REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

STATISTIČNI URAD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

www.stat.si

THE SLOVENIAN NATIONAL STATISTICS

TRUSTWORTHY AND USER-ORIENTED

STATISTICS2013.ORG
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

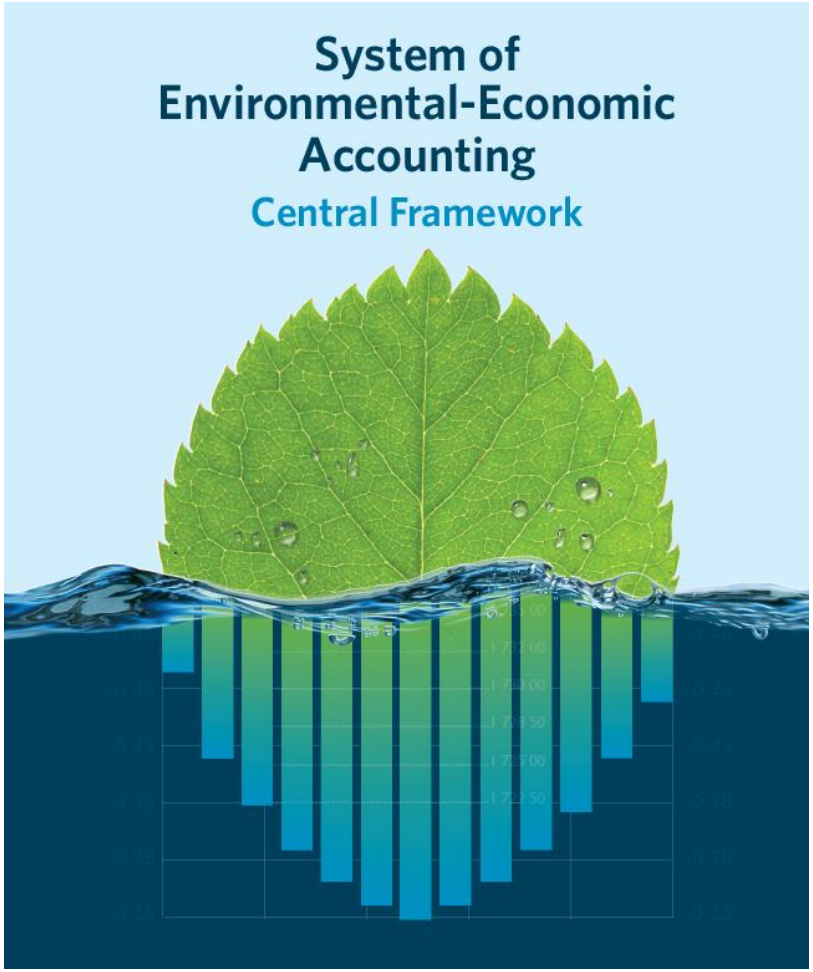
CES Seminar 2013
"Challenges in implementing the SEEA and measuring sustainable development in follow up to Rio+20"

Session II: Key challenges in implementing SEEA

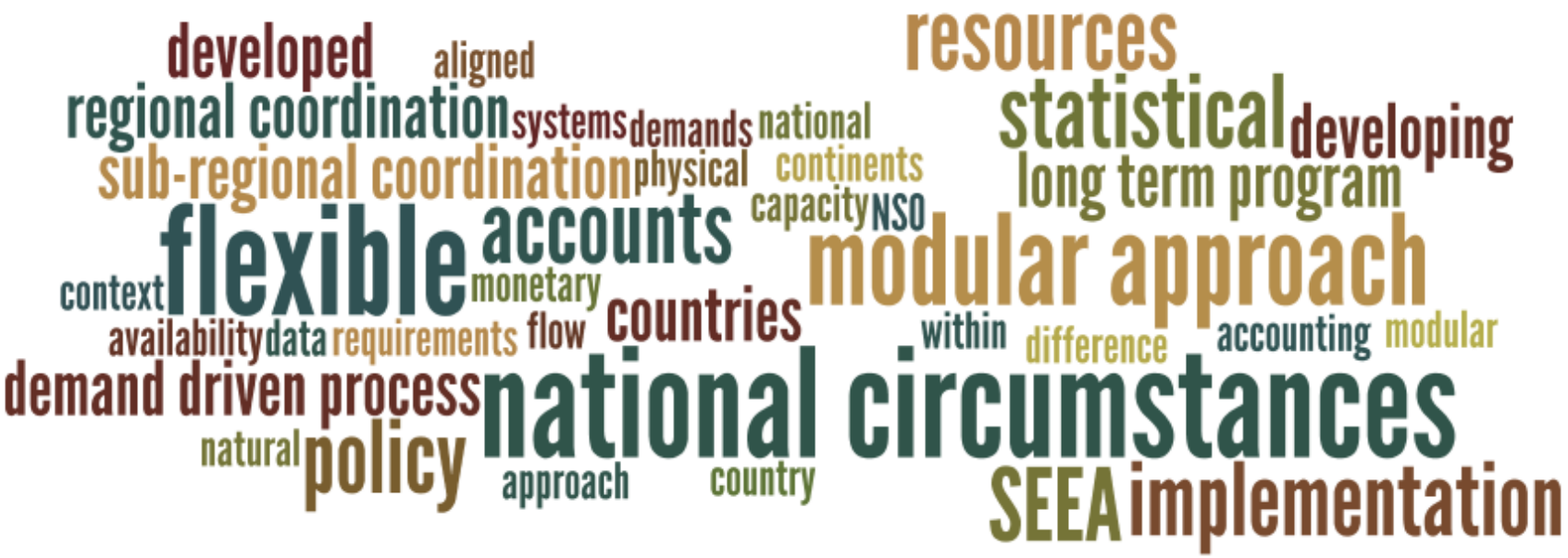
Organiser: Slovenia
Mojca Suvorov, Director of Environmental Statistics

