



SEEA EA implementation in the EU

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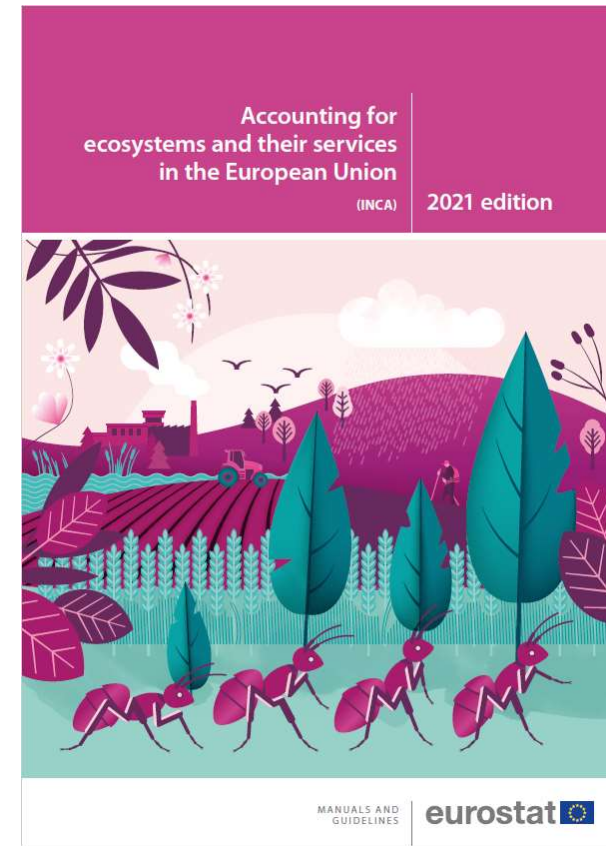
Content

- The INCA project
- Proposal for EU regulation on ecosystem accounts

Ecosystem accounting in the EU – the INCA project

INCA project by ESTAT, JRC, ENV, RTD and EEA:

- To develop EU wide ecosystem accounts (methods, data sources, accounts)
- To support the drafting of the SEEA EA international handbook
- To support research on ecosystem accounting
- To support Member States in their national work
- **Final report of Phase 2** released in June 2021 (first comprehensive set of ecosystem account for the EU)
- To operationalise the accounts and support the planned EU legal module on ecosystem accounting => INCA phase 3



Implementation in the EU – INCA phase 3

- Regular and timely production of EU-level ecosystem accounts
 - Updating (2018) and improving EU-level estimates, released by Eurostat (based on INCA)
- Supporting the legal proposal amending [Regulation 691/2011](#) on European environmental-economic accounts
- Support to Member States by Eurostat:
 - **GIS plug-in tools** for ecosystem services accounts (to be shared with MS and the public) – first half of 2023
 - **Methodological work – Task force on ecosystem accounting**
 - **Statistical grants** – for [NSIs and ONAs](#) (21 projects/14 countries funded since 2017)
 - **[ESTP](#) courses on ecosystem accounting** – annual since 2018

INCA platform

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INCA Platform

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How ecosystem services are assessed in INCA

Ecological side:

Socio-economic side:

Ecosystem Service use

Match:

Mis-match:

Ecosystem services map tool

START

Accounting tables: --Select--

Complementary tables: --Select--

News

Ecosystem extent (EEA): --Select--

Ecosystem condition: --Select--

About

INCA developed the first comprehensive set of EU-wide ecosystem accounts.

[READ MORE](#)

Publications

Reports, scientific articles and technical documentation produced by the INCA project.

[SEE MORE](#)

Data catalogue

The data catalogue allows browsing the input and output datasets of the different ecosystem services.

