

Collaborative Climate Action (CCA):
Multi-level climate cooperation
for achieving decarbonisation

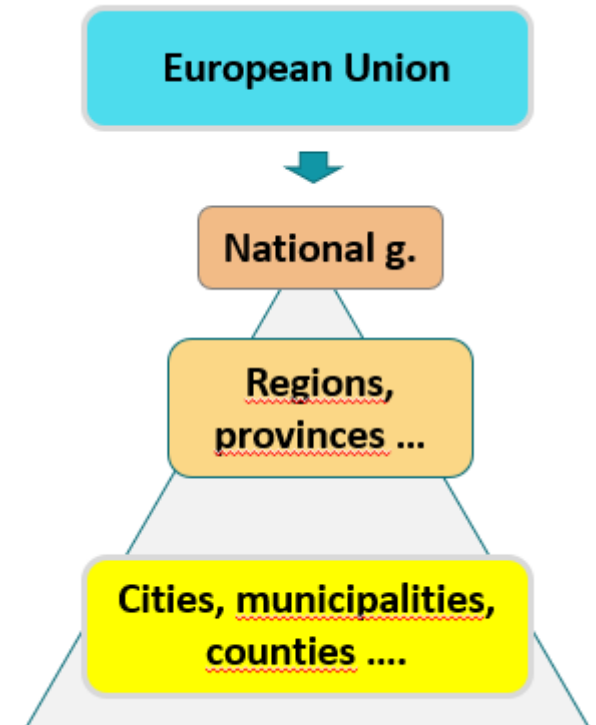
Monika Zimmermann
Expert Urban Sustainability, GIZ Advisor,
Former Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI

26 January 2022

Statement 1:

**Multi-level climate
cooperation is
a prerequisite for
more ambitious
climate action**

- Multi-level climate cooperation is**
- **the politically intended, well-organised cooperation**
 - **across different levels of government**
 - **to achieve climate goals**
 - **ideally jointly defined and implemented.**



Statement 2:

**National
governments can
not achieve climate
targets without
their sub-nationals**

Cities are critical because they are both the problem and the solution.

- Cities consume roughly two thirds of resources and energy and emit 75% of energy-related greenhouse gases.
- They generate around 80% of GDP.
- Their location and density make them especially vulnerable, for instance because of rising sea levels, extreme weather events, heat waves and the arrival of climate refugees.
- Their density also creates opportunities for infrastructure and services.
- Urban areas are often a driving force behind economic development and a breeding ground for innovation.
- Cities can also serve as laboratories for sustainable solutions, whether new technologies, new economic systems (e.g. shared economy) or sustainable lifestyles.

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National – local – together

**Climate Emergency-Urban Opportunity
(Coalition for Urban Transition)**

**Plenty of reports and studies
proof that state and local
governments have enormous
influence on mitigation and
adaptation targets.**

Urban Potential for Action

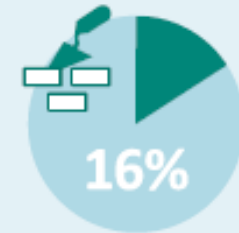
Technically feasible low-carbon measures could cut emissions from urban areas by almost 90% by 2050



Buildings



Transport



Materials Efficiency



Waste

This overview from the Climate Emergency – Urban Opportunity report illustrates municipalities' significant potential for action in key sectors. Find out more: <https://urbantransitions.global>



The more responsibilities and means are in the hands of sub-national actors, the more they can deploy these for mitigation & adaptation

Consumer & Purchaser

- Municipal assets
- Building stock
- Fleets
- Catering
- Office materials
- ...

Planner & regulator

- Actions in own responsibility
- for implementing law
- Urban planning
- Zoning...

Service provider & Supplier

- Electricity, Gas...
- Water & sewage
- Waste management,
- Public transport
- ...

