

Call for Applications

REVISITING FISCAL POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND POST COVID RECOVERY

Duration
4 weeks

Coming soon

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Beginning of the training : 29th August 2022

Application Deadline : 22nd August 2022

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Announcement in Brief

Type : Online Course

Programme Area : Macroeconomic planning and
Financing for Development

Date: 29th August – 23rd September 2022

Duration : 4 Weeks

Language : Bilingual (English / French)

Application Deadline : 22nd August 2022



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

Programme Rationale

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world economy has been hit severely. Developing countries that were already suffering from debt burden fell in a stressful situation with respect to the mobilization of sufficient resources to address the negative impact of crisis on health, social and economic systems. To compound the already worse situation, the war in Ukraine has triggered a costly humanitarian crisis that demands a peaceful resolution. Economic damage from the conflict will contribute to a significant slowdown in global growth in 2022 with a severe double-digit drop in GDP for Ukraine while a moderate contraction in Russia is more than likely. Across all countries of the world will be felt a spill over through commodity markets, trade, and financial channels. Even as the war reduces growth, it has added to inflation as fuel and food prices have increased rapidly, with vulnerable populations—particularly in low-income countries especially in Africa and Middle east—most affected.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has contributed to economic fragmentation as a significant number of countries sever commercial ties with Russia and risks derailing the post-pandemic recovery. It also threatens the rules-based frameworks that have facilitated greater global economic integration and helped lift millions out of poverty. In addition, the conflict adds to the economic strains wrought by the pandemic. Although many parts of the world appear to be moving past the acute phase of the COVID-19 crisis, deaths remain high, especially among the unvaccinated. Moreover, recent lockdowns in key manufacturing and trade hubs in China are already compounding supply disruptions elsewhere.

The above situation highlights the need for a concerted efforts in macroeconomic planning to cope with emergencies in Africa. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has contributed substantially to the requirements for sound economic and social recovery across the continent after the COVID-19 outbreak. In the same vein, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) recently launched a research project – “Debt, taxation and financing for development: immediate responses to global emergencies and efficient planning” - aimed at developing analytical and operational tools towards (a) - the efficiency of budget planning as an immediate response to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 in the Sub-Saharan countries; (b) - financing for development by means of domestic resource mobilization towards responsive health systems and medical research (via debt management and efficient fiscal systems); (c) - ways of channeling financial resources stemming from debt alleviation into immediate responses to global emergencies, with the main focus at COVID-19. The countries of focus of this study were Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

Whereas the project’s research outputs are publications related to the above-mentioned countries, the current on-line course is one of the “hands-on-approach” component of the same project “Debt, taxation and financing for development: immediate responses to global emergencies and efficient planning”, currently at a fully implementation stage, on both training and research components. This is the second edition of the training programme on fiscal policy.

Objectives

The follow up course aims to strengthen the capacity of African policy makers on the best practices in terms of macroeconomic planning and fiscal policies for effective and immediate response to emergencies such as COVID-19 and conflict situations. Specifically, the course will focus on the role and functioning of fiscal policy regarding sustainable development with some concrete experiences in Africa based on the results of the country-case studies. It will also look at the nexus between fiscal policy and macro-planning and highlight some of the best practices in this regard.

Content

This training programme will cover but not limited to the following topics :

- The core functions of the fiscal policy
- An overview of fiscal policies in Africa- country case studies
- Revenue mobilization and spending priorities for an effective fiscal policy
- Fiscal policy and macroeconomic planning - best practices

Skill To Be Imparted

At the end of the course, participants will have among others:

- A clear understanding of the core functions and roles of fiscal policy
- An overview of fiscal policy implementation in Africa with some country case studies
- An understanding of effective revenue mobilization and spending priorities to effectively implement a fiscal policy
- An understanding of the role of fiscal policy in macroeconomic planning in the short, medium, and long terms.
- Best financing practices in a context of global health emergencies

Pedagogical Approach and Mode of Delivery

The course will be run as an interactive online course. In line with the IDEP and ECA pedagogical philosophy. The presentation of the course modules will combine a knowledge-building component with country case studies designed to impart core skills. It will also benefit from results of the empirical work carried out in the ten (10) focal countries.

Certificate of Completion

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

Target Audience

The course targets the following groups from countries of focus of the project as well as other member states:

- Mid-level to senior policy officials in national Ministries (primarily Finance, Planning and Economic Development), provincial departments and local authorities
- Professionals in private sector and civil society organizations
- Researchers and students
- Interested citizens

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://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: Google chrome, Firefox 36 or higher or Internet Explorer 7 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

Important Dates

- Deadline for applications and nominations: **22nd August 2022**
- Course Period: **29th August – 23rd September 2022**

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.