One of the major lessons learned from the 2007-2009 global financial crisis was that the lack of comprehensive data on OTC derivatives positions and other segments of the financial system, such as market based financing (referred to by some as “shadow banking”), which severely constrained the ability of regulators to fashion appropriate policy responses. Regulators did not have a clear view of counterparty exposures and the aggregation of risks in different parts of the financial system. High quality and comprehensive data do not only help regulators to mitigate risk, but also to improve transparency in markets and avoid market abuse.

To address these data issues, G20 Leaders agreed in 2009 that all OTC derivatives contracts should be reported to trade repositories (TRs). Aggregation of data reported to TRs is necessary to ensure that authorities are able to obtain a comprehensive view of the markets and market activity, both globally and domestically. In dealing with systemic risk, it is critical that important data elements are standardized and harmonized to achieve global aggregation of data. Moreover, it is essential that such data is of high quality; can be aggregated; converted into information; and used to monitor the building up of risks. Regulators have been working to establish uniform global identifiers (UPIs, UTIs, and LEIs) to achieve standardization and harmonization of data. Despite efforts, there are still critical data gaps, inefficiencies and inconsistencies. Likewise, progress in TR reporting has been patchy.

Data issues are not the preserve of OTC Derivatives area however, and the lack of availability of data which are consistent, comparable and capable of being aggregated is a common problem across the financial system. To give an example, IOSCO’s Committee 5 on asset management is also dealing with some of the challenging data issues. There is a need for regulators to consider what data they need and what data they can obtain to arrive at a holistic picture of the area regulated by them.

Workshop participants will discuss the impediments to data quality and aggregation, including legal barriers to cross-border data sharing, challenges in data quality and usability of TR held data, proliferation of TRs, data availability in other areas etc.

Moderator:

Jennifer Marietta-Westberg – Chair, IOSCO Committee on Emerging Risks

Speakers:

1. Srinivas Bangarbale – Chief Data Officer, CFTC
2. Joseph Tracy – LEI ROC Chair, NY FED
3. Helmut Wacket – Head of the Market Integration Division, Directorate General Market Infrastructure and Payments, ECB
4. Scott O’Malia – CEO, ISDA