Launching of an Executive Master’s Degree in City Management in Africa (MEMVA)

In Partnership with Al Akhawayn University of Ifrane Kingdom of Morocco

Duration: 12 Months
Academic Year: 2021-2022

Deadline to apply: 31 March 2021
The Executive Master’s Degree in Management of Cities in Africa (hereafter MEMVA in French acronym) finds its place in the support for the implementation of the African Agenda 2063 (the Africa We Want), in particular Aspiration 1: «A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development» for which African states are committed to eradicating poverty within a generation, through the sharing of prosperity, the social and economic transformation of the Continent, and with the goals of, inter alia, a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all, as well as well-trained and adequately skilled citizens supported by science, technology and innovation. It is about developing Africa’s human and social capital through an education and skills revolution that emphasizes knowledge, science and technology.

It also supports the implementation and localization of global sustainable development Agendas, in particular:

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, in particular SDG 4 «Ensuring equal access to quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities», SDG 11 «Ensuring that cities and human settlements are open to all, secure, resilient and sustainable» and SDG 16 «Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and developing effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels»;

- The New Urban Agenda, adopted in 2016 in Quito, which states in its Paragraph 42: «We commit ourselves to assist sub-national and local governments, as appropriate, to play their leading role in strengthening linkages among all stakeholders, including the promotion of dialogue ...»;

- The Climate change Agenda, which requires capacity building as a crucial component of the response to this global challenge;

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which in its Priority 1 (Understanding Disaster Risks) emphasizes on the improvement of knowledge, training, education and capacity building.

Also at the international level, it is worth recalling the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly in December 2017 on Human Resources Development which emphasizes that «human resources development is the cornerstone of economic, social and environmental development and that health and education are at the heart of human resources development» (A/72/424/Add.3 of 7 December 2017).

Finally, this training program responds to a request formulated by the African Territorial Collectivities members of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa) which Headquarters is based in the Kingdom of Morocco; a request expressed in several recommendations from the Africities Summit whose 8th edition was also held in Morocco, in Marrakech in December 2018.

The local public action is now part of a complex and challenging urban environment, multi-actor and multi-level governance, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary which must focus on Sustainable Development in its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental), on the availability of facilities and infrastructure, on the quality of local public service provision, on the protection, preservation and enhancement of culture and heritage, and on urban planning and management, including urban mobility, through modern local public management and professional staff.
The MEMVA is a joint project between Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) and United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa)

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), which is an international organization whose seat is in Rabat, is present in 47 African countries and more than 16,000 local collectivities. UCLG Africa has initiated the creation of professional networks of territorial executives (City Managers Network, Finance Managers Network, Technical Managers Network and HRD Network). The Organization also has an African Local Governments Academy (ALGA); the existence of which is based on a Resolution adopted in 2009 during the 5th Edition of the Africities Summit held in Marrakech, Morocco. ALGA has a Network of about thirty Anchor Institutes covering the five Regions of Africa, in addition to several partners at the international level who have been mobilized for the pedagogical content and case studies. The Academy is also a member of the Board of Management of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (AIEIA) and is the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the International Commission for the Accreditation of Education and Training Programs of the Administration (ICAPA).

For more information on:
UCLG Africa : www.uclga.org
ALGA : www.uclgafrica-alga.org

AUI has gained a twenty-three year expertise in executive education and advanced education provided in English. The University has the necessary physical (campus) and digital (distance education) infrastructure in place. Still in its infancy, the University has already developed a national and international reputation for its unique identity and potential. AUI has various and several International Accreditations. The last Accreditation she received dates from 2017, with the prestigious New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation (NEASC). NEASC is a globally recognized standard of Excellence, NEASC Accreditation attests that AUI is a University of High Quality and Integrity.

