

ESCWA - UNCTAD JOINED WEBINAR : TOOLKITS TO FACILITATE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TRADE TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

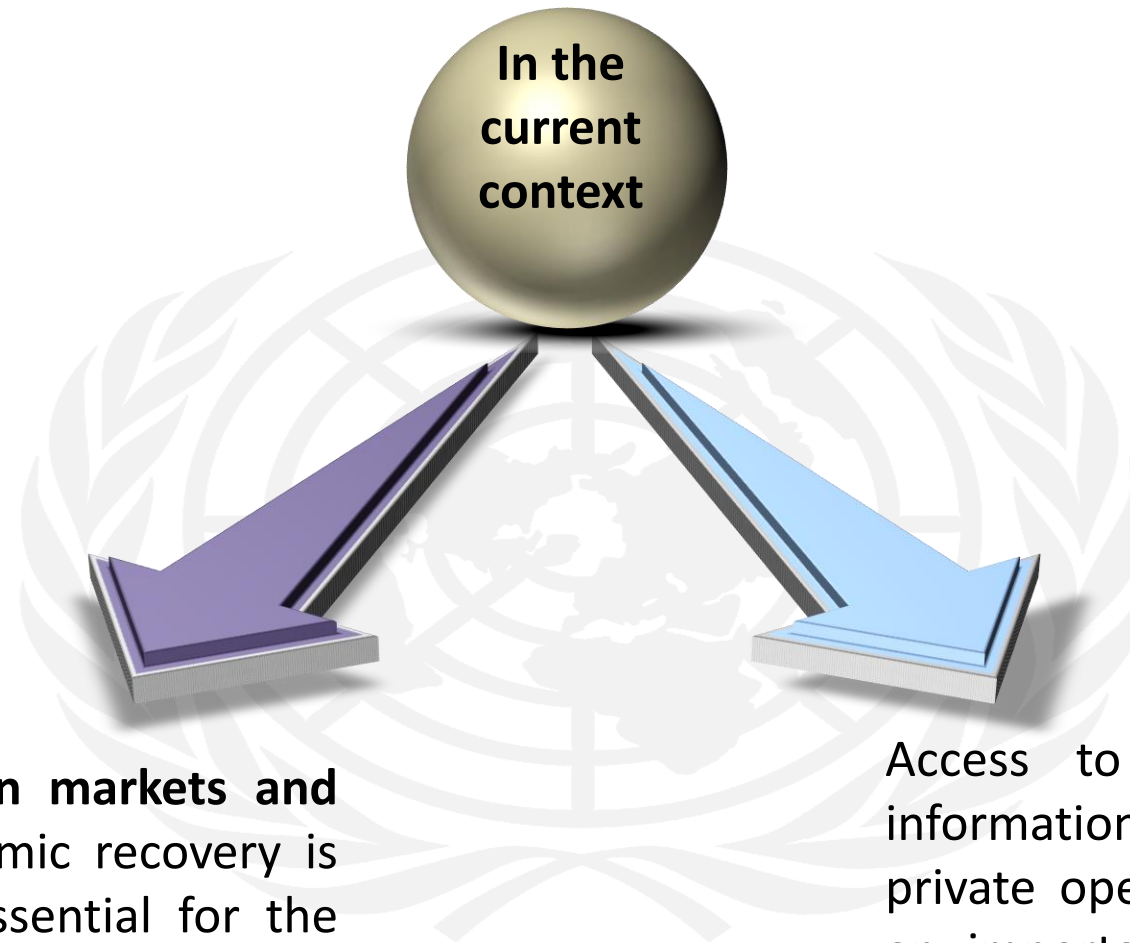
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ESCWA'S TOOLS AND PLATFORMS TO FACILITATE ARAB GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION: ARAB TRADE FACILITATION GATEWAY (ATFG)

"YOUR GUIDE TO THE ARAB MARKETS AND BEYOND"

Beirut, Lebanon, October 28 2020

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The role of **foreign markets and investors** in economic recovery is more than ever essential for the economic recovery and SDGs achievements

Access to accurate and completed information on trade fields to both private operators and policy makers is an important step in facilitating Arab trade regionally and globally

Vision

Free Access to a one-stop shop

Trade operators, experts and policy makers in the Arab region access a one-stop shop with **all information they need to trade** effectively in a **changing regional and global economic landscape**.



COVID-19 response

The gateway comes at a time where all **policy makers** in the Arab region are looking for short and medium term solutions and responses to facilitate economic recovery and mitigate the severe impacts of the pandemic.

What does the gateway offer?

The Arab Trade Facilitation Gateway (ATFG) is **not only a data provider**, but it goes beyond that by providing detailed and plausible **assessments of trade integration schemas** covering both **enforced ones but also those that are under negotiations**.

Support policy makers in better **negotiating new trade agreements** and to **monitor and evaluate** the enforced ones.

Through its displays of information, the gateway **enables the modernization of agreements** or/and implementing responses policies to reduce challenges and increase opportunities.

Assist policy makers in **designing** appropriate **export promotion strategies** on **selected markets** in a way to make new trade preferences and opportunities known and useful by private operators.

