



# BEREC activities on sustainability indicators for ECN/ECS

*European Commission Stakeholder Workshop  
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**#empowering  
EUconnectivity**

# PRESENTATION



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**BEREC (*Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications*)** is the decision-making body gathering national regulators of electronic communications in Europe. It is supported by the European Commission through its agency *BEREC office*. Daily activities and studies are conducted by Working Groups co-chaired by two national representatives.

## Presentation of today covers:

Background on BEREC  
activities on sustainability

Overview of BEREC main  
findings on sustainability  
indicators

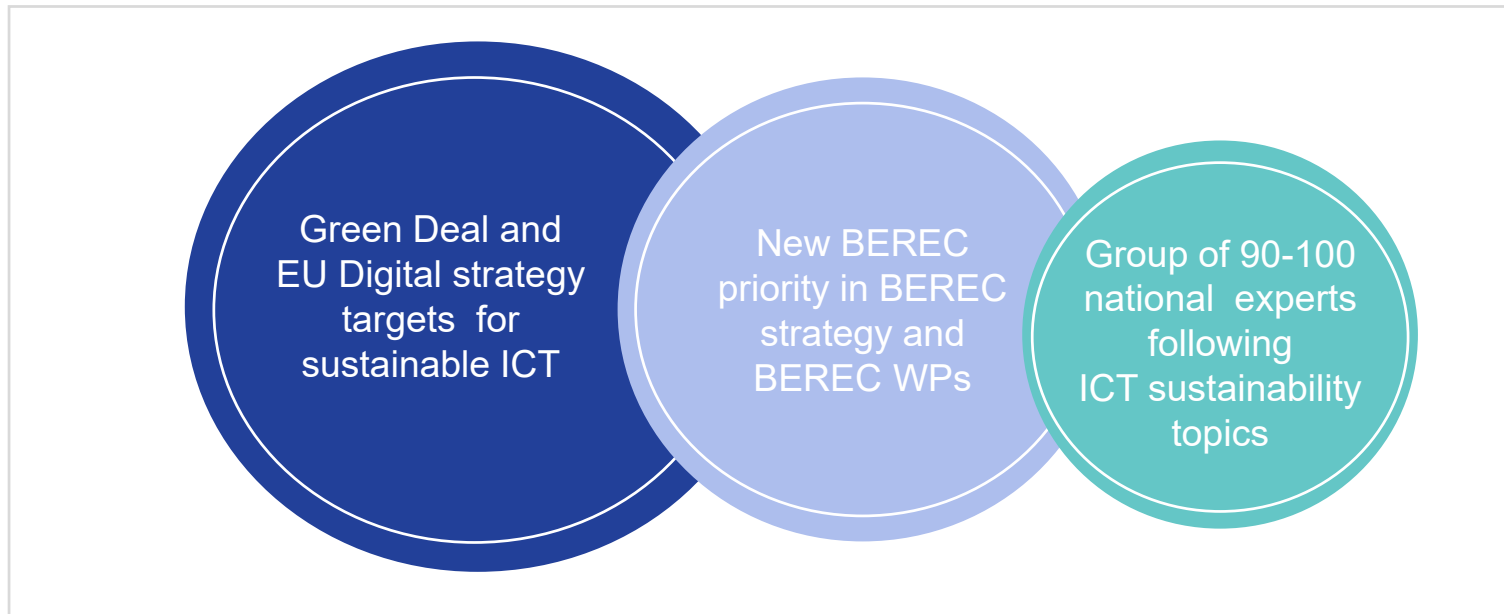
Opening on BEREC  
possible future agenda  
on the topic



# BEREC NEW COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

In 2020, BEREC includes in its 5-year strategy a **new focus on sustainability** so as to:

1. Raise **knowledge of European telecom regulators** on the issue;
2. Contribute to achieving **ICT-related goals of the Green Deal and UN Agenda 30**;
3. Support the efforts to quantify the **environmental footprint** of the digital sector.





# ESTABLISHING A ROADMAP FOR TELECOM REGULATORS

BEREC published in 2022 its [first report](#) on sustainability “Assessing BEREC’s contribution limiting the impact of the digital sector on the environment”.

