# 5th Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

13 – 14 February 2020, Geneva

**Michael Nagy**
Statistical Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

26 October 2020


UNECE

# Organisation of the Seminar

Sessions:

1. Opening and introduction
2. Measuring circular economy with SEEA
3. Measuring the environmental goods and services sector (EGSS)
4. SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)
5. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

+ Poster session

64 participants, representing 33 countries, 6 international organisations, academia and NGOs

All presentations, posters and papers available at http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52557

# Selected conclusions of the sessions

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## Session 2: Measuring circular economy with SEEA

- We need to get better at the interlinkages between topics e.g. materials, energy use, carbon emissions, pollution, expenditure, employment, etc.
- SEEA is particularly useful for enabling these linkages

## Session 3: Measuring the environmental goods and services sector (EGSS)

- Environmental protection and resource management are essential tasks for a a sustainable future.
- EGSS is priority in many countries, probably helped by being mandatory for many countries.
- There was strong support for continuing technical assistance and workshops.

## Session 4: SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

- The international exchange of experience in EEA has clear benefits and should be further promoted and supported by the international organisations.
- Future seminars should continue to provide a platform for sharing practical experience in production and use of Ecosystem Accounts.

# 2021 Joint OECD Seminar on SEEA Implementation

- Probably held as hybrid meeting mid of March 2021
- Organising Committee will meet end of this week
- Topics proposed by participants of the 2020 Seminar:
  - Using new techniques and data sources
  - Strategies to enhance SEEA implementation
  - Communication and policy application
  - Implementation of specific accounts:
    - Taxes and subsidies
    - Waste
    - Land
    - Water

# 2020 UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics

28 September - 1 October 2020 (virtual and hybrid meeting)

**Malgorzata Cwiek**
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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

26 October 2020


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# 2020 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of CCRS

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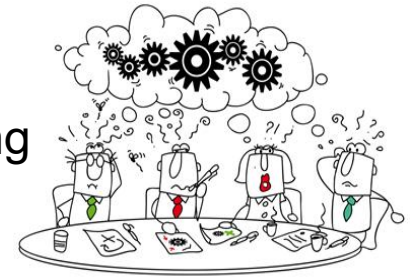
## 8th Expert Forum since 2011

a **platform** for sharing **experience**, discussing concepts and **measurement issues**, and identifying areas for practical guidance



## 113 participants from 33 countries and 24 organizations

## 4 virtual sessions and 23 presenters

- **Setting the scene**
- Measuring climate change **adaptation**
- **Role** of the statistical community **in climate action**
- Linkages between **climate change**, **wealth** and well being

Organized by the CES **Steering Group on Climate Change Related Statistics**

**All documents available on the meeting website in English and Russian**

# Selected conclusions of the sessions

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## Session 1: Setting the scene

- NSOs should continue to be **involved in reporting on GHG inventories** and can contribute to other elements of **enhanced transparency framework** under the Paris Agreement: **tracking progress on NDCs**, producing information on support**, climate change impacts** and **climate change adaptation**.
- NSOs should consider **developing national climate change-related indicator sets** following the *CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics* and the UNSD indicator set.

## Session 2: Measuring climate change adaptation

- **Adaptation indicators are context-, country- and region-specific**, and it is not possible to have a full, common indicator set for all countries. Still, the **CES core indicator set** and the UNSD indicator set **can help NSOs to start providing some minimum information** and improve the knowledge.
- Many NSOs undertake or plan activities related to climate change adaptation. **Important challenges: lack of statistically operational definitions, conceptual difficulties and data gaps**.
- The statistical community should use the **improvements on concepts and definitions** achieved by policy and research communities.

