Sustainability and environmental challenges

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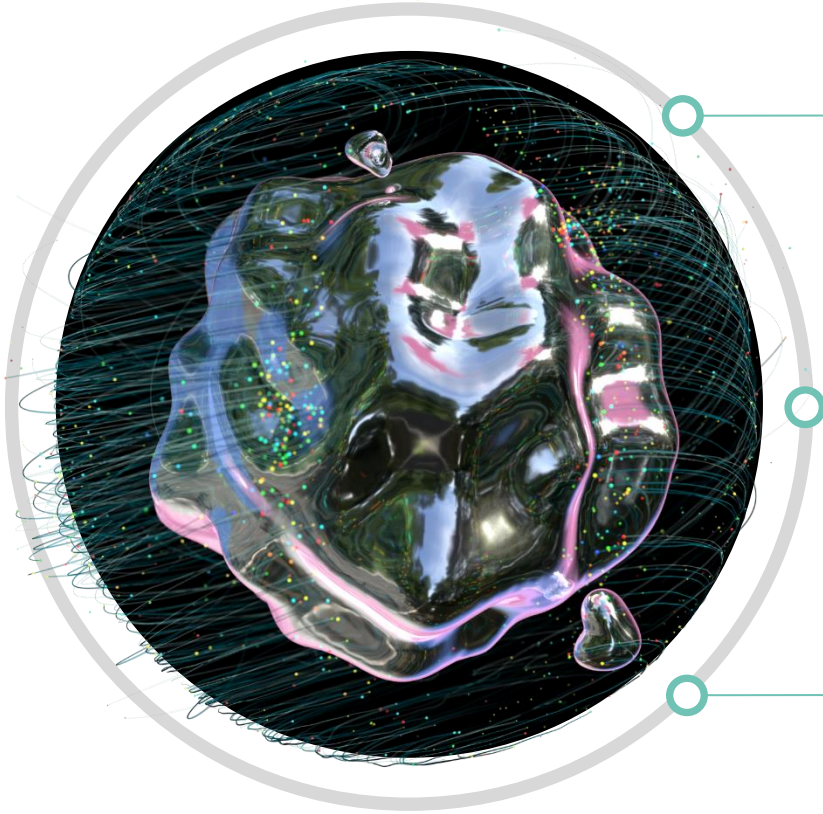
NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ
Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences

Since 1850, average global temperatures have risen by 1 degree Celsius...

What does this really mean?



+10 The coldest nights in the Arctic can be 10°C warmer.

+4 Some regions in the Arctic have already warmed by 4°C.

+5 The warmest days in Mumbai can be 5°C warmer.