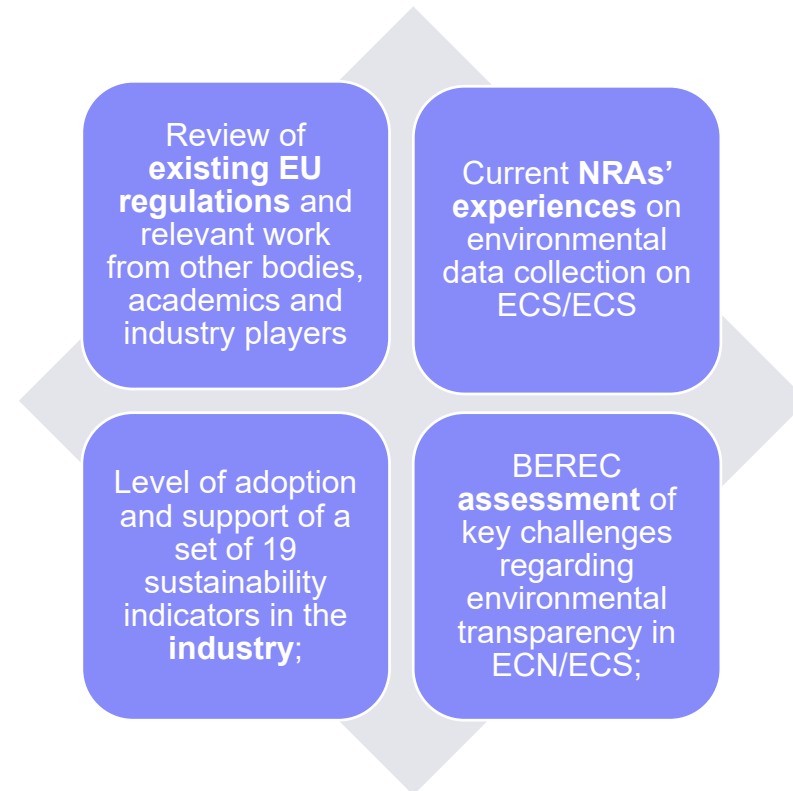
- 1 **Data availability and accuracy** and definition of common indicators for the telecom and ICT sector
- 2 Use of **existing regulatory tools** for sustainability purposes
- 3 Encouraging **environment-friendly and sober practices** of digital players in collaboration with other relevant bodies
- 4 Contributing to the **empowerment of end users** through information on ICT products (data driven regulation)

# INTRODUCTION TO BEREC FINDINGS ON SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

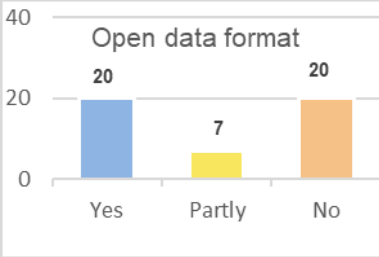


**EC digital strategy “Shaping Europe’s Digital Future”** *‘Data centres and telecommunications will need to become more energy efficient, reuse waste energy, and use more renewable energy sources. They can and should become climate neutral by 2030. [Implementation of] transparency measures for telecoms operators on their environmental footprint’*

**BEREC Report on sustainability indicators for ECN/ECS (public consultation on a Draft Report in April / final publication on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**



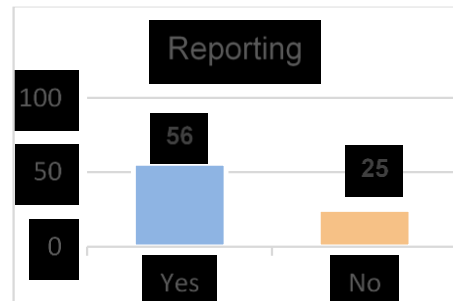
# FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRY PLAYERS



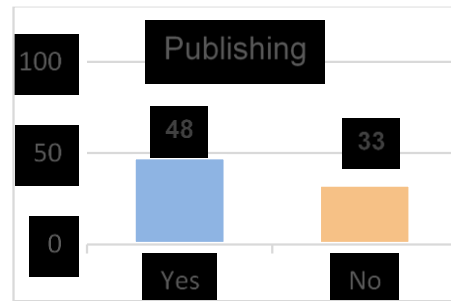
Based on the feedback **of 81 respondents from the industry** (companies, consortium, associations) to a questionnaire published by BEREC in October 2022.

