

Thirty-second Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda
EAFIT University, 13–31 July 2015
Course Syllabus

This syllabus gives an overview of the content of the different course modules. For each module, participants who have been selected to attend will be expected to gather information on a number of issues before the beginning of the course so they may contribute to discussions on the different modules by sharing the experiences of their countries.

Module 1: Development, development policies and the role of international trade and finance in a globalized world

Description: This module will highlight topical economic issues at the global level and explore their implications for development strategies. The UNCTAD integrated approach will be used to discuss development challenges, examining interdependence between different policy areas, including macroeconomic management and international trade and finance, and new views regarding the nature and role of the developmental state in the light of the global economic crisis. The module will also address the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and related policy implications. Opportunities to discuss national and regional experiences on country-specific aspects will help promote the sharing of national experiences from across the region.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will have deepened their understanding of the implications of trade and financial integration for inclusive economic growth, structural change and technological upgrading. They should also be able to understand the key challenges of development policies in order to achieve both economic and human development and economic growth. Participants will thus develop their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas at the national, regional and international levels.

Module 2: Harnessing benefits from trade: Changing dynamics in the multilateral trading system, trade logistics and regional trade agreements

Description: This module will highlight the role of trade as an enabler for development. It will address best practices and policy norms for harnessing benefits from trade. It will also take into account the changing dynamics of trade negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. In particular, trade facilitation and trade in services will be discussed as areas of opportunity for Latin American and Caribbean economies to benefit from ongoing negotiations. The module will also introduce participants to transportation and trade logistics as an enabler for the regional integration process and integration into global value chains.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will be able to identify and understand key challenges and development opportunities in the international trading system and regional trade agreements. They will also be cognizant of important factors affecting the design of appropriate national trade policies and development strategies and how to maximize gains from their integration into the global economy. Participants will also better understand the role of the regulatory environment and institutional and physical trade infrastructures in fostering international trade competitiveness in terms of supporting productive and trading capacities, including trade facilitation.

Module 3: Enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment, enterprise development and science, technology and innovation

Description: The role of foreign direct investment, small and medium-sized enterprise development and science, technology and innovation in the development process and their place in national development strategies in the context of the globalization of economic activity will be explained and evaluated in this module. These policy areas will be linked with social welfare, economic growth and development.

Expected outcome: At the end of this training module, participants will be able to identify the link between foreign direct investment and development and describe recent trends in foreign direct investment flows. They will also be able to identify the main development and policy challenges of global value chains and highlight effective investment promotion strategies that include attracting foreign direct investment, aimed at maximizing local benefits. This information will be useful in analysing the impact of foreign direct investment on local productive capacity, especially through transnational corporation and small and medium-sized enterprise linkages. Participants will also gain understanding in how to unleash entrepreneurship at a national level, from a policy perspective, as well as the role of science, technology and innovation in growth, economic and social development and environmental sustainability. Participants will thus gain further understanding in the experiences and challenges of developing economies in stimulating technological upgrading and innovation. Finally, participants will better understand how policymakers can develop the science, technology and innovation system and capabilities through national policies and by enhancing local productive capacity.