

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



Evaluation report of the workshop on Interactive Graphic System for International Trade Data: map-based international trade system



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Workshop on Interactive Graphic System for International Trade Data:
map-based international trade system

Virtual workshop, 17 December 2021

LIMITED
LC/CAR/2021/14
22 December 2021
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON INTERACTIVE GRAPHIC SYSTEM FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE DATA: MAP-BASED INTERNATIONAL TRADE SYSTEM

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CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION.....	2
B. ATTENDANCE.....	2
1. Place and date of the workshop	2
2. Attendance.....	2
C. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION	2
1. Identification.....	2
2. Substantive content and usefulness of workshop	5
3. Organization of event	7
4. Other works by ECLAC	9
D. CONCLUSIONS.....	10
Annex I List of participants	11
Annex II Evaluation questionnaire	13

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has developed the online consultation system Interactive Graphic System for International Trade Data (SIGCI). It is an interactive web program that allows the extraction and analysis of a set of trade indicators at the country and product level for the economies of Latin America and the rest of the world. The system considers trading partners, subregional groupings, product classification in a time dimension. SIGCI provides results online for each query, which are accompanied by interactive maps and graphs that save calculation time and allow for specific analysis at the country, subregional and regional levels.

2. This workshop introduced the main functions of the SIGCI as a query tool. In this respect, a description of each indicator was presented, as well as the particular interpretation and proper use of these indicators. The use of SIGCI was exemplified by country cases from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as extraregional partners.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the workshop

3. The training workshop on the SIGCI: map-based international trade system was held via Webex from Santiago, Chile, on 17 December 2021.

2. Attendance

4. Workshop participants originated from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. The training targeted 11 professionals primarily from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Ministry of Finance of Antigua and Barbuda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Trinidad and Tobago.

5. The workshop was facilitated by José Elias Duran Lima, Economics Affairs Officer and Chief of the Regional Integration Unit, International Trade and Integration Division; Ira Ronzheimer, consultant and facilitator, Daniel Rodrigo Diaz Diaz, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration Unit, International Trade and Integration Division; and Carlos Ludena, consultant.

C. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

6. An evaluation questionnaire was administered to participants in the final session of the workshop. The purpose of the evaluation was to elicit feedback on the substantive content and usefulness of the workshop, organization of the event and other works by ECLAC. This section of the report presents a summary of the evaluation responses provided by the workshop participants. Reference to the term “respondent” throughout this document represents workshop participants that completed and submitted the questionnaire.

1. Identification

7. Of the thirteen persons participating in the workshop, nine completed and submitted the evaluation questionnaire. Five (56 per cent) of the nineteen respondents were female (see figure 1). Forty-five per cent of respondents were 30 years and under, 44 per cent were between the ages of 41–50 years and 11 per cent were between the ages of 31 and 40 years (see figure 2). The full list of participants is included in annex I.

FIGURE 1
SEX

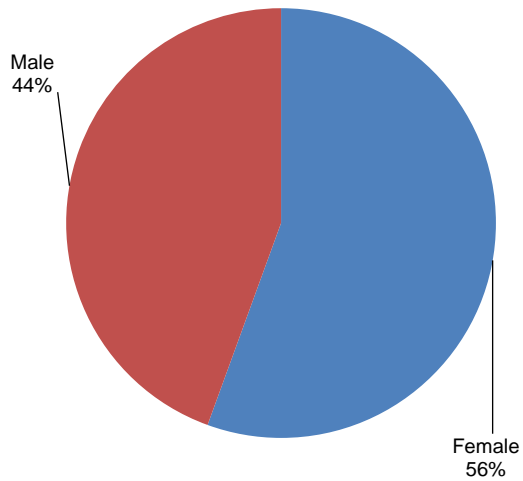
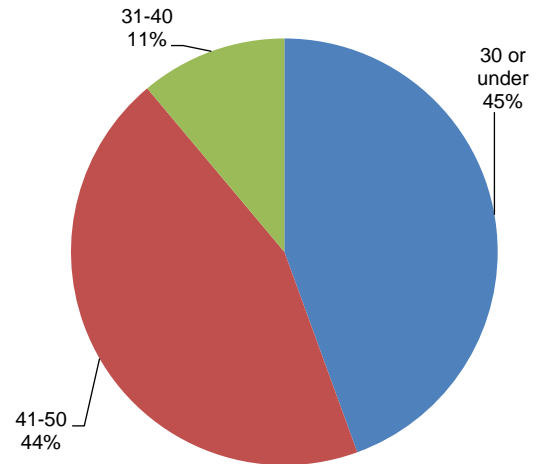