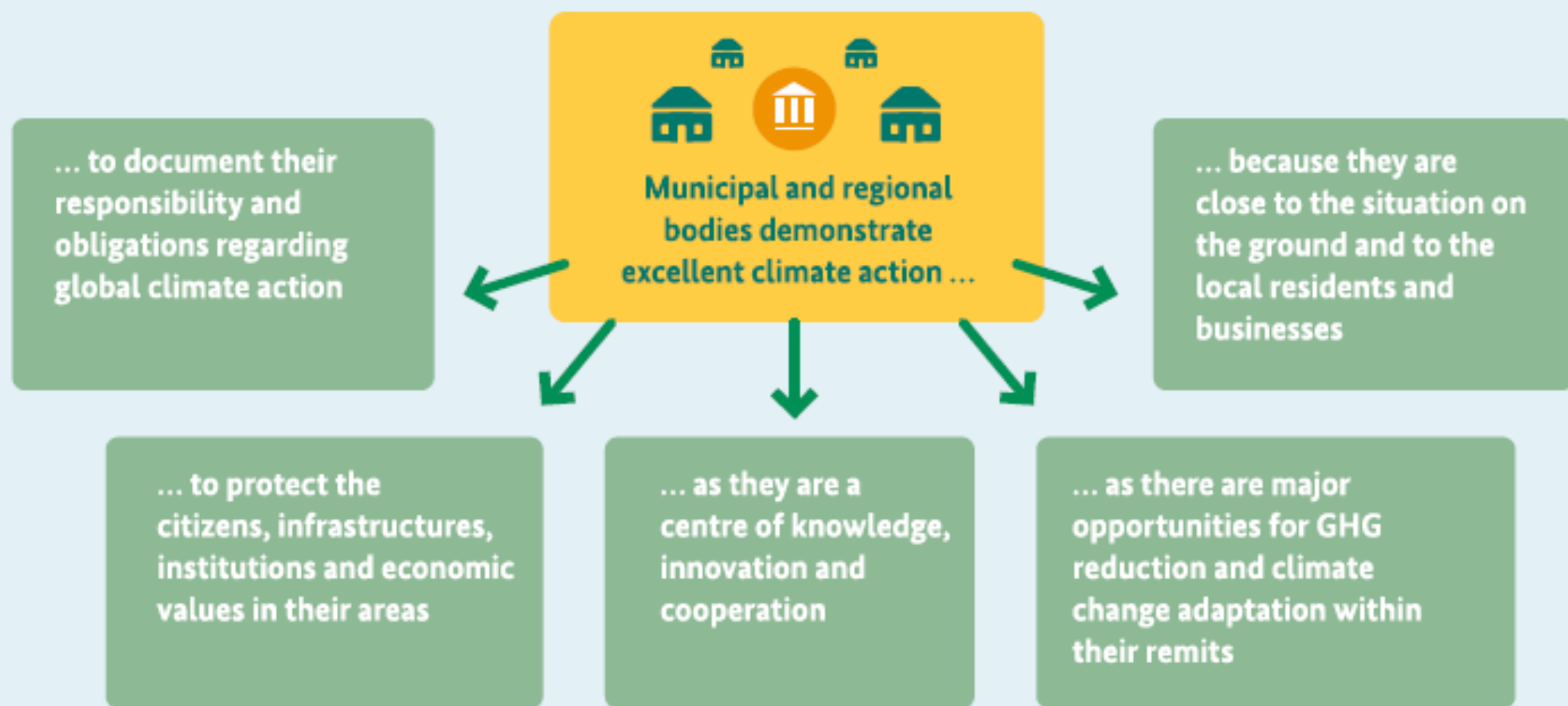
Protector

- For:
- Citizens
 - Local economy
 - Assets
 - Biodiversity & ecosystems
 - Social cohesion

Advisor & promoter

- Being close to citizens, business and stakeholders
- Offering information, advise and motivation
- ...

Why cities and regions lead the way on climate action



Statement 3:

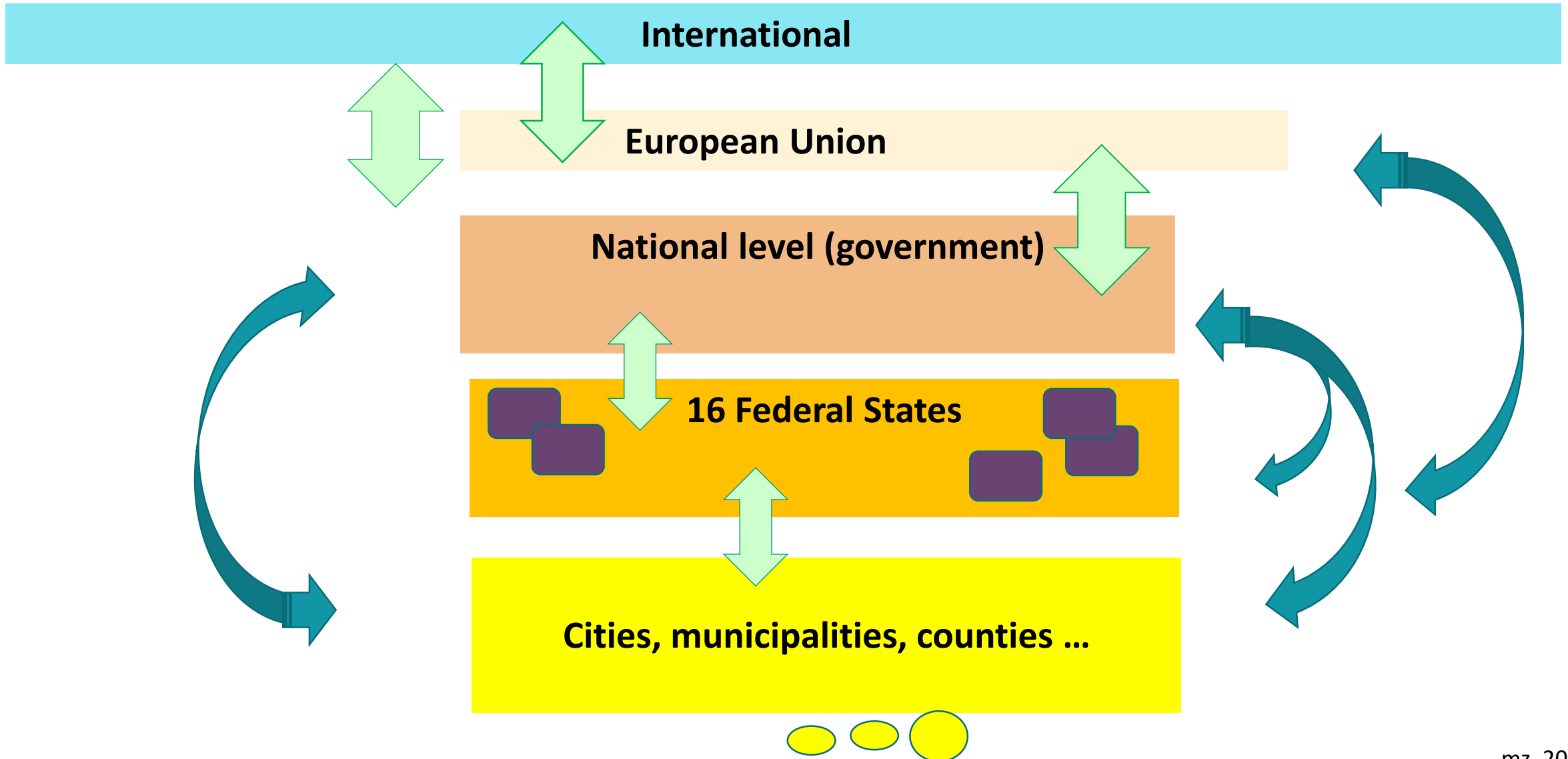
The strength and impacts of this cooperation mainly depends on the responsibilities and capacities of the local/ sub-national level

