

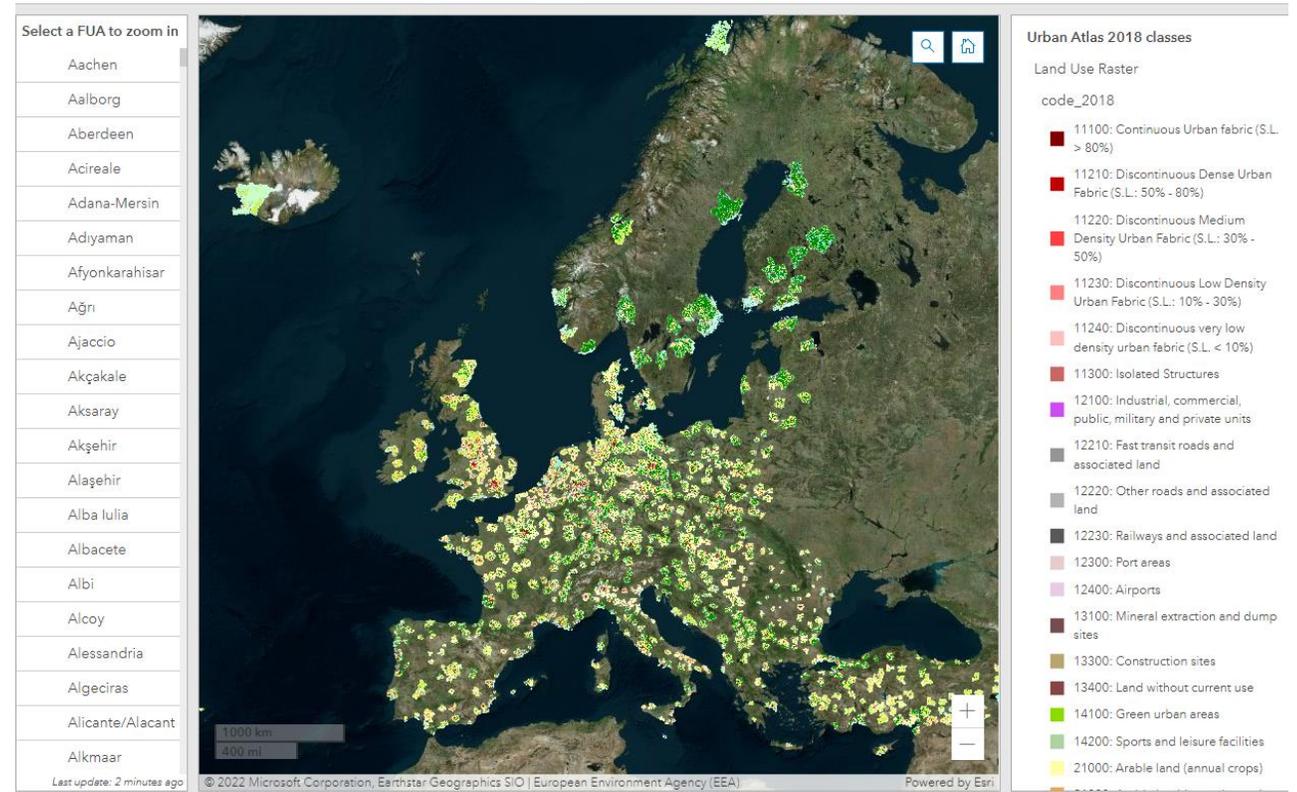
Urban sustainability knowledge, information and data sources across the EEA