FIGURE 2
AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION



8. Trinidad and Tobago had the highest participation rate with 45 per cent of respondents reporting that they originated from this country and were currently employed there (figures 3 and 4). For the remaining participants, 33 per cent and 22 per cent reported that they originated from Antigua and Barbuda, and Barbados respectively. Twenty-two per cent of participants were currently employed in Barbados and 22 per cent and 11 per cent were employed in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda respectively.

FIGURE 3
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

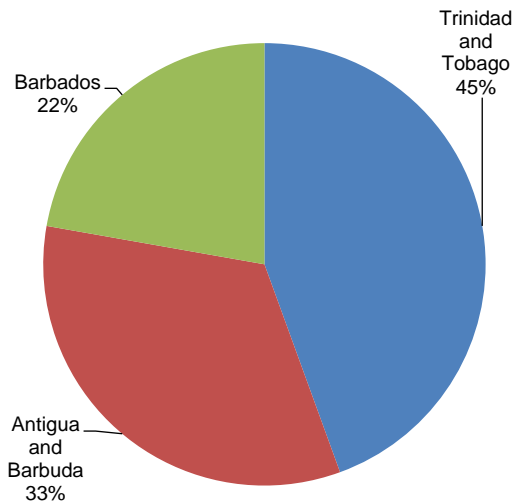
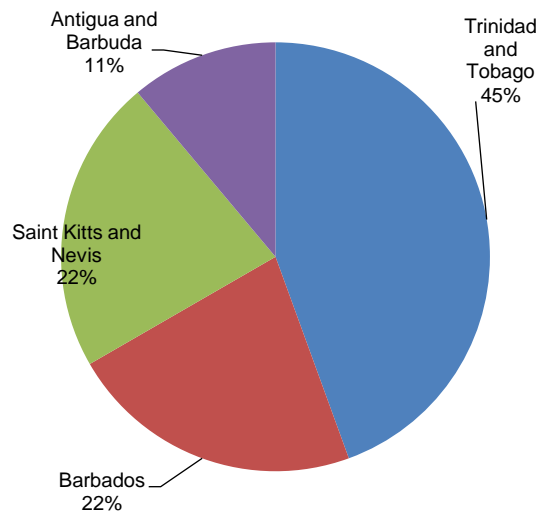


FIGURE 4
COUNTRY OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT



9. The respondents indicated that the type of institution represented as either a national ministry (78 per cent) or a subregional institute (22 per cent) (see figure 5). The two respondents who were representing subregional institutes worked at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. The other respondents represented the Ministry of Finance in Antigua and Barbuda, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in Barbados, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Trinidad and Tobago (see figure 6).

