

THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2015



30 March 2015 – Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

European Environment Agency



The European Environment Agency

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union. The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment, through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policymaking agents and the public.

For more information, visit: eea.europa.eu



© Victor Troyanov, Environment & Me / EEA



SOER 2015

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

A comprehensive assessment of past trends and future outlooks and of opportunities to recalibrate policies, knowledge, investments and innovations in line with the long-term vision of the 7th EAP.

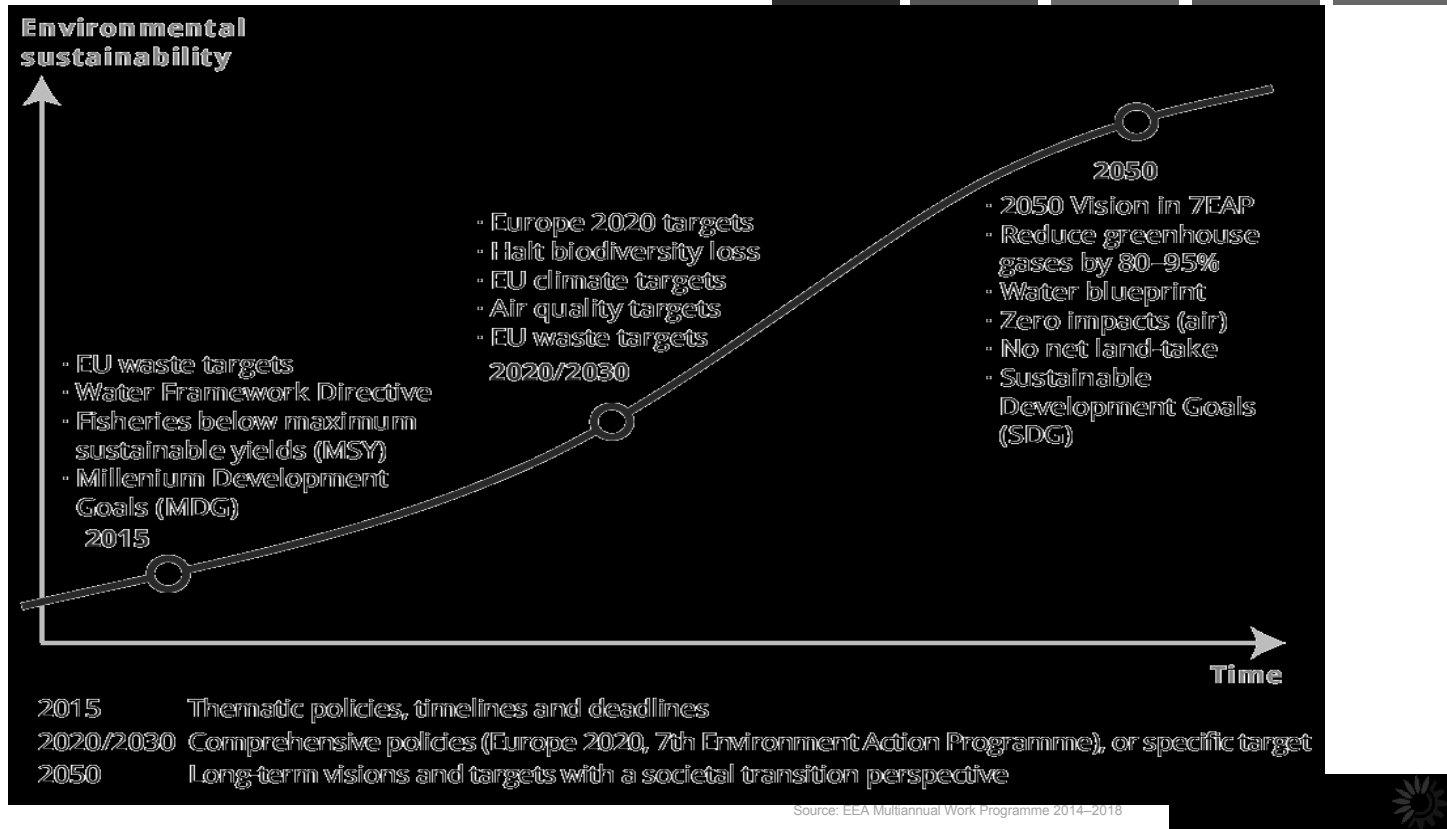
SOER 2015 Synthesis report

SOER 2015 Assessment of global megatrends

Global megatrends	European briefings	Cross-country comparisons	Countries and regions
