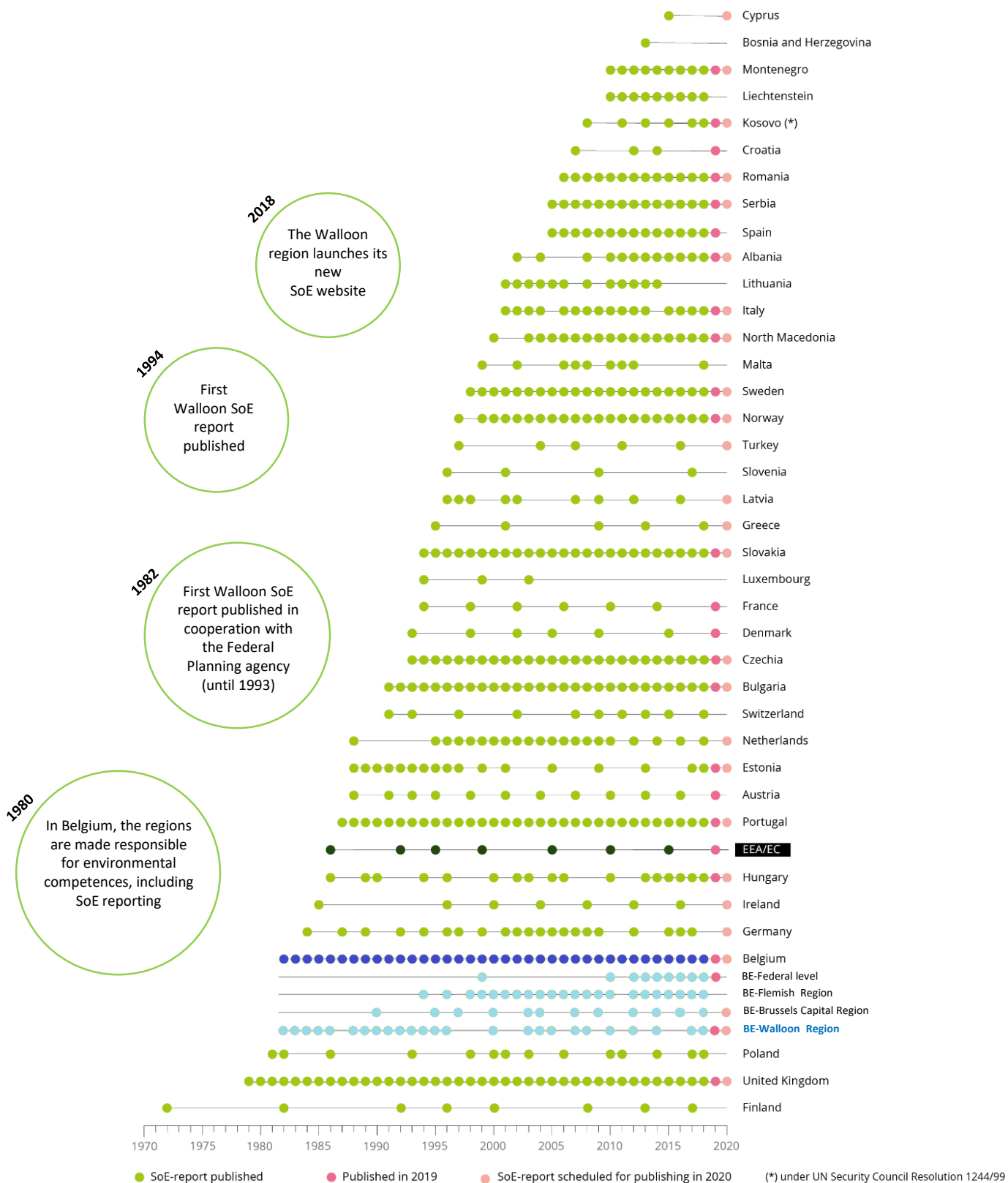
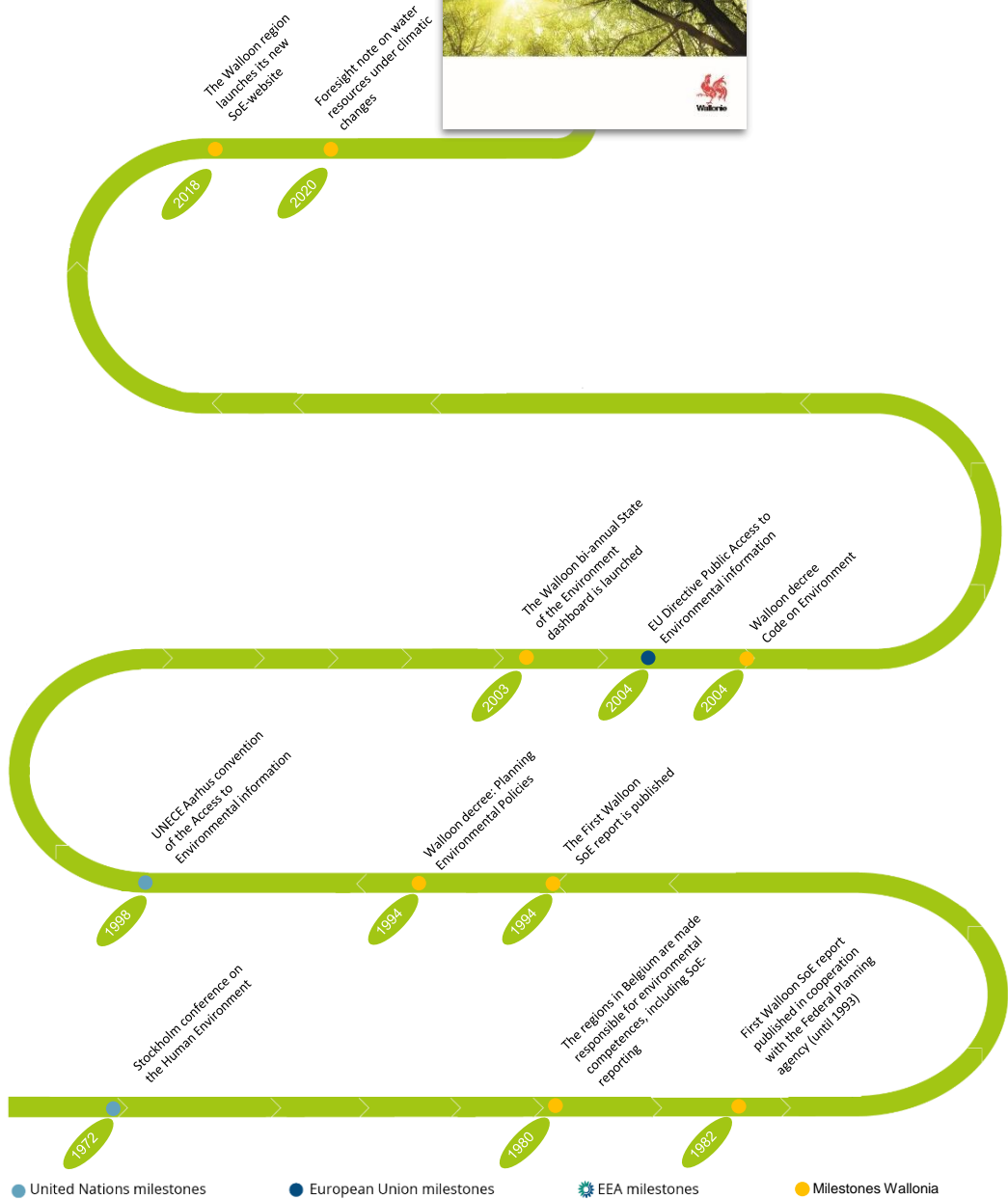
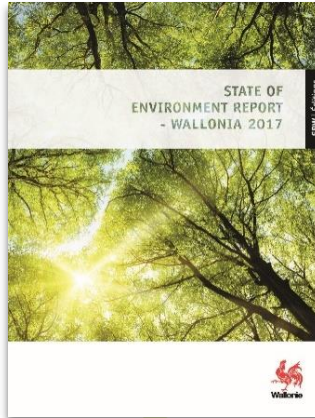


