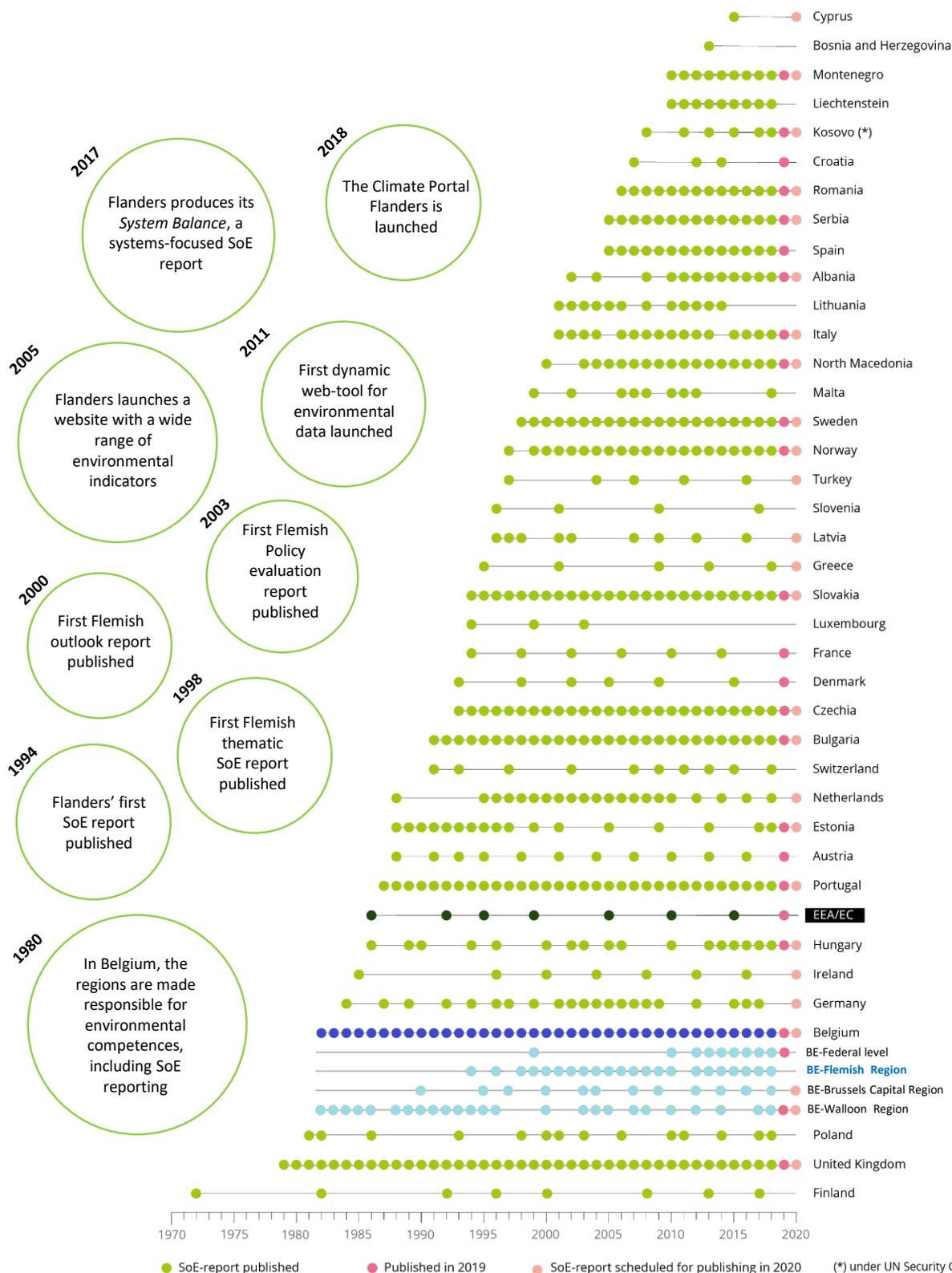
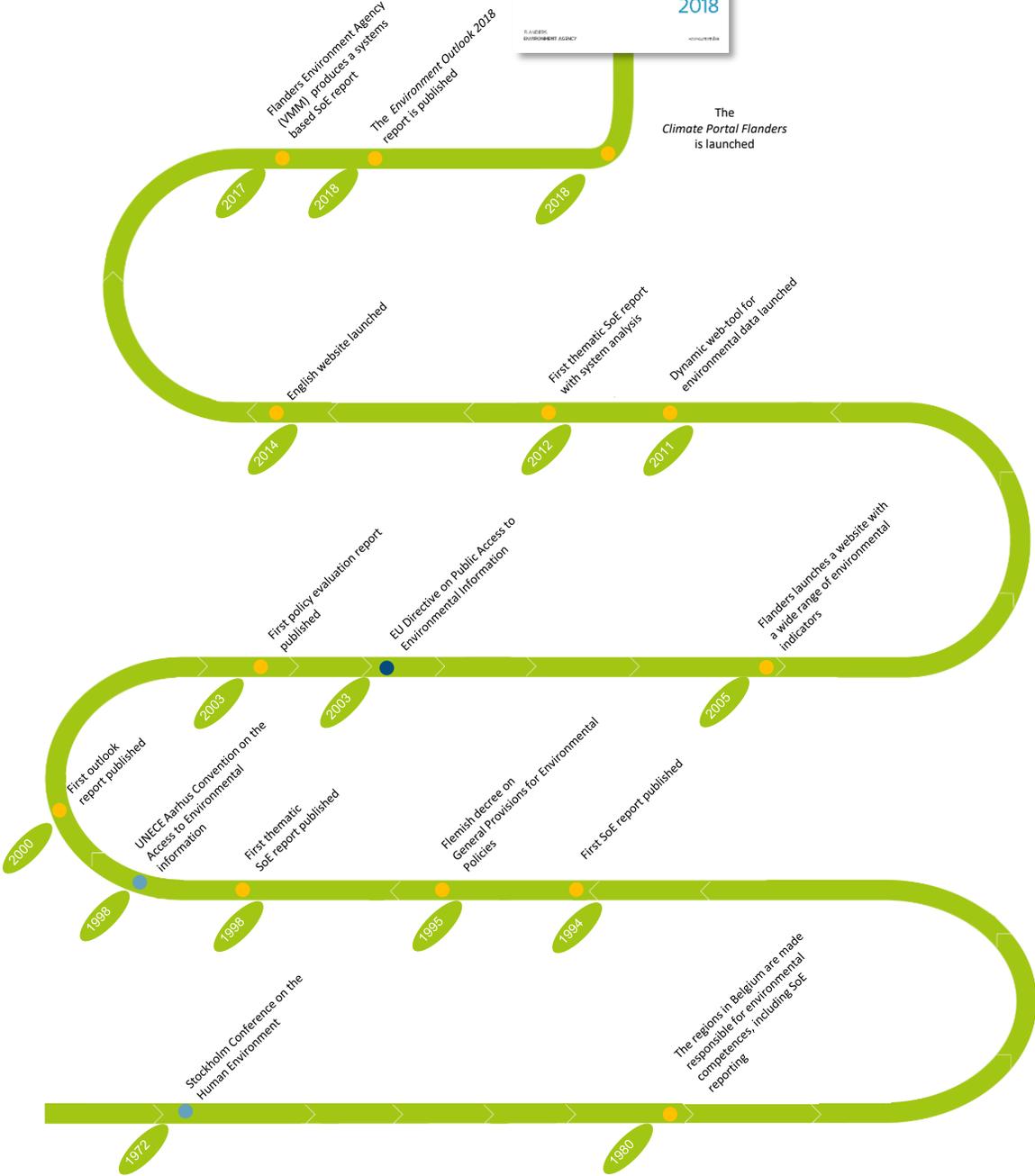
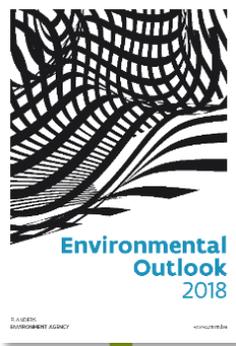