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A memory of summer…

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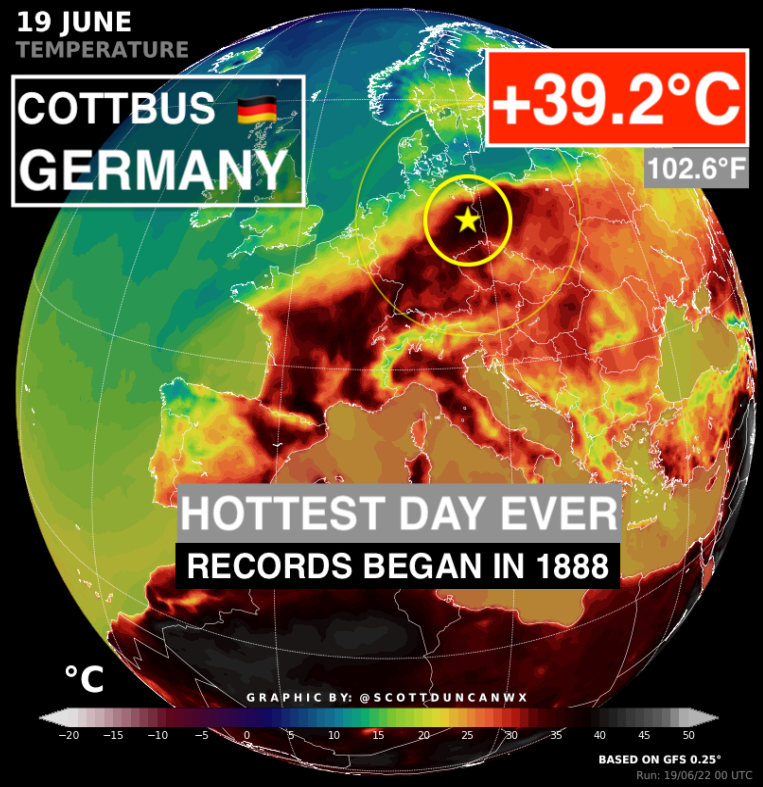
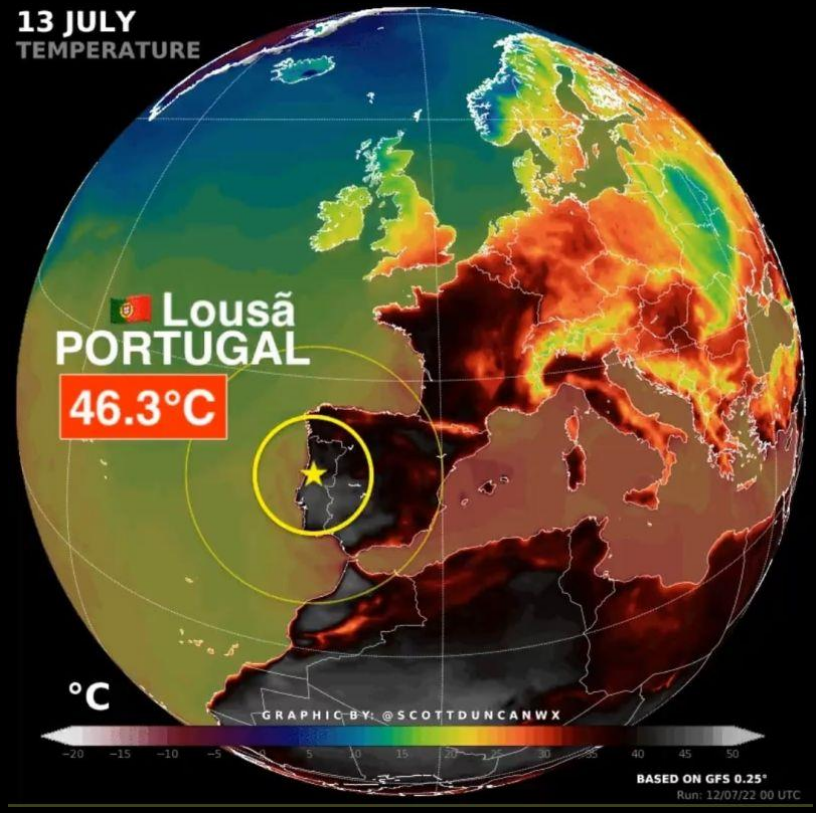
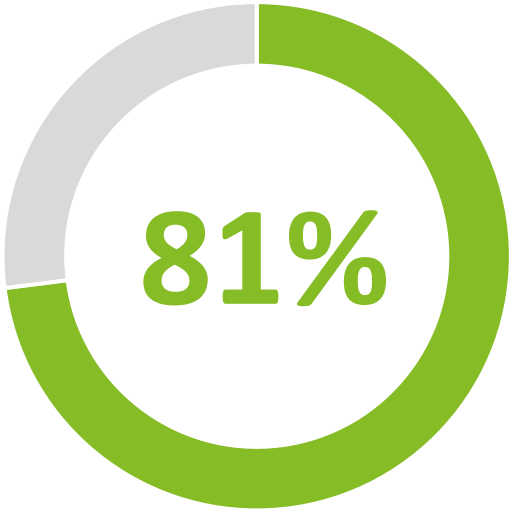




… … 25 degrees C in mid-October in Poland

Deloitte Climate Sentiment Index



respondents admitted,
that they are concerned about climate change

źródło: https://www2.deloitte.com/ce/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/sustainable-actions-index-consumers-employees-citizens.html

75%
consumers surveyed believe that climate change is the result of human activity

Poles surveyed said they felt concerned about climate change

Respondenci, którzy deklarują zmartwienie zmianami klimatu częściej kupują towary i usługi w oparciu o zasady zrównoważonego rozwoju

58% respondents in Poland declare support for new regulations to protect the climate

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Good enough for now is perfect. Not to this extent...

