



GPST Input towards Best Practice Document
FIATA Training Initiatives
The impact on the SDGs

FIATA's Training Background

To keep up with the rapidly evolving economic environment and the introduction of advanced technical procedures, it is absolutely essential that industries do their part in providing local training and development opportunities which can sharpen skills and grow a country's talent pool.

Over the past 20 years, FIATA's Advisory Body Vocational Training (ABVT) has been a contributor to the development of training in the freight forwarding industry. It has developed significant tools to elevate the standards of the industry and continues to evolve to take into account the changing landscape and demand.

Validation of FIATA Association Members

The ABVT validates the training programs of FIATA's Association Member (Nationally) based on a set Minimum Standards established from industry experts broken down into 14 subjects. Validated Associations are then able to issue the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding, a standard recognized at the national and international level.

In addition, for Association Members wishing to provide advance training, the ABVT validates a higher standards program in supply chain allowing Association Members to issue a FIATA Higher Diploma in Supply Chain Management. This is a step above the FIATA Diploma broadening students' knowledge and building off of practical experience taken from the industry.

As of September 2015, the ABVT has validated 57 FIATA Diplomas in Freight Forwarding programmes in 53 countries of which 15 are higher diploma in supply chain management programs. The breakdown per region can be seen below.

- Region Europe: 24 countries with 25 programmes
- Region Asia Pacific: 14 countries with 17 programmes
- Region Africa Middle East: 12 countries with 12 programmes
- Region Americas: 3 countries with 3 programmes

The total number of Diplomas issued since the program's inception is 11,461 with 336 taking place over the last six months.

Establishing a strong standard through a validation body such as the ABVT directly links to Goal 4 of the SDGs as it contributes to education development. The benefit of establishing a standard set by the industry encourages local bodies/associations to establish training programs which equip local citizen with the necessary skills leading to job creation and better standards of living.

In turn, training programs also work towards poverty reduction and create opportunities for employment; goals 1 and 8 respectively. There are immense social benefits which are that arise from providing training opportunities. FIATA's Association Member training directly empowers youth with the information and resources they need to pursue careers with the right set of skills. [New estimates](#) by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) show that approximately 124 million children and adolescents were out of school in 2013.¹ Without access to education, these youth will face challenging futures trying to develop skills to pursue work and face high risks to fall into poverty.

¹¹ <http://huebler.blogspot.com/>

Training opportunities, like those provided by Associations, need to be provided to allow them to fulfil their potential by developing professionally, implementing innovation and creating local businesses which in turn reduces the chances of poverty.

FIATA Foundation Train the Trainer Program (TOT)

For those Association Members requiring additional resources to start up a training program, FIATA established the FIATA Foundation which designates specialized training programs to train local trainers and advise them on how to develop a self-sustaining training program locally.

As of October 2015, there has been 12 successful TOT programs delivered in developing and least developed countries around the world. Graduates of the train the trainer program receive a designated FIATA Trainer Certificates. There have been a total of 151 qualified trainers which have successfully completed a TOT course. Member candidates of the TOT program move on to establish a program and achieve ABVT validation of their course offering local students the chance to obtain relevant competencies and a FIATA Diploma.

The FIATA Foundation is an industry funded and driven body. It is an excellent example of Goal 17 of the SDGs which strives to strengthen global partnerships for means of implementation. The Foundation is a collection of organisations in the freight forwarding industry providing contributions and resources that are utilized to ensure the industry's prosperous future. FIATA encourages states and industry to look at partnerships such as the foundation with the aim to promote social good as the ripples extend beyond just industry benefits but also economic, social and environmental progress.

FIATA Logistics Academy (FLA)

With the rise of technology and the alignment of training standards, in 2015, FIATA launched FLA with the aim of focusing more resources on training, development, and research in freight logistics. Within only a short time span, FLA has launched a [website](#) housing their various initiatives with a vision to become "A one Knowledge source for Global Logistics".

Such initiatives include an e-learning offering where e-courses will be made available to prospective students in areas where ABVT validated courses would otherwise not reach them. In addition, they have added a program called "Talent Connect" that would allow prospective hires the ability to upload their CVs for FIATA members to search and potentially employ them. There is also a resource section that offers diverse educational resources such as slide kits, guidelines, books, surveys, and several other electronic materials.

FLA has also started to collaborate with Edx and University Alliance; a distance education academy formed by over 60 universities, to promote their courses and provide a broader range of training topics to the industry covering both technical and soft skills. FLA takes on an inclusive approach eliminating country barriers and reducing any forms of inequality which links to Goal 10 of the SDGs. Their platform is only limited by an internet connection providing an abundance of resources and learning material giving access to detailed information into the workings of the forwarding and logistics industry. Irrelevant of nationality, sex, age, ethnicity and other varying forms of demographics, the platform provides equal opportunities for learning and development. Such platforms need to be provided to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all.

Concluding Note

FIATA encourages member states to perceive training as a means for their citizens to enhance knowledge, build skills and develop advanced competencies that would not only results in an industry's success but an economy's growth.

However, the provision of training opportunities does not only fall on governments alone but also private sector and their representative associations. Public and private sector should engage in partnerships, as specified in Goal 17, to infuse the necessary resources to start up training programs that will in turn become self-sustaining as both will benefit from such initiatives.

In FIATA's case, our training bodies will continue to strive to establish training opportunities in all of its FIATA Association Members providing them with the tools to implement and sustain local training initiatives. We will also aim to engage with the public sector and ask for their support as we implement local training programs for which have the potential to carry a nation out of poverty, promote economic growth and establish a sustainable system for which all stakeholders have equal opportunity.

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About FIATA

FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations, was founded in Vienna, Austria on May 31st 1926. It is a non-governmental organisation that today represents an industry covering approximately 40,000 forwarding and logistics firms, employing around 10 million people in some 160 countries. FIATA has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (inter alia ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA, etc.), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as well as many other UN related bodies, e.g. the World Bank. It is recognised as representing the freight forwarding industry by many other governmental organisations, governmental authorities, private international organisations in the field of transport and logistics, such as the European Commission (through CLECAT), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), etc. For further information, please go to: www.fiata.com

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