



# Policy uses of SEEA in the EU

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# Selected EU policy initiatives for this presentation

1. Flagship initiative 'resource efficiency' under Europe 2020
2. Towards a circular economy
3. Green employment initiative, greener European Semester
4. Environmental Fiscal reform

# 1. A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 Strategy



- Supports the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy to achieve sustainable growth
- Dashboard of indicators to measure progress
- The main indicator is **resource productivity**  
It is based on SEEA economy-wide material flow accounts

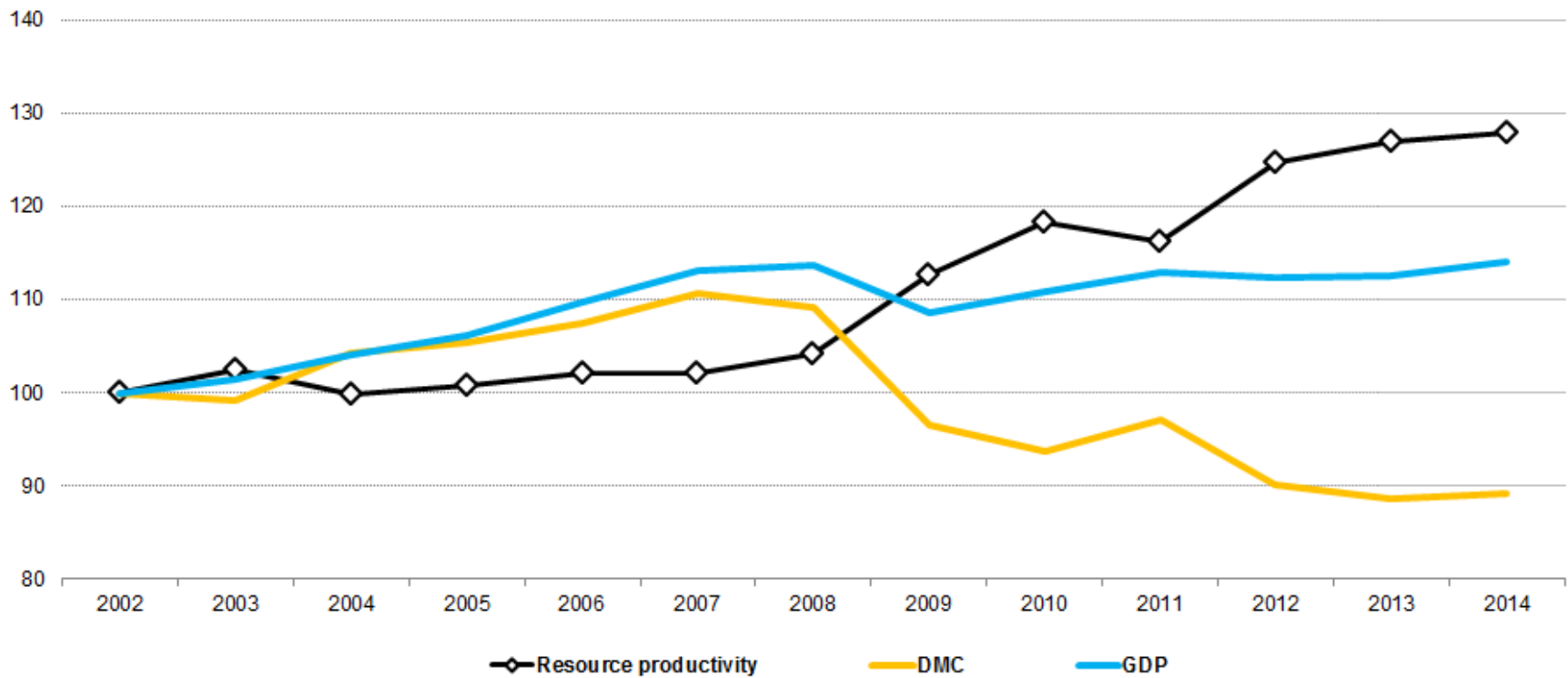
<http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/>

