

EU AND OECD PRIORITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEEA

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Agreeing on priorities for implementation: challenges faced by International Organisations

- It is difficult to agree on a set of priorities that can be supported by all countries
 - National environmental situations, natural resource endowments and statistical resources differ
- It is harder the more heterogeneous countries are
- Example in Europe: water accounts, forest accounts, subsoil assets





Some co-ordination ideas which worked in the European Union

1. Legal basis for compilation of accounts

- Priorities negotiated for the legal act
- 2. Common strategy for environmental accounts
 - European Strategy for Environmental Accounts 2014-2018
 - Not legal
- 3. Modular approach for SEEA implementation
 - Modularisation helped to agree on priorities
 - (See next slides)







SEEA implementation in EU in modules:

- Wave 1 (legal since 2011):
 - air emission accounts
 - environmental taxes
 - economy-wide material flow accounts
- Wave 2 (legal since 2014):
 - environmental protection expenditure accounts
 - environmental goods and services sector accounts
 - physical energy flow accounts
 - Voluntary transmissions:
 - Environmental subsidies
 - Forest accounts







Priority setting for modules:

- Priorities were based on a combination of
 - topic relevance, and
 - availability of basic data
- Higher priority to modules:
 - maximising the return, and
 - minimising production costs







- Pros:
 - Allows to focus on relevance and maximum return
 - Facilitates agreement on first modules
 - You can grow as you go
- Cons:
 - Harder to ensure coherence across modules
 - e.g. monetary environmental accounts
 - Puzzling asymmetries in development
 - e.g. environmental taxes vs environmental subsidies
 - e.g. EPEA vs ReMEA
 - Harder to agree new modules after 'easy ones' agreed
 - Those remaining have lower return and higher costs





Current data collection priorities at the OECD driven by the Green Growth Strategy (1/3)

6 headline indicators to monitor progress towards green growth have been selected for communication:

- CO2 productivity
- non-energy material productivity
- Environmentally adjusted multifactor productivity
- index of natural resources
- changes in land use and cover
- air pollution (i.e. population exposure to PM2.5)

Plus: placeholder for economic opportunities





Current data collection priorities at the OECD driven by the Green Growth Strategy (2/3)

The OECD GG indicators combine economic and environmental data in a consistent way: <u>the SEEA provides an ideal</u> <u>measurement framework</u>.

SEEA is especially helpful to monitor:

- environmental efficiency of an economy (e.g. pollutant emission and waste generation intensities)
- resource efficiency of an economy (relating resource inputs to economic outputs)
- natural asset base (relating extraction to available stocks)
- environmentally-related activities and instruments





Current data collection priorities at the OECD driven by the Green Growth Strategy (3/3)

The computation of the OECD GG indicators revealed important data gaps:

- <u>Data at the industry level</u> (in order to quantify the effects of industry structures in international comparisons and help design industry-specific policy tools)
- <u>Physical data for key stocks and flows of natural assets</u> (e.g.: mineral and energy resources)
- <u>Monetary values for key stocks and flows of natural</u> <u>assets</u> (in order to extend traditional growth accounting and compute indices of natural resource use)





The OECD Task Force on the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework (1/2)

Created in September 2013 to:

- 1. Advise the OECD and its member, accession and key partner countries on the compilation of national data according to the SEEA-CF
- 2. Facilitate the collection of internationally comparable data on air emissions and mineral/energy resources
 - Air emissions: data compilation building on work done by Eurostat
 - Mineral/energy resources: objective to compile stocks and flows in physical and monetary units, guidance on the use of unofficial data, guidance on valuation methodology.
- 3. Advise on other areas in which standard tables should be developed and on priorities to be set





The OECD Task Force on the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework (2/2)

Results achieved so far:

– Air emission accounts

• Database on air emissions by industry for OECD countries (EU countries, Australia, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey) available on the OECD website

– Natural resource accounts

- Database (based on national data sources and following SEEA guidelines) covering stocks and flows for up to 14 mineral/energy resources and 7 countries
- Methodological guidance on e.g. how to align national reporting of mineral/energy resource stocks and on the valuation of deposits (several background notes)





SEEA implementation - Orientations for future work at the OECD (1/2)

- Linked to demands for evidence based policies
 - Monitoring green growth (& the SDGs)
 - Monitoring environmental progress and performance
 - Supporting policy integration and coherence
- Focus on areas not yet or insufficiently covered
 - Continue existing work / Carry out new work
 - Proposals to be discussed with member countries
- Use the multi-disciplinary nature of the OECD's work





SEEA implementation - Orientations for future work at the OECD (2/2)

1. Continuation of existing work:

- Air emission accounts: regular updates; expand geographical coverage
- Natural asset accounts: expand geographical coverage and fill data gaps in the database; further methodological work (to be seen with SEEA TF)
- Material flow accounts: update OECD guide (2007); guidance on harmonised methods for demand-based material flows

2. Strengthening of the links between SEEA and existing work (e.g. Eurostat-OECD questionnaire)

3. New work: Expand EU work on EGSS to OECD countries on a voluntary basis? Methodological work on renewable resources and guidance on policy relevant indicators?



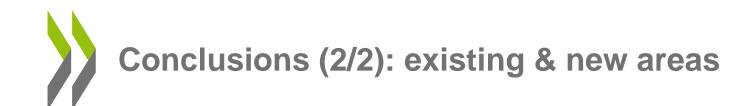




- Continuation & consolidation of existing work
 - OECD: air emissions, mineral/energy resources, material flows
 - Eurostat: 6 legal modules and voluntary collections
- Adaptations and extensions
 - OECD: EGSS, renewable natural resources, ... (TBD)
 - Eurostat: environmental subsidies, ecosystems,...
- Strengthen link with other work, and enhance exploitation of results
- SDGs as a challenge & opportunity







- Relevant topics for each country
 - Energy
 - Air emissions (in particular: GHGs)
 - Economic instruments (taxes)
 - Environmental Goods & Services Sector?
- Other allow countries to opt-out
 - Water
 - Forests
 - Mineral/Energy assets



