



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



WTO | 20 YEARS

*Improving understanding
of the WTO trading system*

**TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**

Did you know?

Over 14,700 participants from developing countries benefited from WTO training courses and distance learning programmes in 2014. This training has been instrumental in helping government officials gain a greater understanding of the multilateral trading system and in helping developing countries tackle the challenges of being a WTO member, enforce their rights and meet their obligations.



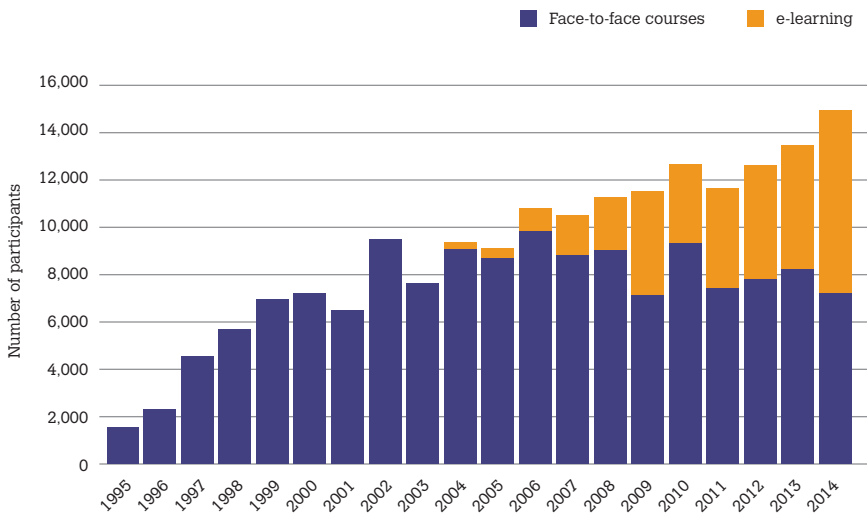
Growing participation in WTO training activities

The annual number of participants in WTO training activities has increased more than fivefold over the past 20 years (see Figure 1).

Distance learning (e-learning), in particular, has seen a significant increase in participants in recent years, more than offsetting a slight downward trend in the number of participants in traditional training courses held at the WTO and elsewhere in the world. In 2014, e-learning accounted for just over half of all participants in WTO training activities.

The percentage of women taking part in training activities has reached about 45 per cent in recent years.

Figure 1: Participants in training activities

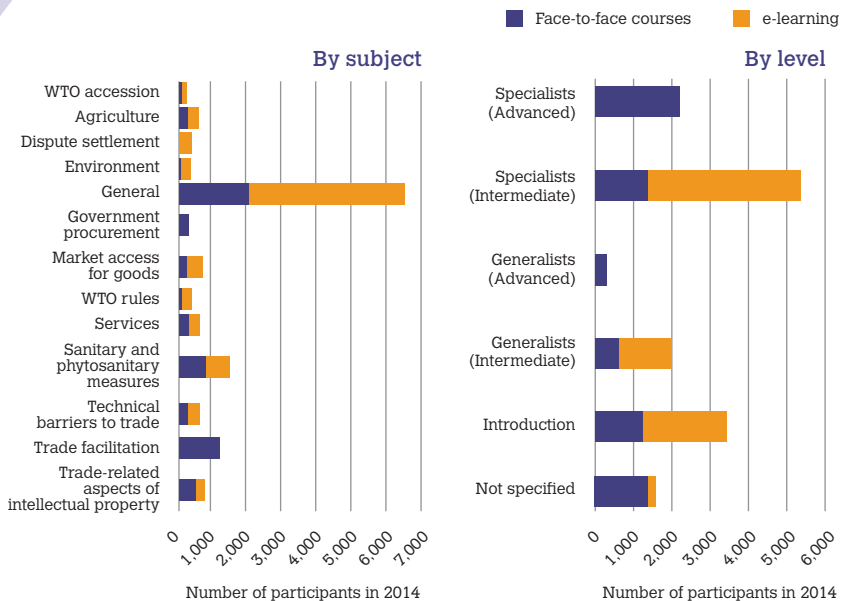


Training is provided on a variety of topics and at different levels

Many of the WTO's training courses cover a variety of trade topics (see Figure 2). In 2014, 45 per cent of training course participants took part in courses covering multiple topics while the remainder participated in activities covering a specific WTO topic. The WTO's training activities include the Advanced Trade Policy Courses (a two-month training course held at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva), Regional Trade Policy Courses (see page 5), "Geneva Weeks" (a week-long event for representatives of WTO members who do not have permanent missions in Geneva) and courses aimed specifically at least-developed countries.

