



Innovation, Transformation and Resilience for Sustainable Development

7,5 ECTS | LUND UNIVERSITY | AUDA-NEPAD

This graduate-level capacity development programme explores the role of innovation in transforming the economy and increasing social resilience over the long-term process of sustainable development in a low-income country context.

Forging a close relationship between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), this programme is aligned with the goals of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the AU Agenda 2063, the sustainable development goals (SDG4 Education, SDG9 Infrastructure, Innovation and Industry and SDG17 International Partnership for Sustainable Development in particular), and the AU-EU Innovation Agenda on driving STI policies for socio-economic transformation of Africa.

The programme is part of the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development's (AUDA-NEPAD) larger project African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative, which aims to strengthen the capacity of Africans to develop and use Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) indicators in planning and policy at the national, regional, and continental levels. The programme is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and AUDA-NEPAD.

BACKGROUND

Innovation and innovation practices are vital to resilient, sustainable development. With this in mind, AUDA-NEPAD, Africa's primary development agency, has driven forward the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative since 2007. This multi-phase project, now at the beginning of the fourth phase (2022-2025), aims to revitalise the in-country capability of senior officials to:

- Develop and promote the adoption of internationally compatible STI indicators;
- Build human and institutional capacities for STI indicators and related surveys;
- Enable African countries to participate in international programmes for STI indicators; and
- Inform African countries on the state of STI in Africa

Ultimately, AUDA-NEPAD, the project, and this programme support the long-term continental vision known as Agenda 2063, 'The Africa We Want'.

The programme, offered by Lund University, contributes to the ASTII goal to produce a community of best practice to improve Africa's National Innovation Systems. Each programme cohort comprises 20-25 key people who will gain specialised knowledge of the role of innovation in resilience and sustainable development. As programme alumni, you will be valued members of this community and gain network opportunities across Africa as well as with institutions involved in the Swedish Innovation System.

PROGRAMME CONTENT & TIMELINE

Why and how have some developing countries been able to set in motion catching-up processes while others remain stagnant or even fall behind?

The programme examines key aspects of these processes. You will unpack theoretical perspectives on innovation and technology, dissect the role of innovation policies in historically successful examples of resilient and sustainable development, and understand how indicators of innovation relate to measures of

structural change. Importantly, the programme facilitates application of theoretical and historical understanding to your current context, and you will be able to identify policies and public investments that combine support for both innovation and sustainable development.

We will also discuss analytical perspectives on economic development and transformation, including possibilities for and experiences of industrial policy, national innovation systems, technology transfer, social capabilities, economic complexity, market-state relationship, trade relations, governance and domestic resource mobilisation, greening strategies, institutional change, and resilience to economic shrinking.

The programme begins with an online introduction in April 2026 with lectures, readings, and short assignments. After this, we welcome you to Lund, Sweden during May 2026 for lectures, seminars, and group work.

The programme ends with a final individual assignment after you have returned home. With a passing grade on the final examination, you will receive a diploma and 7.5 ECTS credits.

TEACHING AND COORDINATING STAFF

The programme is given by the Department of Economic History at Lund University and taught by experts at [Lund University School of Economics and Management](#).

TARGET GROUP

Our target candidates are professionals engaged in ASTII and/or innovation policy and management, mid- to upper-level public officials across Africa, ideally between 30-55 years old. Applications from low-income countries are especially encouraged. The programme also strives for a gender-balanced participation.

FORMAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree (preferably in the Social Sciences) or the equivalent work experience in the field of Innovation policy/management and/or Development practice. Degrees from other fields are also welcome.
- CV with relevant professional experience.
- Motivation Letter of 1-2 pages in accordance with the template [on our webpage](#).
- English language certificate from an official body or equivalent, e.g., TOEFL or IELTS (exceptions from this requirement can be made if English is official language).
- Able to travel to Sweden in May 2026.

Kindly note that the implementation of the programme is subject to the availability of funding.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Programme dates:

- 12 April 2026 – 15 May 2026 (online)
- 19 May - 5 June 2026 (in Sweden)
- June 2026 (final examination online)

Number of participants: 25

Costs: Sida will cover the costs related to:

- participation in the programme and study tours;
- hotel accommodation;
- a meal allowance to cover self-cooked meals;
- international travel to and from Sweden.

Participants will cover travel costs to and from the international airport nearest their home, visa costs, and all personal expenses not indicated here.

Application period: September - October, 2025.

Successful applicants will be notified in December 2025/ January 2026.

Apply via [Lund University's application portal](#)

Contact:

If you have any questions regarding the application process, contact transformation@ehl.lu.se.

For more information, please [visit our webpage](#)

