



## African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (PARTICIPANTS)

#### TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON POLICIES AND REGULATIONS ON AGENT BANKING AND DIGITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Established in 1988, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) has grown to be a premier capacity building institution for the advancement of research and graduate training to inform economic policies in Africa. The consortium's mandate and strategic mission is built on the basis that sustained development in Sub-Saharan Africa requires well trained, locally based professional economists. A highly integrated knowledge organization spanning research, training, and policy outreach, AERC is now a vast network of universities, policy makers, researchers, educators, and international resource persons. The principal mission is to strengthen local individual and institutional capacity to conduct independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of Sub-Saharan African economies through synergistic programmes combining economic research with postgraduate training in economics.

The AERC is currently collaborating with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) on a financial inclusion project that seeks to produce research evidence that will inform efforts within the East African Community (EAC) to advance delivery of digital financial services for the poor and support market development. The project also focuses on financial inclusion policy development within the EAC economies and brings together seasoned researchers from within and outside Africa to generate policy-oriented research papers and policy briefs for use and easy application/implementation by national policy makers.

#### Call for expression of interest to undergo training on Policies and Regulations on Agent Banking and Digital Financial Services

In line with its mission to build and strengthen capacity, as well as generate policy relevant economics research for informed policy making on the continent, guided by rigor and evidence and with support from BMGF, AERC is organizing a three-day **physical/in person** training workshop on Policies and Regulations on Agent Banking and Digital Financial Services from **October 12-14, 2022, in Uganda**. Participants will learn theory and practice related to contents of the course and make presentations to the rest of the participants. This is therefore a call for expression of interest by participants to take part in this course.

Participants in this workshop are researchers and technical personnel from financial institutions in the following East African countries (EAC): **Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and Tanzania**. Interested participants in the listed AEC countries are hereby invited to respond to the call for expression of interest. A 5-page CV (including gender, nationality, title, institution of affiliation, telephone and email address), plus a brief motivational statement (1 page) should accompany the expression of interest, saved as one document titled with the researcher's Nationality and two names. Individual and institutional researchers and the institutions participating in this project can also apply.

#### To be eligible, one must satisfy the following criteria:

- i) Must have at least a master's degree in economics or a relevant field from a recognized university.
- ii) Must be researcher or technical personnel from the following EAC countries: **Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and Tanzania**. Working in a financial institution relevant area will be an added advantage
- iii) Must briefly demonstrate how the course will be beneficial to them and/or their country/institution they are working in (one page).
- iv) Eligible females are encouraged to apply.
- v) The title of the email must be **"Trainees EOI – Policies and Regulations on Agent Banking and Digital Financial Services"**.

The deadline for receiving the expression of interest is **August 30, 2022**. Your expression of interest will be evaluated by AERC, and we will let you know the outcome in a period of three weeks after August 30, 2022. The expression of interest should be sent by email to [cresearch@aercafrica.org](mailto:cresearch@aercafrica.org) addressed to

The Director of Research  
African Economic Research Consortium  
P.O. Box 62882 – 00200, Nairobi, Kenya.