

Lourdes Erro: I have some concern that if measures that are not of as much quality (and international comparability) as the rest are added to GDP, GDP could also lose representativeness. At the same time, this would be a very important measure to understand and act on well-being. So this recommendation will depend crucially on the development of good measurement methodologies.

Jim Tebrake IMF: I believe this is a key issue for the SNA update process. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for this type of information given the counter-cyclical nature of unpaid work. Supplementary tables consistently measured across countries would be a major achievement.

Nancy R Folbre: Lourdes, the report does include considerable discussion of limitations of current time-use survey methodologies and the need for improvement and harmonization of these.

Rutger Hoekstra: This work will probably require a lot of time use data which is expensive. Are you looking at big data approaches to make this more feasible?

Jim Tebrake IMF: Has the TT started looking into the type of data sources countries would need to develop to produce consistent measures. Any investigation into using alternative data sources to get at time-use (e.g. crowd sourcing, mobility data etc...).

Guatemala Carlos Figueroa: How would UK address the childcare in Covid-19 times, I mean, it should go up while education is going down?

Japan_ISHIBASHI Hidenobu: Could you elaborate more on the output approach?

Dave Byrne: It would seem important to account for household capital stocks and the related services in order to use the input approach.

Qatar PSA Martin Poveda: How are the number of units or the time spent on households' unpaid services calculated? I guess it is basically a 24/7 service provision. Is there a quality factor for the services to consider?

Alick Nyasulu UNESCAP: Time use appears more appealing but there are practical challenges given multi-tasking in the context of Covid-19.

Nancy R Folbre: I would like to see more collaboration between national accounting efforts and academic researchers to encourage consideration of all these issues.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: very important debate on cross walk between traditional economic measures to well-being measures. Great work! UNSD intends to broaden this debate beyond national accountants to include health, education, time use, and social and demographic statisticians and economists as they are custodians of the related statistical manuals and classifications. We did also broaden the community for environmental economic accounting beyond accountants.

Nancy R Folbre: There is some interesting research on how valuation of unpaid work affects the distribution of household extended income. It shows a somewhat equalizing effect in the...

Sanjiv Mahajan: Ivo et al, lots of good work and really big challenges raised by Chris. Various tricky issues need further resolution and methods where comparability can be achieved such as dual use/sharing of assets and how as well as switching of assets leading to treatment of consumption of fixed capital, asset lives, etc.

UK Richard Heys: But it is important to not over-emphasise the challenge. A fairly small team around Chris has been able to make substantial progress and the UK has found this both a viable and powerful area of analysis.

Peter van de Ven: The discussion on broader income concepts is not only relevant to distributional national accounts. It's an important issue for national accounts more generally.

Alvaro: Is important to take account about the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of wealth into the breakdowns of distributional accounts.

Sanjiv Mahajan: Peter et al, wholly agree. The micro and macro linkages can provide really useful (sometimes uncomfortable) quality feedback to improve both suites of aggregates. Coverage and certain NA conceptual adjustments allocation to quintiles is really key. Here a tabular approach highlighting specific issues and treatment would be useful for comparability.

France_Maryse Fesseau: An open question: Wouldn't it be relevant to discuss distribution in the SNA more broadly. Covering households but also businesses for instance. It could be interesting to show some national accounts figures broken down by type of businesses (according to their size for instance).

Nancy R Folbre: Increased substitution of paid for unpaid childcare is relevant to equivalence scales. Most scales in use were designed when many households included a stay-at-home mom.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: It is important to understand the differences in measures of distribution/inequality taking the person as the statistical unit. Also we should start to think about distribution accounts in the environmental-economic accounts. Also we should make the cross walk between enterprises, jobs, households and persons using data sources from administrative systems (LEEDS etc.)

Peter van de Ven: To Maryse, Yes, more work on having more granular data on corporations is very relevant too. From a user perspective, other breakdowns may be more relevant.

NADIM AHMAD: Indeed. We have ESUTS and more granularity in business statistics. I'll forward the background paper later

Peter van de Ven: There's also a paper on breakdowns of financial corporations, to get a better grip on risks and vulnerabilities related to the financial system.

Finland / Katri Soinne: I am still wondering how the results of the distributional national accounts could be used - if a lot of assumptions as well as theoretical and methodological decisions are taken, what do the results actually tell? How do we communicate the uncertainties, if we do not have actual data and we make assumptions, which do affect very strongly the results?

