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Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Développement International (CERDI)

**Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden**  
Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC)

# THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEGROWTH

Thèse  
Présentée et soutenue publiquement le 16 décembre 2019  
pour l'obtention du titre de Docteur en Sciences Économiques

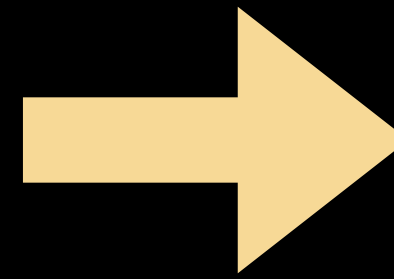
par

**TIMOTHÉE PARRIQUE**

sous la direction de Arnaud Diemer, Sarah Cornell, et Sylvie Ferrari

## Composition du jury

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Sylvie Ferrari	Doctrice, Université de Bordeaux	co-directrice



**Timothée Parrique**

# RALENTIR OU PÉRIR

L'économie de la décroissance

SEUIL



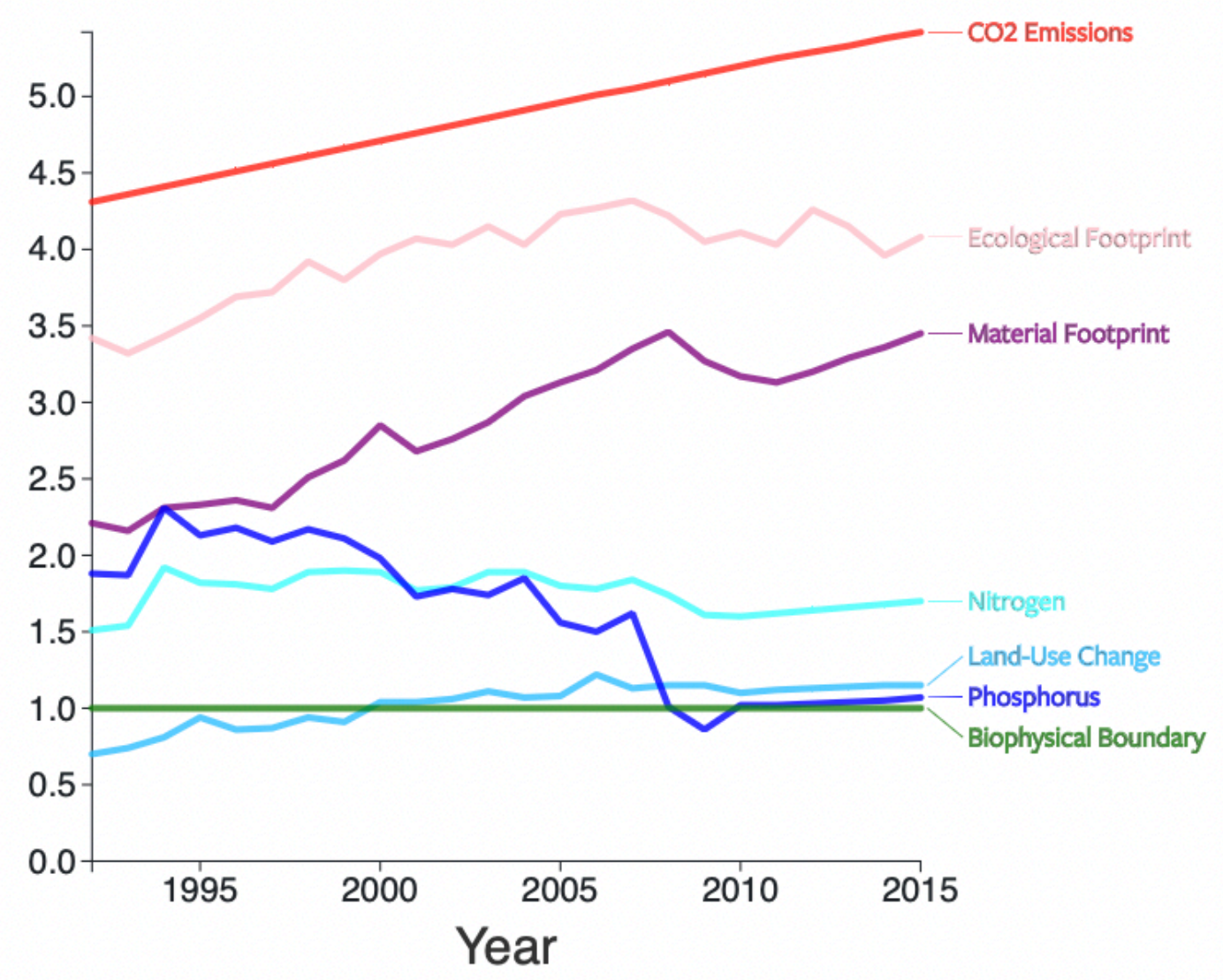
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Year: 2015

