



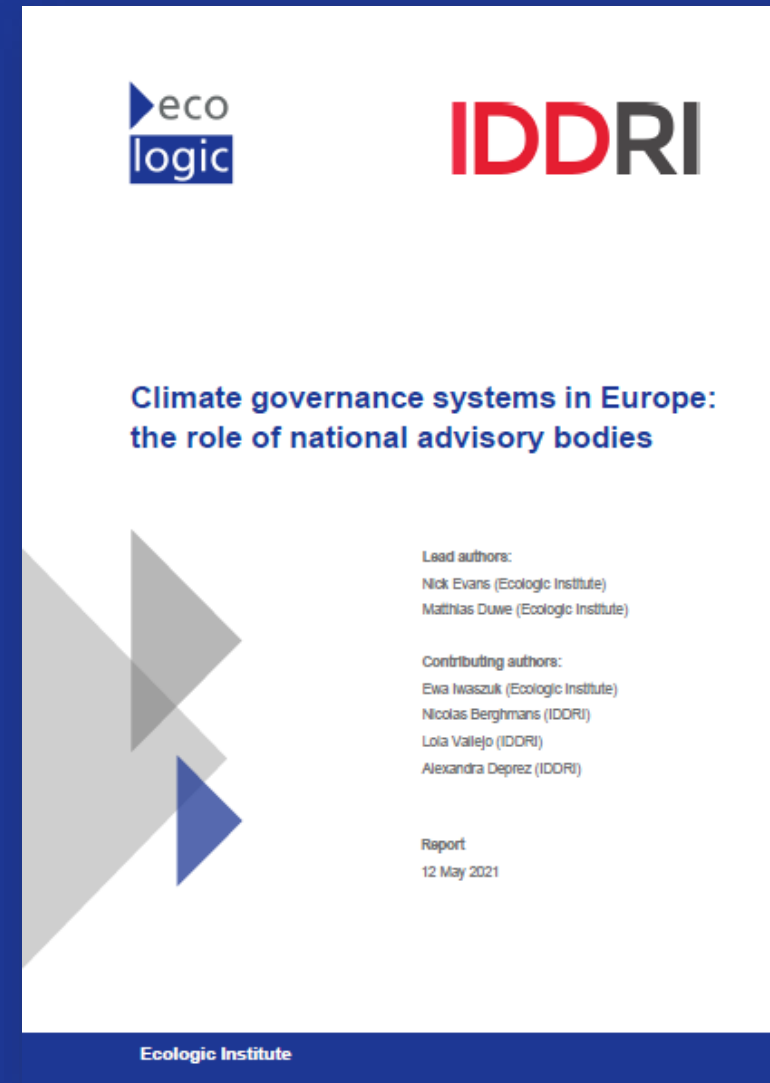
Climate governance systems in Europe: the role of national advisory bodies

Nick Evans, Ecologic Institute

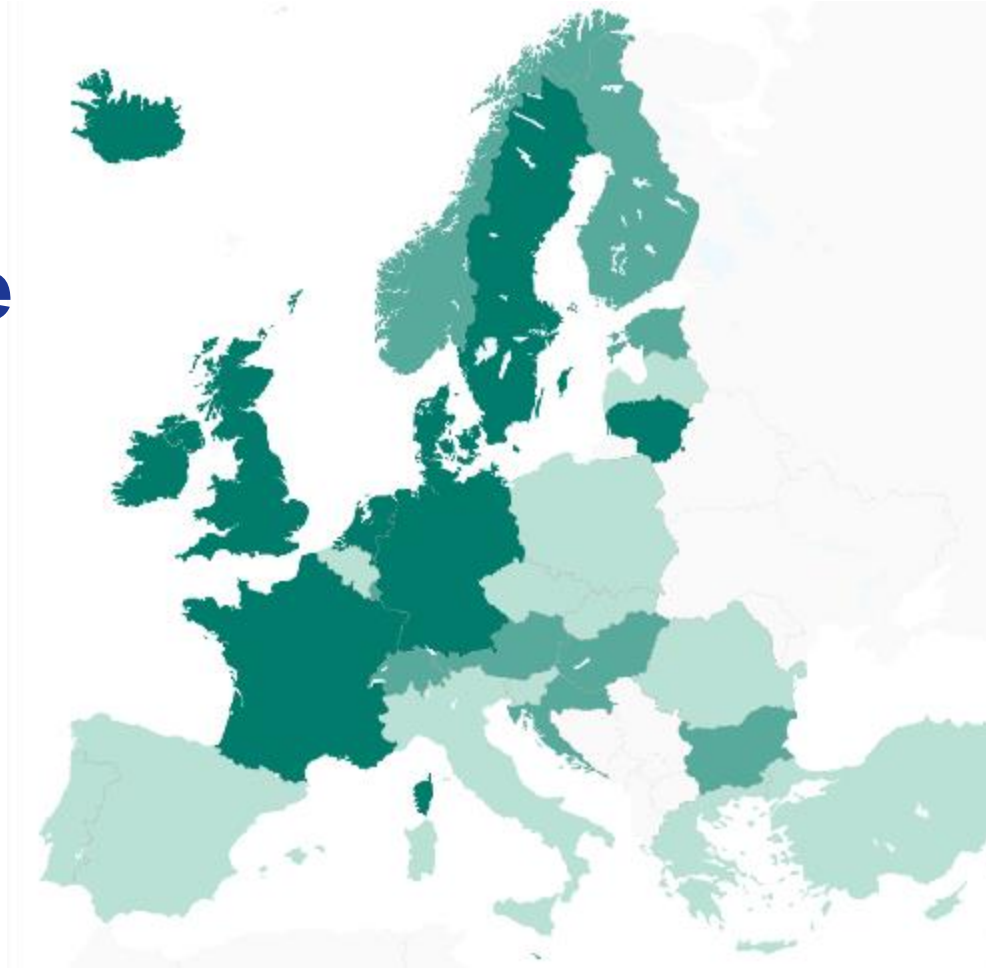
Berlin, 02 July 2021

Presenting today...

