



## NSI consultation group and Platform established

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## CREEA

Compiling and Refining Environmental and Economic Accounts

Funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Program – Theme ENV.2010.4.2.2-1

Collaborative project

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### About CREEA

The main goal of CREEA is to refine and elaborate economic and environmental accounting principles as discussed in the London Group and consolidated in the future SEEA 2012, to test them in practical data gathering, to troubleshoot and refine approaches, and show added value of having such harmonized data available via case studies. This will be done in priority areas mentioned in the call, i.e. waste and resources, water, forest and climate change / Kyoto accounting. In this, the project will include work and experiences from major previous projects focused on developing harmonized data sets for integrated economic and environmental accounting (most notably EXIOPOL, FORWAST and a series of EUROSTAT projects in Environmental Accounting). Most data gathered in CREEA will be consolidated in the form of Environmentally Extended Supply and Use tables (EE SUT) and update and expand the EXIOPOL database. In this way, CREEA will produce a global Multi-Regional EE SUT with a unique detail of 130 sectors and products, 30 emissions, 80 resources, and 43 countries plus a rest of world. A unique contribution of CREEA is that also SUT in physical terms will be created. Partners are:

1. Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO), Netherlands (co-ordinator)
2. JRC -Joint Research Centre- European Commission (DG JRC IPTS), Belgium /Spain
3. Universiteit Leiden (Unileiden), Netherlands
4. Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS), Netherlands
5. Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet (NTNU), Norway
6. Statistiska Centralbyran (SCB), Sweden
7. Universiteit Twente (TU Twente), Netherlands
8. Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH) Switzerland
9. 2.-0 LCA Consultants Aps (2.-0 LCA), Denmark
10. Wuppertal Institut Fur Klima, Umwelt, Energie Gmbh. (WI), Germany
11. SERI - Nachhaltigkeitsforschungs Und -Kommunikations Gmbh (SERI) Austria
12. European Forest Institute (EFI), Finland / Spain

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- Executive Summary ..... 4**
- 1 Introduction ..... 5**
- 2 Forming the NSI Consultation group ..... 6**
  - 2.1 Introduction ..... 6
  - 2.2 Members of the NSI Consultation group ..... 7
  - 2.3 Communication within the NSI Consultation group ..... 7
- 3 Environmental accounts / MR EE IO dissemination and consultation activities..... 8**
  - 3.1 Introduction ..... 8
  - 3.2 Organisation of dissemination and consultation structure ..... 8
  - 3.3 Practical implementation of the dissemination and consultation structure ..... 9
  - 3.4 Tangible output.....11

## Executive Summary

The CREEA project as a whole will elaborate on economic and environmental accounting principles, building on current discussions by experts in the field. A reference group, the NSI Consultation group, will be linked to the CREEA project to ensure the exchange of expertise in the SEEA (System of Economic and Environmental Accounts) field. An obvious group of institutes to be engaged are European and international National Statistical Institutions (NSI). They already have collaborative network called the London Group. The NSI Consultation group consists of 13 persons representing the statistical offices in Germany, Norway, Austria, France, Italy, Estonia, UK, Denmark and Finland as well as the OECD, Eurostat and EEA (European Environmental Agency). Communication within the group will mainly be managed by e-mail. Some workshops or seminars are also planned to take place during the project.

Next to this, CREEA partners will be present in various formal international statistical and scientific platforms that relate to the subject of CREEA. It concerns the United Nations Committed of Economic and Environmental Accounts (UNCEEAA), the related London Group, various Eurostat Working Groups and Task forces, and various highly relevant scientific conferences.