# Selected conclusions of the sessions - continued

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## Session 3: Role of the statistical community in climate action

- **Official statistics should be used more in climate action and energy transition policies**. It is important to **inform the public and increase understanding of climate change drivers and mitigation efforts**. Producing quarterly emissions can be useful for this purpose.
- **NSOs should have roadmaps** to developing climate change-related statistics **and set priorities**, taking into account the *CES Recommendations* and the recent in-depth review on the role of statistical community in climate action. **Good practices** should be shared on the wiki platform.

## Session 4: Linkages between climate change, wealth and well-being

- Measuring **comprehensive wealth** can show how sustainable development of countries is as opposed to development relying on **depletion of assets, including natural capital**. This approach can help **illustrate impact of climate change on the value of all national assets** or **allocate emissions** based on **where products and services are consumed** or **where the damage occurs**.
- National statistical offices can work towards producing wealth measures, **starting from building SEEA accounts piece-by-piece**.

**Next Expert Forum coming in autumn 2021!**

# Thank you!

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26 October 2020


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# Key CES resources

- CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics (2014)
- How national statistical offices can support greenhouse gas inventories? (2015)
- Making the case for greater involvement of national statistical offices in measuring climate-change related statistics (2016)
- Report on countries' progress in climate change-related statistics (2017)
- Tool for countries to prioritize action to improve climate data (2015 and updated in 2017)
- Road maps to improve climate change-related statistics (2017)
- Wiki on good practices on climate change-related statistics (ongoing, since 2017)
- What do national statistical offices need to know about GHG inventories? (2018)
- CES Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters (2019)
- Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using SEEA (Version 2.0), implementation guidelines and indicator metadata sheets (white cover versions before final editing) (2020)
- In-depth review on the role of the statistical community in climate action (2020) [short version in Russian]

# Main outcomes of activities of other related expert groups

## Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters

## Climate Change-related Statistics and Indicators

## In-depth review of measuring Circular Economy


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# Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters

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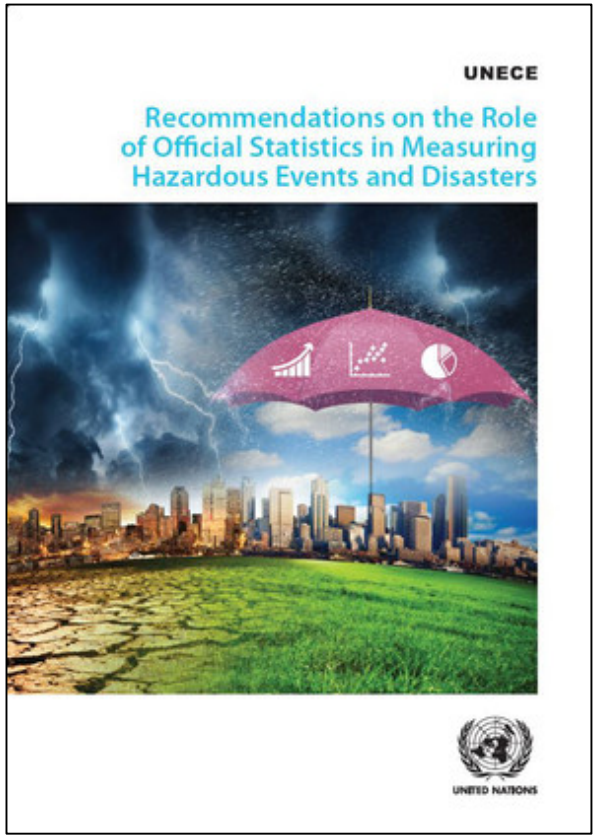
**In June 2019 CES adopted the**
**CES Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters**
**Russian version will soon be available**

**The CES Recommendations:**

- ❑ Clarify the role of NSOs and NSS in providing information related to hazardous events and disasters
- ❑ Identify practical steps to better support disaster risk management efforts in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster risk management.