FIGURE 5
TYPE OF ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED

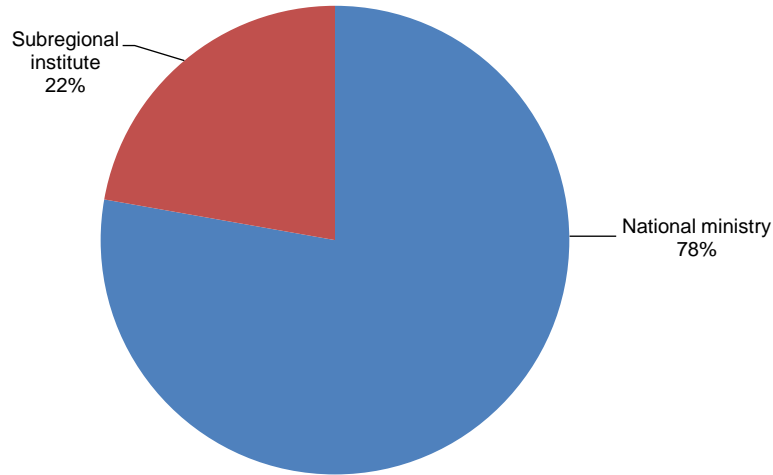
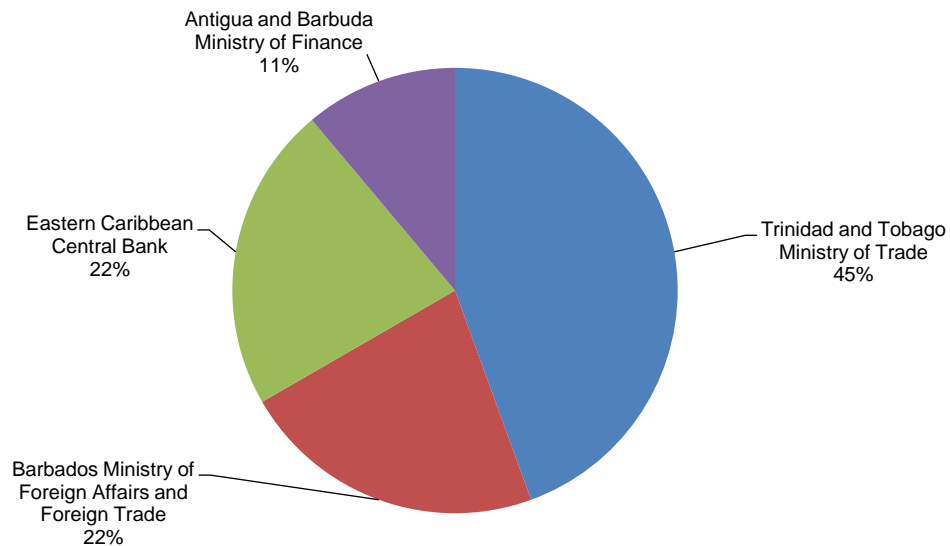


FIGURE 6
INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED AT WORKSHOP

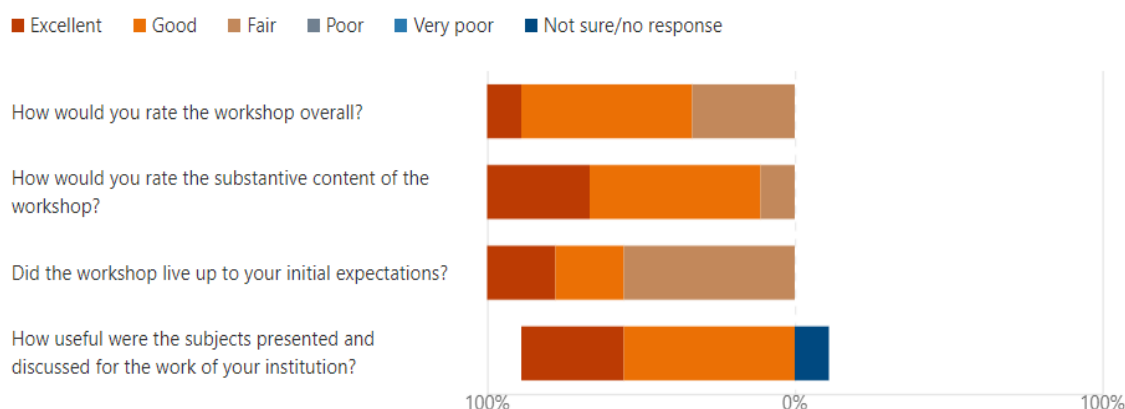


10. Respondents at participating institutions reported a diverse number of titles/ positions ranging from junior level professionals to senior level management. Altogether, their roles comprised of Economist (67 per cent), Policy Specialist (11 per cent), Research Statistical Analyst (11 per cent) and Director of Foreign Trade (11 per cent).

2. Substantive content and usefulness of workshop

11. Respondents rated the overall workshop as either excellent (11 per cent), good (56 per cent), or fair (33 per cent) (see figure 7). Most respondents (89 per cent) rated the substantive content of the workshop as either excellent (33 per cent) or good (56 per cent) (see figure 7). However, a minority of respondents (44 per cent) rated the workshop living up to their initial expectations as excellent or good, while 56 per cent rated this as fair. However, most agreed (33 per cent excellent and 55 per cent good) that the subjects presented and discussed were useful for the work of their institution.

