

Strengthening Sustainability Governance for a Rapid Hydrogen Ramp-Up

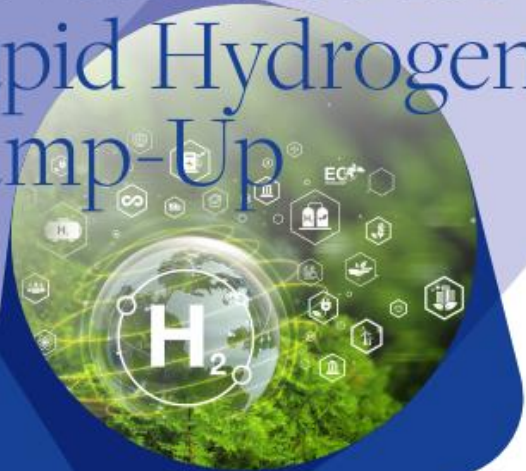
Webinar, Navigating Sustainable Hydrogen in Times of Uncertainty,
15 April 2026.

Presentation of RIFS Policy Paper

Maximilian Rischer



Strengthening Sustainability Governance for a Rapid Hydrogen Ramp-Up



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Governance for a Sustainable Hydrogen Economy

A Review of the Current State of Play

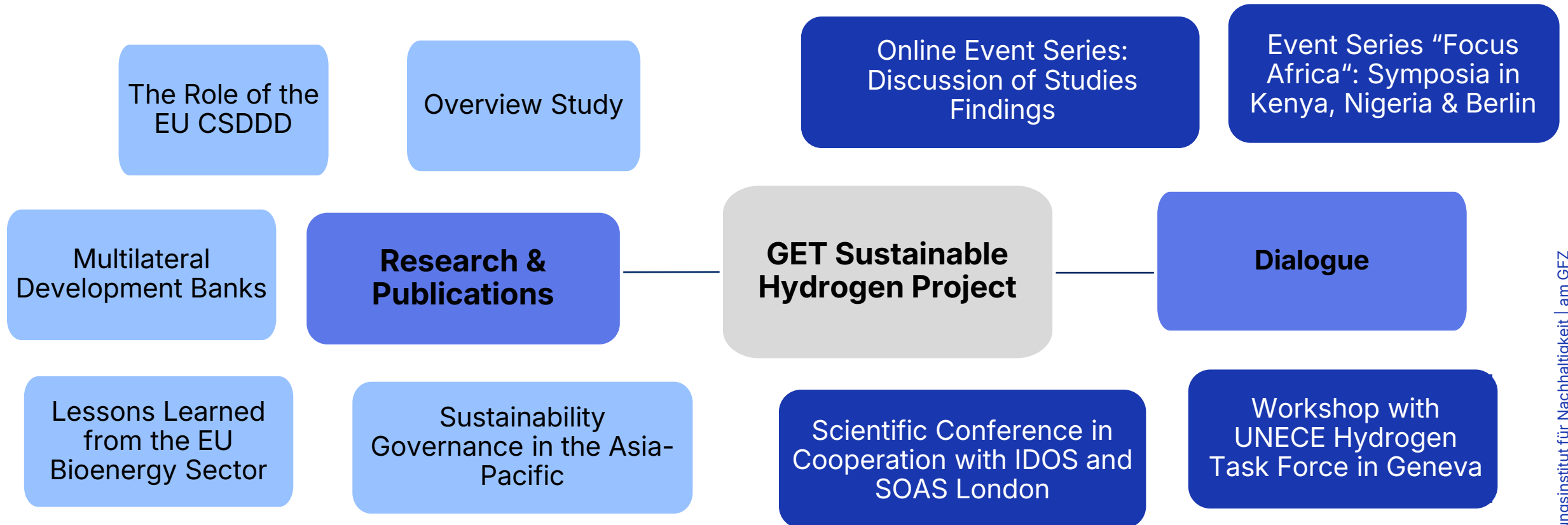
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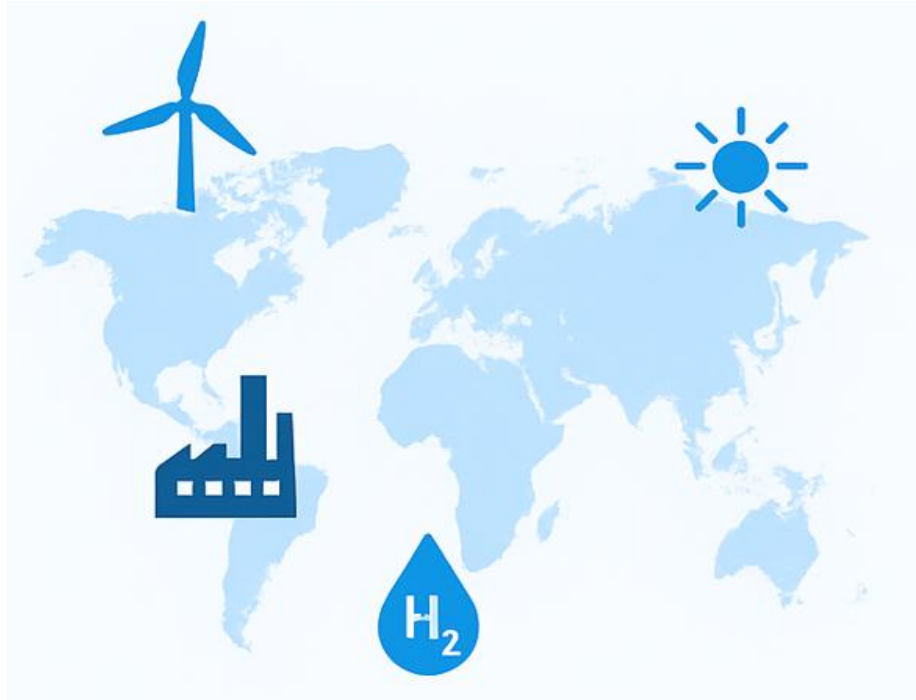
RIFS Study
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Sustainability Governance in the Hydrogen Sector (GET Sustainable Hydrogen): Project Overview