11 briefings	25 briefings	9 briefings	39+3 briefings



The policy context has evolved over that time





Key messages from SOER 2015

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

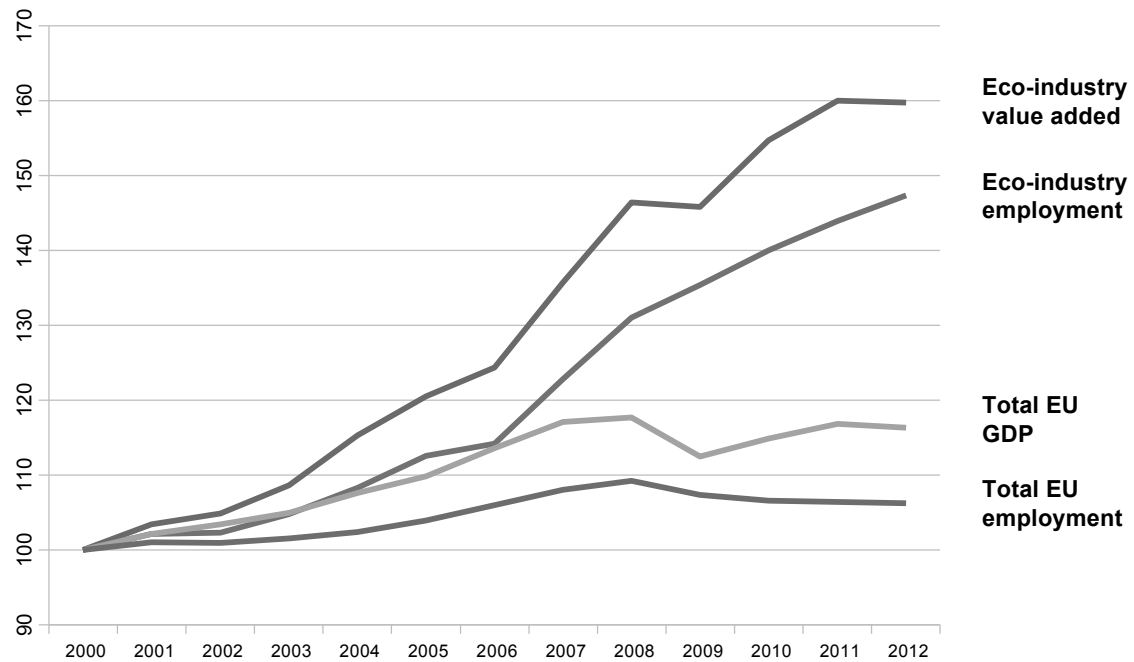
COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- **Policies** have delivered substantial benefits for the environment, economy and people's well-being; major challenges remain
- Europe faces persistent and emerging challenges linked to production and consumption **systems**, and the rapidly changing **global** context
- Achieving the 2050 vision requires system **transitions**, driven by more ambitious actions on policy, knowledge, investments and innovation
- Doing so presents major **opportunities** to boost Europe's economy and employment and put Europe at the frontier of science and innovation





Eco-industries have prospered despite the recession in Europe



Source: Eurostat, 2014.



