



EU ACTION PLAN

‘Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil’

Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All

05/10/2021

| We are encountering major ecological crises



CLIMATE



BIODIVERSITY



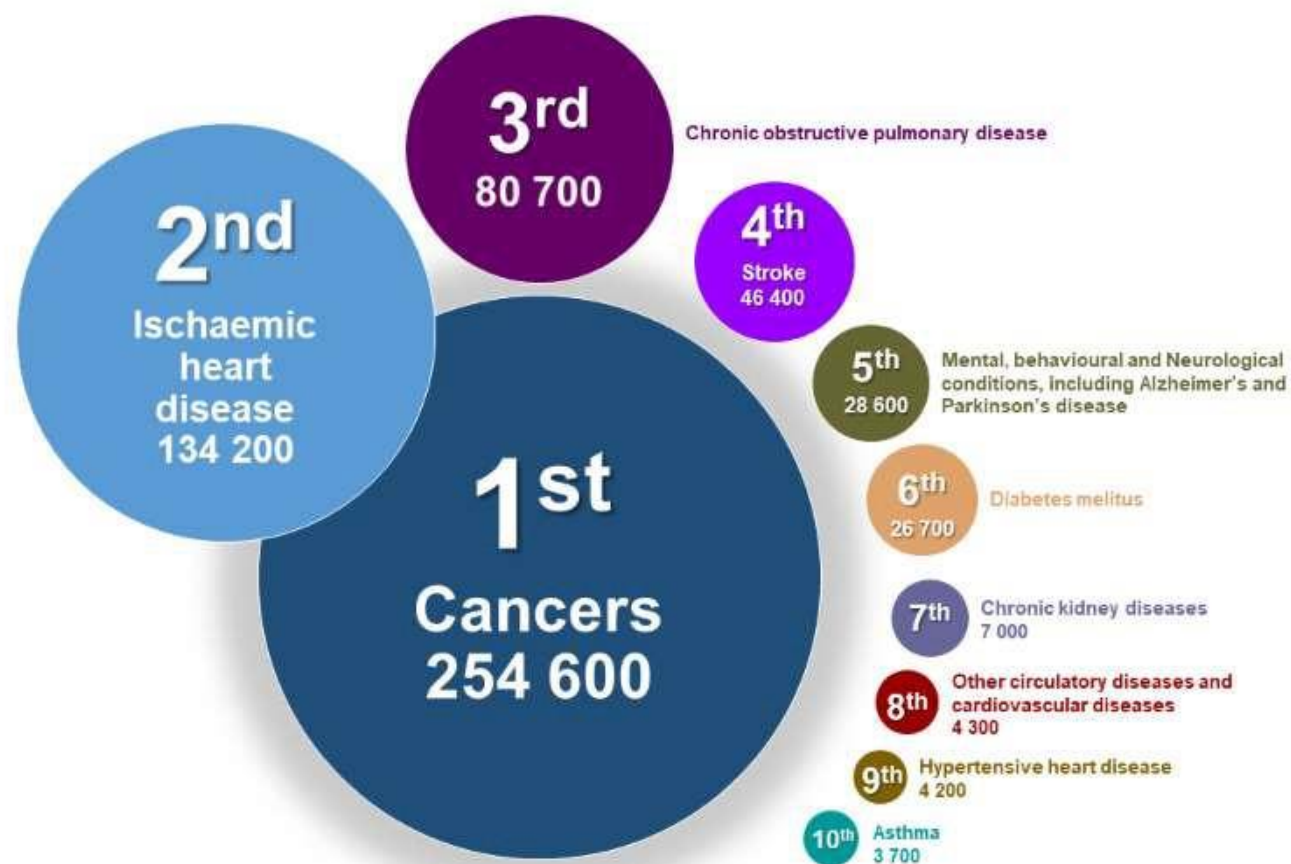
RESOURCES



POLLUTION



| Urgency to act on pollution



Source: EEA – Healthy environment, healthy lives (2018) based on WHO (2016)