- Funded by the **German Federal Foreign Office**. Duration: 07/2024 – 04/2026





The Role of Sustainability Governance



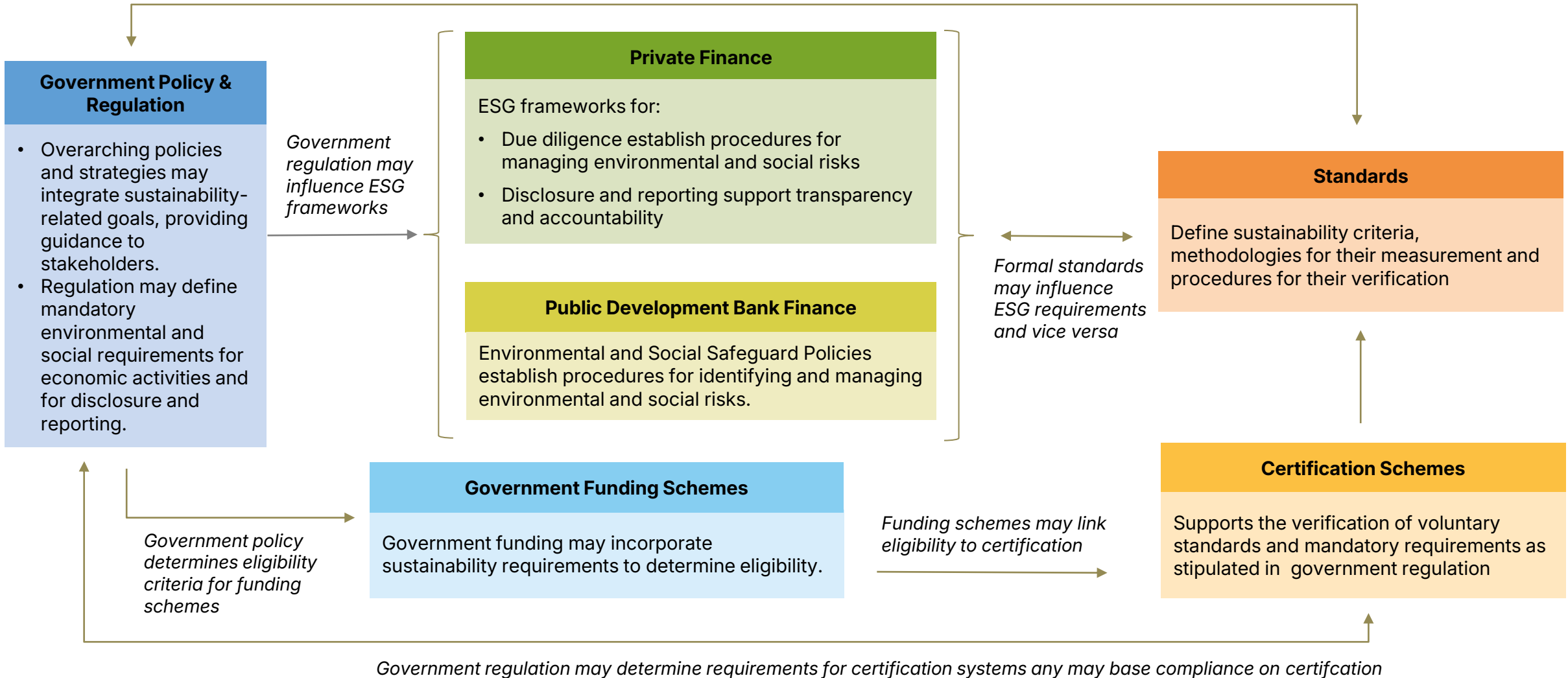
Decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors requires a **rapid** global hydrogen ramp-up.

