CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RESOURCE PERSONS TO RETOOL TEACHING FACULTY FROM FRAGILE, POST-CONFlict AND UNDERREpresentED COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA IN THE FIELDS OF MICROECONOMICS, MACROECONOMICS AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Call Reference Number: AERC/PROC/RFP/TMAE/9505/2021-2022/007

African Economic Research Consortium

Established in July 1988, the African Economic Research Consortium is a public not-for-profit organization devoted to advanced policy research and training. The principle objective is to strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of Sub-Saharan African economies through a synergistic programme combining economic research with postgraduate training in economics. The AERC is supported by donor governments, private foundations and international organizations.

The Training Programme

The AERC’s Training Programme augments the pool of economic researchers, policy analysts and policy makers in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting graduate studies in economics and improving the capacities of departments of economics in participating universities. This is primarily undertaken by tapping, harnessing, and pooling human and other available resources to produce standardized and high-quality degree programmes. Key components of the Training programme includes:

- The Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP), which spans departments of economics in 25 public universities;
- The Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP), which brings together 8 participating universities; and
- The Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) Programme, which is spearheaded by departments of agricultural economics in 17 public universities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The programmes entail teaching of core courses (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative Methods) by selected universities during the first year of study, after which students proceed to a joint or shared facility for teaching of elective courses by a team of internationally recruited visiting lecturers. For more information on the programmes, please visit our website: www.aercafrica.org or write to us on the email or postal addresses provided herein.

Consultancy for Retooling of Faculty Members from Universities in Fragile, Post-Conflict and Underrepresented Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

It is widely acknowledged that public universities in fragile, post-conflict and underrepresented countries in sub-Saharan African lack adequate human and institutional capacity to conduct quality, graduate level training of economists as well as policy-relevant research that will feed into policy formulation for sound management of economies in those countries. Most of these universities are not members of the AERC network and, therefore, they do not benefit from institutional and related capacity-building support that AERC offers to other public universities in sub-Saharan Africa. Part of that support is usually in the form of retooling workshops which AERC conducts to enhance the quality of graduate training in Economics through re-training of faculty members from the collaborating universities in current and emerging issues in their fields of specialization, with a view to ensuring that their knowledge and skills are up to international standards.
To this end, the African Economic Research Consortium has received grants from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and intends to spend a portion of the grants in hiring resource persons/facilitators to undertake retooling of faculty members drawn from public universities in fragile, post-conflict and underrepresented countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in the fields of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative Methods.

**Objectives of Consultancy**

The broad objective of the consultancy is to enhance the quality of graduate training in sub-Saharan Africa, through retooling of instructors in the Economics discipline on advances and emerging issues in their fields of specialization, with a view to ensuring that their knowledge and skills are up to international standards.

Specifically, the retooling consultancy seeks to:

1. Present the faculty members drawn from the public universities from fragile and post-conflict states with a unique opportunity to network and dialogue on course content and delivery methods;
2. Enhance the capacity among faculty members on advances, current and emerging issues in the core fields of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative Methods;
3. Impart frontier knowledge and skills in the above core fields of Economics, both in theory and application, including use of software applications that may be of specific relevance to empirical research, teaching and delivery of the above courses;
4. Expose faculty members to emerging pedagogical or instructional methods, including the use of technology in the delivery of courses in accordance with international best practices.

**The Scope of the Retooling Consultancy**

The retooling consultant will be required to develop online training materials and run the training virtually via the AERC Learning Management System (LMS) with tutorials in any one of the three core courses for a duration of fourteen days.

**Deliverables and Reporting Requirements**

The consultant will be required to:

(a) Prepare and disseminate training materials (notes, power point presentations, tutorials and examples);
(b) Review and refresh the participants’ knowledge and skills on the critical, foundational areas of the specific field of Economics (i.e. Microeconomics or Macroeconomics or Quantitative Methods);
(c) Instruct the trainees on the advances and emerging issues in the specific field;
(d) Incorporate selected topics that will have been identified by the faculty members (trainees) as well as the trainer;
(e) Train the faculty members on emerging pedagogy or instructional methods, including the use of technology in the delivery of courses;
(f) Undertake a brief evaluation of the retooling workshop, focusing mainly on how well the subject matter has been delivered and understood by the participants.
(g) Submit, upon completion of the training, a report to the AERC detailing the following:
New and emerging areas/topics covered during the retooling workshop;

Areas/topics in the existing curriculum or course outlines covered in the workshop, their sequencing and appropriateness;

The preparedness of the learners to undertake the training in terms of their background and grounding in Economic theory, as well as their level of participation in the workshop;

Adequacy of AERC support offered to the consultant to deliver the training;

Appropriateness and adequacy of the online delivery mechanism of the training;

Any constraints in developing the training materials and in the course delivery;

The outcome or findings of the retooling workshop evaluation; and

Recommendations for future adoption in the preparation and execution of similar trainings, and for future incorporation into the curriculum for the core courses.

Dates and Duration of the Consultancy

The retooling workshop will be conducted on November 8-19, 2021 at a venue to be announced later. The consultant will be required to dedicate 9 person-days, 4 of which should be for the preparation of the training materials, 4 will be dedicated to the training workshop, and 1 will be for reporting.

Selection Criteria

To qualify for selection and appointment as a retooling consultant, an individual must:

(a) Hold a PhD in Economics or related field;

(b) Be a senior academic at the rank of Associate or Full Professor (or equivalent);

(c) Possess demonstrable expertise and experience of at least five years in graduate level teaching of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative Methods, Econometrics, Game Theory and Information Economics, Statistics or a related quantitative analysis course, preferably at PhD level;

(d) For those seeking to offer consultancy on Quantitative Methods, have proficiency in the use of econometric and statistical software (such as E-Views, Stata, Gauss, SPSS, GRETL and MATLAB) as well as hands-on experience with evidence of at least 2 assignments running panel data and other econometric data analyses, using appropriate software; and

(e) Experience in undertaking training of trainers in sub-Saharan Africa will be an added advantage.

Application Process

Applications clearly marked “Consultancy for Retooling Faculty Members from Universities in Fragile and Post-Conflict States” on the subject line of the cover letter, should be sent to the following address, so as to be received on or before October 5, 2021.
Please attach a copy of updated curriculum vitae, clearly indicating:

(i) Key academic qualifications;

(ii) Professional training and certificates obtained;

(iii) Employment record stating the name of employer, period of employment, position held and brief description of main responsibilities;

(iv) List of relevant consultancies and assignments undertaken clearly stating the nature and period of assignment;

(v) List of publications in refereed or peer-reviewed journals, books and book chapters;

(vi) Names, telephone contacts, postal and email addresses of 3 referees who can provide a reference on your work;

(vii) Personal declaration signed on your CV as follows: “I hereby certify that the details provided in my CV are to the best of my knowledge true, complete and accurate. I acknowledge that an inaccurate statement or omission might result in rejection of my application or termination of my contract. I consent that the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) may verify any statements which I make in my application”.

"The AERC is an Equal Opportunity Employer"