

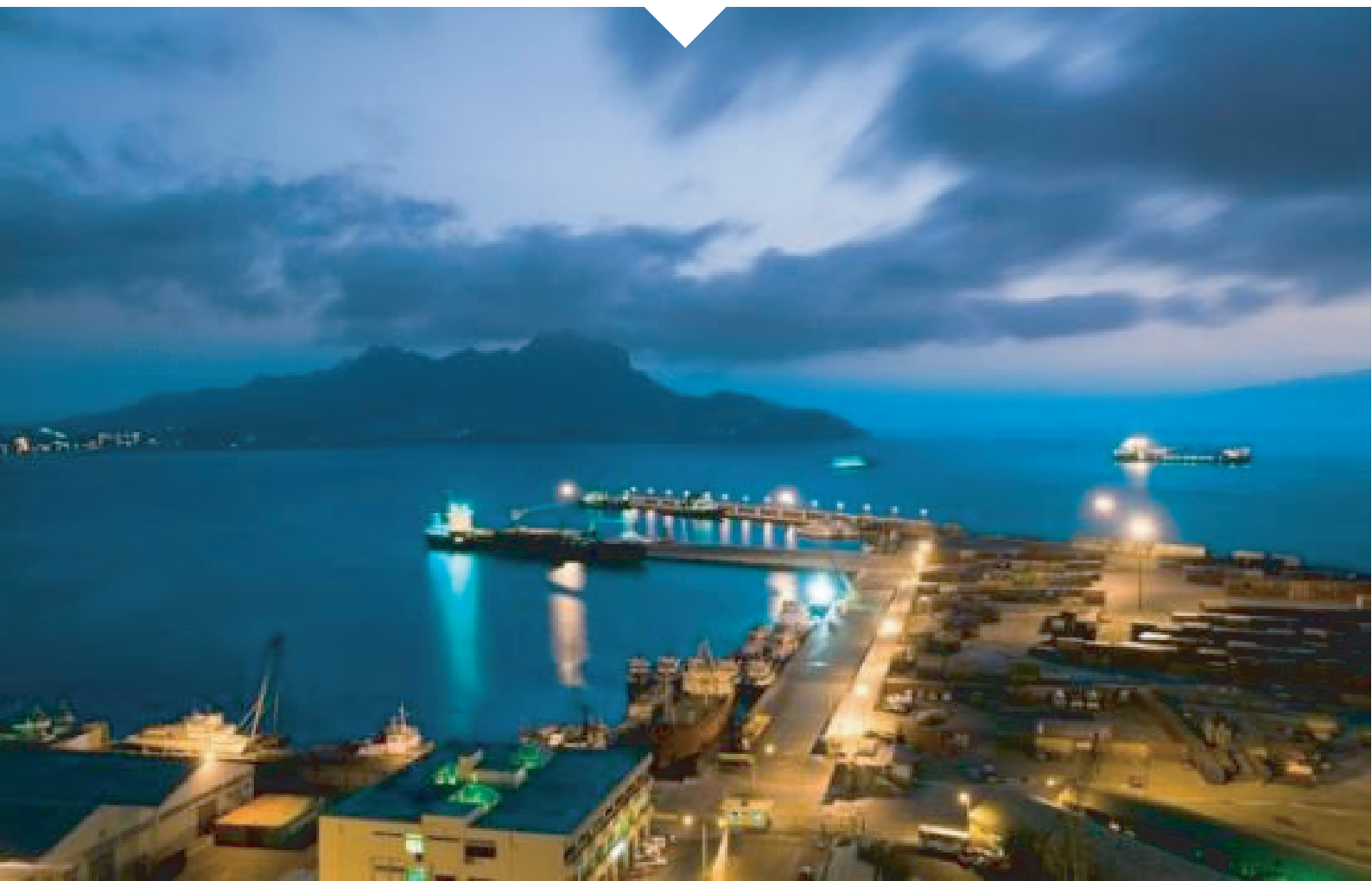


On-Line Course on

# Fast-Tracking the Domestication and Operationalisation of the AfCFTA for the African Union Lusophone Countries

The deadline for applications : **April 19 2021**  
Duration of the course: **April 26 to May 21 2021**

<https://www.unidep.org/?apply>



## PROGRAMME RATIONALE

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By bringing together 54 countries with a total of 1.2 billion potential consumers of goods produced and eventually transformed in the Continent, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is expected to accelerate growth and economic development to most African countries, including the Lusophone countries. The combined GDP of the African continent estimated at about US\$ 2.5 trillion is expected to increase by 4% under the full implementation of the agreement, whereas the intra-Africa trade will increase by an estimate of 52%. In order to translate the AfCFTA gains into their respective economies beyond the political commitment and full interest in the remaining negotiations, member-states need to build domestic capacity to design and implement their own national strategies. This will be possible upon one condition: a full ownership of the AfCFTA Agreement, on the understanding of the impact on their respective planning and development towards an effective regional integration.

