



# REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

## Introduction

Trade facilitation (TF) has become a key policy issue for both governments and business as it cuts the costs of doing trade, reduces delays at the border, and makes public agencies dealing with trade more efficient. It is at the heart of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round of negotiations.

In October 2012, UNECE launched its Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide: a web-based and interactive tool to help countries better access global value chains, through easier and faster trade procedures. A set of case stories on how countries have succeeded in facilitating trade and a training manual complement the Guide. It is available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/tfig>

In 2013, UNECE, in collaboration with other key international organizations for TF (UN Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, etc.) will organize a series of regional workshops to disseminate the Guide in the five regions of the world.

In this context, UNECE and UNECLAC will organize two back to back training workshops for the ECLAC region: the first one on the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG) and the second one on supply chains (SCs) in the region.

## Purpose of the workshops

The first workshop aims to train participants on how to use the Guide for TF reform efforts in their own country. The workshop is also designed to stimulate the sharing of national practices and the discussion of opportunities for regional cooperation in the TF areas covered in the Guide (Documents simplification and data harmonization, Single Window implementation, Consultation and cooperation for TF, Cross border management, etc.).



**UNECE**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**UNECLAC**

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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**23-26 September 2013**

Recognizing the volume and complexity of data exchanged in international supply chains, the second workshop will discuss the importance of developing regional value chains in countries in Latin America for strategic commodities with a view to enhancing their global competitiveness. In this regard a study on supply chains in selected countries will be shared with participants.

## Learning objectives

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Gained an understanding of TF and the approaches and methodologies that underpins TF efforts, including how TF is discussed at the WTO.
- Explored the supply chain perspective to TF, from purchasing to cross border management & customs, transport and payment.
- Discussed and analyzed paths for dealing with key TF issues, including: How to rationalize trade documents and information requirements, How to establish a SW; How to reduce delays at the border.
- Looked at TF instruments (Conventions, Recommendations, Standards, Guides and Best Practices, Glossaries) and organizations (UNECE, UNCTAD, WCO, WTO, WB, etc.) dealing with TF.
- Learned how the Guide works and how to design and conduct training with the Guide based on capacity building needs in own context.
- Raised awareness on the importance of efficient information exchange systems in reducing trade cost and facilitating trade.
- Improved knowledge on how crucial is to develop proper policies and strategies for regional value chain.
- Exchanged views and been exposed to diverse experiences and best – practices and forged networks with other professionals.

## Target audience

The target audience is a combination of policy makers and implementers involved in reform programs and experts in charge of capacity building activities for TF.

Typical participants are from National Trade and Transport Facilitation Bodies, Ministries of Trade, Customs, other inspection bodies, businesses and technical assistance agencies.

## Training methodology

The course is designed with the aim of facilitating dynamic learning of TF priorities and implementation strategies.

The learning activities stimulate active involvement and encourage participants to reflect on their own context and to share their experiences.

## Certificate

Participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance to the UNECE UNECLAC Trade Facilitation Implementation Workshop.

## The 5<sup>th</sup> TFIG and SCs regional workshops

Target countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is organized and conducted in collaboration with UNECLAC.

## Where

The venue is Santiago, Chile.

## When

On the 23 to 26 September 2013.

## Language

The training is in **English** with simultaneous interpretation into **Spanish**.