

ILEAP Trade Knowledge to Policy Programme (TK2P)

ILEAP Support Outcomes and Example of Next
Steps

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Some ILEAP Support Outcomes/Outputs

- ▶ Since inception (7 years ago):
 - Capacity of over 2,500 trade professionals have been strengthened
 - High levels of participant satisfaction (at least 80% of respondents)
 - Increased awareness of how to negotiate AFT and technical assistance packages
 - Some improvement in officials' skills in preparation of requests and offers
 - Enhanced network of trade professionals
 - Over 150 analytical papers produced and “Aid for Trade and Development” published with Cambridge University Press

More Support Outcomes / Outputs

- ▶ Knowledge transfer has helped create a framework for constructive deliberation on trade issue
- ▶ Improved coherence in trade policies and multiple sets of negotiations in West and Central Africa
- ▶ Strengthened dialogue among government (including regional/local governments), the private sector and NGOs
- ▶ Enabled regions to form internal consensus and informed positions on technical and sector issues (e.g. shared vision between the member states of ECOWAS and Commission on proposed priority programmes for AFT)
- ▶ Improved cooperation between relevant ministries and private sector (e.g. engagement in services negotiations enhanced in the 3 regions and particularly in East Africa)

But – gaps still exist and increasing policy capacity in regions requires new thinking

What's Out There Now

- ▶ ***Higher education and learning programmes*** – tend to focus on theoretical and practical knowledge through Master's level degrees (e.g. TRAPCA), to short executive programmes and e-learning events (e.g. WBI or WTO).
- ▶ ***Knowledge transfer and information dissemination*** – tend to focus on exposure to information, trade issues and events (e.g. status of negotiations, state-of-play in services or AFT) using seminars, publications and web. Examples include workshops, regional or national activities of organisations such as ILEAP, ICTSD, CUTS, TIPS and TRALAC.
- ▶ ***Support for trade-related research*** – focus on African academic and non-academic based research on specific trade issues (e.g. IISD, AERC and IDEP, although trade-related research may be only one of several areas of focus. Many of the national policy-research organisations supported by ACBF engage to some extent in trade-related research.

Remaining Critical Gap

- ▶ Trade officials unsure what use to put acquired knowledge to in their routine activities in-country.
- ▶ Technical information from events and conferences not matched with support during the process of identifying and assessing specific national policy options and preparing recommendations for decision-makers.
- ▶ **Result** = Governments not able to move forward as effectively and as quickly as they should to implement reforms, develop new sector and programmatic initiatives or undertake regulatory modernisation

ILEAP Response – Trade Knowledge To Policy (TK2P) Initiative

- ▶ Provide capacity building *during the actual process of producing analysis and advice* on specific issues and policy instruments.
- ▶ Draw upon knowledge already present *but apply this knowledge in a different way designed to support “real-time” policy development by African officials.*
- ▶ Plugs the gap by embedding development of policy analysis and advice into a learning programme.

Three Core Components

1. ***Policy Inquiry Projects*** – The cornerstone – a concrete project undertaken by *teams* of participants designed to address a specific trade policy issue of direct relevance to the national environment from which the participants come. 9 month frame 24–28 participants (12–14 teams).
2. ***Learning Modules*** – 8 modules in three residential sessions to foster peer-learning, collaborative research-to-policy activities and practices that will equip participants to champion evidence-informed decision making in their home institutions. Cohorts overlap.
3. ***Peer and Mentor Learning Support*** – Access to continuous mentoring support as well as ongoing peer support and post-programme network activities. Mentors will include regional and international experts involved in the delivery of learning modules as well as senior African researchers and policy-makers

Current Status

- ▶ Discussions ongoing with potential “launch”, “component” and/or “participant–sponsor” donors.
- ▶ ACBF funding approval anticipated in April 2009.
- ▶ Target of first cohort start in September 2009.
- ▶ Five key start–up activities:
 1. Regional “user” design consultations
 2. Programme oversight model
 3. Institutional partnership formation
 4. Learning module curricula outline
 5. Implementation and communication strategy for Cohort 1.

Next Step – Regional “User” Design Consultations

- ▶ Key African event to build awareness and validate programme design and content.
- ▶ Location dovetailed to scheduled events in consultation with donors and projects in region -- target date in early April 2009.
- ▶ Plenary discussion on design principles and implementation plan.
- ▶ Parallel sessions for feedback on programme components including indicative outline of learning modules.
- ▶ ***Outcome sought:*** Refined design and contented assuring strong regional and donor support. Regional public and stakeholder visibility to ensure good pool of candidates for Cohort 1.