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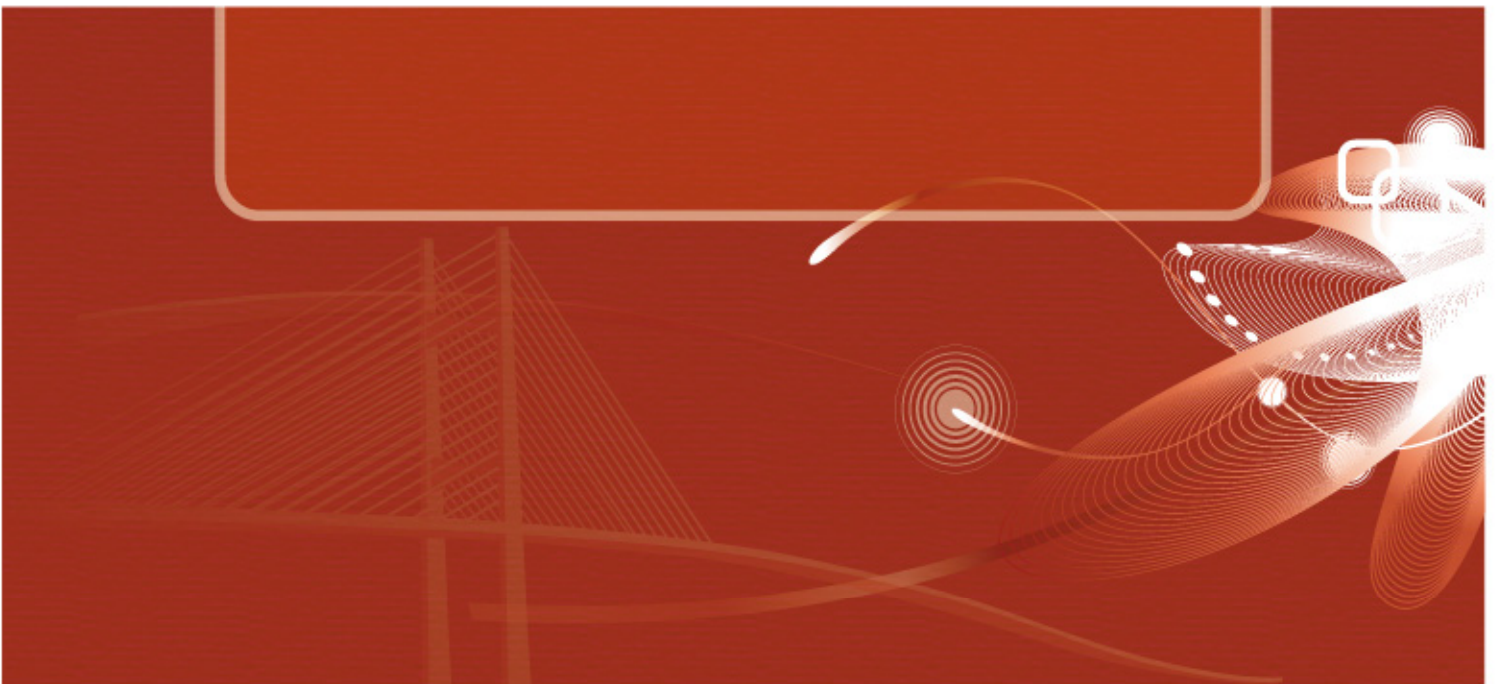
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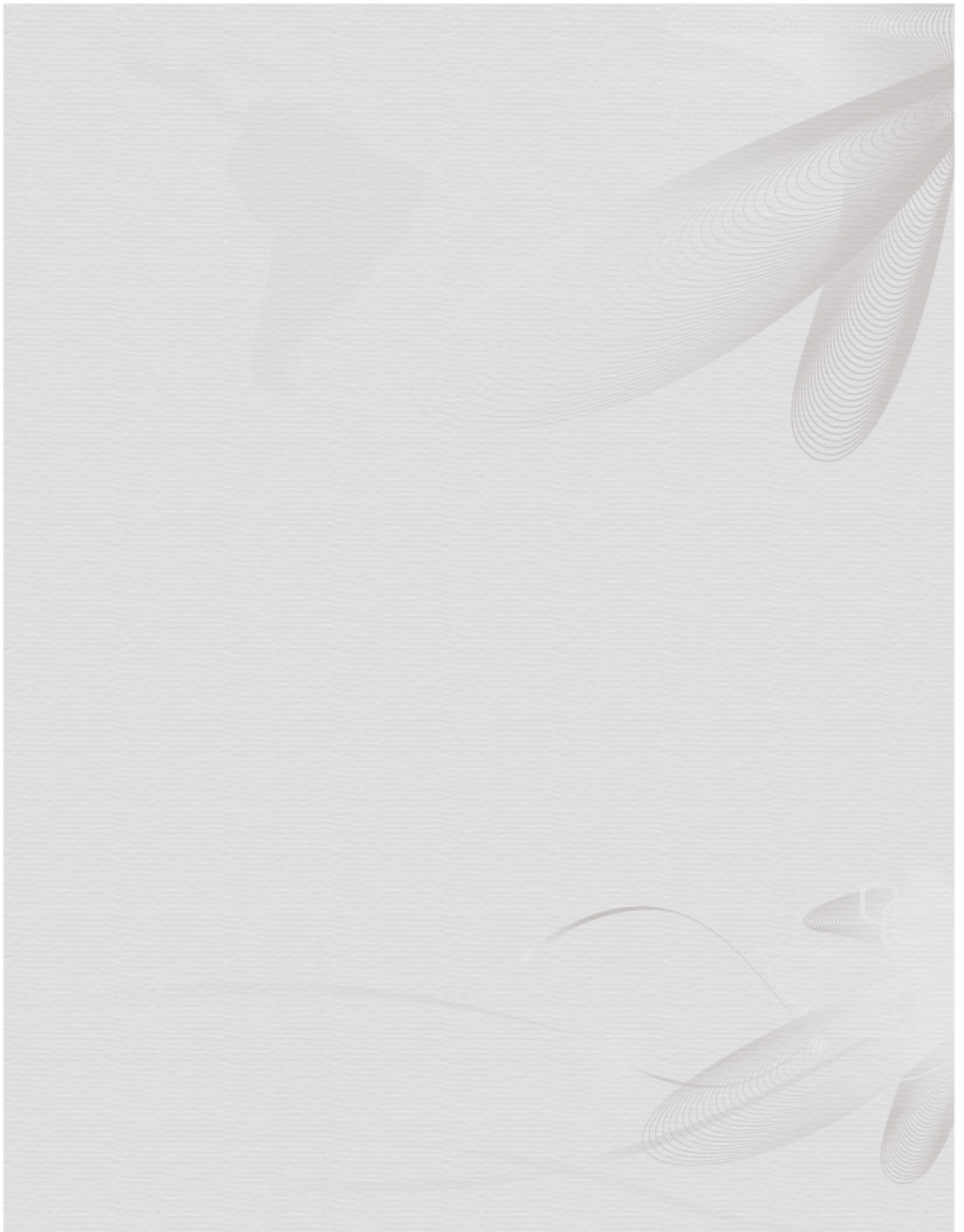
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# Analysis Column





# Presentation of the Technical Paper “Agricultural Trade in the MERCOSUR. Twenty Years on from the Treaty of Asunción”

A workshop to present the technical paper entitled “[Agricultural Trade in the MERCOSUR. Twenty Years on from the Treaty of Asunción \(in Spanish\)](#),” written by Ruy de Villalobos and published by INTAL,[1] took place on July 22 at the INTAL-Lab -INTAL’s space for the co-creation of innovative ideas.[2]

The gathering was opened by INTAL’s director, INTAL’s senior economist, and the MERCOSUR High Representative-General. Proceedings continued with the author’s presentation and comments from Fernando Porta and Jorge Iturriza, before concluding with a panel discussion featuring a group of prominent public sector officials, representatives from companies and agricultural associations, and researchers from the sector.



During the opening of the workshop, INTAL director **Gustavo Beliz** underlined certain conclusions from the technical paper: the fivefold increase in agricultural trade (AT) during the first two decades of the MERCOSUR’s existence in comparison with the two that preceded it; the existence of a trade integration effect; an increase in the agricultural supply capacity; and thus the bloc’s achievements in this field.

After this, INTAL senior economist **Alejandro Ramos** provided context for the publication of this technical paper in terms of INTAL’s work and the publication of the annual MERCOSUR Report, the 20th issue of which will appear in 2015. In this sense, the technical paper was partly motivated by

the paradoxical situation wherein the bloc's comparative advantages are concentrated in the agriculture and livestock sector, which is the most dynamic and significant, yet most of the literature focuses on the manufacturing sector. He also noted that this workshop marks a new way of working for INTAL, one that consists of the presentation of technical papers with the participation of a select specialist audience in order to contribute to and enrich the debate. The MERCOSUR High Representative-General, **Dr. Florisvaldo Fier (known as Dr. Rosinha)**, thanked INTAL for its invitation and emphasized the MERCOSUR's need for this type of study, stressing that many of the criticisms leveled against the bloc are unfounded, in that integration is a process that is constantly under construction and thus is never finished. In this respect, he observed that this technical paper makes an important contribution to deepening integration by highlighting the relevance of the MERCOSUR in the agriculture and livestock sector.



**Ruy de Villalobos**, the author of the technical paper, began his [presentation \(in Spanish\)](#) by pointing out that the agriculture sector was one of the first to be included in agreements between Argentina and Brazil in the mid-1980s yet, paradoxically, there are very few examples of prior research on this sector in the MERCOSUR. It is likely that this lack of interest in the sector was due to the preconception that the region's economies were not complementary but rather were in competition with one another. However, in practice there existed cross-investment, integrated agro-industrial chains, and joint agriculture research.

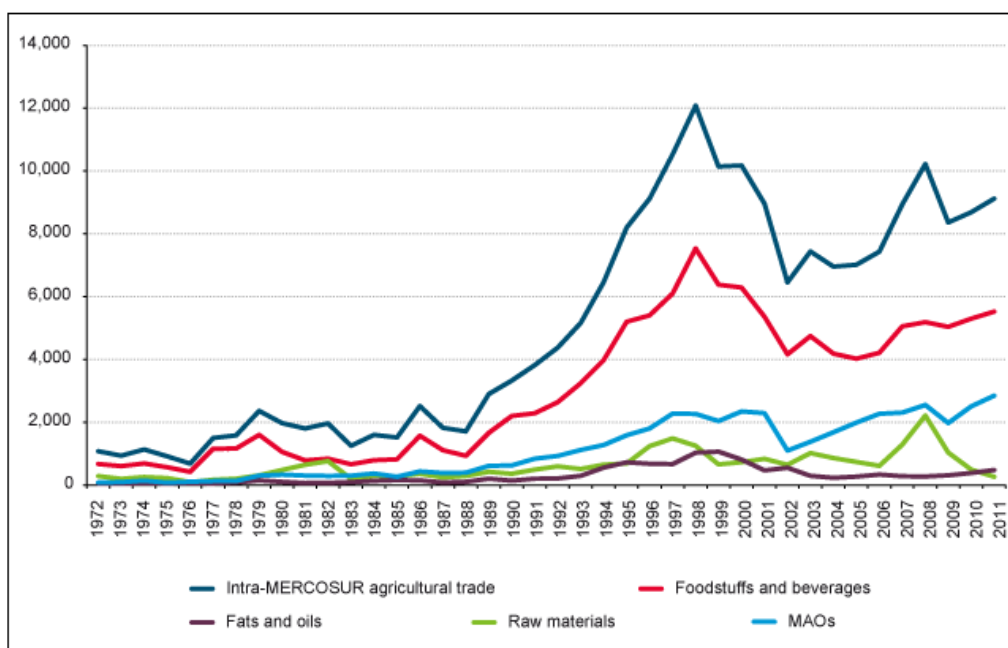
The author stressed that the aim of the study was to describe what had happened within intra-MERCOSUR AT during the first twenty years of the bloc's existence, regardless of the causes of this. He used a broad definition of the sector, one that includes not only traditional activities, but also manufactures of agricultural origin (MAOs), taking into account only the four founding partners of the bloc (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay). The most noteworthy of the study's findings include the following:



1) From the late 1980s up to 1998, **intra-MERCOSUR AT** grew significantly, then declined until the end of the macro-economic crisis that the countries in the bloc experienced, before eventually recovering, in terms of both current and constant prices (Figure 1). After comparing the 20 years prior to the establishment of the MERCOSUR with the 20 years that followed this, it can be seen that intra-MERCOSUR AT (measured in current prices) grew less than trade in non-agricultural manufactures, but expanded much more than MERCOSUR's AT with the rest of the world.

**Figure 1. Evolution of intra-MERCOSUR agricultural trade**

In constant 2000 millions of US\$, 1972 to 2011



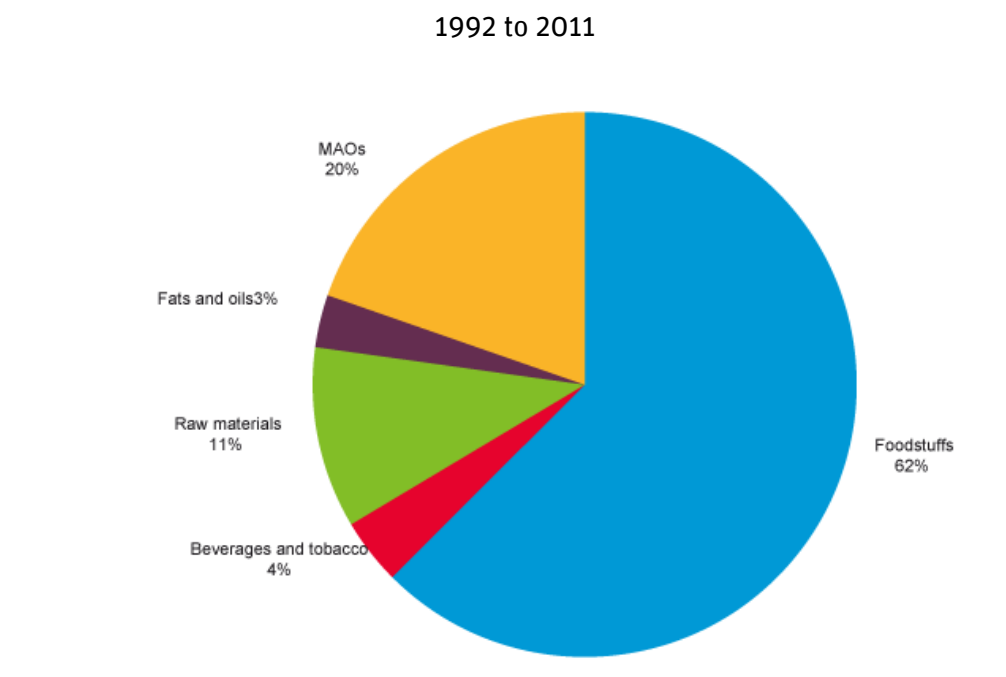
Source: Figure 7 of the Technical Paper. Prepared by the author based on data from UN-COMTRADE, ECLAC, and the World Bank.

2) Contrary to what was believed at the time the bloc was established, the MERCOSUR exhibited a high level of **agricultural complementarity** between member countries, as measured by the Michaely index (according to which a score of 1 implies perfect complementarity)—the MERCOSUR scored around 0.7–0.8 in the period 1972–1991.

3) In terms of the **composition of intra-MERCOSUR AT**, foodstuffs and MAOs are of particular note (Figure 2). Among foodstuffs, the most noteworthy products are cereals, fruit and vegetables, meat


and dairy products, coffee and cocoa, sugar, and raw materials; while among non-edible products, oilseeds (soy from Paraguay), textile fibers (cotton from Paraguay), and paper pulp (from Argentina) stand out. The most noteworthy MAOs are paper and paperboard manufactures.

Figure 2. Composition of Intra-MERCOSUR Agricultural Trade



Source: Figure 1 of the Technical Paper. Prepared by the author on the basis of UN-COMTRADE data.

- 4) Who buys and who sells? **Brazil is the main buyer, and Argentina the main seller.** Brazil has a deficit and the rest of the countries a surplus.
- 5) **Argentina is the leader in almost all food exports**, with the exception of rice and butter (Uruguay) and pork and poultry (Brazil). **Brazil is the main exporter of nearly all manufactures**, except leather, woodwork, and yarns (Argentina).
- 6) Different **trade integration indexes were analyzed** (these indexes are defined as the sum of intraregional exports and imports divided by the sum of total exports and imports). The share of intra-regional trade in the total almost doubled between the 20 years prior to and those following the establishment of the MERCOSUR, as did the intraregional AT index. This indicator is low in comparison with the EU, which is logical given the high level of protection that the sector enjoys in Europe. MERCOSUR is a large net exporter to countries outside the bloc (which raises the denominator), for which reason this low share should not be interpreted as a bad performance. The



study used the **self-sufficiency rate**, which compares intrabloc imports with the total (import substitution): this figure went from 34% to 47% between the two periods considered, and is higher for foodstuffs, for which it went from 40% to 62%. When taking into account the “extended MERCOSUR” (including Chile, Bolivia, and Ecuador), self-sufficiency is close to 70%, which is higher than European levels. The “integration effect” (the increase in this indicator between one period and another) is greater in the MERCOSUR than in Nafta. All the same, in absolute terms, the values are higher for Nafta, which demonstrates that some degree of integration predated the existence of the FTA, which is not the case for the MERCOSUR. The food self-sufficiency indicator was higher for cereals and dairy products, and, to a lesser extent, sugars, coffee, etc. Argentina and Uruguay have efficiently replaced the United States and Canada as suppliers of wheat to Brazil. It should be noted that by using a market price support scheme, Brazil has greatly increased its wheat production but it remains a net importer (the country produces half of what it consumes). It is a large-scale importer from Argentina and Uruguay, but when supply from these countries is insufficient, it is forced to purchase from the rest of the world. This is the result of policies that adversely affect wheat production which have been implemented in Argentina since 2006. With regard to dairy products, the MERCOSUR has surpassed the EU. Brazil is the bloc’s leading producer of dairy products and its output continues to grow exponentially, as a result of which it is increasingly less dependent on imports from the MERCOSUR. Before the establishment of the MERCOSUR, dairy products were not exported. The integration process saw the start of exports from the region to Brazil and then the rest of the world, a clear example of the platform effect.


In conclusion, Ruy de Villalobos emphasized that intra-MERCOSUR AT is significant and has great potential. While there has been integration in the sector, there are many problems that could be addressed through a regional approach to optimizing growth in this key sector. Questions for the future include what potential there is for increasing the self-sufficiency rate, the impact that agricultural policies may have on AT, and what should be done in the MERCOSUR in terms of regulatory matters, beyond the harmonization of phytosanitary requirements and para-tariff barriers. Looking further ahead, it is worth asking whether the bloc should have a common agricultural policy (CAP) and, if so, what the characteristics of this policy should be.