- ▶ Analysis covering 32 EEA member countries plus the United Kingdom
- ▶ Team effort! Matthias Duwe, Ewa Iwaszuk (Ecologic Institute), Nicolas Berghmans, Lola Vallejo, Alexandra Deprez (IDDRI)
- ▶ Two mapping exercises (combining desk research and expert interviews)
 - ▶ (1) National climate governance systems
 - ▶ (2) National climate advisory bodies
- ▶ In-depth look at one type of climate advisory body



Three tiers of European national climate governance systems



- **Baseline**
System defined largely by higher level **climate commitments** (e.g. EU and UN)
- **Light framework**
System defined by a **climate law** or other **government document**, may be missing key elements, such as transparency mechanisms or target-setting processes
- **Robust framework**
Formal system defined by a **climate law** or other **government document**, **regular action and planning cycles** and strong **monitoring and transparency** processes

What counts as a 'national climate advisory body'?

- ▶ **solicited by government** for input on climate policy development, implementation and/or monitoring, especially when it pertains to policy evaluation
- ▶ **recurring and continuous consultation**
- ▶ **unique relationship with the government**, i.e., consultation is not based on an open tender/grant process

Fifty-seven national climate advisory bodies operating in 27 European countries

Note: For full list see Annex III of the report.

COUNTRY	NAME	EST. (RE-NEWED)	DEDICATED?	INDEPENDENT?	SCIENTIFIC or MIXED?	COMPOSITION	LEGALLY ENSHRINED?	TYPE
Austria	National Climate Protection Committee (Nationaler Klimaschutzkomitee, NKK)	2011 (2017)	YES	NO	MIXED	Scientists, government officials and stakeholders (trade associations, NGOs and research institutions)	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	4a Stakeholder and Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Climate
Belgium	Federal Council for Sustainable Development Belgium (FRDO-CFDD)	1997	NO	YES	MIXED	Scientists, CGO representatives, one representative of each ministry, and a representative from each region.	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	4b Stakeholder and Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Environment/Sustainable Development
Bulgaria	National Expert Council on Climate Change	2014	YES	YES	MIXED	Scientists, government officials and stakeholders (environmental NGOs, businesses and local municipal agencies) Composition varies by topic under discussion.	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	3a Stakeholder Engagement Platform on Climate
Croatia	Commission for Intersectoral Coordination for Policies and Measures for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	2019	YES	YES	MIXED	Scientists, government officials and stakeholders (trade associations, NGOs, Chamber of Commerce and research institutions)	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	3a Stakeholder Engagement Platform on Climate
Croatia	National Council for Sustainable Development	2018	NO	NO	MIXED	Primarily governmental officials but can call on stakeholder members to take part in platform	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	4b Stakeholder and Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Environment/Sustainable Development
Cyprus	no body identified	-	-	-	-	-	-	- no body identified
Czechia	Government Council for Sustainable Development	2003 (2010)	NO	NO	MIXED	Representatives of all ministries, both chambers of the Parliament, municipalities, NGOs, trade unions, academia, industry, agriculture and research.	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	4b Stakeholder and Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Environment/Sustainable Development
Czechia	Commission for Climate Action under the Research, Development and Innovation Council	2019	YES	YES	MIXED	Scientists, representatives of industry and NGOs (2 Industry, 5 NGO, 4 Czech Academy, 3 Universities, 1 NMHS)	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	3a Stakeholder Engagement Platform for Climate Research
Czechia	Czech Hydrometeorological Institute	1953	NO	NO	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	2b In-house Scientific Environment/Sustainable Development Advisory Body
Denmark	Council on Climate Change (Klimarådet)	2014 (2020)	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council
Denmark	2030 Panel (2030-Panelen)	2017	NO	YES	MIXED	Scientists, business and trade association representatives, NGOs	EST. BY PARLIAMEN-TARY NETWORK	3b Stakeholder Engagement Platform on the Environment/Sustainable Development
Estonia	National Commission for Sustainable Development	1996	NO	YES	MIXED	Primarily representatives from NGOs	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	3b Stakeholder Engagement Platform on the Environment/Sustainable Development
Estonia	Estonian Environmental Research Centre (EERC)	2005	NO	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only, but work is overseen by governmental officials who sit on the board	NO	1b Independent Scientific Environment/Sustainable Development Council
Finland	Climate Panel (Suomen ilmastopaneeli)	2012	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council
Finland	Climate Policy Roundtable (Ilmastopolitiikan pyöreä pöytä)	2020	YES	NO	MIXED	Government officials and stakeholders, including representatives of trade associations and NGOs	EST. UNDER THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	4a Stakeholder and Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Climate
Finland	National Commission for Sustainable Development (Kestävän kehityksen toimikunta)	1993	NO	YES	MIXED	Scientists and representatives of NGOs and private sector	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	3b Stakeholder Engagement Platform on the Environment/Sustainable Development
Finland	Expert Panel for Sustainable Development (Kestävyyspaneeeli)	2013	NO	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	EST. UNDER THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	1b Independent Scientific Environment/Sustainable Development Council
France	High Council on Climate (Haut Conseil pour le Climat)	2019	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council
France	National Council for Ecological Transition (Conseil national de la transition écologique)	2013	NO	NO	MIXED	Local authorities, businesses, trade union organisations, environmental associations, NGOs, experts, and members of parliament.	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	4b Stakeholder and Inter-ministerial Roundtable on Environment/Sustainable Development
Germany	Council of Experts on Climate Change (Klimaexpertenrat)	2020	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY CLIMATE LAW	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council
Germany	Scientific Platform for Climate Protection (Wissenschaftsplatform Klimaschutz)	2019	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council
Germany	Expert Commission of the Monitoring Process "Energy of the Future" (Short: Energy Transition Monitoring Commission) (Energielewnde Monitoring Kommission)	2011	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council
Germany	Aktionsbündnis Klimaschutz	2015	YES	YES	MIXED	Civil society organizations, business and trade associations, youth organizations, research institutions.	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	3a Stakeholder Engagement Platform on Climate
Germany	German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)	2001	NO	YES	MIXED	Scientists and stakeholders (NGOs, businesses, trade and municipal associations)	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	3b Stakeholder Engagement Platform on the Environment/Sustainable Development
Germany	German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)	1992	NO	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	1b Independent Scientific Environment/Sustainable Development Council
Germany	German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU)	1971	NO	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	1b Independent Scientific Environment/Sustainable Development Council
Greece	Special Scientific Committee for Climate Change	2019	YES	YES	SCIENTIFIC	Scientists only	YES, BY SEPARATE REGULATION OR RESOLUTION	1a Independent Scientific Climate Council

