



Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics

26-29 September 2016, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Organized by UNSD, SCS Turkmenistan, UNDP Turkmenistan and ECOSTAT

Concept Note

International trade, including foreign direct investment, is widely recognized as a driver of economic growth connecting businesses from many economies around the world. If we talk about trade, the discussion is no longer just a discussion about how we exchange transactions on a bilateral basis between two trading countries, but is more and more a discussion about how our economy fits with other economies into global value chains. The discussion is no longer just about who our direct partners are in the value chain, but also about those partners, who are at the beginning and at the end of the global value chains, and who may exercise a certain control over its processes.

In other words, trade has become global and complex. Trade in goods, and trade in services, are now integral and very important parts of the global operations of businesses.

In order to better measure the ways, in which international trade is conducted, new international recommendations in the area of trade statistics have been adopted by the UN member states through UN Statistical Commission, notably for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) and for Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2010). Implementation of IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010 are part of implementation of integrated economic statistics within the frame of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA).

Objective

The objective of seminar is to improve the understanding of the recommendations for trade statistics and to share experiences on how to improve the implementation in national statistical systems with better coordination and cooperation among data providers and compilers. The ultimate goal is to produce the highest quality of international trade statistics, which are relevant for the policy makers at home and which are also comparable at the regional and international levels. The seminar strives to achieve this by (i) clarification and elaboration of a number of more difficult conceptual issues and (ii) identification of good practices in the compilation of international trade statistics.

Topics

The topics that will be discussed in the seminar, are:

- Highlights of international recommendations in the area of economic and trade statistics, notably IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010
- Selected compilation practices (trade in goods and services) relevant for the region
- Bridging of IMTS and BOP Trade in Goods
- Travel and Tourism statistics
- Statistical business registers and the linking of trade and business statistics
- External trade indices

Participants

The seminar is intended for official statisticians from national statistical offices, central banks, customs administrations and ministries. One of the goals of seminar is to bring these communities of statisticians closer together both nationally and regionally. Within the framework of Integrated Economic Statistics, it is necessary for national stakeholders to establish good communication channels to collaborate in finding solutions for measurement problems and streamline the production of statistics. At the practical side, the central bank and the statistical office need to work together to produce high-quality trade and balance of payment statistics for evidence-based policy making.

Organizers

This meeting will be organized by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), State Committee of Statistics of Turkmenistan (SCS Turkmenistan), UNDP Turkmenistan, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and UNESCAP.