## **...Using SEEA Economic-Wide Material Flow Accounts (EW-MFA)**

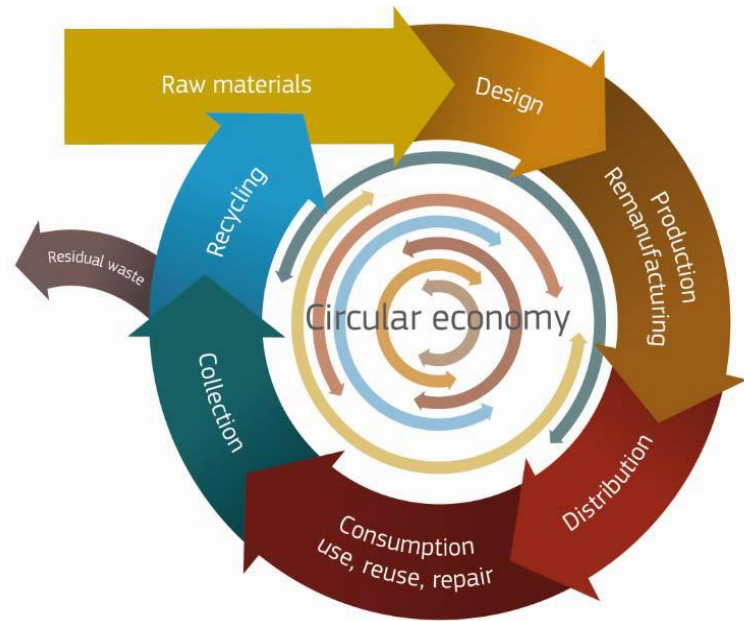
- EW-MFA report the amounts of physical inputs into the economy, material accumulation in the economy and outputs to other economies or back to nature
- Physical inputs are classified in 50 material categories of biomass, metal ores, non-metallic minerals and fossil energy materials
- EW-MFA used to estimate resource extractions by the economies, material consumption, resource productivity, material footprints, etc.

# Resource productivity indicator

$$\text{Resource productivity} = \frac{GDP}{\text{Domestic material consumption}}$$



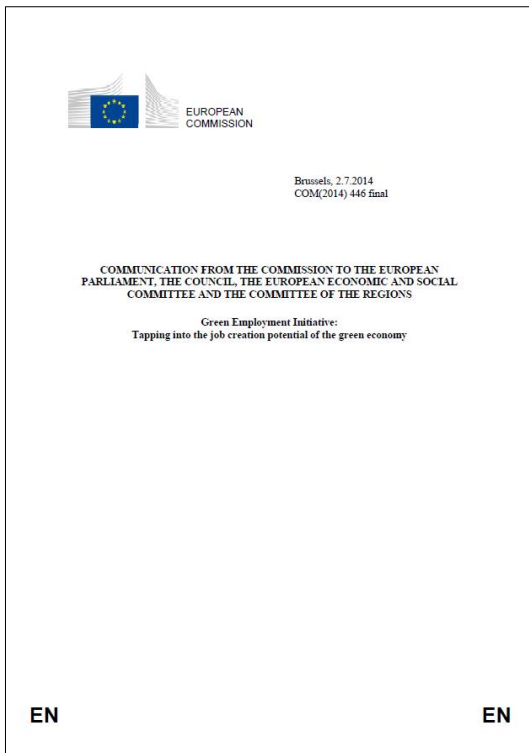
## 2. Moving towards a circular economy



- Ambitious European Commission strategy in preparation for late 2015
- More data will be needed about secondary raw materials, recycling, natural extractions saved, etc.

*Eurostat reflecting about how to build a 'bridge' between EW-MFA and waste statistics*

