

# UNECE Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy

An Expert Group established under the auspices of  
the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)

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# What is the Conference of European Statisticians?

Term “European” is sometimes a bit misleading, the geographical scope is wider



## Conference of European Statisticians – UNECE governing body in statistics:

- **Heads of NSOs of 65 countries:**
  - 56 UNECE Member States, including EU, Canada, Russian Federation and United States
  - All other OECD countries: Australia, Chile, Colombia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand
  - Some additional countries: Brazil, South Africa
- **Chief Statisticians of international organisations:**
  - CIS-STAT, Eurasian Economic Commission, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, World Bank, UNSD, etc.
- **A number of partner organisations:**
  - Specialized UN agencies, regional commissions and several organizations interested in statistics for SDGs

# Why did the CES Bureau decide to establish a Task Force on measuring CE?



- CES select key topics for an in-depth review every year to
  - improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region
  - identify gaps or duplication of work
  - address emerging issues
- Measuring Circular Economy was chosen for an [in-depth review](#) in February 2020; paper was presented to CES Bureau in October 2020:
  - Authors: Finland (lead), Belarus, Canada, Netherlands, the European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat and OECD
  - Inputs also provided by Colombia, UNECE, UNSD and UNEP
- The in-depth review recommended to establish a Task Force for developing guidance on measuring CE
- CES Bureau approved ToR in February 2021

# Main measurement issues identified by the in-depth review



- **Measurement scope**
  - There needs to be a common understanding of the concept and what should be measured
- **Definitions and classifications**
  - existing statistical classifications have been developed for the linear economy and thus require review and harmonization
- **Data availability and fitness**
  - current knowledge of circularity largely concerns trends in energy, material flows and waste while there are important data gaps such as the effect of actions that relate to smarter product use and manufacturing, collection systems or extending the lifespan of products. Measurement and monitoring of the environmental, social and economic outcomes along the value chain requires improvements
- **Coordination across institutions and within the NSO**
  - official statistics can not provide data for all the different aspects of the circular economy and there should be engagement with other data providers and users particularly policy makers, civil society, companies and research communities
- **Demand and expectations by users (e.g. policy makers, research etc.)**
  - the need to react quickly at times to new data needs is a challenge for a NSO, particularly if it requires launching new content on surveys or producing new accounts;
- **Dissemination**
  - new methods and tools are needed to understandably and efficiently communicate to users
- **Other**
  - measures for the interlinkages between circularity, climate neutrality and pollution as well as the social domain

# Main objectives and activities of the UNECE Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy



- Working period: February 2021 – December 2022
- Main objective: draft practical guidelines for measuring circular economy, including:
  - a) Definition of the measurement scope;
  - b) Clarification of key terms and definitions;
  - c) Identifying key statistics and indicators needed from the policy point of view;
  - d) Identifying data sources for measuring circular economy, with particular attention on SEEA and FDES;
  - e) Describing the required institutional collaboration.
- Other objectives:
  - a) Contribute to the coordination and collaboration of international organisations' related work; and
  - b) Provide platforms for exchange of experience and knowledge (e.g. through Joint OECD/UNECE Seminars on SEEA Implementation).

# Ensuring alignment of work and using synergies with other Expert Groups



- **Alignment of work needed in particular with:**
  - Related work of UNCEEA
  - OECD informal Expert Group on a new generation of information for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy (RECE-XG)
  - EU Monitoring Framework
  - Bellagio Process
  - UNEP methodological work on EW-MFA
  - PACE (Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy)
  - Related work of ISO
  
- **Means of alignment and using synergies:**
  - “Cross-pollination” of expert groups (same participants in several expert groups)
  - Aligned workplans and considering joint products (e.g. joint guidelines)
  - Participation in each other’s events

# Status of work



- **Kick-off meeting on 17 March:**
  - Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
  - Discussion of possible synergies (short presentations by Eurostat, EEA, IMF, OECD, UNEP, UNSD, UNECE/FAO, UNU)
  - Agreement to use MS Teams and SharePoint for collaborative work
- **Dialogue with other expert groups**
  - Regular meetings of the UNCEEA Area A
  - Participation in OECD RECE-XG meeting on 7 May
- **Meeting of the Task Force on 11 May:**
  - Discussion of the possibility to draft joint guidelines with OECD
  - Identification of 3 main work packages:
    1. Conceptual monitoring framework
    2. Measurement framework
    3. Indicators
- **Small working groups are currently being established**

# Members of the Task Force

Secretary: Michael Nagy, UNECE



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| 1. Johanna Pakarinen (Statistics Finland, Chair) | 12. Kees Balde (UNU)                                 | 23. Renato Marra Campanale (ISPRA Italy)   |
| 2. Achille Pegoue (IMF)                          | 13. Llorenc Mila I Canals (UNEP)                     | 24. Roel Delahaye (Statistics Netherlands) |
| 3. Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)                     | 14. Lotte Holvast (PACE)                             | 25. Sudeepta Ghosh (NSO India)             |
| 4. Alicja Kacprzak (UNECE/FAO)                   | 15. Louise Sörme (Statistics Sweden and link to ISO) | 26. Therese El Gemayel (UNEP)              |
| 5. Arturo de la Fuente (Eurostat)                | 16. Luis Eduardo Gonzalez Lozano (DANE Colombia)     | 27. Tomas Marques (UNEP)                   |
| 6. Camilo Andres Mendez Coronado (DANE Colombia) | 17. Matthew Billot (UNEP)                            | 28. Vivian Tunn (Statistics Netherlands)   |
| 7. Diego Cobaleda (DANE Colombia)                | 18. Michele McMillan (Statistics Canada)             |  |
| 8. Ekaterina Poleshchuk (Belstat Belarus)        | 19. Milla Neubauer (Statistics Austria)              |  |
| 9. Erashree Gautam (MoE, India)                  | 20. Myriam Linster (OECD)                            |  |
| 10. Igor Litvinyuk (UNECE)                       | 21. Niels Schoenaker (Statistics Netherlands)        |  |
| 11. John Marshall (Statistics Canada)            | 22. Peder Jensen (EEA)                               |  |