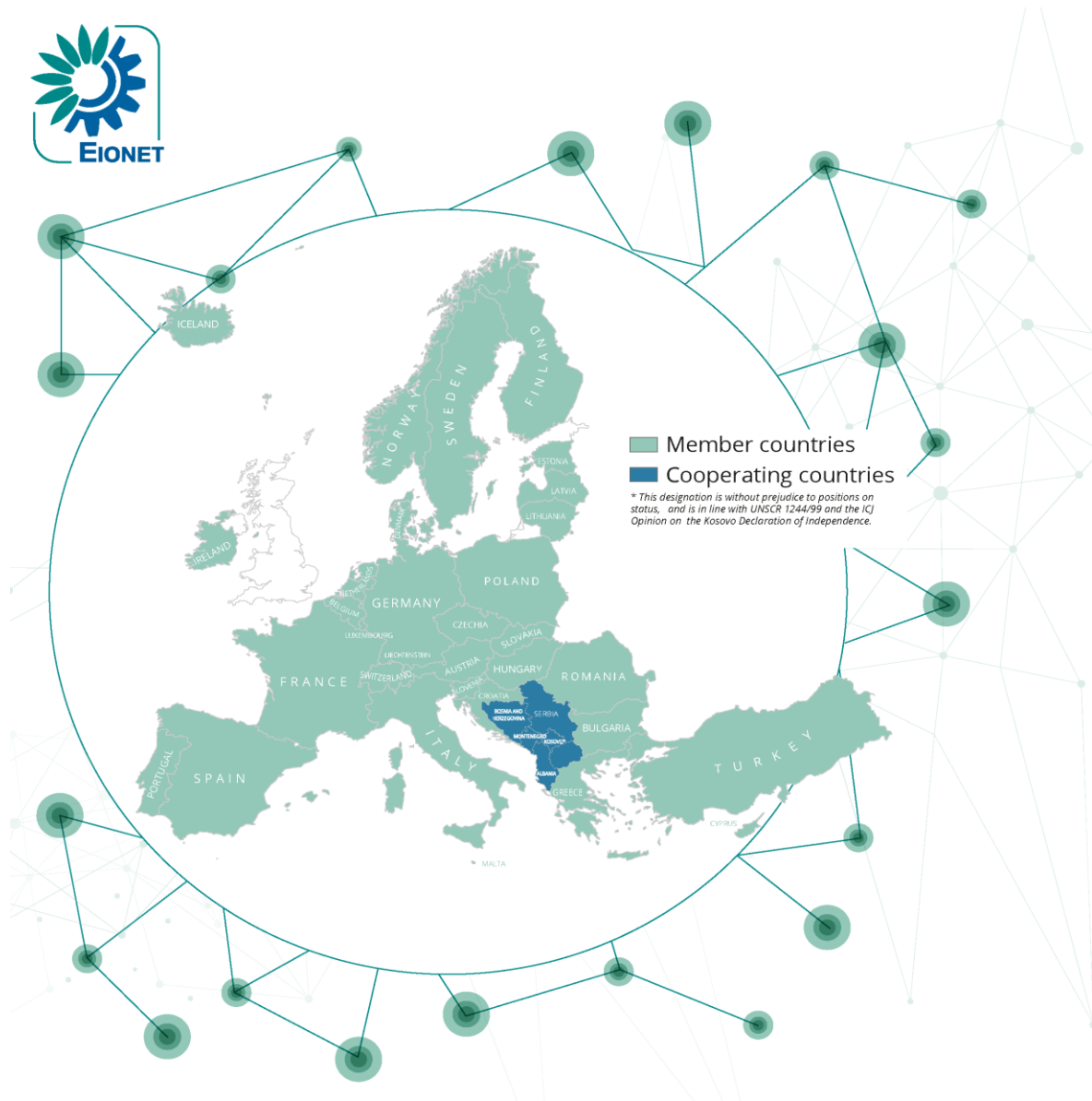
Who we are

38 countries

More than **400 institutions**

Around **2,000 experts**

Organised in **13 Eionet groups**

Supported by experts in **8 European Topic Centres**

What we do

Delivering **data, information and knowledge**

The European environment — state and outlook

Support for **EU and National policy**

European Environment Agency
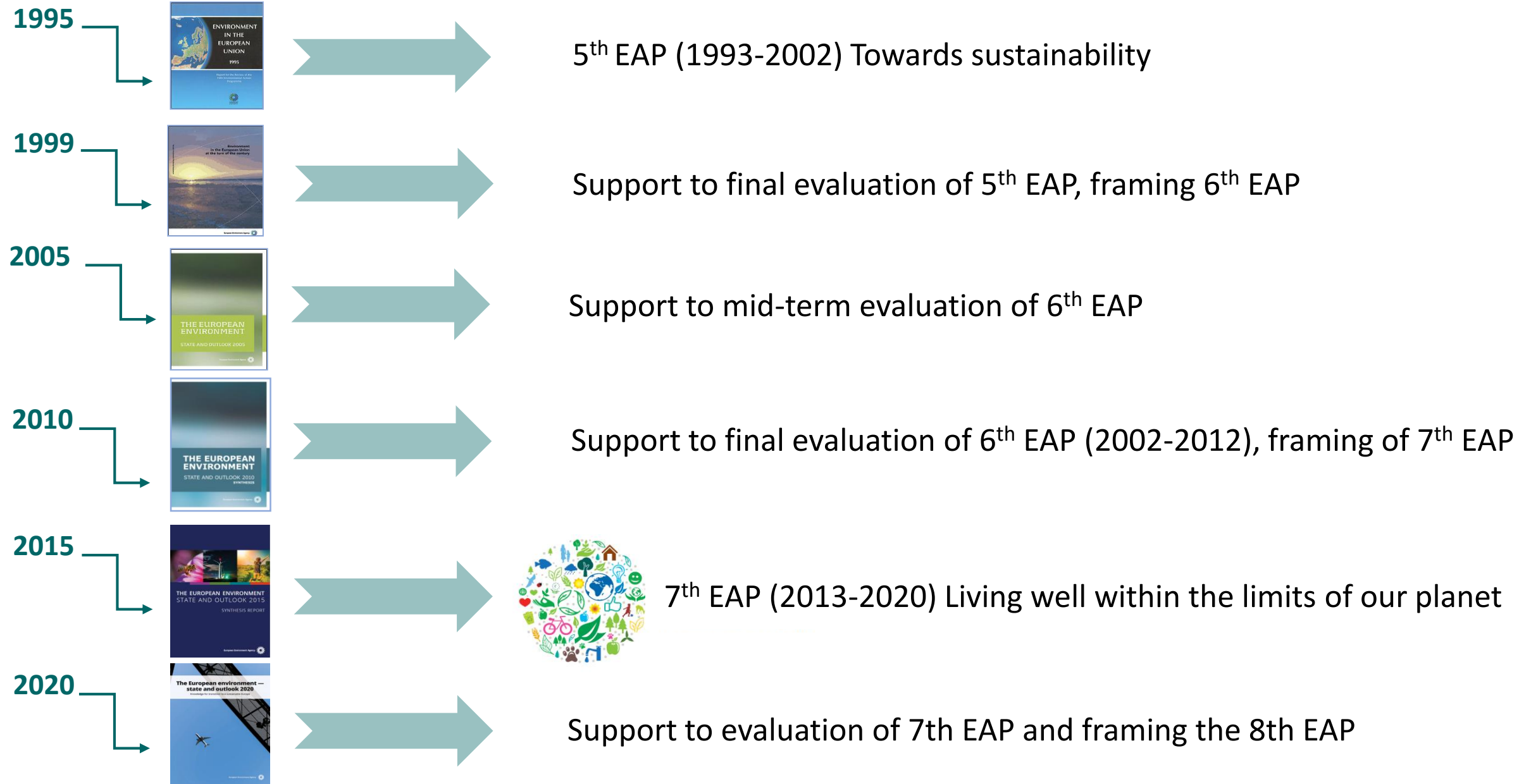
Eionet functions & structure

Our function and structure

13 Eionet groups

- Biodiversity and Ecosystems 1
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems 2
- Circular Economy and Resource Use
- Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation
- Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Systems
- Communication
- Data, technologies and digitalisation
- Food Systems
- Foresight
- Human Health and Environment
- Land Systems
- Mobility Systems
- State of the Environment

