

Guiding Principles underpinning the development of ADEA's 2014 Program and Budget

1. Main thrust of the 2014 Program and Budget

While 2013 was essentially focused on clarifying the paradigm shifts and concepts presented at the Triennale and then further expounded in the Strategic Policy Framework for the follow-up to the 2012 Triennale that was endorsed by the AU Heads of State at their January 2013 Summit in Addis Ababa, 2014 will be the year where ADEA will be addressing key policy, strategic and practical issues related to the transformation of education and training systems in order to assist African countries that have either begun implementing these shifts in paradigm or are planning to do so. Therefore, ADEA will venture into a challenging but not an unexplored territory. Advising and providing technical assistance to countries that are in the process of implementing policies or programs has been part and parcel of the work that a few ADEA WGs have been doing for years. However, the main difference is that the assistance required will focus on shifting systems bent on general education and irrelevant training towards competency and skills development, qualifications and knowledge for sustainable development. And this entails new strategies and approaches. Fortunately some of this work has already started but it needs to be embedded in existing policy frameworks at country level. ADEA has already registered several requests for assistance in areas as varied as education for sustainable development TVSD, STI or STEM/STEAM.

But the 2014 Program and Budget is happening within a challenging context of severe dwindling of financial resources which calls for extreme caution in selecting key activities while at the same time trying to maintain the current organizational capacity to carry out the work. Not an easy task. Therefore the following parameters/criteria for selecting activities and building the 2014 program and budget are offered.

2. Key parameter/criteria for selecting activities:

- Grounded in country, sub-regional and regional policy frameworks and supported by clear and articulated needs expressed by beneficiaries (Countries, RECs, ICQN and TF members).
- Mainly but not exclusively focused on ADEA priority countries identified on the basis of the presence of their Heads of State or high level representatives at the Triennale in February 2012 (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo and Rwanda). In addition to this list, the following countries could be added: members of the ADEA Bureau of Ministers (see attached list), fragile states, ICQN countries. Budgetary constraints and expression of needs will determine the number of countries
- Emanating from key stakeholders consulted during the preparation of the Triennale (Youth, private sector, diaspora and civil society organizations)
- Involvement/participation of beneficiary countries and other partners in funding and implementing (cost-sharing)
- Identification of external funding sources
- Give due consideration to specific areas of interest of donor agencies.

- Identify activities that can produce important and recognizable outcomes within the year (quick wins)