Accounting Sustainability: the Input-Output Methodology for Representing an Evolving Economic System

Topic: Accounting Sustainability in the Input-Output Framework: an Economic Perspective
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The UN System of National Accounts (SNA) and the European System of Accounts (ESA) both provide a sequence of accounts, at national and possibly regional level, describing economic activity in an accounting year. This is the core of the system of accounts which has been consolidated over several decades of implementation in official statistical offices after periodical revisions. The central framework has been progressively expanded and integrated with further accounts, to focus on specific sectors of economic activity, sub-populations of national producers or new areas of policy interest, going far beyond the consolidated representation of the economy and society.
Today, there is a broad consensus among academia, statisticians and experts in the field that the system of accounts should cover information on key sustainability topics. Probably in the future there will be a refocusing on what should be considered â€˜centralâ€™ to this accounting framework.
This paper discuss the role of Input-Output framework in the new theoretical approach to accounting critical issues of specifically economic sustainability.