



BLENDED

TRADE LAW

DATA GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL TRADE LAW

BETWEEN TECH-INNOVATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

FEBRUARY 2026 (ONLINE)

15-16-17 APRIL 2026 (FACE-TO-FACE)

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization

ITC 
International Training Centre

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

In today's data-driven economy, the systematic exploitation of data is at the core of the platform-based digital ecosystem and the Internet of Things. The legal frameworks that determine how firms and individuals collect, access, and use data, and how governments and other regulatory bodies regulate the same, form a dynamic and often contested field of data governance. This module explores the evolving intersection between data governance and international trade law, highlighting how legal, economic, and strategic considerations converge in the regulation of cross-border data flows.

Students will critically engage with many regulatory domains (data protection and control, online content regulation, cybersecurity and national security regulation, digital trade law, financial regulation, Intellectual Property and competition law) which jointly shape the contours of data governance across jurisdictions. The module will investigate how these overlapping regimes create both synergies and tensions for global digital trade, posing complex challenges for policymakers and private actors alike.

This activity is the result of a collaborative effort between ITCILO, the University of Turin, the George Washington University Competition and Innovation Lab.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The module combines theoretical grounding with experiential learning, culminating in a simulation exercise and practical case studies that equip students with hands-on skills in navigating the global data economy.

The training course aims to:

- Provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the economic value and geopolitical significance of data and digital technologies in global trade;
- Analyse the regulatory fragmentation caused by differing national approaches to data governance and its impact on digital transformation and innovation;
- Assess how international trade law—through WTO disciplines and bilateral digital trade agreements—addresses cross-border data issues and future prospects for developing international regulatory cooperation through trade instruments;
- Explore avenues for global cooperation and the role of sector-specific regulation, especially in the financial and digital payments sectors.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course is designed for any of the following groups:

- Recent legal professionals, public officers, and civil society practitioners with a legal or economic background;
- Attorneys specializing in trade, data protection, and competition law in the digital sphere;
- Lawyers representing and advising platforms, platform users, and companies operating cross-border in the digital economy;
- Experts in international relations, public policy and institutional affairs;
- Civil society advocates engaged in data governance and international relations in public institutions or think tanks.

MAIN THEMES

- **Foundations:** Legal framework of digital trade and overview of data governance.
- **Comparative Perspectives:** Key pillars of data governance in light of the rise of Artificial Intelligence —personal data protection, competition law, intellectual property, and trade law.
- **Global Dynamics:** Multilateralism vs. unilateralism in the current geopolitical environment.
- **Platforms and Policy:** Business models of digital platforms and their impact on policy priorities across jurisdictions.
- **Practice and Skills:** Tools and techniques for case-handling, negotiation, and counseling in digital trade and data governance.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CALENDAR

The course consists of **6 modules: 2 online modules** and **4 in-person modules**.

The **2 online modules**, that will run in **February 2026**, comprise:

- An initial **livestreamed interactive kick-off webinar** with the course coordinators;
- A library of **video-lectures**;
- A repository of **literature** and **electronic resources**;
- **Quizzes and self-assessment tools**;
- A final **livestreamed interactive Q&A session** with the course coordinators.

CALENDAR

Thanks to this flexible structure, participants will be able to follow the **two online modules at their convenience** during the month of **February 2026**.

The **4 in-person modules** will be delivered at the ITCILO in Turin on **15, 16, 17 April 2026**.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The course includes 6 modules that cover the legal and procedural framework of digital trade law and data governance with real-world legal and business cases.

MODULE 1 (ONLINE) **Day 1 – Introduction. The Economic Value of Data in the Digital Economy**

Examines the data-driven transformation of global markets, focusing on how jurisdictions prioritize innovation, competition, privacy, security and the role of digital trade regulation in the global digital economy. Political economy and business cases as well as student interactions will be used to ground abstract concepts.

MODULE 2 (ONLINE) Data Governance and Digital Trade

Introduces the legal key pillars of data governance—data protection, intellectual property, national security, and competition law and its interface with international trade law—highlighting regulatory divergence and its impact on cross-border digital flows and regulation of evolving digital technologies.

MODULE 3 (IN PERSON) Application of International Trade Law to Digital Trade

Focused on the application of how international legal instruments—including WTO law, free trade agreements, and digital trade chapters—address issues such as data localization, cross-border flows, and regulatory cooperation.

MODULE 4 (IN PERSON) Simulation: Multilateral Negotiation on Data Governance

Students will simulate negotiations within international forums (e.g., FSB, OECD, UN, Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce, digital economy agreements), representing jurisdictions with differing policy priorities to reach a compromise on global data governance principles.

MODULE 5 (IN PERSON) Case Study: Data Governance in the Digital Payments Sector

Through a structured role-play, students will explore legal tools for achieving interoperability and fair access to data. The session focuses on private standard-setting processes and competition between incumbents and data access seekers.

MODULE 6 (IN PERSON) Final Exam

Each participant is presented with an anonymized real-life problem based on artificial intelligence or another frontier technology involving a private operator or the negotiation team of a specific jurisdiction.

Decisions will be reviewed and graded by members of the teaching team.

OPTIONAL MODULE

- Career orientation session;
- Webinar with existing datasets and materials on digital trade agreements;
- Access to a digital resource hub with reading materials, templates, and tools.

METHODOLOGY

- Online interactive lectures and case studies (Modules 1-2);
- Face-to-face training (Modules 3-6) with experts on digital trade and data governance;
- Simulations and role-playing in negotiation scenarios;
- Peer review of drafted decisions;
- Optional follow-up online coaching and placement support international organizations.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Participants will obtain an international certificate and qualification as *Digital Trade and International Data Governance Expert*;
- Participants will be able to navigate the international data governance and digital trade environment;
- Participants will be able to advise on cross-border data flows and digital trade matters;
- Creation of a reference training model that can be replicated across Europe and beyond;
- Strengthened cooperation between ITCILO, academia, and civil society actors in the digital trade and data governance space;
- Identification of qualified candidates for further engagement with international organization, academia and large corporations.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Professor Cristina Poncibò (University of Turin, Director)
- Professor Neha Mishra (Graduate Institute of Geneva)
- Oscar Borgogno (George Washington University, Bank of Italy)

ORGANIZERS

- International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO)
- Turin School of Development
- University of Turin (Italy)

OTHER INFORMATION

LANGUAGE

The training course will be held in English.

DEADLINE

February 2026

COURSE FEES

EUR 1,915

CERTIFICATE

An ITCILO Certificate of participation will be Awarded.

CONTACT

devinvest@itcilo.org

CAMPUS LIFE

A THRIVING UNITED NATIONS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- **Three organizations** from the United Nations system on campus
- **More than 300 training courses** and activities in a stimulating international environment
- **Thousands of participants** from all over the world

ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

Grab a campus bicycle and explore the Turin Centre.

Located in a leafy park on the banks of the Po River, it's a great place for study and collaboration. Experience innovative learning and training methods in modern classrooms equipped with simultaneous translation services.

HOUSING, DINING, AND MORE

Comprising more than 280 private dormitories, the **Turin Campus provides a broad range of services for course participants and partners** including a free-flow restaurant, travel agency, laundromat, post office, gym, medical services and a reception desk open 24/7.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSITY

Participants can enjoy social events organized by the Turin Centre as well as by their course facilitators. Whether on or off campus, people from different cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to listen to live music together, cook and share traditional foods, or team up to play games and network.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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