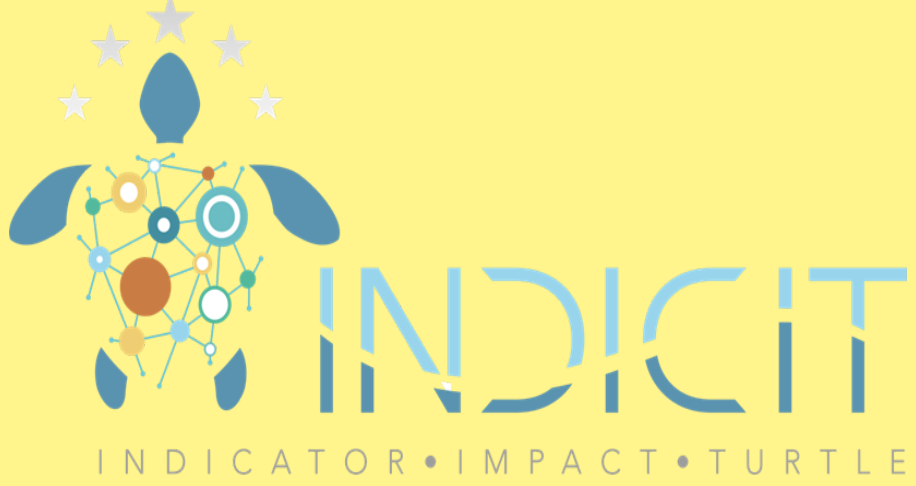
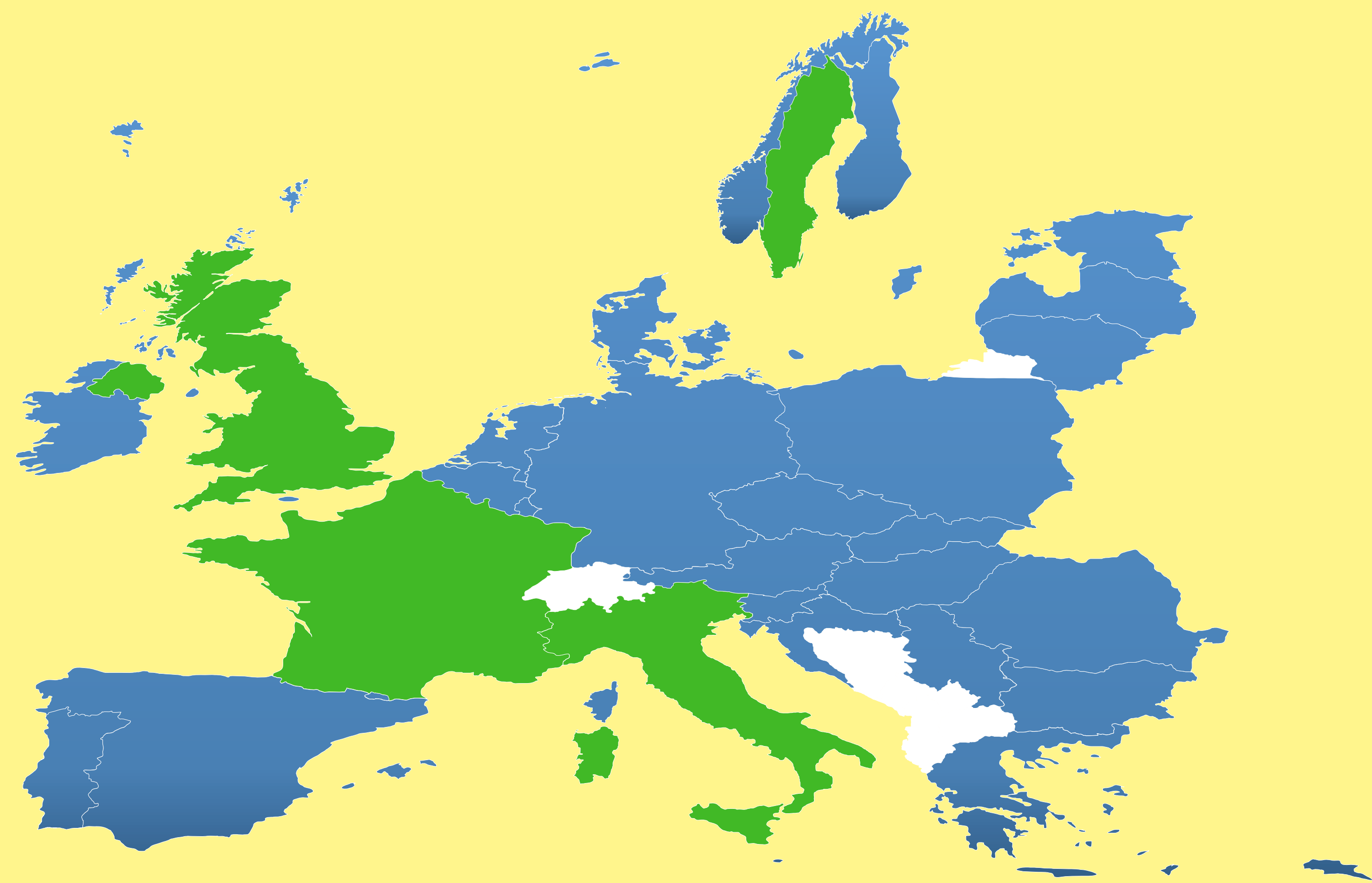