### 3. Green employment initiative, greener European Semester



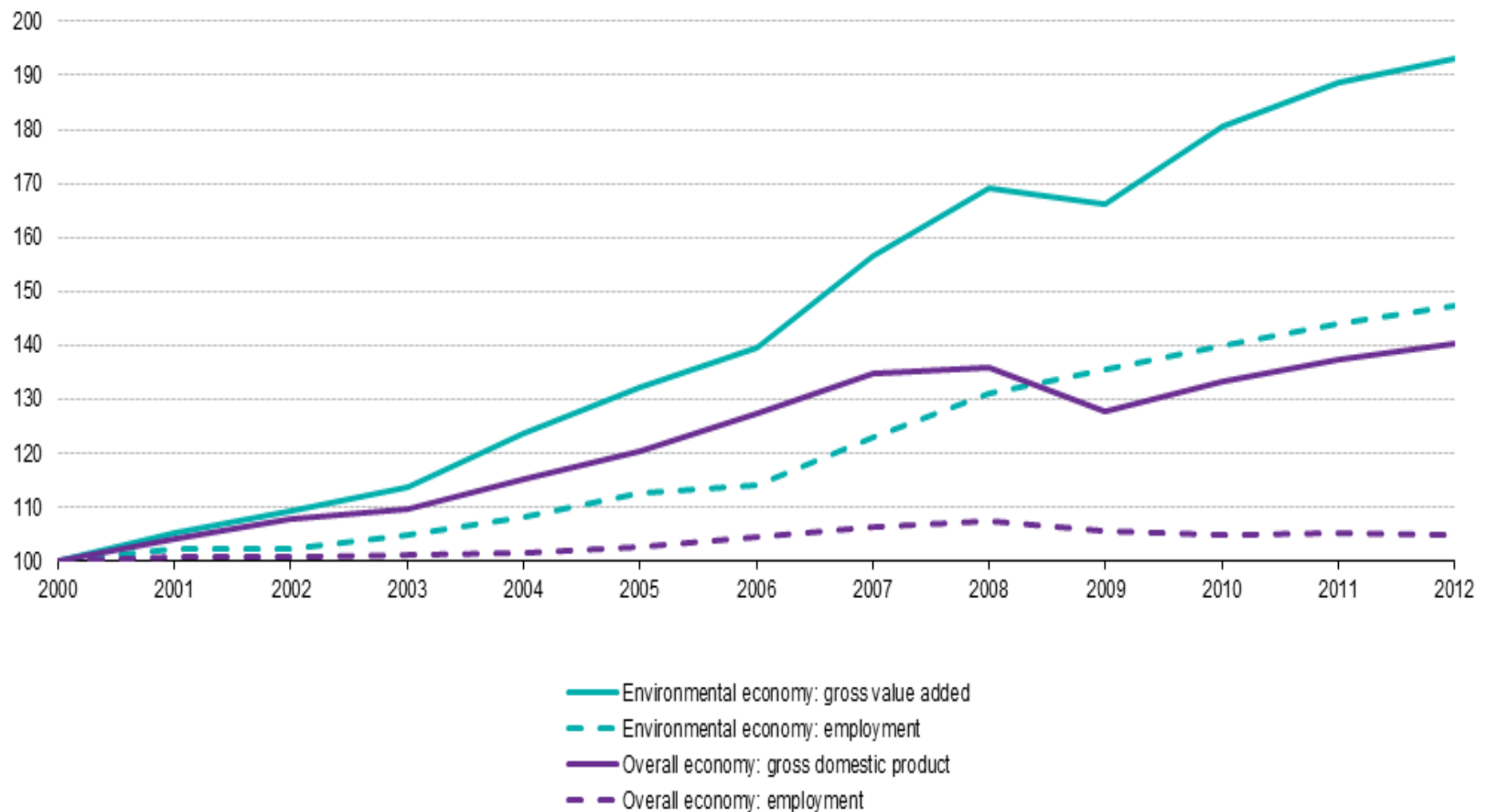
- The 'green growth' model for the European economy and labour market
- New jobs in renewable sources, energy efficiency, waste and water management, air quality, etc.
- Bridging existing skills gaps, anticipating change and securing transitions, boosting job creation, data quality, etc.
- Greener semester to ensure the European Semester macroeconomic policies are sustainable, not only economically and socially, but also environmentally

## ...Using SEEA Environmental goods and services sector accounts (EGSS)

- EGSS accounts report information on the production of goods and services specifically designed and produced for the purpose of environmental protection or resource management
- Variables:
  - **Value added, employment, output and exports**
- Breakdowns:
  - **21 industries and**
  - **Functional classifications of environmental protection and resource management (CEPA and CReMA)**



## Development of environmental economy and overall economy, EU-28, 2000–12 (2000 = 100)



# 4. Tax reform studies

## Studies



### Studies (European Commission, other government organisations)

#### Environmental fiscal reform and harmful subsidies

- [Study on Environmental Fiscal Reform Potential in 14 EU Member States: Main Report and Appendices \(2015\)](#)
- [Environmental fiscal reform potential in 12 EU Member States \(2014\)](#)
- [EEA case studies on environmental fiscal reform potential \(PT, ES, IT, IE\)](#)
- [Budgetary support and tax expenditures for fossil fuels. An inventory for six non-OECD EU countries \(2013\)](#)
- [Fossil fuels study OECD](#)
- [Study supporting the phasing out of environmentally harmful subsidies \(2012\): Main report; Annexes](#)
- [Tax Reforms in EU Member States 2014](#)
- [Taxation trends in the European Union](#)

#### Floods, SME RE support, environmental expenditure

- [Floods & SME support & Environmental expenditure- Main report \(2014\)](#)
- [Floods & SME support & Environmental expenditure- Country chapters \(2014\)](#)
- [Increasing stress on disaster-risk finance due to large floods and summary of the study](#)

#### Green jobs

- [The number of Jobs dependent on the Environment and Resource Efficiency \(2012\)](#)

