This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.

The first trans-continental Networking Academy for African and European Digital Innovation Hubs.

February 2021 – January 2024
The AfriConEU project aspires to create the first Trans-Continental Networking Academy to support African and European Digital Innovation Hubs in capacity building, knowledge sharing, networking, collaboration, joint projects, and venture development.
General Objectives

The main objective of the project is to develop the first Networking Academy between African and European DIHs with the aim to:

1. Facilitate knowledge and experience sharing,

2. Drive the development of mutually beneficial partnerships,

3. Support the creation of collective projects to boost the digital economy, empowering youth and women and fostering innovation and growth.
Specific Objectives

1. To explore the digital innovation ecosystem in Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, and Tanzania and analyse local DIHs needs to create tailor-made programmes for transforming regional hubs into catalysts for digital transformation and entrepreneurship.

2. To develop the Flagship Programme on Capacity Building for African DIHs and support thus their further development and their potential to drive the digitisation process.

3. To create the Flagship programme on Trans-continental Partnerships.

4. To create and enforce cooperation on an equal footing between African and European DIHs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>To organise and deliver capacity building, knowledge sharing, and new partnership development activities among African and European DIHs and contribute towards a vibrant digital economy and new job opportunities for the benefit of both continents.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>To engage African and European DIHs, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers in a community of networked ecosystems that will foster the project results' sustainability and exploit opportunities between the two continents.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>To foster the diffusion and uptake of the AfriConEU Academy within and beyond the targeted countries, contributing thus to the realisation of the “AU-EU digital economy partnership.”</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>To deliver capacity building and knowledge sharing through AfriConEU Academy about the contribution of DIHs to combat the coronavirus outbreak in Europe and Africa.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Phase 1
Context and state of the art analysis.

Phase 2
Development of the AfriConEU Networking Academy and its two flagship programmes through participative design techniques.

Phase 3
Roll-out implementation and assessment.

Phase 4
Community development and results uptake.

Phase 5
A horizontal phase aiming at communication and dissemination.

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Networking Academy

2 Flagship Programmes

**DIHs Capacity Building**
1. Technology Transfer and experimentation.
2. DIHs development models.
3. Startups access to finance.
4. Entrepreneurial & Digital skills development for professionals, women, and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Trans-continental Partnership Development**
1. Common digital market and connected start-up ecosystem.
2. Jobs for the 21st century and employment opportunities.

AfriConEU Community

- Pan-African Networks
- Policy Makers
- AU-EU Initiatives
- Tech Hubs & DIHs
- Startups
- Women
- Youth
- Entrepreneurs
- African Diaspora
- Investors
- DIHs networks

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Capacity Building for reinforcing the role of African DIHs as innovation intermediaries matching demand and offer of digital services and technologies and supporting digital entrepreneurs.
Trans-continental Partnership Development between Digital Innovation Hubs, Startups, entrepreneurs, investors, etc., from both continents.
Online Community

An online multi-actor community facilitating dialogue, experience sharing, and collaboration between stakeholders from both continents.

A talent matchmaking feature contributing to the shortage of talents with digital skills that are a well-reported need for Startups and SMEs.
KPIs

12 Workshops
200 Participants attend the 12 local Networking and Knowledge-sharing Workshops.

20 Webinars
300 Participants attend the 20 Capacity Building Webinars.

8 Masterclasses
200 Participants attend the 8 Online Masterclasses.

1 International Brokerage Event
200 Attendees and more than 10 connections for Strategic Partnerships made during the Brokerage event.

4 Design Thinking Bootcamps
160 Participants and more than 30 Joint Projects developed during the Bootcamps.

1 Final Event
More than 400 Attendees in the Final Capitalisation and Celebration Event.

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More than 1000 Innovation Stakeholders reached through the Engagement Activities.

More than 300 DIHs and Innovation Stakeholders directly trained by the Programmes.

More than 200 DIHs improved their Networks & Connections with other hubs within Local Ecosystems and beyond through Local Networking Events.

Online Community with over 3000 Members (DIHs, startups, investors, corporates, ecosystem builders, African diaspora community members & any other relevant stakeholders).

More than 200 Connections for the Exchange of Knowledge and Learnings through the AfriConEU Online Community.
Expected Impact

1. Support DIHs in Africa through **capacity building** and new **partnership development** services.

2. Detect, assess and analyse **local ecosystems** and DIHs needs and integrate them into an **innovative entrepreneurs-focused learning** offering.

3. Support **youth employment** opportunities.

4. Support African DIHs to enhance the **entrepreneurial and innovation skills** of professionals.
Expected Impact

5. Produce concrete evidence and tools for the sustainable uptake of the project’s results beyond the project’s completion.

6. Intensify transcontinental cooperation between Europe and Africa and create a common digital innovation ecosystem between the two continents.

7. Pave the way for a new kind of partnership between EU and Africa.

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