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CALL FOR GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS PROPOSALS: DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE PLATFORM FOR URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES IN AFRICA

The Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA) is a regional Centre of excellence for urban-rural linkages (URL). CURLA aims to foster innovative and multidisciplinary research, capacity development, student mentorship, and research-informed policy-making within the framework of integrating spatial, sectoral, and enabling governance for sustainable territorial development.

THE CALL

CURLA invites proposals for **two distinct** but complementary roles in the development of an online platform dedicated to storing, managing and disseminating data and information on urban-rural linkages in Africa. This platform aims to be a comprehensive resource for data and information on the interconnections between urban and rural areas, promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth across the African region.

DELIVERY OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The platform will be developed through two distinct but complementary activities. The first, **research and content generation**; which will involve conducting research to generate content for the platform, ensuring it is comprehensive and relevant. The second will be **platform development and design**. This will involve developing and designing an interactive, user-friendly online platform for storing, managing, and disseminating the content on urban-rural linkages in Africa.

1. CALL FOR CONTENT RESEARCHER

The Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA) is seeking a qualified researcher to collect and provide detailed, high-quality content related to urban-rural linkages in Africa. This content will form the backbone of the online platform and will include quantitative and qualitative data, case studies, policy analysis, and best practices.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Content Creation

- Develop comprehensive information and data sets on various aspects of urban-rural linkages.
- Provide case studies and best practices from different regions within Africa.
- Collect and analyse policies addressing urban-rural dynamics.

2. Data Collection

- Gather relevant quantitative data from primary and secondary sources
- Ensure the accuracy, relevance, and timeliness of all collected data.

3. Knowledge Dissemination

- Create summaries, infographics, and other user-friendly formats for complex data and analyses.
- Work with the platform team to ensure content is accessible and engaging.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced degree in Urban Planning and/or Regional Planning, Geography, Development Studies, or a related field.
- Proven experience in research on urban-rural linkages or related topics.
- Strong analytical skills and ability to translate complex data into actionable insights.
- Excellent writing and communication skills.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

- **Executive Summary:** Overview of the proposed content creation strategy.
- **Methodology:** Detailed plan for data collection and sources of information.
- **Experience:** Information about relevant research experience and previous work.
- **Timeline:** Proposed timeline for content delivery.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submitted proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria to identify winning proposal:

- a. Quality and relevance of proposed content.
- b. Research methodology and relevance of the sources of data.
- c. Experience and track record in relevant research fields.
- d. Feasibility of the proposed timeline.

2. CALL FOR PLATFORM DEVELOPER

The Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA) is seeking a skilled developer to design and build a robust, user-friendly online platform for storing, managing, and disseminating the content on urban-rural linkages in Africa.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Platform Development

- Design and develop a secure, scalable database to store diverse datasets.
- Create user-friendly interfaces for accessing and visualising data.

2. Interactive Features

- Develop tools for data visualisation, such as interactive maps and dashboards.
- Integrate features for user interaction and collaboration, including forums and discussion boards.

3. Security and Accessibility

- Implement robust security measures to protect data integrity and user privacy.
- Ensure the platform is accessible across multiple devices and is user-friendly for diverse audiences.

4. Maintenance and Support

- Provide ongoing technical support and updates to ensure the platform remains functional and secure.
- Offer training and resources to users for effective platform utilisation.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven experience in developing and deploying online platforms or similar digital solutions.
- Expertise in database management, web development, and user interface design.
- Strong understanding of data security and privacy best practices.
- Ability to work collaboratively with the researcher to integrate content seamlessly.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- **Executive Summary:** Overview of the proposed technical solution.
- **Technical Approach:** Detailed description of the platform architecture, development process, and implementation timeline.
- **Experience:** Information about relevant development experience and previous projects.
- **Timeline:** Proposed timeline for platform development and launch.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submitted proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria to identify the winning proposal:

- Technical feasibility and robustness of the proposed platform.
- User-centric design and ease of use.
- Experience and track record in platform development.
- Cost-effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed budget.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Proposals must be submitted by **MONDAY AUGUST 12TH, 2024, 17:00 HOURS [EAST AFRICA TIME]**. Late submissions will not be considered.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants should submit their CV and a proposal as per the aforementioned requirements (Not exceeding 5 pages). Applicants are also required to share a sample/portfolio of their work (not exceeding 2 pages or a link) related to this call.

CONTACT DETAILS:

For proposal submissions, questions or further information, please contact:

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