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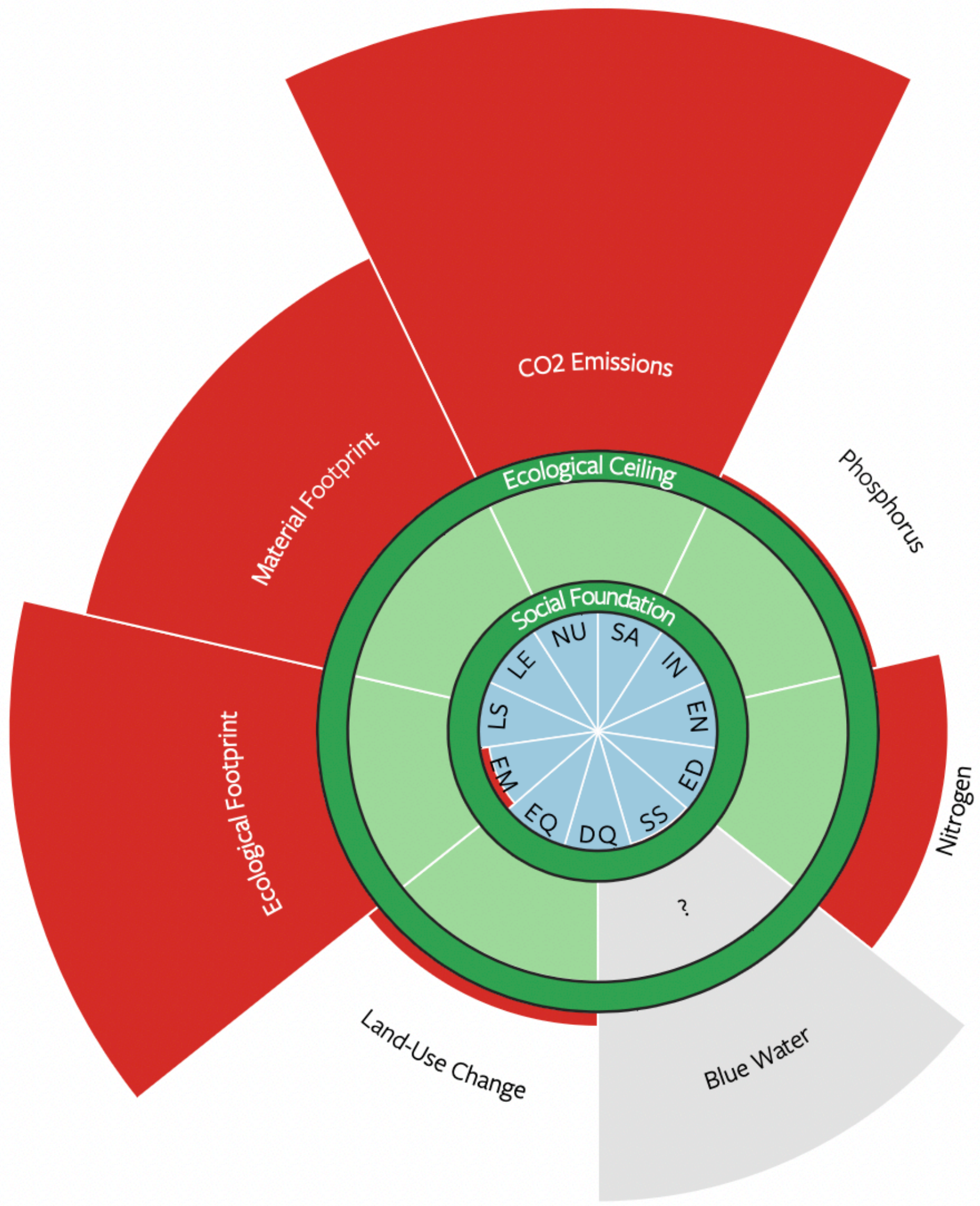