The presentation was followed by observations from two commentators.

On the one hand, **Fernando Porta** (National University of Quilmes) pointed out that, despite the importance of AT in the MERCOSUR, few studies have been carried out in this field, which makes this paper particularly important. The most noteworthy of the aspects it notes include import substitution and the increased share of small countries in trade. With regard to the structure of AT, Brazil is the driving force for trade in the sector and is the region’s main importer, which contrasts with the situation in other fields such as manufacturing. At the beginning of the MERCOSUR, no efforts were made to boost the agriculture sector because it was already competitive, in contrast to other sectors.

When explaining determinants for AT, it is interesting to explore how much growth corresponds to the MERCOSUR; how important the role of macroeconomics is; how important changes in the prices of certain products are; what role intrabloc investments have played; etc.

In this context, new lines of research emerge for INTAL to explore: the analysis of agrifood chains in order to identify each country’s specialization segments; the role of Brazilian multinational companies’ investment strategies; the evolution of machinery, inputs, and agricultural services; and the design of a MERCOSUR CAP based on a strategy of productive development to address common




challenges, such as the incorporation of technology and other areas where scale is key. Likewise, the [presentation \(in Spanish\)](#) by **Jorge Iturriza** (Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries) praised the study in terms of the questions it raised and because he considered the 20-year period to be of an appropriate length for examining structural aspects and making policy decisions. Of the instruments relevant to intraregional AT, he stressed the common external tariff (which fosters intraregional trade more than imports from outside the zone) and regulatory harmonization (trade and transport facilitation and sanitary and phytosanitary measures). Furthermore, he noted the importance of technology (genetics, biotechnology, nanotechnology, direct seeding, irrigation, agricultural machinery, precision farming, bioenergy, agrochemicals, and biological control) and of globalization and how it filters across borders in productive activities. He stressed the relevance of the agriculture sector in the structure of MERCOSUR exports. Likewise, he noted that while there is complementarity for several products, there is competition between the countries in the bloc over others (e.g., beef and poultry). Soy, which is produced by all the countries in the bloc, does not entail competition over target markets. Furthermore, he showed that there is potential for replacing certain agricultural imports from outside the MERCOSUR with ones that originate in the zone.

The most noteworthy question raised by the study is whether intrabloc AT has reached its limits, and how much further trade in food and processed agricultural products can grow. In the future, the MERCOSUR may consolidate its role as a supplier of foodstuffs, especially cereals, meats, and dairy products.

Finally, the questions and suggestions of distinguished guests were discussed.

- **Beatriz Nofal** (negotiator of integration agreements between Argentina and Brazil) pointed out the slowing down of MERCOSUR trade in recent years, and the impact of tariff and non-tariff barriers applied by the larger partners.
- **Martín Piñeiro** (Grupo CEO) observed that the positive impact of the MERCOSUR was seen only in the early years of the bloc's existence and was then followed by stagnation, and he warned that the future seems to hold yet more stagnation. He stressed the need for the MERCOSUR to negotiate and work on harmonization, so as to project a common front to the rest of the world.
- **Raúl Roccatagliatta** (Institute for Economic Studies and International Negotiations at the Argentine Rural Society) noted the importance of examining the impact of macroeconomics and the lack of institutional tools to aid and accompany the sector. He emphasized that the innovation process is key to understanding intrabloc AT. In the early days, Brazil dismantled a protected sector and only later did it begin to implement improvements in efficiency.
- **Fernando Villela** (Director of MERCOSUR and China + Arab countries in 2030: Business strategies for a developing world) stressed that, in order to understand trade flows, it is important to analyze the regulatory framework and the incorporation of technology, areas in which Argentina has generated positive impacts on neighboring countries. Looking to the future, the objections of the smaller countries are based not so much on integration between MERCOSUR countries but on the integration of these with the rest of the world. The great challenges are harmonizing interests, developing integrated value chains, and increasing bargaining power.
- **Horacio Salaverry** (CARBAP) pointed out the difficulties in harmonizing policies while there still exists intra-MERCOSUR conflicts and a need for coordination, as is the case with wheat.



Brazil has high production costs and subsidies, while Argentina does not guarantee Brazil the supply it needs, in large part due to export restrictions.

**Agricultural Trade in the MERCOSUR. Twenty Years on.** ([Video](#), in Spanish)

[1] Argentine economist. Former staff member at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); former Undersecretary of Agrarian Economics of Argentina, and Lead Researcher at the Center for International Economy at Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[2] This article was written by IDB consultant Rosario Campos.



# Big Data: Its Potential for Increasing Productivity

To mark its 50th anniversary, INTAL is organizing special events and publications that focus on the future of integration. One of the core themes is regional trade in the era of disruptive technologies. [1] A series of articles are being published in the *INTAL Monthly Newsletter* throughout 2015 in connection with this topic. Earlier issues of the newsletter analyzed the [impacts of technological change in general on trade](#), [ICT-based services digital manufacturing](#), [the bioeconomy](#), and [nanotechnology](#).

This report addresses the development of tools for working with huge volumes of data (big data) and examines the main opportunities generated by the international integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and also the challenges this poses.

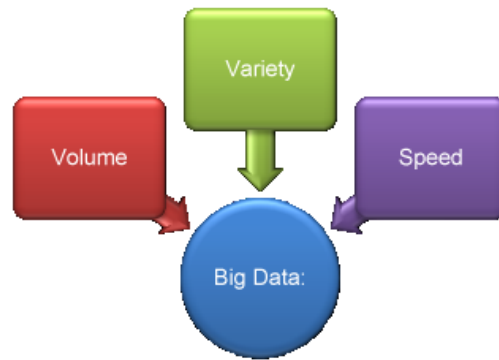
## What is big data?

Recent years have seen a huge growth in the number of devices connected to the internet: it is estimated that there are currently 18 billion such devices worldwide—twice the number for 2010—including cell phones, personal computers and laptops, tablets, and other devices (Rohling, 2014). In 2015, the number of cell phones and broadband connections are equal to 96.8% and 47.2% of the world's population, respectively (ITU, 2015). There has also been a huge proliferation of social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram, among others) in which users consistently share all kinds of information. According to data from Facebook, one in every five people in the world uses the social networking site.

In this context, the quantity and variety of data generated and stored at the global level have grown exponentially since the beginning of the digital era.[2] According to estimates from the McKinsey Global Institute, in 2010 consumers and businesses stored more than 6 and 7 exabytes[3] of new data at the global level, respectively (Manyika *et al.*, 2011). Not only is there more information, but the transnational flows of this have also increased: data traffic between countries grew at an average annual rate of 50% between 2005 and 2012, with reciprocal impacts on international flows of goods, services, capital, and people (Manyika *et al.*, 2014).

The term “big data” refers to an enormous volume of highly varied information, both in terms of the data type (words used, location and mobility, geological and climatic information, inventories, transactions, bank records) and the sources from which it originates (cell phones, audio, video, GPS, digital sensors in appliances or machinery in homes or industrial settings, meteorological equipment, internet browsers, financial transactions, etc.), the analysis of which requires high response speeds (Diagram 1).

Diagram 1. Characteristics of big data analysis



Source: Prepared in-house using data from IBM.

At present, much of the data generated is discarded: it is physically impossible to store all data and analyzing it would be very slow and costly if traditional processes and tools were used. However, the recent development of tools that allow big data to be captured, communicated, added, stored, and analyzed is progressing at three times the speed of the storage and communication of the data itself, which could imply a radical shift in the current state of affairs (Hilbert, 2015).

The main techniques for big data analysis are used to collect and classify data, merge and integrate information, identify common features from varied data, extract behavior patterns, make predictions, optimize answers, etc. For example, some supermarkets use these techniques to identify products that are purchased together so as to come up with special offers; airlines segment the prices of tickets sold online according to the information provided by browser cookies (for example, the country which the user is searching from or pages that the user visited earlier); and some companies even sell agricultural machinery that is hooked up to the internet and thus allows you to optimize production on the basis of historical information and real-time data on weather and geological conditions and crop characteristics.

### Big data and increases in productivity

Big data analysis has the potential to contribute to economic and social development through channels as varied as improvements to the prevention and treatment of diseases, adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change, food[4], and economic activity in general.

From the point of view of international trade, the potential impact of big data analysis can be classified into two groups. On the one hand, some effects are common to multiple activities, as is the case with other advances in the field of information and communications technology. Manyika *et al.* (2011) consider information to be just another factor of production, given that there are many activities that cannot be carried out without advanced data handling techniques, just as they also require physical or human capital. The ability to analyze big data allows people to increase

productivity through better decision-making tools, optimize inventory management, segment markets to offer customized goods and services with specific pricing, reduce the cost of logistics and warehousing etc. According to a study by Brynjolfsson, Hitt, and Kim (2011),[5] the productivity of US companies tends to increase between 5% and 6% through the use of big data analysis techniques. Estimates by the *McKinsey Global Institute* indicate that the use of these tools would allow retailers to increase their operating margin by more than 60% and would enable car assembly plants to reduce their working capital costs by 7%.

On the other hand, although these techniques may impact many sectors, it is anticipated that their effects will be more pronounced within certain activities (information, financial services and insurance, trade, government), although in some areas there are major obstacles hindering their utilization due to shortages of human capital, ICT infrastructure, etc. While big data analysis is expected to have less impact on the manufacturing industry and public services than on other sectors, these two areas face less short-term barriers to the effective use of the techniques in question (Table 1).

**Table 1. Potential use of and utilization capacity for big data by sector**

		Potential use of big data				
		Low	Medium-low	Medium	Medium-high	High
Utilization capacity for big data	Low	- Other services	- Arts, entertainment, and recreation - Education			- Government
	Medium-low		- Hotels and restaurants	- Retail - Professional, scientific, and technical services		
	Medium	- Construction - Waste management and sanitation			- Real estate - Administration	- Wholesale trade
	Medium-high			- Natural Resources	- Information technology and electronics - Transportation and storage - Health	- Financial services and insurance
	High	- Industry	- Public utilities			- Information

Source: Prepared in-house based on estimates by Manyika et al. (2011).


Given that advances in big data analysis are not incorporated in the same way or at the same time by all companies, there may be gains in competitiveness for agents that pioneer their use. In terms of international trade flows, this innovation may modify many agents' comparative advantages.



## Challenges for Big Data in Latin America and the Caribbean

To take advantage of big data's potential, certain conditions are necessary: technological infrastructure, software services, and human capital (Hilbert, 2015). Several studies[6] show that LAC countries face restrictions in this regard, and these must be overcome to improve the region's competitiveness and international integration.

- **Human capital** specializing in data management and the generation of appropriate business models and predictions. The relative scarcity of skilled labor in this field is not limited to LAC economies, but is a problem that also affects advanced economies. For example, in the United States there is already a lack of highly skilled staff in the field of big data, and this problem will become more severe over the next few years as a result of the growing demand for such professionals (Manyika *et al.*, 2011).
- In this context, LAC needs to promote the formation of specialized human capital through educational policies and company training strategies, with a focus not only on big data analysis techniques but also on the application of these to the most competitive sectors in the region and those with the greatest potential.
- **Physical and intangible assets** needed for the generation, storage, processing, and analysis of data: LAC is lagging behind developed countries and some of the most competitive Asian economies in this regard (Dutta, Geiger, and Lanvin, 2015). One example of this is the region's low internet penetration, which limits the availability of information for analysis. According to [IDB data \(in Spanish\)](#), only 46% of the region's population has internet access. As such, progress in technological infrastructure and software services would be key to the success of this process.
- **Dissemination of knowledge** within companies and governments. According to a [TechTarget survey \(in Spanish\)](#), in 2013 big data programs and analytics in LAC were lagging behind those of other countries and over half the companies in the region were not yet using these tools. [Autran Gomes Monteiro](#) (2014) notes the same drawback in several Latin American countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru—but emphasizes that firms in the region have a greater interest in big data analysis. Campos (2015), in turn, stresses that the main investments in this area in the region have been made by financial service and telecommunications companies, while the public sector's progress in the field of big data analysis has been to develop “smart cities”[7] (Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Curitiba, Guadalajara, Medellín, Mexico City, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago de Chile, among others).
- **Costs of access to information** The creation of enormous databases entails high fixed costs, so they tend to be in the hands of very few agents. Access to information can be very costly for all other players, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. Several national and subnational governments in the region have chosen to make certain types of information public through “open data” portals, with the dual objective of increasing transparency and facilitating access to information. National and subnational experiences in this field in LAC have taken place in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The IDB, for its part, has an [open data](#) portal that includes information about LAC countries.
- **Regulatory matters.** Throughout the world there is a wide-ranging discussion on the regulation of data usage, since there is a trade-off between the benefits of accessing the greatest and most varied data possible and concerns over privacy, security, and the protection of intellectual property rights.



In summary, the use of big data has enormous potential for increasing the productivity and competitiveness of economies. Although LAC has begun to use these tools, it faces important challenges arising mainly from the shortage of specialized human capital and physical and intangible assets. These limitations could threaten the region's international positioning in comparison with advanced economies and other emerging ones.

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[1] This article was written by the consultant Romina Gayá.

[2] Hilbert and López (2011) take 2002 as the beginning of the digital era, as this was the first year in which more information was stored in a digital format than analog ones.

[3] One exabyte is equivalent to  $10^{18}$  bytes, that is to say, one billion gigabytes.

[4] For example, the US start-up Hampton Creek is creating a database of all known plant-based proteins, identifying their interactions, and modeling the creation of cheap, safe, and nutritious food. Zigmond (2015).

[5] Cited in Hilbert (2014).

[6] See Hilbert (2014); Dutta, Geiger, and Lanvin (2015); Malvicino and Yoguel (2015); and Autran Monteiro Gomes (2014); among others.

[7] The term “smart cities” is used to refer to sustainable urban development in terms of economic, operational, social, and environmental aspects. In this field, big data analysis is used to improve transportation, energy efficiency, disaster response, crime prevention, etc.


## 3D Printing and Digital Biology May Bring About a Revolution in Trade

Have you ever felt like you were living your life on fast-forward? You're not alone: the sensation is far more common than you might imagine[1]. The entrepreneur and technologist Santiago Bilinkis described technological advances that will change the world in the decades to come and the way they will impact people's daily lives, production, trade, and integration. During his opening speech at the conference organized by the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL), he asked the audience to tighten their seat belts because "the road ahead is much, much faster."



The event was presented by INTAL director Gustavo Beliz, who stressed the need for more in-depth impact assessment studies to evaluate the likely impact of exponential technologies on the region, and the importance of re-imagining trade strategies and integration mechanisms on the basis of these changes.

"The world will change more in the next fifty years than it has in the past five thousand. We are moving toward the digitization of the planet," said Bilinkis, author of the bestselling book *Pasaje al Futuro* [Ticket to the Future]. One of the major technological revolutions of recent years has taken place in the realm of digital biology, as a result of the possibility of digitizing DNA sequences in the genome. "Biology doesn't just happen in laboratories any more: now it's also about biocomputation and the most sophisticated discoveries are being made with powerful computers using data mining."



Using the information contained in DNA, it is possible to mix data and sequences to modify the properties of bacteria so as to create, for example, artificial bacteria that absorb greenhouse gases, producing an output that can be used as fuel. Pioneering scientists like [Craig Venter](#) are working on these sorts of projects. “Can you imagine the kinds of changes that might take place in the energy matrix and global geopolitics if these breakthroughs develop further?” Bilinkis asked.

In the field of production and trade, Bilinkis mentioned the imminent possibility of creating [in vitro meat for human consumption](#), bypassing the need to kill animals for food. According to Bilinkis, despite the consequences that such a radical change may bring to livestock and primary producers, few people in the region are thinking about these transformations seriously.

One example of potential changes to trade is 3D printing, through which physical objects are replaced by digital ones. A revolution in digital manufacturing would modify customs and border control mechanisms, tax policies, and warehousing and logistics costs. “3D printers provide endless advantages, such as creating replicas at almost no additional cost, modifying products to fit our needs, making them the exact size we require. We are heading towards a personalized form of production in which digital goods will no longer necessarily have a brand name,” Bilinkis explained at INTAL-LAB, INTAL’s space for the co-creation of innovative ideas.

Furthermore, these changes will have repercussions on the labor market. “3D prosthetics are now so far advanced that not only is it possible to create human body parts that are as good as the originals, they may even outperform them,” Bilinkis explained. “Stronger arms, faster legs. Imagine the implications for the world of work if people who were more skilled or faster as a result of prosthetics began to be more productive than everyone else. Wouldn’t the phenomenon quickly become widespread?” he asked, leaving the question hanging. Technological improvements to the human body’s natural abilities might even come to include cognitive capacities and the human brain. Experiments have already been conducted on mice in which it was possible to teach one something that another had learned by connecting their brains. These experiments are [brain modifications](#) that allow us to retain and forget knowledge just by wishing to do so. Bilinkis went so far as to predict that “One day, we will be able to learn things as easily as if we had a USB port behind our ear and someone could plug a memory stick into it.”

Also with regard to employment, he warned that many professions will be obsolete in just a few years. “Translators will go the same way as the lamplighters of old, a job that simply stopped existing when electricity came along,” he said, arguing that it makes more sense to invest time and money stimulating children and young people’s creative abilities. “Even experience may lose its value. An inexperienced but flexible employee will be better than one that has a lot of experience but is very set in their ways,” Bilinkis said to the packed auditorium that had come to hear his talk on August 6. He mentioned how the business world had already experienced this sort of change with the advent of digital photography, which caused a lot of problems for companies that sold and developed film. Other examples include the music world, where Apple gained the market share lost by record labels, or e-books, in that many texts are now only available in digital format, even though print books continue to exist.

“As we face the future, the only thing that we cannot continue to do is to remain the way we are,” Bilinkis recommended, reminding the audience that exponential changes do not usually appear to be all that different initially, and as such it is hard to anticipate them.

The conference concluded with the promise—albeit the remote one—of eternal youth. Not as something out of science fiction, but as a distant possibility. “Human life today is not that different to the past. Life expectancy has increased with the decline in warfare and improvements to food,

not because the human body has changed. But this may be about to change,” Bilinkis said. “The human genome allows deficient body parts to be reconstructed, such as a kidney. But not just any old kidney, a kidney of our own, with our own DNA. If progress is made in such a way as to be able to stop cells from aging, then human life could be extended far beyond what we might imagine,” he explained.