Thematic priority objective 1: Protecting, conserving and enhancing natural capital

	Past (5–10 year) trends	20+ years outlook	Progress to policy targets
Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity			<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use and soil functions			No target
Ecological status of freshwater bodies			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality and nutrient loading			<input type="checkbox"/>
Air pollution and its ecosystem impacts			<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine and coastal biodiversity			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate change impacts on ecosystems			No target


Improving trends dominate | Largely on track
 Trends show mixed picture | Partially on track
 Deteriorating trends dominate | Largely not on track

Source: EEA. SOER 2015 Synthesis report.



Thematic priority objective 2: Resource efficiency and the low-carbon economy

	Past (5–10 year) trends	20+ years outlook	Progress to policy targets
Material resource efficiency and material use			No target
Waste management			<input type="checkbox"/>
Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy consumption and fossil fuel use			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transport demand and related environmental impacts			<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial pollution to air, soil and water			<input type="checkbox"/>
Water use and water quantity stress			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Improving trends dominate  Largely on track
 Trends show mixed picture  Partially on track
 Deteriorating trends dominate  Largely not on track

Source: EEA. SOER 2015 Synthesis report.



Thematic priority objective 3: Safeguarding from environmental risks to health

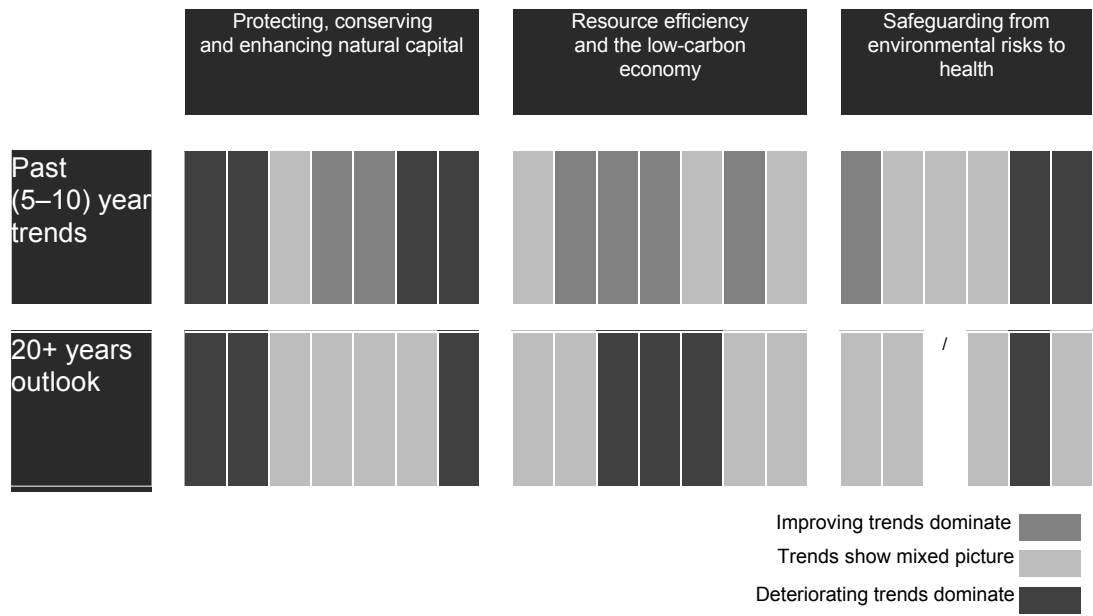
	Past (5–10 year) trends	20+ years outlook	Progress to policy targets
Water pollution and related environmental health risks			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Air pollution and related environmental health risks			<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise pollution (especially in urban areas)		/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urban systems and grey infrastructure			No target
Climate change and related environmental health risks			No target
Chemicals and related environmental health risks			<input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Improving trends dominate Largely on track
 Trends show mixed picture Partially on track
 Deteriorating trends dominate Largely not on track

Source: EEA. SOER 2015 Synthesis report.



