An Independent Study on the Contributions of EEA's Engagements and Initiatives

Report

Study Conducted by

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Contents

List of Tables iv
List of Figures v
Abbreviations/Acronyms vi
1. Summary vii
1.1. Assessment Rationality 2
1.2. Objectives of the Assignment 2
2. Methodological Approaches 4
2.1. Sampling Procedures for Data Collection 4
2.1.1. Media Assessment 5
2.1.2. Comparative Institutional Analysis 6
2.2. Conceptual Framework and Evaluation Approach 6
2.3. Data Analysis 7
3. Findings and Discussions 8
3.1. Respondents' Profile 8
3.2. Members' Participation in EEA Events 11
3.3. Number of Completed Research Projects and Organized Events 12
3.4. Thematic Composition of EEA Research Projects 14
3.5. Spatial Scope of Research Projects 15
3.6. EEA Research Influence on Policy Processes and Public Discourse 15
3.7. EEA Research Quality and Relevance 21
3.8. Capacity Building for Members and External Stakeholders 22
3.8.1. Short-Term Training for Members and External Stakeholders 23
3.8.2. Training Participants 24
3.8.3. Effectiveness of Capacity Building 25
3.8.4. EEA Training Accessibility and Relevance 26
3.8.5. Technical Assistance Rendered 28
3.8.6. Effectiveness of Technical Support Services 29
3.9. Internship Training and Professional Services 30
3.10. Capacity Building for EEA Staff 31
3.11. Knowledge Dissemination, Public Dialogue and Policy Forums 32
3.11.1. Reach and Influence of Policy Dialogue Forums 33

3.12.Membership Status of EEA....34
3.12.1. Gender Composition of EEA Full Members....34
3.13.Satisfaction with Membership Values....35
3.14.EEA Publications....37
3.14.1. Publications by Number....37
3.14.2. Publications by Category....38
3.14.3. Insights on EEA's Publication Citations....38
3.15.EEA Partnerships....39
3.15.1. Perception on Uptake of Publications....40
3.16.EEA Media Engagement....42
3.16.1. Media Engagement by Type of Platform....43
3.16.2. Geographic Scope of Media Coverage....44
3.16.3. Audience Reach of Media Platforms Used by EEA....45
3.16.4. Media Coverage of EEA Expertise and Public Outreach....47
3.16.5. Social Media Engagement Expansion....49
3.17.Institutional Capacity and Governance....50
3.18.Contribution to Economics Education....51
3.19.Financial Status of EEA....54
3.19.1. Income and Expenditure of EEA....55
3.20.Comparison of EEA with Selected Professional Associations....58
3.20.1. EEA vs American Economic Association....58
3.20.2. EEA vs Ethiopian Public Health Association....59
3.21.Achievement in EEA Implementations....60
4. Key Findings....63
5. Recommendations....66
References....69
Appendix: Tools....70

List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of sample respondents 5
Table 2: Demographic background of member respondents 10
Table 3: Mode of participation and number of Events attended by respondents 12
Table 4: Awareness influence 16
Table 5: Conceptual influence 17
Table 6: Instrumental influence 18
Table 7: Endorsement Influence 18
Table 8: Discourse influence 19
Table 9: EEA research quality and relevance 22
Table 10: Training participation, accessibility and relevance 26
Table 11: Perceptions of EEA Training by Age Group 28
Table 12: Member satisfaction and willingness to continue paying EEA membership fees 36
Table 13: Need of EEA members 37
Table 14: Citation Summary of Ethiopian Journal of Economics 39
Table 15: EEA publication relevance and accessibility 42
Table 16: Summary of media engagement activities 43
Table 17: Media perceptions of EEA outputs and influence 47
Table 18: Key Topics Covered by the EEA across media outlets 48
Table 19: Social media presence and growth 49
Table 20: Dimensions of EEA contribution to higher education and research development 53
Table 21: Outcome harvesting of EEA activities 61

List of Figures

Figure 1: Conceptual framework of evaluation approach....7
Figure 2: Year of members' membership in EEA....8
Figure 3: Membership status of EEA....9
Figure 4: Affiliation member respondents....11
Figure 5: Participation of respondents in EEA events (2014/15 – 2024/25)....12
Figure 6: Completed research project and organized events....13
Figure 7: Thematic Composition of EEA research projects....14
Figure 8: Spatial scope of EEA research projects....15
Figure 9: The impact of research outputs of EEA on policy formulation and public discourse....20
Figure 10: Number of training events in EEA....23
Figure 11: Number of training participants....24
Figure 12: Effectiveness of EEA's training programs in building stakeholder capacity....25
Figure 13: Number of technical assistances delivered by EEA....29
Figure 14: Effectiveness of EEA's technical support services....30
Figure 15: EEA internal staff capacity building activities....32
Figure 16: Reach and influence of EEA's policy dialogue and conferences....33
Figure 17: Membership Status of EEA....34
Figure 18: Gender composition of EEA full members....35
Figure 19: Number of EEA Publications....37
Figure 20: Publication by categories....38
Figure 21: EEA partnership status....40
Figure 22: Level of members' satisfaction on EEA's publications....41
Figure 23: Media Engagement by Type of Platform....44
Figure 24: Media Coverage by Geographic Scope....44
Figure 25: Number of media outlet subscribers....45
Figure 26: Frequency of media outlet usage....46
Figure 27: Satisfaction of members in terms of governance and operational systems....51
Figure 28: EEA's contribution to the quality of economics education in the country....52
Figure 29: Equity and liability of EEA....55
Figure 30: Total income and expenditure of EEA....56
Figure 31: Excess of income over expenditure....57
Figure 32: Total EEA staff and gender composition....57

Abbreviations/Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
AEA	American Economic Association
AMN	Addis Media Network
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
CEED	Center for Environmental Economic Development
CGTN	China Global Television Network
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EBC	Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation
EBS	Ethiopian Broadcasting Service
EBTI	Ethiopian Economics Association Business and Training Institute
EEA	Ethiopian Economics Association
ENA	Ethiopian News Agency
ENN	Ethiopian News Network
EPHA	Ethiopian Public Health Association
ESSP	Ethiopia Strategy Support Program
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
ETV	Ethiopian Television
EU	European Union
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FM	Frequency Modulation (Radio)
GERD	Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
GIS	Geographic Information System
HEART	Health Economics and Research Team
HERQA	Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency
HoDs	Heads of Departments
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
KII	Key Informant Interview
NBE	National Bank of Ethiopia
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NBC	National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC Ethiopia)
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
SEE	State of the Ethiopian Economy
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
STATA	Statistical software for data analysis (Version 17 used in the study)
TV	Television
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VOA	Voice of America
YIED	Yom Institute of Economic Development

Summary

This study presents an independent assessment of the Ethiopian Economics Association's (EEA) engagements and institutional performance over the period 2015–2025, examining its contribution to economic research, evidence-based policymaking, capacity development, knowledge dissemination, and organizational sustainability. Using the OECD-DAC evaluation framework, the assessment evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and coherence of EEA's core functions. A mixed-methods approach was employed, integrating desk review, online survey, key informant interviews, media assessment, comparative institutional analysis, and outcome harvesting. Quantitative data were collected from 262 EEA members, complemented by 35 purposively selected key informants, while institutional reports, financial records, research publications, and media sources were triangulated to strengthen the validity and credibility of the findings.

The findings demonstrate that EEA has evolved into one of Ethiopia's leading knowledge institutions, serving as a bridge between research and policy while strengthening the country's evidence ecosystem. Over the assessment period, the Association expanded its membership to nearly 6,000 individual members and more than 80 institutional members, increased research production, diversified partnerships, and strengthened financial resilience following the COVID-19 disruption. Its research portfolio is strongly aligned with national development priorities, with 24.3% of studies focusing on macroeconomic issues, 23.4% on social development, 21.5% on cross-cutting themes, and 77.6% of research addressing national policy challenges. Although natural resource and environmental research accounted for only 4.7% of total studies, overall research quality and relevance were highly rated, with approximately 68% of respondents evaluating EEA's research as high or very high in quality and policy relevance.

The assessment further reveals that EEA has generated substantial conceptual and awareness influence on Ethiopia's policy landscape through flagship publications, policy dialogues, annual conferences, media engagement, and technical advisory services. Research outputs have shaped national debates on macroeconomic reform, poverty reduction, fiscal policy, employment, and social development while strengthening public discourse across government, academia, and civil society. Survey findings indicate that 73.7% of respondents perceived EEA's research to have moderate or significant influence on policy formulation and public discourse. Nevertheless, the pathway from research generation to consistent policy implementation remains incomplete. Instrumental policy uptake, systematic advocacy, institutional follow-up, and monitoring of research utilization continue to lag behind EEA's strong knowledge generation capacity, illustrating that evidence often illuminates policy discussions but does not always translate into policy action.

Capacity building emerged as one of EEA's strongest achievements. Through professional training, technical assistance, internships, and academic support, the Association strengthened

analytical and policy competencies among government institutions, universities, financial organizations, development partners, and researchers. Training participation expanded dramatically to 863 participants in 2024/25, while 62.2% of respondents rated the programs as highly effective. Similarly, technical advisory services were positively perceived, with 80.6% of respondents considering them moderately or highly effective. EEA also enhanced knowledge dissemination through journals, policy briefs, conferences, media platforms, and expanding social media engagement, contributing to greater accessibility of economic evidence and wider public awareness. Despite these achievements, respondents highlighted limited virtual engagement, unequal regional access, insufficient post-training follow-up, and moderate member participation as areas requiring improvement.

The assessment concludes that EEA has established itself as a credible and influential institution that continues to strengthen Ethiopia's research, policy, and professional landscape. Like a lighthouse guiding decision-makers through periods of economic uncertainty, the Association has consistently generated high-quality evidence, nurtured professional capacity, and fostered informed public dialogue. However, sustaining and expanding this influence will require stronger mechanisms for policy uptake, broader digital and regional outreach, deeper member engagement, enhanced monitoring of institutional outcomes, diversified financing, and more strategic partnerships. Building on these foundations will enable EEA to transform research excellence into measurable policy change and reinforce its long-term contribution to Ethiopia's sustainable economic development.

1. Introduction

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) is widely recognized as one of foremost professional institutions dedicated to advancing economics research and promoting evidence-based policymaking. Since its establishment in 1991, the Association has played a pivotal role in shaping economic discourse, informing public policy, and strengthening institutional capacity through rigorous research, professional engagement, and knowledge dissemination. As a non-profit organization, EEA was founded to promote the study and practical application of economics in support of sustainable national development and sound policy decisions.

Over more than three decades, EEA has become a trusted bridge between research and policy, generating high-quality evidence while fostering dialogue among policymakers, academics, development practitioners, and international partners. Through policy-oriented research, academic publications, conferences, policy forums, and specialized training, the Association has translated economic knowledge into practical policy solutions. These efforts have enriched national debates on macroeconomic reform, poverty reduction, agricultural development, employment, climate resilience, fiscal policy, and social protection, positioning EEA as both a knowledge hub and a catalyst for informed decision-making.

EEA has also strengthened Ethiopia's human and institutional capacity by nurturing economists, supporting young researchers, and expanding professional networks through chapters. This decentralized presence has broadened participation, ensuring that economic discussions reflect Ethiopia's diverse regional contexts and development priorities. Between 2015 and 2025, the Association further expanded its partnerships, diversified funding sources, strengthened institutional systems, and enhanced its national and international visibility. Amongst increasing demand for evidence-based policy support, EEA reinforced its reputation as an independent and credible voice during periods of economic transition and reform.

Against this backdrop, a comprehensive assessment of EEA's performance and institutional effectiveness is both timely and essential. This independent evaluation will provide a systematic, evidence-based review of the Association's achievements, challenges, and contributions over the past decade. It will assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact of EEA's research, publications, conferences, training, policy engagement, partnerships, and institutional development, while examining how these interventions have strengthened economic research, influenced policy, and advanced professional excellence.

The study will document key achievements, capture lessons learned and identify strategic opportunities for improvement through both quantitative evidence and qualitative stakeholder perspectives. Findings of the assessment provide a roadmap for institutional learning, strategic planning, and future programming, while strengthening transparency and accountability to members and partners. Furthermore, this evaluation supports EEA in strengthening its position as

a leading institution in economic research, policy engagement, and professional capacity development in Ethiopia and beyond. It also demonstrates how a professional association can effectively bridge evidence and policy action to promote informed decision-making and sustainable development.

1.1. Assessment Rationality

This assessment covers the period from 2015 to 2025 because this decade represents a defining chapter in the institutional evolution and strategic transformation of the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA). During these years, EEA substantially strengthened its organizational capacity, expanded its research, policy analysis, and advisory functions, and broadened collaboration with government institutions, development partners, universities, civil society organizations, and regional chapters. Like a bridge connecting research to policy, EEA increasingly positioned itself as a trusted platform for evidence-based dialogue, making this period particularly valuable for evaluating its growth, relevance, and contribution to national development.

The decade also coincided with profound economic, political, and social transformation in Ethiopia. Structural reforms, governance transitions, climate change, inflation, debt pressures, conflict, food insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic, and global economic shocks reshaped the policy landscape, demanding timely and adaptive evidence for decision-making. Against this backdrop, growing role of EEA in research dissemination, policy dialogues, annual conferences, and public engagement warrants a systematic assessment of how effectively it responded to emerging challenges, influenced policy processes, and translated its mandate into measurable outcomes.

This assessment enables a long-term evaluation of EEA's institutional effectiveness by examining trends in leadership, partnerships, knowledge generation, financial sustainability, regional engagement, and stakeholder confidence. More importantly, it provides timely evidence to inform the Association's next strategic direction. By identifying achievements, lessons learned, and opportunities for further improvement, the assessment helps ensure that EEA's future strategy is firmly grounded in evidence, enhances its policy influence, and reinforces its long-term contribution to Ethiopia's evolving economic development.

1.2. Objectives of the Assignment

The overarching objective of the study is to assess the extent to which programs and initiatives of EEA have been relevant, effective, efficient, impactful, and sustainable in achieving its mission of advancing economic research and policy influence in Ethiopia. Specifically, the study aims to

- Conduct inventory and document the EEA's research, capacity-building programs, events/forums, professional services, and partnership and media engagement.
- Evaluate the impact of EEA's research outputs on policy formulation and public discourse.

- Assess the effectiveness of EEA's training programs in building stakeholder capacity.
- Examine the reach and influence of EEA's policy dialogue forums and conferences.
- Analyze the quality, relevance, and uptake of EEA's publications.
- Review the effectiveness of EEA's technical support services to government and development partners.
- Assess the institutional capacity of EEA, including governance, financial management, and operational systems.
- Examine EEA's contribution to the quality of economics education in the country.
- Identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.

2. Methodological Approaches

A comprehensive mixed-methods approach was employed to produce valid, reliable, and relevant evaluation findings. By integrating quantitative and qualitative techniques, the study generated understanding of institutional performance, program effectiveness, stakeholder engagement, and policy influence. This design captured both measurable results and contextual realities, enabling rigorous triangulation across multiple evidence sources.

The evaluation commenced with an extensive desk review of annual reports, project documents, policy briefs, research publications, financial records, and other documents of Association. This review established foundation for understanding the Association's evolution, strategic priorities, and operational performance over the past decade. It also identified key trends, achievements, and implementation gaps, guiding subsequent data collection and analysis across research, policy engagement, capacity building, knowledge dissemination, institutional development, and technical services.

To complement documentary evidence, key informant interviews were conducted with executives, technical experts, regional chapter coordinators, senior members, policymakers, academics, and representatives of relevant institutions. These interviews explored institutional relevance, governance, policy influence, stakeholder relationships, operational performance, and future strategic directions. In parallel, semi-structured surveys were administered to members, beneficiaries, and partner institutions to assess stakeholder satisfaction, institutional visibility, service utilization, participation, and knowledge uptake.

A comparative institutional analysis benchmarked EEA against national and international professional associations in governance, financial sustainability, membership engagement, policy influence, and institutional visibility, revealing good practices and opportunities for improvement. Continuous stakeholder engagement through inception meetings, progress reviews, and validation workshops ensured contextual relevance and strengthened ownership of the findings. Qualitative and quantitative evidence was systematically triangulated by cross-checking documents, interviews, and survey results, producing a balanced, credible, and comprehensive assessment performance, contributions, and institutional impact of EEA.

2.1. Sampling Procedures for Data Collection

As mentioned in the above section, data collection began with a comprehensive review of secondary sources over the past ten years. Primary data were collected from EEA members using semi-structured questionnaires distributed via email to the entire EEA members. For the qualitative component, purposive sampling was employed to select key informants based on their experience. The detail of sampling procedures is described below.

Desk Review: A comprehensive desk review was conducted using key documents obtained from the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA), with primary emphasis on annual performance reports covering the period from 2014/15 to 2024/25. These reports were systematically examined to assess institutional performance, major achievements, operational progress, capacity development, financial performance, partnerships, and organizational growth.

Survey: The survey was designed to generate comprehensive evidence from EEA members on the relevance, quality, and impact of the Association's training programs. Administered electronically to all members via email, it assessed training content, facilitation quality, skills gained, and the extent to which the programs strengthened professional capacity and job performance. The required sample size was estimated using the following formula:

$$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

Using a 95% confidence level (Z = 1.96), a proportion of 0.5, and an approximate 7% margin of error, the minimum sample size was calculated at 196 respondents. However, questionnaires were distributed to more than 5,000 EEA members, and after a 45-day data collection period, 262 valid responses were gathered. Exceeding the required sample enhanced the reliability of the quantitative analysis, and all survey findings are based on these 262 respondents.

Key Informant Interviews: To enrich and validate the survey findings, the study incorporated qualitative evidence from 35 purposively selected key informants representing diverse stakeholder groups: heads of economics departments in public universities (10), media professionals (7), EEA executive members (4), and senior members (14). The interviews explored research quality, policy influence, capacity-building initiatives, publications, advisory services, membership support, event organization, and institutional partnerships of EEA. Table 1 summarizes the survey respondents and key informants included in the study.

Table 1: Summary of sample respondents

Data Source	Sample Size / Coverage	Remark
Survey (EEA Members)	262 respondents	Gathered and valid responses from members contacted via email survey
Key Informant Interviews (KII)	35 key informants	•Economics department heads (10)
		• Media professionals (7)
		• EEA executive members (4)
		• Senior EEA members (14)

2.1.1. Media Assessment

Media provided a valuable lens for demonstrating the reach, visibility, and influence of EEA's initiatives in shaping public discourse and policy debates. The assessment examined how EEA's

research, events, and policy engagements were communicated and amplified across four key media channels.

- **Print media:** Journals and newsletters were reviewed to examine coverage of EEA publications, events, and economic policy discussions.
- **Broadcast media:** Television and radio programs provided evidence of EEA's outreach to policymakers, practitioners, and the wider public, particularly audiences with limited access to print and digital media.
- **Digital media:** Websites were analyzed to assess dissemination of EEA's research and events, as well as public engagement through comments, shares, and online discussions.
- **Social media:** Platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) were reviewed to evaluate real-time dissemination of publications, event updates, and policy messages among academics, policymakers, practitioners, students, and the public.

2.1.2. Comparative Institutional Analysis

A comparative institutional analysis benchmarked the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) against the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and the American Economic Association (AEA). These associations were selected for their strengths in research dissemination, professional networking, and policy engagement, these institutions provided valuable reference points for identifying best practices, institutional strengths, performance gaps, and opportunities for improvement. The analysis relied on secondary data from official websites.

2.2. Conceptual Framework and Evaluation Approach

The evaluation framework was anchored in core functions and contribution of EEA to institutional and policy outcomes. It assessed research, training, advisory services, publications, partnerships, financial and institutional capacity, membership, media engagement, knowledge dissemination, and stakeholder participation. These components were evaluated using the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and coherence (Figure 1).

Recognizing that policy change emerges through the collective efforts of many actors, the evaluation adopted a contribution-oriented approach. Like a thread woven into a larger fabric of reform, the evaluation assessed the role of EEA by examining its contribution to changes in policies, practices, public discourse, and institutional capacity. The assessment drew on triangulated evidence from document review, stakeholder perspectives, outcome harvesting, and case studies, while considering temporal sequencing, stakeholder validation, and alternative explanations.

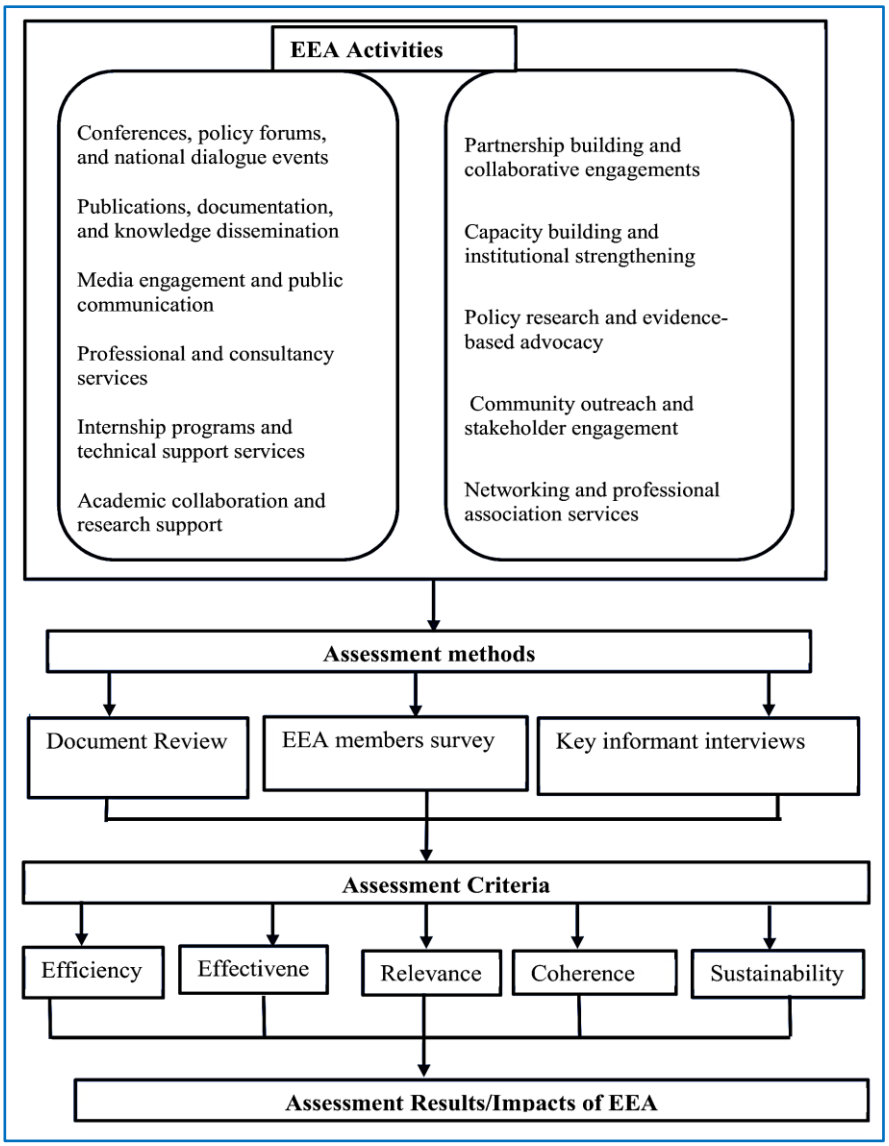


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of evaluation approach

2.3. Data Analysis

The study employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research objectives. Quantitative data were cleaned and analyzed using STATA version 17 and Excel, applying descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages to summarize respondent and institutional characteristics. Qualitative data from key informant interviews and document reviews were analyzed thematically, allowing deeper interpretation of emerging patterns. The integration of multiple evidence sources strengthened the validity of findings. Policy influence was examined through three dimensions: conceptual, instrumental, and discourse-related influence. Furthermore, Outcome Harvesting was applied to identify and verify changes linked to the Ethiopian Economics Association's interventions, capturing both intended and unintended outcomes and illuminating the pathways through which its work shaped policy and practice.

3. Findings and Discussions

This section presents findings. Evidence from surveys, key informant interviews, document reviews and media analysis is triangulated to of performance EEA in implementing its initiatives.

3.1. Respondents' Profile

Years of Membership

Figure 2 shows that EEA's membership has expanded significantly in recent years. Nearly half of respondents joined EEA as a member during the last decade, with 24.43% become members of EEA between 2021 and 2026 and 24.05% between 2016 and 2020. Another 20.61% joined between 2011 and 2015. In contrast, membership from earlier cohorts remains relatively smaller, including 14.89% from 2006–2010, 5.73% from 2001–2005, and 4.58% each from 1996–2000 and 1991–1995. This pattern illustrates a new tendency of engagement in which EEA has successfully attracted a growing generation of economists and professionals. The expanding membership base can represents organizational growth.

