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

Resource productivity = \frac{GDP}{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

- 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!