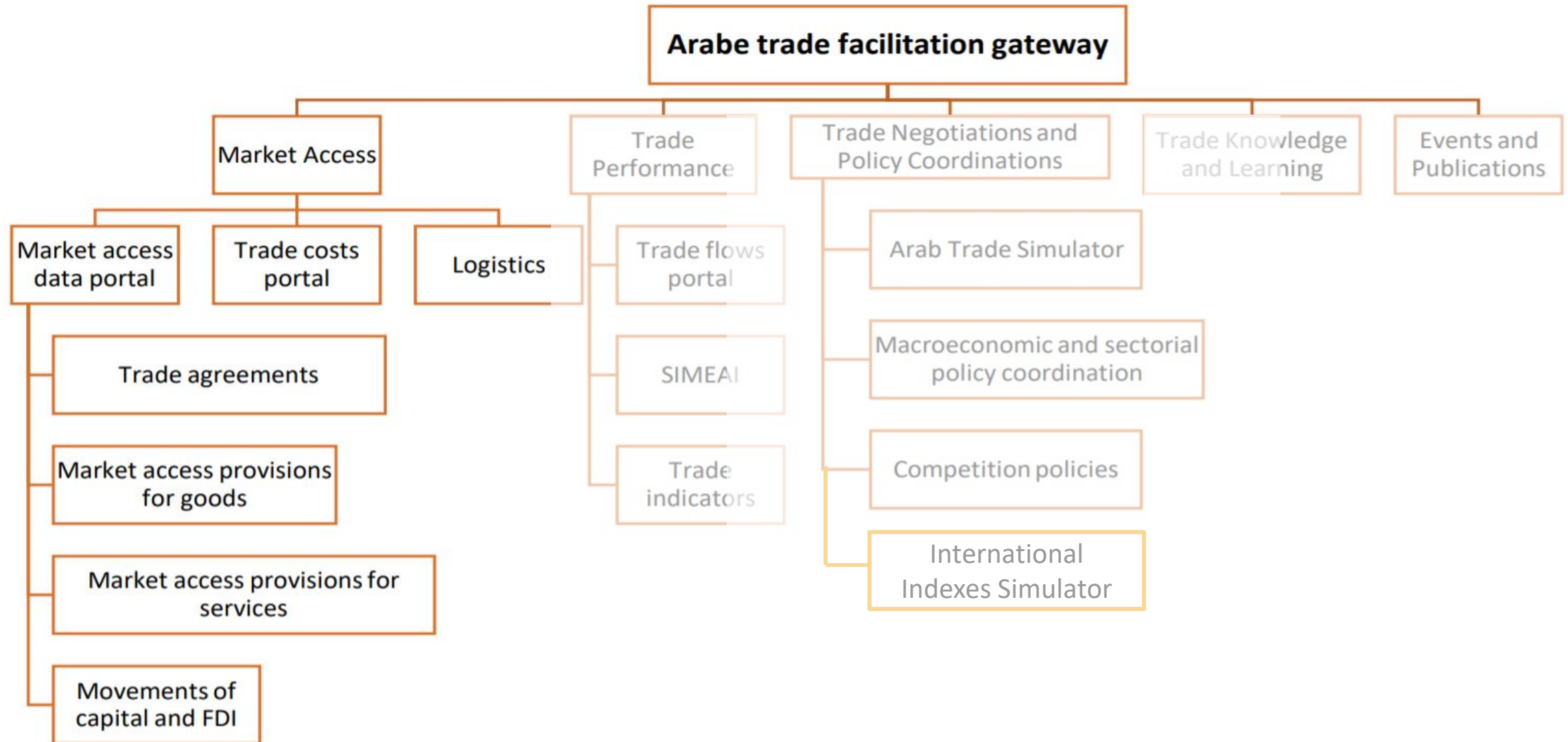
Gateway Pillars



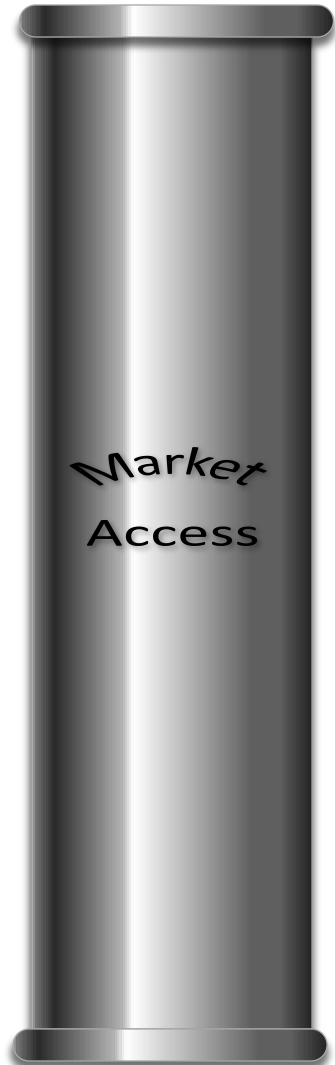
ATFG Structure



ATFG Structure



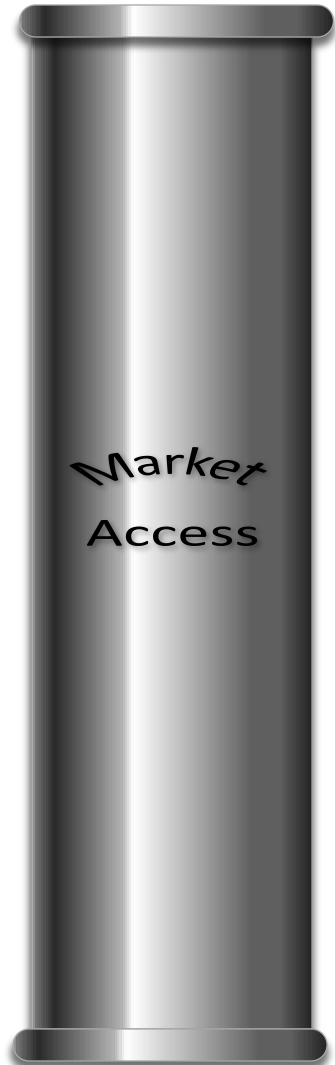
Pillar: Market Access



Information on market access conditions for goods and services.

