

**Preliminary outcomes of the Joint
OECD / UNECE Seminar on SEEA
implementation (3-4 October 2016)**

and the

**Expert Forum on Climate Change-
related Statistics (5-7 October 2016)**

Michael Nagy, 11 October 2016



UNECE

Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA (System of Environmental –Economic Accounting) Implementation (3-4 October 2016)



Main agenda items

- SEEA and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Applications of SEEA and their communication.
- Implementation of SEEA modules: challenges and solutions
 - Energy and air emission accounts
 - Environmental taxes and subsidies
- Conclusions and recommendations for future work

Main outcomes related to communication of SEEA:

- Communication through a range of channels: including traditional publications, web sites, seminars and conferences, social media and advisory groups.
- SEEA is not well known compared to other areas of statistics. It is not being used to its full potential
- Demystifying SEEA accounts for users as they were often seen as complex. Someone has to tell the story behind the numbers.
- One country reported a much better interaction with users, since open data policies are applied also for SEEA accounts
- More exchange of knowledge and experience to better engage with users of SEEA is still needed

Expert Forum on Climate Change-related Statistics (5-7 October 2016)



Main agenda items

- Outcomes of the COP21 and the Paris Agreement
- Strengthening energy statistics for analysing climate change
- Set of climate change indicators
- Road map and progress towards better climate change-related statistics
- Measurement of disasters and extreme events

Some preliminary outcomes with relevance for access to information

- 39 climate change-related indicators were proposed by an UNECE Task Force, covering the 5 areas drivers, emissions, impacts, mitigation and adaptation
 - International comparison
 - Addressing most relevant policy questions, including SDGs, Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement
 - Painting the big picture on climate change

Annex: Official Statistics and access to information

SDG targets addressing access to information



- **12.8 - By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature**
 - Indicator: *Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment (tier 3)*
- **16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements**
 - Indicator 16.10.1: *Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months (tier 3)*
 - Indicator 16.10.2: *Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information (tier 2)*

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics honour citizens' entitlement to public information

Statistics and dissemination is fundamental for ALL SDGs!

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Providing high quality statistical data and ensuring confidentiality at the same time

Developed by UNECE in 1991 and adopted by the UN General Assembly in January 2014

- Principle 1: *Official statistics provide an **indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public** with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies **to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.***
- Principle 6: ***Individual data** collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be **strictly confidential** and used exclusively for statistical purposes.*

Confidentiality of individual data

From the disseminated information it should not be possible to identify the individual who it refers to.

- **No contradiction with Aarhus Convention:**
 - Data for statistical and administrative purposes should be kept separately
 - Duplication in data collection avoided by use of administrative data for statistical purposes (e.g. most of Environment Statistics is from administrative sources)
- Different solutions used by NSOs to serve specific information requests (but always protecting the privacy of respondents)
- Example: Information about emissions covered by PRTRs

Open Data Strategies at NSOs

- Often stimulated by right to information acts.
- Several countries in UNECE region have open data policies at either their statistical office or for the government as a whole.
- Open data policies are often led by NSOs and national statistical systems are the largest data providers.
- HLG Modernisation Committee on Products and Sources intends to support national statistics offices in implementing an open data strategy.