

# UNNES Beyond GDP Sprint

## GDP lock-in and the European dimension

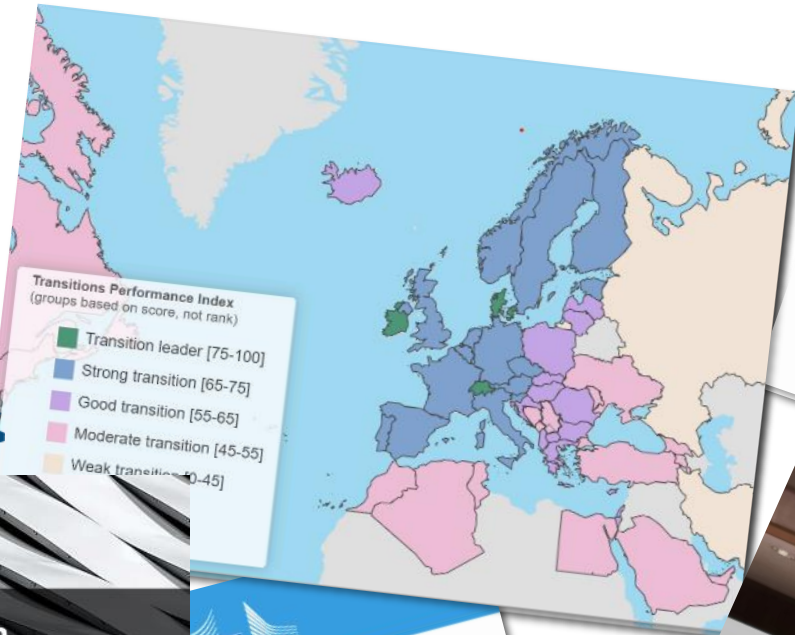
Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

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Institute for Future-fit Economies

**ZOE** institute for  
future-fit  
economies



# The Beyond GDP debate in the EU context



**European Environment Agency**

**BRIEFING**

### Growth without economic growth

Economic growth is closely linked to increases in production, consumption and resource use and has detrimental effects on the natural environment and human health. It is unlikely that a long-lasting, absolute decoupling of economic growth from environmental pressures and impacts can be achieved at the global scale; therefore, societies need to rethink what is meant by growth and progress and their meaning for global sustainability.

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# Beyond GDP in EU governance?

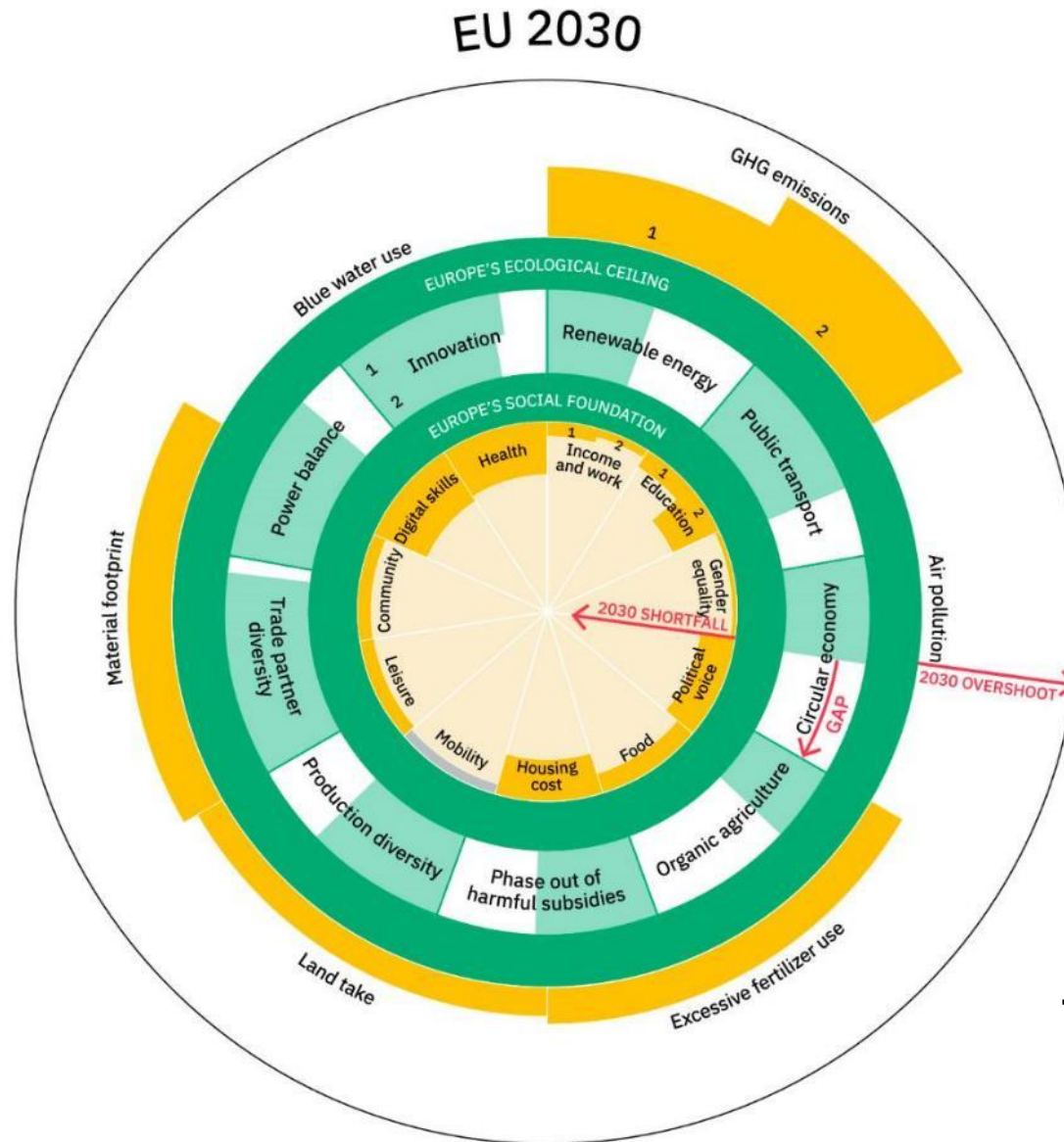
Process ↴	Political Voice	Peace & Justice	Income & Work	Food	Health	Education	Gender equality	Water	Networks	Social equity	Housing	Energy	Air pollution	Climate change	Ozone layer depletion	Biodiversity loss	Chemical pollution	Ocean acidification	Land conversion	Fresh water withdrawals	Nitrogen & phosphorus	
EU SDGs	Blue	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Blue	Mint	Blue	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint
Environmental Indicator Catalogue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Mint	Blue	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint
European Pillar of Social Rights	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
New Cohesion Policy	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Blue	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow
European Semester	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
EU Multidimensional Inequality Monitoring Framework	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
National Energy and Climate Plans	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
EU Energy Poverty Observatory	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
European Core Health Indicators	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Health at a Glance Europe 2020	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
EU Transport Scoreboard	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Biodiversity Strategy	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
Common Agricultural Policy	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Mint
7 <sup>th</sup> EAP	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Blue	Mint	Mint	Mint	Blue	Blue	Blue	Mint
EU Action Plan toward a Zero Pollution Ambition	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Yellow	Blue	Mint	Mint	Blue	Blue	Blue	Mint	Mint
EU Resource Efficiency Scoreboard	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Blue	Blue
8 <sup>th</sup> EAP Proposal	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Mint	Mint	Mint	Yellow	Mint	Blue	Blue	Mint	Yellow	Blue	Blue

