

PRONTO WP1: Mapping data availability

PRONTO: Productivity, Non-tariff measure, and Openness

Over the past fifty years, there has been significant progress in lowering tariff barriers to international trade. This has led to a growing awareness of the importance of what are termed the "new" Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs). The relevance of these new NTMs has grown with the rising importance of global sourcing and multinational enterprises. Today, with the dominance of global value chains and the increased tradability of non-tangible products, we are confronted with new and important questions about the impact of NTMs on competitiveness and productivity.

PRONTO promises new and better data, better methodologies, and better understanding of the impact of these NTMs on international investment and trade. In order to achieve this, the PRONTO consortium has defined four overarching tasks:

1. Collection of quantitative information on the regulatory measures influencing cross border trade and investment;
2. Developing new methodologies for quantifying NTMs and for both quantitative and qualitative analysis of their effects;
3. Mapping data availability, identifying scope for improvement by building on existing sources, and mapping onto other databases such as WIOD and EU-KLEMS.
4. Analysing the impact of NTM reduction on a range of economic and social objectives.

Work Package 1 (WP1) will contribute to points 1 and 3 of these overall tasks, and consequently enable to a certain extent the completion of the other two tasks.

Issues with capturing NTMs

While there has been a consistent move away from residual based NTM analysis, new approaches to analyse NTMs in goods and services have been challenged by data issues, i.e. problems with data items that represent/signal the presence of NTMs. Main issues are identified as follows:

- Incomplete data with regard to country and product coverage, as well as time;
- Data are scattered across different data collection initiatives, and types of sources;
- Classification of NTMs (particularly in services trade);
- Compatibility and comparability of different data, different type of measures (also in terms of depth, e.g. sectoral/product detail) as well as interpretation of the NTM information collected.

Next to the anyway complicated task to assess the impact of NTMs, these data issues have posed additional methodological challenges.

Goal: Consolidated NTM data

One of the final outputs of PRONTO will be the **NTM Indicators Database (NID)**, a publicly available database similar in spirit to the WIOD and EU-KLEMS databases: available on the Internet and designed to facilitate continuous updating. It is aspired to create a one-stop shop for NTM data and indicators that makes NTMs easily comparable across regions and sectors, as well as readily retrievable, thereby facilitating the analysis of PRONTO researchers and the research community in general. An important element will be the sustainability of consolidation efforts. Therefore, PRONTO researchers strive for work closely with the project's stakeholders (ITC, OECD, WTO, UNCTAD, World Bank, and EC) in the hope that together a strong foundation for future NTM-related data work is built. Additionally, we hope that the consolidation exercise, and corresponding insights gained, will guide and support future data collection efforts.

Towards inventorying and consolidating NTM data – Work Package 1

WP1 will develop a framework for consolidating (publically) available NTM data in goods and services in order to make it comparable and accessible for research and analysis. The framework constitutes the backbone of the activities undertaken in WP1, bringing together the available data but also providing an overview on the substance of the data. The framework contains the following elements that will be used for mapping the available NTM data:

1. Type of measure captured in a classification system (e.g. MAST)
2. Country coverage
3. Product and sector coverage
4. What is measured and how has it been collected (e.g. notification based, etc.)
5. Time

The figure below summarises the deliverables of WP1 and how these are integrated with and linked to other WPs of PRONTO. While most efforts will be allocated to consolidating data and creating a NTM platform as envisage above, we make sure that data is put to use; i.e. we ensure that data collection and arrangement serves an analytical purpose in order to answer questions raised in other PRONTO WPs. This will be facilitated by a GAP analysis and a methodological inventory.