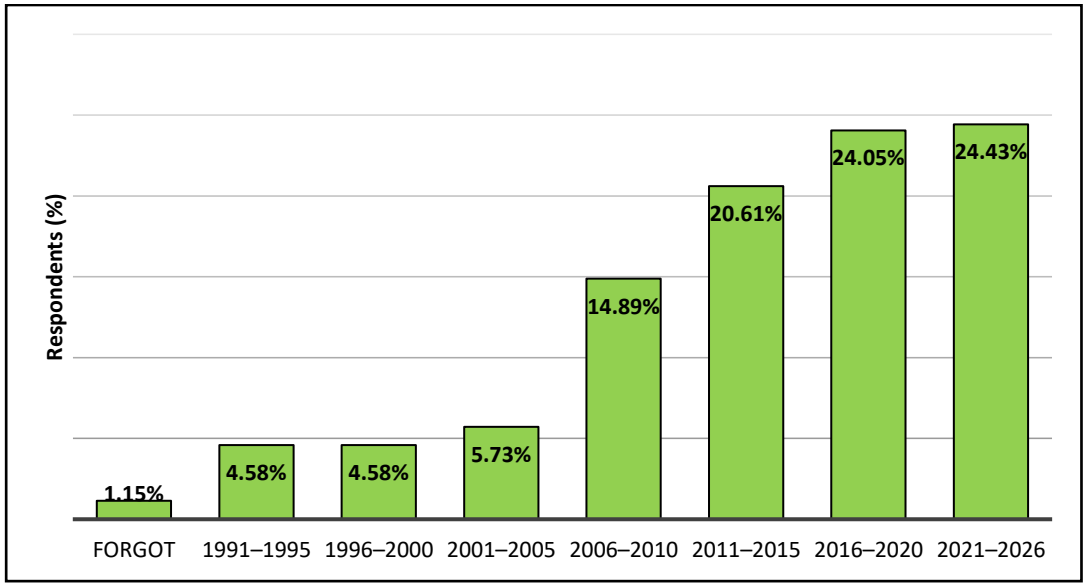


Figure 2: Year of members' membership in EEA

Gender Distribution

The gender composition of respondents largely reflects the existing membership profile of the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA). Male respondents accounted for 85.9%, while females represented 14.1%, closely aligning with the membership structure where women constitute approximately 18% of full members. This indicates that the survey sample reasonably represents the current membership base and suggests that EEA activities, including engagement and capacity-building initiatives, are accessible to both genders. However, expanding female membership remains important to broaden professional perspectives, strengthen networking opportunities, and promote a more inclusive and diverse association.

Educational Qualification

The result in Table 2, demonstrate that respondents were educated, with 72.9% holding Master's degrees and 19.1% possessing PhDs, while only 6.9% hold Bachelor's degrees. This strong academic foundation reflects the significant intellectual capital and provides a solid platform for research, policy analysis, and professional contributions. EEA staff key informants emphasized that this pool of highly qualified members represents a valuable but underutilized resource. Strengthening voluntary member engagement could transform this "reservoir of expertise" into a more active force supporting the Association's research, policy dialogue, and institutional activities.

Membership Status and Engagement

In this study, 87% of respondents were full members, followed by associate members (9.2%) and student members (3.8%). While this demonstrates strong participation among established professionals. Nowadays, EEA full members exceed 4,000, while associate and student members each about 900, bringing total individual membership close to 6,000. In addition, more than 80 institutional members, including universities, research centers, government organizations, and NGOs, contribute to the Association's knowledge network. This diverse membership structure provides EEA with a strong foundation for research, policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and professional networking. However, converting this numerical strength into sustained member participation remains a key opportunity for enhancing the Association's role as a vibrant, member-driven institution. Moreover, Key informants noted that EEA has faced challenges in strengthening member involvement and improving member-oriented services. They also highlighted delayed membership fee payments as a persistent issue, although the recent introduction of online payment platforms provides a convenient mechanism to improve payment compliance and member retention.

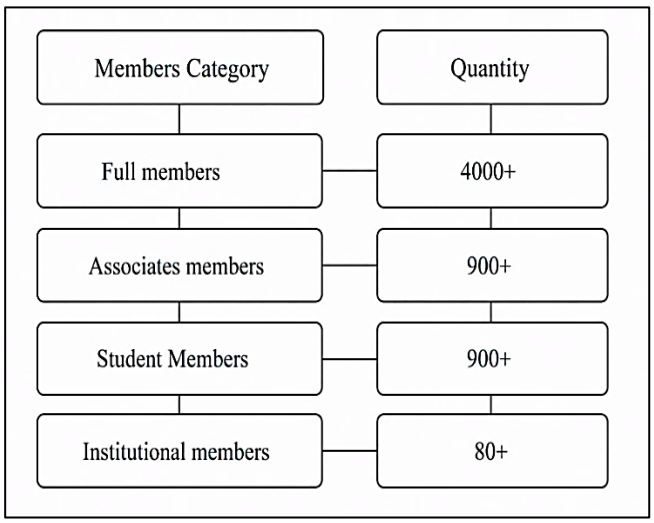


Figure 3: Membership status of EEA

Table 2: Demographic background of member respondents

Category	Response Option	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender of Respondents	Female	37	14.1
	Male	225	85.9
Highest Educational Qualification of Respondents	Bachelor's Degree	18	6.9
	Master's Degree	194	72.9
	PhD Degree	50	19.1
Operational Level of Institutions of Respondents	National	187	71.4
	International	38	14.5
	Regional (within country)	37	14.1
EA Membership Status of Respondents	Full Member	228	87
	Associate Member	24	9.2
	Student Member	10	3.8
Respondents' Perception of Membership Fee Fairness	Strongly agree	2	0.8
	Agree	87	33.2
	Neutral	61	23.3
	Disagree	19	7.3
	Strongly disagree	93	35.5

Institutional Affiliation

As shown in Figure 4, respondents are predominantly affiliated with government institutions and academia. Federal government employees and university or higher education staff each constitute 27.1% of respondents, followed by the private sector (14.5%), while representation from civil society organizations, development partners, and research institutes remains comparatively low. Most respondents (71.4%) are from national-level institutions, with international (14.5%) and regional (14.1%) organizations accounting for the remainder. This broad institutional representation presents a strategic opportunity for the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) to strengthen cross-sector collaboration. As members serve as bridges and ambassadors within their respective institutions, they can increase visibility and credibility of EEA, and influence across diverse sectors.

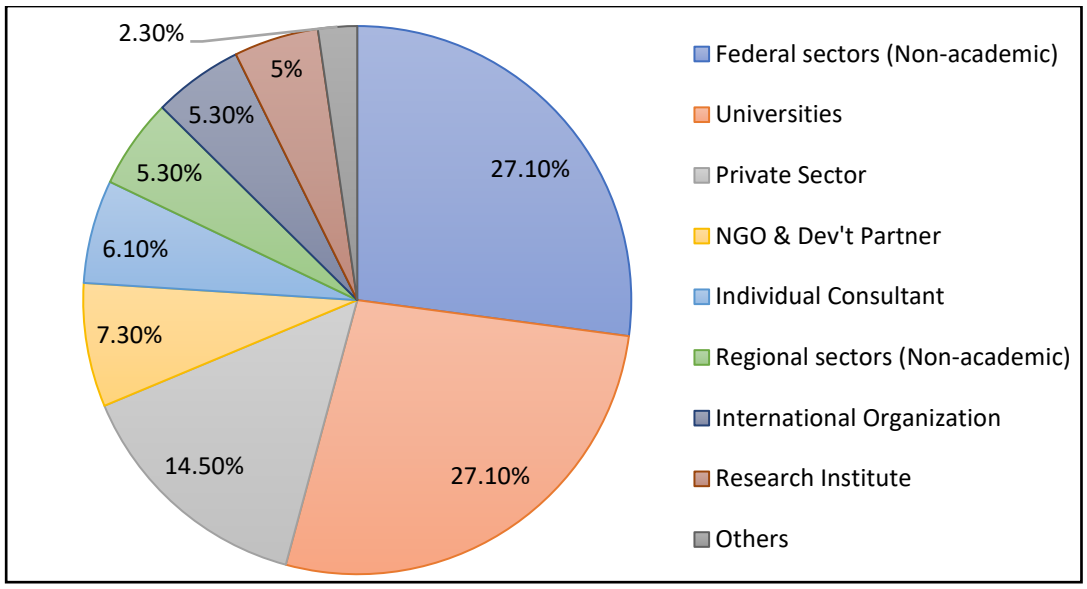


Figure 4: Affiliation member respondents

3.2. Members' Participation in EEA Events

According to Figure 5, member participation in EEA activities is concentrated in a few flagship events. Workshops and conferences attract the largest share of members (71.8%), followed by training and capacity-building programs (40.5%). Participation in research dissemination events (33.2%) and policy dialogue forums (32.4%) is moderate, while public lectures (21.0%) and consultation meetings (6.9%) receive low engagement. EEA staff key informants explained that workshops, conferences, and training are the Association's most frequent activities, whereas roundtables, forums, and policy dialogues are organized only in response to emerging policy issues rather than on a regular schedule. This pattern suggests that while EEA has built strong visibility through knowledge-sharing events, more consistent policy engagement platforms could broaden and sustain member participation.

The result of assessment indicates that although EEA has been effective in convening stakeholders through conferences and workshops, member engagement remains largely irregular and heavily dependent on in-person participation, limiting continuity. As shown in Table 3, 82.1% of members participated in-person, compared with only 8.4% virtually and 1.1% through both modes. Key informants similarly noted that online service delivery remains underdeveloped. Most trainings, conferences, and workshops conducted face-to-face, this reduced accessibility for members outside Addis Ababa and making participation less efficient.

Moreover, 61.8% of members attended only lees than 5 events over the past decade, while very few participated in more than 10, reflecting low engagement. The limited use of digital platforms and consultation forums also represents missed opportunities for broader outreach, continuous interaction, and stronger policy participation. Expanding virtual engagement, diversifying

participation channels, and encouraging recurring involvement would enable EEA to build a more active, inclusive, and geographically connected membership base.

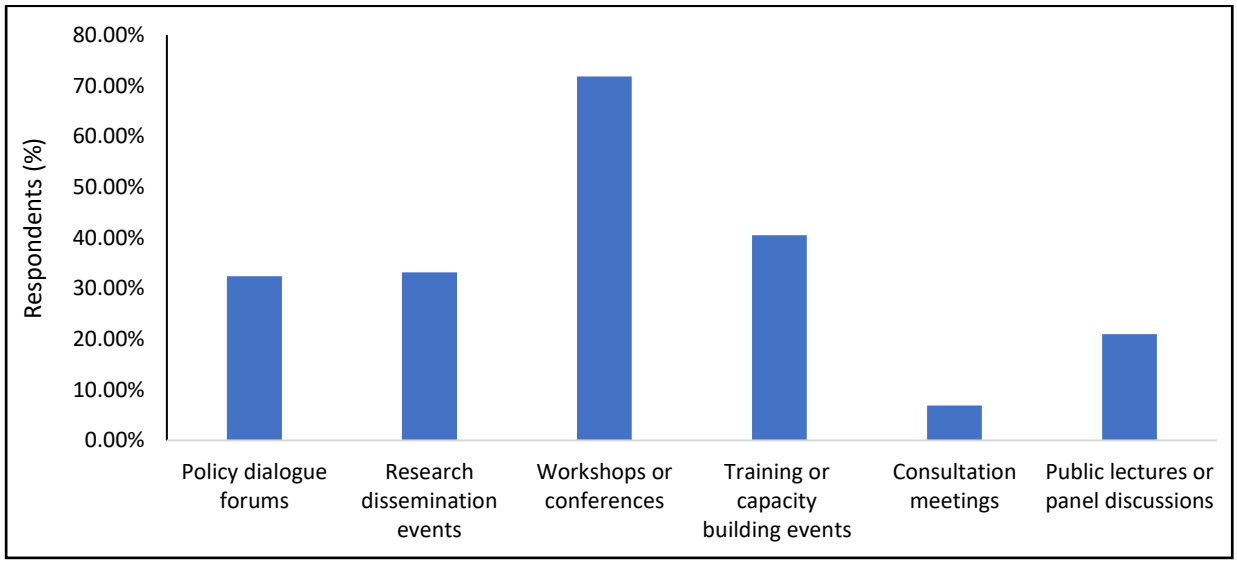


Figure 5: Participation of respondents in EEA events (2014/15 – 2024/25)

Table 3: Mode of participation and number of Events attended by respondents

Category	Response	Frequency	Percent (%)
Mode of Participation in EEA events	In-person	237	82.1
	Virtual	22	8.4
	In-person and virtual	3	1.1
Total Number of Events Attended (in the past 10 years) by respondents	None (0)	6	2.3
	1–5 events	162	61.8
	6–10 events	58	22.1
	11–15 events	27	10.3
	More than 15 events	9	3.4

3.3. Number of Completed Research Projects and Organized Events

During 2014/15–2024/25, EEA activities like completed research projects, organized events, and annual income followed closely related trends, indicating that institutional performance was largely shaped by financial capacity (Figure 6). Although the relationship was not perfectly proportional, years with stronger revenue generally supported more research projects, conferences, trainings, and policy dialogues, whereas financial constraints reduced program implementation. This pattern reflects the resource-intensive nature of core activities in EEA. During the first half of the study period (2014/15–2018/19), annual income remained relatively modest, ranging from ETB 12.69 million to ETB 25.91 million (Figure 6). Research outputs

initially increased from 9 projects in 2014/15 to 11 in 2015/16, then declined to 9 in 2016/17 before dropping sharply to only 4 and 5 projects in 2017/18 and 2018/19, respectively. Organized events also fluctuated between 6 and 13 without sustained growth. This downturn coincided with recurring financial deficits, suggesting that limited resources constrained ability to sustain research activities, even as it continued to maintain member engagement through conferences and professional events.

Besides, Figure 6 shows that 2019/20 was the most challenging year for EEA, with annual income falling to ETB 13.35 million, only four research projects completed, and five events conducted, the lowest performance recorded during this period. Restrictions on travel, face-to-face meetings, field research, and public gatherings disrupted research implementation and knowledge-sharing activities. Yet, this difficult period became a turning point rather than a dead end. Through organizational reforms, diversified funding, stronger partnerships, expanded digital engagement, and a renewed emphasis on policy-oriented research, EEA steadily rebuilt its institutional capacity.

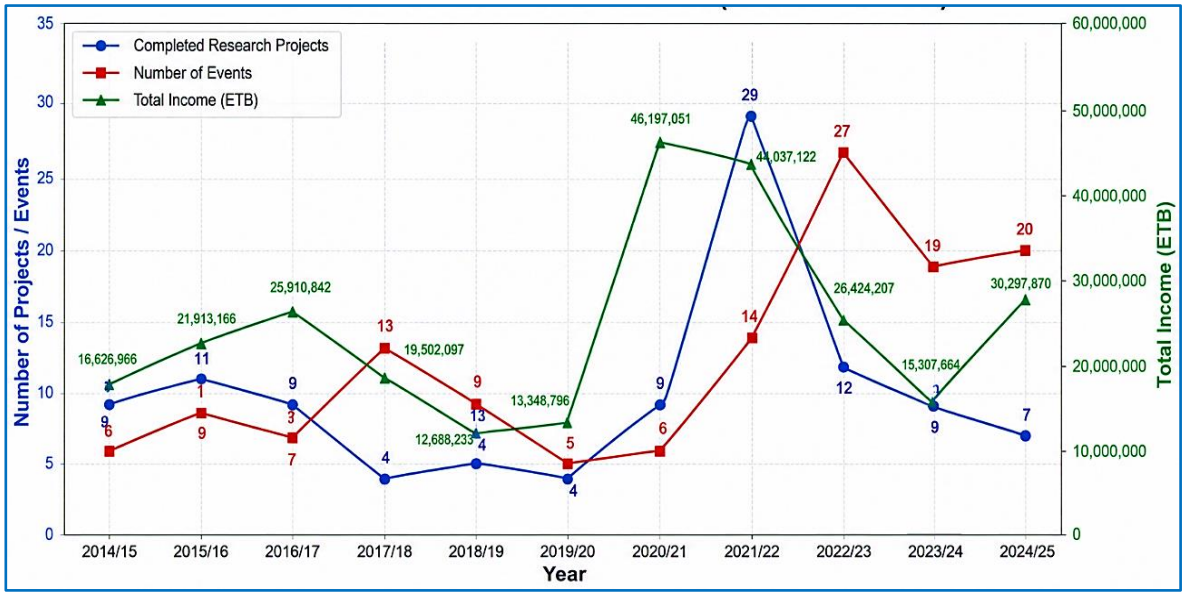


Figure 6: Completed research project and organized events

The recovery was both rapid and remarkable in EEA. Annual income surged to ETB 46.20 million in 2020/21, the highest recorded during the study period, while completed research projects more than doubled to nine. Strong momentum continued in 2021/22, when income remained high (ETB 44.04 million), supporting a record 29 research projects and 14 events. These achievements demonstrate that strengthened financial resources substantially enhanced capacity of EEA to generate research and expand knowledge dissemination.

After this peak, annual income declined to ETB 26.42 million in 2022/23 and ETB 15.31 million in 2023/24, before recovering to ETB 30.30 million in 2024/25. Research output followed a similar trajectory, falling from 29 projects to 12, 9, and 7, highlighting its strong dependence on

institutional financing. By contrast, event organization proved more resilient, increasing to 27 events in 2022/23 and remaining consistently high (19–20 events) thereafter. Thus, the evidence suggests that while research performance closely mirrored EEA's financial trajectory, its knowledge-sharing functions were more adaptable to financial fluctuations. The financial rebound in 2024/25, coupled with sustained event delivery, signals a stronger and more resilient institution, well positioned to expand research, policy engagement, professional training, and member services.

3.4. Thematic Composition of EEA Research Projects

Research portfolio of EEA during 2014/15–2024/25 demonstrates strong alignment with its mandate of generating evidence for development agenda. Macroeconomic research constitutes the largest share (24.30%), reflecting sustained attention to inflation, fiscal policy, and economic stability, while the social sector accounts for 23.36%, highlighting commitment of EEA to poverty reduction, education, welfare, and inclusive development (Figure 7). Cross-cutting themes contribute 21.50%, illustrating the engagement with gender, structural transformation, national planning, and crisis response through integrated policy perspectives. Agriculture and value chains represent 14.95%, reaffirming the sector's central role in livelihoods and economic growth, whereas industrial and manufacturing research accounts for 11.21%, indicating moderate support for structural transformation. In contrast, natural resource management and environmental sustainability comprise only 4.67%, revealing a noticeable gap in a policy area that is increasingly vital for sustainable development.

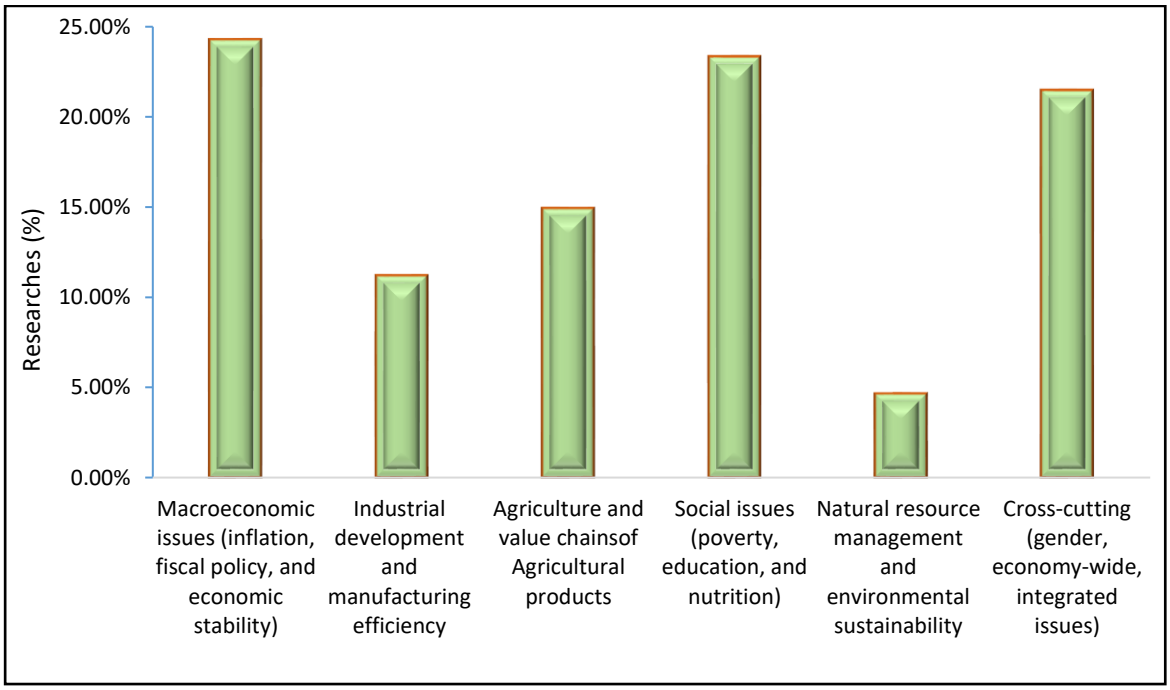


Figure 7: Thematic Composition of EEA research projects

3.5. Spatial Scope of Research Projects

The findings show that EEA's research outputs from 2014/15 to 2024/25 are overwhelmingly national in scope, with 77.57% of studies addressing country-level issues (Figure 8), emphasising strong contribution to national policymaking. This aligns with mandate of EEA as a policy-oriented think tank supporting economic governance and development planning of Ethiopia. Key informants also confirmed that EEA undertakes research on diverse national priorities; however, they noted that translating research findings into practical policy implementation remains limited. In contrast, regional studies (11.21%) provide valuable evidence on local disparities, implementation challenges, and regional development dynamics, while international or cross-country studies (11.21%) broaden perspective through comparative analyses of issues such as economic performance, gender productivity gaps, and global development trends. This reflects the primary focus of EEA is anchored in addressing pressing policy challenges of Ethiopia.

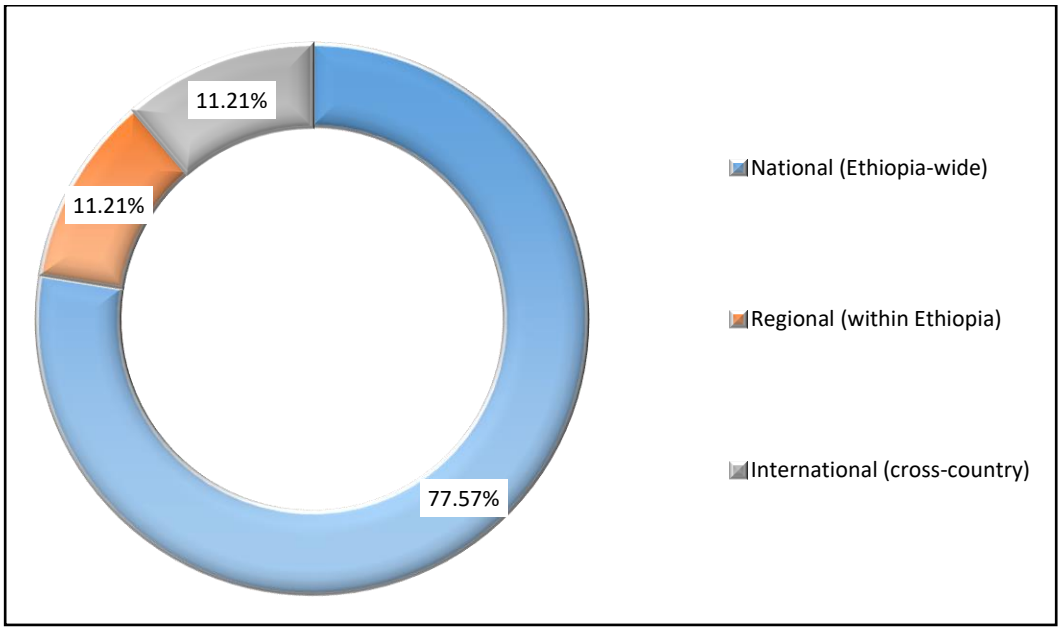


Figure 8: Spatial scope of EEA research projects

3.6. EEA Research Influence on Policy Processes and Public Discourse

Researches of EEA has played a significant role in shaping policy processes and enriching public discourse by providing "alternative views to policy makers" and serving as an independent knowledge source for national development planning (EEA, 2016). Flagship publications, particularly the *State of the Ethiopian Economy* (SEE) reports, have synthesized empirical evidence that informed policy reflection and refinement (EEA, 2015, 2021). Studies on critical national issues, including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), inflation dynamics, multidimensional poverty, and rural livelihoods, have contributed evidence to macroeconomic debates, negotiation processes, and poverty reduction strategies (EEA, 2021).

Table 4: Awareness influence

Date / Evidence / Context	Analysis / Interpretation	Source / Website
July 20, 2025: AllAfrica reported on the 22nd International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, highlighting macroeconomic themes and policy recommendations.	National media coverage exposes EEA findings to a broad audience that includes policymakers, private sector actors, and civil society. By translating technical conference outputs into accessible narratives, the media amplifies research visibility and legitimizes it as relevant to ongoing economic challenges.	AllAfrica: www.allafrica.com
October 17, 2025: ENA coverage of EEA study on green jobs and youth employment.	Reporting by a national news agency connects research findings with active policy debates on employment and sustainability, increasing the likelihood that policymakers recognize the study as a credible evidence source for youth job strategies.	ENA: www.ena.et (ena.et)
July 2025: Ministry of Finance press release recognizing EEA contributions.	Official communication signals that EEA research has reached senior policy circles, reinforcing its legitimacy and ensuring that evidence enters formal government information channels.	Federal Ministry of Finance: mofed.gov.et
2024: AllAfrica summary of EEA research on fiscal reforms.	Continued media engagement over multiple years indicates sustained awareness rather than one-off exposure, embedding EEA research within recurring economic policy conversations.	AllAfrica: www.allafrica.com
2017: Ethiopian Journal of Business and Economics review of EEA's role in economic debates.	Academic review broadens awareness within scholarly and policy research communities, strengthening EEA's visibility as a recognized knowledge producer.	Ethiopian Journal of Business and Economics: ejol.aau.edu.et

Beyond formal policy channels, EEA has become a platform where researchers, policymakers, and international scholars engage in meaningful dialogue on socioeconomic challenges, while election-related political debates have further strengthened democratic discourse (EEA, 2021). Through these interconnected pathways, influence of EEA extends from awareness creation and conceptual framing to instrumental policy use, institutional recognition, and shaping public narratives. Table 4 presents a comprehensive analysis of EEA's research influence on policy processes and public discourse during 2015–2025. As shown in Table 4, EEA research achieves broad awareness influence by reaching policymakers, media actors, and academic audiences. Through repeated exposure via media coverage, government communication channels, and scholarly engagement, EEA findings gain visibility and become part of policy and public discourse, creating a foundation for deeper conceptual and instrumental uptake.

