



Chapter 4

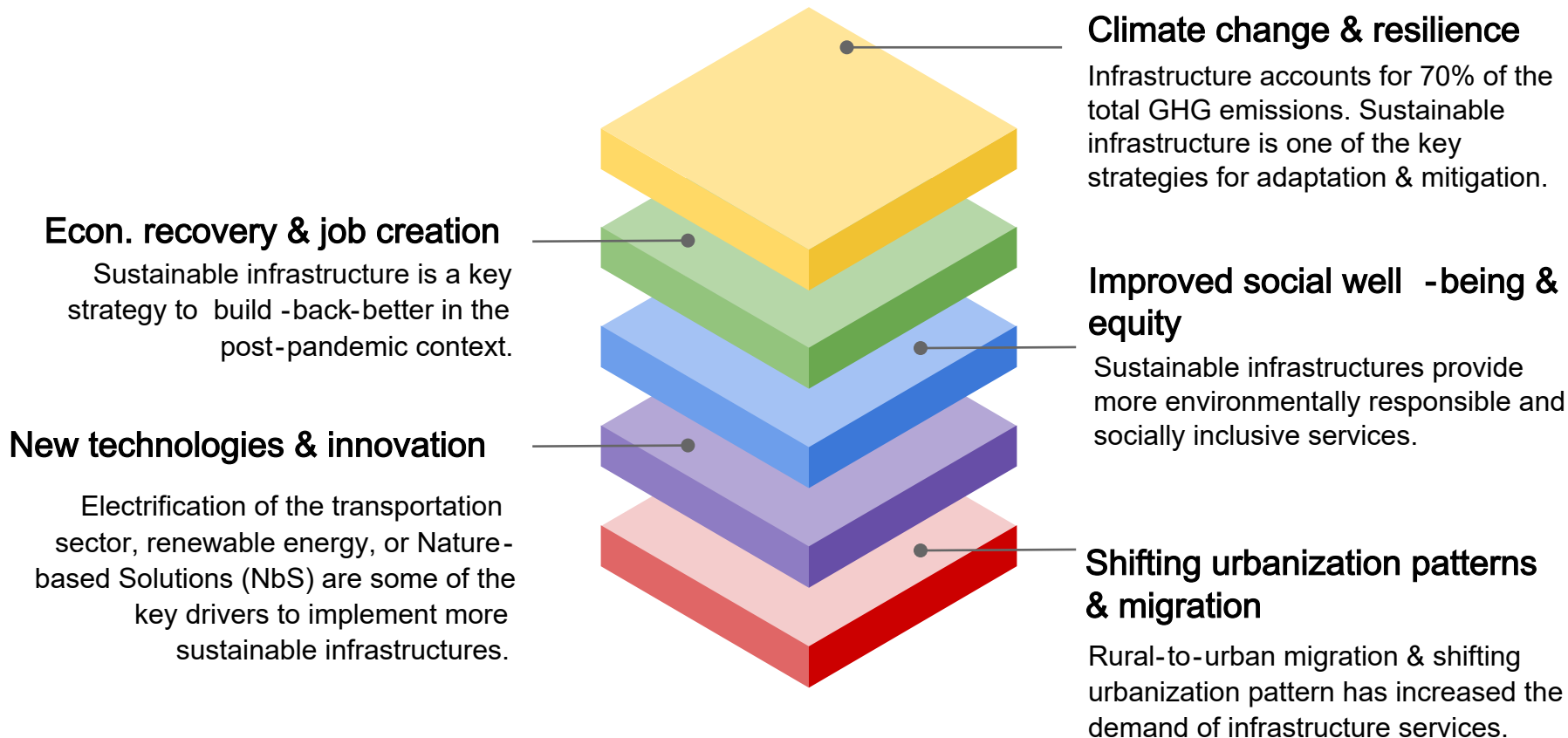
Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

4.1. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure

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Main drivers of sustainable infrastructure



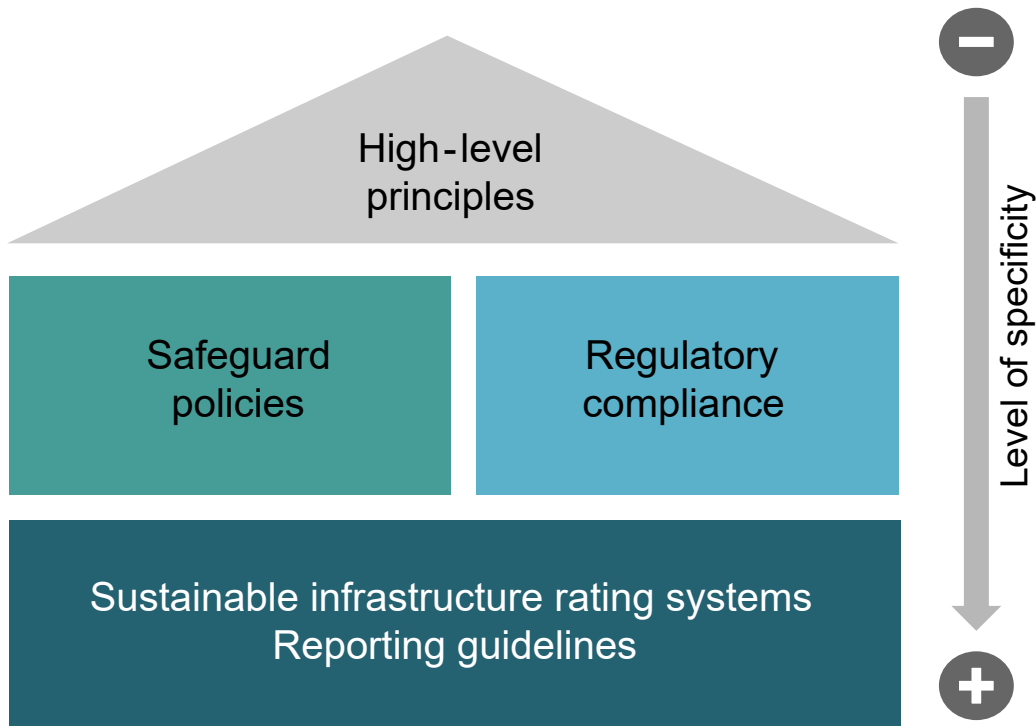
Landscape of sustainability initiatives

Provide aspirational lines of action at the global scale, these are in most cases published by international groups.

