

**In-depth Training on Water Accounts  
(e-Learning course)**

**10 May – 18 June 2021**

**Guideline**

**I. OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE**

Water is essential to achieving sustainable development. At a fundamental level, the availability of clean water in and of itself is necessary for our health and overall well-being. Water is also an important input to many economic activities, from the production of food and energy to the manufacturing of computers and cars. High quality and timely statistics on water are need in order to manage our water assets and track water supply and use.

This course will focus on water statistics and accounts, as well as some important water aggregates and indicators (including SDGs). The water accounts are based on the System for Environmental-Economic Accounting-Water (SEEA-Water) and the International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS). These two documents support analysis of the role of water within the economy, understanding of the hydrological cycle and valuation of water assets. They are consistent with the SEEA Central Framework and follow a similar accounting structure to the System of National Accounts (SNA).

Depending on resource availability, countries interested in compiling water statistics and accounts will be provided with additional in-kind support after the completion of the course.

**II. TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

The target audience are officials in national statistical offices, line ministries (especially ministries of water, natural resources and environment) and other institutions who are working on water related issues. The course can also be useful to a wider audience who is interested to learn more about water information.

**III. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, participants will be expected to:

- learn the basic concepts, definitions and classifications used in water statistics and accounts
- understand the hydrological cycle and the conceptual framework for the water accounts
- understand how water data contributes to developing water related policies

#### IV. COURSE DESIGN AND CONTENT

Each module consists of slides with explanations. After all modules have been completed, participants will be required to complete a final test that will cover all modules. The modules are expected to take a maximum of 6 hours to complete. Participants are also expected to attend three webinars. The webinars will provide an overview of the course topics and allow for participants to ask questions. Furthermore, participants are encouraged to actively participate in the online forum of the course. Topics for discussion will be posted on a regular basis and participants are invited to share their views/comments/questions.

The course will be conducted in English.

#### Outline

Module	Coverage
<b>1. Introduction to the SEEA Central Framework and SEEA-Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEEA and its links to SNA</li><li>• What is SEEA-Water and IRWS</li><li>• SEEA-Water and SDGs</li><li>• Water policies</li><li>• Implementation of the accounts</li></ul>
<b>2. Physical supply and use for water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following the flows of water</li><li>• Concepts of physical supply and use</li><li>• Structure of physical supply and use tables</li><li>• Water aggregates</li></ul>
<b>3. Emissions to water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of emissions to water</li><li>• What substances are emitted to water</li><li>• Coverage and sources of water emissions</li><li>• Concepts of water emissions</li><li>• Water emission accounts</li></ul>
<b>4. Water asset accounts in physical terms and a short introduction to valuation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asset accounts and their relation to physical flow accounts</li><li>• The hydrological cycle</li><li>• Scope and relevant definitions</li><li>• Asset account in physical terms</li><li>• Asset account in monetary terms (valuation of water assets)</li></ul>
<b>5. Combined presentations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integration of data</li><li>• Core accounts</li><li>• Combined presentations</li><li>• Indicators (including SDGs)</li></ul>

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**6. Practical guidance for implementation**

- Establishing a work programme on water statistics
  - Data sources and methods
  - Metadata and data quality
  - Compilation of water accounts
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**V. EVALUATION**

Participants must receive a 70% or higher in the test at the end of this course.

Participants will be given 60 minutes to complete the test. They may take the exam up to three times and retain their best score. Participants may not work together on the test. The course facilitator reserves the right to deny course certificates to participants suspected of cheating on the test. The supervisor is expected to ensure that the test of the course is taken in his/her presence.

**VI. FOLLOW-UP PHASE**

Following the completion of the training and depending on resource availability, in-kind support will be made available to countries interested in compiling water statistics, accounts and indicators. Further details on the follow-up phase will be provided during the course.

**VII. SOURCE MATERIAL**

This course draws upon various sources, including international statistical standards and case studies from national statistical offices.