Table 5: Conceptual influence

Date / Evidence / Context	Analysis / Interpretation	Source / Website
2021 ENA report on 18th Conference themes.	Coverage of research on macroeconomic stability, agriculture, and energy helps frame how relationships among sectors and policy trade-offs are understood, shaping the intellectual context of policy dialogue.	ENA: www.ena.et
2018 ESSP/IFPRI partnership.	Collaboration in multi-institutional research integrates EEA perspectives into broader analytical frameworks used by national and international policymakers.	ESSP/IFPRI: essp.ifpri.info
2018 AAU thesis case study.	Independent academic analysis confirms that EEA research contributed to shaping how fiscal and development policy challenges are framed conceptually.	AAU Repository: etd.aau.edu.et
2019 ENA coverage of reform debates.	Public reporting of EEA-informed conference debates influences how reform priorities and macroeconomic risks are interpreted by policy and expert audiences.	ENA: www.ena.et
2015–2016 Social Protection Strategy citations.	Use of EEA analysis in national strategy documents indicates that research shaped the analytical lens used to design policy frameworks.	Federal Government of Ethiopia: msn-be.moh.gov.et

As shown in Table 5, EEA research has shaped how policy challenges and solutions are understood by informing analytical frameworks in macroeconomic management, structural reform, and sectoral policies. Through partnerships and academic validation, EEA extends beyond providing evidence to influencing the interpretive lenses that guide policymaking and shape long-term policy directions.

Table 6: Instrumental influence

Date / Evidence / Context	Analysis / Interpretation	External Source / Website
July 30, 2025: NBE NAFIR 2025–30 citing EEA paper.	Direct citation in an official policy roadmap shows that EEA findings informed concrete strategic decisions in agricultural finance, moving from analysis to operational policy design.	National Bank of Ethiopia: nbe.gov.et
September 2023: Oromia Commission commissioned EEA inflation study.	Commissioned research indicates demand-driven use of EEA expertise, where findings directly informed regional planning and inflation management strategies.	Oromia Planning and Development Commission: oromiaplan.gov.et

As shown in Table 6, EEA research demonstrates instrumental influence by shaping policy documents and planning processes. Evidence from citations and commissioned studies confirms that its findings move beyond discussion to practical application, reflecting strong confidence in EEA's analytical rigor and its role as a trusted policy partner.

Table 7: Endorsement Influence

Date / Evidence / Context	Analysis / Interpretation	External Source / Website
July 2025: Ministry of Finance recognition.	Public acknowledgment by a central economic institution affirms EEA's authority and signals institutional validation of its research contributions.	Federal Ministry of Finance mofed.gov.et
2024: NBE–Ministry collaboration referencing EEA research.	Reliance on EEA analysis within joint initiatives reflects confidence in its credibility and policy relevance.	National Bank of Ethiopia: nbe.gov.et

As shown in Table 7, endorsement influence is built through formal validation and institutional trust, with recognition from leading economic institutions enhancing legitimacy of EEA and reinforcing its role as a credible partner in evidence-informed policymaking.

Table 8: Discourse influence

Date / Evidence / Context	Analysis / Interpretation	Source / Website
2025 ZeHabesha commentary.	Engagement with EEA research in independent commentary shows that its findings shape public narratives and interpretive frames beyond official policy spaces.	ZeHabesha
2024-2025 media commentary using EEA-aligned framing.	Adoption of EEA-informed terminology and analytical perspectives in media debate indicates influence on how economic issues are discussed and understood publicly.	Independent media synthesis

As shown in Table 8, EEA research extends beyond formal policy spaces to shape economic discourse by influencing narratives, concepts, and analytical frames used in public and expert debates. Through this broader intellectual footprint, EEA contributes to shaping societal understanding, attitudes, and the long-term environment in which economic policies are developed.

Based on responses from members across the country, research outputs of EEA are widely perceived as contributing to policy formulation and public discourse, with 42.6% rating its influence as moderate and 31.1% as significant impact. This perception aligns with evidence from document reviews and media assessments (Tables 4–8), which show that EEA exerts influence through multiple pathways, particularly by raising awareness, shaping concepts, and framing national debates, while its instrumental use and institutional uptake remain low. However, 21.7% of respondents reported minimal impact and 4.5% indicated no impact (Figure 9), suggesting that the pathway from research visibility to sustained policy action is not yet fully realized. This finding depict EEA as a credible voice in policy ecosystem in Ethiopia, with its research helping to shape how economic issues are understood and discussed, while highlighting the need to strengthen mechanisms that transform evidence into more consistent and institutionalized policy decisions.

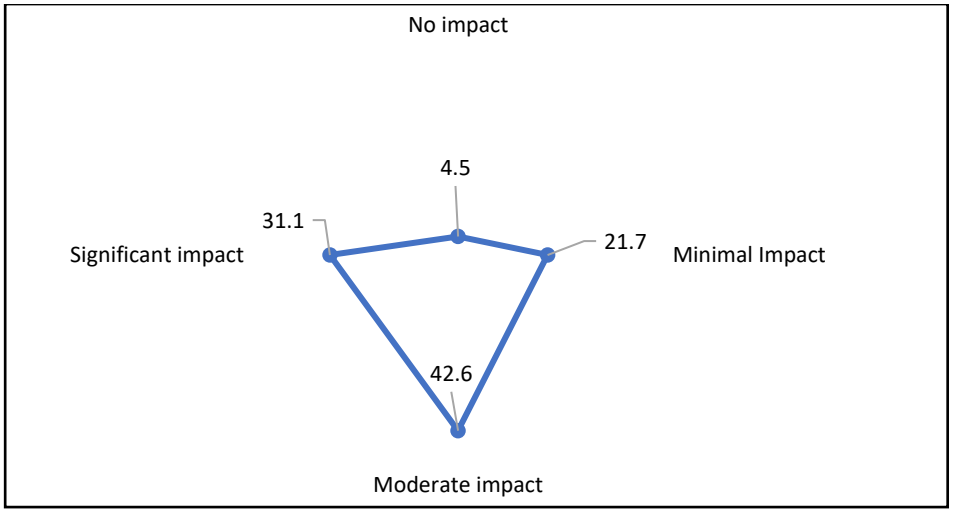


Figure 9: The impact of research outputs of EEA on policy formulation and public discourse

The evidence shows that EEA has been highly effective in generating knowledge, shaping economic discourse, and creating awareness through research publications, policy briefs, workshops, and policy forums. A key informant noted that research outputs of EEA are widely presented and discussed among stakeholders; however, their translation into concrete policy actions and implementation remains limited. While the Association has strong capacity in evidence generation and conceptual framing, gaps remain in policy advocacy, systematic follow-up, and tracking the uptake and impact of research recommendations. Key informants mentioned that, strengthening engagement with policymakers, establishing policy uptake mechanisms, and sustaining dialogue beyond dissemination events would help bridge the gap between knowledge creation and real-world impact.

A senior official, (EEA and Parliament member) highlighted significant contribution of EEA to Ethiopia's evidence-based policymaking by addressing critical knowledge and capacity gaps through independent and rigorous research. The policy briefs, annual *Report on the Ethiopian Economy*, research studies, and high-level policy dialogues of EEA have influenced national debates on poverty reduction, inclusive growth, land administration, agriculture, trade, public finance, monetary policy, health financing, and macroeconomic management. Its research on poverty dynamics and land tenure, in particular, contributed to shaping policy discussions and reforms, positioning EEA as a key source of independent economic analysis and policy insight.

Similarly, a key informant from the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) recognized role of EEA in producing high-quality research and providing a neutral platform that connects government, academia, the private sector, civil society, and development partners. Reports, conferences, and public forums of EEA have enriched policy discussions and supported decision-making. However, the informant emphasized that research utilization remains uneven due to weak institutional

linkages, political and administrative changes, and limited mechanisms for converting evidence into action. Enhancing strategic partnerships, expanding policy engagement, and strengthening knowledge translation systems would enable EEA to move from shaping conversations to more consistently influencing policy outcomes.

3.7. EEA Research Quality and Relevance

The result of study highlights strong performance of EEA in research quality and relevance. Respondents rated research quality of EEA. Accordingly, 48.1% considering it high and 19.8% very high, while only 6.9% expressed it as low. Similarly, 68.3% perceived EEA research as relevant (45% relevant and 23.3% very relevant), indicating strong alignment with economic and policy priorities of Ethiopia. However, 19.1% of respondents rated EEA research relevance as moderate. This suggests the need for continuous adaptation to emerging policy challenges and changing development contexts. Despite strong research foundations, the findings reveal a gap between knowledge generation and policy influence. More than half of respondents (51.1%) rated policy influence of EEA as moderate, while only 17.6% considered it high.

The findings suggest that researches of EEA serves as a strong foundation, but its journey from "evidence on paper" to "evidence in practice" requires further strengthening. EEA should enhance policy uptake by developing more targeted dissemination approaches, engaging policymakers throughout the research cycle, and establishing stronger follow-up mechanisms to track the use of research findings. Maintaining its reputation for quality and relevance while improving strategic communication, policy dialogue, and alignment with emerging priorities will enable EEA to transform research excellence into greater societal and policy impact. Moderate ratings on policy influence reveal a gap between knowledge creation and policy application. Bridging this gap requires stronger pathways for uptake through targeted dissemination, sustained stakeholder engagement, and better alignment with policy cycles, ensuring that research moves beyond generating evidence to actively shaping decisions.

Table 9: EEA research quality and relevance

Category	Response Item	Frequency	Percent (%)
Research Quality	Very high	52	19.8
	High	126	48.1
	Moderate	66	25.2
	Low	16	6.1
	Very low	2	0.8
Research Relevance	Very relevant	61	23.3
	Relevant	118	45
	Moderately relevant	50	19.1
	Slightly relevant	22	8.4
	Not relevant	11	4.2
Policy Influence	Highly successful (Significant influence)	46	17.6
	Moderately successful (Some influence)	134	51.1
	Slightly successful (Minimal influence)	69	26.3
	Not successful (No influence)	13	5

3.8. Capacity Building for Members and External Stakeholders

Capacity building remains a cornerstone of EEA's mandate and one of its strongest areas of performance. Over the past decade, the Association has evolved into a credible national institution that delivers relevant training, technical assistance, and professional development programs to strengthen Ethiopia's economic policy and analytical capacity. Through structured short-term and professional training, EEA has enhanced the skills of public officials, researchers, academics, and other sector professionals in areas such as economic analysis, data management, research methods, and statistical applications. Training on software packages has supported professionals from regional bureaus, universities, and financial institutions such as the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia to improve their technical competencies (EEA, 2015, 2024). Beyond individual skills development, EEA has contributed to improving the quality of economics education and strengthening the country's broader human capital base in the economics profession.

Capacity-building initiatives of EEA are closely aligned with national development priorities and the growing demand for evidence-based policymaking. By providing practical, context-specific training and technical support, the Association has strengthened both individual capabilities and institutional performance. Complementary initiatives, including internship programs and

technical assistance have further expanded contribution of EEA in building a capable community of economic professionals. Nevertheless, expanding regional outreach, adopting more digital and blended learning approaches, and establishing systematic post-training follow-up mechanisms remain critical to ensure that acquired skills translate into sustained institutional improvements and measurable long-term impact.

3.8.1. Short-Term Training for Members and External Stakeholders

Between 2014/15 and 2024/25, EEA significantly expanded its short-term training programs, positioning capacity development as a bridge between economic knowledge and practical application. In addition to individual-focused professional training, the Association responded to institutional demands by supporting organizations such as the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and implementing large-scale health system strengthening initiatives across regions. These efforts demonstrate that contribution of EEA extends beyond improving individual competencies to strengthening institutional capacity and sectoral performance.

The trend in training events reflects a journey of growth, disruption, and recovery. As shown in Figure 10, training activities increased from six events in 2014/15 to nine in 2018/19, indicating rising demand and strengthened delivery capacity. The COVID-19 pandemic created a major setback, resulting in no training events in 2019/20 due to the suspension of face-to-face activities. However, EEA demonstrated strong institutional resilience, gradually resuming activities with two events in 2020/21 and reaching a record 10 events in 2021/22. Although activities declined temporarily in 2022/23 and 2023/24, they recovered strongly to 10 events in 2024/25, highlighting EEA's ability to overcome external shocks and rebuild its professional development platform beyond pre-pandemic levels.

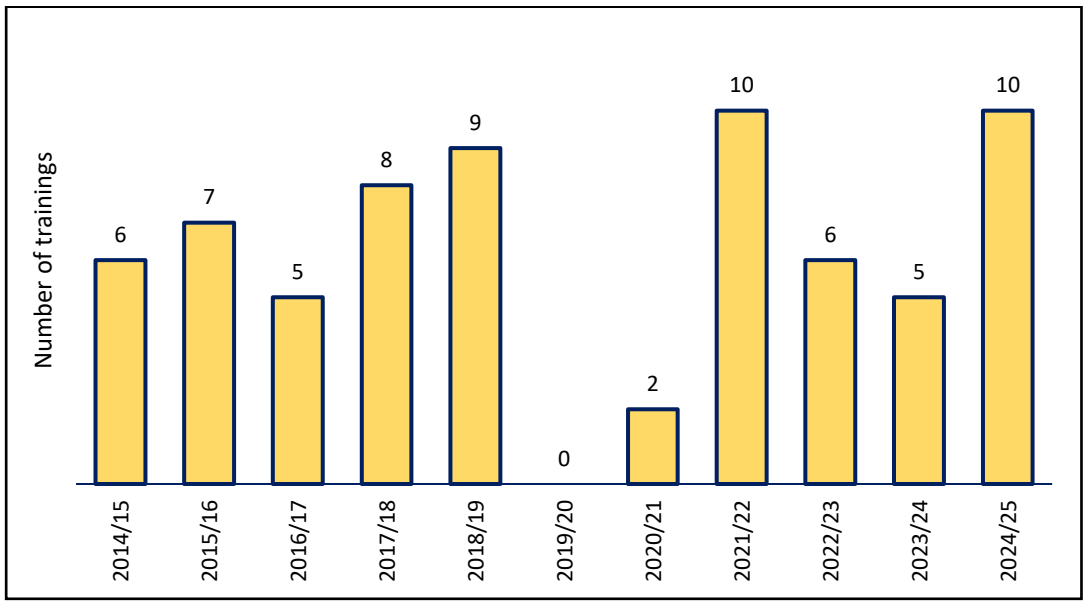


Figure 10: Number of training events in EEA

3.8.2. Training Participants

Training outreach of EEA has expanded markedly over the evaluation period, evolving from relatively modest and inconsistent participation in the early years into a large-scale capacity-building platform in recent years (Figure 11). Between 2014/15 and 2018/19, trainee numbers remained limited and fluctuated between 35 and 141 participants, reflecting constrained outreach and varying institutional performance. Training activities were temporarily halted in 2019/20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted professional development initiatives and narrowed EEA's engagement. However, the Association demonstrated strong resilience, resuming activities in 2020/21 with 38 participants and rapidly scaling up to 556 trainees in 2021/22. Although participation moderated to 293 and 132 trainees in 2022/23 and 2023/24, respectively, levels remained higher than most pre-pandemic years. The peak was reached in 2024/25, with 863 trainees participating, marking the strongest performance of the assessment period. This upward trajectory illustrates strengthened institutional capacity, improved program delivery, and expanding role of EEA as a key provider of professional training and economic knowledge development in Ethiopia.

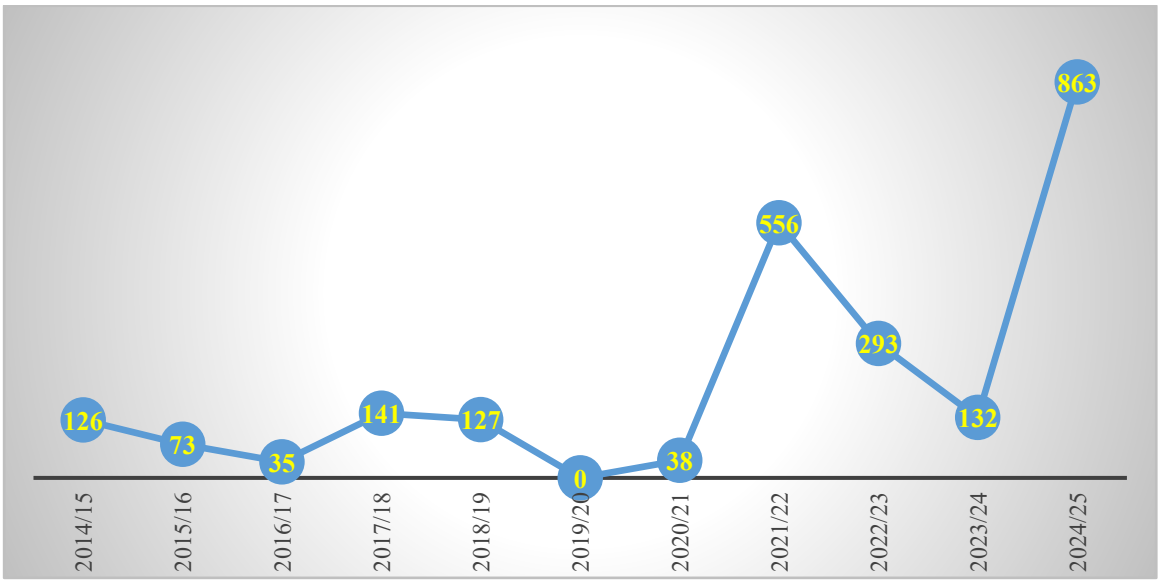


Figure 11: Number of training participants

Key informants recognized training programs of EEA as an important platform for strengthening technical and institutional capacities across diverse sectors in Ethiopia. The Association has delivered tailored capacity-building initiatives for institutions such as the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Development Bank of Ethiopia, the World Food Programme, government bodies including the Oromia Planning and Development Bureau, and health sector institutions. These initiatives were reported to enhance professional skills, promote evidence-based decision-making, and improve understanding of economic and development issues, reflecting credibility of EEA as a national hub for knowledge transfer and professional development. However, informants noted that sometimes, training participation remains concentrated among higher education institutions,

indicating limited outreach to other sectors and groups with diverse capacity needs. They also highlighted that short training durations, limited practical exposure, and the absence of post-training follow-up mechanisms reduce the long-term impact of these programs. Expanding needs-based topic selection, broadening participant outreach beyond the usual circles, and introducing structured follow-up systems would help EEA move from one-time knowledge delivery toward sustained capacity transformation.

3.8.3. Effectiveness of Capacity Building

Capacity-building programs of EEA have significantly strengthened the analytical, technical, and professional competencies of stakeholders by equipping them with practical skills in economic analysis, data interpretation, and policy evaluation. The training programs have enhanced participants' ability to address real-world policy and development challenges, contributing to improved institutional performance across public and private sectors. Evidence from different sectors demonstrates that these interventions have generated impacts beyond individual skill enhancement, fostering broader institutional transformation.

In the TVET sector, targeted training has improved technology transfer and quality assurance practices among micro and small enterprises, enhancing productivity and operational efficiency. Similarly, in agriculture, research-informed training has transformed extension agents from traditional input providers into facilitators of innovation and knowledge exchange through participatory approaches. These capacity-building efforts have also contributed to livelihood diversification and food security by encouraging non-farm economic activities, particularly among rural households. Consistent with these findings, the nationwide survey shows strong stakeholder confidence in training effectiveness of EEA, with 62.2% of respondents rating the programs as highly effective and 32.4% as moderately effective (Figure 12). The alignment between stakeholder perceptions and sectoral evidence highlights the role of EEA's training initiatives as a catalyst for human capital development and institutional resilience.

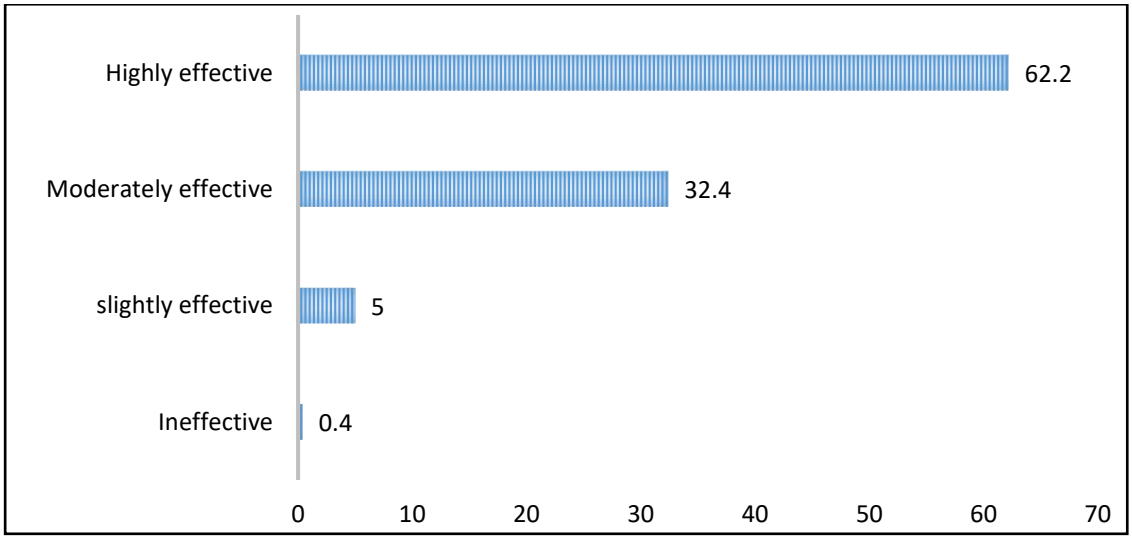


Figure 12: Effectiveness of EEA's training programs in building stakeholder capacity

3.8.4. EEA Training Accessibility and Relevance

As presented in Table 10, EEA training participation remains limited, with 146 respondents (55.7%) reporting no prior participation, while 116 (44.3%) had attended training programs. However, participants expressed strong confidence in the relevance of the training, with 53.1% rating it moderately relevant and 44.3% considering it highly relevant; only a few proportion viewed it as slightly or not relevant (2.6%). Thus, the findings reveal EEA trainings are relevant the main challenge is expanding equitable access and participation. Like a well-crafted bridge that connects knowledge with opportunity, training platforms of EEA require wider reach and improved accessibility mechanisms to serve a broader membership base.

Table 10: Training participation, accessibility and relevance

Category	Response Item	Frequency	Percent (%)
Training Participation	No	146	55.7
	Yes	116	44.3
Relevance of Training	Highly relevant	116	44.3
	Moderately relevant	139	53.1
	Slightly relevant	4	1.5
	Not relevant	3	1.1

EEA Training Assessment by Age Group

Table 11 presents respondents' perceptions of the relevance, effectiveness, applicability, and professional tailoring of EEA trainings and activities across different age groups. Regarding the relevance of EEA training, 43.85% of respondents rated the training as relevant, while 34.62% considered it very relevant. The proportion rating the training as relevant was highest among respondents aged 35–45 years (46.63%), followed by those aged ≥45 years (38.10%) and <35 years (37.70%). In contrast, the highest proportion rating the training as very relevant was observed among respondents aged <35 years (36.07%), closely followed by those aged 35–45 years (35.96%), whereas respondents aged ≥45 years reported a lower share (19.05%). Ratings of moderately relevant were more common among respondents aged ≥45 years (23.81%) than the younger age groups, while slightly relevant responses accounted for 11.15% overall. The association between age and perceived relevance was marginally significant (Pearson $\chi^2 = 15.06$, $p = 0.058$), indicating limited variation in relevance perceptions across age groups.

With respect to the effectiveness of EEA training, 46.54% of respondents rated the training as effective, while 23.85% considered it very effective (Table 11.) The proportion reporting the training as effective was highest among respondents aged <35 years (49.18%), followed by those aged 35–45 years (46.63%) and ≥45 years (38.10%). Conversely, the highest proportion rating the

training as very effective was recorded among respondents aged 35–45 years (26.40%), compared with 23.85% overall. Respondents aged ≥45 years more frequently rated the training as moderately effective (42.86%), whereas 24.23% of all respondents selected this category. The relationship between age and perceived training effectiveness was statistically significant (Pearson $\chi^2 = 16.78$, $p = 0.032$), suggesting that perceptions of effectiveness differ across age categories.

Regarding the likelihood of applying the knowledge and skills acquired from EEA training, 50.77% of respondents indicated that the training is very likely or fully applicable, while 43.08% reported that it is likely or partially applicable. The highest proportion indicating that the acquired knowledge is very likely or fully applicable was observed among respondents aged ≥45 years (71.43%), compared with 49.44% among those aged 35–45 years and 47.54% among respondents aged <35 years (Table 11). Meanwhile, the proportion reporting that the training is likely or partially applicable was relatively similar between respondents aged 35–45 years (45.51%) and <35 years (44.26%), but considerably lower among those aged ≥45 years (19.05%). The association between age and the likelihood of applying acquired knowledge and skills was not statistically significant (Pearson $\chi^2 = 6.96$, $p = 0.325$), indicating broadly consistent application potential across age groups.