The overall picture: Efficiency improvements have not secured long-term resilience



Source: EEA, SOER 2015 Synthesis report.



Cross-country comparisons

04

- Agriculture – organic farming
- Air pollution – emissions of selected pollutants
- Biodiversity – protected areas
- Energy – energy consumption and share of renewable energy
- Freshwater quality – nutrients in rivers
- Mitigating climate change – greenhouse gas emissions
- Resource efficiency – material resource efficiency and productivity
- Transport – passenger transport demand and modal split
- Waste – municipal solid waste generation and management



Energy — energy consumption and share of renewable energy

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- There was a small overall increase in gross inland **energy consumption** (GIEC) from 1990 to 2012, however national trends varied significantly with consumption increasing in 20 and decreasing in 13 countries.
- From 1990 to 2012 there was an increase in the share of **renewable energy** in GIEC in 32 out of 34 countries.
- There has been progress in **energy efficiency** policy but there is significant variation in the level of ambition and coherence of policy measures amongst countries.

Related content

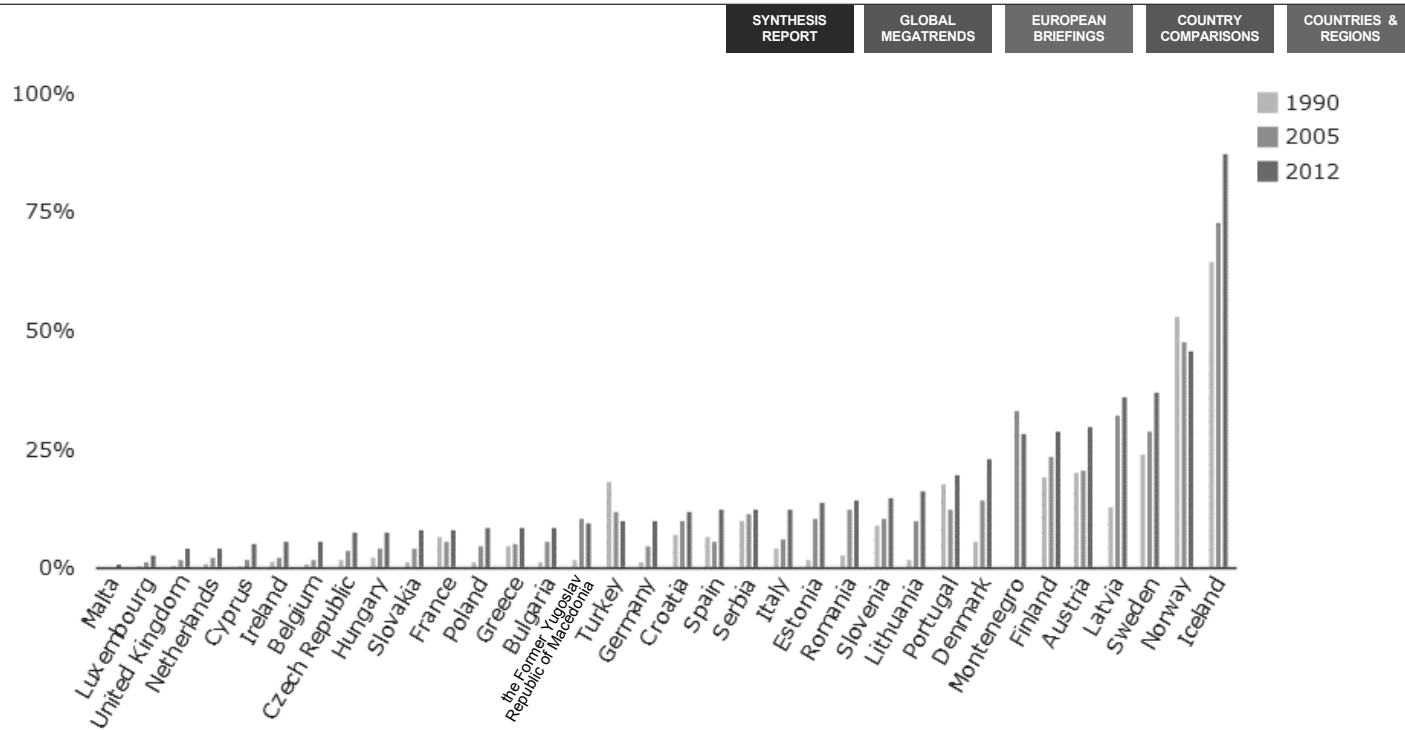
Energy
consumption &
fossil fuel use

Urban systems
and grey
infrastructure

Energy



Percentage share of renewable energies in gross inland energy consumption in 34 European countries



Data sources: Eurostat. Gross inland energy consumption, by fuel; EEA – Indicator ENER029

Related content

Energy consumption & fossil fuel use

Urban systems and grey infrastructure

Energy



Resource efficiency — material resource efficiency and productivity

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- Per capita consumption of material resources increased between 2000 and 2012 in 13 countries and decreased in 19.
- Significant increases were primarily due to large-scale infrastructure investments, with the largest declines related to the economic crisis and a collapse in construction activities.
- Four countries have consistently been the most resource-efficient economies.

Related content

Material
resource
efficiency & use

Waste
management

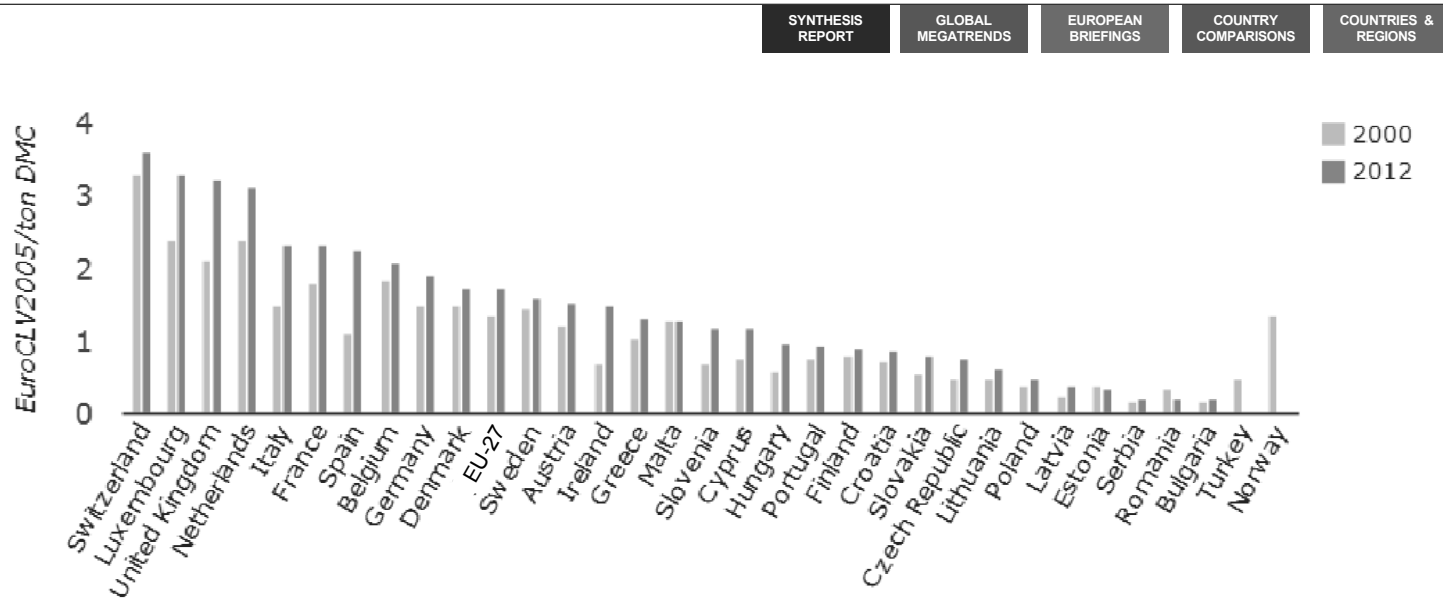
Urban systems
and grey
infrastructure

Resource
efficiency

Green economy



Resource productivity (GDP/DMC) in 32 European countries (2000 and 2012)