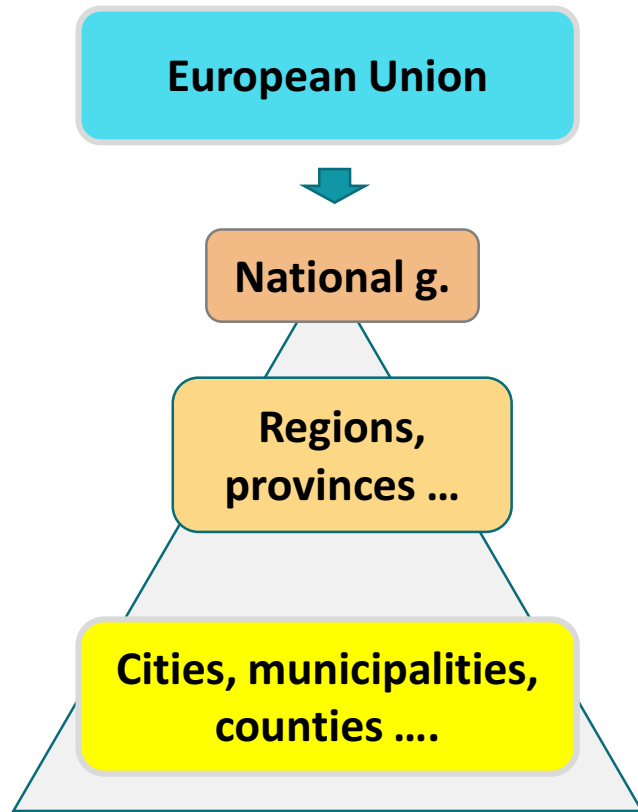
- **Legal conditions differ enormously between countries.**
 - **Federal states normally have stronger sub-national governments.**
- **Legally – Germany is well prepared for strong multi-level cooperation, actually there are also weaknesses.**
- **Japan – in different ways – recognises, motivates and supports the sub-national level as relevant for climate action.**

Statement 4:

**In Germany exist
good political
conditions but
they are not used
sufficiently**

Complex (formal and informal) relations between government levels





The EU has a joint target: minus 55%.

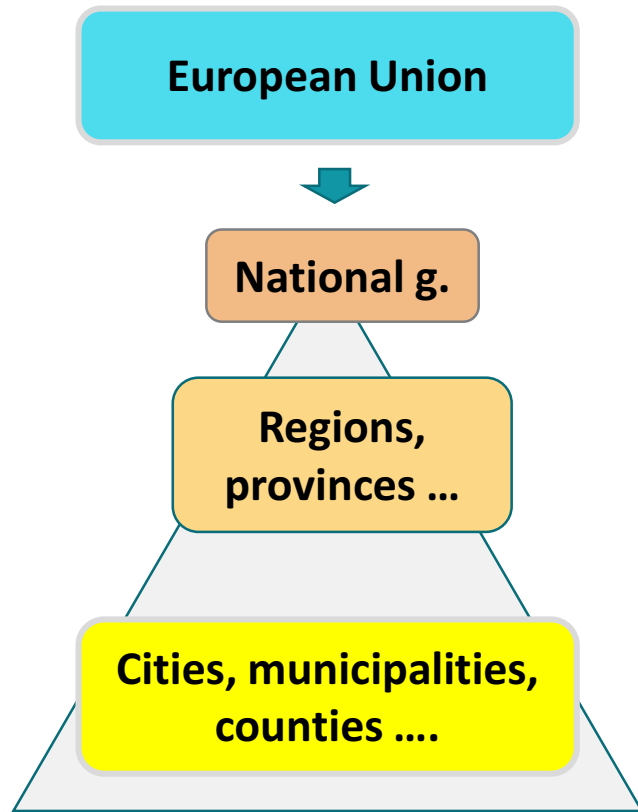
Each country must implement its share of CO2 reduction.

There are for example

- **mandatory** elements of the EU climate policy (EU regulations)
- **financial instruments** (CO2 levy)
- **grant** programmes (eg. for rail connections)
- **incentives** (EU research & cooperation programmes, including for the sub-national level)

EU sets **framework conditions** (directly or via national law, eg: emission standards) but has no say over local governments.

EU offers **support programmes** to which local governments can apply (normally via their State) and finances networks, such as the Covenant of Mayors.