FIGURE 7
RATING THE CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP



12. The respondents presented some recommendations to strengthen the topics addressed. Table 1 outlines these recommendations.

TABLE 1
SUBJECT RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE WORKSHOP

Recommendations	
1	Excellent. I have no complaints.
2	More time to work on practical examples.
3	Longer timeframe should be a week.
4	Perhaps target the training to two separate groups. the first group could be decision makers interested more in understanding and interpreting the results. the second group on persons more interested in undertaking the calculations or manipulating the data directly.
5	The content was not at the level expected. The content was a lot for the time frame. Also time of year was less than ideal.
6	More practical demonstrations and additional details.
7	The workshop could have been longer.
8	The material is very useful and require more time to study. Participants should have more practice in the SIGCI. If participants are to complete the questions, more time must be given.
9	n/a

13. Most respondents reported that the analysis and indicators presented at the workshop were at least useful to their work with 56 per cent finding it very useful and 33 per cent finding it useful. One participant (11 per cent) gave no response (see figure 8).

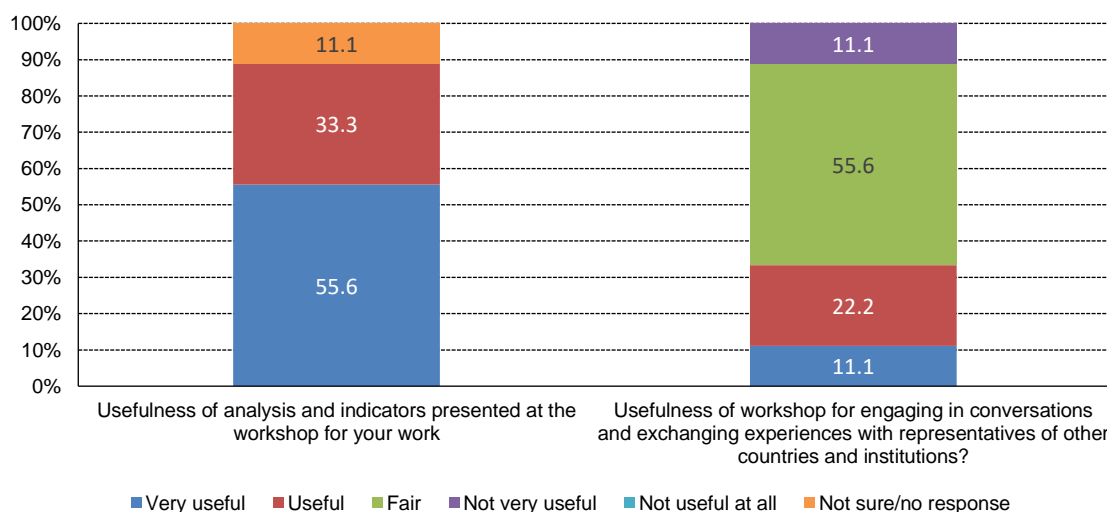
14. Overall, participants were keen on incorporating several aspects of the training. The responses are listed in the table below.

TABLE 2
ASPECTS OF THE TRAINING CONSIDERED FOR INCORPORATING INTO RESPONDENTS' WORK

Responses
1 There is great potential to incorporate this type of analysis in the making of trade policy.
2 More worked examples.
3 The trade indicators and value chain.
4 All. trade intensity, concentration and diversity indices.
5 The slides, information shared.
6 They are all useful indicators which can be used in the data analysis and policy formulation.
7 Trade indicators, value-chain analysis.
8 the use of the SIGCI for policy guidance on all the aspects, especially the concentration and comparative indices.
9 Better use of trade indicators and comparative advantages indicators.

15. Regarding the use of the workshop for engaging in conversation and exchanging experiences, a minority indicated that the workshop was very useful (11 per cent) or useful (22 per cent) for this purpose (see figure 8). The most respondents reported it as fair (56 per cent), while one indicated that it was not very useful for this purpose.

