Regional Training Workshop on Trade SDMX

10-14 September 2018, Tunis, Tunisia

Concept Note

BACKGROUND

SDMX, which stands for Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange, is an ISO standard designed to describe statistical data and metadata, normalize their exchange, and improve their efficient sharing across statistical and similar organizations[1]. It provides an integrated approach to facilitating statistical data and metadata exchange, enabling interoperable implementations within and between systems concerned with the exchange, reporting and dissemination of statistical data and their related meta-information.

An inter-agency working group consisting of Eurostat, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 2013 with the purpose of specifying uniform structures, concept definitions and code lists for the transmission of IMTS data and metadata in accordance with SDMX.

The working group, chaired by UNSD, had developed a first version of the Global Data Structure Definition (DSD) of SDMX standards for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in consultation with member countries in 2016. The DSD was submitted to SDMX Secretariat in early 2017 for review; and subsequently made public at UNSD website[2]. In September-October 2017, UNSD conducted two pilot implementation projects in Mexico and Morocco resulting to amendment of DSD to the version 1.1.

In July 2015, the Assembly adopted the decision of 0,2% on Import Levy to finance the African Union. Similarly, in March 2017, the Assembly adopted the various of instruments to adopt the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Aera (AfCFTA). Then, the implementation of these various AU Assembly decisions, a need of timely and accurate data on trade statistics has arisen. The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union.

The African Union Commission publish annually the African Statistics Yearbook on Trade Statistics. This yearbook present some series of Annual Trade Data for given period to show the trends of trade statistics at Africa level, between Regional Economic Communities, and between Africa and the rest of the world. African Union is planning to

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[1] See https://www.sdmx.org
[2] See https://comtrade.un.org/sdmx

improve the production through the establishment of the Continental Database on Trade Statistics (AFRICATRADE) and also the data transmission between AUC and its 55 Member States. Then, the need to strengthen the capacities of the Trade Statistics Expert of AU Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission using the new methods for data transmission such SDMX, becomes a priority.

In this regard, AUC in collaboration with UNSD will conduct a Regional Training Workshop on Trade SDMX targeting 25 AU Member States.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the training are to:

- ➢ Train the Trade Experts, both IT and trade statistician, on SDMX introductory topic in general, focused on SDMX-IMTS data structure definition version 1.1 and relevant code lists and SDMX tools currently available;

- ➢ Assist trade statisticians/experts in implementing SDMX-IMTS by conducting mapping exercise between national database and SDMX-IMTS code lists;

- ➢ Contribute on on-going review of current data structure definition both at technical and substantive levels;

- ➢ Test generic SDMX output function at Eurotrace.NET and explore possibility to integrate SDMX-IMTS into the latest version of Eurotrace.net.

Expected Outcomes

The main outcomes of the workshop:

- ➢ A better knowledge acquired by the Trade Experts, both IT and statisticians, on SDMX concept and SDMX-IMTS the data structure definition version 1.1 and relevant code lists and SDMX tools currently available;

- ➢ SDMX-IMTS implemented by the Trade Experts by conducting mapping exercise between national database and SDMX code lists;

- ➢ Recommendations on improvement to current data structure definition both at technical and substantive levels made by the Trade Experts;

➢ SDMX at Eurotrace.net tested by the Trade Experts; Use case to develop SDMX-IMTS was written up

PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP

The meeting will bring together the trade statistics experts from African Union Commission, United Nations Statistics Division, African Development Bank, Regional Economic Communities and two trade experts (Statisticians and IT) from the following AU Member States:

North Africa	West Africa	Central Africa	East Africa	Southern Africa
Algeria	Benin	Cameroon	Ethiopia	South Africa
Tunisia	Nigeria	Gabon	Rwanda	Namibia
Egypt	Cote d'Ivoire	Chad	Tanzania	Botswana
Morocco	Senegal	Sao Tome and Principe	Uganda	Zimbabwe
Mauritania	Ghana	Congo	Sudan	Malawi

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Draft Agenda

	Monday (10/9/18)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday (14/9/18)
	Opening Session : - Welcome remarks by AUC and UNSD - Adoption of agenda				
	Introduction to SDMX	**Introduction to SDMX-IMTS**	**Hands-on: Mapping and Tools**	**Self-Paced Hands-on Exercise**	**Conclusion**
9:00-10:45	Overview of SDMX - Information Model - Content-Oriented Guidelines - IT architecture	Overview of SDMX-IMTS - Substantive - Technical Lesson learnt from SDMX pilot projects - Mexico - Morocco	Track 1: Trade - SDMX-IMTS artifacts: data structure definition and code lists - Mapping from national lists to SDMX code lists Track 2: IT - Installation and setup of SDMX tools - Hands-on training on the use of Mapping Assistant - Generating data in SDMX format	Putting it together: - Data preparation - Finalize mapping on partner countries, mode of transports, customs procedure codes, trade flows, quantity units, etc. - Use mapping assistant - Use "Test Client" tool - Use "SDMX web services"	Continuation of self-pace hands-on … ------------------------ Round table discussions Summary of work done Way forward
11:00-12:30	Overview of SDMX objects - Concept scheme - Code lists - Data structure definition				
14:00-15:15	Overview of SDMX architecture - SDMX Registry - Etc.	Demo on SDMX tools used in pilot projects (step-by-step) - Data preparation - Data mapping			
15:30-17:00	Practical use cases of SMDX				