**Important notice:** This deliverable D9.1 was due very early in the project, in Month 4. It hence was meant to provide the plan for how the dissemination and external integration with external stakeholders and groups that potentially will explore the knowledge developed in CREEA would be organised. **Most of the real and time consuming work related to this deliverable hence will take place after the publication of this deliverable.** It concerns a variety of dissemination workshops, presentations when participating in meetings of the statistical community, etc. We reserved some 4.5 person-months for such activities, which is a very modest part of the overall project and a modest time investment compared to dissemination packages we have seen in other projects. Yet, the electronic A forms that had to be filled in for the project require that all time spent in a WP are fully allocated to a deliverable. **The 4.5 person months obviously have not been spent on writing this document, but mainly will be used to do the actual dissemination described in this document.**

# 1 Introduction

The DoW of CREEA describes in WP9 two main activities related to this Deliverable 9.1:

- The set up of an NSI consultation group (Task 9.1)
- The set up of a broader platform for dissemination and consultation on the Environmental Accounts and MR EE IO developed in CREEA.

The aim of this deliverable, due in Month 4, is to describe how these activities will be organized and planned. Most of the real and time consuming work related to this deliverable hence will take place after the publication of this deliverable. It concerns a variety of dissemination workshops, presentations when participating in meetings of the statistical community, etc. We reserved some 4.5 person-months for such activities, which is a very modest part of the overall project and a modest time investment compared to dissemination packages we have seen in other projects. Yet, the electronic A forms that had to be filled in for the project require that all time spent in a WP are fully allocated to a deliverable. The 4.5 person months obviously have not been spent on writing this document, but mainly will be used to do the actual dissemination described in this document.

In the next two chapters we describe how this work is planned to be executed.

## 2 Forming the NSI Consultation group

### 2.1 Introduction

An obvious group of institutes to be engaged are European and international NSIs. They already have collaborative network called the London Group. From these circles, we plan to form a formal NSI Consultation Group, that also will serve as the Scientific Advisory Board of the project. An invitation to join a reference group for the project CREEA 2011-2013 was sent out in May 2011 to twelve organisations with ample experience in environmental accounting.

The following questions were asked in the invitation, as an input to the first inception phase of the project:

1. Are there any parts of the project that you see as especially interesting for you to follow closely?

Water accounts

Material Flows Accounts

Climate and land use including economic instruments

Forestry accounts

Environmentally extended input-output analyses

2. Do you have experience on how to treat land use changes as part of the environmental accounts system?
3. Do you have any additional comments on the way that the work is planned?

The answers showed a particular interest in the environmentally extended input-output analyses, but also MFA, water, waste, energy and emissions were mentioned as specifically interesting.

Germany noted that they have some experience in land accounting that may serve as an input to question 2. Some years ago they calculated a distribution of building /housing and transport area to industries and private households. Due to changes in classifications, there are major gaps in the reporting by now. The experience would still be valuable for the Creaa project to learn from.

No additional comments on how the work should be pursued were collected. Instead it was noted that the work load of reviewing the coming SEEA manual is rather heavy for the moment and that once this period is over there will be more time on reflection for future needs.

## 2.2 Members of the NSI Consultation group

The following persons have accepted to be part of the NSI Consultation group, at the moment of publication of this document. They represent the statistical offices in Germany, Norway, Austria, France, Italy, Estonia, UK, Denmark and Finland as well as the OECD, Eurostat and EEA (European Environmental Agency):

1. Michael Kuhn, Statistical Office (Destatis), Germany
2. Julie Hass, Statistics Norway
3. Sacha Baud, Statistics Austria
4. Jean-Louis Pasquier, France
5. Aldo Femia, Statistical Office, Italy
6. Kaia Oras, Statistical Office, Estonia
7. Norihiko Yamano, OECD
8. Sanjiv Majahan, ONS, UK
9. Rocky Harris, Defra, UK
10. Brian Newson, Eurostat
11. Jean-Louis Weber, European Environmental Agency
12. Ole Gravgård, Statistics Denmark
13. Jukka Mukkonen, Statistics Finland

According to the needs of the project, we may invite other stakeholders that (e.g. FAO, IEA, UNFCCC) are relevant players in the field of the generation and use of data that play a key role in CREEA.

## 2.3 Communication within the NSI Consultation group

The group is expected to work mainly via email. They will receive the reports that come out of the project and will also be consulted on a regular basis in the project.

