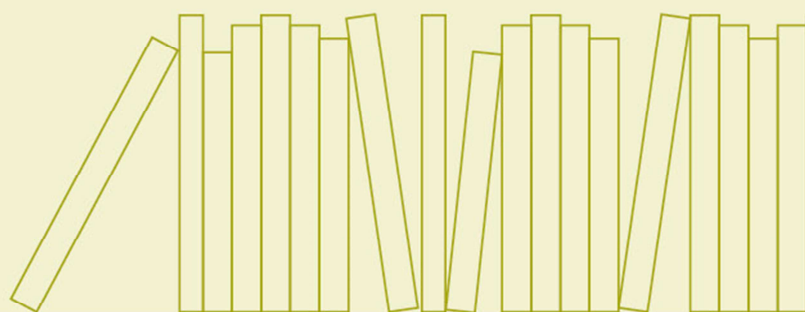


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



Evaluation report of the workshop on TradeCAN, MAGIC PLUS and WITS



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



UNITED NATIONS



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

Workshop on TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus, and WITS
14-16 November 2017
Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

LIMITED
LC/CAR/2017/21
22 December 2017
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON TRADECAN, MAGIC PLUS AND WITS

This report has been reproduced without formal editing.

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has provided comprehensive training in the compilation and analysis of data using TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) to member States for a number of years. Through these training workshops, ECLAC aims to enhance the trade analysis skills of our member States to produce the essential inputs needed to drive the formulation, negotiation, and implementation of better trade policy across the region.
2. MAGIC Plus and TradeCAN are analytical tools developed by the United Nations-ECLAC with the purpose of measuring the ex post competitiveness of exports. WITS, on the other hand, was developed by the World Bank with the purpose of accessing and retrieving trade and tariff data compiled by a number of international organizations.
3. For the 2017 workshop, ECLAC, in collaboration with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, jointly coordinated the three-day capacity-building workshop on trade data compilation and analysis, specifically targeting OECS public officials. Our partnership with the OECS Secretariat on this initiative was important given our shared objective of building trade-related capacity and promoting economic growth and development among our member States.
4. Over the course of the workshop, participants were exposed to the new features of TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and WITS; the competitiveness profile of Caribbean countries; and a comprehensive overview of ECLAC's analytical tools based on partial equilibrium analysis and simulation techniques. The primary objective of the workshop was to increase awareness and discussion among Caribbean analysts of the analytical tools employed by ECLAC.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Place and date of the workshop

5. The training workshop on the "TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus and WITS" was held from 14 to 16 November 2017, in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

2. Attendance

6. Workshop participants originated from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The training targeted 32 professionals primarily from Ministries of Trade, National Statistical Offices, and Customs and Excise offices.
7. The workshop was facilitated by Jennifer Alvarado and Indira Romero of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico.

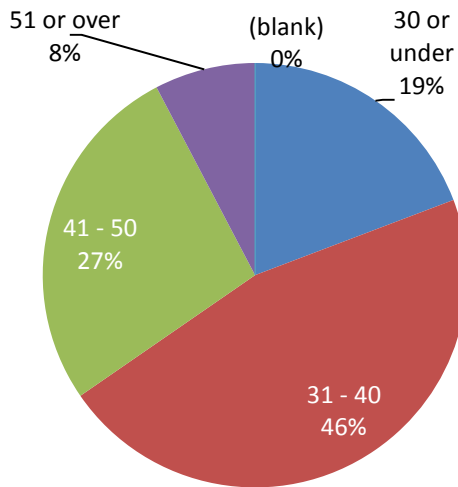
C. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

8. An evaluation questionnaire was administered to participants on the final day 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.

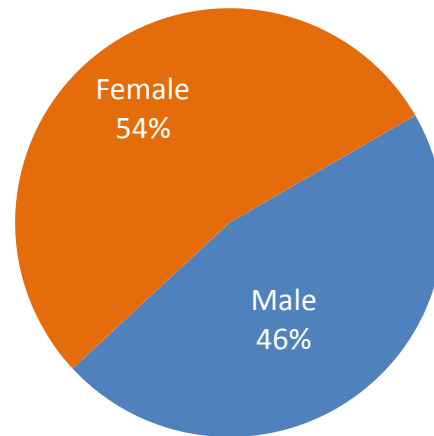
1. Identification

9. Of the thirty-two persons participating in the workshop, twenty-eight (88 per cent) completed and submitted the evaluation questionnaire. Fifteen (54 per cent) of the 28 respondents were female (Figure 1). Ninety-two per cent of respondents were 50 years and under with ages distributed as follows: five (19 per cent) were 30 years or under, 12 (46 per cent) were 31 – 40 years, seven (27 per cent) were 41 – 50 years and two (eight per cent) were 51 years or over (see Figure 2). The full list of participants is included in Annex I.

