



1. Job title	Head of Secretariat, African Professionalisation Initiative
2. Location	South Africa, Gauteng
3. Contract period	April 2022 to April 2025 (possibility of renewal)
4. Compensation	Negotiable based on qualifications and experience

The API (African Professionalisation Initiative) has started the process to recruit a Head of Secretariat to take up the position on 1 April 2022. The Head of the API Secretariat will be responsible to lead initiatives to strengthen the capacity of accounting and auditing professionals to enhance transparency, accountability, and good governance in the public sector in Africa.

Background of the API
<p>The API is a Pan-African collaborative initiative aimed at growing the capacity of accounting and auditing professionals in the public sector to enhance delivery of services to citizens. It coordinates the efforts of accountants general, supreme audit institutions, professional accountancy organisations and academics to systematically address the shortage of adequate professional accounting and auditing skills in the public sector.</p> <p>The API is operated by its partner organisations (AFROSAI-E, CREFIAF, ESAAG and PAFA), overseen by the Oversight Board and supported by committees and academics, collectively providing the people who work for the API a regional, multi-lingual, digital and future-focused environment within which to create and innovate.</p> <p>The API develops high-quality learning materials to enhance public sector accounting and auditing competence and supports countries to implement public sector accountancy certification programmes. The programmes are aimed at upskilling existing capacity while also developing a pipeline of future talent.</p> <p>The API facilitates long-term change through solutions that are contextually relevant and aligned to the African Union Agenda 2063. To ensure relevance, buy-in, commitment and—most importantly—local ownership, the API works with relevant stakeholders to contextualise its capacity building approach to each jurisdiction.</p> <p>Long-term success for the API includes more accounting and auditing professionals appointed to senior public finance positions, increased trust in public finance management systems, enhanced decision making in managing resources and, ultimately, improvements in service delivery. The API seeks to contribute meaningfully to long-term development on the African continent by ensuring that those entrusted with managing public funds do so in a</p>

manner that is effective, benefits all citizens and positively contributes to shared prosperity.

Partner Organisations

AFROSAI-E

AFROSAI-E is a member-based institution with 26 Auditors-General from English-speaking African countries making up the Governing Board. The organisation was established in 2005 with the shared vision to make a difference in the performance of our member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). Through our Executive Secretariat, which is hosted by the Auditor-General of South Africa, members are empowered to optimise their audit performance to comply with the INTOSAI Standard for Supreme Institutions (ISSAIs) and to strengthen their institutional capacity to effectively implement their mandate.

CREFIAF

CREFIAF is a member-based organisation for SAIs in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa, which was established in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 1997, with the aim of building capacity in the 23 SAIs of French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa. CREFIAF intends to be a catalyst for the promotion of independent and professional SAIs capable of contributing to the transparency, a culture of accountability and the performance of public action for the well-being of citizens. Through its Executive Secretariat, which is hosted by the SAI of Cameroon, it seeks to enhance the status of its member SAIs on one hand, and contribute to the improvement and harmonisation of practices, methods and audit procedures through the adoption of modern standards, the implementation of integrated training and exchange on the other hand.

ESAAG

ESSAG is a member-based Association of Accountants General in the East and Southern region with 15 member countries. The objective of the Association is to strengthen the members countries to perform their roles in executing their PFM and governance roles in the wake of reforms.

PAFA

PAFA is the only organisation in Africa recognised as a regional organisation by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). Its objective is to accelerate the development of the accountancy profession in Africa, strengthen the voice of the profession in Africa and worldwide, and promote internationally recognised standards of professional competence and conduct within Africa. Its membership consists of national accountancy bodies in member states, while affiliate membership is available to international accountancy organisations.

The Role

The Head of the Secretariat will be responsible to lead initiatives to strengthen the capacity of accounting and auditing professionals to enhance transparency, accountability, and good governance in the public sector in Africa. The Head of the Secretariat will provide strategic leadership, advice, and support to ensure that the API discharges its mandate and obligations consistent with serving the public interest and

strengthening the accountancy profession in Africa and beyond.

Responsibilities

- Build the API as an organisation recognised globally and on the continent for strengthening the capacity of accounting and auditing professionals and equipping them to support accountability, transparency, and good governance in the public sector
- Lead efforts to influence professionalisation of public sector accounting and auditing
- Advocate for the role of the accountancy profession in the public sector
- Influence standardisation of minimum requirements for accountancy qualifications that address the needs of the public sector
- Foster a common working approach and platforms that facilitate the sharing of knowledge, resources, and experiences by conducting outreach and building consensus to facilitate adoption and implementation of the API programmes in Africa
- Build strong professional and strategic relationships with leaders of existing and potential Member Organisations, development partners, donors, and other key stakeholders
- Lead, strengthen, oversee, and report on the strategic, administrative, and operational management of the API
- Lead, strengthen, and oversee stakeholder relations, governance, strategy development, risk management, financial management, and communications
- Seek and mobilise funding for the API and countries to implement accredited professional qualifications
- Lead, develop, and oversee the staff to ensure quality deliverables within the agreed scope, time, and budget

Qualifications

Registered as a Professional Accountant/Auditor at a relevant professional body or equivalent. Such body being a member organisation of PAFA and/or IFAC would be an advantage.

Knowledge & Skills

Knowledge of the Accountancy Profession and Global/Multi-cultural Issues; Leadership and Management Skills; Ethical and fair; Neutral and independent; Diplomatic, Strategic thinker and Team builder; Flexible; Future focused; Business acumen; Critical thinker; Adaptable; Excellent Communicator

Experience and other requirements

- At least 10 years of comprehensive understanding of public sector accounting and auditing
- At least 7 years of broad-based leadership experience and at least 3 years of experience in a senior leadership position, with a proven track record of successfully championing change
- Experience working with a board and diverse cultures

- Experience working at a membership-based or non-profit organisation would be an advantage

Contact details and closing date for applications

Interested persons should complete [the application form](#). The application form should be accompanied by a cover letter supporting your application and be emailed to marianna@afrosai-e.org.za.

Download the application form here: <https://afrosai-e.org.za/application-form-head-of-api-170122-2/>

The closing date for submitting applications is **5 February 2022**