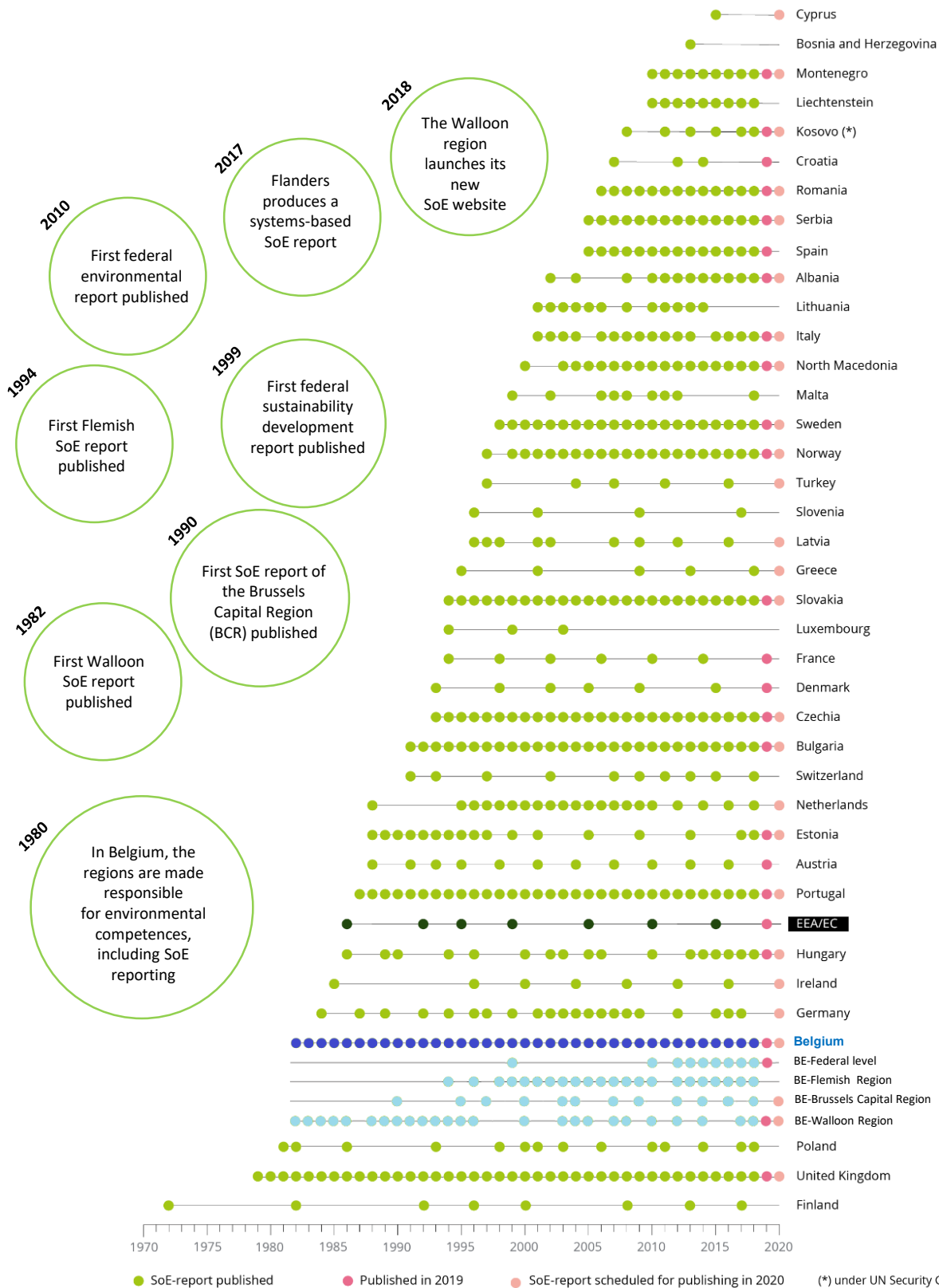
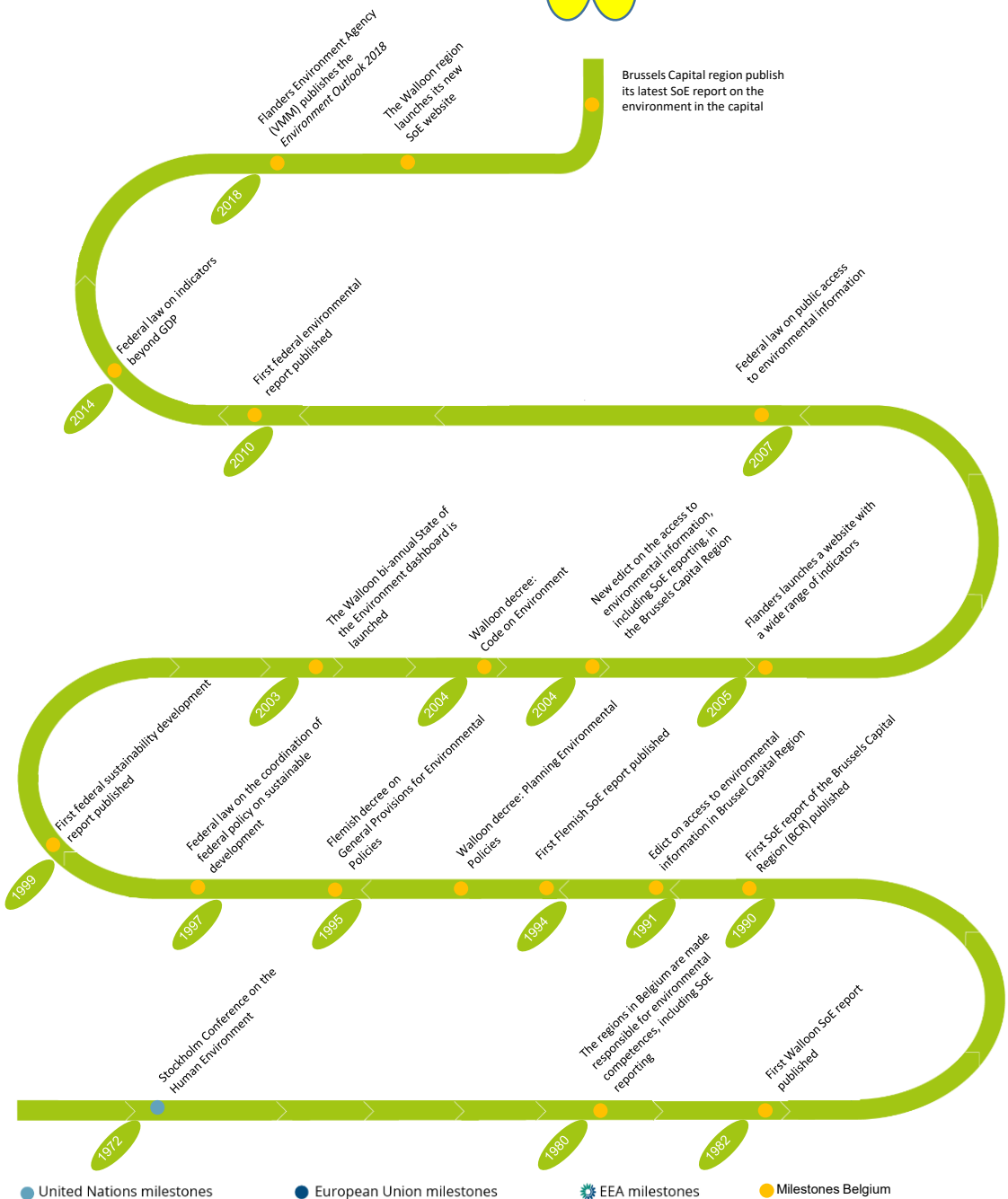
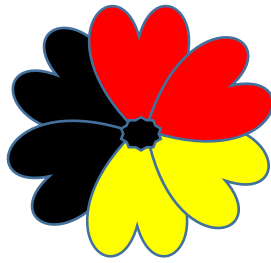