FIGURE 8
USEFULNESS OF SUBJECTS PRESENTED, ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS TO WORK, AND WORKSHOP FOR ENGAGING AND SHARING EXPERIENCES



16. Table 3 outlines the learning experiences from the workshop that would be beneficial for each participant's country's needs.

TABLE 3
ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Responses	
1	yes
2	n/a
3	Trade indicator.
4	Interpreting the results of the indices.
5	This area of training is needed in general.
6	The practical demonstrations were very useful.
7	All the indices are useful to craft sound policy, especially as a small economy with capacity constraints.
8	The use and analysis of trade indicators.

17. When asked about the most significant outcome of the workshop the respondents offered the following responses.

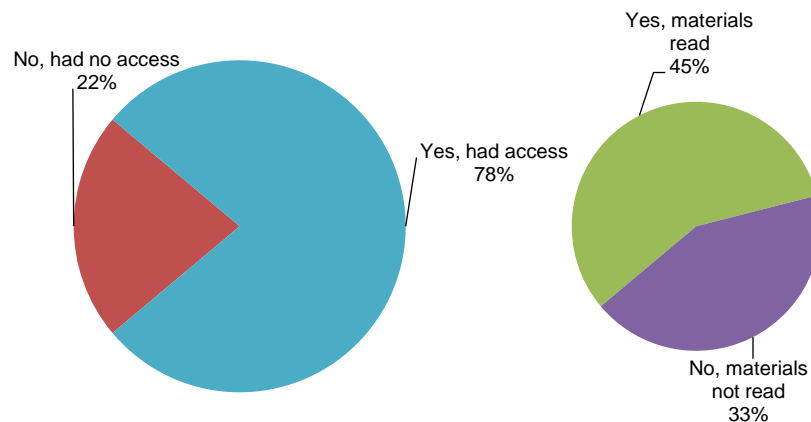
TABLE 4
MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP

Responses	
1	The input and output tables is a very useful tool. This can be used to determine the economic impact of different sectors on each other. This is even more relevant given the occurrence of the pandemic.
2	Understanding the different types of trade indicators and how to calculate these indicators.
3	Excel worksheet.
4	Learning that the Caribbean will be included in the IOT was encouraging and understanding the results.
5	Exposure to the content.
6	The commitment to engage further on the indicators.
7	Learning how to use SIGCI.
8	Knowledge and access to the SIGCI.

3. Organization of event

18. Seven (78 per cent) of participants had access to the materials for the workshop prior to seeing the presentations at this event. Of these 7 participants with access to materials prior to the workshop, 4 (57 per cent) read the materials (see figure 9).

