

Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)



March 2023

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1. Introduction

- ❑ Over Phase I, AREI has initiated and consolidated its partnership with regional centers for RE/EE and regional power pools over all Africa, in addition to AREI partners on the international level. This coalition resulted in the establishment of regional platforms which have been leveraged to enhance the uptake of RE/EE policies and enabling environment by various countries, especially those lagging behind, through peer-to-peer learning.
- ❑ Among the AREI work areas, the capacity building and training of African experts were well covered under two main work areas:
 - ❖ *Work area 2: Strengthening Policy, Regulatory, Support and Incentives Frameworks;*
 - ❖ *Work area 3: Capacity Mobilization/Building across Stakeholders at All Levels.*

1. Introduction

The work of AREI over 6 years through exchanges of experience, knowledge and best practice, between African countries through south-south cooperation have lead to the idea of creation of an **"AREI Academy"** at the pre-university and university level for:

- Energy regulators,
- Regional renewable energy and EE agencies,
- Regional power pools and financial institutions.

AREI Academy is going to be designed to the Africa's problems and its challenges in its energy sector.

1. Why AREI Academy

- AREI Academy was announced at the second AREI forum held in Cairo, July 2022 and the idea was well received from different AREI partners calling to develop the idea and bring it the reality.
- The important reason behind this ambitious idea for AREI was to reach those people in the regions of the continent and to address all levels of expertise from bottom to top, to ensure maximum benefits to Africans.
- AREI with the AREI Academy will try also to help civil society, particularly young people and women in African countries, and public authorities by improving the quality of personnel at all levels, thus enabling the private sector to further develop their commitment to renewables

AREI Academy's Objective

- ❑ The objective of the AREI Academy is to build skills and knowledge at **all levels of experts starting with the local labor**, supporting sustainable development and the creation of jobs, thereby generating additional value in Africa in the field of renewable energy.
- ❑ **AREI Academy wishes to meet the needs of the continent and therefore has the following objectives:**
 - ❖ **Help young people who don't have qualification to become "qualified labor force" for Green energy, help to build capacities in the private sector.**
 - ❖ **Help public sector to support, plan, and develop the knowledge of the public servant to be more effective and efficient..**

AREI Academy's Targets

- **The AREI Academy**, as a multistakeholder platform, will promote an open dialogue among renewable energy actors in Africa, regulators, policy makers, academics, utilities, NGOs, mini-grid developers, solar home systems companies, consultants, investors, financial institutions, energy users and any other stakeholder who are concerning by developing the renewable energy sector in Africa.
- **The AREI Academy** will aim to build local capacity using a multi-stakeholder approach to develop, teach and disseminate sound energy regulation and policy in Africa.

AREI Academy planned activities

RESEARCH

Applied research Responding to current needs of Africa's energy sector

POLICY EVENTS

Meeting point of "energy" policy makers to discuss the most relevant issues in renewable energy topic in Africa and Green Hydrogen.

KNOWLEDGE

BASED

Inventory of capacity building resources in renewable energy sector

TRAINING

Instructors from African Institutions & others
Programmes covering all levels

Elements for strategy

There are three key elements that AREI academy could and indeed should drive and support.

- ❑ Mapping, Monitoring, and cooperation.
- ❑ Holistic practical Approach on policy via academic and inter government support and partnership
- ❑ Activating and enhancing local expertise

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AREI Potential Partnerships

□ Inside Africa:

- Universities in countries have an experience in the RE and EE such as Egypt, Morocco and South Africa.
- Regional centers for renewable energy and energy efficiency (RCREEEs)
- Leading organization in the continent such as African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other institutions have the same mandates.
- UNECA and Africa Scholl of Regulation.
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AREI Potential Partnerships

□ Outside Africa:

- Florence School of Regulation
- **LEAP-RE Long term Europe-Africa Partnership for renewable energy** active under the flag of the HLPD on EU-AU STI partnership)
- The **IHEA Italian Higher Education with Africa** which is a foundation of the 6 biggest public Universities in Africa
- The **IDEA League Network of Universities**: a strategic alliance between five leading European universities of science and.
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Specific resource mobilisation and partnerships for AREI Academy

Based on the experience AREI identified the following challenges concerning the capacities particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa:

- Covering the expenses of conducting specific training in some countries in Africa according to their needs. This includes experts travel to those countries and all the training cost.
- Facilitating conducting tailor training program.
- Facilitating south-south cooperation.
- Conducting research on new technologies.
- Conducting specific training on local industries in African countries.
- facilitating joint participation of AREI academy and European Universities in calls for EU funding
- seek support from partners to facilitate partnering with industrial players
- identify opportunities linked to investments to expand human resources capacity components of projects

Moving forward: three actions

A quick start of AREI academy actions of AREI should move on three lines.

1. Undergraduate level

A. Tailored program training for a period of 3-6 months to be designed by AREI in cooperation with specialized institutions according to the country's needs. Two start case:

- Guinea, West Africa
- Djibouti, East Africa,
- XXXXX, Central Africa
- XXXXX, North Africa,
- XXXXX, Southern Africa



- B. Advanced courses for some young professionals and institutions who works in capacity building in energy sector but lack knowledge on specific areas such as regulation, project bankability.
- C. Specific training program for local labor (for period of one month).
- D. One year Diploma to be made in cooperation with certified universities either inside or outside Africa

Moving forward: three actions

2- AREI ACADEMY EXECUTIVE MASTER PROGRAMME

It is an international executive master course to offer concrete skills in the specific areas that are relevant elements for the AREI phase II strategy such as:

- A. conducive policy regulation
- B. public incentives and taxation,
- C. successful project and programme development, appraisal, monitoring and evaluation
- D. negotiating skills
- E. financial structures of investments in RE, EE
- F. sustainability SDG compliance
- G. etc



Moving forward: three actions

3- AREI ACADEMY JOINT PhD PROGRAMME

This is a JOINT PhD programme with a tripartite agreement between two universities and AREI. It is to be structured with AREI sponsorship for scholarships and with the full collaboration via candidatures of African Universities. It will be privileged a South South approach.

Again, in order to activate the synergies the PhD will be driven by crucial elements of the strategy of AREI phase II which will become the subject of the work of the researchers

