

Challenges in Organisation of Environmental Statistics

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Main issues of the paper

- The distinction between statistical information and research and monitoring information.
- The relation of energy statistics and the greenhouse gas inventory to the system of environmental statistics.
- How to make more benefit of the monitoring, research and administrative data in compilation of statistics.

The roles and characteristics of:

- National statistical services,
- Administrative and research reports, and
- Control and monitoring data saved in information systems.

National Statistical Services

- The function is to meet the general information needs of society by producing statistics that describe social conditions and their development for common use.
- “Quantitative and qualitative, aggregated and representative information characterising a collective phenomenon in a considered population.” (EU 2009)
- Repetition, continuity and comparativeness over time are typical features of statistics. Official statistics are meant to be publicly disseminated free of charge.

Research

- Research organisations compile an essential share of environmental statistics.
- The outputs of research organisations seldom have the same kind of repetition, continuity and regularity as official statistics.
- The difference between reporting systems of monitoring information and official statistics is lack of representativeness.

Register information

- Registers are crucial information sources for official statistics in Scandinavian countries.
- Use and dissemination of unit level data of the information collected by other government organisations are allowed,
- The coverage of the information is not regulated with the same kind of requirements as statistical information, and
- It is not generalised to represent the state of the total population.

Environmental monitoring and reporting

Finland's reporting obligations on the environment

	Obligations
European Commission/DG-ENV	144
HELCOM	59
OSPAR	26
UN	25
European Environmental Agency	17
Ramsar Convention	15
Bern Convention	11
CITES	11
Eurostat	9
Others (19 organisations)	42
Total	359

Environmental and natural resource statistics in Finland

- Driving forces: Statistics Finland
- Pressures:
 - solid waste, greenhouse gas emissions, Statistics Finland
 - wastewater, part of air emissions, Finnish Environment Institute
- Responses: Statistics Finland
- Environmental economic accounting: Statistics Finland
- State of Environment, Environmental impacts: Research institutes

Greenhouse gas inventory and Energy statistics

- In the Finnish national system Statistics Finland is the national authority for the greenhouse gas inventory.
- Statistics Finland also has an important role in the calculation of the emissions, because it calculates the emissions of the energy sector and industrial processes.
- Expert institutes are a crucial part of the national system.
- Energy statistics have a close link to the greenhouse gas inventory and in future also to environmental economic accounts.

Future challenges

- Climate policy: renewable energy, energy saving
- Increasing reporting of the GHG Inventory
- Final consumption of energy
- Environmental economic accounting
- Measurement of sustainable development
- Beyond GDP