OECD - Jorrit Zwijnenburg: Hi Katri, that is indeed an issue we're looking into at the moment, looking at forms of sensitivity analyses that may provide more insight in the margins of uncertainty surrounding the results. And then a question is indeed how to communicate this to users.

Jennifer Ribarsky: Some countries do not produce net numbers now. How do you propose to help those countries (resource constrained and less statistically advanced) to move to net income measures (including 'normal' CFC plus depletion of natural resources)?

Peter van de Ven: I don't think that the number of assumptions feeding into distributional national accounts should be over-emphasised. For example, we have the national accounts as a benchmark in most cases. Sensitivity analysis could help in explaining uncertainties.

Martha Tovar: The gap between micro and macro data is relevant in some cases, and mainly in property income items, assumptions are required even using national accounts as benchmark.

Peter van de Ven: Agree with Martha. Here, sensitivity analysis using different assumptions about the allocation of gaps is critical.

Michael Smedes: If the depletion of natural resources are to be deducted from gross income in the same way consumption of fixed capital is, does this mean that as natural resources (such as coal) become obsolete they should also be deducted when calculating net income?

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: great proposals (depletion, ownership of natural assets) to harmonize the SNA and SEEA. As well as bold proposals (atmosphere being an asset, treatment of renewables) to broaden both the SNA and SEEA.

Destatis Germany: Thank you very much for the very interesting presentation. At this stage we took note of the various issues proposed to be implemented in a revised SNA. However, have serious concerns about some of the proposed modifications. For example, the idea of splitting assets is not only an issue which linked the natural resources. Joint ownership of assets also occurs with other assets. Thus, we think such an important issue should be discussed more broadly. In addition, if it is finally decided that split ownership of assets should be reflected in the accounts, there should be clear criteria which would allow to split assets. In this context, we think that legal ownership as a second best solution does also have its merits. For the other issues, we will come back in the further discussion.

John VERRINDER: Important to understand the linkages between including depletion and our measures of government output and its (NR) revenues. How would depletion measures play out across sector and industry breakdowns?

Peter van de Ven: I would say that depletion relates to the extraction of natural resources. Your coal example should be recorded as another change in the volume of assets.

UK Richard Heys: We've talked about depletion, but are there methods to capture investment and growth in stocks?

Peter van de Ven: To Richard: Yes, there is ample methodological guidance for the estimation of natural resources available. It's more a matter of practical application.

Martha Tovar: Agree with Jeniffers Ribarsky's point on how to help countries to compile CFC and now including depletion is a great challenge, practical solutions are welcome.

Alessandra Alfieri: Many countries are now compiling natural resource accounts, in particular mineral and energy resources, as part of the SEEA implementation.

USA Dylan Rassier: If we treat depletion of natural resources as a cost of production in the income account wouldn't that require we treat natural resources as produced assets for symmetry? So one proposal implies the other. What are the inputs into the production of natural resources?

Alessandra Alfieri: @Richard Heys there are methods to measure current and capital expenditures for environmental protection and resource management. The SEEA also includes methods to calculate the asset accounts, including stocks and changes in stocks - including growth.

Sanjiv Mahajan: Along with the ownership / user of assets and the split challenge, also the distinction between produced and non-produced assets and consistent recording. Also, throw in degradation!

Lourdes Erro: Adding a comment in the sense expressed by Jennifer Ribarsky and Martha Tovar, another important complication are the estimates of volume and price that impact growth measures

UNECE, Tihomira Dimova: The background paper Nadim Ahmad (OECD) referred to in relation to granularity in Business statistics is now posted on the meeting website. See UNCEBTS Task Team on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52561>

Alessandra Alfieri: @Sanjiv - degradation is closely related to depletion especially for biological resources where growth is closely linked to the condition of the ecosystems.

Sanjiv Mahajan: Alessandra, I agree also the delineation does lead to different approaches, plus non-biological.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: as we broaden the macroeconomic framework while striving for consistency between the manuals of the system of economic statistics, we should also consider the inclusion and valuation of ecosystem services in the SNA. As the BPM describes the international accounts, the SEEA should describe the details for the environmental accounts.

