Environmental Policy Comparison across the European Union and India: A trifocal lens

FSP Dissertation Presentation

Oshi Pandey

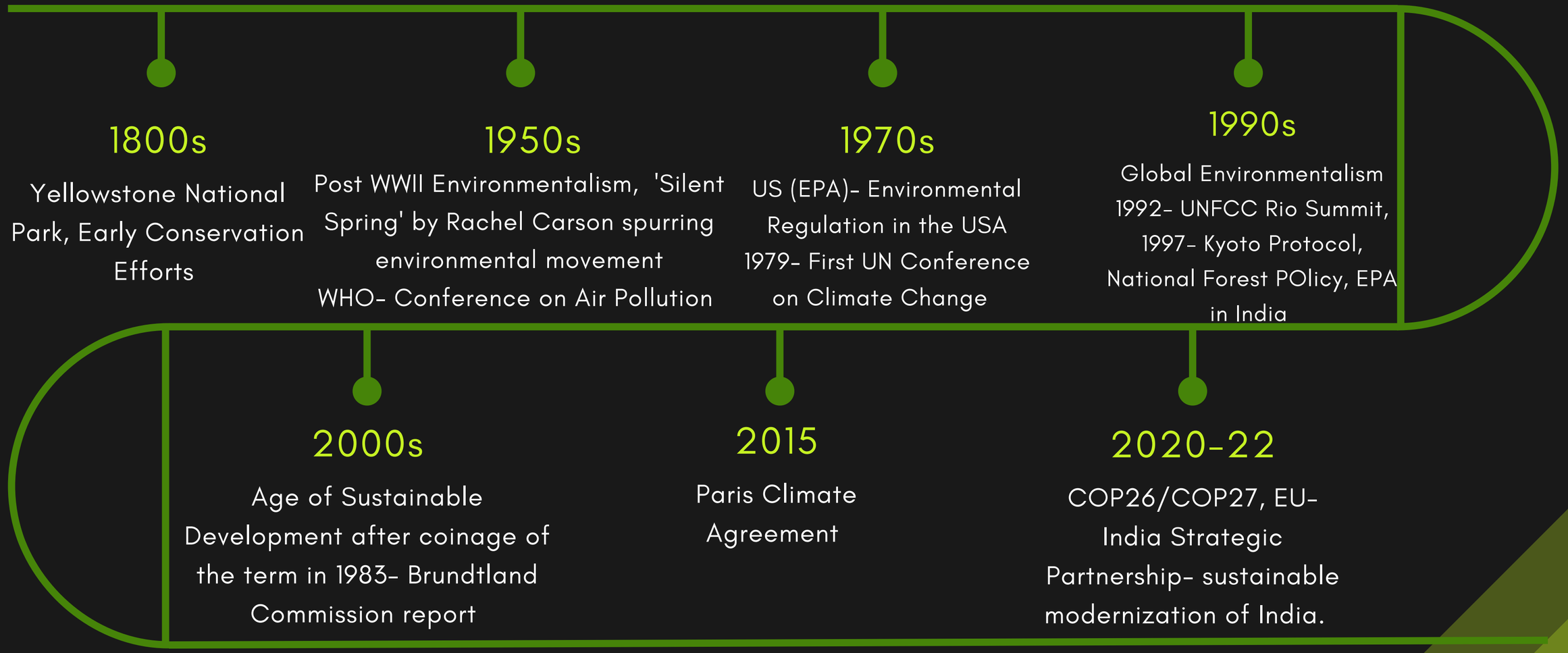


Introduction



- Archaic Lineage of Environmental Policies
- Modern Institutional Forms of Environmental Policy (Independent Developments across the world- Post Industrialization)
- Effects of Global Summits- Recognition of the environmental threat at an international stage, Actions at a Global Scale, Policy Convergence across countries
- In light of current world summits and climate politics, understanding need for policy comparison

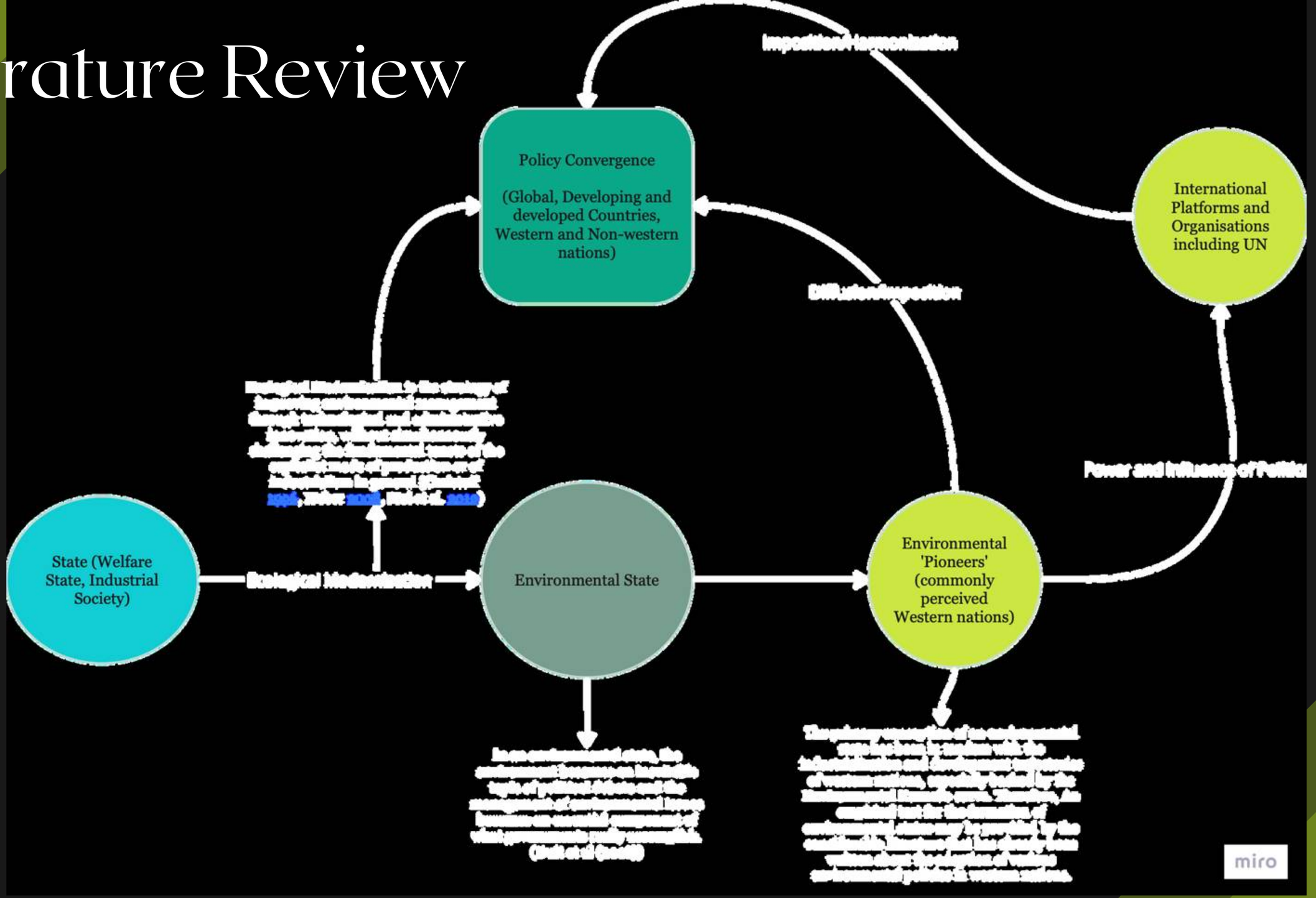
Independent Environmental Policy: Post Industrialization



Outline

- Literature Review
- Rationale, Research Question, Research Objectives
- Methodology
- Findings and Analysis
  Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3.
- Conclusion

Literature Review



Literature Review

1

ENVIRONMENTAL STATE AND POLICY CONVERGENCE

Non western states as rising environmental pioneers. Regulatory catch up is fast paced, further research comparing the two aspects is needed. Literature- privilege western states and pioneers (Sommerer, T., & Lim, S. (2016))

2

POLICY CONVERGENCE

Holzinger, K., Knill, C., & Sommerer, T. (2011), Kern, K., Jörgens, H., & Jänicke, M. (2005).- Evidence of convergence acrossOECD countries contingent on factors such as natural factors, international systems and the specific policy areas in themselves.

3

DIFFUSION, IMPOSITION AND HARMONIZATION

Busch, P. O., & Jörgens, H. (2005)- evidence of policy convergence- international agreements and guidelines, the level of economic development, and the political system.

4

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Harashima, Y., & Morita, T. (1998), comparative analysis for east asian countries (Japan, Korea, China)- differing environmental policy development due to local governments, latecomer status, information disclosure, international pressure

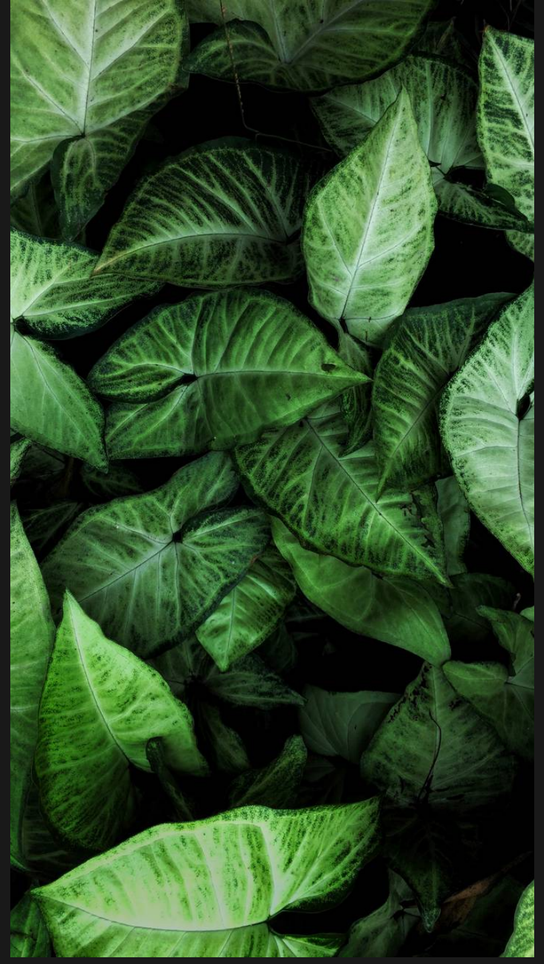
5

SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS- COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Mmereki, D., Baldwin, A., & Li, B. (2016)- compares solid waste management, Wood, C. (2003, November)- compares EIA

Research Question







Macro Question

Do the European Union and India show trends of policy convergence?