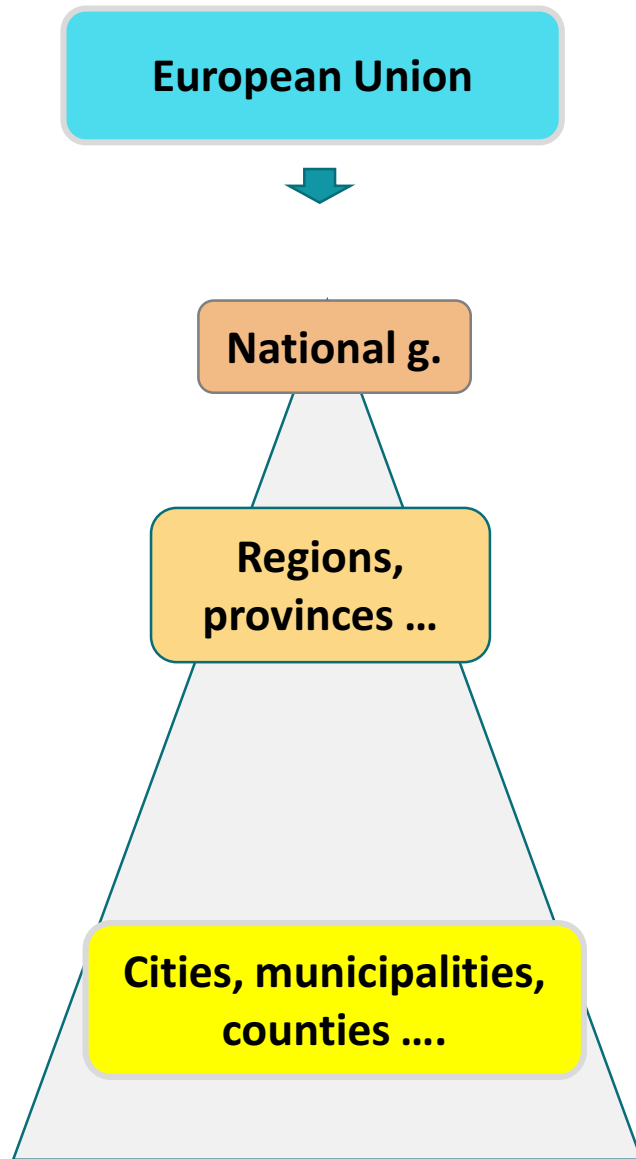


The EU has a joint target: minus 55%.

Each country must implement its share of CO2 reduction.

German Climate law: 65 % reduction target by 2030, including mandatory „sector targets“.

- New government wants to strengthen climate protection.
- Coal exit, renewable energy ...
- Some sectors do not comply, such as transportation.

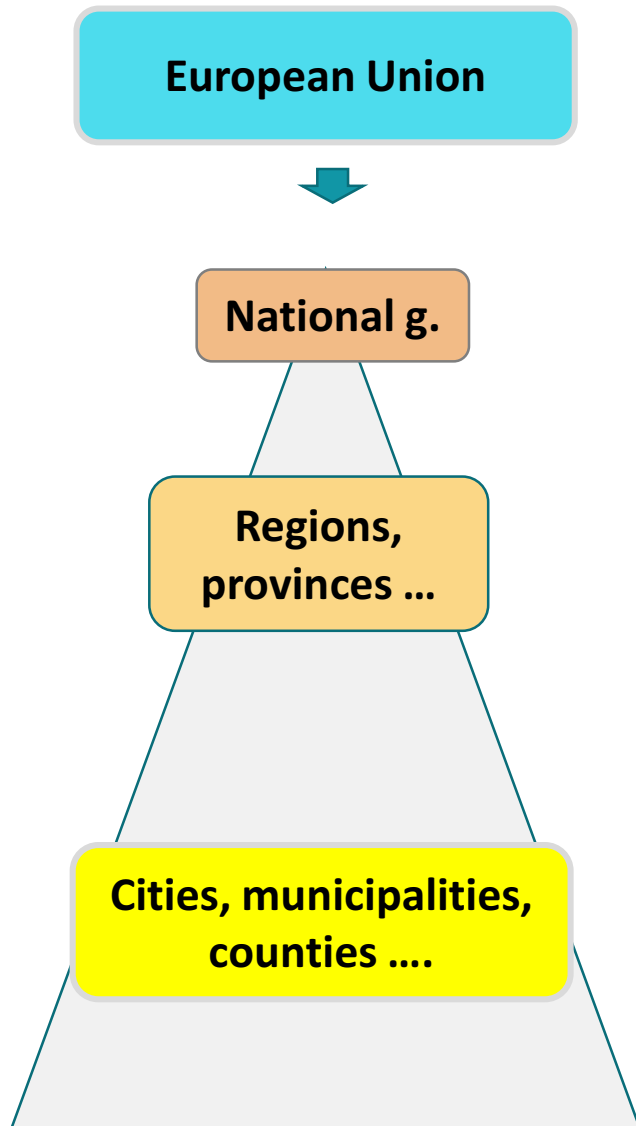


The EU has a joint target: minus 55%.

Each country must implement its share of CO2 reduction.

German Climate law: 65 % reduction target by 2030, including mandatory „sector targets“.

- **The 16 federal States are partners in national law-making and have relevant own responsibilities.**
 - **State climate laws and targets exist.**
 - **States set the rules how local governments can act and have to act.**
- Ca. 50% of the States have own climate laws and targets.
 - Laws and activities differ.
 - More ambitious States, for example, oblige house owners to install renewable energy or they provide more subsidies for public transport.