Vuokko Heikinheimo,
Finnish Environment Institute SYKE



Urban sustainability information across EEA

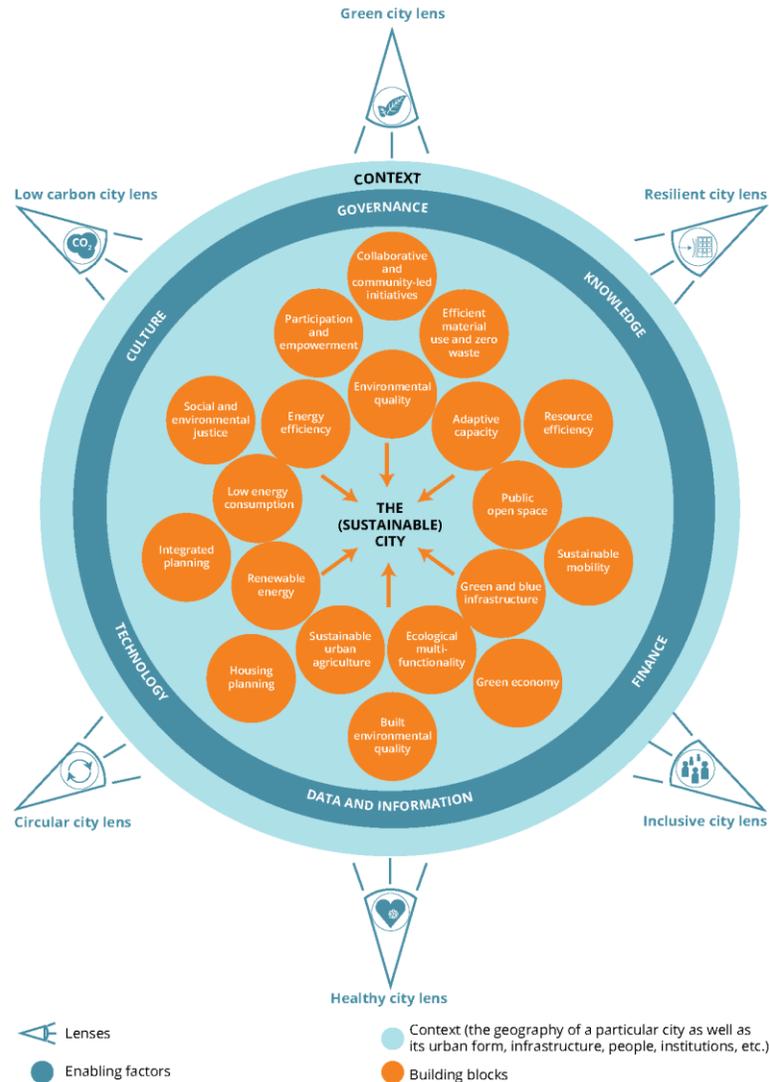
What urban sustainability information and data are available and being produced?



[Urban Atlas 2018 map dashboard \(eea.europa.eu\)](https://eea.europa.eu)



Urban sustainability



- There is no single definition of **urban sustainability** or a 'sustainable city'
- **Economic, social and environmental issues** need to be considered in an integrated way
- EEA's conceptual framework for urban environmental sustainability identifies 19 context-dependent **building blocks of urban environmental sustainability** that can help identifying relevant information and data

Source: [EEA Report No 06/2021](#)



Approach

- EEA web catalog search
- Scanning European Topic Center (ETC) action plans
- Workshop in June 2022



Urban sustainability on EEA's webpages

European Environment Agency

Topics Countries Data and maps Indicators Publications Media About us

EN Search

Topics and subtopics

Change language

Search topics

- Air and climate**
 - Air pollution
 - Air pollution sources
 - Air quality and COVID-19
 - Air quality concentrations
 - Air quality index
 - Air quality management
 - Explore air pollution data
 - Health impacts of air pollution
 - Urban air quality
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Climate-ADAPT
 - Impacts, vulnerability and risks
 - Policies and actions
 - Climate change mitigation
 - Climate finance
 - Greenhouse gas emissions in Europe
 - Ozone depleting substances and climate change
 - Policies and measures
- Nature**
 - Biodiversity — Ecosystems
 - An introduction to habitats
 - Find species, habitat types and protected sites across Europe (EUNIS)
 - Forests
 - Green infrastructure
 - Mapping Europe's ecosystems (MAES)
 - Protected Areas
 - Species protection and conservation
 - State of Nature in the EU
 - The Natura 2000 protected areas network
 - Land use
 - Analytical assessment framework
 - Land cover country fact sheets
 - Soil
 - Contamination from local sources
 - Soil and climate change
- Sustainability and well-being**
 - Environment and health
 - Chemicals
 - Human biomonitoring
 - Noise
 - Policy instruments
 - Resource efficiency and waste
 - Measuring Europe's circular economy
 - Resource efficiency
 - Waste management
 - Waste prevention
 - Sustainability transition
 - Drivers of change
 - State of the Environment reporting in Europe
 - Urban sustainability
- Economic sectors**
 - Agriculture
 - Greening agricultural policy
 - Energy
 - Renewable energy
 - Industry
 - Transport
 - Electric vehicles
 - Heavy-duty vehicles
 - Speed limits, fuel consumption and air pollution
 - Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM)
 - Vehicles taxation

European Environment Agency

Topics Countries Data and maps Indicators Publications Media About us

EN Search

Urban sustainability: how can cities become sustainable?

As many of us live in cities, ensuring a sustainable urban environment is vital. Cities are the engines of Europe's economy and are increasingly recognised as key players in Europe's transition towards a low-carbon economy.

Last modified 13 Dec 2021 — 4 min read PDF

Photo (c) Farbek Media on Unsplash

Europe is a highly urbanised continent. Today, around 75 % of Europe's population live in urban areas. Estimates predict that European urban population will rise to 80 % in 2050. The urban landscape of Europe is heterogenous and characterised by a diversity of mostly small and medium cities.

75 % of European population live in urban areas, in 2021

80 % of European population live in urban areas, in 2050

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<https://www.eea.europa.eu/>

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/sustainability-transitions/urban-environment>

European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre
Sustainability transitions



Urban sustainability information on EEA's webpages

EEA's urban sustainability webpage highlights:

- 14 briefings
- 20 reports
- Links to related content (Data & Maps etc.)