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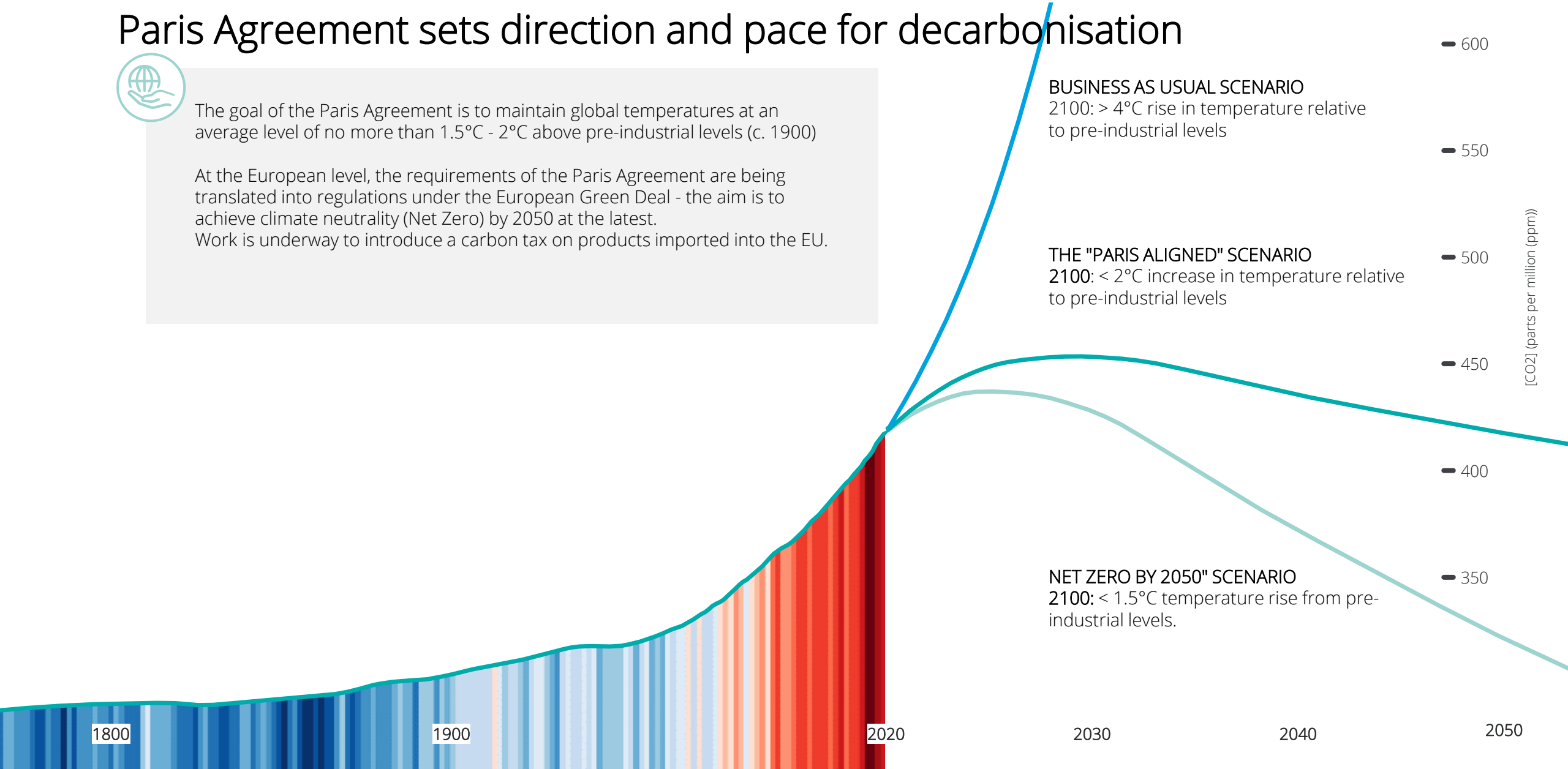
Paris Agreement sets direction and pace for decarbonisation

The goal of the Paris Agreement is to maintain global temperatures at an average level of no more than 1.5°C - 2°C above pre-industrial levels (c. 1900)

At the European level, the requirements of the Paris Agreement are being translated into regulations under the European Green Deal - the aim is to achieve climate neutrality (Net Zero) by 2050 at the latest.
Work is underway to introduce a carbon tax on products imported into the EU.



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UN Sustainable Development Goals

Agenda 2030

The 2030 Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by UN member states in 2015. They include 169 specific goals to be achieved by 2030.

The suite of SDG's covers complementary and intersecting social and environmental challenges.

ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Governance and refers to three key groups of factors:
Environmental,
Social and
Corporate Governance.

ESG factors are a set of non-financial performance indicators designed to ensure an organisation's accountability. They are taken into account when measuring a company's sustainability maturity.

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ENVIRONMENTAL

- Climate change, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Depletion of resources, including water
- Waste and plastics
- Deforestation and biodiversity
- Tackling waste e.g. of food, Turning the cycle (GOZ)

SOCIAL

- Working conditions and employee safety
- Organisational culture, employee relations, commitment
- Diversity
- Mental health, wellbeing, work-life balance
- Social investment
- Impact of the product on consumer health (e.g. reformulations)

GOVERNANCE

- Corporate governance
- Ethics, anti-corruption - transparency and reputation
- Responsible selling
- ESG/ERM risk management, business continuity and resilience
- Responsible marketing, donation lobbying
- Responsible tax strategy
- Positive impact and minimisation of ESG risks in the value chain - business partners, suppliers

European Green Deal

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MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Emission reduction of 55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels)

- Net zero-carbon by 2050 (within the EU)

KEY AMBITIONS

- Striving for climate neutrality
- Supply of clean and affordable energy
- Mobilising industry for a closed loop economy
- Green building construction and renovation
- Sustainable and intelligent transport
- Fair, healthy and ecological food production
- Preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Zero-pollution and non-toxic environment

Communities in action: some examples

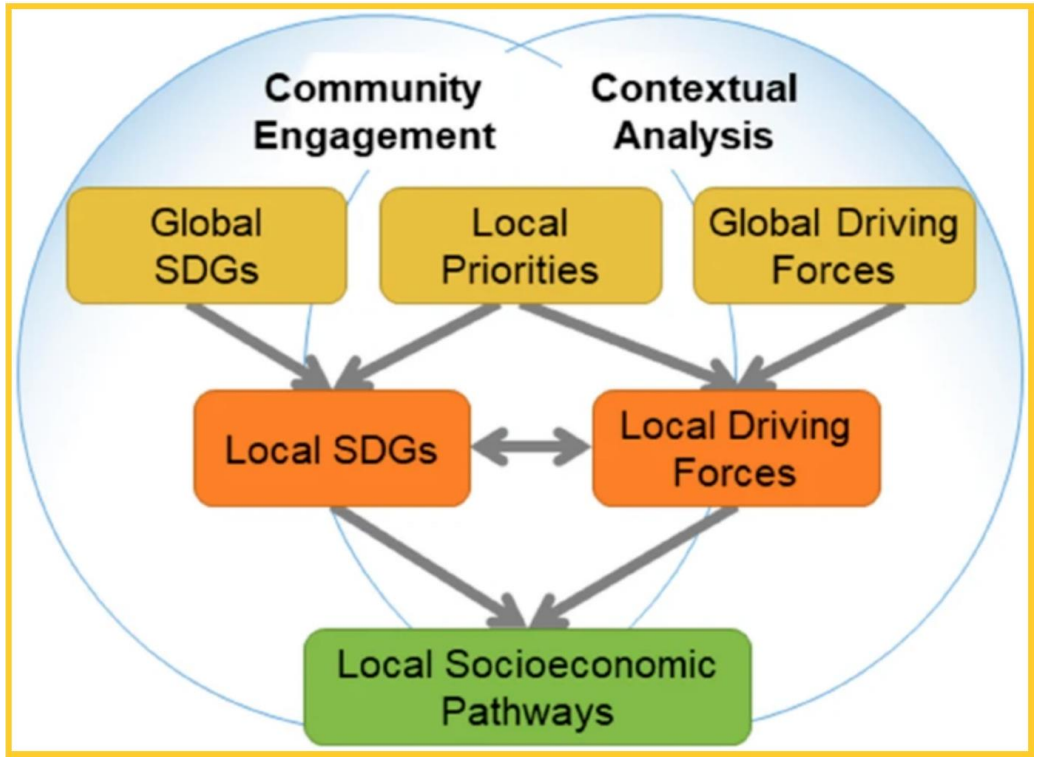
First ULL workshop in Slupsk, Poland in May 2019