## Activities of the respondents (non-exclusive):

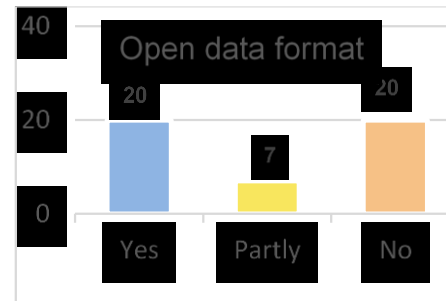
- 59 companies (72% of the total) operate as telecom operators
- 34 (41%) as service providers
- 34 (41%) as data centers operators
- 23 (28%) as devices providers and vendors



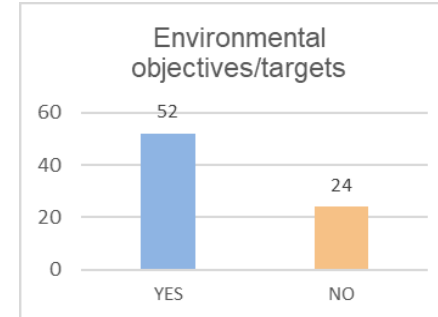
Graph 1 – Responses on whether data on environmental impacts are reported



Graph 2– Responses on whether data on environmental impacts are published



Graph 3 – Responses on whether published data on environmental impacts are in an open data format

