Building a Common EU-Africa Innovation Ecosystem

AfriConEU

Big Impact Days

26th November 2021

AfriConEU in a Nutshell

AfriConEU

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

📅 February 2021 – January 2024

Aim

The AfriConEU project aspires to create the first Trans-Continental Networking Academy to support African and European DigitaI Innovation Hubs in capacity building, knowledge sharing, networking, collaboration, joint projects, and venture development.

What are DIH

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) are support organizations that make businesses more competitive by speeding up the development and uptake of digital innovations.
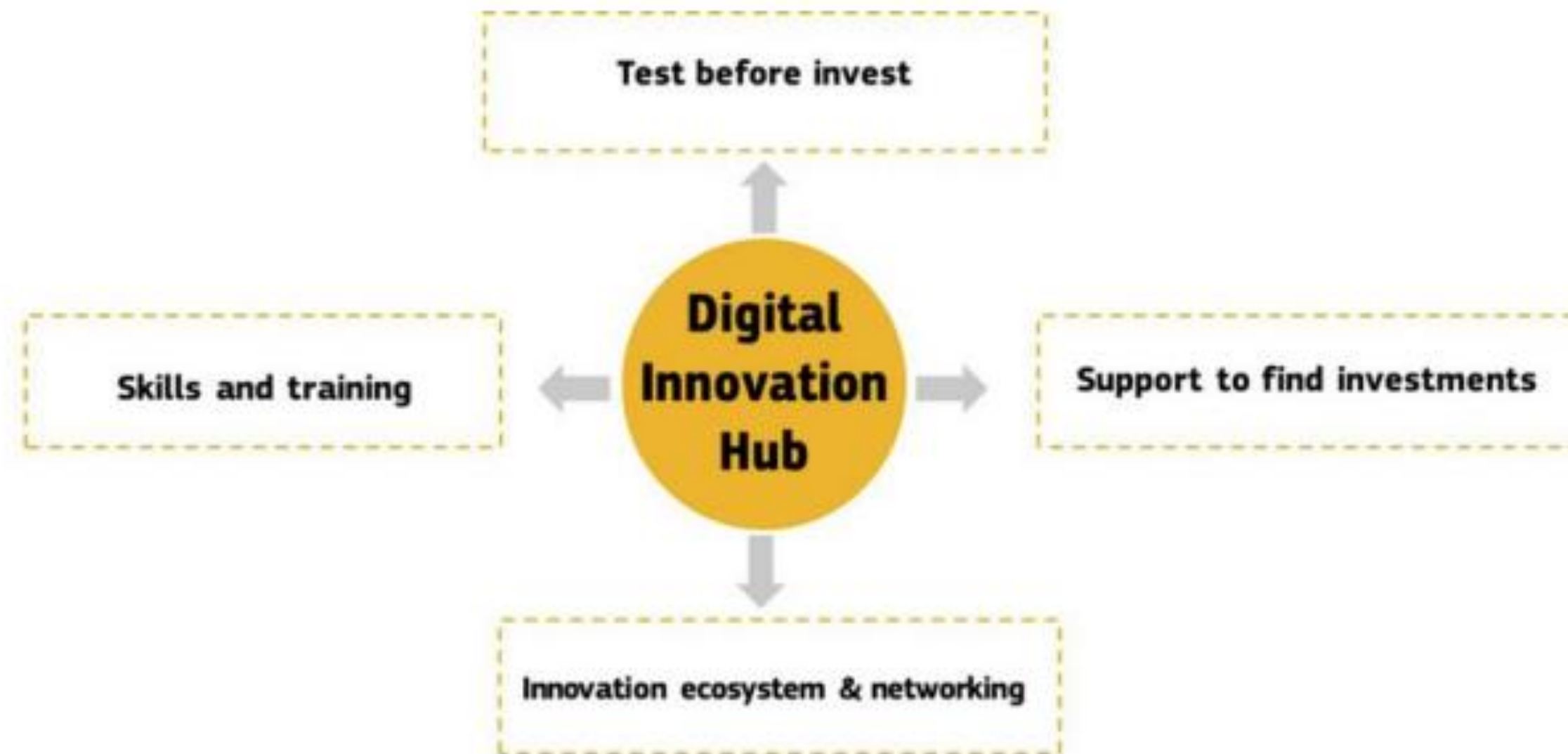
Consortium

Locations

INOVA+ Innovation Services S.A. (INOVA+) – Portugal

INOVA+ is a Portuguese company specialised in supporting the growth of organisations through innovation, international cooperation and digital transformation. INOVA+ recognises that international cooperation is key to differentiation and growth. Operating in numerous fields, we develop innovative initiatives collaborating with an extensive network of partners in several countries.

INOVA+ is the project coordinator.

Emerging Communities Africa (ECA) – Nigeria

Emerging Communities Africa is a non-profit organization founded in 2017 with a focus on catalyzing technology development in emerging communities across Africa. ECA's vision is to establish and support innovation ecosystems within underserved communities across Africa by growing enterprise and human capital with access to critical soft skills, infrastructure, and funding to catalyze the growth.

ECA is a key partner for implementing the project in Nigeria and ensuring the active involvement of Nigerian ecosystem builders and entrepreneurs in the project activities.

Youthmakers Hub (YMH) – Greece

Youthmakers Hub is a Civil Society Organization (CSO) from Greece with the vision to make young people be the change they want to see in the world and the mission to empower and equip them with the necessary tools and skills for the future.

Youthmakers Hub is responsible for designing the project's dissemination and communication strategy, channels and tools, and coordinating the project's dissemination activities as a whole.

ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTO BUSINESS SCHOOL (PBS) – Portugal

Porto Business School (PBS) is the business school of the University of Porto, Portugal, focused on executive education (MBAs, executive masters, and short programmes), custom programmes, acceleration programmes, applied research, consultancy, and funded projects.

PBS coordinates the design and development of the AfriConEU Academy programmes and tools due to the excellent knowledge of the organization in education and learning design and the experience it brings in supporting the establishment of the digital innovation hub in Porto.

OUTBOX (U) LIMITED – Outbox – Uganda

Outbox is an innovation and entrepreneurship support organization that brings together the infrastructure, people, knowledge, and capital that supports entrepreneurs through the growth of inclusive communities that foster talent and create value where it operates.

Outbox Limited is a key partner for implementing the project in Uganda and ensuring the active involvement of Ugandan ecosystem builders and entrepreneurs in the project activities.

DPIXEL SRL (dpixel) – Italy

dpixel S.r.l. is an Italian innovation company specialized in supporting the growth of Startups and the innovation processes of companies and institutions and promoter of Startup Africa Roadtrip, a nonprofit initiative to connect and cross-fertilize African Startup ecosystems with the Italian and European ones.

dpixel coordinates the International Brokerage Event and Activity and the Final Capitalisation and Celebration Event, given its prior experience with Startup Africa Road Trip and its access to DIHs, Investor Networks, and Startups.

STIMMULI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (Stimmuli) – Greece

Stimmuli is a non-profit, mission-driven organization, envisioning to inspire future education, social innovation and ignite positive change in society. To achieve its mission, the organization designs and implements educational and capacity-building projects that cultivate entrepreneurial mind-sets, innovative attitudes, and nudge behavioral shifts for more sustainable communities.

Stimmuli is responsible for designing the impact assessment methodology of the project; Monitor, track and evaluate all the AfriConEU Academy activities based on specific impact indicators for all the stakeholders involved, so as to produce solid and impartial evidence about the effectiveness and impact of the AfriConEU Networking Academy.

ITC – INOVACIJSKO TEHNOLOSKI GROZD MURSKA SOBOTA (ITC) – Slovenia

ITC – Innovation Technology Cluster Murska Sobota (ITC) is a non-profit Business Support Organization located in the North-Eastern part of Slovenia, with a vision to foster cross-sectoral innovation and implementation of novel technologies and ICT in rural-based sectors.

ITC is responsible for the research activities exploring existing DIHs capacity building programmes in Europe and Africa and to engage European DIHs and relevant stakeholders in the project's structures and activities.

Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology – Buni Innovation Hub – Tanzania

Buni is an Innovation hub that fosters innovation and technology entrepreneurship through capacity building and youth development programmes. Buni is an entity under the Commission for Science and Technology in Tanzania (COSTECH) under the centre of development and technology transfer directory. Buni's goal is to physique impactful Technology, Entrepreneurship and Innovation enablers and leaders (especially in Innovation Spaces) who will support and lead Innovators/Startups to Innovate and solve challenges which are facing local communities. Buni is also focusing on identifying and supporting STARTUPS/Innovators at a very early stage.

Buni Innovation Hub is a key partner for implementing the project in Tanzania and ensuring the active involvement of Tanzanian ecosystem builders and entrepreneurs in the project activities.

Africa Technology Business Network – ATBN – United Kingdom

ATBN is a UK-based social enterprise working to connect and empower innovators, businesses, and investors to harness technology for sustainable development in Africa. Its mission is to build a more inclusive, skilled, and globally connected African tech ecosystem.

ATBN is responsible for coordinating the local context and needs analysis, designing the AfriConEU Academy programmes, and contributing to webinars and masterclasses delivery with a special focus on supporting DIHs towards best serving women in tech.

Hapa Foundation – Hapa Space- Ghana

Hapa Space Innovation hub is a tech and collaborative space that seeks to provide entrepreneurial, employability, and business support services for the youth to build successful and sustainable businesses for economic development and impact with emphasis on technology.

Hapa Space is a key partner for implementing the project in Ghana and ensuring the active involvement of Ghanaian ecosystem builders and entrepreneurs in the project activities.
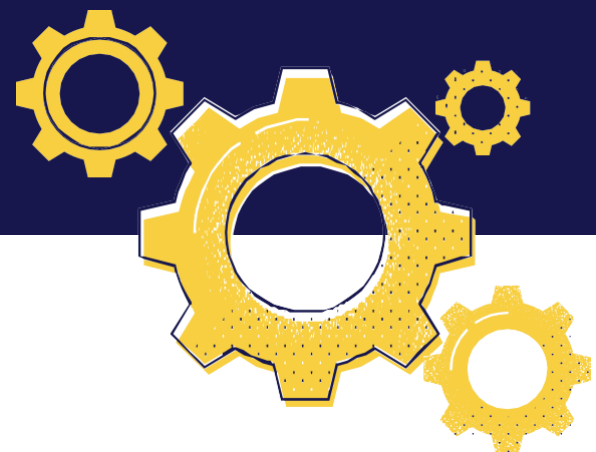
General Objectives
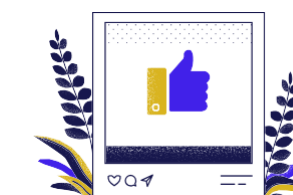
The main objective of the project is to develop the first Networking Academy between African and European DIHs with the aim to:
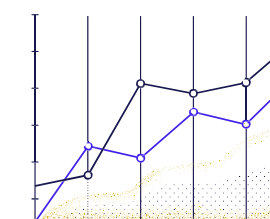
1 Facilitate knowledge and experience sharing,

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.

Specific Objectives

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5 To organise and deliver capacity building programmes, 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.