SEEA – from the idea to the international standard

- Measurement of interaction between the economy and the environment - the economic prosperity is limited with available natural resources.
- SEEA 1993 – work in progress.
- SEEA 2003 – harmonisation of concepts and definitions.
- SEEA Central Framework 2012 – international standard for environmental-economic accounts.



Implementation strategy for SEEA in brief



Implementation Strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
Statistical Commission, Forty-fourth session, 26 February – 1 March 2013

Key challenges in implementing SEEA

- Invited papers:
  - Implementation of the SEEA: Mexico's experience (Mexico)
  - The Green Growth initiative and the SEEA Central Framework (OECD)
  - Implementation of the SEEA Central Framework in the Netherlands (Netherlands)
- Supporting papers:
  - Implementing the SEEA in Australia: estimates and issues (Australia)
  - Natural capital and ecosystem accounting in the United Kingdom (United Kingdom)
  - Analysis of market-based instruments for the environment - extensions, applications and techniques (Australia and Sweden)
  - Introducing of the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting, the perspective of Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan)

Main findings and conclusions from the received papers

1. Key drivers for SEEA implementation.
2. Co-operation on national and international level.
3. Data availability and quality.
4. Prioritization.
5. Usefulness and communication of SEEA.
6. Success factors for implementation.

1. Key drivers for the SEEA implementation

- The implementation should be a demand-driven process.
- Examples of main drivers:
  - legislation,
  - national policy demand,
  - recognition of the pressures on the environment resulting from economic activity,
  - international mechanisms,
  - need of systematic and cohesive database,
  - research programs for SD and GG.

2. Co-operation on national level…

- Compilation of environmental accounts
  - Within national statistical offices: national accounts unit or economic and social statistics unit. Advantages: consistency, direct access to data, mutual improvements, pooling of resources.
  - Skills needed: economy, mathematics, environment, biology, national accounts, etc.
- Frequent and direct dialogue with stakeholders on national level.

2. …and international level

- The co-operation on international level:
  - exchange of ideas and materials,
  - international meetings, workshops, use of electronic forums,
  - city groups (London Group),
  - the joint development of standards and guidelines,
  - temporary appointment of skilled staff,
  - targeted international aid.

3. Data availability and quality

- Data availability
  - Integration and use of various data sources.
  - Data providers need to be involved at an early stage.
  - Lack and excess of data.

- Data quality
  - Quality basic data.
  - Use of common terminology, concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules - easy to combine monetary and physical data.

3. Data availability and quality (cont.)

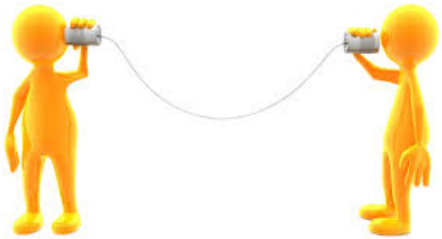
- Data quality (cont.)
  - AC/QA recommendations from IPCC.
  - Timing – annual compilation improves the quality of environmental accounts.
  - The accuracy and compatibility of valuations derived should be open and transparent.
  - The understanding of terms and concepts with the stakeholders should be aligned - discussion papers.

4. Prioritization

- Limited resources vs. expectations.
- Strategic choice:
  - full range, rather superficial or
  - focus on accounts of greatest policy importance and produce quality environmental accounts.
- Long-term work plan agreed with stakeholders.
- External funding helps.

5. Usefulness and communication of SEEA

- Address policy issues and analytical questions.
- Central framework for Green Growth.
- Provide headline indicators for communication.



- Education of data providers, policy makers, journalists, academics, general public:
  - dedicated webpages, databases,
  - publications e.g. Completing the picture,
  - interactive tools e.g. Personal footprint calculator.

6. Success factors for implementation

- Clear demand.
- Good communication and co-operation.
- Reliable source data.
- Distinct priorities and focused implementation.
- Education.
- Communication of results.

Questions to the invited papers

1. How can NSIs and the International Organisations **help each other** to further the SEEA implementation?

2. How to **communicate** the SEEA results to assure a successful implementation and use of data?

3. Main advantages in using SEEA as a **framework for different indicator sets** - Green Growth Indicators, but also Sustainable Development Indicators **-** is further harmonisation needed?

4. The financial crisis poses certain **threats for SEEA implementation** - how to deal with them? What are other threats for the SEEA implementation?

Questions to the plenum

1. How can NSI's and the International Organisations **help each other** to further the SEEA implementation?

2. Main advantages in using SEEA as a **framework for different indicator sets** - Green Growth Indicators, but also Sustainable Development Indicators - is further harmonisation needed?

3. The financial crisis poses certain **threats for SEEA implementation** - how to deal with them? What are other threats for the SEEA implementation?