[EEA Report No 06/2021](#)



European Environment Agency

Topics Countries Data and maps Indicators Publications Media About us

EN Q S

Topics and subtopics Sustainability transitions Urban sustainability

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Urban sustainability
Urban can cities sustain
Browse
Data and maps
Urban sustainability
— Glossary
Sustainable transitions

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/sustainability-transitions/urban-environment>



Urban sustainability information on EEA's webpages

The screenshot shows the EEA Global search and catalogue interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the word "urban" entered. Below the search bar, a blue bar indicates "Current filters applied: 1" with a "Reset filters" link. The search results are displayed in a grid of six cards. The first card is a "Web page" titled "List of Management Board members" with a date of 20 Jul 2009. The second card is "Data (at EEA)" titled "National emissions reported to the UNFCCC and to the EU Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism" with a date of 31 May 2021. The third card is "Data (at EEA)" titled "Trends and projections in Europe" with a date of 08 Nov 2016. The fourth card is "Data (at EEA)" titled "Air Quality Reporting (AQ) Reporting". The fifth card is "Data (at EEA)" titled "Conservation status of habitat types". The sixth card is "References and links, Data visualisation" titled "Landscape fragmentation in Europe".

Types of information:

- Publications / reports
- Briefings
- Data
- Data visualisations
- Webpages
- ...

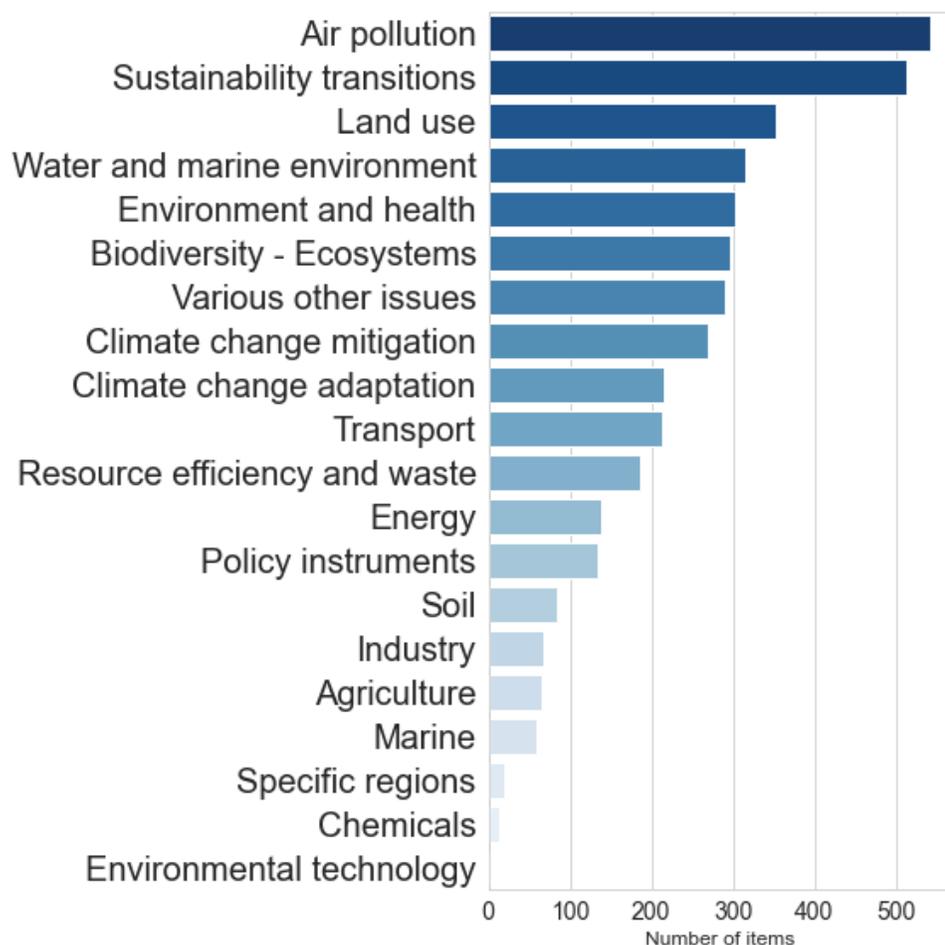
Search word “urban” returned 2610 records.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/> → search 10th Aug 2022