Micro Question

What are the key similarities and differences between the selected policy areas of the two regions?

Meso Question

What do these comparisons reflect about the nature of policymaking, and what are key learnings for both regions?

Research Focus

Trifocal Lens:

Comparison across three policy areas and their specific policies, mainly-

ESG Policy- Sustainability Reporting across India and the European Union

- Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting Guidelines- India (2021)
- Guidelines for Non-Financial Reporting- European Union (2017)

Sustainable Urban Development across India and the European Union

- Smart Cities- India (2015)
- Urban Agenda for European Union- Pact of Amsterdam (2016)

Renewable Energy across India and the European Union

- Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission- India (2010)
- European Union Solar Strategy (2022)

Research Rationale

Broad Motivations:

- India- EU Colonial as well as Cooperative History
- Developed- Developing country perspective for environmental policy comparison to understand the conceptions of environmental states and pioneers
- Trend of Policy Convergence- Bilateral Coordination and key implications of the same.

Micro Motivations:

- Why EU and India?
- Why the selected three policy areas?
- Why the specific policies?

EU and India?

History of connections, Population Size and Density, Federal Nature

Trifocal?

Holistic picture of environmental policy from different perspectives. 2 areas also have treaties and cooperation while 1 (Sustainability reporting) doesn't.

Sustainability Reporting?

Understanding mandates for the private sector, Transparency- extremely necessary for 'sustainable' development

BRSR and NFR?

Two newest developments, India's primary sustainability reporting policy

Sustainable Urban Development

Understanding urban planning policies, Multiple partnerships for the same, 2017- Joint declaration for sustainable urbanisation

Smart Cities and Urban Agenda- Pact of Amsterdam?

Mentioned in 2017 Join declaration for sustainable urbanisation. First signs of policy convergence

Renewable Energy

Core area of focus for sustainable developemnt, Multiple Coordinations between the two areas.

National Solar Mission and Solar Energy Strategy?

Solar Energy- India's major focus area, As well rounded as European Solar Strategy (Indian policy came first) Revision of targets during EU-India Clean energy partnership

Research Objectives

(Immediate, Direct)

- Draw parallels between the selected policy areas to understand the level of syncronicity between the two regions
- Taking into account a developing and developed country (coloniser, colonised) perspective and trying to understand similarities and differences in light of the same.

(Broader, Indirect)

- Facilitating an understanding of the contributions of each of the two selected regions in the broad environmental discourse, to understand 'historical burdens' and present undertakings
- Understanding policy convergence in light of treaties and certain political aims and ideals of the regions
- If possible, understanding the perceived 'limits to potential' in each of the region as an answer to climate colonialism- rendering a certain policy aim and fashion
- Is the comparability good or bad? Should the policies be similar in the first place?

Methodology

Nvivo Software

- Content Analysis (Basic Word frequency Charts analysis)
- Thematic Analysis of the policy papers using codes.

Code Themes Derived From: Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and Technical Protocol by GRI, Sustainable Urban Development: A Review of Urban Sustainability Indicator Frameworks (Main themes encountered while reviewing analysis frameworks) (Paper), Policies and Good Practices to support solar power deployment from Clean Energy Ministerial.

Findings and Analysis:

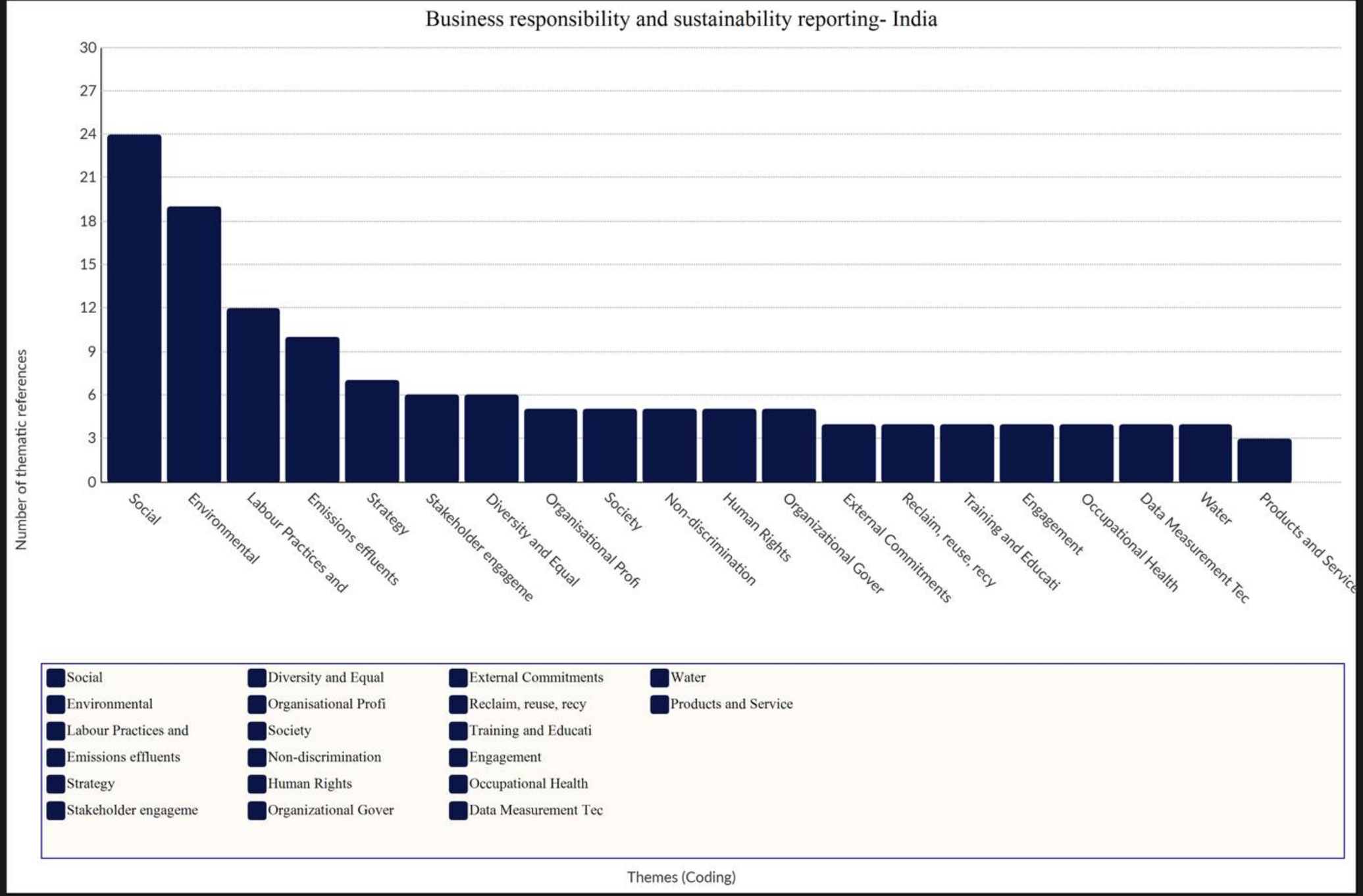
Chapter I
Sustainability/ Non-Financial Reporting in India and the European Union



