

**Regional Workshop for CIS Countries**

**STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICE:  
CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES**

United Nations Statistics Division,  
Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS  
State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine  
European Free Trade Association

*7-9 October 2008, Kiev, Ukraine*

**Final report of the seminar**

**Kiev, New York  
2008**



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## **I. Organization, purpose, objective and participants of the Workshop**

The Workshop on “Statistics of International Trade in Services: Challenges and Good Practices” was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in close cooperation with the Statistical Office of the CIS countries (CISSTAT) and the State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine. It was hosted by the State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine. The workshop took place in Kiev, Ukraine between 7 and 9 October 2008. The workshop is organized in response to a request by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and is in line with the 2008-2009 Work programme of the Statistics Division in the area of international trade statistics endorsed by the Statistical Commission.

The workshop aimed to provide training for the representatives from national statistical offices and central banks from the CIS countries on methodological development of the statistics of trade in services and also the current country-practices in compiling trade in services statistics. The training focused on both the interpretation of conceptual issues and options for the implementation of international recommendations in country specific circumstances and facilitated the establishment of a network of statisticians in the CIS countries working on service trade statistics. The sustainability of the training will be enhanced by the creation of a network of statisticians practicing trade in services statistics both in national statistical offices and in central banks.

The workshop was attended by 36 participants from selected CIS countries, international and regional organizations. The following 10 CIS countries sent representatives to the Workshop: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. The following international organizations and national statistical offices sent representatives as resource persons to the Workshop: European Free Trade Association (EFTA), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Statistical Office of the CIS countries (CISSTAT) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Statistics Norway.

## **II. Summary**

Opening session: Mr. Pischeiko, First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine welcomed the participants and opened the Workshop. Mr. Markhonko, Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch welcomed the participants on behalf of Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD. Mr. Ivanov, Deputy Chairman, CISSTAT and Mr. Gomez, Head of EFTA Office in Luxemburg welcomed the participants.

Session on the Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) included the following presentations: “Global situation in SITS”, “Status of statistics of trade in services in the CIS countries”, “Overview of the country responses to the UN questionnaire on the status of trade in services at countries”, “MSITS: Worldwide consultation” – The presentations were followed up by general discussion.

Session on the revision of the Balance of Payment Manual (BMP6), definitions and classifications included the following presentations: “Overview of the Balance of

Payment Manual”, “Definition of services in the System of National Account 2008”, “The classification of services, EBOPS”, “Extension of the international classification of services, EBOPS in Tajikistan”, “CPC Version 2 and EBOPS correlation” – The presentations were followed up by general discussion.

Session on the approaches to data compilation included the following presentations: “The International Transaction Reporting System (ITRS)”, “ITRS in Ukraine”, “Methodology and application of ITRS in the Russian Federation”, “Statistics on external trade in services applied by Statistics Norway”, “Guidelines on the reporting of external trade in services to Statistics Norway”, “Organizing enterprises surveys for international service trade in the Russian Federation”, “Enterprise surveys for international service trade in the Republic of Belarus”, Norwegian balance of payment statistics”, “FATS statistics” – The presentations were followed up by general discussion.

Session on metadata, data quality and reporting to international organization included the following presentations: “Metadata and quality of the trade in services data”, “Submission of trade in services statistics to international organizations” – The presentations were followed up by general discussion.

Group discussion included topics: data sources, data collection procedures applied, cooperation of the NSO and the central banks in data collection, problems encountered in data collection, use of ITRS and enterprise surveys, challenges encountered using HS, CPC classifications, challenges in implementing the new version of EBOPS, data quality assurance.

At the last session the participants presented a set of recommendations to improve the availability, timeliness and completeness of trade in services statistics in the CIS region. The following recommendations were adopted by the participants:

### **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

#### *I. Legal and institutional framework*

1. Considers necessary to improve further the legal and institutional framework for the international trade in services statistics in the CIS countries in order to make it comply with the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission.
2. Notes that procedures shall be optimized at various organizations / agencies involved in drafting SITS contributing to a systematic comparison of the methods and results to ensure the fullest coverage and the necessary detail of the statistics; it recognizes that the existing inter-organization agreements are analyzed and the necessary changes are made.
3. Considers necessary to strengthen cooperation between national statistical offices and central banks to provide a systematic information exchange to ensure the completeness and other data quality elements, a joint work plans; other institutions shall also be actively involved in this cooperation (finance ministries, tax authorities, etc.).

