

Application of EE-IO models in the Flemish policy context : examples and requirements

Topic: Input-Output Analysis for Policy Making

Author: Evelien Dils

Co-Authors: An Vercalsteren, Ann Van der Linden, Theo Geerken

In Flanders, (regional) EE-IO tables with high resolution (120x120) have been developed in recent years, both for 2003 and 2007. The model includes data on imports and exports, both from and to Europe (data from EU NAMEA 2000, adapted resolution) and the rest of the world (US IO 1998, adapted resolution). Data availability on economic and environmental side have influenced the current model structure. Meanwhile, the Flemish EE-IO model is used in several policy studies, but the general feeling is that the model offers much more (unexploited) opportunities. For that reason the Flemish Environment Agency commissioned VITO a study to assess as many examples as possible of studies that use an EE-IO model to support environmental policy making at any stage of the policy cycle. Based upon our experience so far and the knowledge we will gain in this study, we will highlight in our presentation some important issues when developing regional EE-IO-models to ensure a maximal potential for policy assessments.

The first policy study based upon the Flemish EE-IO model is the assessment of the environmental impact of Flanders from a production as well as a consumption perspective. This study already pointed out new requirements to the sectoral level of the model for food related studies: the dis-aggregation of the single (due to economic data) overarching agricultural sector. Other policy studies, focused on sustainable materials management and ecodesign, identified other new requirements to the model e.g. the need for a better representation of the recycling sector. So an important point of attention is the definition of the sectoral level in the model. Other issues are related to the environmental extension tables: how to include primary and secondary materials in physical amounts and allocate these to the correct sector? For that reason it is highly important to clearly identify the policy applications that need to be addressed by the EE-IO model, before starting to develop and complete the model itself.

The presentation aims to give a critical but constructive view on regional EE-IO models and discuss points of attention and opportunities to ensure that the wide range of policy applications for EE-IO model can be actually exploited.

This study is financed and coordinated by the Flemish Environment Agency. The EE-IO-model is developed under coordination of the Public Waste Agency of Flanders.