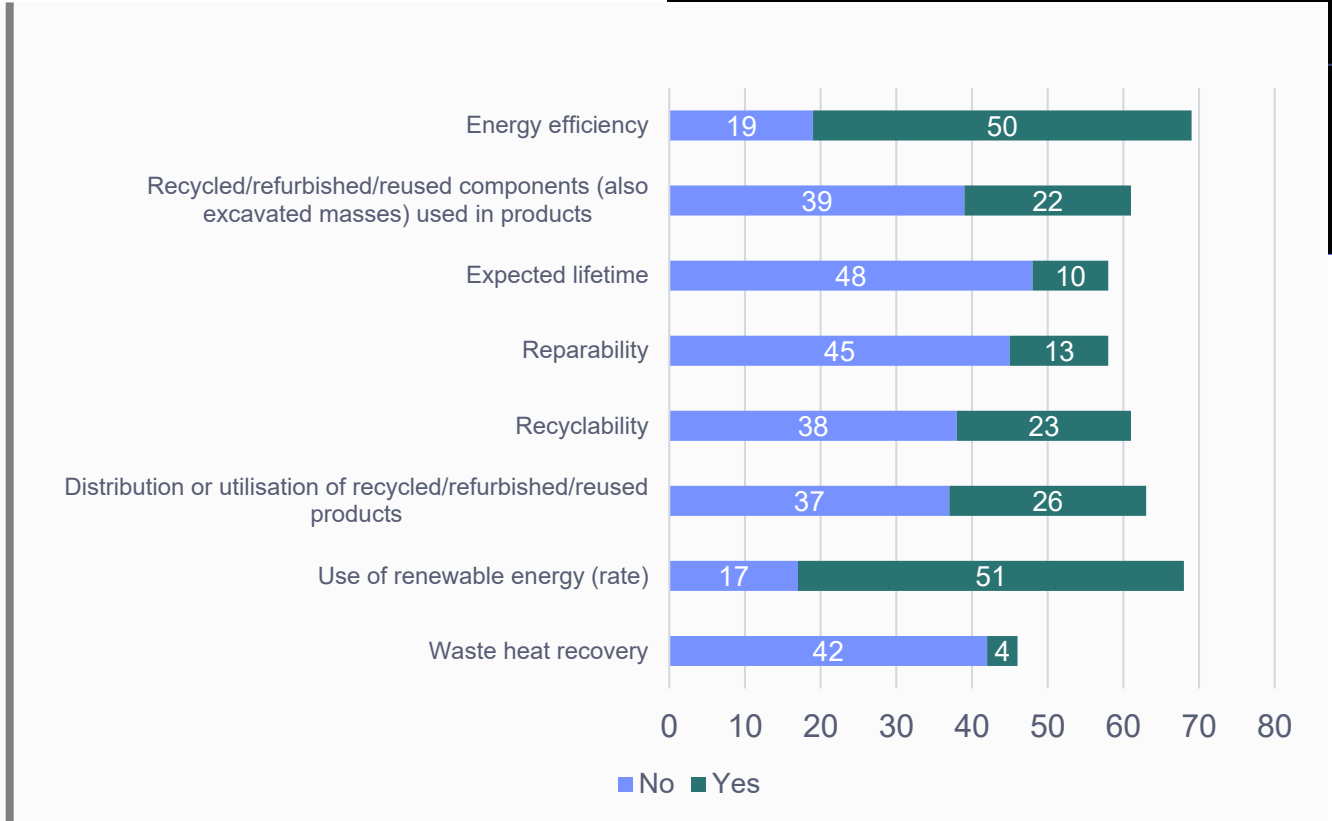
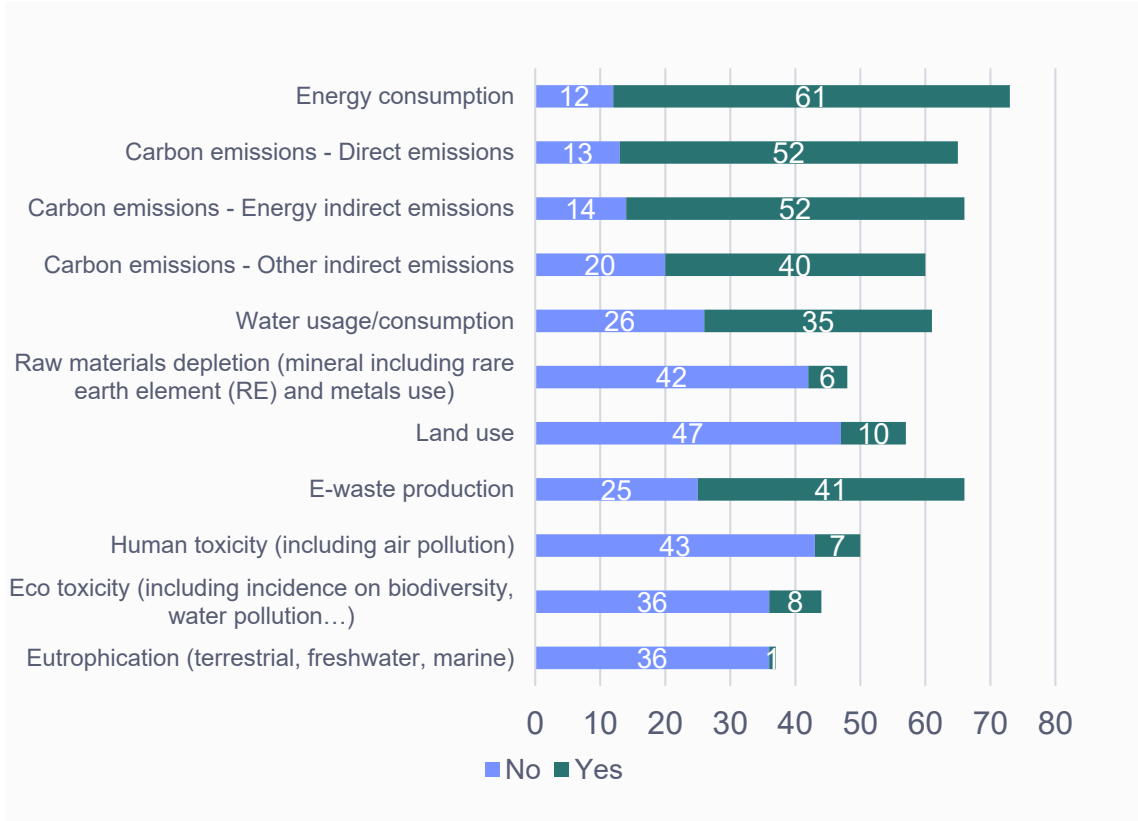


Graph 4 – Responses on whether environmental targets/objectives were set by companies.