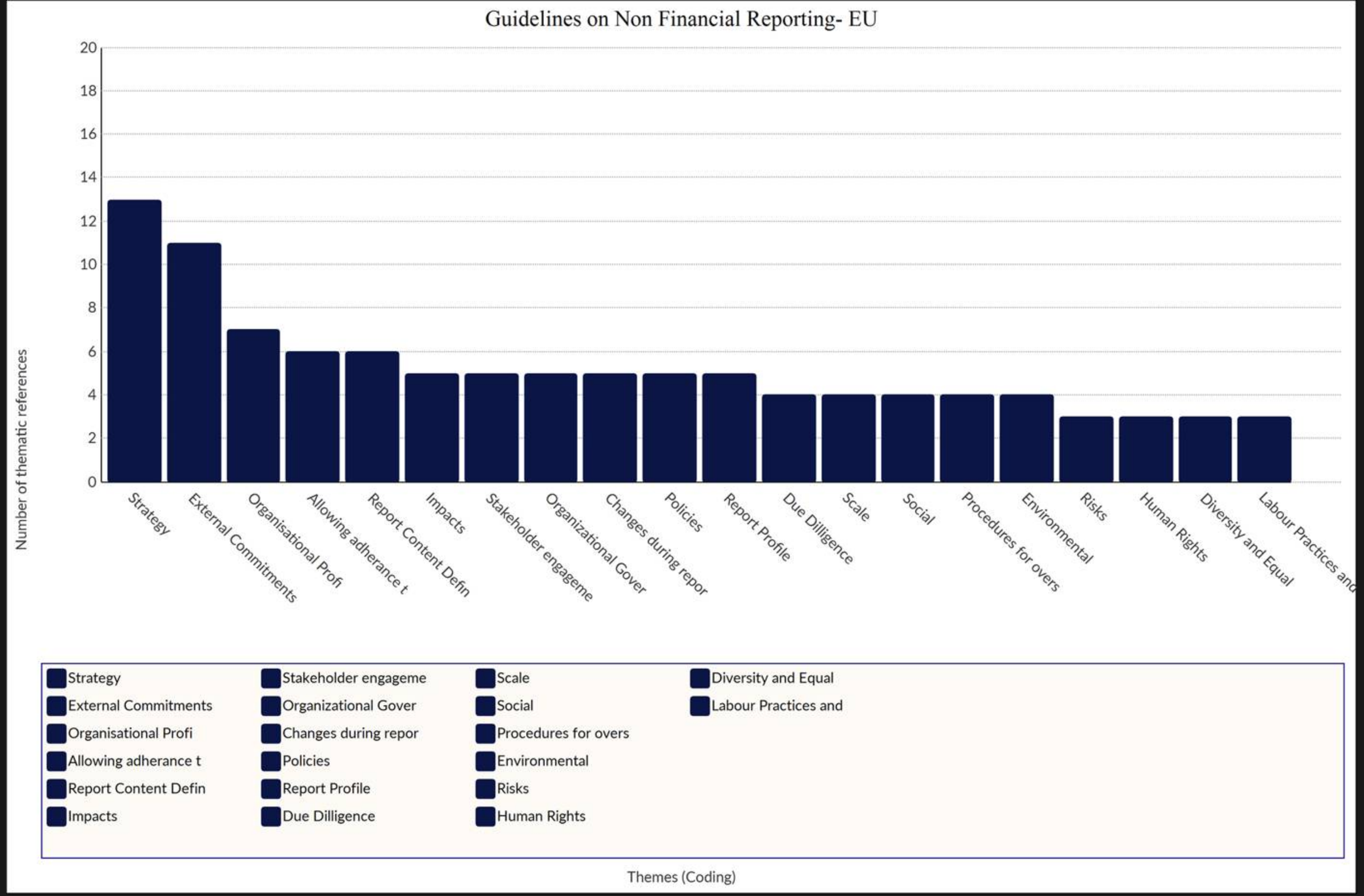
BRSR-India-Word Cloud

Guidelines on Non Financial Reporting- EU-Word Cloud

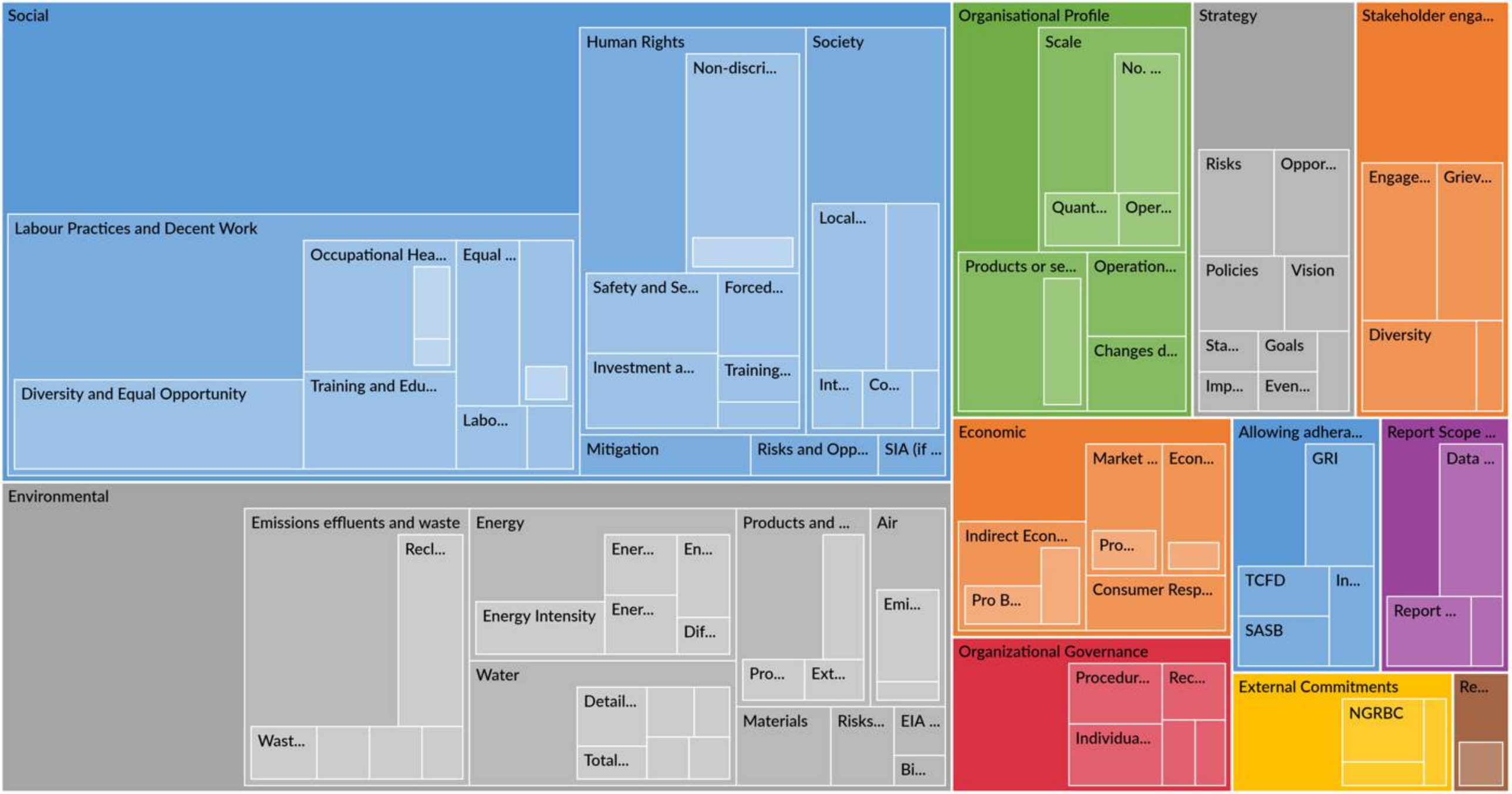




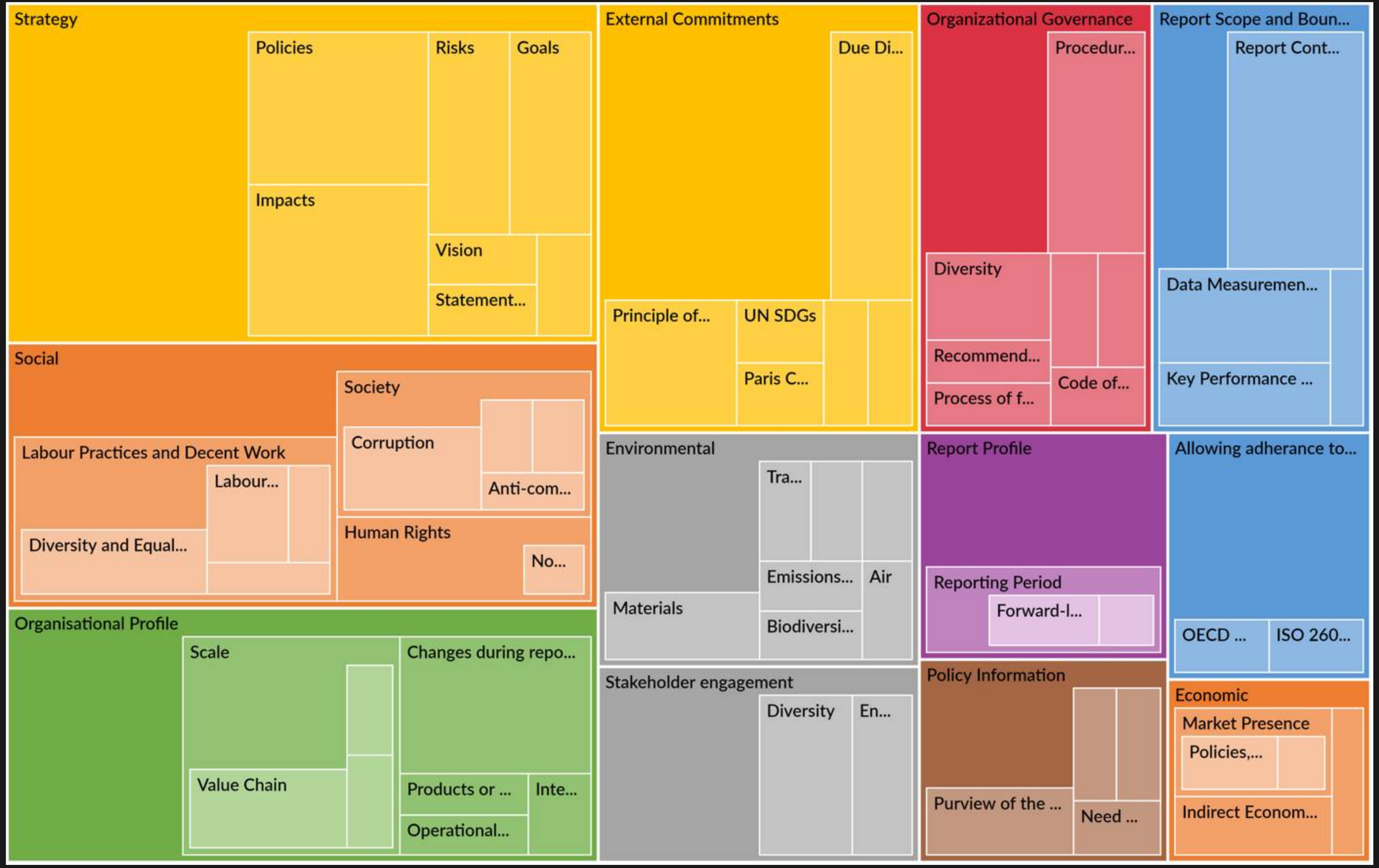
BRSR-India-Thematic References Chart



Guidelines on Non Financial Reporting-European Union-Thematic References Chart



BRSR-India-Thematic Heirarchy Chart



Guidelines on Non Financial Reporting-European Union-Thematic Heirarchy Chart

Main Observations

Scope

India- Mandatory for certain listed companies, EU- mandatory for companies over 500 employees

Focus of disclosure

India- specific information for ESG performance, EU- more macro information

Comply or Explain framework

India- voluntary reporting for many,
EU- comply or explain

Policy Integration

European Policies integrated with external measures and directives. However- more focus on institutional aspects- vision, governance

Principle Based Reporting

India- NGBRC
EU- Materiality, Subsidiarity, Due Dilligence
India- essential indicators and leadership indicators