In each country

National Focal Point

Data Flow Coordinator

The SOER in support of EU environmental policies – over 25 years

1995 — ENVIRONMENT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 1995 → 5th EAP (1993-2002) Towards sustainability

1999 — Environment in the European Union at the turn of the century → Support to final evaluation of 5th EAP, framing 6th EAP

2005 — THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2005 → Support to mid-term evaluation of 6th EAP

2010 — THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2010 SYNTHESIS → Support to final evaluation of 6th EAP (2002-2012), framing of 7th EAP

2015 — THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2015 SYNTHESIS REPORT → 7th EAP (2013-2020) Living well within the limits of our planet

2020 — The European environment — state and outlook 2020 → Support to evaluation of 7th EAP and framing the 8th EAP

SOER 2020: Urgent systemic, transformative change needed

1. Natural capital

2. Low carbon and resource efficient economy

3. Health and wellbeing

Past trends (5-10 years)

BAU+ is not an option

Outlook To 2030

Terrestrial protected areas
Marine protected areas
EU protected species and habitats
Common species
Ecosystem condition and services
Water ecosystems and wetlands
Hydromorphological pressures
State of marine ecosystems and biodiversity
Pressures and impacts on marine ecosystems
Urbanisation and land use by agriculture and forestry
Soil condition
Air pollution and impacts on ecosystems
Chemical pollution and impacts on ecosystems
Climate change and impacts on ecosystems

Material resource efficiency
Circular use of materials
Waste generation
Waste management
Greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation efforts
Energy efficiency
Renewable energy sources
Emissions of air pollutants
Pollutant emissions from industry
Clean industrial technologies and processes
Emissions of chemicals
Water abstraction/pressures on surface and groundwater
Sustainable use of the seas

Concentrations of air pollutants
Air pollution and impacts on human health
Environmental noise and impact on human health
Preservation of quiet areas
Pollution pressures on water and links to human health
Chemical pollution and risks to human health and well-being
Climate change risks to society
Climate change adaptation strategies and plans
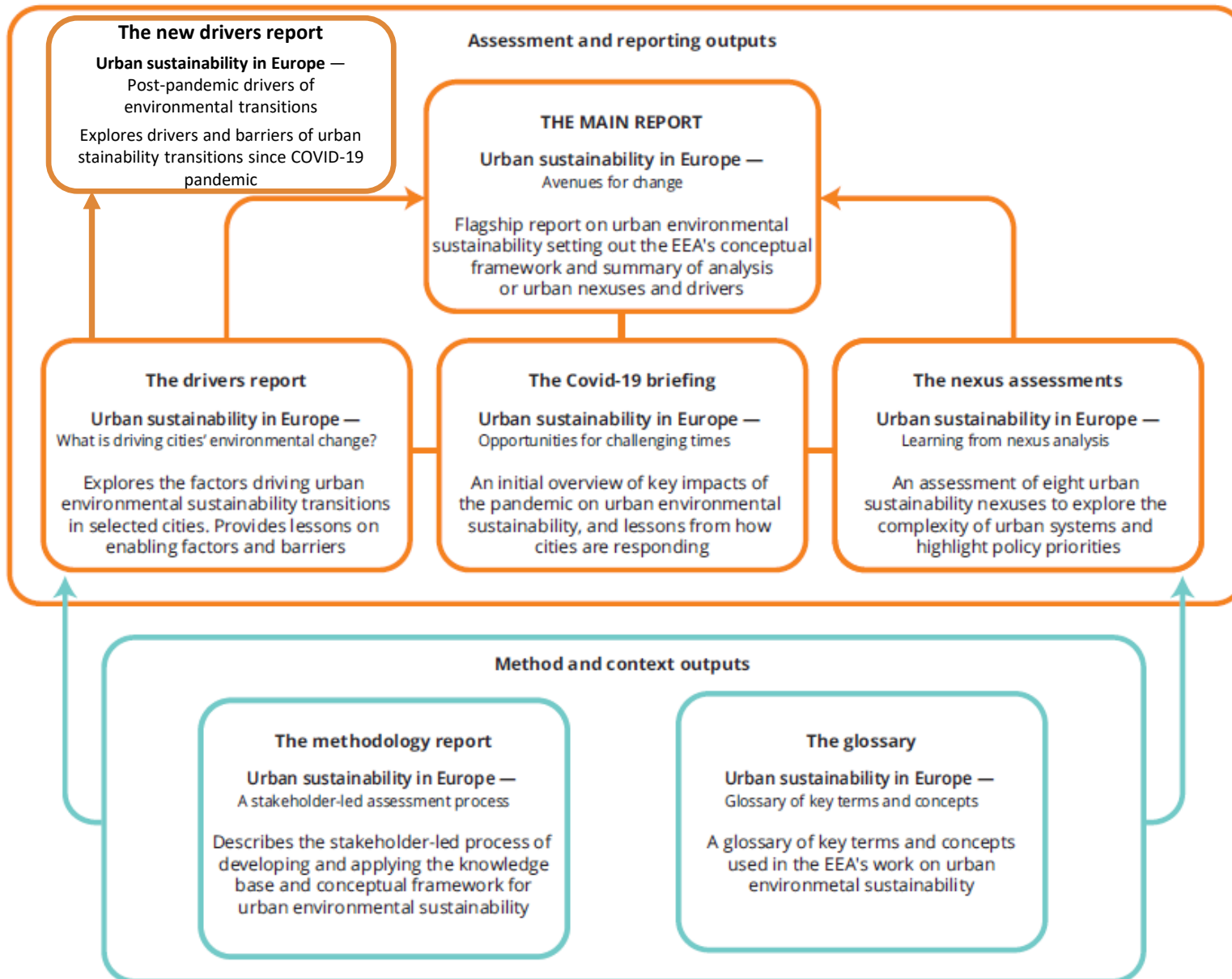
Our urban sustainability model