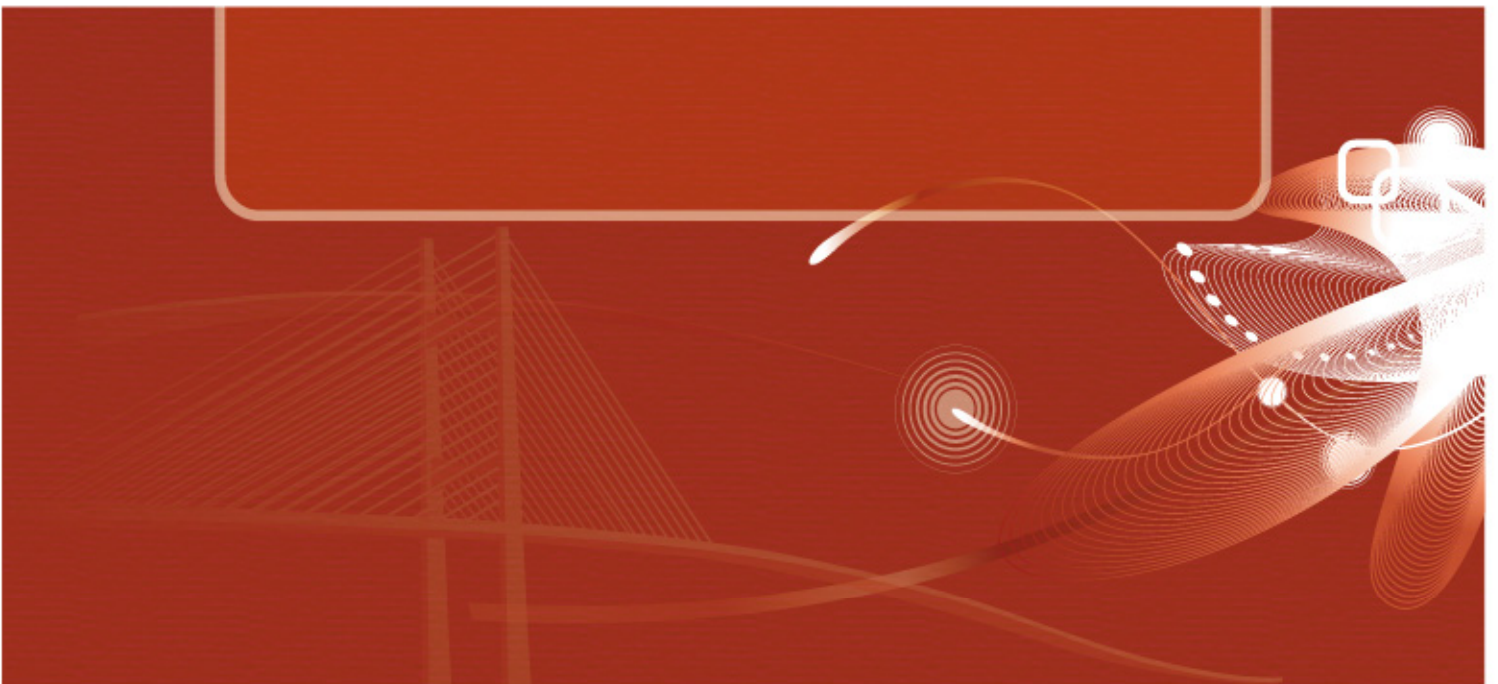
What role do public policies play in this new context? They could promote innovation and provide more in-depth analyses of what lies ahead. “It is natural to resist change. But technology is an opportunity, not a threat. Change is good if we are willing to change. A lot of people get angry because they don’t want to hear about all this. Especially if their job depends on their not understanding the changes,” said Bilinkis, summarizing the context. He believes that technology is neither good nor bad in and of itself, but that tomorrow’s world depends on the decisions we make today. “We can’t escape the wave heading towards us—in fact, it’s already here. But there are different ways we can surf it, and head one way or another,” he concluded.

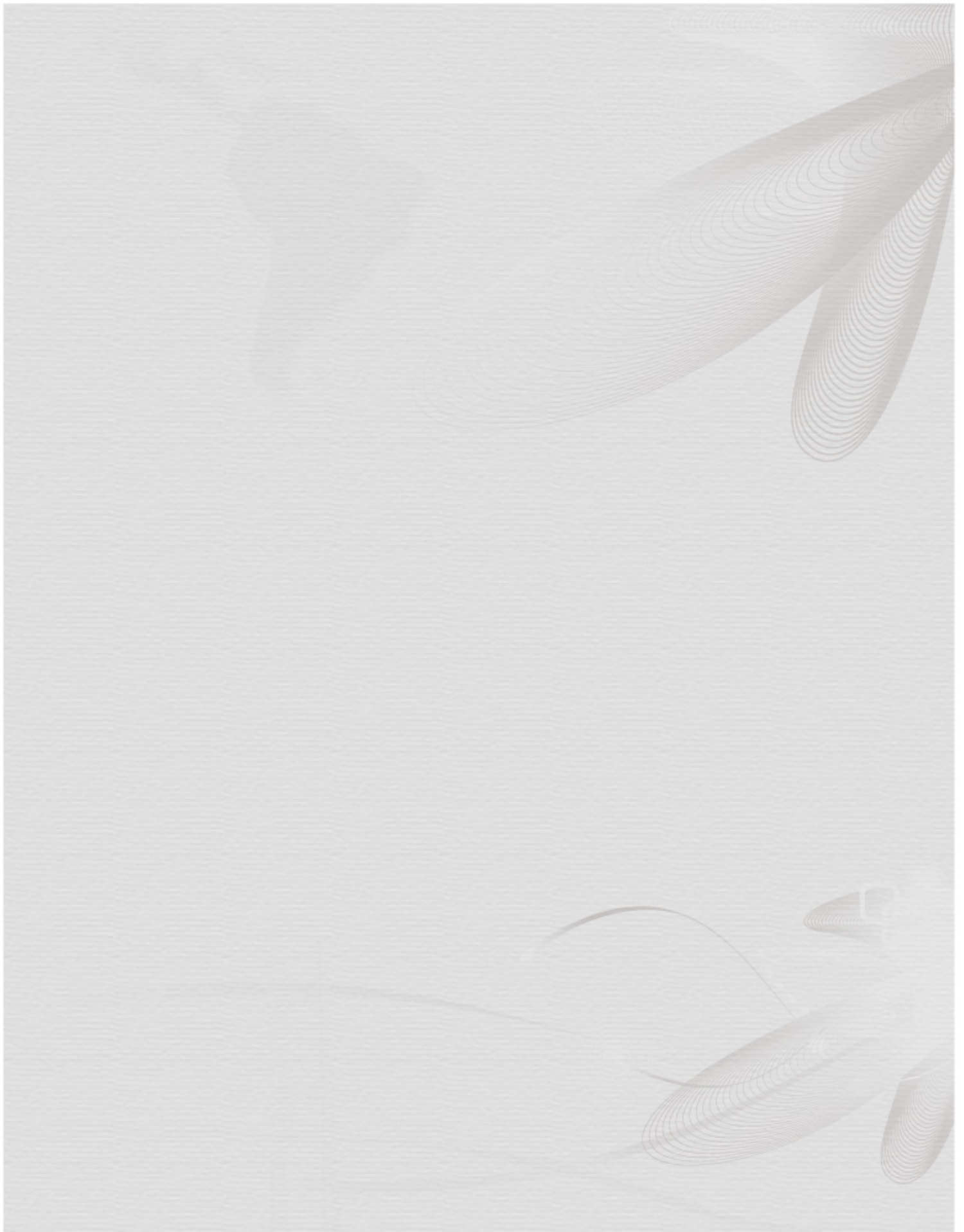
**How new technologies are impacting on integration?** ([Video](#), in Spanish)

[1] This article was written by consultant Santiago Chelala, based on the presentation by Santiago Bilinkis (entrepreneur, technologist, and author of the bestselling book *Pasaje al Futuro* [Ticket to the Future]) at the INTAL-LAB on August 6, 2015.



# Integration Blocs









## Pacific Alliance

# The Pacific Alliance Framework Agreement Takes Effect

On July 20 the [Pacific Alliance Framework Agreement \(in Spanish\)](#) took effect. The agreement was signed on June 6, 2012, and is the founding document for the bloc, outlining its vision, objectives, scope, and structure, as well as the framework for its external relations.

As part of the 10th Presidential Summit of the Pacific Alliance that took place in Paracas, Peru, the heads of state of Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru confirmed their commitment to the principles set out in the Framework Agreement. Its entry into force has consolidated the initiative at the institutional level.



## The Caribbean

### Progress on the CARICOM Strategic Plan

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) presented the priorities of its [Strategic Plan 2015–2019](#), which lays the groundwork for the repositioning of the bloc and outlines the steps to be taken to this end. The plan's integrated approach aims to build economic, social, environmental, and technological resilience. To achieve this, the bloc's identity and governance need to be strengthened (Diagram 1).

Diagram 1. CARICOM Strategic Plan: Priorities




Source: Prepared in-house using CARICOM data.

With regard to economic resilience, the CARICOM agenda is oriented towards the sustained growth of member countries. To this end, it contemplates the acceleration of the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (free movement of goods, services, capital, skilled labor, and rights of establishment; regulatory harmonization; macroeconomic coordination; the development of intraregional trade; progress in other areas such as e-commerce, etc. ), integration into the global economy by attracting investment and expanding trade, the introduction of immediate-term and medium-term macroeconomic stabilization measures, and buliding competitiveness and unleashing economic drivers to transition to growth in key sectors (tourism, financial services, information and communications technology [ICT], professional services, construction, education, health care, entertainment, sports, agriculture, fishing, infrastructure and services for air and maritime transport, and energy, among others).

With regard to technology, the plan aims to develop a single ICT space, bring technology to the people, strengthen cyber security, and seek greater investment in ICT on the part of member states. In terms of social resilience, the strategy includes human capital development, mainstreaming inclusiveness in public policy, health and wellness initiatives, and enhancing justice and citizen security.

The environmental resilience plan contemplates advancing with adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change and natural disasters, as well as enhancing management of the environment and natural resources.



To strengthen CARICOM identity, the project will promote a sense of belonging to the region and strengthen relationships among member states through various channels. In terms of governance, the strategy includes reforming existing arrangements to improve decision-making, implementation, and accountability and enforcement, among other relevant aspects.

**Related Articles:**

- IDB/INTAL. "[CARICOM Approves its First Strategic Plan](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 215*, July 2014.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 216*, August 2014.



## Central America

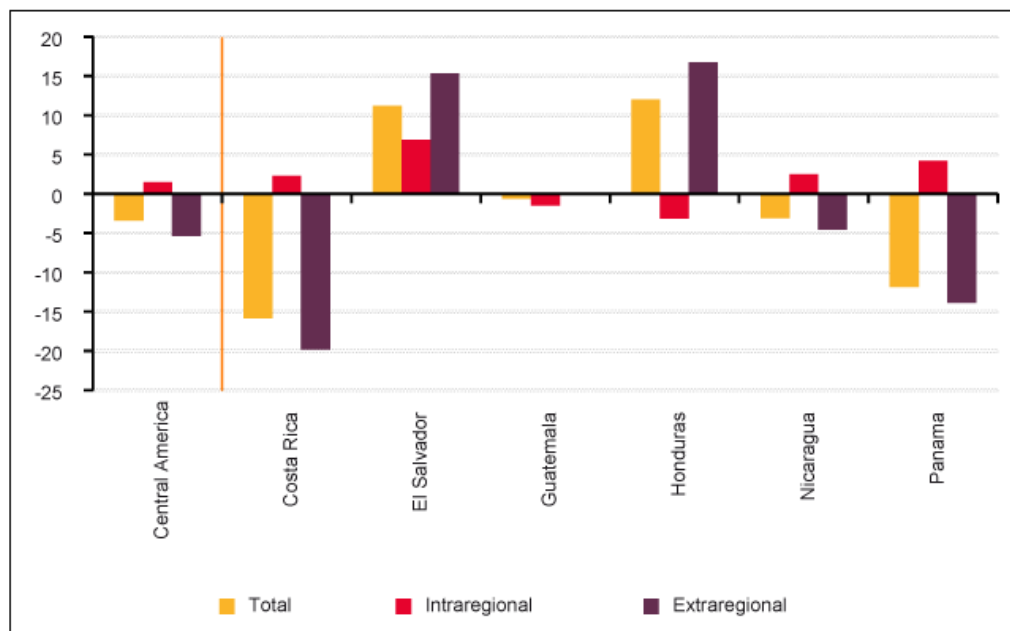
### Intraregional Exports Perform Better Than Total Exports

During the first quarter of 2015, Central American exports contracted by 3.4% year-on-year (y-o-y), in a context of reduced external sales in the region ([Giordano \*et al.\*, 2015](#)). Imports, on the other hand, fell by 5.1%. According to data published by the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration ([SIECA \[in Spanish\]](#)), Honduras was the only country in which both exports and imports grew. The largest contractions were recorded in Costa Rica and Panama.

It should be mentioned that exports within Central America (30% of the total) grew by 1.5% y-o-y, driven by medicaments, plastic packaging, and bakers' wares, among others. This contrasts with the reduction in exports to the rest of the world (5.4%): the recovery of coffee sales was insufficient to offset the fall in sales of other products such as bananas, sugar, fruit, and gold. The United States continues to be Central America's main trading partner, followed by the European Union for exports and China for imports.

Figure 2. Central American countries: total intraregional and extraregional exports

Y-o-y change for the first quarter of 2015



Source: Prepared in-house using data from SIECA.

## Bibliography

Giordano, Paolo; Michalczewsky, Kathia; and Ramos Martínez, Alejandro. 2015. [Latin American Trade Trend Estimates 2015](#) Update 1Q 2015 Washington, DC: IDB.

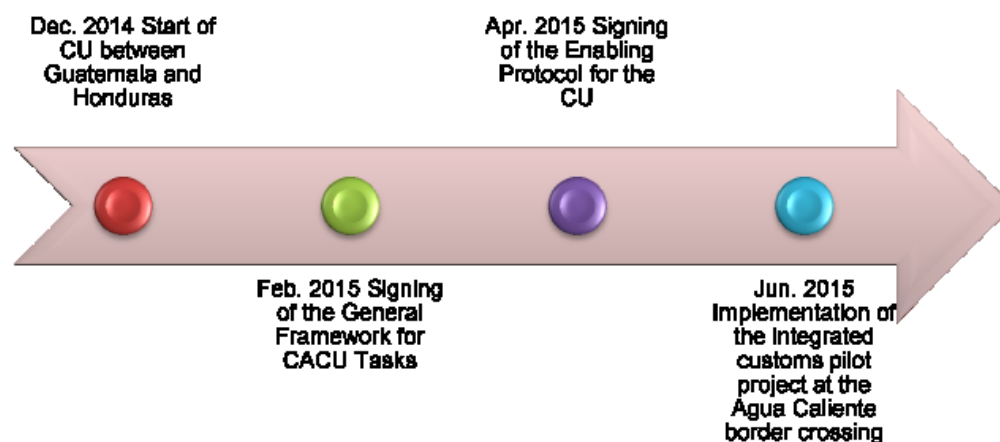
# Guatemala and Honduras Make Headway on the Central American Customs Union

High-ranking government officials from Guatemala and Honduras held a [meeting \(in Spanish\)](#) at which they discussed progress made on bilateral issues relating to the Central American Customs Union (CACU) and outlined the next steps to be taken.

They drew attention to the progress that has been made on the implementation of the integrated customs pilot program at the border crossing at Agua Caliente (Diagram 1) and the CACU road map. It is hoped that the model to be implemented at the end of the year will make it possible for people and goods to move freely between Guatemala and Honduras. This process is part of another more profound one, which aims to consolidate the CACU.

The meeting was also attended by authorities of the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the private sector.

Diagram 1. Chronology of the construction process of the Guatemala-Honduras Customs Union (CU)



Source: Prepared in-house using data from SIECA.

## Related Articles:

- IDB/INTAL. "[Progress in Central American Domestic and Foreign Integration Agendas.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 169*, September 2010.

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- IDB/INTAL. [“An Active Trade Negotiation Agenda in Central America,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 170*, October 2010.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Trade Negotiations in Central America”](#), in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 172, December 2010*.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“The Isthmus Makes Steady Progress in Intra-Central American Integration: the 2011 Action Plan.”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 175*, March 2011.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Priorities for Central American Integration in the Second Semester of 2011,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 180*, August 2011.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Panama an Observer at the Customs Union Round,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 183*, November 2011.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Positive Results toward Customs Union,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 185*, January 2012.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Central American Regional Integration Highlights of 2013: Panama, Dominican Republic, and the EU Agreement,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 208, December 2013*.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Progress over Central American Customs Union,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 211*, March 2014.
  - IDB/INTAL. [“Advances in Central American economic integration in 2014,”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 220, December 2014*.





## Central America Negotiates Extraregional Agreements

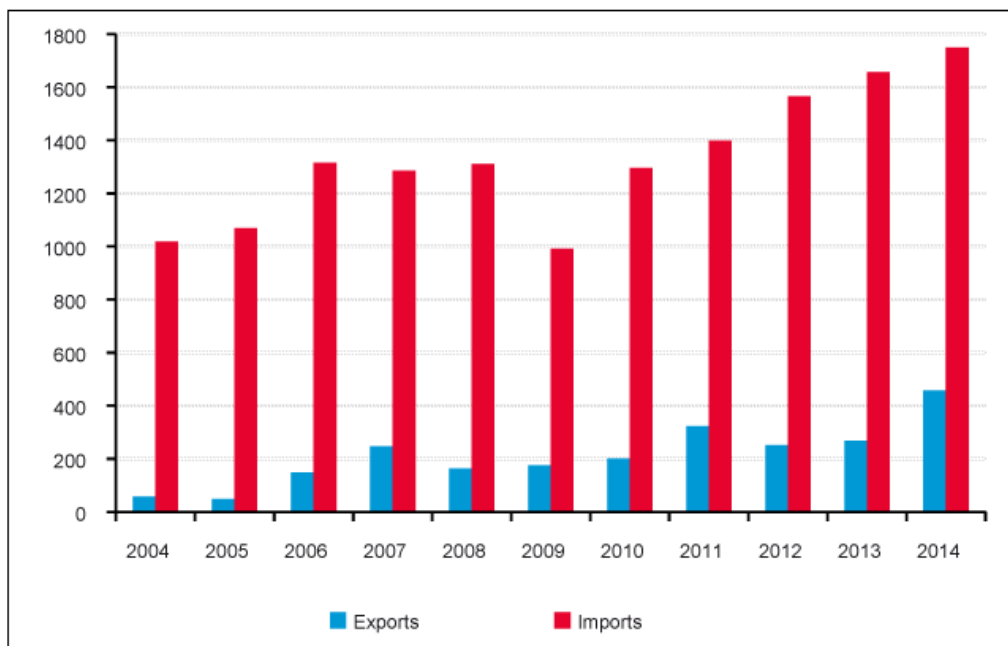
Over the past few years, Central America has maintained an active foreign trade negotiation agenda. This has resulted in numerous agreements, both for the entire bloc and bilaterally between countries of the region.

