

## INCUBATOR FOR INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN EAST AFRICA (IIDEA) PROJECT CONCEPT

### *“Integration Made Real for Citizens”*

#### 1. Background

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan. The Treaty for the establishment of the EAC was signed on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1999 and came into force on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000.

The main objective of the Community is to develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in mainly political and economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence, security, legal and judicial affairs, for the partners’ mutual benefit [www.eac.int](http://www.eac.int)

The EAC has already established a Customs Union and a Common Market and is at present laying the foundation for a Monetary Union with the ultimate goal of uniting the Partner States in a Political Federation. In partnership with the private sector and civil society, the Community aims to bring about political stability, advance development and reduce poverty in the region, by promoting a people centered and market driven Integration as envisaged in the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC article 5.

As one of the means to ensure an Integration that is centered on the people’s interests and views, the EAC Council of Ministers’ adopted the Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF), which provides a platform for the continuous and structured engagement between the EAC and the non-state actors. Under this framework, a Regional Dialogue Committee (RDC) was established, and it is comprised of representatives from the private sector, civil society and other interest groups from both the national and regional levels. Officials from the EAC Secretariat and those from the Ministries of the EAC Affairs also sit in the Committee.

The RDC is tasked with the planning and implementation of the CDF, through ensuring that there is continuous dialogue among the various stakeholders on the EAC integration process. It also ensures that the emerging issues are addressed at the annual EAC Secretary General’s Forum (EAC-SG’s Forum).

#### 2. The Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA)

The dialogue process under the CDF has highlighted issues that East African’s deem most pertinent in the EAC Integration. Over the years, it has become increasingly clear that East Africans are keen on drawing tangible benefits from the integration process, expected to be brought about by the full implementation of EAC policies and protocols, key among them the Common Market Protocol.

Furthermore, evaluation of the EAC-GIZ programme highlighted the need to closely ensure that the policy making and people’s participation at regional level translates into tangible benefits for citizens across the EAC Partner States. There is also need to widely publicize and showcase real life examples of East Africans whose experiences clearly demonstrate the benefits of the regional integration,

especially given that the Treaty endows the EAC Secretariat with the responsibility of promoting and disseminating information on the Community.

To this end, the EAC Secretariat under the Social Sector Department and RDC, together with German Development Cooperation through GIZ, jointly developed an innovative programme called the 'Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa' (IIDEA).

IIDEA incubates small-scale regional integration projects which are proposed and implemented by civil society, private sector and other interest groups in East Africa. It is cross border in nature, with projects expected to benefit at least two EAC Partner States. Technical and financial support is provided for implementation and marketing of IIDEA projects.

An innovative IIDEA project is one which not only puts to action and showcases the success stories but also demonstrate real life experiences of East Africans in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol provisions such as the free movement of persons, labour, goods, capital and the rights of establishment and residence in East Africa. An example is a regional app to promote employment opportunities and mobility of labour/professionals in East Africa and a platform that showcases successful stories and experiences of professionals with negotiated Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in East Africa such as the Accountants, Engineers and the Architects.

Under the IIDEA, innovative integration projects are promoted and marketed by EAC Secretariat and Partner States to strengthen awareness of the benefits from cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation. This will as a result make the Integration process more tangible in the lives of ordinary East Africans, who desire to see more practical benefits of the cooperation beyond the progressive policies they have adopted.

### 3. IIDEA Goal

IIDEA goal is that "Citizens of East Africa are influencing and deriving socio-economic benefits from regional integration within the Community"

It's premised on believe that the East African integration is lived because the East African citizens understand the benefits from people-centered and market-driven regional integration. It makes East African Integration more tangible and plausible through relevant, visible and successful projects. IIDEA supports innovative projects that demonstrate integration benefits as enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol.

### 4. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of IIDEA are:-

- To identify and incubate financially and technically, small scale innovative regional integration projects;
- To communicate Integration opportunities resulting from the implementation of the EAC Common Market;
- To establish a Platform for sharing practical results and success stories of the EAC citizens on the Integration.

## 5. Expected Outputs

- Small Scale innovative regional integration projects from youth, business, civil society and other interest groups are identified, supported and implemented;
- State of the art communication materials showcasing Integration opportunities developed and disseminated;
- A knowledge pool of practical results and success stories of tangible benefits of the EAC Integration packaged, documented and disseminated.
- Support incubation of socio-economic projects by marginalized segments of East African citizenry so as to enhance East African regional integration is sustained

## 6. Expected Results

- 25 Innovative regional integration projects are successfully implemented and finalized;
- IIDEA as a platform for promoting innovative citizen led regional integration initiatives is sustainable; and
- Stakeholders, including citizens of East Africa, are informed and actively supporting the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

## 7. Eligibility for the IIDEA

The IIDEA Projects are set to be implemented through collaborations and partnerships between organizations and as such only organizations can apply for the funds, and not individual persons. Applicants who partner up with an organization from at least one other Partner State for a joint initiative will be given priority for support. Whether the project proposal is developed by an organization or as a joint initiative, it must benefit at least 2 EAC Partner States. For detailed refer to the project Eligibility and Selection Criterion

The eligible organizations should be drawn from national civil society organizations (CSOs), business organizations, associations, companies, local governments, community based organizations (CBOs), sector associations, training institutes/universities that operate across borders and/or regionally in the East African Community. Youth organizations and associations are particularly encouraged to apply. It is important that applicants have enough capacities to commit to the project in terms of human capacity and time resources.

## 8. Financial Mechanism for IIDEA

Based on the project proposal and the IIDEA selection criteria, the RDC comprising of regional apex bodies including MEACA together with GIZ decide on the proposals to be supported under the IIDEA project. GIZ funding support in case of final acceptance for each project is open during application but the final amount will be decided after due diligence. The project implementation period should range from **May-December 2018 (maximum of six months)**.

## 9. Communication and Publicity of IIDEA

Constant communication and publicizing of the project activities is an integral part of the project, and as such, the project implementers will regularly provide communication materials such as

photos, videos, interviews clips and reports, articles, success stories etc. from their project implementation activities.

## 10. Stakeholders' involvement in IIDEA Project Development

In developing the IIDEA Project, a number of stakeholders were consulted and their views formed the integral part of this project concept. These stakeholders included: - the East African Law Society (EALS), the East African Local Governments Association (EALGA), East African Trade Unions Confederation (EATUC), the East African Business Council (EABC), the East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSO), the East African Youth Network (EAYN), the East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform (EAC-YAP), the East African Employers Organizations (EAEO), the East African Health Platform (EAHP). In addition officials from the various departments at the EAC Secretariat were consulted.