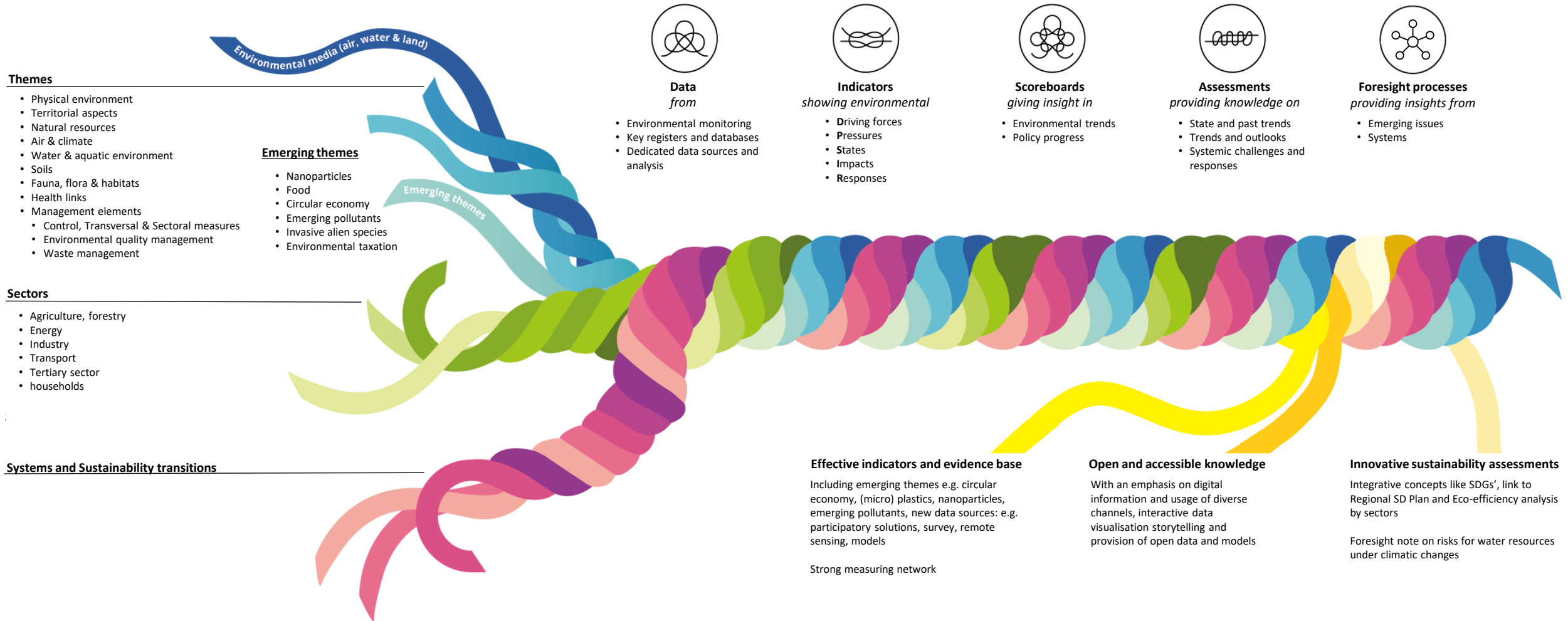
BELGIUM

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN THE WALLOON REGION





State of the environment tools and building blocks



Advances in national state of the environment reporting

State of the Environment reporting in Wallonia (Belgium) Information and knowledge for a sustainable environment

State of the Environment (SoE) reports play an important role in sustainable development as they provide targeted, relevant and reliable information and knowledge to policymakers and civil society.

From the first stage of the regionalization of Belgium in 1980, the protection and management of the environment was largely attributed to the regional level. Wallonia's environmental competences can be grouped into two main themes: the environment in the strict sense of the term (protection of environmental components, noise control, waste policy, water policy, air policy, soil policy etc.), rural development and nature conservation, but it also deals with the management of natural resources (mainly wood, water, open mines), areas of green space, forests, hunting, fishing, waterways etc. The environment agency is also concerned with delivering environmental permits for any polluting activities and the subsequent controls.

In Wallonia (Belgium), reports on the state of the environment were developed from the beginning of the 1980s. From 1982 to 1992, the first reports were produced by the environmental section of the Federal Planning Bureau in collaboration with the Walloon Region.

From 1993, the Walloon administration took charge of these reports, in various forms that have evolved over time: thematic monograph, scoreboard, analytical report, key indicators. The Walloon report is based on the DPSIR approach, which has been supplemented by eco-efficiency analyzes for different sectors as well as the analysis of environmental management measures. The indicators describe the status, trends and prospects of the situation using the DPSIR framework (driving forces, pressures, states, impacts and responses). These highlight the interactions between the environment and socio-economic activities. The report on the state of the Walloon environment is a multi-purpose tool: in addition to analyzing the state of the various components and the factors that can influence it, it is also an evaluation tool of the policies that are carried out, a decision support tool to develop new policies, a powerful means of communication, and a synthesis of available environmental data. It also facilitates reporting to international bodies that develop similar indicators.

The Code of the Environment defines the modalities of realization of this report. The report on "the state of the Walloon environment" contains a critical, evolving and prospective observation of the various components of the environment and the pressures exerted by human activities. It includes an analysis of environmental management by governments, businesses and voluntary associations. It also includes a state of transposition of European Directives on the environment and compliance with international commitments on the environment, as well as a review of the efforts made in the Walloon Region in terms of sustainable development to implement international conventions elaborated in the context of the June 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development and the principles set out in Agenda 21.

It is published in principle every year. In practice, given the human resources available, the report is published every 2 or 3 years.

In 2017, a new website was designed with the aim of improving access to environmental data as well as the deadline for updating environmental information. The site presents the indicators in the form of interactive data as well as a brief analysis of the situation, the state and the trend.

In 2020, a foresight note was published, evaluating the risks on water resources due to climate change.

The challenge for the new generation of reports is to provide effective indicators and a solid database for current environmental themes and emerging themes, to incorporate integrative concepts as social development goals (SDGs) and include long-term systemic strategies.

Source: Public Service of Wallonia - Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources