AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (IDEP) / MACROECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (MEFMI) (IDEP / MEFMI)

ONLINE COURSE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Announcement in Brief

Course Type: Online Course
Programme Area: Regional Integration
Date: 1 October – 2 November 2018
Duration: 5 Weeks
Language: English
Fee: No fee required

Application Deadline: 14 September 2018

1 MEFMI and IDEP strongly encourage and support the participation of suitably qualified female officials in their capacity development and training programme
BACKGROUND

Regional Integration is a development priority for Africa, and it can be argued demonstrably that the continent has made notable progress towards regional integration. This is evidenced, for example, by recent developments such as the COMESA/SADC/EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area Initiative and the move towards establishing an African Continental Free Trade Area in the near future. Nonetheless, numerous constraints have limited the progress of regional integration, and its potential as an instrument for economic diversification, structural transformation, and therefore, poverty reduction. The successful and rapid progression of the integration process needs to be underpinned by comprehensive expertise from the region, including government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and academics. It is on this basis that MEFMI requested the technical support of IDEP to develop a full-fledged online course on regional integration. This joint course will be structured around five (5) weeks.

OBJECTIVES

The Joint IDEP/MEFMI online course on regional integration and trade is intended to enhance the knowledge and analytical capacity of policy-makers, academics and researchers in the area of regional integration, with a comparative focus on agreements between various regions in Africa. The specific objectives of the course are:

- To improve participants' understanding in the area of regional integration, and current developments with a comparative focus on agreements between various regions in Africa; and

- To explore and discuss measures of addressing emerging challenges related to implementation of the regional integration agenda in light of issues such as over-lapping memberships, capacity and financing of regional integration;

- To dwell on key success factors to boost the ongoing momentum regarding regional and trade in the new Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) context.

SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

The course is expected to provide economists, trade experts, and officials from Central Banks, Ministries of Finance, Planning and or Economic Development, Trade, Academia and Stakeholders from Private Sectors with knowledge on how to enhance regional integration processes and trade in Africa. In addition, the following benefits are expected to flow from the course:

i. Updated knowledge of the challenges of regional integration and trade within Africa;

ii. Updated knowledge on achievements through regional integration agreements including various dimensions (economic, institutional, etc.);
iii. Improved knowledge on social and gender dimensions of trade and investment strategies;
iv. A better appreciation of sectoral policies, their implementation and the impact of private sector in trade development in Africa.

CONTENT

The course will introduce participants to the history of regional integration (Free Trade Areas (FTAs), Custom Union (CU), Common Market, Economic and Monetary Union and Political Federation); as well as the current state of play. It will also cover issues of Economic and structural implications of Regional Integration (macroeconomic policy convergence for monetary and financial integration, tripartite initiatives (COMESA, EAC and SADC). The course will also discuss the vision of the African Union Agenda 2063, and its action plan as a roadmap for the continent's development. The role of sectoral policies will be discussed and how to optimize regional integration through key success factors.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

The course is facilitated by experienced resource persons with first-hand knowledge of the historical and contemporary issues in regional integration and trade in Africa. They also come with strong comparative insights from various regions of Africa. The resource persons are coordinated by a course director. In addition to the course material moderated by the trainers, interactive sessions will be organized with discussions and case-studies will be also presented. Furthermore, participants will be expected to actively participate in thematic chats to present experiences from their own countries. After each module, participant will have to complete an exercise to enable the trainer / moderator to assess the understanding of the participant and allow him to proceed with next module.

At the end of the course (4 weeks), participants will be assessed through a final exam during the 5th week. Based on overall performance for each participant, attestations will be awarded.

MODE OF DELIVERY

- **Language:** The course will be delivered in English.
- **Duration:** The course is structured to run over a period of five (5) weeks including one extra (1) week for the final assessment exercise and evaluation.
- **Number of participants:** A total of fifty (50) participants are expected to fully participate in the course.
- **Resource persons / Moderators:** Resource persons / Moderators will include specialists with knowledge of, practical experience, and expertise in regional integration and trade issues in Africa.
METHOD OF APPLICATION AND NOMINATIONS

Applications and nominations are on the basis of a form which all interested participants are expected to complete and send back to MEFMI. The form is attached to the end of this document and is also available on the MEFMI website (http://www.mefmi.org) and IDEP website (https://www.unidep.org). They can be downloaded for transmission by fax or as e-mail attachment. Candidates are advised to complete all the relevant sections of the forms as incomplete applications will not be processed.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The course targets economists and other regional integration/trade experts from Central Banks, Ministries of Finance, Planning and or Economic Development, and other related Institutions dealing with issues relating to regional integration, trade policies, monetary and financial integration. Applicants from academia and private sector are also welcome for a mix-shared experience regarding trade challenges and linkages with Regional Integration in the CFTA context.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: 14 September 2018
- Course Period: 1 October – 2 November 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

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N.B.: MEFMI and IDEP strongly encourage and support the participation of suitably qualified female officials in their capacity development and training programme.
APPLICATION / NOMINATION FORM

Upon completion send to: MEFMI, 9 Earls Road, Harare, Zimbabwe or Email: capacity@mefmi.org / Vivian.Namugambe@mefmi.org / Margaret.Mutyoraauta@mefmi.org

Eight nominations per country are to be completed and returned by Friday, 14th September 2018

Activity: Joint MEFMI/IDEP E-Learning Course on Trade Policies and Regional Integration

Dates: 1 October – 2 November 2018 Venue: Online

Surname ____________________________ First Name ____________ Sex ____________

Employer ____________________________ Country ___________________________________

Job Title/Position ____________________________

Department ____________________________

Current Duties ____________________________________________ Relevant Experience ____________________________________________

________________________________________

Address: Postal ____________________________ Phone ____________ Fax ____________

Email: ____________________________

Please list below, previous relevant training attended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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Nominating Authority:

Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

Organisation ____________________________ Position ____________________________

Address: Postal ____________________________ Phone ____________ Fax ____________

Email ____________________________ Date ____________________________