The European Green Deal

zero pollution actions



The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water & Soil

Many Green Deal actions already contribute to the Zero Pollution ambition

- Circular Economy (e.g. microplastics)
- Biodiversity and Farm to Fork (e.g. nutrients, pesticides)
- CAP (e.g. pesticides/fertilisers)
- Climate & Energy Initiatives including Adaptation
- Cancer Plan (e.g. air pollution)
- Mobility Strategy
- Renovation Wave & Buildings
- Industrial Strategy
- Pharmaceutical Strategy
- Trade Policy Review & Multilateralism



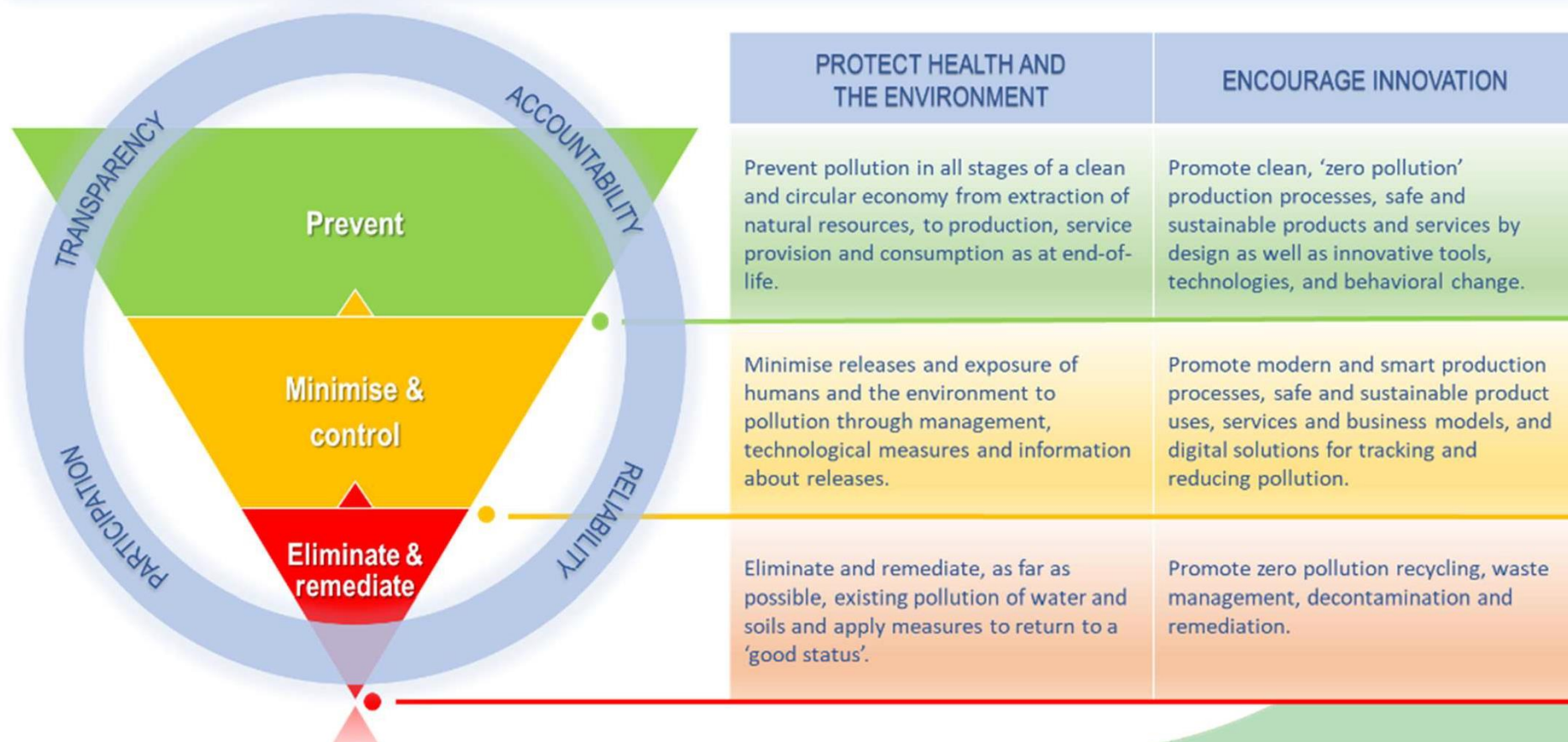
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The zero pollution vision for 2050

