**RPTC (RESOURCES) PROPOSAL REQUEST TEMPLATE (2024)**

**PART I – GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| 1. Requesting Division/SRO/IDEP: ACS | | | |
| 1. Responsible Officer/Contact Person: Tinfissi-Joseph ILBOUDO, Chief Statistical Development, Data Innovation and Outreach Section and Molla Hunegnaw Asmare, Statistician | | | |
| 1. Title of the Proposed Project/ Activity: Automating country data harvesting mechanism from published country-sourced statistical datasets for creating a common database for AUC, AfDB and ECA | | | |
| 1. Duration of the Project/Activity: | From: 1 May 2024. | | To: 31 December 2024 |
| 1. Requested amount (in USD): 50,000 | | 1. Date of request**\***: 26 March 2024 | |

**PART II - DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT/ ACTIVITY**

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| 1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION** |
| The African Centre for Statistics (ACS) plays a pivotal role in developing member states' statistical capabilities to produce timely and quality data. ACS is helping member States enhance their production, dissemination, and use of quality and comparable data and statistics. Africa. Despite member States producing substantial data annually from surveys, censuses, and administrative sources, these datasets often fail to reach their intended users due to inadequate communication and dissemination mechanisms.  The Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in its Forty-First meeting, 2023, recommended that ECA should:  *“ ….Collaborate with the African Union Commission to centralise data in order to enhance the accessibility and availability of existing surveys and other data sources for research work in Africa”*  Furthermore, in its regular meeting, the African Statistical Coordination Committee, which is also composed of ECA, AUC, and AfDB, agreed and tasked ECA with helping create a common data platform for Africa.  The establishment of a common data repository reflects a recognition of the importance of data in informing evidence-based decision-making and advancing development goals in Africa. The repository will provide a centralised platform for accessing, analysing, and disseminating critical socio-economic data by consolidating datasets from various sources, including national statistical offices, ministries, departments, and agencies.  EC/ACS has attempted to compile national data and disseminate Africa's datasets through its ECAStats platform. However, given resource constraints and the magnitude of the task, there's a pressing need to leverage technology and innovation. Presently, datasets are captured in rigid formats and linked to predefined indicators, posing challenges in flexible and efficient data capture. This results in delays in sharing data and places an undue burden on statisticians for formatting and uploading. Consequently, essential datasets may remain inaccessible, stored in inboxes or staff computers.  Accordingly, to address these challenges, an application has been developed ( accessible locally at <http://10.201.5.128:8080/>) and tested at ACS over the past few months. It is aimed at improving the dissemination and communication of data and statistics. This application allows statisticians to capture and share datasets efficiently, even if they are not formatted or linked to specific indicators. Despite progress, difficulties persist in capturing datasets due to the labour-intensive process of navigating country websites to locate specific publications.  Advancements in data science, particularly using web scraping techniques and Natural Language Processing (NLP) models, offer opportunities to automate much of the downloading, documenting, and summarising processes. However, human oversight remains crucial for the final decision on dataset publication.  For example, the Hugging Face Transformers library provides pre-trained models like GPT and BERT, which can be utilised to read files and generate summaries of extracted text. These summarised datasets can then be reviewed by statisticians to determine their suitability for publication. |
| 1. **OBJECTIVE** |
| This project aims to create a robust online common data repository produced and published by Member States for policy work and research. Ultimately, the goal is to establish an online data store to house statistical datasets on Africa. These datasets will be utilised to generate statistical products, share data with users, and potentially link with harmonised indicators for the ECAStats platform. |
| 1. **PLANNED RESULTS/OUTCOMES** |
| * ***Results/Outcomes*** *(OCs) describe the changes that are expected to occur as a result of the completion of deliverables/outputs. The results/outcomes should be achievable within the project’s timeframe and budget and should be specific enough to be measured by the associated indicators of achievement*.  1. Increased accessibility of country-published datasets for ECA policy work, researchers and development practitioners. 2. Timely availability of country-published datasets for ECA policy work, researchers and development practitioners; |
| 1. **INDICATOR OF ACHIEVEMENT (IoA)** |
| **Result** 1: Increased accessibility of country-published datasets for ECA policy work, researchers and development practitioners.  **IoA1.1**: Number of country websites configured for web scraping published for automated dataset capturing   * + - **Unit of measurement: Number**     - **Baseline** (end of 2023): 0     - **Target** (2023): 20   **Result** 2: Timely availability of country-published datasets for ECA policy work, researchers and development practitioners;  **IoA**2.1: Number of datasets captured and made available for use on country data harvester system   * + - **Unit of measurement:** Number     - **Baseline** (end of 2023): 144     - **Target** (2023): 2000 |
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| 1. **PROJECT DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS** |
| **Result** 1: Increased accessibility to Member States' census data through modernising the dissemination and communication of census data in member States;   * *Deliverable/output 1.1: Improved country data harvested application available one ECA cloud server’s infrastructure for use* * *Deliverable/output 1.2: Report on countries that have been configured and tested for automatic data harvesting from their NSO websites*   **Result** 2: Timely availability of country-published datasets for ECA policy work, researchers and development practitioners;   * *Deliverable/output 2.1: Availability and accessibility of country-published statistical datasets on the country harvester application* |
| 1. **TARGET COUNTRY/IES** |
| * *All Africa Countries*  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)[[1]](#footnote-2)** | **Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)[[2]](#footnote-3)** | **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)[[3]](#footnote-4)** | | **(Yes)** | **(Yes)** | **(Yes)** | |
| 1. **CONTRIBUTION TO SDG (*Tick the SDG that the project contributes to)*** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | |  | x | x | x |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| 1. **MODALITIES OF RPTC DELIVERY (*Tick the modalities that apply)*** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | ☐ | *Policy advice and technical support (advisory services);* | | ☐ | *Capacity-building and knowledge sharing (training, workshops, fellowships and study tours);* | | ☑ | *Field projects (a link between research and analysis that is based on implementation experiences, and opportunities to test drive policy or other normative recommendations on a small scale in which the impact can be quickly and closely gauged);* | | ☑ | *Knowledge products including toolkits, case studies, guides, technical papers;* | | ☐ | *Knowledge network groups of people with a defined area of professional interest working on a common body of knowledge in their respective organisations.* | |
| 1. **LINKAGES/COMPLEMENTARITY WITH THE 2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN INCLUDING PROJECTS FUNDED BY XB, DA AND RPTC.** |
| This project's objective directly links with the 2024 Annual Business Plan, particularly RA1: Improving national data availability for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. |
| 1. **INTER-DIVISIONAL/SRO COLLABORATION & JOINT DELIVERY** |
| * *ACS is reaching out to divisions and SROs to solicit their data needs that this platform will address* |
| 1. **PLANNED COLLABORATION WITH RESIDENT COORDINATOR OFFICES/ UN COUNTRY TEAMS, OTHER UN ENTITIES, AU, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, etc.** |
| * *This is a common platform for AUC, AfDB and ECA to reduce separate attempts by each organisation.* |
| 1. **Cross-cutting issues** |
| * *Specify how the project plan to integrate cross cutting issues into the RPTC project interventions mainly gender, human rights, disability and environmental sustainability.* |
| 1. **RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS – Provide budget breakdown** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Result/Outcome** | **Deliverable/Output** | **Time frame** | | | | **Budget breakdown** | | | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | |  | | Result 1 | Deliverable/Output 1.1 |  | x | x | x | | * 1 x 6 of work-months) X 3000 month = $18000 * 1 x 3 of work-months) X 5000 month = $15000 | |  | Deliverable/Output 1.2 |  | x | x | x | |  | | Subtotal | |  |  |  |  | | **$33, 000** | | Result 2 | Deliverable/Output 2.1 |  |  |  | x | |  | | Subtotal | |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | |  | | TOTAL | |  |  |  |  | | **$33,000** | |
| 1. **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (Requests from member States, relevant legislative mandates, etc.)**   **Report of the Committee of Experts on its forty-first**   1. **meeting** |
| 1. **Economic Commission for Africa Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development - Forty-first meeting - Report of the Committee of Experts on its forty-first meeting -** [**https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/sites/default/files/resources/documents/com2023/English\_Report%20of%20the%20Committee%20of%20Experts%20on%20its%20forty-first%20meeting%20(2).pdf**](https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/sites/default/files/resources/documents/com2023/English_Report%20of%20the%20Committee%20of%20Experts%20on%20its%20forty-first%20meeting%20(2).pdf) |

1. List of SIDS: <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. List of LLDCs: <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-lldcs> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. List of LDCs: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc_list.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)