6 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.
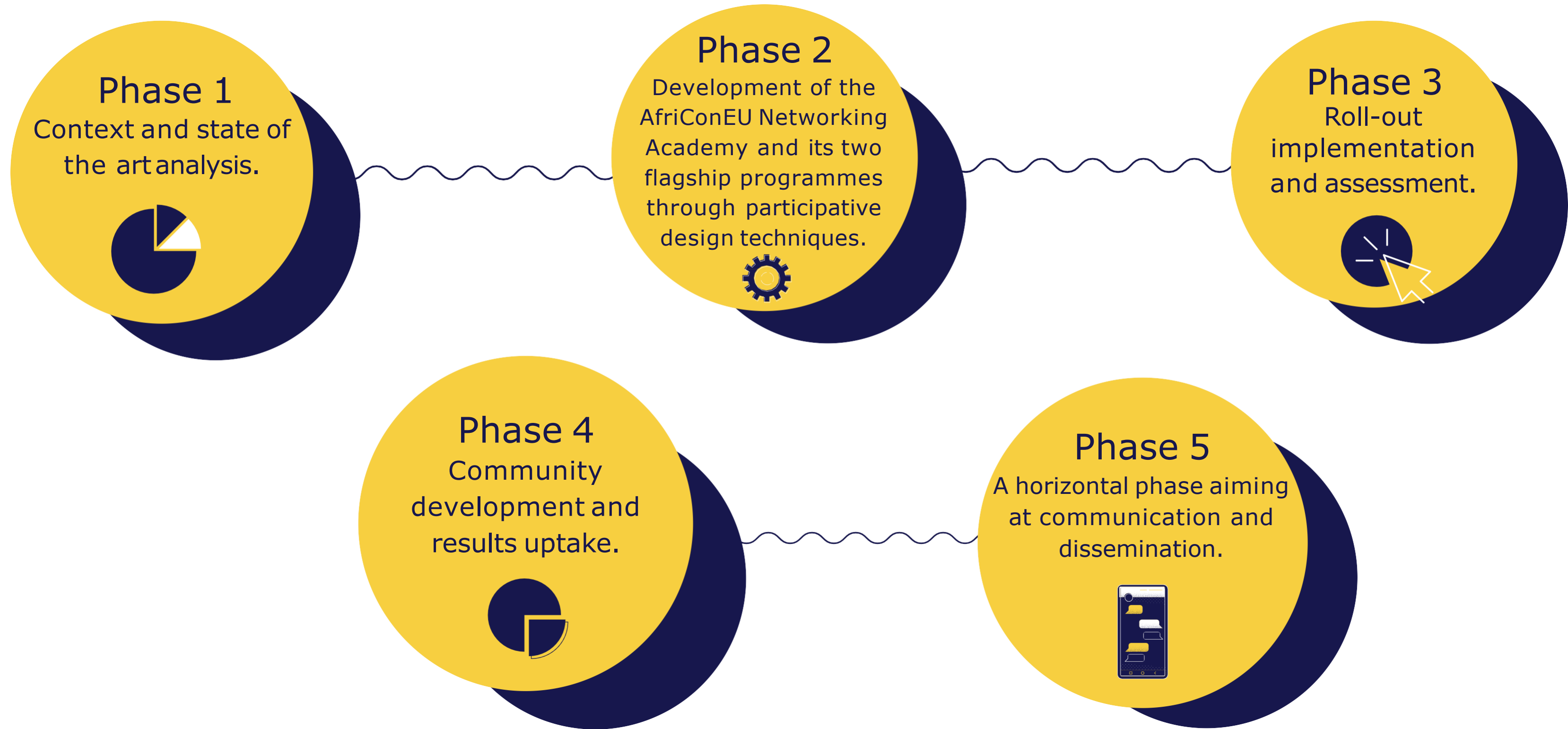
7 To foster the diffusion and uptake of the AfriConEU Academy within and beyond the targeted countries, contributing thus to the realisation of the "AU-EU digital economy partnership."

8 To deliver capacity building and knowledge sharing through AfriConEU Academy about the contribution of DIHs to combat the coronavirus outbreak in Europe and Africa.

Phases

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.

Networking Academy
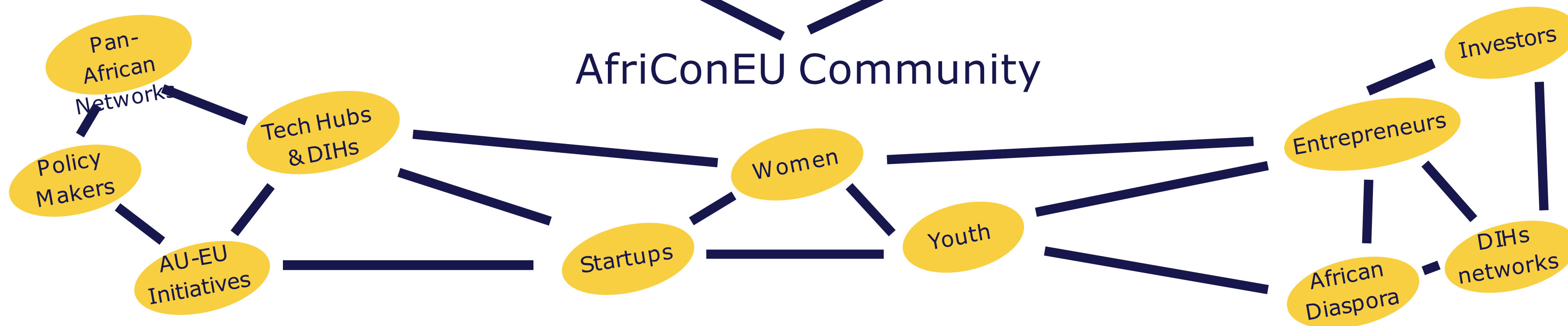
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2 Flagship Progammes

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.

3 Business & investment opportunities in the African market.

AfriConEU Community

Pan-African Networks

Policy Makers

Tech Hubs & DIHs

AU-EU Initiatives

Startups

Women

Youth

Entrepreneurs

Investors

African Diaspora

DIHs networks

DIHs Capacity Building

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.

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Transcontinental Partnership Development

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

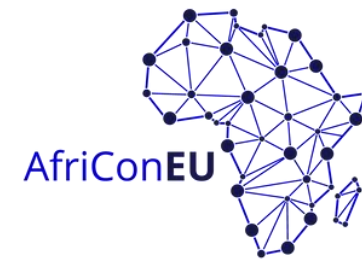200 Attendees and more than 10 connections for Strategic Partnerships made during the Brokerage event.

 # 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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KPIs

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 # 1000 Stakeholders

More than 1000 Innovation Stakeholders reached through the Engagement Activities.

 # 300 DHIs &Stakeholders

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

 # 200 DHIs

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

 # 3000 Members

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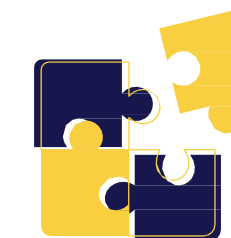
 # 200 Connections

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

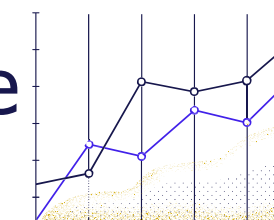# Expected Impact

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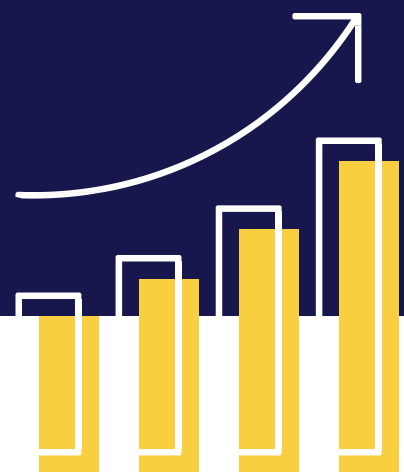
1 Support DIHs in Africa through capacity building and new partnership development services.

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

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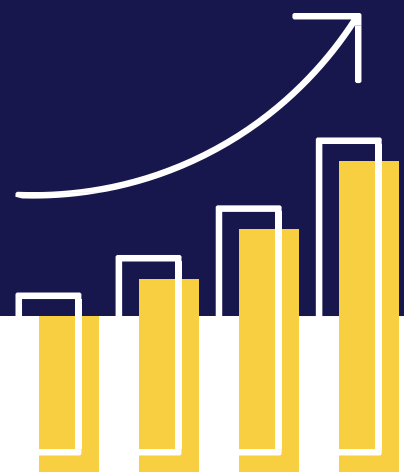
5 Produce concrete evidence and tools for the sustainable uptake of the project's results beyond the project's completion.

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.

WP2: Context and state of the art analysis

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Activities and Deliverables

- **T2.1 Local context and needs analysis**
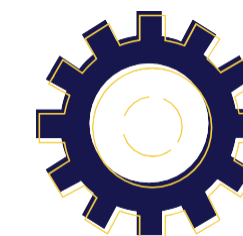 – D2.1 State of play in African DIHs Report: The case of Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania **(ATBN)**

- **T2.2 Exploration of existing initiatives and good practices for supporting DIHs**
  – D.2.2 Online database with DIHs Capacity Building programmes **(ITC)**
  – D2.3 Lessons from existing initiatives and good practices for enforcing DIHs capacities **(ITC)**

- **T2.3 Challenges and opportunities for EU-Africa partnership building**
  – D2.4 Challenges and opportunities for trans-continental collaboration **(Outbox)**

African DIHs: local context and needs analysis (T2.1)

- Interviews : **60/60** completed

Interviewed	Uganda	Ghana	Tanzania	Nigeria	Total
Hubs	8	6	4	8	26
Ecosystem Enablers	4	8	1	4	17
Startups	2	1	3	2	8
Investors	1	2	3	3	9
Total	**15**	**17**	**11**	**17**	**60**