# BELGIUM

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING





## State of the environment tools and building blocks

### TOPICS COVERED

#### Themes

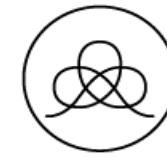
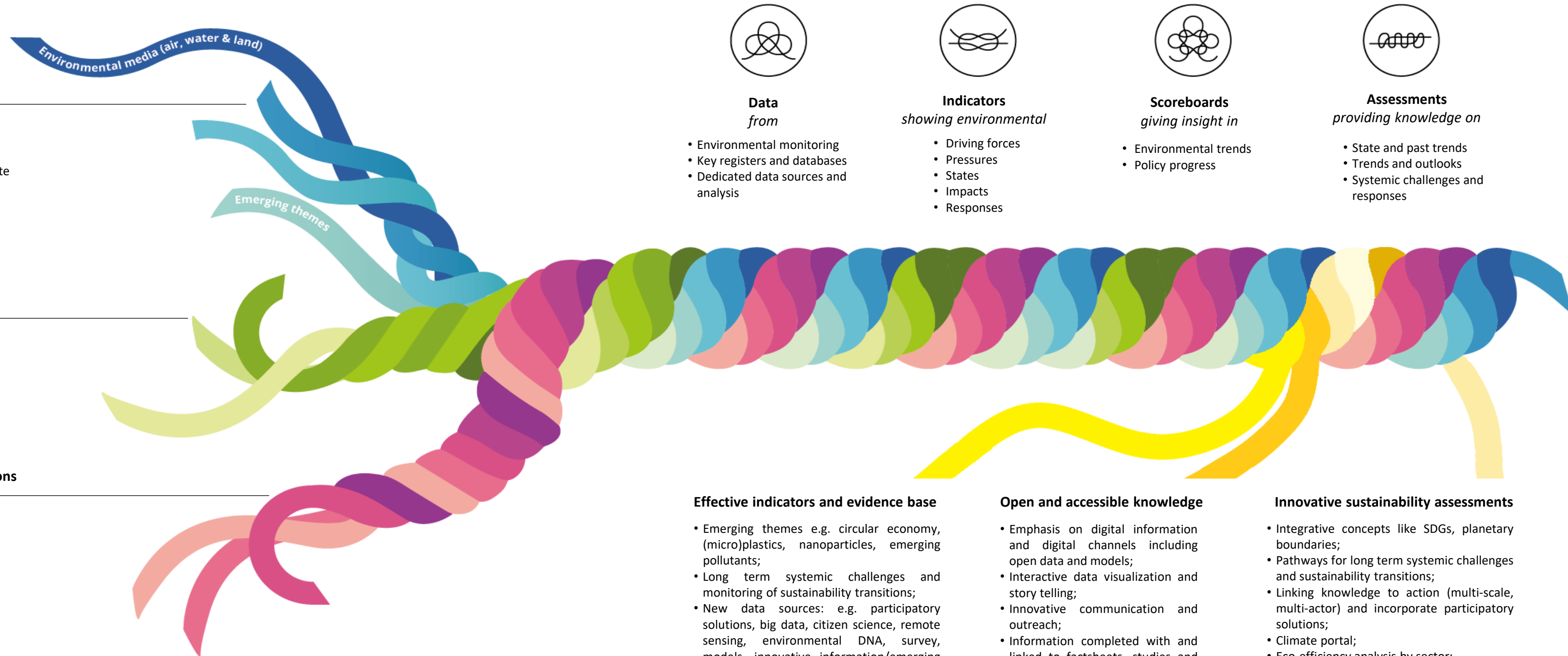
- Air & climate
- Water quality & quantity
- Eutrophication & acidification
- (Natural) resources, materials and waste
- Noise, odour & light pollution
- Biodiversity
- Production & consumption
- Environmental management
- Sustainability
- Environment & economy
- Environment & health

#### Sectors

- Industry
- Energy (incl. nuclear)
- Agriculture/forestry
- Trades and services
- Households
- Transport

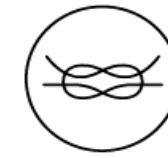
#### Systems and Sustainability transitions

- Food
- Energy
- Mobility
- Climate
- Sustainable cities



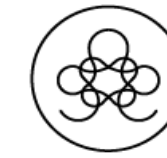
#### Data from

- Environmental monitoring
- Key registers and databases
- Dedicated data sources and analysis