**FIGURE 1
AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION**

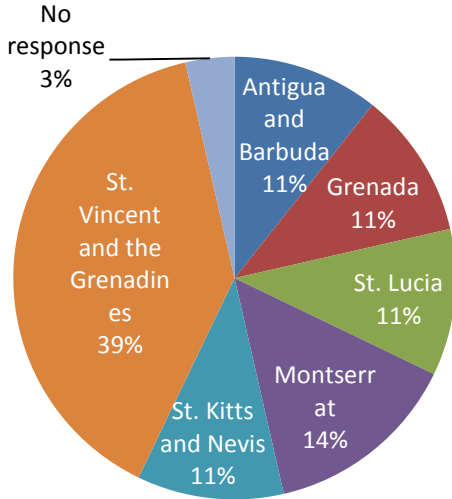


**FIGURE 2
SEX**

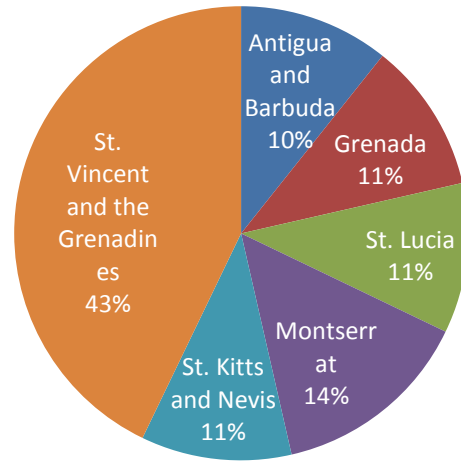


9. As the host country, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had the highest participation rate among the OECS member States with 39 per cent of respondents reporting that they originated from this country and 43 per cent indicating they were currently employed there. For the remaining participating OECS countries, there were 14 per cent originating and employed in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 11 per cent for Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia and 10 per cent for Antigua and Barbuda (Figures 3 and 4).

**FIGURE 3
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

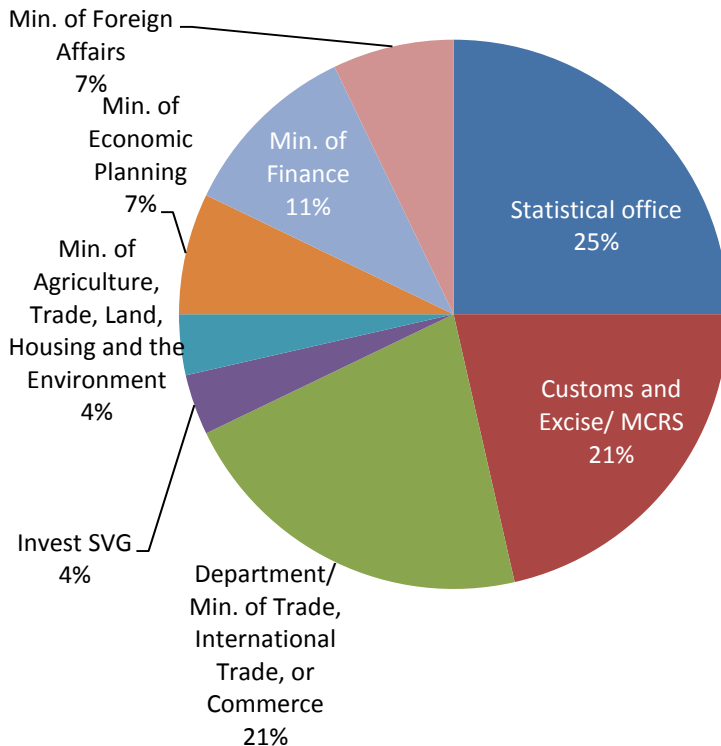


**FIGURE 4
COUNTRY OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**



10. Most respondents indicated that the type of organization they represented as either a national ministry (71 per cent) or some other type of national institution (25 per cent). The top three institutions represented at the workshop included Statistical offices (25 per cent); Customs and Excise (21 per cent); and the Department/Ministries of Trade, International Trade, or Commerce (21 per cent). Figure 5 provides a breakdown of the remaining institutions represented.