Innovation in Reporting

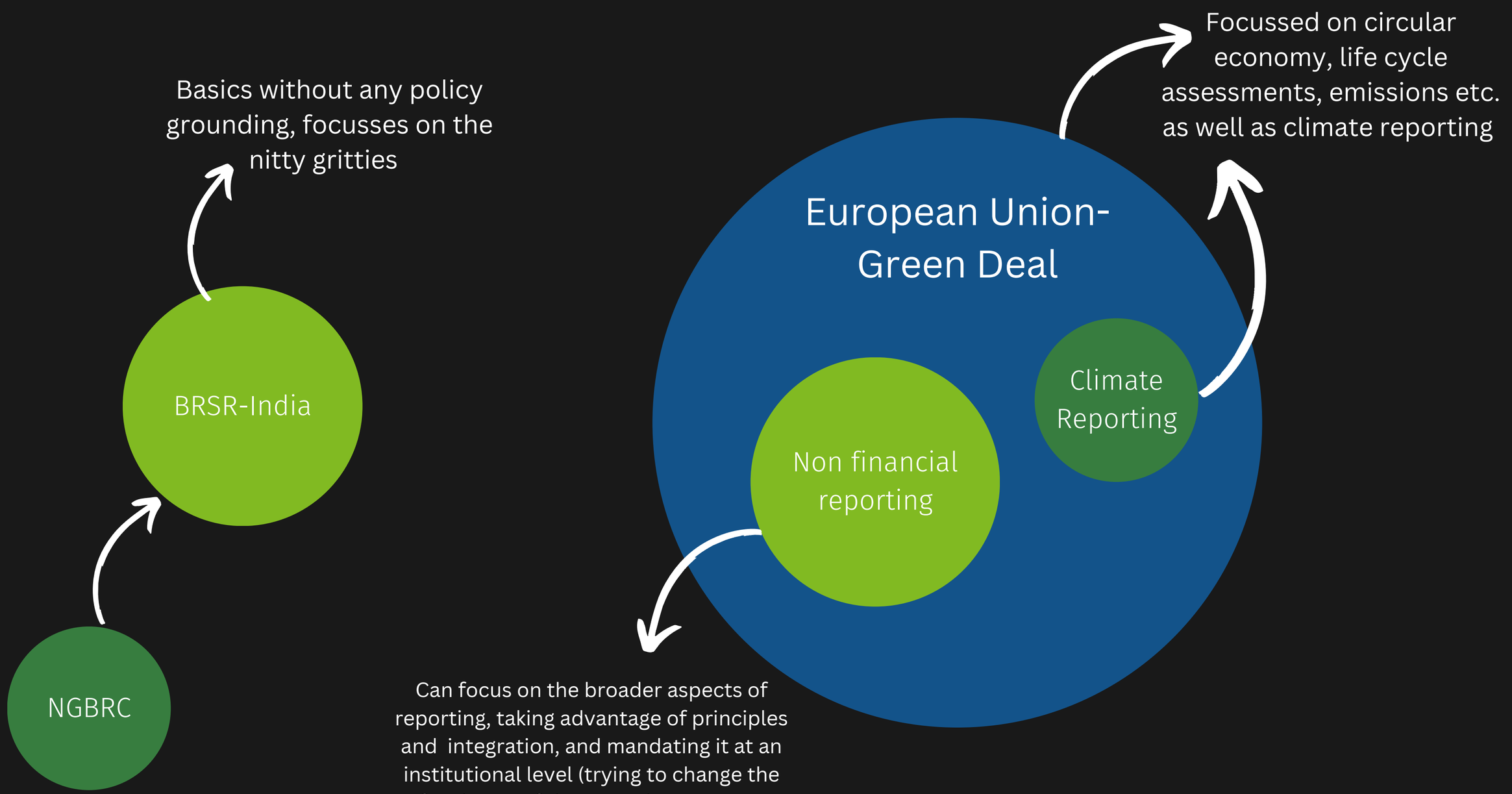
EU- although mandatory, more innovative. Avoid One-size-fits all approach.

Comprehensive- Key linkages

KPIs as well as qualitative information,
India- Comprehensive but optional or voluntary.

Environmental Aspects

Focus of India more on detailed social and environmental aspects, while focus of guidelines more on reporting of information


Basics without any policy grounding, focusses on the nitty gritties
BRSR-India
NGBRC
European Union-Green Deal
Non financial reporting
Climate Reporting
Focussed on circular economy, life cycle assessments, emissions etc. as well as climate reporting
Can focus on the broader aspects of reporting, taking advantage of principles and integration, and mandating it at an institutional level (trying to change the focal core of the reporting process- putting onus on the organization'

Findings and Analysis:

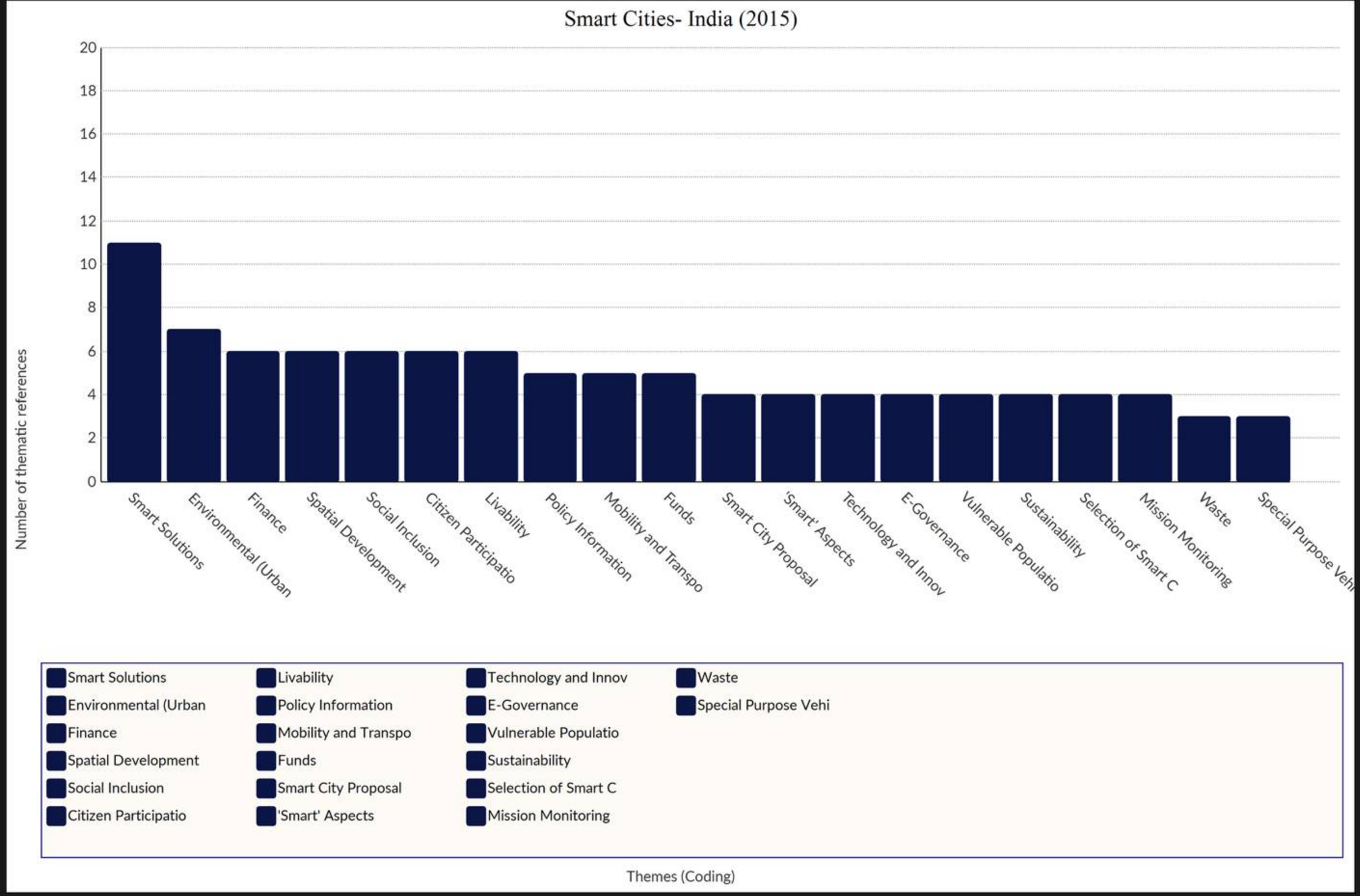
Chapter II
Sustainable Urban Development in India and European Union