4. Emphasizes that only one organization shall be officially responsible for the distribution of official SITS meanwhile usually several agencies of the government are involved in SITS in the country; what organization will be entrusted with such responsibility must be decided in each country individually, taking into account existing legislation and the characteristics of the organization of the national statistical system dealing with international trade.
5. Considers necessary to draw the attention of heads of the organizations/agencies that are responsible for SITS about the inadequate funding of regular statistical surveys, which adversely affects the quality of data collected and distributed.
6. Considers necessary to systematically put into practice the work of all departments and organizations involved in compiling statistics generally in procedures and measures designed to ensure data quality of SITS and in defining development strategies.
7. Recognizes the need to be more active with data users, including the explanation of the use of international trade statistics for decision-making in foreign trade policy and market research.

## *II. Methodological framework*

8. Welcomes the revision of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS) and believes that the new edition is to provide more clearly articulate methodological recommendations and closely align them with the needs of data users and data producers in countries.
9. Considers highly desirable to draft a training manual for SITS compilers including description of good practices on selected SITS issues.
10. Believes that the CIS countries need to develop and publish recommendations on SITS taking into account the peculiarities of national statistical systems on the external sector of their economies and to conduct a series of regional training seminars in order to support implementation of such manual.
11. Recognizes that the CIS countries need further clarification/elaboration on methodological issues like definition of partner countries, especially taking into account the import of construction services, evaluation of financial services FISIM, accounting for the lease of real estate in different cases, tables of correspondence between the CPC and EBOPS, identifying ways of services, compiling relevant indicators of FATS, etc.
12. Suggests for UNSD to further improve its hotline on SITS and encourages countries to send their requests to the UNSD in English, so that UN experts can more quickly respond to them.
13. Taking into account the existence of double counting in the statistics of trade in goods and trade in services considered to be a clear explanation of the reason for this situation in future, a revised version of SITS; countries to inform its users of all cases of double counting in their national statistics on external trade in order that they can make decisions about how to use properly the published data and, if necessary, make appropriate amendments.

14. Believes that it is necessary to develop and to coordinate among countries the methodology of data assessment in order to ensure better coverage and data by partner countries and the types of services (EBOPS and CPC) including the assessments of official data.
15. Notes that in order to ensure a better information base for the evaluation of services for processing of goods remain the property of their suppliers, it is necessary to maintain the current recommendation of gross accounting of such goods in the merchandise trade statistics.
16. Calls upon countries to take part, if possible, in the preparation of the Russian version of the text of a future revised MSITS in order to ensure the quality of translation and the fastest publication of this document; offers a timely UNSD appeal to the countries for help on this issue.
17. Considers that the future introduction of revised recommendations on MSITS be implemented gradually, as they gain experience and develop the necessary tools.

### *III. Developing national databases*

18. Encourages countries to take further steps to collect SITS and to prepare and distribute such statistics with a detailed description of:
  - i. categories EBOPS
  - ii. CPC (on a pilot basis, to provide to UNSD)
  - iii. partner countries,
  - iv. Industry / sector.
19. Believes that countries could take steps to carry out pilot calculations in order to provide details on how to provide services data.
20. Believes necessary to pay greater attention to the foreign affiliates, including trade indicators; suggests that UNSD to conduct a survey of country experiences in this field in collaboration with the CIS Statistical Committee.

### *IV. Sources and methods of data collection*

21. Notes the lack of or poor-quality data for many types of services, especially for insurance, financial and tourism services and services of government organizations, believes that the exchange of experience in the compilation of statistics on trade in services is especially important at this stage.
22. Affirms that the enterprise survey and the international transaction reporting system, are complementary sources of data, encourages their further improvement, in particular, the development of techniques in agreement obtained on the basis of the results.
23. Emphasizes the need to ensure the confidentiality of individual statistical data and their use for non-statistical purposes.

24. Invites countries to establish a more systematic exchange of experiences on the methodology, organization of surveys and other practical issues on SITS; appeals to the UN Statistics Division and the Statistical Committee of CIS countries to propose a convenient option of organizing such exchanges.
25. Considers that the formation of the population for the next statistical sampling is the most important practical task in SITS; a compilation of good practices in this area and finding new approaches to solving the problem should be included in future publications on SITS planned by international organizations.
26. Points to the feasibility of establishing and timely update of the supporting (satellite) registry of enterprises with foreign economic activities for the purpose of SITS.
27. Emphasizes the need for greater use of electronic reporting forms to obtain more reliable raw data and reduce the cost of their processing.
28. Draws attention to the fact that statistics does not require continuous reporting and supports the initiative of countries to expand the use of data obtained through sampling, as well as assessment data, provided that such data are based on accepted methodologies and the explanation of these methods is included in the national metadata.
29. Considers as good practice the use of alternative sources of data to assess the reliability of reporting information, including, for example, the partner countries, statistics of trade in goods, a household survey, etc.
30. Considers it appropriate to exercise widely bilateral and multilateral comparisons and, as the accumulation of positive experiences, practice exchange of such data among countries for inclusion in their official statistics and a more rational use of resources of the national statistical offices and central banks.
31. Draws the attention that the use of these partner countries data requires some detailed analysis of SITS in the countries concerned in order to harmonize the methodological and practical issues, in particular, to identify avoidable causes of unnecessary differences.