**FIGURE 5
INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED AT WORKSHOP**

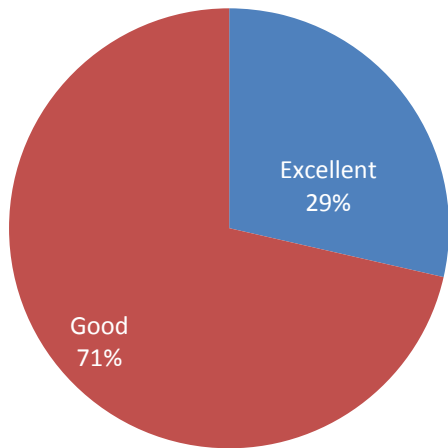


11. Respondents at participating institutions reported a diverse number of titles/positions ranging from junior level professionals to senior level management. Altogether, their roles comprised of Trade professionals (21 per cent), Statisticians (18 per cent), Economists (11 per cent), Customs professionals (11 per cent), Systems Administrators (seven per cent) and four per cent for each of the following roles: Administrative Cadet, Database Administrator, Director of Commerce and Industry, Investment Promotion Officer, and Senior Statistical Officer.

2. Substantive content and usefulness of workshop

12. Overall, 93 per cent of respondents rated the workshop as either good or excellent. A small subset of respondents (seven per cent) rated the overall workshop as fair (three per cent) or very poor (four per cent). All respondents, including those reporting an overall rating of fair and very poor for the workshop (Figure 7), considered the substantive content of the workshop to be either good (71 per cent) or excellent (29 per cent) - Figure 6. However, only 61 per cent of respondents agreed that the workshop lived up to their initial expectations. In particular, although five (18 per cent) respondents considered the workshop to be good, they were uncertain as to whether it met their expectations (Figure 8). Alternatively, the individual reporting the overall workshop as “Very poor” indicated that the workshop lived up to his/her initial expectations; an indication that their response to the overall workshop may possibly have been entered in error.