Microplastic marine pollution: European policy needs



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International level (any kind of plastic)

UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)

- UNCLOS Part XII Article 192 General Obligation: “States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment” Article 194: ‘States shall take, individually or jointly as appropriate, all measures within this Convention that are necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source’

MARPOL

- Annex V revisited 2011 prohibits the discharge of garbage, including: (...) all plastic, cargo residues (...).

European level (microplastic)

- Legally binding**
- REACH Directive (1907/2006/Ue), Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), Eco Design Directive (2009/125/Ue), Cosmetic Regulation (1223/2009). In the future, these could be modified in order to ban microplastic or include barriers or filters for microplastic.
 - European Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). It is necessary to implement the MSFD instruments (Article 13 of Programme of Measure).

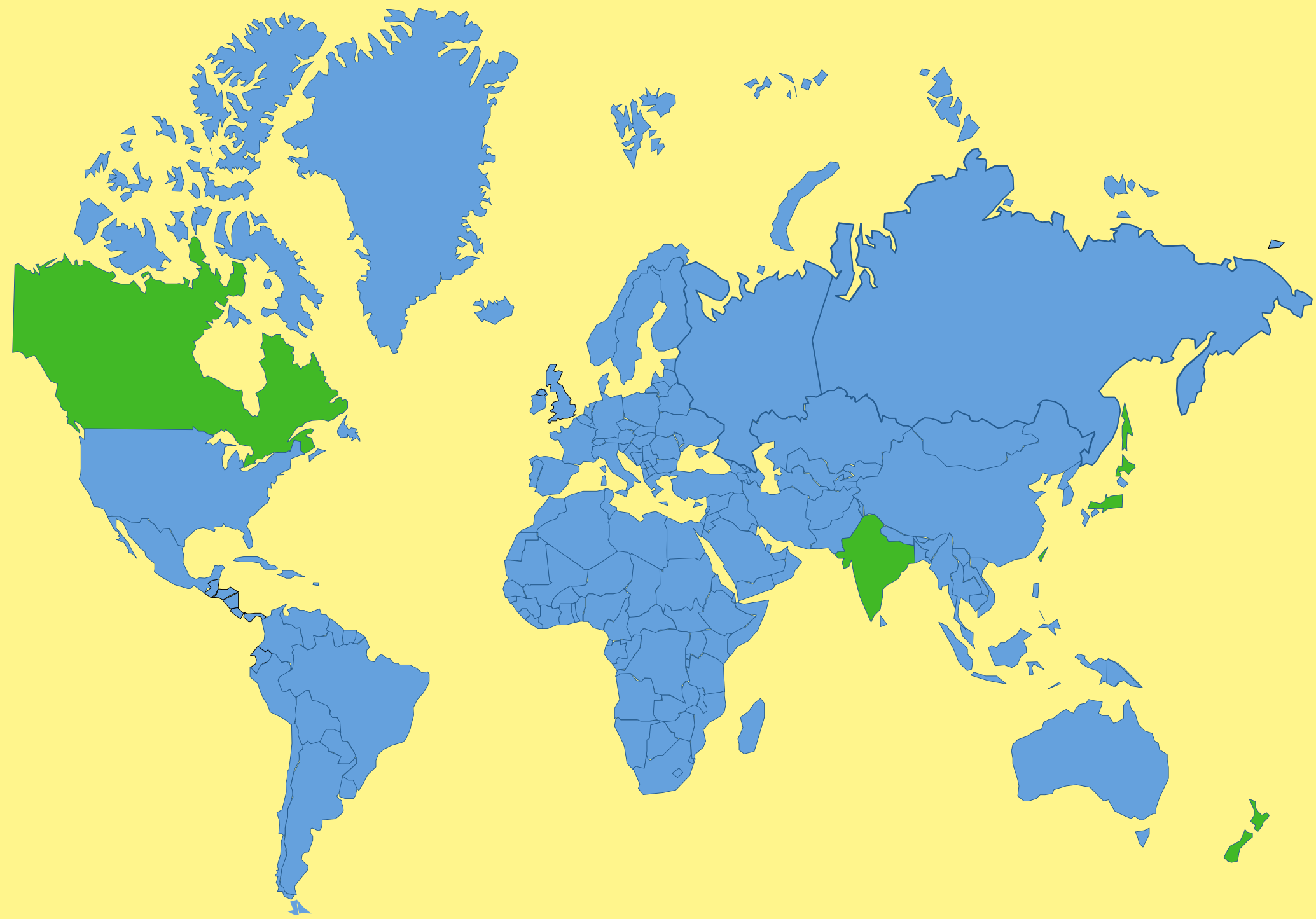
- Soft Law**
- Plastic Strategy COM (2018) 28 16.1.2018. Start with the actions to reduce microplastic pollution (Annex I)

- Potential mechanism**
- EU Ecolabel. Ban microplastic from ecolabel products. Commission decision 2017/1218. In the future more products could be included in this ban.