Note: A time series was available for 32 countries but for four countries the full 2000-2012 time series was not available (2000 not available for Serbia so 2001 is shown; 2011 shown for Switzerland and latest data available for Norway was 2008 and Turkey was 2010). For the calculation of resource productivity Eurostat uses the GDP in units of Euros in chain-linked volumes to the reference year 2005 at 2005 exchange rates (code: EUR_CLV05_KG).
Data sources: Eurostat. Resource productivity

Related content

Material resource efficiency & use

Waste management

Urban systems and grey infrastructure

Resource efficiency

Green economy



Waste — municipal solid waste generation

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- Generation of municipal waste per capita has declined slightly from 2004 to 2012, but it is clearly better managed now than ten years ago.
- The number of countries recycling and composting more than 30 % of municipal waste increased from 11 to 17 out of 34.
- The large differences in performance indicate room for further improvement and actions to meet the 2020 target to recycle 50 % of municipal waste.

Related content

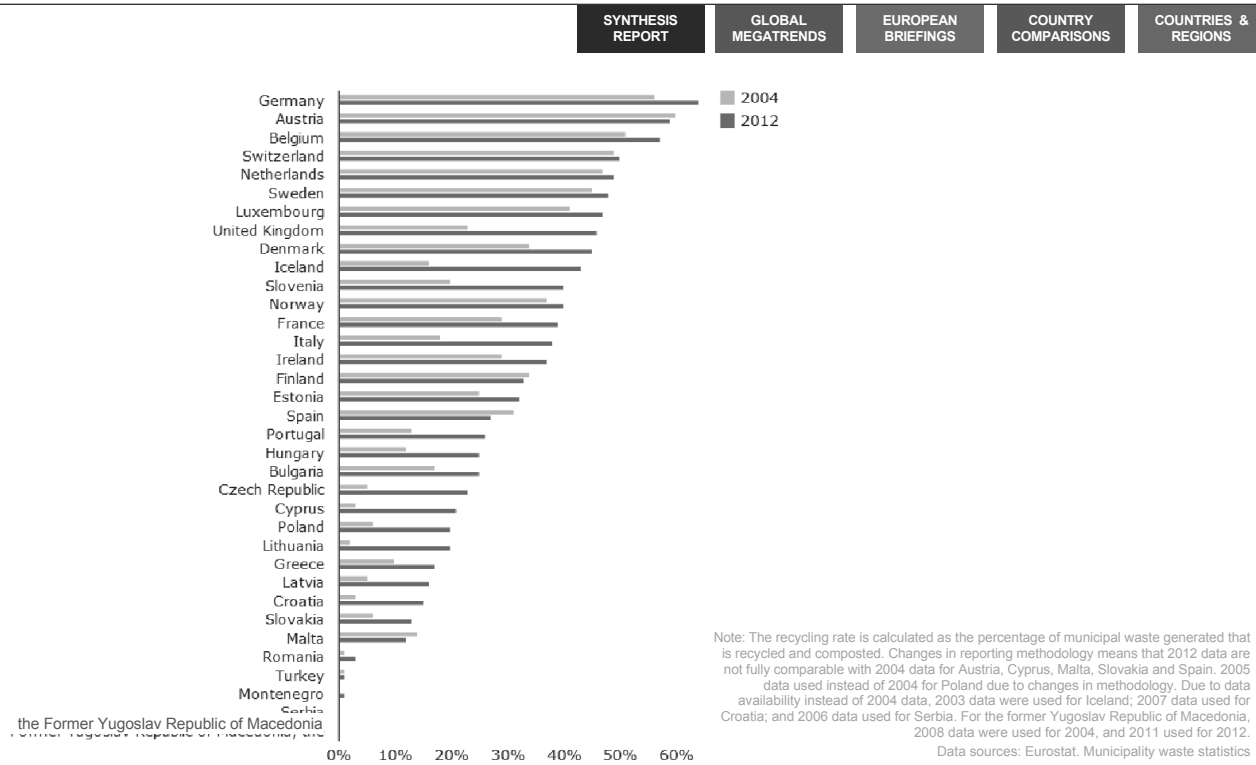
Waste
management

Waste

Green economy



Municipal waste **recycling** in 35 European countries (2004 and 2012)



Related content

Waste management

Waste

Green economy



Mitigating climate change — greenhouse gas emissions

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- Almost all European countries with an individual greenhouse gas limitation or reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol are on track towards achieving their targets.
- The majority of European Union member states expect to meet their individual emission targets for the non-trading sectors under the Effort Sharing Decision.
- However, for 14 countries, additional measures are needed to bring emissions below the annual targets from 2013 to 2020.