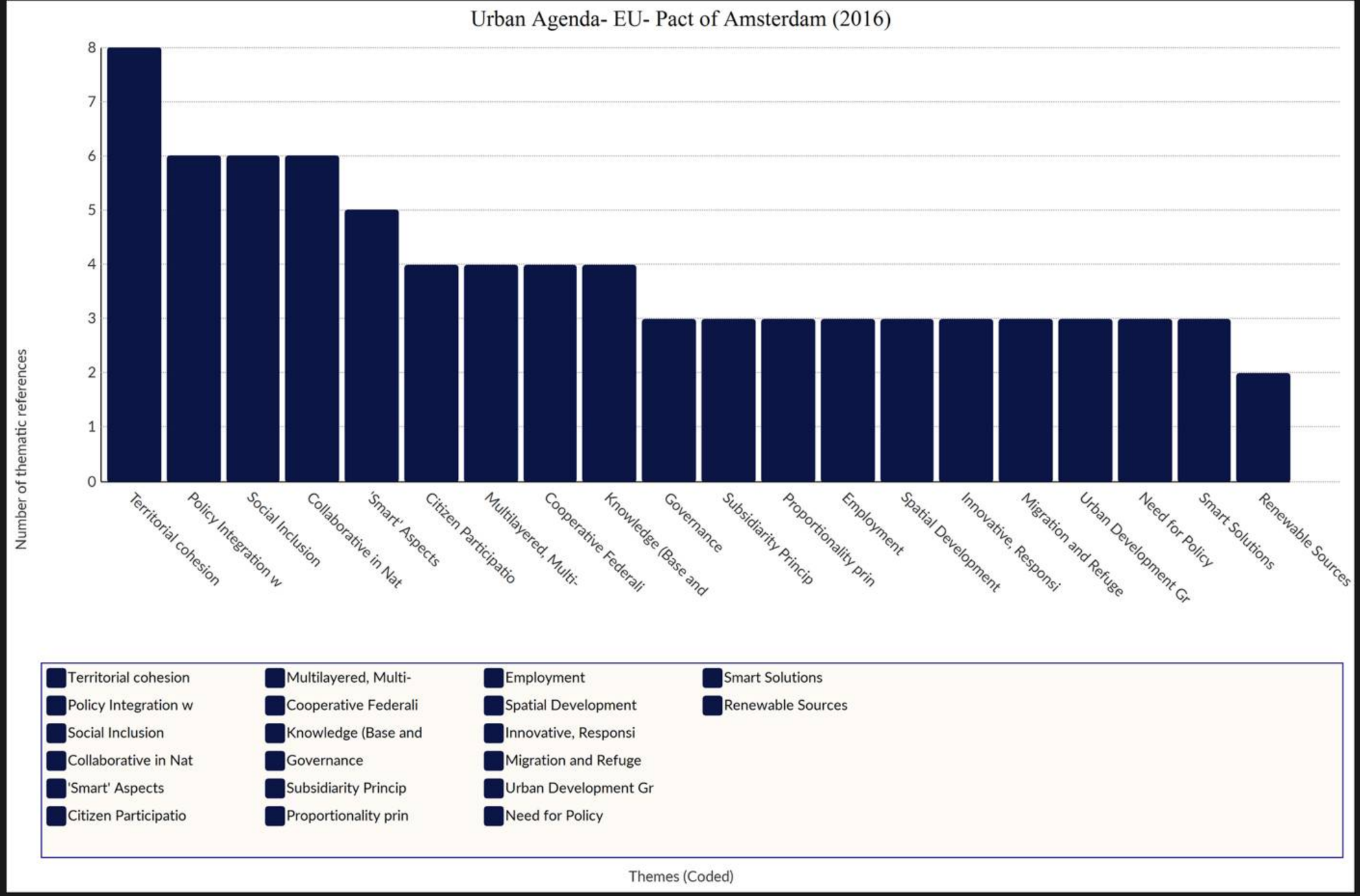
Smart Cities-India-Word Cloud

Urban Agenda- EU- Pact of Amsterdam-Word Cloud

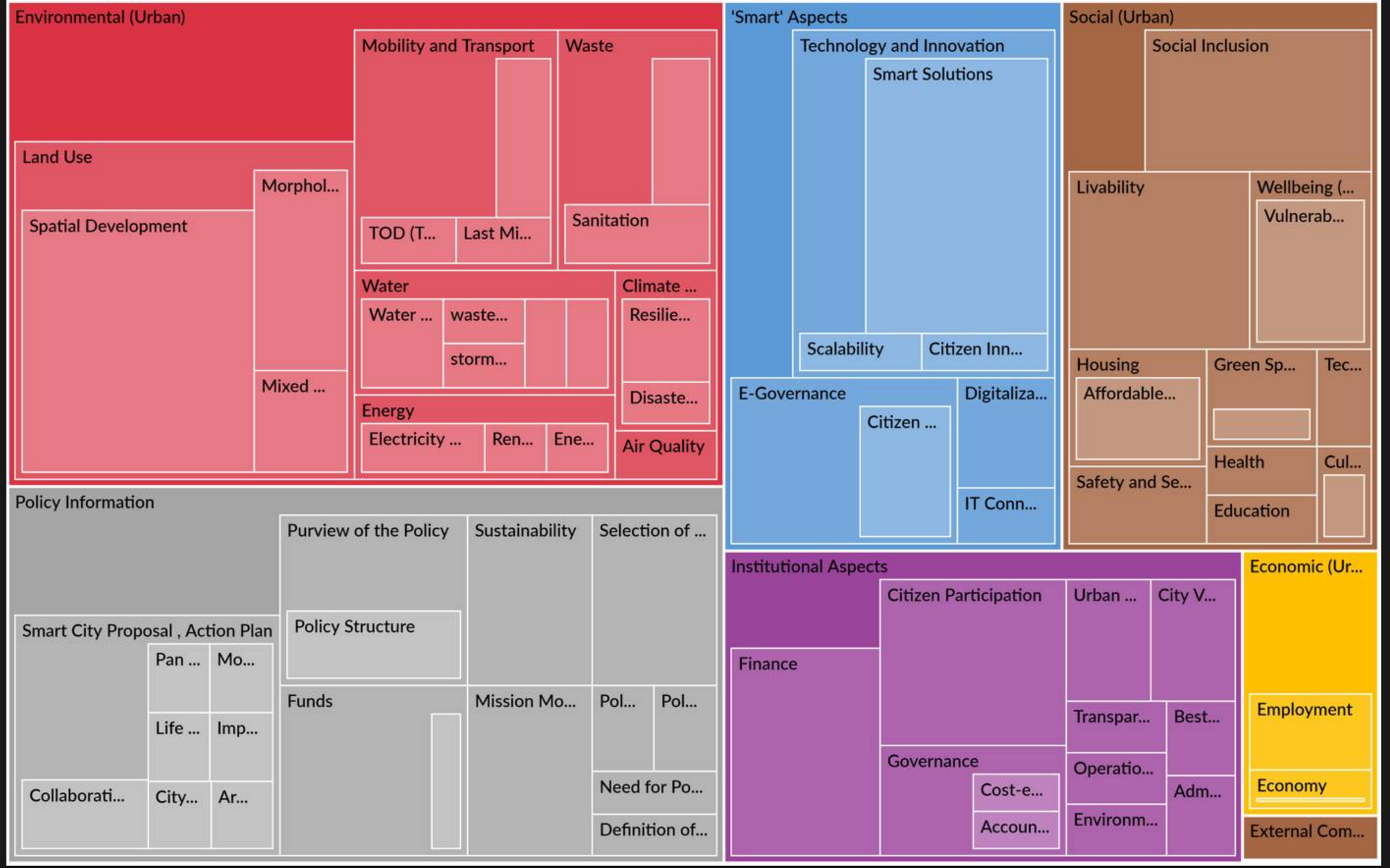




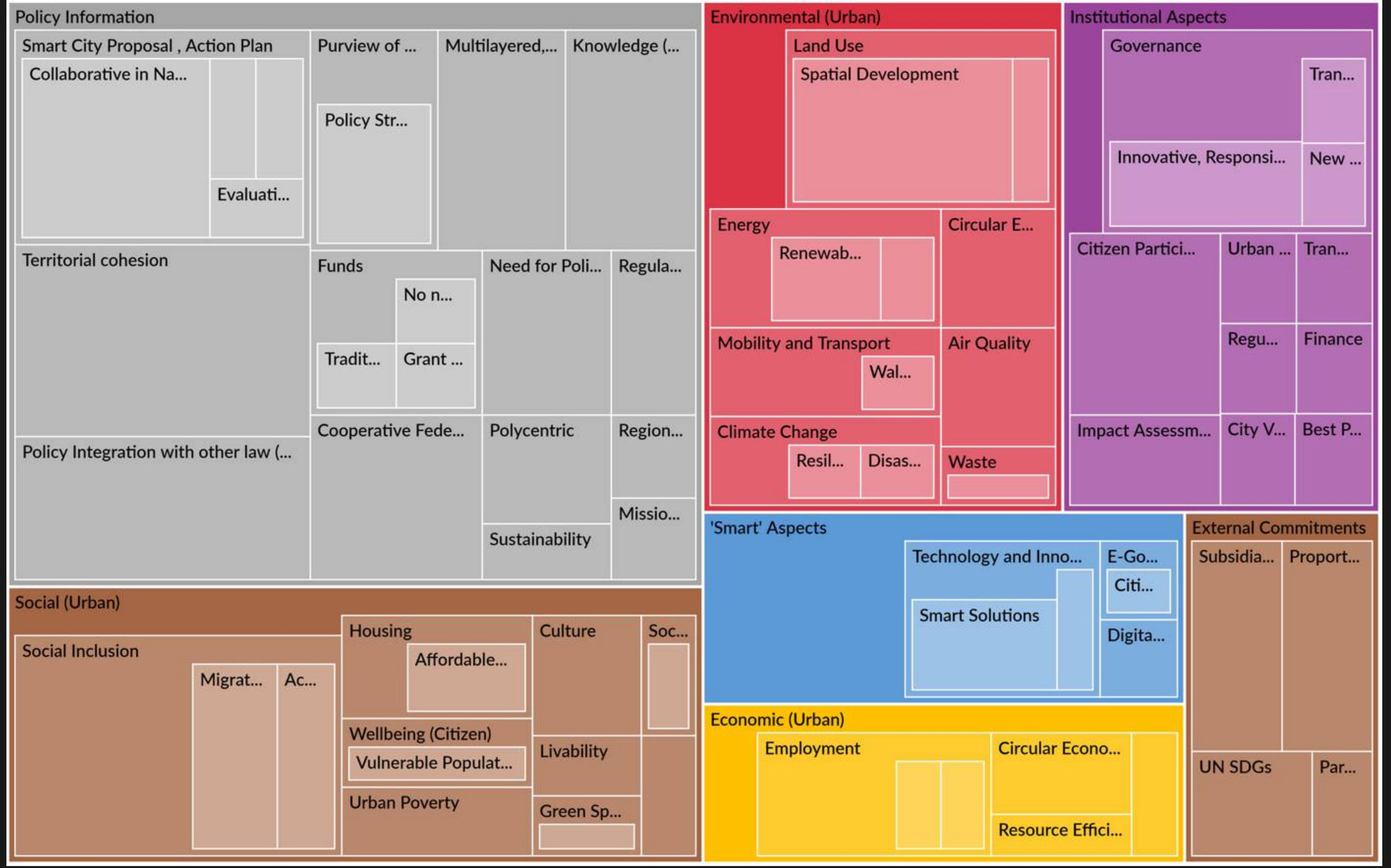
Number of References-Smart Cities India-Thematic References arthy Chart



Number of References-Urban Agenda- Pact of Amsterdam- European Union-Thematic References arthy



Smart Cities- India-Thematic Heirarchy Chart



Urban Agenda- Pact of Amsterdam- EU-Thematic Heirarchy Chart

Main Observations

Policy Integration, Cohesion and Cooperation

No new creation of institutions and agencies in the EU case, India- institutionalization, states have innovative flexibility