Concerning the extent to which EEA activities are tailored to members' professional needs, 46.92% of respondents perceived the activities as moderately tailored, while 31.54% considered them well tailored (Table 11). The proportion rating EEA activities as well tailored was highest among respondents aged <35 years (47.54%), followed by those aged 35–45 years (27.53%) and ≥45 years (19.05%). In contrast, respondents aged ≥45 years (57.14%) and 35–45 years (53.37%) more frequently perceived the activities as moderately tailored. Overall, the findings suggest that EEA trainings are widely perceived as relevant, effective, and applicable across age groups, while there remains scope to improve how activities address the diverse professional needs of members at different career stages. EEA should therefore adopt a more differentiated training and professional engagement strategy, tailoring course content, delivery approaches, and follow-up support to the specific needs of early-career, mid-career, and senior professionals, while strengthening mechanisms that facilitate the practical application of acquired knowledge and skills.

Table 11: Perceptions of EEA Training by Age Group

Indicator	Response Category	<35 years (%)	35–45 years (%)	≥45 years (%)	Total (%)	Pearson χ^2 (p-value)
Perceived relevance of EEA training	Very relevant	36.07	35.96	19.05	34.62	15.06 (0.058)
	Relevant	37.7	46.63	38.1	43.85	
	Moderately relevant	6.56	8.43	23.81	9.23	
	Slightly relevant	16.39	8.43	19.05	11.15	
	Not relevant	3.28	0.56	–	1.15	
	Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	
Perceived effectiveness of EEA training	Very effective	18.03	26.4	19.05	23.85	16.78 (0.032)
	Effective	49.18	46.63	38.1	46.54	
	Moderately effective	19.67	23.6	42.86	24.23	
	Ineffective	13.11	2.81	–	5	
	Very ineffective	–	0.56	–	0.38	
	Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	
Likelihood of applying knowledge and skills acquired from EEA training	Fully applicable	47.54	49.44	71.43	50.77	6.96 (0.325)
	Partially applicable	44.26	45.51	19.05	43.08	
	Rarely applicable	6.56	3.93	9.52	5	
	Not applicable	1.64	1.12	0	1.15	
	Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	
Extent to which EEA activities are tailored to professional needs	Well-tailored	47.54	27.53	19.05	31.54	19.25 (0.004)
	Moderately tailored	24.59	53.37	57.14	46.92	
	Poorly tailored	19.67	14.61	23.81	16.54	
	Not tailored at all	8.2	4.49	0	5	
	Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	

3.8.5. Technical Assistance Rendered

EEA has expanded its contribution to national development beyond research and capacity building by providing strategic technical assistance to government institutions, universities, and development partners (Figure 13). Through participation in technical committees, support for survey design and national data systems, curriculum reviews, external PhD examinations, policy

dialogues, conferences, and advisory services. The evaluation period shows a steady progression in both the consistency and relevance of technical Assistance engagements. From 2020/21 to 2023/24, EEA delivered four major technical assistance initiatives annually, focusing on targeted institutional support and evidence-based inputs to policy, education, and research systems. While the volume remained stable, the nature of support became more specialized and demand-driven, reflecting growing confidence towards expertise of EEA. In 2024/25, technical assistance expanded significantly to seven major engagements, marking the highest level during the evaluation period and indicating increasing influence of EEA in policy advisory, academic quality enhancement, and national knowledge systems.

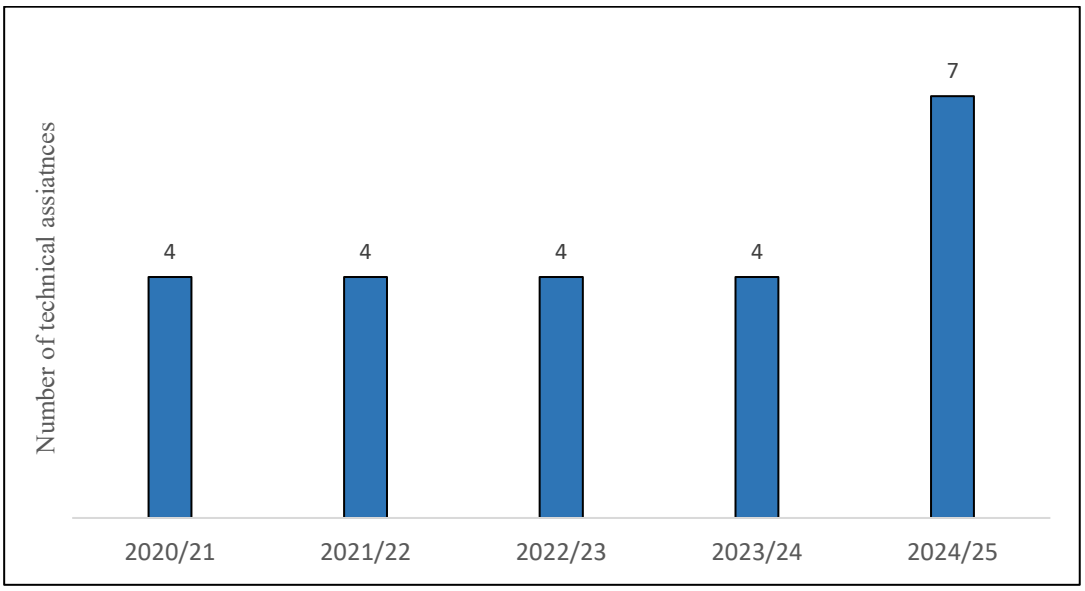


Figure 13: Number of technical assistances delivered by EEA

3.8.6. Effectiveness of Technical Support Services

Technical support services of EEA have played a critical role in connecting research evidence with government action by transforming knowledge into practical policy and institutional improvements. Beyond producing studies, EEA researchers have actively contributed to national and regional advisory platforms, including the African Economic Research Consortium, Academic Board and government steering committees, positioning the Association as a trusted bridge between evidence and decision-making (EEA, 2015, 2016). Its sectoral contributions demonstrate broad policy relevance, ranging from improving fiscal decentralization systems and grant allocation mechanisms to supporting agricultural water management, sustainable land practices, tax revenue assessment, and macroeconomic capacity building for government officials (EEA, 2017, 2024). These sustained engagements have strengthened institutional capacity and reinforced its role as a credible think tank with practical influence on policy implementation (EEA, 2015, 2017).

Survey findings further confirm the perceived value of technical support services. As shown in Figure 16, 58.8% of respondents rated the services as moderately effective, while 21.8% considered them very effective, with only a small share reporting negative views. This indicates that technical assistance of EEA is widely recognized as relevant and useful across stakeholder groups. However, the dominance of moderate ratings suggests that its impact has not always reached transformative levels. Thus, the findings highlight the need for more demand-driven support, stronger institutional linkages, and systematic follow-up mechanisms to convert technical assistance from a valued service into a more sustained driver of policy change.

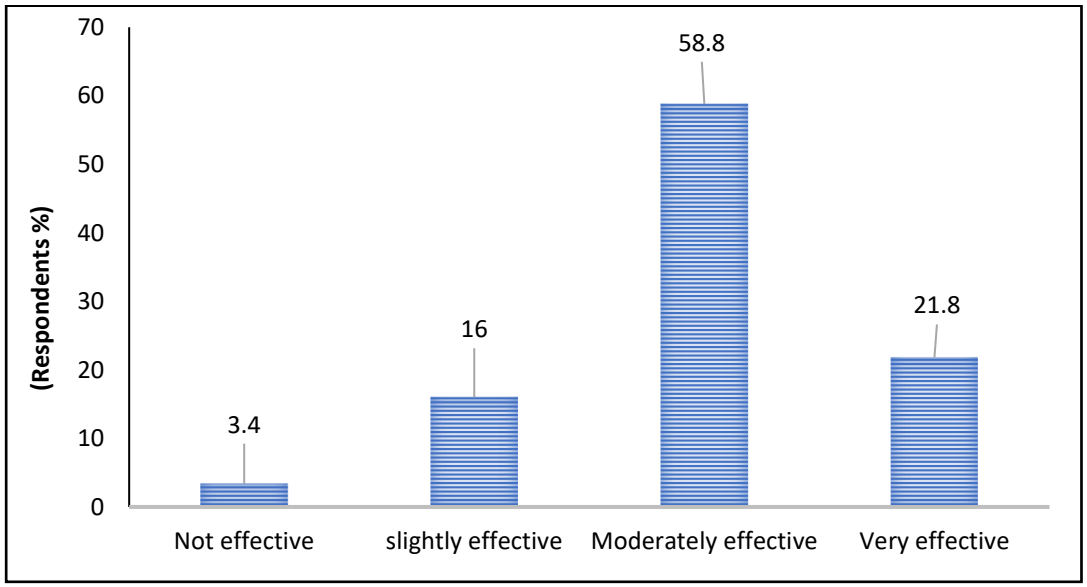


Figure 14: Effectiveness of EEA's technical support services

Despite these achievements, challenges remain. Capacity-building efforts have at times been affected by institutional constraints, limited financial resources, and external shocks such as conflict and COVID-19, which disrupted continuity in some years. Evidence shows that EEA has become a credible national institution delivering relevant training and technical support. Its expanding institutional reach and strategic engagement reflect growing maturity and influence.

3.9. Internship Training and Professional Services

Throughout the reporting period, EEA continued to nurture emerging economists through internship programs that provided undergraduate students with practical exposure to research, data analysis, and professional work environments. Although the annual intake remained modest (five to seven students), the program created a valuable bridge between classroom knowledge and real-world application, strengthening employability and early career development. Expanding the program's scale would further extend its reach and impact among young graduates.

Beyond internships, EEA played a pivotal role in strengthening Ethiopia's higher education and professional capacity through sustained academic engagement between 2014/2015 and

2018/2019. Senior research fellows contributed to postgraduate teaching, thesis supervision, examinations, and curriculum reviews across universities including Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Aksum, Gondar, Arba Minch, Wollega, and Mekelle. These efforts positioned EEA as a vital link connecting academic training, research excellence, and policy-oriented knowledge generation. While the intensity of activities varied over time, continued engagement and periods of expansion, particularly in 2017/2018, demonstrate EEA's institutional resilience and enduring commitment to building Ethiopia's pipeline of skilled researchers and policy professionals.

3.10. Capacity Building for EEA Staff

The training initiatives provided to Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) staff demonstrate a sustained commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, technical expertise, and professional effectiveness. As shown in Figure 15, EEA conducted 10 staff trainings annually during 2014/15 and 2015/16, reflecting strong early attention to human resource development. However, training activities declined to three sessions in 2016/17, possibly due to financial constraints, institutional adjustments, or reduced opportunities. From 2020/21 onward, EEA expanded its capacity-building efforts through targeted trainings in record management, computer skills, planning and monitoring, GIS, ICT, communication, graphic design, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). These interventions strengthened not only technical capabilities but also administrative efficiency, digital readiness, ethical standards, and institutional professionalism. Experience-sharing programs with other organizations further enriched staff knowledge by creating pathways for learning and adoption of best practices.

Subsequent years show a continued shift toward strategic skills that support visibility, research capacity, and organizational effectiveness of EEA. In 2021/22, GIS training and experience-sharing events reinforced technical learning and institutional networking. In 2022/23, communication and media engagement became a major focus, with 23 staff members trained in communication skills and six in graphic design, highlighting the Association's growing emphasis on stakeholder engagement and public outreach. In 2023/24, training on record management, filing systems, impact evaluation, and graphic design strengthened administrative systems and evidence-based management. Similarly, in 2024/25, GIS training for 10 staff members and leadership training for eight staff members reflected a growing focus on data-driven planning, technical excellence, and strategic leadership. Overall, EEA's staff development trajectory resembles a gradual transition from building foundational skills to cultivating specialized institutional capabilities. This continuous investment in human capital has become a cornerstone for improving organizational performance, enhancing research and communication quality, and sustaining the Association's long-term effectiveness.

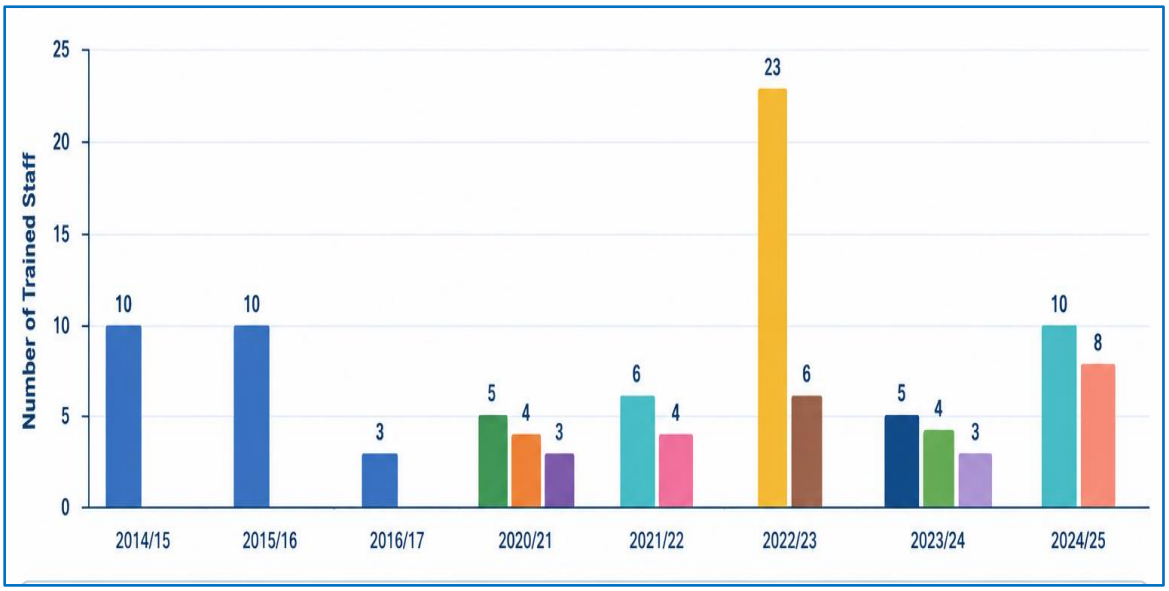


Figure 15: EEA internal staff capacity building activities

3.11. Knowledge Dissemination, Public Dialogue and Policy Forums

Knowledge dissemination platforms of EEA serve as a vital bridge connecting research, policy, and public debate. Through flagship events such as the Annual International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, organized continuously since 2003, and regional conferences through chapters in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali, Afar, and other regions, EEA has created an important space for economic dialogue (EEA, 2024). These forums attract over 900 to 1,000 participants, including policymakers, parliamentarians, researchers, development partners, private sector actors, and civil society representatives (EEA, 2024). Supported by partnerships with institutions such as BMGF, EU, USAID, FES, ACBF, IDRC's Think Tank Initiative, CIMMYT, and the World Bank, and amplified through national and international media outlets including EBC, Sheger FM, and VOA, EEA extends the reach of economic knowledge beyond academic circles (EEA, 2021, 2022, 2024). Its public dialogues, lectures, workshops, conferences, and chapter-based activities have positioned the Association as a key platform where evidence meets policy conversations.

Despite strong recognition of the analytical quality and relevance of EEA's research, key informants noted that the translation of evidence into concrete policy action remains limited. The gap between knowledge generation and policy uptake is linked to weak researcher–policymaker linkages, limited involvement of decision-makers during research processes, insufficient policy-oriented communication of findings, implementation constraints, and changing government priorities. Strengthening continuous engagement, improving knowledge translation, and establishing more systematic follow-up mechanisms with government institutions were identified as essential steps to transform research insights into actionable policies and enhance influence on economic decision-making of EEA.

3.11.1. Reach and Influence of Policy Dialogue Forums

Policy dialogue forums of EEA have become important platforms for shaping Ethiopia's economic discourse by bringing together high-level policymakers, including the Prime Minister, Governor of the National Bank, and state ministers, alongside regional parliaments, sector bureaus, NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector actors (EEA, 2015, 2017). This inclusive architecture bridges the gap between evidence and decision-making, creating a space where research insights meet practical realities. Through its regional chapters, EEA has extended this culture of dialogue beyond Addis Ababa, enabling locally grounded discussions that capture regional perspectives while contributing to national policy debates (EEA, 2016, 2024). The interdisciplinary nature of its conferences further strengthens their relevance by connecting economic analysis with sectoral experiences, enhancing the legitimacy, applicability, and policy value of research-based recommendations. Survey findings reinforce this institutional contribution, showing broad recognition of EEA's forums as effective mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange (Figure 16). About 38.2% of respondents rated the forums as moderately effective, 34.7% as effective, and 18.3% as very effective. These perceptions mirror the documented reach and diversity of participation, suggesting that EEA's dialogue platforms serve as vital bridges connecting policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in shaping economic conversations across Ethiopia.

Although the forums effectively convene diverse actors and sustain dialogue, the concentration of responses in the moderate category reveals a critical gap between discussion and policy impact. Their influence appears stronger in participation and knowledge exchange than in translating ideas into concrete decisions, institutional reforms, and measurable outcomes. Strengthening feedback mechanisms, follow-up systems, and structured policy uptake pathways would help transform these valuable dialogues into more consistent drivers of policy change and institutional action.

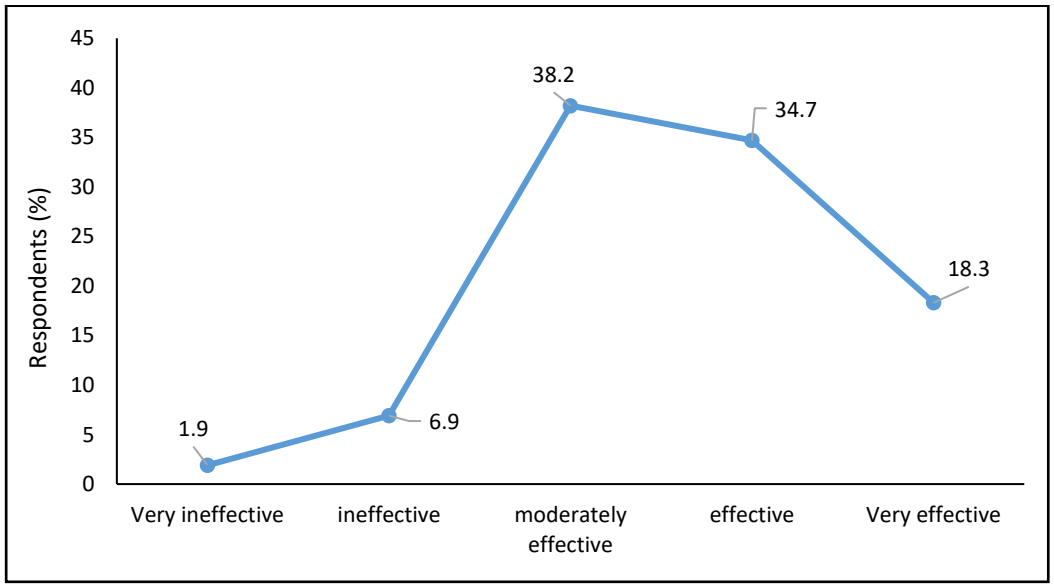


Figure 16: Reach and influence of EEA's policy dialogue and conferences

3.12. Membership Status of EEA

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) recorded steady membership growth during 2014/15–2024/25, with total membership increasing from 4,439 to 6,044, reflecting the Association's growing reach and relevance among economists and related professionals (Figure 17). During this period, 2,035 new members joined, with the highest annual recruitment observed in 2021/22 (322 members), followed by 2023/24 (266) and 2015/16 (242). However, the growth in membership has not been matched by consistent engagement, as active membership fluctuated considerably, declining from a peak of 1,283 in 2015/16 to 631 in 2017/18, before partially recovering and stabilizing between 758 and 1,001 members, reaching 828 in 2024/25. This widening gap between membership expansion and active participation indicates that while EEA has successfully broadened its membership base, the challenge remains in transforming members from passive registrants into engaged contributors. Strengthening retention strategies, enhancing member services, and creating more meaningful engagement opportunities will be essential to ensure that the Association's growing membership becomes a vibrant and active professional community.

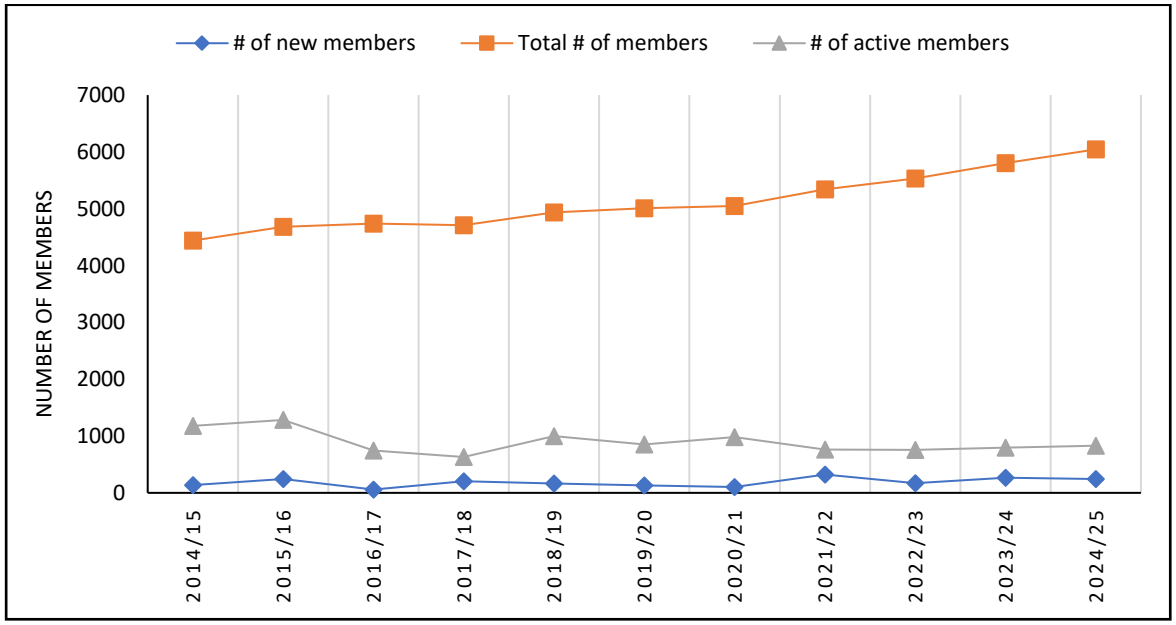


Figure 17: Membership Status of EEA

3.12.1. Gender Composition of EEA Full Members

As indicated in Figure 18, gender composition of EEA full members remained consistently male-dominated throughout 2014–2025, with male representation ranging from 71.43% to 91.30%. Female membership generally remained below 20% during most years, declining from 10.34% in 2014 to below 10% in 2016–2017 and again in 2020. However, notable improvements were observed in 2018 (20.19%) and 2024, when female participation reached its highest level of 28.57%, indicating periods of enhanced inclusion. Although the proportion declined to 14.29% in

2025, the overall trend suggests gradual, though inconsistent, progress in increasing women's representation within EEA full membership, highlighting continued efforts toward greater gender inclusiveness while underscoring the need for sustained measures to improve female participation.

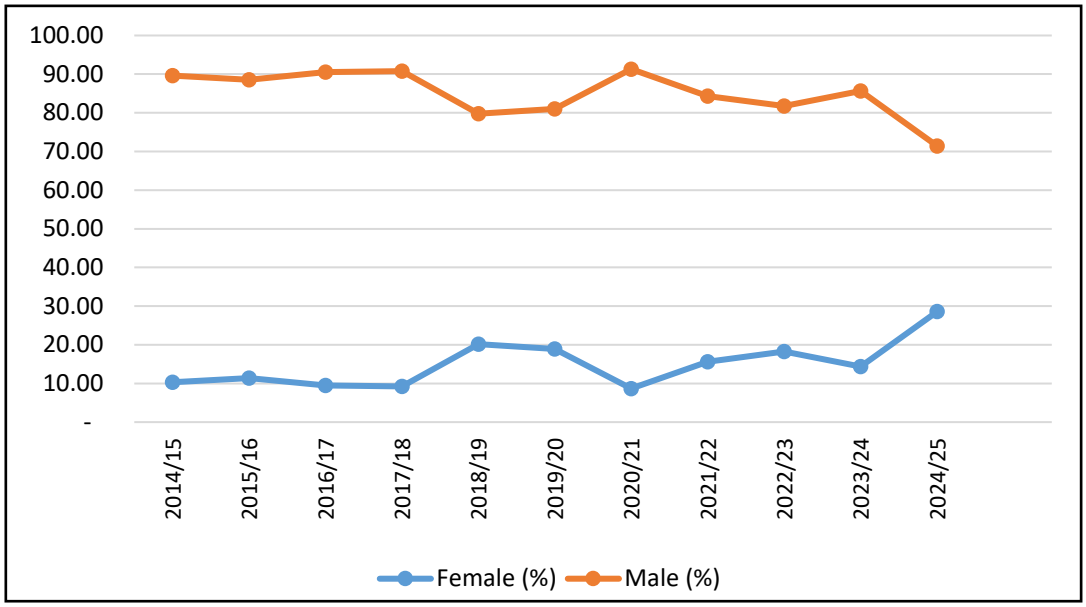


Figure 18: Gender composition of EEA full members

3.13. Satisfaction with Membership Values

Table 12 presents members' perceptions of the value derived from EEA membership. While 26.0% of respondents reported being very satisfied and 2.3% satisfied, a substantial proportion remained neutral (41.2%), dissatisfied (21.0%), or very dissatisfied (9.5%), suggesting that many members have yet to experience clear, visible, and consistent benefits from their membership. This pattern reflects a gap between EEA's potential value and members' lived experiences, highlighting the need for stronger service delivery and more tangible member-oriented benefits. Similarly, although only 11.1% indicated that they would continue paying membership fees without reservation, 85.9% stated that they would remain members if the Association improved its benefits and services, while only 3.1% would discontinue membership. These findings reveal not disengagement, but rather a "call for greater value creation," as members continue to believe in EEA's role while expecting enhanced relevance, accessibility, and returns from their association.