Peter van de Ven: To Ivo: I agree, but we decided to wait for the conclusion on the work of SEEA EEA, before taking a firmer position.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: UN Network of economists led by ASG Elliott Harris considers this area central to the work on the broader system of macroeconomic accounts. It advances the measure of human capital (complementing productive and natural capitals) and informing the cross walks to wellbeing accounts in linking labour, unpaid work, education and health accounts.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: @Peter. Thank you for your confirmation as we are informing the audience of this webinar.

Gang Liu: Why only focus on Human Capital stock estimates in the recommendations? If measuring only stock of human capital without information on flows, it may to a large extent limit the usefulness for this suggested account to be better linked/integrated with other domains/areas under the umbrella of well-being and sustainability.

UK Richard Heys: I would agree. We need to agree methods to describe human capital flows and definitions of the flows.

Nancy R Folbre: Since unpaid work, especially childcare, is an important input into human capital, would really like to know more about connections/crosswalks to unpaid services accounts...

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: @Gang and Richard. the labor unpaid work, education and health accounts will describe the underlying flows

Gang Liu: Flows are two-ways, and should be reflected also in HC accounts.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: good concept: work accounts describing paid and unpaid services.

Sanjiv Mahajan: Agree with stock/flow points. Also on labour accounts, good opportunity to get greater alignment with SOC update and ISIC update via ILO and UN/SNA.

Lourdes Erro: Completely agree Sanjiv

UNECE, Tihomira Dimova: FYI a link to the Satellite Accounts For Education and Training Compilation Guide, which Michael referred to: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53957>

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: Important to consider the higher frequency of the release of the wellbeing and sustainability indicators in our research.

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: see process of updated COICOP 2018
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/revisions/coicop_revision.asp

Sanjiv Mahajan: Role of NPISHs institutional sector is considerable and varies across countries, - should also take the opportunity to update CoPNI consistent with updating COFOG, even if consistent with COICOP 2018.

John VERRINDER: This is very topical work! But there are complexities in the links between breakdowns in COICOP /COFOG and health accounts specific classifications (ICHA), and also treatment of R&D. We'll need to listen to GFS experts' (possibly strong) views on this.

omar Hakouz: Just a remark I believe that the of products will be useful in monitoring social expenditures according to the beneficiaries and is useful in distinguishing between investment expenditures and expenditures for the purpose of social protection

Nancy R Folbre: Isn't there a parallel between "ecological services" and "social ecological services"? That is, synergies between education, health, social care, unpaid work, volunteer work, etc.

Finland / Katri Soenne: Feasibility is important with classifications, as well - the COICOP 2018 health - section might be in line with health classification, but it is very challenging when trying to find out that information in HBS.

Peter van de Ven: @Nancy: I think all these issues are interlinked. It's one of the reasons to try to bring them in one overarching broader framework.

UNESCWA-Wafa: Related to COVID public health services were at the forefront and provided COVID health services whereas private health sector took a while to respond

omar Hakouz: Volunteer work from professionals working in non-profit organizations needs work to estimate the real value made as they are not paid

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: ecosystem services are considered productive services in the SEEA EEA if they results in benefits to persons. Work services can be considered productive similarly. Also we should considered consistency of monetary valuation across the broader system. The revision of the SEEA EEA has resulted in an in-depth research on the monetary valuation of ecosystem services

UK Richard Heys: Can you say a bit more about monetary v non-monetary measures and give some examples?

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: We have to be bold to remain relevant. We could start the experimentation and testing next year on guidance notes

Gang Liu: Can you say something more about the concrete plan of encouraging test and experiments in developed and less-developed countries?

UNSD - Ivo Havinga: We may move to an integrated accounting framework which is not necessarily called SNA.

Guatemala Carlos Figueroa: This proposal of change will imply changes in other macroeconomic accounts because of their linkages; it would be like starting a new era of measures, may be a parallel one?

Gang Liu: SNEA or SNMA as Peter called.

Martha Tovar: macro-statistical integration is increasingly progressive

Peter van de Ven: @Ivo: SNA would still work for the broader framework, but not anymore for the "core", which I would call, as Gang Liu mentioned, SNEA or SNMA.

Finland / Katri Soinne: Just out of curiosity - with this planned timetable, is it the goal to get (something) done within the timetable or to get a well done framework? With all the linkages and classifications and existing methods etc. it seems like a huge workload to be done in few years.

Gang Liu: @Katri Soinne That is the reason why this topic is Peter's favourite!

Peter van de Ven: @Katri: It doesn't have to be ideal from the start. Let's take it step-by-step and be pragmatic.