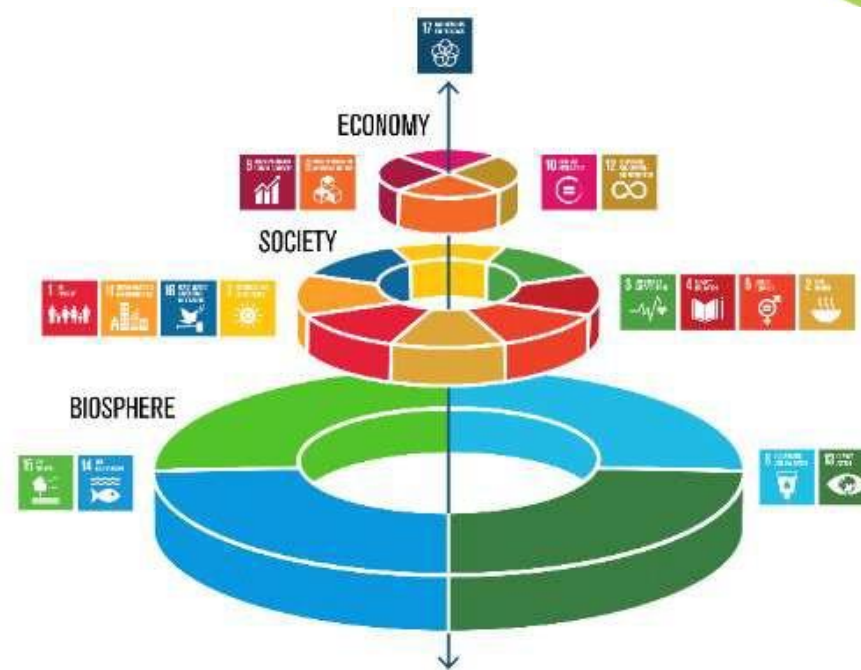
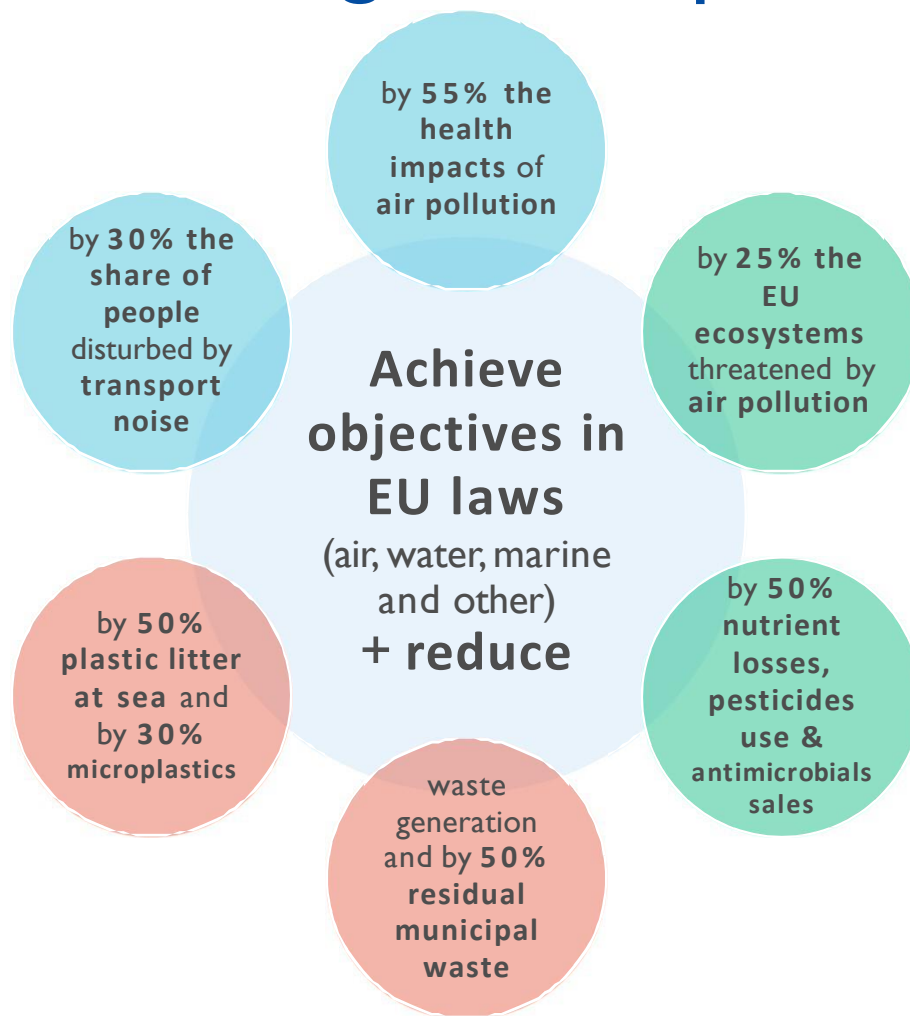
“Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems and that respect the boundaries our planet can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment.”

