



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation



European Union Africa
Infrastructure Trust Fund

Regional IXP Commercial Recommendations

Minimum Criteria for IXPs to be
considered for the Mentorship and
Capacity Building Exercise



Regional IXP Development

- Many IXPs in Africa are still in their formative stages
- In most cases IXP managers have never experienced a large-scale IXP operation
 - For this reason a significant number of best practice operational aspects remain largely theoretical and to a certain extent abstract
 - The ambiguity of the practical implementation of the best practices deludes those responsible of managing the IXP resulting in slow progress.
- There is limited expertise in the region to handhold IXPs to grow

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- Regional IXP Best practice workshops are expected to provide IXP operators with additional information.
- The information may overwhelm those who are still struggling with the basic implementation challenges.
- For this reason, it would be important for IXPs that meet the minimum criteria in every region to participate in a mentorship and capacity building exercise

Activity Objective

- Most of Africa's IXPs model are adopted from the successful not-for-profit model.
- The activity will involve a one-week placement of the qualifying IXP manager at an established large IXP in other regions of the world.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity for IXPs managers to understand how to run and operate a large IXP
- The exposure will also enable the IXPs managers to identify areas that need further improvement within their own IXPs.

Activity Objective

- The objective of the mentorship and capacity building exercise will be to;
 - i. Provide practical experience and understanding into large IXP day-to-day operations
 - ii. Develop understanding of the business models of large IXP
 - iii. Enable them to develop a strategic plan to become a regional IXP
 - iv. Identify their resource requirements grow and become a regional IXP

Minimum Criteria for selecting IXPs

- IXPs interested in the mentorship and capacity building exercise will need to demonstrate that;
 - i. The IXP is operational and with at least 3 peering members
 - ii. The IXP has sustainable business model
 - iii. The IXP has staff that is part-time and or full time for day-to-day operations
 - iv. The IXP has a functional website that provides basic information on members, statistics, policy, and contact information
 - v. The IXP upholds its constitutional mandate on governance
 - vi. The IXP has the support of both the local public and private sector stakeholders



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