SEEA Implementation in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

Geneva, October 2015
The work is ongoing

Current scope of the work comprises following SEEA areas:

- Environmental economic accounts (EA)
- Economic accounts for agriculture
- Environment and forestry statistics
Environmental accounts modules

- Focus on EU regulation on environmental accounts, 691/2011 and 538/2014
- Module for economy-wide material flow accounts (EW-MFA), data series 2000-2013
- Environmental Protection Expenditure
  Data are available for:
  Investment expenditures, Total current expenditures, and Revenues;
  Period 2006-2013 (Revenues, 2012-2013), CEPA domains
Environmental accounts modules, cont’d

Current situation and further activities

• **Ongoing developments**
  Module for air emissions accounts (AEA), September 2015 experimental data calculated
  Module for environmentally related taxes by economic activity, October 2015, experimental data calculated

• Data will be published in 2016
Cooperation partners

Organizations assisting SORS:

SIDA (Sweden)
Under SIDA project “Partnership in statistics” work started (in 2010) on identifying data sources and establishing approach for compiling EW-MFA
Also covering AEA and Environmental Protection Expenditure

EU, Eurostat
Under IPA 2012 project work is ongoing on compiling data for the module Environmentally Related Taxes by Economic Activity
Within Sida project, in 2010 the work started on developing EA with the help of SCB experts.

Initial phase covered following steps:

- Scanning of available data sources
- Identifying main challenges/problems that SORS will face during calculations of expenditures and introduction of EA
- Mapping possible EA areas for developing
Results/Points made

A priority list of work on possible modules of EA was made - action plan for introduction of EA at SORS and defining priorities for development and compiling of the accounts

Main conclusion established:

1. Main challenges that SORS will face during the introduction of the accounts were identified

2. Data seemed to be available in Serbia, but compilation depends mostly on the level of development of basic statistics

Focus was given on the EU Regulation 691/2011
First steps, cont’d

Example: extract from Table „Summary of areas of interest and a valuation of foreseen legislation, effort to retrieve the data and activities needed in Serbia and specific issues to consider“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>EU legislation (1-3)*</th>
<th>Effort (1-3)**</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Specific issues to consider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material Flow Accounts (MFA)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Compile and evaluate existing data sources</td>
<td>Ensure that double counting is avoided: production vs. manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally related Taxes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Compile and evaluate existing data sources</td>
<td>Taxes vs. fees, finding right legislation document describing the tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Accounts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Wait for further Eurostat developments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Accounts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Forestry is not a priority sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste accounts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Wait for further Eurostat developments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 1=EU legislation is existing or foreseen in near future, 2=Joint Questionnaire which is gentlemen agreement, 3=legislation or Joint Questionnaire is not foreseen in near future, ** 1=Effort not to large, couple of weeks, 2=Larger effort 3=Vary large effort both economic and physical data is needed
Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts

Data production process

• Seen as a module which compilation would be easy to start with – most of data available already
• In 2011 the EU legislation was in place (EW-MFA has become a part of EA)
• Focus on compilation, cooperation with various SORS departments, administrative producers (Geological Institute), estimation procedures
• Main challenges: Issues of metal ores, sand and gravel, GDP, confidentiality
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data production process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• As a result of the work, EW-MFA was established as the basis for calculating material flow indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The first results achieved in 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reporting to Eurostat annually - Questionnaire, Quality report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Production and dissemination on web site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Special publication “Material flow indicators for the Republic of Serbia, 2001–2011”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resource productivity, country comparison

Source: Eurostat database
Main challenges in SORS

- Lack of human and financial resources – priority will be given to areas covered by EU Regulation
- Data sources – inappropriate level of data necessary for compilation of these accounts
- Further development limited, the work is ongoing on improving the quality of existing data sources and introducing new surveys
- Providing cooperation with institutions that provide administrative data
Cooperation in compiling Environmental accounts

Important element for compilation EA is achieving good cooperation with various data producers

Within SORS
Various departments, mainly from Business statistics and National accounts

Outside SORS
Established, so far, with Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, SEPA
Further work

Priorities for the future

Focus on the EU Regulation No 691/2011 and Regulation No 538/2014 - no capacity for additional areas

Different methodological issues

Put more resource on making use of data of already existing modules (promoting and demonstrating the usage of the figures)
Further work, cont’d

Different methodological issues, primarily:

Ongoing production
Updating database
Data quality improvements (surveys and output quality)
Further improvement of data sources

Modules covered by Regulation No 538/2014
Development of the second set of Modules
Priority will be given to work on Legal parts
International support—our expectations

Role of Eurostat, UN, OECD and other relevant organizations:

• Providing methodologies – clarification of methodological issues, especially for implementing Regulation No 538/2014
• Providing participation on ESTP courses, meetings, workshops, related to EA
• Organizing study visits in countries with good practice
• Facilitating development of new modules through grants – only one so far obtained (in 2014 started the first grant in this area)
• Promoting the usage of existing modules
Thank you for your attention!

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