The EU has a joint target: minus 55%.

Each country must implement its share of CO2 reduction.

German Climate law: 65 % reduction target by 2030, including mandatory „sector targets“.

- The 16 federal States are partners in national law-making and have relevant own responsibilities.
- State climate laws and targets exist.
 - Local governments operate under state law and must implement state regulations.
 - Some local governments have set own climate targets and climate action plans.
 - Why? Local level is strongly affected by climate change, political wisdom, different parties, active citizens ...

Summary for Germany: Strengths and Weaknesses

The constitutional set-up bears lots of opportunities for multi-level climate action, but these are not sufficiently used and implemented.

- **Climate action happens on all levels, but voluntariness is a basic approach.**
- **EU targets are not broken down to state and local level.**
- **Sub-nationals have a lot of freedom to act ambitiously, but no regulation forces States and the local level to implement EU and national CO2 reduction targets.**
- **States are part of the national legislation process, but local governments have no similar role regionally.**
- **States may have own climate laws, but they are not obliged to.**
- **National and State level provides a lot of subsidies, support programmes, but non-ambitious entities do not need to apply for these.**
- **If the levels cooperate, this is normally good, but there is too little obligation to act and to cooperate.**
- **Local action is often ambitious, but locals need better framework conditions.**

Japan is a good example for climate action encouragement: top-down and bottom-up

Japanese (early!) law:

- **prefectures and designated cities are mandated to draw up mitigation action plans.**
- **All the other local governments were encouraged but not obliged to create such plans.**
- **Thus, Japan has a long tradition of local climate action planning.**

The Japanese Env. ministry:

- **provides methodologies**
- **requests audits and reports**
- **has set-up a national & local council to identify priority action**

Statement 5:



**Cooperation
among levels
is key**

Better together than alone or against each other.

Public actors pull in the same direction.

Every level does what it can do best.

Coherence: They prevent contradictory measures

Ownership strengthens action.

Time is well invested

Better & faster implementation

Each level mobilises partners

Conflicts of interest can be better resolved.

Statement 6:

**Multi-level climate
action can be best
achieved by a set of
conditions**

**Responsibilities & duties
(by law)**

Institutionalised cooperation

Joint target setting

Joint implementation

**Climate: Mandatory
incooperation at levels**

Fact based reporting

**10 factors for
successful
cooperation**

**Wise
national governments ...**

- **Strengthen sub-national level**
 - **Let them unlock their potential**
 - **Set right frameworks**
 - **Take up and scale up**

**10 factors for
successful
cooperation**

Key elements for success.

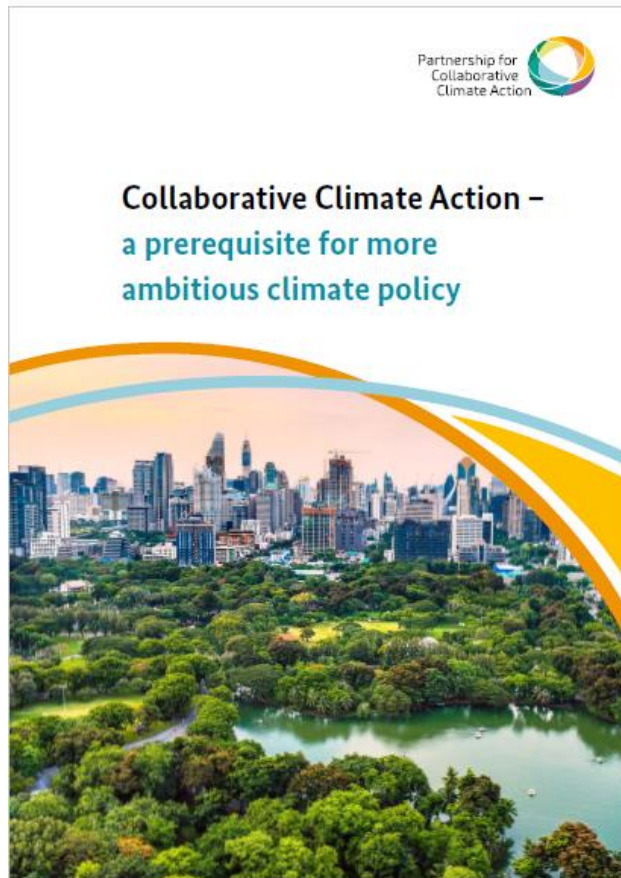
- Well-defined basic principles and shared targets
- Long-term (and institutionalized) cooperation
- Agreed upon responsibilities and mechanisms
- Process-oriented collaboration
- Fact-based decision-making
- Available resources for both individual action and collaboration
- Opportunities for engagement and participation
- Cooperation with non-state partners
- Space for experimenting and learning
- Outreach to and exchange with international partners



Thank you!