The hydrogen ramp-up offers **economic opportunities** across the value chain.

Hydrogen comes with **environmental and social risks**.

Elements of a Sustainability Governance Landscape

Governments may mandate the development of standards and may base regulation on standards.

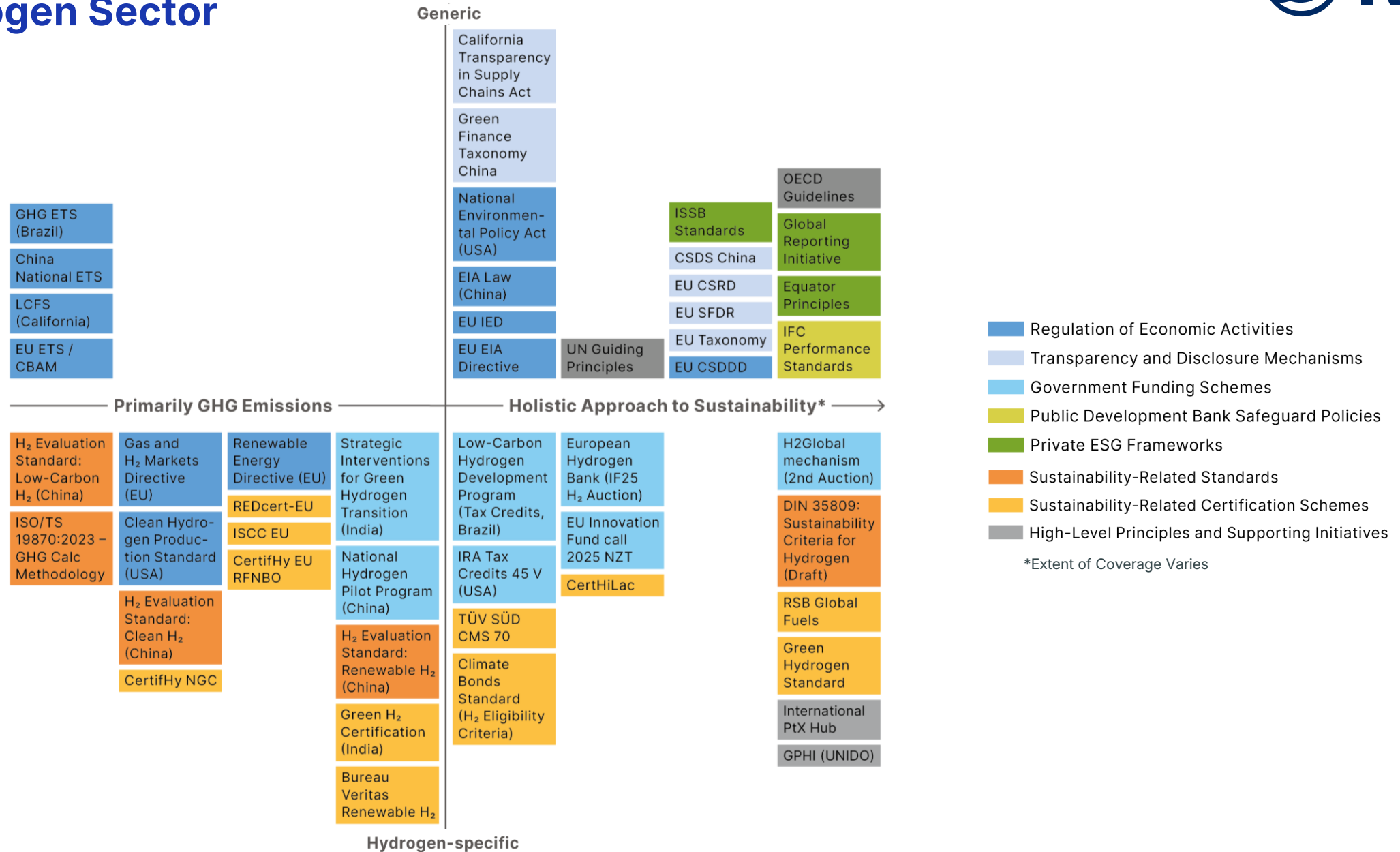


High-Level Principles and Initiatives

Establish general principles and provide guidance to stakeholders throughout the system

Source: Based on Quitzow & Rischer (2026)
<https://doi.org/10.48481/rifs.2026.006>

Categorization of Sustainability Governance Mechanisms in the Hydrogen Sector



Recommendation 1: Develop Hydrogen-specific guidelines for sustainability-related due diligence



Recommendation 2: Develop an ISO Standard for Hydrogen Sustainability



- Ensures comparability
- Provides international reference
- Supports alignment over time
- Existing German DIN draft standard as a starting point.