'Smart' Aspects versus Knowledge Base

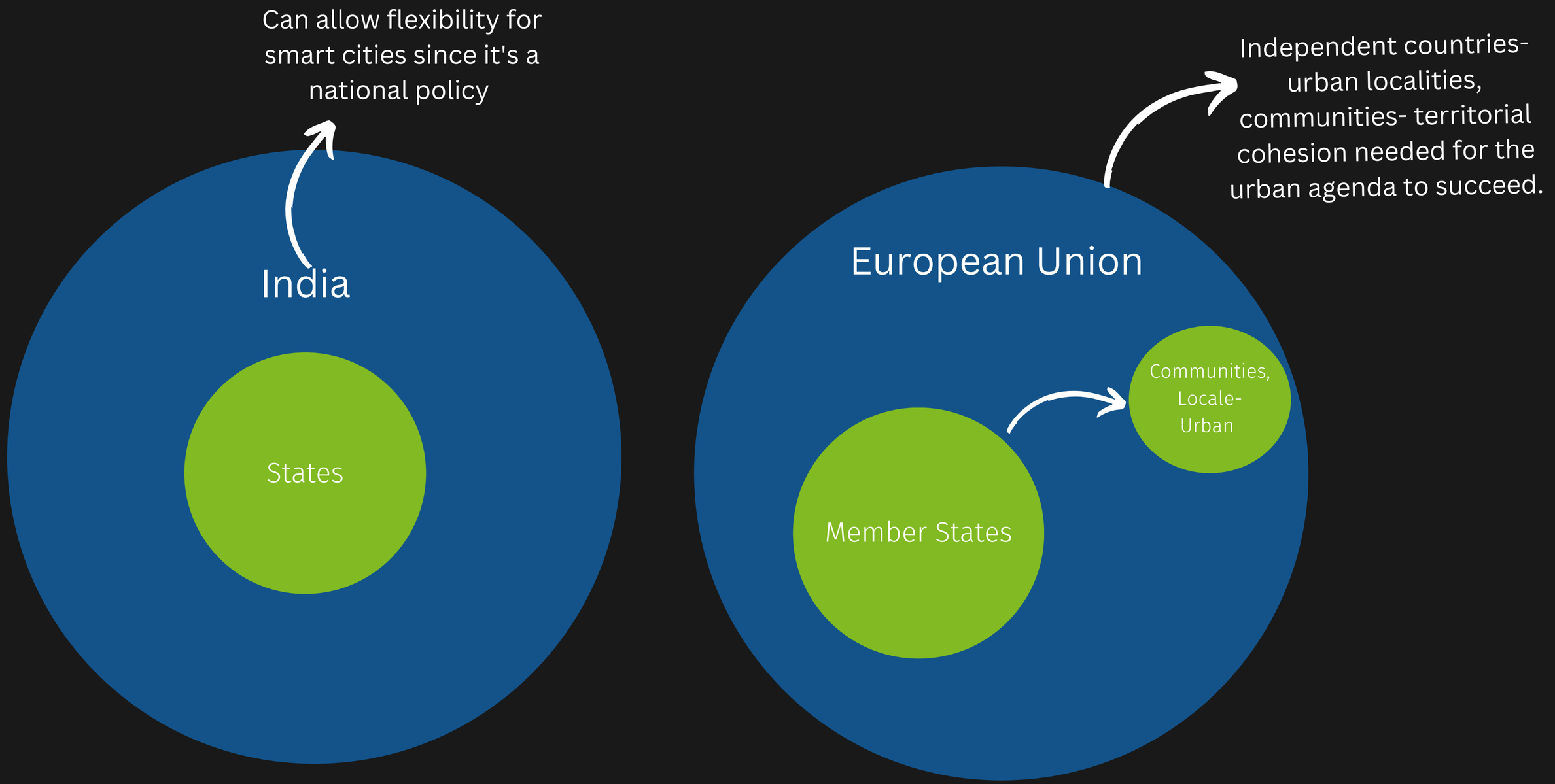
Addressing core problems and building knowledge around them instead of technological solutionism

Circular Economy, Public Procurement, Polycentric development

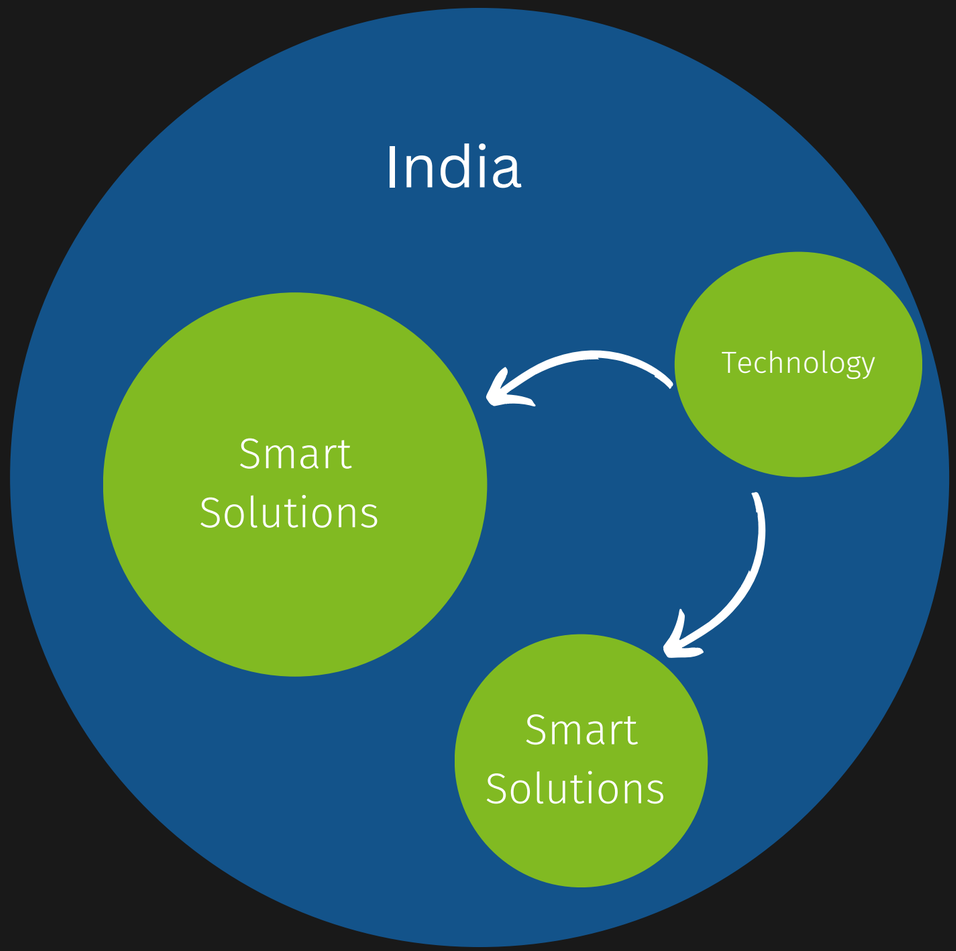
EU- discussed, India context- not discussed

Vulnerable Populations

Urban poverty- place based and people based solutions, migrants, refugees- EU, India- redevelopment (infrastructure focussed)

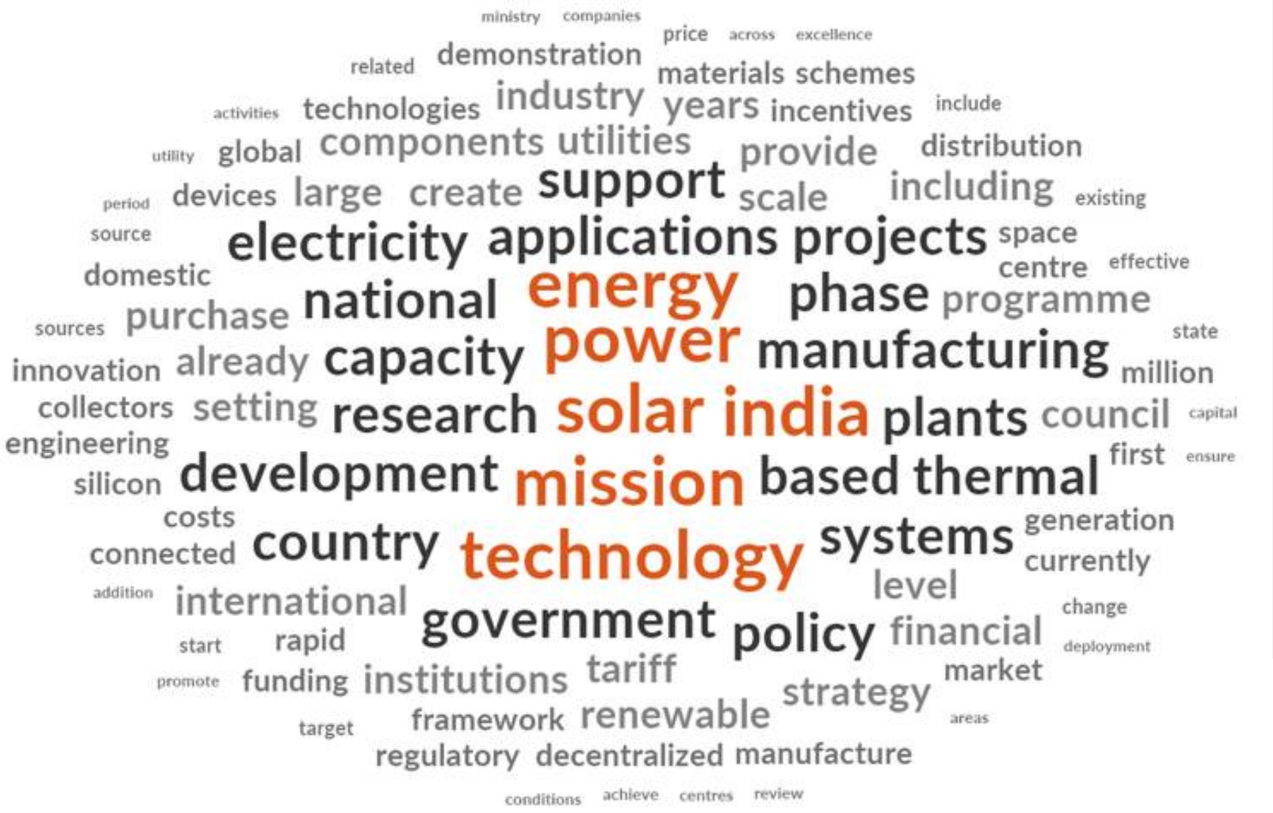

Can allow flexibility for smart cities since it's a national policy
India
States
Independent countries- urban localities, communities- territorial cohesion needed for the urban agenda to succeed.
European Union
Communities, Locale- Urban
Member States


European Union
Knowledge Base


India
Technology
Smart Solutions
Smart Solutions

Findings and Analysis:

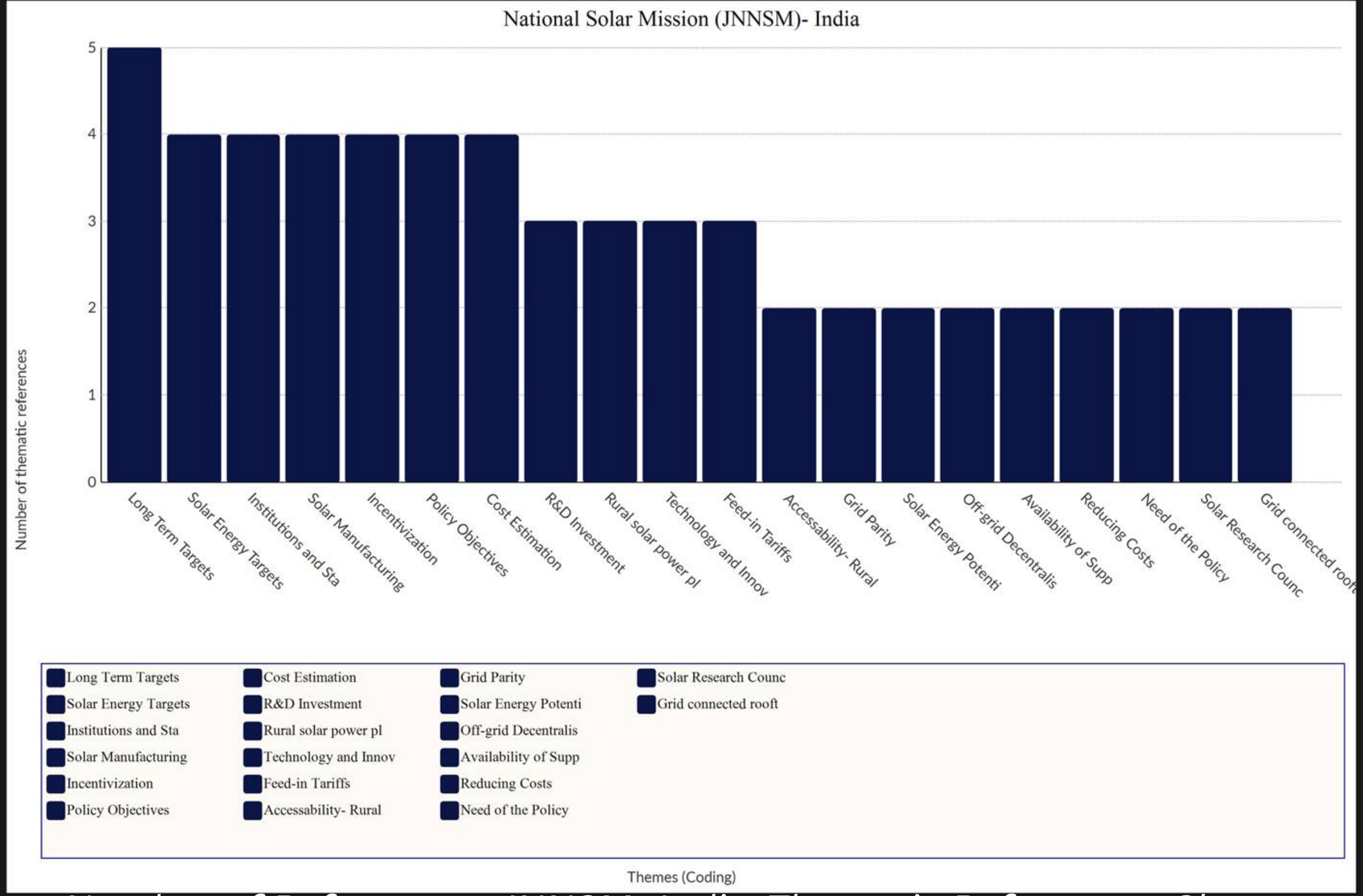
Chapter III
Renewable Energy- Solar Energy in India and European Union