First ULL workshop in Tulcea, Romania in July 2019

First ULL workshop in Wilmington, USA in April 2019

Sustainable communities

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES

NEXUS COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICES

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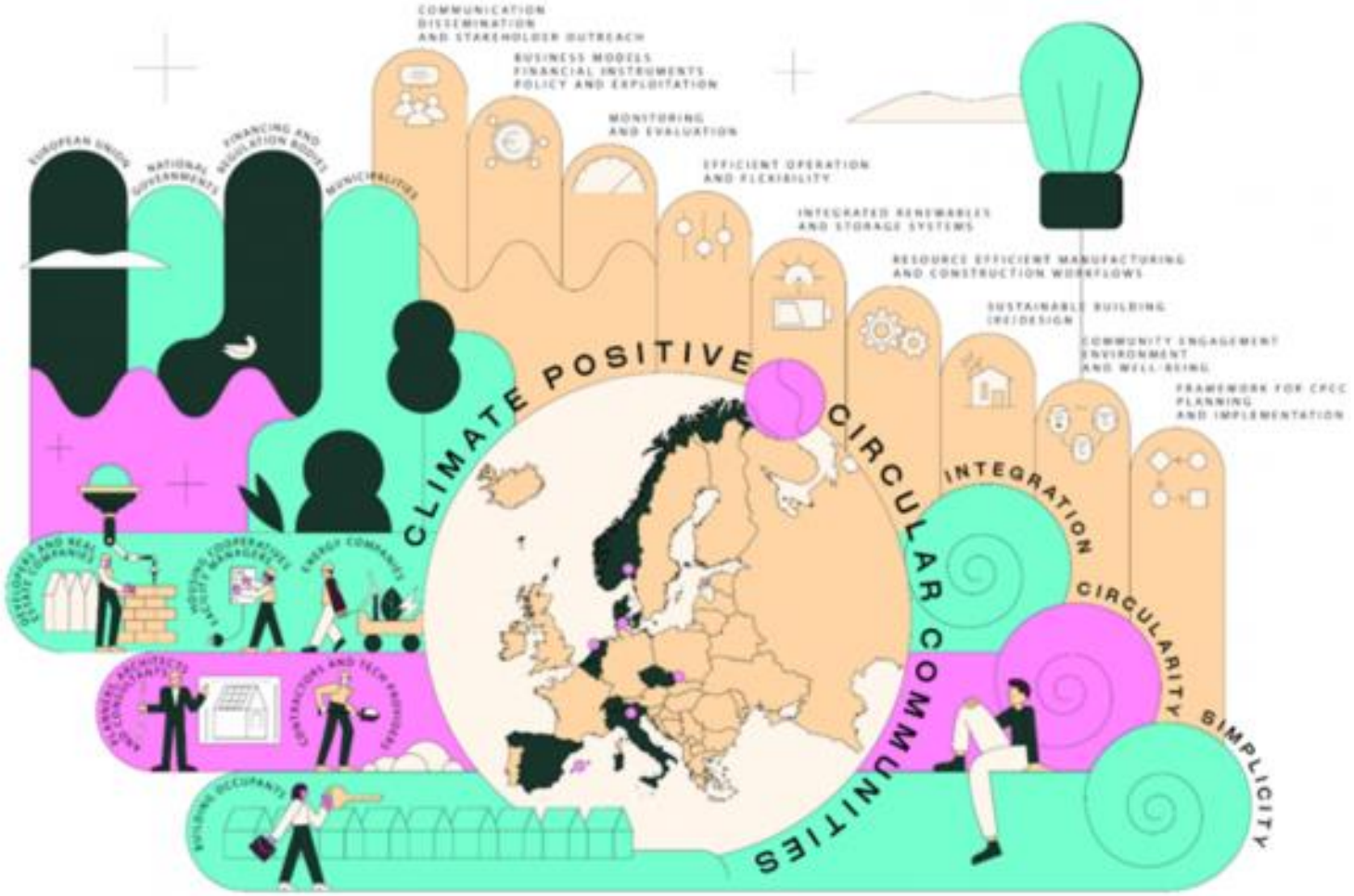
Circular communities