Noteworthy examples of recent progress include the third round of negotiations between Panama and Israel and the signing of a framework agreement for the negotiation of a free trade agreement between Central America and the [Republic of Korea \(in Spanish\)](#). It is hoped that these negotiations will come into effect in October 2015.

Over the last decade, Central American exports to Korea have increased at a much faster rate than imports from Korea (a 22% and 5% cumulative annual average, respectively). Nevertheless, there continues to be a large trade deficit between Central America and Korea: in 2014 exports totaled US\$456 million, while imports reached US\$1.7 billion (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Trade between Central America and the Republic of Korea

In millions of US\$

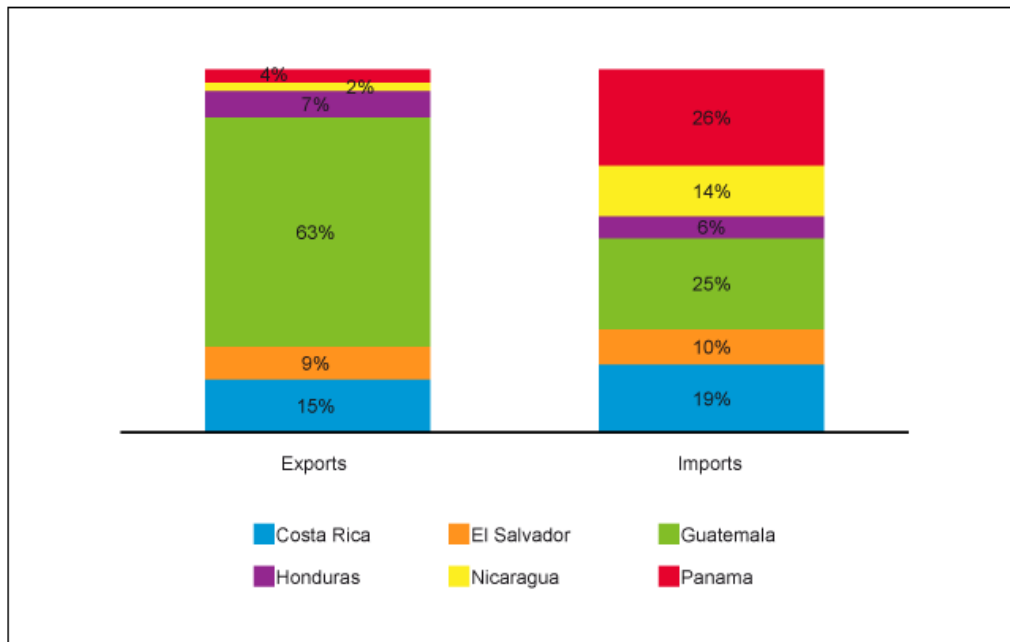


Source: Prepared in-house using DATAINTAL.

Guatemala is the main source of Central American exports to Korea, followed by Costa Rica and El Salvador. Sugar accounts for nearly US\$4 of every US\$10 of exports to Korea, and coffee and some metals are also significant. Imports from Korea, on the other hand, are more diversified in terms of both the buyer countries and the products themselves, the most noteworthy of which are different types of manufactures (Figure 2 and Table 1).

Figure 2. Source and destination markets for trade between Central America and Korea

As a percentage of the total, 2014



Source: Prepared in-house using DATAINTAL data.

**Table 1. Composition of Trade between Central America and Korea**

As a percentage of the total, 2014

<b>Exports</b>		<b>Imports</b>	
Sugar	39.1%	Motor cars and other motor vehicles for the transport of persons	26.5%
Lead ores and concentrates	18.8%	Petroleum oils	6.5%
Coffee	9.5%	Structures and parts of structures	5.7%
Ferrous waste and scrap	8.5%	Knitted or crocheted fabrics	4.7%
Aluminum waste and scrap	4.2%	Telephones	4.3%
Other	19.9%	Other	52.2%

Source: Prepared in-house using DATAINTAL data.



## Andean Community

### The Internationalization of SMEs in the Andean Community (CAN)

Between July 14 and 17, a workshop entitled “[Strengthening international alliances for small and medium-sized enterprises \(SMEs\) in the global market \(in Spanish\)](#)” took place in Quito, Ecuador. Attendees included experts from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), which includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan; and the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

The objectives of the meeting were to boost commerce for SMEs, increase trade- and investment-related cooperation and partnerships between the three regions, strengthen the services of export promotion agencies, and identify opportunities for South-South cooperation and investment. The General Secretariat of CAN was present at the event, and gave a presentation entitled “Potential products and areas of cooperation with the EEU and the BRICS countries.” It should be noted that CAN exported US\$25.2 billion to the BRICS group in 2014, mainly in the form of crude petroleum oil, natural gas, copper ores, and flours and meals of fish or of crustaceans (Table 1). Meanwhile, external sales from CAN to the EEU amounted to US\$ 1.07 billion, the most notable exports being bananas, roses, silver ores and concentrates, fresh grapes, shrimps and prawns, among others (Table 2).

Table 1. Exports from CAN to the BRICS group

In millions of US\$

1	Crude petroleum oil	7,831
2	Natural gas	3,776
3	Copper ores and concentrates	3,691
4	Cathodes and sections of cathodes of refined copper	1,227
5	Flours, meals, and pellets of fish	687
	Other	8,030
	Total	25,243

Source: DATAINTAL.

Table 2. Exports from CAN to the EEU

In millions of US\$

1	Bananas	540
2	Roses	219
3	Silver ores and concentrates	47
4	Fresh grapes	32
5	Shrimps, prawns, and other decapods	20
	Other	212
	Total	1,070

Source: DATAINTAL.



# National Coordinators Meeting and MERCOSUR Parliament Session

On August 17, the [33rd Ordinary Session of the MERCOSUR Parliament \(in Spanish\)](#) took place in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Venezuelan Saúl Ortega Campos was declared president of the institution, and representatives from Brazil, Uruguay, and Bolivia took office. Representatives from Argentina will take office next December.

Two days later, the [MERCOSUR National Coordinators Meeting \(in Spanish\)](#) took place in Asunción, Paraguay. Those present discussed the points on the agenda of Paraguay's *pro-tempore* presidency (PTP) for the second half of 2015.

Noteworthy priorities of Paraguay's PTP include the free movement of goods, services, and factors; productive integration; the MERCOSUR Structural Convergence Fund (FOCEM); rapprochement with the Pacific Alliance; the institutional strengthening of the bloc; and a review of the dispute settlement system. In terms of [foreign relations \(in Spanish\)](#), the PTP aims to exchange offers with the European Union so as to make headway on the [negotiation of the bi-regional association agreement \(in Spanish\)](#).



## UNASUR Evaluates Progress on Connectivity Projects in South America

Representatives of UNASUR member countries[1] met in Montevideo to evaluate the activities being carried out by each COSIPLAN work area as part of the Work Plan 2015.[2] They also reviewed and updated the meeting schedule for the second half of the year.

- [27th Meeting of IIRSA National Coordinators](#) (August 19)
- [12th Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee](#) (August 20)

The council's annual work plans, which include the IIRSA Initiative as their technical forum, are based on the [Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 \(PAE\)](#), which was drafted and approved in 2011. The PAE structures the council's strategic lines of work for the next ten years.

### 27th Meeting of COSIPLAN/IIRSA National Coordinators

During the meeting, the results of ongoing projects in the different COSIPLAN-IIRSA thematic areas were presented:

#### *i. COSIPLAN Projects*

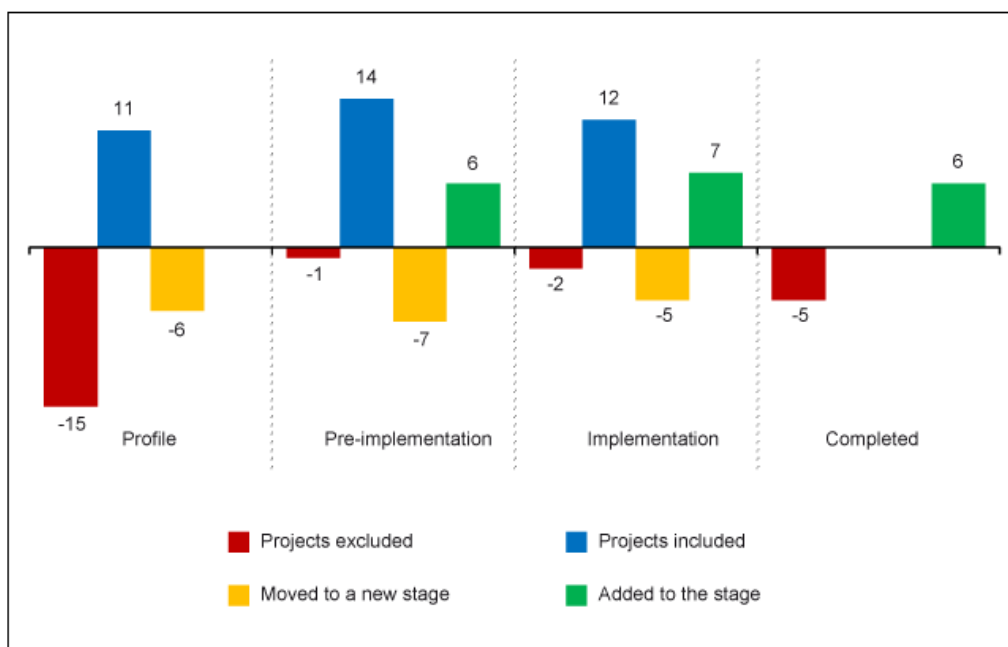
The main results of the updating process were reported on, following the virtual meetings of the [Executive Technical Groups \(GTEs\) for the Updating of the Project Portfolio and the Integration Priority Project Agenda \(API\) for the Integration and Development Hub](#), which took place during May and June:

- Some [36 projects](#) from the portfolio (in Spanish) were included and 23 were not. The number of projects at the profile stage was reduced from 137 in 2014 to 114 in 2015, and is now made up as follows: (i) COSIPLAN Portfolio: Some 593 projects for a total investment of

US\$182.44 billion; and (ii) the [Integration Priority Project Agenda](#) (API): 31 structured projects made up of 103 individual projects for a total investment of almost US\$21.53 billion.

- As of August 18, information on 71.5% (424 out of 593) of the projects in the [COSIPLAN Project Information System](#) (SIP) had been updated to 2015.
- The [Southern Hub](#) expanded its area of influence by incorporating Chubut Province in Argentina and the Aysén Region up to Coihayque Province in Chile. Some 21 new projects were included: eight in Group 1, “Concepción – Bahía Blanca – San Antonio Este Port,” and 13 in Group 2, “Binational Touristic Circuit of the Lake Zone.”

Figure 1. Evolution of Portfolio Projects by Stage: Results of 2015 Update



Source: COSIPLAN Project Information System, August 18, 2015.

**Completed Projects:** All countries valued the importance of disseminating information on completed or highly advanced projects which have been made a priority of COSIPLAN’s work relating to connectivity between two or more countries. As a result, they decided to make a documentary about Ecuador and Peru’s experience in this area, given that there has been significant progress in road connectivity at the border between the two countries as a result of firm agreements between high-level authorities from both countries.

ii. *Territorial Planning Methodologies*

[Territorial Planning Methodologies](#) are tools for deepening and enriching the sustainable planning process for infrastructure, incorporating environmental, social, productive integration, and logistical issues; disaster and risk management; and normative and regulatory aspects, among others. Progress was made in the following areas:

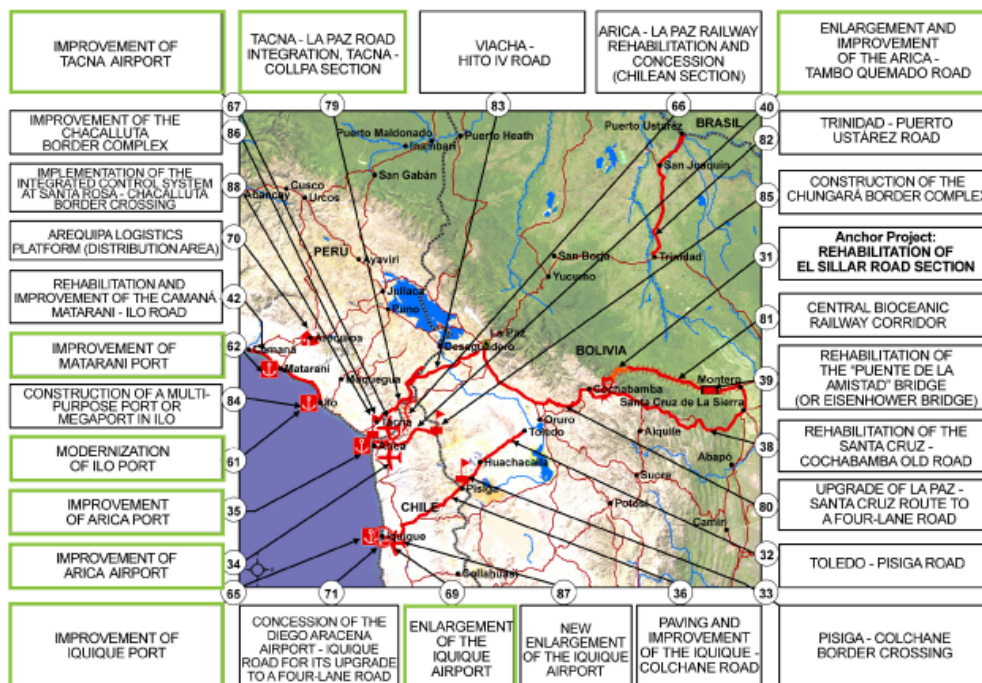
- *Application of the Disaster Risk Management Methodology to Project Group 5 of the Central Interoceanic Hub*

In January 2015, Chile and Peru began the pilot implementation of the [Methodology for the Incorporation of Disaster Risk Management \(DRM\) into Regional Integration Infrastructure Projects](#) as part of [Project Group 5](#) of the Central Interoceanic Hub (seismic silence zone). The projects include the identification of integration infrastructure in the disaster risk area and the analysis of those risks. The results of the pilot implementation will be released at the next Executive Technical Group meeting, scheduled for the first quarter of 2016.[3][4]

The [Methodology for the Incorporation of Disaster Risk Management \(DRM\) into Regional Integration Infrastructure Projects](#) has established clear procedures to prevent or reduce the effects of natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods, and volcanic eruptions) that affect South American infrastructure, and to devise plans for connectivity and public infrastructure recovery.

Coordinating country: the Republic of Chile

Map 1. Project Group 5 of Central Interoceanic Hub: Selected Infrastructure



Source: COSIPLAN/IIRSA.

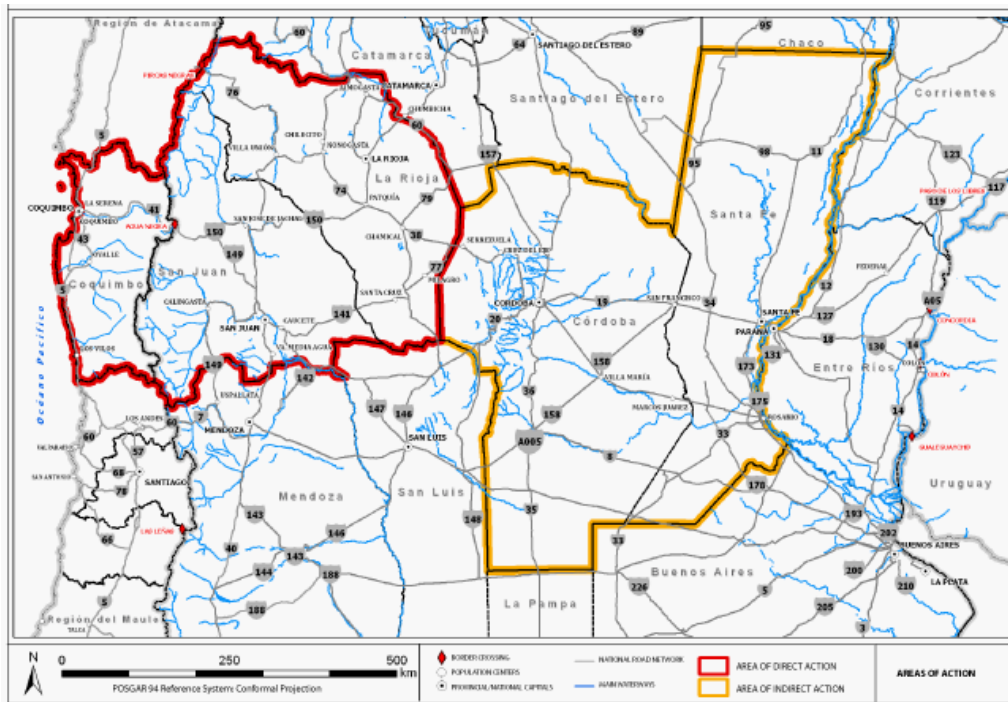
- *Formulation of an Integration Territorial Program for the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel*

The Integration Territorial Program (PTI) and the Implementation Plan for this are at the final stage of development and will be presented at a binational workshop to be held on October 1 and 2, 2015, in San Juan, Argentina.[5][6] Argentina and Chile began work in August 2014 with the support of the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT).

[Integration Territorial Programs](#) (PTIs) are innovative tools for analyzing, proposing, and implementing activities that complement infrastructure works to boost the impact of investment on the region.

Coordinating countries: the Republic of Argentina and the Republic of Chile.

Map 2. Area of PTI's Direct and Indirect Action



Source: Integrated PTI Diagnostic Study

### iii. Sectoral Integration Processes

The aim of [Sectoral Integration Processes \(PSIs\)](#) is to identify institutional and regulatory obstacles that impede infrastructure development in the region and propose courses of action to overcome these obstacles. Progress made in the following areas was presented:

- *Freight Transport and Logistics Course*

A progress report was given for the following Online Tutored Course: “Training Program in the Making and Management of Freight Transport and Logistics Policies,” which is taking place in line with the planned deadlines, as part of COSIPLAN/IIRSA’s work for 2015.[7]

The course is aimed at officials from the various public-sector agencies from UNASUR countries that are involved in the making of public policies, plans, programs, and projects in the freight logistics sector.

COSIPLAN includes [Freight Transport and Logistics](#) as a key topic in its Work Plan, and seeks to establish logistics as a strategic issue in order to move towards a systemic vision of infrastructure, transport, and logistics.[8]

Coordinating country: the Republic of Peru

- *Workshop on South American Integration through Ports and Waterways*

A proposed agenda was presented for the first workshop, which will be held on October 14 and 15, 2015, in Brasilia and will include the following areas: i) ports as a logistical platforms for regional integration; (ii) waterways as logistical systems for regional integration; and (iii) mechanisms to finance port and waterway projects.[9]

Coordinating country: the Federative Republic of Brazil

- *Trade Integration through Postal Services for MSMEs*

A report was given on the progress made and ongoing activities in the field of imports and exports, as part of the work plan coordinated by Brazil and Peru with the support of Technical Cooperation from the Inter-American Development Bank.[10] Likewise, it was confirmed that the Meeting of the Executive Technical Group would take place on September 28 and 29 in Lima, Peru.