- Roundtables : **4/4 completed**

Ghana: 28th April 2021 – 33 participants

Nigeria: 19th May 2021 – 41 participants

Uganda : *10th June 2021 – 63* participants

Tanzania: *23rd June 2021 – 28* participants

Total participants : 165
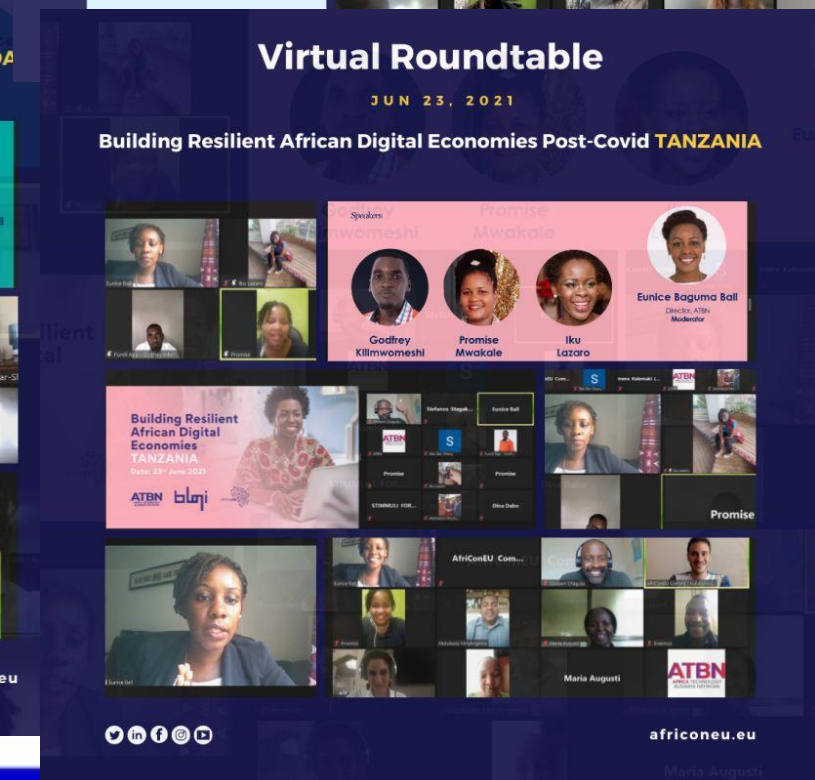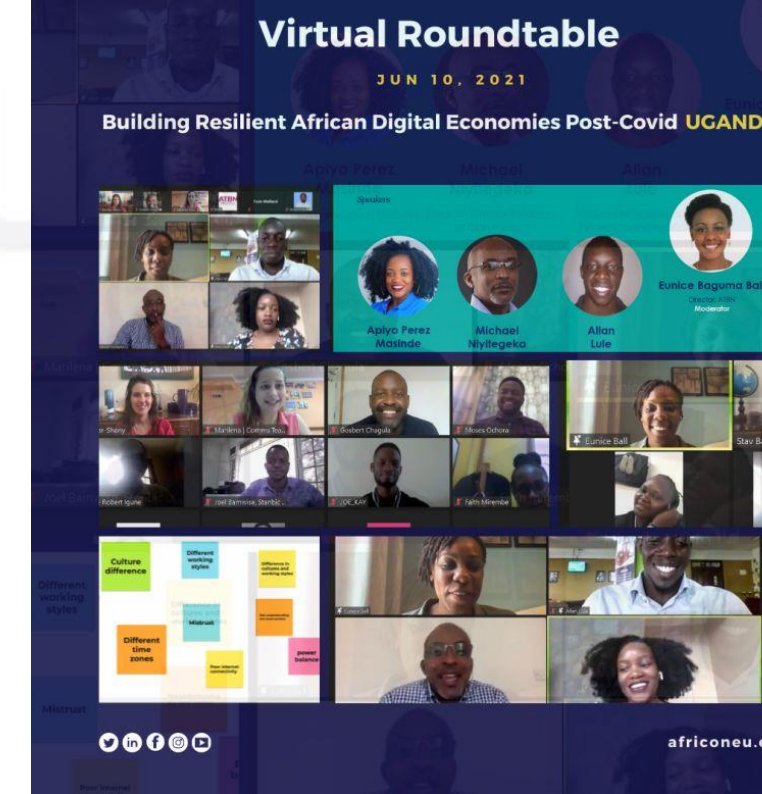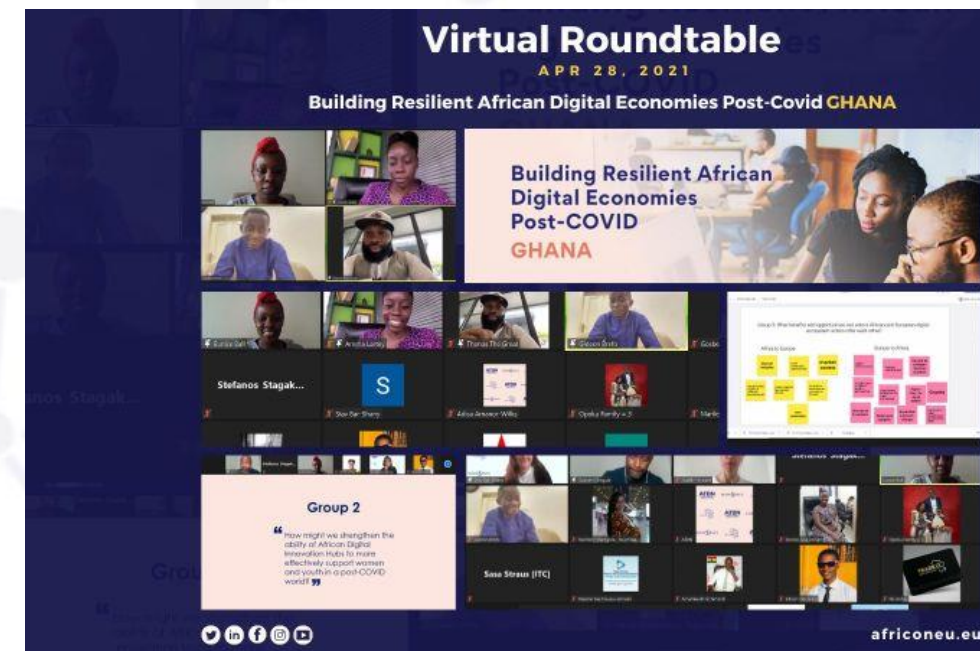
- **Ecosystem Surveys** (completed)– **266 total responses**

  Ghana – 51 responses

  Nigeria – 69 responses

  Uganda – 124 responses

  Tanzania **–** 22 responses

- **DIH capacity needs survey** (targeted at Hub leaders and managers) – 32 responses

Findings

The role of African Digital Innovation Hubs

Community /Networks

Infrastructure

Access to investment

Business development training and support (incubation/acceleration)

Talent/Human capital/Skills development

Policy advocacy
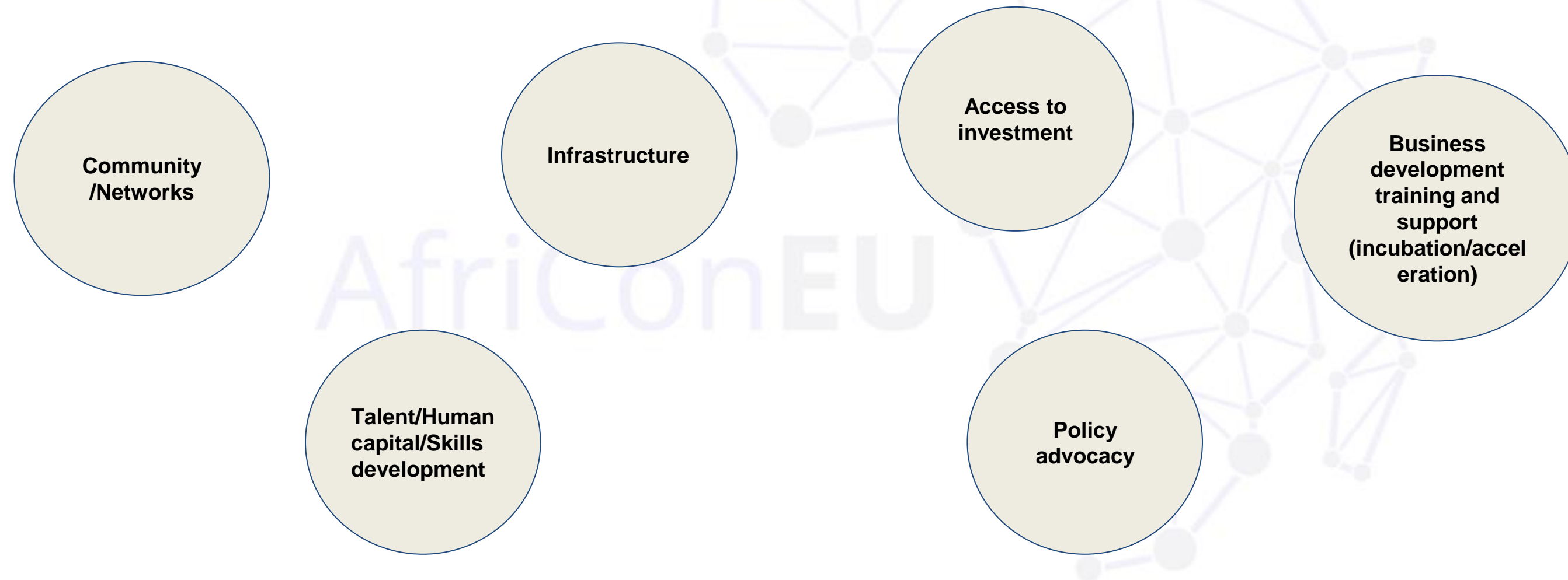
Findings

Challenges faced by African DIHs

- Short term funding affects ability to create long term impact e.g building a consistent pipeline of startups and talent
- Lack of core funding as funding is mainly programme focused
- Lack of specialisation makes them ineffective
- Vulnerable to shifts in focus by funders e.g post Covid
- Policy advocacy challenges e.g could be seen as having political affiliation
- Competition among hubs affecting joint efforts and collaboration

Findings

Capacity needs of African DIHs

- Support to build more diversified and sustainable revenue streams

- Core funding with long-term view

- Support from international partners in advocating and lobbying Government

- Support structures to enable joint initiatives and collaboration between hubs

- Build capacity to intermediate investment into startups e.g taking equity, investing in funds

- Increased access to grant opportunities, grant writing expertise

- Impact evaluation frameworks and capacity to enable longer term monitoring of impact beyond individual programmes

Findings

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Existing access to EU-Africa networks

Nigeria: Involvement in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities

16%

- Yes
- No

84%
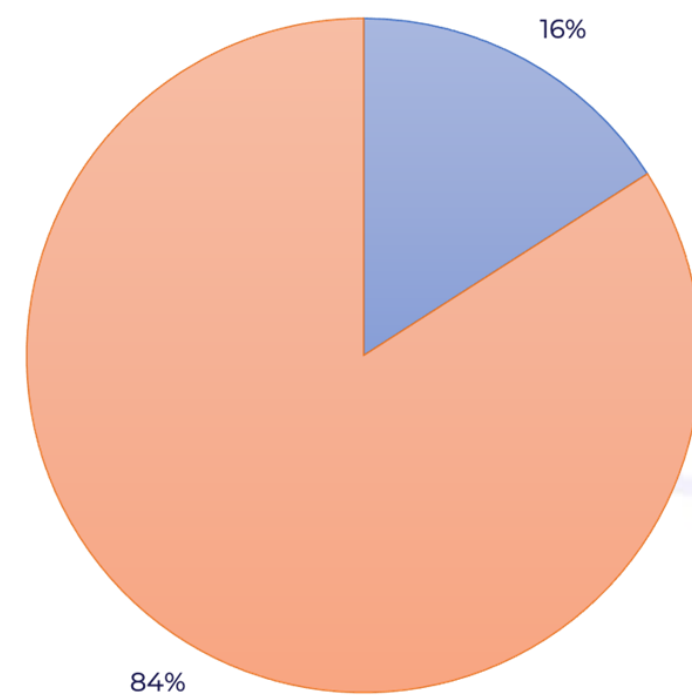
Ghana: Involvement in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities

31%

- Yes
- No

69%

Findings

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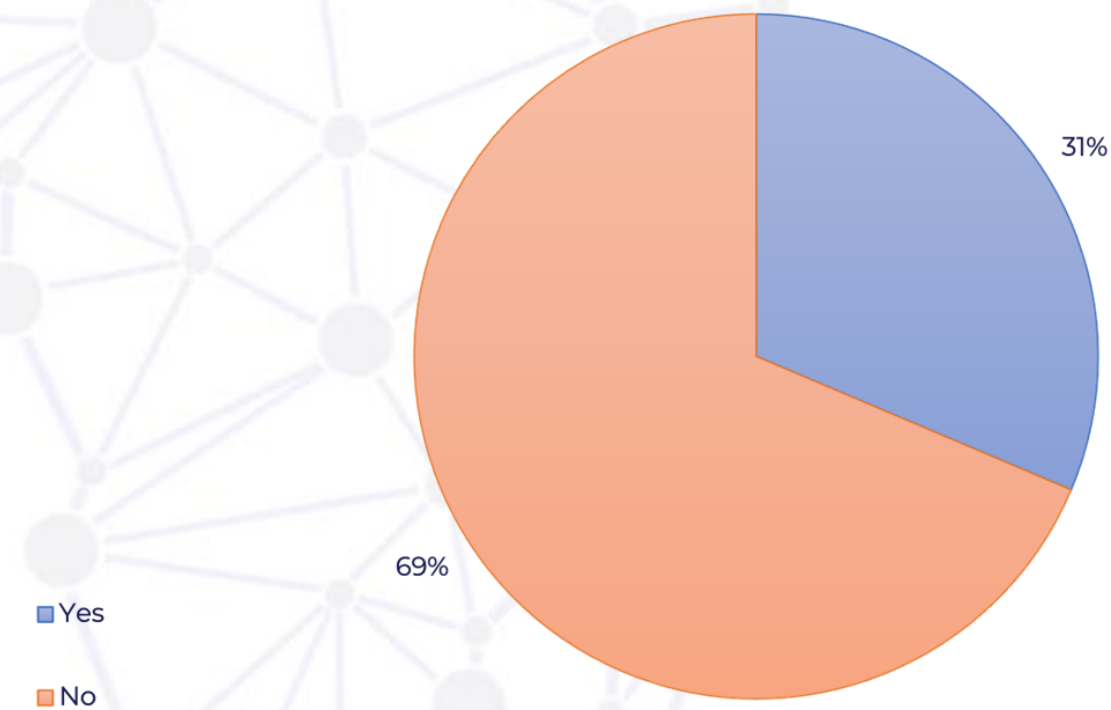
Interests/motivation for EU-Africa networking

Nigeria: Biggest interest for participating in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities

- Finding new market opportunities
- Knowledge exchange
- Sourcing talent/expertise
- Gaining international exposure
- Sourcing for funding
- Accessing technology solutions
- Other

1%
16%
16%
25%
14%
8%
20%

Ghana: Biggest interest for participating in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities

- Finding new market opportunities
- Knowledge exchange
- Sourcing talent/expertise
- Gaining international exposure
- Sourcing for funding
- Accessing technology solutions
- Other

12%
1%
21%
14%
23%
17%
12%
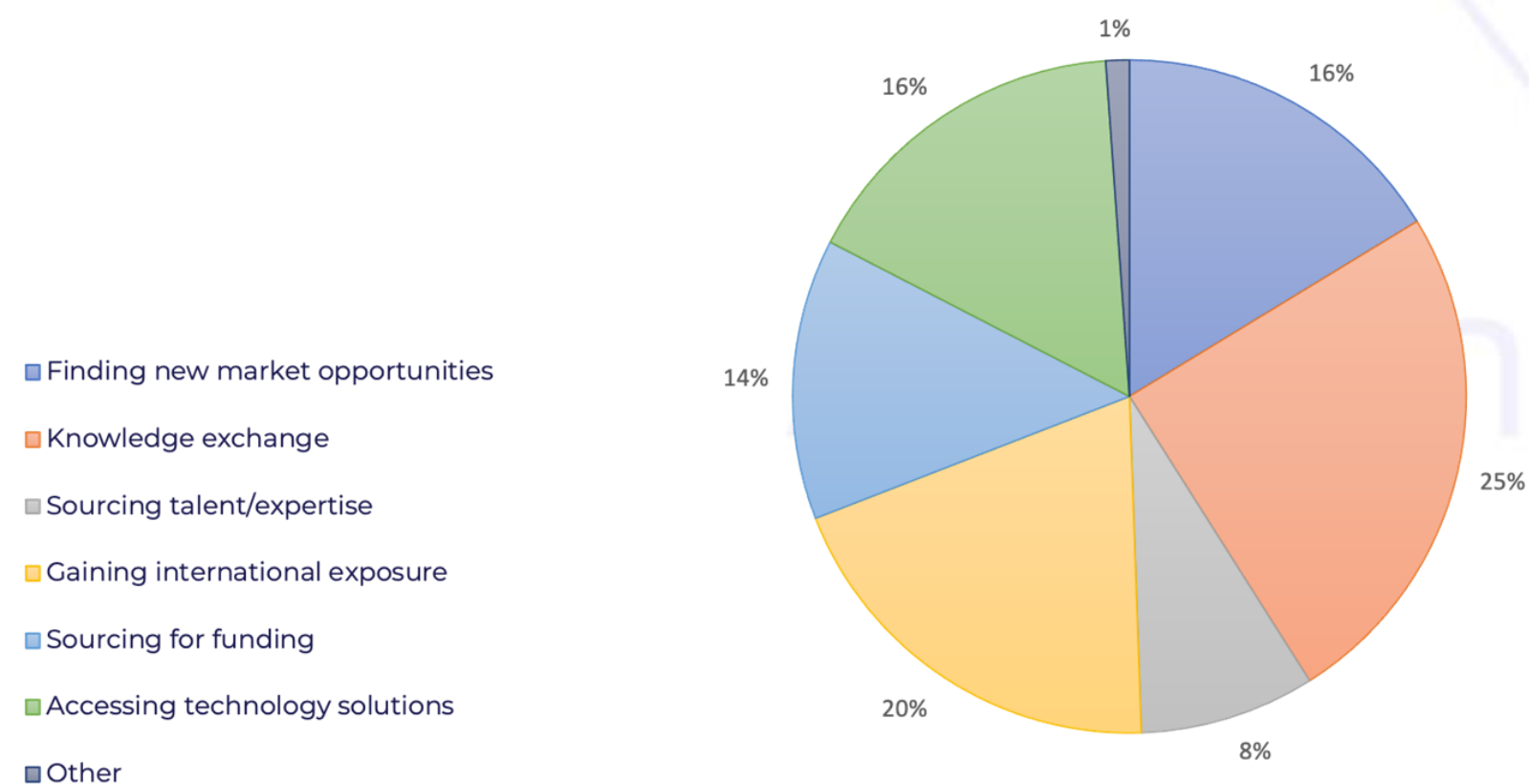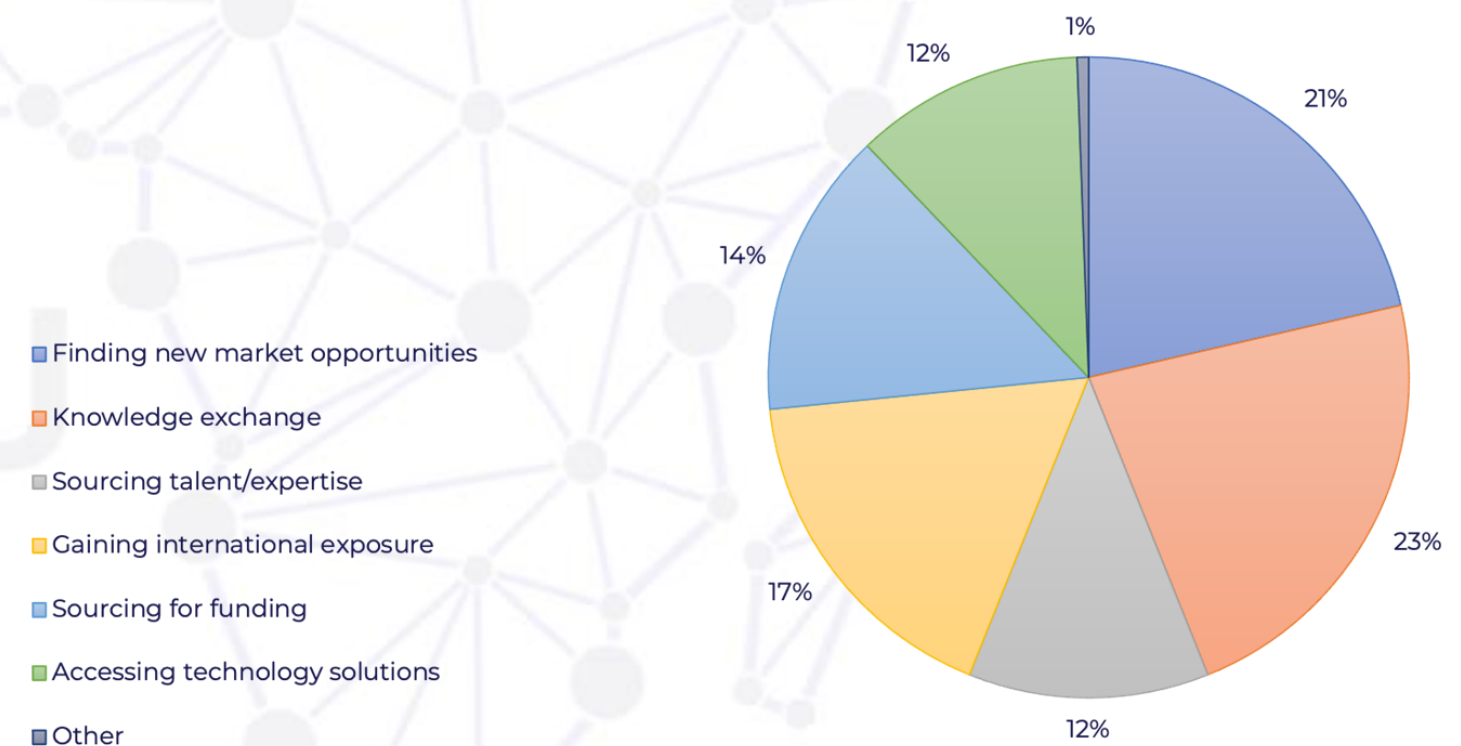
Findings

EU-Africa collaboration opportunities and challenges

What benefits and opportunities can actors African and European digital ecosystem actors offer each other?

Africa to Europe

Market insights

Local investment opportunities

market access

Opportunities to pilot in different environments

Human capital (e.g remote teams)

Innovative Ideas that do not exist in Europe

raw materials

Europe to Africa

Digital Infrastructure

Funding opportunities

Access to a larger 'paying' market

Training (new models of tech) & partnerships

Cloud-based application for rapid prototyping

Fairer 'Pay' for local talent

Grants

Access to investors

Technical support

Expertise e.g tech, design

Pay for tech talent development similar to Fifa rules

Findings

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EU-Africa collaboration opportunities and challenges

Group 3: What are some of the barriers to effective partnership and collaboration between Europe and African digital ecosystems?

cultural differences

Huge fragmented African market with different laws.

Lack of consolidated African market and company data

Unavailability of funds for startups

Mindset/perceptions of Africa

Travel barriers (cost, visas)

The principles of demand and supply will always apply

Different working style

Lack of effective communication

infrastructure

Government policies

Lack of trust
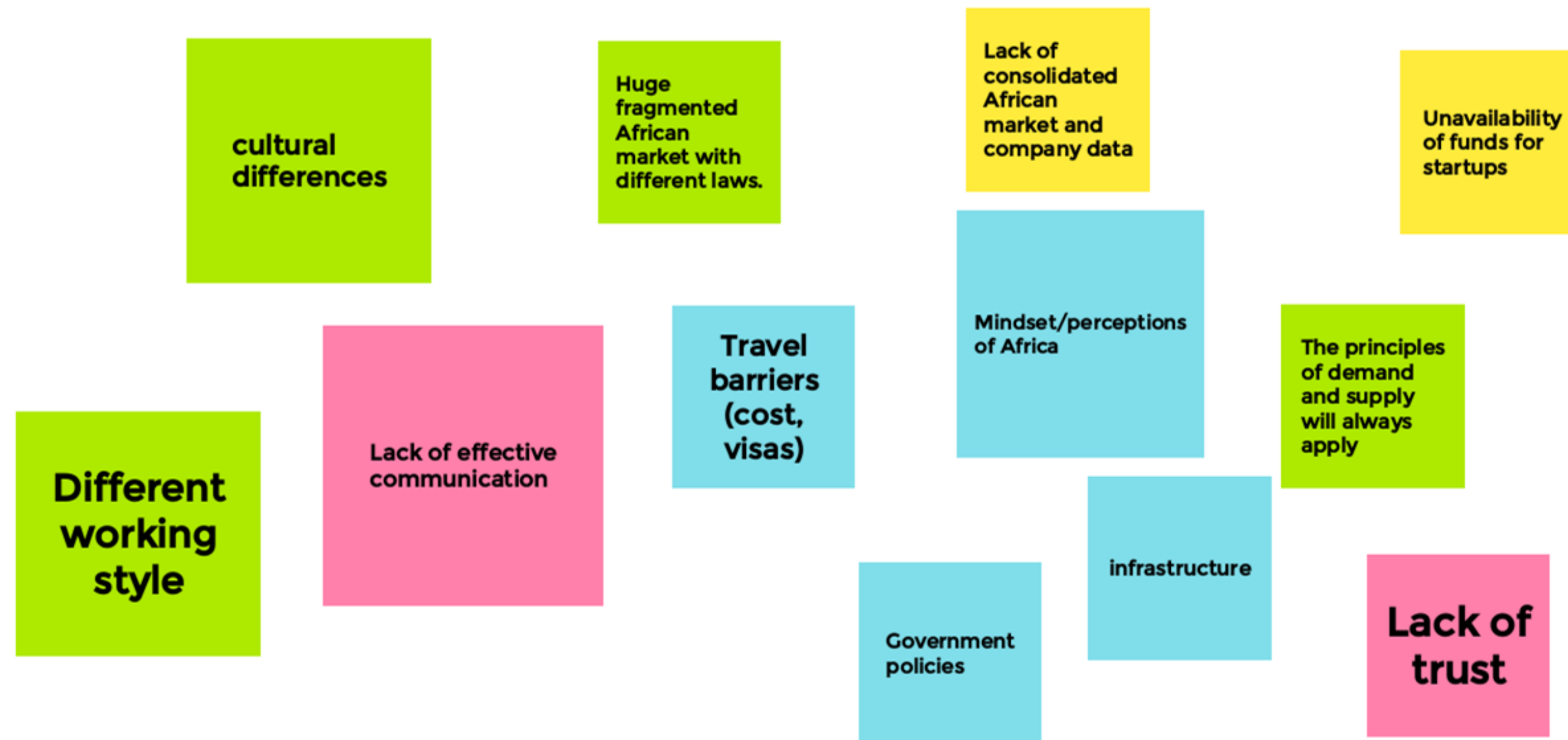
Findings

EU-Africa collaboration opportunities and challenges

How can the barriers to effective partnership between EU and Africa digital ecosystems be addressed?