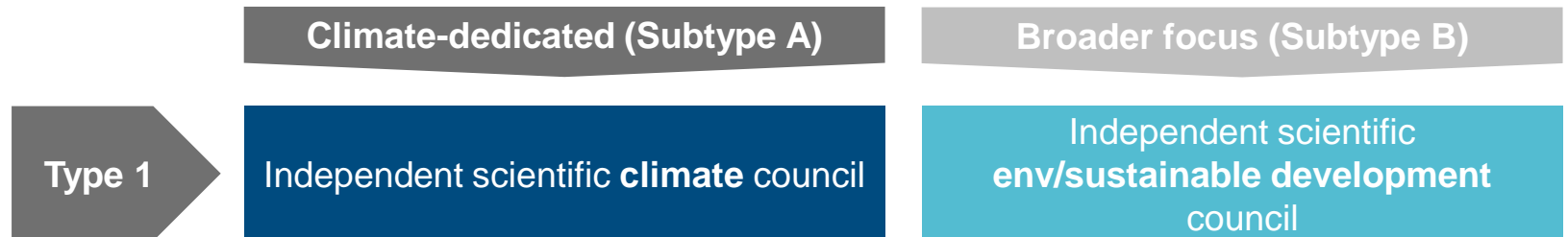
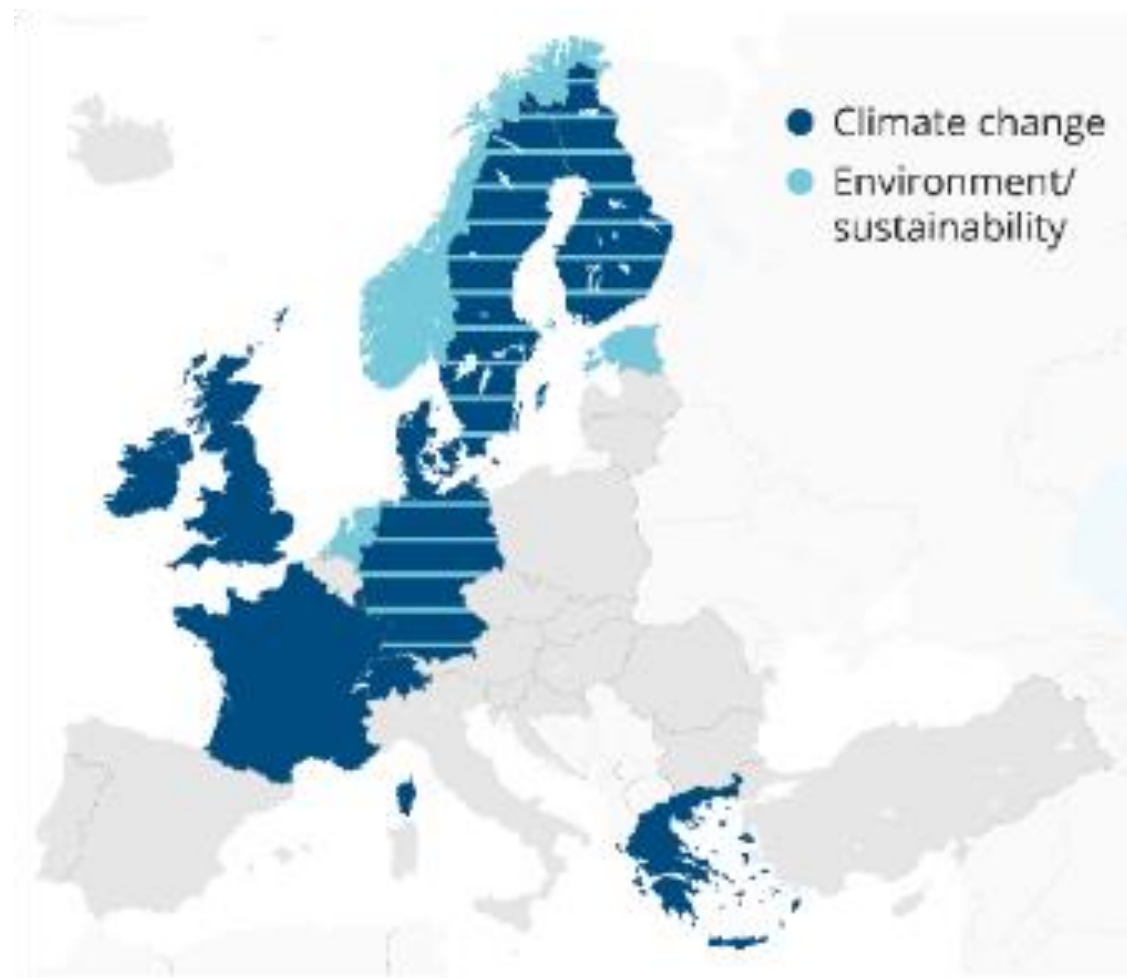
Typology of national climate advisory bodies