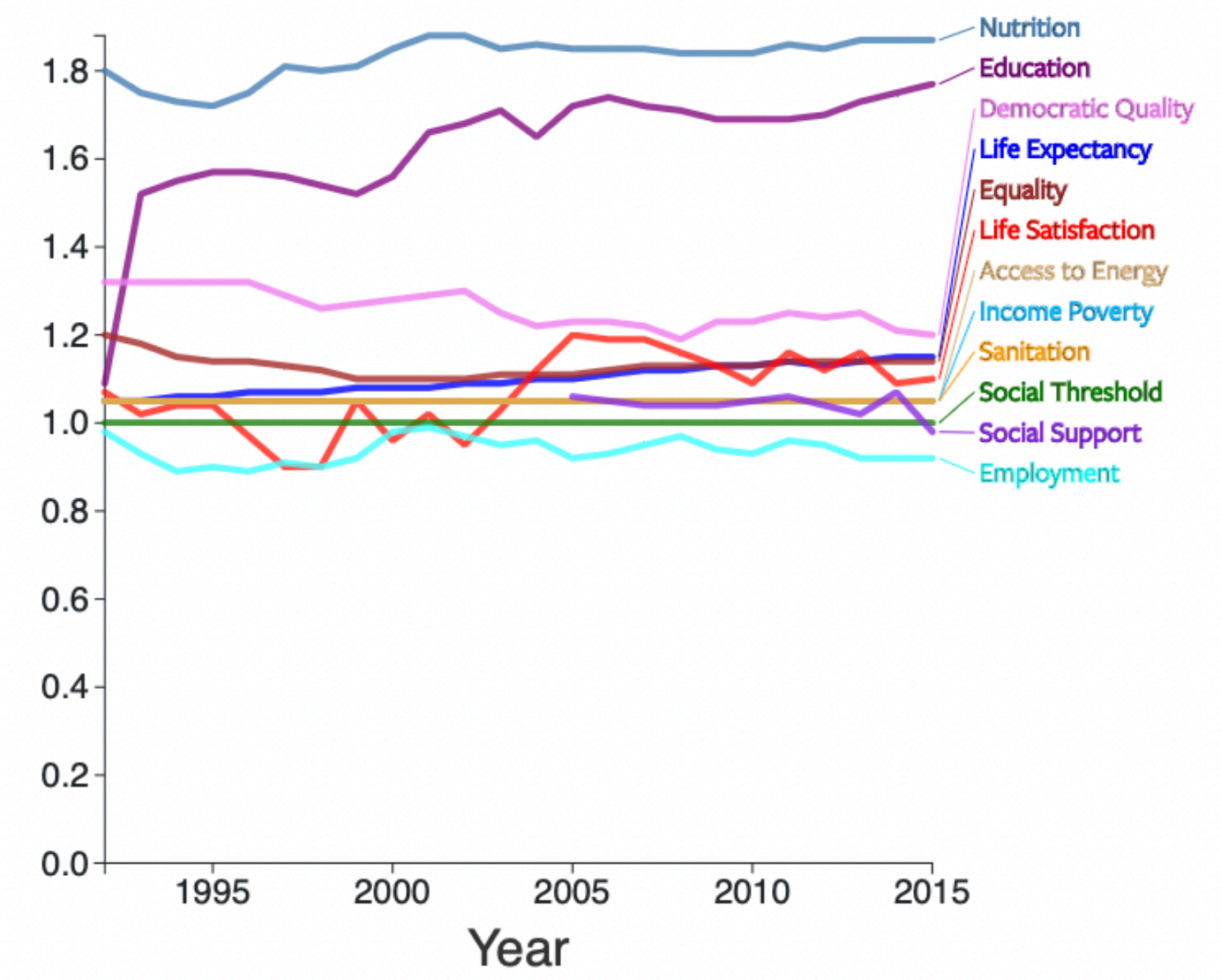
### Biophysical Indicators