Further reading

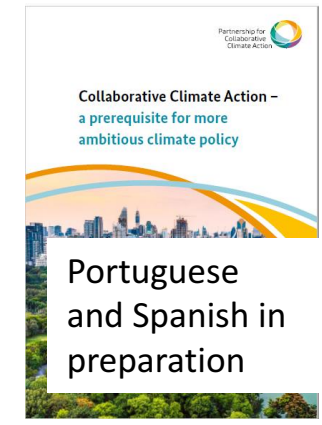
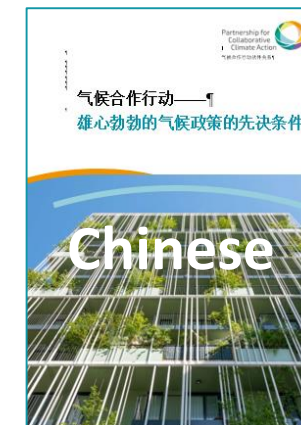
Monika.b.zimmermann@online.de



<https://collaborative-climate-action.org/publications/>

<https://collaborative-climate-action.org/resources-for-cca/>

<https://collaborative-climate-action.org/climate-emergency-urban-opportunity/>



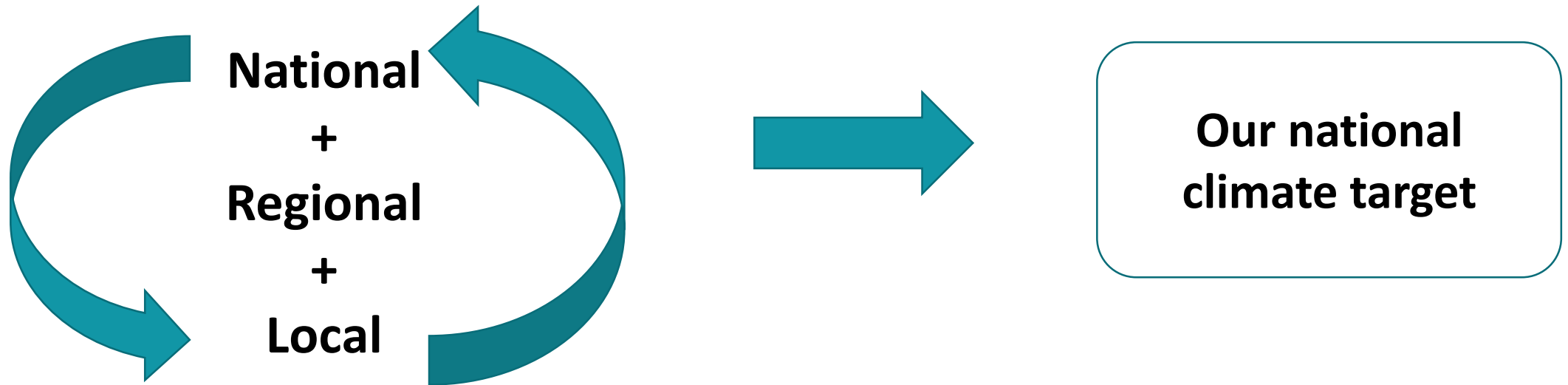
For the workshop

Dreaming ahead:

**That would be
great**

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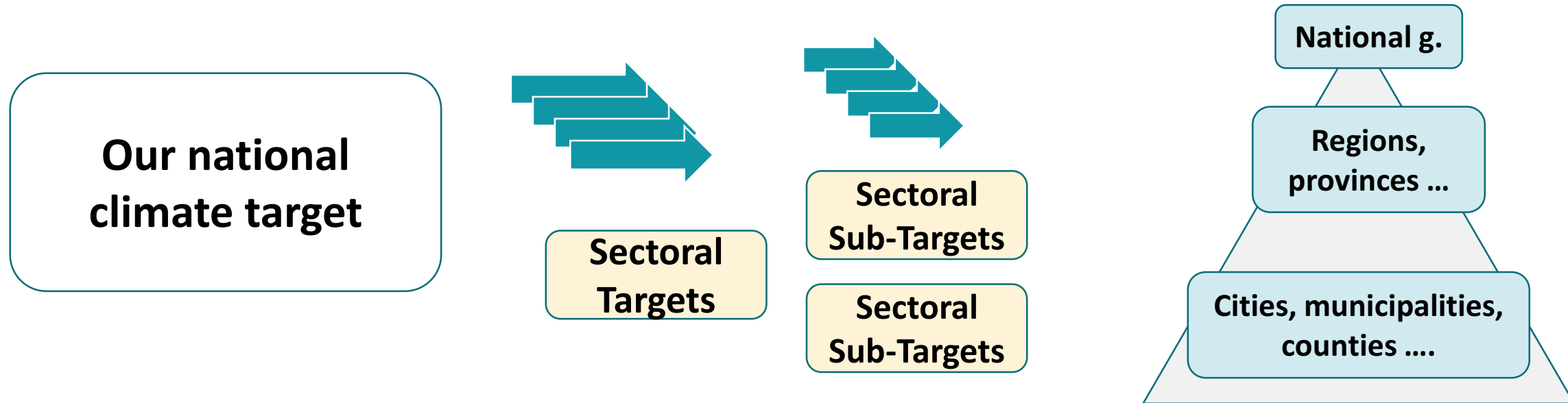
Imagine ... Target setting



The National government, together with regional authorities and local governments, agree on a joint national climate target, based on planetary boundaries, international targets, scientific advice and in recognition of specifications of their country.