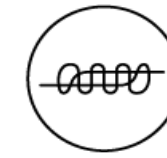
#### Indicators showing environmental

- Driving forces
- Pressures
- States
- Impacts
- Responses



#### Scoreboards giving insight in

- Environmental trends
- Policy progress



#### Assessments providing knowledge on

- State and past trends
- Trends and outlooks
- Systemic challenges and responses

#### Effective indicators and evidence base

- Emerging themes e.g. circular economy, (micro)plastics, nanoparticles, emerging pollutants;
- Long term systemic challenges and monitoring of sustainability transitions;
- New data sources: e.g. participatory solutions, big data, citizen science, remote sensing, environmental DNA, survey, models, innovative information/emerging themes (e.g. studies results);
- Expert validation;
- Continuous update of the set of indicators (with methodological sheets) completed with focus (based on one-shot information);
- Developing new indicators to follow SDGs.

#### Open and accessible knowledge

- Emphasis on digital information and digital channels including open data and models;
- Interactive data visualization and story telling;
- Innovative communication and outreach;
- Information completed with and linked to factsheets, studies and reports (available on website);
- Animations/films for general public.

#### Innovative sustainability assessments

- Integrative concepts like SDGs, planetary boundaries;
- Pathways for long term systemic challenges and sustainability transitions;
- Linking knowledge to action (multi-scale, multi-actor) and incorporate participatory solutions;
- Climate portal;
- Eco-efficiency analysis by sector;
- Beyond GDP;
- Foresights reports;
- Integration of innovative information as Focus;
- Specific urban issues.

## Advances in national state of the environment reporting

## State of the Environment reporting in Belgium

Belgium is a federal country with regions (Flanders-Wallonia-Brussels) and communities. Environment is mainly a regional competence; the federal level takes care of some remaining federal topics. Each entity (regions/federal) has its own legal basis for the establishment of regular SoE reports.

**Federal:** Since 2010, every 4 years a description, analysis and evaluation of state of the environment and its policy for all federal competences, is published. Since 1998, the Federal Planning Bureau has published 8 federal reports on sustainable development. The next report will be published mid-2019. Federal reports cover alternatively two main subjects: assessment and evaluation of the existing situation and of existing policies and a foresight report.

**Wallonia:** the 'Walloon SoE dashboard', published since 2003, is a two-yearly publication giving a review of the environmental situation in Wallonia based on a compilation of environmental, economic, social, health and other indicators (around 100) according to the DPSIR framework, as well as a 5-year analytical SoE report. Emerging environmental issues are analyzed through specific papers.

Walloon SoE reports, published in various forms since 1982, can be consulted online. A new digital SoE is available since 2018: fact sheets are published continuously as new data are available. This new website allows dynamic management of environmental indicators, including methodology notes, various references.

**Brussels:** SoE reports were published in various forms since 1990 in the Brussels Capital Region (BCR).

A detailed report on the state of the environment must be published every 4 years and a synthesis report every 2 years. The latest detailed report (2011-2014) has been published in 2016, and the latest synthesis report (2015-2016) in 2018.

The SoE reports are accompanied by more detailed sheets ("*fiches documentées*") organized by environmental themes which are also available on the website.

Moreover, the various environmental plans (air/climate, noise, waste...) produced by the Brussels Region are submitted to regular assessments which are published online. Since 2004, new plans have to be completed by a "Report on the effects on the environment" that contains chapters on the actual and planned state of environmental themes concerned by the plan.

**Flanders:** Since 1994 SoE reports are published on a regular basis by Flanders Environment Agency (VMM). These reports give a description, analysis and evaluation of the current state of the environment, an evaluation of the environmental policy and a description of the expected environmental developments.

SoE reporting evolved from indicator reports over thematic reports to systems reports. Policy evaluation and outlook reports have been published as well. The most recent report 'Environment Outlook 2018' conducts a thorough analysis of the energy, mobility and food system.

In 2005 a website with a wide range of environmental indicators was launched. Users can dynamically visualize the environmental data. Since 2018, the Climate Portal Flanders maps the most recent information on climate change down to the district level.