

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
**Consultancy on Africa Information Highway: Senior Expert in Strategic Planning and
Innovation in Data and Technology**

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

Email : 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 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 to support the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

As part of the Data Innovation Lab activities, the consultant will be assisting to build strategic and sustainable partnerships around the AIH activities, as the Bank believes that strong partnerships are key to implementing successful programs.

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.

C. Main activities

The consultant will be recruited to complete the following activities:

1. Assist in the implementation on the joint project between AfDB and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
2. Build technical partnerships with public and private actors including SMEs and Startups to support the implementation of the Data Innovation Lab and AIH strategies.
3. Assist in coordinating the Data Innovation Lab, drafting its work program, and overseeing the team's efforts to enhance the utilization of new data sources and big data, complementing official statistics within the Bank and in RMCs
4. Provide support during the migration process to the recently upgraded Open Data Platform.
5. Support to align the AIH's integrated strategy for data collection processing and dissemination with the African Development Bank's strategic vision to inform its data needs.
6. Conduct a comprehensive diagnostic of the AIH platform and its use by all partners including the Regional Member Countries (RMCs) and propose solutions to expand its use beyond data dissemination and reporting.
7. Evaluate the role the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard is playing within the AIH platform and propose practical steps to expand its use to other data domains within the system and at country level.
8. Assess the role the AIH should be playing in reporting progress under the Sustainable Development Goals at country and regional levels and recommend actions to strengthen it.
9. Promote the use of the Africa Information Highway (AIH) platform at the highest level in RMCs as well as at regional and international events.
10. Supervise the work on data literacy and the promotion of statistics among African youth through competitions to promote the emergence of community-based solutions to local challenges in data systems.
11. Support on the coordination of the AIH's effort in promoting coordination mechanisms for data collection and use and promote the use of data by decisions makers for better development outcomes.
12. Undertake missions to RMCs to train and/or support the implementation and management of the AIH.
13. 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 no later than **29 November 2023** at 15:00 hours Abidjan local time.

Requests for clarifications may be sent to: 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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C. Main activities and deliverables

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

The consultant will be recruited to complete the following activities:

1. Assist in the implementation on the joint project between AfDB and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
2. Build technical partnerships with public and private actors including SMEs and Startups to support the implementation of the Data Innovation Lab and AIH strategies.
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13. 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 building capacity on the management of the AIH.

In addition, the successful candidate should have:

- At least a Masters' Degree in Statistics, IT, Development Economics or related field
- A minimum of ten (10) years working experience in statistical capacity building in RMCs with strong focus on data and technology
- Excellent knowledge of Information and Technology Systems, especially as used in developing countries for statistical purposes
- Experience with data innovation and in designing and launching innovative data driven projects on the continent
- Good understanding of methods and tools to design and implement innovative projects as a standalone project and within established organizations.
- Experience with statistical strategic planning in RMCs and at the international level
- At least 10 years' experience working with international organizations
- Familiarity with and a supportive attitude towards processes of strengthening local capacities and Statistical agencies
- Familiarity with SDMX and its use for reporting on regional and global development agendas
- Expertise in field data collection, statistical analysis, data dissemination.
- Expertise in AIH and capacity building in RMCs on the use of the AIH is an asset
- 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