Hierarchy of action on pollution

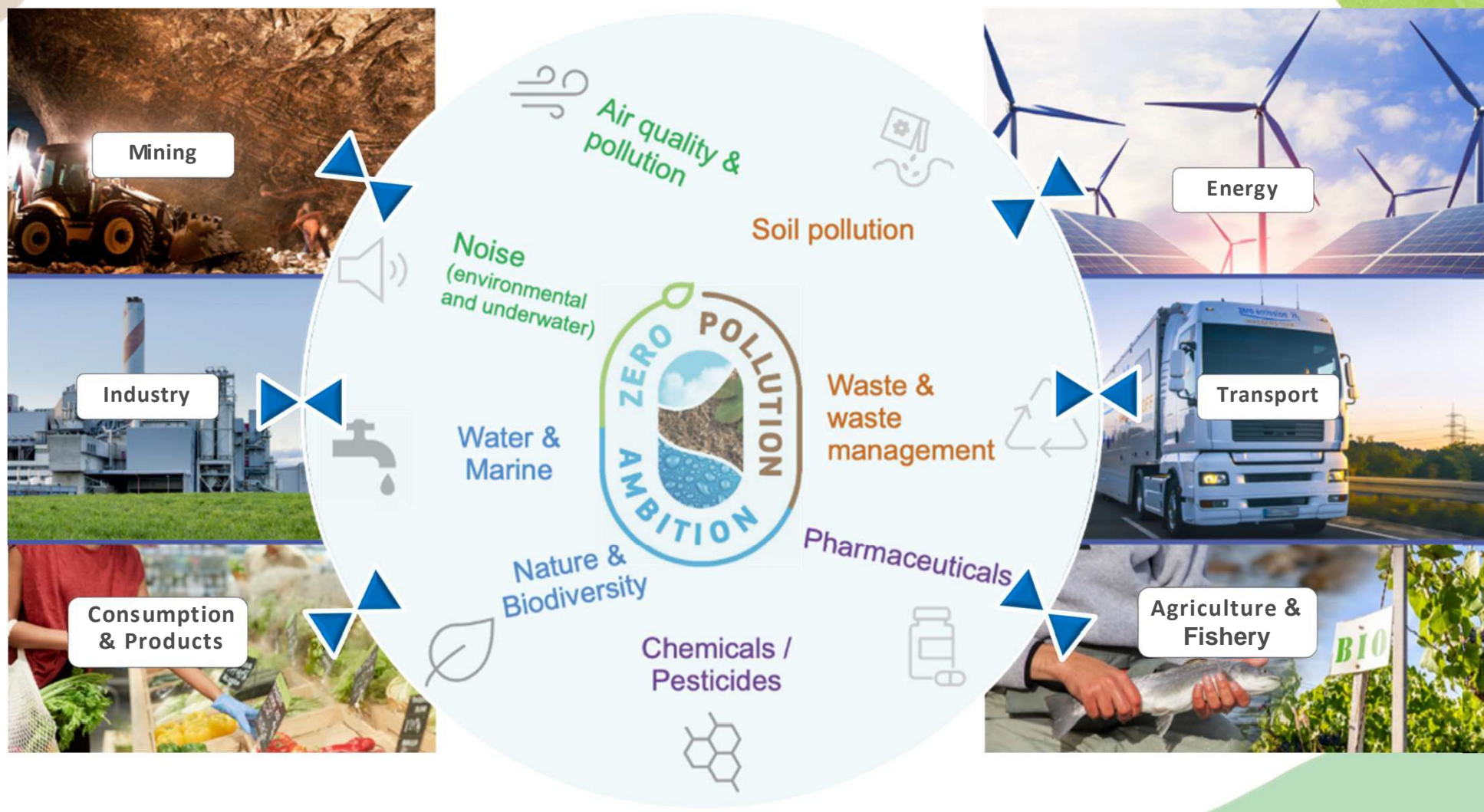
Union policy on the environment shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action** should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be **rectified at source** and on the **polluter pays principle**.