**FIGURE 6
SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT RATING**



**FIGURE 7
SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT RATING
RELATIVE TO OVERALL WORKSHOP
RATING**

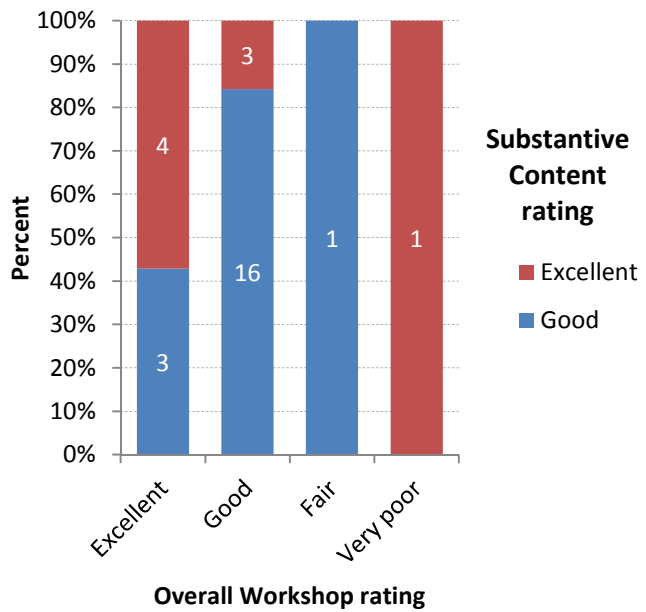
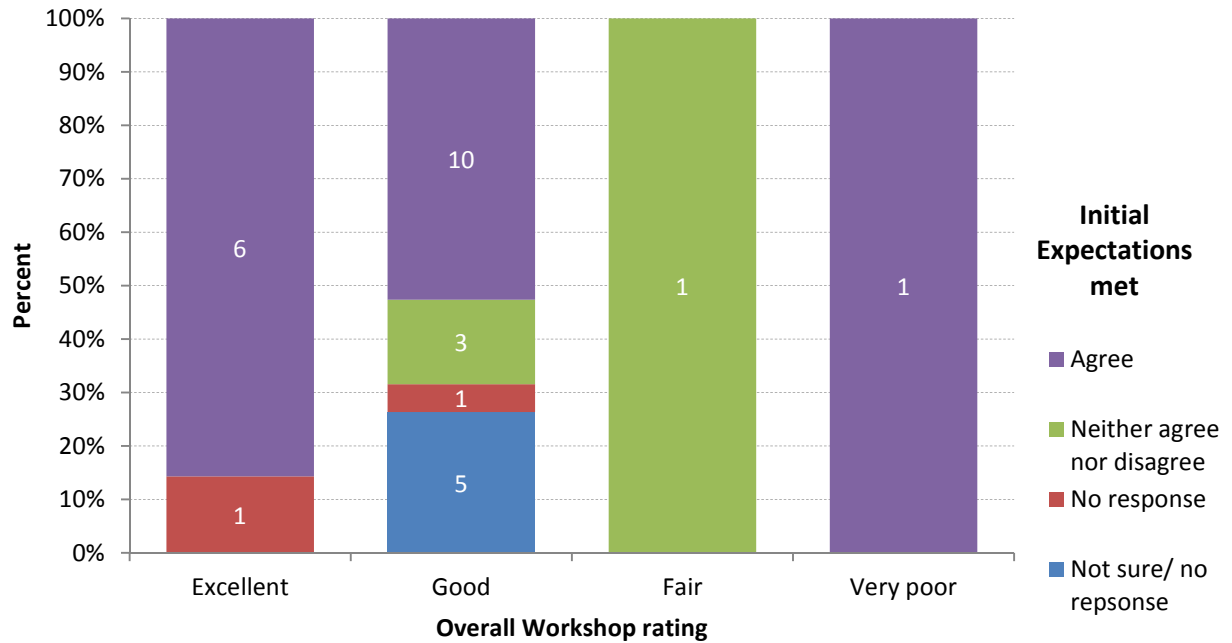
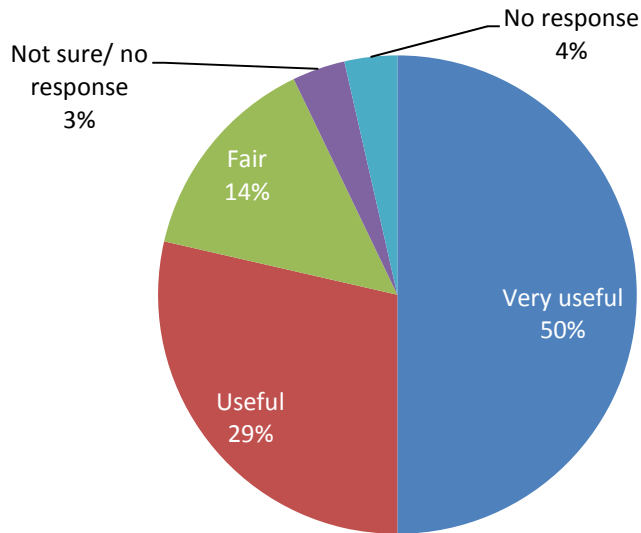


FIGURE 8
INITIAL EXPECTATIONS MET RELATIVE TO OVERALL WORKSHOP RATING



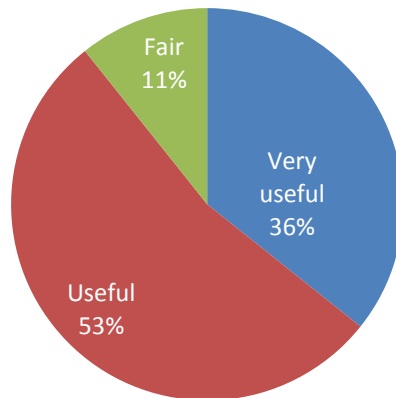
13. Seventy-nine per cent of respondents reported that the subjects presented and discussed were either useful (29 per cent) or very useful (50 per cent) to their institution (Figure 9). In general, there was consensus among respondents that the duration of the workshop needed to be increased in order to achieve the stated objectives of the workshop. Respondents felt that a deeper exploration of the capabilities of each software was needed, coupled with more hands on exercises to enhance their understanding of the material. More specific suggestions included a presentation of how TradeCAN can be used for furnishing more detailed, comparative trade related data requests; completion of a county profile including the analysis and interpretation of data; and the need for the workshop facilitators to have the programme execution manuals/ guidelines handy throughout the workshop. Finally, there was one suggestion that the workshop could have benefited from presenters with a greater fluency in English.

FIGURE 9
USEFULNESS OF SUBJECT TO WORK OF YOUR INSTITUTION



14. All respondents reported that the analysis and indicators presented at the workshop were at least fairly useful to their work with 89 per cent finding it either useful or very useful and 11 per cent finding it fairly useful (Figure 10). The participants indicating that it was only fairly useful held positions of Supervisor of Customs and Acting Trade Officer I.