#### *V. Distribution and use of SITS data*

32. Confirms that users shall be aware of not only who is the official source of SITS but also the publication calendar.
33. Believes necessary that all countries have taken steps to improve the dissemination of metadata on SITS and appeals to the UN Statistics Division and the Statistical Committee of CIS countries to propose the format of the data based on EBOPS.
34. Agrees that it is needed to study and synthesize international experience to assess the quality of SITS and to develop recommendations for its implementation in the CIS countries; believes that the CIS countries shall begin publishing reports on the quality of national SITS.
35. Suggests that UNSD develop and propose specific recommendations to countries on the format of trade in services data for international organizations; suggests that those who are responsible for distribution of official SITS in countries to communicate to the UN the date when the national data is ready for distribution.



Региональный семинар для стран членов СНГ  
Статистика международной торговли услугами в странах СНГ:  
проблемы и опыт их решения  
Совместно организован Статистическим отделом ООН,  
Межгосударственным статистическим комитетом стран членов СНГ и  
Государственным комитетом по статистике Украины  
7-9 октября 2008 г. Киев, Украина

Statistics of International Trade in Services: Challenges and good practices  
Regional workshop for CIS countries

Jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division  
and  
State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine

Kiev, Ukraine, 7-9 October 2008

**Проект предварительной повестки дня / Draft provisional agenda**

***Вторник, 7  
октября / Tuesday  
7 October***

**Утренняя сессия /  
Morning session**

9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. 1 **Регистрация / Registration**

9.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. 2 **Открытие семинара / Opening of the workshop**

10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. 3 **Статистика международной торговли услугами (СМТУ) / Status of SITS**

Обзорный доклад (Статотдел ООН) / Global situation (UNSD)

Обзор состояния СМТУ в странах СНГ (Статкомитет СНГ)  
/  
Status of statistics of trade in services in the CIS countries (CISSTAT)

[Доклад Статкомитета СНГ](#) / Report by CISSTAT

[Отчеты стран-участниц семинара на  
Вопросник Статотдела ООН](#) / Country responses to UN  
questionnaire

10.30 a.m. - 10.50  
a.m.

**Перерыв / Coffee break**

10.50 a.m. - 12.30  
p.m.

**4 Руководство по статистике международной торговли  
услугами (МСИТ) и его пересмотр / MSITS and its  
revision**

[MSITS Worldwide consultation](#) (UNSD)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

12.30 p.m. - 2.00  
p.m.  
Послеобеденная  
сессия /  
Afternoon session  
2.00 p.m. – 3.30  
p.m.

**Перерыв на обед / Lunch break**

**5 Руководство по составлению платёжного баланса,  
шестое издание (РПБ) / The revision of the Balance of  
Payment Manual (BPM6)**

Towards BPM6 (IMF)

[Пересмотр «Руководства по платёжному балансу»  
Презентация МВФ](#) / Revision of BPM

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

**6 Услуги и их классификация / Services and their  
classification**

(a) Определение услуг в СНС 2008 (Статотдел ООН) /  
[Definition of services in SNA 2008](#) (UNSD)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

(b) РКУПБ / EVOPS (IMF)

[Классификация услуг  
РКУПБ Презентация МВФ](#) / EVOPS (IMF)

[Расширенная классификация международных услуг по /  
EBOPS \(National Bank of Tajikistan\)](#)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

3.30 p.m. - 3.50 p.m.

**Перерыв / Coffee break**

3.50 p.m. – 5.00  
p.m.

**7 Услуги в Классификация основных продуктов (КОП),  
Версия 2.0 и таблица соответствия  
РКУПБ/КОП / CPC Ver. 2.0 and EBOPS/CPC correlation  
(UNSD)**

[ВОР/EBOPS/CPC \(UNSD\)](#)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

***Среда, 8 октября /  
Wednesday, 8  
October***

Утренняя сессия /  
Morning session  
9.00 a.m. – 10.30  
a.m.