# BELGIUM

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN THE FLEMISH REGION



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



- United Nations milestones
- European Union milestones
- EEA milestones
- Milestones Flanders

## State of the environment tools and building blocks

### TOPICS COVERED

#### Themes

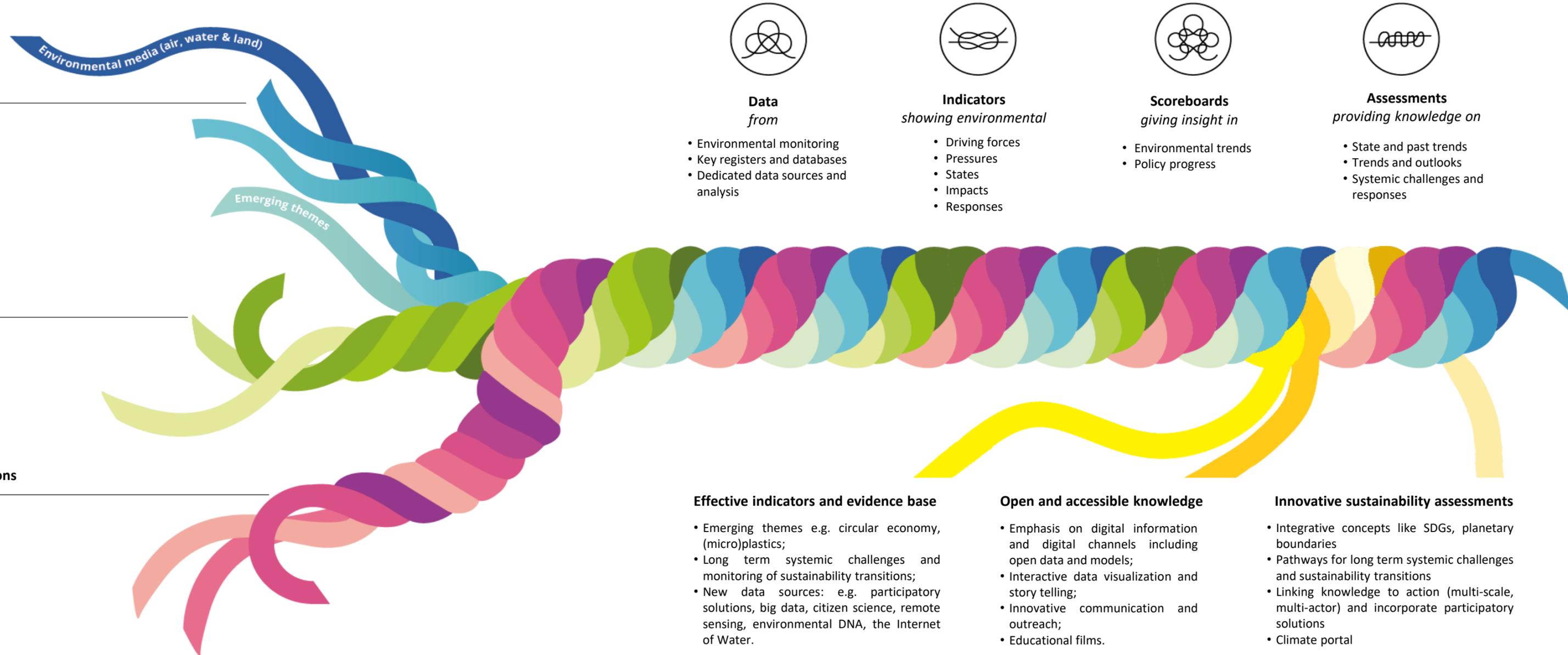
- Climate change
- Ozone layer degradation
- Environment & economy
- Environment & health
- Eutrophication and acidification
- Waste and materials
- Noise, odour and light pollution
- Water quality and quantity
- Air pollution
- Soil

#### Sectors

- Energy
- Transport
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Households
- Trades and services

#### Systems and Sustainability transitions

- Food
- Energy
- Mobility



## Advances in national state of the environment reporting

## 25 years of State of the Environment reporting in Flanders, Belgium

### Description, analysis and assessment of the environment

Environmental reporting in the Flemish region of Belgium was established in 1994. It is conducted by the 'MIRA' team that is part of the Flanders Environment Agency (VMM). SoE reports have been published on a regular basis since 1994. As it is defined by the decree on General Provisions for Environmental Policy (1995), these reports should give (1) a description, analysis and evaluation of the current state of the environment, (2) an evaluation of the environmental policy and (3) a description of the expected environmental developments in case of an unchanged policy and a changed policy according to a number of scenarios that are thought relevant.

The first two environmental reports (1994, 1996) gave a comprehensive study of the state of the environment and nature in Flanders. From the third report onwards (1998-2004), the yearly indicator reports included thematic studies of the state of the environment. In 2005 the annual report was supplemented by a website with a complete range of environmental indicators. Since 2011 detailed environmental data are available via an interactive webtool that enables users to request various environmental data à la carte. The figures are available as totals for Flanders but also at sector, subsector and activity level. Since 2014 an English translation of a set of indicators is available on the English website. Apart from the assessments in these SoE reports, specific in-depth policy analyses are made as well. In 2000, the first Outlook report was published. The first 'policy evaluation report' was published in 2003, dealing with water and waste policies in Flanders. In 2012, the first thematic report was published with a system analysis of the agro-food system. In 2017, the first systematic report 'System Balance 2017 – Environmental challenges for the energy, mobility and food systems in Flanders' was published. The System Balance aims to investigate how major societal systems perform from an environmental perspective, where there are structural problems, and what improvements are required. In September 2018, the Climate Portal Flanders was launched. The portal brings together the most recent information on climate change and maps it out in detail for Flanders, down to the district level. The information includes both current state and future projections of primary climate indicators (temperature, precipitation, evaporation and wind), climate effects (heat, flood, rising sea levels, drought) and vulnerabilities (people affected, buildings) on the basis of climate scenarios. In 2018, the most recent report was published. The 'Environment Outlook 2018' conducts a thorough analysis of the energy, mobility and food system in Flanders for 2050. A wide range of solutions and innovations, with their environmental impact and barriers, were reviewed. The focus of the analysis is on the levers that can be used to support and accelerate the desired transitions for a sustainable Flanders.

Current challenges include budget restrictions that hinder in-depth analysis of the environment and the fact that the importance of a systematic approach for the study of environmental issues is not widely enough acknowledged yet. Another challenge is the evaluation of innovations and transitions by means of indicators.

**More information:** [www.environmentflanders.be](http://www.environmentflanders.be)