

SDG Indicator 12.c.1 training (online)

Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

23-24-25 May 2022, 09.00 – 12.00 Geneva time (CEST/GMT +2 hours)

Introduction

The scale and impact of fossil fuel subsidies pose challenges and opportunities on the path to achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG). On the one hand, the use of fossil fuels and their promotion through subsidy schemes, negatively affects the ability of governments to achieve key objectives, such as reducing poverty, improving health, achieving gender equality, access to energy and the fight against climate change. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that poor households, especially vulnerable to price increases, can obtain or maintain access to energy.

The sectors of the economy that depend on this type of energy can also be affected, especially by sudden price changes. Therefore, any successful reform requires careful analysis and adapted mitigation measures. Furthermore, reallocating fossil fuel subsidies to sectors relevant to development could boost the achievement of the SDGs.

The importance of this indicator lies in knowing and sizing the existing subsidies based on reliable data, which increases transparency and informs decision-making. Reporting on a global indicator, which measures consumer and producer fossil fuel subsidies, provides a global picture. It also enables the monitoring of national and global trends, serving as an important guide for policy development.

Sustainable Development Goal 12 has set a target to rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. Indicator 12.c.1: "Amount of fossil fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption)" supports the compiling of national estimates of fossil fuel subsidies by National Statistical Systems. It is aimed at guiding countries on collecting data that will help support the evaluation of progress towards phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

This training will provide participants with a clear understanding of the methodology developed for measuring fossil fuel subsidies through SDG12c1. It will include a presentation of the template, as well as definitions and national experiences of fossil fuel statistics, globally and in the European region. Participants will be encouraged to be part to the event through series of exercises and group discussion.

Registration and meeting webpage

The registration link can be found on the meeting webpage <https://unece.org/statistics/events/joint-uneceunep-regional-training-sdg-indicator-12c1-amount-fossil-fuel-subsidies>. To receive the connection details, participants have to register by 18 May 2022 at the latest.

Meeting materials will gradually be made available on that webpage.

AGENDA

Day 1 (23 May) – High-level introductory segment		
09:00 – 09:05	Welcoming and presentation of agenda of the workshop	Joy Kim, UNEP
09:05 – 09:10	Welcoming by UNECE	Michael Nagy, UNECE Statistics Division
09:10 – 09:30	Measuring and monitoring fossil fuel subsidies in the region	Branko Milicevic, UNECE Energy Division
09:30 – 09:50	Potentially Environmental Damaging Subsidies (PEDS) and links to the SDG 12.c.1. indicator'	Jose Antonio Fuentes Galan, Eurostat
09:50 – 10:00	Definitions and concepts related to FFS in the context of the SDGs	Claire Potdevin, UNEP
10:00 – 10:10	Break	
10:10 – 10:20	Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) for SDGs live demo for SDG Indicator 12.c.1.	Dany Ghafari, Science Division, UNEP
10:20 – 10:35	Presentation of the indicator template	Lourdes Sánchez, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
10:35 – 11:15	Italy's and Sweden's experiences of fossil fuel subsidies identification and analysis practices, focused on the data collection process and the use of the reporting template.	Gionata Castaldi (Ministry of Economy and Finance of Italy) Ariun Byambakhorloo (Statistics Sweden)
11:15 – 11:30	Q&A and closing	

Day 2 (24 May): Technical Segment		
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome and presenting agenda of the day	Workshop organizer
09:05 – 09:35	Discussion about "Direct transfer of funds", including definition, measurement, data availability, challenges, and recommendations	Lourdes Sánchez, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

09:35 – 09:50	Discussion about “Tax expenditures”, including definition, measurement, data availability, challenges, and recommendations	Mark Mateo (OECD)
09:50 – 10:05	Presenting ‘tax expenditures’ data of the countries in the region	Agustin Redonda, Council on Economic Policies (CEP)
10:05 – 10:20	Q&A on first section	
10:20 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 10:45	Discussion about “Transfer of risks”, including definition, measurement, data availability, challenges, and recommendations	Lourdes Sánchez, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
10:45 – 11:05	Discussion about “Induced transfers”, including definition, measurement, data availability, challenges, and recommendations	Musa Erdogan, International Energy Agency (IEA)
11:05 – 11:15	Break	
11:15 – 11:40	Reporting subsidies with the reporting template: live demo of 1-2 examples – preparation for practice session on day 3	Jonas Kuehl, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
11:40– 11:55	Q&A on second section	IISD
11:55 – 12:00	Closing of the session	Workshop organizer

Day 3 (25 May): Practice session		
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome and presenting agenda of the day	Workshop organizer
09:05 – 09:40	Exercise 1: Participants will classify subsidy measures in groups according to the typology and place them in the reporting template	Breakout sessions
09:40 – 09:55	Discussion of results of exercise 1	IISD
09:55 – 10:05	Break	
10:05 – 11:05	Exercise 2: Participants will measure certain subsidy measures and place the estimates in the reporting template	Breakout sessions
11:05 – 11:50	Discussion of results of exercise 2	IISD
11:50 – 12:00	Closing remarks	UNECE/UNEP