

**AFRICA**  **EUROPE**  
INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission has recently launched the **Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership (AEIP)**, a novel initiative fostering innovation cooperation between Africa and Europe. The Partnership is linked to the EU-AU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology & Innovation as a pilot initiative for its third pillar, the AU-EU partnership on Innovation. Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership is supported by the DG Research & Innovation Service Facility for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation. Key network partners of this initiative include Afrilabs, EBN, CCHUB, Emerging Valley, Next Society and VC4Africa.

AEIP will:

- Hold several co-creation activities and networking sessions for tech hubs (incubators, accelerators, design labs etc.) and other key innovation stakeholders from both African and European
- Support partnerships building and intercontinental collaboration development.
- Explore models for technology transfer
- Organise capacity-upgrading sessions on cooperation with TTO/KTOs, access to finance, co-creation and design thinking and more.
- Encourage tech hubs to engage in staff and start-up exchange.

AEIP was officially launched in on the **12 – 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya**. Overall, **150+ African and European Tech Hubs, Entrepreneurs, Technology Transfer/Exchange Professionals and Innovation System Stakeholders have already engaged in the partnership**.

A total of six events will be organised in the framework of AEIP. The upcoming events will take place Germany (spring 2020) and South Africa (summer 2020).

# Importance of AEIP

The launch of the Africa Europe Innovation Partnership emerges from an amalgam of economic, social, innovative and political opportunities between the two continents. We highlight these below.

## ❖ **Economic and social opportunity**

- High level of innovative entrepreneurial activities in African countries leading the way for new dynamics and opportunities
- New actors emerging taking up critical roles, particularly tech hubs.
- New concepts and models around technology and intellectual property management, such as open innovation, co-creation models, copy-left etc.
- 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution such as mobile platforms, AI/machine learning, drones, blockchain, additive manufacturing etc.

## ❖ **Innovation: A renewed Political Priority**

- Sustainable Development Goals focusing on Innovation (SDG 9)
- African Union's Agenda 2063: Strong attention for innovation
- Horizon Europe: Stronger focus on Innovation (e.g. creation of the European Innovation Council)

## ❖ **A need for partnership between Africa and Europe**

- Increasing globalization and interconnectedness through technology
- New actors on the stage, such as tech hubs (incubators, accelerators etc.) who are in need of stronger networks and partnerships to pursue shared opportunities and learn from each other
- Need to learn shared lessons for how innovation cooperation can be shaped to be ready for the future.
- Leveraging funding opportunities.

## ❖ **Political commitment:**

- 'Harnessing Innovation': EU-AU Summit 2017 Abidjan
- 'Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs'(2018)
- New Innovation Pillar of the AU-EU High-Level Political Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation, of which AEIP is the main pilot project.

## AEIP Approach & Innovation System Strategy

The AEIP focuses primarily on key tech hubs and technology transfer key actors at in their role as intermediaries. The aim is to build on the strongest potential for new partnerships and collaboration, achieve a high multiplier in terms of reaching entrepreneurs and the research systems, as well as involve new actors in the domain of innovation cooperation.

Through a close articulation with policy system and entrepreneurs, the AEIP provides capacity upgrading opportunities for entrepreneurs, and assists tech hubs in enhancing service to their members. The outcomes of this pilot initiative are key inputs to the AU-EU High-Level Policy Forum.

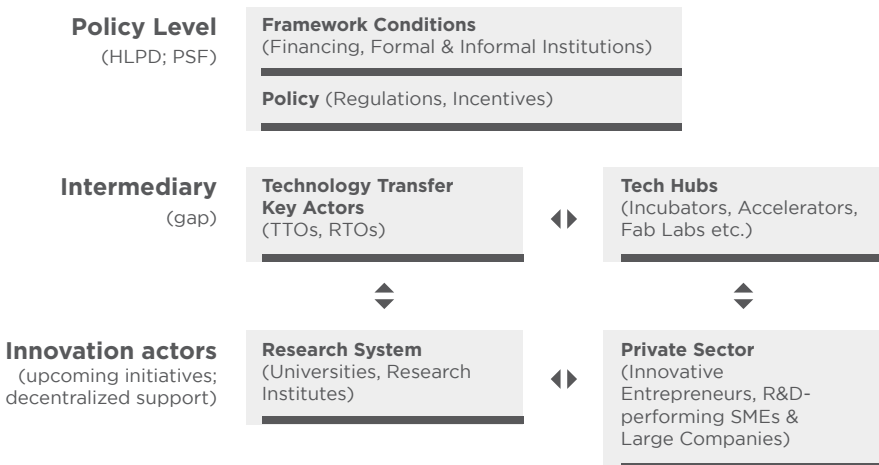
### Innovation System Strategy

The Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership strategy is based on an extensive needs' assessment with all stakeholders involved.

