

Working Paper No. 15
28 March 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable
Development

First meeting

Luxembourg, 3-4 April 2006

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

**EXPERIENCE IN THE MEASUREMENT OF SD AND GOALS FOR THE JOINT
WG ON STATISTICS FOR SD**

Submitted by the National Statistics Institute (Spain)

This meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD
--

NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE (SPAIN)

Experience in the measurement of SD and goals for the Joint WG on Statistics for SD

EXPERIENCES:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

At present, INE studies Sustainable Development through an indicators based approach in the context of the Eurostat SDI project. The current production of SD Indicators is still in an pilot phase. It covers ten topics, structured in sub-themes and "areas" in a pyramidal shape which covers the economic, social, environmental and institutional aspects of SD.:

Economic Development; Poverty and Social Exclusion; Ageing Society; Public Health; Climatic Change and Energy; Production and Consumption Models; Administration of Natural Resources; Transport; Good Governance; Globalisation.

INE participation in Eurostat work on SD indicators has taken place in coincidence with the development of the INE project of environmental statistics, as well as with the improvement of administrative sources which has facilitated an acceptable coverage of the SD EU system of indicators. An additional effort is being dedicated to the production of SD indicators at the NUT II level (regional level). INE foresees the elaboration of its first publication on Sustainable Development Indicators for Spain this year.

INE collaborates with the activities of the Observatory of Sustainability in Spain, which is an outcome of an agreement between the Ministry of Environment and the academic world. It has already produced its first report on sustainability (*"Sostenibilidad en España 2005. Informe de primavera"*). Both the Observatory of Sustainability and the Ministry of Environment are main actors in the task of designing the Sustainable Development Strategy for Spain which is now in progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

At present, information obtained from Environmental accounting in Spain is key for the production of SDI, thus from this point of view it can be considered within the context of the measurement of Sustainable Development.

A set of Spanish Environmental Accounts has been carried out by INE since 1995. The surveys on water, waste and environmental protection expenditure are the main statistical basis on which the environmental accounts have been constructed.

INE has already published the following accounts: Water accounts 1997-2001; Atmospheric emissions accounts 1995-2000; Environmental protection expenditure accounts 1995-2001; Material flow accounts 1996-2000; Forest timber accounts 1995-2000. At present, INE works on the waste and energy accounts.

These environmental accounts have been developed following the same structure and characteristics, which will allow its grouping for the complete study of the integrated economic and environmental system as well as the procurement of Sustainable Development Indicators.

GOALS:

The following goals are within the general one of improving the measurement of the SD in Spain.

- Searching for coordination and harmonization at international level.
- Acquisition of best practices.
- Identification of new paths for further improvements of existing methodology.