+ ADD INDICATOR ▾



### Social Indicators

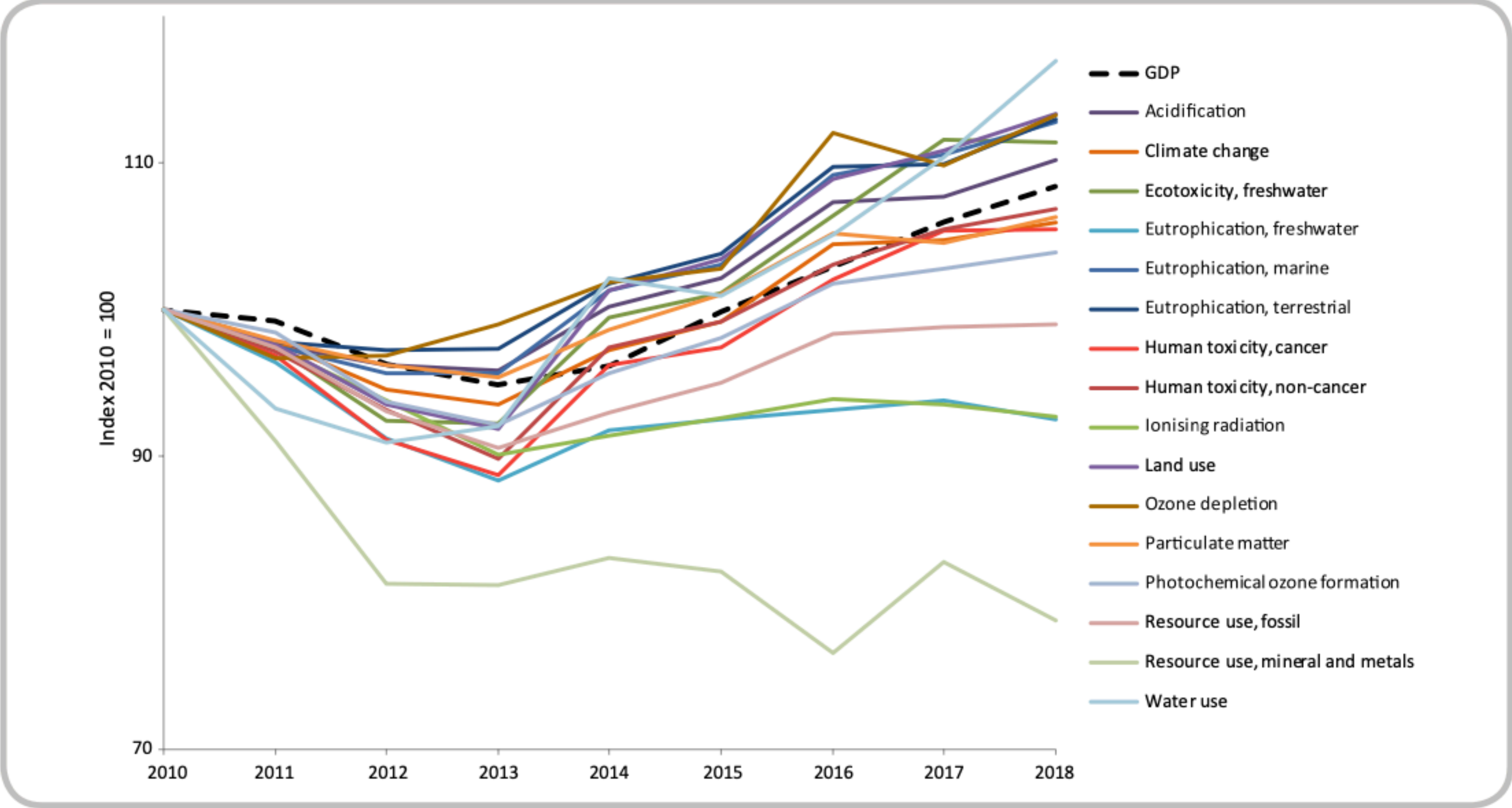
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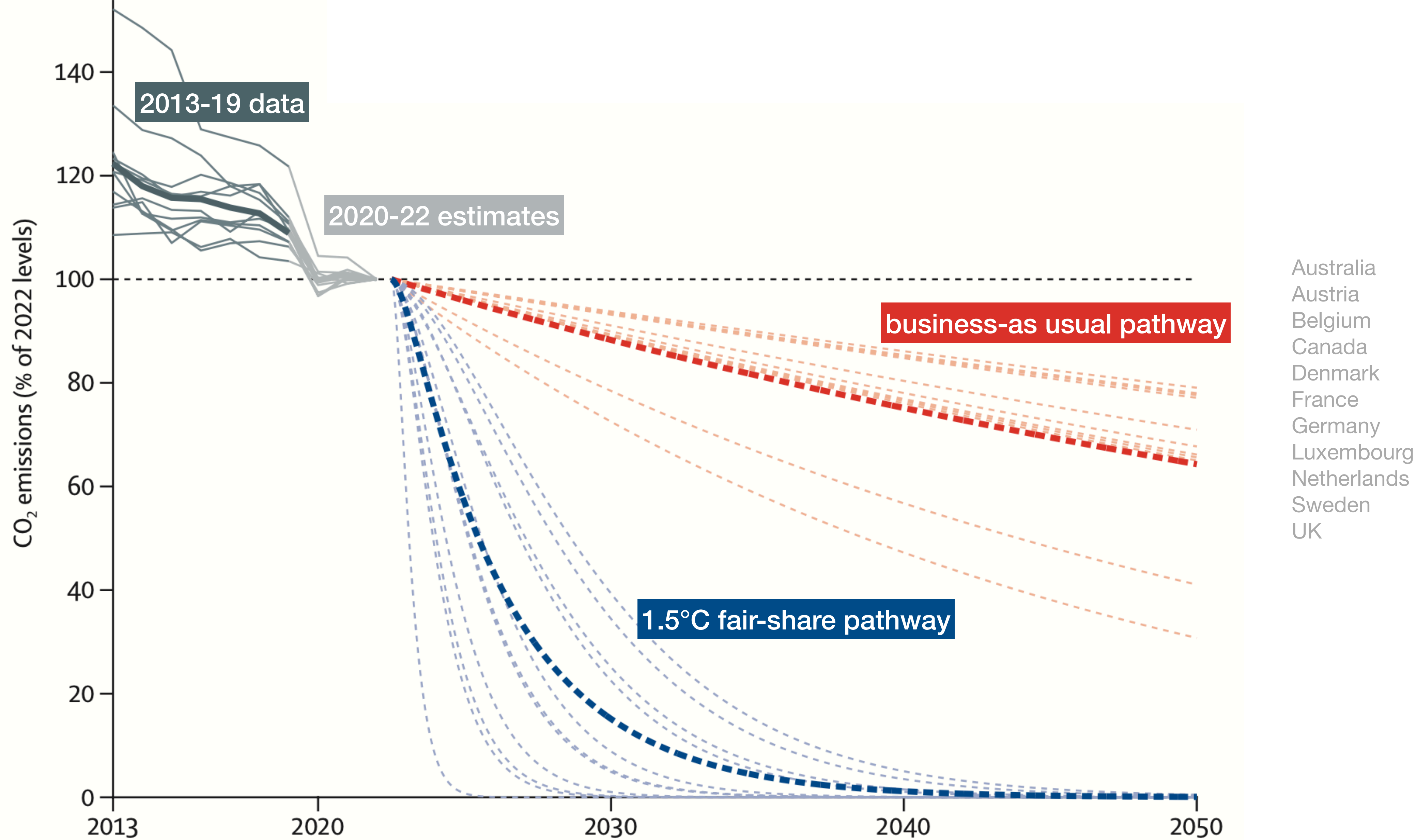
LS - Life Satisfaction	LE - Life Expectancy	NU - Nutrition	SA - Sanitation
IN - Income Poverty	EN - Access to Energy	ED - Education	SS - Social Support
DQ - Democratic Quality	EQ - Equality	EM - Employment	