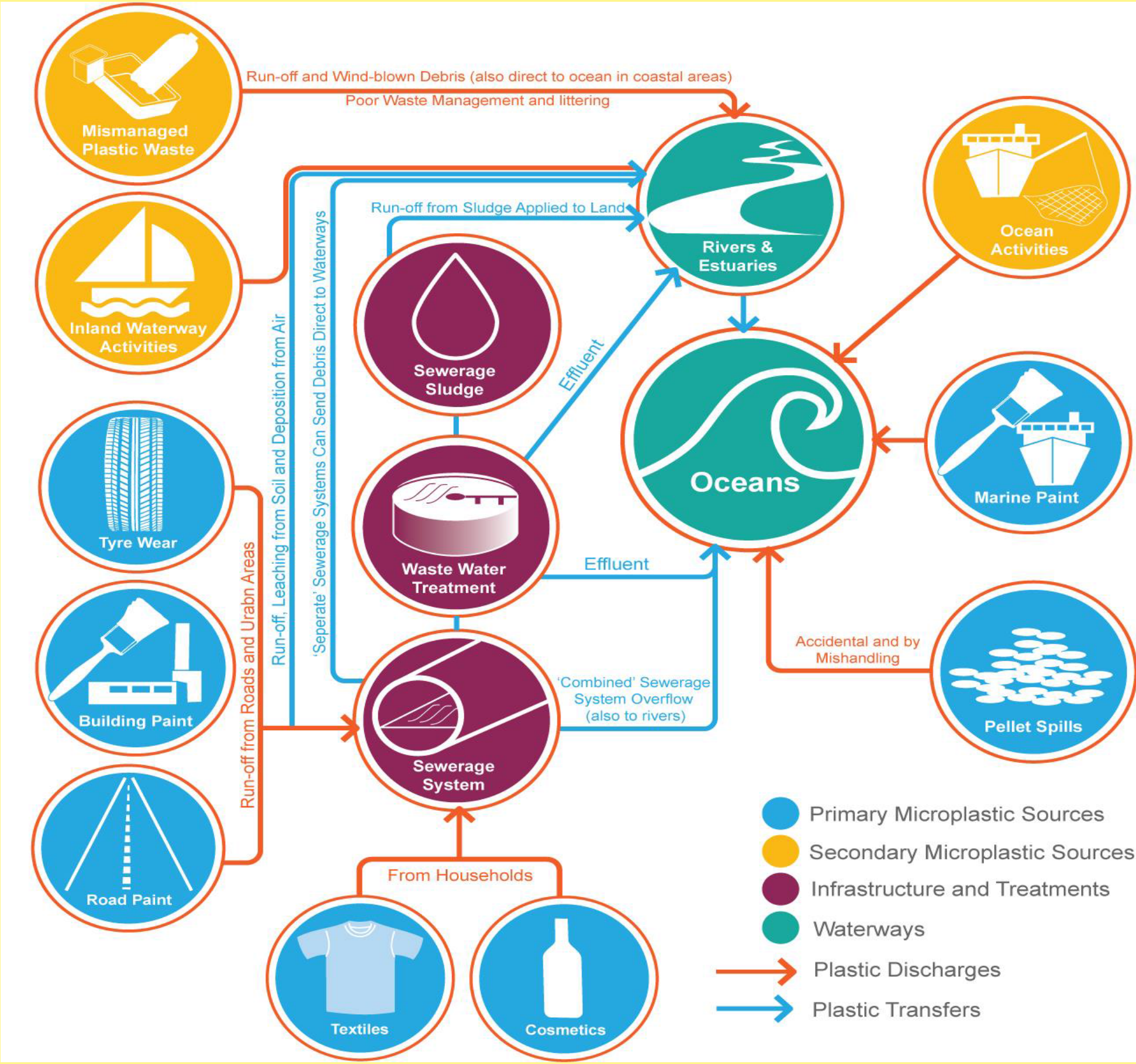
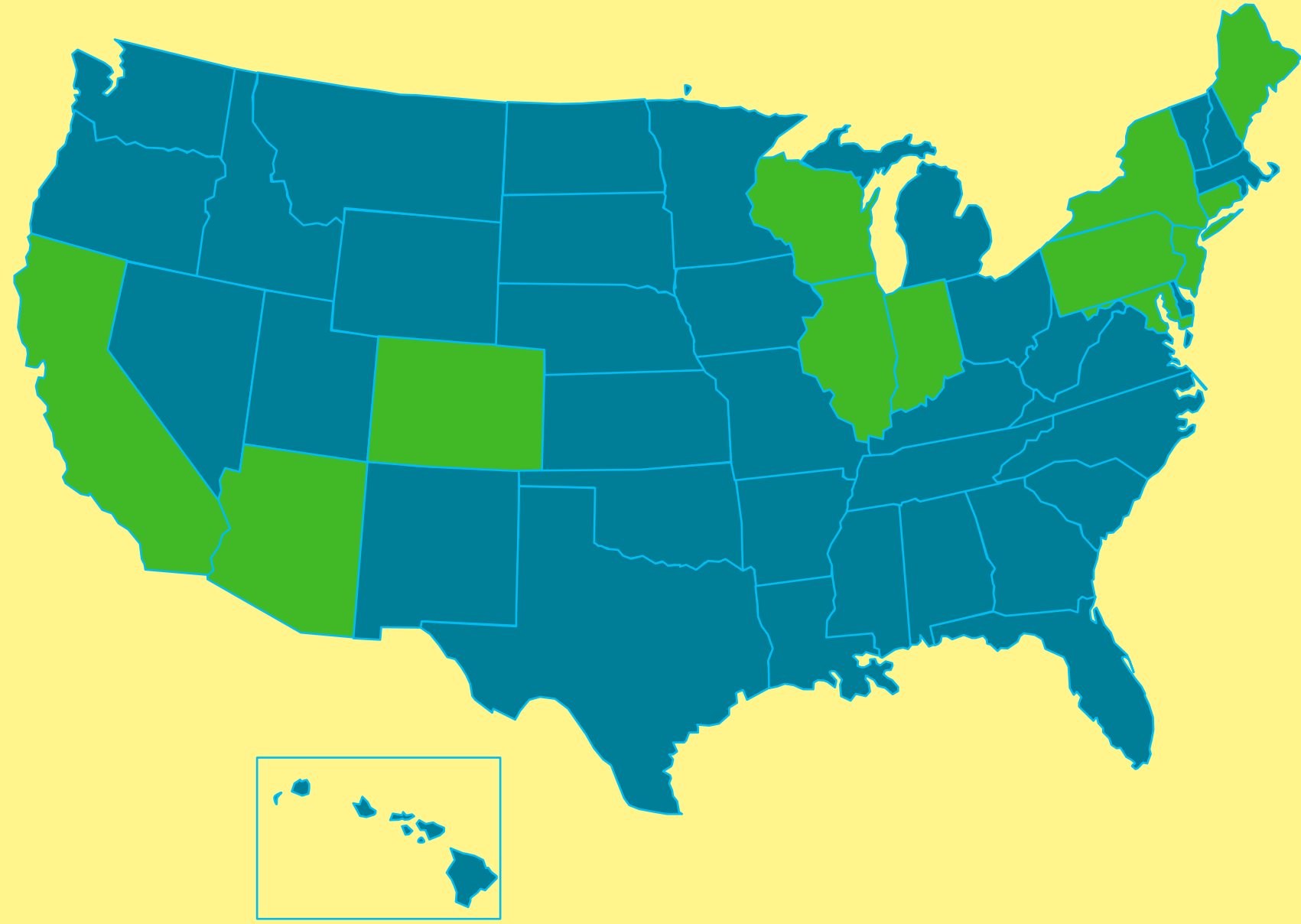
Microplastics (MPs) are one of the environmental issues strongly debated by the public in relationship with marine pollution and human health. The awareness regarding this issue is also increasing at the policy makers level. Many international and intergovernmental bodies are debating about the global problem of plastics in the marine environment. However, the problem of microplastics has not yet been addressed globally in an appropriate way by policy due to the complexity of the problem: dispersal, durability, diversified pollution sources, fragmented authorities, and uncoordinated policies. While it is easy to identify the recipient of the laws for microplastic production and product design, it is more difficult to identify the correct addressee for microplastics already released in the environment or coming from large items fragmentation. It is important to focus on which