

14/05/2020

## **Pilot 4 Research and Dialogue**

### **Organization of a Panel of Experts on**

### **Resilience and vulnerabilities of the economy**

#### **1. Presentation of the project Pilot4 Research and Dialogue**

**The global objective of the project Pilot 4 Research and Dialogue** is to promote dialogue on economic, resources, policies and fiscal governance issues in Tanzania and to create a permanent platform for dialogue. Tanzania has a strong capacity and numerous assets to become a regional leader in sustainability strategies, stability and reforms. The project wants to support a fair and long-term reform towards an emerging economic leadership of the country.

**The sub-objectives are:**

1. To promote and disseminate high quality and evidence-based research on policies, resources, economic and fiscal governance.
2. To nurture debate among stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors, on economic and fiscal governance issues.
3. To increase research capacity and expand the links, networks and connections among economic research institutions and universities in Tanzania.

The panels of experts will focus on specific issues and topics to be further identified by the Task Force. The aim of the panels of experts will be to foster dialogue and harness the engagement part of the project. The panels of experts will integrate the partners of the project, additional representatives from the Task Force (in the jury), and experts selected in the pool of experts, according to their specific area of expertise. These panels will gather a dozen of experts to exchange on specific local policies, both for their design/production and for their implementation, while providing different views, outlooks, and perspectives. They will include a complete background document on the selected topic, relevant reviews from the selected experts, a set of presentations, a list of relevant references. These documents will be made available on the online interactive forum whenever it will be possible. The panels of experts will last from 2 to 3 days to facilitate extended dialogue and exchanges among the experts, and to increase partnerships among stakeholders such as research organizations. The questions of gender and climate change (or the environment) will be addressed in all panels of experts as a cross cutting issue. This will include an analysis of the policy impacts on gender aspects (gender aggregated data), but also an evaluation of the impacts of the policies on the environment and climate change. The panels of experts can take 2 forms: a lively debate with main speakers and a moderator, or a roundtable discussion on specific topics. We propose to have the first half day in the form of a debate to present the project's results, and 1,5 day dedicated to in-depth content roundtable discussions.

If the travel restrictions linked with the Covid 19 pandemics are maintained, some of the events will be organized online.

**This project is co-funded by the European Union and led by [TAPRI](#) Tampere Peace Research Institute. The other partners are [IMED](#) (institute of Management and entrepreneurship development), [Cowi](#) and [Pilot4dev](#).**



You can find regular information on our website: [www.pilot4dialogue.com](http://www.pilot4dialogue.com)

## 2. Background and Context

According to the main international institutions the Tanzanian economy has shown positive trends, although with a slowdown over the two last years<sup>1</sup>. “Improvement would be subject to favorable international trends, prudent fiscal management, mitigation of financial sector vulnerabilities<sup>2</sup>”, fair and consistent poverty alleviation, and implementation of reforms to improve the business environment. Improvement and sustainability of the economy is a key objective of the second Five Year Plan Development which focuses on industrialization. The government has indeed made substantial investments in infrastructure and implemented reforms in the sector of the extraction of natural resources.

Although Tanzania has been considered as following a specific path and model for the economy, the needs remain important in terms of public expenditure, health facilities, water and sanitation<sup>3</sup>, education and poverty alleviation programs. Most Tanzanians are working in the informal sector both in urban and in rural areas. At least 26,4% of the population lives in poverty (poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines) and according to the world development indicators, the poverty headcount ratio at 1.90 dollars a day was still 49,1 % in 2016.

The Covid-19 Pandemics has affected the whole world’s economy, while the prospects for the economies in Sub Saharan Africa remain unknown (IGC). Although the activity in the agricultural sector has continued, Tanzania has not experienced a strict lock down, certain sectors such as tourism, inter regional trade, and private investments have been affected. In addition, this period of uncertainties has inevitably led to hesitations from the private sector, while the informal sector may have been a factor of resilience.

The country has enough assets and resources to become a leader on sustainability and stability in the region. The human resources and skills’ potentials are tremendous. As many of its neighbours, Tanzania is also facing challenges related to governance, implementation of the tax system, fairness in tax harmonization, poverty alleviation, infrastructure, agricultural modernization, access to facilities in remote areas, and job opportunities for the youth. Stability, security, and cohesiveness are part of the country’s long-term positioning.

Tanzania’s population is estimated to grow, as well as urbanization. Young people are a huge potential for development and represent an asset for macroeconomic reforms. A growing population will trigger an increased demand for infrastructure and amenities. Development is dependent on infrastructure development, trade, Foreign Direct Investment, Economic corridors, and an increased consumer base. Heavy Infrastructure investment into rail, port and road as part of the government’s investment plan was expected to be one of the main drivers of the G.D.P, creating a burden for the trade deficit and for the value of the currency. **Finally, with the new current global challenges ahead, the issues of development, fairness, but also resilience of the economy will be at the centre of many national economies including in Tanzania.**

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<sup>1</sup> World development indicators, world bank 2020 <https://data.worldbank.org/country/Tanzania>

<sup>2</sup> Tanzania Economic Outlook, African development Bank <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries-east-africa-tanzania/tanzania-economic-outlook>

<sup>3</sup> According to the World Bank, issues related to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (S.D.G.6) impose a US\$206 million toll on the country’s annual gross domestic product



### 3. Possible topics to be addressed

The main topics to be addressed could be: Resilience and vulnerabilities of the Economy

- Resilience and vulnerabilities of economies in sub-Saharan countries (comparative analysis)
- Spatial inequalities and social well-being
- The impacts of coastal communities on the resilience of the economy
- The resilience and vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector
- The urban informal settlements in large cities
- Women's participation in the different economic sectors in Tanzania and/or women as factors of resilience for the economy
- Trade and regional cooperation as factors of resilience, or vulnerability
- Preparedness of the country to climate disasters and crisis
- The improvement of S.D.Gs in Tanzania
- Civic participation in the management of natural resources: the case of Tanzania
- Social inclusion and fairness
- The concept of "frugal innovation" applied to the case of Tanzania
- Structural transformation opportunities arising from Covid-19
- Building a resilient economy: Lessons from Covid-19
- Covid-19 Impacts and coping strategies of the informal workers

### 4. Proposed dates and organization

1. Please send your abstract to Bram Desmet [bram.desmet@tuni.fi](mailto:bram.desmet@tuni.fi) with copy to [pascaline.gaborit@pilot4dev.com](mailto:pascaline.gaborit@pilot4dev.com) and [elise.feron@tuni.fi](mailto:elise.feron@tuni.fi) if possible before September 2020.
2. We expect to select around 10 contributors. The selected contributors will need to write a paper, make an online PowerPoint presentation, together with an audio recorded file. There will be no payment to the contributors for the abstracts, but a compensation of 100 Euros will be paid to the contributors after the approval of their paper (5-10 pages with references). The deadline to send the documents will be September 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. The review of the papers will take place as soon as possible and during this time an **individual interview** will be organized with each expert.
4. The presentations, PowerPoints and the audio files will be posted online for open exchanges and discussions.
5. We will create a **discussion forum**. The idea for the discussion forum is to have a channel for public debate. For this reason, the website <https://pilot4dialogue.com> has a forum foreseen within its structure. This forum is meant to be a place where people, after registration on the website, will be able to discuss the topics provided in the project. The forum is also a place where we can publish finalized publications, interviews and other content and put it up for discussion.