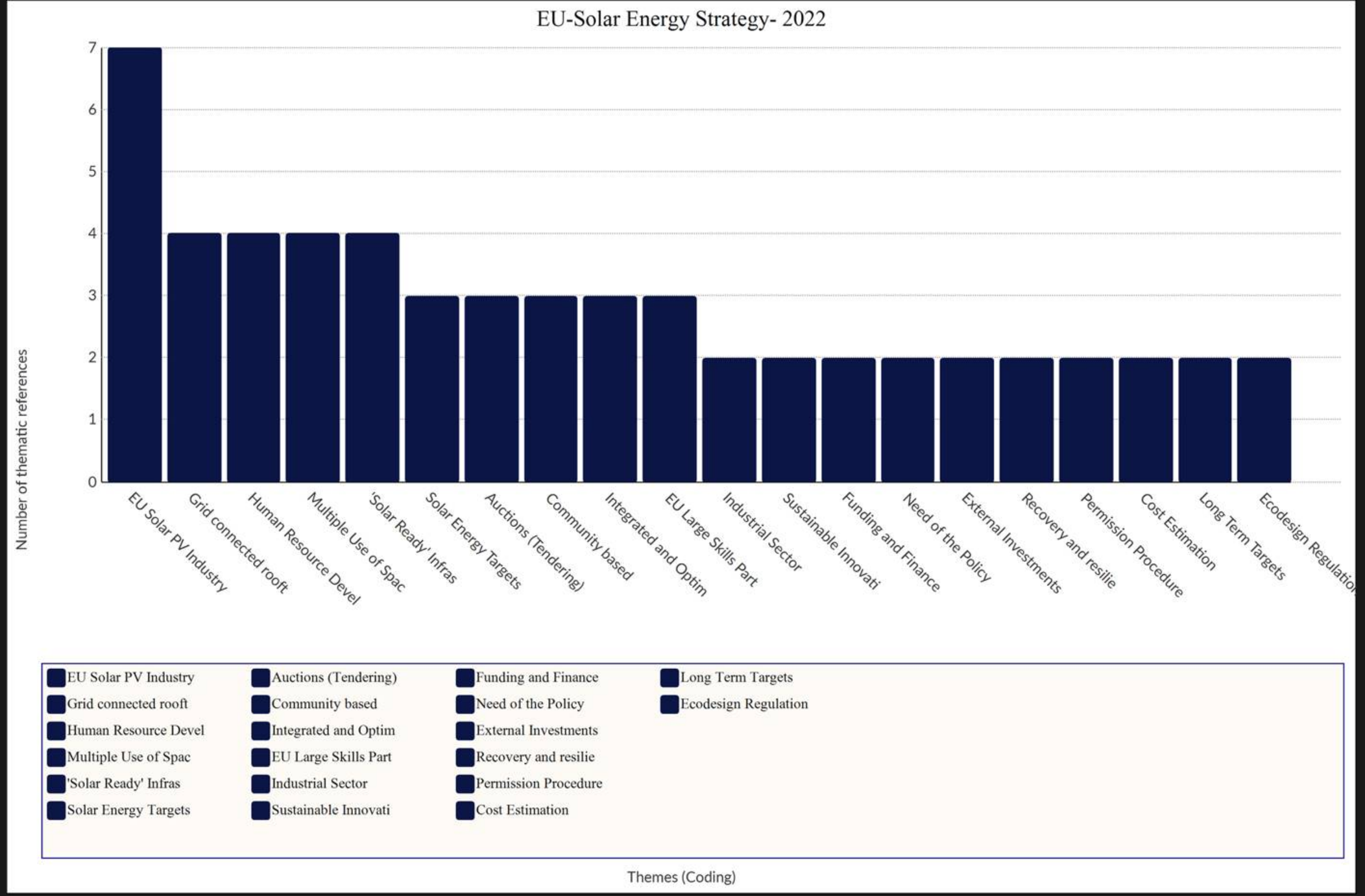
National Solar Mission-India-Word Cloud

EU Solar Strategy-Word Cloud

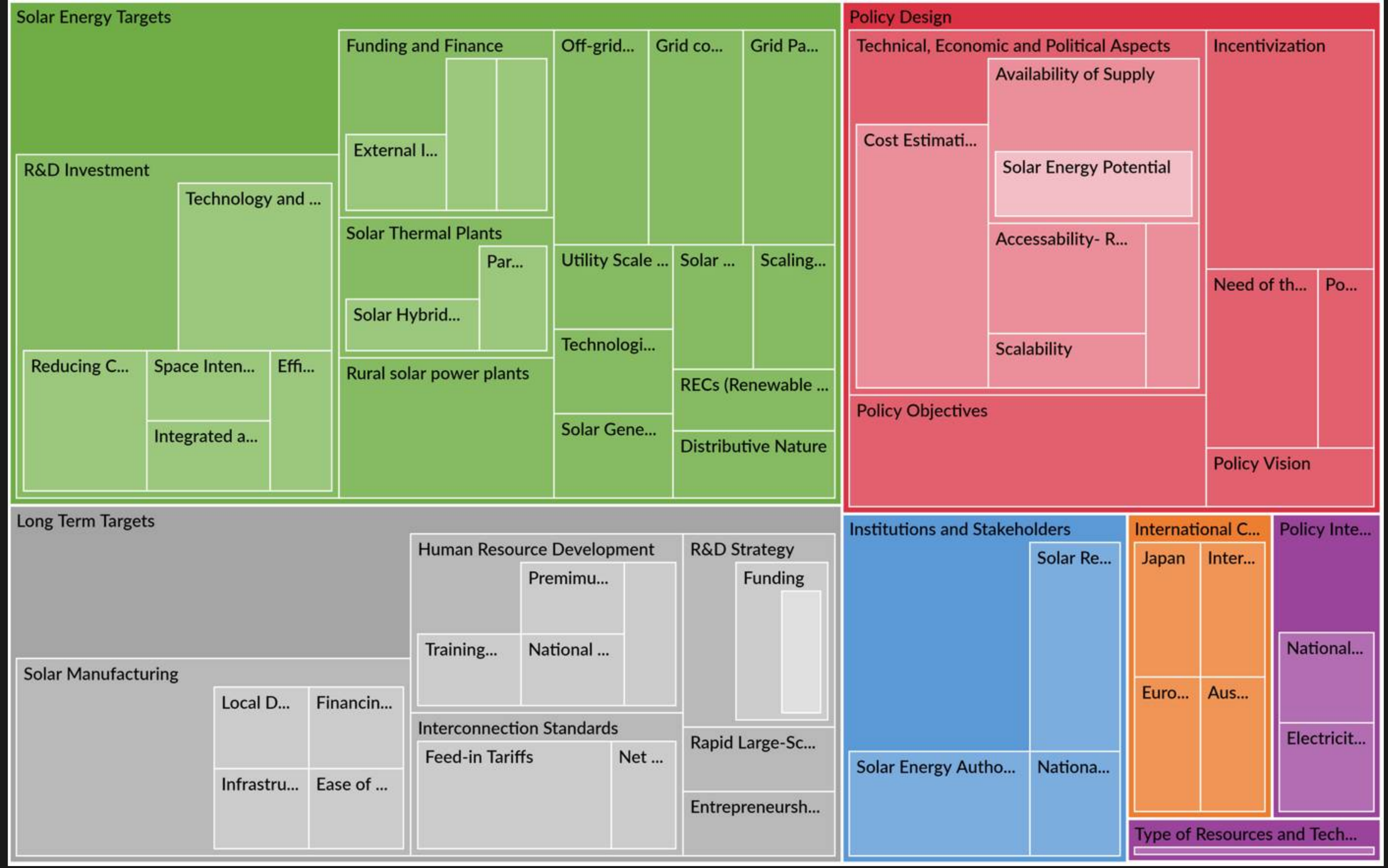




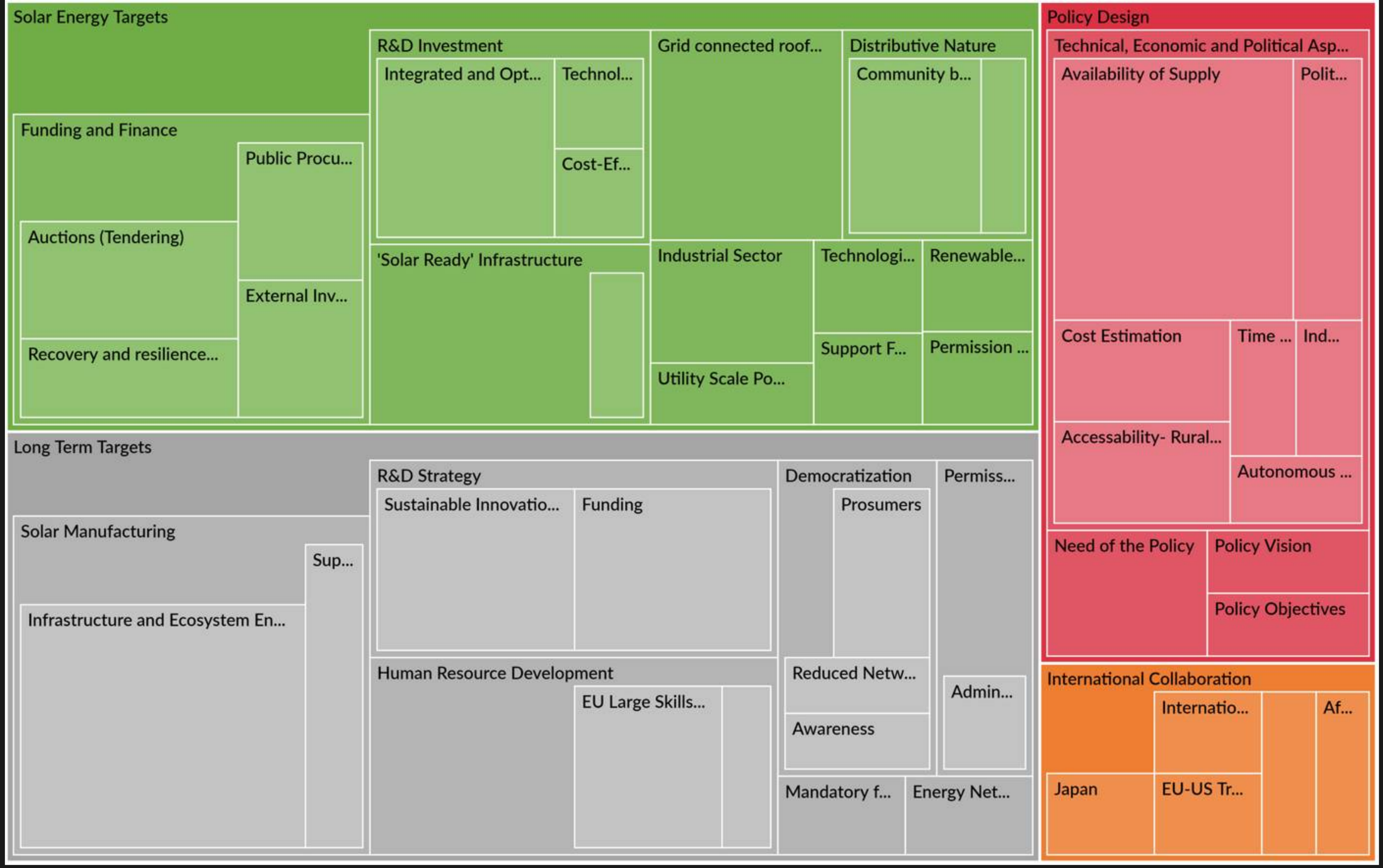
Number of References-JNNSM- India-Thematic References Chart



Number of References-EU- Solar Energy Strategy-Thematic References Chart



JNNSM- India-Thematic Heirarchy Chart



EU Solar Energy Strategy-Thematic Heirarchy rtces Chart

Main Observations

Broad Focus Similar

Technology and Innovation, Long Term targets, Manufacturing

Regulatory Architecture versus Financial or Market Based Incentives

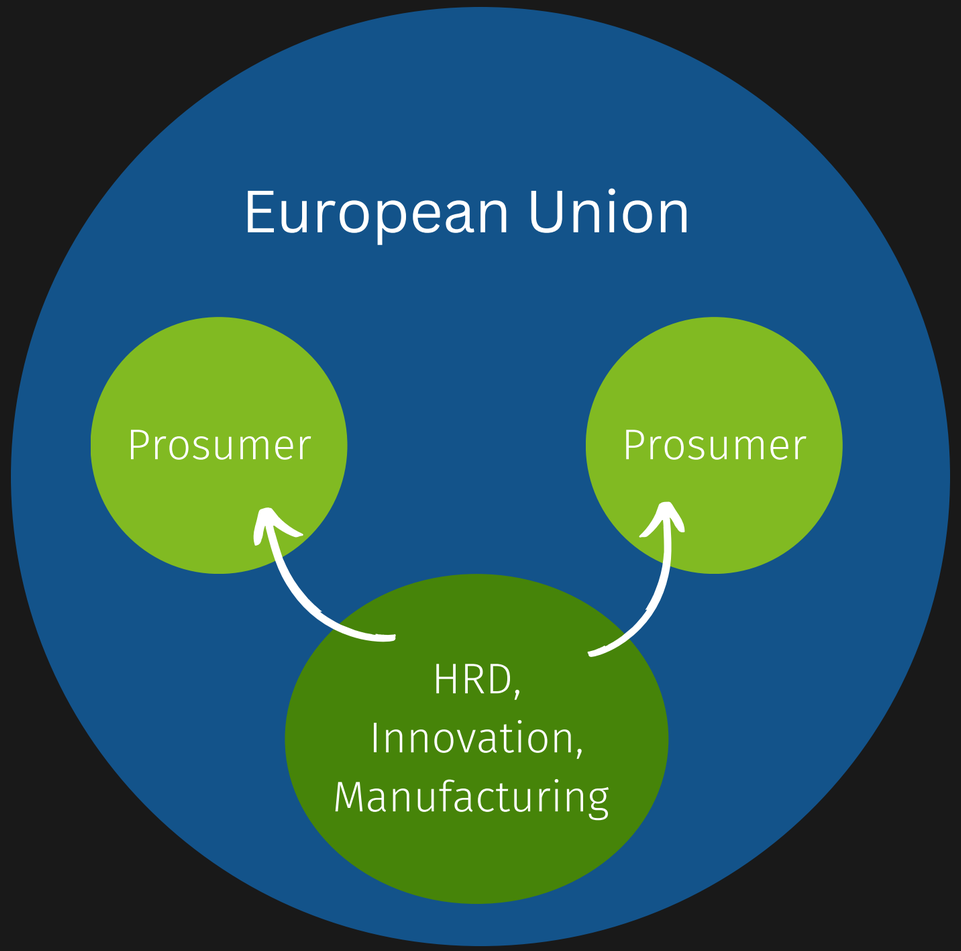
EU more focussed on building suport structure, mandatory building regulations etc. while India more voluntary incentivization kind (stick versus carrot)

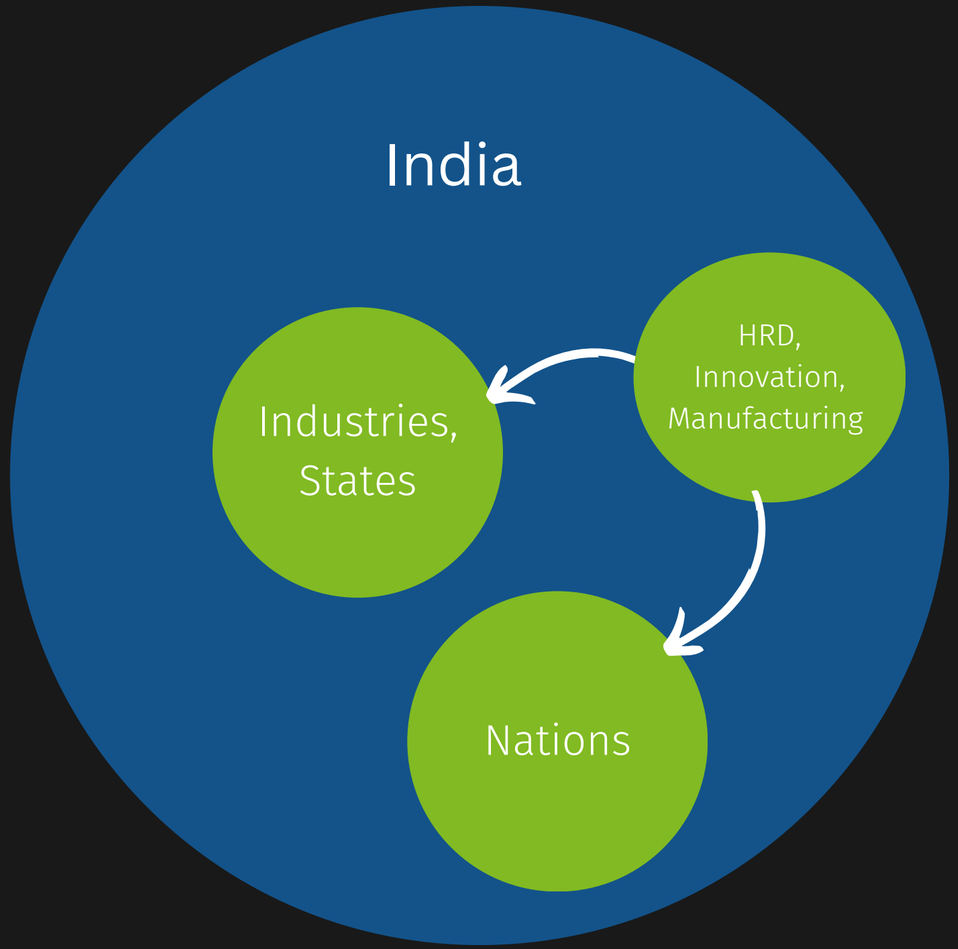
Democratization and Prosumer

Decentralisation, Community Based, Local Production and Supply- EU. Energy Accessibility to one and all

Demand and Supply Side Policies

Upskilling, Multiple Use of space and building mandatory, project based industry alliance


European Union
Prosumer
Prosumer
HRD,
Innovation,
Manufacturing


India
Industries,
States
HRD,
Innovation,
Manufacturing
Nations

Broader Implications and Conclusion

EU- Territorial Cohesion yet Democratisation, India- Innovation and Flexibility to states, yet not to the individual consumer and locality

India- Institutionalization and no Policy Integration

Policy Convergence visible to a great extent, but with socio-economic as well as cultural differences

Political, Industrial motivations aside. EU can learn from Unity in Diversity, India can learn that that cannot be applied in Policymaking.

Thank You!

References:

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