Regional trade: ITC publications

Many ITC publications provide advice on how to make regional trade happen.

They discuss how to bring the business voice in key trade policy areas, present regional and intraregional market data and analysis, and provide concrete advice on service industry coalitions, geographical indications and regional trade strategies.

The collection is free on ITC’s online publications catalogue: http://www.intracen.org/publications/collections/
SME Competitiveness Outlook 2017 - The region: A door to global trade

This year’s report focuses on regional trade, the most common form of trade for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

It finds that deep regional trade agreements help deliver inclusive growth. These agreements attract value chain activity and narrow the competitiveness gap between large and small firms. The report provides targeted advice for policymakers, businesses, and trade and investment support institutions. It combines data analysis, case studies, academic insights, and thought leaders.

Published: 2017
Available in: English, Spanish (available soon)

Business in trade policy

BRICS countries: Emerging players in global services trade

BRICS countries – Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China, and South Africa – have emerged as important players in global services trade in the past decade.

This report provides data on sector and modes of supply for each BRICS country, and analyses intra-BRICS trade. The analysis suggests that BRICS can better integrate into the global services economy by improving services regulations and reducing trade costs.

Published: 2017
Available in: English

Services in COMESA – An Industry Perspective

A regional services industries group can help boost trade in services in the COMESA region, as this joint ITC-COMESA Business Council report shows.

Services industries can work across borders to counter common challenges of size, funding and know-how. The report has regional data for tourism, transport, finance and telecommunications; ‘services snapshots’ for each COMESA country; and a roadmap to promote regional trade in services.

Published: 2016
Available in: English

Making regional integration work – Company perspectives on non-tariff measures in Arab States

Intraregional trade among Arab States is low compared with other regions.

This publication offers insights into trade challenges and suggests how to address them. It shares company perspectives of exporters captured through ITC business surveys in Egypt, Morocco, the State of Palestine and Tunisia.

Published: 2015
Available in: English
Mobilizing Business for a New APEC Services Agenda

Asia-Pacific businesses call for services business groupings to join forces in a regional coalition to shape a new APEC services agenda.

High-level businesses in the region consequently ask for twice the attention it received in the past. This report maps services organizations in the region.

Published: 2014
Available in: English

EC-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement: Services and Investment Commitments

The EC-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement created business opportunities in services sectors and other investment opportunities.

This guide looks at opportunities for Caribbean enterprises in Europe, as well as openings for European businesses in 13 Caribbean markets.

Published: 2011
Available in: English

Africa's Trade Potential: Export Opportunities in Growth Markets

Sub-Saharan Africa can boost annual GDP by $15 billion if customs clearance time is cut by 50%, and another $20 billion with better transport infrastructure.

This report recommends that sub-Saharan African countries focus on Asian and African markets; integrate into value chains; and increase the share of semi-processed and processed goods.

Published: 2012
Available in: English

Market analysis for intraregional growth


Deeper regional integration goes hand-in-hand with stronger processing industries and more international small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

This study measures trade integration within and among African, Caribbean and Pacific Island groups. Regions with the fastest trade integration over the last decade offer neighbours the best access to their markets.

Published: 2014
Available in English

Commonwealth Trade: Prospects for Stronger Cooperation

Enhanced economic cooperation among Commonwealth states could boost trade integration, despite differences in geographic location and development.

Using trade statistics to assess export performance of Commonwealth members, and taking into account different development levels and business climates, the report identifies policy options for stronger cooperation.

Published: 2013
Available in English
Improving Africa’s Cotton Value Chain for Asian Markets

Stronger ties between African cotton producers/ginners and Asian buyers can improve the market positioning of African cotton.

This study examines African challenges to improve along the value chain to meet Asia’s growing demand. It recommends on how to develop partnerships between African cotton producers and ginners and cotton consuming spinning mills in export markets in Asia.

Published: 2013
Available in English

LDC-specific

Making the Most of the LDC Services Waiver

Benefitting from the LDC services waiver depends on taking 10 key actions.

The guide outlines how ITC can work with LDCs to benefit from this new preferential access opportunity.

Published: 2015
Available in: English

LDC Services Exports: Trends and Success Stories

LDC services exports are growing twice as fast as the world average; the LDC share in world services exports is increasing.

But services still account for only 10% of LDC exports. The business success stories in this study (from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and Vanuatu) provide insights into what factors drive success, and what more might be done to enhance LDC services competitiveness.

Published: 2013
Available in: English

LDCs and Global Value Chains: Using Aid for Trade to Seize New Opportunities

Global value chains are key for LDCs to increase their share in global trade.

Investment in Aid for Trade delivers significant returns, according to new evidence in this report. Aid for Trade has been proven effective in countries with supportive policy and managerial environments, and can help LDCs tap into global value chains.

Published: 2013
Available in: English

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