- a. Trade Agreements:** It provides access to the **original text** of all trade agreements involving Arab countries. It covers bilateral, regional and global trade agreements
- b. Market access provisions for goods:** It provides specific and detailed information on market access requirements to different markets in the **Arab region and to the rest of the world at product level**. The market access requirements covers two components: **tariffs** and **non-tariff measures (NTMs)**. The information will be classified and uploaded at HS 6 level
- c. Market access provisions for services:** Similarly to trade in goods, this portal will show provisions and regulations on market access for services. It will provide detailed provisions by **category of service** as per WTO's classifications and agreements. The major global database to be used is the **World bank's services trade restrictions database**, which will be updated and **improved on a regular basis by ESCWA** and any new analysis and assessments
- d. Movements of capital and FDI:** Displays **regulations on movement of capital** in general and on **barriers to FDI** in particular. The portal will show regulations at **sectoral** level and by **destination** (receiver) of FDI.

Pillar: Market Access Contd.



Provides detailed information on market access conditions for goods and services.

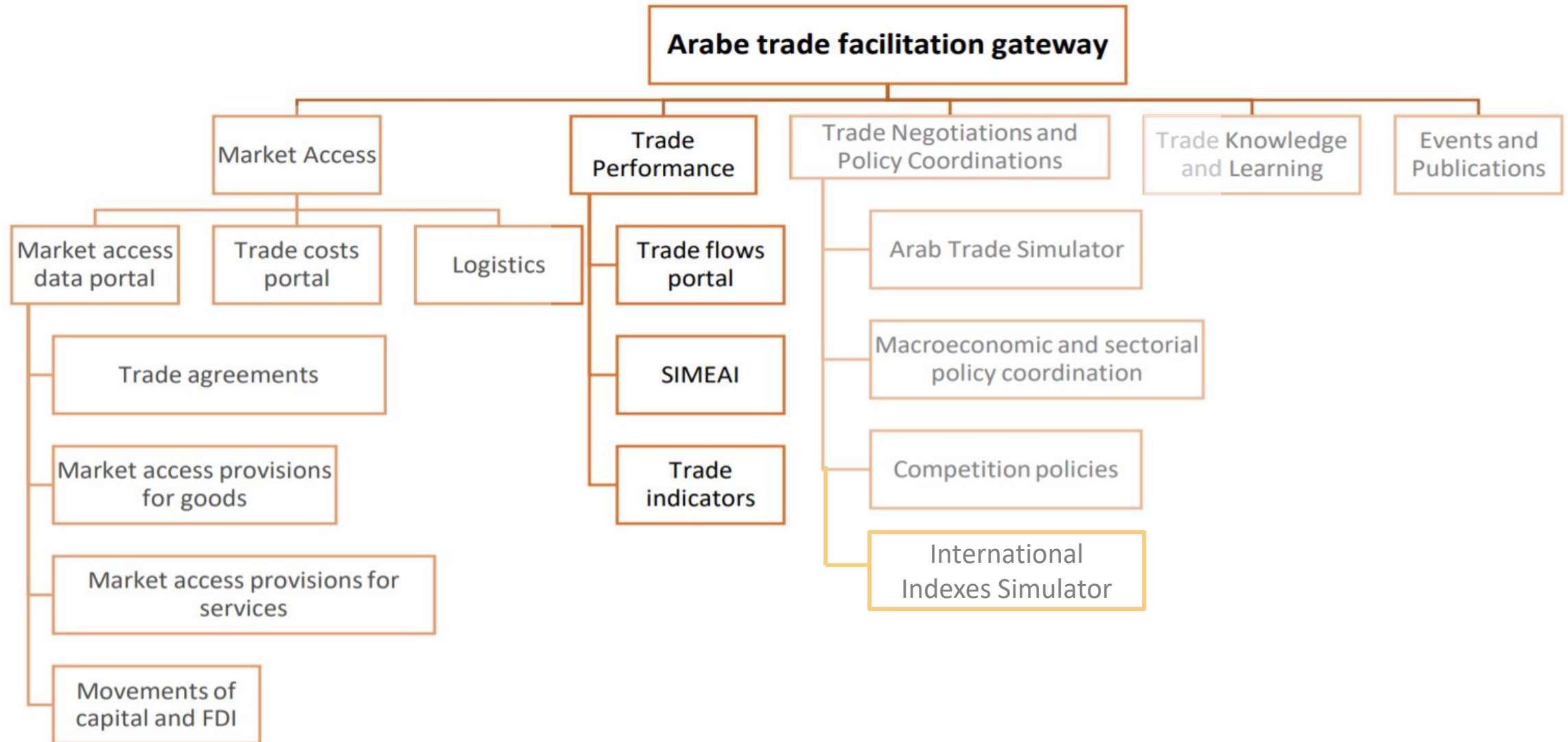
Trade Costs: ESCWA is developing a new tool to estimate and decompose trade costs at more detailed level of product classification. The trade costs window will allow to download the following type of data for Arab countries:

- Export costs
- Select exporter, one of the Arab countries, one entry;
- Select importer, countries over the world, including the 22 Arab countries (multiple entries);
- Select the year (multiple entries)-select level of aggregation: economy wide, sectoral level (2 sectors), and product level;
- Extract results and select visualization options.

