Review of development priorities for national accounts, economic statistics and environmental-economic accounts

Fifth Meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
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United Nations Statistics Division

Outline of presentation

- Global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics
- Activities for national accounts and economic statistics
- Global implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA)
- Activities for environmental-economic accounts
Global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics

- **Objectives**
  - Change over to the 2008 SNA
  - Improve scope, detail and quality of the national accounts and supporting economic statistics

- **Principles**
  - Strategic planning
  - Coordination, monitoring and reporting
  - Improving statistical systems

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Elements to operationalize principles

- Strategic planning framework: NSDS as the strategic planning framework
- Information structure: Facilitates co-ordination, monitoring and reporting on SNA implementation based on internationally-agreed scope and compliance for the national accounts and supporting statistics
- Modalities: Training and technical cooperation, publication of manuals and handbooks, research and advocacy
- Stages of implementation: leading to the change over to the 2008 SNA. Review, Adaptation and Application
Activities for national accounts and economic statistics

Activities for national accounts and economic statistics are conducted under the umbrella of the global implementation programme

Priorities

• Continue collaboration with regional commissions (RCs) and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) to advance implementation of 2008 SNA and supporting statistics
• Implement international programme on short-term statistics
• Plan development account (DA) project

Collaboration

• Collaborate with RCs and other partners to organize regional expert group meetings on national accounts
  • ECA – Meeting of the African Group on National Accounts, May 2015 (ecastats.uneca.org/acsweb/FocusAreas/AGNAAddis.aspx)
Collaboration

- BIS - Regional Workshop on Developing and Improving Sectoral Financial Accounts, January 2016 (http://www.bis.org/ifc/events.htm?m=3|46|93)

Collaboration

- Collaborate with SIAP and other partners to organize training courses
  - SIAP - Regional Course on 2008 SNA (Special Topics): Improving Exhaustiveness of GDP Coverage, August 2015 (http://www.unsiap.or.jp/e-learning/3_sna/1508_GDP_KOR.html)
    - Substantial portion focused on measurement and allocation of output of various financial services based on Handbook on Financial Production, Flows and Stocks in the System of National Accounts
  - SIAP - Regional Workshop on Measuring the Informal Sector and the Non-Observed Economy, October 2015 (http://www.unsiap.or.jp/e-learning/3_sna/1510_NOE_IRN.html)
  - SIAP - Regional Course on SNA 2008 (Special Topics): Improving Exhaustiveness of GDP Coverage, August 2016
Activities for national accounts and economic statistics

Collaboration

- Focus will be on organizing more training courses on Handbook on Financial Production, Flows and Stocks in the System of National Accounts (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/FinancialHB.pdf)

International programme on short-term statistics

- Overall objective
  - To provide standard methodology for generating high-quality early warning and business cycle indicators to ensure their international comparability and communication strategy for such indicators
- Four thematic areas were identified
  - Economic tendency surveys
  - Cyclical composite indicators
  - Data template and analytical indicators
  - Rapid estimates
Activities for national accounts and economic statistics

International programme on short-term statistics

- Provide technical assistance (TA) to countries to
  - Implement the data template
  - Develop national central data hubs for short-term statistics

- TA carried out in cooperation with relevant international/regional organizations, for example,
  - ESCWA DA project on short-term statistics
  - GCC-Stat – Workshop on Short-Term Statistics, June 2014

International programme on short-term statistics

- Centre for International Research on Economic Tendency Surveys (CIRET) – Workshop on Short-Term Economic Indicators, September 2014

  (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2015/Beijing/lod.asp)

- ECE - Seminar on the Role of National Statistical Offices in the Production of Leading, Composite and Sentiment Indicators, December 2015
  (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40282#/ )
Activities for national accounts and economic statistics

International programme on short-term statistics

- CIRET – Joint United Nations and Statistics Denmark Workshop on Rapid Estimates and 33rd CIRET Conference (Special topic: Nowcasting), September 2016

DA project

- There are a number of indicators for SDGs for which national accounts statistics are critical, especially
  - Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
  - Goal 9 – Build decent infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
  - Indicators which use GDP as the denominator
- Project is being planned to improve compilation of economic statistics to support the compilation of indicators for SDGs
Global implementation strategy for the SEEA

- Objectives
  - Adopt the SEEA as the measurement framework for sustainable development
  - Mainstream SEEA implementation in countries as part of the modernization of the statistical system, including institutional arrangements and regular integrated production process
  - Establish technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of environmental-economic accounts

- Considerations
  - Strategic approach
  - Link implementation to policy demands
  - National ownership
  - Sub-regional and regional approach
  - Capacity building
  - Communication strategy

Activities for environmental-economic accounts

Projects

- Development account project in two Asian countries (2015-2018)
- Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (2015-2016)
  - Norwegian funded project
  - Involves Bhutan, Chile, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa and Viet Nam
Activities for environmental-economic accounts

Training

- Regional Training Workshops on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America and the Caribbean, April 2015 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/workshops/Chile_2015_eea/lod.asp)
Activities for environmental-economic accounts

Training

- Regional Training Workshop on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, November 2015

- Training for the worldwide implementation of the SEEA 2012 - Central Framework for Asia and the Pacific, February 2016

- Training for the implementation of SEEA 2012 with a focus on Water Accounts, August 2016

- Training for the worldwide implementation of the SEEA 2012 - Central Framework for the Pacific, late 2016

Thank you