Three criteria

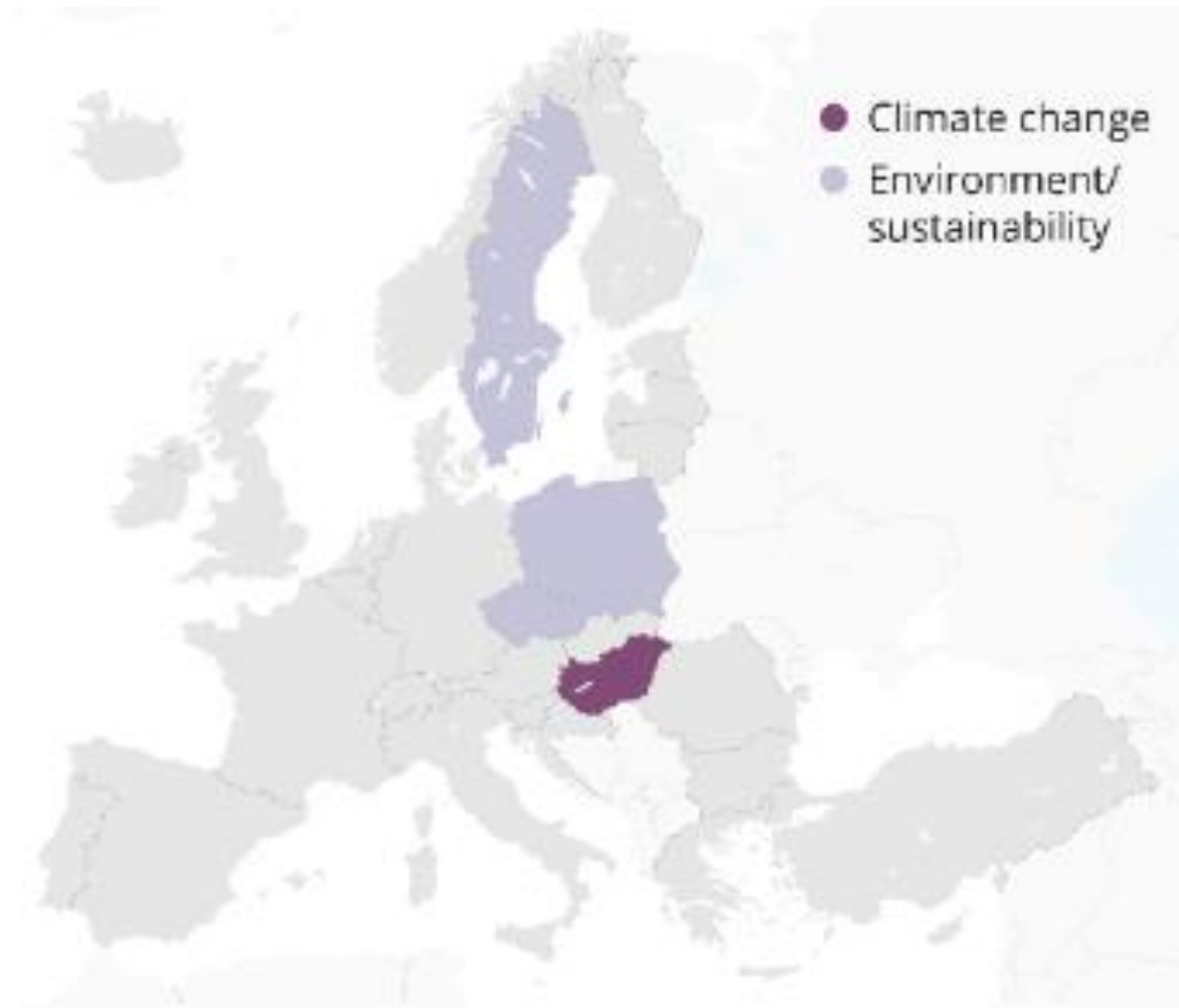
- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Involvement of government
- ▶ Thematic focus

	Climate-dedicated (Subtype A)	Broader focus (Subtype B)
Type 1	Independent scientific climate council	Independent scientific env/sustainable development council
Type 2	In-house scientific climate advisory body	In-house scientific env/sustainable development advisory body
Type 3	Stakeholder engagement platforms for climate policy	Stakeholder engagement platforms for env policy/sustainable development
Type 4	Stakeholder and inter-ministerial roundtable on climate	Stakeholder and inter-ministerial roundtable on env/sustainable development

Type 1: Independent scientific councils



Type 2: In-house scientific advisory bodies



Climate-dedicated (Subtype A)

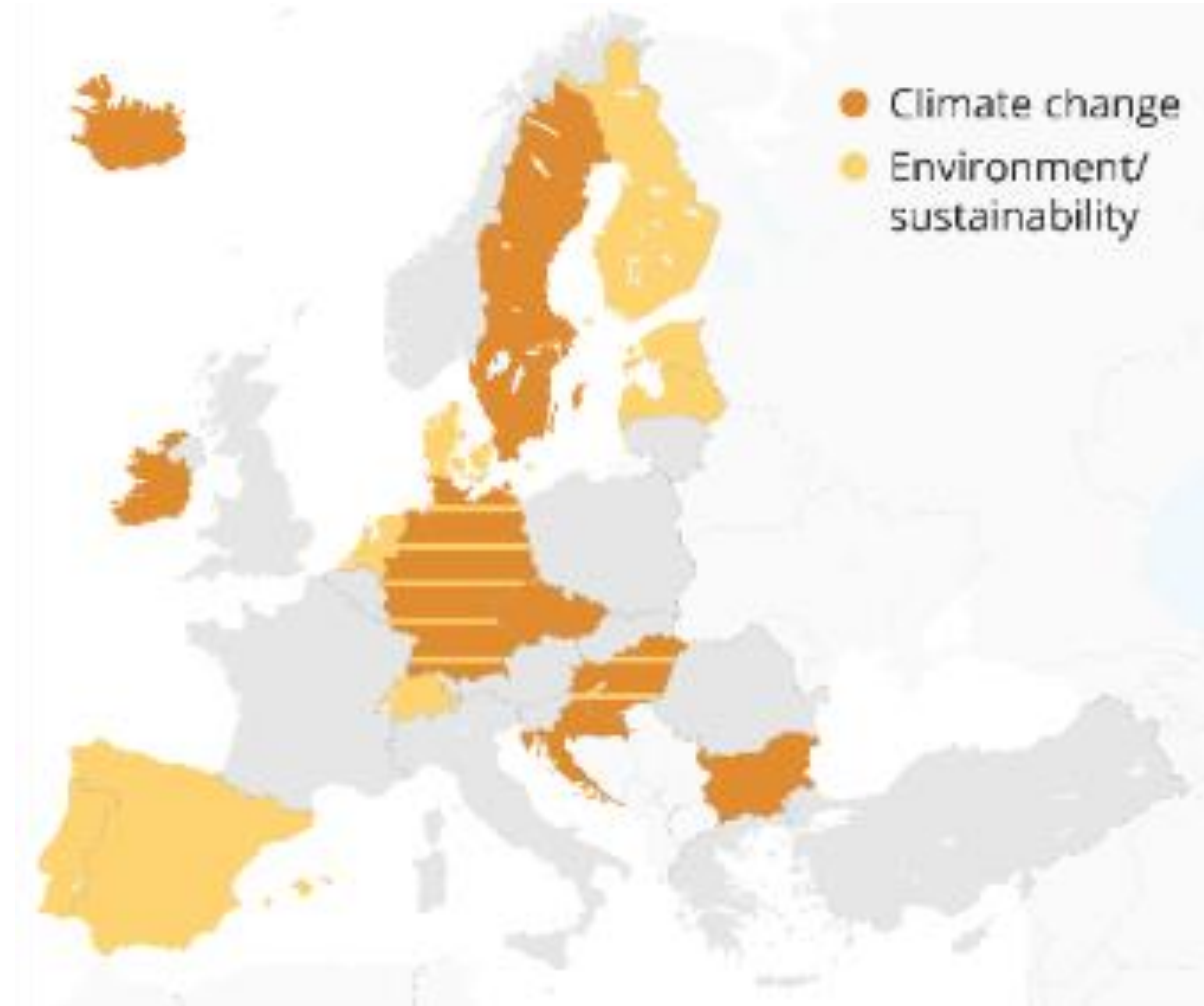
Broader focus (Subtype B)