# FEEBACK FROM INDUSTRY PLAYERS

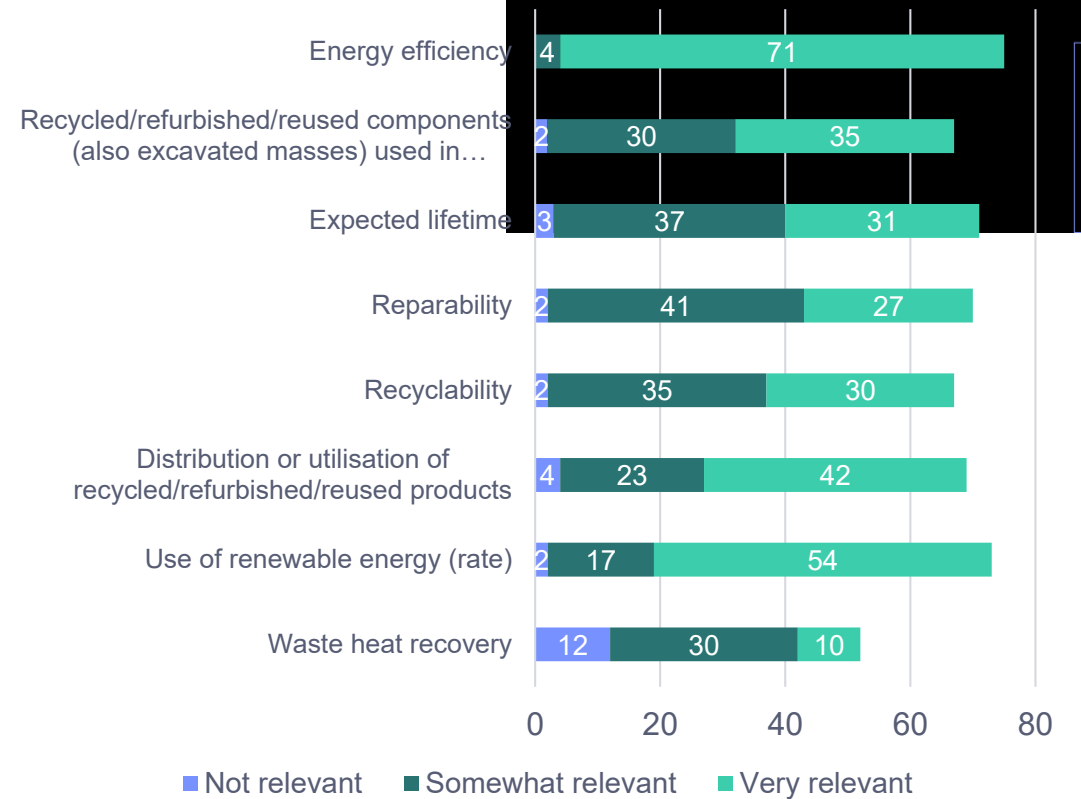
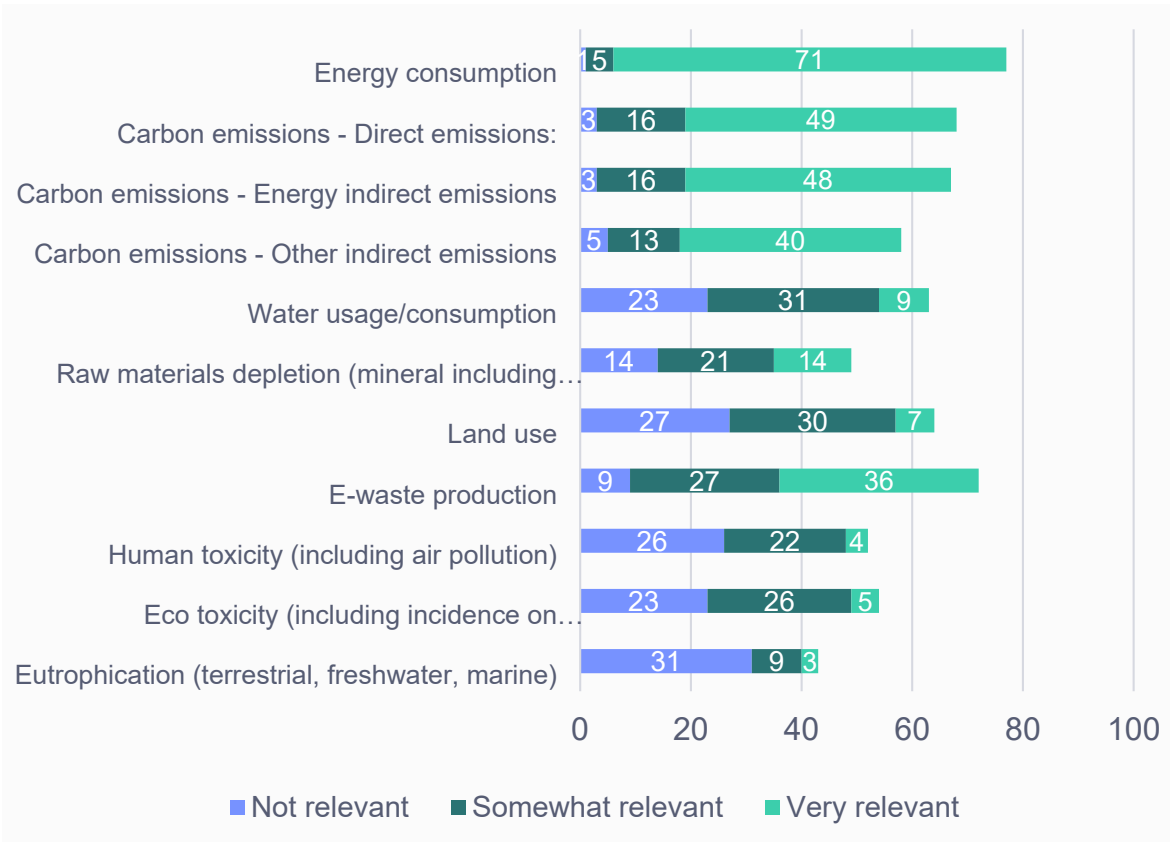
Does your organisation use this indicator for to collect and/or report of its environmental impact/performance ?





# FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRY PLAYERS

What is the relevance of this indicator to measure the environmental footprint/performance of your activities?

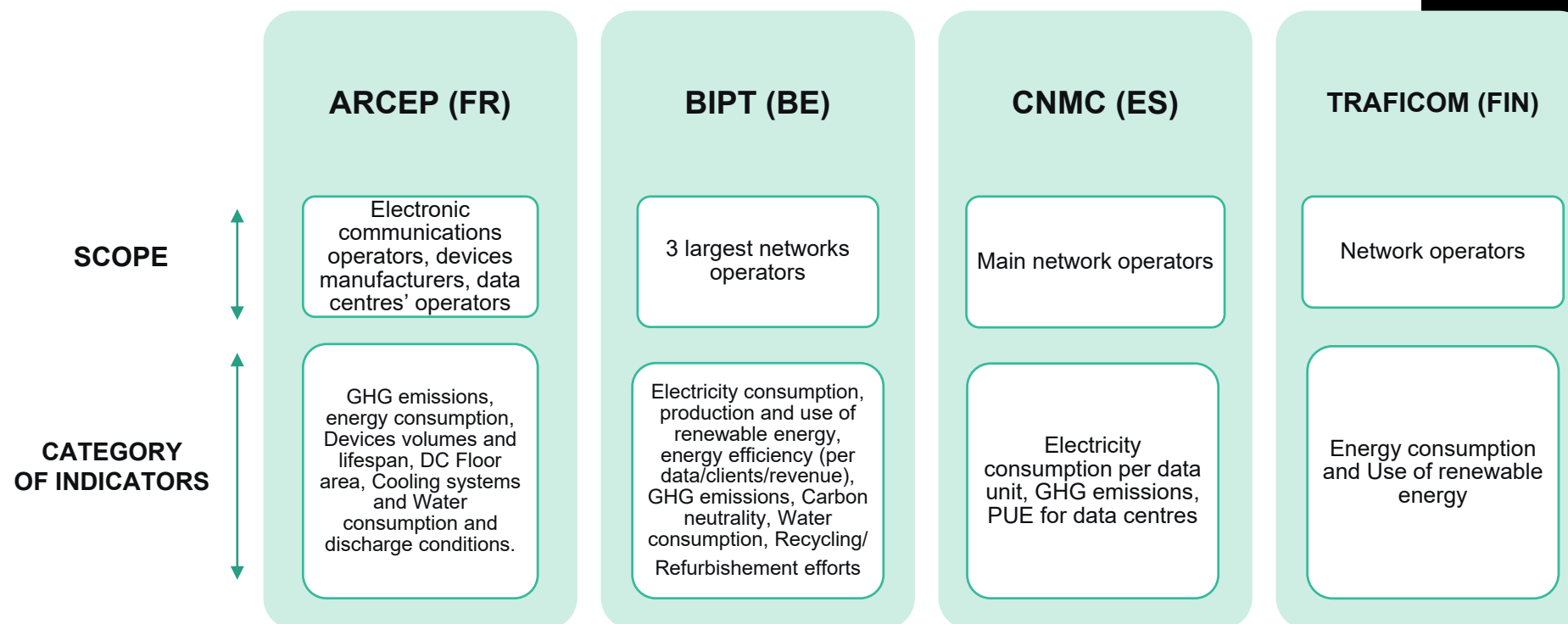






# FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL TELECOM REGULATORS

Based on the feedback **of 29 national authorities**. Strong interest from telecom regulators on environmental data regarding the sector. Four NRAs collect information and published first studies on the environmental footprint of electronic communications or ICT companies at large, namely Traficom, BIPT, Arcep and CNMC.





# BEREC Pilot classification of sustainability indicators for ECN/ECS

Tool of 19 sustainability indicators with necessary information on current use of indicators across telecom regulators and first feedbacks from economic players as a basis for further work on this topic.

## Group A:

Energy consumption; Carbon emissions - Direct emissions - Energy indirect emissions- Other indirect emissions; Energy efficiency; Use of renewable energy (rate); Distribution or utilisation of recycled/refurbished/ reused products; Expected lifetime; Water usage/consumption; Raw materials depletion (mineral).

## Group B:

E-waste production; Recycled/refurbished/ reused components (also excavated masses) in products; Recyclability; Reparability; Land use; Waste heat recovery

## Group C:

Eco toxicity (including incidence on biodiversity, water pollution...); Human toxicity (including air pollution); Eutrophication (terrestrial, freshwater, marine)



Findings used by JRC/DG Connect 2023 survey and draft study on sustainability indicators.



# BEREC REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS FOR ECN/ECS – Other key findings

1

## Investing in environmental transparency tools

- Sustainability indicators, **new drivers** of businesses, public organisations and consumers **decisions** (data-driven regulation).
- Significant **progress in EU regulation** to foster environmental transparency.
- Need of more **LCA/multi-criteria** assessment (eg. PEF/OEF) to strengthen analysis capacity.
- Feedback on relevance and use of indicators should not be substitute for **science-based, data driven analysis of impacts**.
- Call for **more (open) data available** on environmental impacts from ICTs, especially telecom components.

2

## Supporting efforts within the industry

- A lot of **efforts already accomplished within the industry**.
- Growing environmental reporting requirements: **coordination and harmonisation** will be key to rationalise efforts and foster transparency. Need to **avoid overburdening** the industry
- Using the opportunity that represents **new environmental reporting regulations** (ie. EU Taxonomy, CSRD)..
- Remaining **technical challenges** to be addressed (inc. to foster gaps between standards in use and PEF approach). Work and cooperation with SDOs is particularly highlighted.