*The Pre-Diagnostic Survey Visit and Seed Workshop in Paraguay:* The event took place from June 8 to 19, and 23 institutions from both the public and private sectors took part. The visit had several purposes: first, to raise awareness of the current impact of the project at the regional level and its potential impact at the national level, and second, to analyze the conditions for the implementation of a trade integration model for postal services in Paraguay. Another key objective was to promote and strengthen horizontal cooperation among countries in the region.[11]

Work on [Trade Integration through Postal Services \(in Spanish\)](#) seeks to promote the integration of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises into the international market through the implementation of a simplified export/import system using postal operators' logistics platforms.

Coordinating countries: the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Peru.

- *Border Integration and Facilitation*

A proposal was presented which consisted of designing a work methodology based on the tools developed as part of COSIPLAN in order to identify "bilateral border regions." The aim of the proposal is to characterize and analyze these regions and to identify the infrastructure interventions that would be necessary for the integral development of these areas.[12]

With the support of the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT), Argentina and Chile will draw up a document that outlines the conceptual framework of the methodology and tools that will allow cross-border integration to be incorporated as a line of action in the COSIPLAN planning process. The case study will be carried out on the shared border within the Southern Integration and Development Hub.

Coordinating countries: the Republic of Argentina and the Republic of Chile.

- *Air Integration*

A virtual meeting will be held in November 2015 to present the results of studies carried out by the IDB on the following topic: "Case studies of air freight terminals in UNASUR members' airports" and "Study on air integration in the Guiana Shield hub."

Coordinating country: the Federative Republic of Brazil

Table 1. Calendar of COSIPLAN Activities 2015 (August 2015)

Date	Place	Instance	Activity
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
2 and 3	Buenos Aires, Argentina	COSIPLAN/(experts)	WG on GIS and COSIPLAN Website
28 and 29	Lima, Peru	IIRSA	GTE on Trade Integration through Postal Services
<b>October</b>			
1 and 2	San Juan, Argentina	IIRSA	Binational Workshop on Agua Negra Binational Tunnel PTI (Argentina–Chile)
14 and 15	Brasilia, Brazil	IIRSA	Workshop on South American Integration through Ports and Waterways
29 and 30	Quito, Ecuador	GS/COSIPLAN	Seminar on Infrastructure and Value Chains
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
3	Asunción, Paraguay	COSIPLAN	WG on Telecommunications
4 (to be confirmed)	Asunción, Paraguay	COSIPLAN	WG on Railway Integration
10 and 11	Buenos Aires, Argentina	COSIPLAN/(experts)	Final Workshop on GIS and COSIPLAN Website
12	Buenos Aires, Argentina	IIRSA	GTE on Border Integration
17	Videoconference	IIRSA	GTE on Air Transport Integration
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
1	Montevideo, Uruguay	IIRSA	28th Meeting of IIRSA National Coordinators
2	Montevideo, Uruguay	COSIPLAN	13th Meeting of COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee
3	Montevideo, Uruguay	COSIPLAN	6th Ordinary Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers

### IDB/INTAL's contribution

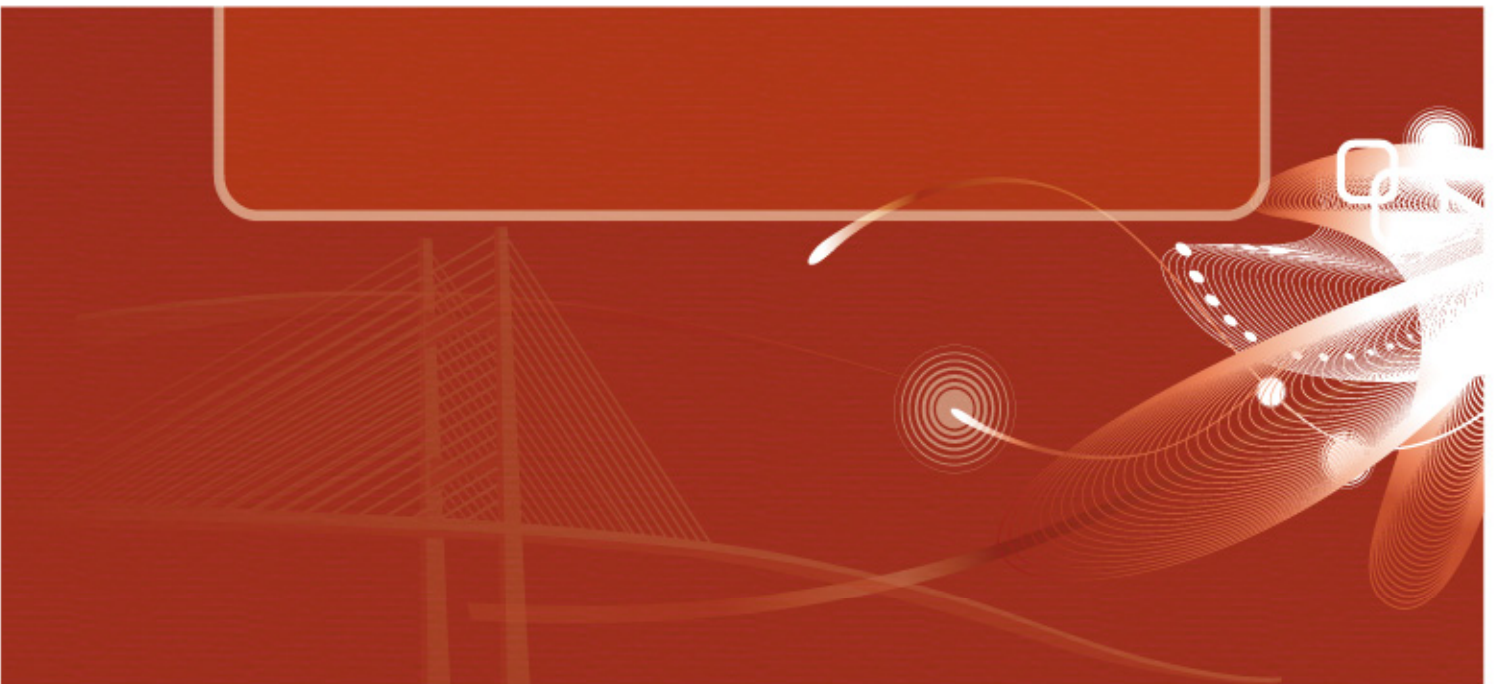
In its role as the Secretariat of the COSIPLAN/IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee, over the past 14 years IDB/INTAL has been actively involved as a facilitator of dialog between South American countries in the field of physical integration. INTAL's commitment to the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean is reflected in the technical and operational support it provides for projects that have been prioritized by all countries in their annual Work Plans. IDB/INTAL has contributed to developing and disseminating technical studies, identifying lines of action, and holding meetings and workshops which have helped to build a shared vision of South America.

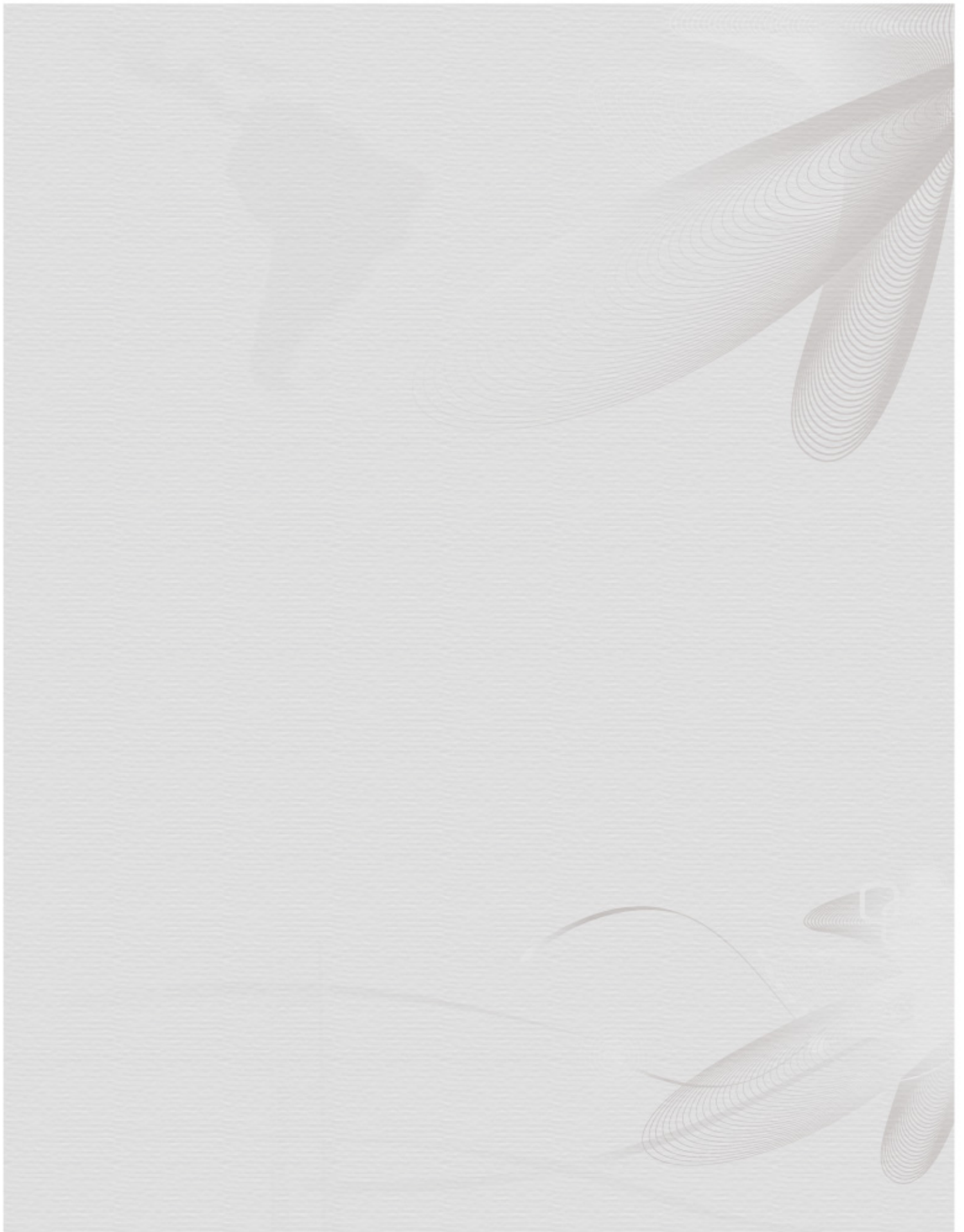
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- [1] The meeting was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, representatives of the General Secretariat of UNASUR and the IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee.
- [2] The Work Plan 2015 was passed at the [5th Ordinary Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers](#).
- [3] See [INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 222](#), February 2015.
- [4] See the Progress Report [presentation \(in Spanish\)](#) for the Pilot Implementation of DRM Methodology in Project Group 5 of the Central Interoceanic Hub at the 26th Meeting of National Coordinators (Montevideo, August 19, 2015).
- [5] See [INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 223](#), March 2015.
- [6] See the Work Plan Progress Report [Presentation](#) (in Spanish) from the 27th Meeting of COSIPLAN/IIRSA National Coordinators (Montevideo, August 19, 2015).
- [7] See the Progress Report for the Freight Transport and Logistics Course at the [27th Meeting of National Coordinators](#) (Montevideo, August 19, 2015).
- [8] See [INTAL Monthly Newsletter 217](#), September 2014.
- [9] See the Presentation for the Proposed Workshop on South American Integration through Ports and Waterways at the [27th Meeting of National Coordinators](#) (Montevideo, August 19, 2015).
- [10] See the [Presentation \(in Spanish\)](#) on the Work Plan 2015 at the 27th Meeting of National Coordinators (Montevideo, August 19, 2015).
- [11] See [INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 226](#), June 2015.
- [12] See the [Presentation \(in Spanish\)](#) of the Proposal for the Incorporation of Border Integration into COSIPLAN's Indicative Territorial Planning at the 27th Meeting of National Coordinators (Montevideo, August 19, 2015).





# Regional And Global Overview





# Negotiations around Information Technologies, Trade Facilitation, and Services

Significant progress has recently been made on multilateral and plurilateral trade negotiations on information technologies, trade facilitation, and trade in services.

First, a group of 54 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO)—including Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador—moved forward with negotiations that would extend the [Information Technology Agreement \(ITA\)](#). This would allow tariffs on imports of approximately 200 products in the sector to be eliminated, including next-generation semiconductors, GPS navigation devices, and medical equipment such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound imaging equipment, among others. The extension of the agreement would be important for two reasons: on the one hand, the coverage of the ITA has not been updated since it came into force in 1997, as a result of which many recent innovations are not yet covered by it. On the other hand, although not all WTO members are parties to the ITA, the reduction of barriers to trade would benefit all WTO countries.

Second, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago became the first countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, to ratify the [Trade Facilitation Agreement \(TFA\)](#) that concluded at the WTO's [Bali Ministerial Conference](#) in December 2013. For the agreement to come into force, it must be ratified by two-thirds of WTO members (107 of the 161 countries that make up the organization). To date, it has only been ratified by twelve countries: Australia, Botswana, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Niger, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States. The aim of the TFA is to simplify customs procedures in order to bring down trade costs, and it includes provisions on goods in transit and contemplates support measures for capacity building. Finally, between July 6 and 10, the third round of negotiations on the [Trade in Services Agreement \(in Spanish\)](#) (TISA) took place, during which negotiations continued on financial services, telecommunications, maritime transport, national regulatory frameworks, the movement of natural persons, and e-commerce. Likewise, the groundwork was laid for the future work agenda and September 15 was established as the deadline for further offers.

It is worth mentioning that although the WTO already has a multilateral agreement on this issue (the General Agreement on Trade in Services, GATS), in 2013 a group of countries decided to start negotiating the TISA with the aim of strengthening commitments and including new issues. For the agreement to form part of the multilateral trade system, its members must represent at least 90% of the global trade in services. To date, talks have included 50 countries, including several from Latin America (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay), which together account for approximately three-quarters of global trade.

# Settlement of Latin American Countries' Trade Disputes

The last few weeks have seen some significant developments for Latin American countries in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement system.[1]

First, the Appellate Body (AB) ruled in favor of [Guatemala](#) in its claim regarding Peru's imposition of additional duties on imports of certain agricultural products (rice, sugar, corn, milk, and some other dairy products) under the price range system. The dispute began in April 2013 with Guatemala's request for consultations, and in November 2014, the Panel decided that the duties mentioned above were inconsistent with certain provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Agreement on Agriculture, after which Peru filed an appeal in May 2015.

Second, the Panel reported that the restrictions applied by the United States to imports of beef and other animal products originating in [Argentina](#) are inconsistent with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Furthermore, Argentina announced that it would eliminate the Advance Sworn Import Declaration ([DJAI](#)) after the AB had confirmed these restrictions to be incompatible with the GATT in the context of the dispute raised by the European Union, Japan, Mexico, and the United States, among others.

Third, Japan requested consultations with [Brazil](#) regarding taxation that affects the automotive and information technology sector.

## Related Articles:

- IDB/INTAL. [“Active Participation by LAC in WTO Dispute Settlement System in 2012.”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197*, January 2013.
- IDB/INTAL. [“WTO Panel Rules against Argentina over Import Restrictions.”](#) in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 217*, September 2014.

[1] Further information on how this system functions is available in the [INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197](#).

# New Rounds of Mega-agreement Negotiations

In July and August, progress was made on negotiations for the three main mega-agreements. The tenth round of discussions over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership ([T-TIP](#)) took place in Brussels between July 13 and 17. There was progress on negotiations over services—during which new offers were exchanged—rules of origin, and market access measures, excluding tariff-related issues. With regard to regulatory issues, negotiations continued around technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, regulatory coherence, and the sectors where these issues are most relevant. Likewise, issues related to competition, state-owned enterprises, subsidies, and small and medium-sized enterprises were also discussed. The next round will take place during the third quarter in the United States.

On July 31 a new round of negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership ([TPP](#)) took place in Hawaii. According to the press release issued by the trade ministers, significant progress was made, and work will continue in the hope of reaching consensus on the outstanding issues.

