

## ICT 58 : International partnership building between European and African innovation hubs Specific Challenge

### 1. What are you looking for?

- ***To reinforce cooperation and strategic partnership*** with selected countries in Africa to support the strengthening of existing digital innovation hubs (DIHs) in Africa and to facilitate the collaboration between EU and African DIHs in order to strengthen a common EU Africa innovation and start-up ecosystem
- ***Targeted countries***: Low and middle income countries in Africa

## **ICT 58 : International partnership building between European and African innovation hubs Specific Challenge**

### **1. What are you looking for?**

#### ***Innovation Action***

- Cooperation on developing and strengthening of digital innovation hubs in Africa actions will aim at reinforcing the development and establishment of Pan-African networks of Digital Innovations/Tech Hubs through strengthening local digital innovation and start-up ecosystems

## **ICT 58 : International partnership building between European and African innovation hubs Specific Challenge**

### **1. What are you looking for?**

#### ***Coordination and Support Action***

- Developing a mutually beneficial cooperation between African and European Digital Innovation Hubs to strengthen the long-term sustainability of DIHs.

## Work Programme topic

### 2. What do you NOT want?

- Proposals disconnected from from Africa EU partnership's needs and background
- Proposals that do not provide with solid and sustainable solutions, given the difficult business environment of start-ups/SMEs in Africa
- Proposal disconnected from the African entrepreneurs actual needs

# Work Programme topic – topic evolution

## 3. Is this new or has it been called before? No

*e.g. How is it new / different from previous calls*

*What previous WP topic is it linked to?*

*What are the main changes?*

*Is it linked to other topics in the current WP? (e.g. in LEIT or other pillars)*

# Work Programme topic – topic evolution

## 4. Unique instructions for evaluators on this WP topic? Excellence, Impact and more

*On IA and CSA: taking the partnership background precisely into account*

### ***Innovation Action:***

*Strong emphasis must be laid on capacity building dimension but in close connection with field business environment and the problems they involve*

*Cooperation between African and European Digital Innovation hubs must be entrepreneurs-centered (incl. diasporas)*

*Beyond support to digitalization, uptake of results is key.*

***Coordination & support Action:*** *crucial point is to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Africa-EU Digital Economy Task Force (see: 4 Pillars above)*

# Work Programme topic – topic evolution

## 5. Current project portfolio *(if relevant)*: **NO**

*e.g. Please mention some highly relevant projects!*

*Is there an overview of current project portfolio?*

*Are there clusters / groups of projects?*

## Work Programme topic – Key actors

### 6. Who are the leading players?

The **Africa-EU Alliance** for sustainable Investment and Jobs involved African and EU leaders to promote partnership and private investment

The **AU-EU Digital Economy Task force** formulated concrete proposals on Digital Economy in Africa on 4 Pillars: Connectivity, Digital skills, Entrepreneurship and E-services.

### 7. Is there a key group of actors (eg. cPPP or other) driving this?

**AU-EU Digital Economy Task Force membership:** <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/africa>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/africa>



## Work Programme topic

8. Are there any additional / background documents?  
Two key policy documents to be taken into account:

### ***Communication 2018-643 - 12 Sept. 2018***

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/soteu2018-africa-europe-jobs-alliance-communication-643\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/soteu2018-africa-europe-jobs-alliance-communication-643_en.pdf)

### ***Africa-EU Digital Economy Task Force Report :***

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/new-africa-europe-digital-economy-partnership-report-eu-au-digital-economy-task-force>

## Future Outlook

9. Do you have information about future trends, emerging initiatives, roadmaps, key players in this area? How are you bridging to Horizon Europe?

The Report of the Africa-EU Digital Economy Task Force formulated recommendations on digitalisation for Africa

PRIDA Project: « *Policy & Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa* » (on-going)

<https://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en/projects/policy-and-regulation-initiative-digital-africa-prida>

Future MFF discussions will be connected to the topic



## **Upcoming events / information days**

**AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, technology and Innovation – Addis-Abebbba 6-8 November 2019: 6 Dec. Networking day.**

**The Camp – Aix-en-Provence - Start-Up event for African and European SMEs/start-ups / 6-7 December 2019 (tbc)**

<https://thecamp.fr/fr>