Logistics: This window is reserved for data and analysis related to logistics performance in the Arab region and in the world. The first version will provide specific links to the major existing platforms on trade logistic performance and analysis, which will be reinforced by specific ESCWA's toolkits:

- The UN Global Survey on **Trade Facilitation** and Paperless Trade Implementation : <https://untfsurvey.org/>
- The **Logistics performance index**: <https://lpi.worldbank.org/>

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Pillar: Trade Performance



Offers a substantial list of trade and integration performance indicators **with** three major components:

a) Trade flows : Provides a detailed database to extract data on **trade flows by product, origin, destination, and year**. It is directly linked to the existing global UN trade flows platforms like COMTRADE, TradeMap, WITS-Smart, and BACI

b) Indexes to monitor and evaluate Arab global and regional economic integration (SIMEAI): ESCWA's SIMEAI provides **monitoring and assessing progress** towards **Arab Global and Regional Economic Integration performance**. Its major aim is to help Arab countries and regional organizations diagnose their performance in different aspects of economic integration and provide insights on strengths and weaknesses of their past and ongoing integration initiatives at global, regional, and bilateral levels

Pillar: Trade Performance

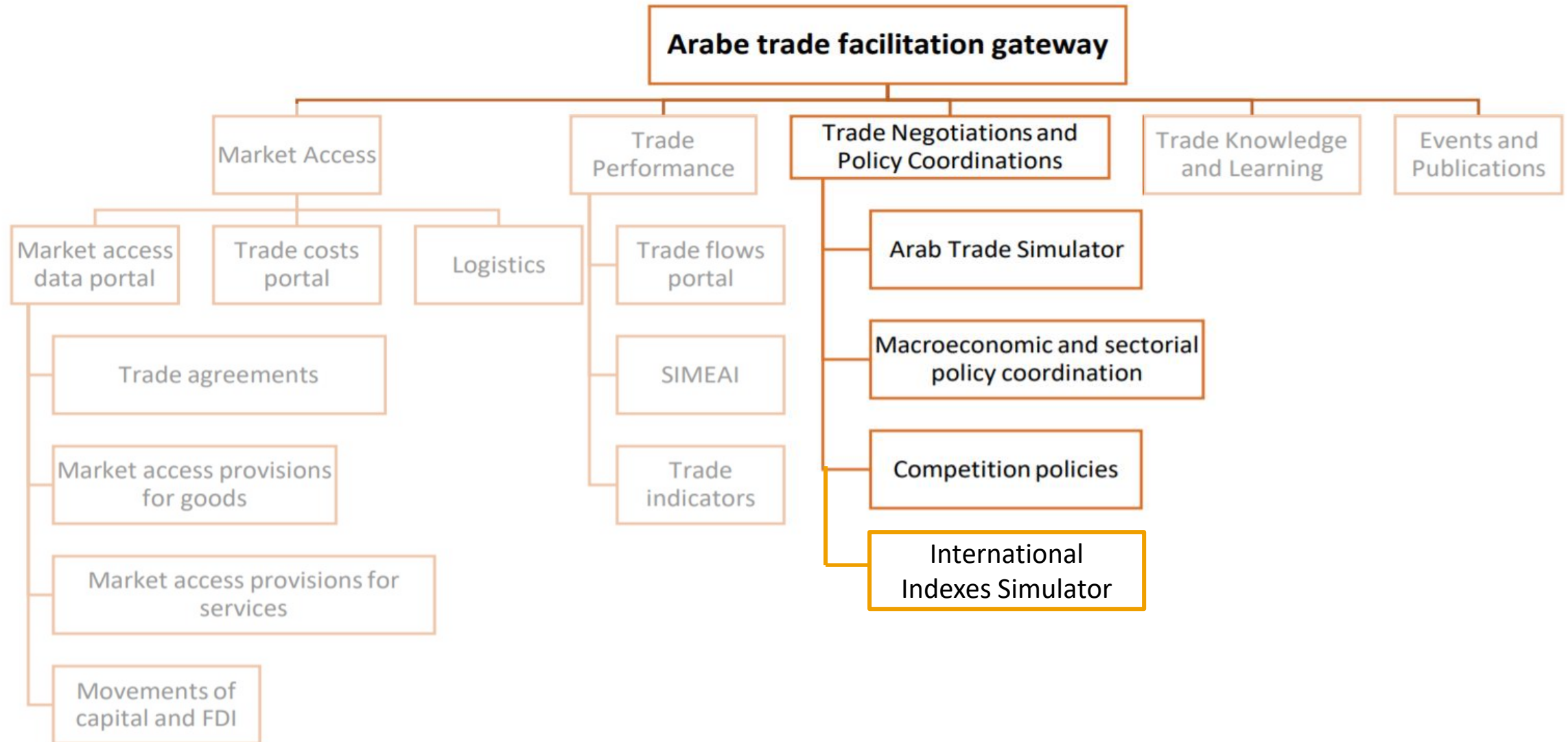


Offers a substantial list of trade and integration performance indicators **with** three major components:

c) Trade Indicators: Provides updated estimates on trade indicators that are commonly and frequently used in ESCWA trade performance assessments. The indicators are divided into three groups:

- a. Region-level indicators:** Intraregional trade share; Regional Trade Introversion Index
- b. Reporter-partner level indicators:** Trade Margins - Export Sophistication - Trade Specialization index - Product-level indicators - Revealed Comparative Advantage - Regional orientation - Export Market Penetration Index - Product space Maps
- c. Cross Country indicators :** Bilateral concentration index of merchandise exports - Intra-industry trade index - Merchandise trade specialization correlation index - Export similarity and export complementarity - Trade Complementarity Index

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Pillar: Trade Negotiations and Policy Coordination



This portal provides toolkits and analysis related to three major areas of regional integration:

- a) Features of the first release of the [Arab Trade Simulation Interface](#) that will allow officials and policy makers from Arab countries to undertake simulations changes in **applied tariffs and other trade costs** using a large choice of sectors and partners. The first release allows simulation on **trade in goods** while the second release will offer additional simulations on **trade in services**. A third release of the simulator will look to **negotiations on the movements of capital and workers**;
- b) Provides specific analysis on **macroeconomic and sectoral policies coordination**, which are playing an increasing role in the success of regional integration initiatives. It will particularly look to major macro-economic policies such as **monetary, fiscal and sectoral policies such as the price of utilities (water and electricity) and subsidizing policies**;
- c) Provides analysis on **competition policies** which represent an important area of trade negotiations. The objective of integrating competition policies in the new regional integration schemes is to ensure perfect competition between domestic and imported products through specific provisions.

Pillar: Trade Negotiations and Policy Coordination



This portal provides toolkits and analysis related to three major areas of regional integration:

- d) The Simulators Platform provide that will allow officials, policy makers and stakeholders, in general, from Arab countries to undertake simulations changes in **trade and a certain number of other policies** on countries' score and rank on a large choice of International Indexes. The first release

For now

Doing Business index
Competitiveness index
Economic Integration Index

ITU ICT Development Index
DESA e-Government Index
ITU Global Cybersecurity Index
Global Innovation Index

Just added

Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation
Index
WIPO Global Innovation Index

In the pipe

Economic freedom index
Financial Inclusiveness index

To come

Rule of Law index
Global prosperity index
Women peace and Security index

.....And growing

ESCWA Simulators Platform



A. Evidence based

comparisons are possible

- two countries together (140, criteria : HDI, GDP per capita etc..)
- regional, global, and OECD averages are included
- Other benchmarks included:
 - Average of OECD developing
 - Averages for oil exporting/importing countries
 - Average per level of income
 - The highest country ranking in the Arab region
 - The highest country ranking globally

Why is it important?

The choice of the benchmark countries/groups will be reflected in the policy recommendations

B. Design your own benchmark

By picking relevant countries
the user can create specific benchmark regions/groups of countries that fits better the specific situation of his country

Example: if the focus is on middle income countries, it is possible to select countries from Latin America and the Arab region to create a new group

ESCWA Simulators Platform: how can it support policymakers?



C. Build your own index is possible

to have a broader understanding of a specific issue (theme section)

Picking from each of the index and coming up with your own

Example: add a gender dimension to the Doing business
Build your own gender index (GGI + financial dimension + DB dimensions)

D. Evaluate the impact of a set of policies targeting

Example: a given country wants to enhance agility in times of crisis through improving on trade facilitation and attracting FDI (in certain sectors) which require enhancing innovation capacities and education, especially for women to reduce inequalities

The user can input its own data pertaining to various trade facilitation, innovation and infrastructure, education in general and % of female enrolled in 1st grade, 2nd, 3rd grade education and get the impact on

1. Quality of Doing Business Index
2. Global Competitiveness index,
3. ESCWA's Financial inclusiveness
4. Gender gaps Index

ESCWA Simulators Platform: how can it support policymakers?



