



SYSTEM THINKING AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS

Date : 12th - 31st January 2026

Application Deadline : 11th January 2026

Language : English - French

 CERTIFICATE

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ONLINE COURSE

SYSTEM THINKING AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Course Type:	Online Course
Programme Area:	Economic Development
Date:	12th to 31st January 2026
Duration:	3 Weeks
Language:	Bilingual (French/ English)
Application Deadline:	11th January 2026



NB : IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programmes

PROGRAMME RATIONALE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by UN Member States in 2015, includes 17 Goals, 169 targets, and 231 indicators, and is anchored in human rights. The SDGs represent a shift from the earlier Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015) by being more universal, transformative, inclusive, and comprehensive.

However, the pace of progress is falling short. According to The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025, fewer than one in five (about 16.7 %) of SDG targets are currently on track globally. In 2025, an estimated 808 million people, roughly 9.9 % of the world population, are living in extreme poverty under the updated threshold of USD 3.00/day (2021 PPP). As far as gender equality is concerned, there is still a lot of work to be done; by 2030 approximately 351 million women and girls will still be living in extreme poverty (UNSD, 2025). Despite gains in education completion rates, 272 million children and youth remain out of school, and learning outcomes are worsening in many places. Conflicts and wars inflict a devastating toll on SDGs as the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people could reach 139.3 million across 136 countries and territories by end-2025 (UNHCR projections).

Global shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia have challenged development goals and led to a common reflection on how member states can deal with current challenges as well as new threats in the future.

The SDGs Summit, held on 18–19 September 2023, marked the launch of a new phase of accelerated action to rescue the 2030 Agenda and put the world back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on this momentum, the Summit of the Future, convened on 22–23 September 2024, provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen international cooperation, addressed critical gaps in global governance, and reaffirmed commitments to the SDGs and the United Nations Charter. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Pact for the Future, a landmark outcome document that sets out concrete measures to reinvigorate multilateralism, enhance global solidarity, and ensure that international institutions are better equipped to deliver for people and the planet.

Concerning Africa, it is important to look closely at all the dynamics underpinning its development to achieve a sustained and long-term growth across the continent beyond SDGs timeline.

Considering the above, and in line with its mandate, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) has developed the training programme on “**System Thinking and System Dynamics**”.

OBJECTIVES

The course will capacitate learners on system thinking approach useful to understand complex real-world problems. In addition, the course will allow developing and illustrating various scenarios for a better comprehension of the implications of future actions towards an effective development.

PROGRAMME RATIONALE

The course will cover the following modules:

- Module 1: System Thinking
- Module 2: System Dynamics
- Module 3: Introduction to Modeling

SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

At the end of the course, participants will be equipped with the following skills:

- **System Thinking:** Studying systems thinking equips students with vital analytical skills to understand complex real-world problems. This interdisciplinary approach teaches them to recognize patterns, anticipate consequences, and find innovative solutions by understanding the interconnected components of a system.
- **Modelling with System Dynamics:** This skill involves creating and using dynamic models to simulate complex systems, such as organizations, industries, or ecosystems. Participants should learn how to build causal loop diagrams and stock-flow models to understand the underlying dynamics of these systems.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH & MODE OF DELIVERY

This self-paced course will be delivered from 12th to 31st January 2026.

Virtual sessions are also planned for more interaction between the pedagogical team and the learners. These latter can self-assess their understanding of learning materials through built-in quizzes and exercises.

Additional resources, including suggested readings, bibliographies, Internet links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge on the course topic. The course will be delivered in English and French. The pedagogical team comprised of a Course Director and a tutor will provide daily on-line assistance to participants at scheduled times. An Internet connection is required for interaction between learners and trainers.

The course will run over a period of three (03) Weeks.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments for each module

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course targets:

- National officials involved in national economic management and development planning-related activities,
- United Nations Development Coordination Officers /Economists.
- Members of the ECA-Young Economic Network (YEN) are also encouraged to participate.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the paragraph above to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at: <http://idep-applications.uneca.org/>

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Internet access is essential for taking part in the course. To follow this online course, you need at least the hardware and software indicated. Please consult your network administrator or IT department manager to ensure that you have the following items:

- System: Windows 10 or higher; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Memory 500 MB RAM, 1 GB free space
- Software :
 - o Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - o Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - o Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox browsers
- Modem : 56 K

Please note that JavaScript, cookies and pop-ups must be enabled

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: 11th January 2026
- Course Period: from 12th to 31st January 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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