Type 2

In-house scientific **climate** advisory body

In-house scientific **env/sustainable development** advisory body

Type 3: Stakeholder engagement platforms



Climate-dedicated (Subtype A)

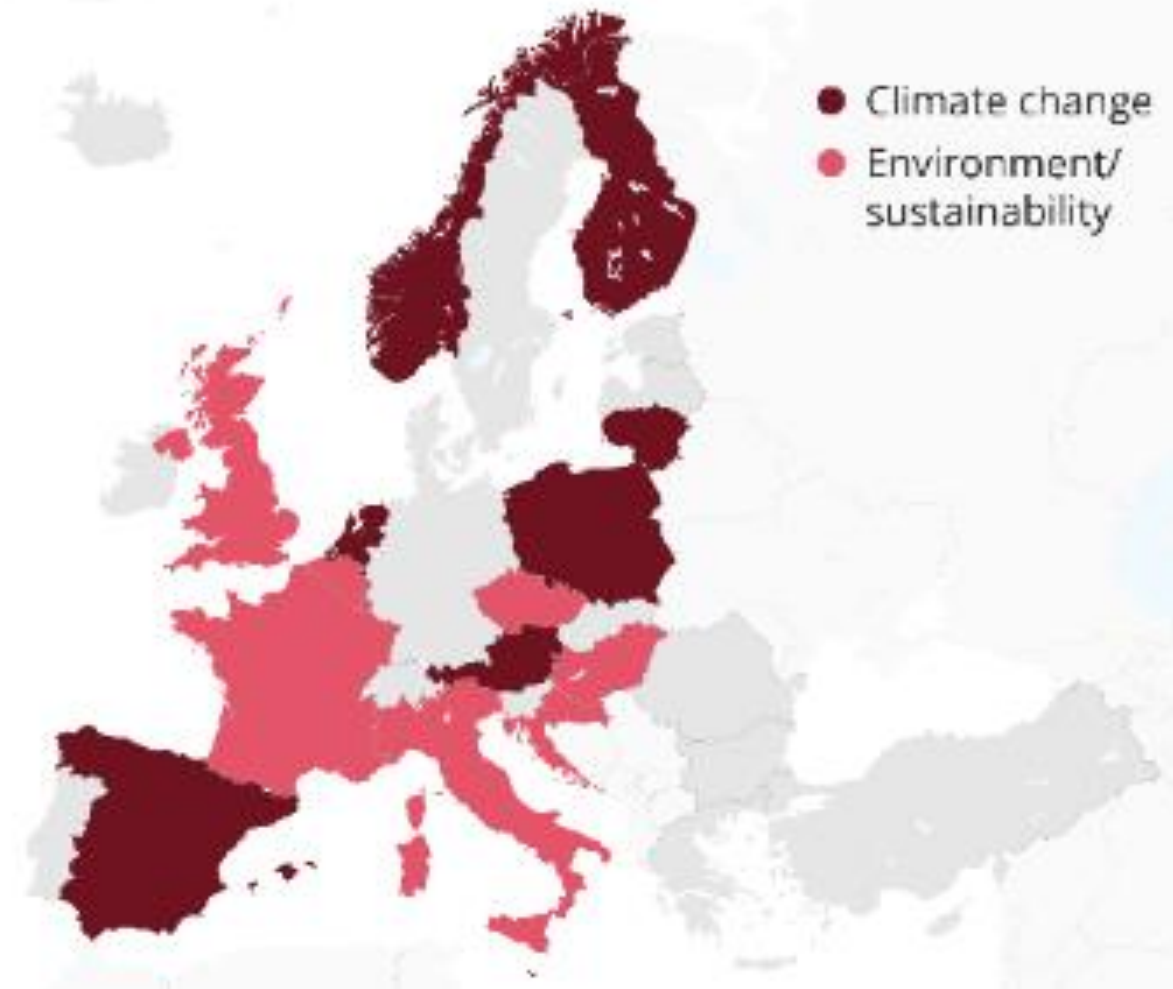
Broader focus (Subtype B)