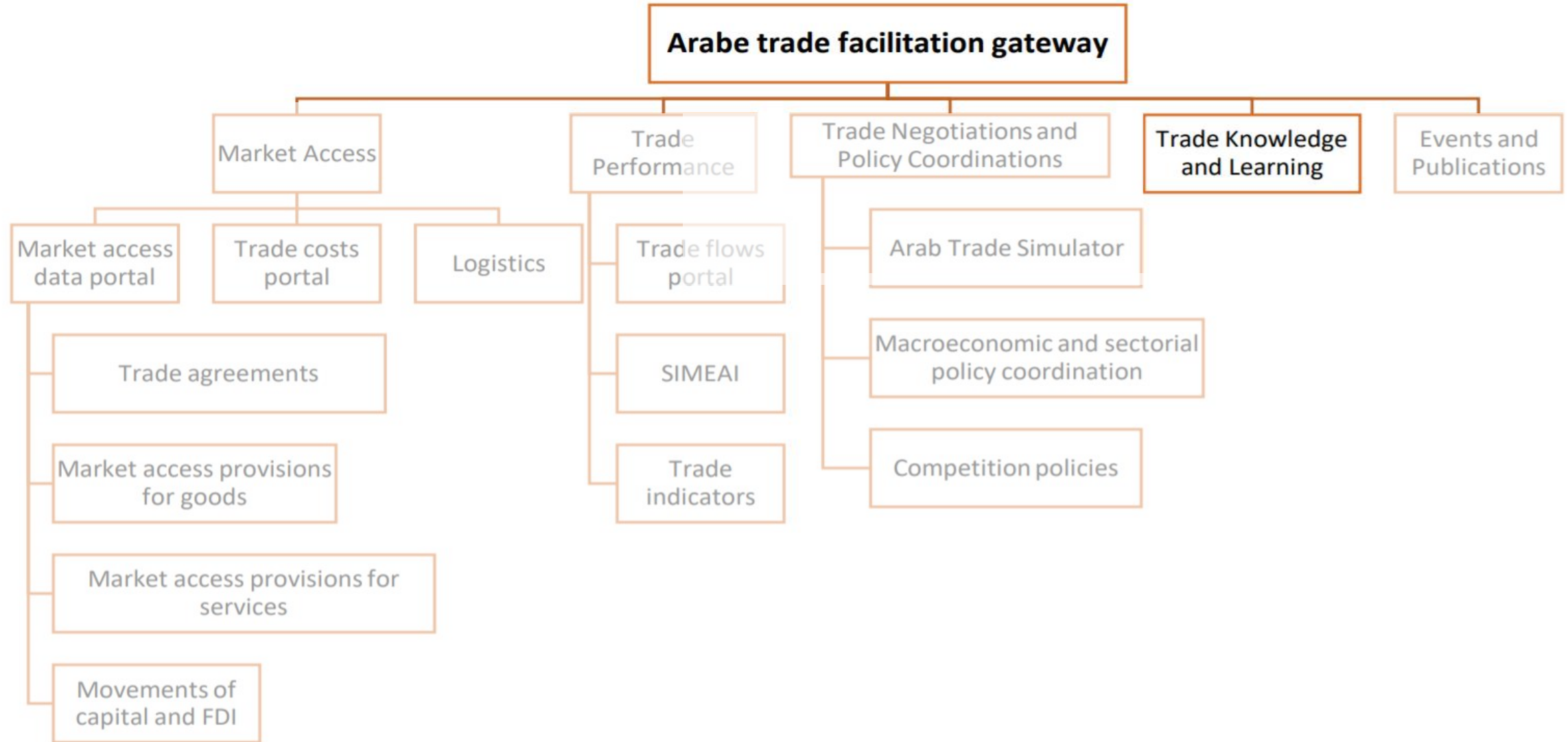
Trade
Negotiations
and Policy
Coordination

E. Help governments set priorities

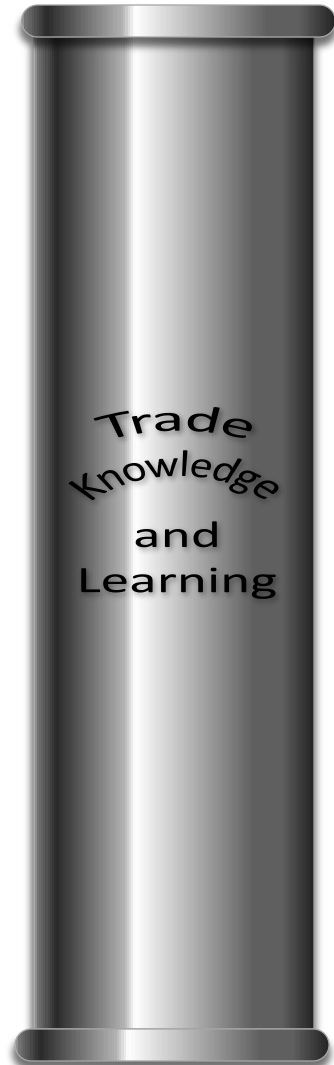
- Identify nature of obstacles (administrative, regulatory, laws need to be change, implementation has to be improved, etc...) and set short-, medium- and long-term goals/targets
- Where resources should be allocated based on where a country wants to improve the ranking

Example: if political participation is a priority, the simulator shows how it can enhance the overall ranking