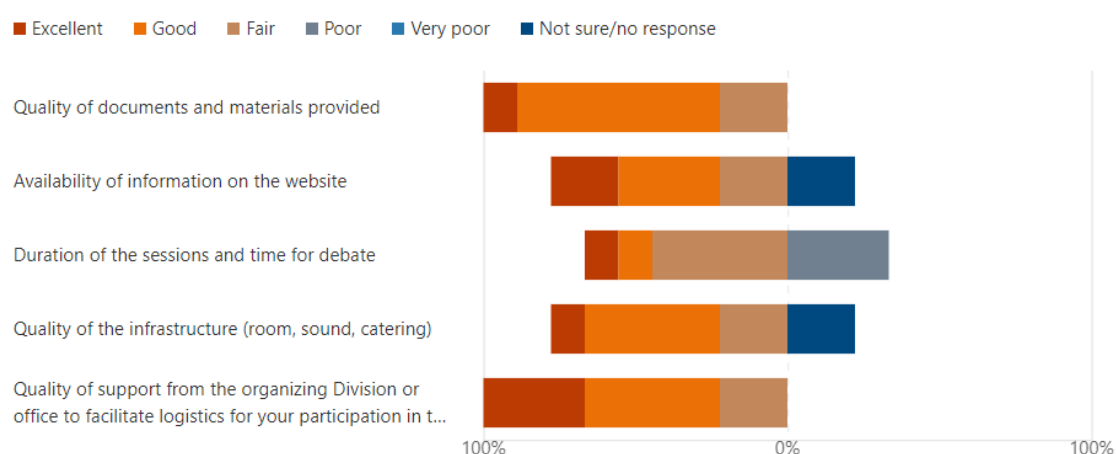
FIGURE 9
ACCESS TO MATERIALS PRIOR TO WORKSHOP
AND WERE MATERIALS READ



19. In general, respondents appeared to be mostly satisfied with the organization of the event but expressed concerns about the duration of the session and the time for debate (see figure 10). Participants expressed satisfaction with the quality of documents and materials provided such that 78 per cent of respondents reported it as excellent or good. Fifty-five per cent of respondents indicated that the availability of information on the website was either excellent or good. Participants were least satisfied with the duration of the sessions and time for debate as 44 per cent reported it to be fair and 33 per cent reported poor. A small minority (56 per cent) of respondents felt that the quality of the infrastructure was good or excellent, with 22 per cent responding not sure/no response, possibly due to the virtual nature of the session.

20. The quality of the support from the office to facilitate logistics for participation in the workshop was received favourably with 78 per cent of respondents considering this service to be good or excellent.

FIGURE 10
RATINGS FOR ORGANIZATION OF EVENT



21. In general, the participants found that the knowledge of the presenters and the information on the presentations very useful, but the primary concern among participants was the short duration of the workshop. Participants would have liked more time with the material (tables 5 and 6).

TABLE 5
RESPONSES ON WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Responses	
1	The entire workshop was excellent.
2	Lecture slides very useful. More worked examples are needed.
3	Durations need to be longer.
4	the time allotted may not have been enough the knowledge of the presenters was excellent.
5	Timeliness, speakers could be improved.
6	The demonstrations were useful as well as the slides. More time was required.
7	Duration of sessions and time for debate.
8	The organizers did a good job. the duration of the workshop should be extended, if the excel questions are to be completed and to grasp a comprehensive understanding of the principles of the indices.
9	Tutorial assignments could be improved in terms of delivery. For example, preliminary data collation and filtering can be done prior to assignments, such as, lookups/pivots/excel functions etc. Focus should be more targeted towards the main indicators being taught and its analysis and applicability.

TABLE 6
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE WORKSHOP

Responses
1 Excellent work. keep it up.
2 n/a
3 No it was well organized.
4 Another time of year, longer duration for better absorption of material.
5 A wider cross section of participants will be required given the cross linkages.
6 To extend the duration of the workshop and to take more time explaining the concepts.
7 n/a

22. With respect to the areas identified as follow-up activities ECLAC could undertake to support participant countries and/or institutions, respondents thought that ECLAC could have additional workshops at the country level to allow for more stakeholders to benefit (table 7).

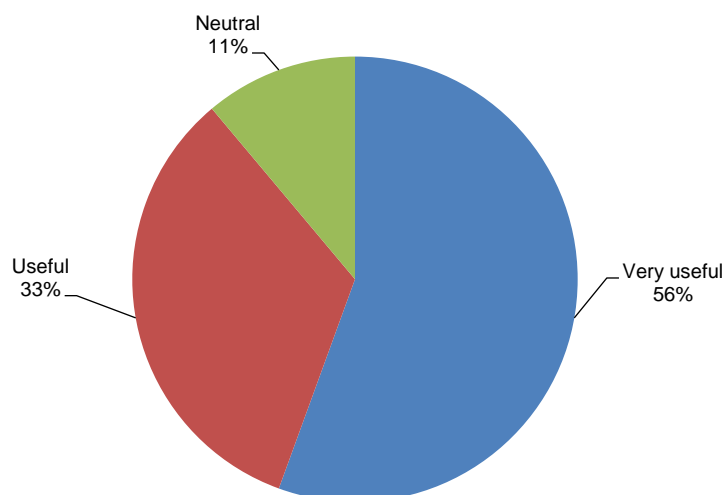
TABLE 7
FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON TOPICS COVERED IN THE WORKSHOP

Responses
1 ECLAC produces great workshops. I do endorse the implementation of more workshops in the area of trade policy and the use of data.
2 More information on the indicators.
3 Slides and data.
4 National workshops and course materials.
5 Reaching out to country officials to collect data for Eastern Caribbean countries.
6 To have a country specific workshop as all the stakeholder in policy making would benefit.
7 Yes

4. Other works by ECLAC

23. There was strong agreement among respondents regarding the usefulness of the analysis and indicators provided by ECLAC for formulating and implementing of trade policy in their country. Eighty-nine per cent of respondents reported that using ECLAC's analysis and indicators for this purpose was either useful (33 per cent) or very useful (56 per cent) (see figure 11).

