Measurement of Collective Market Services: Collective Service Needs, Outputs, Outcomes and Performances

In an effort to solve fundamental measurement problems in respect to services, this essay proposes that the current methodological-analytical SNA approach of “non-market” services be replaced by a “collective market” and a parallel “collective services” approach. The SNA distinction between “market” and “non-market” services is contrasted to, and replaced by, the alternative distinction between collective, semipublic and individual market services. The collective service markets, where collective outputs, outcomes and performances are determined, are characterized by collective needs, demands, supplies and exchanges of, and by, all institutional units and sectors. Recognition and satisfaction of the collective needs for political and economic freedom, security of life and property, equal treatment by government, social harmony and environmental protection, are determined by collective (non-rival and non-exclusive) services created within collective markets. The multiple measurement dimensions and approaches of output, outcome and performances, as they relate to all processes, institutional units and sectors, will be analytically examined within the collective markets framework. Collective markets are shaped by WHO has the power of the state and HOW this power is used. Exploring the analytical, methodological and measurement links of collective markets to SNA processes and institutional units and sectors, ultimately hopes to improve public policy through a strategic advance in our knowledge of economic reality and its measurement through the SNA.