

Final Draft Prague memorandum

(As adopted by the ESSC on 26th September 2012)

Meeting new needs on statistics for the green economy

The DGINS

CONSIDERING

1. The EU treaty (art 3): The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. It shall promote scientific and technological advance.
2. The priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy with regard to promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive European economy.
3. The priorities of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, especially with regard to sustainable consumption and production, conservation and management of natural resources and climate change and energy.
4. The Communication to the Commission – Rio+20 – ensuring sustainable development for generations to come (SEC (2012)325 TO 3) which refers to green economy as the reference value for future economic development.
5. The Conclusions of the United Nations Rio+20 conference on sustainable development and the proposal on development of internationally recognized indicators for measuring green economy.

The DGINS

1. Acknowledge the importance of statistics for measuring the green dimensions of the development of the European economy and society, and for showing the link of a green economy with the well-being of the current and future generations.
2. Underline that the requests for statistics on green economy in support of the European political decision making process will keep growing.
3. Agree that the ESS work on statistics for green economy should build on existing ESS initiatives such as the EU Sustainable Development Indicators, the activities which follow the work of the Sponsorship on Measuring progress, well-being and sustainable development, the progress made in the area of environmental accounts, environmental statistics, the work on resource efficiency

indicators and geographical and statistical information integration as well as other important international frameworks. This follow-up work should, in the short to medium term, focus on enhancing the operational quality of these statistics, their timeliness and the efficient communication of them to support the development of economic growth policies. The follow-up work should take into account and reflect that these statistics are closely related to international and global economic flows.

4. Recommend the implementation of the SEEA as an integrating measurement framework and stresses the importance of the continued development of the environmental accounts regulation, but within a time-scale that allows for the methodological challenges to be overcome and for high quality statistics to be produced in this area.

5. Underline the cross-cutting nature of the domain of environmental statistics and accounts and sustainable development indicators which goes well beyond the concept of economic statistics and includes indicators in the areas of environmental protection and resource productivity, natural resources, environmental quality of life, technology and innovation, education, social equity, social cohesion and others.

6. Stress that the development of the indicators for measuring the green aspects of socio-economic development faces methodological challenges, especially with regard to the classifications and the definition of green products, services, activities, industries, jobs, patents, taxes or subsidies.

7. Agree that especially in the area of classifications coordinated ESS effort is needed in order to further progress in the development of these statistics, which would meet required quality standards and provide relevant and reliable information.

8. Acknowledge that the ESS effort should be based on available coordination instruments and organizational structures and that substantial progress in the area would require investments and appropriate funding from European and national levels. Due to the current financial restrictions of the NSIs, in the first step existing data should be used and in order to avoid duplication of work, there should be a close co-operation with other international organisations (e.g. OECD).

9. Note the importance of the ESS continuing to be a major contributor to the development of international standards in these statistics and harmonising European statistics with these standards, so as to ensure their broad use and international comparability.