Based on four main components:

- **Lenses** - a range of perspectives that represent priority issues/concerns reflecting the EEA's environmental remit

- **Context** - the range of current and historic, physical, social and institutional characteristics which create and shape the setting in which a specific city exists, develops and functions

- **Enabling factors** - relatively high-level forces that based on their level of availability facilitate (drivers) or hinder (barriers) the transition towards urban environmental sustainability

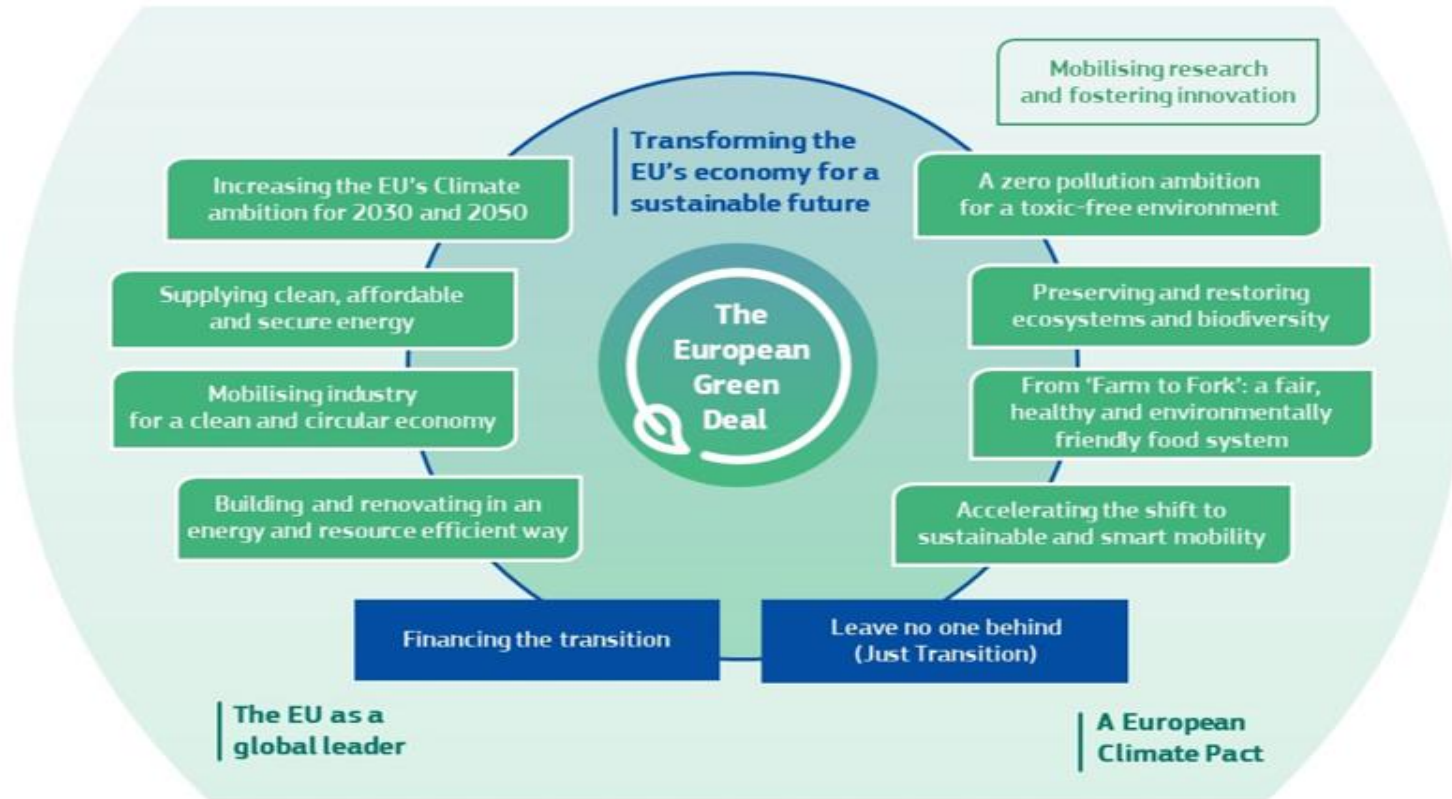- **Building blocks** - key qualities that contribute to urban environmental sustainability

EEA's outputs on urban sustainability in Europe

Assessment and reporting outputs

The new drivers report

Urban sustainability in Europe — Post-pandemic drivers of environmental transitions

Explores drivers and barriers of urban stainability transitions since COVID-19 pandemic

THE MAIN REPORT

Urban sustainability in Europe — Avenues for change

Flagship report on urban environmental sustainability setting out the EEA's conceptual framework and summary of analysis or urban nexuses and drivers

The drivers report

Urban sustainability in Europe — What is driving cities' environmental change?

Explores the factors driving urban environmental sustainability transitions in selected cities. Provides lessons on enabling factors and barriers

The Covid-19 briefing

Urban sustainability in Europe — Opportunities for challenging times

An initial overview of key impacts of the pandemic on urban environmental sustainability, and lessons from how cities are responding

The nexus assessments

Urban sustainability in Europe — Learning from nexus analysis

An assessment of eight urban sustainability nexuses to explore the complexity of urban systems and highlight policy priorities

Method and context outputs

The methodology report

Urban sustainability in Europe — A stakeholder-led assessment process

Describes the stakeholder-led process of developing and applying the knowledge base and conceptual framework for urban environmental sustainability

The glossary

Urban sustainability in Europe — Glossary of key terms and concepts

A glossary of key terms and concepts used in the EEA's work on urban environmetal sustainability

- **The main report (2021)**
- **The first drivers report (2020)**
- **The Covid-19 briefing (2021)**
- **The nexus assessments (2021)**
- **The glossary (2021)**
- **The methodology report (2021)**
- **The new drivers report (2022)**

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Urban work based on the EGD and the EU Urban Agenda

Mobilising research and fostering innovation

Transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future

Increasing the EU's Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050

A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy

The European Green Deal

Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy

From 'Farm to Fork': a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system

Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

Financing the transition

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

"The challenges are complex and interlinked. The policy response must be bold and comprehensive... It will require intense coordination to exploit the available synergies across all policy areas."

"All EU actions and policies will have to contribute to the European Green Deal objectives."

