

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**  
**Consultancy on Africa Information Highway: Expert in Data Dissemination Systems to Support Field Work**

**AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**  
**Statistics Department (ECST)**  
**Avenue Joseph Anoma**  
**01 B.P. 1387**  
**Abidjan 01**  
**Cote d’ivoire**

**Email : [A.AIH@AFDB.ORG](mailto:A.AIH@AFDB.ORG)**

**A. Background**

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) holds that if the fight against poverty has to be won, there must be improvements in the quality and quantity of statistical data on all components of development. Reliable data is critical to setting goals and targets as well as evaluating project impact. Reliable data constitutes the single most convincing way of getting the people involved in what their leaders and institutions are doing. It also helps them to get involved in the development process, thus giving them a sense of ownership of the entire development process.

Through its Statistics Department, the AfDB is contributing to the effective development of the statistical capacity and systems of its regional member countries for the provision of timely and reliable data for policy formulation.

The individual consultant will be recruited to serve the Statistics Department through its Africa Information Highway (AIH) initiative.

The Africa Information Highway (AIH) initiative was launched by the Bank in 2012 with the primary objective of improving statistical data access in Africa by providing all African countries with an Open Data Platform (ODP).

**B. Objectives of the Assignment**

The main objective of this assignment will be to support countries to continue improving their data dissemination practices.

The consultant will be part of the core team working on the implementation of the project jointly funded by the Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation to support AfDB’s effort in implementing the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

The Bank is presently enhancing the Open Data Platform to make it fully SDMX native and open source. The new system is set to be released by December 2023. Consequently, the consultant will assist in migrating country portals to the upgraded system, a process scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2024.

The consultant will also participate in the implementation of the Statistics Department's Data Innovation Lab, which aims to support African countries in building their capacities to compile augmented statistics from new data sources and big data using the most updated technologies. In addition to capacity building, the Lab will also aim to foster collaboration with different actors involved in statistics. Input from these actors, gleaned from platforms such as regional and national brainstorming initiatives hosted by the Lab, will also enable the Bank to better address the targets in development frameworks like Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **C. Main activities**

#### **Activities:**

The consultant will be recruited to complete the following activities:

1. Actively participate in the implementation of the activities planned under the joint AfDB and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project
2. Support countries in preparing the migration to the new upgraded Open Data Platform
3. Undertake missions to RMCs to train and/or support the implementation, update and management of their Open Data Portals.
4. Ensure that all portals falling under their responsibility contain up to date content.
5. Develop National Summary Data Pages as requested by the IMF and disseminate them to the public.
6. Undertake AfDB/IMF joint missions to introduce countries to the Data Submission Tool (DST) and the ODP.
7. Develop SDGs pages in line with the needs of RMCs and disseminate them to the public.
8. Assist countries with the update and management of their SDG hub.
9. Actively participate in the activities of the Innovation Lab for the use of new sources of data to complement official statistics, particularly through the development of queries for data collections.
10. Assist RMCs in establishing the governance structures necessary to enable a coordinated update of the portal, with a special focus on SDGs.
11. Assist RMCs in enhancing data use for evidence-based policy and decision making by capitalizing on the AIH.
12. Conduct Open Data Portals performance assessments and propose new strategies to best support countries to upgrade their portal performances.
13. Identify barriers to effective data portal management and work with the AIH focal persons to develop appropriate supportive strategies/solutions.

14. Regularly prepare a storyline for the ECST newsletter after conducting missions.
15. Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Task Manager.

- D.** The Statistics Department (ECST) invites Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above-described services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience demonstrating their ability to undertake this Assignment (documents, reference to similar services, experience in similar assignments, etc.).
- E.** The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a short list and the selection procedure shall be in conformity with the Bank's Procurement Policy for Recruitment of Corporate Consultants. Please, note that interest expressed by a consultant does not imply any obligation on the part of the Bank to include him/her in the shortlist.
- F.** The estimated duration of services is **twelve months (12)** and the estimated starting date is **22 January 2024**.
- G.** Expressions of interest must be received at the following email addresses **[A.AIH@AFDB.ORG](mailto:A.AIH@AFDB.ORG)** no later than **29 November 2023** at 15:00 hours Abidjan local time.

Requests for clarifications may be sent to: **[A.AIH@AFDB.ORG](mailto:A.AIH@AFDB.ORG)**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SHORT LIST**

- H.** A shortlist of three to six individual consultants will be established at the end the request of expressions of interest. The consultants on the shortlist will be judged on the following criteria on the basis of their updated resume.

Level of education in general	20%
Educational level compared to the field of mission	20%
Years of experience in general	20%
Number of years of experience relevant to the mission	40%

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augmented statistics from new data sources and big data using the most updated technologies. In addition to capacity building, the Lab will also aim to foster collaboration with different actors involved in statistics. Input from these actors, gleaned from platforms such as regional and national brainstorming initiatives hosted by the Lab, will also enable the Bank to better address the targets in development frameworks like Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **C. Main activities and deliverables**

The consultant is expected to travel extensively within the region and will be primarily involved in supporting the AIH work in the field.

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11. Assist RMCs in enhancing data use for evidence-based policy and decision making by capitalizing on the AIH.
12. Conduct Open Data Portals performance assessments and propose new strategies to best support countries to upgrade their portal performances.
13. Identify barriers to effective data portal management and work with the AIH focal persons to develop appropriate supportive strategies/solutions.
14. Regularly prepare a storyline for the ECST newsletter after conducting missions.
15. Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Task Manager.

#### **Deliverables:**

The consultant will be required to submit a written report after each country implementation mission outlining key recommendations.

### **D. Administration and Reporting**

Under the overall guidance of the Division Managers of ECST.1 and ECST.2, with the general supervision of the project's Task Manager.

**E. Duration of the Assignment**

The duration of this contract is **twelve months (12)** renewable based on performance.

**F. Qualifications and Experience Required**

The successful candidate should have demonstrated superior skills in working effectively with a wide variety of Statistical platforms. He/she must be capable of providing training to counterparts in RMCs and build capacity on the management of the AIH.

In addition, the successful candidate should have:

- A University Degree in Database Management, IT, Statistics or related field
- Demonstrated capabilities associated with a minimum of five (5) years' experience in IT development using .Net and Java for front-end
- A minimum of Eight (8) years working experience in RMCs
- Excellent knowledge of Information and Technology Systems, especially as used in developing countries for statistical purposes
- Demonstrated experience in data mining and scrapping and their use for development projects
- Familiarity with and a supportive attitude towards processes of strengthening local capacities and Statistical agencies
- Expertise in field data collection, statistical analysis, and data dissemination
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability and willingness to travel regularly within Africa.

**Other Competencies:**

- Demonstrated ability to work in a multicultural environment and establish harmonious and effective relationships with national partners