The focus of the AEIP is the **intermediary level** in two main pillars: tech hubs and technology transfer actors. These actors have the highest potential in terms of concrete partnership benefits, present multiplier opportunities and represent emerging new developments in international innovation and technology transfer/exchange.

The Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership is tightly connected to efforts at the policy level through its status as a pilot project of the AU-EU High-Level Partnership for Science, Technology and Innovation.

On the level of innovation actors (i.e. researchers and entrepreneurs), the project foresees significant indirect impact through the intermediaries, but also include these actors through our events and webinars.



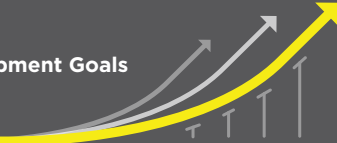
# Objectives and theory of change

The Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership



## IMPACT

Innovation-driven growth & a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



## RESULTS



Stronger Africa-Europe innovation ecosystems (actors and linkages)



Better chances for start-ups to access technology, innovation collaboration, markets and EU funding opportunities



An active learning process to help refine Africa-Europe innovation policy



## ACTIVITIES

Technology exchange actors & Tech hubs



Building partnerships for innovation collaboration



Exploring & promoting models for technology exchange



Capacity upgrading & collaboration potential



Building wider networks & connecting to the entrepreneurial ecosystem



Anna Ekeledo



Robert Sanders



Bosun Tijani

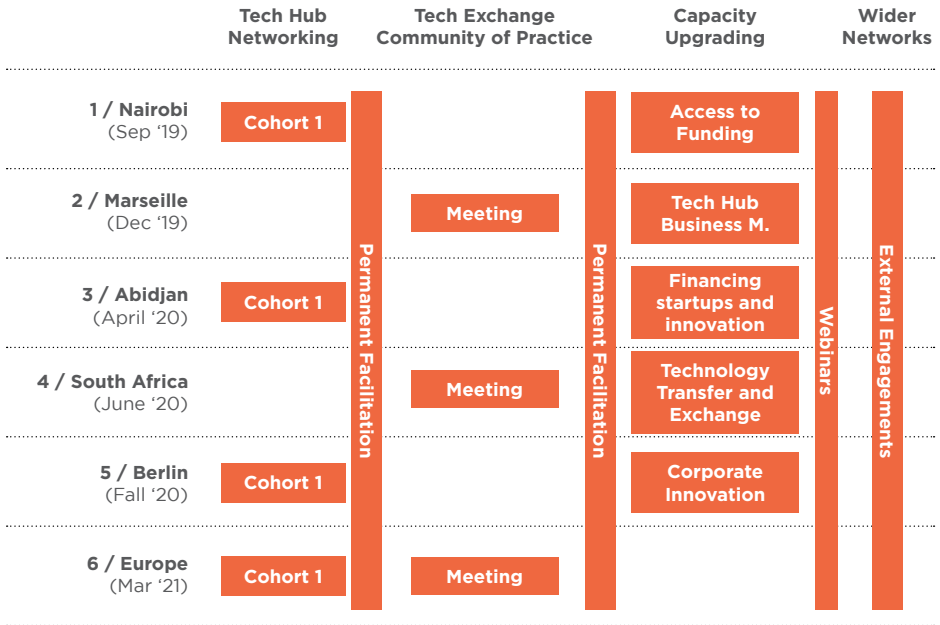


Samir Adbelkrim



Ben White

# Activities Planned



## The AEIP is implemented to two main modes of collaboration:

- Permanent support of a tech hub and technology exchange professionals community, through facilitation of partnerships, webinars with capacity upgrading opportunities etc.
- Six main events across Africa and Europe with face-to-face networking, partnering, capacity upgrading and exchange.

Beyond the two core communities of tech hubs and technology exchange actors, the initiative also engages extensively with the wider innovation stakeholders community across Africa and Europe.

