

AFRICAN UNION

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INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN

(TWO EXPERTS)

SECTION I: LETTER OF INVITATION

26th October 2021

Dear Applicants,

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN

1. The African Union wishes to recruit highly qualified African experts to undertake the above assignment. The African Union now invites interested Individual Consultants to submit CVs for the assignment as per attached Terms of Reference (TORS).
2. The Consultant will be selected under the fixed budget Selection method and the pass mark shall be 70%.
3. The Eols must include the following:
 - (i) A Cover Letter outlining the understanding of the assignment, methodology, and work plan.
 - (ii) CV demonstrating experience with similar assignments
4. The Eols must be submitted to the following e-mail address: tender@africa-union.org, cc: AidarusH@africa-union.org (Hayam)
5. The title of the Procurement must appear as the subject of e-mail submissions.
6. The Deadline for submission of Eols is on 9th November at 1500 hours Addis Ababa Time. Late submissions will not be considered.
7. **This call for Request for Expressions of Interest comprise of the following:**
 - Section I – This Letter of Invitation**
 - Section II - Terms of Reference**



DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Background

To achieve the aspirations of the Agenda2063 (the Africa we want) gives pride of place to education through the skills revolution and the proactive application of policies based on accurate and scientific data and information. However, this information is only available through statistical data on the situation of education in Africa today in order to develop and apply the adequate policies on how to achieve the education development by 2063. This concern is centered around the mandate of IPED, a specialized institution of the AU placed under the supervision of the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI). The institute serves as the African Education Observatory. Its primary role is strengthening Education Management Information Systems and processes at the member states of the AU, as a precursor towards establishing a continental EMIS system. This includes providing technical assistance to countries to ensure that the capacity to collect and report on Education milestones exists. It is also mandated to monitor and evaluate AU Education development frameworks by tracking and reporting domestication, adoption and inclusion in National Education development plans.

As part of the implementation of the objectives of the CESA, the strategic repositioning of IPED is key. It is in this context that these terms of reference are set, which aim to identify and recruit a consultant to support the process of operationalizing IPED in an educational ecosystem characterized by a plurality of interventions and stakeholders.

The objective of this mission is to strategically reposition IPED after having undergone several transformations and mutations in defining a clear mandate and design of new

areas strategic to the objectives of the CESA 2016 2021 from Agenda 2063, the Development Goals Sustainable Development (SDGs) and other recently renewed commitments at continental and global levels.

Known formerly as the African Bureau of Educational Sciences (1973), IPED has undergone several changes and series of transitions to adapt to the needs of the continent. This is **Resolution No CE / RES.002 (XIII)** changing the name BASE (African Bureau of Educational Sciences) to the Pan-African Institute for Education for Development (IPED) in 2001, from the **Resolution No. CE / RES.001 (XIV)** transforming the mandate of IPED Observatory of education of the African Union in 2006. It should be noted that one of the major turning points has taken into account of the above resolutions at the extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers of Education at the VIII ordinary session of the Executive Council (EX.CL/224 (VIII) REV.2) calling for the transformation of IPED into an Observatory African education. But these multifaceted transformations have not produced the expected results from a structural, functional and programmatic.

A new mandate for IPED and new strategic missions and actions are needed to reflect the changing realities of the education ecosystem in relation to data management and education planning as a whole. This will accelerate the pace of implementation of commitments and achieve the goals and objectives of the CESA defined in Agenda 2063 and SDG-2030. By strategically repositioning IPED, ESTI department and its partners are opting for the operationalization of continental and global frameworks by placing rational and revolutionary data management at the center. It's about seizing the momentum and accelerating and promoting transformative actions and facilitating beneficial policy formulation at all levels.

2. Justification

Resolve to strengthening implementation of commitments and actions by providing policy makers with quality, relevant, effective and efficient information in order to achieve the expected results. Relatively, there are challenges of quality and usefulness of published education data in some member states. To mitigate this challenge, there is an urgent need to emphasize the transparency of information which is vital in the context of results-based management. Without this transparency, it will be

difficult to talk about effectiveness and efficiency. This is the only way to ensure the development of policies and guidelines, an essential step in accelerating the pace of implementation. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to strengthen data management policy and digital processes as a way of producing phenomenal amount of diverse data on education through innumerable means.

Revolutionize information management by ensuring that stakeholders involved in education data management in Africa report transparently on all actions undertaken at continental, regional and national level towards strengthening EMIS, facilitating the production of reports, studies etc. Ideally, to revolutionize information management is to put at the center the culture of accountability, information sharing and reporting. which is a process that allows the different stakeholders to face up to their responsibilities in terms of achieving results. This is a clear path to resolving the challenges of roles and responsibilities of different actors and stakeholders involved in the African data management ecosystem.

Responsibility must be common and shared. Each actor depends on another for the achievement of shared objectives. And to achieve these goals, partnership, collaboration and communication must be considered a sine qua non. Responsibility is an invitation to the recognition and experiences, mandates of all stakeholders while respecting complementarity. Faced with the challenges, the population has the right to know the levels of responsibilities of the stakeholders. In other words, achieving the goals of education is the responsibility of the main stakeholders. This is why IPED and its partners must build on formal mechanisms that take into account the principle of subsidiarity in the sense of responsibility. It is also necessary to encourage synergies and actions at regional and national levels.

The architecture of the observatory of education must be a set of several elements that interact in order to support decision-making and planning needs and capacity building, promotion of African socio-cultural values through research, cooperation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs at three levels (continental, regional and national level) respecting the principle of subsidiarity.

