Beyond SNA - A Broader Approach to Well-Being

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Paper Abstract:

The System of National Accounts (SNA) mainly focuses on (macro-) economic developments and growth. This, however, is increasingly challenged by two other important issues. On one hand the environmental development and on the other hand the social progress. With regard to measuring the environmental development, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) may be considered as appropriate methodological answer. But concerning the measurement of social progress a generally accepted methodological standard is still missing. The paper will address different possibilities to extend the focus to the different social dimensions, including distributional aspects and subjective indicators. A first topic deals with how to determine relevant areas of social progress. Furthermore, composite indicators and indicator sets will be presented and compared by way of example (like HDI and How’s life). Another issue to be addressed by the paper is to elaborate on the policy use of such a broader perspective of well-being.