Call for Applications and Nominations

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS MODELING

Online Training
2023 Edition

Beginning of the training: 30th October - 24th November 2023

Application Deadline: 27th October 2023
4 Weeks

Coming soon

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https://idep-applications.uneca.org/
STRATEGIC FORESIGHT AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS MODELING

Call for Applications and Nominations

Announcement in Brief

Course Type: Online Course
Programme Area: Development
Date: 30th October - 24th November 2023
Duration: 4 Weeks
Language: Bilingual (French / English)
Application Deadline: 27th October 2023
Website: https://knowledge.uneca.org/idep

IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme.
The United Nations sustainable development 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015 by member states. With 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 indicators, it provides a framework for national and global development policies. In addition, it is anchored in human rights. Prior to the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were prevailing from 2000 to 2015. SDGs are different from MDGs as they are more universal, transformative, comprehensive, and inclusive. However, most SDGs are off track in 2023. The SDGs Report 2023 reveals that only 15% of SDGs are on track. Under current trends by 2030, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty; 84 million children and youth will be out of school and 300 million students will lack basic numeracy/literacy skills among others. As far as gender equality is concerned, there is still a lot of work to be done. Conflicts and wars inflict a devastating toll on SDGs as over 108 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes as of December 2022, 2.5 times the number a decade ago.

Recent global shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia have challenged the implementation of ongoing national, regional, and global development agendas. This has led to a common reflection within the United Nations on how member states can be capacitated to navigate the complexities of ongoing multi-crises environment and shift from emergency responses to shocks, to proactive development planning. This necessitates a good understanding of potential, probable, and preferable futures to inform current actions.

In 2021, the report of the UN Secretary-General (UN SG), Our Common Agenda, called for a Summit of the Future to forge a new global consensus on readying ourselves for a future that is rife with risks but also opportunities. The Summit of the Future to be held on 22-23 September 2024 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact peoples’ lives. In this complex environment, the UN SG has released UN 2.0, a vision of a “modern United Nations system, rejuvenated by a forward-thinking culture, and empowered by cutting-edge skills fit for the twenty-first century”. The UN 2.0 is a quintet of modern skills that have tremendous potential to enhance the work of United Nations entities in support of Member States: 1) data expertise, 2) innovation capacity, 3) digital expertise, 4) strategic foresight and 5) behavioural science.

Considering the above, and in line with its mandate, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) has developed the present training programme on “Strategic Foresight and System Dynamics Modeling”. Strategic foresight analysis provides useful tools to reflect on long term development strategies in an uncertain and complex environment whereby future challenges can emerge. It uses a holistic approach that embeds all actors, analyzes the possible scenarios that may occur based on the present and past events and informs decision makers accordingly. The system dynamics technique is complementary to the foresight approach as it can be used to understand the dynamic behavior of complex systems. It allows developing and illustrating various scenarios for a better comprehension of the implications of future actions towards an effective development.
SKILL TO BE IMPARTED

At the end of the course, participants will be equipped with the essential skills to anticipate and plan effectively. More specifically the following skills will be imparted:

- **Environmental Scanning and Trend Analysis**: The course should teach participants how to systematically scan the external environment for trends, disruptions, and weak signals. The ability to analyse these trends and understand their implications is crucial for effective foresight work.

- **Scenario Planning**: Teaching participants how to create and use scenarios to explore different plausible future outcomes, considering a range of variables and uncertainties. Scenario planning helps organizations prepare for various contingencies and develop adaptable strategies.
PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH AND MODE OF DELIVERY

This self-paced course will be delivered from 30 October to 24 November 2023. Virtual sessions are also planned for more interaction between the pedagogical team and the learners. These latter can self-assess their understanding of learning materials through built-in quizzes and exercises. Additional resources, including suggested readings, bibliographies, Internet links and optional reading are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge on the course topic. The course will be delivered in English and French. The pedagogical team comprised of a Course Director a Co-Course Director and a tutor will provide daily on-line assistance to participants at scheduled times. An Internet connection is required for interaction between learners and trainers.

The course will run over a period of four (04) Weeks.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments for each module.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course targets:

- national officials involved in national economic management and development planning-related activities,
- United Nations Development Coordination Officers /Economists.
- Members of the ECA-Young Economic Network (YEN) are also encouraged to participate.
ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the paragraph above to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at:
https://idep-applications.uneca.org/

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Access to Internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
  - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
  - Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications: 27th October 2023
- Course Period: 30th October – 24th November 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

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N.B: IDEP strongly encourages and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme.