



Call for participation for training and research on digital trade regulatory integration in Africa

Deadline: 23 April 2023

Participating countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan and Tunisia.

1. Background

Since its inception in 2020, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through its African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), has launched three successive phases of a training and research initiative on “Digital trade regulatory integration in Africa”. The first phase of the project focused on 11 pilot countries in Africa and was followed by two subsequent phases that included 17 and 13 countries, respectively¹. Based on their background and expertise researchers were selected to build two databases for each country focusing on various measures related to digital services trade restrictions and regional digital trade integration.

Following the success of the initiative ECA is now inviting researchers who are interested in both building their research capacity and contributing toward closing digital trade regulatory integration data gaps in Africa, through learning-by-doing, to submit their applications to be considered for a fourth phase of the training and research initiative on “Digital trade regulatory integration in Africa”.² This fourth phase is opened to all candidates interested in doing research in one of the following African countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan and Tunisia.

The main objectives of this initiative are:

- 1) To assist member States on digital trade issues at large, including in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations on Digital trade Protocol and its subsequent implementation;
- 2) To include African countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI);
- 3) To build a stand-alone regional digital trade integration index for Africa and potentially add a digital trade integration component to the Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII)
- 4) To make data available for subsequent analyses on digital trade-related issues by ECA and anyone interested (as information made public through this platform).

2. Participation: training and assignments

Successful candidates will be trained to collect and verify data and information on national regulations affecting the digital trade environments of included countries. Following the technical guidelines and close supervisions by international experts, including those from OECD and the European University Institute,

¹ First phase: Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Second phase: Egypt, Congo, DRC, the Gambia, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Burundi, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Rwanda, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia.

Third phase: Algeria, Benin, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and South Sudan.

² This program builds on the ESCAP-OECD research project on “Digital-trade regulatory integration in Asia-Pacific region”. See: <https://www.unescap.org/announcement/escap-oecd-digital-trade-regulatory-analysis>.

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each candidate will be given an assignment to construct, for their specific country of focus, two datasets on digital services trade restrictions (in conformity with OECD Digital STRI) and on regional digital trade integration.

Successful candidates will have 5 months to complete the assignment by submitting both national datasets and a 3- to 5-page summary of the country's regulatory profile, which may be co-published by ECA and the researcher or its affiliated institution, as appropriate. Overall, the expected time commitment is about 1.5 work month, which can vary depending on experience of the researcher.

The national datasets produced under this initiative will have to follow technical guidelines and address peer-reviewed comments from the project supervisors and experts.

Mandatory trainings associated with this research will be conducted in English which therefore requires an understanding of English, however, the research segment can be completed and submitted to ECA in either English, French, as desired by the selected researcher.

3. Benefits

The selected candidates will each be given a research fee (through a consultant's contract with ECA) of USD 7,000 to be paid in 2 installments, as follows: USD 3,500 after successful completion of the mandatory training (mostly in English) and submission of one of the two national datasets for the selected country and USD 3,500 following successful submission of the second national dataset for the selected country of focus and short country profile no later than 30 November 2023 (in either English or French). The country profile, expected to be published on ECA website, will also indicate the contributor's name.

4. Eligibility and criteria

The application is open to researchers with at least 5 years of experience in studying or analyzing trade matters and related laws. For this assignment knowledge of the local and/or official language of the country of assignment is required. In addition, fluency in either English or French is required, with knowledge of English also required for those candidates fluent in French.

5. How to apply

To apply, please submit by email to:

- emmanuelle.bugeau@un.org
- mevel@un.org
- jason.mccormack@un.org

the following documents:

- Resume/CV;
- A cover letter, indicating the country/ countries where the applicant has interest or capability to conduct the research, and reasons for being a suitable candidate.
- Professional/Academic recommendation.

You must have submitted the required document no later than **23 April 2023** for your application to be considered.

Only the successful candidates will be notified by email around **15 May 2023**.

6. Contract arrangement

ECA will enter into appropriate contractual arrangements, with the successful applicants who have been selected, for funding their participation in these training and research exercises.

7. Contact information

Please email Ms. Emmanuelle Bugeau: emmanuelle.bugeau@un.org if you have any question.