

## Part I: Questionnaire for Country Participants

Name:

Affiliation: Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Country: Germany

### 1. What types of environmental and economic accounts have already been implemented in your country and for how long? (If none, go to question 6)

German Environmental Economic Accounts (GEEA) were implemented step by step from the beginning of 1990<sup>th</sup>. They now consist of the following (main) issues:

- economy wide material flow accounts,
- energy flow accounts (supply and use of energy by economic activities (NAMEA-Type breakdown) and type of energy carrier),
- primary material flow accounts (supply and use of raw material by economic activities and type of material,
- water flow accounts (input and output of water, water flows within the economy by economic activities and type of water),
- waste flow accounts (for the years 1991-1995 only)
- air emission accounts (output of air emissions by economic activities and type of air emissions,
- Physical input-output-tables (for the years 1990 and 1995 only),
- accounts for built-up and traffic area,
- environmental expenditure accounts,
- environmental taxes,
- special reporting module for transport (e.g. person-kilometres, ton-kilometres by economic activities).

### 2. Have you used or are you aware of any use made by others in your country of the handbook of National Accounting *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting 2003*, commonly referred to as *SEEA-2003* and/or of the handbook of National Accounting *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting – An Operational Manual (2000)*? How useful were these documents in the implementation of the accounts?

When GEEA was implemented SEEA 2003 was not yet in drafting. Therefore the handbooks mentioned above have not been used. Anyway due to the broad experience Germany had with environmental economic accounting Federal Statistical Office was involved in the revision process of SEEA. Today all main rules of GEEA are in common with SEEA-regulations.

### 3. Please, describe the major difficulties/constraints that have been encountered during the compilation of these accounts (e.g., financial support, lack of human resources, training, etc.).

Major difficulties were e.g. the lack of data for some fields. Data partly have to be estimated. Often the dependency of data from primary statistics lead to accounts results which are not sufficiently up to date.

**4. Was the implementation of the accounts driven from a policy demand or was it supply driven?**

Starting from the discussion on a “green GDP” the Federal Statistical Office Germany developed the idea to set up a system of environmental economic accounting.

**5. Have environmental-economic accounts been used for policy making in your country? If so, what were the policy issues?**

FSO Germany regularly publishes data from GEEA via the world wide web, via printed media and via a yearly press conference, which presents recent data and results of special analyses based on GEEA. As FSO is an independent institution it is not obvious where and when its data are used in policy making. Anyway data from GEEA are presented within the governments reporting on the national strategy on sustainable development and some data are regularly published in the governmental report about economic development (“Jahreswirtschaftsbericht”).

**6. Does your country have future plans for starting/continuing and/or expanding the implementation of environmental- economic accounting? Please describe.**

FSO plans to expand the implementation of GEEA especially in those fields that are not yet developed in a satisfactory way, e.g. waste accounts, water emissions, indirect effects with raw material. In addition sectoral reporting modules are planned for agriculture and private households.

**7. What seems to be the major constraints in further implementing environmental-economic accounting in your country?**

The major constraints might be the lack of human and financial resources.

**8. In your opinion, what should be the role of the Task Force on environmental-economic accounting?**

The Task Force should support the implementation of comparable environmental economic accounts across countries and should stress the importance and usefulness of eea for political decision-making according to a more sustainable development.

**9. In your opinion, which activities of the Task Force would best facilitate in your country the implementation of environmental-economic accounting and the promotion of its uses at the policy level?**

The Task Force should quite clearly stress the importance and usefulness of eea for political decision-making (see question 8.)

**Additional comments:**