Further, we will arrange about 2 of back to back project seminars or workshops with planned meetings of these organisations (e.g. UNCEEA or London Group meetings, see below). Through such events, discussion can take place with NSIs on state of the art, questions arisen as work has carried on and receive input to further improvements and fresh ideas. By this, the NSI Consultation group will give input and advice on how the different work packages in the project should develop. We further plan to organise around 2 dedicated face to face meeting with this groups. The most logical moments for this are about 1-2 months before the EU's Mid-term review, and before the end of the project. In this way, the NSI Consultation group can provide input to the EU's mid-term and final evaluation of the project.

## 3 Environmental accounts / MR EE IO dissemination and consultation activities

### 3.1 Introduction

Next to having a formal NSI consultation group that acts as Advisory board of the project, the DoW stipulates it is also relevant to have structural dissemination and consultation activities with a wider group of stakeholders on the subjects of environmental accounts and the Multi-regional Environmentally Extended Input Output (MR EE IO) database developed in the project. After all, the project has as important goal to test and build experiences with specific environmental accounting topics described in the (draft) SEEA 2013, and the integration into an MR EE IO database gives all kind of insights in the potential of how data mining and data classifications can be better harmonized between actors active in this field. In this chapter we describe how these dissemination and consultation activities will be set up.

### 3.2 Organisation of dissemination and consultation structure

When writing the DoW, as an ideal picture we aimed at setting up a rather formal international platform for this. It is rather clear that to achieve a high level of formalisation, institutional backing from outside the consortium is important. A group of scientific institutes after all never can play a formal institutional role in the environmental and economic accounts arena.

We noted rather quickly after the start of the project that despite our good relations with e.g. Eurostat, other members of the Group of Four, and UNEP and OECD, that having one of these organisations acting as a 'figurehead' for these activities (that would be run via the CREEA resources) would become difficult. International organisations only can host a platform if various individual countries ask for it, which usually happens only after a rather long process of discussion between countries. The EU Group of Four of EEA, DG Environment, Eurostat and the DG JRC that was set up to co-ordinate environmental data gathering in the EU is not functioning anymore as the originally intended co-ordination platform. The result is that various activities are re-shuffled between these EU parties, and that also at that level no clear entry point exists anymore.

Rather than aiming that a process that would provide a dissemination and consultation structure that may only be operational far in the project, we hence opted for a more pragmatic approach. There are already various formal platforms that discuss the environmental and economic accounts and its integration into MR EE IO in the international arena. We hence wanted to make sure all relevant activities in CREEA could be communicated well with such platforms, and that such platforms could give feedback to CREEA. The relevant platforms we selected to be engaged in are:

- International:
  - United Nations Commission on Environmental and Economic Accounts (UNCEEA)
  - London Group on Environmental and Economic accounting

The relevance of these platforms for CREEA is very high. The London Group is the operational platform where the international statistical community active in the field of environmental and economic accounts meets. UNCEEA is the formal body in the UN that takes final responsibility for the text of SEEA 2013. The experience with the viability of specific accounting approaches that we gained in CREEA is hence highly relevant for these groups. They meet on average once a year.
- European: Eurostat has formal, high level Working Groups where head of units in National Statistical Institutes meet and discuss on harmonization and progress of accounting principles relevant for the field they cover. For the work in CREEA, the following working groups are relevant (meet on average once a year)
  - Eurostat WG on Environmental accounts
  - Eurostat WG on Economic accounts
  - Eurostat WG on Forestry
- European: on a more operational level, often related to specific Eurostat activities and –projects, Eurostat organizes so-called Task Forces. At this moment there are to our knowledge two Task forces operational relevant for CREEA:
  - Eurostat Task Force on Water accounts
  - Eurostat Task Force on Energy accounts

Next to these platforms where CREEA aims to be structurally present during the existence of the project, other dissemination activities will include:

- Participation in regular scientific meetings in the field of environmental and economic accounting covered by CREEA (water, materials/waste, forestry, carbon, EE IO). Important platforms include the (bi-)annual conferences of
  - the International Society of Industrial Ecology (ISIE; the global top scientific platform for materials/waste and EE IO, organised in specific Working groups),
  - the International on Input Output Association (IIOA; the most relevant global scientific platform on (multi-regional) input output analysis)
  - the Global Water Footprint Network
  - the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), which has a strong Life cycle impact assessment community with dedicated groups working on water impact assessment topics.
- Participation in ad-hoc conferences and meetings relevant for the CREEA consortium. This may include meetings of e.g. UNEP on indicators for the Green Economy Initiative, and OECD on the Green Growth initiative.

### 3.3 Practical implementation of the dissemination and consultation structure

We list in Table 3.1 how we have organized participation in the platforms listed in section 3.2. Participation in UNCEEA and the London Group was highly facilitated that two members of these platforms, SCB and CBS, are statistical offices that already participate in their meetings. SCB and CBS have arranged that other relevant team members can

present during UNCEEA and London Group meetings, and that relevant output of CREEA is on the agenda during the annual meetings of these groups. The same applies for the formal Eurostat Working Groups, where SCB and CBS have ensured and/or will facilitate participation of relevant CREEA partners in the relevant WGs. Finally, partners in the project active in the field of water accounts (SERI) and energy accounts (WI) managed to be engaged in the relevant operational Eurostat Task forces.

With regard to scientific conferences, the participation will depend if a conference is in Europe or outside Europe (in the latter case, travel can only be booked on the project after approval of the EU officer). If in Europe, particularly during ISIE and IIOA conferences it will be very well possible to organize dedicated sessions on the CREEA project, with some 4-6 presentations from project team members.

Overall we feel that with the above structure, we have created a solid dissemination and consultation structure that will connect progress of CREEA well with users from the statistical and policy community, and other providers and methodology developers from the scientific community.

Table 3.1: Engagement of CREE in relevant stakeholder platforms

<b>Platform</b>	<b>How engaged</b>	<b>Meeting frequency</b>
UNCEEA (international)	SCB, CBS already partners, TNO and if needed others invited	1 x per year, 2 days
London Group (international)	SCB, CBS already partners, TNO and if needed others invited	1 x per year, 3 days
Eurostat WG on Environmental accounts	SCB, CBS already partners, TNO and if needed others invited	1 x per year, 1-2 days
Eurostat WG on Economic accounts	SCB, CBS already partners, TNO and if needed others invited	1 x per year, 1-2 days
Eurostat WG on Forestry accounts	EFI regularly invited	1 x per year, 1-2 days
Eurostat TF on Water accounts	SERI member	1-2 x per year, 1 day
Eurostat TF on Energy accounts	WI member	1-2 x per year, 1 day
Eurostat TF, other	It is unclear if there are still Forest and MFA WGs active, TNO and SCB will inventory	
Various scientific conferences related to central subjects in CREEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISIE</li> <li>• IIOA</li> <li>• WFN</li> <li>• SETAC</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	All partners actively involved in such conference series of their interest, often in agenda-setting positions (e.g. TNO chair of the EE IO WG of ISIE, TUT leader of the WFN, ETH leader of the Water LCIA WG of SETAC)	Once a year or every two years, 2-3 days per conference

### 3.4 Planned tangible output

The tangible output of the activities in 3.3 usually are presentations, or in the case of conferences abstracts and/or working papers. It seems realistic that at least 4-6 presentations a year will be held during the project. From experience it appears it is difficult to upload these in the EU system that tracks deliverables of FP7 projects – since the deliverables were not mentioned at this high level of detail in the DoW, there is no provision made for them in the EU system, and experience shows that the system cannot handle non-foreseen deliverables (adding a simple Annex to a report resulted all of a sudden in many repetitions in the system of the same deliverable). It also seems not useful to have every single of the probably dozens of presentations that will be held uploaded. However, we can provide the EU or a review committee with examples of presentations if needed.