



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

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### The next steps of the AfriConEU project

During the last few months, AfriConEU has been consistent regarding its online presence, coordinating several roundtables, conducting research, and participating in crucial discussions. Substantial progress has been made related to the project's goals. A handful of new tools has been developed, making opportunities more accessible for stakeholders.

**Outbox** has hosted **a series of roundtable discussions** about Challenges & Opportunities for EU-Africa Partnerships development. The **first one** was implemented on September 17th, 2021. It elaborated upon "Improving access to funding for African DIHs & early-stage start-ups," focusing on the difficulties when financing a start-up and the importance of focusing on the quality of the business idea. One week later, on September 24th, 2021, the **second session**, "Knowledge exchange between DIHs in Africa and Europe," facilitated the discussion about the different challenges that DIHs/start-ups face in the two continents and how one can use them as tools for development. The third and **final session** took place on October 1st, 2021. It was called "How Might We Improve Access to markets for African and European startups?" and the discussion focused on the different challenges, opportunities, and barriers African and European DIHs have to undergo when accessing the market, based on the experience of the African DIHs in Europe and vice versa.

The roundtable discussions have proven to be of great importance, mainly due to their high level of interaction among the participants and the know-how exchange. Inputs were given about the necessity of networking, knowledge-sharing platforms to facilitate business and partnerships, the strengthening of skills and network, and the different policies and strategies regarding market access. The participants were also divided into break-out rooms, making the roundtables a perfect opportunity for networking and productive conversations. They discussed opportunities provided by African DIHs, early-stage start-ups, fundraising, sustainability, and barriers to African and European DIHs having to undergo when accessing the market. However, except for the conversations sparked among the participants, the roundtables provided helpful advice, coming from a varied pool of experts, including CEOs, COOs, program managers, and factors in start-up companies, among others. Examples of such enterprises have been **Dogpatch Labs**, **SeerBit**, **Tunga**, **RDI Hub**, **the Republic of Work**, **Portershed**, **RDI Hub**, **Business Lab Uganda**, **Africa Advisors GmbH**, and **Truvalu**.

AfriConEU met online with its ICT-58 family projects, **DIGILOGIC** & **HUBiquitous**, on Wednesday, 29th of September 2021. The meeting was organized by the Coordinator of AfriConEU, **INOVA+** and moderated by **Youthmakers Hub** and resulted in outstanding outcomes. More particularly, all three projects were presented, showcasing their progress, the short-term goals set for the future, and the projects' aspirations. Moving forward, it has been decided that ICT-58 projects will further consolidate their partnership, repeating such meetings, with the next one coming up in 2022. You can find more about what has been discussed during the meeting [here](#).



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In addition, AfriConEU's website is continuously updated with valuable tools and content. The first new addition is the **Training Resources** section. One can find high-quality online courses, webinars, and educational materials, related to the project's content. A separate section entitled **Job Opportunities** is dedicated to vacancies for experts interested in finding a job. Moreover, individuals interested in partaking in AfriConEU Online Community, gaining access to various opportunities for training and funding, can easily do so by completing a form [here](#). Yet, entities can also join, adding to the platform by offering jobs or attracting participants for their seminars by conducting a similar form [here](#). During the last months, the AfriConEU project's work has gained even more recognition from several news websites, including **Tech Nova**, which is a digital platform that covers the Ghanaian and Africa technology ecosystem, **Ameyaw Debrah**, which is a news website in Ghana, and **startup.gr**, which is a news website related to entrepreneurship and business in Greece among others. You can find out more [here](#).

You can follow the future developments of AfriConEU on its **Website** or simply by subscribing to the **Newsletter**. Exciting content and events will track. Suppose you are a Digital Innovation Hub, an Entrepreneur, an Investor, an Institution in the field of digital skills, or any other Stakeholder interested in taking part at some stage of the project. In that case, you can **contact** our team at [africoneu@inova.business](mailto:africoneu@inova.business).

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