

EU FP7 Project

e-Frame “European Framework for Measuring Progress”

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e-Frame Environmental Indicators’ Workshop

December 5th - 6th, 2013

FEEM, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy

Last update: November 25th, 2013

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

A basic requirement to preserve the environment is the ability to first measure and then communicate state and evolution of environmental phenomena. For decades, international organizations and institutions such as the United Nations, the OECD, the World Bank, the European Union, the European Environmental Agency, as well as single countries and research institutions developed a widespread set of indicators to measure environmental performances and the status of natural ecosystems and resources. The frameworks used to select, measure and rank indicators are many, e.g. the Pressure-State-Response approach, the issue - or theme - based approach, the ecosystem, well-being and capital-accounting approach.

Indicators are indeed powerful tools to synthesize a multidimensional phenomenon and to easily convey information. At the same time however, their use and reliability is often limited by problems of data quality and consistency, lack of agreement on common definitions and methodological approaches, of transparency and intrinsic subjectivity in construction.

This Workshop aims to give an overview of the current state of the art of Environmental Indicators, presenting drawbacks of the old approaches, strengths of new methodologies and technical challenges ahead.

It is organized into three thematic sessions plus a poster session. The first focuses on more technical issues discussing methodologies, techniques, challenges in measuring environmental indicators. After a long process, in 2012 the UN adopted the SEEA (System of integrated Economic Environmental Accounts - SEEA is a group of satellite accounting modules linked to the System of National Accounts - SNA) as international statistical standard, recognizing its contribution to unveil trade-offs among the sustainability dimensions and suggesting the design of indicator set in this environment. The use of a broader notion of capital, the “natural capital”, accounting for resource stock, land and ecosystems, is considered a prerequisite for economic and environmental accounting, but still represents an empirical and conceptual challenge for researchers, especially regarding the monetary evaluation of natural assets.

The second session of the Workshop will thus be devoted to analyse some examples of environmental indicators developed in this frameworks and resulting from different approaches to natural resources and ecosystem evaluation.

A third session will be dedicated to explore environmental indicators in the wider dimension of policy evaluation and policy making. The contribution of environmental indicators to inform the policy-decision process assessing countries’ progresses in reaching given targets is an aspect often disregarded. However, there are important examples of indicators specifically tailored to measure policy-set environmental performances and on-going initiatives assessing the effectiveness and the nature of policy tools.

A poster session will enrich the conference program offering a selected overview of recent developments in the measurement and application of environmental indicators.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, December 5th, 2013

08:30 – 09:00 *Welcome breakfast*

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:40 **Welcome address**

Marina Signore, ISTAT, Italy

09:40 – 10:00 **Marina Signore** and **Donatella Fazio**, ISTAT, Italy

“e-Frame project and its contribution on the Beyond GDP debate”

10:00 – 12:30	Thematic Session I - New trends and methodologies to measure environmental performances
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10:00 – 11:00 **Sven Erik Jørgensen**, Copenhagen University, Denmark

“Biophysics-based measures of environmental performance and super-holistic indicators”

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee-break*

11:30 – 12:30 **Felix Müller**, Kiel University, Germany

“Recent development in ecological indicators to represent environmental performance”

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 18:30	Thematic Session II - Challenges, procedures, experiences in including environmental indicators in national accounting
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14:00 – 15:00 **Rutger Hoekstra**, Statistics Netherlands (CBS), The Netherlands

“Sensitivity of carbon footprint calculations: bridging the gap between academia and statistics”

15:00 – 16:00 **Martin O'Connor**, International Centre for Research in Ecological Economics, Eco-Innovation and Tool Development for Sustainability (REEDS), France

“Descriptive and normative uses of ecosystem services indicators developed within the framework of integrated economic-environment accounting”

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee-break*

16:30 – 18:30	Poster session – Theory and practice of Environmental Indicators: selection, construction, measurement and use issues
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Chair: Francesco Bosello, FEEM, Italy

Simone Borghesi, **Dario Caro**, **Simone Bastianoni**, **Federico M. Pulselli**, University of Siena, Italy, *“Toward a different emission allocation method in national GHG”*

Francesco Bosello, **Lorenza Campagnolo**, **Carlo Carraro**, **Marinella Davide**, **Fabio Eboli**, **Elisa Lanzi**, **Ramiro Parrado**, FEEM, Italy, *“Can Climate Policy Enhance Sustainability?”*

Leonardo Casini, **Fabio Boncinelli**, **Gabriele Scozzafava**, University of Florence, Italy, *“The determinants of well-being in rural areas: Tuscany case study”*

Luigi Costanzo, **Alessandra Ferrara**, **Angela Ferruzza**, ISTAT, Italy, *“Landscape indicators: an overview of the first set proposed under the BES project”*

Donatella Fazio, ISTAT, Italy, *“The European Network on Measuring Progress: an opportunity to foster the debate on environmental indicators for a sustainable societal progress”*

Angela Ferruzza, **Stefano Tersigni**, **Paola Ungaro**, ISTAT, Italy, *“Environmental Indicators to measure Sustainable Human Wellbeing in Italy”*

Jean Louis Pasquier (presented by **Claire Plateau**), INSEE, France, *“The Hidden Face of Material Consumption. Illustration from the French Economy”*

Federico M. Pulselli, **Luca Coscieme**, **Simone Bastianoni**, **Nadia Marchettini**, University of Siena, Italy, *“From ecosystems to human systems: an input-state-output approach to categorize National Economies”*

Lucia Rigamonti, Irene Sterpi, Francesca Lovato, Mario Grosso, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, *“An indicator for the assessment of environmental and economic sustainability of integrated MSW management systems”*

Katharina Stepping, German Development Institute, Germany, *“Challenges for measuring the state of the environment in developing countries”*

17:30 – 18:30 Discussion

20:00 – 23:00 *Social dinner at Bacarando in Corte dell’Orso, San Marco 5495, Venice*

Friday, December 6th, 2013

08:30 – 09:00 *Welcome breakfast*

09:00 – 13:00	Thematic Session III - Environmental indicators in the broader policy context and/or in relation with other sustainability dimensions
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09:00 – 10:00 **Tomasz Koźluk**, OECD, France

“Indicators of environmental policies and administrative burdens and practical applications”

10:00 – 11:00 **Angel Hsu**, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, USA

“Measuring Green Progress: Over a Decades’ Lessons Learned from The Environmental Performance Index”

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee-break*

11:30 – 12:30 Open discussion: keynote speakers and e-Frame partners

12:30 – 13:00 Wrap-up and conclusions

13:00 – 14:00 *Farewell lunch*