



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

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AfriConEU Networking Academy in action

The AfriConEU project continued its online, in-person, and hybrid activities over the last few months. The [AfriConEU Networking Academy](#) helps DIHs build their capacity through the [DIHs Capacity Building program](#). It also connects DIHs, Startups, entrepreneurs, investors, and more stakeholders from both continents through the [Transcontinental partnership development program](#). The AfriConEU Networking Academy also supports the development of the [AfriConEU Community of practice](#). This multi-actor community facilitates dialogue, experience sharing, and collaboration between stakeholders from Africa and Europe.

The **hybrid workshop "Building An Inspiring Business Model"** by [hapaSpace](#) took place at the [hapaSpace Hub](#) on Tuesday, 22 November 2022. It brought together key points from the two previous workshops. It combined them with two new concepts: the business model canvas and its different components and the OKR (Objectives and key results) framework. Four **online webinars** took place. On 1 September, [ITC – Innovation Technology Cluster](#) hosted the "[The Business Model Navigator](#)." The webinar supported DIHs in developing a business model appropriate for their business and encompassing their broad service portfolio. On 28 September, [ATBN](#) hosted the "[Collaborate to innovate](#)," an online webinar about the collaboration strategies of DIH leaders. The webinar informed DIH leaders about the benefits of cooperation and engaged them in the innovation process. On 19 October 2022, ATBN hosted the "[Durable funding sources for DIH](#)," an online Webinar about durable funding sources for DIH. The webinar informed us about the best practices of funding models for tech companies. On 23 November 2022, ATBN hosted the "[Phases of Investment](#)," an online webinar about the core phases of investment. The webinar analyzed common types of investors and informed about common relationships developed during the investment process. One **online Masterclass** took place. On 12 October 2022, [ITC Cluster](#) hosted the "[Essentials of Innovation Finance](#)" online Masterclass about the essential tools we need for innovation finance. The Masterclass informed entrepreneurs about disruptive methods of receiving funding. You can find the next AfriConEU events [here](#).

Our **Vidcast series "Digital Innovation Talks"** continue exploring different topics related to the EU-African Digital Innovation Hubs and Startup Ecosystems. In [Episode 5](#), Konstantinos Vadratsikas from [Stimmuli for Social Change](#), Greece, and Peace Odili from [ECA](#), Nigeria, discussed "The Barriers of Transcontinental Partnerships and how to solve them." In [episode 6](#), Albert Opoku from [hapaSpace Collaborative Hub](#), Ghana, and Saša Štraus from [ITC – Innovation Technology Cluster](#), Slovenia, discussed "Digitalization in Agriculture." In [episode 7](#), Miguel Sousa from [INOVA+](#), Portugal, and Magda Bakali from [Stimmuli for social change](#), Greece, discussed "Financing mechanisms as a tool to build transcontinental partnerships." In [Episode 8](#), Catarina Reis from [Porto Business School](#) and Perez Apiyo Masinde from [Outbox Uganda](#) discussed "Gender mainstreaming for African DIHs: How to adopt gender-aware practices within our work."



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Our **International Brokerage event** was a success. It was a two-day event to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing between the African and European innovation ecosystems. It took place on November 2 and 3, 2022, in Bologna, Italy, with parallel events in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. To give more information to the audience, we hosted an online [Press Conference](#) on 14 October 2022. It was live-streamed on [Youtube](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#). The event gathered more than 160 investors, startup entrepreneurs, DIH teams, and African-European diaspora communities. On the [first day](#) of the International AfriConEU Brokerage Event, several expert speakers in the different thematic fields (Agritech, Edtech, Fintech, and Technology for Development) presented a set of experiences, good practices, and existing solutions in the African and European innovation ecosystems. On the [second day](#), participants had the spotlight. They brainstormed and identified the challenges and opportunities connected to the work that AfriConEU has already conducted. The discussions related to the areas of Business and investment opportunities in the African market, Digitalisation, jobs for the 21st century, employment opportunities, Scouting digital entrepreneurs and startups in the African market, and Towards a common digital market and a connected startup ecosystem in the WorldCafé discussions. Four parallel events were also held in [Uganda](#), [Nigeria](#), [Parallel Event in Ghana](#) and [Tanzania](#). Several participants attended the events to expand their network, create synergies, and bring closer African and European DIHs. The participants could share their ideas with like-minded entrepreneurs, learn from other entrepreneurs, and broaden their knowledge horizons. Some key discussion areas were how to attract potential investors and leverage the opportunities in the European and African markets in light of the technological era.

Following the [International Brokerage Event in Bologna](#), our first in-person [Consortium Meeting](#) took place on the 4 and 5 of November 2022. The partners discussed the progress of the project so far. We elaborated on the recommendations by the [European Health and Executive Agency](#) during the mid-term Report of the project.

AfriConEU participated and contributed recently to two key events. First, in the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event in Nairobi, Kenya](#), on 23 - 24 November 2022. During the workshop "Innovation Ecosystems in Africa," we shared: how our project supports grassroots innovators through our partners in Africa; how we empower the contribution of women and youth in innovation through our workshops, webinars, and masterclasses; and how our research in the four African ecosystems provides insights into the actions to implement the AU-EU innovation agenda. Second, in the [Enrich in Africa Congress 2022, Nairobi, Kenya](#), on 25 November 2022. During the panel discussion on "Digital Innovation Hubs and the future of digitalization" with Covadonga Rayon from [AEDIB | NET](#), Margherita Trestini from [DIGILOGIC](#) and Abdur Rahim from [HUBiquitous](#), Promise Mwakale represented AfriConEU and shared on the project's model and approach, highlighting the importance of having the fusion of Government, SMEs, and DIHs.



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We are excited to share the [AfriConEU Research Results: State of play in African DIHs: The case of Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda](#). The findings in this report result from a 6-month research process between February and July 2021 conducted by [ATBN](#) in the framework of the AfriConEU project. It encompassed desk-based research, qualitative interviews with 60 hub leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, ecosystem enablers, and policymakers, and two quantitative surveys. It involved an ecosystem with 266 respondents across Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania and a DIH capacity-needs survey completed by 32 digital hub leaders in the four countries.

In addition, AfriConEU's Website is continuously updated with valuable tools and content. The new addition is the [AfriConEU Capacity Building Flagship Programme](#), where you can find all material and recordings of all AfriConEU events. The website's [Gallery](#) has been updated with recent [photos](#) and [videos](#) from the project's activities. [Consortium Short Interviews](#) is our newest campaign. After the AfriConEU International Brokerage event in Italy, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Ghana on 2-3 November 2022, the Consortium members had the chance to speak more about the project. If you are curious to know more, you could have a look at the interviews.

You can follow the future developments of AfriConEU on its website or simply by subscribing to the [Newsletter](#) and you can also check the deliverables of the project so far on the [project's website](#). We constantly track exciting content and events. Suppose you are a Digital Innovation Hub, an Entrepreneur, an Investor, an Institution in digital skills, or any other Stakeholder interested in participating at some stage of the project. In that case, you can [contact](#) our team at africoneu@inova.business.



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