FIGURE 10
USEFULNESS OF ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS PRESENTED TO YOUR WORK

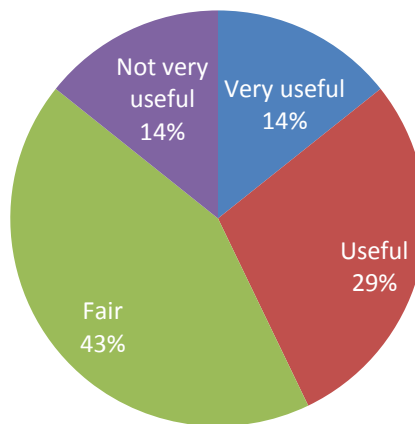


14. A number of respondents noted their intention to incorporate all aspects of the training in the work of their institutions and felt that each software tool would be useful for informing policy making decisions (e.g. concessions) and contributing to research papers and reports. Others specified that they planned on utilizing the following in their institution's work: Competitiveness and comparative analyses; using WITS

for reconciliation purposes with the rest of the world; and exploring most traded commodities/rivals, trade volume, and contribution to national export.

15.Regarding the use of the workshop for engaging in conversation and exchanging experiences, 86 per cent expressed that the workshop was at least fairly useful for this purpose (Figure 11). However, 14 per cent did not find the workshop very useful for engaging in conversation and exchanging experiences. These individuals held positions as Supervisor of Customs, Acting Trade Officer I, Trade and Infrastructure Officer and Investment Promotional Officer.

FIGURE 11
USEFULNESS OF WORKSHOP FOR ENGAGING IN CONVERSATION
AND EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES



15. Table 1 outlines the learning experiences from the workshop that would be beneficial to each participating member or associate member State along with the most significant outcome of the workshop.

TABLE 1
SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES IMPORTANT TO COUNTRY NEEDS

Country	Learning Experiences from workshop important for country's needs	Most significant outcome of the workshop
Antigua and Barbuda	Knowing that such trade data and analysis tools exist is very important. Beyond that, learning how to analyze data and extract data to be used in the determining how to access new markets would be beneficial to Antigua and Barbuda	Learning to access and interpret trade data. Exposure to statistical tools to aid in better trade policy analysis and formulation
Grenada	Assessing various products and their markets and identifying viable markets for our manufacturers would be an asset. It was also important to develop the ability to compare trade between the OECS and the rest of the world. Finally, it was important to learn how to collect and clean data at all levels to ensure accurate reporting.	Greater appreciation for the role of trade data and analysis tools on decision making. Exposure to TradeCAN, WITS, and MAGIC Plus as tools for accessing trade data between countries
Montserrat	The exposure to tools for analyzing pertinent trade data is extremely important to Montserrat, in addition to, learning to use the analysis tools used by the national statistical department. The intention would be to not only use knowledge gained to extract trade data but also, share it with other local offices.	Understanding new trade database and analysis tools, exchanging ideas and networking with experts in trade analysis
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Simply improving accessing to international data would be a benefit to Saint Kitts and Nevis. However, beyond that, the instruction would definitely assist with identifying missed opportunities, rising stars, declining stars and retreats through competitiveness analyses addressed during the workshop. Certainly, the	Learning to use trade software tools and conducting analyses using these tools

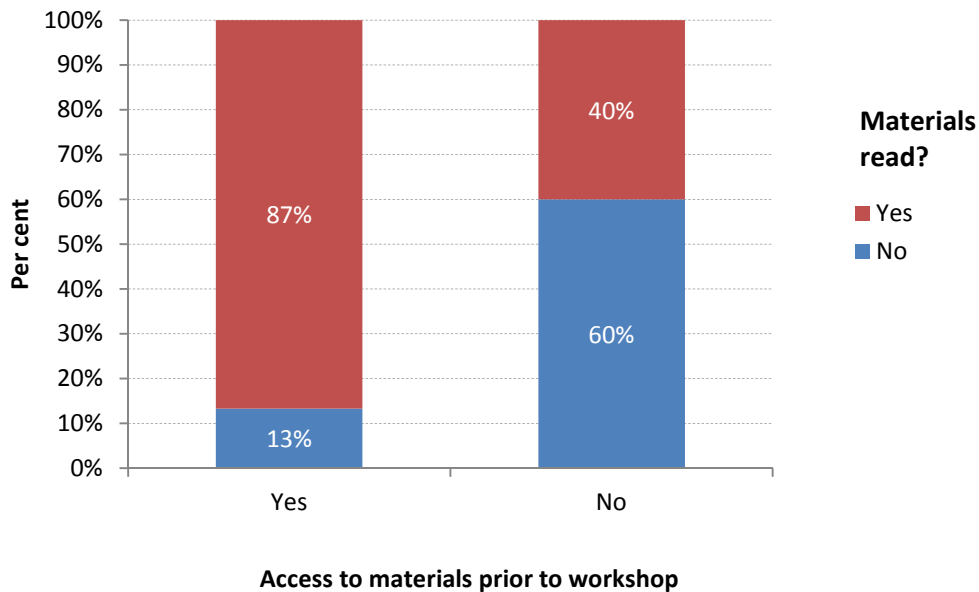
training made the need for smaller countries to diversify in international trade more evident.

