



# 2050: A sustainable Europe in a sustainable world

Foresight to support the European Green Deal

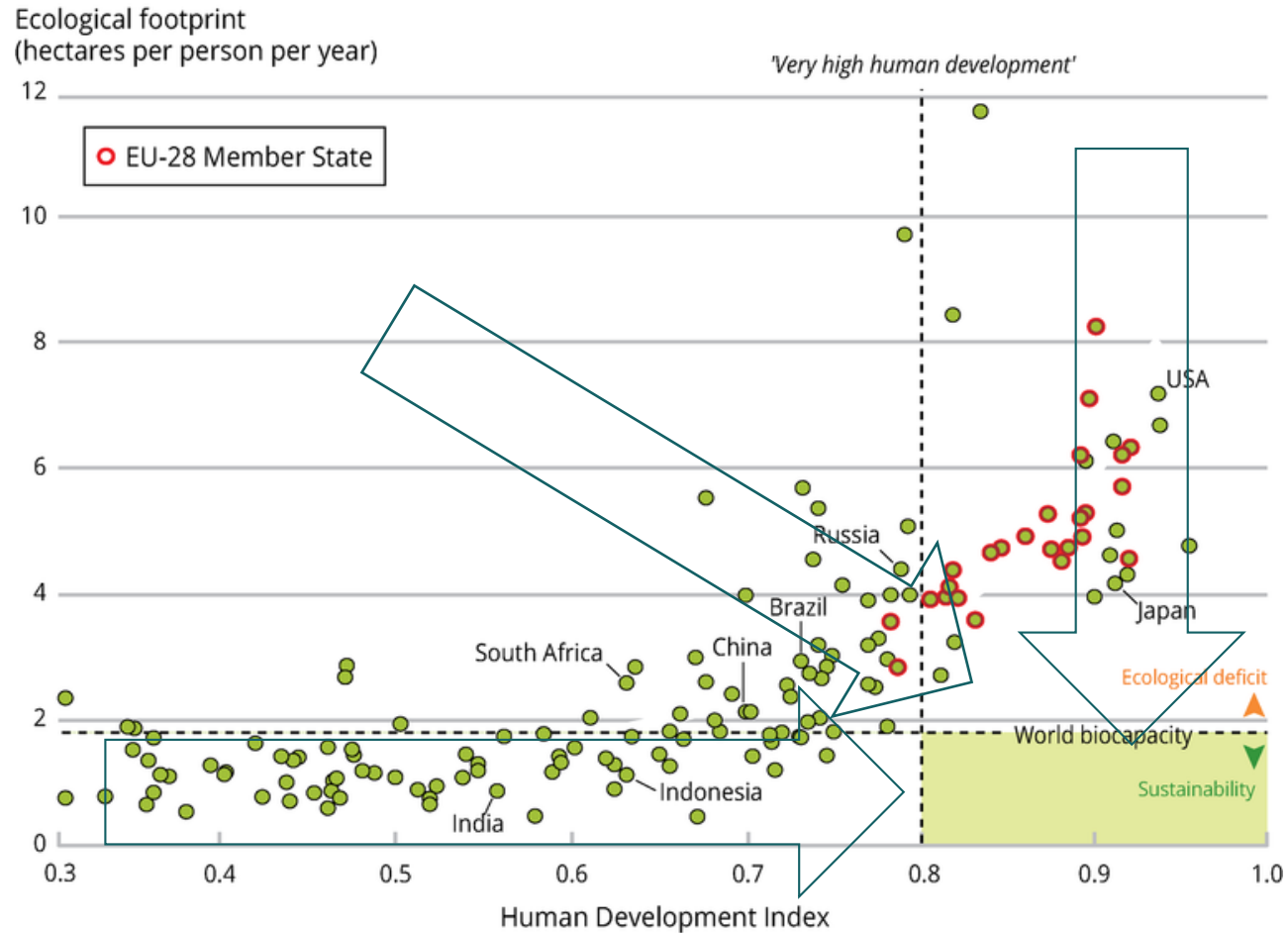
# Scenarios in the policy for the sustainability transition: the state of affairs