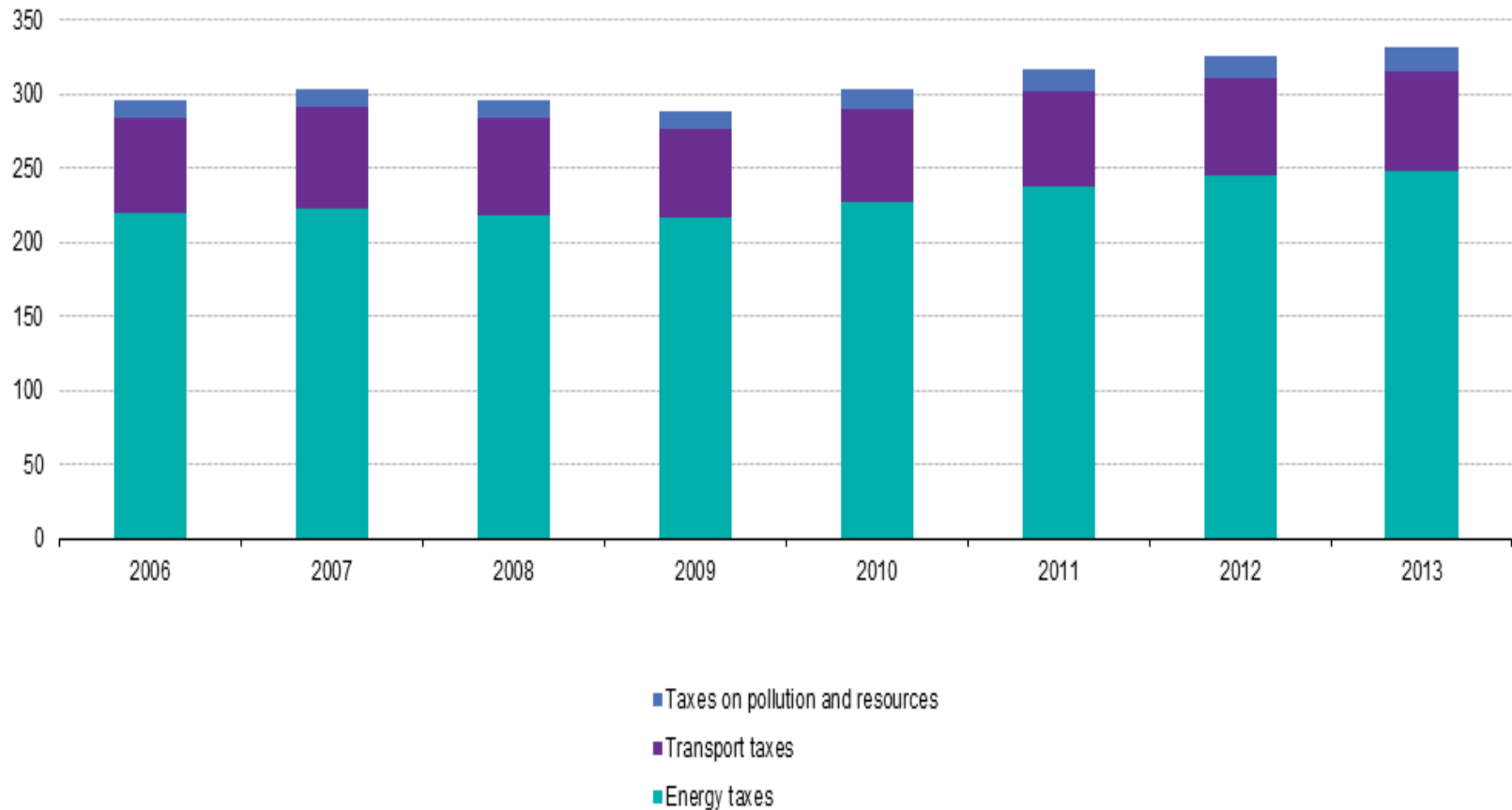


## ...Using SEEA environmental taxes

Environmental taxes:

- 4 broad groups: taxes on energy, transport, pollution and resources
- Broken down by 64 paying industries plus households
- All taxes figures are consistent with national accounts  
**Can be put in relation with GDP, total taxes and social contributions and other economic aggregates**
- Can be linked to other environment accounts  
**e.g. energy accounts, air emissions,...**

## Total environmental tax revenue by type of tax, EU-28, 2006–13 (billion EUR)



# Final reflections on SEEA for policy

- Policy users focused on their need
  - **For them SEEA is just a tool**
  - **SEEA not a household name like GDP**
- Statisticians must 'connect the dots' between the user needs and the SEEA potential
  - **Identify how SEEA can be used for a given purpose**
  - **Extend/adapt SEEA data to enhance use**
  - **Educate users**
  - **Also find the right user for the existing products**

# Thank you!