



Area C: Global SEEA databases The case of water accounts

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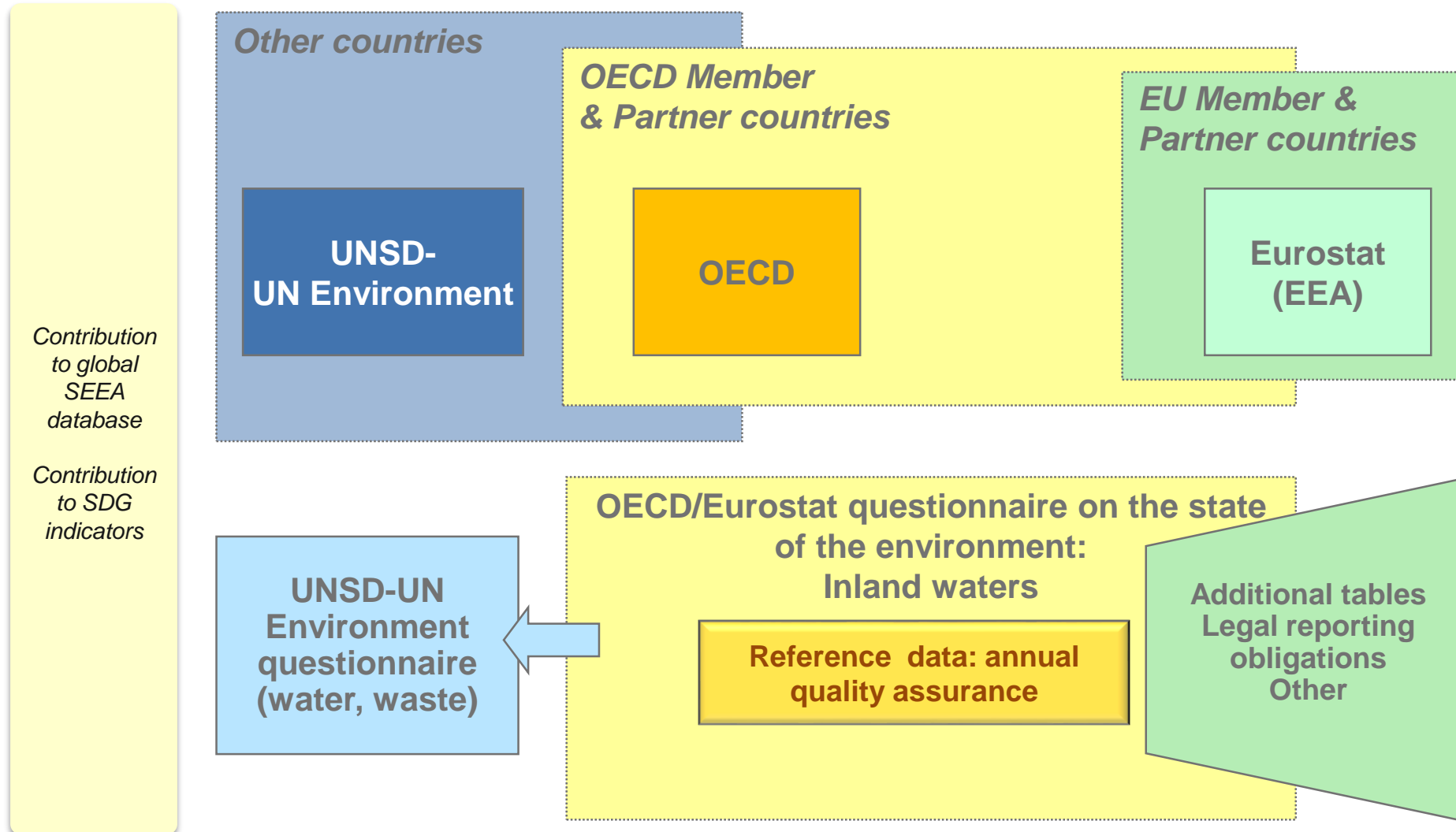


- **Priorities for global SEEA databases**
 - Air emissions; energy; material flows; land; water
 - No progress on global water accounts
- **International water data collected since almost 40 years**
- **Main vehicle: OECD/Eurostat and UNSD/UNEP questionnaire**
 - Quasi global country coverage
 - Data collected to
 - Take stock of available water resources in countries
 - Show changes in water use and quality
 - Reveal efforts made to restore and maintain water availability of appropriate quality for specific uses in countries
 - Use of accounting principles
 - Well-coordinated and layered data collection and sharing