Finally, the ninth round of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership ([RCEP](#)) was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on July 13, during which progress was made on discussions on services and investment. The tenth round took place from August 1 to 7 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

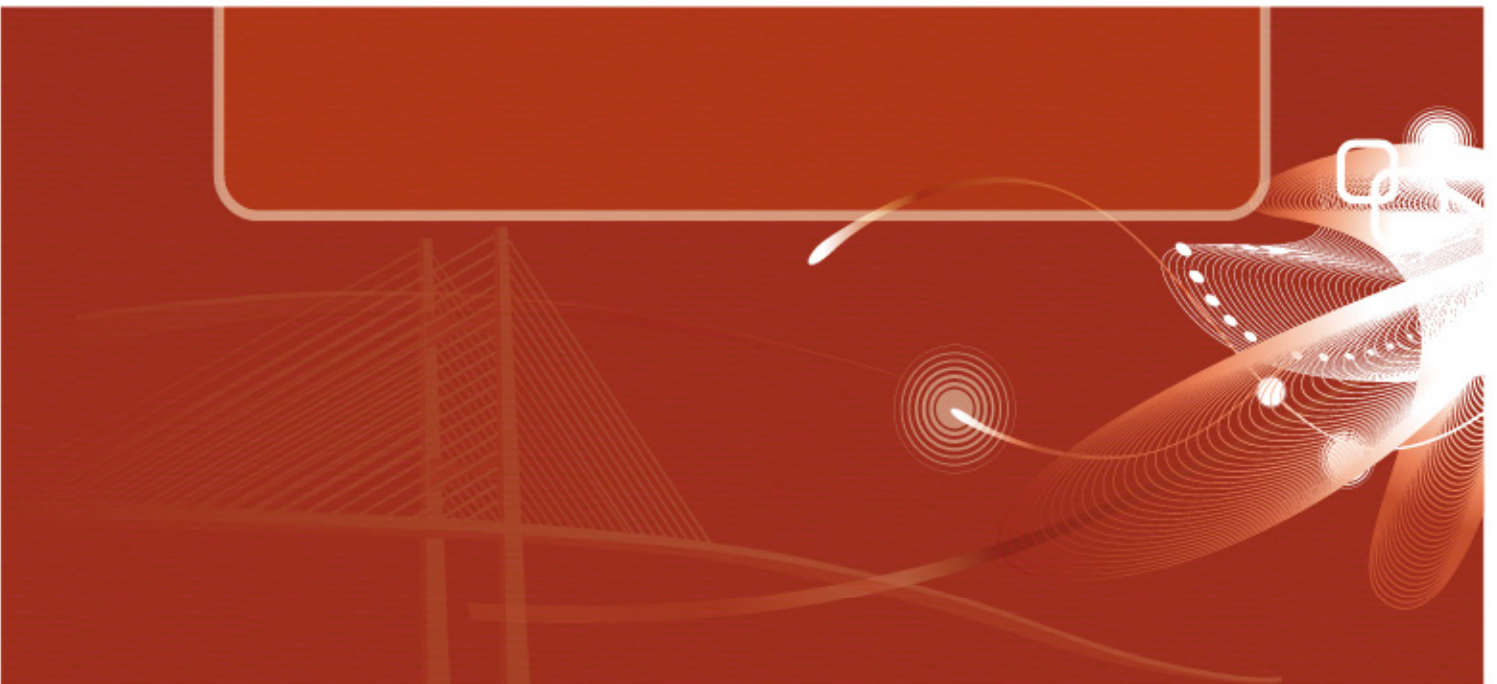
## Related Articles:

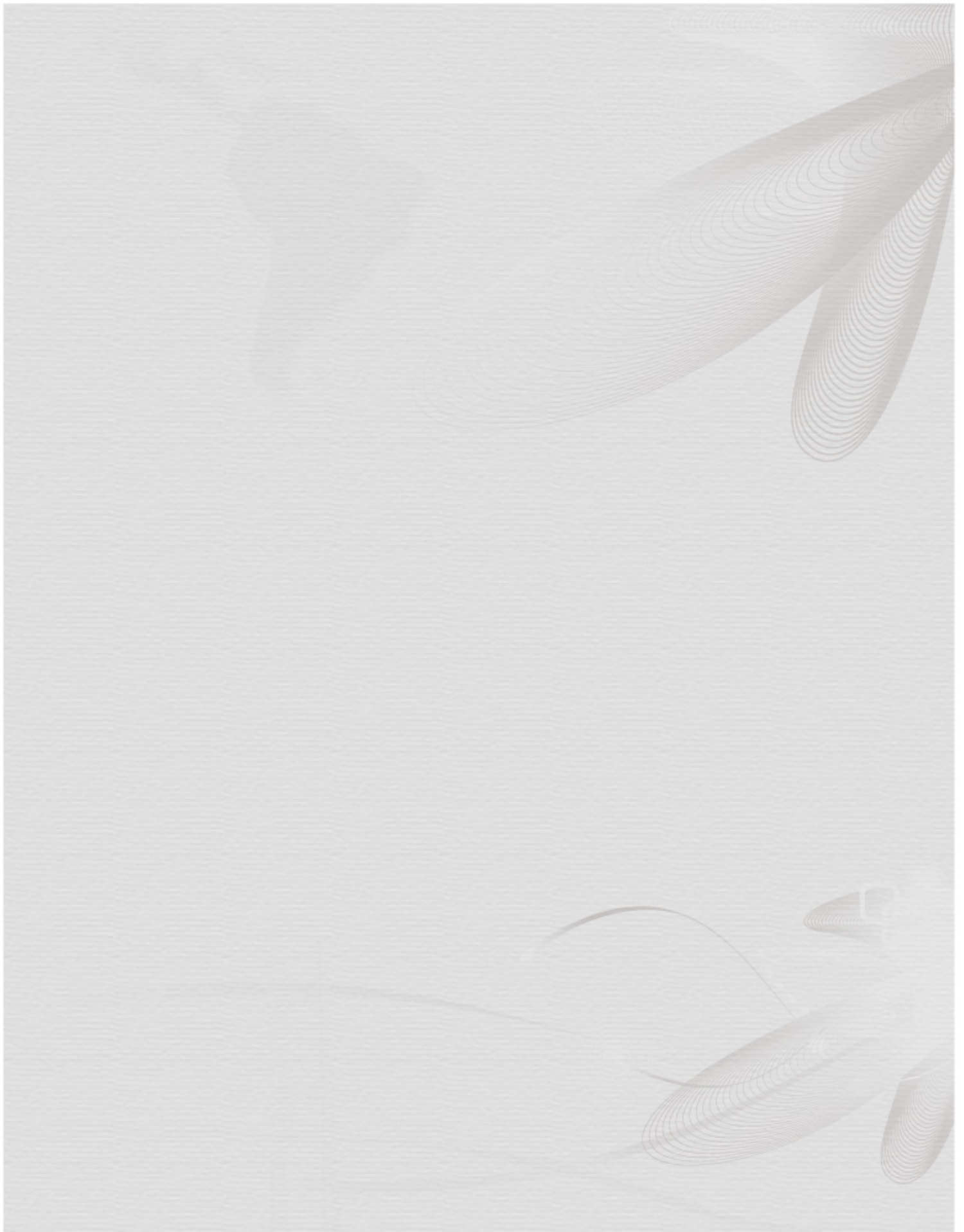
- IDB/INTAL. "[Integration Scenarios in the Pacific.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 200*, April 2013.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Negotiating Scenarios in the Major Economies.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 201*, May 2013.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Mega-agreement Negotiations: How Will They Influence Latin America?.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 204*, August 2013.
- IDB/INTAL. "[2nd Round of TTIP Negotiations.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 208*, December 2013.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Transatlantic Negotiations and the Outlook for LAC.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 209*, January 2014.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Third Negotiating Round of the RCEP.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 210*, February 2014.
- IDB/INTAL. "[EU-US: Fourth Round of Talks.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 211*, March 2014.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Fifth Round of US-EU Negotiations.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 214.*, June 2014.
- IDB/INTAL. "[Mega-agreement Negotiations.](#)" in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 227*, July 2015.





# Impact assessment









## Firm Networks and the Drive to Innovate

The aim of this article is to disseminate and discuss the work of R.D. Fitjar and A. Rodríguez (2015) on how collaboration and interaction between networked firms impacts their innovative performance.

Innovative activities are affected by the social, institutional, and political contexts of the geographical context in which they take place. This approach has been considered by economic theory in terms of industrial districts and regional innovation systems.

The study assesses how Norwegian firms' links with regional, national, and international agents affect their ability to innovate at the product and process level based on factors such as investment in R&D and education levels among the population of the region where they are located.

Based on a survey of 1,604 firms located in the five major cities/regions of Norway, the study explores the role of collaboration, interaction, and networking with agents that produce knowledge and ideas outside of the firms themselves. The survey included questions about product and process innovations, and firms' links with suppliers, customers, competitors, universities, and research institutes, among others.

A logit model was constructed in which the dependent variable was the probability of innovating and the independent variables were collaboration with other agents, R&D, and the skill levels of the population where the firm was located, in addition to certain control variables.

The most noteworthy result is that the probability of innovating depends positively on firms' national and international networks. Second, cooperation between a country's regions is effective in countries with high levels of investment in R&D, while international cooperation is useful in regions with highly skilled populations. As such, context plays an essential role in the determination of business networks and innovation capacity. Regions with skilled workforces and greater investment in R&D can draw on knowledge from other parts of the world.

Although the study focuses on a developed country, its conclusions are a useful source of inspiration for innovation policy in Latin America, considering the importance of firms' international linkages to enhancing their capacity to generate product and process innovations.

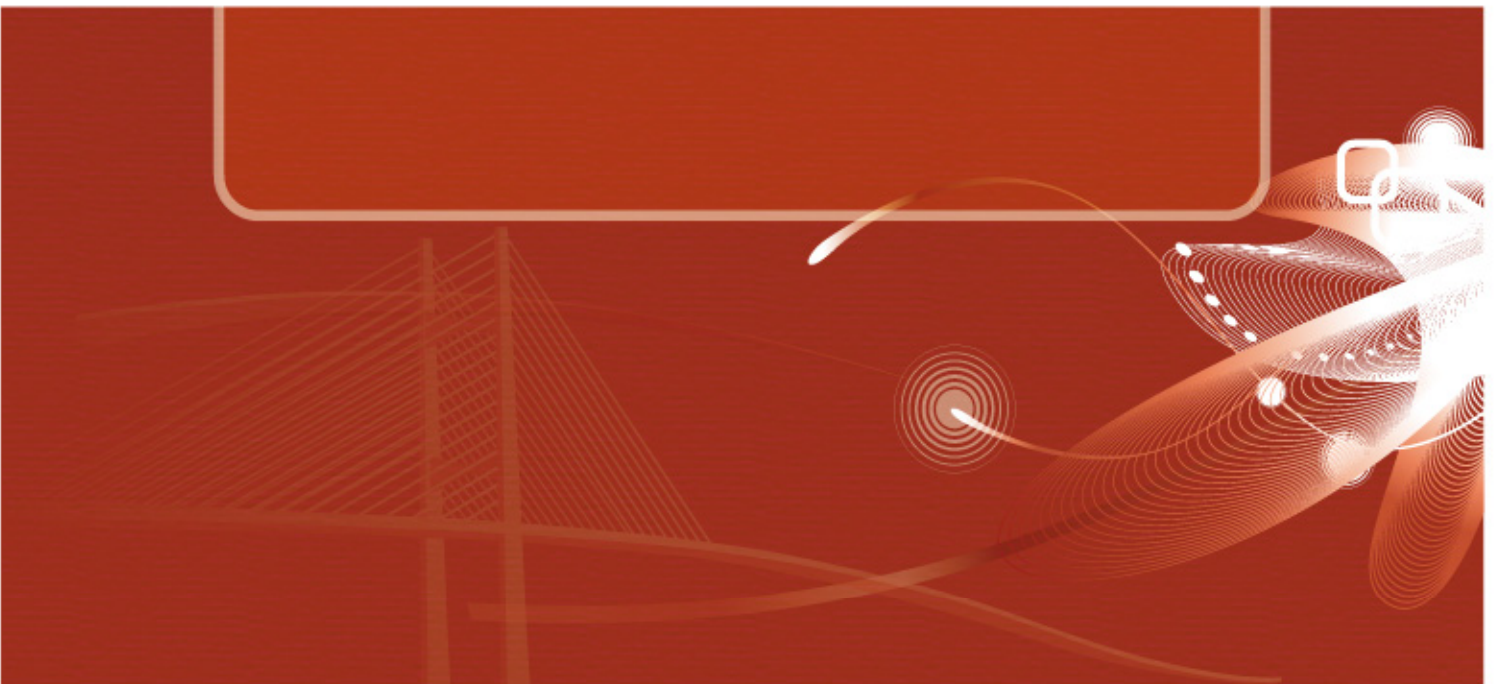
### Bibliography

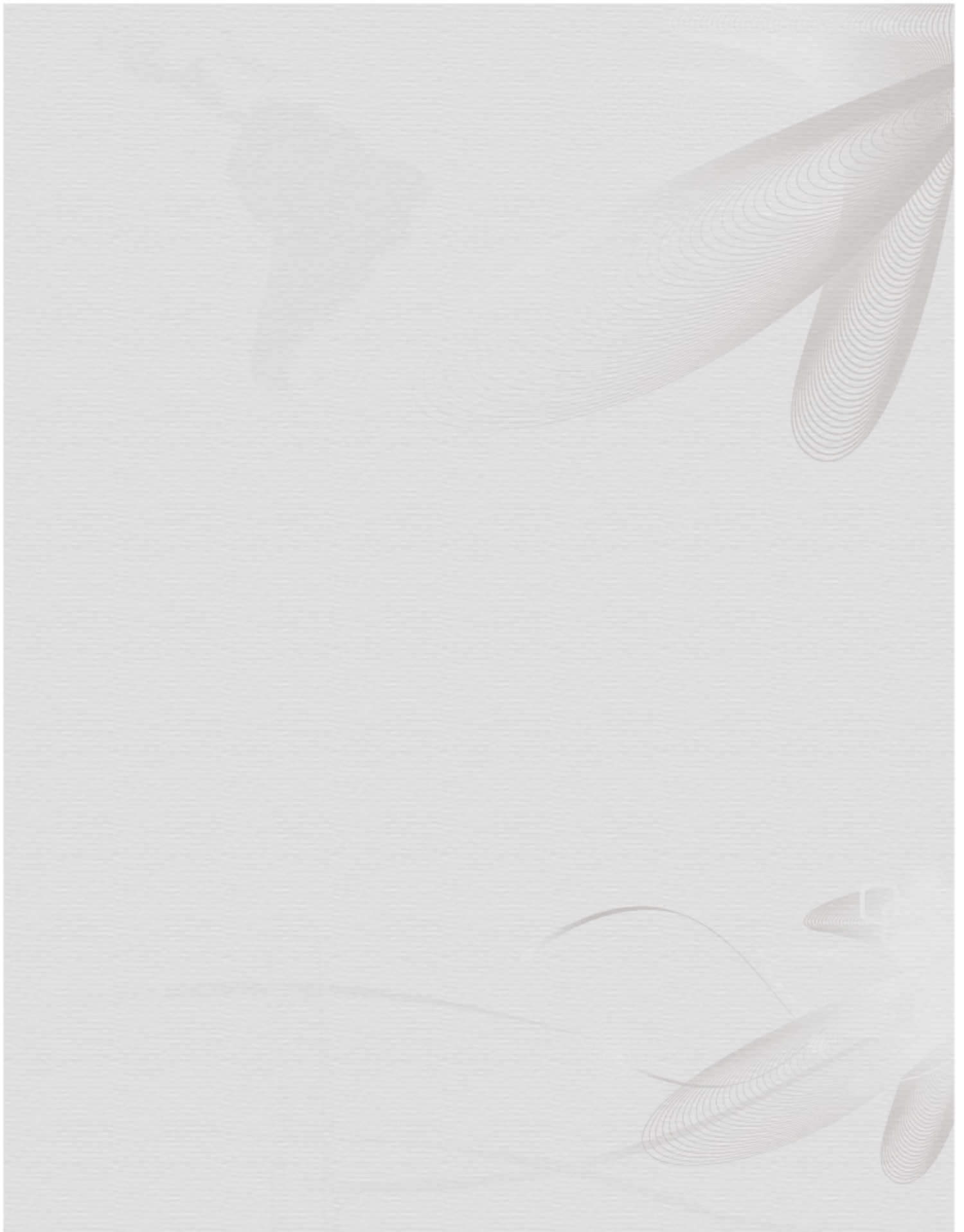
Fitjar, Rune Dahl and Rodríguez Pose, Andrés. 2015. "Networking, context and firm-level innovation: Cooperation through the regional filter in Norway."





# Integration and Trade Sector





# INTAL's 50th Anniversary

Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean

## INTAL 50 years

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# Legal Instruments of Integration (IJI) Observatory

## This month's trends

From the end of July to the end of August 2015, the regional trade policy outlook was marked by different initiatives surrounding agreements in force. The most notable events were regional agreements on the part of Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru with partners both within and outside the region and of the main integration blocs—MERCOSUR, SICA, UNASUR, and CAN. Progress was also made on new and advanced negotiations.

## 360° Panorama

This month saw a deepening of agreements with extraregional partners. Progress was also made on intraregional agreements, negotiations that had already been announced, and 25 existing agreements and 13 trade negotiations (12 advanced and 1 concluded).

### *Concluded Negotiations*

- Colombia–Panama: [Deadline about to run out for Panama and Colombia \(in Spanish\)](#)

### *Advanced Negotiations*

- [The entire MERCOSUR revives trade negotiations with the EU \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Trans-Pacific Partnership remains on hold \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Market integration for the Pacific Alliance \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [CELAC makes headway on a strategic agenda for the region \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Colombia accelerates closure of FTA negotiations with Japan \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Peru makes progress on FTA negotiations with India, Turkey, and Indonesia \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Israel and Panama close round of FTA negotiations \(in Spanish\)](#)

### *New Negotiations*

- [Ecuador and South Korea begin negotiations for a trade agreement \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Central America–South Korea FTA negotiations to take place in September \(in Spanish\)](#)

### *Selected news on trade agreements currently in force*

- [ALADI: Member countries meet to move towards overcoming technical barriers to trade \(in Spanish\)](#)

- [Chronic Bolivia–Chile trade deficit persists \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Costa Rica and Panama agree on Central American Customs Union within the framework of their agreement with the European Union \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Australia and Chile agree for their productivity institutes to collaborate \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Chile seeks to modernize FTA with Central America to encourage exports \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Mexico and Chile sign 13 agreements to strengthen ties beyond trade \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Colombia and countries of the Northern Triangle move towards strengthening trade agreement \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Colombia and Venezuela did not reach agreement on border crisis \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Who have benefited most from the agreement between the European Union and Colombia? \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Only CAN market has been beneficial, despite other agreements \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Productive integration is the topic of the MERCOSUR National Coordinators meeting \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [MERCOSUR and Peru launch region’s first consumer protection manual \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Mexico and Japan foster opportunities within bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Mixed customs between Panama and Costa Rica \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Agreement protocol between Panama and Cuba \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [SIECA: First round of Customs Union negotiations concludes after achieving substantial progress \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [SELA: LAC integration process revitalizes intraregional trade linkages \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Nafta: The FTA illusion \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [UNASUR: Seven subregional integration mechanisms move towards South American convergence \(in Spanish\)](#)

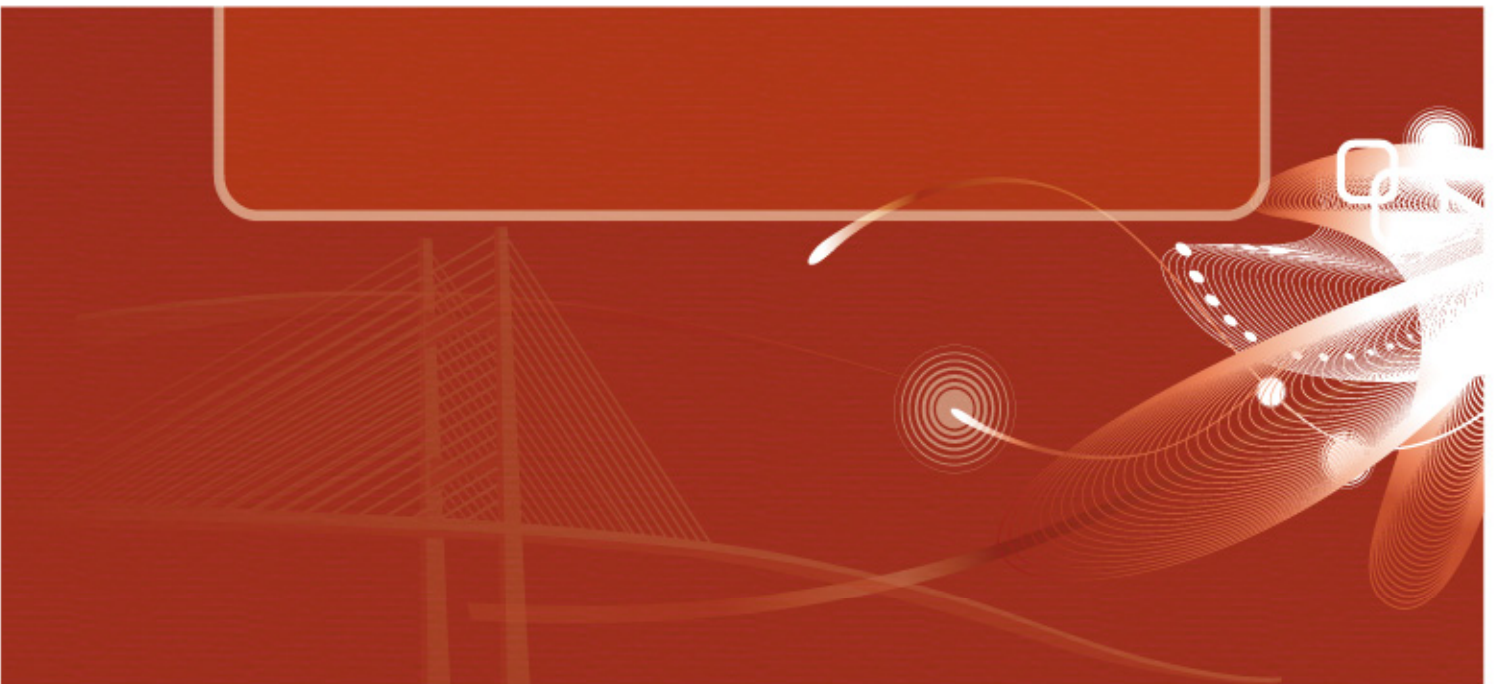
The IJI is a compilation of regulatory texts, commentaries, and follow-up on legal commitments and developments of an analytical nature concerning the various integration processes taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean. For news and to learn more about the progress made on trade agreements and negotiations, visit [IJI](#).

