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**SINGLE EUROPEAN STANDARD STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES \*/**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The need to consider environmental issues in the economic context creates special data requirements. One of such requirements concerns environmental protection expenditures. Statistics on such expenditures are currently being incorporated in environmental accounts, be it in the form of satellite accounting in the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993) or in other forms.

Apart from the difficulties faced in the data collection and data compilation at the international level, common to all is a need for a systematic conceptual delineation of environmental protection activities; however, none of the existing international classifications of economic activities provides a satisfactory solution in this respect. For this reason, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) prepared a draft classification "Single European Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Facilities", which was submitted at the forty-second Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Paris, 13-17 June 1994; document CES/822). This classification aims at the standardization, with statistical purpose, of the categories of activities (Part I) and the facilities (Part II) for environmental protection.

The classification results from the merge of the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Facilities and Expenditures (1992) and the corresponding parts of the European System for the Collection of Economic Data on the Environment (SERIEE), developed by EUROSTAT (1993). The classification is compatible with other existing international conceptual guidelines on environmental statistics, as the SNA 1993.

In this document is showed only the Part I of the "Single European Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Activities". It pretends to serve as guide to possible co-operation agreements to be adopted in the "Joint Meeting OAS/ECLAC on Statistical Matters", to be held in Santiago, Chile, from 11 - 14 October 1994, in connection with the selection of a minimum set of environmental statistics and indicators to be compiled or produced in the short term, at the international level. In the long term, however, the focus might shift to a detailed specification of the facilities and availability of technical equipment for that purpose, issue considered in Part II of the classification.

### **Characteristics environmental protection activities**

Characteristic activities as included in Part I of the classification relate to the prevention of environmental degradation and the restoration of environmental quality. They are primarily categorized according to type of activity within each domain (media) of environmental protection. At more disaggregated levels of the classification, activities are sometimes specified in terms of technical operations, anticipating constraints of practical data possibilities. Only

those activities are included that are directly concerned with environmental protection; in other words, the classification does not aim at covering all activities with positive environmental effects.

Definitions of activities are derived, if available, from the respective ECE Standard Statistical Classifications, which were developed by the Conference of European Statisticians within its work programme on environment statistics. For the concepts not included in the ECE Classifications, definitions provided by the SERIEE system are mainly used. The System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993 was another source for the development of conceptual specifications.

Environmental protection activities comprise prevention as well as other measures. Prevention through in-process modifications is linked to (i) the use of adapted (clean) technologies or (ii) the use of adapted (clean) products in the production process. A problem arises regarding outlays for (i): no unambiguous formula exists for determining that part of in-process modifications which is meant for environmental protection.

### SINGLE EUROPEAN STANDARD STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

1. Protection of ambient air and climate
  - 1.1 Prevention of pollution through in-process modifications
    - 1.1.1 for the protection of ambient air
    - 1.1.2 for the protection of climate and ozone layer
  - 1.2 Treatment of exhaust gases and ventilation air
    - 1.2.1 for the protection of ambient air
    - 1.2.2 for the protection of climate and ozone layer
  - 1.3 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 1.4 Other activities
2. Waste-water management
  - 2.1 Prevention of pollution through in-process modifications
  - 2.2 Sewerage networks
  - 2.3 Waste-water treatment
  - 2.4 Treatment of cooling water
  - 2.5 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 2.6 Other activities
3. Waste management
  - 3.1 Prevention of pollution through in-process modifications
  - 3.2 Collection and transport
  - 3.3 Treatment and disposal of hazardous waste
    - 3.3.1 Thermal treatment

- 3.3.2 Landfill
    - 3.3.3 Other treatment and disposal
  - 3.4 Treatment and disposal of non-hazardous waste
    - 3.4.1 Incineration
    - 3.4.2 Landfill
    - 3.4.3 Other treatment and disposal
  - 3.5 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 3.6 Other activities
- 4. Protection of soil and groundwater
  - 4.1 Prevention of pollutant infiltrations
  - 4.2 Decontamination of soils
  - 4.3 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 4.4 Other activities
- 5. Noise vibration abatement (excluding workplace protection)
  - 5.1 Noise and vibration from road and rail traffic
    - 5.1.1 Preventive in-process modifications at the source
    - 5.1.2 Construction of anti-noise/vibration facilities
  - 5.2 Air traffic noise
    - 5.2.1 Preventive in-process modifications at the source
    - 5.2.2 Construction of anti-noise/vibration facilities
  - 5.3 Industrial process noise and vibrations
  - 5.4 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 5.5 Other activities
- 6. Protection of biodiversity and landscape
  - 6.1 Protection of species
  - 6.2 Protection of landscapes and habitats of which:
    - 6.2.1 Protection of forest
  - 6.3 Rehabilitation of species populations and landscapes
  - 6.4 Restoration and cleaning of water bodies
  - 6.5 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 6.6 Other activities
- 7. Protection against radiation (excl. nuclear power stations and military installations)
  - 7.1 Protection of ambient media
  - 7.2 Measurement, control, laboratories, and the like
  - 7.3 Other activities
- 8. Research and development
  - 8.1 Protection of ambient air and climate
    - 8.1.1 Protection of ambient air
    - 8.1.2 Protection of atmosphere and climate

- 8.2 Protection of ambient water
  - 8.3 Waste
  - 8.4 Protection of soil and groundwater
  - 8.5 Abatement of noise and vibration
  - 8.6 Protection of species and habitats
  - 8.7 Protection against radiation
  - 8.8 Other research on the environment
9. Other environmental protection activities
- 9.1 General administration of the environment
  - 9.2 Education, training and information
  - 9.3 Activities leading to indivisible expenditures
  - 9.4 Activities not elsewhere specified

In international data collection, it is recommended to request expenditure data on characteristic environmental protection activities as follows:

<u>Investments:</u>	All positions
<u>Current expenditure:</u>	1-digit level
<u>Total expenditure:</u>	1-digit level, by
	- General government
	- Industries (excl. general government)
	- Households