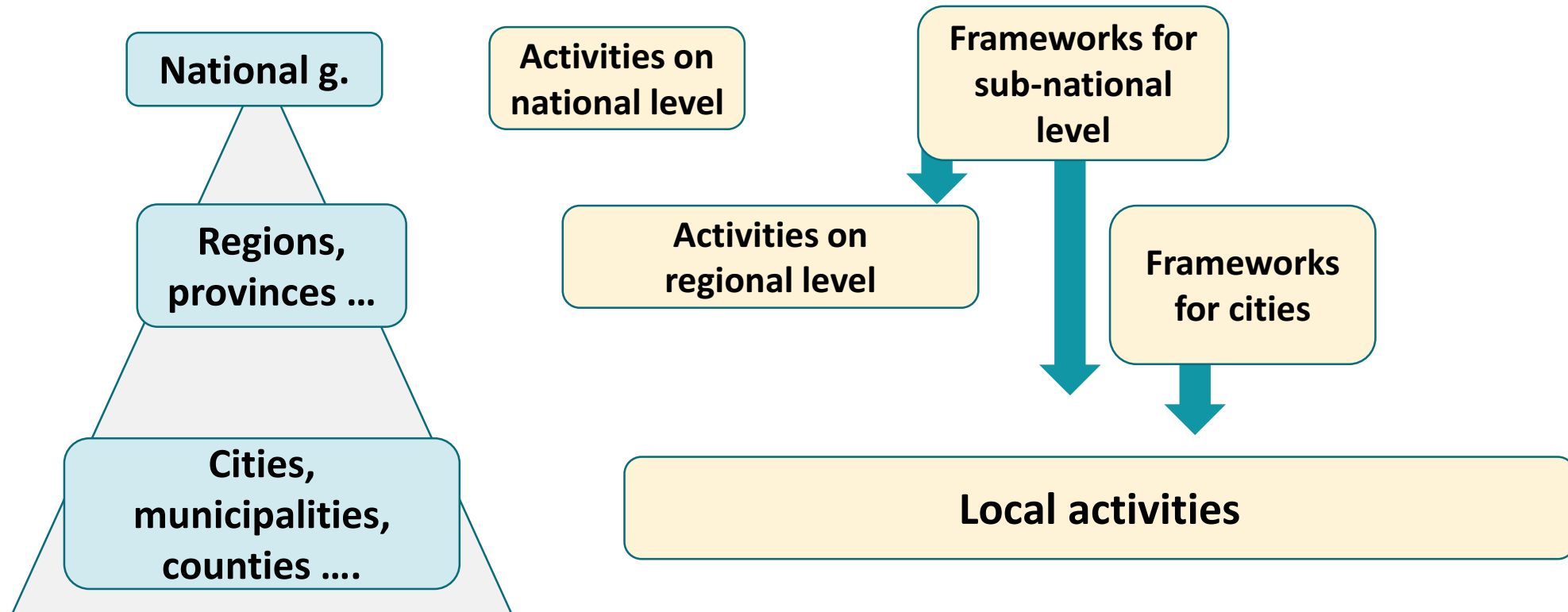
In the EU: They jointly agree on how to top the given EU target.

Imagine ... Break down of targets



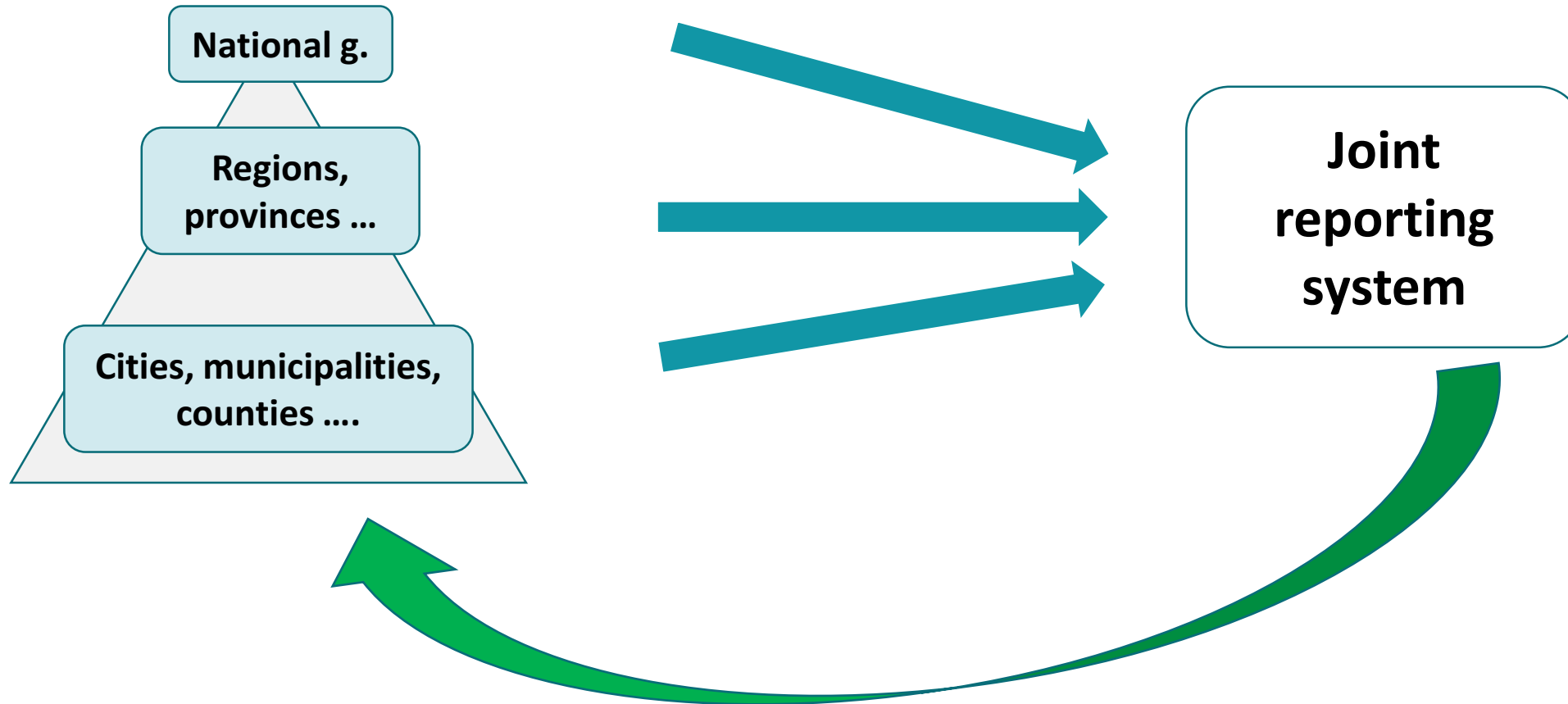
All levels of government take the (joint) target and break it down along sectors. For each sectoral sub-target they make a plan which level would have which responsibility , instrument, finances to ensure fast action.