**8 Подходы к составлению данных / Approaches to data  
compilation**

(a) Международная система учёта операций / ITRS

1. [Система отчетности  
по международным операциям  
Презентация МВФ / IRTS \(IMF\)](#)

2. [СИСТЕМА УЧЕТА МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОПЕРАЦИЙ  
\(Национальный банк Украины\) / ITRS \(National Bank of  
Ukraine\)](#)

3. [Методология и практика  
формирования показателей международной торговли  
услугами  
в Российской Федерации / ITRS \(Bank of Russia\)](#)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

10.30 a.m. – 10.50  
a.m.

**Перерыв / Coffee break**

10.50 p.m. – 12.30  
p.m.

(b) Статистическое обследование предприятий / Enterprise  
surveys

1. [Statistics on external trade in services, Statistics Norway](#)  
(Statistics Norway)

2. [Guidelines on the reporting of external trade in services to  
Statistics Norway](#)  
(Statistics Norway)

3. [Организация статистического наблюдения предприятий,  
осуществляющих внешнюю торговлю услугами](#)  
(Федеральная служба государственной статистики) /  
Enterprise survey (ROSSTAT)

4. [Статистическое обследование предприятий по внешней  
торговле услугами в Республике Беларусь](#)  
(НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СТАТИСТИЧЕСКИЙ КОМИТЕТ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ) / Enterprise survey (Ministry of  
Statistics of Belarus)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

12.30 p.m. – 2.00  
p.m.  
Послеобеденная  
сессия /  
Afternoon session  
2.00 p.m. – 3.30  
p.m.

**Перерыв на обед / Lunch break**

9 **Другие источники данных и оценки / Other data sources  
and estimations**

[Norwegian balance of payments statistics](#) (Statistics Norway)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

10 **СМТУ по способам предоставления услуг включая  
ТУЗФ / SITS by modes of supply including FATS (IMF)**

[Способы предоставления услуг и статистика «торговли  
услугами через зарубежные филиалы» \(ТУЗФ\)](#)  
[Презентация МВФ / FATS \(IMF\)](#)

Общая дискуссия / General discussion

- 3.30 p.m. - 3.50 p.m. **Перерыв / Coffee break**
- 3.50 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. 11 **Метаданные и качество СМТУ / Metadata and quality of the trade in services data (UNSD)**  
Общая дискуссия / General discussion
- 12 **О предоставлении СМТУ международным организациям / Submission of trade in service statistics to international organizations (UNSD)**  
Общая дискуссия / General discussion

**Четверг, 9  
октября /  
Thursday, 9  
October**

**Утренняя сессия /  
Morning session**

- 9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. 13 **Групповая дискуссия: сотрудничество Национальных статистических служб и Центробанк / Group discussion: cooperation of the NSO and the central bank in data collection, data compilation and dissemination practices, problems and solutions (UNSD)**  
Презентации по итогам групповых дискуссий / Presentation of the group discussions  
**Перерыв / Coffee break**
- 10.30 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.
- 10.50 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. 14 **Заключительная дискуссия: на пути к более качественной СМТУ в странах СНГ / Roundtable discussion: Towards improved SITS in the CIS countries**  
**Перерыв на обед / Lunch break**

**Послеобеденная  
сессия /  
Afternoon session**

- 15 **Выводы и рекомендации семинара / Conclusions and recommendations of the workshop**
- 16 **Оценка семинара и его закрытие / Evaluation and closing of the workshop**

**Annex II**

**List of participants**

No.	Country	Name of Participant
1.	CISSTAT	<b>Mr. Youri Ivanov</b> Deputy Chairman of CISSTAT
2.	CISSTAT	<b>Ms. Ella Potapova</b> Deputy Chief, Department of Social Statistics and Trade
3.	Armenia	<b>Mr. Alexander Petrosyan</b>
	Армения	<b>Александр Петросян</b>
4.	Armenia	<b>Mr. Mher Barseghyan</b>
	Армения	<b>Мгер Барсегян</b>
5.	Azerbaijan	<b>Mr. Rauf Mikayil Mikayilzade</b> Director, Department of Balance of Payment

6.	Azerbaijan	<b>Mr. Azizagha Ahmadov</b>
	Азербайджан	<b>Ахмедов Азизага</b>
7.	Belarus	<b>Ms. Alena Rezanovich</b> Head of Balance of Payments Methodology and Development Division
	Беларусь	<b>Елена Резанович</b> Начальник отдела методологии и разработки платежного баланса
8.	Belarus	<b>Ms. Elena Vorushko</b> Deputy Head of Trade Statistics Department
	Беларусь	<b>Елена Борушко</b> Заместитель начальника главного управления статистики торговли
9.	Georgia	<b>Mr. Vakhtang Pkhakadze</b> Head of Balance of Payments Division
	Грузия	<b>Вахтанг Пхакадзе</b> Начальник отдела платежного баланса
10.	Georgia	<b>Ms. Lia Dzebisauri</b> Head of Macroeconomic Statistics Division