**Figure 37.** Spain's Consumption Footprint for the 16 environmental impacts assessed and for national GDP (2010-2018).

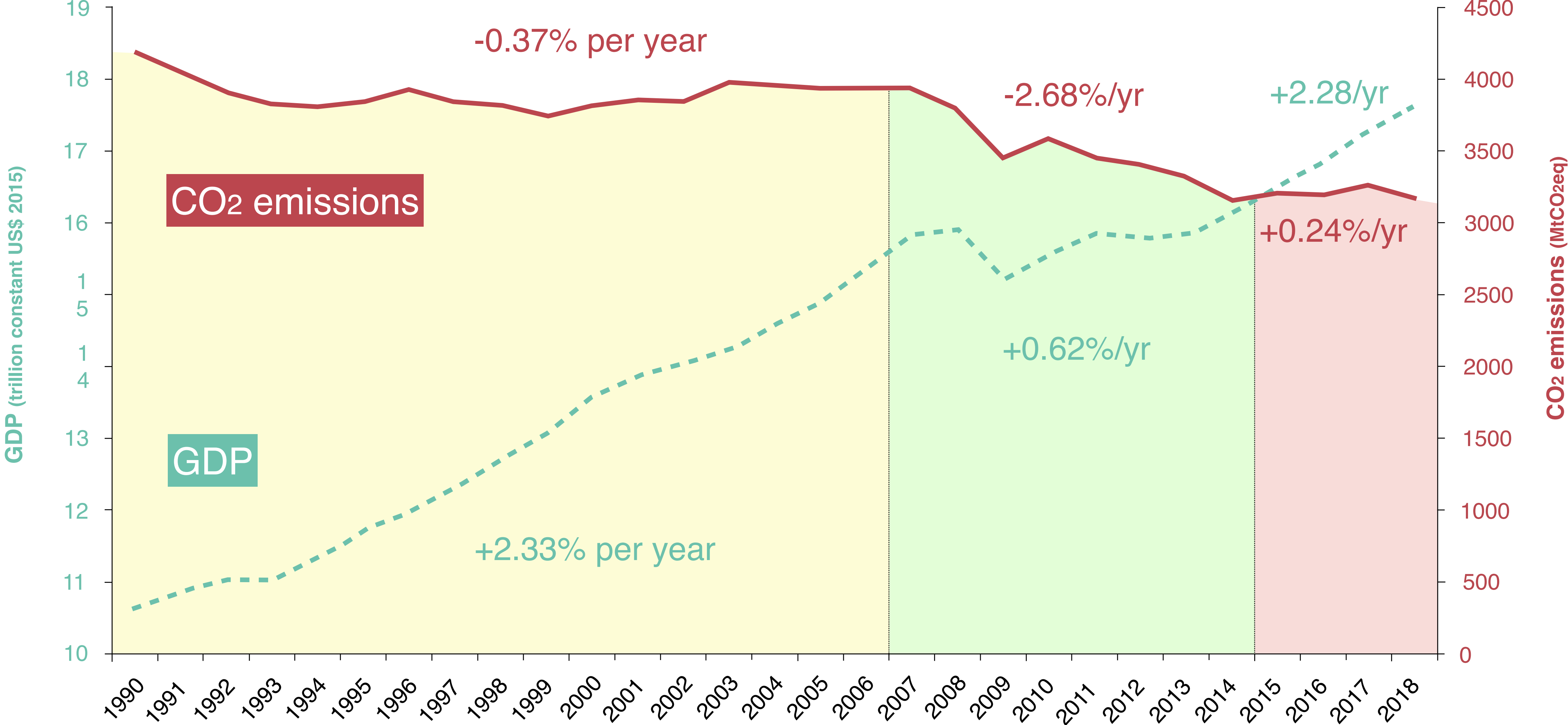


# Emission reductions achieved in high-income countries through absolute decoupling

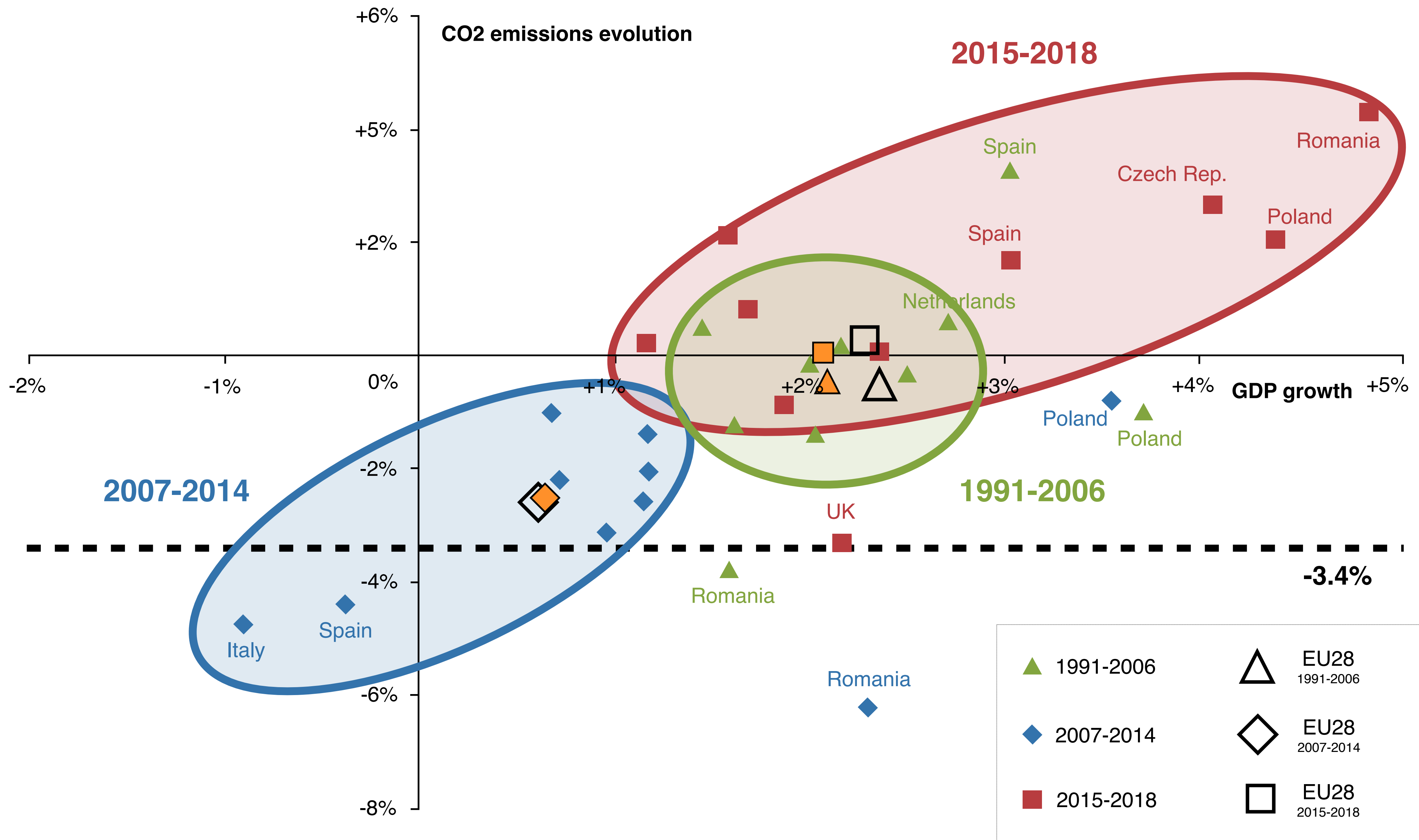


Vogel and Hickel, 2023. Is green growth happening? *The Lancet*

# CO2 emissions vs GDP - EU28

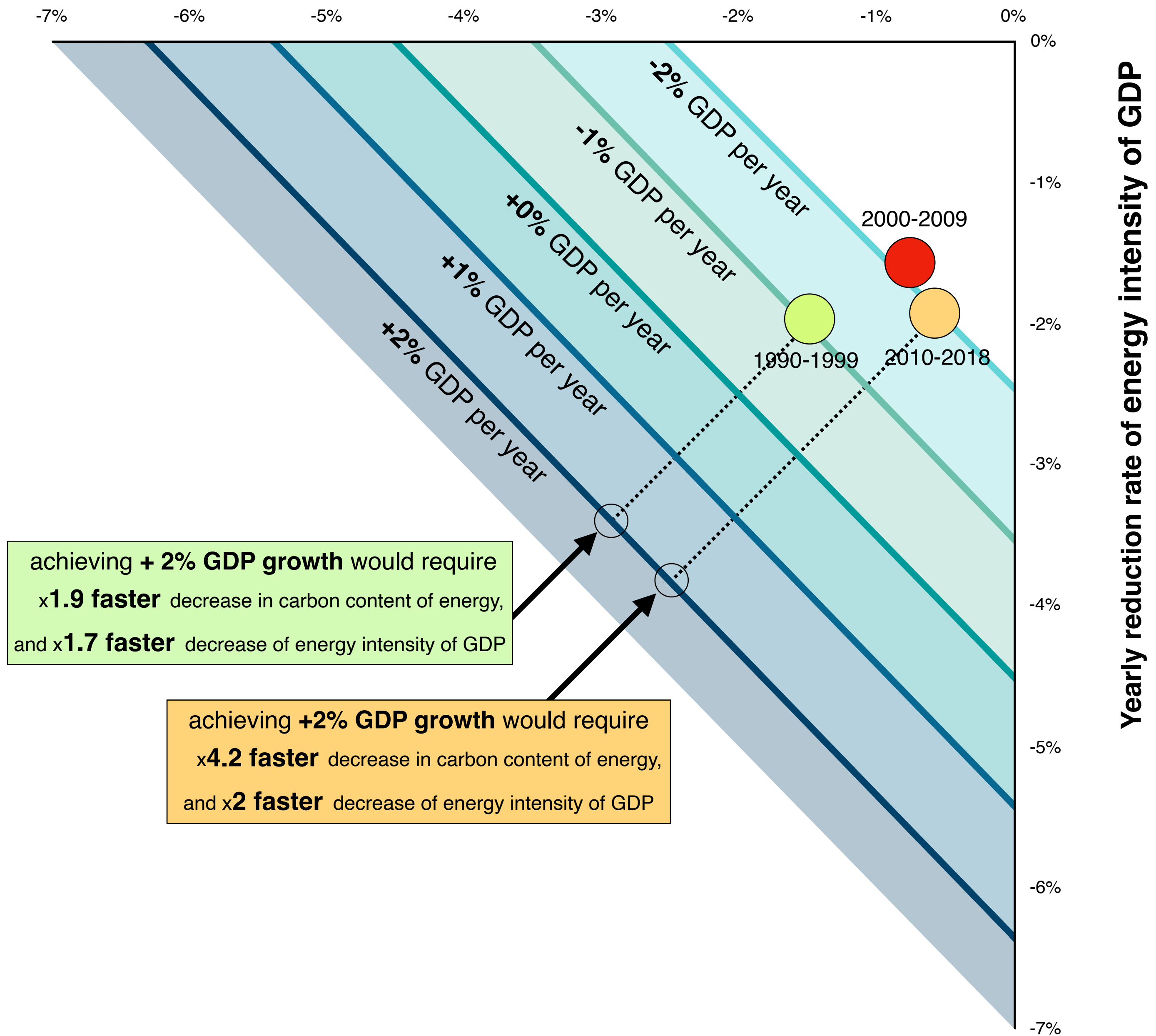


Cuny and Parrique, forthcoming in 2024. Factors of CO2 emissions trends in the European Union from 1990 to 2018.





# Yearly reduction rate of carbon content of energy



The scale debate has two positions. Either you can show that high-income nations can keep increasing their levels of production and consumption while falling back within planetary boundaries (that's the *green growth position*), or you must accept that a certain downscaling of economic activities will be necessary (that's the *degrowth position*). I have spent considerable efforts since the publication of [Decoupling debunked](#) (2019) researching that dilemma and the scientific literature seems to be converging towards a growth-critical consensus, as exemplified by the [results of the latest IPCC report](#). As someone whose job it is to find a way to make economies more sustainable, I would be the first to celebrate evidence of economic growth ceasing to be an ecological issue. But that's simply not happening, as evidenced by a growing number of empirical studies showing something that is hardly surprising: producing more makes it harder to pollute less.



# Degrowth towards a steady-state economy

