DEBT DATA VALIDATION MODULE

Background

Government institutions responsible for debt management need a reliable database in order to produce statistics, analyze the debt situation, evaluate risks inherent in the debt portfolio and take correct debt-management decisions.

Debt managers and policymakers need to take informed decisions on new borrowing, benchmarking, the mix of instruments to be used, debt renegotiations, etc. These informed decisions are directly influenced by the quality and reliability of the debt database developed and maintained by the debt office.

Therefore, debt management offices should undertake a formalized checking of their debt data on a regular basis and on the basis of written procedures. Debt data validation is more than just a quality control of the database. It should be seen within the wider framework of debt management. An assessment of the quality of the database will reveal the weaknesses as well as the strengths of the debt office, and will provide valuable information on the reliability of data to all stakeholders.

This DMFAS Programme capacity-building module aims at improving the capacity of the national debt office to adopt organizational arrangements, including internal procedures, that would guarantee the quality and reliability of debt data on a long-term basis.

This module would also ensure that comprehensive, consistent and complete information is available for all levels of decision-making.

Capacity-building activities implemented by the DMFAS Programme

a) Assessing the existing capacity of the government institution (including the institutional environment, the policy instruments and the organizational arrangements), and establishing goals concerning the capacity to be developed

b) Providing training and follow-up activities appropriate to the institution

c) Providing assistance and advisory services

How will your institution benefit? It will be able to:

1. Maintain a complete, accurate and consistent debt database, which will provide the basis for comprehensive reporting.
2. Apply a methodology to perform debt data quality control and ensure the reliability of the debt data on a long-term basis.
3. Appreciate the role of systematic debt data validation procedures in national debt offices and the importance of establishing validation checks and performance criteria.
4. Integrate debt data validation into the recording process of the debt office.

Outputs/outcomes of the Debt Data Validation module

Data validation calendar: Calendar of actions to be executed by the debt management office to ensure the reliability of data.

Improved procedures: Procedures reflect the measures adopted to ensure the reliability of data.

Improved operations: Validation procedures minimize operational errors.

Improved statistics: Validated data ensures up-to-date statistics.

Improved analysis and decision-making: Reliable debt information provides the basis for well-informed decision-making.

Targeted audience

a) High-ranking public officials and policy-makers
b) Debt managers and debt officers involved in the recording of debt data
c) Debt officers producing reports from debt databases
d) Debt auditors
e) The broader community of users/compilers of specific components of debt information

Organization of this module

1. Data validation workshop, to acquire the methodology to perform data validation and to develop a draft data validation calendar.

2. Implementation period (from 6 months up to 1 year), during which your institution will finalize, formalize and implement the draft data validation calendar, and also introduce the changes required to improve the institutional and the organizational arrangements that

have a direct or indirect impact on the reliability of debt data. During this period, your institution will continue to benefit from the assistance of the DMFAS Programme.

3. A follow-up workshop (up to 5 days), to take stock of the achievements and progress made by your institution and to launch the data validation calendar. This will be the opportunity to review what worked well and what still needs to be improved.

How can I obtain the capacity-building module on Debt Data Validation?

Usually, all DMFAS activities at the national level are implemented through a technical cooperation project between UNCTAD and the government institution that requests a DMFAS Programme product or service.

After receiving a request from the government institution, UNCTAD will conduct a needs assessment during which a dedicated project manager will meet with the institution's staff to discuss their challenges and requirements and to recommend the activities to be integrated into a project document for subsequent signature and funding.

Some activities can also be provided in the framework of regional workshops at the initiative of regional or international organizations.

For further information, please contact the DMFAS Programme:
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About the DMFAS Programme

Integrated as a key activity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the overall objective of the DMFAS Programme is to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage their debt in an effective and sustainable way, in support of poverty reduction, development and good governance.

The DMFAS Programme offers countries a set of proven solutions for improving their capacity to handle the management of public liabilities and to produce reliable debt data for policymaking purposes. This includes its specialized debt management software, also called DMFAS, as well as advisory services and training activities in debt management. The Programme has so far provided its products and services to 106 institutions in 69 countries.

Other capacity-building modules offered by the DMFAS Programme

Elaboration of a Debt Statistical Bulletin
The objective of this training is to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to produce reliable and timely statistics on external and public debt that are consistent with international standards, or to assist those already producing a debt statistical bulletin in improving it.

Debt Portfolio Analysis
The objective of this training is to improve the ability of debt managers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to correctly interpret and to regularly assess the structure, composition and risks inherent in the debt portfolio and to assist them in conducting an analysis of the debt portfolio.