- Cultural exchange workshops
- Stakeholder meetings/seminars
- African digital markets data base (company information, policies etc)
- Implementation of common currency like the proposed ECO
- Implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area(AfCFTA)
- Development of a common strategy based on needs from both AU and EU
- Development of a common strategy that is based on actual needs from both sides
- African digital market info database
- startups founded jointly by a local African and a diaspora African
- Improve travel e.g reduce visa regulations e.g tech talent/business visa

Recommendations

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African DIH Challenges	Main Recommendations
• Current funding approaches limit the impact of hubs.	• New funding approaches are needed to support DIHs more effectively.
• Many hubs lack sustainable business models	• There is a need to provide hubs with funding and expertise to develop sustainability models.
• Hubs face capacity and expertise gaps in key areas of business development, fundraising investment facilitation and gender-responsive programme design.	• There is a need to build hubs capacity around business development, investment facilitation, fundraising and developing gender-responsive programmes.
• Hubs face challenges in building effective ecosystem partnerships with corporates, governments, investors and fellow hubs.	• Support and facilitate partnerships between hubs and diverse actors across the ecosystem.

Recommendations

Designing effective capacity building programmes for African DIHs

In light of the various roles and challenges of African DIHs and the time and resource constraints of hub leaders, capacity building programmes should –

- Be co-created together with hub leaders and provide a sense of ownership.
- Focus on clear outcomes and tangible outputs.
- Provide funding and support to enable concrete implementation of recommendations and learning outcomes.
- Be based on peer to peer learning.
- Be delivered face to face interaction when possible.
- Run in short sprints, spread out over a longer period of time.
- Target both hub leaders as well as their teams.

Recommendations

Building effective Europe-Africa DIH partnerships.

Opportunities: Opportunities for exchange exist around market access, knowledge exchange, and human resources and capital.

Barriers: Cultural differences, lack of trust, restrictive policy environment, and gaps in skills, infrastructure and information.

Recommendations:

- Deeply examine and take into consideration power imbalances, trust issues and cultural differences in the design of programme activities. E.g structuring activities to ensure balanced contributions from both sides, incorporating positive storytelling to build confidence and trust and providing opportunities for actors to explore and understand the different cultures and ways of working.

- Generate and aggregate information on market needs and opportunities that are relevant for digital stakeholders in both regions.

- Facilitate networking and knowledge sharing based on clearly defined needs and work towards mutually beneficial goals.

- Advocate and support development of policies focused on enabling Europe-Africa collaboration around digital innovation.

- Take into consideration infrastructure and skills gaps and support actors to navigate these challenges. E.g building cross-sector partnerships with telecommunication services providers and hubs and building partnerships with education institutions to increase access to skills between Europe and Africa.

EU DIH: Exploration of existing initiatives and good practices for supporting DIHs (T2.2)

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Topics

- **DIH supporters, providers, helpers** = organizations (network, project, initiative) focused on strengthening DIHs capacities → helping DIHs

- **DIH services** (based on EC DIHs catalogue) are main topics:

Awareness creation
Ecosystem building, scouting, brokerage, networking
Visioning and Strategy Development for Businesses
Collaborative researches
Concept validation and prototyping
Testing and validation
Pre-competitive series production
Commercial infrastructure
Digital Maturity Assessment
Incubator/accelerator support
Voice of the customer, product consortia
Market intelligence
Access to Funding and Investor Readiness Services
Monitoring
Education and skills development
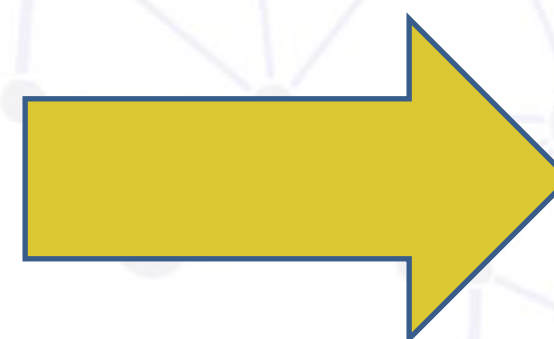
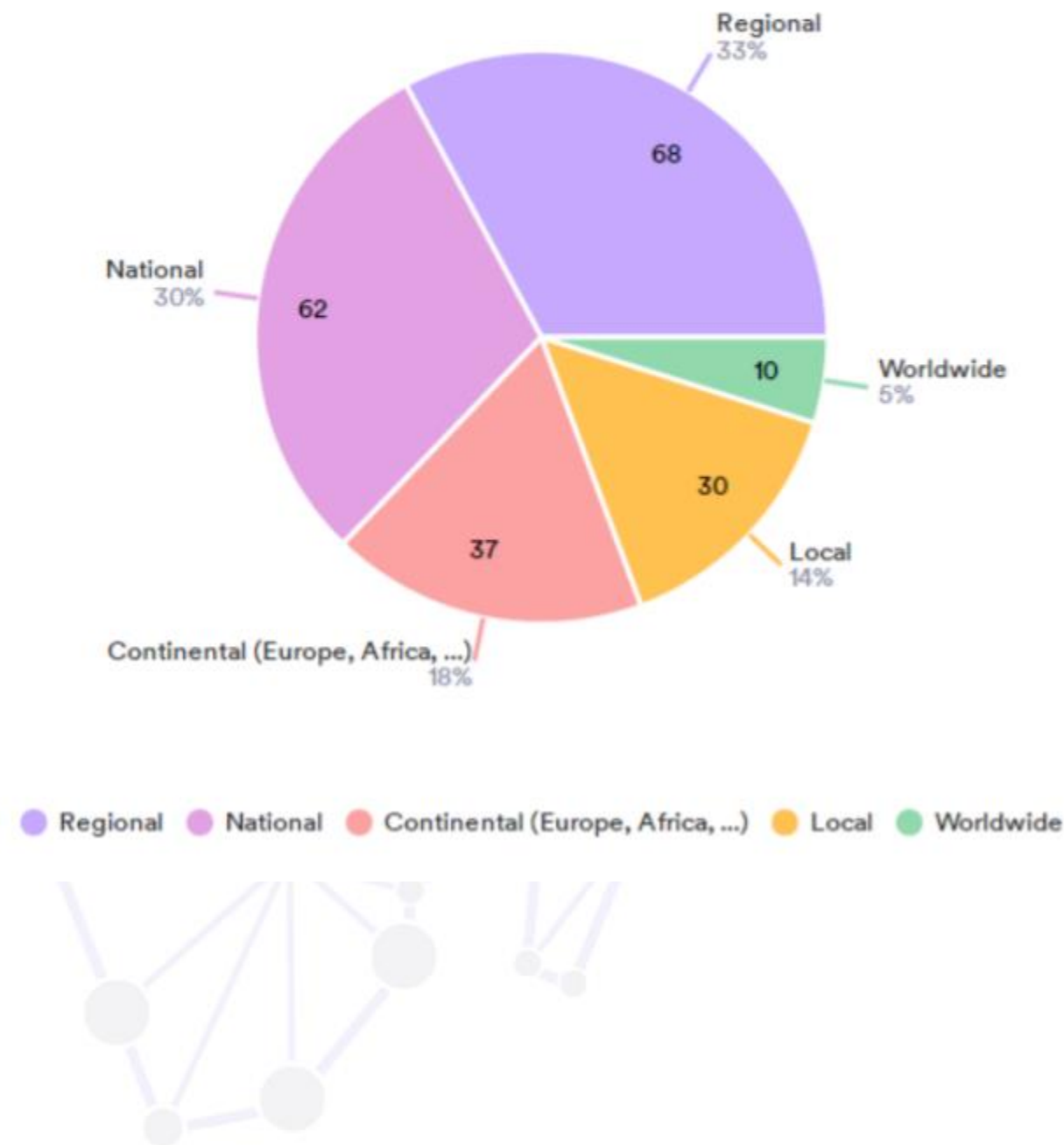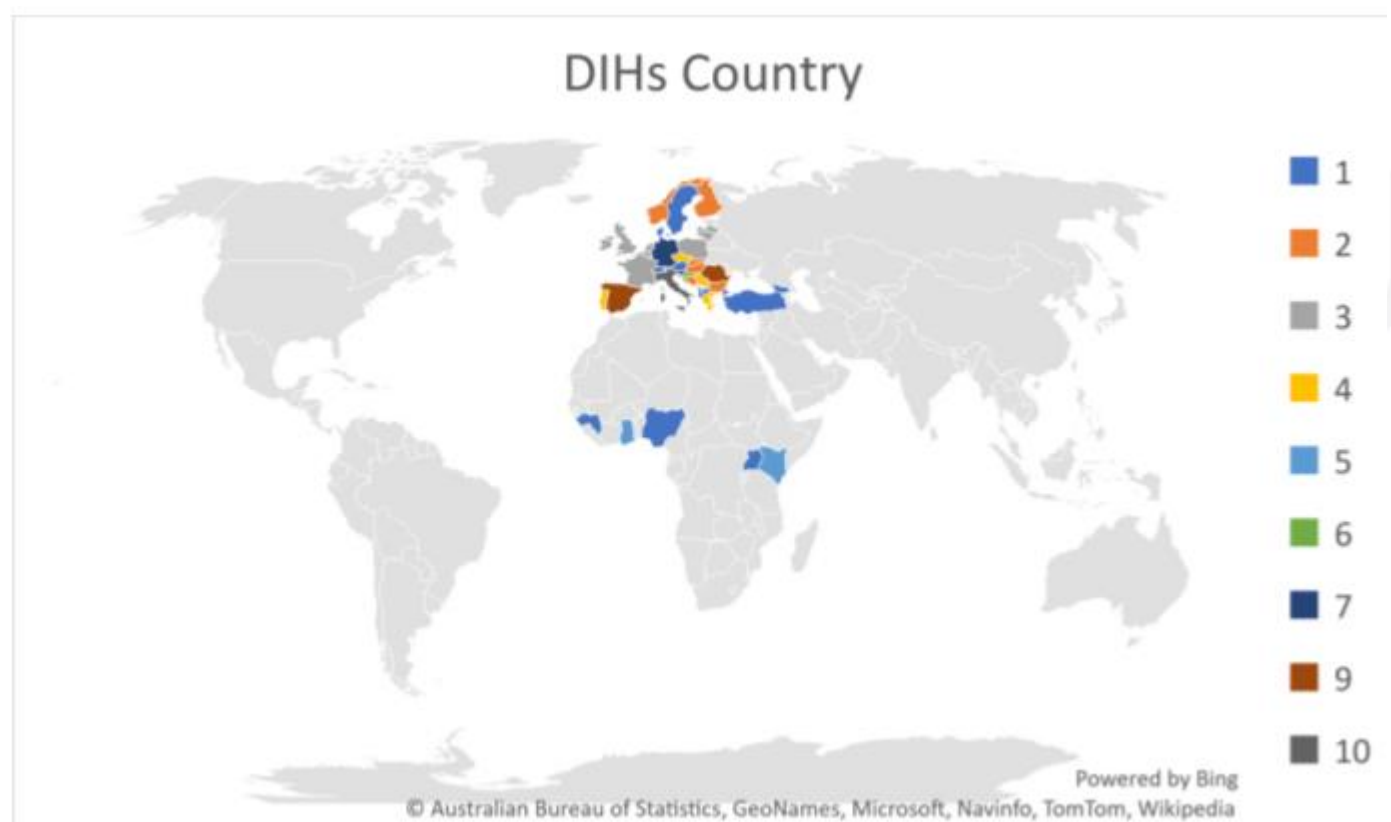| |
|---|
| DIH establishment |
| DIH strategy & business development |
| DIH service portfolio and development |
| DIH expansion & networking |
| DIH skills & knowledge creation |
| DIH communication & awareness creation |
| DIH sector-specific topics |

- **DIH capacity building** = whatever is needed to bring a organization to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, so it may more effectively and efficiently advance its mission into the future → continuous improvement strategy toward the creation of a sustainable and effective organization.

