

Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM) for an Economy of Life Nairobi, Kenya (TBC), 19 – 30 August 2024

Invitation to Apply

In order to strengthen the voice of the churches with regards to global economics, a group of up to 20 current and future leaders representing the churches will have the opportunity to attend the Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM School) for an Economy of Life in Nairobi, Kenya (TBC) from 19 until 30 August 2024.

Co-organized by the World Council of Churches, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Methodist Council and Council for World Mission, this initiative responds to recommendations outlined in the *Sao Paulo Statement: International Financial transformation for an Economy of Life* and in the document *Economy of Life for All Now: An Ecumenical Action Plan for a New International Financial and Economic Architecture*, which identified as a priority the development of competencies in economics within churches.

Currently churches' ethical, moral and theological perspectives on the workings of the global economy have minimal impact on financial and economic policies, business practices and ways of thinking. To address this gap, the GEM School aims to build economic literacy within churches by equipping participants with the tools and languages to effectively advocate for urgent transformations in the global financial and economic realm.

Learning objectives

The 10-day curriculum addresses the following objectives:

- Identify theological starting points for economic justice (i.e. why and how theology and ethics are intertwined with economics)
- Provide a basic understanding of mainstream economic thinking
- Identify, relativize and contextualize methodologies and normative fundamentals of economics
- Widen the horizon of economics by introducing ecological, feminist and other alternative approaches
- Develop the interdisciplinary structure and ethical implications of combining theological dimensions with economics
- Lay out the political and strategic implications for churches and their advocacy for an Economy of Life

Nomination criteria

- MA or BA preferably in theology, economics/finance/business management or any social science; or demonstration of competence in the aforementioned fields by engagement

in issues of socio-economic and ecological justice through, for example, programmes or processes connected to sponsoring and other partner organizations

- Five years of leadership experience (waived for youth until the age of 30)
- Sound insights into practices of public policy and passion for justice (assessed through an essay)
- Endorsement from a church or ecumenical organization

Among candidates who meet the nomination criteria, participants will be selected with a view to achieving regional, gender and denominational balance.

Participants are granted full scholarship, including flights, accommodation and full board. A contribution of 100 US dollars is expected from each participant.

Application form and guidelines

Application forms, guidelines and the draft programme may be downloaded here <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/applications-open-for-2024-ecumenical-school-on-governance-economics-and-management>

Filled-out application forms and supporting documents should be sent via this link:

- <https://wcccoe.hire.trakstar.com/jobs/fk0vqiv>

If you need more information, you can send contact by email: Sophie.Dhanjal@wcc-coe.org.

The final date of submission of applications is on 1 March 2024. Selected participants will be informed by 31 March 2024.

Further inquiries may be directed to Athena.Peralta@wcc-coe.org, Philip.Peacock@wrcr.eu, Daimon.Mkandawire@cwmission.org, Lusungu.Mbilinyi@lutheranworld.org, or Rosemarie.Wenner@emk.de.