



**Central Bank of Jordan – Middle-East Regional Technical Assistance Center –
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

WORKSHOP ON ASYMMETRIES IN BILATERAL REMITTANCES DATA

Amman, Jordan

April 24-25, 2013

Background

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) are organizing a workshop for balance of payments compilers of METAC and Gulf countries, specifically dedicated to the compilation of workers' remittances. The workshop will be hosted by the Central Bank of Jordan, in Amman, on April 24–25, 2013 and it will be conducted in English with Arabic interpretation.

A previous workshop had been organized for METAC member countries in November 2011, in Beirut, to compare national data on remittances with data from partner countries. While this exercise was already very informative in identifying possible causes of asymmetries, it appeared that most of the participating countries are receivers, rather than senders, of remittances and that further insight could be gained from a new workshop with the participation of Gulf Countries, where most of the remittances to the METAC area originate from.

Objectives

The meeting will discuss the compilation practices and regulatory framework of the remittances market in participating countries and providing a geographical breakdown of national data on remittances to allow bilateral comparisons and identification of asymmetries between partner countries, thereby enabling them to improve their respective estimates.

In this respect, the residence status of expatriates in the books of institutions involved in remittances in their home countries and in their host countries will be investigated, as a likely cause of asymmetries.

A questionnaire is to be filled by the Central Banks and as on the previous occasion, the Banque du Liban has kindly volunteered to collect and process the questionnaires.

Beneficiaries

Experts from national statistical offices and from Central Banks from ESCWA and METAC member countries working on the Balance of Payments, National Accounts and external sectors are participating in this workshop.

Contact

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