3. Objectives of the assignment

Based on the IPED situational analysis and lessons learnt from IPED's achievements, the overall purpose of the consultation is to develop an African Union integrated EMIS strategic plan for IPED to fulfil the role of the Continental Education Observatory taking into account the major concerns of education enshrined in Agenda 2063, UN Education 2030 and the current reform of the AU Commission.

The specific objectives are to:

- Assess and review the vision, the mandate, mission and prescribed strategy of IPED;
- Develop the strategy for the continental EMIS of IPED operating as the Education Observatory including guidelines for links with, Member States, RECs and key partner agencies;
- Develop the technical and legal framework with necessary instruments for the African Education Observatory

4. Deliverables of the Assignment

The consultants team will submit the following **deliverables**:

The primary deliverable of this assignment is **an AU EMIS Strategic Plan** which will be grounded in the thematic areas based on the business model that IPED should follow in delivering its commitments and principles of Agenda 2063 and SDG-4. It will build on lessons learnt from similar institutions.

Pursuant to this above objective, **nine (09) sub-deliverables** will be produced. They include:

- i. **An inception report** which provides a detailed description of the methodology.;
- ii. **A strategic framework** including the new vision, mandate and missions with necessary instruments for the African Education Observatory
- iii. **A description of the key areas** of investment that need to be pursued. It will be based on an analysis and taking in to consideration the IPED portfolio;

- iv. **A capacity assessment document** which highlight skills and resources, levers of change and required conditions of success;
- v. **An operational plan** with a results framework including key indicators. The operational plan will provide a cost estimate and types and potential sources of resources required
- vi. **A harmonized framework** which will provide a clear mutual space for close collaboration with RECs, Members states and international partners;
- vii. **A statute for the institution;**
- viii. **A communication plan** to promote the dissemination and resources mobilization;
- ix. **The validation meetings** (internal and external) of experts convened by the African Union Commission, UNESCO and UNICEF in collaboration with other key partners

5. Methodology

The consultant's mandate is to:

- ☐ Prepare the tools and the process to be followed;
- ☐ Consult with the Director ESTI, the Head Education Division, the IPED coordinator, staff and relevant stakeholders;
- ☐ Conduct a literature review of existing documentation;
- ☐ Write the provisional report of the consultation;
- ☐ Return the provisional report during a workshop;
- ☐ Finalize and submit the final report.

6. Management and governance arrangements

This assignment will be supervised by the ESTI Director with the technical support of IPED Coordinator. This includes servicing the team, support with setting-up appointments with stakeholders. A board of governors will also be set-up for the purpose of increasing expert opinion lent to this process. It will include the CESA Clusters, relevant AU key experts and external stakeholders. They will provide quality assurance support, ensure AU ownership of the process, validate the final report and help disseminate the product.

7. Duration

Total duration of the assignment is sixty (60) days.

8. Remuneration

The total budget for this assignment is USD 35000 for the successful conclusion of the assignment. The lead consultant will be paid an amount of US\$18,500 and the Expert will be paid an amount of US\$16,500. This amount includes all of the Consultant's costs and profits, tax obligation as well as reimbursable cost that may be imposed on the Consultant. Where travel is required, the AU will cater for the Consultant's costs with the Organisation's applicable Rules and Guidelines.

9. Duty station

This is a home based assignment. The consultants will work remotely with AUC staff and partners.

10. Qualifications and Experience

Interested Applicants must demonstrate the following:

Lead Consultant	Expert
<u>Qualification</u> At least Master in applied education planning or education statistics or social sciences Demonstrated experience in developing strategies A certificate in Facilitation (meeting, discussions, engagement, etc.) and or adult training methodology or equivalent is required. Demonstrated experience with systems thinking will be an advantage	<u>Qualification</u> At least a Master in applied education planning or education statistics, learning, Project management, IT education or social sciences. Demonstrated experience working with high level policy makers is a requirement Demonstrated experience in developing strategies
<u>General Experience</u> At least ten years' experience working with African education institutions and agencies Knowledge of the AU system An experience in developing large scale performance engagement and	<u>General Experience</u> 7 years of experience area of expertise in large public or private sector as consultant or practitioner in Organizational design and or project management Citizen of any AU member State Fluency in English or French language, and working knowledge of the other

management approach and policies will be an advantage	<u>Specific Experience</u> Proven track record in negotiating and designing strategies in the field of education, field experience with programs supporting social development.
Fluency in English or French language, and working knowledge of the other	
Citizen of any AU member State	Experience in data management, monitoring and evaluations systems development and implementation
<u>Specific Experience</u> Proven track records of successful projects conducted in working in EMIS, designing transformational strategies in the field of education, and results engagement in public sector in Africa	Experience in analysis and reporting, drafting of analytical reports Note taking for key informant interviews

SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

Interested Consultants are expected to submit the following:

☐ **A detailed technical offer which presents:**

- i) The understanding of the objectives and mission requested;
- ii) The methodology (approach), understanding of the assignment and workplan that will be used to conduct the assignment.
- iii) The reporting and presentation plan for the provisional report,
- iv) The schedule of activities over the 60 days of consultation.

☐ **An updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the consultants.**

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Evaluation and Qualification criteria

	Criteria	Max score
1	General Education, Qualification and General training	20
2	Specific Experience relevant to the Assignment	40
3	Methodology, workplan and Understanding of the assignment	30
4	AU languages	10
	Total	100

Each Expert will be assessed on individual merit, not as a team.