policy areas and what requirements are needed to promote actions for the microplastic management. This poster provides an overview of the existing regulatory instruments, which address the topic of marine microplastics developed at European and International levels. It discusses specific management options, measures, and best practices that are already implemented, underling the existing gaps.

National level in the worldwide

Europe	Worldwide	USA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Italy:ban products with microbeads (2020)• UK: microbeads ban (2018)• France: ban microplastic import, manufacture and sale (2018)• Sweden:microbeads ban (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ontario in Canada: microplastic ban (2015)• India: microbeads ban (2020)• Taiwan microbeads ban (2018)• New Zeland: microbeads ban (2018)• Japan: microbead ban (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 states have approved laws to ban the import and sale of microbeads (2017-2019)• Microbead Free water Acts bans cosmetics «rinse off» that contain plastic microbeads (2018)



Legislation throughout the world is both fragmentary and patchy . Decades are needed before treaties of International Conference can be ratified and implemented. The European Union, must, as soon as possible, make sure that the Plastic Strategy becomes a regulation or a Directive, to encourage all the other stakeholders involved. It is necessary to implement the MSFD instruments (Article 13 of Programme of Measure).



The quickest way would be to intervene on the primary microplastic sources at a national level so as to ensure its impact which could also be measurable (i.e.. cosmetics, textiles, building paint, tyre wear, road paint).Secondary microplastic, in the other hand, necessitate acting, first at national and European level, and start to envisage an ad hoc international conference, on plastic and microplastic pollution.