



# **2019 TRAINFORTRADE E-LEARNING COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS**

Organized by UNSD, UNCTAD, in cooperation with WTO

5 March – 13 April 2018

## **I. BACKGROUND:**

The development of a sound statistical system is key to the implementation of evidence-based policies and to the emergence of an open and unbiased dialogue between stakeholders and policy makers. As a consequence, it is an essential tool of both economic performance and social cohesion.

This is all the more true when trade negotiations are under way and when countries have to understand and precisely assess their offensive and defensive interests in this context. In such a situation, public authorities have to define a global strategy and to translate this approach into specific negotiating positions. Statistics are a key tool in this process. They allow the sharing of a diagnostic of the current situation between all national stakeholders and a clear understanding of the national interests.

While internationally agreed statistical definitions, concepts and methodologies regarding trade in goods statistics are long established and generally well implemented around the world, the same cannot be said for trade in services statistics. Although internationally agreed statistical definitions, concepts and methodologies now exist, these are still relatively new and their global implementation is uneven. Now, services represent a key component of the economic activity in every country and a fast growing component of international trade, accounting now for 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the value of all international trade. They are, in addition, the subject of multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations all over the world. Hence the acute necessity to develop the corresponding statistics on a sound and harmonized basis.

This course comes as a response to several demands for technical assistance in the compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics and addresses directly the aims of Goal 17 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This course has been developed and produced jointly by UN Statistics Division, UNCTAD, and the World Trade Organization. It has also benefited from the close collaboration of the Inter-Agency Task Force on 'Statistics of International Trade and Services'.



## II. OVERALL 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.

## III. PROGRAMME OUTLINE:

Each module includes interactive assessments and links to communication tools for online interaction. Every module will consist of PowerPoint presentations with video a participant's manual, a forum, tests and case studies. Participants should spend between 3 to 4 hours per week to study the material and participate in the forums.

The 6 distance learning modules are:

- 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

The course will be conducted through TrainForTrade's distance training platform. In this platform participants will have access to manuals, to multimedia presentations, to module exams, opinion surveys and forums created for each module for discussions with the instructor and other participants.

## IV. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

To be able to participate in the course participants need:

- A computer (tablet or smartphone) with headphones or loudspeakers, a browser (Chrome, Firefox or Safari) and Acrobat Reader.
- Internet access
- A valid E-mail address

## V. TARGET POPULATION:

### Primary Target

Primary target are trade data compilers from (depends on countries):

- National Statistical Office (NSO)
- Central Bank
- Ministry of Trade
- Customs Administration

### Secondary Target

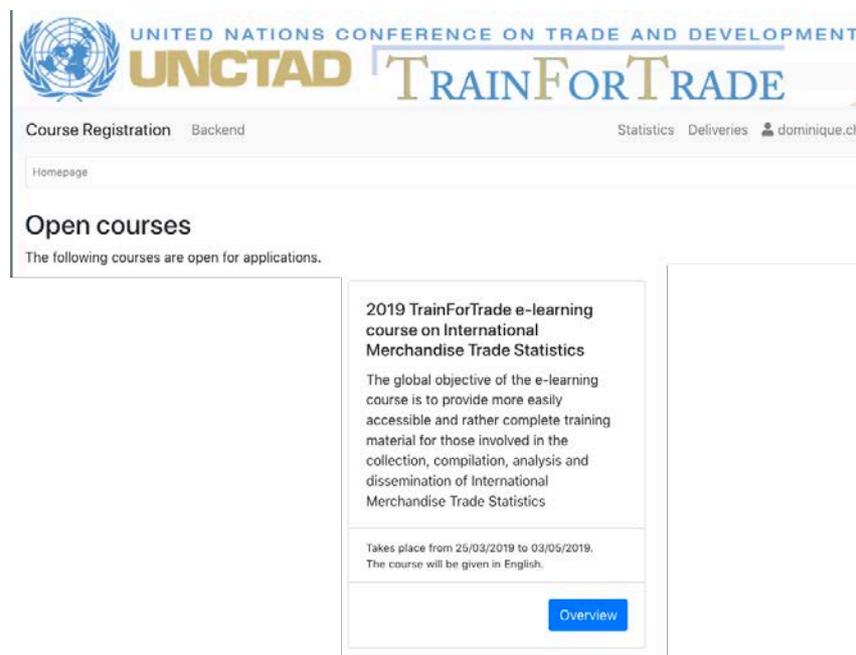
- Trade negotiators
- Trade statisticians
- Trade analysts / Economist (reporting indicators)

### From

- Ministries of Foreign affairs, Agriculture, Transport, Energy, etc.
- Chamber of Commerce, Industry
- NGOs
- Academics

## VI. REGISTRATION:

To register open the following link: <https://tft-reg.unctad.org> select “2019 TrainForTrade e-learning course on International Merchandise Trade Statistics”, the access code is: **2019IMTS**



The screenshot shows the UNCTAD TrainForTrade registration portal. At the top, there is the United Nations logo and the text "UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT". Below this is the "UNCTAD TRAINFORTRADE" logo. The page has a navigation bar with "Course Registration" and "Backend" on the left, and "Statistics", "Deliveries", and a user profile "dominique.ch" on the right. A search bar labeled "Homepage" is present. The main content area is titled "Open courses" and states "The following courses are open for applications." Below this, there is a card for the "2019 TrainForTrade e-learning course on International Merchandise Trade Statistics". The card contains the following text: "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." Below this, it says "Takes place from 25/03/2019 to 03/05/2019. The course will be given in English." At the bottom of the card is a blue button labeled "Overview".

**Deadline for registration: 15 March 2019.**

## VII. DATES AND LANGUAGE:

The distance-learning course will be delivered from 25 March to 3 May 2019. The working language will be English.



## VIII. CONTACTS:

For further information please contact:

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