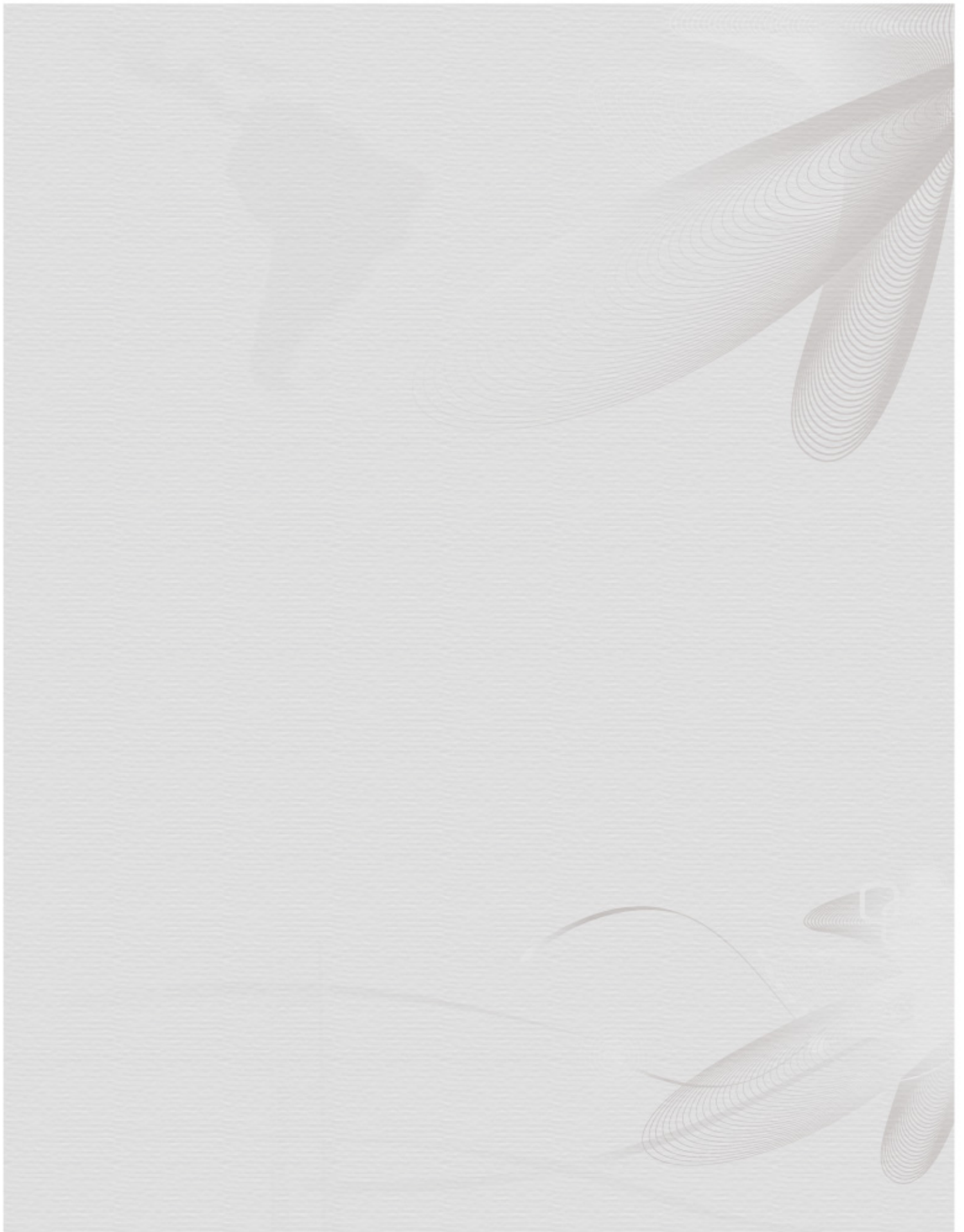






# Other IDB Activities







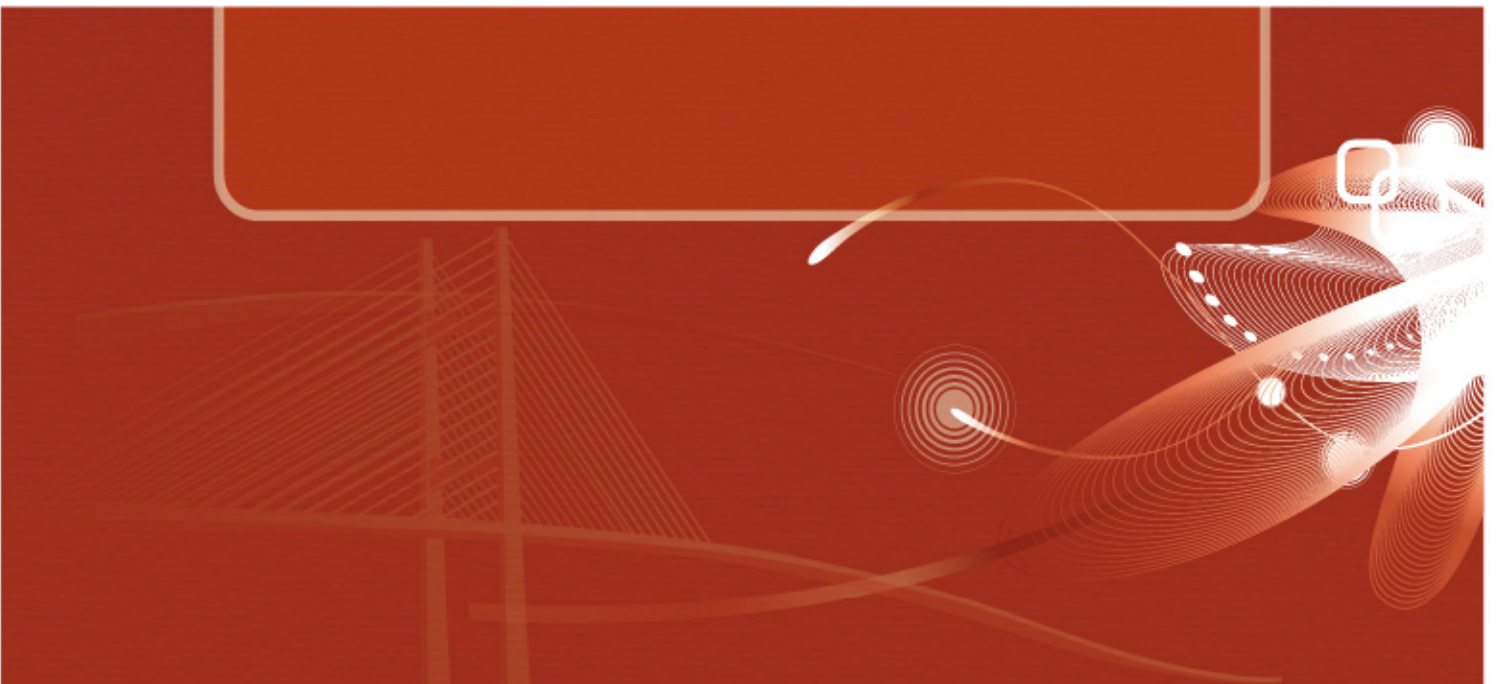
## IDB selects 15 startups to participate in Demand Solutions program

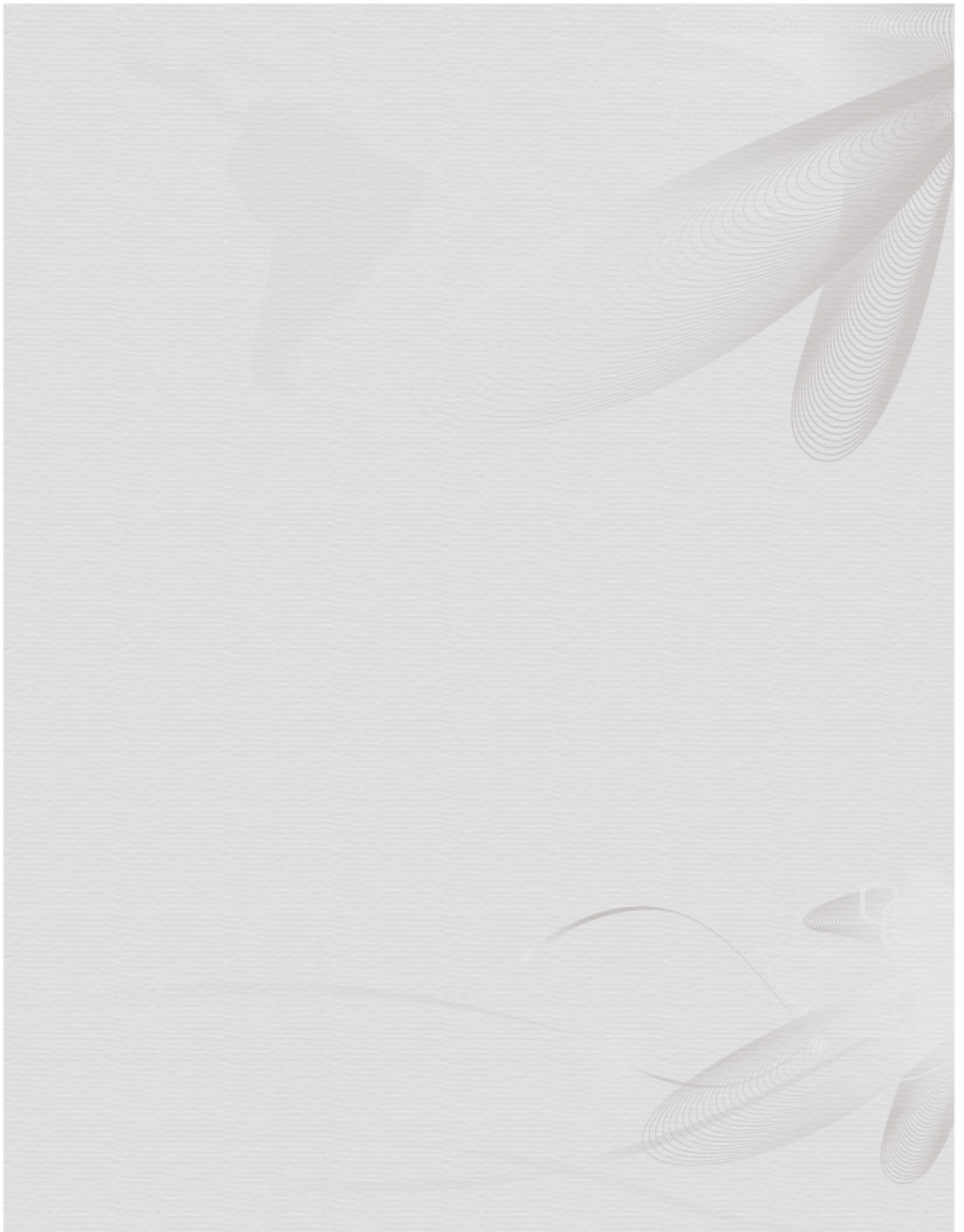
Demand Solutions: Ideas for Improving Lives in Cities, to be held on September 29 at IDB headquarters, aims to bring together creative minds offering innovative solutions to urban challenges around the world ([Link](#))





# INTAL Documentation Center







## Reviews

### Winters, A. L. and Martuscelli, A. (2014) “Trade liberalization and poverty: What have we learned in a decade?”

The aim of this study was to review the literature on the effects that trade liberalization—mainly the trend toward tariff reduction at the global level—has on poverty in developing countries. It picks up from the work of Winters *et al.* (2004), which contends that no straightforward conclusion can be drawn about the relationship between the two variables, and inquires whether knowledge on the subject has changed over a decade of research.

From a macroeconomic perspective, trade liberalization has a positive long-term impact on a country’s income by increasing productivity, which causes a reduction in poverty. However, if we explore the microeconomic effects of this process, there are no guarantees that trade openness is always beneficial for the poor. The reduction of tariffs has heterogeneous impacts on households as it depends, among other things, on the trade policies that are implemented, the sector that is the source of poor households’ incomes, and whether there are measures that compensate for negative effects trade openness may have.

The authors argue that the relationship between trade liberalization and poverty is an empirical issue, and they examine different studies based on empirical evidence that have been carried out over the course of a decade of research. They point out that the challenges lie in how one defines and measures an open economy, establishes causal links between trade liberalization and growth, and separates the effects that the opening up to trade on the part of other countries may have on growth and poverty.

According to empirical evidence, the positive impacts of trade increase with the institutional quality of the country in question, its population’s average education level, macroeconomic stability, and the ease of creating new firms, among other complementary factors. That is to say, the impact of trade on poverty depends on certain initial conditions related to human capital, infrastructure, and the rule of law. In this sense, countries with worse investment climates, less flexibility in labor markets, and little respect for property rights are unlikely to benefit from trade openness.

First, studies at the firm level found that tariff reduction in the country where the firm is located has different effects depending on the firm’s characteristics: the most productive firms benefit from tariff reductions and can improve their export performance through access to new intermediate goods and technology transfer.

Second, another set of studies focuses on the effects of tariff reduction at the global level on households, taking into account the impact this has on consumption baskets and income. Ultimately, the source of households' income is what matters, as is the way that liberalization changes the pattern of protection across sectors of the economy. In a context of low labor mobility across sectors of the economy, the effect of liberalization depends on whether the household head works in an export activity or one that competes with imports.

Third, there are studies that analyze the effect of trade on labor markets. Some studies focus on the impact of the skill premium, wage inequality between sectors, and the informality rate. According to the Stolper-Samuelson theorem and provided a series of assumptions are true,[1] in countries whose comparative advantages are based on an abundance of labor, an increase in trade tends to improve the wages of less-skilled workers in comparison with other wages, which reduces wage inequality. However, the empirical evidence holds that trade liberalization has increased the skill premium and wage inequality. This has particularly been the case in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, India, and China, according to Goldberg and Pavcnik (2007). Regardless, growth in trade can increase income inequality in a given sector, but this does not necessarily imply an increase in poverty. Although a tariff reduction may increase the informality rate in the short term, this result would not be sustained over time.

Fourth, some studies analyze the impact of trade on the gender gap. These found that liberalization can benefit women through their increased participation in the labor market and a reduction of the wage gap.

The study concludes that there is no single relationship between trade and poverty, but rather that there are multiple channels that need to be analyzed. If the connection between the two variables is to be explored, the existence of factor mobility (especially labor) is key in order to take advantage of gains from trade; that is, the possibility of factors moving from activities for which demand is falling due to competition from imports toward those areas where demand is increasing as a result of export potential. In the absence of perfect factor mobility, it is clear that impacts vary from sector to sector.

Just as Giordano and Florez (2008) did focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean, Winters and Martuscelli (2014) provide an excellent compilation and analysis of the recent literature on the subject, one that is supported by empirical evidence and is relevant for public policy and the region's international integration.



Winters, A. and Martuscelli, A. 2014. "Trade liberalization and poverty: What have we learned in a decade?". London: CEPR. ([Link](#))





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Giordano, P. and Flórez, V. 2008. [\*Assessing the Trade and Poverty Nexus in Latin America\*](#). Washington, DC: IDB.

Goldberg, P. K. and Pavcnik, N. 2007. “Distributional Effects of Globalization in Developing Countries,” in: *Journal of Economic Literature*, 45(1):39–82. March.

Winters, L. A.; McCulloch, N.; and McKay, A. 2004. “Trade Liberalization and Poverty: the Evidence So Far,” in: *Journal of Economic Literature*, 42(1):72–115. March.

Winters, L. A. and Martuscelli, A. 2014. “[Trade Liberalization and Poverty: What Have We Learned in a Decade?](#)”, Discussion Papers 9947. London: CEPR. April.

[1] These assumptions are: perfectly competitive markets, absence of transport costs, trade in homogeneous goods, similar technology, mobility of production factors within the country, and an absence of international factor mobility.

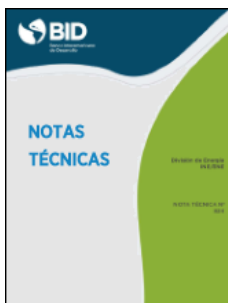


## Bibliographic alert

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## Monthly Highlights


\* Villalobos, R. (2015). El comercio agropecuario en el MERCOSUR : veinte años después del Tratado de Asunción. Washington: BID.



**Autor:** Villalobos, Ruy de  
**Título:** El comercio agropecuario en el MERCOSUR : veinte años después del Tratado de Asunción  
**Edición:** Washington: BID, junio de 2015 [200 p.]  
**Serie:** Technical Notes; 809  
**Temas:** <COMERCIO AGRICOLA><TRATADO DE ASUNCION><MERCADO COMUN DEL SUR, MERCOSUR>  
**JEL:** F1; F13; F14; F15; Q1  
**Geográficos:** <CONO SUR>

**Resumen:** Este trabajo estudia la evolución del comercio de productos agropecuarios entre los países del MERCOSUR. Se indagan los niveles de intercambio y otros indicadores de estos flujos en los veinte años que siguieron a la firma del Tratado de Asunción utilizando una documentada base estadística. El estudio resalta el papel que ha jugado el acuerdo para incentivar actividades competitivas globalmente, así como para avanzar en el desarrollo productivo y generar oferta de alimentos en el mercado regional. La investigación busca contribuir a la discusión de políticas y acciones para optimizar el desempeño del acuerdo en este importante sector económico en los países del MERCOSUR.

