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**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

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Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

**ITALY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**  
Submitted by ISTAT

This meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD
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## ITALY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

### At national level

Publications related to environmental statistics in Italy are produced by Istat “Statistiche ambientali”, and by APAT (National Agency on Territory and Environment) “Annuario dei dati ambientali”. The Environmental Ministry publishes “Relazione sulla stato dell’ambiente” which is a policy report.

Istat, with its two units of research, “Environmental Statistics” and “Environmental Accounting”, carries on surveys, elaborations and analysis, whose statistical results are useful for the analysis of sustainable development (SD).

In Environmental statistical service, statistics on water, waste, urban indicators and interrelation between production sectors and environment are produced. Environmental Indicators had been elaborated, based on these data, within the Driving Forces-Pressure\_State\_Impact\_Response (DPSIR) model. Among these some Indicators on SD had been also carried out.

At the Meeting OECD “Accounting Frameworks to Measure SD”, held in 2003 in Paris, Istat has presented an analysis on theoretical literature and possible tools about SD. In particular, the ground of analysis has been the main elements categorising the definition of SD and which tools are suitable according to the tasks. With a specific reference to environment, some remarks were done about indicators according to weak and strong sustainability and the necessary related micro, macro level or spatial analysis. An attempt of widening of hints about definitions of “links” was done (as descriptive aspects of the phenomena connecting different domains, as causal relations between variables in relation to a phenomenon, orders of priority among various indicators of SD which are shared in its normative meaning). Defining links is better understood by looking at the most important factors that categorise SD in different theoretical approaches, and some issues were identified where more in depth analysis is necessary (i.e. human capital inside well-being, development of capabilities, development and human rights, social capital aspects).

Other activities run in Istat give elements in order to define and assess possible SD indicators and related data sources.

About water uses, Istat run a Census on water networks, year of reference 1999, and now it is up-dating at regional level the more relevant water statistics through a sample survey, reference year 2005. Through an integration of PRODCOM, the data collection on industrial water uses is planned for the end of 2006. (Water statistics disseminated by Istat are available on URL [acqua.istat.it](http://acqua.istat.it)).

A project on assessment of some components of the hydrological balance and on water use in Agriculture was co-financed by Eurostat and finalized (“*Water Resource Assessment and water use in Agriculture in Italy: Methods and Data Sources*”)

About the issue of waste, elaborations are run in order to define the coverage of an official register collecting declaration of waste producers and to estimate household waste from the municipal waste (“*Methods for the Analysis and Estimation of Household Waste*”).

A pilot project was concluded on waste originated by NACE activities A and B (“*Statistics on Waste Generation and Management in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Sectors According to Regulation 2150/2002/Ec: Methodological Approaches and Data Collection*”).

At municipal level, Istat run a yearly collection of data (“Osservatorio sulle città”) for the period 1996-1999 on 22 region capitals (10 million people over 57 million people in Italy) and since 2000 on all 103 province municipalities (17 million people). The survey considers environmental, economic and social aspects. Since 1996, an indicator set has been developed to measure environmental problems in urban areas. With reference to the years 2000-2004, 70 indicators are disseminated, covering 8 main themes: Air (5 indicators), Energy (6), Green Areas (9), Noise (11),

Transport (22), Waste (12), Water (4), Population and territory (1). Indicators are mainly indicators of driving forces, pressures and responses. Sustainability at urban level needs conceptual advancements, definitions and targets. (Results are available on URL [www.istat.it/ambiente/](http://www.istat.it/ambiente/) ).

With reference to integration of sectoral statistics and environment statistics, activities are devoted to conceptual model, integration of existing surveys with environmental section, integration of diverse data sources, and analysis. On the issue agriculture and environment, methodologies and data sources are discussed. Other surveys integration are also producing statistics on land deterioration, agricultural practices, irrigation, livestockbreeding and type of stalling, presence of natural linear land structure inside agricultural farm. These indicators, monitoring at regional level rural development policies and agricultural practices, are basic information towards analysis of environmental risks and useful for the construction of SD indicators.

Activities in order to implement environmental accounts are related to “*Implementation of EPEA account – Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts*”, on the expenditure by public administration from 1995 to 2002 and by private enterprises for 2001; more then 70% of this expenditures are due to water and waste problems.

For main indicators derived by material flow accounts, 1980-2001 time series are available; now updating for 2002-2004. Analytics material flow accounts have been carried out for 1997.

Istat is carrying on other works on “Subsoil resources accounts in physical units”; on “Input-output table in physical units” and “Forests account in physical units”.

Istat also provided some time series, 1990-2004, on “Environmental Taxes an Subsidies”, according to the criteria proposed in SERIEE (*Système Européen de Rassemblement de l’Information Economique sur l’Environnement*) and in other international guide on environmental taxes

National Accounts Matrix including Environmental Accounts, with air emissions and resources input (NAMEA) are estimated by Istat, from 1990 to 2002, for main economic aggregates (production, value added, intermediate consumption, final family consumption, and employment) by ten polluters and for 4 kind of natural resources (endogenous steam, minerals , fossil fuels, biomasses).

Within the National Statistical Program, coordinated by ISTAT, other institutions collect environmental data but no one is making SD reporting.

Environmental Ministry has elaborated a national strategy on SD (“National Strategy for Sustainable Development”), which has been adopted by the Inter-ministerial Committee on Economic Planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2002. It was on line with the European action and with the Agenda 21. Some projects, at municipality level and at national level, have been financed by Environmental Ministry.

## **At International level**

At international level ISTAT was involved in the Friends of the Chair Group, created by UN Statistical Commission in 2001 and in the ESS Task Force on Methodological Issues for Sustainable Development Indicators, approved by the SPC and set up in 2001.

## **Objectives in this Working Group**

Istat participation to this WG is the natural follow up of the activities run on this issue at international and national level, with the aim to produce more insight on theoretical, methodological and measurements problems