	Грузия	<b>Лиа Дзедисаури</b> Начальница Управления макроэкономической статистики
11.	Georgia	<b>Mrs. Nino Maisuradze</b> Chief Specialist of External Trade and Foreign Investments Statistics subdivision
	Грузия	<b>Нино Майсурадзе</b> Главный специалист отдела статистики внешней торговли и иностранных инвестиций
12.	Kazakhstan	<b>Ms. Zhanar Tutkabayeva</b> Chief Specialist – Economist
13.	Kazakhstan	<b>Ms. Assel Jartybayeva</b> Chief Expert
	Казахстан	<b>Джартыбаева Асель</b> Главный Эксперт Управления статистики торговли
14.	Kyrgyzstan	<b>Ms. Elvira Isenkulova</b>
	Киргизстан	<b>Исенкулова Эльвира</b> Заведующая отделом статистики внешнеэкономической деятельности Национального Статистического Комитета
15.	Moldova	<b>Ms. Silvia Ghelbur</b> Chief of Division Current Transactions, Balance of Payments Department
	Молдова	<b>Сильвия Гельбур</b> Начальник отдела Управления Платежного Баланса



16.	Moldova	<b>Ms. Mariana Eni</b> Head of external trade and services statistics division
	Молдова	<b>Марианна Ени</b> Начальник Управления статистики внешней торговли и услуг
17.	Russia	<b>Ms. Larisa Stolyarova</b> Chief Current Account Section Balance of Payments Department
	Россия	<b>Лариса Столярова</b> Начальник отдела счета текущих операций Департамента платежного баланса Банка России
18.	Russia	<b>Mr. Boris Mullokandov</b> Deputy Chief of Division for Foreign Trade Statistics, Department for Internal and Foreign Trade Statistics
	Россия	<b>Борис Муллокандов</b> Заместитель начальника отдела статистики внешней торговли управления статистики внутренней и внешней торговли
19.	Russia	<b>Ms. Nina Kapralova</b> Deputy General Director
	Россия	<b>Капралова Нина</b> Заместитель начальника Управления статистики внутренней и внешней торговли
20.	Tajikistan	<b>Mr. Asadullo Gafurov</b> Head of Division

	Таджикистан	<b>Асадулло Гафуров</b> Начальник отдела платёжного баланса
21.	Tajikistan	<b>Ms. Lyubov Zhdanova</b> Head, Department of Matrial Resources Statistics, Trade and Foreign Economic Relations and Services
	Таджикистан	<b>Любовь Жданова</b> Начальник Управления статистики материальных ресурсов, торговли и внешних экономических связей
22.	Ukraine	<b>Ms. Olena Troyitska</b> Head of Balance of Payments methodology and Development Division
	Украина	<b>Елена Троицкая</b> Начальник отдела методологии и составления платежного баланса
23.	Ukraine	<b>Ms. Olena Predko</b> Chief Economist
	Украина	<b>Елена Предко</b> Главный экономист отдела методологии и составления платежного баланса
24.	Ukraine	<b>Mr. Vadim Pischeiko</b> First Deputy Chairman
25.	Ukraine	<b>Mr. Anatoliy Fryzorenko</b> Director of the Department of Trade Statistics
	Украина	<b>Анатолий Фризоренко</b> Директор Департамента статистики торговли
26.	Ukraine	<b>Ms. Valentyna Kruglyak</b> Deputy Director, Department of Trade Statistics
	Украина	<b>Валентина Кругляк</b> Заместитель директора

		Департамента статистики торговли
27.	Ukraine	<b>Ms. Larysa Matronich</b> Head of Division of Foreign trade in goods, Deputy Director, Department of Trade Statistics
	Украина	<b>Лариса Матронич</b> Заместитель директора Департамента статистики торговли, Начальник отдела статистики внешней торговли товарами
28.	Ukraine	<b>Ms. Tetiana Poremskaya</b> Head of Department of Foreign Trade in Services Statistics, Department of Trade Statistics
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34.	IMF	<b>Ms. Nataliya Ivanik</b>
35.	UNSD	<b>Mr. Vladimir Markhonko</b> Chief, Trade Statistics Branch, Statistics Division
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