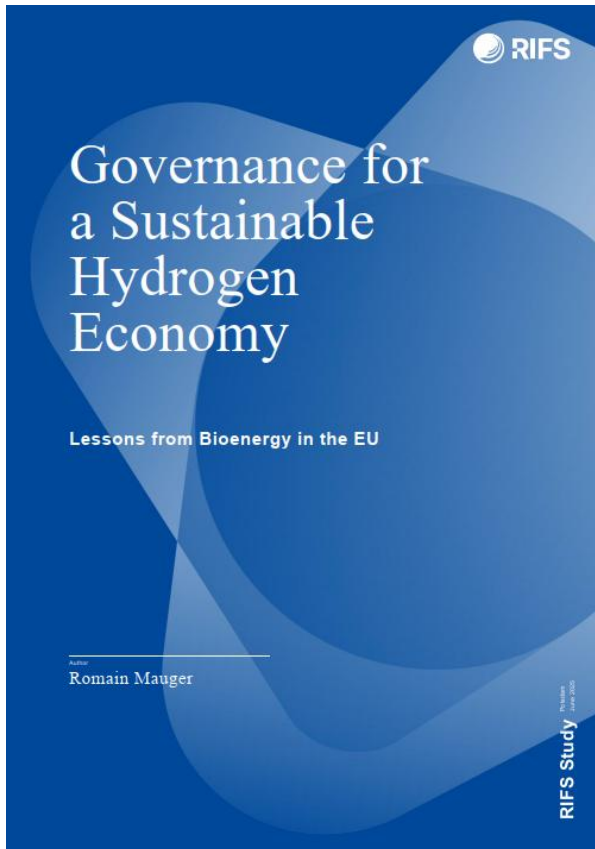
Recommendation 3: Promote Best Practice, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Exchange



- Showcase sustainable hydrogen practices
- Facilitate learning and build trust
- Structured multi-stakeholder dialogue (importing and exporting countries)
- Leverage existing initiatives (e.g., International PtX Hub, UNIDO GPHI, Green Hydrogen Organisation)

Recommendation 4: Ensure a Level Playing Field Through Robust Certification

Learning from mistakes in the biofuels sector



- Maintain rigorous compliance mechanisms in the forthcoming revision of CIR (EU) 2022/996 on sustainability verifications
- Implement hydrogen-specific Union Database provisions
- Build on national database infrastructure and support operators through capacity building



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Thank you for your attention!

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