- Many monitoring frameworks for beyond GDP indicators
- EU governance especially strong on climate
- Risk of silos due to a too-narrow focus on specific policy areas
- No integrated Beyond GDP governance framework
- Lack of enforcement mechanisms for many monitoring frameworks

Are existing dashboards systemic? A comparison of existing dashboards and indicator inventories within the dimensions of the Doughnut Economics framework. ZOE Institute, 2021.

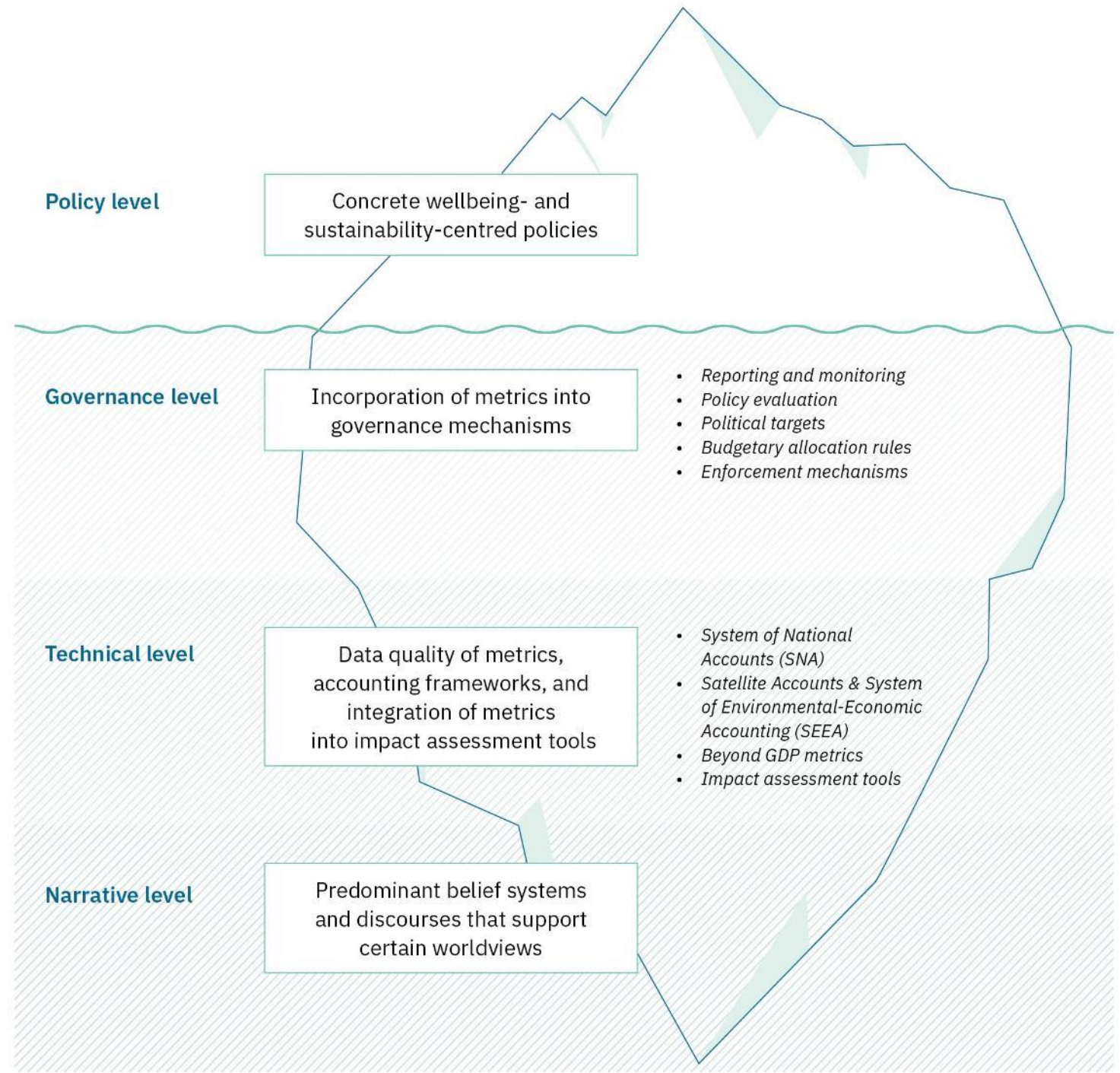
**Yellow:** no indicator is included  
**Blue:** a maximum of two indicators is included  
**Mint:** more than two indicators are included

