

## **Call for papers**

# **Économie, économie informelle, emplois et croissance en Afrique subsaharienne. Regards des sciences sociales et économiques**

## **Economy, informal economy, jobs and growth in sub- Saharan Africa. Social and economic sciences perspectives**

**Under the Coordination of:**

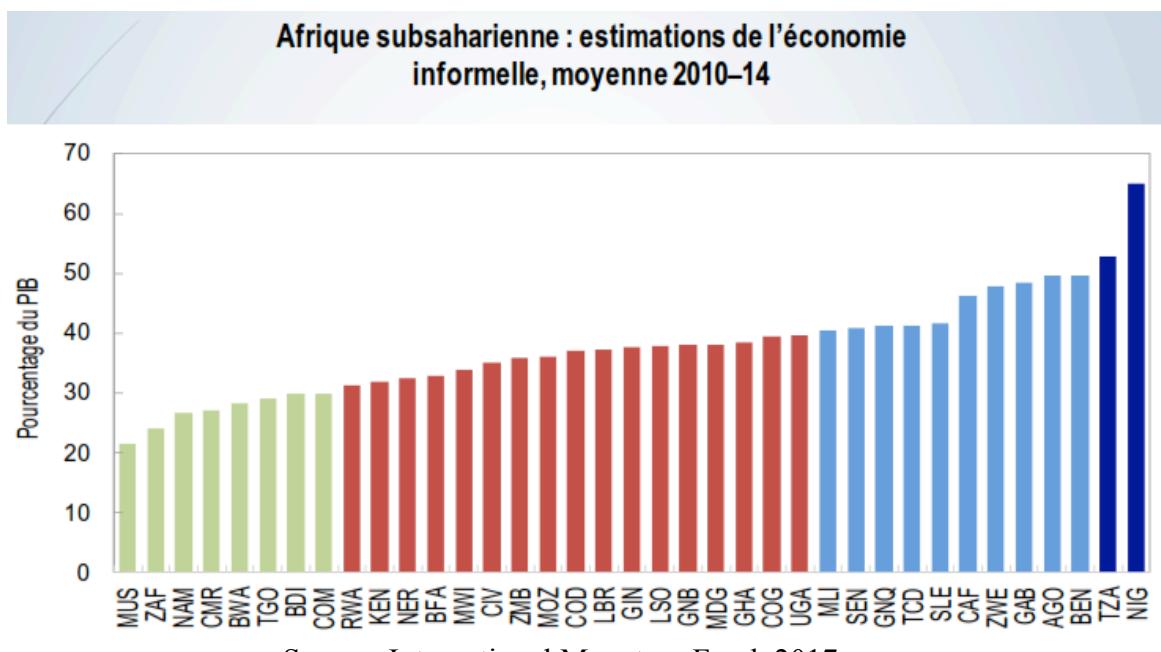
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For decades, the socio-economic situation of many countries in sub-Saharan Africa has been unsatisfactory. The formal economy (formal sector) as it exists in the developed countries is not performing to a large scale, and it is the informal economy (the informal sector) that continues to grow considerably both in rural environment and in urban areas. It is an area of predilection that meets the need for survival and fight against poverty. It includes "an increasingly heterogeneous population: migrants of all origins, young graduates looking for their first job, the neglected school system, the unemployed of the modern sector following stabilization policies" (Maldonado and al., 2001). Political leaders, government officials, and private sector actors are also evolving in the formal sector, which, in some cases, is a means of capital accumulation, sometimes to the benefit of the State or of the general interest (Baaz and Olsson, 2011, M'bemba-Ndoumba, 2010, Malukisa, 2017).

In fact, informal economy is more empirical than theoretical (Cling and al., 2012). This form of resource mobilization finds its roots in the orientations of the development economy and is similar to the reserve army as stated in Karl Marx terminology, or to the unlimited workforce according to Arthur Lewis terminology. (Cling and al., 2012: 19). This characterization of informal economy by François Bourguignon (2010) is not reduced to abstraction. Another angle of informal economy can also be described as rural economy. However, the understanding and definition of the informal economy still seems ambiguous (Rubbers 2007, Ayimpam 2014).

