

Briefing note for UNCEEA

Area C: Development of Global Databases. Overview of progress on SDMX/DSDs

Eurostat

The development of global SEEA databases requires SDMX transmissions for data flows. In turn, this requires global data structure definitions (DSDs) for the identified priority accounts, namely: economy-wide material flows, energy and air emissions accounts, water and land accounts.

In June 2016, the UNCEEA agreed to the development of global SEEA databases. In December 2016 the governance of the SDMX process was taken over by the SDMX macroeconomic statistics ownership group (SDMX-MES OG). This is the group in charge of the SDMX governance for national accounts. This governance is needed to create global DSD standards.

The SDMX-MES OG created a technical sub-group to develop a proposal for SEEA DSDs within the SDMX-MES framework. This sub-group is a small scale, operational group to advance the technical work. The members are Eurostat, the OECD, FAO, the UNECE and the UNSD. UNEP joined the group later. The technical sub-group combines IT experts in SDMX and SEEA experts. Their task is to identify relevant stakeholders, identify existing international flows for the five SEEA priority accounts, create a data model (including DSDs) for those data flows, and present a proposal for approval to the UNCEEA and the SDMX-MES OG.

The technical sub-group met three times in 2017, in June, July and September. It identified the existing international SEEA flows and some related non-SEEA flows for the five priority accounts. It also identified stakeholders such as the London Group or working groups of Eurostat and the OECD. Next, the technical sub-group developed a data model for the DSDs and associated code lists. The package was completed with documentation. The London Group was consulted in October 2017. In December 2017 the SDMX-MES OG gave green light for a public review in spring 2018.

This public review is taking place between March and June 2018, with a possible extension in autumn if needed. It will consist of a conceptual review and tests. Countries around the world can provide input on a voluntary basis. The review was announced to members of UNCEEA, London Group and Eurostat working groups, and they were asked to forward the message to other stakeholders. Participants can review the documentation to check if it is understandable and complete, they can map the questionnaires into SDMX coding to identify missing codes or errors, and they can attempt a dummy SDMX transmission to an international agency or to e.g. Eurostat. Interested countries are invited to contact Eurostat.

SDMX News

Pilot Review: Global DSDs for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

The Ownership Group for SDMX implementation for macro-economic statistics (SDMX-MES OG) mandated a technical sub-group to propose global Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) for the implementation of SDMX in SEEA. The SDMX-MES OG is already responsible for SDMX DSDs in the areas of National Accounts (incl. Government Finance), Balance of Payments, Foreign Direct Investment and Price Indices. More information on the mandate of the SDMX-MES OG and the existing packages can be found on the SDMX website:

- SDMX-MES package on National Accounts and Government Finance: https://sdmx.org/?page_id=1498
- SDMX-MES packages on Balance of Payments and Foreign Direct Investment: https://sdmx.org/?page_id=1747
- SDMX-MES pilot package on Consumer Price Index (CPI and HICP): https://sdmx.org/?sdmx_news=pilot-review-global-dsds-for-consumer-price-indices-cpi-and-harmonised-indices-of-consumer-prices-hicp

After the public review, a version 1.0 of the SDMX data structure definitions for SEEA will be finalised and published in the [SDMX Global Registry](#). UNCEEA will be duly informed. At this point, the DSDs are ready to use SDMX for SEEA CF data. For instance, Eurostat could use the DSD for material flow accounts to send data to UNEP; Eurostat could use the DSD for air emission accounts to send data to OECD, etc. Other aspects of database implementation that must be separately agreed, and which were not part of the work reported here, are e.g. governance, ownership of the data, validation responsibilities, publication responsibilities, etc. UNCEEA is invited to take note and comment on the process.