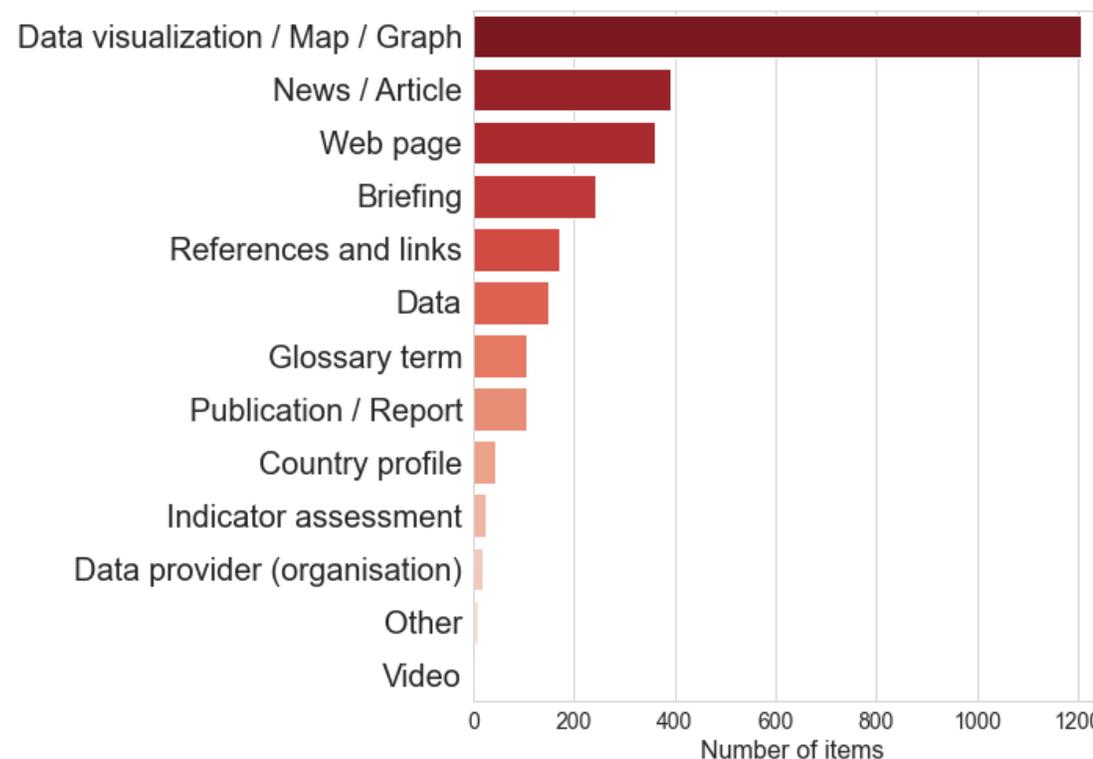


Urban sustainability information on EEA's webpages

Topics



Content types

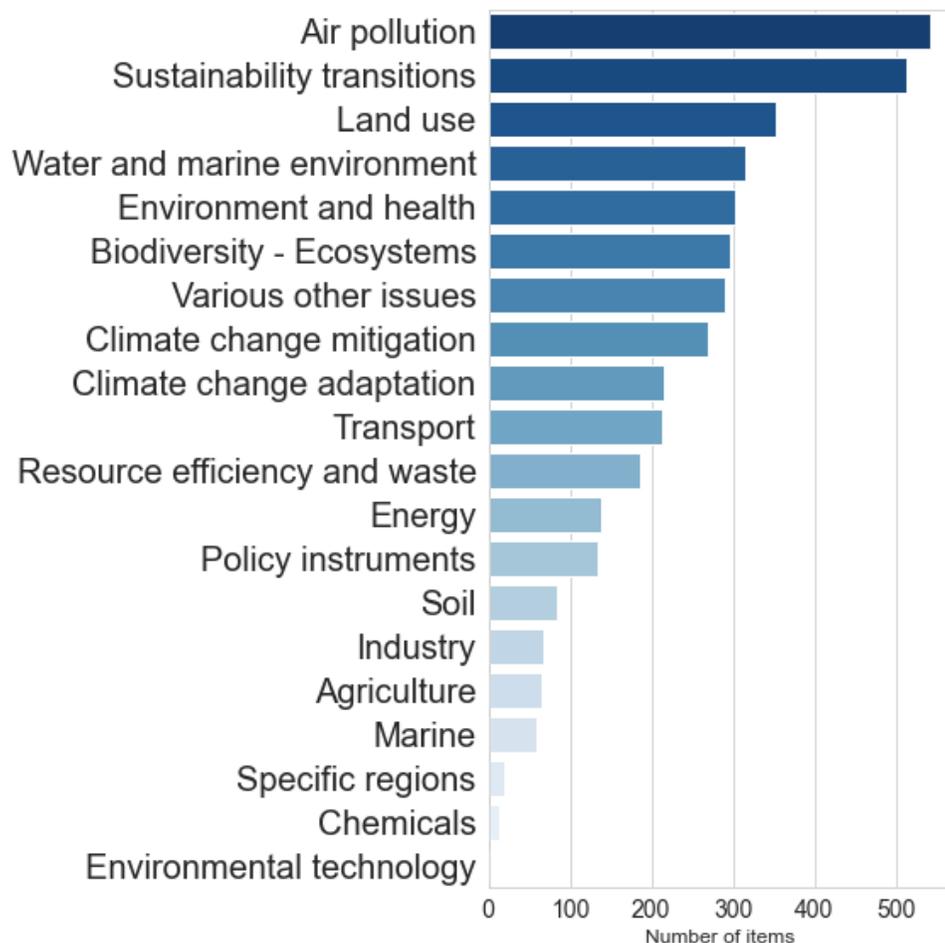


Source: (EEA, 2022)

