



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) – JOINT VIENNA INSTITUTE (JVI)

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE IN SERVICES FOR THE CEECAC REGION

VIENNA – AUSTRIA

25-27 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is organizing in collaboration with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) a **Regional Workshop on Trade in Services for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus (CEECAC) countries** to be held in Vienna (Austria), **from 25 to 27 September 2024**.

The Workshop, in the context of the WTO Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan for 2024-2025 ([WT/COMTD/W/273](#)) aims to facilitate the more effective participation of the CEECAC countries in the work of the World Trade Organization.

..... An indicative draft programme of the Workshop is attached.

This workshop aims to bring together officials from the CEECAC region who have responsibilities in the area of trade in services. The Workshop aims to assist government officials from the beneficiary countries in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of trade in services, key features of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), the scheduling of services commitments under the GATS, including how to use data tools in the preparation of schedules of commitments. The Workshop will also update participants on recent services related work in the WTO (e.g. services domestic regulation, e-commerce).

The target audience for the Workshop is middle to senior level government officials who have proven professional experience and responsibilities in the area of trade in services. Preference will be given to nominees who also participate in discussions on the above issues in international and multilateral fora.

The Workshop will be conducted in **English only***.

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CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The WTO Secretariat will conduct a selection process to fill the **34 available spaces** for the workshop. **Your government is kindly invited to nominate four candidates.** Applications will only be considered from candidates who have experience and current job descriptions directly relevant to the subject of the Workshop as described above. At equal level of competence, preference will be given to applicants for whom the training will be most relevant. Prior participation in WTO training activities in these areas (or equivalent training provided by another competent international organization) would be considered an advantage. Alternatively, however, applicants may also show commensurate knowledge or professional experience.

COSTS COVERED FOR PARTICIPANTS

An economy-class round-trip air ticket (excursion fare, if applicable), daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the Workshop only will be financed, as well as terminal expenses for selected participants (allowances to be paid on the opening day of the activity). Other administrative arrangements shall be communicated directly to the selected participants in due course.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

... The attached Application Form must be returned, completed and signed by the candidate as well as by the nominating national authority which presents the candidate, **via the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO, to the Logistics Unit, WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation** (e-mail: logistics.unit@wto.org) **at the latest by 6 May 2024.**

In light of complex arrangements involved in the organization of the Workshop, we need to stress that beyond this deadline, the Secretariat would not be in a position to process the candidature of new participants.

The organizers reserve the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure or other reasons that render the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

Français/Español

** L'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce (OMC) organise un Atelier régional sur le commerce électronique pour la région ECOACC, du 25 au 27 septembre 2024. Ce cours étant donné en anglais, l'invitation et le formulaire de candidature sont distribués en anglais uniquement.*

** La Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) organiza un Taller regional sobre el comercio electrónico para la región ECOACC, del 25 al 27 de septiembre de 2024. Este curso será dado en inglés, por consiguiente, la invitación y el formulario de candidatura serán distribuidos únicamente en inglés.*

Regional Workshop on Trade in Services for the CEECAC region

25-27 September 2024

Draft programme

Wednesday, 25 September	
9:00 – 9:30	Administrative briefing
9:30 – 9:45	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome and introductory remarks
9:45 – 10:40	Session 1: Services trade facts and figures: global and regional trends <p>This session will introduce participants to the notion of services and trade in services with a brief outlook at the role of services in economic development in general. It will then explore how services are traded and main reasons behind the creation of the GATS.</p>
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 12:45	Session 2: Review of GATS and its main obligations <ul style="list-style-type: none">The presentation will focus and discuss in depth the scope of the GATS, present its main obligations and disciplines. We will look at how legally binding commitments are undertaken for trade in services liberalization. We will discuss the management of notifications under the GATS and clarify differences between the GATT and GATS.
12:45 – 14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
14:15 – 16:30	Session 3: Scheduling of Commitments under the GATS <ul style="list-style-type: none">How to read/draft a Schedule of Specific Commitments?Nature and structure of list of specific commitmentsClassifications (W/120 and CPC)Market Access and National TreatmentAdditional commitmentsHorizontal sectionQuiz
Thursday, 26 September	
9:00 – 9:30	Session 4: Review of Day 1
9:30 – 10:30	Session 5 : Introduction of analytical tools – I TIP Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presentation of the contents of ITIP services: GATS, RTAs, applied regimes, statistics.Focus on the Services Trade Policy Database (STPD), the Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI) and the STRI visualization tool.From STPD to the scheduling of commitments
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Break</i>

10:50 – 12:45	Session 6: Exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments <ul style="list-style-type: none">With the help of analytical Tools - I-TIP Services - The WTO/World Bank Services Database (see http://i-tip.wto.org/services). participants will analyse services trade policies, identify policy measures relevant for scheduling of commitments, and prepare draft schedules of specific commitments
12:45 – 14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
14:15 – 16:30	Session 6: Exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments (continued)
Friday, 27 September	
9:00 – 10:40	Session 7: Services Domestic Regulation in the WTO <ul style="list-style-type: none">This session will highlight how domestic regulatory measures are addressed by the GATS, set out how Members have negotiated multilaterally and in the Joint Statement Initiative, and introduce participants to the disciplines on services domestic regulation disciplines.
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 12:40	Session 8: The GATS and electronic commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none">This session will explain the relationship of the GATS with electronic commerce, provide an overview of services-relevant aspects of the work programme on electronic commerce, the moratorium, and work in the joint statement initiative on e-commerce.
12:40 – 13:00	Evaluation and Closing session