GLOBAL SEEA DATABASES

OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of SEEA
Geneva, 13 – 14 February 2020

Peter van de Ven
Head of National Accounts
OECD
Objectives of Global SEEA Databases

• The development of worldwide databases for a number of high priority SEEA-accounts, to be disseminated via a common platform, to provide a one-stop-shop for SEEA-related data at the global level

• High priority areas:
  – Energy (UNSD)
  – Air emissions (OECD)
  – Land (FAO)
  – Material flows (UN Environment)
  – Water

• Group (Area C), operating under the umbrella of UNCEEA
Progress (to be) made

• Currently dissemination through local platforms, with links to these platforms on the SEEA website

• Improving data and metadata (e.g. consistency with SEEA, air emissions from international transport)

• Improving country coverage:
  – Collecting **nationally available data** (need for clear guidance on which data are requested => templates for data collection)
  – Estimating data using a **centralised approach**
• Finalisation of **SEEA Data Structure Definitions (DSDs)** for SDMX-transmission

• Testing of transmissions

• Development of a **customised dissemination platform at the SEEA website** => construction of **SEEA Data Explorer**, including possibilities for flexible selections and visualisations
The following principles apply (to the extent possible, they mimic the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the SDGs, endorsed by the UNSC in March 2019):

1. **Official statistics reported in global SEEA databases should meet the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

2. **Official statistics are prioritised** and estimation techniques are only used as a complement

3. The **subsidiarity principle between international organisations** applies for the collection of official SEEA data and metadata

4. **Web-queries and SDMX** are the preferred options for the supply of data into global SEEA databases
Principles for the creation and maintenance of global SEEA databases on the SEEA website

5. Estimation **methodologies** need to be **precisely documented** and their **accuracy** needs to be **assessed**

6. Estimation **methodologies** need to be **endorsed by the UNCEEA**

7. **Countries need to be notified** before estimates are released to the SEEA website

8. Identified **UNCEEA members** are responsible for specific **global SEEA accounts** on the SEEA website

9. **A unique focal point** is identified **in each country** for all questions related to SEEA databases
Final observations

• Considerable amount of work

• Progress is slower than we would prefer, but then again ... developing new organisational arrangements and methodologies, involving many international and national organisations, is quite a challenge

• Crucial importance to have standardised and high quality statistics for SEEA-accounts, available to the users in an easily accessible way
Thank you for your attention