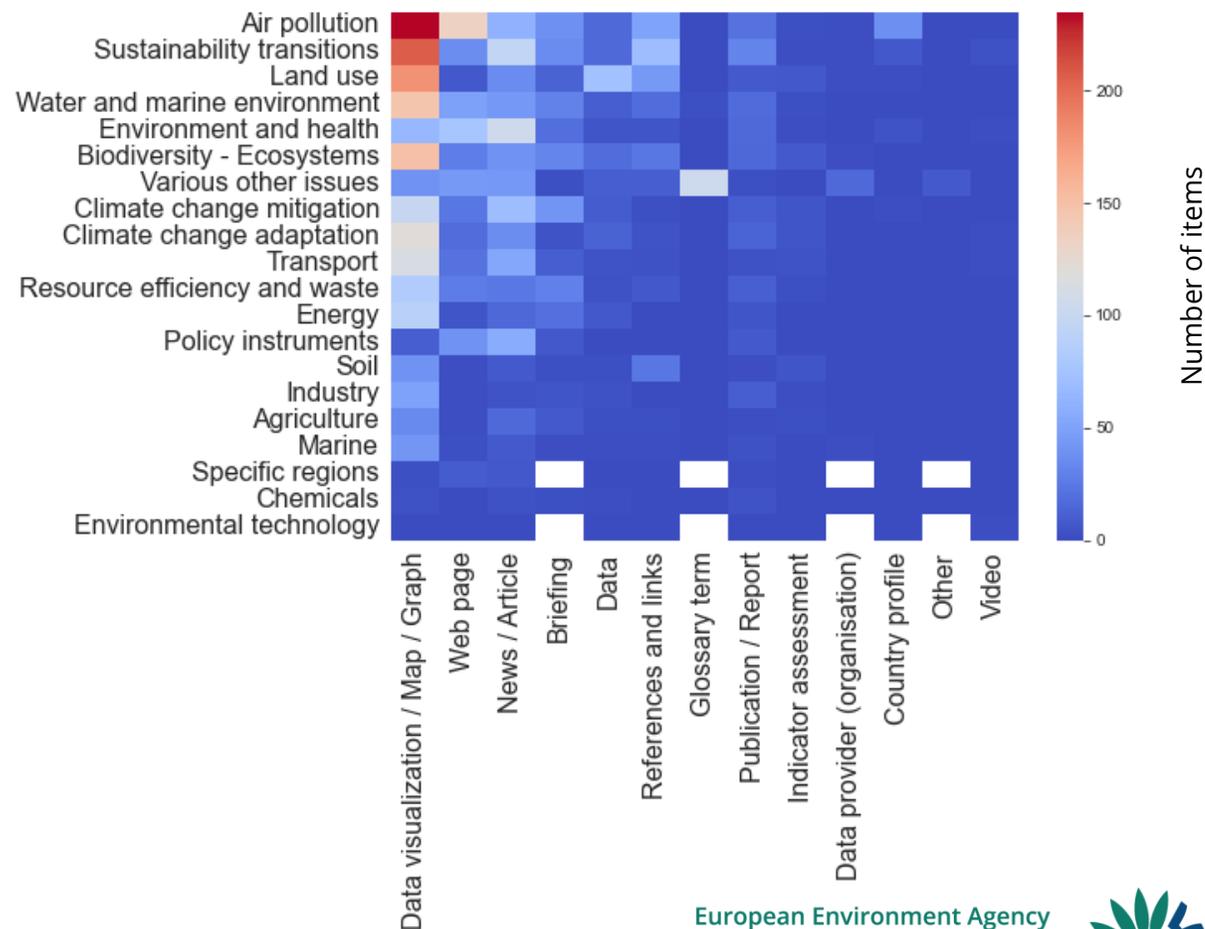


Urban sustainability information on EEA's webpages

Topics



