

ENHANCING AFRICA'S TRADE PERFORMANCE:TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AfCFTA

Digital trade in the context of AfCFTA



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Date : 25th November – 6th December 2024

Application Deadline : 22th November 2024



ONLINE COURSE



CERTIFICATE

Languages : English - French



ENHANCING AFRICA'S TRADE PERFORMANCE : TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AFCFTA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT IN BRIEF

Course Name : Digital trade in the context of AfCFTA

Course Type: On-line

Programme Area: Trade and Development

Date : 25 November – 6 December 2024

Duration: 2 weeks

Language: Bilingual (English and French)

Application Deadline: 22nd November 2024



IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programmes

PROGRAMME RATIONALE

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement represents the most ambitious project of economic integration in Africa since the creation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and it is one of the pillars of the African Union Agenda 2063. Its main objective is to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of people and investments, in order to promote intra-African trade, reduce dependence from foreign markets, improve competitiveness, support economic transformation and pave the way for the establishment of a customs union in Africa.

Even before the establishment of AfCFTA, African countries have entered into couples of preferential trade agreements/arrangements (PTAs) with little or no effects on their trade performance and hence poor development outcomes. Various factors accounted for this observed dismal performance of which effective implementation is chief. If fully implemented, the AfCFTA would allow member States to make important progress towards industrialization and economic development, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while laying the conditions for the promotion of peace and stability in the Continent.

For the AfCFTA to achieve its laudable goals, capacity building is key. Based on this background, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is leading the implementation of a capacity building program entitled 'Towards an effective implementation of the AfCFTA' through its training arm the African Institute for economic Development and Planning (IDEP). This project is funded by the Government of Italy and is implemented jointly with an Italian NGO, Agricoltori Solidarietà e Sviluppo (ASeS).

This project is the second phase of the overall Italian (and European) cooperation project with Africa, and in particular with the countries of the AfCFTA, including Algeria, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Malawi, Mauritania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. As part of this joint project, this online course focuses on : Digital trade in the context of the AfCFTA.

OBJECTIVE

The course aims to build the capacity of national stakeholders who could benefit from the effective implementation of the AfCFTA including operators from private sector as well as government officials. In particular, the objective of this course is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of e-trade, covering its global foundations, key components, benefits, and future trends. It emphasizes Africa's unique e-trade landscape, including challenges and growth opportunities, while highlighting essential regulatory frameworks, particularly the role of AfCFTA. Participants will also explore Africa-EU trade relations, examining trade barriers, opportunities, and the potential for strengthened partnerships in the digital economy. This course also provides a foundation for understanding the needed actions and strategies to take in place to develop the e-trade potential in Africa through African Continental Free Trade Area. Finally, with a Case Study, it explores how Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Economic Partnerships influence the trade landscape between Africa and the EU, and what the future holds for this relationship.

CONTENT

This course starts by introducing the fundamentals and the conceptual framework of e-trade. This commerce has revolutionized traditional trade, transforming how businesses and consumers interact and purchase goods and services. Through digital platforms, e-commerce has broken down geographic barriers, enabling global transactions in real time and making the buying process more convenient, faster, and personalized. Additionally, with advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and big data, e-commerce has introduced new possibilities for marketing, optimized logistics, and customer care, fundamentally reshaping consumer expectations and business strategies. This course also examines e-trade regulatory framework with a focus on AfCFTA. As Africa seeks to leverage e-trade for economic growth, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) plays a crucial role in creating a unified regulatory environment that fosters cross-border e-commerce, reduces trade barriers, and enhances digital trade cooperation across African nations. Finally, the course looks toward the future, discussing a Case Study: The experience of African countries in trading with EU.

Module 1: Conceptual framework of e-trade

- Introduction to E-Trade
- Key Components of E-Trade
- Benefits and Opportunities
- Challenges and Barriers in E-Trade
- Future of E-Trade

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Module 2: Global E-Trade Trends and Africa's Readiness

- Key Global E-Trade Trends
- Africa's E-Trade Landscape
- Challenges to Africa's E-Trade Readiness
- Africa's Opportunities and Future Readiness

Module 3: E-trade regulatory framework with a focus on AfCFTA

- Key Elements of an E-Trade Regulatory Framework
- AfCFTA's Role in E-Trade Regulation
- Challenges to E-Trade Regulation in Africa
- Opportunities for Enhancing Africa's E-Trade Regulatory Framework

Module 4: Case study: The experience of African countries in trading with EU

- Preferential Trade Agreements and Economic Partnerships
- Challenges Faced by African Countries in Trading with the EU
- Opportunities for African Countries in Trading with the EU
- The Future of Africa-EU Trade Relations

SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

After completing this course, participants should be able to understand the fundamentals of e-trade and its key components, assess Africa's unique e-trade landscape, challenges, and identify regulatory frameworks crucial for digital trade growth. They should also be able to evaluate the impact of AfCFTA on African trade, recognize barriers and opportunities in Africa-EU trade relations, and anticipate future trends to enhance Africa's e-trade potential. Finally, the participants are expected to have practical skills to explore and investigate the trade between Africa's countries and the European Union.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH & MODE OF DELIVERY

This on-line training will be delivered asynchronously from IDEP Moodle platform.

The pedagogical approach of this training course is learner-centered and it combines theoretical foundations with practical applications to ensure deep understanding. The course encourages participants to actively engage with the material and relate it to real-world scenarios. Therefore, with a Case study, practical examples and real-world experiences will be presented to allow for a detailed analysis of all potential implications and developments. PowerPoint presentations, additional readings and quizzes will help reinforce concepts and allow learners to practice decision-making in e-trade contexts. This approach will provide a deeper understanding of the subject matter by examining specific cases and illustrating how various factors can influence outcomes, offering insights into possible future trends and evolutions. Additionally, participants will analyze current challenges and opportunities, fostering critical thinking and collaborative exploration of Africa's unique e-trade landscape and its evolving relationship with global markets.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course targets policy makers and private sector stakeholder groups in the area of trade especially those that are involved and critical to making the AfCFTA promote sustainable development with special focus on these eight (8) countries: Algeria, Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Malawi, Mauritania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://forms.gle/iQoXgGgyWZ6QvbTbA>

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: **22 November 2024**
- Course Period: **25 November – 6 December 2024**

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 programmes.