Some Key Policies

EU Renovation Wave / Fit for 55 / EU Climate Adaptation Strategy/ Mission on Adaptation to Climate change / RePowerEU /EU Urban Agenda/ EU Territorial Agenda / EU BD Strategy / Restoration Law / ….

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Rethink Energy locally
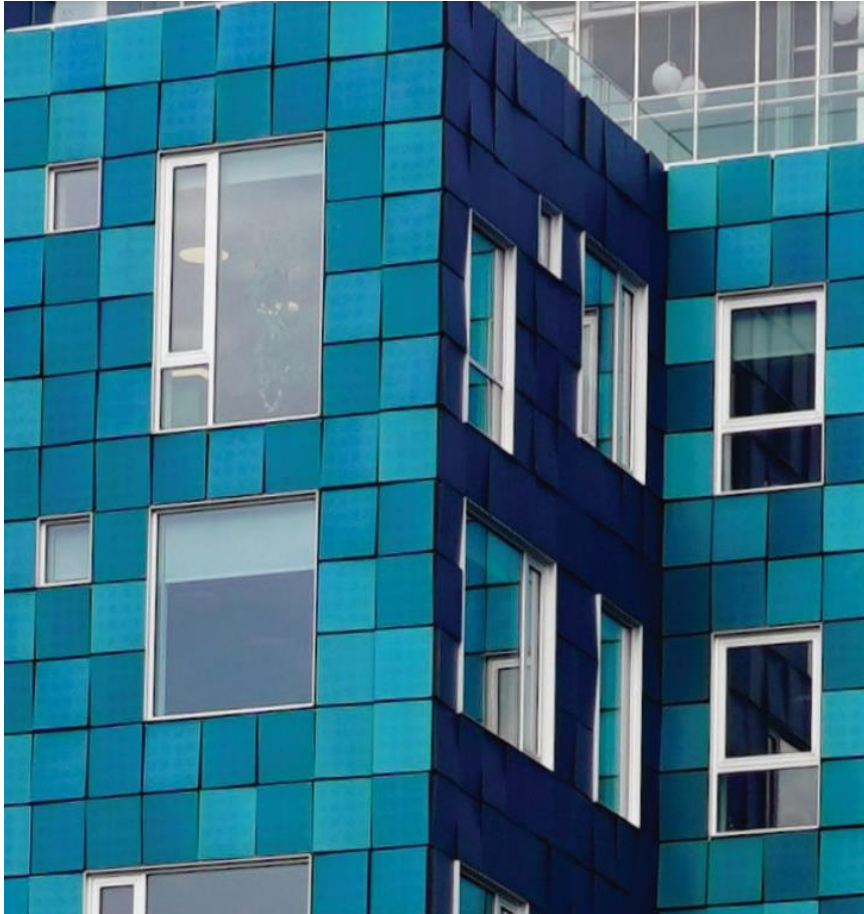
- A changing energy production/ consumption model

- Integrated energy districts and cooperatives

- Citizens involvement in energy planning / municipalities as hubs of expertise

- Financing regressive vs progressive measures

- Emergence of prosuming

Rethink buildings renovation and design
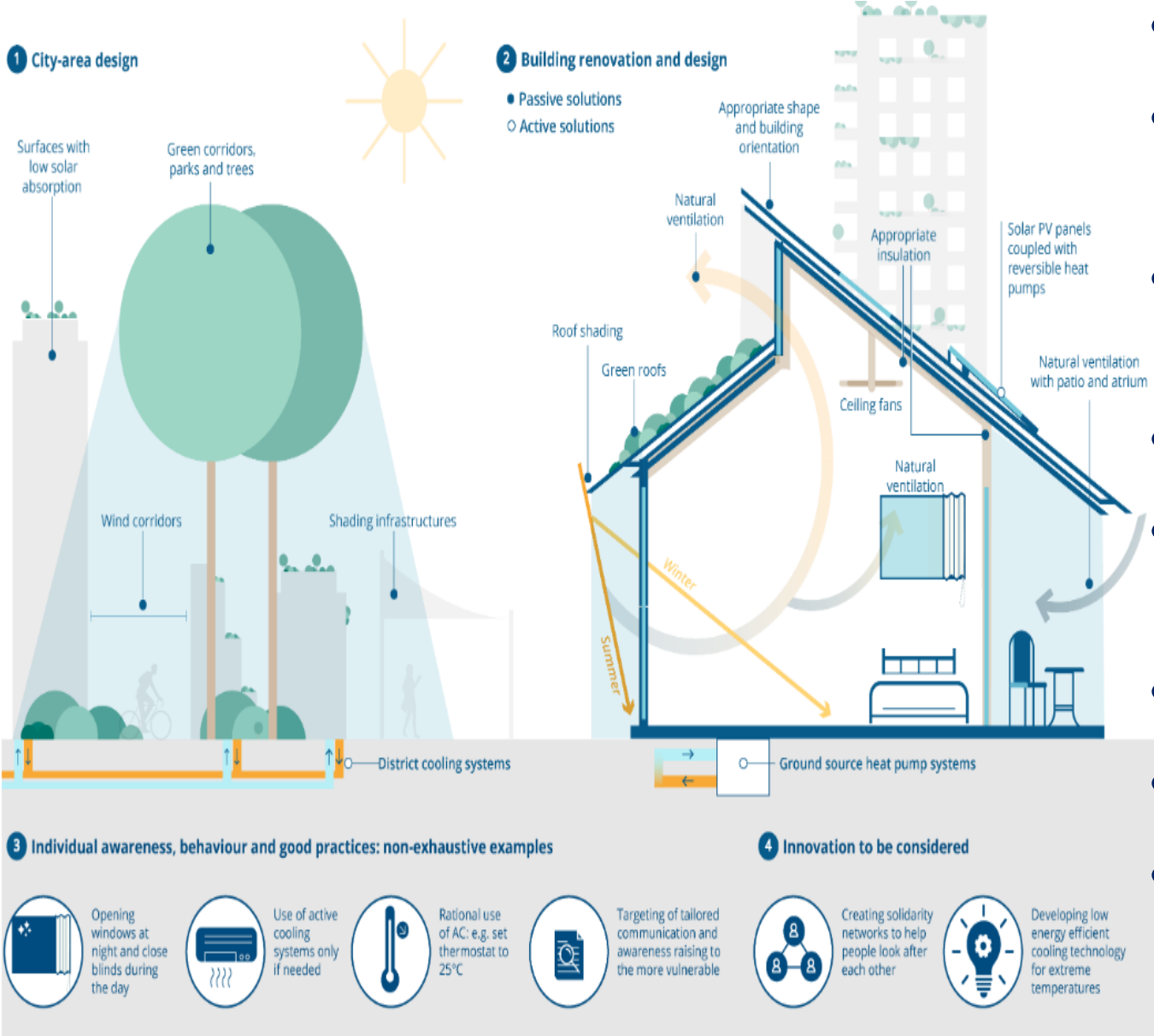
- 75% of EU buildings are inefficient
- They account for 40% of energy consumption and GHG emmissions
- 30% of energy is for heating&cooling
- 70% is embodied carbon
- Urban & municipal planning and regulations reinforced
- Tailor to local contexts
- Sourced and resourced materials
- Vernacular architecture

Rethink Nature in Cities
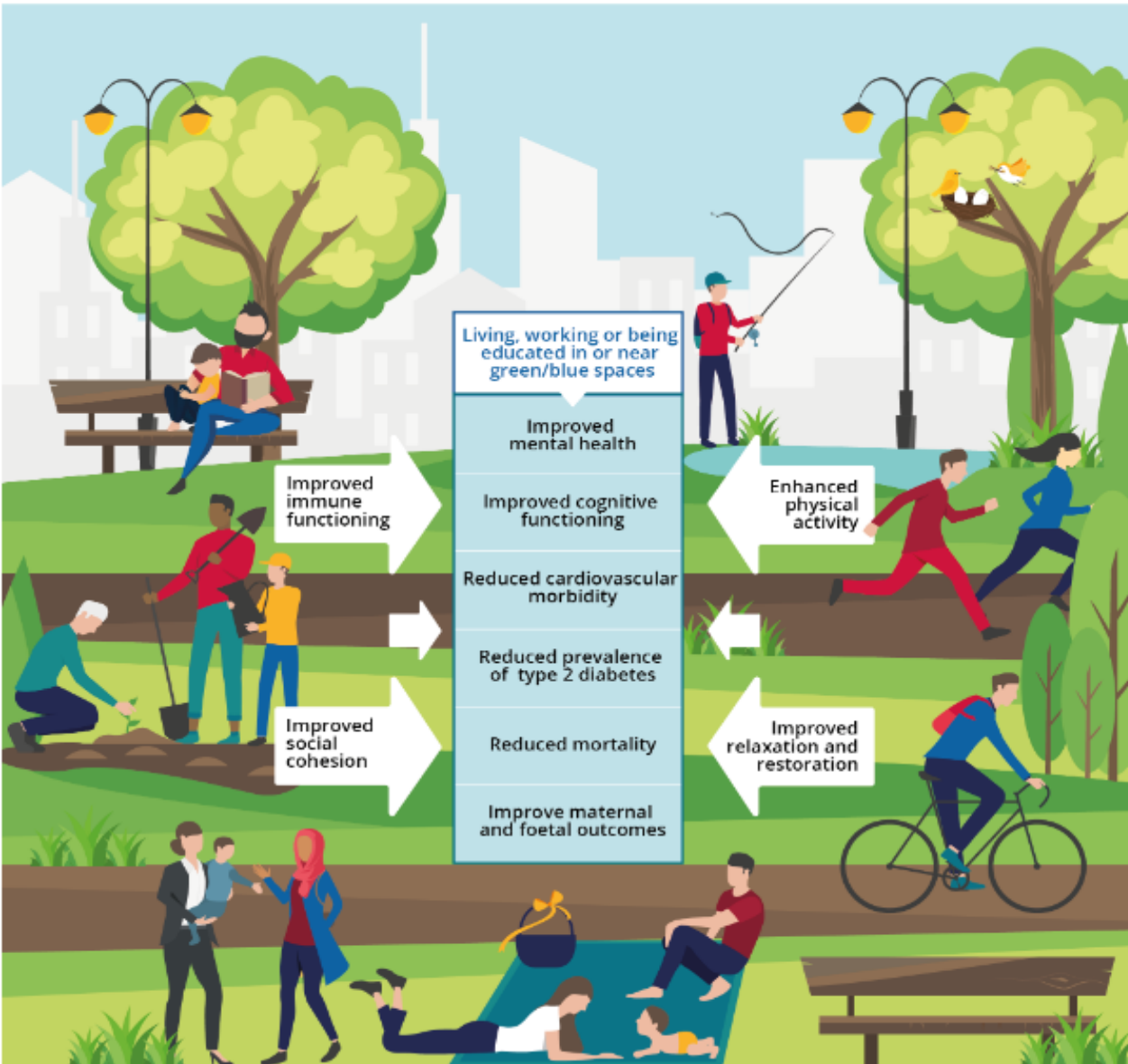
- Health benefits
- Accessibility / "the 15 minute city"
- Land Use and Nature Based Solutions
- Green Infrastructure
- Flood impacts
- Heath Island effect
- Inclusiveness and "community building"
- Locally sourced food

Rethink Just Resilience

- More vulnerable groups are more exposed to CC and have more difficult to adapt

- Climate justice (IPCC 2022)

- EGD / and the EU social rights pillar

- Bring justice/inclusiveness/equity into the discussion

- Local level as the bedrock of CC adaptation

- The relevance of spatial planning/urban planning

CITIES

- **C**o-creation: Work together with other cities and their networks and initiatives – mediation/ twining

- **I**ntegration: Engage and connect with different **levels** of decision making (vertical) and with **non-environmental** policy arenas (horizontal) / Umbrella organizations

- **T**imeliness: Progressive change is not enough, **accelerate** transitions (see Covid response) –

- **I**nnovation: Connect with **industry in the region, reach out to professional schools and universities, influence skills change and produce citizen data**

- **E**quity: Understand who wins and who loses, focus on reducing inequalities – use EEA **Nexus** approach as a methodology to **integrate** policy-making and uncover both synergies and conflicts of interests

- **S**kills: Equip and co/support cities on their transition journey, **build capacity** and develop **skills**

European Environment Agency

Thank you

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