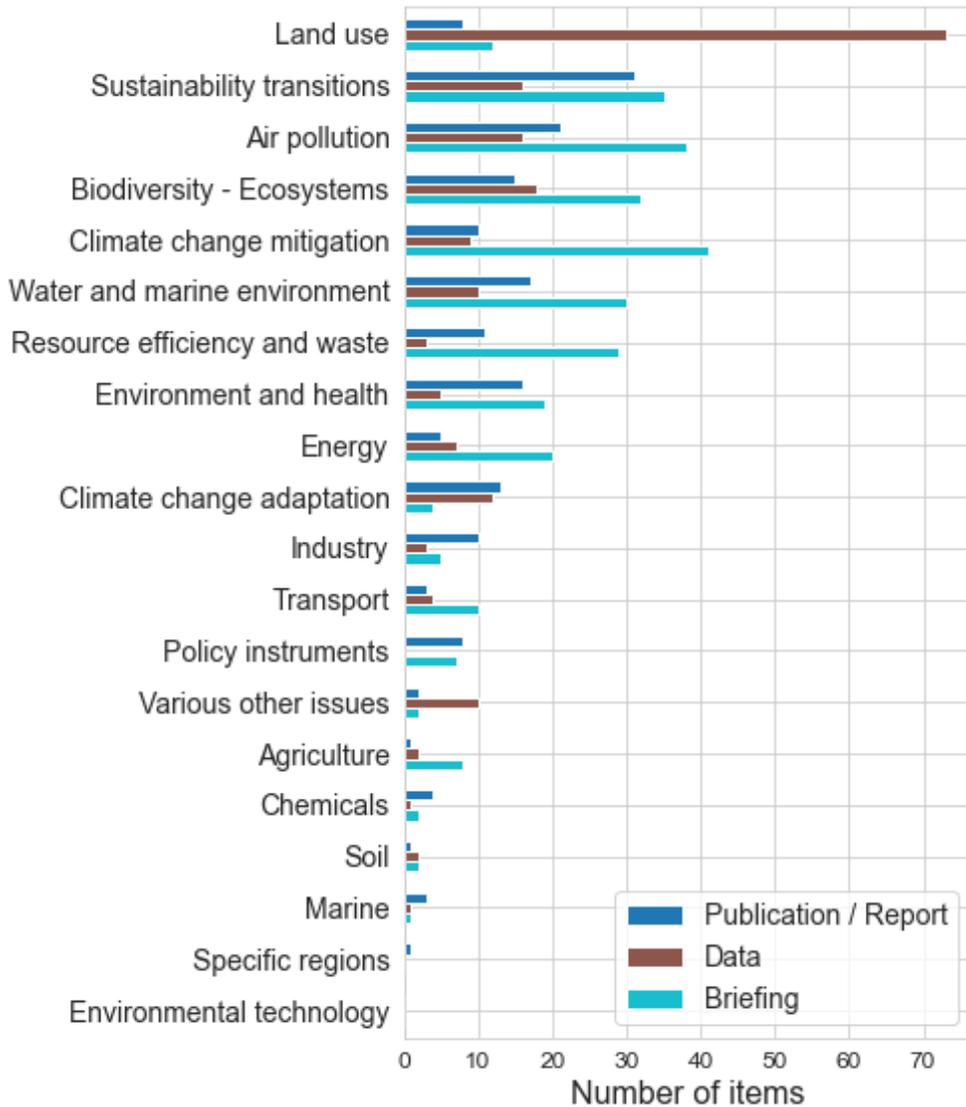
Topics per content type



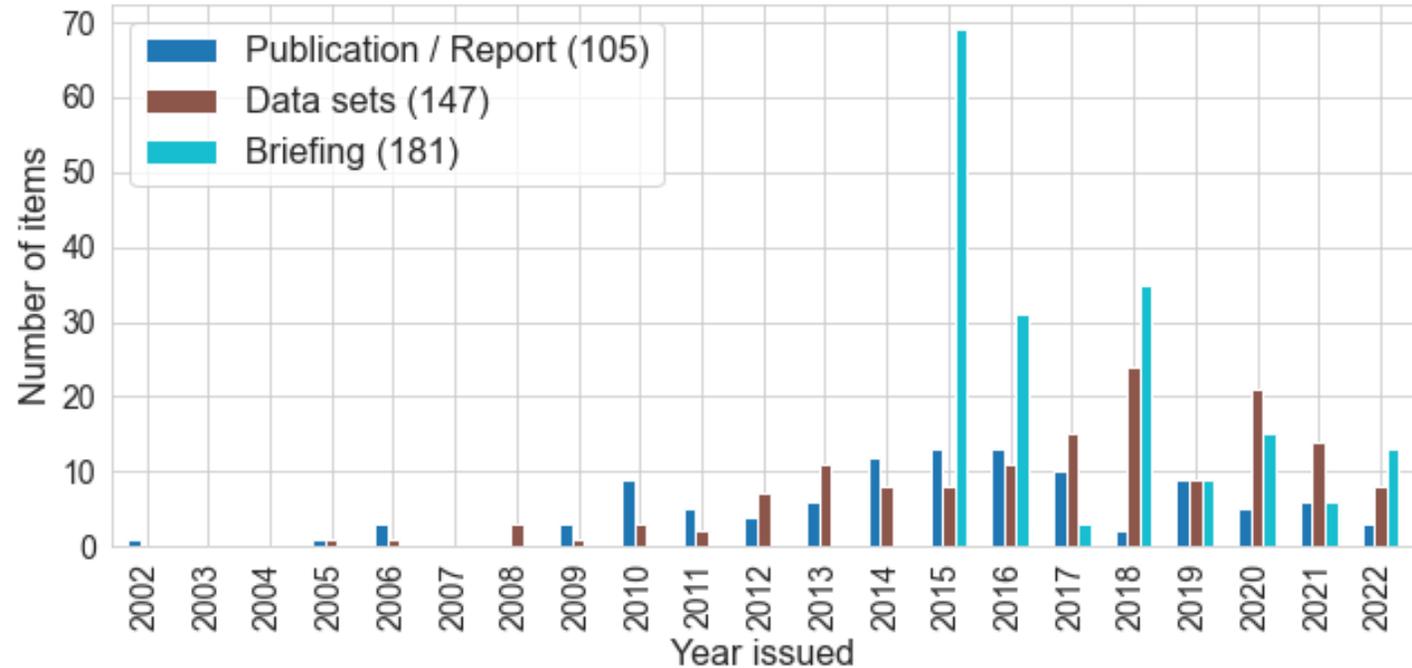
Source: (EEA, 2022)



