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Pilot Training of Trainers-Concept Note

Paper prepared by UNSD

(for information)



Pilot Training of Trainers

Concept note (as of 28 March 2014)

Online course: 2 June 2014- 28 June 2014

Seminar week in New York, 7 – 10 July 2014

Background

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework was adopted as the international statistical standard on environmental-economic accounts by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 43rd session in March 2012. This makes the SEEA the first statistical standard for measuring the environment and its relationship with the economy on par with the System of National Accounts (SNA) for measuring the economy. At the 44th session in March 2013, the Statistical Commission adopted the implementation strategy for the SEEA 2012 Central Framework. In addition, the SEEA has been identified as a useful framework to inform integrated policies and therefore is getting increasing attention in the context of measurement and accountability of the post-2015 agenda as the monitoring of a future set of goals will need to be based on a solid information basis. These factors resulted in an increased demand for implementing the SEEA. Given the novelty of this area of work, there is a need to increase the number of trainers that can support the SEEA implementation in countries.

The International Conference on “Global Implementation programme for the SEEA” and the 8th meeting 20-21 June 2013 of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) recognized the importance of Training of Trainers (TOT) to face increasing demand of assistance from countries to set up a strategy for the SEEA implementation, develop a programme of work and start piloting the compilation of selected accounts. Therefore, a pilot TOT based on a blended learning format of a combination of online course, seminar week and follow up phase is planned.

Objective

The desired long term outcome of the pilot TOT is to increase the capacity of national statistical offices and other national agencies in developing countries to implement the SEEA. The pilot TOT will increase the number of trainers available within a region to support the national and regional implementation. The proposed pilot TOT focuses on improving the technical and didactical expertise of the potential trainers.

The pilot TOT aims to help the participants of the TOT acquire knowledge and skills to assist countries to put in place the strategy to implement the SEEA, to deepen the understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for compiling SEEA accounts, as well as acquire didactical knowledge on instructional design and facilitation for

designing and conducting trainings. Furthermore, the pilot TOT aims to build a network among the trainers, UNSD and GIZ to facilitate experience sharing after the completion of the pilot TOT.

Participants

The target group of the pilot TOT are potential trainers, who are planning to conduct trainings on the SEEA. The potential trainers ideally have SEEA implementation experience or advising experience in fields related to environmental-economic accounts such as national accounts or environment statistics, and are involved in or are planning to hold SEEA training workshops. These potential trainers include:

- (a) Representatives from national statistical offices from developing countries who have expressed strong interest to implement the SEEA and have participated in training seminars on the SEEA. These experts are mostly from lead countries in their region and are expected to play a key role in sharing experience and providing support to neighboring countries.
- (b) Participants from national statistical offices of developed countries that are engaged in providing technical assistance to developing countries.
- (c) Consultants or advisers who are involved with advising the implementation of the SEEA
- (d) Staff from statistical training centers
- (e) Staff from regional commissions and international agencies that have or plan to have programmes in the implementation of the SEEA
- (f) Experts from think tanks, academia or other government agencies that are likely to be engaged in supporting the implementation of the SEEA.

As part of the registration process, participants are required to provide a brief note expressing their commitment to organizing a national workshop on the SEEA using the skills and knowledge gained during the pilot TOT. This commitment is part of the broader follow up phase of pilot TOT. The national workshop should include participants from the national statistical office, ministry of environment, ministry of planning and other relevant government agencies. Participants are encouraged to include relevant details on the workshop in their brief note.

Organization of the TOT

The pilot TOT is based on a blended learning format consisting of three phases: an online course, a seminar week and a follow up phase. Concerning the technical content, the pilot TOT will provide an overview of the SEEA and its applications in integrated policies. It will also cover the SEEA Central Framework accounting framework and modules in some detail. Topics to be covered include the following:

- Physical flow accounts –The module will cover the recording of physical flows and the structure of a physical supply and use table.
- Asset accounts – The module will focus on the recording of stocks and flows associated environmental assets. It discusses the asset accounting in general terms with a particular focus on the measurement of the depletion of natural resources and valuation of environmental resources
- Environmental activity accounts - The module focuses on the identification of economic transactions with the SNA that may be considered environmental,

with a particular focus on the Environmental Expenditure Accounts and in statistics on Environmental Goods and Service Sectors.

- Combined presentations – The module will focus on the explanation of combined presentations of physical and monetary data and a range of examples of such presentations are described.

The pilot TOT will address furthermore specific technical issues related to the SEEA, including the overview of subsystems of the SEEA, the SEEA Applications and Extensions and the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

Online course (2 June 2014- 28 June 2014)

The trainers will attend an obligatory online course to assure a common level of technical knowledge on the SEEA. The online course will be tutored by an e-learning tutor and accompanied by an SEEA-expert. The course will be developed by GIZ and UNSD and will be reviewed by members of Statistics Canada, Statistics Netherlands, Eurostat, World Bank, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The online course will be accessible via the GIZ Global Campus 21 e-academy website (<http://www.gc21-eacademy.org/>). The amount of time that the potential trainers will need to study in the online course will be 6-8 hours per week up to a total of 32 hours in 4 weeks.

Seminar week (7 – 10 July 2014)

After the successful completion of the online course the trainers will be invited to the seminar week of the pilot TOT in New York (7 – 10 July 2014). During the seminar week the trainers will further discuss the content of the online course and discuss open questions that came up in the online course.

Beside the technical knowledge, seminar participants will share experiences on how to best design and conduct trainings. Developing facilitation skills, including managing group dynamics and meeting learning objectives, is a critical component of a Training of Trainers; such skill will also be discussed during the seminar week. Furthermore, during the seminar, the potential trainers will develop an action plan to further equip themselves with a solid set of skills and plan their next SEEA training. The national seminar will be one component of the action- plan and participants will discuss approaches to an effective national seminar on the SEEA. Feedback of the participants on the methodology of online course and the seminar week of the pilot TOT will be used to improve future TOTs.

Follow-up

After the seminar week the potential trainers will be contacted by the organizers to review their progress with regard to the self-learning plan and the plans for the SEEA trainings. The trained trainers will continue to network, report on their activities and share experiences in the delivering of the training via a suitable online tool (mailing list, online communities etc.). UNSD in collaboration with GIZ intends to draft a trainer's manual for SEEA trainings which will include modular standard training, including a repository of slides, exercises and other practices materials which can be adapted to the specific conditions of the future national trainings.