UPDATING THE 2008 SNA: ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ISSUES

OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of SEEA
March 9 – 11, 2021

Peter van de Ven
Head of National Accounts
OECD
Update of the 2008 SNA: general information

- Beginning of 2020: Agreed to set up Task Teams to consider items in the SNA Research Agenda, with the goal to update the 2008 SNA in 2025
- Close coordination with other international standards for compiling macroeconomic statistics (BPM6, GFSM 2012, etc.)
- In addition to other Task Teams, three Task Teams on the following priority areas:
  - Digitalisation
  - Globalisation
  - Well-being and Sustainability
- Process (annual batches):
  - Draft guidance notes to be agreed by Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts
  - Broad consultation
  - Testing
  - Finalisation of guidance notes, and editing of standards
Task Team on Well-being and Sustainability

• **General objective**: Defining a broader consistent framework of (extended) accounts which better capture and monitor well-being and sustainability

• **Areas of work**:
  – Environmental-economic issues
  – Unpaid household service work
  – Education and human capital
  – Health and social conditions
  – Distribution of household income, consumption, saving and wealth
  – Defining a broader framework
Area group on environmental-economic issues: list of issues

- Refining economic ownership of natural resources
- Accounting for biological resources
- Accounting for a broader range of renewable natural resources
- Stronger guidance on valuation methods
- Recording losses
- Classifications
- Recording of pollution permits
- Recording of provisions
- Recording of depletion of natural resources
- Defining elements of SEEA which should be part of the broader framework of extended accounts
Area group on environmental-economic issues: membership

- Joe St.Lawrence (Statistics Canada), chair
- Alessandra Alfieri and Bram Edens (UNSD)
- Adam Dutton and Gemma Thomas (UK ONS)
- Raul Figueroa Diaz and Francisco Guillen Martin (INEGI Mexico)
- Dennis Fixler (US BEA)
- Mark de Haan (Statistics Netherlands), chair
- Glenn-Marie Lange (World Bank)
- Greg Legoff and Jim Tebrake (IMF)
- Carl Obst (editor SEEA Ecosystem Accounting)
- Viveka Palm (Statistics Sweden)
- Anton Steurer (Eurostat)
- Peter van de Ven (OECD)

Members recently added (in respect of government finance statistics):
- Philippe Samborski (Statistics Canada)
- Phillippe De Rougemont (Eurostat)
- Phil Stokoe (IMF)

Area group on environmental-economic issues: membership
Recent developments and further way forward

• Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Account (October 5 – 9, 2020):
  – Two guidance notes have been discussed:
    • Accounting for the **economic ownership and depletion of natural resources**
    • Accounting for **biological resources**
  – In addition, there was a **first discussion on considering the atmosphere as an asset**, and its impact on accounting for emission permits
• **General agreement on both guidance notes**, but need to further elaborate the one on biological resources => start of broader consultation on economic ownership and depletion of natural resources
• Need to have a further look at how to **involve the Technical Committee on SEEA CF, and the UNCEEA** more generally
For more information, follow the meetings of the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts at:

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/ramt
g.asp?fType=2
Thank you for your attention!