Table 12: Member satisfaction and willingness to continue paying EEA membership fees

Category	Response Option	Frequency	Percent (%)
Satisfaction with Membership Value	Very satisfied	68	26
	Satisfied	6	2.3
	Neutral	108	41.2
	Dissatisfied	55	21
	Very dissatisfied	25	9.5
Willingness to Continue Paying Fee	Yes	29	11.1
	No	8	3.1
	Only if benefits improve	225	85.9

The qualitative findings reveal that EEA members increasingly expect the Association to evolve beyond its traditional role and provide a broader professional development ecosystem. While training programs, research publications, conferences, library services, and professional events remain highly valued, senior members emphasized the need for structured mentorship, consultancy opportunities, internships, employment information, and stronger networking platforms linking economists with government, development partners, academia, and the private sector. Informants also highlighted regional inequality in access to conferences, research collaboration, training, and decision-making opportunities, calling for stronger regional chapters and decentralization of major activities to enhance inclusiveness and engagement. Similarly, members expect expanded access to competitive research grants, collaborative research initiatives, and partnerships that support locally relevant and independent research, as existing funding opportunities are often constrained by donor priorities. A modern, interactive digital platform was also identified as essential to facilitate virtual training, webinars, professional networking, peer learning, data access, and continuous knowledge exchange.

These expectations are strongly reinforced by survey findings, which show that professional training and capacity-building are the highest priority services, identified by 88% of respondents, followed by networking opportunities and professional forums (82%), career development and employment support (80%), and research grants and collaborative research opportunities (74%) (Table 13). Together, the qualitative and quantitative evidence suggests that members envision EEA not merely as a professional association but as a dynamic knowledge and career advancement hub. Meeting these expectations will require expanding learning opportunities, strengthening research and policy engagement, improving digital and regional outreach, and creating pathways that transform membership from passive affiliation into active professional participation, thereby enhancing satisfaction, retention, and long-term institutional sustainability.

Table 13: Need of EEA members

Need of EEA members	Respondents (%)
Professional training and capacity-building	88%
Networking opportunities and professional forums	82%
Career development and employment support	80%
Research grants and collaborative projects	74%

3.14. EEA Publications

3.14.1. Publications by Number

Figure 19 illustrates the trend in the number of publications produced by the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) from 2014/15 to 2024/25. Publication output showed notable fluctuations, with a gradual decline during the first half of the assessment period, falling from 14 publications in 2014/15 to only 2 in 2021/22. This prolonged reduction may be associated with resource limitations, changing institutional priorities, and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected research processes, editorial activities, and dissemination timelines. However, EEA demonstrated a remarkable turnaround after 2021/22, with publications increasing sharply to 27 in 2022/23, the highest level recorded during the period, followed by 26 in 2023/24 and 18 in 2024/25. This recovery reflects strengthened research capacity, improved publication management, and renewed commitment to knowledge generation and policy engagement. Like a phoenix rising from a period of decline, EEA's publication performance transformed from reduced output into a period of expanded scholarly production, reinforcing its role in advancing economic research and informing policy dialogue in Ethiopia.

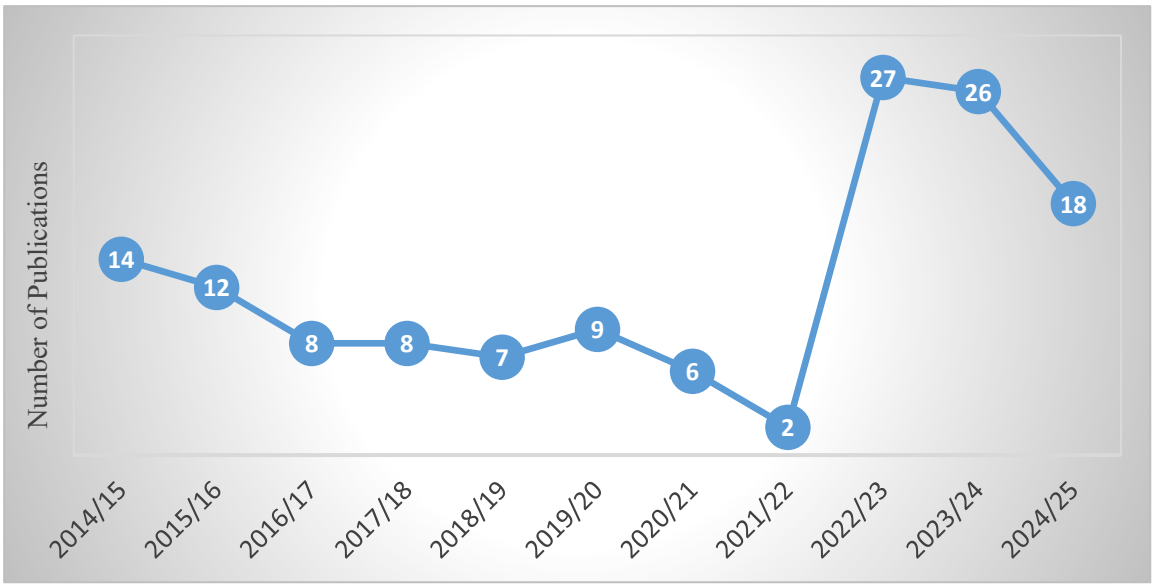


Figure 19: Number of EEA Publications

3.14.2. Publications by Category

The distribution of EEA publications demonstrates a strong and diversified knowledge production portfolio, combining policy relevance with academic excellence. As shown in Figure 20, working papers (35) and policy briefs (20) represent the largest shares, reflecting EEA's strategic focus on timely evidence generation and rapid dissemination to inform policy debates and decision-making. Meanwhile, journal publications (17) and conference proceedings (18) highlight its continued commitment to scholarly rigor, peer-reviewed research, and intellectual exchange within the economics community. Beyond these outputs, annual economic reports (9), research reports (9), and regional conference proceedings (15) underscore EEA's contribution to comprehensive economic analysis, institutional learning, and wider knowledge sharing across Ethiopia. Although publications such as book chapters (6), newsletters (2), and other outputs (6) represent smaller proportions, they extend the reach and accessibility of EEA's knowledge products. Overall, the publication profile portrays EEA as a dynamic knowledge hub that bridges the gap between research and policy, transforming economic evidence into actionable insights for national development.

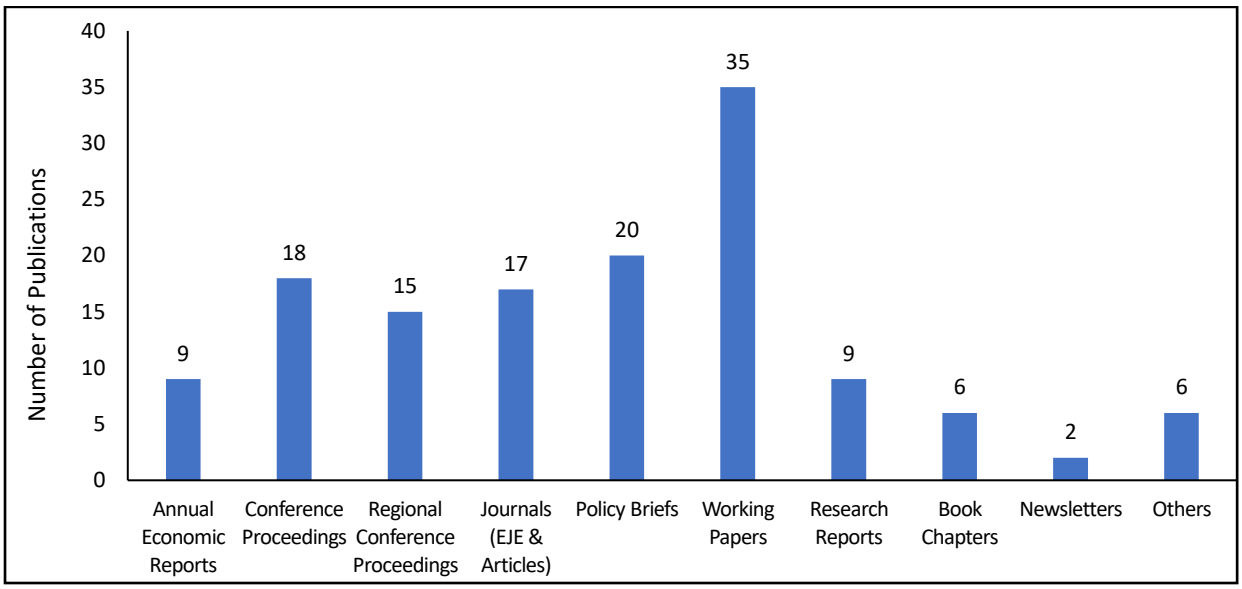


Figure 20: Publication by categories

3.14.3. Insights on EEA's Publication Citations

The data indicate that the Ethiopian Journal of Economics (EJE) has accumulated a substantial body of scholarly influence over time, receiving 1,184 citations between 2010 and 2025. The highest number of citations was recorded during 2011–2015 (333 citations), followed by 2010 and earlier (315 citations), 2016–2020 (286 citations), and 2021–2025 (250 citations) (Table 14). The earlier periods include several highly cited foundational studies, such as research on road sector development and economic growth, while subsequent years feature influential work on inflation, market integration, poverty dynamics, and livestock trade. These citation trends demonstrate the sustained contribution of EJE to economic research and its continued relevance to both national and international scholarly communities.

In addition to its citation performance, EEA has undertaken important initiatives to improve the quality, accessibility, and visibility of the journal. All previous issues have been digitized and archived, making the journal more accessible to researchers. EJE is indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and African Journals Online (AJOL), has received national accreditation from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and is recognized by Addis Ababa University. The journal also operates under a diamond open-access model, allowing authors to publish without article processing charges, thereby promoting wider dissemination of research outputs.

Beyond the journal itself, EEA's research outputs have gained recognition as credible sources of evidence for economic analysis and policy discussions. Studies produced by the Association have been cited by national institutions, including the National Bank of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Finance, as well as by international organizations such as the World Bank Group, United Nations agencies, and the International Monetary Fund. These developments demonstrate EEA's growing contribution to evidence-informed policymaking and economic development discourse. Nevertheless, the lower citation count observed during 2021–2025 suggests the importance of further strengthening the journal's international visibility, expanding indexing in major bibliographic databases, increasing international collaboration, and promoting high-quality research that attracts broader scholarly engagement and policy influence.

Table 14: Citation Summary of Ethiopian Journal of Economics

Year Range	Total Citations	Notable Context from Sources
2010 & Before	315	Includes high-impact foundational research such as “Road Sector Development and Economic Growth” (2010).
2011-2015	333	High growth period featuring research on inflation-growth nexus and market integration.
2016-2020	286	Focus on poverty dynamics and livestock trade; EJE began its digital transformation during this period.
2021-2025	250	Current period marked by DOAJ indexing, official national accreditation, and a shift to online management.

3.15. EEA Partnerships

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) has built a diverse partnership network that strengthens its research, capacity building, and policy engagement efforts. As shown in Figure 21, its key international partners include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), and African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

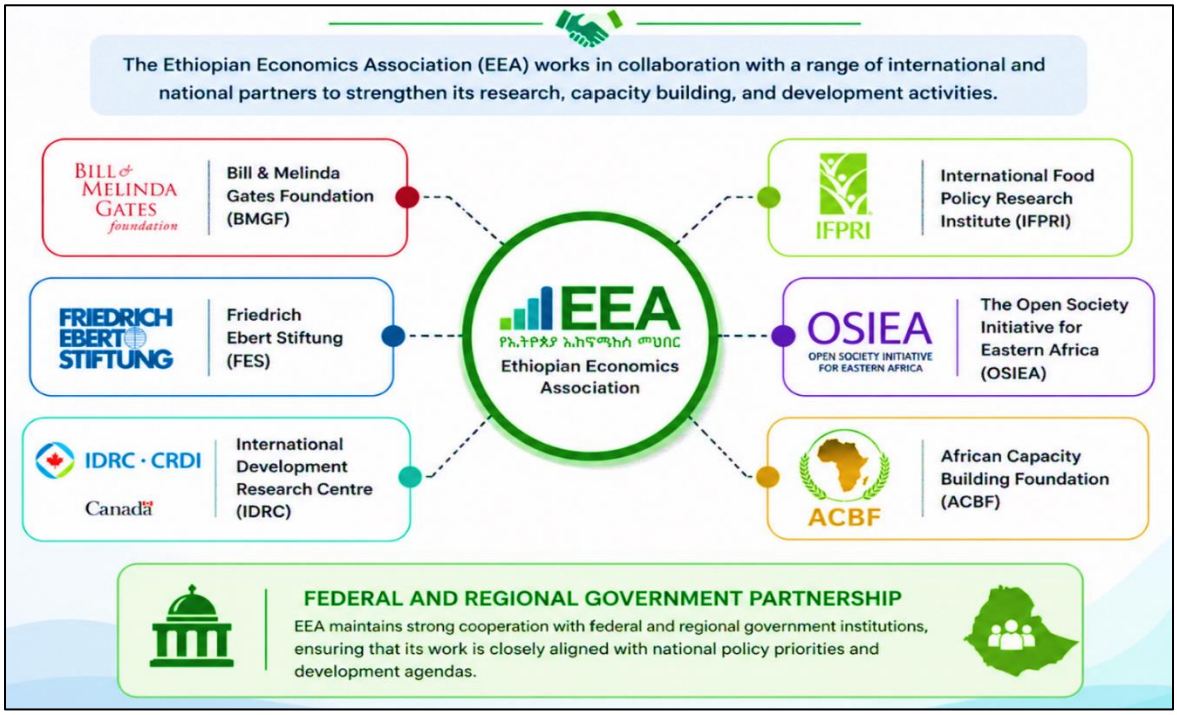


Figure 21: EEA partnership status

Beyond global collaborations, EEA maintains strong linkages with federal and regional government institutions, helping bridge evidence generation with national development priorities. However, senior EEA members emphasized the need for a more strategic partnership framework that provides a clear roadmap for identifying, nurturing, and sustaining partnerships to expand the association's impact.

3.15.1. Perception on Uptake of Publications

EEA's publications serve as a vital knowledge bridge connecting economic research, policy analysis, and public dialogue in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Journal of Economics (EJE), officially recognized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, together with flagship products such as the State of the Ethiopian Economy (SEE) reports, Economic Focus bulletins, and quarterly macroeconomic reports, forms a strong foundation for evidence-based economic discourse (EEA, 2021, 2024). Through rigorous peer-review and editorial quality assurance systems, EEA ensures that its publications maintain academic credibility and provide reliable evidence for policymakers, researchers, and development partners. These efforts have positioned EEA outputs as trusted sources within Ethiopia's economic knowledge ecosystem.

EEA has also expanded the reach of its publications through a blended dissemination approach that combines traditional and digital platforms. Annual distribution of approximately 2,500 to 3,000 hard copies to government institutions, universities, and development organizations has ensured direct access among key stakeholders, while digital innovations such as the Open Journal System and indexing through platforms including AJOL and IDEAS have enhanced visibility and global accessibility (EEA, 2015, 2017, 2024). As a result, EEA publications increasingly serve

not only as research references but also as teaching materials and foundational resources in universities, strengthening their contribution to knowledge generation and capacity development (EEA, 2016, 2024).

Survey findings further confirm that EEA publications are generally perceived as relevant and of good quality. As shown in Figure 22, 55% of respondents expressed positive views, including 42% who were satisfied and 13% who were highly satisfied with the publications. However, the sizeable neutral response (38.1%) indicates that the value of EEA outputs is not equally experienced across all user groups, possibly due to differences in access, awareness, and practical applicability, particularly beyond major academic and policy centers. Overall, while EEA publications represent a credible and valuable knowledge asset, their policy and public impact could be amplified through stronger digital outreach, more accessible policy briefs, and targeted dissemination strategies that bring evidence closer to diverse users across Ethiopia.

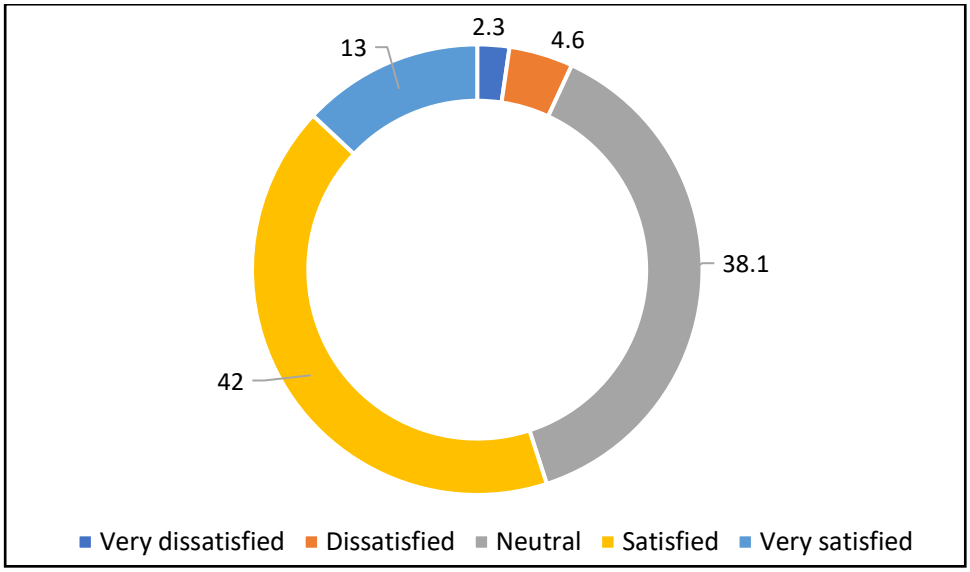


Figure 22: Level of members' satisfaction on EEA's publications

Regarding publication relevance, accessibility, and knowledge contribution, Table 15 shows that EEA publications are widely valued by members. A combined 81.6% of respondents rated the publications as highly, moderately, or extremely relevant, with 42.7% considering them highly relevant and 9.5% extremely relevant. Accessibility was also viewed positively, as 61.1% of respondents found publications accessible or very accessible, although 24.8% remained neutral, suggesting room for improving outreach and dissemination. Similarly, publications were perceived as important sources of knowledge, with 89.3% reporting moderate to very high contributions, including 46.2% indicating high contribution and 14.1% very high contribution. These findings highlight that EEA publications serve as a valuable knowledge bridge between economic research and professional practice, while also pointing to opportunities for broader access and stronger engagement with users.

Table 15: EEA publication relevance and accessibility

Category	Response Item	Frequency	Percent (%)
Publication Relevance	Highly relevant	112	42.7
	Moderately relevant	77	29.4
	Slightly relevant	43	16.4
	Extremely relevant	25	9.5
	Not relevant at all	5	1.9
Publication Accessibility	Accessible	133	50.8
	Neutral	65	24.8
	Inaccessible	28	10.7
	Very accessible	27	10.3
	Very inaccessible	9	3.4
Knowledge Contribution	High contribution	121	46.2
	Moderate contribution	76	29
	Very high contribution	37	14.1
	Small contribution	25	9.5
	No contribution	3	1.1

The evaluation found that EEA has built a strong reputation for high-quality economic research and policy analysis. However, the journey from evidence generation to policy action remains incomplete. While EEA regularly conducts policy dialogues and disseminates research outputs, survey and key informant evidence indicates limited follow-up mechanisms to track the adoption and implementation of recommendations. Engagement with policymakers is also not yet fully embedded throughout the research cycle. Strengthening systematic evidence-to-policy pathways would enable EEA to transform its recognized research excellence into greater influence on policy formulation and implementation.

3.16. EEA Media Engagement

EEA's media engagement has evolved from limited expert-oriented communication into a structured, visible, and influential public communication platform (Table 16). Over time, the Association has strengthened its capacity to translate economic research into accessible public discourse, bridging the gap between evidence generation and policy dialogue in Ethiopia. Table 19 presents a summary of EEA's major media engagement activities and their contribution to enhancing public understanding and evidence-based decision-making.

Table 16: Summary of media engagement activities

Year	Key Activities and Themes
2014/15	Interviews on agriculture, macroeconomics, migration, industry, institutional development (TV, radio, print)
2015/16	Multiple interviews on macroeconomic issues, conference communication (EBC, Sheger FM, etc.)
2016/17	Multiple staff interviews across print, radio, and TV platforms
2017/18	31 engagements (7 international), including BBC, ETV, Sheger FM, newspapers
2018/19	Interviews by staff and executive members across TV, radio, print
2019/20	Multi-platform communication across national and international media
2020/21	300 minutes of thematic broadcasts on macroeconomics, gender, youth, agriculture
2021/22	35 media requests from major national and international outlets
2022/23	69 interviews across diverse media platforms
2023/24	34 engagements across TV, radio, international media
2024/25	40+ interviews and media responses across major outlets

From 2014/15 to 2016/17, EEA staff began engaging with diverse media platforms (TV, radio, and print) on key issues including agriculture, macroeconomics, migration, industry, and institutional development. From 2017/18 onwards, these engagements expanded in scale and diversity, reflecting growing public trust and institutional recognition of EEA as not only a research institution but also a reliable interpreter of economic realities. A significant turning point occurred between 2019/20 and 2020/21, when media interactions increased substantially, including EEA's contribution to the 6th national election through three rounds of political party debates that provided a platform for parties to discuss socioeconomic challenges and policy options with the public. In recent years (2021/22–2024/25), EEA has further strengthened its role as a bridge between evidence and public dialogue, responding to 35–69 media requests annually. This sustained engagement demonstrates the Association's growing credibility, agility, and strategic influence in shaping Ethiopia's economic narratives and fostering informed public discourse.

3.16.1. Media Engagement by Type of Platform

Figure 23 indicates that EEA's media engagement is predominantly driven by television, which accounts for 73.68% of dissemination activities, reflecting its strategic focus on achieving broad national visibility and influencing public discourse. Through national and international TV networks, EEA has effectively translated complex economic issues into accessible messages, reaching policymakers and the wider public while strengthening its contribution to policy debates.

Complementing television, radio (12.28%) and print/online media (14.04%) expand accessibility and provide platforms for deeper analysis, documentation, and sustained knowledge sharing. This multi-platform approach enables EEA to balance wide outreach with substantive communication, reinforcing its role as a trusted source of economic knowledge and public engagement.

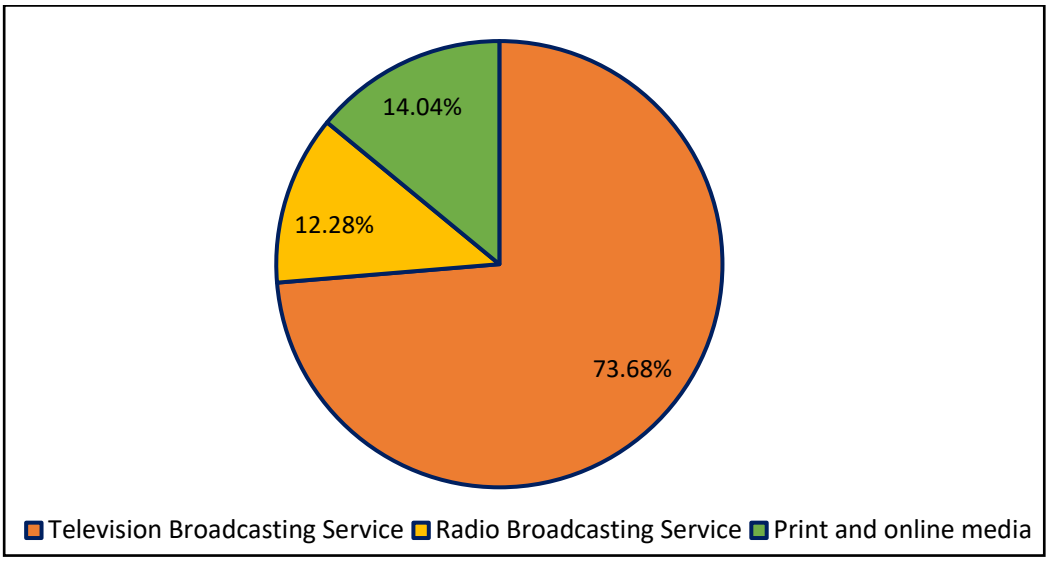


Figure 23: Media Engagement by Type of Platform

3.16.2. Geographic Scope of Media Coverage

Media engagement of EEA is largely national, reflecting its central role as a trusted source of economic knowledge in Ethiopia's policy discourse, while its growing presence in international outlets such as Voice of America, Deutsche Welle (DW Radio), and CGTN expands its global visibility (Figure 24). This dual reach positions EEA as a bridge between domestic economic debates and global perspectives, strengthening both Ethiopia's representation in international discussions and the organization's policy relevance beyond national boundaries.

