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AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
INSTITUT AFRICAIN DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET DE PLANIFICATION  
(IDEP)

# SOCIAL POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS & NOMINATIONS

## Announcement in Brief

**Course Type:** Short Term Course

**Date:** 3 – 14 August, 2015

**Duration:** 2 Weeks

**Language:** Bilingual (English & French)

**Location:** Dakar, Senegal

**Programme Area:** Social Policy

**Fee:** USD 2,500 (Excluding air travel and subsistence costs)

**Scholarships:** Yes (IDEP offers a limited number of partial and full scholarships)

**Application Deadline:** 08 July, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

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There has, of recent, been a greater investment of attention in social policy and the role which it could play in national and regional development in Africa. This increased attention has been manifested at different levels of decision-making and in different forms, including through the adoption, in November 2008, of a pan-African Social Policy Framework (SPF) by African ministers. Multilateral and bilateral financing and donor institutions have also earmarked resources to build-up the social policy portfolios of African governments both independently and as part of the push for the achievement of the MDGs. The revival and growth of interest in social policy on the continent represents a radical departure from a previous approach to the designing and management of national development where it was assumed that no major pro-active public policy measures needed to be taken and the free market mechanism could be expected and relied upon to address social question as and when they arise. Today, for a variety of reasons, including the pressure to make a serious dent on the apparently intractable problem of poverty, there is a greater recognition and awareness of the important role and place which social policy could occupy in the national development process as an instrument for enhancing all-round citizen welfare, working towards the eradication of poverty, promoting economic growth, bridging inequalities, maintaining social cohesion, sustaining political legitimacy and stability.

The growth in awareness of the important role which social policy could play in the development process in Africa is taking place at the same time as governments across the continent have been busily re-building their national planning institutions and processes, and also developing new long-term visions of development that capture the aspirations of the citizenry for a progressive transformation of society. This is a development which is fortuitous in many ways, including, in particular, the opportunity that it provides to better integrate social policy with economic policy in a virtuous connection that benefits overall national development. The challenges of tapping these opportunities adequately are many, however. They include the acquisition of the necessary knowledge by development planners and policy makers of contemporary social policy and the skills which are needed for translating that knowledge into measures that are embedded into economic policy. They also encompass the task of coordinating the social policy initiatives coming from different development partners into a coherent social policy package that is integrated into the national economic development strategy.

## OBJECTIVES

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The overarching objective of the course is to contribute to the development of a critical mass of highly skilled middle and senior development officials and decision makers who have a strong social policy consciousness and orientation, and who will be suitably or better equipped to design and manage development plans in which social and economic policies and strategies are fully interfaced to deliver the kinds of transformative outcomes desired.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

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By the end of the capacity-enhancement training programme, the participants are expected to have acquired:

- i. A robust understanding of the history, diversity, and conceptual underpinnings of social policy;
- ii. A strong appreciation for the interconnections between economic and social policy, and economic development objectives and social development outcomes;

- iii. A full appreciation of the value of integrated and holistic public policymaking;
- iv. An understanding and appreciation of the multi-dimensionality of social policy instruments and social policy functions, including, in particular, the ways in which social policy instruments produce multiple outcomes;
- v. A robust capacity to design social policy instruments for implementation;
- vi. Skills for assessing and evaluating competing social policy instruments, their strengths and limitations; and
- vii. A capacity to effectively engage with extra-territorial actors who offer policy advice, including policy consultants.

## CONTENT

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The course will cover various modules in relation to social policy. They include the following topics: Introduction to the Political Economy of Social Policy; Social Policy Typology and Diversity of Instruments; The African Union's Social Policy Framework; Social Protection: Origins and Current Directions; Social Protection: Role, guiding principles, objectives and emerging frameworks of social protection; Social Protection: Targeting and Conditionality in Social Transfer Systems; Financing Social Policy; Towards a Transformative Social Policy Framework for Africa: Wider Vision, Broader Instrument in Development Context.

## PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

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The pedagogical approach will combine lectures, roundtables, and simulation exercises. It will emphasise practical applications through the use of case studies and group discussions. Group work will also be employed to promote peer learning and impart knowledge and skills. Participants admitted into the training programme should be prepared to present short technical reports on specific themes covered in the course. Participants' performance will be assessed progressively through individual work, group work or general test corrected and graded by various resource persons. Also, participants will be assessed regarding their participation during class lectures.

On the basis of the individual average grades obtained by participants, three (3) types of certificates will be awarded: (i) *Certificates of Competence* with distinction (Excellent, Very Good and Good), (ii) *Certificates of Participation* or (iii) *Certificates of Attendance*.

## MODE OF DELIVERY

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- **Language:** The course will be delivered in English and French (simultaneous interpretation services will be available).
- **Duration:** The course is structured to run over a period of ten (10) working days involving a minimum of 70 hours of class work.
- **Number of participants:** A total of twenty five (25) participants are admitted into each IDEP short course.
- **Resource persons:** Experts with first-hand knowledge of Africa's social policy landscape and the strategies for interfacing economic and social policy will drive the course.

## TARGET PARTICIPANTS

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- Middle and senior level policy officials and managers directly connected with or responsible for planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating development policy and instruments in their countries;
- Officials outside the core planning institutions who play key roles in economic and/or social policy formulation broadly defined.

## COURSE TUITION FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

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The tuition fees for this course amount to USD 2,500 (this fee excludes air travel and subsistence costs). Please note that IDEP offers a limited number of partial and full scholarships to those admitted to participate in its short training courses.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: **08 July, 2015**
- Course Period: **3 – 14 August, 2015**

## 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.***