Area C: Global SEEA databases – the case of water accounts

International data collection – a layered approach and a global coverage





Main quality issues

- **Timeliness**
- **Coherence over time**
- **Coherence across countries and world regions**
- **Coherence in countries**
- **Data completeness**
- **Link between physical and monetary data**

Main gaps

- **Waste water/ pollutant discharges**
- **Water balances, supply chain**
- **Economic dimensions of water management**
- **Sectoral dimensions (ISIC)**
- **Territorial & seasonal dimensions of water management**
- **Quality of life, social dimensions**



Ongoing efforts

- **Ongoing efforts to fill gaps and improve data quality**
 - Regular quality assurance and validation process (OECD, Eurostat, UNSD)
 - Better use of existing national data
 - Use of new data sources (e.g. earth observation)
- **Ongoing review of the questionnaire section on inland waters (OECD, Eurostat, UNSD)**
 - Amendments (small) to cover variables needed for the SDGs (after global review)
 - Re-assess consistency with the SEEA-CF and SEEA Water
 - Review the priorities for reporting and the collection frequency
- **Ongoing discussions with FAO**
 - New global data collection on water by FAO (since April 2018)
 - Consolidated international questionnaire on water data?
 - Harmonised and well-coordinated data collection process



Proposed way forward

- **Assessment of current situation building on experience so far**
 - Availability of coherent source statistics for SEEA water accounts not yet guaranteed
 - Establishment of global SEEA database currently premature
- **Proposed way forward**
 - Adopt a pragmatic step-wise approach with a progressive move towards water accounts
- **Proposed steps**
 1. Strengthen efforts to improve availability and quality of water data collected through the OECD/Eurostat and UNSD/UN Environment questionnaire (continued work)
 2. Identify the questionnaire variables relevant to SEEA core tables (& missing variables)
 1. Focus on simple PSUTs by industry
 2. Focus on data needed for indicators
 3. Use questionnaire replies to construct simple pilot accounts (selected countries)
 4. Consider developing a method to adjust the collected water data to the SEEA principles
 5. Re-assess the feasibility of establishing a global SEEA database on water accounts



Questions for discussion

- Does the UNCEEA agree with the assessment that it is currently premature to establish a global database on water accounts, and that a step-wise approach is required to improve the availability of coherent source data?
- What are the views of the UNCEEA on the proposed steps for progressively improving data quality and testing the feasibility of establishing a global SEEA core database on water accounts?
- What are the views of the UNCEEA on current efforts to improve international water-related data and harmonise their collection with the aim to “collect once and use for multiple purposes”?



ANNEX:

**Global list of SDG indicators on water
Content of OECD/EUROSTAT questionnaire
(similar to UNSD questionnaire)**



Global list of SDG indicators on water (current status)

- **3 indicators directly related to OECD questionnaire and data collection**
 - Indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of wastewater safely treated
 - Indicator 6.4.1: Change in water-use efficiency over time
 - Indicator 6.4.2: Level of water stress
 - Custodian Agency: FAO (6.4.1 and 6.4.2); xxx (6.3.1)
 - Partner agencies: OECD, UNSD, Eurostat
- **Other related indicators**
 - Indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
 - Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services
 - Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
 - Indicator 6.6.1. Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
- **Monitoring coordinated by GEMI (UN-Water)**



Content of the inland waters section of the state of the environment questionnaire

Water resources

Table 1	Renewable freshwater resources	→ relevant to SDG 6.4.2
Table 2.	Freshwater abstraction, by source and by sector	→ relevant to SDG 6.4.2
Table 3.	Water made available for use	
Table 4a.	Water use, by supply category and by sector	→ relevant to SDG 6.4.1
Table 4b.	Water use in manufacturing by activity and supply category	→ relevant to SDG 6.4.1
	Summary Water use balance	

Water treatment

Table 5.	Population connected to wastewater treatment plants	→ relevant to SDG 6.3.1 (<i>and SDG 6.2.1</i>)
Table 6.	Treatment capacity of wastewater treatment plants in terms of BOD	
Table 7.	Sewage sludge production and disposal	

Wastewater generation, treatment and discharge

Table 8.	Generation and discharge of wastewater	→ relevant to SDG 6.3.1
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Water quality

Table 9.	Water quality of selected rivers, at mouth or downstream frontier	
Table 10.	Water quality of selected lakes	
