

Country update Environmental accounting – The Netherlands, Statistics Netherlands

London Group meeting Copenhagen, 22-24 September 2004

New projects in 2003-2004:

Water accounts

This year, the Dutch system of water accounting (NAMWA) was further developed. In NAMWA the financial transactions registered in a country's economic accounting system (the National Accounting Matrix) are linked to related water use (extraction and discharge) and water pollution. One of the major challenges facing policy and water management nowadays is the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD). NAMWA offers opportunities to meet the data and information demand from the economic analyses in the WFD, not only on a national, but also at river basin level. This year the NAMWA was further extended with a) the addition of more pollutants, b) more detailed information on water use, c) a further breakdown of the of river basin level. Data are now available for 1996-2001. More information on the Dutch NAMWA will be presented during a presentation at the Copenhagen meeting.

Environmental taxes

A project was carried out to compose the different environmental taxes per NACE category for the years 1990-2003. A short article on environmental taxes was published on the CBS-website which received much attention in the Dutch media. In the coming years we are planning to regularly publish data on these taxes and to do some analyses with the data. Also we want to start some work on the environmental subsidies.

Energy accounts

In order to revise National Account data on fuels and energy, a project was carried out to integrate the energy statistics into the National Accounts. The integration of energy statistics with the NA offers numerous advantages. Apart from the wider range of source data that can be drawn on, the big advantage is that physical quantities of supply and use are now known which tally with the values posted in the NA. An inherently consistent system is thereby created in which energy statistics, the NA and related statistics such as the Pollutant Emission Register (PER - a set of air-pollution statistics directly linked to energy statistics) are all featured. In the past, these sets of statistics were, in part, produced independently of one another. With this integrated system, a more direct relationship can be established between major economic variables and environmental pollution, while derived input/output tables make it possible to analyse energy flows within the Dutch economy.

Future plans

Last year, we faced the danger that some important environmental statistics would have to disappear because of budget cuts. Fortunately, this was prevented and for the coming two years the continuation of the production of the environmental statistics is guaranteed. Furthermore, we managed to get extra money to expand the system of environmental accounting in order to meet the new requests from Eurostat. In a few months time two more persons will start working on environmental accounts in the Netherlands. We are planning to start some new projects on energy accounts, water accounts, material flow accounting and Input – Output analysis / decomposition analysis.