

Project 06/07K: Strengthening the Development of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and the compilation of e-commerce in Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

## **Workshop on the compilation of IMTS and the application of methodological concepts**

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# **Institutional arrangements**



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# Existing Recommendations

## (Compilers Manual)

- **Compiling agency should establish working arrangements with data providers**
  - i.e. for data transmission, validation, clarifications etc.
- Compilers should initiate modifications to national legislations to establish a solid foundation for improving quality and timeliness
- If problems are discovered compilers should request a review of the accuracy of the source documents
- **Establish a memorandum of understanding with main data providers so that rules and responsibilities of each party with regard to all aspects of production and dissemination of official statistics are clearly defined.**
- Customs should use additional sources, if necessary, to obtain full coverage and compliance with methodological recommendations for trade statistics

# Existing Recommendations (continued)

## (Compilers Manual)

- Compiling agency should periodically review definitions, methods and statistics to ensure that statistics is compiled in full compliance with international methodological guidelines, are of high quality and available in a timely fashion
- Compiling agency should provide clear descriptions of institutional arrangements when publishing data
- Regular meetings before data release recommended
- All parties should respect national legislation concerning confidentiality of information.

# Key questions

- 1) Compiling agency (who is compiling and disseminating IMTS or are these two separate entities?)
- 2) Legal authorization to data access of compiling agency and legal obligation of data providers
- 3) Actual access to data (frequency, data fields, form of access)
  - 1) Do you receive customs regime/procedure codes ?
  - 2) Access problems / solutions ?
- 4) Quality and completeness of data provided
  - 1) Most important quality problems, i.e. timeliness ?
  - 2) Most important coverage problems, if any ?

To what extent are statistical data requirements satisfied ?? /

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