## Outreach and Impact of the Africa Europe Innovation Partnership

Via a logical framework approach (see the theory of change graph page 3) AEIP has designed and is implementing a monitoring and evaluation system to keep track of the progress, to quantify outputs and to determine the initiative's eventual outcomes and impacts.

This map shows that AEIP has already reached more than 87 tech hubs, more than a dozen tech transfer actors and numerous entrepreneurs in both continents.

Other outreach and impact activities of AEIP include:

- Several plans of actions/MoUs have been signed and more are in progress.
- Training modules have been developed on various topics, such as EU funding opportunities and sustainable business models and others are in progress.
- A rich repository of regularly updated online resources on topics such as European funding opportunities; Tech-hub management and business models; Innovation financing; Innovative approaches to start-up support; Technology Transfer etc.
- Development of around 8 Tech Transfer Insight Briefs for as well as 4 Innovation Partnership Lessons Briefs for external disseminations.
- Creation of roadmap on technology exchange.







AFRICA EUROPE  
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION  
IN NUMBERS

Entrepreneurs

20



Tech Hubs

87



Tech Transfer Actors

15



# TESTIMON

**“PPNT is a true believer in creating an innovation ecosystem based on effective partnership. Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership provides us new, intercontinental connection. Our startups (e.g Solar Network, SymbioMedia Group) took advantage and accessed the essential AEIP network contacts in order to enter the African market. Thanks to the initiative, PPNT is also considering applying for the RISE funds in order to enhance the collaboration between Africa and Europe. We hope for more and more synergies!”**

Justyna Adamska, the PR and Marketing Manager at Poznan Science and Technology Park - PPNT (Poland)



**“The AEIP is necessary to increase collaboration with innovation actors across the two continents. Africa has a long history with Europe and this provides us the opportunity to develop relations that can leverage off of the opportunities and strengths on the two continents. We are excited to be part of the network”**

Lukonga Lindunda, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of BongoHive (Zambia)



**“The need for a long-term partnership between Africa and Europe in the field of innovation and technology, similar to those existing in the areas of agriculture and health, is very long overdue. It is hoped that the AEIP will bridge this gap and foster sustainable collaboration between African RTOs and their European counterparts”**

Moses Dachariga Mengu, Senior Project Leader at Danish Technological Institute



# IALS

**“When you have ideas, intuitions, convictions you have to go through with it and make them happen”**

Maria Cristina Russo, Director International Cooperation  
DG Research & Innovation



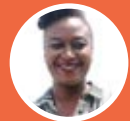
**“Only innovation can allow us to face common challenges”**

Koabo Rouffahi, CEO CIPMEN, CEO Kinnov, PCA Fideni  
(Fond d'Investissement pour le Développement  
Economique du Niger)



**“It was great to meet and connect with other hubs on the continent as well as Europe counterparts that are doing impactful work. The convening of stakeholders in the same room was powerful in moving forward with opportunities for collaboration”**

Obo Henshaw, Director, Programmes at  
Co-Creation Hub (Nigeria)



**“It was a pleasure to be part of the launch event and it is a pleasure to be part of this valuable network. The cross-continent connections enrich all involved players and we can't wait to see all the impact that will grow out of this”**

Maria Gross, Managing Director of GERMANTECH  
(Germany)



## Join Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership to:

- internationalise business activities, improve knowledge on innovation and business ecosystems in Europe and Africa;
- connect to business incubators, accelerators and start-ups across both continents and explore partnership opportunities;
- benefit from partners' know-how, services and networks, and develop innovative ideas, solutions to common challenges;
- be informed about funding and business opportunities on both continents for start-up development and exchanges;
- participate in events and meet other business incubators, accelerators, start-ups, technology transfer offices and investors who are interested to explore opportunities in Africa and Europe;

...and more!

## In cooperation with:



**VC4A**



## Get involved!



[www.africaeurope-innovationpartnership.net](http://www.africaeurope-innovationpartnership.net)  
Email: [eu-africa@servicefacility.eu](mailto:eu-africa@servicefacility.eu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AfricaEuropeInnovation](https://www.facebook.com/AfricaEuropeInnovation)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12292388/>

Twitter: **Africalnco**

Youtube: **Africa Europe Innovation Partnership AEIP**



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