

We live in an interconnected world. The food we eat, the phones we use, the clothes we buy are all produced, exchanged and consumed by millions of people in many different places around the world at the same time. This is what many economists call globalisation. In this globalised world, goods are organised into global supply chains which are often called global value chains. But what is a supply chain and why is it such an important concept in economics? Supply chain is a concept which describes the relationship between the different stages of production and distributions behind goods such as a t-shirt or a mobile phone. This interactive course will help you to familiarise yourself with the economic mechanisms behind a supply chain. And looking at the case study of a t-shirt to understand the different stages of a t-shirt supply chain work in practice from raw cotton to our wardrobe. You will look at which resources producers use, which countries import and export and what, which economic agents are involved, what is the share of income economic agents get at different stages of production and the value they create. You will learn to use popular concepts in economics such as vertical integration and value added. And you will undertake simple exercises to use and interpret data. You will also have the chance to test your knowledge of some of the key aspects in which the different stages of the production of a t-shirt are organised in the global market. This course will help you to reflect on which key indicators could help construct the evidence and assess the different social-economic impacts of how a t-shirt is produced and what can be done differently. So if you're curious to understand more about what the complex organisation of a t-shirt looks like, this course is for you.