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Ecosystem Accounts Development CSO Update

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Ecosystem Accounting

Extent Accounts



Condition Accounts



Ecosystem Services Accounts



Ecosystem Accounting

What differentiates EA from other types of environmental data? (1)

- Tracks changes in ecosystem extent and condition
- Way to value ecosystem services and assets
- Links these information to measures of economic and human activity
- Makes visible the contributions of nature to the economy and people
- Better records the impacts of economic and other human activity on the environment



Ecosystem Accounting

What differentiates EA from other types of environmental data? (2)

- Provides a structured approach to assessing the dependence and impacts of economic and human activity on the environment
- Accounting principles of System of National Accounts allows for a unique integration of environmental and economic data to support decision making
- Use of environmental data in economic decision making
- Use of economic data in environmental decision making



How we work

What we've done

EU perspective

What we plan to do



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How we work

What we've done

EU perspective

What we plan to do



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EU and beyond

- **Eurostat Task Force on Ecosystem Accounting**
 - Ireland, represented by CSO, has been there from the beginning
 - Significant contribution to development of guidance notes to be used by all EU MS
- **System of Environmental Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting**
 - Adopted by UN Statistical Commission
 - An integrated and comprehensive statistical framework



National Expert Groups

- Ecosystem Extent Accounts
- Global Climate Regulation
- Terrestrial Extent Account
- Marine Extent
- Forest and Woodlands
- Further planned in 2024



Further National Engagement

- Land Use Review
- National Biodiversity Plan
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
 - Nature Restoration Law



Statistical Collaboration – Marine Accounts



Our Lives Outdoors: Snapshot of Results

APRIL-MAY 2022

CSO PULSE SURVEYS

In 2016-2021 assessment period

51% of rivers in Good/High ecological status...

...while 49% of rivers in Moderate, Poor or Bad ecological status



of respondents liked to spend time outdoors. Of these:



87% spend this time to get fresh air



93% felt happier after spending time in natural spaces



85% spend this time to enjoy nature



92% felt healthier after spending time in natural spaces



Of respondents, over



58% are concerned about climate change



57% are concerned about water pollution

When asked if there is still time to act on environmental issues:



43% said yes, there is still time to improve the state of the environment



52% said yes, but it is unlikely to happen

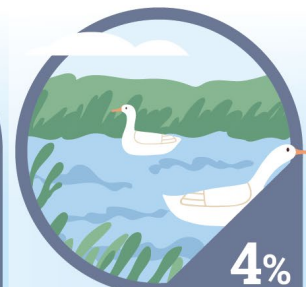
Of respondents with access to a garden or other outdoor space:

34% started at least one new gardening activity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

¹ Refer to the publication for the list of gardening activities proposed in the survey

Ecosystem Extent

Peatlands a



4% decrease in Inland Wetlands

Almost 23,500 hectares of Grasslands and Croplands converted into Settlements and Other Artificial Areas



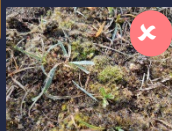
EU Regulation

- Regulation now approved introducing Ecosystem Accounting as a new environmental economic accounts module
- From 2026, requires MS to report data on
 - The extent and condition of ecosystem assets
 - The services they provide to society and the economy

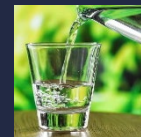
Extent
Accounts



Condition
Accounts



Ecosystem
Services



European Strategy for Environmental Accounts

- Endorsed by the European Statistical System Committee
- Five strategic objectives
 1. Improve the communication and use of existing environmental accounts modules
 2. Prepare implementation of the new modules, including Ecosystem Accounts
 3. Cooperate with other data producers
 4. Explore new data sources
 5. Establish a research agenda for European environmental accounts



What we will do in next 12 months

- **Ecosystem Accounts – Forest and Woodlands Accounts release**
- **Continue to develop Ecosystem Extent – Level 2**
- **Crop Provision Ecosystem Service release**
- **Develop new survey on the recreational use of ecosystems**
- **Annual Stakeholder Forum – September**
- **Continue to develop extent, services and condition accounts with our colleagues in Eurostat and other MS**





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**Thank you for
listening**

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