ATFG Structure

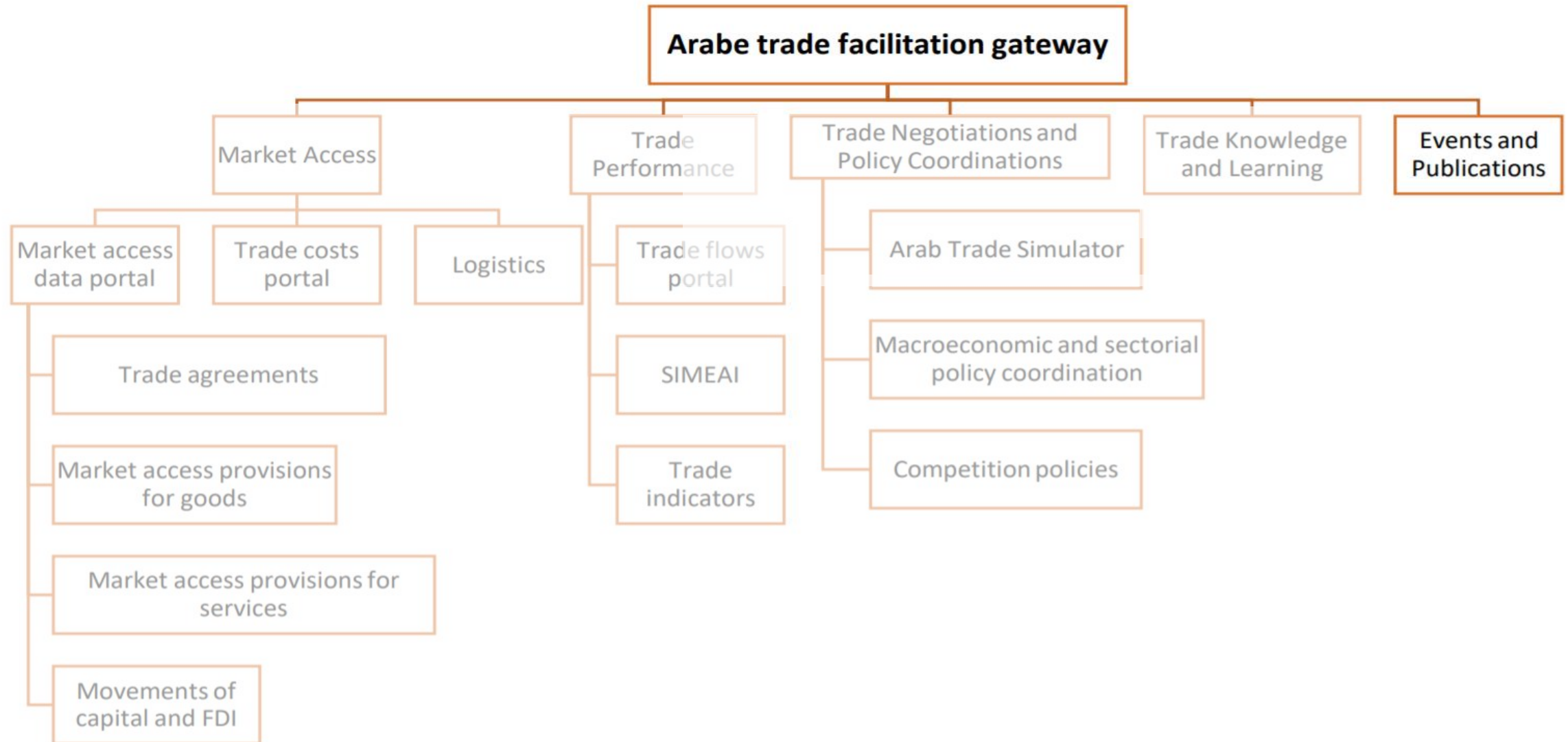


Pillar: Trade Knowledge and Learning



- Open access directs visitors to large list of knowledge materials, online training and training interactive tools.
- Directs to a large and broad range of capacity building tools and resources in most used languages in the region: Arabic, English and French.

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Pillar: Events and Publications



a) Events: Compiles links to all trade related news of events on trade related issues organized by ESCWA and other partners on the region. There are three major categories of events:

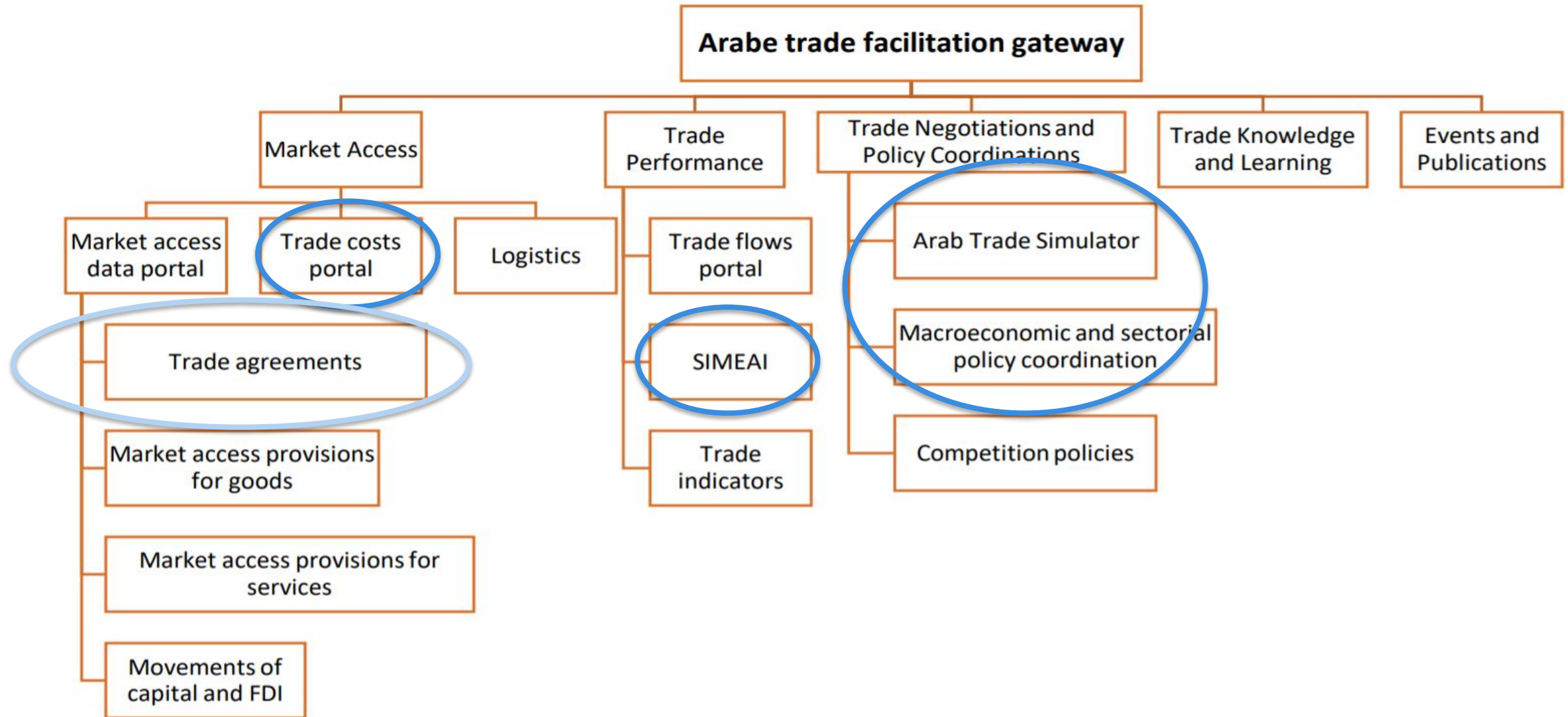
- IGM trade and IGM logistics;
- Expert Group Meetings - International and regional conferences;
- Capacity building workshops;
- Other meetings/engagements.