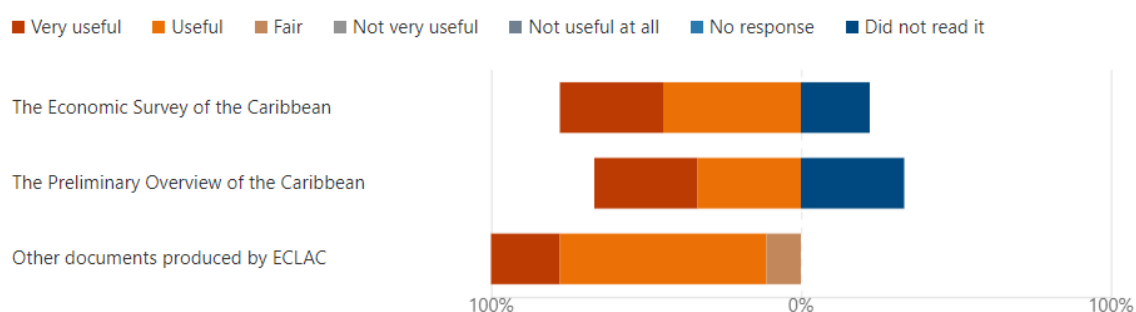
FIGURE 11
USEFULNESS OF ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS FOR FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE POLICY IN YOUR COUNTRY



24. With regard to suggestions for other technical cooperation activities that ECLAC could undertake, respondents suggested trade analysis, value chain analysis, macro fiscal analysis and greater research on the entire Latin American and Caribbean Region as a whole

25. When asked about two specific ECLAC recurrent publications, the Economic Survey of the Caribbean and the Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean respondents mostly found them useful. Seventy-eight per cent found the Economic Survey of the Caribbean very useful or useful, while 66 per cent found the Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean useful or very useful. However, some respondents responded that they did not read either publication: 22 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. Eighty-nine per cent of respondents rated other documents produced by ECLAC as very useful or useful, while 11 per cent rated them as fair. Some of the other ECLAC documents that the respondents mentioned were the Focus Magazine, “Impact Assessments”, “Foreign Direct Investment, International Trade Outlook” and other research or policy papers.

FIGURE 12
USEFULNESS OF ECLAC PUBLICATIONS



26. All participants expressed an interest in receiving information on activities and publications by ECLAC in the area covered by the workshop. The email addresses of these respondents can be identified in annex I.

D. CONCLUSIONS

27. Overall, the SIGCI - map-based international trade system workshop facilitated was a benefit to participants. Participants were exposed to useful ECLAC analytical tools for acquiring and analyzing trade data that has the potential to positively impact trade related decision-making and the formulation of public policy. More importantly, participants generally viewed the analysis and indicators presented as an asset to the work of their institutions and expressed an intention to implement and share their newly acquired knowledge. Institutions that now have the potential to benefit from these skills include Ministries of Trade, Finance, Foreign Affairs, and subregional central banks.

28. Participants were generally satisfied with the organization of the event but highlighted the need for more time with the material. Many participants also expressed an interest in follow up workshops to deepen their understanding of the material introduced at the workshop.