Much of the training imparted by the WTO is provided at an intermediate level, targeting government officials who deal with trade issues. In 2014, half of all participants were trained at the intermediate level. About one-quarter of participants took part in introductory courses providing basic information about the multilateral trading system and WTO agreements. Advanced training activities involved a smaller group of participants, consisting of trade experts, who undertook more extensive training.

Figure 2: Training activities by subject and level of expertise



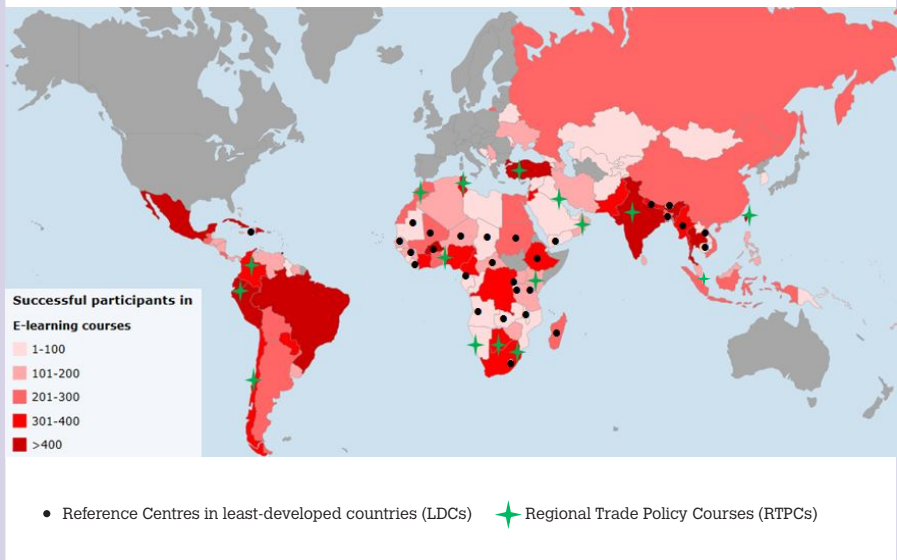
Regional training courses and Reference Centres

The WTO organizes a number of regional training courses at various locations around the world (see Figure 3). Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs) typically last eight weeks and are attended by on average 27 participants. The aim of these courses is to deepen government officials' understanding of WTO agreements and to strengthen their ability to undertake WTO work, ranging from participation in WTO committees to taking part in the ongoing Doha Round of trade negotiations.

The WTO has also established over 100 Reference Centres in least-developed and developing countries around the world. These centres allow government officials and others to access trade-related resources made available by the WTO to raise awareness about the multilateral trading system.

The WTO provides training to Reference Centre staff on how to use the databases and other IT resources provided, and, in the case of LDCs, donates the equipment needed to operate the centres.

Figure 3: Regional trade policy courses hosted by WTO members, e-learning participation and Reference Centres in LDCs



Partnerships

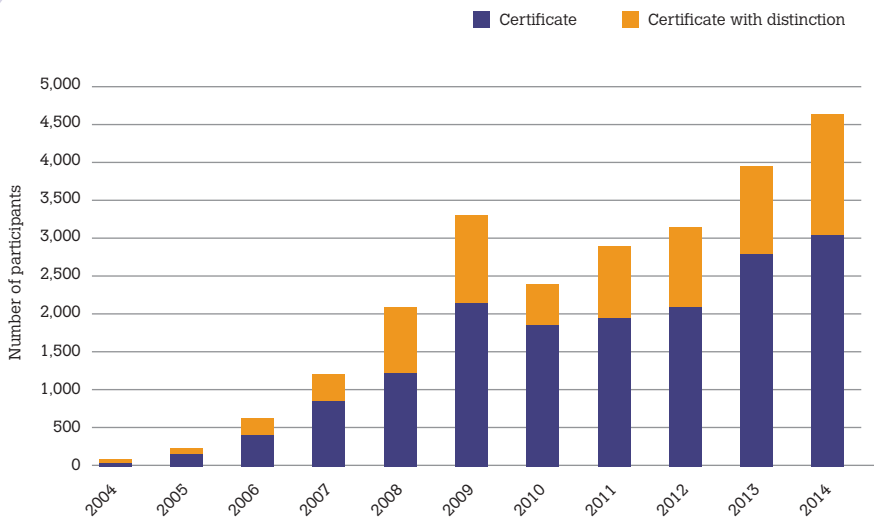
The WTO cooperates with a wide network of partners to deliver training courses tailored to the specific needs of the course participants. These partnerships ensure that the WTO is able to maximise its resources in addressing the most immediate constraints facing developing countries.