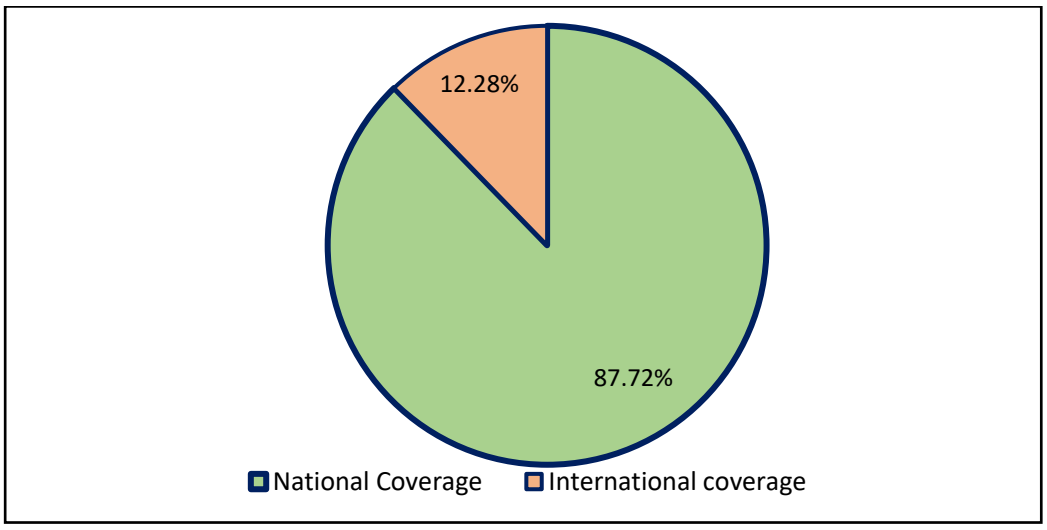


Figure 24: Media Coverage by Geographic Scope

3.16.3. Audience Reach of Media Platforms Used by EEA

As indicated in Figure 25, Media strategy of EEA has successfully combined broad-reach platforms with targeted communication channels to maximize the visibility and influence of its research outputs. Engagement with high-audience media outlets has expanded public access to economic knowledge, demonstrating EEA's role in bridging research and society through effective mass dissemination.

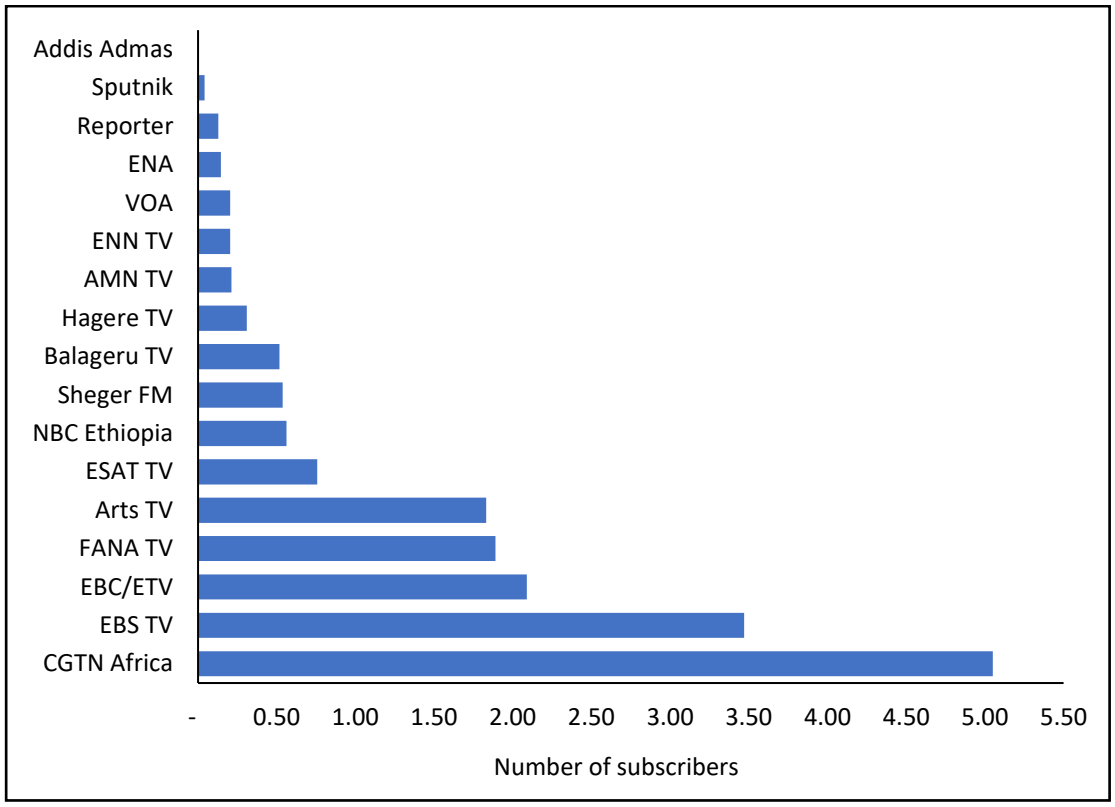


Figure 25: Number of media outlet subscribers

Media engagement of EEA reflects a strategic communication approach that combines strong visibility through high-impact national broadcasters with selective outreach across diverse platforms. As shown in Figure 26, Fana TV, EBS TV, and EBC/ETV recorded the highest engagement levels, with 12, 10, and 7 appearances respectively, highlighting EEA's deliberate use of influential media channels to maintain a continuous presence in national economic discourse. This concentration on leading broadcasters strengthens the Association's role as a trusted voice in economic analysis, while engagements with platforms such as Hagere TV and Reporter (4–5 times) and Addis Admas, ENA, Sheger FM, NBC, and VOA (around two times each) extend its reach to targeted and specialized audiences. Overall, EEA's media strategy resembles a well-balanced bridge, combining depth through sustained visibility with breadth through diversified outreach to maximize public communication impact.

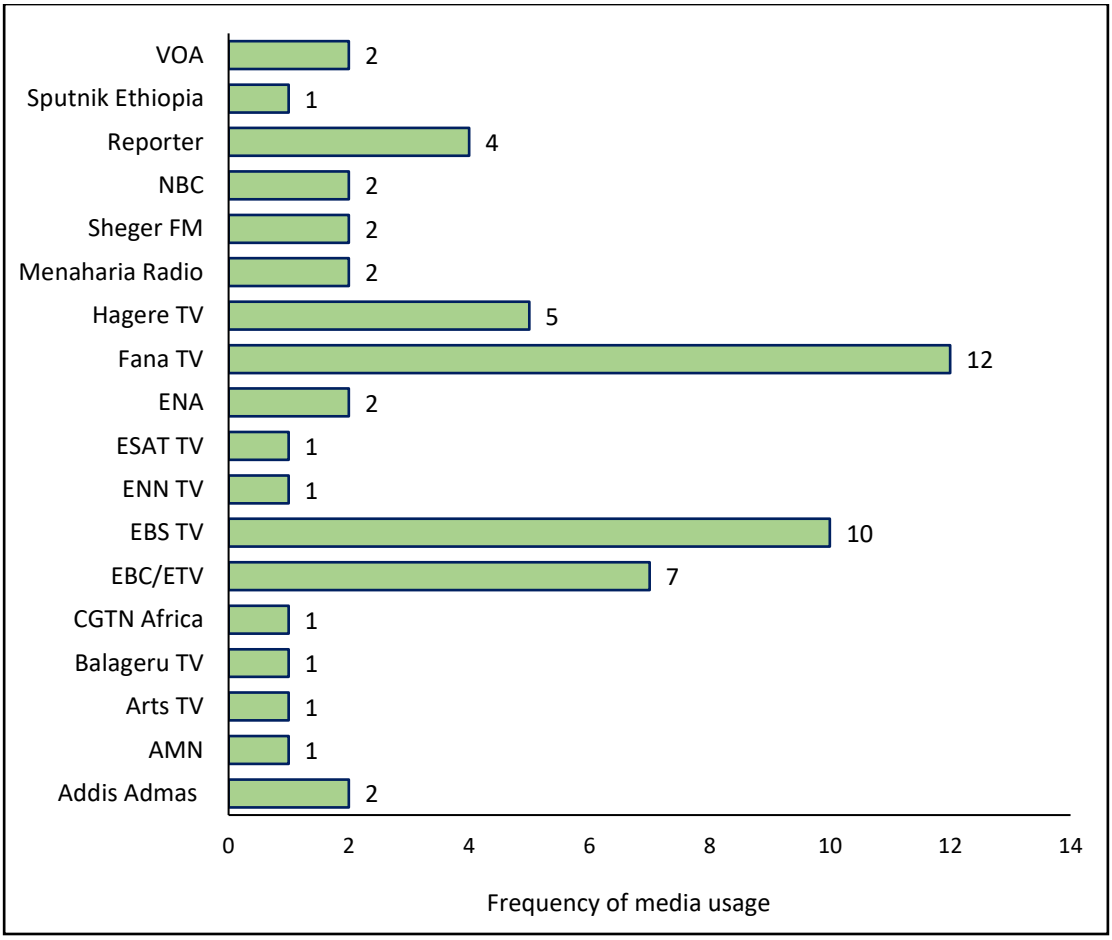


Figure 26: Frequency of media outlet usage

Media institutions generally perceive the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) as a credible and valuable source of economic information, particularly through its digital content and policy communication. Most respondents rated EEA's digital economic materials as very useful (60%) or useful (40%), while all respondents agreed that EEA's media engagement improves public understanding of economic issues and contributes to informed policy discussions (Table 17). Trust in EEA's economic analysis was also high, with 80% of respondents expressing confidence (40% strongly agree and 40% agree). However, respondents emphasized the need for more frequent press briefings, faster dissemination of timely economic updates, and stronger proactive media engagement. Like a trusted compass in a changing economic landscape, EEA's expert voice is valued for guiding public understanding, but strengthening the speed and consistency of its communication would further expand its policy and societal influence.

Table 17: Media perceptions of EEA outputs and influence

Statement	Strongly Agree/ Very Useful	Agree / Useful	Neutral	Total
Usefulness of EEA's digital content for news production	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
EEA engagement with media enhances public understanding of economic issues	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Media coverage of EEA contributes to informed economic policy discussions in Ethiopia	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
EEA is a trusted source of economic analysis for media institutions	2 (40%)	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	5 (100%)

3.16.4. Media Coverage of EEA Expertise and Public Outreach

EEA sustained a strong media presence by providing expert economic analysis and policy insights through leading television, radio, newspaper, and online platforms (Table 18). Its engagements addressed critical issues, including macroeconomic reforms, exchange rate and monetary policies, inflation, trade, investment, BRICS, regional integration, financial liberalization, governance, and the socioeconomic effects of domestic and global developments. Through these channels, EEA served as a bridge between research and society, expanding public understanding, enriching policy debates, and supporting evidence-based economic decision-making in Ethiopia.

Table 18: Key Topics Covered by the EEA across media outlets

Topic / Coverage	Media Outlet	Topic / Coverage	Media Outlet
ጥቁር ገበያው ይጠፋል (Black market elimination)	EBS / EBS TV	About the exchange rate reform	Hagere
Trade and transaction	FANA TV	Economic Implication of Mines in Ethiopia	Menaheria radio 99.1
About access to port	ETV	Opening the domestic market for foreigners	EBS
Natural Gas production and its economic implication	ETV	Regional integration	Hagere
The Invisible Motor: Informal Economic Activity in Africa	Sputnik Ethiopia	Equal trade certification	Hagere
Expertise View on the one year implementation of the macroeconomic reform	ETV	ከ6 ዓመት ወዲህ የህዝብ የመግዛት አቅም ቀንሷል ተባለ፡፡	mixcloud
Domestic loan Productive capacity	Fana TV	የኢትዮጵያ የኢኮኖሚ ጉዳዮች የተዳሰሱበት ኮንፍረንስ	Fana
Productive capacity	Fana TV	የውጭ ባለሀብቶች መግባት	EBS
Comment on 2018 Budget	Sheger FM	ኢትዮጵያ ብሪክስን ተቀላቀለች	Hagere
Ownership of fixed assets by foreigners in Ethiopia	ETV	ኢትዮጵያ ብሪክስን መቀላቀሏ ስላለው ጥቅምና ጉዳት የተሠራ ጥናት ይፋ ተደረገ	Reporter
Report on the Ethiopian Economy	Arts	BRICS	EBS
Report on the Ethiopian Economy	Hagere	Expertise view on the Monetary policy of Ethiopia	ENN
Report on the Ethiopian Economy	EBS	Expertise view on the current economic status and inflation in Ethiopia	Fana
Bricks Think Tanks Recommendation (BTTC)	CGTN Africa	Expertise view on The conflict in Amhara region and its economic consequences	VOA
BRICS Ethiopian Think Tank's policy recommendation	Fana	Application of the research output by the government	ESAT
Role of Professional Association	Menahria	በኢትዮጵያ የዋጋ ንረት መንስኤዎቹና እያስከተለ ያለው ችግር...	EBS
የኢትዮጵያ ኢኮኖሚ አሁናዊ ሁኔታ (Current state of Ethiopian Economy)	EBS	Expertise view on the economic consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict...	Fana TV
Macroeconomic Reform	EBC	Expertise view on financial liberalization in Ethiopia	Fana TV
Currency swap	Fana	Expertise view on the effect on economic sanctions and policy options	Fana TV
Real Estate Investment	NBC	በኢትዮጵያ ኢኮኖሚ ውስጥ የሴቶች ተሳትፎ ዝቅተኛ መሆን.	Reporter
Housing prices	NBC	የዴሞክራሲና የመልካም አስተዳደር ችግር...	Reporter
የኤሌክትሪክ አገልግሎት ክፍያ፣ በየሦስት ወሩ ሊጨመር ነው	VOA	መንግስት ሙስናን ለመከላከል ቁርጠኛ መሆን አለበት	AMN (Addis Media Network)
Capital market	Fana / FANA TV	Policy Dialog Forum on the Ethiopian Economy	Balageru
Exchange rate reform	Addis Admass newspaper	ከውጭ የሚገቡ የግብርና ምርቶችን በአገር ውስጥ የማምረት ዘዴን...	ENA (Ethiopian NewsAgency)/ዜና
Interest-based monetary policy	EBC	የኢትዮጵያ ማክሮ ከአለም አቀፍ መመዘኛዎች አንጻር	ሪፖርተር (Reporter)
Exchange rate reform and macroeconomy	EBS	Policy Dialog Forum on the Ethiopian Economy	ETV / FANA TV

According to media key informants, the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) is widely viewed as a credible, independent, and trusted voice for evidence-based economic analysis, supported by strong technical expertise and the capacity to provide timely, balanced, and policy-relevant insights on national economic issues. Media representatives valued EEA's access to qualified experts and its role in enriching public economic discourse, while emphasizing the need to further expand its public engagement through more frequent media briefings, simplified communication of research findings, stronger digital presence, and proactive dissemination of evidence-based recommendations on emerging economic challenges.

3.16.5. Social Media Engagement Expansion

Engagement of EEA in social media reflects a steady expansion and strategic diversification of its digital communication channels. As shown in Table 19, Facebook, launched in June 2010, remains the leading platform with 22,000 followers, serving as the main bridge connecting EEA with the wider public. Meanwhile, LinkedIn, introduced in January 2021 with 8,447 followers, has strengthened professional visibility and created networks with researchers, development partners, and institutional stakeholders. Emerging platforms such as Twitter/X (593 followers) and Telegram (1,789 followers since November 2023) further demonstrate EEA's shift toward a more dynamic and responsive communication ecosystem by enabling faster, targeted engagement, and direct information sharing (Table 19). Together, these platforms illustrate EEA's gradual transformation from a traditional outreach model into a multi-channel digital knowledge hub that expands accessibility, strengthens visibility, and supports timely policy engagement.

Table 19: Social media presence and growth

Social media Platform	Launch Date	# of Followers	Role in Communication
Facebook	June 2010	22,000	Primary public engagement and outreach
LinkedIn	January 2021	8,447	Professional networking and research visibility
Telegram	November 2023	1,789	Direct updates and community communication
Twitter/X	January 2021	593	Rapid updates and policy discourse

Across all dimensions, EEA has developed a strong and growing capacity to shape Ethiopia's economic discourse. It serves three interconnected roles: a knowledge translator that makes economic research accessible to the public, a policy communication bridge connecting researchers, policymakers, and citizens, and a credibility hub that provides trusted economic interpretation through frequent engagement with national and international media. While its media contribution is highly significant and increasingly institutionalized, expanding regional media outreach and digital engagement would further strengthen inclusiveness and long-term societal

impact. However, the evaluation also found that EEA's digital engagement remains underdeveloped despite growing demand for flexible and accessible professional services. Survey and interview findings revealed limited participation in online trainings, webinars, policy dialogues, and virtual networking opportunities, with existing digital platforms not fully utilized for member interaction, knowledge sharing, and continuous learning, particularly among members outside Addis Ababa. Strengthening digital services and online engagement would enable EEA to broaden its reach, improve member connectivity, and create a more inclusive platform for economic dialogue and professional development.

3.17. Institutional Capacity and Governance

The EEA operates through a formal governance structure comprising the General Assembly, elected Executive Committee, and Chief Executive Officer, providing oversight, accountability, and strategic direction (EEA, 2015, 2021). External audits have confirmed generally sound financial management, although licensing challenges between 2012 and 2017 temporarily weakened institutional capacity and created financial pressures (EEA, 2015, 2019, 2021). These challenges became a turning point, encouraging reforms that strengthened internal systems, including the introduction of a Performance Management Manual for research staff and IPSAS-compliant financial reporting to improve accountability, transparency, and operational efficiency (EEA, 2019, 2021). The Association's resilience is further supported by its multipurpose headquarters in Addis Ababa and regional chapters hosted by universities, which expand its national reach. However, continued reliance on external donor funding remains a key vulnerability that may affect long-term sustainability and program continuity (EEA, 2018, 2019).

Members' perceptions broadly reflect this institutional progress, with 47.3% expressing satisfaction and 10.3% reporting high satisfaction with EEA's overall institutional performance (Figure 27). This indicates that a majority of members recognize the Association as a functional and effective institution. Nevertheless, the 23.3% neutral responses and the 19.1% combined dissatisfaction (dissatisfied and very dissatisfied) levels highlight areas requiring further attention. Strengthening member engagement, improving communication, and ensuring consistent delivery of services will be essential to transform institutional capacity into stronger member confidence and sustained organizational vitality. The evaluation found that EEA's activities remain highly concentrated in Addis Ababa, limiting access for economists, researchers, policymakers, students, and institutions across other regions of Ethiopia. Respondents and key informants noted that geographical concentration reduces participation in training, conferences, policy dialogues, and networking opportunities. Despite some regional initiatives, EEA's presence outside the capital remains limited, restricting engagement with regional universities, research institutions, and government bodies and narrowing the diversity of perspectives contributing to its research and policy influence.

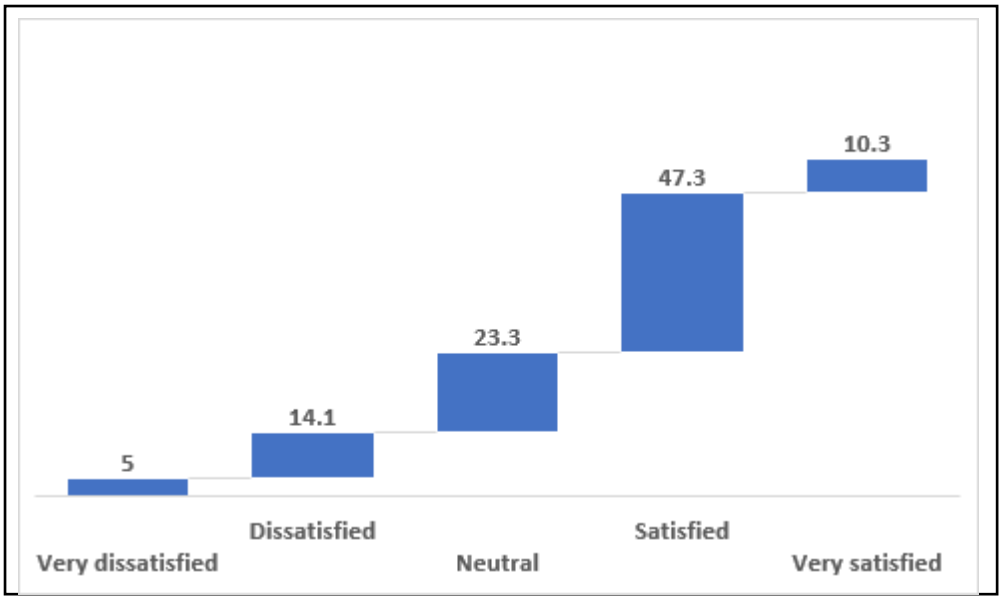


Figure 27: Satisfaction of members in terms of governance and operational systems

3.18. Contribution to Economics Education

EEA plays a vital role in strengthening economics education in Ethiopia by supporting curriculum review, graduate supervision, internships, and mentorship programs in universities such as Axum, Haramaya, and Gondar. These initiatives help bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world application by equipping students with practical skills in statistical software, empirical analysis, and applied research methods (EEA, 2015, 2024). Through its engagement with higher education institutions, EEA promotes demand-driven economics training that responds to labor market and policy needs. Its conferences further serve as learning platforms where young economists enhance academic writing, presentation, and policy dialogue skills while building networks with experienced researchers, policymakers, and international experts.

EEA's publications, journals, reports, and data repositories also provide valuable learning resources that enrich teaching, research, and evidence-based learning in Ethiopian universities. These locally generated knowledge products strengthen the capacity of both instructors and students by bringing relevant economic evidence into academic settings. Survey findings confirm this contribution, with 46.2% of respondents rating EEA's role in improving economics education as high and 14.1% as very high (Figure 28). The limited share of respondents reporting low or no contribution further reflects the Association's recognized role in nurturing academic capacity, advancing applied economic knowledge, and shaping a more research-oriented economics education system in Ethiopia. Together, institutional evidence and stakeholder perceptions illustrate EEA's position as a bridge connecting universities, research, and policy practice.

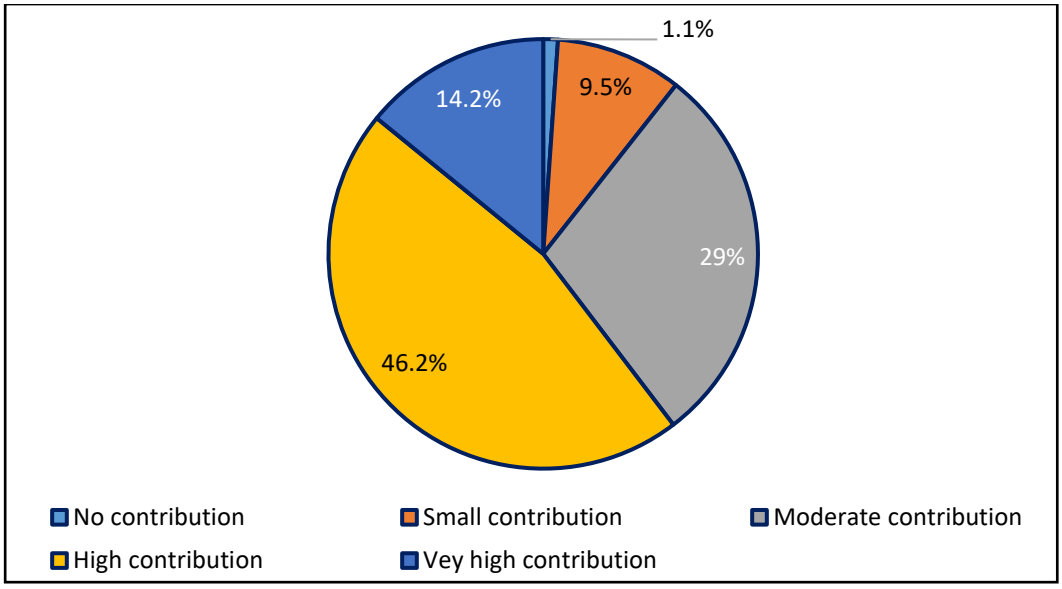


Figure 28: EEA's contribution to the quality of economics education in the country

The nationwide survey demonstrates that the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) is widely regarded as a relevant and credible institution, making meaningful contributions to capacity building, policy engagement, and economics education. Most respondents rated its performance as moderate to high, reflecting consistent value to stakeholders nationwide. Training programs and support for economics education stand out as its strongest pillars, while policy dialogue platforms and research outputs are recognized as influential but with only moderate policy uptake, indicating opportunities to translate evidence into greater policy action. Publications, technical support, and institutional capacity are viewed positively, although substantial neutrality and some dissatisfaction point to gaps in visibility, governance, operational efficiency, and service delivery. Overall, EEA has built a solid national reputation, but strengthening institutional systems and expanding the practical use of its knowledge products will enable it to move from being a respected voice to becoming a stronger driver of policy and development**.**

Responses from Economics department heads present a similar picture. As shown in Table 20, EEA is perceived to make a moderate to strong contribution to improving the quality and relevance of Economics education (44.4% high contribution) and strengthening staff research capacity (44.4% high contribution). It also plays a meaningful, though uneven, role in linking universities with policy processes, with responses evenly distributed across high (33.3%), moderate (33.3%), and low (33.3%) contributions. However, its support for student engagement, practical exposure, and updating staff on emerging research and policy trends is viewed less favorably, with 44.4% reporting low contribution. More importantly, direct academic support remains limited, as most respondents indicated no support for academic advising (66.7%) and internship facilitation (55.6%), while curriculum engagement is also considered weak (44.4% no involvement). These findings suggest that although EEA has become a bridge between research and policy, it has yet

to fully extend that bridge to universities through stronger student-focused services, curriculum support, and more inclusive institutional engagement.