* Will be organized to show both upcoming and past events with full access to documentations and reports presented during each event.

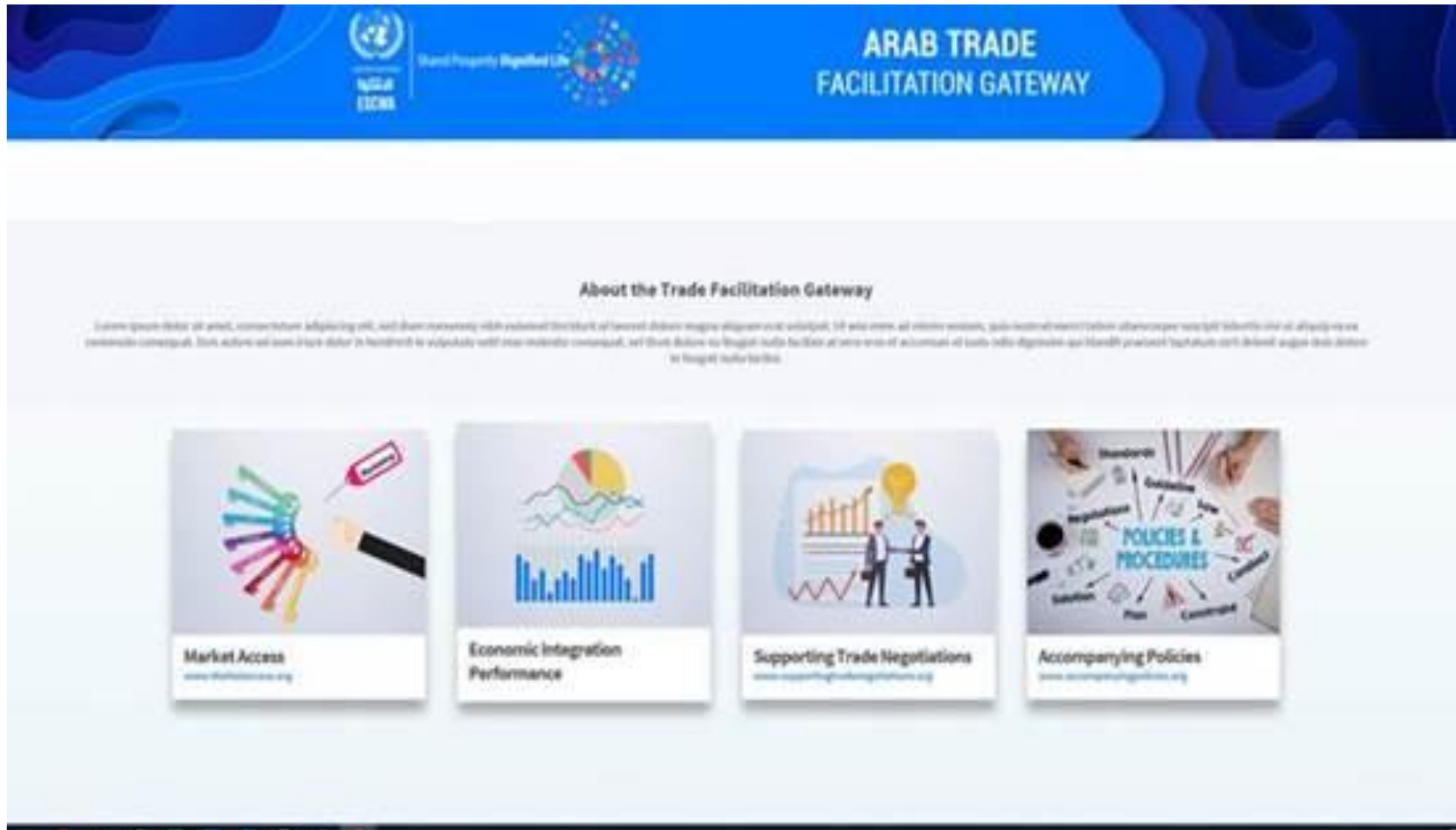
b) Publications : Compiles links to all trade related ESCWA publications as well as to other international trade publications covering the Arab region. The publications will be organized under five major categories:

- Recurrent publications;
- Non recurrent publications;
- Technical papers;
- Policy briefs;
- Other publications.

ATFG Structure



The Arab Trade Facilitation Gateway



THANK YOU !

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



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الاسكوا
ESCWA

40
YEARS