Urban sustainability information on EEA's webpages



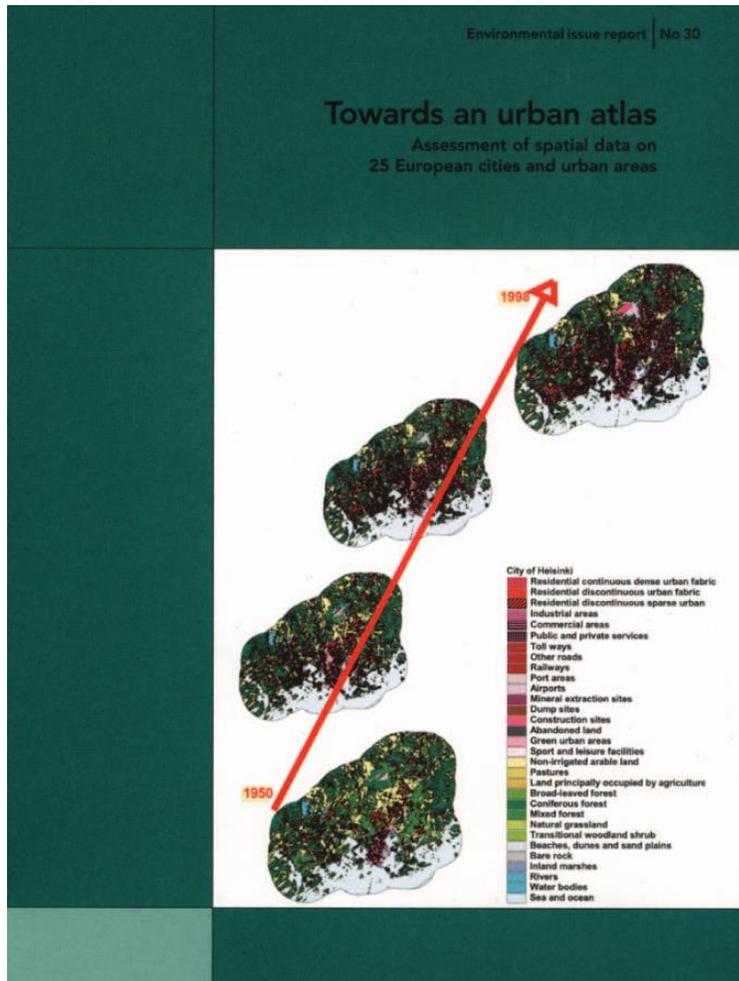
Publications / reports, briefings and data sets



Source: (EEA, 2022)