[EXPLORE](#)

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CULTURAL PROVISIONING REGULATING AND MAINTENANCE

CROP PROVISION

Use: [Dropdown]

Country: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, EL, FR, GB, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK

Yield derived from the ecosystem contribution 2016 (tonne/km²)

- 0.56
- 0.56 - 5
- 5 - 150
- 150 - 500
- > 500

Use 2000 Use 2006 Use 2012 Use 2018

Proposed legislation on ecosystem accounts

- Proposed as amendment of [Regulation \(EU\) No 691/2011](#) on *European environmental-economic accounts* (Regulation currently includes 6 ‘modules’ of environmental accounts)
- Timeline:
 - Discussions with Member States started in 2020;
 - [Draft regulation adopted by the Commission in June 2022](#);
 - Legal process now continues in the **European Parliament and Council**;
 - Testing and voluntary reporting by Member States – starting soon
 - **First mandatory reporting by Member States** (if successful) – **2026 with reference year 2024**;

The proposal at a glance

- **Ecosystem extent accounts** (reporting every 3 years; 12 types of ecosystems – see *table below*);
- **Ecosystem condition accounts** (every 3 years; for a subset of 5 terrestrial ecosystem types and subset of indicators/ variables)
- **Ecosystem services accounts** (annual; for the 10 terrestrial ecosystems; only physical accounts)
 1. crop provision
 2. pollination
 3. wood provision

 4. air filtration (PM adsorbed)
 5. global climate regulation (net sequestration and storage of carbon)
 6. local (i.e. urban) climate regulation (reduction of temperature)

 7. nature-based tourism (overnight stays)
- **First reporting in 2026 (data for year 2024)**

	Ecosystem type
1	Settlements and other artificial areas
2	Cropland
3	Grassland (pastures, semi-natural and natural grassland)
4	Forest and woodland
5	Heathland and shrub
6	Sparsely vegetated ecosystems
7	Inland wetlands
8	Rivers and canals
9	Lakes and reservoirs
10	Marine inlets and transitional waters
11	Coastal beaches, dunes and wetlands
12	Marine ecosystems (coastal waters, shelf, open ocean)

The proposed ecosystem condition accounts

- for **settlements and other artificial areas**:
 - green areas in cities and adjacent towns and suburbs (%);
 - concentration of particulate matter with a diameter up to 2.5 μm in cities ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- for both **cropland** and **grassland**:
 - soil organic carbon stock in topsoil (tonne/ha);
 - common farmland bird index.
- for **forest and woodland**:
 - dead wood (m^3/ha);
 - tree cover density (%).
- for **coastal beaches, dunes and wetlands**:
 - share of artificial impervious area cover (%).

Task force on ecosystem accounting (TF EA)

- Chaired by **Eurostat**; Members: **AT, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, NL, SK, NO**; + **DG ENV, JRC, EEA as observers**
- Set up in June 2021; ten meetings since then
 - To assist Eurostat in the **development of the legal module**
 - To **provide technical guidance to compile the accounts**;
 - To advance the **implementation of SEEA EA in the EU in a coordinated and methodologically robust way**
- TF develops guidance → submitted for testing and then endorsements to ‘WG MESA’ → guidance published by Eurostat as methodological guidance for MS
- All documents discussed in the task force are public in [CIRCABC](#)

Preparation in Eurostat and in NSIs...

- **Testing the guidance on extent accounts planned for 09-12/2022;**
 - 11+ countries signed up for testing (IT, DE, DK, EE, IE, HU, CZ, HR, AT, NL, LU)
- Test compilations of ecosystem services and condition accounts – tbd;
- **Voluntary data collection** will be set up before legislation enters into force;
- **Grants for NSIs** to produce ecosystem accounts continue until legislation enters into force.



GUIDANCE NOTE ON ECOSYSTEM EXTENT
ACCOUNTS—FINAL VERSION FOR TF DISCUSSION
BEFORE THE TESTING

References

- Draft regulation <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2022:329:FIN>
- INCA platform <https://ecosystem-accounts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>
- CIRCABC site of the task force <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/922b4700-1c83-4099-b550-763badab3ec0>
- Eurostat website on environmental accounts <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environment/overview>

Thank you

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