The WTO has regional partners across the world, including partnerships with numerous agencies that help the WTO to provide training on specific trade topics. The importance of these partnerships has increased in recent years, with around half of all WTO face-to-face training courses being undertaken with partner institutions. These partners range from universities to UN economic commissions.

Monitoring and evaluation

The WTO undertakes systematic monitoring and evaluation of its training activities to ensure that training objectives are met. For example, e-learning participants are required to undertake an exam at the end of their activity which measures to what extent they have increased their understanding (see Figure 4). Other course participants are required to fill in feedback questionnaires to indicate the effectiveness of the training they have received.

Figure 4: E-learning: Successful participants

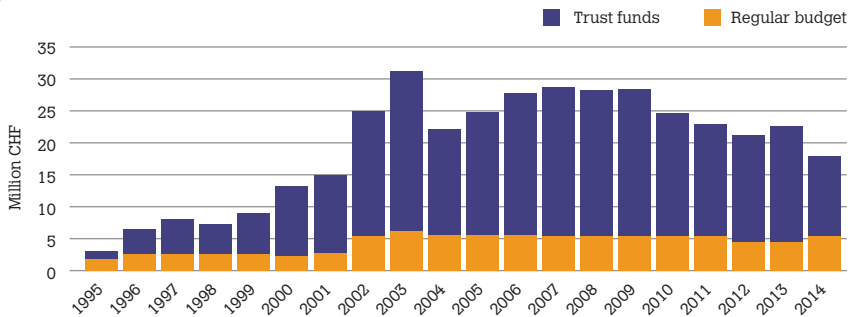


Funding for WTO training activities

The WTO's training activities are funded from two sources: the WTO's regular budget provided by the WTO membership, and voluntary contributions by certain WTO members into dedicated trust funds.

Funding from both sources increased following the launch of the Doha Round in 2001 but voluntary contributions have declined in recent years (see Figure 5). Careful management of this funding has made it possible for the WTO Secretariat to continue to conduct a high level of training activities with decreasing overall resources.

Figure 5: Funding for WTO training activities



The 20 largest donors to the WTO's training activities accounted for virtually all voluntary contributions from 2010 to 2014, with the top ten donors contributing just over 80 per cent of the funding during this period.

Table 1: Largest donors to WTO training activities

(ranked by value of contributions 2010-14)

1	Norway	11	Denmark
2	Sweden	12	Japan
3	Netherlands	13	Ireland
4	Australia	14	Korea, Republic of*
5	Germany	15	Switzerland
6	France	16	Austria
7	European Union	17	China*
8	United States	18	Spain
9	Finland	19	Chinese Taipei*
10	Canada	20	Liechtenstein

* Also a beneficiary member.

Case study: WTO training

Improving the measurement of trade in services in Zambia

In 2009, Zambia requested WTO support to provide training to government officials on the measurement of trade in services. A training activity was therefore organized in Lusaka in November 2009 which was attended by 19 officials involved in collecting, compiling or using statistics on trade in services. The training provided the officials with a greater awareness of the importance of inter-agency cooperation. As a result, a set of recommendations was drawn up to establish a national system for measuring trade in services.

The long-term results of this training activity became evident in 2014 when during a joint

WTO-SADC (Southern African Development Community) workshop on trade in services statistics, Zambia was the only African country to share its national experience on how to compile statistics by sector and mode of supply. Zambia's presentation demonstrated not only that the country had implemented the recommendations developed in 2009 but also that, with the necessary technical support, least-developed countries are capable of tackling the challenges of developing trade in services statistics and of understanding the implications of this data for their increased participation in global trade.

Further information

For the latest information on WTO's training and technical assistance activities and programmes, visit the WTO webpage:

www.wto.org/technicalcooperation

Newsletter

A regular newsletter is published by the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation. It can be accessed on the WTO website.