Type 3

Stakeholder engagement platforms for **climate** policy

Stakeholder engagement platforms for **env policy/ sustainable development**

Type 4: Stakeholder and inter-ministerial roundtables



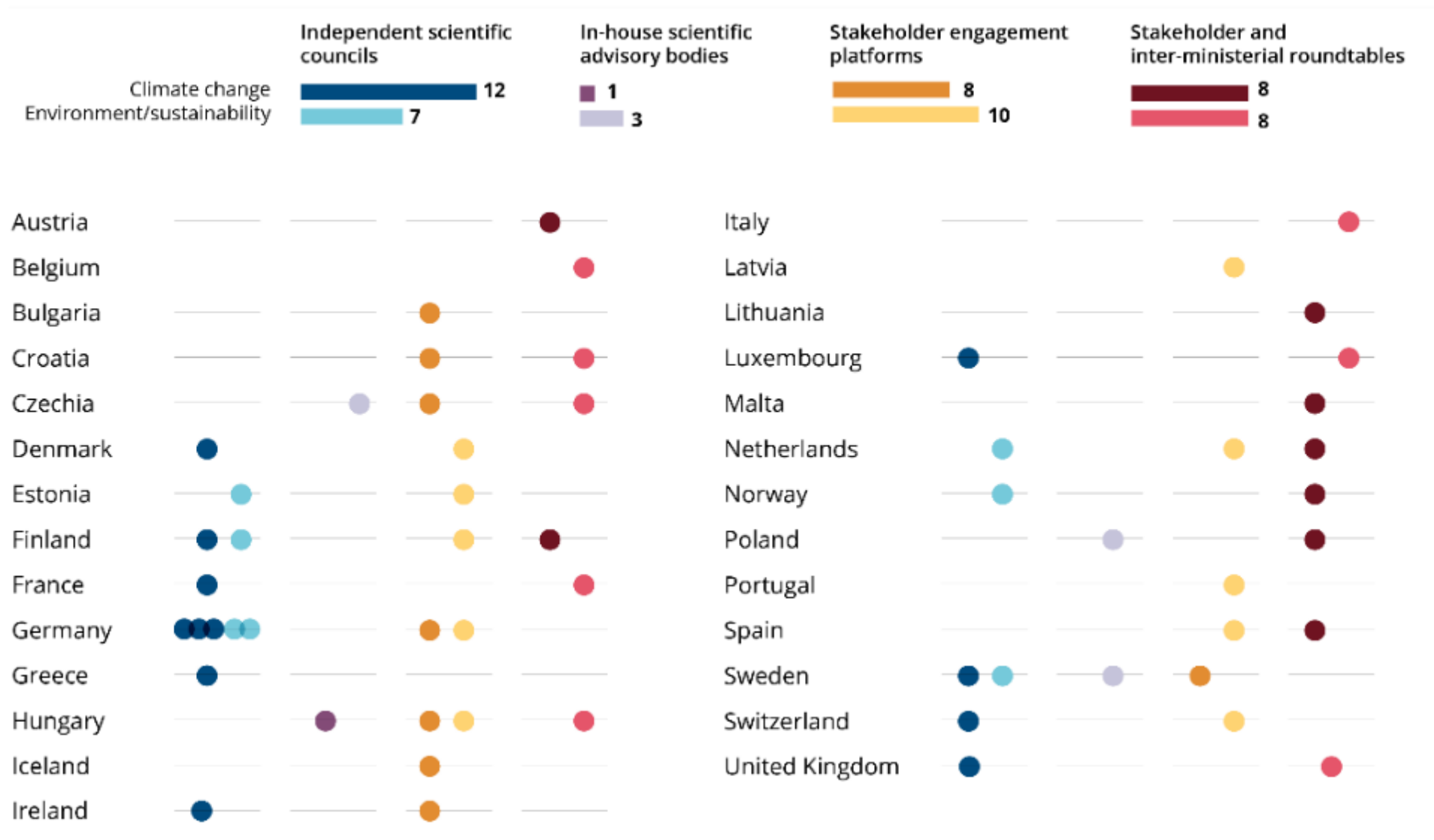
Climate-dedicated (Subtype A)

Broader focus (Subtype B)

Type 4

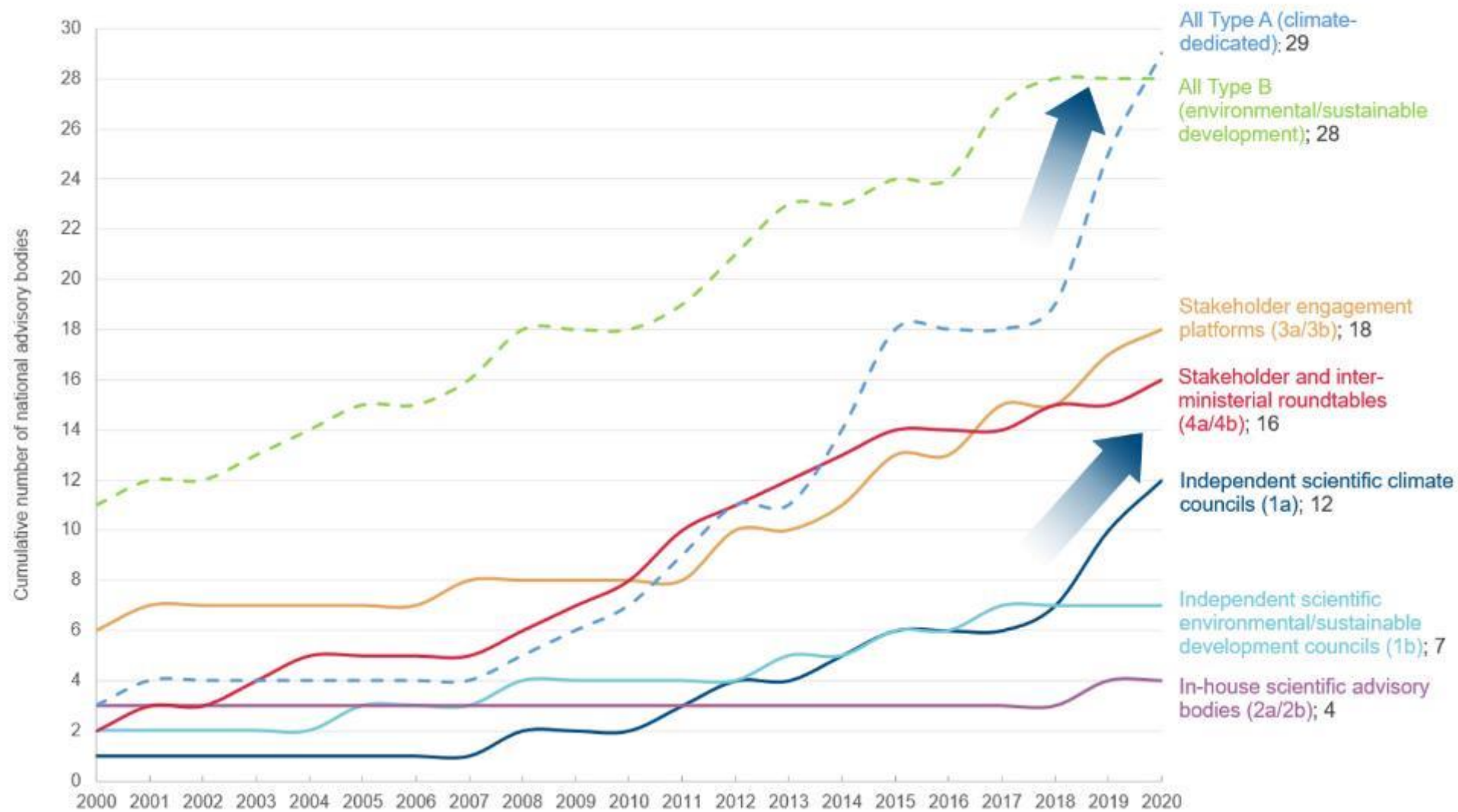
Stakeholder and inter-ministerial roundtable on **climate**

