Overview of the finalization of the 2025 SNA and Issues in the research agenda post 2025 SNA

Matthias Reister
OIC, Economics Statistics Branch, UNSD

November 2025

Finalization of the 2025 SNA

Implementation guidance

Research agenda

- Prioritization framework
- Coordination and governance
- List of topics with preliminary priority of 1reister

Outline



Finalization of the 2025 SNA

- 2025 SNA (and glossary of terms) currently going through an editing process with formatting and publication expected by mid 2026.
- Translation into other UN languages will then formally begin.
- A historical record of the process for reference in future SNA updates has been developed.
- Annex 2 of the 2025 SNA presents the classification hierarchies of the SNA and associated codes; Ongoing review of the codes vs. ESA with involvement of the SDMX community.



Implementation guidance

- The implementation strategy for the 2025 SNA endorsed by the Statistical Commission includes a high-level plan for International Organizations and for countries.
- 12 implementation and compilation guidance and handbooks and clarification notes are currently being completed

1. Cloud computing	7. Natural resources
2. Crypto assets	8. Negative equity
3. Digital intermediation platforms	9. Treatment of digital nomads
4. Emission permits	10. Treatment of value recovery instruments
5. Factoryless manufacturing arrangements	11. Use of nominal or real rates to calculate the net return to capital for non-market producers
6. Marketing assets	12. Valuation of unlisted equity

DESA



SNA/BPM Joint Research Agenda

- Annex 5 of the 2025 SNA presents a joint research agenda for the SNA and BPM
- Covers 40 topics under 5 categories:
 - 1. Basic accounting rules
 - 2. Concept of income
 - 3. Financial instruments
 - 4. Non-financial assets
 - 5. Emerging issues
- Several topics stem from unfinished work from the 2008 SNA update
- Other topics are carried over for the 2008 SNA research agenda where it had been decided not to deal with them as part of the SNA update





Prioritization framework

Prioritization framework

Priorities guided by three key questions:

- 1. How urgent and important is the topic?
- 2. How widespread and complex are the consequences of changes?
- 3. How much preparation has already been done?

Level of prioritizati on	Meaning
Priority 1	research on these topics should start as soon as possible (if it hasn't already)
Priority 2	research on these topics should start in the next 1 - 2 years
Priority 3	research on these topics should start in the next 3 - 4 years
Priority 4	longer-term research issues



Coordination and governance

- Ongoing review of ISWGNA/AEG mandate coupled with development of proposal for maintaining and updating international macroeconomic statistical standards (both expected to be finalized in 2026)
- However, it is proposed not to hold up priority 1 research while this is being finalized
- ISWGNA to assign lead agencies/countries:
 - Define scope, timeframe, and research modality
 - Determine AEG involvement and nature and form of consultation
- Collaboration with IMF BoP/BOPCOM, SEEA, GFS, and MFS on issues of joint interest.
- Joint/overarching task teams where appropriate to ensure consistency.





Priority 1 topics (preliminary)

SNA 2025 research agenda topic number	Topic	Category	Comment
B2	Accounting for the economic activities of non-resident units making use of quota established for fishing in a country's EEZ	Basic accounting rules	
B12	Interest rate for calculating the net return to capital (note work is currently underway on this topic)	Basic accounting rules	
D2	Loyalty programs and gift cards	Issues concerning financial instruments	
D3	Treatment of securities lending, gold loans, crypto lending, and similar transactions, as well as their related revenues	Issues concerning financial instruments	D7 in the 2008 SNA research agenda related to the treatment of reverse transactions
E2	Recording of flows involving the harvest of biological resources by units other than the economic owner or where there is no economic ownership	Issues involving non-financial assets	
F1	Emissions permits (note work is currently underway on this topic)	Emerging issues	
F2	Climate offsets	Emerging issues	



Priority 1 topics (preliminary)

SNA 2025 research agenda topic number	Topic	Category	Comment
B1	Valuation of imports and exports of goods	Basic accounting rules	
E1	Marketing assets (note work is currently underway on this topic through the development of the Marketing Assets Handbook)	Issues involving non-financial assets	
F-3	Classification of crypto assets without a corresponding liability designed to act as a medium of exchange	Emerging issues	
E3a	Broadening the fixed asset boundary to include other intellectual property assets innovation	Issues involving non-financial assets	Was E3b in the 2008 SNA research agenda

