Sustainable Development reporting and the SEEA

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Measuring Sustainable Development – a Challenge

- Complex issue
- Present / future wellbeing
- Requires a holistic view and the integration of all subjects
Basic Requirements – User Needs

The world in one figure?

- Easy to understand, easy to communicate
- Monitoring
- Performance control

Complex Data Needs!

- Relevance: comprehensive data set - sufficient description
- Background data for analysis of interrelations
- Code of practice – quality criteria
Indicator System

Sample of various isolated indicators of different dimensions for a special topic

Pros:
- Various information into an overall context
- Political relevance
- Single indicators easy to understand
- Flexible – open for new indicators

Cons:
- Difficulties in analysing interrelations between indicators
- Sometimes not easy to communicate
Future Wellbeing - Capital Approach?

**SD = the sum of all kinds of capital** economic, natural and social capital **must not decline** – But

- Substitutability between kinds of capital is limited
- Measuring of capital in physical / **monetary** units is not always feasible

That means:

- Capital approach could serve as guiding principle for the selection of indicators.
- Also flow indicators are necessary to cover SD aspects
Expanded Accounting System – SEEA

GDP and beyond - SD / Welfare Measurement

- Statistical framework – expanded Accounting System
- Economy – SNA / Environment - SEEA
- Socio Economic Accounts?
- SNA and satellites are fully compatible

Ideal background information for indicators

- Analysis of interrelations between different topics
  - e.g. breakdown by branches, Input – Output - Analyses
- Econometric Modelling
- International comparability – SNA / SEEA
German Sustainable Development Indicators

- German strategy for Sustainable Development
- Policy driven selection of indicators, assistance by Federal Statistical Office - FSO
- Reporting by FSO
- 4 / 21 themes, 35 indicators
- Measurable targets
- Important: A third of the indicators from SNA and SEEA
SEEA - Important background data

- Breakdown by branches
- I–O–Analyses / LCA
  - CO₂ / Energy / Raw materials embedded in Imports
  - Consumption approach
    - CO₂ / Energy / Raw materials in Exports
    - CO₂ / Energy consumption by private household
Indicator systems and accounting

- Basic data
- SNA, SEEA
- Analyses of linkages and causes
- Specific analyses
- Communication, monitoring
- Measures
Conclusions

International activities

- Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission
- Green Growth / Green Economy / OECD / UN
- EU Sponsorship on Measuring Progress, Wellbeing, Sustainable Development

Measuring SD, Progress, Welfare, ... 

=> GDP and Beyond 

= SNA / SEEA / ...
Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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