



UNESCO Vacancy Notice

Researcher

Rethinking Education in Africa Project

March-June 2017

Background

Within its mandate to lead the Education 2030 agenda, UNESCO provides thought-leadership to inform global, regional and national public policy debate on education and development in a changing learning landscape. It is in this spirit that UNESCO published *Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?* (2015). This landmark publication is an invitation to re-vision the purpose of education and the organization of learning in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty and contradiction. It provides a springboard to examine and revisit the challenges related to the creation, dissemination, transmission, validation, and use of knowledge in a changing world. *Rethinking Education* is a call for dialogue, with the aim to stimulate public policy debate on both the *purpose* and *governance* of education and knowledge, by contextualizing global challenges in specific regional and local contexts.

Rethinking Education in Africa

Building on this, this project aims to rethink education in the context of the specific development challenges and opportunities in Africa today. Drawing from local, expert knowledge, the project:

- Outlines a **vision for education in Africa** in light of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable human and social development in the continent. In addressing issues of identity, culture, community, and citizenship, particular focus is placed on the realities and aspirations of youth, and of young women in particular.
- Explore the challenges around the **governance of education and knowledge** in Africa as collective public goods in a changing learning landscape.

The overall aim of the project is to spur a broad consultation and debate on a vision of education and development for a changing Africa.

The project was launched through a brainstorming meeting jointly organized by UNESCO and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar in November 2016. The brainstorming meeting was based on two key UNESCO 2015 publications: *Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?* and *African Futures: Towards a sustainable emergence?* At this meeting, a group of African thinkers, scholars, and other stakeholders identified and explored a number of challenges and opportunities for the future of education and development in Africa.

Assignment

Building on the issues outlined in the report of the joint UNESCO-CODESRIA meeting (November 2016), UNESCO is seeking a researcher to produce a 40-page critical vision document (in English) on the future of education and development in Africa. This document will serve as the basis for a second meeting of African researchers and thinkers scheduled for mid-June in Dakar in view of its further refinement and finalization.

The assignment involves the following tasks:

1. Preparation of a first draft report/proposal for a critical re-visioning of education in Africa [approximately 40 pages or 12'000-13'000 words] by **mid-May 2017** on the basis of themes identified in the November 2016 meeting report.
2. Undertake at least one mission to UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) and/or the UNESCO Dakar Regional Office to consult with colleagues and partners as part of the drafting process [March-May 2017] - Travel expenses will be covered by UNESCO.
3. Presentation of the revised draft report/proposal for re-visioning education in Africa at a second meeting of African thinkers and scholars scheduled in Dakar in **mid-June 2017**.
4. Finalization of the proposal for re-visioning education in Africa based on inputs received both through the second experts' meeting, as well as through a parallel process of peer review.

Publication of the critical vision document on the future of education in Africa is scheduled for September 2017.

Required Qualifications

Education

- Advanced university degree, preferably at post-graduate level, in education, international development and/or other relevant fields

Work Experience

- At least 5 years of experience in education/development policy research and analysis, preferably with a think tank, research institute or university
- Record of published research on relevant topics related to development and education in Africa

Skills/Competencies/Abilities

- Proven analytical, conceptual and research skills
- Good knowledge of global education and development issues
- Excellent drafting skills - proven ability to write concisely, effectively and persuasively for the various audiences

Languages

- Fluency in English and very good working knowledge of French
- Additional knowledge of Arabic and/or Portuguese will be an asset

Duration and Fees

- Three months starting mid-March 2017
- Fees: 5 000 USD per month

Interested candidates should submit their application, including motivation letter, curriculum vitae and samples of writing in English to Julie Tovey (j.tovey@unesco.org) and Catherine Collin (c.collin@unesco.org) by 28 February 2017 at the latest.