François Roubaud and Michel Seruzier (1991: 17) attempt to shed light on two approaches. First of all, they indicate that informal economy has several terms to describe a reality that seems common. This terminology can be classified into three categories. The first is oriented towards a purely statistical qualification. Terms such as unregistered economy, unmeasured economy, unobserved economy, undeclared economy, invisible economy, unstructured economy (De Villers, 1992). The second category is attributed to a form of so-called illegal activity that goes beyond or crosses the boundaries of legality. The terms used are more pejorative and tend to delinquency. We find the terms abstract in correlation with the economy. It is this hidden form, underwater, underground, occult, black, shadow economy, irregular, concealed, submerged, clandestine, parallel economy or illegal economy (Hart, 1973, De Villers, 1992; 2007; Barthélémy, 1998).

In all regions of sub-Saharan Africa, the major part of income-generating activities focuses on informal economy. Data provided by French Development Agency (FDA) reveal that "Cameroon is, in all likelihood, the country of sub-Saharan Africa that has one of the highest rates of employment in informal sector" (Walther and al., 2006: 4). This share of informal economy was estimated at 92% (Briod, 2011: 8), according to ECAM3 of the National Institute of Statistics. By observing this model, the share of informal economy in such region in the world can be appreciated. This important part simply reveals that public administration in Africa, in this case in countries such as those in Central Africa, employs less than 10% of the active population.



Source: International Monetary Fund, 2017

From literature, this sector is often apprehended by emphasizing dualism, a dichotomy between the formal and the informal. However, by examining more closely what constitutes substance of informality, several authors have finally demonstrated that opposition between the formal and the informal is often pure theoretical constructions, since between the two spheres that can reinforce each other or produce opposite effects (Alsayyad, 2004; McFarlane, 2016; Roy, 2005; Lindell and Ampaire, 2016; McFarlane and Waibel, 2012). In addition, the informal is not necessarily synonymous with disorganization, anarchy or dysfunction insofar as it can contribute to the provision of public goods and services that the state is unable to provide (Alsayyad, 2004; Olivier of Sardan, 2015; De Herdt and Titeca, 2016). In the domain of democracy, men or political leaders in search of voters also seek to maintain a clientelist relationship with populations living in the informal sector (Tendler, 2002; Goodfellow, 2015; Goodfellow and Titeca, 2012; Malukisa, 2017).

How to rebuild Africa economy mainly informal economy? How to design informal economy activities so that it becomes a pillar of growth? How can informal economy positions itself? The different faces observed on the continent reflect a multifaceted presence in informal sector to the point where we can talk about the African informal economies. How are these informal African economies characterized in early 2020? What are the specificities of Africa? How could these economies be part of the solution to the dysfunctions observed in the public

administration? The problems related to informal and economic growth in Africa will be revisited through interdisciplinary approaches. Heuristics from human, social, legal and economic sciences will illustrate this analysis in order to propose a contextualized model of local economy. This research work intents to analyze realities and identify conditions of possibilities inducing effective development. It is also about thinking development "differently", a development laid on tangible situations.

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## **Orientations and schedule**

The uni or multidisciplinary proposals are expected with a title followed by about 250 words with or without an indicative bibliography. The problematic, the questioning, the theoretical and/or conceptual framework, the fields studied, the period of observation, the illustrated corpus, the tracks or model proposals, should be indicated. The economic, legal, political, human and social sciences will be mobilized for the specific arguments. Original unpublished reflections, individual or collective, can be written in French or in English. After the title, the institutional affiliation, the email address, the phone numbers, the Whatsapp number, and eventually the pseudo skype of the authors will be mentioned. The texts are to be sent simultaneously by email to the following: [jolinomalu@yahoo.fr](mailto:jolinomalu@yahoo.fr), [sbatibonak@credis-savoirs-monange.org](mailto:sbatibonak@credis-savoirs-monange.org), [sbatibonak@gmail.com](mailto:sbatibonak@gmail.com), [economie.informelle@credis-savoirs-monange.org](mailto:economie.informelle@credis-savoirs-monange.org)

## **Schedule**

- June 20, 2019: Publication of the announcement;
- October 10, 2019: Submission of proposals (deadline);
- November 20, 2019: Return of proposals;
- March 10, 2020: Submission of complete articles;
- June 10, 2020: End of evaluation of articles;
- October 10, 2020: Tentive date of publication of the book.

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