Table 20: Dimensions of EEA contribution to higher education and research development

Statements	High Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Low Contribution	No / Not Applicable
EEA's contribution to improving the quality and relevance of economics education	44.4% (4)	33.3% (3)	22.2% (2)	-
EEA's role in strengthening the research capacity of staff	44.4% (4)	22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	
EEA's effectiveness in facilitating university–policy collaboration	33.3% (3)	33.3% (3)	33.3% (3)	-
EEA's support for student engagement and practical exposure	22.2% (2)	22.2% (2)	44.4% (4)	11.1% (1)
EEA's contribution to promoting inclusiveness across the association	22.2% (2)	44.4% (4)	22.2% (2)	11.1% (1)
EEA's role in updating staff on current research and policy trends	22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	44.4% (4)	-
Bridging academia and policy application	33.3% (3)	44.4% (4)	22.2% (2)	0%
Academic advising support from EEA	0%	0%	33.3% (3)	66.7% (6)
Internship/practical attachment opportunities	0%	0%	44.4% (4)	55.6% (5)
Curriculum feedback/engagement	0%	22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	44.4% (4)

The Economics Department Heads from Ethiopian universities viewed the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) as a highly respected professional institution that has made a substantial contribution to economics education, research, and policy dialogue in Ethiopia. Through quality publications, annual conferences, policy forums, training, and networking opportunities, EEA has become an important bridge linking academia, policymakers, and development partners. These initiatives have enriched teaching and learning by exposing academics and students to current economic issues, empirical research, and evidence-based policy debates. Despite these achievements, respondents noted that communication and collaboration with many university economics departments had long been limited, particularly for institutions outside Addis Ababa. This weakened participation in EEA workshops, research forums, and professional activities, leaving many departments feeling disconnected from the Association's growing influence.

Respondents acknowledged encouraging progress in recent years, with improved communication and greater participation by some universities in EEA activities. This emerging partnership reflects a promising shift toward stronger institutional collaboration. They also emphasized EEA's key strengths, including its credible research, experienced professional network, and recognized influence on national policy and development agendas. However, several challenges remain. EEA activities continue to be concentrated in Addis Ababa, limiting access for regional and emerging universities. Participants also pointed to inadequate access to research funding, modern analytical software such as Stata and SPSS, practical research training, and internship opportunities. Moreover, a persistent gap between theoretical instruction and labor market demands continues to constrain graduates' practical competencies.

Department heads and a key informant from the Department of Economics at Addis Ababa University agreed that EEA has a valuable opportunity to deepen its contribution by strengthening institutional partnerships with universities. They recommended expanding digital training and knowledge-sharing platforms to reduce geographic disparities, supporting curriculum modernization aligned with labor market needs, and promoting joint research, mentorship, internships, and regional university chapters. Increasing student and female participation was also identified as essential for broadening EEA's reach and impact. Overall, respondents described EEA as a cornerstone of Ethiopia's economics profession whose recent improvements in university engagement provide a strong foundation for building a more inclusive, collaborative, and impactful academic and policy community.

3.19. Financial Status of EEA

To ensure comparability over time, EEA's financial data were converted into real values using 2025 as the base year. As illustrated in Figure 29, the Association's real asset base followed a cyclical path rather than sustained growth. Total assets declined sharply from ETB 58.34 million in 2014/15 to ETB 21.88 million in 2018/19, recovered to ETB 56.48 million in 2021/22, then fell again to ETB 33.40 million in 2023/24 before partially rebounding to ETB 42.08 million in 2024/25. Overall, despite periods of recovery, EEA was unable to maintain steady growth in its inflation-adjusted assets, highlighting fluctuations in long-term financial capacity and resource accumulation.

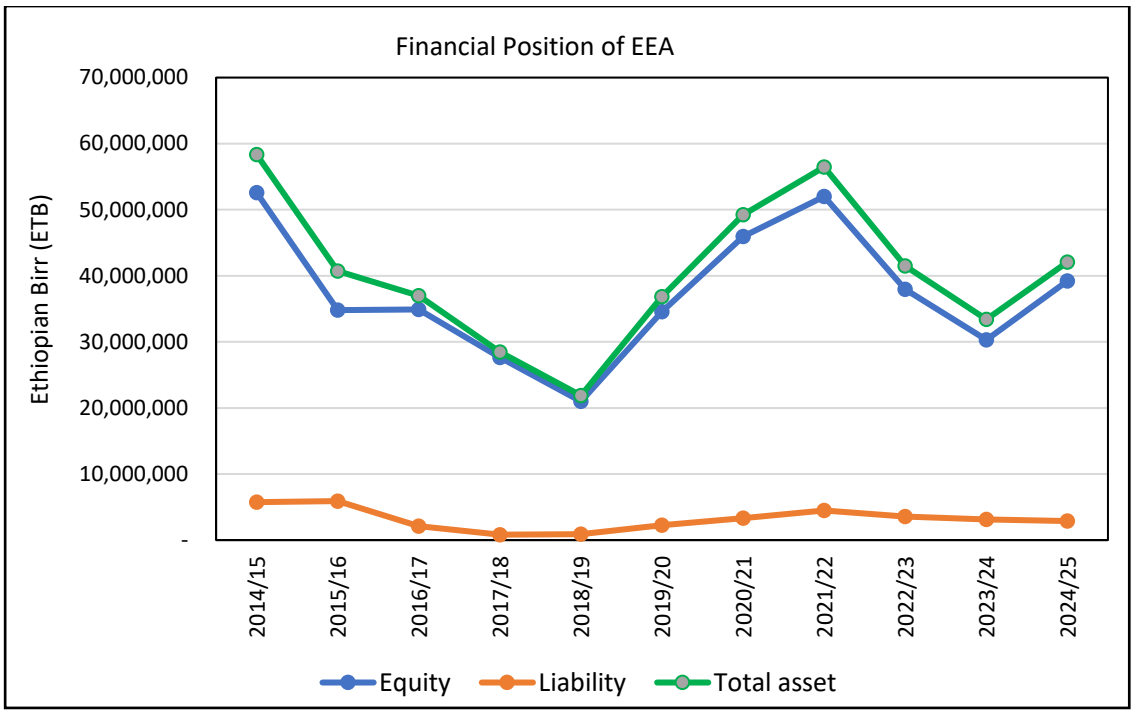


Figure 29: Equity and liability of EEA

3.19.1. Income and Expenditure of EEA

Figure 30 shows that EEA's financial performance fluctuated considerably during 2014/15–2024/25. In the first half of the period (2014/15–2019/20), the Association operated at a relatively modest financial scale, with real expenditure ranging from about 15.0 to 23.2 million ETB and real income from 13.8 to 25.5 million ETB. Like a pendulum, financial performance alternated between surpluses and deficits. Income exceeded expenditure in 2016/17 and 2019/20, reflecting stronger revenue generation, whereas expenditure was higher in 2014/15, 2015/16, 2017/18, and 2018/19, indicating periods of financial pressure on institutional sustainability.

A clear turning point emerged from 2020/21, when both income and expenditure rose sharply, indicating expanded programs, stronger partnerships, and improved resource mobilization. Real income reached 66.7 million ETB in 2020/21 and 73.7 million ETB in 2021/22, exceeding expenditure and generating healthy surpluses of about 21.7 million ETB and 13.5 million ETB, respectively. This momentum weakened in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as income declined below expenditure, with the largest deficit (12.1 million ETB) recorded in 2022/23. Nevertheless, EEA rebounded strongly in 2024/25, when real income climbed to 82.6 million ETB against expenditure of 46.7 million ETB, producing the largest surplus of the decade (about 36.0 million ETB). Overall, the trend reflects an institution that has expanded its financial capacity while navigating occasional periods of fiscal strain.

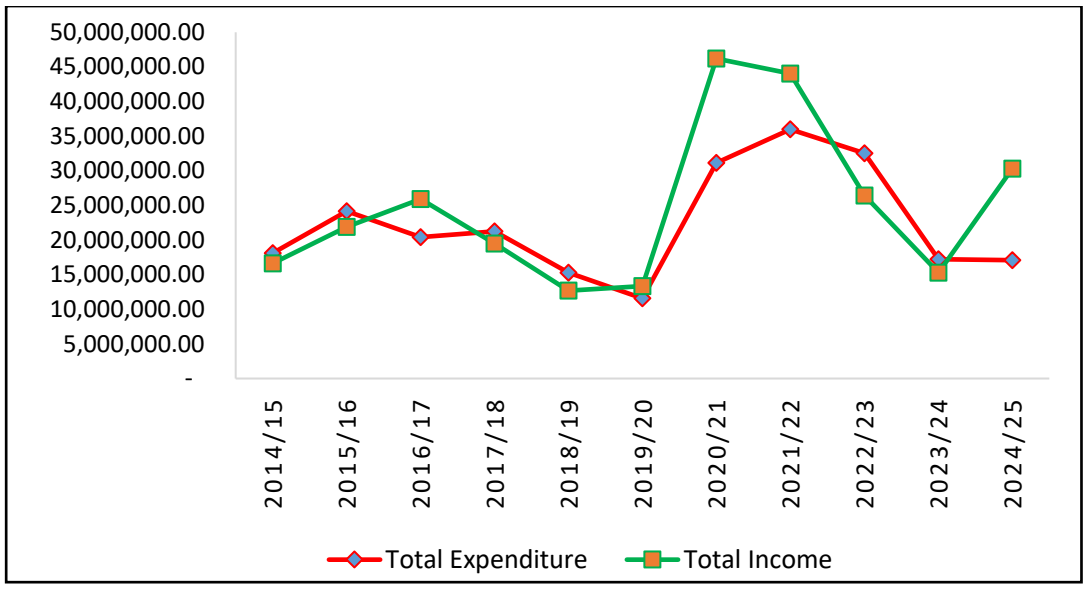


Figure 30: Total income and expenditure of EEA

Figure 31 compares EEA's income and expenditure over the period 2014/15–2024/25. During the early years (2014/15, 2015/16, 2017/18, and 2018/19), the Association consistently recorded financial deficits, with expenditure exceeding income by 1.49–2.62 million Ethiopian Birr (2024/25 real terms). These recurring deficits suggest that operational costs outpaced revenue generation, highlighting challenges in maintaining financial balance. The exception was 2016/17, when EEA achieved a real surplus of 5.50 million Birr, signaling its capacity to generate sufficient resources under favorable conditions. Financial performance improved markedly between 2019/20 and 2021/22, with consecutive surpluses rising from 1.78 million Birr to a record 15.04 million Birr in 2020/21 before moderating to 8.06 million Birr in 2021/22. This period marked the Association's strongest financial position, reflecting stronger revenue mobilization, improved financial management, and expanded institutional activities.

The upward momentum slowed in 2022/23 and 2023/24, when EEA returned to deficits of 6.12 million Birr and 1.90 million Birr, respectively, likely reflecting rising expenditures, reduced income, or broader economic pressures. Like a river that regains its course after passing through rough terrain, the Association rebounded strongly in 2024/25, posting a surplus of 13.19 million Birr, the second-highest during the review period. Overall, the pattern reveals a financially resilient institution that has repeatedly recovered from periods of deficit and restored strong surpluses, providing a solid foundation for sustaining its research, policy engagement, and institutional development.

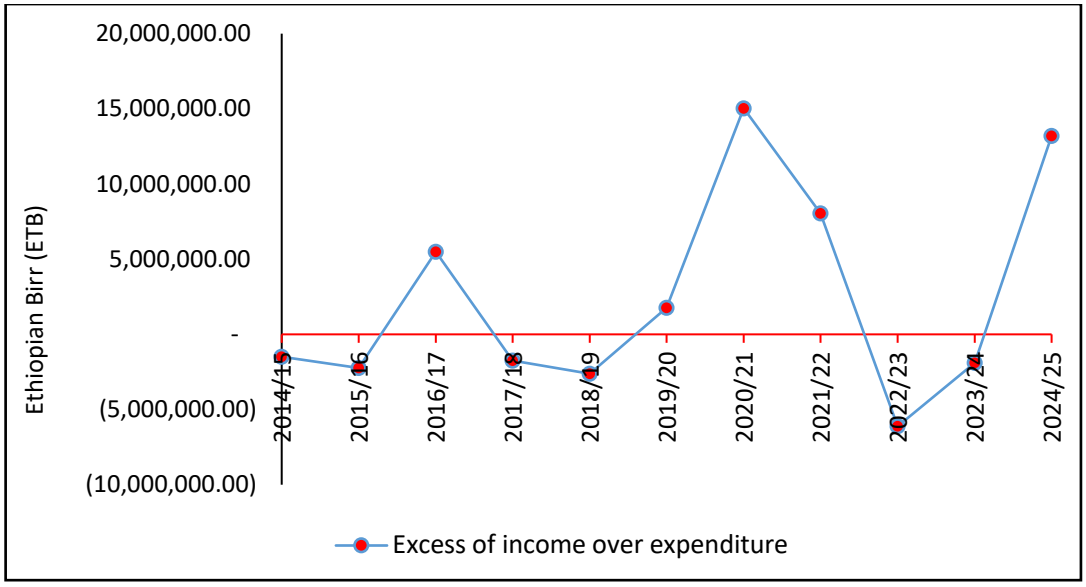


Figure 31: Excess of income over expenditure

Figure 32 shows that EEA maintained a stable workforce of 33–36 employees between 2014/15 and 2017/18, with women representing about one-third of staff (33–37%), reflecting a relatively balanced gender composition. This stability was disrupted in 2020/21 when staff numbers dropped by more than half to 16. Although employment fluctuated between 13 and 17 employees through 2024/25, the Association never regained its earlier staffing level. Meanwhile, gender balance steadily weakened as male representation increased from about two-thirds to over three-quarters (76.47–76.92%), reducing the share of female employees to around 23%. Overall, the trend paints a picture of a shrinking workforce and widening gender imbalance, underscoring the need for strategic human resource planning to strengthen EEA's institutional capacity.

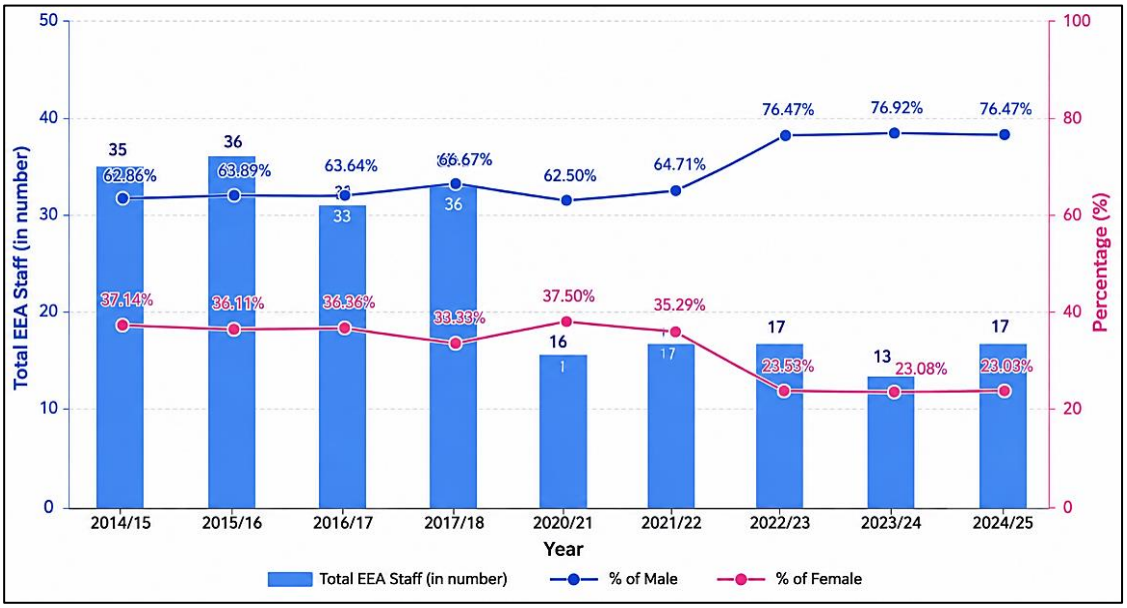


Figure 32: Total EEA staff and gender composition

3.20. Comparison of EEA with Selected Professional Associations

3.20.1. EEA vs American Economic Association

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) is among Ethiopia's most respected professional associations, making significant contributions to economic research, policy dialogue, and evidence-based decision-making since its establishment. It has built a strong reputation through national and international conferences, policy-oriented research, publication of the *Ethiopian Journal of Economics*, and by creating a platform that brings together policymakers, researchers, development partners, and the private sector. Its work on agriculture, climate change, poverty reduction, gender, and rural transformation aligns closely with Ethiopia's development priorities, while its independence has strengthened public trust and policy credibility.

Despite these achievements, comparison with the American Economic Association (AEA) reveals notable institutional gaps. AEA enjoys extensive international visibility through about nine globally recognized journals, a broad international membership, and active participation in global policy debates, whereas EEA remains largely national in scope with only one nationally accredited journal. Although the *Ethiopian Journal of Economics* is influential within Ethiopia, it has limited international indexing, citations, and global reach compared with leading international journals.

Digital transformation is another area where the gap is evident. AEA offers comprehensive online learning platforms, webinars, virtual conferences, certification programs, career services, and member portals that sustain continuous professional engagement worldwide. EEA has made progress in engaging students and young researchers but lacks well-established digital platforms, structured mentorship, internships, and career development systems. As a result, opportunities to nurture the next generation of economists remain only partially realized.

Financial sustainability also distinguishes the two associations. AEA generates income from diverse sources, including consultancy, executive training, professional certification, conferences, subscriptions, and data services. In contrast, more than 82% of EEA's income during 2015–2025 came from donor-funded projects, limiting long-term flexibility. Likewise, EEA has yet to establish internationally recognized certification programs, comprehensive economic data repositories, strong global research networks, and modern multimedia communication platforms that amplify policy influence and public engagement.

To strengthen its competitiveness, EEA should accelerate digital transformation through online training, webinars, and certification programs while expanding sustainable income through consultancy, executive training, membership growth, and professional services. Strengthening the international profile of the *Ethiopian Journal of Economics* through improved indexing, editorial partnerships, and wider dissemination would enhance global recognition. Equally important are structured mentorship programs, stronger collaboration with international universities and research institutions, the establishment of a national economic data and policy hub, and more dynamic media and social media engagement. These investments would enable EEA to transform

from a strong national institution into a more influential regional and global voice in economic research and policy.

3.20.2. EEA vs Ethiopian Public Health Association

A comparison of the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) indicates that both organizations play important roles in advancing their respective professions through research, publications, conferences, policy dialogue, and professional networking. However, EPHA has developed a broader institutional portfolio that integrates professional development, knowledge generation, research ethics, partnership building, and member services into its core mandate. In addition to promoting scientific research and professional exchange, EPHA has institutionalized continuous professional development (CPD), provides structured learning opportunities for health professionals, facilitates collaborations with national and international partners, and supports ethical research through its Institutional Research Ethics Review Committee (IRERC). It also maintains a well-established scientific journal, organizes regular conferences and events, disseminates technical publications, and actively communicates organizational developments and public health issues. Collectively, these functions position EPHA not only as a professional association but also as a comprehensive platform for professional advancement, evidence generation, and policy engagement.

By comparison, EEA has established a strong reputation in economic research, policy analysis, publication of the Ethiopian Journal of Economics, organization of annual conferences, and facilitation of policy dialogue on national development issues. Nevertheless, its institutional focus remains concentrated on these traditional functions, with comparatively less emphasis on structured professional development, lifelong learning, and diversified member services. The available evidence suggests that EEA has yet to institutionalize comprehensive continuing professional development programs, establish a broader portfolio of structured learning opportunities, or systematically integrate professional capacity-building into its core institutional functions to the same extent as EPHA. Similarly, while EEA collaborates with various stakeholders in implementing projects and research activities, partnership development is less visibly positioned as a strategic institutional pillar. Expanding institutional mechanisms that strengthen members' professional competencies throughout their careers would further enhance EEA's contribution to the economics profession and increase the value of membership.

To strengthen its institutional effectiveness and long-term relevance, EEA could broaden its strategic orientation and policy dialogue by adopting a more integrated professional development. Greater investment in member-oriented services, professional networking, dissemination of technical publications, and regular engagement through conferences, seminars, and public events would further enhance EEA's role as the leading professional association for economists in Ethiopia. Such measures would not replace EEA's existing strengths in research and policy influence but would complement them by creating a more comprehensive institutional ecosystem that supports professional excellence, continuous learning, and sustained engagement across all stages of members' careers.

3.21. Achievement in EEA Implementations

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) has made substantial progress across multiple outcome areas, reinforcing its position as a leading institution for economic research and policy engagement in Ethiopia. By producing high-quality, policy-relevant studies, the Association strengthened evidence-based decision-making and enriched national economic discourse. Through conferences, publications, media engagement, and policy dialogue platforms, EEA increased public awareness while connecting policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to address pressing economic challenges. It also expanded its membership into a strong, highly educated professional network and promoted economics education through internships, research opportunities, and capacity-building initiatives.

Beyond knowledge generation, EEA strengthened institutional performance by improving governance systems, enhancing organizational efficiency, and expanding technical support and advisory services. Its training programs equipped professionals and public institutions with stronger analytical skills, encouraging wider use of evidence in planning and decision-making. These efforts also fostered closer collaboration between researchers and policymakers, creating a more vibrant ecosystem where research increasingly informs public policy and institutional practice.

The Outcome Harvesting assessment (Table 21) identified tangible changes in policy, institutional, and knowledge domains resulting from EEA's interventions. The findings demonstrate observable shifts in behaviors, relationships, and policy processes rather than simply documenting activities or outputs. EEA research informed policy formulation and refinement through advisory roles, commissioned studies, and active participation in policy dialogues. While the strongest evidence relates to conceptual influence and policy advice, direct policy adoption remains more limited. EEA also played a visible role in shaping national conversations on economic issues. Its conferences, publications, and media engagement broadened access to economic evidence, stimulated informed public debate, and strengthened the culture of evidence-based policymaking. Together, these achievements highlight the Association's contribution to bridging the gap between research and policy while expanding the reach and relevance of economic knowledge.

Like a bridge connecting knowledge with action, EEA demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and other external pressures. By adapting its approaches while sustaining research, policy engagement, and institutional growth, the Association maintained its relevance and continued to contribute meaningfully to Ethiopia's economic development and policy landscape. The content has been reduced by approximately 40%, repetitive ideas have been merged, the flow has been strengthened into five coherent paragraphs, and the emphasis on achievements, outcomes, and resilience has been preserved without changing the intended meaning.

Table 21: Outcome harvesting of EEA activities

Outcome Area	Outcome Statement (Achievement)	Description of Change (What Happened?)	EEA Contribution (How?)	Significance (Why it Matters?)	Evidence from Findings
Knowledge Generation & Research	EEA strengthened evidence-based economic research in Ethiopia	EEA produced a large volume of research outputs covering macroeconomics, agriculture, poverty, and policy issues, with strong national focus	Conducted 50+ research projects, working papers, policy briefs, and SEE reports	Improved availability of policy-relevant evidence for national development planning	Majority rated research quality high (48.1%) and relevance strong (≈68%)
Policy Influence	EEA contributed to shaping policy processes and national economic discourse	Research findings informed policy debates, strategies, and planning frameworks	Produced policy-oriented research, engaged policymakers through conferences, and advisory roles	Strengthened evidence-based policymaking and policy dialogue in Ethiopia	51.1% reported moderate policy influence; 17.6% high influence
Awareness & Public Discourse	EEA increased awareness and shaped public understanding of economic issues	Economic debates and research findings widely disseminated through media and conferences	Organized conferences, media engagement, and publications	Enhanced public understanding and informed national debates	Media engagement increased significantly; high participation in conferences
Capacity Building (Training)	EEA improved analytical and technical capacity of stakeholders	Professionals gained skills in econometrics, policy analysis, and data management	Delivered short-term trainings through EBTI	Strengthened institutional and individual capacity for policy analysis	62.2% rated training highly effective; 82% reported positive work impact
Institutional Capacity Strengthening	EEA enhanced institutional systems and governance practices	Improved financial systems, performance management, and operational structures	Introduced governance reforms and performance systems	Increased institutional credibility and sustainability	~57% satisfied with institutional capacity
Policy Dialogue Platforms	EEA institutionalized inclusive policy dialogue forums	Multi-stakeholder platforms created for economic discussions	Organized international conferences and regional forums	Strengthened engagement between policymakers,	71.8% participated in workshops/conferences

Outcome Area	Outcome Statement (Achievement)	Description of Change (What Happened?)	EEA Contribution (How?)	Significance (Why it Matters?)	Evidence from Findings
				researchers, and stakeholders	
Membership Expansion & Professional Network	EEA expanded its membership base and professional community	Membership increased significantly, dominated by highly educated professionals	Recruitment and engagement activities	Built a strong national professional network	Membership dominated by Master's (72.9%) and PhD (19.1%) holders
Knowledge Dissemination & Publications	EEA enhanced dissemination of economic knowledge	Produced diverse publications (reports, journals, policy briefs)	Developed publications and distribution systems	Supported academic learning and policy use	81% found publications relevant; 90% reported policy support
Technical Assistance & Advisory Services	EEA strengthened policy and institutional systems through technical support	Provided advisory services to government and institutions	Participated in committees, surveys, and institutional support	Improved governance, planning, and data systems	58.8% rated technical support moderately effective
Media Engagement & Communication	EEA became a key source of economic information in media	Increased visibility in TV, radio, and online platforms	Delivered interviews, commentary, and analysis	Strengthened public access to economic knowledge	35–69 media engagements annually
Contribution to Economics Education	EEA improved quality of economics education in Ethiopia	Supported curriculum, teaching, research, and student development	Supervision, internships, publications, and academic support	Strengthened human capital and future economists	~60% rated contribution high or very high
Professional Development (Internships & Grants)	EEA supported early-career researchers and students	Provided internships and research grants	Facilitated hands-on experience and research opportunities	Built future research and policy capacity	Internship programs and grant schemes implemented
Institutional Resilience & Growth	EEA demonstrated strong recovery and growth after shocks	Recovered from COVID-19 and institutional challenges	Adapted training, research, and engagement strategies	Ensured continuity and long-term sustainability	Training and participation sharply increased post-2020/21

4. Key Findings

- EEA experienced substantial institutional growth during the assessment period, expanding its membership base, strengthening partnerships, improving financial performance, and enhancing its organizational visibility, demonstrating increased institutional maturity and resilience.
- Membership is dominated by highly educated professionals, with the majority holding Master's and PhD degrees, providing EEA with a strong intellectual resource base that remains only partially utilized in supporting research, policy engagement, and institutional activities.
- Female representation within the Association remains relatively low compared to male membership, indicating the need for more inclusive membership recruitment and leadership development initiatives to improve gender balance.
- Member participation is concentrated primarily in conferences, workshops, and training programs, while engagement in policy dialogue forums, consultation meetings, and public lectures remains comparatively limited, suggesting opportunities to diversify member participation.
- Most EEA activities continue to rely on face to face participation, with limited use of virtual platforms. This has reduced accessibility for members outside Addis Ababa and constrained broader national participation in institutional activities.
- Institutional performance closely followed financial trends. Declining revenues during the COVID 19 period reduced research productivity and organized events, while subsequent financial recovery enabled rapid expansion of research outputs, training, and policy engagement activities.
- The Association's research portfolio demonstrates strong alignment with Ethiopia's economic and development priorities, particularly macroeconomic management, social development, agriculture, and cross cutting policy issues. However, research addressing environmental sustainability and natural resource management remains comparatively limited.
- Research activities predominantly address national policy priorities, with relatively fewer studies conducted at regional or international levels, reinforcing EEA's role as a national policy research institution.
- EEA has successfully strengthened public awareness and policy dialogue through annual conferences, policy briefs, the State of the Ethiopian Economy reports, academic publications, and extensive media engagement, positioning the Association as an important contributor to national economic discussions.