Stakeholder and inter-ministerial roundtable on **env/sustainable development**



Source: design by EEA, based on data compiled by Ecologic Institute/IDDRI

Figure: Development of national climate advisory bodies in Europe 2000-2020



Source: Ecologic Institute/IDDRI

A closer look at nine independent scientific climate councils (Type 1a)

- ▶ **Denmark** Council on Climate Change (*Klimarådet*)
- ▶ **Finland** Climate Panel (*Suomen Ilmastopaneeli*)
- ▶ **France** High Council on Climate (*Haut Conseil pour le Climat*)
- ▶ **Germany** Energy Transition Monitoring Commission (*Energiewende Monitoring Kommission*)
- ▶ **Greece** Special Scientific Committee for Climate Change
- ▶ **Ireland** Climate Change Advisory Council
- ▶ **Sweden** Climate Policy Council (*Klimatpolitiska Rådet*)
- ▶ **Switzerland** Advisory Body on Climate Change (*L'Organe consultatif sur les changements climatiques, OcCC*)
- ▶ **United Kingdom** Committee on Climate Change (CCC)

A closer look at nine independent scientific climate councils (Type 1a)

Mandate

- ▶ All legally established, 5/9 in a dedicated framework climate law others in implementing regulation or government decision
- ▶ In most cases tasks and responsibilities are listed, often very specific (e.g., on frequency and type of reporting) others have a broader mandate

Capacity

- ▶ Size ranges from 4 to 15 members, usually 8 or 9
- ▶ Clear differences in resource allocation (budget and staff) – 200.000 EUR to 4 million EUR

Degree of self-determination

- ▶ Thematic work areas and work programmes
- ▶ Appointing new members

Visibility

- ▶ Most have websites and social media presence
- ▶ Few have dedicated communications staff and rarely do they hold events

A closer look at nine independent scientific climate councils (Type 1a): Three functions

The 'Watchdog'

- ▶ acts as a policy monitor, adding weight and accountability to climate policy processes through policy evaluation and targeted quality checks

The 'Advisor'

- ▶ seeks to improve climate policy by providing scientific guidance and making concrete policy recommendations

The 'Convenor'

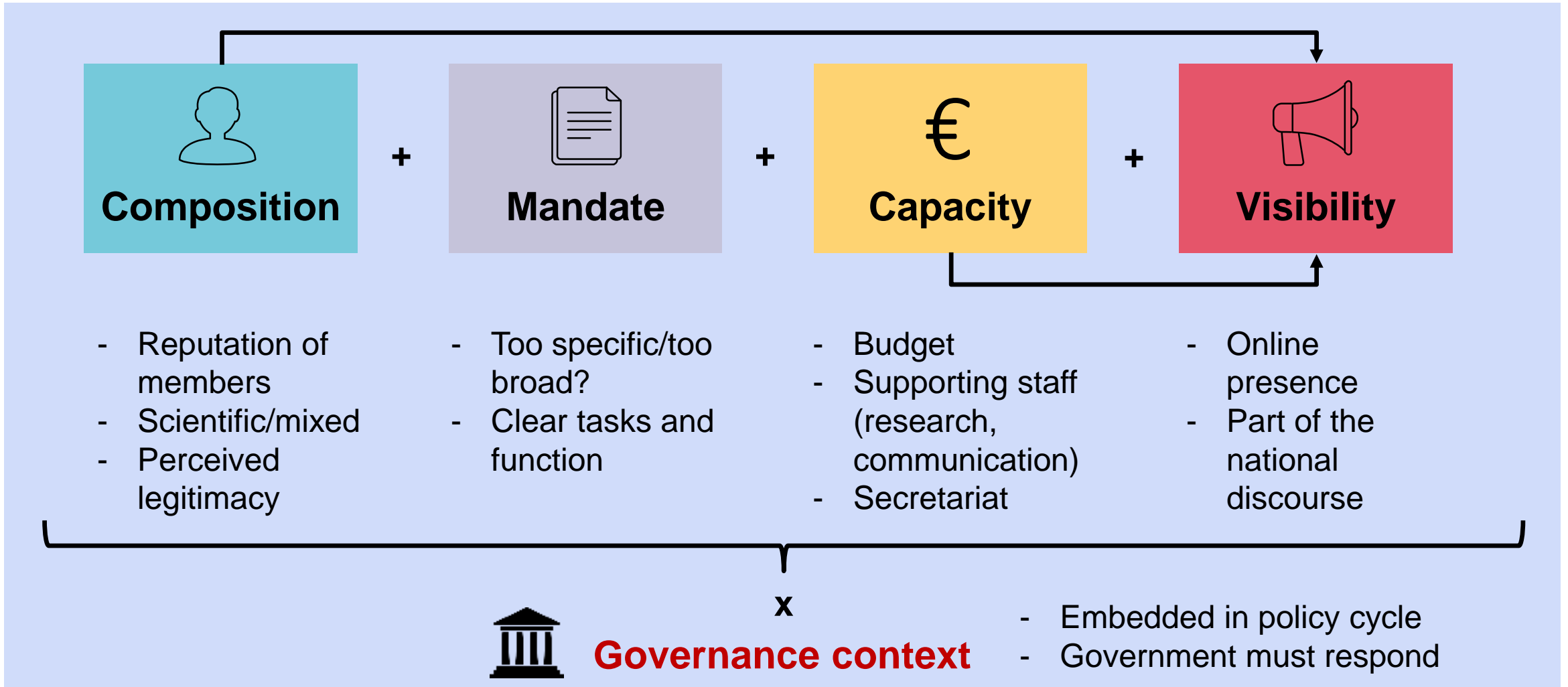
- ▶ engages stakeholders and/or private citizens through formal or informal channels to open up climate policy discourse

Added value of independent scientific climate councils (Type 1a)

- ▶ Bridging the science-policy gap as ‘knowledge brokers’
- ▶ Perceived legitimacy and objectivity
- ▶ Enhanced transparency if given a watchdog function
- ▶ Independent, messaging can be (and often is) critical of government
- ▶ More likely to have outward-facing visibility

Having multiple, different types of advisory bodies as best practice?

