



Progress of the CES Task Force on Waste Statistics

Under the auspices of the Bureau of the Conference
of European Statisticians (CES Bureau)

Michael Nagy

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
Rome, 2-3 October 2017



Objective of the CES Task Force on Waste Statistics



The objective of the Task Force is to **develop a conceptual framework on waste statistics and draft a glossary of the most important terms and definitions in waste statistics**. The framework should:

- Be consistent with FDES and SEEA, SDGs, Basel Convention, EU Waste Strategy;
- Build upon existing concepts used by Eurostat, UNSD and OECD;
- Define the scope of waste statistics, covering also illegal trade, illegal dumping and informal waste management;
- Define waste, and in particular the boundary with products and materials;
- Define a general sequence of waste flows and the related key statistics;
- Clearly distinguish and describe the different concepts used in waste statistics;
- Support a coherent integration of emerging issues in the future;
- Be applicable to produce geo-referenced waste statistics.

ToR approved by the Conference of European Statisticians in February 2017

Work Packages



Work packages → Reflecting the structure of the final report

- WP1: Assessing the fitness for purpose of current waste statistics:**
Lead: Netherlands/UNECE; members: SBC, Eurostat, OECD
- WP2: Defining scope of waste statistics:** Lead: Canada; members: SBC, Eurostat, OECD
- WP3: Drafting a generic waste flow scheme:** Lead: Mexico; members: Armenia, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, OECD,
- WP4: Review of key terminology and classifications used in waste-related policies and waste statistics;** Lead: UNSD; members: SBC, Mexico, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eurostat, OECD, UN-Habitat
- WP 5: Development of the framework on waste statistics**
- WP6: Identification of follow-up work**

WP1: Assessing the fitness for purpose of current waste statistics



- Status:** Draft text exists and is currently further revised. Will be ready for review by end of October.
- Main conclusions:**
 - Current waste statistics are not fit for all important purposes
 - The main problems with waste statistics can be grouped as follows:
 - a) National problems of data collection
 - b) Nomenclature, lack of fully harmonised terms, definitions, classifications
 - c) New information requirements because of a shift of paradigm in waste-related policies:
 - Cradle to grave approach → Circular economy approach
 - Additional focus on important waste streams such as e-waste, food waste etc.
 - d) Important aspects of the waste-story remaining untold (e.g. illegal and informal waste handling)
 - A statistical framework on waste statistics is an important step towards solving these problems.

WP2: Defining scope of waste statistics

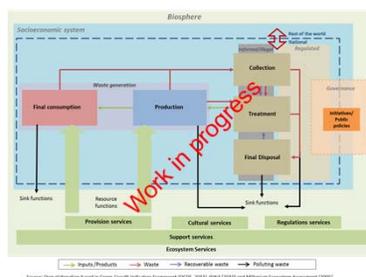


- Status: Work has started with a brainstorming. Work is ongoing.
- Main outcomes of the brainstorming
 - The scope needs to define
 - a) Activities being part of waste statistics
 - b) Materials being part of waste statistics
 - c) Important system boundaries
 - A special challenge is the definition of the end of the life-cycle / waste for disposal
 - The task force is drafting an inventory of different international and national policy frameworks / laws that define waste for disposal

WP3: Drafting a generic waste flow scheme



- Status: Work has started with a brainstorming and discussion of an initial generic diagram. This diagram will be the heart and most important communication tool of the framework



- Main issues
 - More diagrams will probably be needed to show the complexity of certain important waste and product flows
 - The diagram(s) need to be somehow integrated / linked with material-flow diagrams
 - Consistency with circular economy, SEEA etc. is very important

WP4: Review of key terminology and classifications used in waste-related policies and waste statistics



- Status: An inventory of key-terms has been prepared and is currently being reviewed
- Example from the inventory, definition of WASTE MANAGEMENT:
 - UNSD/UNEP/OECD/Basel Convention: *Collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste, including after-care of disposal sites.*
 - SDG indicator 11.6.1 for the term INTEGRATED AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: *refers to the strategic approach to sustainable management of solid wastes covering all sources and all aspects, covering generation, segregation, transfer, sorting, treatment, recovery and disposal in an integrated manner, with an emphasis on maximizing resource use efficiency*
 - SEEA – Classification of Environmental Activities (CEA): *activities and measures aimed at the prevention of the generation of waste and the reduction of its harmful effect on the environment. Includes the collection and treatment of waste, including monitoring and regulation activities. It also includes recycling and composting, the collection and treatment of low-level radioactive waste, street cleaning and the collection of public litter.*



Next steps

- Internal work ongoing, currently no external review foreseen
- Next conference call for the TF will be in November
- It will also be discussed when a first external review is useful
- Some members of the JTF have expressed interest in either participating actively or in review of documents. Please nominate experts via email to michael.nagy@unece.org

