The merits of sharing methodological approaches within the European Statistical System

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Background on ESA 2030 and implementation plans

ESA regularly updated to align to SNA

Crucial to ensure consistency and comparability with non-EU economies

Why do we need European standards?

- Administrative uses with budgetary implications, e.g.:
  - Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)
  - EU Budget (Fourth Resource)
  - Structural Funds

➢ Legal Regulation

Implementation of ESA 2030

ESA 2030 will be introduced in two stages: “core” changes in one go in 2030, subsequent prioritisation of other elements (similar to most non-European OECD countries)

Core changes: all the elements impacting the sequence of economic accounts, from the production account to the balance sheet, affecting both the gross and net macroeconomic indicators. These include (non-exhaustive list):

- **Data** as an asset
- **Depletion** as a cost of production
- **Return to capital** for the valuation of non-market output
- **Rent paid** in the sum of cost valuation of output
- **Crypto assets** (in particular CAWLM)

An OECD survey in October 2025 confirmed that non-EU countries consider all these elements as “core”

Non-core SNA changes

- Implementation of the most important (under discussion):
  - New table for **household distributional accounts** -> 2031
  - **Split** of S11/S12 in **domestic and foreign control** -> 2030 (FA) and 2031 (NFSA)
  - New table for **digital supply and use** (DSUT) data -> 2032
- HDA and foreign control breakdown seen as most urgent demands of users, with substantial work already done
- DSUT somewhat less urgent and less work already done at national level
- Length of time series: 1999 as default for main aggregates, but shorter for new features

ESA 2030: preparing for implementation

Starting point: international compilation guidance

Practical compilation guidance for several 2025 SNA innovations is being prepared:

- **Data as an asset** → Eurostat-IMF handbook finalized, to be published soon
- **Natural resources** → OECD handbook published
- **Crypto assets** → IMF guidance to undergo global consultation soon
- **Return to capital for non-market output** → Compilation guidance being finalised
- **Emission Permits** → Compilation guidance being finalised
- **Marketing assets** → Work ongoing. IMF handbook expected in the course of 2026

- Dedicated work streams, involving international organisations and countries from all over the world
- Recommendations based on countries' experimentation and testing
- Recommendations aim at ensuring international comparability

European Task Forces on Data, Natural resources and Crypto assets

- Goal: test the appropriateness of international guidance in an EU context and develop supplementary guidance if necessary
- TFs on Data and Natural Resources operate between October 2025 and June 2026
- TF on Crypto Assets is working with a mandate until 2027
- Large country participation to all TFs
- **Key feature: this is a 1st large scale exercise to test the international guidance**

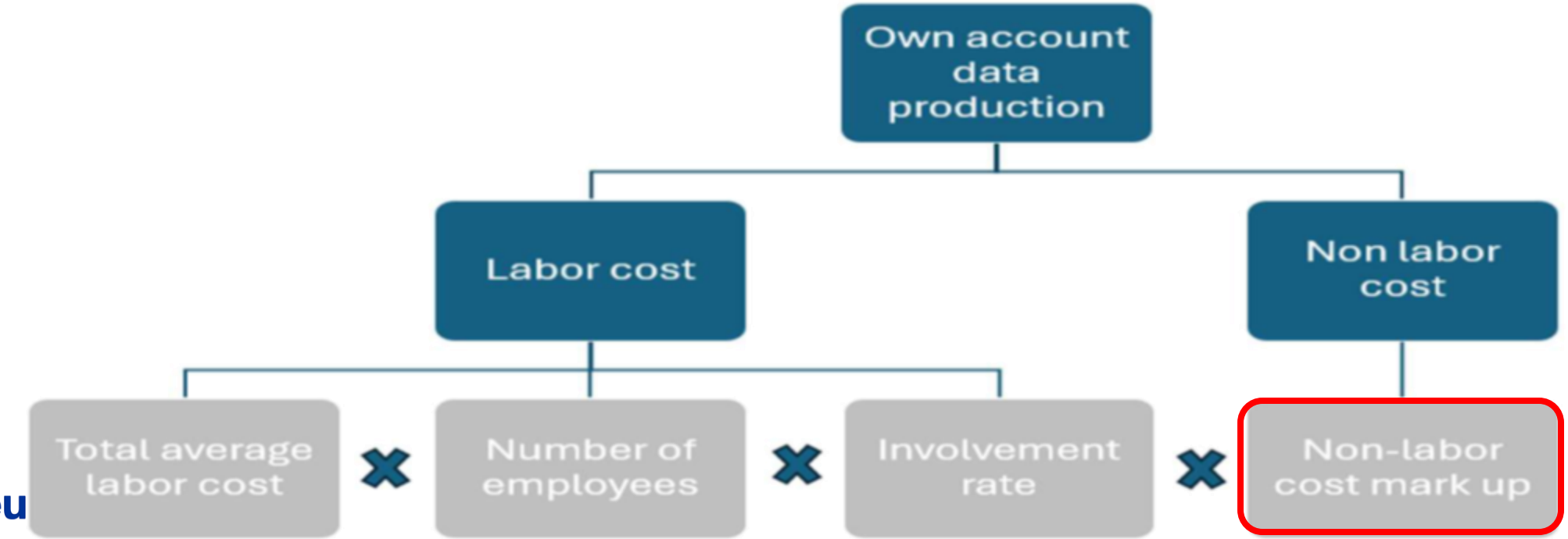
Task Forces' expected outcome

- Identify data sources and methods for the implementation of the standard and (if appropriate) the advanced recommendations in the international handbooks
- Identify possible elements where more precision would be needed (e.g. rate of return to apply, frequency for the review of occupations and involvement rates for Data, etc.)
- Identify relevance of topics in the national contexts (especially for natural resources) through materiality thresholds
- Address possible conceptual questions
- Identify possible issues for future work