# The EU is falling short on many of its social and environmental targets

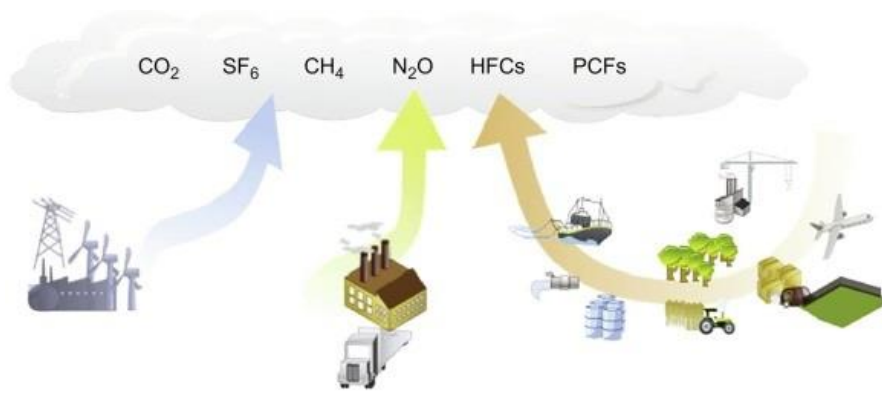


→ How to make beyond GDP indicators translate into concrete political action?

## We structure the debate along four distinct levels



# The most successful case for beyond GDP: greenhouse gas emissions



Policy level



Governance level

Technical level

Narrative level

⇒ What can we learn from this?

Concrete wellbeing- and sustainability-centred policies

Incorporation of metrics into governance mechanisms

Data quality of metrics, accounting frameworks, and integration of metrics into impact assessment tools

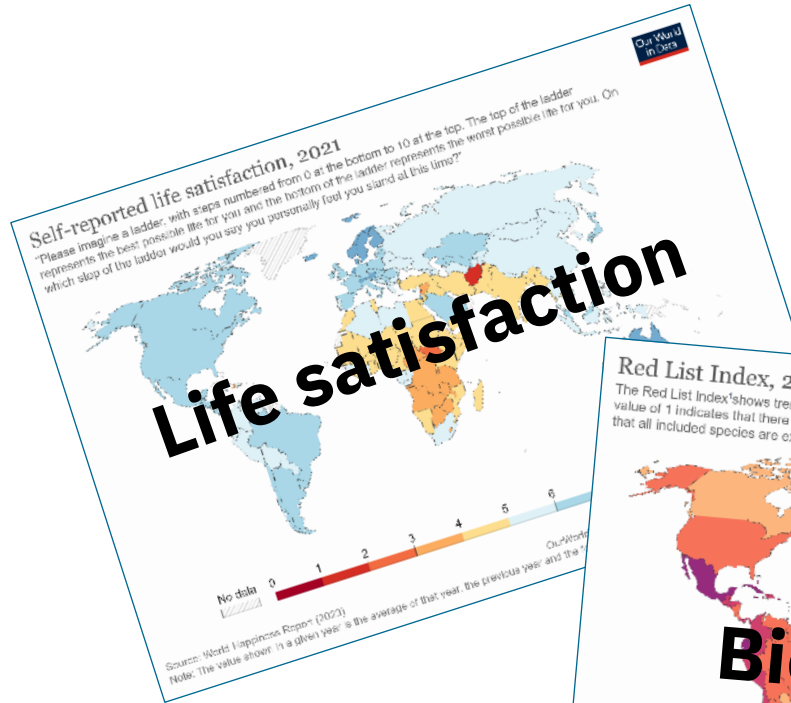
Predominant belief systems and discourses that support certain worldviews

