ECONOMIC MODELING APPLIED TO TRADE POLICY REFORMS IN AFRICA

CURRICULUM 1: ECONOMIC MODELING - INTRODUCTION

With special focus on AfCFTA
# ECONOMIC MODELING APPLIED TO TRADE POLICY REFORMS IN AFRICA

## CURRICULUM 1 : ECONOMIC MODELING - INTRODUCTION

Call for Applications

## Announcement in Brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
<th>Web Based E-Learning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme Area</strong></td>
<td>Modeling, Economic Development, Economic Policy, Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>24th March – 19th May 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>8 Weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Web Based E-Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fee</strong></td>
<td>No Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date Published</strong></td>
<td>1st March 2019</td>
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<td><strong>Application Deadline</strong></td>
<td>17th March 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Specific target audience</strong></td>
<td>Anyone with a background in economics and interested in African Trade Policy Reform</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://elearning.unidep.org">https://elearning.unidep.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applications</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.unidep.org/?apply">https://www.unidep.org/?apply</a></td>
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PROGRAM RATIONALE

Assessing the economic consequences of trade policy has increasingly become important for Africa, particularly since African countries have been negotiating new trade agreements with the potential to have a great deal of impact on the continent, including the Economic Partnership Agreements with the European Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also quite important for African countries to analyze economic topics like climate change, energy, agriculture, gender, trade in services, trade facilitation agreements and all the aspects of informal cross-border trade, which is an important phenomenon in the continent.

Economic modelling using Partial and General Equilibrium models is an underdeveloped skill in many developing countries, particularly in Africa. African Universities are starting to develop courses on such techniques but lack human resources and pedagogic materials.

That said, the explosion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in recent years has dramatically changed the way academic courses and trainings are conducted. Many universities, as well as public and private agencies, have developed courses (some of which are free) designed specifically for online audiences: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), Small Private Online Courses (SPOC), etc. It is widely recognized that these online courses have been successful and gaining in popularity.

Free online courses would allow economic researchers in African countries to access technical resources and to learn advanced economic modelling. This would considerably enhance the scope of beneficiaries and reduce the cost of training. If resources were freely available online, any researcher would be able to consult a specific element of the course, a capsule, to improve her (his) knowledge of economic modelling. In the case of online course with a teacher’s supervision, a researcher would be able to choose to follow an entire cycle of training. If the entire online course was organized on a long period, it would allow a longer period of learning and development which is a clear advantage to gaining in-depth knowledge. Moreover, with online courses, students can set their own timetable, follow a capsule whenever it is convenient for them, or re-listen to a capsule to review material.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, participants will have a clear understanding of the following:

- The importance of trade policy reform in Africa;
- The need for ‘ex-ante’ evaluation of the economic impact of trade policy reform;
- The Economic models (which are not black boxes);
- The issue of data quality.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The course consists of the following modules:

- **Module 1**: An initiation to GAMS
- **Module 2**: Partial equilibrium modeling
- **Module 3**: General equilibrium modeling
METHODOLOGY

This training, led by two instructors, will be delivered from 24th March to 19th May 2019. The course will be moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in the weekly on-line discussions. In addition, each module has interactive lessons that provide the core content around the topic for that module. The lessons are designed in a way that learners are also able to self-assess their understanding through built-in quizzes and economic evaluation models that learners will conduct by themselves. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

A group of approximately 25 students will be selected and supervised throughout this curriculum. For 8 weeks, this group will:

1. Watch videos and access other pedagogical resources;
2. Develop evaluation models under GAMS;
3. Answer quizzes, all under the supervision of a leading teacher and a supervisor.

All students who have validated this first curriculum will be able to participate in a second curriculum entitled "Economic Modeling: Advanced Issues". At the end of these two curricula, each student will be required to carry out a research project on issues of impact of trade policy reform in Africa.

All applications must be accompanied by a half-page document explaining the project the candidate wishes to carry out at the end of this course.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This course targets anyone with a background in economics and interested in, or involved in, African Trade Policy Reform.

They include:

- Civil servants in National Ministries (primarily Economy, Trade, Industry, Planning and Finance), provincial departments and local authorities
- Diplomats from Permanent Missions and Ministries of Foreign Affairs
- Officials from Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Professionals in private sector and civil society organizations
- Faculty, researchers and students
- Interested citizens

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Acceptance to the Course

Applicants to the course are expected to have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree preferably where courses related to economics, trade, industrialization, structural transformation, planning and finance have been covered. In addition, two years of work experience will be required. Women candidates are also strongly encouraged to apply.
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://www.unidep.org/?apply

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.

Acceptance to the next curriculum: Economic modeling - Advanced issues

Only successful applicants will be considered for the next curriculum (Economic modeling - Advanced issues) which will start soon after the end of this course.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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