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Resilient Communities

www.build-resilience.org

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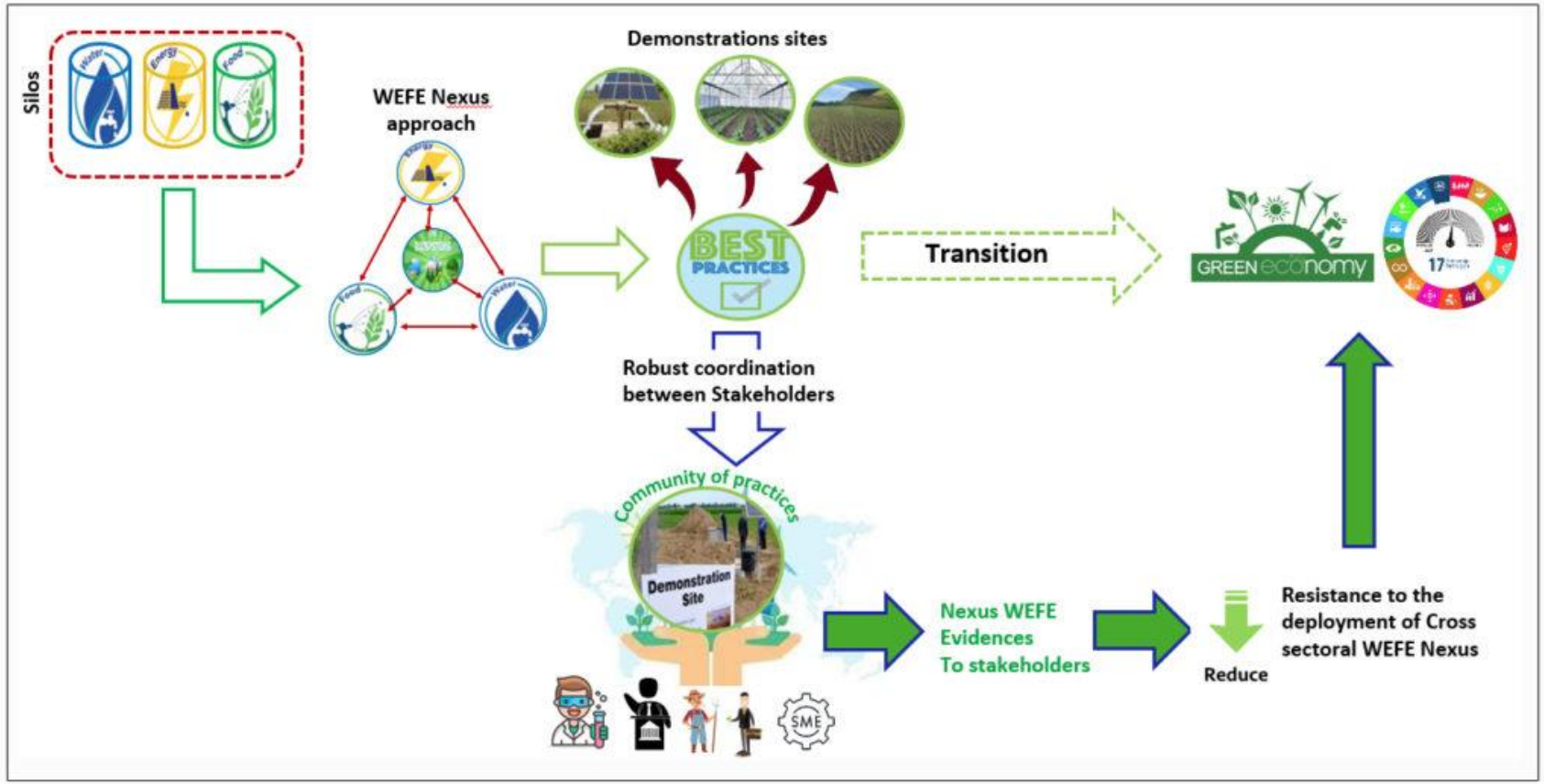
NEXUS Communities Of Practices



Summary: taking sustainable development seriously

- 1) Environmental challenges and related public policies present new demands on communities and their developments.
- 2) When we review quality of life in local communities, we are no longer looking at a single area but about relationships in which the environment plays a pivotal role.
- 3) Local solutions to global problems are calling for the involvement of local communities, a re-evaluation of resources, a re-examination of practices in the community.
- 4) they also require reaching beyond institutional silos, awareness needs to be paid to the linkages between the various sectors that influence the quality of life in local communities.

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