Ej. G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII)

Focused mostly on environmental and social considerations. These define minimum requirements and are mostly focused on risk mitigation (do-not-harm). *Ej. (IFC) Performance Standards and the Equator Principles*

Voluntary frameworks focused on sustainability performance (beyond minimum and legal compliance). *Ej. Envision Rating System or Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)*



Cross comparative analysis methodology

These frameworks analyzed are:

1. Indicator Panel European Strategic Framework
2. MDB Common Set of Aligned Sustainable Infrastructure Indicators (SII)
3. UNEP International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure
4. The G20 principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment
5. Fast-Infra
6. EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities

- These frameworks represent initiatives developed by the **public, and private sector** as well as **international groups** and **Multilateral Development Banks**.
- The **respective criteria** from the different frameworks have been organized around **four main categories**:
 1. Environmental sustainability & resilience
 2. Social sustainability,
 3. Institutional sustainability
 4. Economic and financial sustainability.

Indicators

CATEGORIES

INDICATORS

Environmental
sustainability
and resilience

1. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - GHG emission reduction
 - Disaster risk reduction strategies
2. Environmental conservation and biodiversity protection
 - Biodiversity protection
 - Ecosystem services protection
3. Circular Economy

Social
sustainability

4. Gender equality and empowerment
5. Life-cycle cost accounting
6. Access to basic services

Institutional
sustainability

7. Transparency and anticorruption

Econ/ financial
sustainability

8. Sustainable investment

Results

CATEGORIES

INDICATORS

Environmental
sustainability
and resilience

1. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- GHG emission reduction
- Disaster risk reduction strategies

2. Environmental conservation and biodiversity protection

- Biodiversity protection (*Aichi Biodiversity*)
- Ecosystem services protection (*land degradation*)

3. Circular Economy (*construction and demolition waste*)



Social
sustainability

4. Gender equality and empowerment (*Employment gap*)

5. Life-cycle cost accounting (*Cost-Benefit Analysis*)

6. Access to basic services (*water, sanitation, electricity, mobile network*)



Institutional
sustainability

7. Transparency and anticorruption



Econ/ financial
sustainability

8. Sustainable investment



Key messages (1/2)

- There is a **global effort** to **consolidate indicators** defining **what is sustainable infrastructure**. However, some of the key aspects are already agreed upon.
- **New approaches to infrastructure** (*Nature-based solutions ...*) and its **benefits** (*eg. ecosystem services ...*) are to this date not well covered by existing literature. New data-gathering efforts would be necessary.
- Targeted efforts are required to **mainstream gender in infrastructure**. The current approach is focused on the **employment gap**, however a broader view of the incorporation of gender diversity, as users, workers and decision-makers is required.
- **The life-cycle** approach to infrastructure development is often time **not fully considered**. This limits the implementation of **circular economy strategies**, **life-cycle cost accounting**, and consideration of **externalities**.

Key messages (2/2)

HIGH LEVEL:

- Sustainable Infrastructure investment has been recognized as one of the most impactful strategies to build back better in the post COVID recovery. **The lack of sustainable infrastructure pipelines, the lack of capacity, and the urgency to boost economic development and job creation around the world are pushing decision-makers to move towards business as usual projects instead.**
- **Sustainable infrastructure** is at the core of delivering on the **2030 Agenda**, as more than **70% of its targets** are related directly and indirectly to infrastructure development.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Appendix- Cross comparative analysis

Core elements Frameworks	Environmental sustainability and resilience	Social sustainability	Institutional sustainability	Economic and financial sustainability
Pan-European Strategic Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural capital • Ecosystem services • sustainable production patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy living & well-being • Sustainable consumption • Public participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externalities & natural capital • Green & fair trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externalities & natural capital • Green and decent jobs, & human capital
MDB Common Set of Aligned Sustainable Infrastructure Indicators (SII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG reduction • Climate risk, resilience • Biodiversity • Pollution control & moni. • Efficient use of materials • Energy & water efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and affordability • Stakeholder engagement • Human & labor rights • Disability & special needs • Gender integration • Health & safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti corruption protocols & procedures • Corporate sustainability disclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive economic & social return (ERR) • Job creation
UNEP International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infra.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Environmental impacts and nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity inclusiveness & empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifecycle assessment • Strategic planning • Transparent, inclusive & evidence-based decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal sustainability & innovative finance • Enhancing economic benefits
The G20 principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development • Stakeholder engagement • Displacement • female jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory project identification, • Procurement standards • Conflict of interest and ethics • Sustainability Certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROR/ contingencies • Training and education • Permanent & construction jobs
Fast-Infra		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Engagement • Human & Labour Rights • Land Acquisition & Resettlement Mitigation • Gender & Inclusivity • Health & Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability & Compliance Policies • Anti-corruption Policies & Procedures • Transparency & Accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding Government Policies for Project Fiscal Transparency & Procedures
EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change mitigation • Climate change adaptation • Biodiversity and ecosystems. • Pollution and control • Circular economy • Water and marine resources 	—	—	—