Classification of environmental purposes

UN Committee of experts on international statistical classifications

Meeting 25 Oct 2023

Arturo de la Fuente - Eurostat

European Commission

Background

- European countries use two classifications for environmental-economic accounts for over 15-20 years:

  - Classification of Environmental Protection Activities (CEPA 2000)

  - Classification of Resource Management Activities (CReMA 2008)

- CEPA & CReMA are very outdated. We have many experiences from actual use of the classifications in Europe for more than a decade.

- CEPA is international statistical classification. Eurostat is the custodian agency. In 2017 Eurostat started a process to:

  - update CEPA classification from lessons learnt in regular use;

  - study a possible merging of CEPA and CReMA into a single comprehensive, integrated classification.

Towards a new classification

- Eurostat set up a task force of European countries, worked over 2017-2022

- Not only in Europe. Progress discussed in the UN London Group of experts on environmental accounting, and in the UN Committee of Experts of Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)

- A UN global consultation took place in Nov 2022-Feb 2023

- A UN interagency expert group was set up in early 2023
  - Chaired by Vincent Russo with the Bureau of Labour Statistics, USA

- Finally, the working group agreed in its 20 September 2023 meeting to recommend moving forward and sending the updated version to UNCEISC.

European Commission

Main features
draft classification environmental purposes

- Scope of the classification: CEP classifies a sub-set of the economy.

  - The boundaries are those established in SEEA CF 2012, in particular chapter IV, plus current state of the art adopted by UNCEEA

- Environmental purpose to classify environmental activities, environmental products and environmental expenditures

- Based on pre-existing classifications CEPA & CReMA

  - Maintain clear bridge to keep time series of data produced over years

- Multi-purpose classification to serve diverse environmental and climate uses

- International statistical classification criteria

European Commission

Classification structure

- Classification has three levels (divisions, groups, classes)
  - Additional levels possible for national use
- Divisions are informative and clear about the environmental domains
- Symmetry across categories detail ensured
- Correspondence with existing classifications CEPA & CReMA at 2nd level.

Classification divisions

01	**Air and climate**
02	**Energy**
03	**Wastewater and water resources**
04	**Waste, materials recovery and savings**
05	**Soil, surface and groundwater, biodiversity and forest**
06	**Noise and radiation**
07	**Research and development**
08	**Cross-cutting and other environmental purposes**

European Commission

Documents package for this meeting

- Main classification document, including:

  - Introduction

  - Classification structure

  - Statistical units

  - Explanatory notes

  - Annex mapping classification with selected policy areas (not part of the classification. For information!)

- Correspondence table with classifications CEPA and CReMA

- Classification requirements

- Cover document explaining the background and process up to here

Next steps

- Adoption: the planned next steps are:

    - Seek endorsement by the UN Committee of experts on international statistical classifications (UNCEISC)

    - Seek endorsement by the UN Committee of experts on environmental-economic accounting (UNCEEA)

    - Seek adoption as international classification by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC)

- Implementation:

    - In the European Union as soon as possible in 2 or 3 years (legal procedure need)

    - Other countries may wish to implement it soon too

- Possible future revisions: experience from implementation useful to revisit and refine some questions e.g.:

    - Application of one classification to environmental activities, products and expenditures

    - Aggregations for policy areas

    - Relations with other international statistical classifications

European Commission

Question for UNEISC

- Do you have comments on the documents?

  - Introduction, structure, statistical units, explanatory notes, correspondence

  - Results global consultation

  - Annexed mapping with selected policy areas

- Do you agree to endorse the draft classification of environmental purposes to move forward for adoption by UNSC in March 2024?

Thank you

arturo.de-la-fuente@ec.europa.eu

European Commission