Saint Lucia	The comparative analyses in volume of trade conducted on the world market would be beneficial to Saint Lucia. Engaging with colleagues across the region on common problems was also helpful. However, the completion and discussion of all exercises would make a difference in understanding the models.	Application of models for competitiveness analyses. The hands-on training was useful in generating query results.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would benefit from utilizing TradeCAN, WITS, MAGIC Plus for data collection and analysis and conducting competitiveness analyses across country, region and at the global level.	Accessing trade databases and conducting analyses using software tools such as TradeCAN, WITS, and MAGIC Plus to gauge country performance relative to the rest of the world.

3. Organization of event

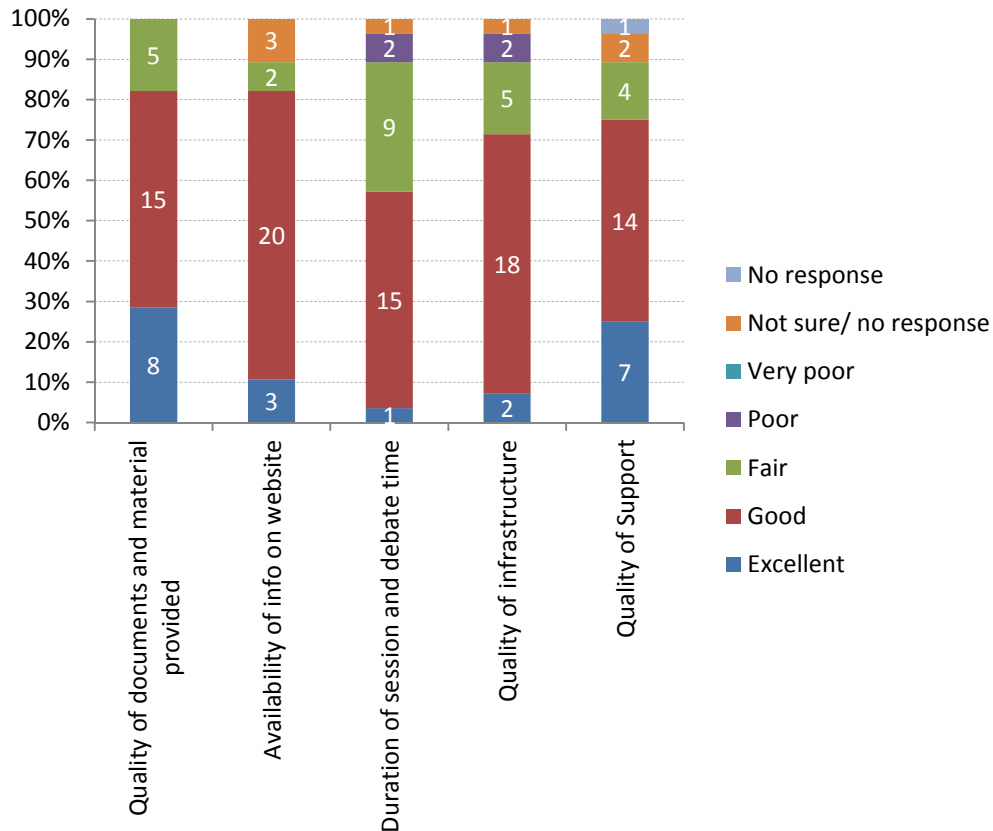
16. Fifteen (53 per cent) of participants had access to the materials for the workshop prior to seeing the presentations at this event. Of the 15 participants with access to the material for the workshop, 87 per cent read the materials (Figure 12).

FIGURE 12
DID PARTICIPANT HAVE ACCESS TO MATERIALS PRIOR TO WORKSHOP
AND WERE MATERIALS READ?