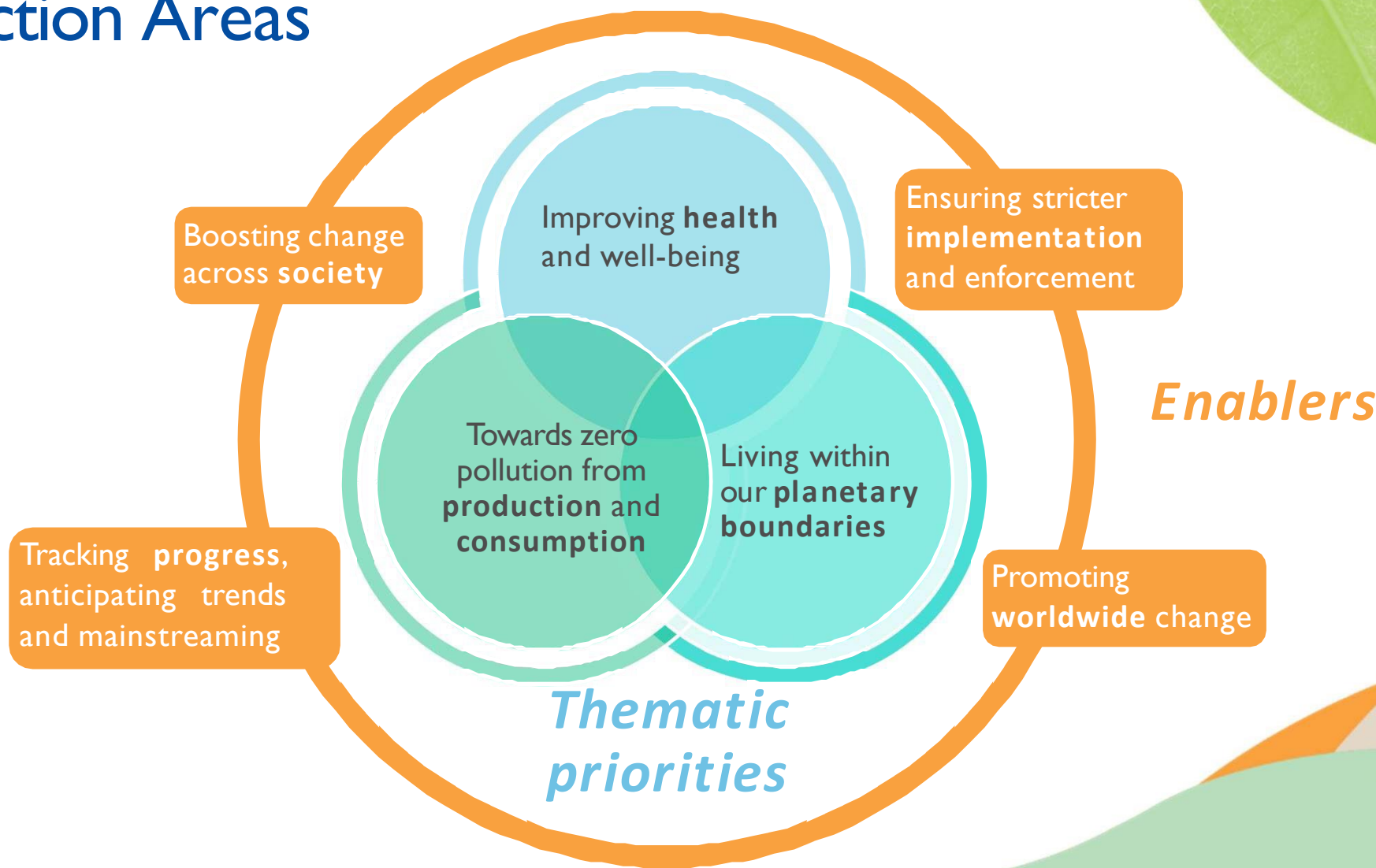
| 2030 targets complementing SDGs




Zero Pollution policies – towards an integrated approach



| Action Areas



Flagships – integrated initiatives



1. Reducing health inequalities through zero pollution



2. Supporting urban zero pollution action



3. Promoting zero pollution across regions




4. Facilitating zero pollution choices



5. Enforcing zero pollution together




6. Showcasing zero pollution solutions for buildings



7. Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution



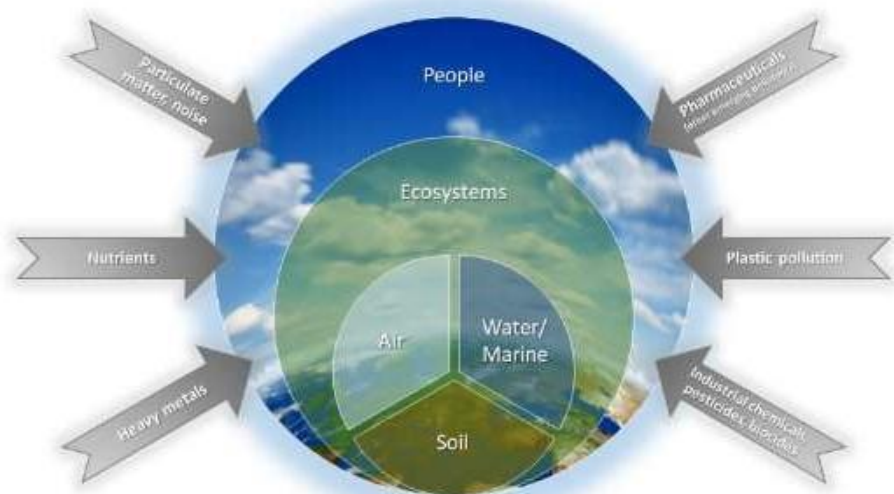
8. Minimising the EU's external pollution footprint



9. Consolidating the EU's Knowledge Centres for zero pollution



| Zero Pollution Monitoring & Outlook (SWD(2021) 141)



Zero Pollution Outlook (JRC lead)

- Clean Air Outlook complemented by Clean Water/Marine Outlook and Clean Soil Outlook
- Strategic foresight dimension

Zero Pollution Monitoring (EEA lead)

- Integrated monitoring of pollution building on existing air, noise, water, marine & soil
- Focus on targets, impacts, pressures and effectiveness of measures
- Spotlight on pollutants of emerging concern (e.g. light, ultrafine particles, etc.)
- Develop and incorporate more integrated assessments (e.g. Exposome, human biomonitoring, environmental footprint)
- Thematic report on emerging research or use of Copernicus
- Contribution to 8th Environment Action Programme and Environment Implementation Review



RECOMMENDATIONS

10

FOR GREEN DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

➡ Better use of **digital tools** to **empower citizens** for the green transition



➡ Open up '**zero pollution data**'



➡ Apply **digital solutions** for **improving compliance and enforcement** of EU laws



➡ **Big data** can offer **new insights** into **pollution problems and solutions**



➡ Deployment of **digital solutions** for zero pollution must be **sustainable**



➡ Accelerate **modernisation of environmental administrations**



➡ Embrace the **twin digital and green transition**



➡ Create **multiple benefits** from **green investments** which have a **digital component**



➡ Enhance **digital skills and capacity building**



➡ **Create networks** bringing together **environment and digital experts and communities**



| Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform



European Commission



European Committee
of the Regions



Who?

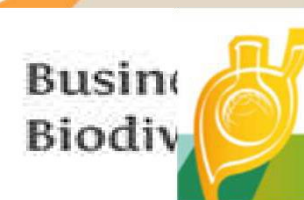
- Bringing together stakeholders and experts from different policy areas

What?

- mainstream the zero pollution agenda, help create co-ownership,
- promote collaboration, foster integrated solutions and actions that maximise synergies

How?

