



DTL/KDB/MISC/2015/7  
(15/217ams)

## NOTIFICATION

**Thirty-fourth regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda  
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Economics  
16 May to 3 June 2016**

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course for countries with economies in transition on key issues on the international economic agenda will be hosted by the University of Belgrade with the support of the Serbian Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications. The course will be held from 16 May to 3 June 2016.

The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. Its aims are as follows:

- To enhance understanding of the relationship between these areas and their link to country development strategies;
- To provide participants with knowledge and skills that will prepare them for the art of trade negotiation, as well as for the design and implementation of trade and development policies. These tools are designed to meet the needs and interests of their countries.

The course syllabus will draw on the perspective of UNCTAD, its analytical work and lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities and will be enriched by the competence and expertise of representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe. Serbia experts will also share the country's experience in promoting and managing trade, investment, finance and development.

The course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officers in ministries and institutions dealing with trade, investment, finance, technology and development issues and who are involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies. Depending on the availability of places, other applicants, such as university academics, could be considered.

The course will be given in English.

States members of UNCTAD from countries with economies in transition are invited to present the names and e-mail addresses of qualified candidates to the secretariat by 18 March 2016 through their permanent missions in Geneva. The candidates will be contacted to complete an application online by the same date. It is therefore advisable that this information be submitted as soon as possible. Member States of successful candidates will be notified of the decision of the UNCTAD selection committee by 25 March 2016.

UNCTAD will provide hotel accommodation for all participants, who will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Requests for travel arrangements for selected participants should be made at the time of nomination. Selected participants will, however, be responsible for taking out adequate travel and medical insurance and obtaining a valid visa for travel to Belgrade prior to their arrival in Serbia.

An outline of the course syllabus, which provides a list of topics, learning objectives and questions to answer (P166.2016.TS.1) and the application guidelines (P166.2016.AG.1) are attached.

For additional information, please contact the Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD by telephone 41 22 917 2516, fax 41 22 917 0050 or e-mail: [mohan.panicker@unctad.org](mailto:mohan.panicker@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

12 January 2016

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**Course syllabus**

This syllabus gives a description of the different course modules. For each module, participants will be expected to gather information on a number of issues before the beginning of the course so they can contribute to discussions 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. Serbia's experience in developing relevant economic policies that support development objectives will also be shared.

**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 take into account the changing dynamics of trade negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Participants will learn about Sustainable Development Goals and their impact on trade agreements, progress in trade facilitation agreements and their challenges, 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 become cognizant of important factors affecting the design of appropriate national trade policies and development strategies and learn how to maximize gains from their integration into the global economy. Participants will develop a better understanding of 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. These policy areas will be linked with social welfare, economic growth and development.

**Expected outcome:** At the end of this 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 linkages between multinational enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants will learn how to unleash entrepreneurship at a national level from a policy perspective. They will gain an understanding of the following issues: the role of science, technology and innovation in growth, economic and social development and environmental sustainability; experiences and challenges of developing economies in stimulating technological upgrading and innovation; and how policymakers can develop the science, technology and innovation system and capabilities through national policies and enhanced local productive capacity.

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**Questions for applicants**

All applicants will be contacted by e-mail to complete an online application. Kindly ensure names and e-mail addresses are sent to the secretariat by 18 March 2016.

The online application must include responses to two of the questions provided below. All applicants must answer question 1. They must then answer either question 2 or question 3.

Please ensure that responses take into account their countries' economic development objectives. The reply to each question should not exceed 250 words.

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Question 1 (compulsory):

How is national development planning undertaken in your country? What are the broad macroeconomic principles and objectives that determine your Government's approach and the choice of policies used? What is the role of economic development, and which are the relevant agencies responsible for its implementation? What are the indicators that best measure economic development in your country? What do they show about your country?

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Please answer one of the two following questions:

Question 2:

What roles do trade, investment and finance policies play in addressing economic challenges in your country? What domestic and international constraints affect the choice and design of these policies and their implementation? What are their main effects?

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OR

Question 3:

What roles do technology and/or entrepreneurship and/or trade logistics play in supporting economic development in your country? Are these issues incorporated in your national economic development plans and strategies? If so, how? Give a brief description of the main challenges faced with respect to each of these three issues. If they are not part of your national economic development plans and strategies, explain why.

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**Application guidelines**

**Applicant profile**

The course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials dealing with international economic issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies in one or more fields covered in the course syllabus (see above).

To be considered for nomination, candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, trade law or public administration. A first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted if places in the course are available;
- Have 4 to 10 years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a research institute or a university dealing with trade, investment, finance, technology and development issues and involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies;
- Be in a position to use and disseminate the information and knowledge acquired during the course. It is important for participants to remain in relevant positions for a sufficient length of time after completion of the course so that the skills and knowledge gained can be disseminated as widely as possible at their workplace;
- Have a full working knowledge of English, the official language of the course, with proven written and verbal communication skills.

**Instructions for submitting applications online**

Candidates will be contacted to complete an online application. Applications must be submitted in English by 18 March 2016 and include the following documents:

- Application form;
- Detailed curriculum vitae;
- Letter of motivation stating the following: how the applicant contributes to policy design and implementation in the areas of trade, investment, finance and technology; how the course will contribute to enhancing his or her professional and personal development; and why the applicant feels he or she should be chosen to attend this course;
- Short essay answering question 1 and one of the other two questions outlined in the course syllabus relevant to his or her national context (no more than 250 words per question).

**Nominations**

Nominations should be submitted to UNCTAD through the permanent mission accredited to the United Nations Office or the World Trade Organization at Geneva and contain the names and e-mail addresses of the candidates before 18 March 2016. Nominated candidates will be contacted and asked to complete an online application by 18 March 2016. It is therefore advisable that names and e-mail addresses be communicated as soon as possible to the UNCTAD secretariat.

Nominations should be addressed to:

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Knowledge Development Branch  
Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD  
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Switzerland  
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