|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Donor** | **Name of Project** |
| **European Union** | Enhancing COMESA Capacity in Trade Policy Analysis, Research and Training for Deeper Regional Integration and Participation in Global Economy |
| **Grant start date**: | 16th May, 2019 |
| **Grant End date:** | 15th May,2021 |
| **Grant Amount:** | USD 2,549,827(Euro 2,318,024) |
| **Disbursed before current year:** (**2019**) | - |
| **Balance:** | - |
| **Disbursed in 2019**: | USD1,243,908 (Euro 1,130,845) |
| **Balance yet to be disbursed:** | USD 1,305,898 (Euro 1,187,180) |

1. **Brief about the programme**

The overall objective of the project is to enhance technical capacity of COMESA Secretariat and Member States to mainstream regional obligations through ratification and domestication of COMESA legal instruments and implementation of regional programs at member States level in order to achieve deeper regional integration and increased participation in the global economy.

### Specific objectives

The specific objectives are**:**

1. To enhance capacity for trade policy research and training: This will include conducting trade policy analysis, research and training in trade negotiations in order to address trade issues and support formulation and implementation of suitable trade policies as well as Member States ability to negotiate and implement bilateral and regional trade agreements; and
2. Build practical skills and knowledge to support regional integration: This will provide sound conceptual and practical training in regional integration through operationalization of the COMESA virtual university of regional integration to equip the Member States with technical capacity, skills and knowledge in implementation of regional integration programs and the Secretariat in monitoring implementation of COMESA Treaty, protocols, regulations, directives and decisions of the policy organs.

### Project Activities

The following eight activities will be undertaken within the project period

1. **Trade policy analysis, research, training and trade negotiations**. This activity will involve training of government officials and representatives of the 21 COMESA Member States and Secretariat Staff on:
2. trade policy analysis and research;
3. quantitative analytical tools for trade analysis and trade negotiations; and
4. inclusive trade policies and negotiating strategies that will contribute to national growth and poverty reduction.
5. **Conducting applied policy research in regional integration**. This activity will involve carrying out eight applied research on regional integration issues to support evidence-based policy making by COMESA policy organs.
6. **Dissemination of Policy Research Outputs.** This will involve dissemination of research findings through:
   1. COMESA annual research forums and
   2. dissemination workshops. COMESA has established Research Forums that bring together stakeholders from government, academia, think tanks and private sector and provide a platform for reviewing and discussing various research papers, sharing knowledge and deliberating on empirical issues on trade and related matters within the context of regional integration. The policy research has provided evidence-based policy choices which contribute to policy making by COMESA policy organs. The COMESA Council of Ministers decided that the research forums be held on annual basis. The target audience will include but is not limited to policy makers in Member States, academia, think tanks, private sector and development partners. The various channels/tools for dissemination will include: technical reports, research papers, policy briefs, forum presentations, COMESA website, publications and press release among others.

**Promoting collaboration with strategic partners in capacity building.** This will involve collaboration with research institutes, policy think tanks and academia in providing capacity building to the COMESA Secretariat and Member States. The strategic partners in capacity building include specialized institutions and organizations in policy research such as Economic Commission for Africa, Institute for African Economic Development (IDEP), University of Sussex, UNCTAD, OECD, University of Purdue among others.

1. **Provision of scholarships to students**. This will involve: resource mobilization from corporates, development partners, governments, foundations and trusts among others and putting together the amounts in a form of scholarship fund. The masters programme will continue after the end of action implementation. The scholarships are seed capital and the program is expected to be self-sustaining in the long term since the students will be required to pay tuition fees.
2. **Organizing Masters Degree Programme Students Research Dissemination Workshops.** The host and collaborating universities will organize students research dissemination workshops in their respective universities to discuss and share research outputs from the Masters’ degree of Regional Integration programme.
3. **Conducting quality assurance of the master’s degree programme**. This will involve undertaking rigorous, systematic and objective evaluation of the effectiveness of the masters’ degree programme.
4. **Subscription to trade and regional integration journals**. This will entail purchasing access to e-journals in trade and regional integration for purposes of providing study materials for course work and research.
5. **Overview of 2019 (Jan – June,2019) programme and expenditure implementation**

No activities were undertaken in the period under review as funding was received in July 2019.

1. **Recommendation**

Due to the likelihood that no activities will be implemented in the 2019 financial year, the project will roll over 2019 activities to 2020 FY.