



COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(COMESA/IDEP)

# TRADE POLICY ANALYSIS USING STATA SOFTWARE

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**(Participation by invitation only from COMESA)**

## Announcement in Brief

**Course Type:** Short Term Course

**Programme Area:** Trade Policy

**Date:** 17-22 August 2015

**Duration:** 1 Week

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

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Nomination Deadline:** 10 July 2015

## JUSTIFICATION

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COMESA recognised that one area where the region has been failing is in the depth of policy decision making, which are not evidence-based. In February 2013, the COMESA Secretariat signed a Grant agreement with ACBF to implement the project on Enhancing Capacity of the COMESA Secretariat to Support Economic and Trade Policy Analysis and Research over a period of four years. The project responds to the policy analysis and trade mechanism capacity needs emerging from the implementation of the COMESA MTSP. It builds on the achievements of the previous project on Strengthening Capacity for Trade Policy Development within COMESA, which was implemented from June 2003 to March 2009.

The Launch Workshop for the COMESA/ACBF Capacity Building in Economic and Trade Policy Analysis and Research Project was held on 11 – 13 August 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The main purpose was to identify emerging research areas from the key stakeholders, facilitate creation of partnerships and networks with leading policy research think tanks and training institutes and to develop the COMESA research agenda. Member States, policy think tanks and training institutes, attended the workshop and there was recognition by delegates of the significant role that policy research plays in regional integration and the need to enhance the capacity of the COMESA Secretariat in economic and trade policy research and analysis.

It is against this background that the African Institute for Economic Development (IDEP) in partnership with COMESA is conducting a **Hands-on Training on Trade Policy Analysis using STATA Statistical Software** to enhance the competency of staff of both COMESA and Member States in generating relevant empirical research in the areas of intra-African trade and trade policy in general. The capacity building intervention will play a critical role in ensuring that the technical staff of the secretariat, as well as those in coordinating ministries is equipped with the necessary skill to undertake policy research. This is critical to address trade related concerns such as impact of liberalisation on growth, tariff and non-tariff barriers such as import quotas, export restrictions, subsidies, imposition of minimum local content for imports and various technical and health standards, trade flows, and to derive development benefits from well-articulated, consistent and evidence-based trade policies.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE

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The objective of the tailor-made course is to strengthen the capacity of policy officials involved in trade and development negotiations using evidence based trade policy formulation and analysis. The training will enhance the analytical capacities of the staff in COMESA and COMESA focal points in Member States to undertake empirical analysis using STATA software as a statistical tool.

## SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

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- Knowledge and understanding of the challenges required to undertake trade policy analysis;
- Basic understanding of research methodology, the role of theory in research design and the tools for processing and interpreting available data for statistical analysis;
- Computing simple statistics, as well as developing graphics with STATA;
- Time series analysis applied to trade policy using STATA;
- Panel data analysis applied to trade policy using STATA.

## CONTENT

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The course will focus on the following: (i) Trade policy scenarios and trade data issues; (ii) Introduction to STATA as tool for analysis; (iii) Data collection, analysis and interpretation; (iv) Analysis of trade policies using time series and (v) Analysis of trade policies using panel models.

## PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

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The pedagogical approach will combine formal class lectures, hands-on practical exercises on using STATA for analysis of trade policy issues. It will emphasize practical applications and group discussions to help participants acquire useful skills to deal with issues related to trade policies. Certificates of achievement will be awarded to participants who will successfully complete the programme.

## MODE OF DELIVERY

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- **Language:** The course will be delivered in English and French (simultaneous interpretation services will be available)
- **Duration:** One (1) week
- **Resource persons:** The course will be delivered by a group of experts/trainers invited by IDEP/COMESA to lead the programme. These resource persons are economists/statisticians and top-level professionals with a first-hand knowledge and experience of trade policy analysis.

## TARGET PARTICIPANTS

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Policy officials involved in trade and development negotiations in COMESA Member States.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- Deadline for Nominations: **10 July 2015**
- Course Period: **17 - 22 August 2015**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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