COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE	INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS) 2021
BACKGROUND	UNCTAD has been active in providing knowledge development and capacity building programs to developing countries for over four decades. Its TrainForTrade (TFT) Program has been established some 20 years ago. With its dedicated platform and team, the Program has conceptualized, created and delivered e-learning projects on various subjects related to trade and development in many individual countries or regional centers, usually within wider scope capacity building undertakings. WTO has also been active in building trade capacity since 1995, in particular by providing trade related technical assistance, capacity building and developing e-learning courses. UN Statistics Division (UNSD) manages the development and maintenance on methodology of IMTS, including Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) and related correspondence tables. Furthermore, UNSD has been providing capacity building and technical assistances to countries through compilers manual, metadata survey, workshops[1] and country missions with aims to support implementation of latest recommendations on IMTS. As the United Nations' focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the related economic issues, UNCTAD compiles a wide range of data. The statistics are made public via UNCTADstat, the free online data resource encompassing more than 150 indicators and time series, with figures for individual economies and country-groups presented in a harmonized framework (http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/). The UNCTADstat features: i) Data Center allowing users to easily access, compare, reorganize and download data; ii) Country Profiles presenting a selection of most recent key economic statistics by country; iii) Inforgraphics library, a collection of key messages released to social networking sites from the published time series ; and iv) Documentation, FAQ, and other supporting information. IMTS is part of topics regularly discussed by Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS)

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[1] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events

	(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/taskforce/default.asp). TFITS promotes the development of international standards and respective compilation guidance, systems and classification for international trade statistics. Furthermore, it coordinates training and capacity-building initiatives, especially in developing countries, to ensure uniform application of international standards and recommendations in the area of international trade statistics. The e-learning is considered part of capacity building activities, and it is very much supported.
OBJECTIVES	The global objective of the e-learning course is to provide more easily accessible and rather complete training material for those involved in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of International Merchandise Trade Statistics The main goals are to enhance statisticians' ability to apply the most recent internationally agreed recommendations on IMTS, define best possible data sources, set up adequate (or enforce existing) collection systems, and enhance statistics compilation processes. Furthermore, the course would communicate the importance of quality, metadata, timely dissemination, and links to economic analysis and national policy objectives. The project would guide trainees on how to better use the internationally available guidance, especially the IMTS Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the related Compilers Manual.

TARGET POPULATION	**Primary Target**
	Primary target are <u>trade data compilers</u> from (depends on countries):
	    o National Statistical Office (NSO)
	    o Central Bank
	    o Ministry of Trade
	    o Customs Administration
	Secondary Target
	    o Trade negotiators
	    o Trade statisticians
	    o Trade analysts / Economist (reporting indicators)
	  From
	    • Ministries of Foreign affairs, Agriculture, Transport, Energy, etc.
	    • Chamber of Commerce, Industry
	    • NGOs
	    • Academics

DURATION	The e-Learning course has a duration of 6 weeks
MODULES	• Module 1 – Conceptual Framework • Module 2 – Institutional Arrangements • Module 3 – Production and Compilation • Module 4 – Metadata and Quality • Module 5 – Dissemination and Analysis • Module 6 – New Areas of Work • Interactive follow-up webinar

Modules description

MODULE	At the end of this module, participants are able to
Module 1 – Conceptual Framework	- Demonstrate good knowledge of IMTS concepts and definitions (manual) - Apply concepts of IMTS manual - Learn IMTS 2010 latest recommendations on IMTS - Compare IMTS-BPM6 differences and reconciliation (Goods for processing) - Apply international standards for data collection, storage and exchange - Define coverage - Differentiate between data sources
Module 2 – Institutional Arrangements	- Establish effective cooperation with data provider - Coordinate activity between NSO and Customs - Evaluate missing synergies among stakeholders - Apply standards collaboration frameworks - Define modalities for data exchange
Module 3 – Production and Compilation	- Organise data collection in various ways (surveys, automated recording) - Harmonise and codify according to national needs, international standards - Perform data checking, processing and validation
Module 4 – Metadata and Quality	- Describe information on trade data that should be considered IMTS Metadata - Explain the steps and procedures to monitor progress - Schedule work - Explain how to produce a report on quality - Produce data timely - Incorporate knowledge-oriented process mapping to streamline production, identify bottlenecks, encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and facilitate innovation and knowledge creation - Supplement processes with diagrams, manuals, maps and/or supporting learning multi-media tools for easy knowledge transfer
Module 5 – Dissemination and Analysis	- Disseminate data (printed or online) - Maintain a timely release schedule - Visualize trade data - Create a story for publication to check for relevance - Keep abreast with related, current and emerging economic and dissemination trends
Module 6 – New Areas of Work	- Linking of Trade data with Central Business Register (CBR), Business Statistics (BS) and National Accounts (NA) - Trade Indices - Seasonal Adjustments