



Regional-Global TiVA Webinar Series

2021-1 Trade asymmetries in goods and services

The first Regional-Global TiVA webinar took place on **9 June 2021, from 12:00-14:00 (CET)**. EUROSTAT presented its methodology for solving trade asymmetries in goods, and OECD-WTO presented its methodology for estimating the Balanced Trade in Services (BaTiS) analytical database. In addition to our existing community site, the secretariat introduced a webpage for the Region-Global TiVA initiatives, and agreed to host the presentations of this webinar on our new website.

The key discussion points during the webinar include:

- **Hub for trade data for all Regional-Global TiVA Initiatives.** BaTiS is already published on the OECD.stat and data are available for 202 reporters and partners for the years of 2005-2019 ([link](#)), which can be accessed by other initiatives. OECD also host a database of balanced merchandise trade at HS-6 digit level ([link](#)).
- **Alternative approach to handle misclassification in product classification.** Solving trade asymmetries is a daunting task that take huge amounts of time and effort, and address these manually can only go so far. EUROSTAT advocated the possibility of solving misclassifications using an algorithm, and they were echoed by UNCTAD. The secretariat will invite interested parties to discuss this topic at a future webinar, particularly to discuss automation, at least partially, in the data cleaning process.
- **Adjustments for re-exports.** In merchandise trade, re-exports remain one of the biggest causes for trade asymmetries. The data available for making re-export adjustment are rather limited. Ideally, re-exports should be addressed before applying generic formulas for balancing. This will also be a topic of a future webinar.
- **Further breakdown of transport and travel EBOPS categories.** The current breakdown of EBOPS items in BOP statistics are not directly compatible with what is needed when estimating bilateral trade in services. One of the most required breakdowns considers transport and travel categories. The BPM update process includes this as a possibility, but in the foreseeable future, estimations will be needed for TiVA initiatives.
- **The International Transport and Insurance Cost (ITIC) database ([link](#)) deals with CIF/FOB adjustments.** As part of the SNA and BPM update, a proposal dealing with recording trade data based on invoice values is being discussed. This will have a direct impact on current CIF/FOB estimates of the different initiatives.
- **Alignment of international trade statistics and national accounts.** This will be considered in a future webinar, as well as the geographical distribution of trade.
- **Additional adjustments for processing and merchanting.** During the discussion, it was acknowledged that global production arrangements require additional adjustments, and these topics will be discussed in the following webinar.

There is a strong support to share knowledge on various technical subjects, as well as to share the results from bilateral-multilateral initiatives to avoid duplicated efforts. On that, the secretariat encourages delegates to get involved in the (private) Regional-Global TiVA communities ([link](#)), to use it as a common platform to host data, codes, algorithms, etc., and share the knowledge with the community.

Next webinar, dealing with Global Production Arrangements (Merchanting, processing, etc.) is scheduled for September 15th, 2021, just one month before our annual meeting on October 14-15, 2021. See you all there.

José and Rodolfo

Access presentations

- Pedro Martins-Ferreira, Statistician, EUROSTAT International Global Accounts, [‘Solving’ trade in goods asymmetries at Eurostat](#) (PPT)
- Antonella Liberatore, Statistician/Analyst, OECD Statistics and Data Directorate, [The OECD-WTO Balanced Trade in Services Dataset \(BATIS\)](#) (PPT)