16. In general, respondents appeared to be mostly satisfied with the organization of the event but desired more time for the workshop and reviewing of exercises (Figure 13). Participants expressed satisfaction with the quality of documents and materials provided and the availability of information on the website such that 82 per cent of respondents rated each category as excellent or good. The quality of the support from the office to facilitate logistics for participation in the workshop was also mostly satisfactory with 75 per cent of respondents considering this service to be good or excellent. Although, 70 per cent of respondents felt that the quality of the infrastructure was good or excellent, there were two (seven per cent) individuals that considered it to be poor. The duration of the sessions and time for debate received the lowest rating with only 57 per cent of participants considering it to be good (54 per cent) or excellent (four per cent) and seven per cent considering it to be poor.

FIGURE 13
RATINGS FOR ORGANIZATION OF EVENT



17. A number of respondents indicated that the workshop was well organized, materials were very interesting and logistics were handled efficiently. A special thank you was extended to Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne for her organization and providing all relevant information to participants. Respondents, however, outlined a number of areas for improvement. Most notably, they reiterated the need to extend the duration of the workshop to allow for greater time to digest the information and to complete exercises. There were also requests for the solutions to exercises to be provided to workshop participants, earlier distribution of materials, and more interactive approach to presenting the information.

18. The quality of the internet access was low which in turn stymied the use of the software tools. A few respondents expressed grievances with the quality of the snacks, the quality of the seating arrangements during the lunch period and the short breaks and lunch period given the density of the materials to be reviewed. Others highlighted the need to improve the process for disbursement of DSA with consideration given to possibly disbursing on the last day of the workshop. One person even expressed disappointment that there were no options for touring the host country. Finally, the Comptroller of Customs noted that in the future data officers will be nominated for future workshops on this topic since such tools are not utilized by the Customs department in Montserrat.

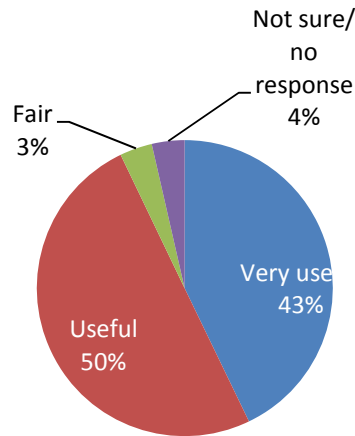
19. A number of areas were identified as follow up activities respondents desired ECLAC to undertake to support participant countries and/or institutions. These included topics on competitiveness, in-country train the trainer workshops, advanced use of the software, more interactive sessions and opportunities to share experiences, data integrity, and data analysis.

Specifically for Montserrat, there was a request for assistance from ECLAC with registering for WITS to gain a better understanding of the material covered.

4. Other works by ECLAC

20. 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. Ninety-three per cent of respondents reported that using ECLAC's analysis and indicators for this purpose was either useful (50 per cent) or very useful (43 per cent).

FIGURE 14
USEFULNESS OF ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS FOR FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE POLICY IN YOUR COUNTRY



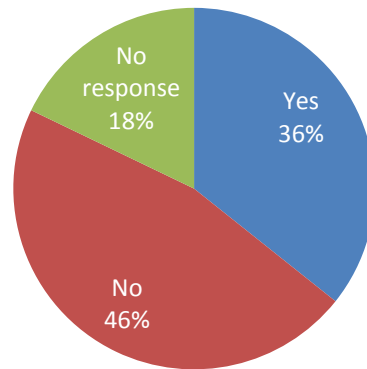
21. Other technical cooperation activities outlined included topics on Economic/Quantitative methods training; online training courses, more workshops, and video presentations; tariff and trade analysis; and country specific and OECS level training using the trade analysis tools.

22. A total of 10 respondents (36 per cent) including at least one participant from each country reported being aware of at least one ECLAC publication (Figure 15). Six (60 per cent) of these ten respondents indicated that they have read the Economic Survey of the Caribbean and found it at least useful. More specifically, four (40 per cent) found it useful while two (20 per cent) respondents found it very useful. The readership for the Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean was slightly smaller with four (40 per cent) having read the publication, of which three (30 per cent) respondents found it very useful and one (10 per cent) respondent found it useful. Although six (60 per cent) respondents indicated that they found other ECLAC documents to be either useful (14 per cent) or fairly useful (seven per cent), they did not specify the corresponding title of any of these documents.

