



AEDIB|NET
AFRICAN EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION BRIDGE NETWORK

AEDIB|NET FINAL SUMMIT

Kigali, Rwanda, 9 October 2023

AGENDA



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AEDIB|NET Final Summit Agenda

Norrskén House, Kigali, Rwanda
Monday 9 October 2023

8:30 -9:00 *Coffee/Arrival*

9:00 -9:15 **Welcome Address from European Commission**

- Mr. Thibaut Kleiner, Director, European Commissions' Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT)
- Tbc, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)

9:15-9:30 **Keynote Address on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda**

9:30 -9:45 **Introduction to AEDIB|NET and ICT-58**

- Mr. Arnaud SENN, Policy Officer DG CNECT

9:45-10:30 **Panel Discussion: *Innovation and Technology within the AU-EU Innovation Agenda***

A panel discussion looking at how policies can and should develop across Africa and Europe, to support digital innovation. The panel will include speakers from various sectors of innovation, including policymaking, academia, entrepreneurship, and the Digital Innovation Hub ecosystem.

Moderator: Jan Ertmann – Project Manager; Steinbeis Europa Zentrum

Panel Speakers:

- Lukovi Seke- *Director for Technical Cooperation and Programme Funding (AUDA-NEPAD)*
- Vincenzo Lorusso- *Policy Officer, International Cooperation; European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)*
- Nodumo Dhlamini – *Director ICT Services & Knowledge Management; Association of African Universities*
- Melanie Mwangi – *Business Development Lead; Weigo*
- Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) Representative

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:00 **3 Letters, endless possibilities: DIHs, their journeys and their potential**

This session will be the occasion to discover the diversity of experiences of DIHs and their pathways, the multiple models that can exist in ecosystems, and the multiple opportunities for local and international partnerships that this concept brings about.



Moderator: Stefanie Zinsmeyer – Coordinator AEDIBNET Project, GIZ

Presentations by:

- Smart City DIH Rwanda
- AEDIBNET Climate Smart Agriculture Hub
- Green Digital Innovation Hub Kenya
- ICT-58 DIH
- European DIH

12:00-12:30 **How cooperation with the private sector can work in practice**

Interview with 2-3 private sector representatives from Africa and Europe on opportunities for collaboration.

12:30-13:30 **Lunch break**

13:30-14:45 **Parallel working sessions**

Working session 1: Developing an African-centric concept of a Digital Innovation Hub and mapping opportunities for cooperation at a cross-continental scale

Sub-group 1 will develop an African-centric concept of a DIH. Using as references the experience gained by partners in AEDIB|NET and other projects as well as inspiration from the morning presentations and the DIH concept developed in Europe, the aim is to narrow down what it means to be a DIH in an African context and what building blocks are required to create an African DIH: vision and role in the ecosystem, consortium and governance, services and business models, etc.

Sub-group 2 will map the needs, interests and opportunities for cooperation at a cross-continental scale. Building on the connections that took place in the project and the matchmaking organized in the weeks ahead of the Summit, this group will clarify the main expectations about cooperation between African and European DIHs, which can serve as a basis to shape formats of concrete collaboration.

Working Session 2: Supporting DIHs and ecosystems in AEDIB 2.0

How can DIHs and the innovation ecosystem be supported by donors, investors, and other institutions in the future? This working session will look at a few concrete proposals and discuss them to come up with recommendations.

14:45-15:00 **Coffee break**

15:00-16:15 **Parallel working sessions**

Working session 3: Driving Entrepreneurship Policy Reform, an introduction to Decision Thinking

Facilitator: Jon Stever, Managing Director, Innovation for Policy Foundation



An engaging workshop to learn about Decision Thinking, an innovative approach to planning and co-creating public policy reforms that was developed under AEDIB|NET. This workshop will introduce you to new tools for policy planning, with a hands-on learning-by-doing session and a practical case study of the co-creation of the Nigeria Startup Act.

Working Session 4: Innovative funding under AEDIB 2.0

Access to finance is a key element in the development of entrepreneurs at a very early stage. The first investment is always difficult to find because of the high rate of risk, but it is also necessary to build an MVP and validate the product-market fit in order to move on to the next stages. Rather than the support offered by friends and family, there are now new opportunities to obtain a small entry ticket: business angels, crowdfunding, loans of honor, etc. The aim of this panel will be to demystify these new tools by inviting those who offer them to tell us about their experiences.

16:30-17:30 Panel Discussion: What lies ahead for DIHs and innovation ecosystems in Africa

This discussion will aim at exploring the future of digital ecosystems in Africa through the learnings of the day. What is the role of DIHs? How will they build bridges between regions and continents? What would a pan-African network require from different stakeholders to efficiently promote and support innovation at scale while adapting to each ecosystem?

Moderators:

Ms Nanko Madu, Director of Programmes, AfriLabs

Jan Schwaab, Head of Unit 'Digital Transformation in Africa, GIZ

Panelists from:

- African DIH
- Association of African Universities (Applied Research Institute)
- European DIH
- Investor
- Private Sector

17:30-17:45

AEDIB 2.0 and Next steps

17:45-18:00

Closing

by Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)