

Mandate – UNCEEA working group on Coordination (Area A)

Area Lead: Statistics Canada

Members of the group: To be determined. Members should cover developed and developing countries and the leads of areas which have potential overlap and input into Area A (i.e. capacity building, communication)

Mandate

To foster collaboration, integration and complementarity of programmes relevant to environmental-economic accounting.

Objectives

Eurostat, OECD, World Bank and UNSD are the main international organizations working in the domain of environmental-economic accounting. In addition, several National Statistical Offices (NSO) are also involved in capacity-building either on their own or in partnerships with the international organizations or other NSOs. Furthermore, an increasing number of international agencies are developing concepts and statistical methods for emerging data and reporting initiatives in the area of environmental statistics. For these reasons, coordination is required to avoid response and other burdens on NSOs from competing demands on their resources, to help achieve aligned statistical methods, and to ensure that activities of the international organizations are complementary and resource-effective.

Specifically, there are several key areas of work included in the mandate of this group:

- Expanding use of SEEA in the development and reporting of indicators, on analysis, on decision-making
- Leveraging the use of training tools that have already produced in order to make them more readily accessible, and where necessary, to produce common tools to be used and disseminated widely
- Quality assurance of SEEA training materials

Areas of focus and deliverables

Reporting initiatives



The Working Group will work to ensure that SEEA guidelines are used as much as possible in the development of new international reporting initiatives, including initiatives such as the UNECE indicators on climate change and the SDG indicators . A lead within the working group for dealing with the SDG will be nominated, and will work in close collaboration with Area E. Statistics Canada will also coordinate with UN regional commissions on existing reporting initiatives (i.e., climate change indicators, waste indicators) to ensure appropriate reference to SEEA.

Training and assistance

The existence of different training programs is not considered a problem, since different audiences will need different materials tailored to their specific needs. The result is that there are several sets of teaching and information materials available. The most important need is not to coordinate the development of these materials, but rather a need to make them all available in one place so that they are easy to find and accessible to both trainers and students. Where necessary, new tools might also need to be developed.

In addition, there is a need for international agencies and NSOs to be aware of the training efforts already completed and underway in order to avoid duplication and to provide background for subsequent assistance. This information will be developed by the working group and will be made available via the UNSD's new website, which will contain both static and interactive elements.

Timeline

The work group will be ongoing. A detailed work plan with timelines and deliverables will be drafted within the first three months of the first meeting of the group.

Meetings

Statistics Canada will act as chair to the working group. Meetings will be quarterly, and will take place by telephone and/or Webex, with possible side-meetings during the yearly plenary of the UNCEEA.