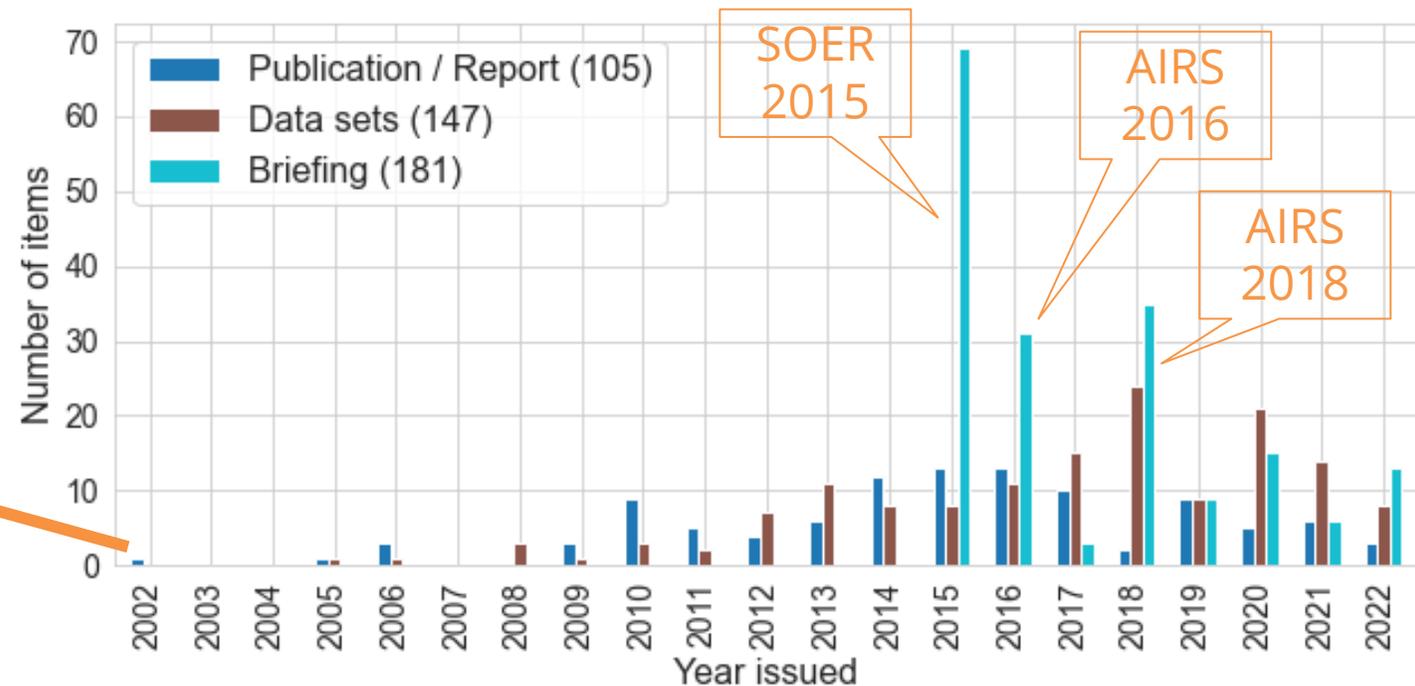
Urban sustainability information on EEA's webpages



[EEA Report No 30/2002](#)

Source: (EEA, 2022)

Publications / reports, briefings and data sets



Ongoing work in European Topic Centers (ETCs)

- [ETC on Climate Change Adaptation and LULUCF \(ETC CA\)](#)
- [ETC on Climate Change Mitigation \(ETC CM\)](#)
- [ETC on Data Integration and Digitalisation \(ETC DI\)](#)
- [ETC on Human Health and the Environment \(ETC HE\)](#)
- [ETC on Circular Economy and Resource Use \(ETC CE\)](#)
- [ETC on Sustainability Transitions \(ETC ST\)](#)
- [ETC on Biological Diversity \(ETC BD\)](#)
- [ETC on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters \(ETC ICM\)](#)

<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs>



Ongoing work in European Topic Centers (ETCs)

Building blocks of urban environmental sustainability across ongoing ETCs

| Identified in several ETCs | | Identified in a single ETC | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Environmental quality | Efficient material use and zero waste | Social and environmental justice | Green and blue infrastructure | | |
| | | Ecological multifunctionality | Sustainable urban agriculture | | |
| Adaptive capacity | Built environment quality | Resource efficiency | Low energy consumption | Housing quality | |
| | | | Sustainable mobility | Green economy | Renewable energy |
| | | Energy efficiency | Public open space | Participation and empowerment | |
| | | | | | |
| Not identified in ongoing ETCs | | | | | |
| Integrated planning | | Collaborative and community-led initiatives | | | |

Example outputs:

- 2024 Urban adaptation report
- Briefing on Just Resilience
- 2022 Urban resilience forum
- [Climate-ADAPT](#)
- [Climate and Health observatory](#)
- Landscape fragmentation analytics
- Copernicus data quality control
- European Urban Biodiversity Index / [Biodiversity Information System for Europe](#)
- Urban Waste water map viewer
- Other Indices/dashboards/map viewers
- Other reports and briefings



Key messages

- A wealth of **information and data relevant for urban sustainability** exists and is being produced at the EEA.
- More content exist related to **topics linked to EU-policies** and related legislation requirements (e.g., air quality), and **topics where remote sensing techniques can be used** to produce Europe-wide locally relevant data (e.g., land use).
- **Findability of EEA's urban information** and data could be enhanced via **coordinated tagging** of the content and active **content curation of the webpages**
- Urban sustainability is a cross-cutting issue – need for **cross-thematic collaboration** in knowledge production



Thank you!

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