



The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) launches the call for applications for 2020 study week on macroeconomic, trade, investment and development policies.

This year, in response to the pandemic and isolation measures put in place in most countries, the study week 2020 will be organized through online sessions. The sessions will be scheduled over three weeks; with two sessions per day (held in the morning and afternoon) for 3 days in a week (a total of 15 sessions planned).

Sessions with international and regional experts will open up spaces for enriching discussions and debates on various themes including free trade, investment, debt, tax, climate change among others. The discussions aim to contribute to the understanding of alternative development paradigms.

Since decades, Arab states have been implementing a growth-based development paradigm based on austerity measures; adopting neo-liberal policies deepening inequalities, dismantling social protection systems. This structural challenge is linked to the global economic and financial structure; that gives primacy to financial systems on the expense of the real economy. Additionally, the structure of the global trade system does not accommodate between needs and capacities of the economies of developing sates on the one hand and the openness of their markers and their involvement in the global markets on the other.

In this context, efforts from civil society representatives to monitor the impacts of macro-economic, trade and investment policies are crucial and should be strengthened with research and advocacy calling for rights-based policy revisions.

The Study Week will be organized in collaboration with Third World Network and has been organized six times until 2019, engaging around 70 researchers from various countries of the region.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY WEEK:

- Enhancing civil society advocacy on economic policies in the region by building capacities and raising awareness on the elected priority-issues.
- Working towards establishing a working group of civil society activists from various Arab countries cooperating with the Network on studying the different layers of developmental process in order to have a wider scope of the development solutions and priorities for the Arab societies, according to the expertise coming from different contexts.

TARGET GROUP:

Countries: All Arab countries

Total number of participants: (to be specified later)

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The selection of participants will be finalized by a joint committee including members of ANND and Third World Network and will be based on the below-mentioned criteria

1. Professional standards

- A relevant academic degree in economics, law, political science, international relations and cooperation, development –or other related majors
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in a CSO or in an academic research center dealing with the abovementioned topics and the commitments to pursue work on these topics in the coming years.
- Previous experiences writing about or addressing any of these issues (providing track record on that: publication, conferences, courses...)
- Willingness to join a working group on these issues (which would cooperate with ANND members on research and advocacy work related to issues covered by the study week).

2. Personal attributes

- Young (better under age 35), motivated, committed in CSOs.
- Good command of English language.
- Team-work spirit –capacity of listening and proposing –open mindedness.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please send an updated CV and a short cover letter (max 500 words) in English to

Zahra Bazzi: zahra.bazzi@annd.org

Bihter Moschini: bihter.moschini@annd.org

accompanied with a short letter from your actual employer explaining your role at the organization and indicating consent for your engagement to the study week for over three weeks duration.

Testimonials from previous Study Week participants

“This study week gave me a step by step guidance to understand the macroeconomic, trade and investment policies issues, by explaining the basics and throw highlighting the links between the national and the global economic development priorities, in order to have efficient development solutions in our Arab countries. The interaction we had with the experts during the study week sessions was very enriching and allowed me to appreciate an alternative development model, and to be aware on current macroeconomic and trade issues. Also, through sharing their experiences from other countries with us, the experts give me many ideas to use for advocacy in my country. The study week is very useful for NGOs in the South working on developments solutions issues, I highly recommend it.” Imen Louati- Tunisia

“When I first applied for the Rights-Based Development study week, I was concerned that the outcome of it will be monotone and acritical, like other workshops I attended before. However, my doubts proved to be wrong, as the program included several interesting sessions and instructors. To discuss, such general topics with various nationalities was indeed illuminating. Personally, I did not find many of the conclusions we reached as a group necessarily new. Yet, it was the way we arrived at them that gave me new perspectives and insights to macroeconomic policies. In a way, the study week helped me to develop my initial interest in topics as multilateral trade relations and investment treaties”. Kareem Megahed- Egypt

“It is a very interesting experience, we participated in theoretical and practical exercises, we shared the experiences, we created a networking between the researchers. It is a scientific meeting where the participants presented the economic situations of their countries in a nutshell: experience not to be missed for young researchers.” Riadh Bechir- Tunisia

“The study week was a very good opportunity to understand the mechanisms and stakes of economic, trade and investment policies. the study week also initiated me to the means and the alternatives which are presented to the developing countries to found and preserve their economic, commercial and food sovereignty and consequently political. It was also an excellent moment of exchange and sharing with researchers and society civil members with different backgrounds.” Said Alahyane-Morocco





“The course was inspiring and very educational. As a formal staff of the World Bank, lots of the puzzles become clearer for me such as why all strategies for the developing and emerging countries are not working. It was a matter of unleashing the real meaning of development that the scenario writers decide for these countries. The challenge how to build better cooperation between the north and the south, how to promote investment and protect the country resources and sovereignty. What is it all about SDGs and Climate Change and what are the steps that south countries governments and NGOs can do to achieve their goals without being trapped in a binding agreement that might exploit their country economy and society for generations? These are just tip of an ice berg. After the course, there was an urgent call inside me to know more, I wished if there is an advanced course where government bodies attend as well specially people from the Ministry of Planning, Trade and Investment Authorities. If I can give few recommendations, I would say that such course should be taught in schools and universities of south countries, and such course should be followed by advanced courses as well.” Bushra Nasr Kretschmer-Yemen

The Arab NGO Network for Development works in 12 Arab countries, with 9 national networks (with an extended membership of 250 CSOs from different backgrounds) and 23 NGO members.



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