23. Although at least one participant from Grenada and Saint Lucia was familiar with ECLAC publications, no one indicated they were reading them. Alternatively, at least one participant from

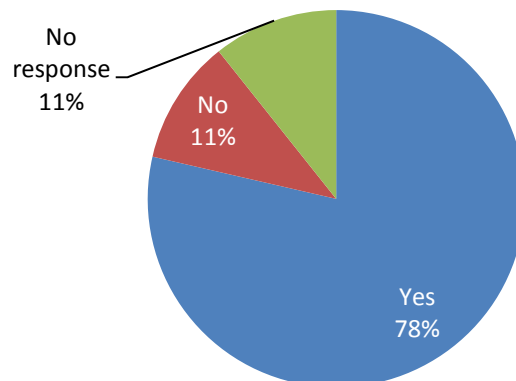
the remaining member States indicated that they were familiar with and read at least one of ECLAC's publications or documents.

FIGURE 15
FAMILIARITY WITH ECLAC PUBLICATIONS



24. Seventy-eight per cent of respondents have expressed interest in receiving more information about activities or publications by ECLAC in the area covered by the workshop (Figure 16). The email addresses of these respondents can be identified in Annex I (highlighted in blue).

FIGURE 16
**INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OR PUBLICATINOS
BY ECLAC IN THE AREA COVERED BY THE WORKSHOP**



D. CONCLUSIONS

25. Overall, the TradeCAN, MAGIC Plus, and WITS workshop facilitated by collaboration between ECLAC and the OECS Secretariat was a benefit to participants of the OECS member and associate member States. 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 statistical offices, departments/ministries of Trade and Commerce, Customs and Excise departments, ministries of Foreign Affairs, among others.

26. Participants were generally satisfied with the organization of the event but highlighted areas for improvement. Most notably, the duration of the workshop posed a major challenge for many participants and consideration should be given to lengthening future workshops, given the vast amount of information to be presented. Many participants also expressed an interest in follow up workshops to deepen their understanding of the material introduced at the workshop.

27. Although exposure to ECLAC publications and documents among participants was low, those that had the opportunity to review ECLAC flagship publications and other documents all found them to be 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 publication related to the topics presented at the workshop. Further efforts should also be placed on increasing readership among participants in Grenada and Saint Lucia.

28. The workshop was very successful in strengthening relations between ECLAC and OECS Secretariat.

ANNEX I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

14-16 November 2017

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Antigua and Barbuda

Joy Marie King, Director of International Trade, Ministry of International Trade, Email: joymarie.king@gmail.com

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

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Romel Currency, Trade Officer I Economist, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Email: rcurrency@gov.vc

Issac Wilson, National Trade Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce,

Leroy James, Senior Customs Officer, Customs and Excise Department,

Cherryann Dennie, Systems Administrator, Customs and Excise Department

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Additional emails provided for information include: jhannaway@svgcpd.com, shyloh765@gmail.com

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**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean**

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Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne, Programme Management Assistant, Economic Development Unit.
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**ANNEX II
EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**



**Workshop on the Trade Competitiveness Analysis of Nations (TradeCAN)
The Module to Analyse the Growth of International Commerce (MAGIC Plus)
The World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS)
Economic Development Unit**

**Port of Spain
14-16 November 2017**

Evaluation form

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

Identification

Sex

- Female
 Male

Age (optional)

- 30 or under

 41 - 50
 51 or over

31 - 40

Country of origin: _____

Country of current employment: _____

Institution(s) you represent: _____

Title / position: _____

Type of organization you represent:

National ministry

Other national institution (please specify): _____

Local / municipal institution

Academic institution / university

Private sector

Subregional institution

International organization

Independent consultant

NGO

Civil society (please specify): _____

Other: _____

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. Agree 2. Neither agree nor disagree 3. Disagree 4. Not sure / no response

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

1. Very useful 2. Useful 3. Fair 4. Not very useful 5. Not useful at all 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	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response
Availability of information on the website	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response
Duration of the sessions and time for debate	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response
Quality of the infrastructure	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Fair	4. Poor	5. Very poor	6. Not sure/No response

(room, sound, catering)	
Quality of support from the organizing Division or office to facilitate logistics for your participation in the event	1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor 5. Very poor 6. Not sure/No response
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						Read it _____	Do not read it _____
1. Very useful	2. Useful	3. Fair	4. Not very useful	5. Not useful at all	6. No response		
The Preliminary Overview of the Caribbean						Read it _____	Do not read it _____
1. Very useful	2. Useful	3. Fair	4. Not very useful	5. Not useful at all	6. No response		
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		

19. a **Would you like to receive more 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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