For more information on:
AUI : www.aui.ma/en/

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE

The training of 50 African Territorial Executives from Anglophone and Francophone countries in order to improve the performance of Territorial Collectivities and promote professionalism at the local level.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To understand the new Global and African geopolitical context of decentralization, local governance and local development, as well as the challenges that such a context creates for African cities;
- To grasp and understand the environment of urban policy in Africa and sectoral urban policies;
- To acquire the skills and tools needed to effectively and efficiently manage African cities;
- To be able to respond to and seize economic, social, cultural and environmental opportunities;
- To be able to apply urban development and urban planning theories and territorial approach to local development;
- To acquire the capacity to analyze and respond to the problems of urban governance, the delivery of public services and the response to citizens’ expectations;
- To understand the political cycle, public policies and planning paradigms as well as the role of stakeholders, actors and their networks in urban management, including inter-organizational relationships.
The MEMVA targets four (4) territorial professions considered as the «support professions» of local authorities, namely:

• City Managers/CEO/Directors of Service;
• Financial Managers;
• Technical Managers;
• Human Resources Managers.

Number of places available: 25 places (French-speaking countries) and 25 places (English-speaking countries)

City Management graduates play a crucial role in how the places we live are planned, managed, and developed. City Management graduates work in the fields of landscape architecture, planning, civil engineering, public administration, design and development, local authority departments and organizations, environmental consultancy, transportation, urban renewal and regeneration, data collection, and public consultation.

Graduates go on to rewarding careers such as city managers, researchers, consultants, project managers, policy advisors, and major public bodies.

Applicants must:

• Hold a certified Copy of Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent;
• Have a professional experience of at least 5 years required;
• Have a good command of computer tools;
• Have a good command of French and/or English.

Age to apply: between 25 and 54 years old. Female applications are strongly encouraged.

• The MEMVA will last 12 months.
The Executive Master is a multidisciplinary and specialized training. It is organized within the framework of a profession-oriented education.

**This training offer takes into account the new context of the Pandemic of Covid-19 by investing more in distance learning as well as in information and communication technologies.**

The Master’s degree will be organized and deployed with 80% of the courses online (online seminars, peer learning, case studies, readings and projects) and 20% face-to-face including the final defence and a Study Tour to Morocco to discover the Moroccan experience in decentralization and advanced regionalization.

The Executive Master will be led by high-level international speakers, facilitators and practitioners.

**LANGUAGE, DATE AND VENUE**

The Executive Master will be held in English and French. The launch is scheduled on 2021 on-line at AUI, a prestigious English-language American-style Liberal Arts university in Ifrane, Kingdom of Morocco.

**PROGRAM COST**

The cost of the Executive Master is 7,500 Euros (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Euros) as a package, which includes:

- The pedagogical cost
- The use of the Online Platform (Teams Zengebar)
- Accommodation and meals in a 4-star UAI residence during the stay in Morocco with full access to campus facilities (library, Olympic swimming pool, fitness center, University catering).
- One (1) International airline ticket for field and institutional visits in Morocco as well as the defence
- Local transport from Ifrane to and from the Regions of Morocco

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Al Akhawayn University:** admission@aui.ma ; a.marzouk@aui.ma ; j.mandine@aui.ma

**COURSE CONTENT**

**I- CORE PERIOD COURSES :**

- The Geo-Political context of African Cities
- Governing African Cities
- Innovative African Cities
- New Approach to Sustainability
- Citizen Centered and Service Oriented Cities

**II- SPECIALIZATION FOR CITY MANAGERS:**

- The role, Mission and Responsibilities of the City Manager
- The City Manager as the Head of the Administration
- The City Manager as Development Agent
- Managing Decentralized Cooperation and Partnerships

**III- SPECIALIZATION FOR FINANCIAL MANAGERS:**

- Mission and Management Responsibilities of the Financial Manager
- Local Finance and Budgeting
- Innovative Approaches in Local Finances and Procurement
- Mobilization of Resources
- Transparency, Control and Audit of Local Finance
- Risk Management

**IV- SPECIALIZATION FOR TECHNICAL MANAGERS:**

- Role, Mission and Responsibilities of a City Technical Manager
- The Fundamentals and Challenges of Urbanism and Architecture at Local Level
- Spatial Planning and Urban Management
- Sustainable Environment
- Toolbox of the Technical Director
- Maintenance Management