- Started 15. May → Ended : 30. June → findings
- Interviews with 182 organisations, of these 122 DIHs in the first research, 20 DIH helpers in the second and 40 DIHs from Africa in roundtable discussions.
- Main research questions:
  - Topics
  - Training methods
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Outcomes –> measurement of achievement   AIM:
  - Contextual and cultural factors   better understanding of
                                                  existing state of the art
    and   DIHs
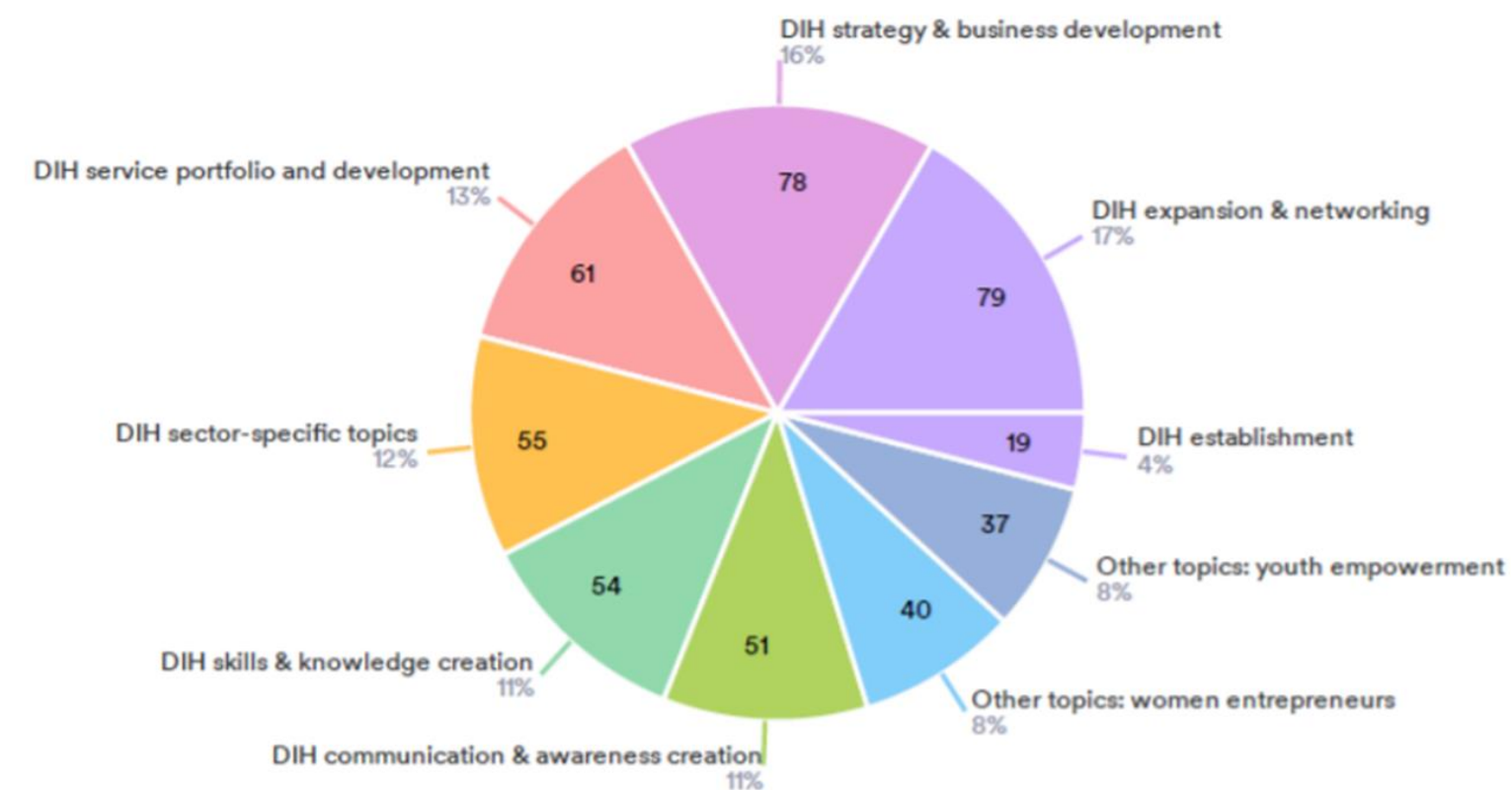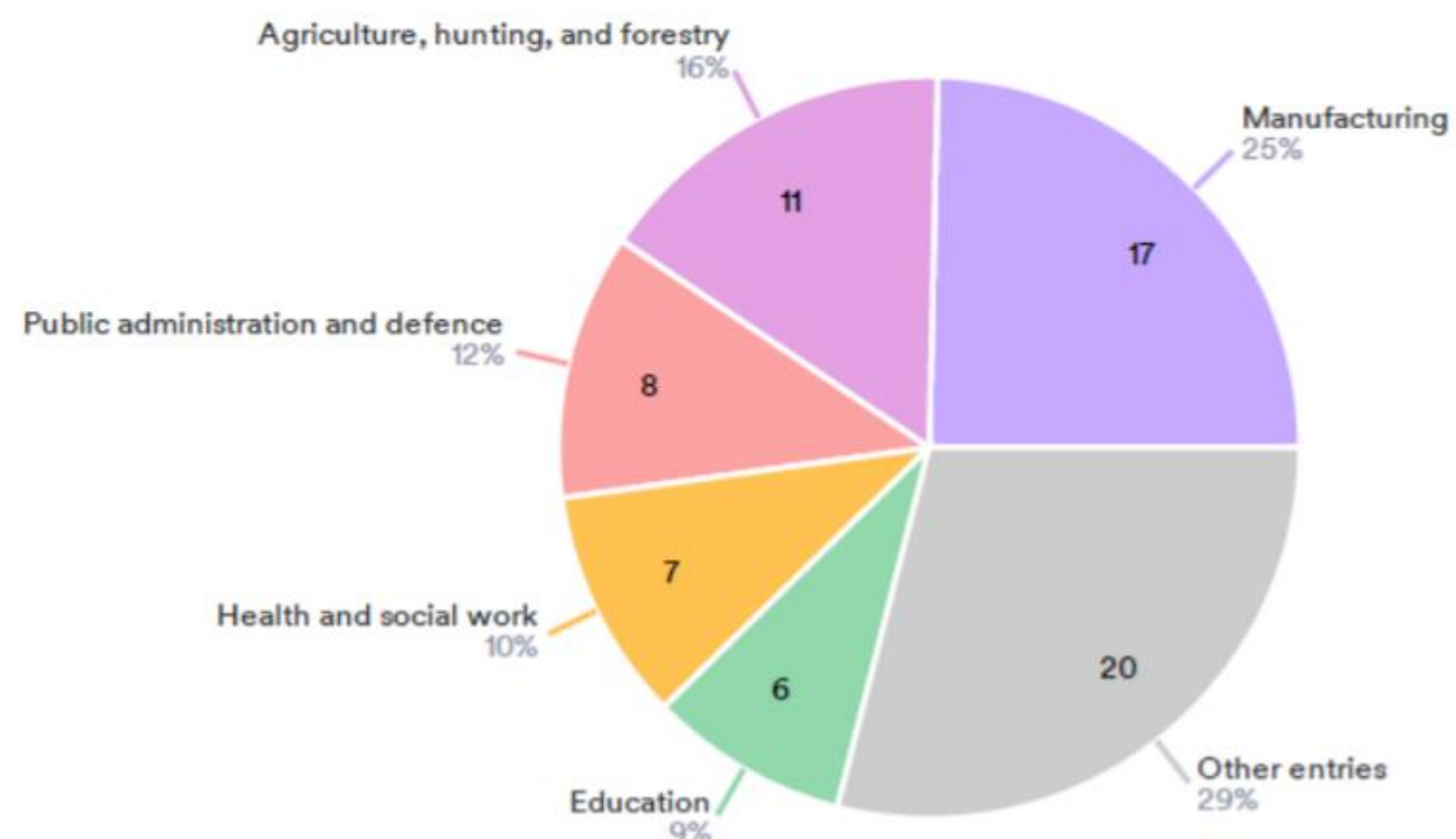   needs

Research results for DIHs

KEY MESSAGE:

112 DIHs participated in the survey, most of them from Europe, others from Africa. The majority of DIHs have a regional reach (33 %). Almost all (81 %) are mature DIH. The majority of DIHs are cross-sectoral (76 %). Almost all DIHs provide ecosystem building, scouting, brokerage, networking, awareness creation, education and skills development, concept validation and prototyping, testing and validation, and collaborative research.