Related content

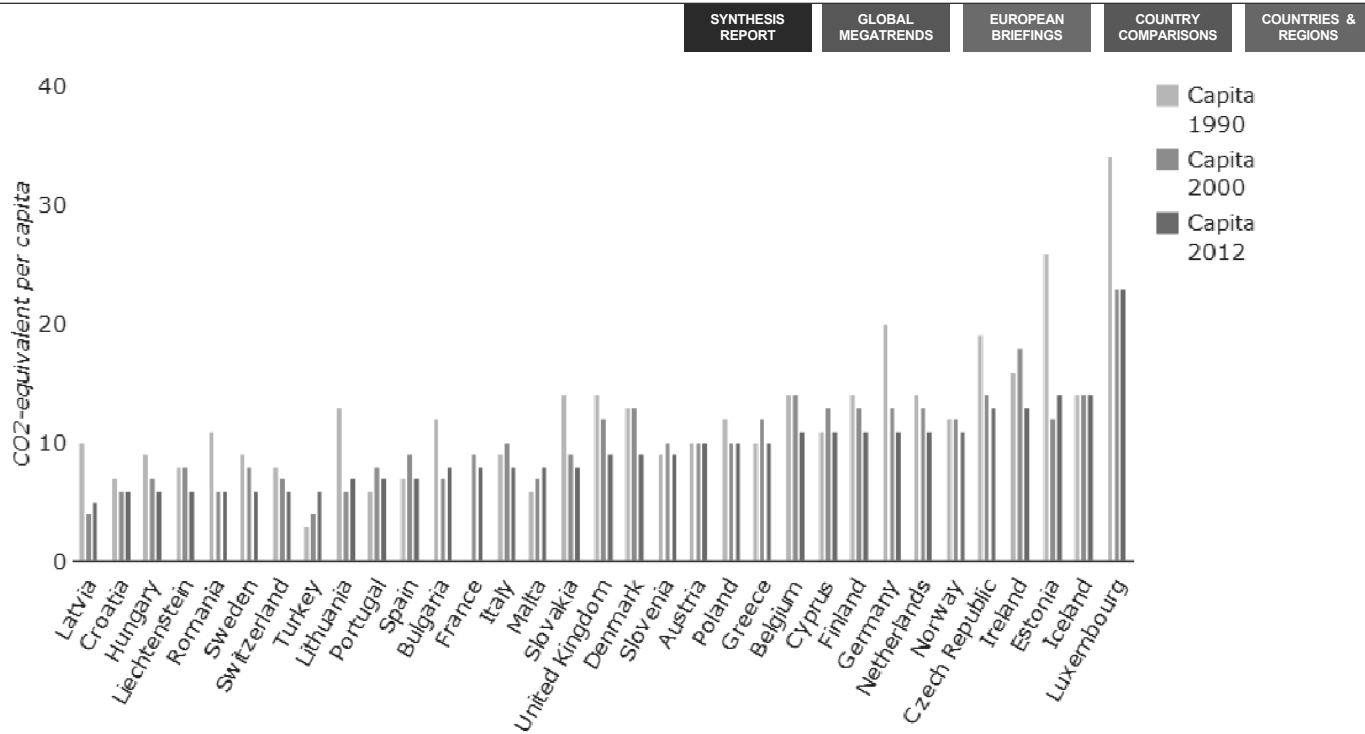
GHG emissions
& CC mitigation

Energy
consumption &
fossil fuel use

Mitigating
climate change



Greenhouse gas emissions per capita in EEA countries (1990, 2000 and 2012)



Data sources: EEA. National emissions reported to the UNFCCC and to the EU Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism; Eurostat. Population on 1 January by age and sex.

Related content

GHG emissions & CC mitigation

Energy consumption & fossil fuel use

Mitigating climate change





© Victor Troyanov, Environment & Me/EEA

Looking ahead: Innovation

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- Technological, economic, and social innovations can support long-term transitions to a green economy
- This requires upscaling niche innovations
- Publicly funded research has fostered many of the most important and commercially successful innovations





© Victor Troyanov, Environment & Me/EEA

Looking ahead: Investing today for the long term

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- European investment needs are substantial and today's choices will have long-term implications
- Key criteria for future investments in a green economy:
 - decarbonisation of society
 - circular economy jobs
 - ecosystem services and planetary limits
 - human health and well-being
- Shifting taxation and phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies can stimulate investment and innovation in this direction





© Victor Troyanov, Environment & Me/EEA

Looking ahead: Living well within the limits of the planet by 2050

SYNTHESIS
REPORT

GLOBAL
MEGATRENDS

EUROPEAN
BRIEFINGS

COUNTRY
COMPARISONS

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS

- Achieving the 2050 vision is possible but it depends on our actions and investments today.
- Systemic change must deliver decent employment, opportunities and fairness, as well as respecting environmental limits.
- SOER 2015 illustrates the success of European policy. We should be confident in entering a new stage of environmental governance.



