



AEDIB|NET
AFRICAN EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION BRIDGE NETWORK

AEDIB|NET FINAL SUMMIT

Kigali, Rwanda, 9 October 2023

AGENDA



AEDIB|NET has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101017105



AEDIB|NET Final Summit Agenda

Norrskén House, Kigali, Rwanda

Monday 9 October 2023

As of October 6th

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

9:00 -9:30 **Opening**

Welcome Address from European Commission

- Thibaut Kleiner - Director, European Commissions' Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT)

Keynote Speech by Smart Africa Secretariat

- Didier Nkurikiyimfura – Senior Director, Smart Africa Secretariat

Introduction to AEDIB|NET and ICT-58

- Arnaud SENN -Policy Officer DG CNECT

9:30-10:15 **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)*
- Antonio Marquez Camacho – *Policy Office, Desk – Africa, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission.*
- Nodumo Dhlamini– *Director ICT Services & Knowledge Management; Association of African Universities*
- Melanie Mwangi – *Business Development Lead; Weigo*
- Ahmed Bastawy – *Managing Founder; IceAlex*

10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45-11:45 **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: Geoffroy Berson – *Advisor AEDIB|NET Project, GIZ*



Presentations by:

- Alice Higiyo -*Director of Smart Cities, Ministry of ICT and Innovation Smart City Hub (AEDIB|NET DIH in Rwanda)*
- Khaoula Behi- *Managing director, Future islands. Cleantech216 (AEDIB|NET DIH in Tunisia)*
- Prof. Tom Peter Migun Ogada, Executive Director, African Center for Technology Studies (Green DIH Kenya)
- Sabine Desczka- Senior Coordinating Researcher , Wageningen Economic Research (SmartAgriHubs, Netherlands)

11:45-12:30 How cooperation with the private sector can work in practice

Private sector representatives will present how they support promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems on the continent and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Moderator: Aurélie Drouet – *Digital & Innovation Unit Coordinator, Expertise France*

Presentations by:

- Besar Spahija - Director Ericsson Nikola Tesla
- Serge Kamuhinda - Director, Volkswagen Rwanda.
- Asma Ennaifer - CSR Director, Orange MEA.

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

Moderators: Geoffroy Berson – *Advisor AEDIB|NET Project, GIZ;* and representatives from African Digital Innovation Hubs

Sub-group 1 will develop an African-centric concept of a DIH - With Edwell Gumbo, Tshimologong (South Africa)

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. - With Ahmed Bastawy, Smart Cities Startup Hub (Egypt)



Opening: an introduction to the BOWI network - With Ola Skalska, Head of Project Execution, Fundingbox Accelerator

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

Moderators:

Georgiana Macovei - DG INTPA, EU-Commission,
Nanko Madu - Director of Programmes, AfriLabs

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 for what the future project AEDIB 2.0 should address and how.

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

Moderator: Raphaëlle N'DOYE, *Project Manager, in charge of AEDIB 2.0 development*, Expertise France

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.

Panelists:

- Aphrodice MUTANGANA, COO, Digital Africa



- Fadilah Tchoumba, CEO of ABAN
- Eric Vincent Guichard, Founder and CEO of HomeStrings
- Dario Giuliani, Founder of Briter Bridges
- Alexis Laniesse, Project Manager at Initiative France
- Saturnin PAROU, Project Manager of a supportive program to the development of 2 regions in Burkina Faso

16:30-17:45

Panel Discussion: What lies ahead for DIHs and innovation ecosystems in Africa

Through the learnings of the day this discussion aims at exploring how innovation ecosystems on the continent can thrive and what they need for that. What is the role of DIHs? How will they build bridges between regions and continents? What is the role of stakeholders such as policy makers, research institutes and investors?

Moderators:

Stefanie Zinsmeyer – *Project Coordinator AEDIB|NET, GIZ*

Nanko Madu – *Director of Programmes, AfriLabs*

Presentation: AEDIB 2.0 and Next steps

Georgiana Macovei - Policy Analyst Digitalization, Private Sector and Trade, DG INTPA, European Commission

Panel Discussion:

- Georgiana Macovei, DG INTPA, European Commissions
- Jon Stever, Managing Director, Innovation for Policy Foundation
- Lawrence Nderu, JKIAN (AEDIB|NET DIH in Kenya)
- Nodumo Dhlamini– *Director ICT Services & Knowledge Management; Association of African Universities*
- Dario Giuliani, Founder & Director Briter Bridges

17:45-18:00

Closing

Carla Montesi, Director, European Commissions' Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)

Transfer

19:00

Evening Get-Together

Meet the Rwandan Innovation Ecosystem, network and mingle with partners and friends

[Digital Transformation Center Rwanda](#)

KG 541 Street (Career Center 7th floor) - close to Convention Center/Kigali Heights