

# Introduction to digital trade regulations in Asia and Latin America

Deadline to register 6 October

Modality 42h online course

Timeframe 16 October - 26 November



## Organization

The course is organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), the UN Economic Commission and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), and the European University Institute (EUI), with the support of the Forum for East Asia - Latin America Cooperation (FOCALAE) project.

## Course description

This interdisciplinary course is designed for policymakers and researchers who want to develop a critical understanding of digital trade regulations across the globe. The rise of digital trade, which covers trade in digital goods and online services, foreign direct investment in sectors relevant to the digital economy, and data movement, is a new reality that our economies are adjusting to. New digital technologies, such as 3D printing, big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and autonomous driving are creating new services and ways of working, which impact citizens, businesses, and governments. Regulating the digital revolution is proving exceptionally challenging, also given the pace at which it is evolving. On one hand, policymakers are applying policies designed for an 'offline' world to the new online world. On the other hand, they are designing policies to consider broad economic and non-economic concerns, including public security, law enforcement, national security, privacy, consumer protection, and free speech. The course will shed light on this topic by introducing the concept of digital trade and its regulations, highlighting the importance of informed policy-making decisions, including in the context of the recent negotiations of trade agreements.

## Duration of the course and methodology

The course has six weekly modules with a total of 42 hours of training. Each module (of about seven hours) includes pre-recorded video tutorials, readings, an online meeting, and a final test with multiple-choice questions. Participants can interact with the tutor and other participants through the online discussion forum and live sessions. The course uses the online platform Brightspace.

## Assessment methods

To obtain the course diploma, the participant requires a score of 70% correct answers for each of the six quizzes.

## Timeframe

The course takes place from October 16th to November 26th. The online meetings take place each Thursday. The course platform remains open until December 10th, so participants can complete the assignments to obtain their diploma.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will:

- Have knowledge and the ability to describe digital trade and related regulations;
- Identify critical challenges related to the application of traditional trade policy to digital trade;
- Reflect on the implications of digital trade regulations on the economy and essential rights such as privacy and freedom of expression;
- Interpret and critique the political economy forces behind digital trade regulations by looking at different national and regional contexts.

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## Course structure and calendar

- **Module 1** (October 16th-22nd): Introduction to digital trade and its regulations. This module introduces the topic of digital trade and focuses on definitions, components, and global statistics in this new field of trade. The module will also present digital trade regulations, and the main sources that track these regulations, in particular, the Digital Trade Integration Database.
- **Module 2** (October 23rd-29th): Digital trade policies related to information and communication technology (ICT) goods. This module reviews the main regulatory policies that can impact trade in ICT goods, including tariffs, certification requirements, and standards.
- **Module 3** (October 30th-November 5th): Digital trade policies related to online services. This module deals with the main regulatory policies that can impact trade in online services, including policies on content access, online payments, and licensing requirements.
- **Module 4** (November 6th-12th): Digital trade policies related to data flows. This module focuses on regulatory policies that can impact data movement and processing, which is at the heart of digital trade. The policies include local data processing requirements, data retention policies and conditional regimes that apply to different types of data and/or sectors.
- **Module 5** (November 13th-19th): Empirical research on digital trade to inform policymakers. This module provides reviews of empirical research on digital regulations and their impact on trade.
- **Module 6** (November 20st-26th): Digital trade regulations in the context of trade agreements. This module presents digital trade regulations embedded in trade agreements, including on-going plurilateral negotiations in the context of the WTO and more recent cooperation frameworks such as the Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs).

## Profile of the participants

This introductory course is for professionals from the public sector, firms, NGOs, universities, and think-tanks without or some prior knowledge or experience on digital trade regulations, policy making, and research. A good level of listening and understanding of English is required to be able to understand the lectures and read the material, while the live sessions will be in English for participants for Asia-Pacific region and in Spanish for participants from Latin America.

## Instructor and academic coordination



Dr. Martina F. Ferracane ([martina.ferracane@eui.eu](mailto:martina.ferracane@eui.eu)) is a Research Fellow at the Robert Schuman Center of Advanced Studies of the European University Institute, where she manages the Digital Trade Integration Project.

Her research covers digital trade, data governance, and creative digital education. Martina founded and manages FabLab Western Sicily, a non-profit organisation that brings creative digital education to Sicilian schools and she was listed in Forbes 30 Under 30 for her work with a start-up in the area of 3D printing and dentistry. For her work in these areas, she was listed among the 15 most influential Italian women on digital issues. She is a regular consultant for several institutions including the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, and the World Bank.



## Course coordination

Dr. Nanno Mulder, Head of the International Trade Unit, UN-ECLAC, [nanno.mulder@un.org](mailto:nanno.mulder@un.org).

## Course registration

This course is free of charge, but it is required (before October 6):

- Register at the following [link](#).
- Send a letter of recommendation from your employer indicating how this course contributes to the institution and/or the person taking this course. This letter should be sent to Alejandro Fredes ([a.fredesparedes@gmail.com](mailto:a.fredesparedes@gmail.com)).