Research results for DIHs
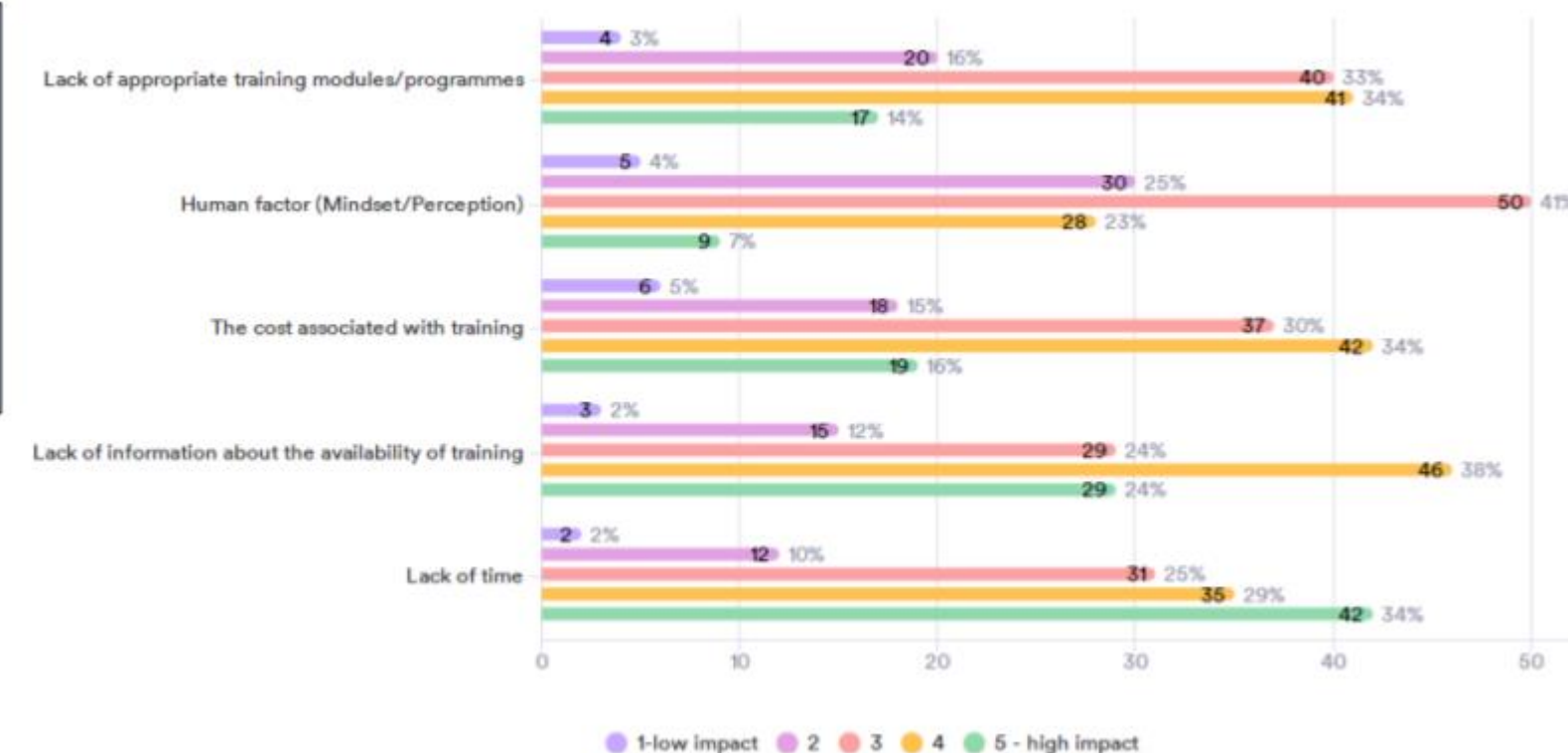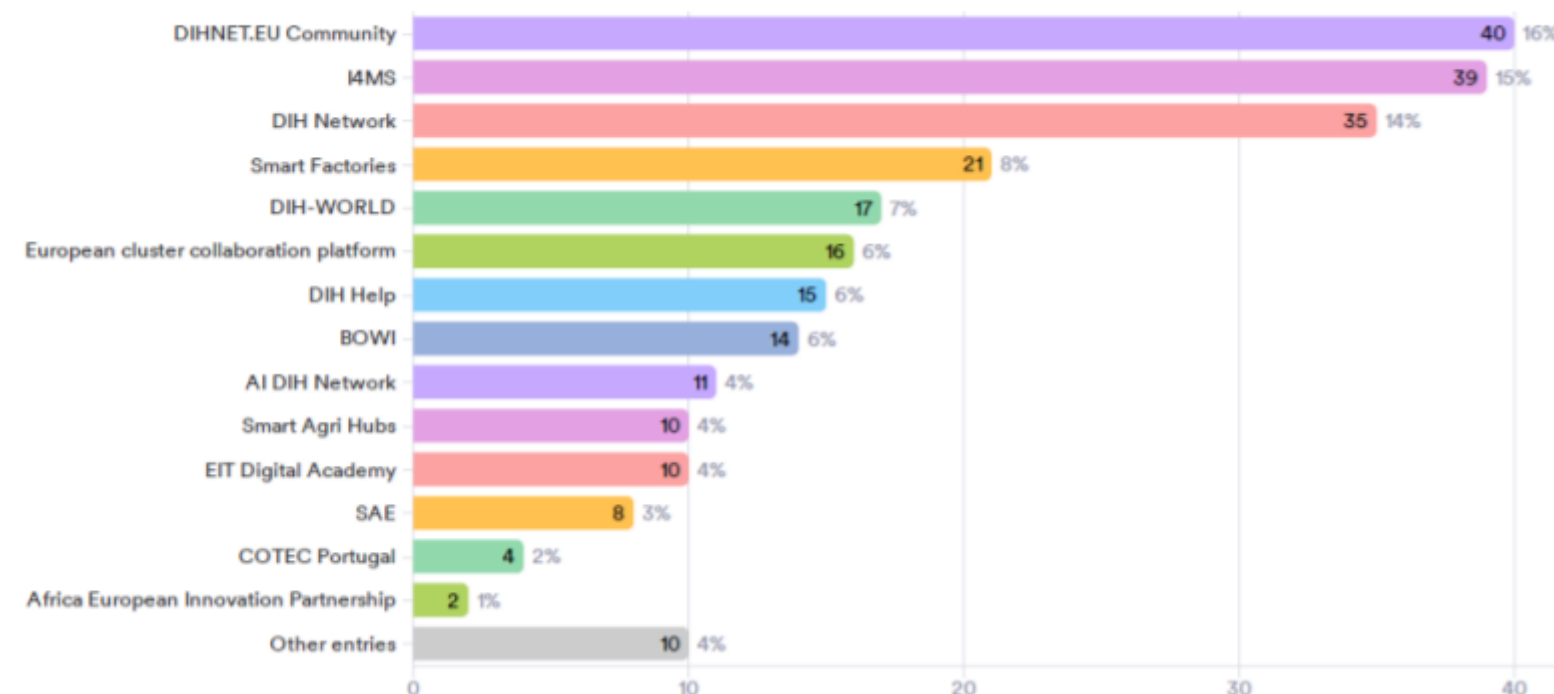
KEY MESSAGE:

One-fifth of all DIH have training on the topic of DIH establishment. DIHs need additional knowledge on DIH expansion & networking (17%), DIH strategy & business development (16%), DIH service portfolio and development (13%), DIH sector-specific topics (12%), DIH skills and knowledge creation (11%) and DIH communication & awareness creation (11%),
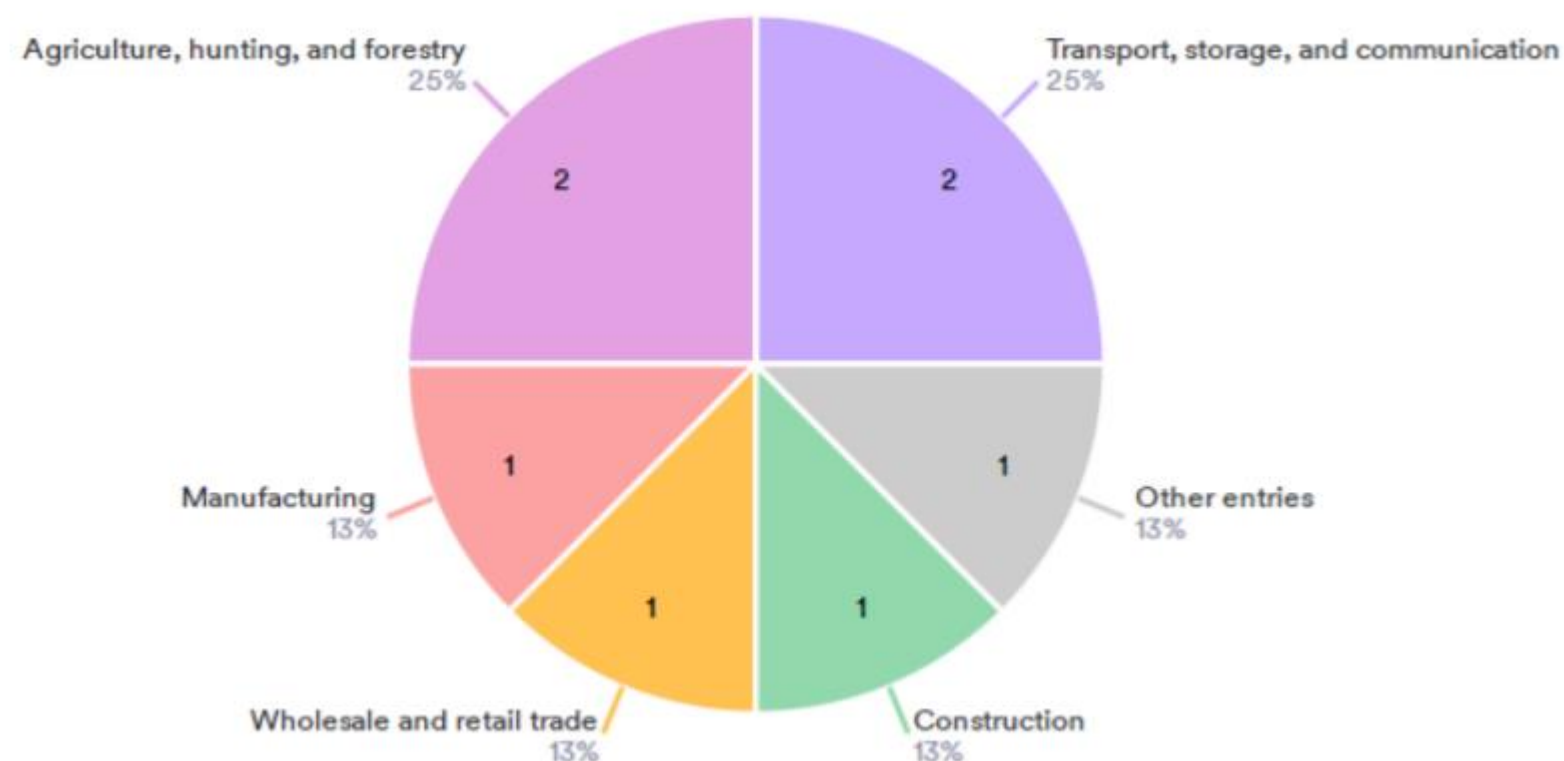
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Research results for DIHs

Lack of appropriate training modules/programmes		
4	3%	
20	16%	
40	33%	
41	34%	
17	14%	

Human factor (Mindset/Perception)		
5	4%	
30	25%	
50	41%	
28	23%	
9	7%	

The cost associated with training		
6	5%	
18	15%	
37	30%	
42	34%	
19	16%	

Lack of information about the availability of training		
3	2%	
15	12%	
29	24%	
46	38%	
29	24%	

Lack of time		
2	2%	
12	10%	
31	25%	
35	29%	
42	34%	

● 1-low impact   ● 2   ● 3   ● 4   ● 5 - high impact

DIHNET.EU Community	40	16%
I4MS	39	15%
DIH Network	35	14%
Smart Factories	21	8%
DIH-WORLD	17	7%
European cluster collaboration platform	16	6%
DIH Help	15	6%
BOWI	14	6%
AI DIH Network	11	4%
Smart Agri Hubs	10	4%
EIT Digital Academy	10	4%
SAE	8	3%
COTEC Portugal	4	2%
Africa European Innovation Partnership	2	1%
Other entries	10	4%

Research results for DIH helpers

Pie chart (sector-specific topics):
- Agriculture, hunting, and forestry — 25% (2)
- Transport, storage, and communication — 25% (2)
- Manufacturing — 13% (1)
- Wholesale and retail trade — 13% (1)
- Construction — 13% (1)
- Other entries — 13% (1)

KEY MESSAGE:

Most programmes covered the following topics: DIH expansion & networking, DIH strategy & business development, DIH communication & awareness creation, and DIH service portfolio and development. The highest interest is in DIH expansion and networking, service portfolio & development and DIH communication & awareness creation.

