

REPORTING SYSTEM FOR TRADE IN SERVICES STATISTICS, FATS AND FDI STATISTICS

BACKGROUND

The CEFTA Joint Committee established the *Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics* as part of its efforts to ensure smooth implementation of the commitments undertaken in the CEFTA Agreement and, in particular, to enhance intraregional trade in services. The main objective of this Group, which operates under the CEFTA Subcommittee on Trade in Services, is to improve the quality of trade in services statistics across the CEFTA Region and harmonise them with those of the European Union.

The main tasks of the Working Group include:

- i. Reviewing the quality and coverage of available trade in services statistics, FATS and FDI statistics in the region and proposing appropriate solutions for improvement
- ii. Identifying priorities for further development of statistics for commonly agreed areas
- iii. Meeting the needs of users with regard to analysis of trade in services and investment
- iv. Setting up an operational reporting system of statistical data and a sustainable dissemination platform to be managed by the CEFTA Secretariat

The Working Group meets at least once per year and reports regularly on its activities and progress achieved to the Subcommittee on Trade in Services.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the proposed project is to assist CEFTA to develop a sustainable Reporting System for Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics – one of the key tasks of the Working Group.



ACTIVITIES

The project will be delivered in two phases.

Phase 1 will comprise:

- A review of the current availability of trade in services and investment data including data regularly reported to the international organisation such as EUROSTAT, IMF and UNCTAD. This will detect any gaps and alert the Parties where the quality of data to be used for analytical and reporting purposes is less than satisfactory
- Provision of proposals to:
 - Improve the quality of data and reduce the gaps, following internationally recognised methodologies (e.g. IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), the fourth edition of the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment (BD4), MSITS 2010 etc.)
 - Ensure that data from the individual Parties is comparable and that a regional set of data can be created



Phase 2 requires the experts to:

- Develop a set of indicators that can be calculated on the basis of data available and that can be used by ministries responsible for trade and investment to monitor implementation of CEFTA commitments and SEE2020 Strategy priorities
- Advise how best to integrate trade in services and investment data with the CEFTA Management Information System (MIS) that provides other relevant data such as trade in goods, NTMs, SPS, etc. and makes this easily available to users

IMPACT ON CEFTA

The result of this assignment will be the establishment of a fully functional and user friendly report-

ing system featuring individual CEFTA Party data and providing regional data and trade and investment indicators, that feeds seamlessly into the CEFTA Secretariat's dissemination platform (MIS).

The beneficiaries will gain from the availability of good quality and comparable regional data in the area of trade in services and investment. Amongst other things, this will assist them in their trade in services negotiations and potential negotiations in investment. It will also facilitate their efforts to assess the impact of such liberalisations on the CEFTA economies.

Furthermore, the system will serve as a valid monitoring tool for measuring progress in the implementation of commitments in the CEFTA Agreement and the priorities of the SEE2020 Strategy.

SUMMARY PROJECT INFORMATION

Dates:	2016 - 2017
Budget:	€ 50,000
Partners:	CEFTA
Financiers:	CEFTA Project Facility/EU
Beneficiaries:	Ministries responsible for trade and investment and central banks

CONTACT PERSON/FURTHER INFORMATION

Aleksandra Rakovic, Technical Expert, CEFTA Secretariat  Aleksandra.rakovic@cefta.int

