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Seminar on measuring circular economy The stats we need and how to get them December 14th, 2021

Concept note

Background

Across the world, governments, the private sector, and institutions are looking at ways to rethink the current economic model to reduce impacts on the environment. One path to reach environmental goals such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation is the transition of economies to a circular model. The Circular Economy involves moving away from the linear approach of the “take-make-waste” economy to an approach where materials, energy, products, information as examples, are circulated as long as possible.

Managing the transition from a linear to a circular economy requires a wide range of official statistics, and there is still lack of clear concepts and methods which will allow informing Circular Economy policies with high quality an internationally comparable data.

Main target groups and objectives of the seminar

As members of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environment Accounting (UNCEEA), and as part of the 2021 World Circular Economy Forum, Statistics Canada and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are co-organizing a Circular Economy seminar on December 14, 2021 to bring national statistical offices and international organizations working in the area of Circular Economy together with groups and organizations working in the policy sphere.

One goal of the seminar is to explore countries and international organizations’ experience in the measurement of circular economy. What has been accomplished so far, where has there been success and where have there been challenges? What types of data gaps exist? A second goal is to hear from the policy needs of different countries and organisations for circular economy statistics and indicators. What types of information are needed? Where are the policy directions and how are these needs being met and how could they be met? What are the data gaps? What are the policy gaps?

A third goal is to have a panel discussion that represents both the measurement of circular economy (the data perspective) and the policy need(s) (the policy perspective). What are the strengths and challenges? What data is need in future and what are some of the obstacles to implementing circularity? Are we doing enough and can we do more to bring the data providers and the data users together?

One tangible outcome of the event will be a list of recommendations to national governments and existing expert groups of international organisations on needed action to make official statistics fit for this purpose.

Organisational issues

Join us on **December 14th , 2021 from 9:00am to 12:00pm (EST (Ottawa), corresponding to 3:00pm – 6:00pm CET (Geneva))** for a seminar that will include various experts presenting their experiences in the measurement of the circular economy as well as presentations of countries with respect to the policy needs related to circularity.

The seminar will be held virtually in English.

Registered participants will receive information about the detailed programme and the meeting link in due time.

Please register by 5 December at <https://forms.office.com/r/UfchEnBqUq>.

Information and contact

Meeting documents and further information will be made available at the meeting webpage <https://unece.org/statistics/events/joint-statistics-canada-unece-online-seminar-measuring-circularity-what-we-need>.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jeff Fritzsche (Statistics Canada, jeff.fritzsche@statcan.gc.ca) and/or Mr. Michael Nagy (UNECE, michael.nagy@un.org).