- A cascade of policy proposals: Clean Planet 2050; European Green Deal; Biodiversity strategy, etc. contain progressively more elements of a vision
- Lifestyle is important but is assumed:
  - “Making the transformation towards a net-zero greenhouse gas economy happen is not just about technologies and jobs. It is about people and their daily lives, about the way Europeans work, transport themselves and live together. Moving towards a net-zero greenhouse gas economy can only be successful with citizens that embrace change, get engaged and experience it as beneficial for their lives and that of their children”.
- The scenarios of Clean Planet 2050 are sets of numbers - which have been put in public consultation

# What do we need?

- We need to replace consultation with engagement and to make engagement meaningful;
  - The European Commission will take the debate on the necessary deep economic transformation and the profound societal change in an open and inclusive manner to all EU Member States. National Parliaments, business, non-governmental organisations, cities and communities, as well as citizens at large and the youth should participate in Citizens Dialogues
- We need scenarios / stories / narratives to illustrate alternatives and enable engagement.
- Explore lifestyle implications and questions (e.g. Kevin Anderson “if the richest 10% reduced their consumption to EU average it would cut world emissions by 30%”)
- To seek “new visions of a good life”

# New visions of a good life



Exploring comfortable and uncomfortable parts of the “High tech / Good environment” quadrant

# Scenarios for use in policy-making

# What kind of scenarios 2050?

- “Reference scenarios” (base-line for Clean Planet 2050 strategy and associated transitions)
  - Key systems and transition pathways
  - Focus on individual lives; highlight “pathways” and life-style implications of the EU strategies
  - Use combinations of potentially impactful trends / events / to characterize the scenario
- “Challenging scenarios”
  - Wild-cards and game changers
  - Exploit key characteristics of trends: change is generational; effects of changes now will take a while to become visible; rising risks of natural catastrophes; the transition is not about creating new technologies but mostly about abandoning old ones (new tech does not bring the transition!); freedom beyond liberty to consume, etc.
  - Failure scenarios (what could it mean to “not save the planet?”): e.g. see <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/futures-foretold-climate-fiction/>
- “Policy scenarios” to help the policy-makers think through the transition
  - Describe and Roadmap success. What could accelerate it? What could delay it; What could make it irrelevant? Let’s run through it again with an expanding context and group of participants.
  - Use lifestyle scenarios to stimulate the discussions

# The projects are starting

- The EEA supported study on Reference Scenarios 2050 has kicked off
- DG R&I is launching
  - a study on Challenging scenarios 2050: illustrating game changers, new opportunity spaces, wild-cards and consequences of policy-failure
  - A study on science, technology and innovation for eco-system performance – accelerating sustainability transitions

# Accelerating sustainability transitions

Science, Technology and Innovation for  
ecosystem performance



# Science, Technology and Innovation for ecosystem performance: the origins

- The Improving Human Performance Report (and programme) of NSF
- The Lancet Commission for Planetary Health
- The experience with technology foresight and environmental issues
- The progress in environmental policy towards integrating different problem areas, e.g.
  - Zero pollution
  - The biodiversity strategy

# The foundations of the perspective

- As sciences and technologies converge and fuse, the objectives of planetary health and ecosystem performance are at least as important as human health and performance
- Humanity is part of nature (e.g. there is no “nature left alone” / leaving nature alone does not necessarily help it “recover”)
- We have an obligation to
  - re-think nature and how we exist with it
  - rethink science, technology and innovation and the whole of our toolkit..

We use automation and precision  
to make this and not that



# Key elements of the project

- Defining ecosystem performance: e.g. a set of desirable clusters of ecosystem characteristics, and the conditions of their desirability
- Mapping the S&T landscape
- Matching the two and projecting / building case studies:
  - STI that intentionally and directly affect ecosystem performance: present and future risks and opportunities
  - STI that unintentionally / indirectly affect ecosystem performance: present and future risks and opportunities
  - STI that help understand, study, monitor and manage ecosystems: present and future risks and opportunities
- Leading to a report (and a conference) with case studies / vignettes / scenarios / and a proposal for a major R&I programme