- Reporting and monitoring
- Policy evaluation
- Political targets
- Budgetary allocation rules
- Enforcement mechanisms

- System of National Accounts (SNA)
- Satellite Accounts & System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
- Beyond GDP metrics
- Impact assessment tools



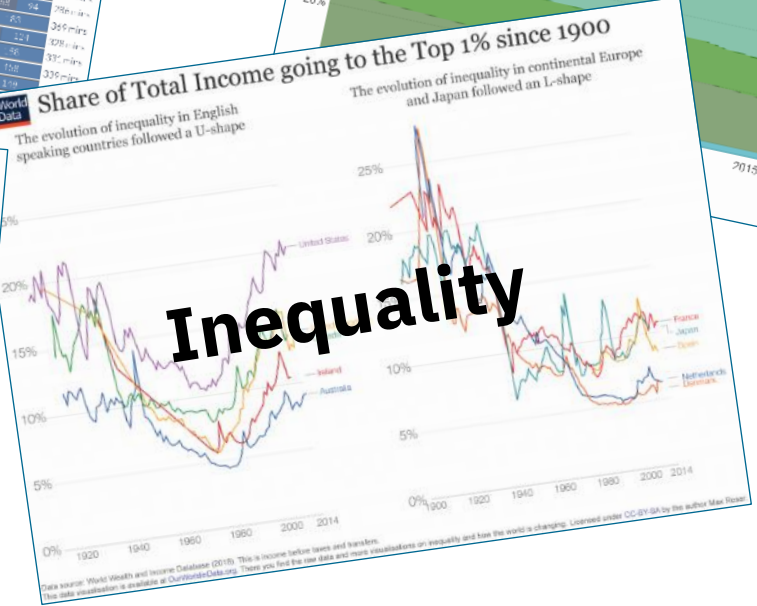
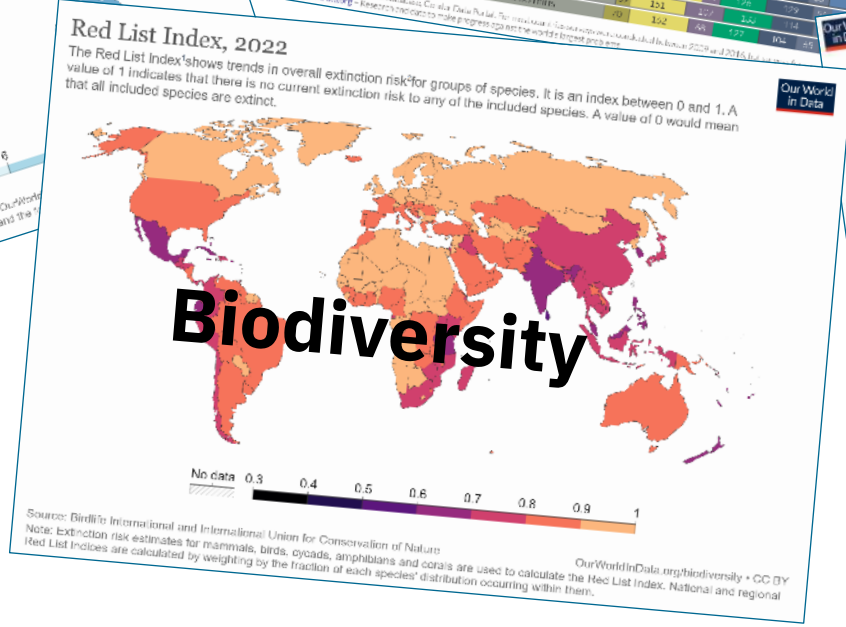
# Many wellbeing and sustainability metrics remain underrepresented