- Multiple forms of policy influence were identified, including awareness influence, conceptual influence, instrumental influence, endorsement influence, and discourse influence, indicating that EEA contributes to policymaking through several complementary pathways rather than through direct legislative influence alone.
- Despite strong recognition of research quality, respondents consistently perceived the conversion of research evidence into concrete policy implementation as moderate, reflecting weak institutional mechanisms for research uptake, policy advocacy, and long term tracking of policy impacts.
- Capacity development has become one of EEA's strongest institutional functions. Training programs have significantly improved analytical, statistical, research, and policy evaluation skills among professionals from government institutions, universities, financial institutions, and development organizations.
- Training activities demonstrated remarkable post pandemic recovery, reaching their highest levels in both the number of events and participants, indicating increasing national demand for EEA's professional development services.
- Although training quality and relevance were rated highly across different age groups, more than half of surveyed members had never participated in EEA training, indicating that accessibility rather than quality remains the primary limitation.
- Perceptions of training effectiveness varied across age groups, suggesting that future capacity building programs would benefit from differentiated training packages designed for different career levels.
- Technical assistance evolved from general institutional support toward more specialized, demand driven advisory services, increasing EEA's contribution to government planning, curriculum development, research systems, and national policy advisory processes.
- Internship programs, postgraduate supervision, curriculum review, external examination, and university partnerships demonstrate that EEA has made important contributions to strengthening economics education and developing the next generation of economists in Ethiopia.
- Continuous investment in staff development through technical, managerial, communication, GIS, ICT, and leadership training has strengthened institutional professionalism, administrative efficiency, and organizational capacity.
- The assessment found growing publication output, increasing citation of EEA publications, stronger media engagement across print, broadcast, digital, and social media platforms, and expanding dissemination of economic evidence to policymakers and the wider public, enhancing institutional visibility and knowledge outreach.

- Member satisfaction remains mixed. While respondents appreciated EEA's research, training, and professional contributions, concerns persist regarding membership services, fee payment systems, governance responsiveness, and opportunities for sustained member engagement.
- Comparative institutional analysis indicates that EEA performs strongly in research quality, policy engagement, and professional networking. However, there remains considerable opportunity to strengthen digital transformation, international visibility, diversified revenue generation, systematic impact monitoring, and member centered service delivery to match leading international professional associations.

5. Recommendations

Based on the assessment findings, the following recommendations are prioritized according to their urgency, potential impact, and strategic importance for strengthening the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA).

High Priority Recommendations

- **Strengthen research uptake through institutionalized evidence to policy mechanisms.** Develop a structured policy engagement framework that involves policymakers throughout the research cycle, from priority setting to dissemination and follow up. Establish formal policy liaison mechanisms with ministries, Parliament, regional governments, and development partners, accompanied by a policy uptake monitoring system that tracks citations, policy adoption, implementation progress, and institutional changes resulting from EEA research. This recommendation directly addresses the finding that research quality is high but policy influence remains predominantly moderate because of weak knowledge translation and limited follow up.
- **Strengthen digital transformation and hybrid service delivery.** Develop an integrated digital platform that delivers online training, webinars, virtual conferences, policy dialogues, member networking, digital libraries, learning resources, and professional communities of practice. Digital participation should become a standard component of all major EEA activities to improve accessibility for regional members and increase national participation. This responds to findings showing heavy dependence on face to face participation, limited virtual engagement, and low accessibility outside Addis Ababa.
- **Improve membership value proposition and active engagement.** Transform membership from a registration based model into a service oriented professional network by providing continuous learning opportunities, research collaboration, mentoring, career development services, employment information, consultancy opportunities, thematic interest groups, and exclusive member resources. Develop an integrated membership management system that improves communication, member retention, and timely renewal of membership fees. This recommendation aligns with findings that many members remain neutral or dissatisfied with membership benefits and that most would continue paying fees only if services improve.
- **Expand policy dialogue from discussion to implementation.** Complement conferences and dialogue forums with structured policy action plans, technical working groups, implementation roadmaps, and post forum monitoring mechanisms. Each major policy dialogue should conclude with agreed policy actions, institutional responsibilities, and periodic progress reviews to ensure recommendations influence policy implementation rather than remaining discussion outputs.

- **Expand equitable access to capacity building.** Increase the geographic coverage of training through regional chapters and blended learning approaches. Introduce structured post training mentoring, coaching, alumni networks, and impact assessments to ensure that newly acquired knowledge translates into measurable improvements in institutional performance. Tailor training programs for early career, mid-career, and senior professionals based on their specific professional needs.
- **Strengthen communication and knowledge translation.** Complement technical reports with concise policy briefs, executive summaries, infographics, podcasts, media briefings, and multilingual communication products that present research findings in formats suitable for policymakers, practitioners, media, and the general public. Simplifying communication will improve the practical utilization of EEA research.

Medium Priority Recommendations

- **Diversify research themes to address emerging national priorities.** While maintaining strengths in macroeconomics and social policy, increase investment in research on climate change, environmental economics, natural resource management, green growth, digital economy, artificial intelligence, labor markets, urbanization, demographic transition, and resilience to economic shocks. This will improve responsiveness to Ethiopia's evolving development agenda.
- **Strengthen regional chapters and decentralized institutional presence.** Delegate greater operational responsibilities to regional chapters for organizing conferences, research dissemination events, training programs, policy dialogues, and stakeholder engagement activities. This will improve inclusiveness, strengthen regional ownership, and reduce geographic disparities in access to EEA services.
- **Expand strategic partnerships and diversify institutional financing.** Build long term partnerships with government institutions, universities, think tanks, private sector organizations, philanthropic foundations, and international development partners. At the same time, diversify revenue sources through commissioned research, executive education, consulting services, endowment development, publication sales, and membership services to reduce dependence on donor funding and strengthen institutional resilience.
- **Enhance media engagement and public communication.** Expand collaboration with national and regional media by organizing regular media briefings, expert interviews, economic outlook sessions, and evidence based commentary on emerging national issues. Strengthen social media strategies to improve outreach among youth, professionals, policymakers, and the wider public.
- **Strengthen technical advisory services.** Develop long term technical assistance partnerships with ministries, regional governments, universities, and development partners while introducing mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness and policy outcomes

of advisory services. Greater demand driven support will increase EEA's practical contribution to institutional reform.

- **Promote gender inclusion and diversity.** Design targeted initiatives that encourage greater participation of women economists through mentorship, leadership development, scholarships, networking opportunities, research grants, and representation within governance structures. Improving gender balance will strengthen institutional diversity and broaden professional perspectives.

Long Term Priority Recommendations

- **Establish EEA as Ethiopia's premier evidence to policy institution.** Position the Association as the country's leading independent policy think tank by institutionalizing continuous policy engagement, maintaining internationally recognized research standards, and expanding influence across national and regional policy systems. This should include a permanent policy observatory that regularly monitors economic reforms, evaluates policy implementation, and provides strategic advice to government and development partners.
- **Develop a sustainable professional development ecosystem.** Create a lifelong learning platform that integrates certification programs, executive education, professional accreditation, digital learning, research fellowships, mentorship, internships, and continuing professional development for economists at all career stages. This will transform EEA into a comprehensive professional association rather than primarily a conference and research institution.
- **Strengthen the pipeline of future economists.** Expand student membership, internship programs, university partnerships, graduate research grants, doctoral support, innovation competitions, and structured mentoring programs to build future leadership within the economics profession. Particular attention should be given to increasing participation of female students and young professionals to improve diversity and long term institutional renewal.
- **Build long term institutional and financial sustainability.** Establish an endowment fund and long term resource mobilization strategy that combines diversified financing, income generating services, philanthropic support, and strategic investments. Financial sustainability will enable EEA to maintain institutional independence, respond rapidly to emerging national priorities, and sustain high quality research, policy engagement, and professional services regardless of fluctuations in external funding.

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Appendix: Tools

Respondents' Demographic Profile

1) **Sex:**
   - ☐ Male
   - ☐ Female
   - ☐ Prefer not to say
2) **Age: _____ years**
3) **Highest education level completed:**
   - ☐ Diploma
   - ☐ Bachelor's Degree
   - ☐ Master's Degree
   - ☐ PhD Degree
   - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
4) **Field of specialization / discipline: _____**
5) **The institution you are working in: _____**
   - ☐ Government (Federal)
   - ☐ Government (Regional)
   - ☐ University / Higher Education Institution
   - ☐ Research Institute / Think Tank
   - ☐ Civil Society Organization / NGO
   - ☐ Development partner
   - ☐ Private Sector
   - ☐ Individual Professional / Consultant
   - ☐ Student
6) **Name of institution (if applicable): _____**
7) **Position / Title in the institution: _____**
8) **operational Level of institution:**
   - ☐ National
   - ☐ Regional
   - ☐ Both
9) **Year of your membership to EEA: _____**

Questionnaires related with EEA activity

10) Which types of EEA activities have you participated in? (tick all that apply)
   - ☐ Policy dialogue forums
   - ☐ Research dissemination events
   - ☐ Workshops or conferences
   - ☐ Training or capacity-building events
   - ☐ Advisory or consultation meetings
   - ☐ Public lectures or panel discussions
   - ☐ University support activities (chapters, joint events)
   - ☐ Online / virtual events
11) In which modality you participated in EEA activities?
   - ☐ Online/virtual
   - ☐ In-person
12) How many EEA events/activities have you participated in during the last 10 years?
   - ☐ Online/virtual _____
   - ☐ In-person_____
13) In what capacity did you participate? (tick all that apply)
   - ☐ Participant/attendee/trainee
   - ☐ Speaker/panelist
   - ☐ Resource person/trainer
   - ☐ Organizer/facilitator
   - ☐ Partner institution representative
   - ☐ Other (specify)
14) If you have NOT participated in EEA activities, what are the main reasons? (tick all that apply)
   - ☐ Not aware of EEA activities
   - ☐ Not invited
   - ☐ Activities not relevant to my role
   - ☐ Time constraints
   - ☐ Other (specify)
15) As EEA member, how much EEA supported your individual professional growth, recognition, and career advancement?
   - ☐ No support
   - ☐ Low support
   - ☐ Moderate support
   - ☐ High support
   - ☐ Very high support
16) How effectively does EEA communicate membership benefits, opportunities, and updates to members?
   - ☐ Very ineffective
   - ☐ Ineffective
   - ☐ Neutral
   - ☐ Effective
   - ☐ Very effective

17) How often do members participate in and utilize EEA services?

☐ Never ☐ Often
☐ Rarely ☐ Always
☐ Sometimes

How responsive is EEA to member feedback, suggestions, and requests?

☐ Not responsive ☐ Highly responsive
☐ Slightly responsive ☐ Fully responsive
☐ Moderately responsive

18) How much do membership services facilitate networking, collaboration, and exchange of ideas among members?

☐ No facilitation ☐ High facilitation
☐ Low facilitation ☐ Very high facilitation
☐ Moderate facilitation

19) How satisfied are members with the overall quality, relevance, and impact of EEA membership services?

☐ Very dissatisfied ☐ Satisfied
☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very satisfied
☐ Neutral

20) How would you rate the accessibility of EEA's resources (e.g., data, publications, policy briefs)?

☐ Very accessible ☐ Poorly accessible
☐ Accessible ☐ Not accessible at all
☐ Moderately accessible

21) How would you assess the influence of EEA's activities on national economic development?

☐ Very high influence ☐ Low influence
☐ High influence ☐ No influence
☐ Moderate influence

22) To what extent are EEA's activities tailored to your professional needs?

☐ Well-tailored ☐ Poorly tailored
☐ Moderately tailored ☐ Not tailored at all

23) How do you rate EEA's involvement in addressing urgent economic issues through discussions and dialogues?

☐ Very strong ☐ Weak
☐ Strong ☐ Very weak
☐ Moderate

24) How do you assess the visibility and credibility of EEA compared to other national and international associations?

☐ Much higher ☐ Lower
☐ Higher ☐ Much lower
☐ About the same

Questions related with Training activities of EEA

25) How relevant were the EEA training programs to your professional needs or responsibilities?

☐ Highly relevant, directly applicable ☐ Slightly relevant, rarely applicable
☐ Moderately relevant, somewhat applicable ☐ Not relevant at all

26) How well did the training content address current issues or challenges in your field?

☐ Very well, fully addressed current issues ☐ Not at all
☐ Moderately well, addressed some issues ☐ Effectiveness
☐ Slightly, addressed few issues

27) How effective were the EEA trainings in enhancing your knowledge and skills?

☐ Very effective ☐ Slightly effective, minor improvement
☐ Moderately effective ☐ Not effective, no improvement

28) To what extent were the training objectives achieved?

☐ Fully achieved ☐ Partially achieved
☐ Mostly achieved ☐ Not achieved

29) How efficiently were the trainings delivered in terms of time management, organization, and resources?
☐ Very efficiently ☐ Slightly efficiently
☐ Moderately efficiently ☐ Inefficiently

30) How accessible were the trainings to participants (location, scheduling, and materials)?
☐ Very accessible ☐ Slightly accessible
☐ Moderately accessible ☐ Not accessible

31) How has the training impacted your work performance or professional practice?
☐ Significant positive impact ☐ Slight positive impact
☐ Moderate positive impact ☐ No impact

32) Has the training improved your ability to contribute to organizational or sectoral goals?
☐ Strongly improved ☐ Slightly improved
☐ Moderately improved ☐ Not improved

33) How likely are you to apply the skills and knowledge gained from the training in the long term?
☐ Very likely, fully applicable ☐ Unlikely, rarely applicable
☐ Likely, partially applicable ☐ Very unlikely, not applicable

34) Does EEA provide follow-up support or resources to ensure continued learning?
☐ Yes, comprehensive support provided ☐ Minimal support provided
☐ Yes, some support provided ☐ No support provided

35) How well do the EEA training programs align with Ethiopia's national development priorities and sector strategies?
☐ Fully aligned and supportive ☐ Partially aligned, with noticeable gaps
☐ Mostly aligned, with minor gaps ☐ Not aligned

36) How effectively do EEA trainings support government initiatives or policy implementation in your field?
☐ Very effectively, strongly supportive ☐ Slightly effectively
☐ Moderately effectively ☐ Not effective

37) How relevant are the trainings offered by EEA to your professional needs?
☐ Very relevant ☐ Slightly relevant
☐ Relevant ☐ Not relevant
☐ Moderately relevant

38) How would you rate the overall effectiveness of the trainings provided by EEA?
☐ Very effective ☐ Ineffective
☐ Effective ☐ Very ineffective
☐ Moderately effective

39) How do you assess the timeliness of the trainings offered by EEA?
☐ Very timely ☐ Untimely
☐ Timely ☐ Very untimely
☐ Neither timely nor untimely

Questions related with Research activities of EEA

40) How would you rate the overall quality of research conducted by EEA?
☐ Very high ☐ Low
☐ High ☐ Very low
☐ Moderate

41) How relevant is the research conducted by EEA to your work or sector?
☐ Very relevant ☐ Slightly relevant
☐ Relevant ☐ Not relevant
☐ Moderately relevant

42) How would you assess EEA's research output dissemination (e.g., reports, policy briefs, events)?
☐ Very effective ☐ Ineffective
☐ Effective ☐ Very ineffective
☐ Moderately effective

43) How relevant are the research activities conducted by EEA to addressing Ethiopia's current economic challenges?
☐ Highly relevant ☐ Slightly relevant
☐ Moderately relevant ☐ Not relevant at all

44) To what extent do EEA research outputs meet the needs of stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, NGOs, private sector)?
- ☐ Fully meet stakeholder needs
- ☐ Rarely meet stakeholder needs
- ☐ Partially meet stakeholder needs
- ☐ Do not meet stakeholder needs

45) How effectively have EEA research activities achieved their stated objectives?
- ☐ Very effectively
- ☐ Slightly effectively
- ☐ Moderately effectively
- ☐ Not effective

46) How successful has EEA been in influencing policy decisions through its research?
- ☐ Highly successful
- ☐ Slightly successful
- ☐ Moderately successful
- ☐ Not successful

47) How efficiently does EEA utilize resources (time, budget, personnel) to conduct research activities?
- ☐ Very efficiently
- ☐ Inefficiently
- ☐ Moderately efficiently
- ☐ Very inefficiently

48) How would you rate the timeliness of EEA research outputs?
- ☐ Always delivered on time
- ☐ Occasionally delayed
- ☐ Usually delivered on time
- ☐ Frequently delayed

49) What has been the impact of EEA research on economic policy or practice in Ethiopia?
- ☐ Significant impact
- ☐ Minimal impact
- ☐ Moderate impact
- ☐ No impact

50) How has EEA research contributed to increasing knowledge and awareness among stakeholders?
- ☐ Significantly increased knowledge and awareness
- ☐ Moderately increased knowledge and awareness
- ☐ Slightly increased knowledge and awareness
- ☐ No increase in knowledge or awareness

51) How sustainable are the outcomes of EEA's research activities?
- ☐ Highly sustainable, with long-term benefits
- ☐ Moderately sustainable, with some lasting benefits
- ☐ Slightly sustainable, benefits are short-term
- ☐ Not sustainable, no lasting benefits

52) Does EEA have mechanisms to ensure continuity of research activities and knowledge sharing?
- ☐ Yes, strong mechanisms in place
- ☐ Minimal mechanisms
- ☐ Some mechanisms
- ☐ No mechanisms

53) How well are EEA research activities aligned with Ethiopia's national development plans and strategies?
- ☐ Fully aligned and supportive of government priorities
- ☐ Mostly aligned, with minor gaps
- ☐ Partially aligned, with significant gaps
- ☐ Not aligned at all

54) How effectively does EEA coordinate with government institutions to ensure its research supports policy and development objectives?
- ☐ Very effectively
- ☐ Poorly
- ☐ Moderately effectively
- ☐ Not at all

55) To what extent are EEA publications, including research reports, policy briefs, and working papers, relevant to the professional needs of members and the policy needs of institutions?
- ☐ Not relevant at all
- ☐ Highly relevant
- ☐ Slightly relevant
- ☐ Extremely relevant
- ☐ Moderately relevant

56) How accessible are EEA publications in terms of format, language, and distribution?
- ☐ Very inaccessible
- ☐ Accessible
- ☐ Inaccessible
- ☐ Very accessible
- ☐ Neutral

57) How credible and well-researched do you find EEA publications?
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Fair

58) To what extent do EEA publications support evidence-based policymaking?
- ☐ No support
- ☐ Low support
- ☐ Moderate support
- ☐ High support
- ☐ Very high support

59) How much do publications contribute to professional knowledge, research, and academic learning for members?
- ☐ No contribution
- ☐ Small contribution
- ☐ Moderate contribution
- ☐ High contribution
- ☐ Very high contribution

60) How effectively do publications address emerging economic and policy challenges?
- ☐ Not effective
- ☐ Slightly effective
- ☐ Moderately effective
- ☐ Highly effective
- ☐ Extremely effective

61) How much do EEA publications foster knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders?
- ☐ No effect
- ☐ Low effect
- ☐ Moderate effect
- ☐ High effect
- ☐ Very high effect

62) How timely are EEA publications in reflecting current economic developments and policy debates?
- ☐ Very untimely
- ☐ Untimely
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Timely
- ☐ Very timely

63) How often do members or institutions use EEA publications to inform teaching, research, or program development?
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Always

64) How satisfied are you with the overall quality, relevance, and usefulness of EEA Questionnaires Related with publication and documentation?
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied

Media-Related Questions

65) Which media or social media platforms do you mostly use to follow information from EEA?
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ X (Twitter)
- ☐ Telegram
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

66) How timely are EEA staff in responding to comments or inquiries received through media or social media platforms?
- ☐ Very timely
- ☐ Timely
- ☐ Somewhat timely
- ☐ Not timely
- ☐ Not applicable / No response received

67) How would you rate EEA's overall efforts to disseminate information through media and other communication channels?
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor

68) How frequently do you access information shared by EEA through media or social media channels?
- ☐ Very frequently (daily)
- ☐ Frequently (several times a week)
- ☐ Occasionally (once a week)
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

69) How clear and understandable is the information disseminated by EEA through media channels?
- ☐ Very clear
- ☐ Clear
- ☐ Moderately clear
- ☐ Unclear
- ☐ Very unclear

70) To what extent does the information shared by EEA meet your information needs?
- ☐ To a very great extent
- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To some extent
- ☐ To a small extent
- ☐ Not at all

Background Information: Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs)

1) Name of University / Higher Learning Institution: _____
2) **Type of Institution:**
   - ☐ Public University
   - ☐ Private University
3) **Year the Institution Was Established: _____**
4) **Region / Location of the Institution: _____**
5) **Does your institution offer Economics or Economics-related programs?**
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
6) **Level(s) of Economics Programs Offered (tick all that apply):**
   - ☐ Undergraduate (BA/BSc)
   - ☐ PhD
   - ☐ Master's (MA/MSc)
   - ☐ Short-term / Certificate programs
7) **Years of Experience of the Respondent in Academia:**
   - ☐ Less than 5 years
   - ☐ 11–15 years
   - ☐ 5–10 years
   - ☐ More than 15 years

Questions related with role of EEA in Economics Education

8) To what extent do EEA initiatives improve the quality and relevance of economics education in academic centers?
   - ☐ No improvement
   - ☐ High improvement
   - ☐ Low improvement
   - ☐ Very high improvement
   - ☐ Moderate improvement
9) How much have EEA programs influenced the development or revision of curricula in economics programs?
   - ☐ No influence
   - ☐ High influence
   - ☐ Low influence
   - ☐ Very high influence
   - ☐ Moderate influence
10) How much have EEA trainings and workshops strengthened the research capacity of academic staff?
   - ☐ No improvement
   - ☐ High improvement
   - ☐ Low improvement
   - ☐ Very high improvement
   - ☐ Moderate improvement
11) How useful are EEA publications and teaching materials in supporting economics education in universities?
   - ☐ Not useful
   - ☐ Highly useful
   - ☐ Slightly useful
   - ☐ Extremely useful
   - ☐ Moderately useful
12) How much do EEA programs facilitate collaboration between universities and policymakers for applied research?
   - ☐ No facilitation
   - ☐ High facilitation
   - ☐ Low facilitation
   - ☐ Very high facilitation
   - ☐ Moderate facilitation
13) How much have EEA initiatives improved student engagement, learning, and exposure to practical economic issues?
   - ☐ No improvement
   - ☐ High improvement
   - ☐ Low improvement
   - ☐ Very high improvement
   - ☐ Moderate improvement
14) How inclusive are EEA initiatives across universities, departments, and student groups?
   - ☐ Not inclusive
   - ☐ Highly inclusive
   - ☐ Slightly inclusive
   - ☐ Fully inclusive
   - ☐ Moderately inclusive
15) How effectively do EEA-supported activities help academic staff stay updated on emerging research, methodologies, and policy trends?
   - ☐ Not effective
   - ☐ Highly effective
   - ☐ Slightly effective
   - ☐ Extremely effective
   - ☐ Moderately effective

16) How much do EEA initiatives bridge the gap between academic research and practical economic policy applications?

☐ No bridging
☐ Low bridging
☐ Moderate bridging
☐ High bridging
☐ Very high bridging

17) How satisfied are HLIs with EEA support for teaching, research, and capacity-building programs?

☐ Very dissatisfied
☐ Dissatisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Satisfied
☐ Very satisfied

18) Do students from your institution receive academic advising support from EEA?

☐ Yes
☐ No

19) Do students from your institution receive internship or practical attachment opportunities through EEA?

☐ Yes
☐ No

20) To what extent has EEA been engaged in providing feedback or support for curriculum development or revision in your institution?

☐ Very actively engaged
☐ Moderately engaged
☐ Slightly engaged
☐ Not engaged at all
☐ Not applicable / Not aware

21) How would you rate the overall institutional support provided by EEA?

☐ Very good
☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor
☐ Very poor