

Methodological Research

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Accounting Frameworks for Sustainable Development

Purpose

To provide policy makers with new statistical tools for evaluating sustainability of economic, environmental and social policies, in particular with reference to trade-offs between alternative policies.

Objectives and outputs

Significant statistical work on sustainable development is now being carried out in many international and national settings. The OECD is carrying out an horizontal project addressing the issue from various perspectives, included the development of indicators for peer reviews and for evaluating trends in specific domains.

The objective of the project is to develop new accounting frameworks to evaluate interrelationships between economic, social and environmental policies. In particular, the project evaluates the possibility of integrating already existing accounting frameworks (i.e. input-output models, social accounting matrices and environmental accounts) in a coherent vision, developing new tools to identify trade-offs between various policies with respect to the target of sustainability.

Specific recommendations will be issued on the basis of the experiences already done or currently carried out in some OECD countries.

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

A workshop will be organised in 2003 and recommendations will be prepared, complementing the review already done in 2003 on sustainable development indicators.

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Manual on Economic Globalisation Indicators

Purpose

To develop guidelines and recommendations for the development of reference indicators that describe economic globalisation.

Objectives and outputs

The initial version of this manual would cover four areas: foreign direct investment; activities of multinational enterprises; technology and trade.

It is expected that a final version of this manual will be produced in 2003. Because the subject is wide ranging, an extensive review process by many different groups will be required before its eventual release.

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

Release of the first version of the Manual.

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Statistical Classifications

Purpose

To contribute to more relevant useful international economic and social classifications for use in OECD Member countries and elsewhere. To encourage greater convergence of regional, national activity, product and trade classifications in OECD Member countries. To coordinate OECD input into the revision of international classifications that are actively used in OECD.

Objectives and outputs

Specifically to contribute to the development of 2007 revisions of ISIC, CPC and a subsequent revision of EBOPS.

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

OECD (virtual) sub-group of Statistical Policy Group (SPG) established to coordinate OECD inputs to UN Expert Group on Social and Economic Classifications and to other guardians of International Classifications