### How do people spend their time?

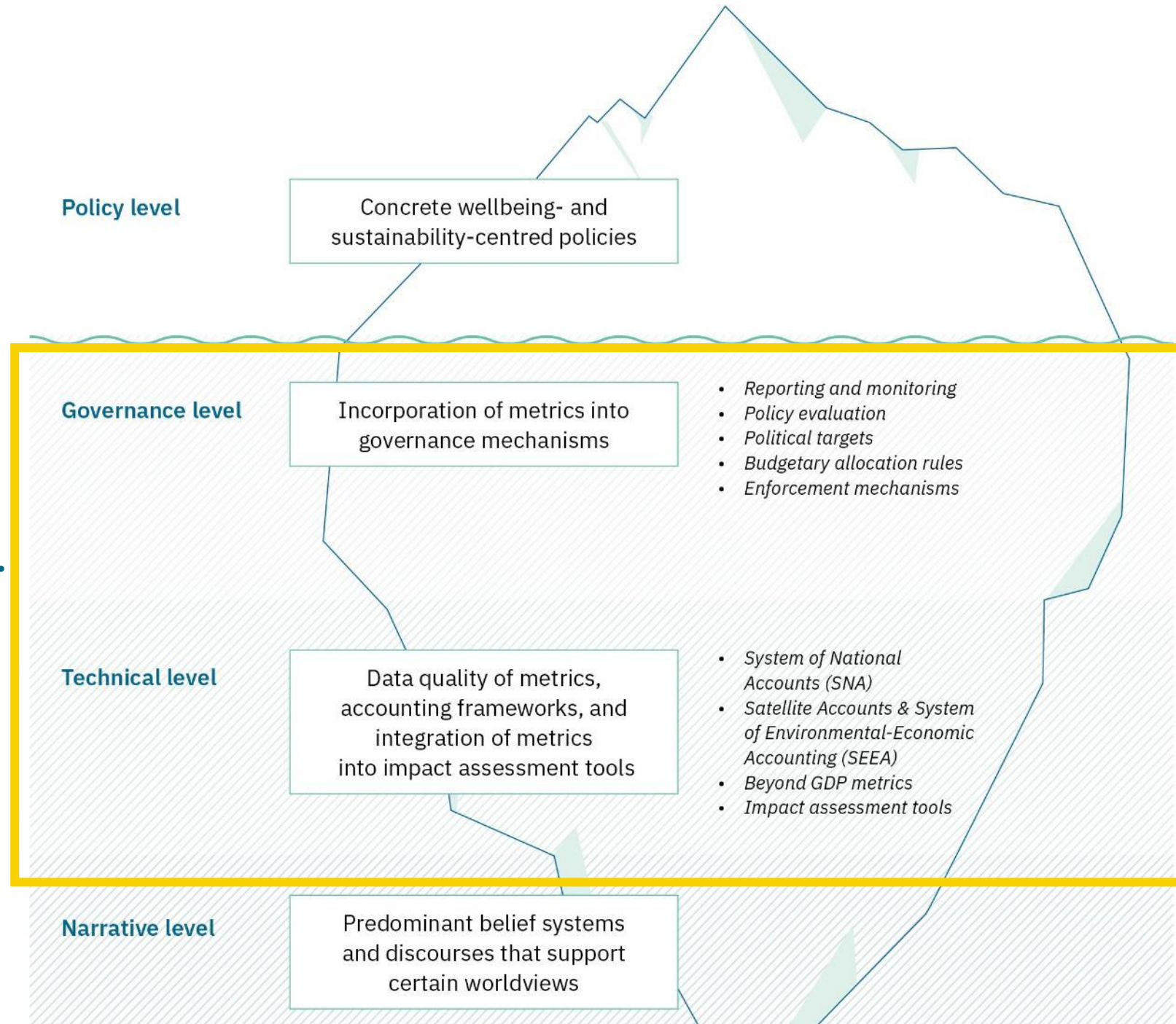
Averages of minutes per day from time use diaries for people between 15 and 64

Country	Paid work	Education	Other unpaid work	Sleep	Personal care	Leisure & drinking	Total leisure
China	315 mins	15 mins	15 mins	9 hours 2 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Mexico	307 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 19 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
South Korea	288 mins	15 mins	15 mins	7 hours 31 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Austria	280 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 18 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
India	274 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 44 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Canada	267 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 48 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Portugal	261 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 26 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
USA	241 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 48 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
New Zealand	237 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
UK	231 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Ireland	221 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Holland	220 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Germany	224 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Netherlands	218 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Luxembourg	217 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 28 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Norway	201 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 30 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Denmark	200 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 30 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Ireland	200 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 30 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Belgium	194 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 39 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Greece	187 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 25 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Spain	176 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 33 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
France	170 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 33 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins
Italy	170 mins	15 mins	15 mins	8 hours 33 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins	1 hour 15 mins