Two-thirds of programmes DIHs helpers offer is not sector-specific. They mainly covered Agriculture, hunting and forestry, and Transport, storage, and communication in sector-specific topics.
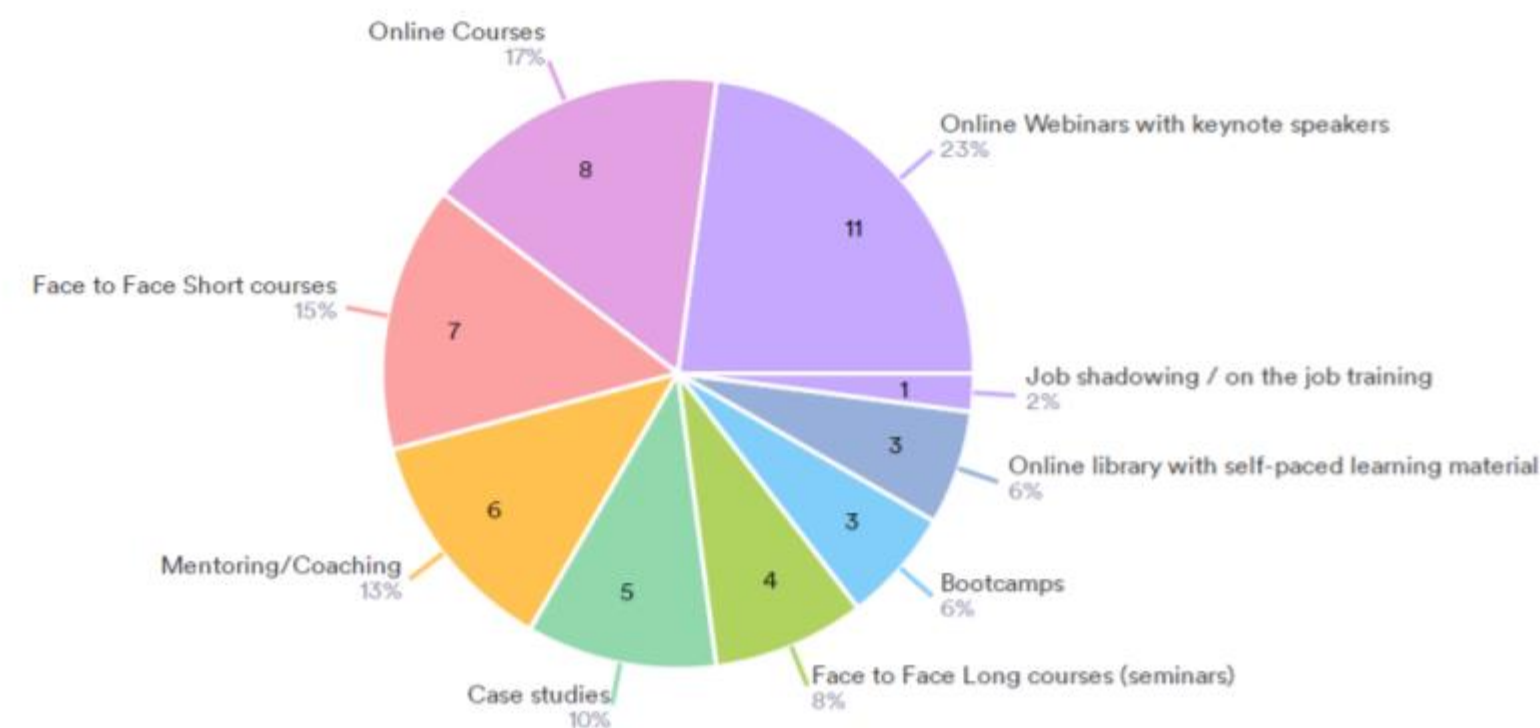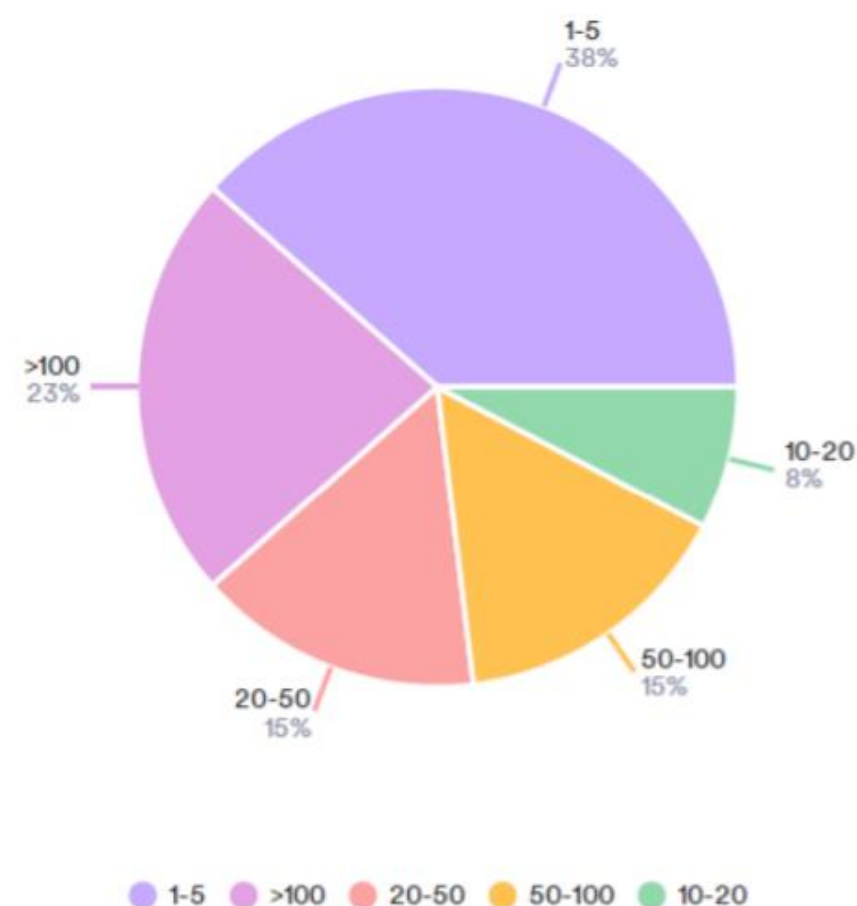
KEY MESSAGES:

Online programmes are predominantly used, mainly webinars and courses. DIH helpers assess that the least preferred method is job shadowing, and the most preferable are face to face short courses and mentoring/coaching.
62 % of programmes are free.

Pie chart (methods):
- Online Courses — 17% (8)
- Online Webinars with keynote speakers — 23% (11)
- Job shadowing / on the job training — 2% (1)
- Online library with self-paced learning material — 6% (3)
- Bootcamps — 6% (3)
- Face to Face Long courses (seminars) — 8% (4)
- Case studies — 10% (5)
- Mentoring/Coaching — 13% (6)
- Face to Face Short courses — 15% (7)

Research results for DIH helpers

KEY MESSAGES:

To disseminate their activities, 23% of DIH helpers use specific and targeted campaigns and 18% of their websites and social networks.
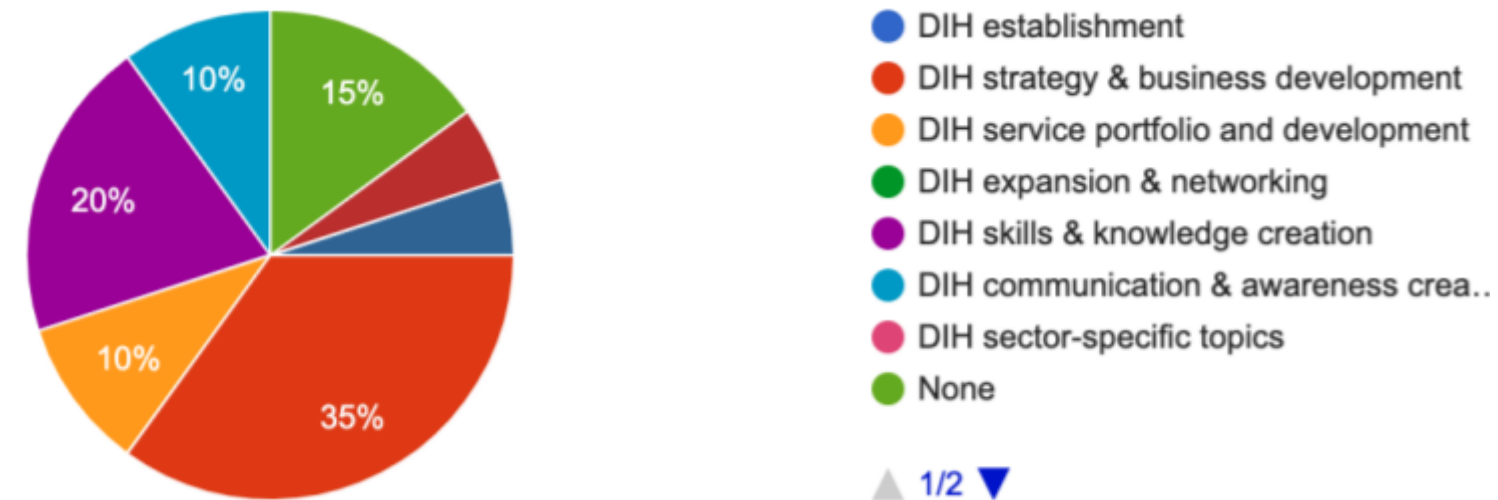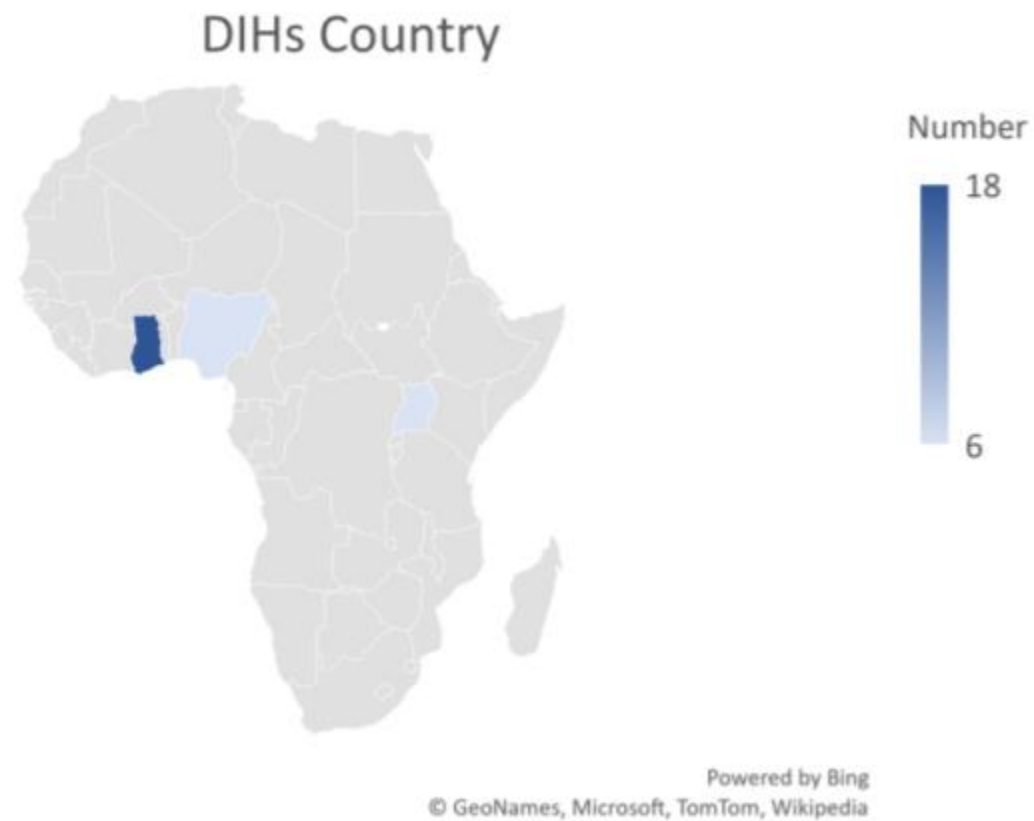
KEY MESSAGES:

38% of DIH helpers have supported 1-5 DIHs, and 23% more than 100. Only 54% of DIH helpers monitor participants satisfaction, half of them (47%) with a post-assessment questionnaire.

DIH helpers assess that the biggest obstacle for DIH to take more programmes is lack of time to participate in training.

The biggest challenge for DIH helpers to provide programmes and support for DIHs is the lack of funds/financial resources.

Based on the results, we can not draw conclusions about the effect of COVID-19 on participants' motives to take more programmes or seek support.

Research Results for DIH in Roundtables

DIHs Country

Number
18

6

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On which topics have you already had training?

- 10%
- 15%
- 20%
- 35%
- 10%

Legend:
- ● DIH establishment
- ● DIH strategy & business development
- ● DIH service portfolio and development
- ● DIH expansion & networking
- ● DIH skills & knowledge creation
- ● DIH communication & awareness crea..
- ● DIH sector-specific topics
- ● None

△ 1/2 ▼

For which topics would you need further support in the future?

- 15%
- 15%
- 10%
- 50%

Legend:
- ● DIH establishment
- ● DIH strategy & business development
- ● DIH service portfolio and development
- ● DIH expansion & networking
- ● DIH skills & knowledge creation
- ● DIH communication & awareness crea...
- ● DIH sector-specific topics
- ● Other topics: women entrepreneurs

△ 1/2 ▼

- 30 DIH participated, mostly from Nigeria

KEY MESSAGE:

65% of participants mean that the most effective method in training is face to face workshops.

Conclusions

- DIHs need additional knowledge on DIH expansion & networking, DIH strategy & business development, DIH service portfolio and development, DIH sector-specific topics, DIH skills and knowledge creation and DIH communication & awareness creation

- African DIHs needs the most additional knowledge on DIH strategy & business development.

- DIHs' preferred methods are face to face short courses and mentoring/coaching

- Although only half of DIHs received support from DIH helpers, a few are very active, as one-fifth of DIH helpers supported more than 100 DIHs.

- DIHs mention the lack of time and and information about the availability of the trainings as the biggest obstacle for participation in more capacity building programmes.

Next steps

1. Developing the 2 Flagship programmes of the "AfriConEu Networking Academy"

2. Roll out of the "AfriConEu Networking Academy" in the Summer of 2022

Thank you very much for your attention.

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