

## **Input-output in the updated SNA**

By Thjis ten Raa and Bent Thage

In the present *1993 SNA*, and the *1999-UN Handbook on Input-Output tables*, the text and the implicit recommendations cause some confusion, in particular among new compilers of IO-tables, and may lead them to adopt inefficient compilation procedures that become an obstacle to the inclusion of IO-tables as an integrated part of the ongoing national account work, even though this has been recommended since the *1968 SNA*. The fact that ‘best practice’ compilers of IO-tables do not follow the recommendations made in the SNA and the Handbook contributes to the confusion.

On this background it is necessary to deal explicitly with the relationship between economic theory, results from empirical economic research and the nature of the interconnecting IO-tables, and with the type of recommendations that should be given on the compilation of both the supply-use tables and symmetric IO-tables in the *updated SNA* (now planned to be published in 2008). The paper will contain suggestions on the contents of the IO-chapter (supply and use tables and symmetric tables) of the updated SNA, building on the progress in best practise compilation methods as well as in theoretical and empirical research since 1990 in a way that can form the basis for recommendations on compilation methods.