## Why?

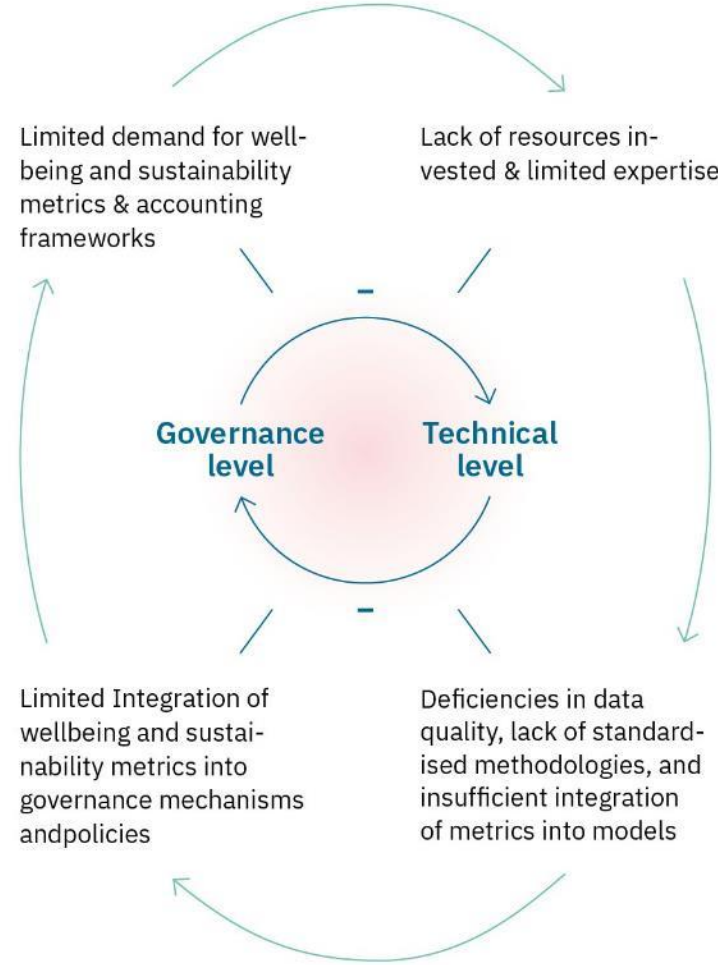
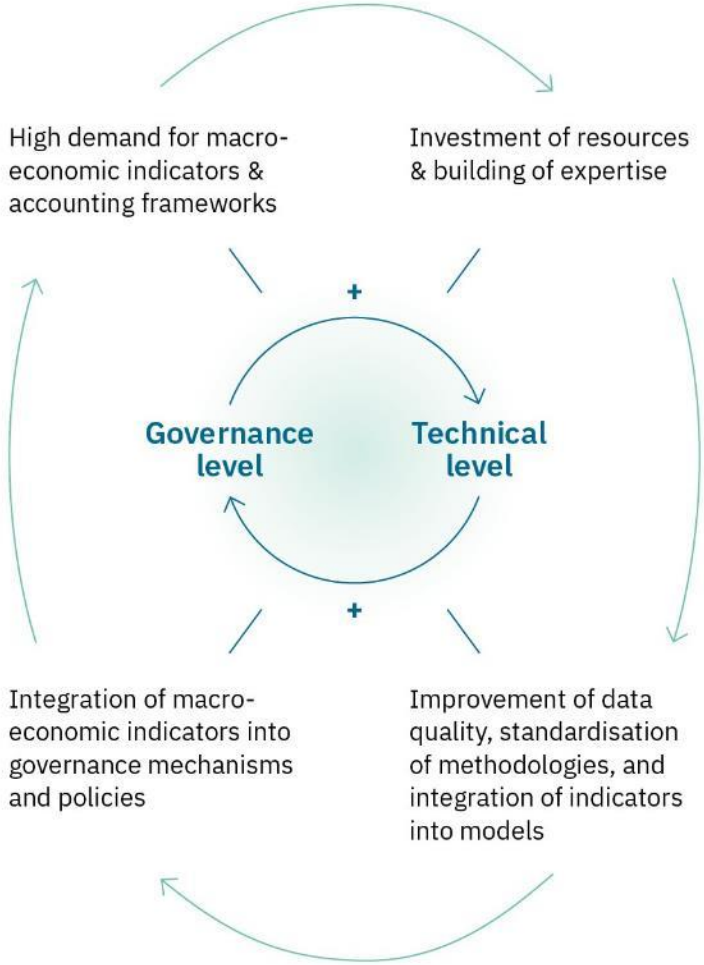
We zoomed-in into the governance and technical level.