# An ecological long-term future: public engagement and vision building

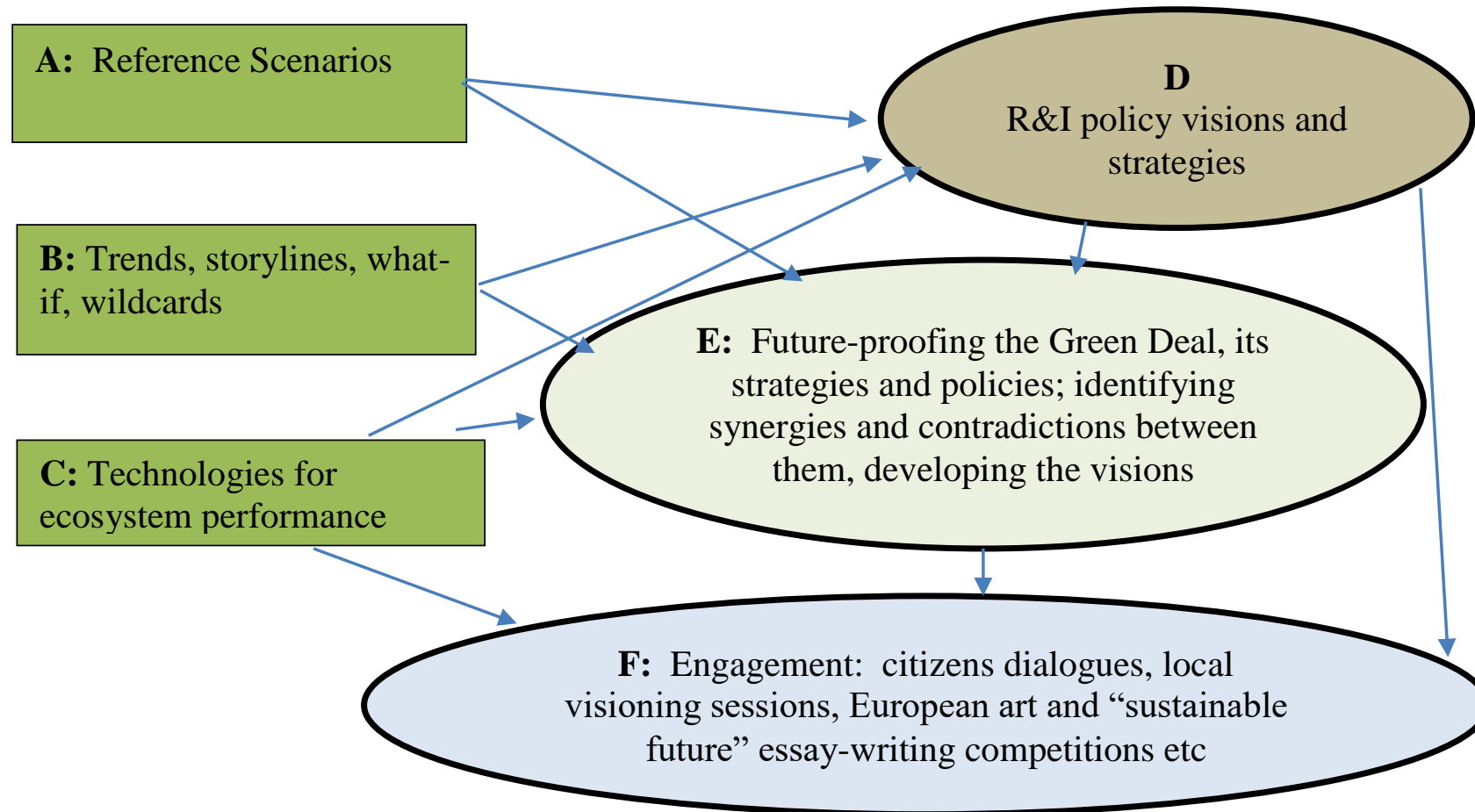
# A programme of public engagement activities across Europe supporting





- Public debates on the local and global implications of sustainable futures based on the lifestyle scenarios
- Local community visions in the spirit of the Green Deal
- A broad public debate on STI for ecosystem performance
- Imagine sustainable futures: art exhibitions; essay competitions etc.

# Potential partnerships / collaborations

- All services of the European Commission
- EEA, Other European Agencies
- National foresight projects in STI and in sustainability futures
- Regional agencies
- OECD, UN – especially on sustainability visions
- Important private endeavours – e.g. project Drawdown

# Supporting the Green Deal with Foresight: a proposal



<b>Legend:</b>	 R&I / EEA	 R&I Lead HE Family	 SG.JRC lead / Coordinated by SFN / R&I support	 Coordinated by SFN / R&I support
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Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/foresight/>