

ENI SEIS II East project: Environmental accounting for indicator production on integrated approach

The 1st Regional Project Steering Committee of the ENI SEIS East II meeting held in November 2016 stressed the priority need for Environmental Accounting (SEEA) capacity building. This need for the action has been taken into account and been added to the Regional work plan of the project 2017-2020.

The first activity on the implementation of environmental accounting focused on analysing the state of play and structuring capacity building in respective activities. In 2017, this is done using the Self-Assessment Diagnostic tool of SEEA implementation in order to measure the readiness of countries (data availability, institutional and human capacity,) and identify area of work to start. [Key findings](#) indicated that the SEEA is an emerging component, which is included in national statistical programmes led by NSOs. Priority areas for the SEEA include land accounts, air emission accounts, water accounts and environmental protection expenditure accounts.

	Feb-19	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
SEEA Central framework							
Natural resource accounts							
2.1.Land cover accounts		F	F	F	F	F	F
2.1.1.Physical asset accounts for land (land cover and/or land use)			F	F	F	F	
2.1.2.Monetary asset accounts for land (land cover and/or land use)							
2.2.Forest accounts		F		P			
2.2.1.Physical asset accounts for timber resources				P		P	
2.2.2.Monetary asset accounts for timber resources							
2.3.Water stock accounts		F			F		
2.3.1.Physical Asset accounts for water resources				P		F	
2.4.Mineral and energy asset accounts							
2.4.1.Physical asset accounts for mineral and energy resources*			R				
2.4.2.Monetary asset accounts for mineral and energy resources*							
Physical and hybrid flow accounts							
2.7.Air emission accounts		P			P	R	R
2.8.Water emission accounts		R					
2.9.Water flow accounts		R			F		
2.9.1.Physical supply and use tables for water		R		P	F	F	
2.9.2.Monetary supply and use tables for water		R		P			
2.10.Energy and material flow accounts							
2.10.1.Physical supply and use tables for energy			R	P			
2.10.2.Monetary supply and use tables for energy							
2.10.3.Full set of supply and use tables for materials							
2.10.4.Economy-wide material flow accounts (MFA)					R		
2.11.Waste accounts		F					
Environmental activity accounts							
2.12.Environmental protection expenditure accounts (EPEA)		F	F	P			P
2.13.Resource use and management accounts (RUMEA)							
2.14.Environmental subsidies account		F					
2.15.Environmental taxes account		F			P		
2.16.Environmental goods and services sector accounts (EGSS)		F					
SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts							
		F	F	F	F	F	F

R-regular; P- project; F-future



In 2019, an assessment of SEEA implementation has shown progress in six eastern countries. On regular basis produced and published accounts in Armenia (water emissions, supply and use table for water in physical and monetary units), Azerbaijan (energy assets and physical supply and use tables for energy), Georgia (material flow), Moldova (air emission accounts), and Ukraine (air emission accounts).

Notably, stakeholders' interest in ecosystem-based approaches to environmental accounting is also taken into consideration, with, for example, focus on land, carbon, water and biodiversity and their contribution to the national economy.

The second activity is delivering vocational trainings that covered the main aspects of the international standard UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (or SEEA) with focus for land, water, carbon, ecosystem services and biodiversity. It is designed to provide a broad understanding of the environmental accounts for professionals responsible for implementing, developing, or using environmental accounts.

According to the regional work plan, the first cycle of training on environmental accounting started in 2017, to build capacities in facilitating the implementation of the SEEA in the region from 2018. This vocational training covered an introduction to environmental accounting and was based on the SEEA-CF and the SEEA-EEA and its development at the European Environment Agency (EEA). The focus was on land cover accounts as the first step in environmental accounting implementation following the EEA methodology and relied in particular on the EEA's 10 years' practical experience in producing and disseminating these accounts.

The training identified a lack of environmental information systems/platform/land data platform in six countries and their weakness in the use and knowledge of GIS in environmental and statistical authorities.

Therefore, the identified lack of a land data platform and GIS experts in environmental and statistical authorities is a main obstacle to the development of environmental accounts which are based on spatial approach.

In 2018, the trainings were covering land, water and biodiversity accounting developments in data availability in six Eastern countries.

In 2019, the EEA will focus on institutional capacity development and production of new generation of indicators in order to implement land accounts and set up environmental information systems. The 2019 vocational training will cover respectively land module. Theory and practice will be reinforced through hands-on exercises with national data. To address above-mentioned needs and using of outcomes from national pilots of CORINE Land Cover in six Eastern Partnership countries as following:



-Production of land cover and land cover change accounts following the SEEA and EEA methodology to monitor the land degradations using natural capital approach (SDG indicator 15.3.1).

-Analysis from land accounts of stress factors that caused urban sprawl/ land uptake (SDG Indicator 11.3.1), agriculture extension (SDG Indicator 2.4.1.), deforestation (SDG Indicator 15.1.1., SDG Indicator 15.1.2.).

This activities will support the strengthening environmental statistics and accounting, in particular through the application of the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the revised UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics standards through the development of capacities of the six Eastern Partnership countries' experts. It will support the implementation of a modern, knowledge based and relevant regular reporting on the environment.