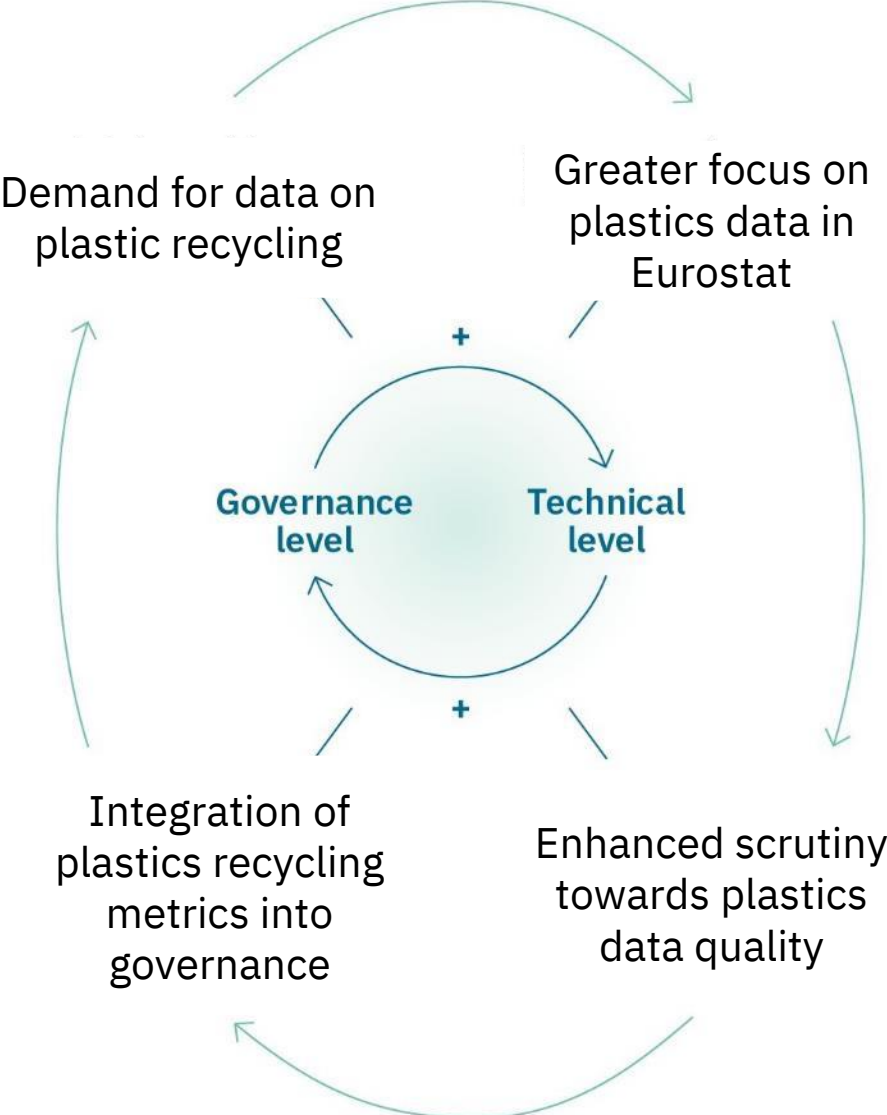


# The reinforcing mechanisms of the institutional GDP lock-in

# Understanding the feedback loops that give rise to the GDP lock-in

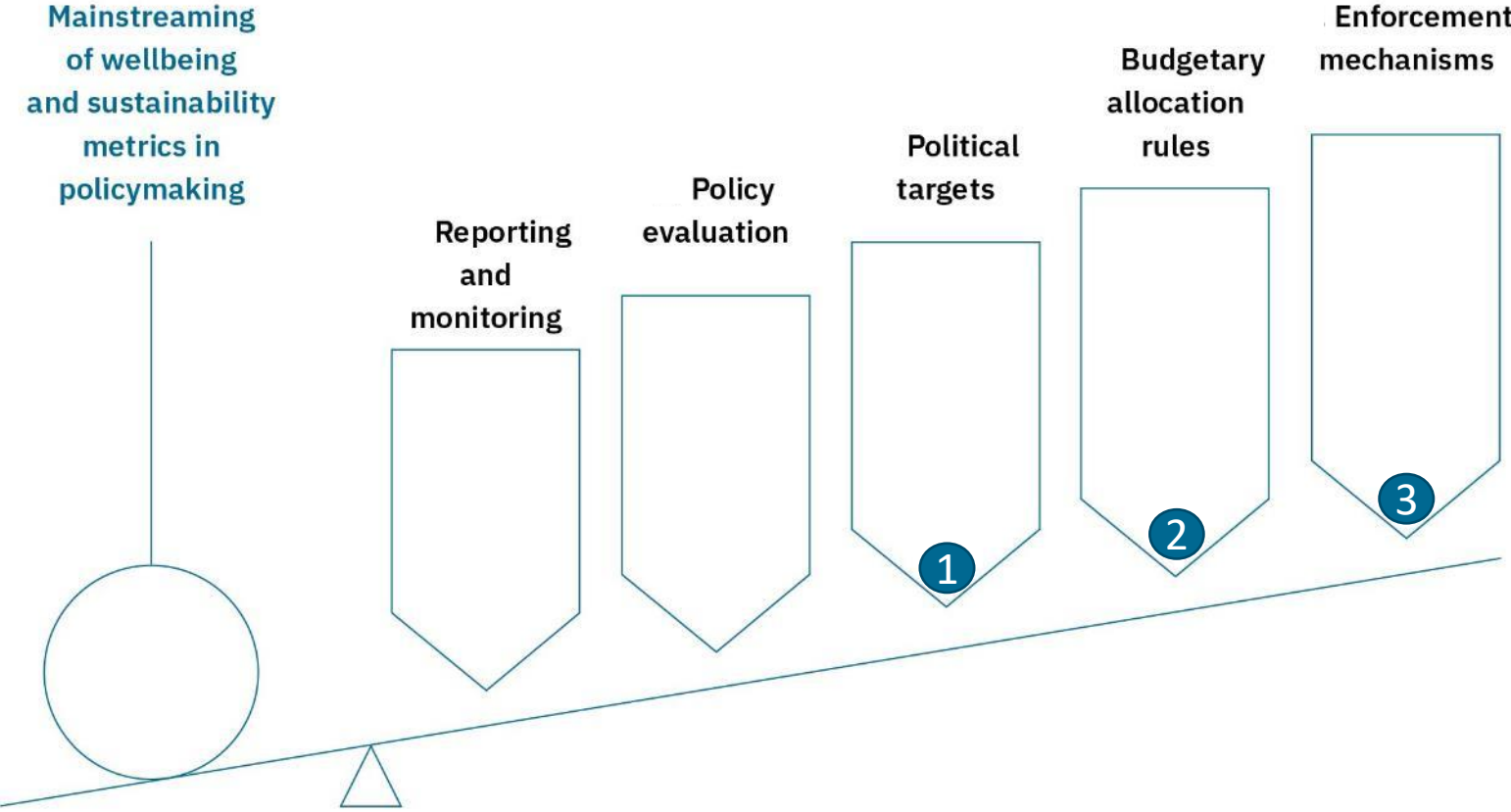


# The Plastics Own Resource: governance integration leads to technical improvements



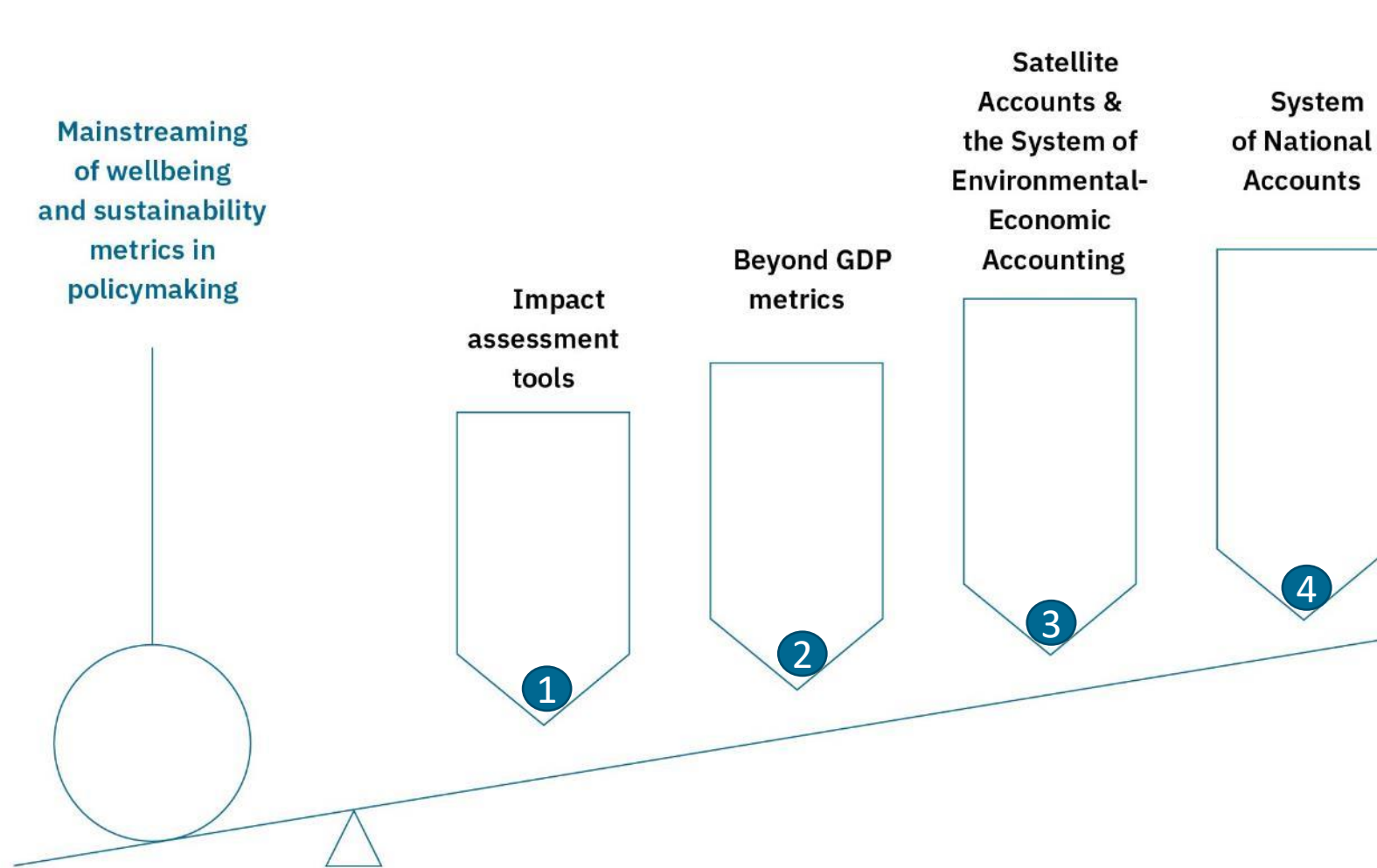
The levers for change  
on the technical and  
governance level

# Recommendations on the level of governance



- 1 Define binding targets for wellbeing and sustainability dimensions
- 2 Use wellbeing and sustainability metrics for allocation of funds
- 3 Implement effective enforcement mechanisms for wellbeing and sustainability targets

# Recommendations on the level of statistics and data quality



- Strengthen the consideration of wellbeing and sustainability aspects in impact assessment models
- Improve the data basis of material needs satisfiers and their affordability
- Introduce a Planetary Boundary Account in the SEEA  
➤ Establish a Time Use Satellite Account
- Expand the production and asset boundary of the SNA  
➤ Establish extended accounts in the SNA and introduce an adjusted GDP metrics

# Questions and comments