Imagine ... Instruments & implementation



All levels of government act according to their responsibilities and where they can implement best. Instruments are developed (jointly), ensuring that sub-national knowledge is included.

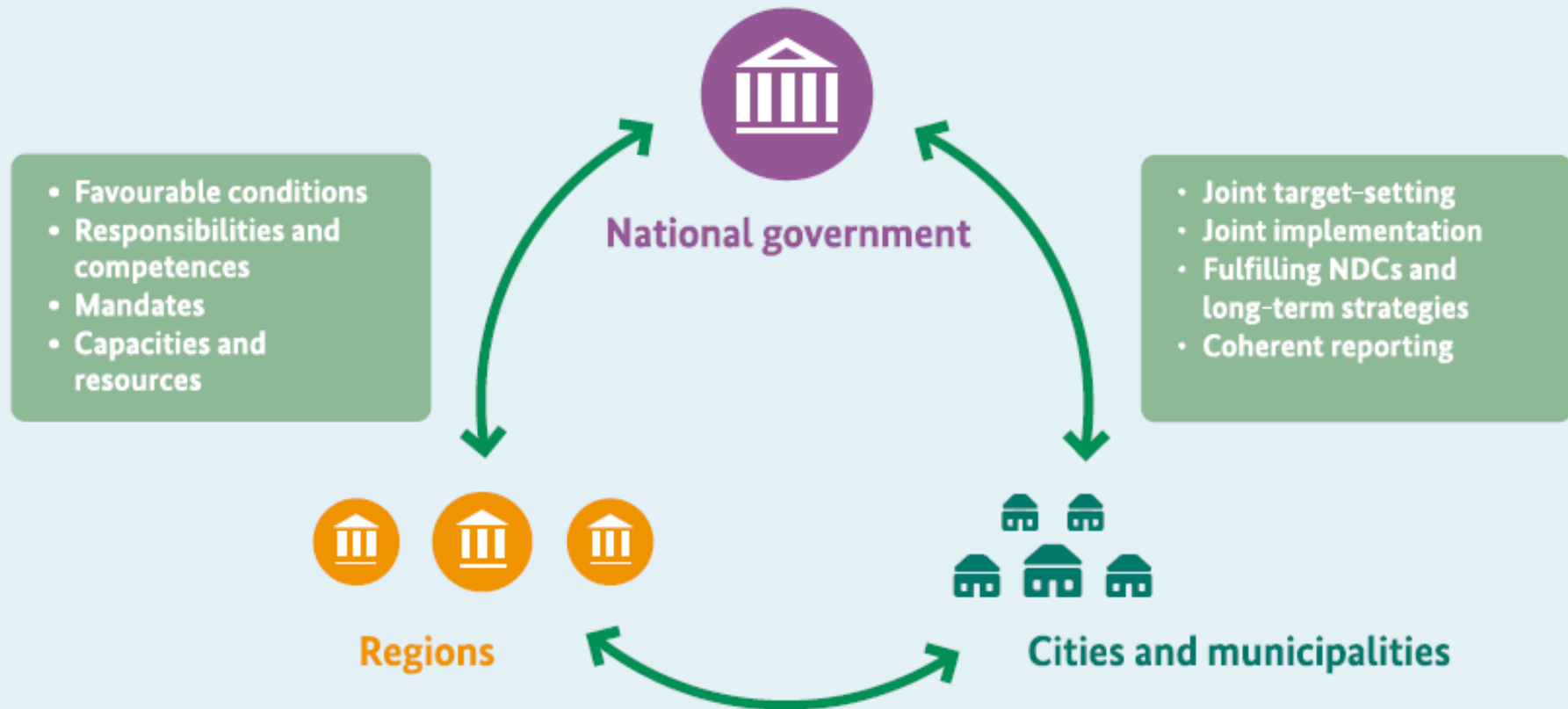
Imagine Joint reporting



All levels of government monitor, observe, document and report back their achievements. They all get information back on how to improve.

Collaborative Climate Action (CCA)

A prerequisite for more ambitious and effective climate policy



Statement 7:



**International
processes
provide excellent
starting points**

