

Developing the partnership on public policies and governance in Africa

Online Meeting - 23 November 2020

Background

Extract of the Concept note “Towards a new partnership on public policies and governance in Africa”, July 2020)

The African continent is undergoing a rapid transformation, as global forces (such as globalization, technological advances, climate change, global economic or health crises) and local forces (such as demographics, diet changes, political transitions, and social aspirations) interact in complex ways, at and between the different scales of territorial development. This generates a myriad of complex, wicked, interconnected problems (natural resources depletion, conflicts, migrations, food and nutrition insecurity, global health issues, etc.) with contrasted social, economic and environmental consequences.

A better understanding of the processes at work is required to explore:

- How governance and public policies address the new challenges African countries are facing;
- How to contribute to the design and implementation of appropriate new forms of governance and public policies;

Multidisciplinary research communities will be needed to effectively document and understand how governance and public policies can help solving these new challenges.

Objectives of the meeting

The purpose of this online meeting is to brainstorm with research institutions in Africa interested by the development of a partnership platform on governance and policy innovation processes. The focus would be about the following inter-related issues: (a) rural and territorial development, (b) agricultural and food systems, (c) managed and natural ecosystems; and (d) the management of sanitary and systemic risks affecting them

Collaborative activities of the partnership could include:

- analysing and anticipating changes among these different systems and their effects at different scales and on the different sectors/actors;
- studying and supporting the appropriate processes for the design of new governance modes and public policies to adapt to uncertainty and anticipated changes;
- developing more direct links between research, policy debates and policy making at different scales;

- contributing to training and education in line with the related new challenges faced by African countries.

We target at least these three objectives with this meeting:

- Know better the potential members of the network and their current research areas and methodologies. This should help everyone identifying partners with whom they could team-up with in future collaborative projects/activities.
- Identify issues and methodologies that are cutting across the different systemic approaches or, by contrast, specific methodologies that could support existing research in specific contexts. This should help the network to come-up with/develop new research. As such, we intend to discuss the possible joint activities and research projects.
- Initiate discussions about the way to organize the partnership.

Programme of the meeting

The meeting will be divided in two parts.

Morning session

The morning sessions will take place from: 8 to 10 am (Senegal); 9 to 11 am (France); 10 to 12 a.m. (South Africa, Mozambique & Zimbabwe); 11 am to 1pm (Madagascar).

During the morning session, each institution will give a brief presentation of their current activities in relation with governance and public policies. A standard template has been designed for this purpose, which participants are requested to use. The objective is to make the time dedicated to institutional presentations shorter and more effective, and give more time for the brainstorming sessions.

Template for 3-slide presentations:

- Slide 1: What is your research unit (name, localisation, areas of research, geographical coverage)
- Slide 2: What are the major challenges in Africa your unit is working on
- Slide 3: What are your major activities in the fields of governance and public policies in relation with these challenges

Order of presentations

No.	How Long	What	Who
1.	5 min	Introduction to the meeting (background/objectives)	Damien Jourdain
2	10 min	Welcome message (GovInn)	Chris Nshimbi
4	10 min	Collaborative partnerships: the different possibilities	Tanguy Lafarge
<i>Presentation of the institutions</i>			
1	7 min	Burkina Faso – INERA	Hyacinthe Kambiré

No.	How Long	What	Who
2	7 min	Madagascar – ESSA	Holy Ranaivoarisoa
3	7 min	Madagascar – Geography Dept.	Pascal Razanakoto
4	7 min	Mozambique – UEM	Nicia Giva
5	7 min	Mozambique - Observatório do Meio Rural (OMR)	J. Feijó / M. Martins
6	7 min	Senegal – Bureau Analyses Macro-économiques (BAME)	Djiby Dia
7	7 min	South Africa – Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development (AEERD)	Sheryl Hendricks
8	7 min	South Africa – COE Food Security - UWC	Julian May
9	7 min	South Africa – Dept of Pol. Science - Centre for Mediation in Africa	Cori Wielenga
11	15 min	France – CIRAD	Sylvain Perret

Afternoon sessions

The afternoon sessions will take place from 13:00 to 15:30 (Senegal); 14:00 to 16:30 (France); 15:00 to 17:30 (South Africa, Mozambique & Zimbabwe); 16:00 to 18:30 (Madagascar).

The afternoon will include four sessions:

1. Collaborative partnership: the PP-AL platform (Public Policies in Latin America) experience (15 min)

Our colleagues from South America will share with us their experience of partnership.

2. What can you bring to and get from the network (45 min)

We will organize a first brainstorming session aiming at understanding the available expertise among the different participants (what we do), the missing expertise to improve research on governance issues (what would be needed).

3. Governance: common research and methodology challenges across systems (45 min)

A second session will be used to brainstorm about the existing governance challenges in each system. The challenge will be to identify issues and methodologies that are cutting across the different systemic approaches or, by contrast, specific methodologies that could support existing research in specific contexts. The objective will be to identify possible joint activities and research projects.

4. A short brainstorming session where you will be asked to submit possible names and acronyms for the partnership. (10 min); based on this we will organize a vote in the coming weeks!

5. General discussion: what's next (30 minutes)

The final session will be used to discuss the possible way forward in terms of partnership.

Time	Thematic	Activity	Who
15 Min	PP-AL platform: experience from Latina America		F Saenz /JF Le Coq
5 Min		How to use Klaxoon	D Jourdain
40 Min	What you can bring / What you would need	Brainstorming (20 min)	
		Discussions (20 mins)	
45 Min	Governance: common research and methodology challenges across systems	Brainstorming (20 min)	
		Discussions (25 min)	
5 Min	Break		
35 Min	What's next	Open discussion on the way forward	

Meeting logistics

The meeting will be organized on-line and we will use Zoom. For the afternoon sessions, we will also use a whiteboard application (Klaxoon). Klaxoon does not require any prior installation, and you will use it in your browser. For both platforms we will send you a link before the session start. As the quality of the connexion might be an issue for some of the participants, they may consider having several participants for one connexion. We will send you the details for a proper connexion to the meeting at least one day in advance.

We will ask you to connect to the links that we will provide you 15 minutes ahead of the meeting time so that we can solve the usual connection issues.

The language used during the meeting and for presentations will be English. Please contact us if it creates problems for you and your institution.

If all participants agree, the discussions will be recorded and later made available to all participants.

Participant individual presentations

We anticipate 40 participants in the meeting. We will not have time for individual presentations. However, as one of the purposes of the meeting is to get to know each other better, we will ask every participant to send a short description her/his background and research activities in relation with governance and public policies institutions in Africa.

All this information will be shared on a web page so that every participant can consult the profile of other participants. The information provided will include:

1. A short bio (one or two paragraphs)
2. Areas of Expertise
3. Current activities related to public policies and governance in Africa
4. Five maximum relevant Publications related to public policies and governance