Explore SOER 2015 online: eea.europa.eu/soer

SOER 2015 — The European environment — state and outlook 2015

A comprehensive assessment of the European environment's state, trends and prospects, in a global context.



Synthesis report



Global megatrends



European briefings



Cross-country
comparisons



Countries
and regions

The synthesis report informs future European environmental policy in general and its implementation between 2015 and 2020 in particular. It includes a reflection on the European environment in a global context, as well as chapters summarising the state of, trends in, and prospects for the environment in Europe.

- Table of contents
- Foreword
- Executive summary
- 1. The changing context of European environmental policy
- 2. The European environment in a wider perspective
- 3. Protecting, conserving and enhancing natural capital
- 4. Resource efficiency and the low-carbon economy
- 5. Safeguarding people from environmental risks to health
- 6. Understanding the systemic challenges facing Europe
- 7. Responding to systemic challenges: from vision to transition
- References and bibliography

Synthesis report in several languages  

Explore SOER 2015



THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT
STATE AND OUTLOOK 2015

 Presentation of key facts and figures.

 Online search among all figures.

Key messages

Waste — municipal solid waste generation and management: The large differences in performance indicate room for further improvement and actions to meet the 2020 target to recycle 50% of municipal waste. [See briefing](#)

[About SOER 2015](#)

[For journalists](#)

[Events](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Photos and videos](#)

European Environment Agency



BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Stay informed about SOER 2015 and receive our products – sign up at:

<http://eea-subscriptions.eu/subscribe>

Thank you!

European Environment Agency

