



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

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Empowering Innovation: AfriConEU's Journey of Impact, Recognition, and Future Horizons

As the world of digital innovation continues to evolve, AfriConEU has been at the forefront of news and updates over the past four months, shaping the collaborative landscape between Africa and Europe. With the year drawing to a close, we dive into a dynamic array of updates, discussions, and progress that define our commitment to fostering a thriving digital innovation ecosystem across continents.

Bootcamp in Nigeria

We are thrilled to share the successful completion of the [AfriConEU Bootcamp in Nigeria](#), 12-14 September, organized by [Emerging Communities Africa](#), expressing our heartfelt gratitude to the participating teams, mentors, and partners whose collaborative efforts ensured the resounding success of this transformative event. With over 80 eager participants, seven dedicated facilitators, five inspirational speakers, four engaging panelists, and numerous collaborative teams pushing the boundaries of innovation, the Bootcamp was a true celebration of African talent and the power of collaboration. The audience had the opportunity to hear from experts on hot topics, such as “Understanding the African business landscape: Nigeria”, and “Investment as a tool for catalyzing economic growth in Africa”. Across three impactful days, attendees immersed themselves in ideation, consolidated their project concepts, and presented innovative solutions to real users and potential investors.

Charting a Path Forward: AfriConEU Consortium Meeting in Abuja

On September 15, 2023, the AfriConEU's [partners](#) came together for [one more in-person meeting](#), marking a successful event filled with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to advancing the project's goals. This gathering, following the successful execution of three Bootcamps and building upon the progress since their last meeting in Tanzania, focused on evaluating the recent Bootcamp in Nigeria, identifying areas for improvement for the upcoming Bootcamp in Ghana, and outlining plans for the Final Capitalization Event in Portugal. The consortium also engaged in a thoughtful discussion on the Deployment Toolkit, brainstorming ways to ensure that AfriConEU's activities have a lasting positive influence on the communities they engage with.

Bootcamp in Ghana

We are happy to share the successful conclusion of our last Bootcamp in Africa, the [AfriConEU Bootcamp in Ghana](#), 19-21 September, organized by [hapaSpace](#). Following a similar format with the previous Bootcamps, we engaged a great number of stakeholders from the local digital innovation ecosystem in Kumasi. Throughout this transformative experience, more than 80 participants enthusiastically engaged in a shared desire to learn and make a positive impact. Seven dedicated facilitators expertly nurtured the entrepreneurial spirit, while seven inspiring speakers and five esteemed panelists enriched the collective knowledge with their insights.



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As an added value for all parties involved, we hosted unique talks and discussions on “The Rich Tapestry of Ashanti Culture and the Flourishing of Entrepreneurship”, and “Unlocking Africa’s Economic Potential: The AfCFTA as a Catalyst for Startups and Inclusive Growth”. The Bootcamp fostered a culture of collaboration among several teams, pushing the boundaries of innovation. The event genuinely celebrated African talent and the remarkable power of effective collaboration.

Final Capitalization Event

In Porto, the [AfriConEU Capitalization Event](#) unfolded from October 25th to 28th, marking the pinnacle of a project dedicated to fostering connections between Africa and Europe in the digital innovation and networking sphere. We started with a visit to [UPTEC](#), a renowned Portuguese Science and Technology park hosting a Digital Innovation Hub. Participants then convened at the esteemed [Porto Business School](#) to discuss the project's significant achievements and future trajectory, giving the space to three AfriConEU ambassadors from Mozambique, Tanzania, and Ghana to share their [journeys of impact](#) in person. Climaxing with the [Porto Tech Hub Conference](#), the event provided a global stage for AfriConEU to showcase its work and accomplishments to the broader tech community, informing more than 700 participants and contributing with panel discussions on the project's outcomes.

External Events and Participation

[ARS Electronica 2023: Re-build Together](#): The ARS Electronica 2023 festival in Austria emerged as a dynamic convergence of minds, offering a multitude of sessions exploring diverse themes. Notably, the session titled “[Re-build together: digital, human, and arts-driven innovation in Africa](#),” co-organized by [Starts4Africa](#) and AfriConEU, shone as a standout highlight. The expertly moderated panel, featuring voices such as [Chris Emezue](#) of the [Masakhane Project](#), [David Shongo](#) from the Democratic Republic of Congo, [Gideon Brefo](#) from [hapaSpace Collaborative Hub](#) in Ghana, and Michaela or Tammy from the Art Meets collective in South Africa, delved into the intricate theme of innovation in Africa.

[ICSD Conference 2023](#): The abstract titled "Catalyzing Digital Innovation Towards the SDGs in Africa: The Role of Digital Innovation Hubs" was presented at the [11th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development \(ICSD\)](#). The presentation was delivered by [Stav Bar-Shany](#), Director & Head of Impact, ATBN, and [Eunice Baguma Ball](#), Director, ATBN.

[ACM's womENCourage 2023](#): Empowering Women Entrepreneurs through Gender Inclusion: AfriConEU takes pride in participating in the Annual EUGAIN Workshop, held with [ACM's womENCourage 2023 conference](#). Against the theme "Computing Connecting Everyone," which underscores the significance of inclusivity in the tech realm, [Magda Bakali](#), representing AfriConEU through [Stimmuli for Social Change](#), delivered a compelling presentation, highlighting AfriConEU's pivotal role in fostering gender inclusion and providing steadfast support for women entrepreneurs.



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GSG Impact Summit: Representing AfriConEU, [ATBN](#) took the stage at the [GSG Impact Summit in Malaga](#), contributing to a dynamic panel discussion under the theme: "Tech-Innovation: Perspectives from Diverse Ecosystems and Geographies." This engaging session focused on catalyzing innovative technology to achieve sustainable impact, drawing insights from diverse global examples, including the EU, Sub-Saharan Africa, Israel, Turkey, and Malaysia.

ENRICH in Africa Annual Congress 2023: AfriConEU proudly took part in the ENRICH in Africa Congress 2023. This significant event convened senior-level decision-makers, incubation and acceleration experts, business executives, entrepreneurs, and experts from Africa and Europe in Brussels, fostering discussions on the shared future of innovation cooperation. Representing AfriConEU, [Eunice Baguma Ball](#) (ATBN) played a key role in a panel discussion titled "International partnership building between European and African Innovation Ecosystems", joining representatives from other ICT58 projects, including [AEDIB|NET](#), [Digilogic](#), [mAKE Africa](#), and [HUBiquitous](#).

AfriConEU Vidcast Series - Digital Innovation Talks

In the captivating finale of the [Digital Innovation Talks series](#), Episode #12 titled "[Young African Entrepreneurs: AfriConEU Ambassadors' Project Impact](#)," viewers had the chance to hear the remarkable stories of young African entrepreneurs who are not only making waves in their respective industries but also driving positive change within their communities.

.eu Web Awards Recognition

The year concluded triumphantly for AfriConEU as the project was honored with the prestigious [.eu Web Award](#) in "The Laurels" category. In a dazzling ceremony at Maison du Bois in Brussels, AfriConEU stood in the spotlight, celebrating its unwavering commitment to innovation, creativity, and online prowess, distinguishing itself among the best in the digital landscape. The journey towards this accolade commenced on August 1st when AfriConEU decided to participate in the competition, even though it had been open since April 18. Through the dedication and support of our community, we proudly secured 601 votes (the second-highest number) from an impressive total of 863 nominations. At the last phase, a [jury of 5 experts](#) evaluated the finalists and chose the winners' websites based on the criteria of Content, Structure, Navigation and Functionality, Visual Design, and Accessibility.

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 [website](#). 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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