3

## Defining the role of national regulatory authorities

- Sustainability indicators interesting for **NRAs set of activities and expertise on**
- Used to collect market data useful for environmental calculations.
- Expertise on telecom markets: role to play support **transparency**, standards/methodologies **harmonisation** and in terms of **monitoring**.
- First data collection at **national level** (Arcep, Traficom, BIPT, CNMC).
- A **clearer mandate** to collect environmental data on ECN/ECS would be a favourable development to examine.



# BEREC future work related to sustainability indicators

*BEREC reaffirms its willingness to contribute with the expertise of its NRAs to the efforts for better transparency in the telecom sector and to accelerate the green and digital transition.*

## 2023-2024

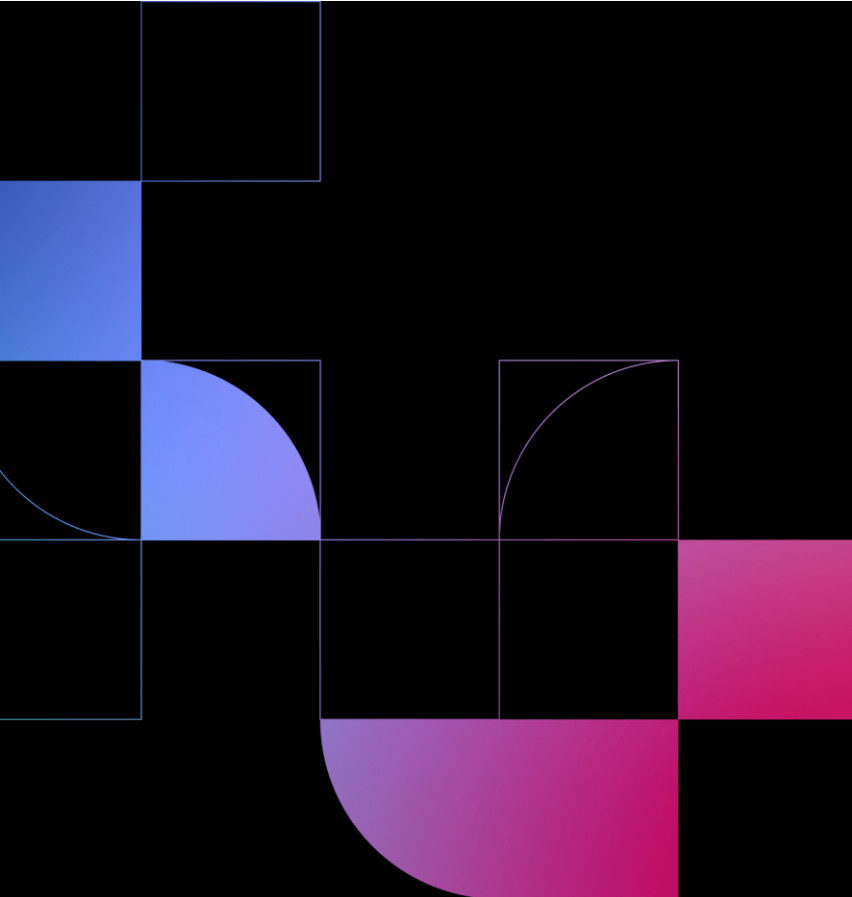
Contribution on End Users empowerment through environmental information on ICTs

- Exploring **existing initiatives** to provide reliable information to end-user.
- Analysis the **most appropriate means to reach out to end-users** on the environmental footprint of digital products and services,
- Workshop with **EC, BEUC and EEB**.
- **Paper and communication campaign in 2024** with special attention to circular economy and lifecycle of devices.

## 2024-2025

Developing harmonised indicators for sustainability-related data collections (TBC)

- Keeping track of the **progress made in terms of sustainability indicators** development in the telecom sector especially the European Commission's study.
- Fostering the **exchange of practices among telecom regulators** regarding implementation of sustainability-related data collection.
- Discussing **concrete actions** at BEREC level including possible ad hoc collection of environmental data or support in the implementation of EU Code of Conduct.



# Thank you!

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