Similarly, to all the African Union member-states, Lusophone countries will continue playing a significant role on regional integration. in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. For instance, São Tomé & Príncipe and the Cape Verdean archipelago can significantly contribute to the development of blue economy, whereas Angola and Mozambique can significantly contribute to regional integration, in their respective sub-regions, through the development of gas and oil value-chains. In addition, Guinea-Bissau and the Bijagós archipelago can contribute to the development of agricultural value-chains (such as the cashew-nut) and to the development of blue economy.

However, in spite of the aforementioned comparative advantages, the challenges that Lusophone countries face towards the discussion on regional integration and on the AfCFTA is their regional dispersion and a language that is not (pre) dominant in the Continent. Therefore, the African Institute for Development and Economic Planning plans to deliver, from **26 April to 21 May 2021** a tailor-made and a language-made training on the substantial role of the Lusophone countries in the context of regional integration and the AfCFTA.

The main objective of the course is to reinforce an integrated approach between the AfCFTA and the national development plans of the five aforementioned countries, in order to fill the gap of the absence of the Lusophone countries on the discussions over the current macro-economic policies for the Continent. It should be noted that this course will be delivered in the Portuguese language.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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The overall goal of this on-line course is to provide the Lusophone AU member countries with an opportunity to collectively appreciate their comparative and competitive advantage in the implementation of the AfCFTA. Specific objectives :

- To provide public officials and technical experts from the Ministries of Planning, Finance and Trade with a full understanding of the impact of the AfCFTA on the economies of the Lusophone countries;
- To enable an exchange experience on domestication of AfCFTA by comparing the tools and instruments available in the different Lusophone Countries, most notably through the respective national development plans, policies and strategies;
- To develop a sense of a group in the African Union to recon within all continental key strategies regarding regional economic integration – AfCFTA.

## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

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The proposed on-line course focuses at providing the participants with the theoretical and conceptual framework of regional integration, overview on the background and context of the AfCFTA, assessment of regional integration in Africa and the road to road to the AfCFTA, the status-quo of the negotiations on the Lusophone countries. It also focuses at identifying, by means of experience sharing, case studies of regional integration on the regional economic commissions and on moving forward towards a full domestication of the AfCFTA in the national development plans. To this effect :

The course will consist of five modules, as follows :

- 1. Regional integration in Africa: Overview;**
- 2. AfCFTA: Current status and key achievements;**
- 3. AfCFTA: Next steps – the way forward;**
- 4. Impacts of the AfCFTA;**
- 5. Making the AfCFTA work**

## METHODOLOGY

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The Course will be delivered on-line by a senior and specialised consultant.

The first part of the course will be self-paced and delivered from **26 to 30 April**. Participants are expected to be able to self-assess their understanding of learning materials through built-in quizzes and exercises. Additional resources, including suggested readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of a course topic.

The pedagogical team is made up of a Course Director who will introduce and explain the different modules, provide daily on-line assistance to participants at scheduled times. An Internet connection will be established for the participants to effectively interact with the Course Director and the relevant technical staff at IDEP. The practical dimension delivered in the last week will be synchronised through a series of webinars with active participation of the relevant actors.

The course will be delivered in 4 weeks. The last week will be dedicated to a final evaluation of the course achievements. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

## ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

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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 below to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://www.unidep.org/?apply>

## TARGET AUDIENCE

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The course will target public officials working in the Ministries of Trade, Finance and Planning of the lusophone countries, in charge of trade negotiations; finance, planning and budgeting, interested in regional integration and the AfCFTA

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Applicants to the course should be nominated by the relevant ministries and are expected to have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree preferably in the areas of economics, trade, finance and macroeconomic planning. In addition, at least 3 years of work experience will be required. Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://www.unidep.org/?apply>

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

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

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENT

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Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
  - o Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - o Adobe Flash Player
  - o Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
  - o Browser: Google chrome, Firefox 36 or higher or Internet Explorer 7 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- **Deadline for Applications and Nominations: April 19 2021**
- **Course Period: 26 April-21 May 2021**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Training and Research Division

Tel: +221 33 829 55 00

Fax: +221 33 822 29 64

Email: [mendesba@un.org](mailto:mendesba@un.org) with copy to [lou.zah@un.org](mailto:lou.zah@un.org)

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



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