**Accesos al documento:**  
**HM BID-TN 809 [2015]**  
Documento Electrónico



[texto completo](#). Si no pudo acceder haga click [aqui](#)

\* Lampert Costa, C. y Forero Gonzalez, M. (2015). Infraestrutura física e integração regional na América do Sul: uma avaliação da Iniciativa para a Integração da Infraestrutura Regional da América do Sul. Rio de Janeiro: IPEA.



**Autor:** Lampert Costa, Carlos Eduardo; Forero Gonzalez, Manuel José  
**Título:** Infraestrutura física e integração regional na América do Sul: uma avaliação da Iniciativa para a Integração da Infraestrutura Regional da América do Sul

**Edición:** Rio de Janeiro: IPEA, março de 2015 [82 p.]

**Serie:** Texto para Discussão; 2060

**Temas:** <INTEGRACION REGIONAL><INFRAESTRUCTURA><INICIATIVA PARA LA INTEGRACION DE LA INFRAESTRUCTURA REGIONAL SURAMERICANA, IIRSA>

**Geográficos:** <AMERICA DEL SUR>

**Resumen:** Este trabalho tem por objetivo principal avaliar a Iniciativa para a Integração da Infraestrutura Regional Sul-Americana (IIRSA), lançada em setembro de 2000, durante a Primeira Reunião de Presidentes da América do Sul, realizada em Brasília, Brasil. A iniciativa visava, inicialmente, tornar efetivo um processo de integração física do subcontinente, com a finalidade de aumentar a produtividade e a competitividade de modo a obter maiores crescimento e desenvolvimento econômico. Partiu-se da constatação de que um dos principais óbices para o desenvolvimento da região era o déficit de infraestrutura. Neste sentido, este texto se propõe a estudar a evolução da IIRSA, identificando os seus avanços e suas principais dificuldades de implementação. Procura fazê-lo, no intuito de extrair lições sobre o desenho de políticas públicas em matéria de integração regional, considerando que esta iniciativa representa um dos mais ambiciosos programas de integração física já concebidos na região.

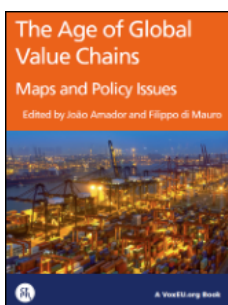
**Accesos al documento:**

**HM IPEA-TEXTO-DISC 2060 [2015]**

Documento Electrónico [texto completo](#).

Si no pudo acceder haga click [aquí](#)

\* Amador, J., ed. y Mauro, F., ed. (2015). The age of global value chains : maps and policy issues. London: CEPR.



**Autor:** Amador, João, ed.; Mauro, Filippo di, ed.

**Título:** The age of global value chains : maps and policy issues

**Edición:** London: CEPR, July 2015 [210 p.]

**ISBN:** 978-1-907142-91-8

**Temas:** <CADENAS DE VALOR><COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL><EMPRESAS TRANSNACIONALES><MERCADO DE TRABAJO><PRODUCTIVIDAD>

**Resumen:** Global value chains (GVCs) became the paradigm for the production of most goods and services around the world. Production is nowadays fragmented across different countries, i.e., parts and components are produced in distinct locations and are assembled either sequentially along the supply chain or in a final location. It is widely acknowledged that GVCs are crucial for the operation of firms and have a bearing on macroeconomic developments and policy-decisions. In this context, the book aims to contribute to the policy and academic debate both in terms of mapping GVCs and assessing their implications. This book discusses: the path and characteristics of GVCs in the Eurozone, also making use of simple network visualization techniques and indicators, notably to discuss entry of countries and upgrading decisions; the evolution of GVCs from a regional dimension towards an increasingly global dimension and the role of multinational corporations and international business groups; the implications of GVCs from the perspective of inputs used and their cost, notably in what concerns labour market variables; the impact of GVCs on the transmission of macroeconomic shocks, trade elasticities, market shares and on the interpretation of trade imbalances; and the role of financial considerations on the location and network decisions of multinational companies.

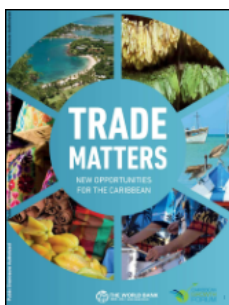
**Accesos al documento:**

339.1 / AMA-AGE / 2015

Documento Electrónico

[texto completo](#). Si no pudo acceder haga click [aquí](#)

\* **Trade matters : new opportunities for the Caribbean. (2015).**  
**Washington: BM.**



**Título:** Trade matters : new opportunities for the Caribbean

**Edición:** Washington: BM, 2015 [42 p.]

**Temas:** <ECONOMIAS REGIONALES><COMERCIO INTRARREGIONAL><COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL><CRECIMIENTO ECONOMICO><POLITICA COMERCIAL><PRODUCTIVIDAD><EMPRESAS><EXPORTACIONES><INTEGRACION REGIONAL><ACUERDOS REGIONALES DE COMERCIO><DESARROLLO SOCIAL><MERCADO DE TRABAJO><POBREZA>

**Geográficos:** <CARIBE>

**Resumen:** Trade is essential for Caribbean countries development and poverty reduction. Given their small market size, they are dependent on exports to produce manufactured products at efficient scale. And given their natural amenities, they rely on tourism as a major spur to economic activity. Trade in the Caribbean thus makes an essential contribution to increasing employment and reducing poverty by supporting growth. At the same time, the high dependence on trade also makes Caribbean economies vulnerable to external shocks. For example, the global financial crisis imposed substantial job losses in sectors such as tourism that the poor rely on for employment. This report employs several different, but complementary, empirical approaches to analyzing the impact of this emerging new trade environment on shared prosperity in the Caribbean. These include the following six topics, with each corresponding to an individual chapter: (i) assessment of the Caribbean's performance in reaping the opportunities offered by the new trade environment; (ii) identification of the main determinants of Caribbean countries trade performance; (iii) discussion of the role of innovation and access to key services in improving the productivity of exporting firms; (iv) exploration of how regional integration and other trade agreements could boost Caribbean trade performance; (v) firm-level examination of the implications of trade for employment; and (vi) identification of which households are involved in international trade and the implications of trade for their socio-economic status.

**Accesos al documento:**

**339.1 / BM-TRA / 2015**

Documento Electrónico

[texto completo](#). Si no pudo acceder haga click [aquí](#)

\* Gómez Sabaíni, J.; Jiménez, J. y Morán, D. (2015). El impacto fiscal de la explotación de los recursos naturales no renovables en los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Santiago de Chile: CEPAL.



**Autor:** Gómez Sabaíni, Juan Carlos; Jiménez, Juan Pablo; Morán, Dalmiro

**Título:** El impacto fiscal de la explotación de los recursos naturales no renovables en los países de América Latina y el Caribe

**Edición:** Santiago de Chile: CEPAL, mayo de 2015 [89 p.]

**Serie:** Documentos de Proyecto; 658

**Temas:** <POLITICA FISCAL><RECURSOS NATURALES><RECURSOS ENERGETICOS><PROTECCION AMBIENTAL>

**Geográficos:** <AMERICA LATINA><CARIBE>

**Resumen:** Este documento apunta a efectuar un análisis de los regímenes fiscales aplicados sobre las actividades extractivas de recursos naturales no renovables en los países de la región, especialmente en aquellos donde su relevancia en términos del financiamiento del Estado resulta considerable. Asimismo, se analizan sus consecuencias en materia de distribución regional de los ingresos fiscales y las posibilidades que brindan estos instrumentos en materia de protección ambiental.

**Accesos al documento:**

**HM CEPAL-DP 658 [2015]**

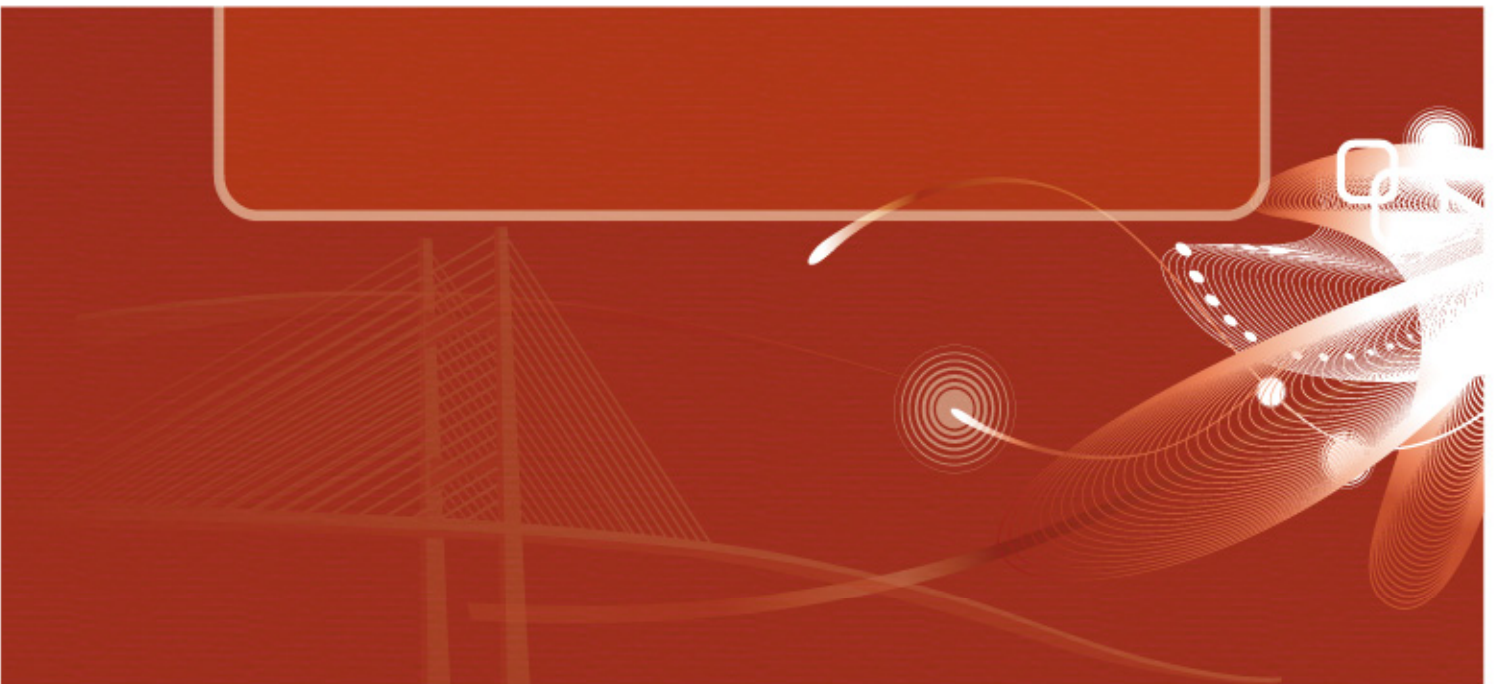
Documento Electrónico

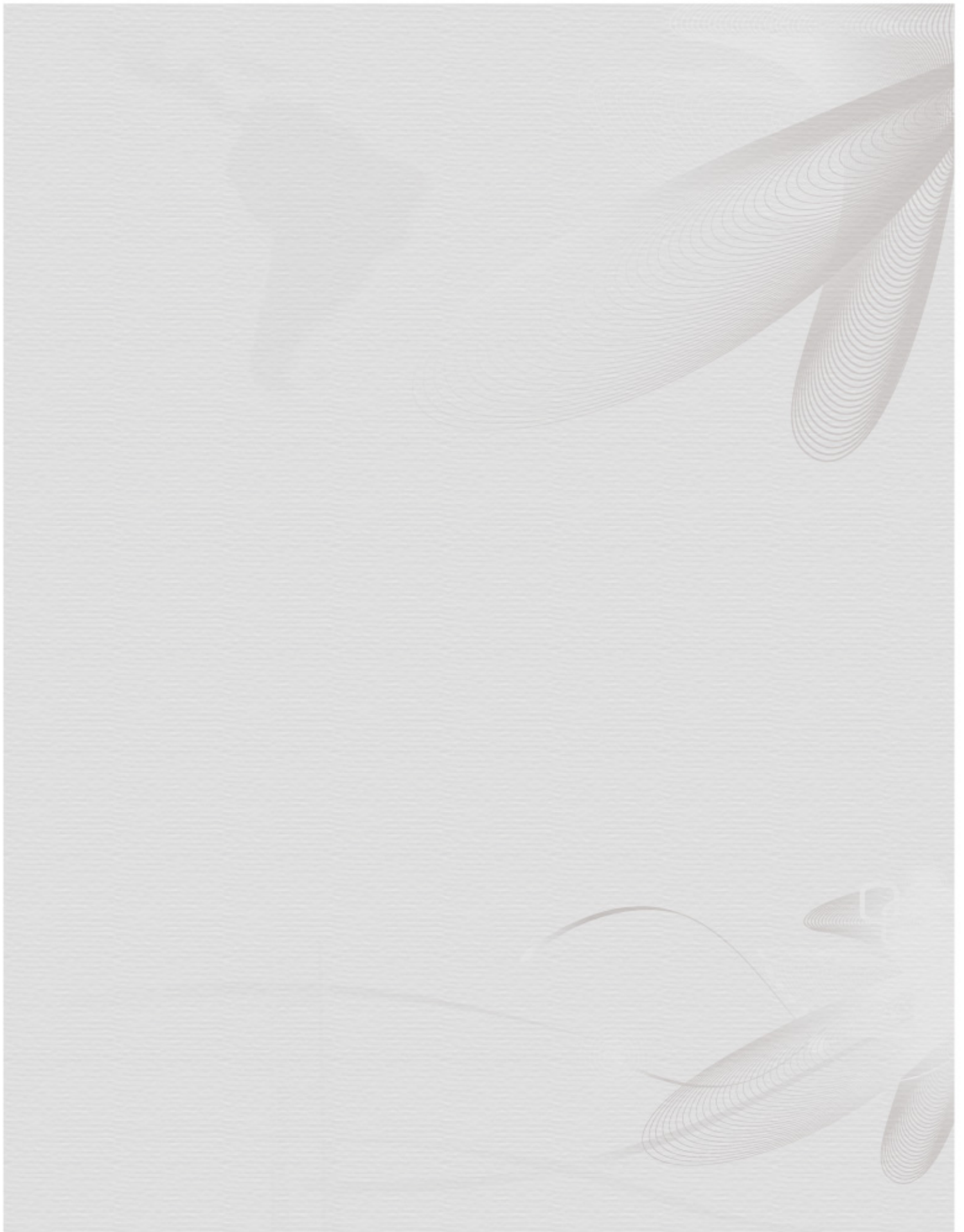
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# Editorial Staff

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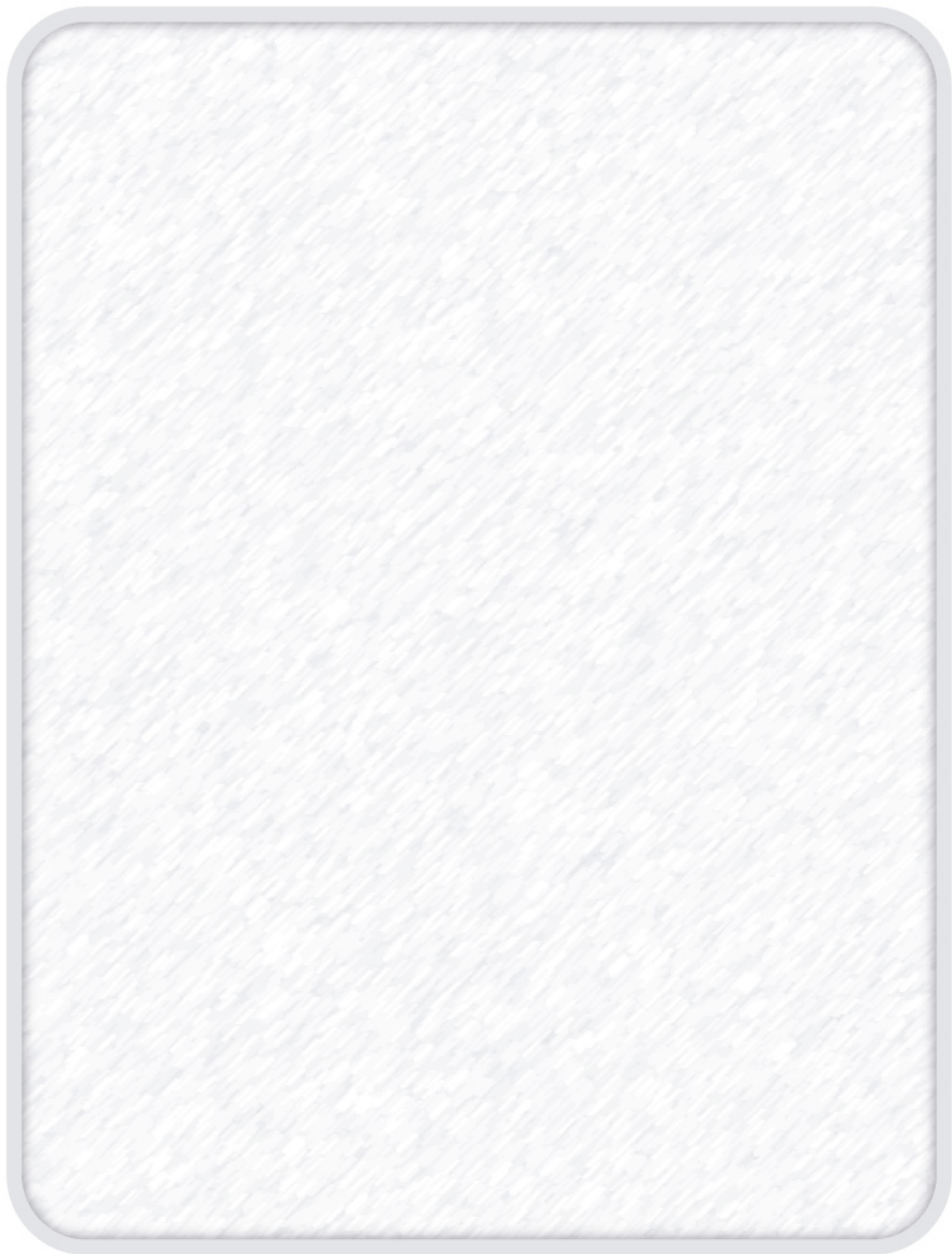
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**Links to original information sources in this issue:**

- Report of the tenth round of negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. (2015). Brussels: European Commission. [Link](#).



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