

Regional Digital Trade Integration Index (Version 1): A Guide



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Preface

The regional digital trade integration index (RDTII) results from cooperation among several United Nations Regional Commissions. Its development was initiated at ESCAP in 2020 as part of developing a broader Digital and Sustainable Regional Integration Index (DigiSRII) under a joint UN Development Account project on measuring regional integration led by ECA and jointly implemented with ESCWA. Implementation of RDTII was pilot-tested in Asia and the Pacific and subsequently extended to several economies in the ECA and ECLAC regions.

This guide is based on the methodology and indicators of RDTII Version 1.0. It provides essential explanations of the structure and rationale of RDTII 1.0 and guidance on data collection and sources. It is expected to give a guideline to those involved in collecting regulatory data to analyze the digital trade regulatory environment based on the RDTII 1.0 framework. It is useful also for those who will use the index and related indicators for policy analysis and drafting. The RDTII framework, a multi-dimensional cross-economy index of digital trade regulatory integration, is expected to require continuous adjustments as the challenges and policy trade-offs associated with fast-growing digital trade and the global digital economy are better understood. As such, this guide may be considered a living document to be updated as United Nations Regional Commissions and other partners work together further to improve the index and the data collection process.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
AHS	Average of Effectively Applied Tariffs
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATPC	African Trade Policy Centre
BORCA	Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
B2B	business to business
CABs	Conformity Assessment Bodies
CBPR	Cross-Border Privacy Rules system
CC	Common Criteria
CCRA	Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement
CPC	Central Product Classification
DigiSRII	Digital and Sustainable Regional Integration Index
DNS	domain name system
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessment
DPO	Data Protection Officer
DSI	digital line subscribers
DTE	Digital Trade Estimates
DTRI	Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECC	Elliptic Curve Cryptography
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EE MRA	MRA for Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EMC	electromagnetic compatibility
EMI	electromagnetic interference
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
FSS	Federal Security Service
GCI	Global Competitiveness Index
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GTA	Global Trade Alert

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