- share good practices on cross-cutting topics such as financing for zero pollution innovation and jobs, boosting sustainable production and consumption as well as creating thematic hubs (e.g. air, digital, soil)
- Create synergies with European Climate Pact, Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, Green City Accord, Business@Biodiversity, Chemicals Roundtable, etc.



| Timetable (key actions)

First Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook (2022)

- Revision of **Air Quality Directive**
- Revision of the **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**
- Revision of **water* pollutants list** (Environmental Quality Standards and Groundwater Directives)
- Revision of the **Mercury Regulation**
- Implementation Report of **Environmental Noise Directive**
- Establish EU priority watch list for **soil**

Second Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook (2024)

- Recommendations on implementation of **polluter pays principle**

2021

2022

2023

2024

Launch of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (2021)

- New emission limit values for motor vehicles (**EURO7**)
- Revision of the **Industrial Emissions Directive** and EU Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (or early 2022)
- Revision of the **Environmental Crime Directive**
- Launch global initiatives, e.g. on **lead batteries recycling**

EEA's European Environment & Health Atlas (2023)

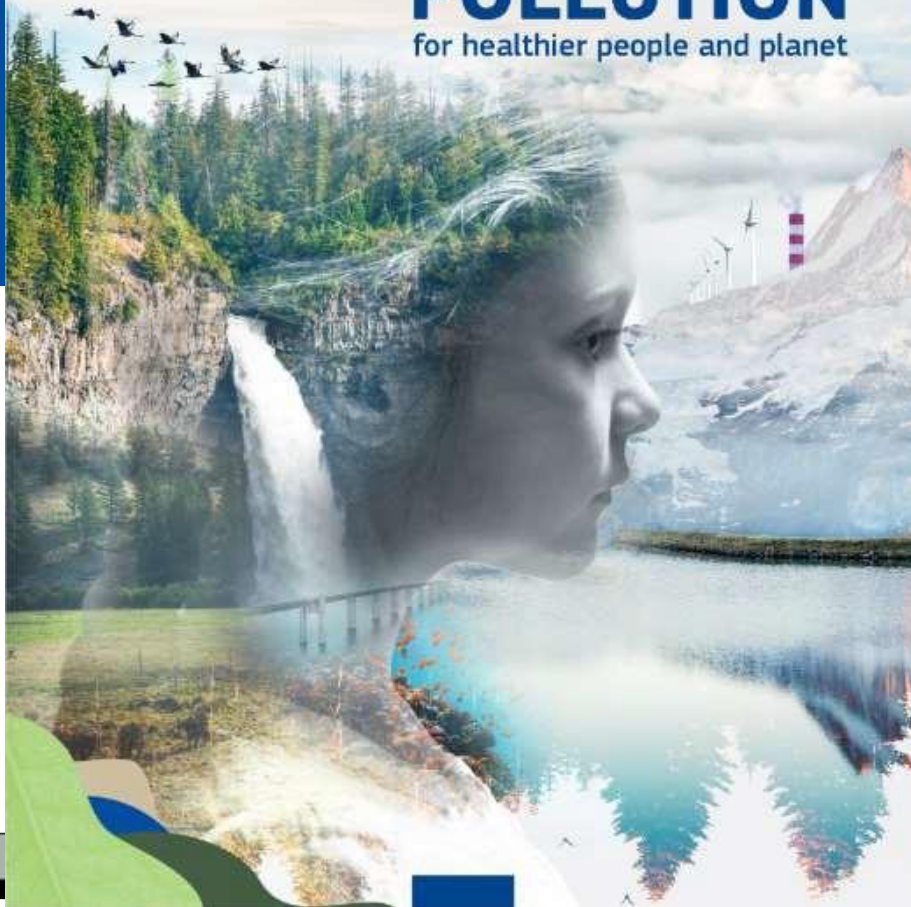
- Review of **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- Review of **Bathing Water Directive**
- Fitness Check of **Environment Liability Directive**
- Assess pathways and policy options for **indoor air quality**
- Dedicated nutrient (ammonia) actions contributing to the **Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan**
- Zero pollution contribution to **European Green Deal Dataspace**





ZERO POLLUTION

#EuGreenWeek
May 31 → June 4
for healthier people and planet



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More information:

- [Zero Pollution webpage](#)
- [Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform](#)
- Contact: ENV-ZERO-POLLUTION@ec.europa.eu

