



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**UNCTAD**



Association of Caribbean States  
Asociación de Estados del Caribe  
Association des Etats de la Caraïbe



## **DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE ON TRADE IN SERVICES STATISTICS**

Organized by UNCTAD in cooperation with the ACS General Secretariat and SIECA Secretariat  
1 March – 10 April 2016

### **I. BACKGROUND:**

The development of a sound statistical system is key to the implementation of evidence-based policies and to the emergence of an open and unbiased dialogue between stakeholders and policy makers. As a consequence, it is an essential tool of both economic performance and social cohesion.

This is all the more true when trade negotiations are under way and when countries have to understand and precisely assess their offensive and defensive interests in this context. In such a situation, public authorities have to define a global strategy and to translate this approach into specific negotiating positions. Statistics are a key tool in this process. They allow the sharing of a diagnostic of the current situation between all national stakeholders and a clear understanding of the national interests.

While internationally agreed statistical definitions, concepts and methodologies regarding trade in goods statistics are long established and generally well implemented around the world, the same cannot be said for trade in services statistics. Although internationally agreed statistical definitions, concepts and methodologies now exist, these are still relatively new and their global implementation is uneven. Now, services represent a key component of the economic activity in every country and a fast growing component of international trade, accounting now for 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the value of all international trade. They are, in addition, the subject of multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations all over the world. Hence the acute necessity to develop the corresponding statistics on a sound and harmonized basis.

This course comes as a response to several demands for technical assistance in the compilation of trade-in-services statistics and addresses directly the aims of Goal 17 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This course has been developed and produced jointly by UNCTAD, the World Trade Organization and the UN Statistics Division. It has also benefited from the close collaboration of the Inter-Agency Task Force on 'Statistics of International Trade and Services'.



## **II. OVERALL OBJECTIVES:**

The main objectives of this course are to raise awareness of Trade in Services' Statistics and its concepts, enhance statisticians' ability to do their work, and to help them better understand the manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2010).

## **III. PROGRAMME OUTLINE:**

Each module includes interactive assessments and links to communication tools for online interaction. Every module will consist of PowerPoint presentations with video a participant's manual, a forum, tests and case studies. Participants should spend between 3 to 4 hours per week to study the material and participate in the forums.

The 6 distance learning modules are:

Module 1 - Importance of Statistics on International Trade in Services & main concepts

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Recognize the scope of international trade statistics in general and trade in services specifically
- Distinguish between goods and services, develop awareness of main services items within EBOPS, understand concepts of modes of supply
- Describe various uses of Statistics on International Trade in Services
- Get familiar with MSITS 2010

Module 2 - setting up pre-requisites for data collection and compilation

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Evaluate data needs
- Compare existing statistics with the needs recognized
- Develop a sustainable system for SITS compilation and dissemination
- Organise responsibilities at a national level

Module 3 - Data sources and collection

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Identify and analyse the use of data sources
- Recognize limits in existing data sources
- Explore and evaluate other potential sources
- Acquire knowledge of data collection tools
- Extend existing data collection to improve quality and detail

Module 4 - Data Compilation (BOP STIS)

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Recognize EBOPS concepts/definitions
- Define services items based on data collected
- Classify transactions by item, partner and mode of supply
- Compile services items that require specific approaches



#### Module 5 - Data Compilation (FATS)

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Discriminate FATS and FDI concepts
- Define FATS variables
- Relate FATS to statistics on the international supply of services
- Classify variables by product, activity and country
- Compile specific variables

#### Module 6 - Dissemination and Analysis

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Publish trade data timely
- Analyse Statistics on the international supply of services
- Relate data to modes of supply
- Disseminate relevant metadata
- Implement an effective and user-friendly dissemination platform
- Advocate the development and promote the use of Statistics on the international supply of services

The course will be conducted through TrainForTrade's distance training platform. In this platform participants will have access to manuals, to multimedia presentations, to module exams, opinion surveys and forums created for each module for discussions with the instructor and other participants.

#### **IV. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

To be able to participate in the course participants need:

- A computer with headphones or loudspeakers, a browser (Chrome, Firefox or Safari) and Acrobat Reader.
- Internet access
- A valid E-mail address

#### **V. TARGET POPULATION:**

Primary Target: Compilers and producers of data (Statistics on International trade in services, Balance of Payments (BoP), Business statistics, etc):

- BoP Statisticians (from Central Banks or National Statistical Institutes),
- Statistical Officers in Trade and Services
- National Accountants
- Business statisticians

Secondary Target: Data users:

- Ministries (Tourism, Trade, Economy, Finance)
- Other industry players (economists, lawyers, etc.)



## VI. REGISTRATION:

To register open the following link: <http://hrd.unctad.org/courses/> select "Trade in Service Statistics", the access code is: [unctad16](#)

## Distance-learning Course on Trade in Services Statistics

Organised by UNCTAD in cooperation with ACS General Secretariat and SIECA Secretariat

1 March - 10 April 2016

Access Code

The registration form has to be completed, printed and signed by the supervisor or authorized person. The signed registration form has to be sent to Maria Luz Jaureguiberry E-mail: [maria.luz.jaureguiberry@unctad.org](mailto:maria.luz.jaureguiberry@unctad.org) (deadline 1 February 2016).

## VII. DATES AND LANGUAGE:

The distance-learning course will be delivered from 1 March to 10 April 2016. The working language will be English.

## VIII. CONTACTS:

For further information please contact:

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