

Introduction to the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)- Central Framework

(e-Learning course)

6 April – 15 May 2020

Guideline

I. OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

This course introduces the SEEA Central Framework, the international statistical standards for measuring the interactions between the environment and the economy. It consists of 5 modules, each containing about 50 slides. The first module provides an introduction to the SEEA. Module 2 discusses accounting for physical flows while module 3 discusses accounting for environmental assets. The fourth module contains details on environmental activity accounts combined presentations and indicators. The last module contains an overview of subsystems, applications and extensions.

A short test is included in the last module.

II. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Target participants are staff of statistical offices and users of official statistics with an interest in how they are produced. Neither formal education in statistical theory nor experience in a statistical office is a prerequisite for the course, though prior knowledge of statistical methods will aid understanding.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- (a) understand what the SEEA is and how it can be used in measuring the interaction between the economy and environment
- (b) understand how to compile physical flow accounts, asset accounts and other accounts relevant to informing policies in the environmental space

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 course is expected to take a maximum of 5 hours to complete.

Outline

Module	Coverage
1. Introduction to the SEEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy relevance of the SEEA• Introduction to the SEEA Central Framework• Principles and connections with the SNA• SEEA implementation strategy
2. Accounting for physical flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principles of physical flow accounting• Physical flow accounts for energy• Physical flow accounts for water• Physical flow accounts for materials
3. Accounting for environmental assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure of asset accounts• Principles of asset accounting• Mineral and energy resources• Land, soil and water resources• Biological resources
4. Environmental activity accounts, combined presentations and indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental activity accounts and statistics• Accounting for other environmental transactions• Combined presentations, aggregates and indicators
5. Subsystems, applications and extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application of SEEA data• Analytical techniques• Outlook

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. SOURCE MATERIAL

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