

Terms of Reference for Experts participating in the ACE Impact Djibouti Bootcamp

Introduction

The Africa Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) project is a regional higher education project with 12 participating countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The anticipated budget, with funding from the World Bank and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), is approximately \$350 million over five years. The project will support 44 Centers of Excellence, 5 Emerging Centers, and 7 Colleges of Engineering focused on postgraduate education, applied research and addressing development challenges.

The Centers supported through the ACE Impact project will launch in early 2019. **The overarching objective of the ACE Impact Djibouti Bootcamp is to provide participating Centers, their host institutions, and governments with the tools necessary to improve their readiness for Project implementation.** Key focus areas of the Bootcamp will include:

1. **Roles and expectations:** Provide an overview on the roles and expectations of all key stakeholders in the project (Centers, host universities, governments, partners, AAU, AFD, World Bank) and what it takes to ensure a successful Center
2. **Regional networks:** Provide an opportunity to the Centers to form regional networks and kick start groupings and formulations of thematic network activities and expectations;
3. **Quality education:** Provide information to Centers on how they can create teaching and research environments that are in line with international standards
4. **Student centeredness:** Identify and discuss the relevant tools and strategies for successful recruitment and retention of students (with a focus on regional and female students and issues around sexual harassment)
5. **Sustainability:** Highlight the pathway towards sustainability of the Centers beyond the lifetime of the ACE Impact project
6. **World Bank/AFD processes and requirement:** Provide an overview and one-on-one Center support on World Bank/AFD processes and requirements including financial management, procurement, safeguards and M&E

Role of Experts

The Association of African Universities (AAU) is the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) for the ACE Impact project. The RFU coordinates a team of Experts to engage with the ACE Impact Centers to ensure that the Centers achieve their academic – education and applied research – goals within the project timeframe. For the Djibouti workshop, approximately 25 Experts will support the Center teams in the preparation for the launch of the ACE Impact project.

These Terms of Reference are for Experts participating in the ACE Impact Djibouti Workshop.

- Experts will be assigned particular Centers to work with on their Implementation Plans
- Experts will provide insight and advice to Centers on the focus areas indicated in the objectives and will include: education and research elements of the Center activities; the management structure of the Center; partnerships and networking; sustainability; and student centeredness in higher education
- Experts will provide insight and advice to Centers on the proposed workplan for Year 1

- Experts will provide insight and advice to Centers on the proposed achievement of Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) and on spending monies earned through DLIs
- Experts will provide insight and advice to Centers on working with Advisory Boards
- As required, Experts will consult with representatives of universities, governments and the World Bank team on support for the ACE Impact Centers
- For those Experts working with ACE Impact Centers that were supported under ACE 1, Experts will provide advice on ensuring complementary and coordination between activities planned under ACE 1 and those planned under ACE Impact
- Experts will, as requested, lead the developing of Plenary sessions on topics aligned with their expertise and coordinate with other speakers and the World Bank regional team concerning those sessions. The assigned experts will also speak at these sessions.
- Experts will, as requested, develop and lead thematic breakout sessions throughout the Bootcamp.
- Experts will submit a report on the breakout sessions they lead highlighting in the report:
 - Areas in which the centers are showing progress
 - The critical challenges identified as potential impediments to the readiness of the centers for implementation and recommended actions
 - Any key factors that may hinder the success of the centers during implementation (these can be early signs and “red flags” or full-blown concerns) and recommended actions