TF on Data as an asset: general model for own account data production

The Eurostat-IMF Handbook describes two approaches for own-account data production:

- **Standard approach** (e.g. a standard list of occupations producing data assets and their involvement rates), based on investigations by several countries internationally
- **Advanced approach:** countries develop their own specific assumptions, e.g. on occupations and involvement rates



TF on Data as an asset: state of play

Most TF members have generated first estimates following the **standard approach**

- Estimates fall within a reasonable range and show a rather uniform growth path
- Results in most cases have been produced quickly, demonstrating that the standard approach is implementable

One country compared an **advanced approach** (on which they have been working since long) to the standard approach (recent exercise)

- Results show a large difference in the production value of new data assets
- Differences seems related to imperfect correspondence between national occupational classification and ISCO

TF on Data as an asset: State of play (2)

The TF identified the need to make **2 adjustments to the markup factor**

- To **avoid a spiralling effect** if Data are reused to produce new data (as R&D in ESA 2010)
- To apply a **2% real rate of return** to capital for Data produced by government

The TF also considered:

- the **relation between AI and data** and data automatically generated
- the apparent mismatch between the exponential growth in data storage capacity and the more limited growth of data assets as defined by the SNA

The TF stressed the importance of **communication** to different groups of users and is preparing communication material to serve as a model at national and at the EU level

TF's considerations on AI and growth of data storage capacity

AI and in general automatic creation of Data raise questions on the appropriateness of the SoC methodology → questions asked on ICM forum

While national accountants worldwide will have to monitor this issue over time, at present there is no evidence that the current methodology would not be suitable for estimating the production of Data assets, considering:

- That it is well-established and used also for other IPP assets
- That AI is just another technological advancement as we have seen others in the past

It is important to decouple global storage capacity from Data in national accounts sense

It will be key to properly communicate these elements to users

TF on Natural resources: state of play

4 groups of natural resources, each with its own specificities:

- **Subsoil** assets, **Renewable** energy resources (RER), **Timber and forest** resources, **Fish** resources
  Each group of resources includes several individual resources (i.e. oil, gas, solar, wind, etc.)

TF members have:

- Identified **data sources** for one or more natural resources
- Investigated the **significance** of each natural resource in their country
- Investigated the presence of **non-market (government) exploiters** of natural resources
  → Important to figure out possible impact of depletion on GDP via government output measured at sum-of-costs
- Investigated conditions at which **exploitation rights** are attributed (market conditions vs different approaches) → important for the application (or not) of the **split asset** approach

TF on Natural resources: state of play (2)

TF members are starting producing estimates using the OECD handbooks. **First experimental estimates produced for all groups of resources by at least one TF member**

Interpretation of some results to clarify (in particular negative resource rent)

TF's final report will include a section on communication, explaining these aspects

All TF members expected to provide experimental estimates on one or more resources as input for the TF's final report

TF on Natural resources: 2 broad issues

Materiality thresholds: natural resources are not equally relevant in every country

- Recognition that effort to measure them should be commensurate to relevance

- Identification of materiality thresholds, with the possibility of using simplified approaches to estimate resources below the thresholds

Estimation of **Depletion** for each group of natural resources:

- Depletion as a production cost → affects Net (NDP) but NOT Gross aggregates (GDP)
- But if extraction by non-market producer → impact on GDP through the sum of costs approach
  - ✓ Found not significant for Task Force countries
- TF is clarifying the notion of depletion for the different groups of natural resources (straightforward for subsoil assets; less clear for the other resources)
- TF is identifying under which conditions depletion should be recorded

Depletion: conceptual 2025 SNA definition and application in Europe

- **Subsoil assets**: 2025 SNA = ESA 2030 → Depletion = Extraction
- **Renewable energy resources**: 2025 SNA = ESA 2030 → No depletion
- **Timber resources and forest land**:
  - ✓ 2025 SNA → Depletion/regeneration if removals are "significantly above/below" net increments of standing timber
  - ✓ ESA 2030 → depletion/regeneration (=negative depletion) mainly due to specific deforestation/afforestation projects (Forestry deemed broadly sustainable in the EU; no calculation of short-term variations in forest land value)
- **Fish resources**:
  - ✓ 2025 SNA → Depletion/regeneration (=negative depletion) if catches **>/<** sustainable yield of fish
  - ✓ ESA 2030 → Recording fishing quota as assets, irrespective of where the fishing takes place
    - → Setting quotas under European Common Fishing Policy targeting sustainability may imply no need for recording depletion. In that context, changes in quotas may be recorded as OCV

Current orientation: only annual recording of depletion (no quarterly recording)

Thank you for your attention!