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## Start of the academic year for the 5th cohort of 4 ERAIFT regional masters courses

**Monday 17th July 2023**

The 5th cohort of ERAIFT's 4 regional masters programmes began their academic year on Monday 17 July 2023 in the ERAIFT conference room. This 5th cohort of 40 students, selected following an international call for applications launched in September 2022, is composed by 10 nationalities including: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Benin, Togo, Niger, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Cameroon and Chad. The ceremony was essentially informative and educational, rather than ceremonial. New students were briefed on the school's international governance and teaching structure.

Professor Jean Pierre MATE, Academic and Research Secretary, welcomed students to the school and gave an overview of how ERAIFT operates both academically and administratively. He then encouraged the students to adopt a disciplined attitude to work and good communication, which are often the keys to academic success. For his part, the President of the ERAIFT Board of Directors, Professor Jan BOGAERT, while congratulating the students on their selection on the basis of a rigorous process, recommended them to double their efforts to merit the confidence of this regional institution. He therefore invited them to be proactive and to place themselves at the core of their own learning process. Finally, the first course entitled "Systemic analysis applied to spatial planning, landscapes and integrated development" was launched by Professor Jean BOGAERT to mark the effective start of teaching for this 5th cohort.

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