29. There was a large number of participants indicating exposure to ECLAC publications and documents and most of those that had the opportunity to review ECLAC flagship publications and other documents all found them to be at least useful. By conducting the workshop, ECLAC now has an opportunity to expand their readership base given that most participants expressed an interest in acquiring future publications related to the topics presented at the workshop.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Member States****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

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BARBADOS

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B. Organizations**Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)**

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Annex II

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE



Workshop on trade policy indicators using SIGCI

**Economic Development Unit
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
17 December 2021**

EVALUATION FORM

Please answer the following questions (please print answers to open-ended questions):

Identification

Sex

- ☐ Female
☐ Male

Age (optional)

- ☐ 30 or under
☐ 31 - 40
☐ 41 - 50
☐ 51 or over

Nationality: _____

Country of current employment: _____

Institution(s) you represent: _____

Title / position: _____

Type of organization you represent:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| National ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Subregional institution | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National institution | <input type="checkbox"/> | International organization | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local / municipal institution | <input type="checkbox"/> | Independent consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Academic institution / university | <input type="checkbox"/> | NGO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Private sector | <input type="checkbox"/> | Civil society | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | _____ | |

Substantive content and usefulness of workshop/seminar

1. How would you rate the workshop overall?

1. Excellent 2. Good ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Poor ☐ 5. Very poor ☐ 6. Not sure / no response ☐

2. How would you rate the substantive content of the workshop?

1. Excellent 2. Good ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Poor ☐ 5. Very poor ☐ 6. Not sure / no response ☐

3. Did the workshop live up to your initial expectations?

1. Excellent 2. Good ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Poor ☐

4. How useful were the subjects presented and discussed for the work of your institution?

1. Excellent 2. Good ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Poor ☐ 5. Very poor ☐ 6. Not sure / no response ☐

5. Given the stated objectives of the workshop, how would you improve this workshop in terms of the subjects addressed to better achieve those objectives (for example, issues you would have liked to see addressed or analyzed in greater depth, or subjects which were not so important)?

6. How useful did you find the analysis and indicators presented at the workshop for your work?

1. Very useful ☐ 2. Useful ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Not very useful ☐ 5. Not useful at all ☐ 6. Not sure / no response ☐

7. Based on the above, what specific aspects of the training would you consider incorporating in the work of your institution?

8. How useful did you find the workshop for engaging in conversations and exchanging experiences with representatives of other countries and institutions?

1. Very useful ☐ 2. Useful ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Not very useful ☐ 5. Not useful at all ☐ 6. Not sure / no response ☐

9. What learning experiences were especially important vis-à-vis your country's needs?

10. What do you consider to be the most significant outcome of the workshop?

Organization of the event

11. a. Did you have access to the materials for the workshop before seeing the presentations at this event?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

b. Did you read them?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

12. How would you rate the organization of the workshop? If you choose “poor” or “very poor” please explain your response so that we can take your opinion into account.

Quality of documents and materials provided	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of information on the website	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Duration of the sessions and time for debate	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of the infrastructure (room, sound, catering)	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of support from the organizing Division or office to facilitate logistics for your participation in the event	1. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Good <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Very poor <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Not sure/No response <input type="checkbox"/>

13. Based on the ratings selected above, please indicate what worked well and what could be improved.

14. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on organizational aspects of the workshop?

15. What follow-up activities on topics covered in the workshop should ECLAC undertake in the future to support your country or institution?

Other works by ECLAC

16. In your opinion, how useful are the analysis and indicators provided by ECLAC for the formulation and implementation of trade policy in your country and in the region?

1. Very useful ☐ 2. Useful ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Not very useful ☐ 5. Not useful at all ☐ 6. Not sure / no response ☐

17. What other technical cooperation activities in the areas covered by the workshop would you suggest that ECLAC undertake in the future?

18. Are you familiar with the following ECLAC publications? If so, do you find their analytical content and recommendations useful?

The Economic Survey of the Caribbean

1. Very useful ☐ 2. Useful ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Not very useful ☐ 5. Not useful at all ☐ 6. No response ☐
7. Did not read it ☐

The Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean

1. Very useful ☐ 2. Useful ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Not very useful ☐ 5. Not useful at all ☐ 6. No response ☐
7. Did not read it ☐

Other documents produced by ECLAC (please specify):

1. Very useful ☐ 2. Useful ☐ 3. Fair ☐ 4. Not very useful ☐ 5. Not useful at all ☐ 6. No response ☐
7. Did not read it ☐

19a. Would you like to receive information about activities or publications by ECLAC in the area covered by the workshop?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

b. If yes, please provide your e-mail address:

Thank you.



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