**New mandate of the Task Force (until June 2022)**

- ❑ Drafting implementation guidance
- ❑ Recommending a set of core statistics and indicators
- ❑ Establishing a community of practice, exchange of experience and knowledge
- ❑ Statistical operationalisation of Sendai Framework terminology and indicator methodologies - providing contributions to work at the global level



# CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Statistics and Indicators

CES endorsed in June 2020:

- Conference of European Statisticians' (CES) **Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics** Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (Version 2.0)
- **Implementation Guidelines** for the CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics
- **Metadata** for each of the core indicators

White cover versions (before final editing) available at https://statswiki.unece.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=285216611

# In-depth review for measuring the Circular Economy

## Paper approved by CES Bureau in October 2020

Finland (lead), Belarus, Canada, Netherlands, the European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat and OECD + inputs from Colombia, UNECE, UNSD and UNEP

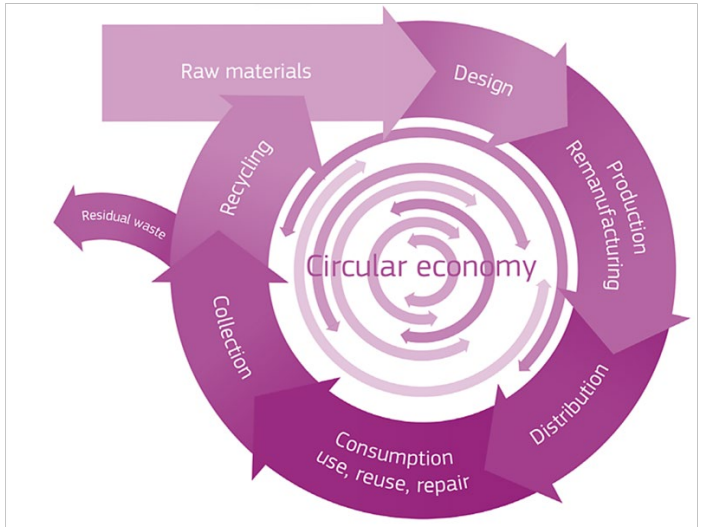
CES Bureau approved also dissemination of the document

**Main contents of the paper:**

- What do we understand as circular economy?
- Information needs and measurement challenges
- Overview of international statistical activities in the area, including EEA, Eurostat, OECD, UNECE/FAO, UNEP, UNSD
- Country practices: Belarus, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Netherlands,
- Summary of issues and challenges
- Conclusions and recommendations

**Linear Economy**


**Circular Economy**



# In-depth review for measuring the Circular Economy

## Main issues

- **Measurement scope**
  - There needs to be a common understanding of the concept and what should be measured;
- **Definitions and classifications**
  - existing statistical classifications have been developed for the linear economy and thus require review and harmonization;
- **Data availability and fitness**
  - current knowledge of circularity largely concerns trends in energy, material flows and waste while there are important data gaps such as the effect of actions that relate to smarter product use and manufacturing, collection systems or extending the lifespan of products. Measurement and monitoring of the environmental, social and economic outcomes along the value chain requires improvements;
- **Coordination across institutions and within the NSO**
  - official statistics can not provide data for all the different aspects of the circular economy and there should be engagement with other data providers and users particularly policy makers, civil society, companies and research communities
- **Demand and expectations by users (e.g. policy makers, research etc.)**
  - the need to react quickly at times to new data needs is a challenge for a NSO, particularly if it requires launching new content on surveys or producing new accounts;
- **Dissemination**
  - new methods and tools are needed to understandably and efficiently communicate to users;
- **Other**
  - measures for the interlinkages between circularity, climate neutrality and pollution as well as the social domain.

# In-depth review for measuring the Circular Economy

## Recommended way forward

- Strengthen **coordination and communication** of work of international organizations and their expert groups related to measuring CE;
- Draft **practical guidelines by a task force or expert group**, in close collaboration with UNSD and other international organizations being active in this area;
- Provide **platforms for exchange of experience and knowledge**, including coordination of activities of international organizations, e.g. the annual “Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA implementation”.