Having an impact: Success factors and barriers



Key messages

- ▶ Climate governance systems in Europe display varying levels of development: three tiers
- ▶ Nearly all EEA member countries have some type of climate advisory body
- ▶ Proliferation of independent scientific climate councils (Type 1a) in last 5-7 years
- ▶ Independent climate councils add unique value to climate policy-making
- ▶ Impact is a function of perceived legitimacy plus visibility and depends on mandate and capacity...
- ▶ ***...but a climate advisory body, regardless of type, is only as effective as its governance context allows.***



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Thank you! Any questions?

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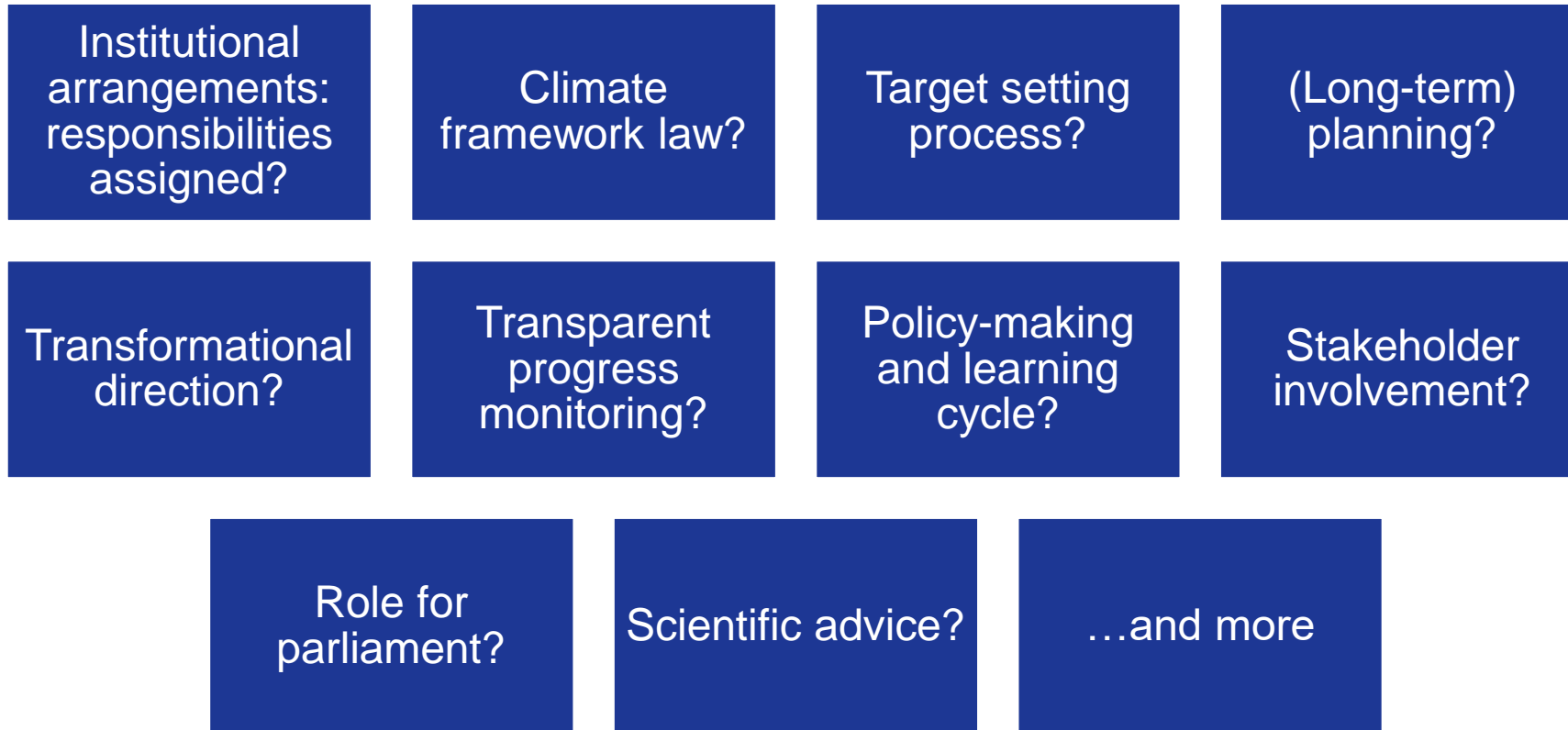
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Many ingredients to climate governance systems



Three essential qualities of climate governance systems

Essential quality	Description of underlying elements
Formality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent and regular planning, policy-making and progress monitoring cycles• Division and delegation of responsibility among relevant ministries and governmental agencies• Inter-ministerial coordination mechanism inside government• Adoption of a national framework law
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated mechanism for public/stakeholder outreach• Level of public/stakeholder engagement• Involvement of Parliament• Dedicated national progress monitoring and reporting (beyond EU/UN obligations)
Specificity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National interim, short- and long-term economy-wide emission reduction targets (= beyond EU obligations)• Processes for setting targets• Concrete and comprehensive policy packages• Trigger mechanism• Projected impact of policies is evaluated using climate scenarios• Long-term vision and cohesion

Criteria for our typology of national climate advisory bodies

Involvement of government	Composition	Thematic focus
No direct governmental connection other than funding (independent)	Essentially only scientific experts	Dedicated to climate policy
Inside a governmental institution ('in-house') or involvement of governmental representatives as members	Range of stakeholders included (e.g., civil society, business, youth, scientific community)	Broader scope on environment or sustainable development (with climate included to varying degrees)

Country/body	(1) Watchdog	(2) Advisor				(3) Convenor	Governance system tier
		Policy evaluation	Quality control	Policy recommendation	Information provision		
DK: Council on Climate Change	X	X	X	X	(X)	X	3. Formal, strong
FI: Climate Panel	X	(X)		X	X		2. Formal, lacking some detail and transparency
FR: High Council on Climate	X	X		X	X	(X)	3. Formal, strong
DE: Energy Transition Monitoring Commission	X	(X)	X	X	(X)		3. Formal, lacking some transparency
EL: Special Scientific Committee for Climate Change				X	X	(X)	1. EU/UN baseline
IE: Climate Change Advisory Council	X	X		X	X	(X)	3. Formal, lacking some detail
SE: Climate Policy Council	X	X	X	X	X	(X)	3. Formal, lacking some detail
CH: Advisory Body on Climate Change	X	X	X	X	X		2. Informal, lacking some detail or transparency
UK: Committee on Climate Change	X	X	X	X	X	(X)	3. Formal, strong