



**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 2<sup>nd</sup>*

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

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

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

**9:15 -9:30**      **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)*
- 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*
- 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: Stefanie Zinsmeyer – Coordinator AEDIBNET 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: Stefanie Zinsmeyer – Coordinator AEDIBNET Project, GIZ

Presentations by:

- 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 AEDIBNET Project, GIZ; and representatives from African Digital Innovation Hubs

*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.*

With Edwell Gumbo, Tshimologong (South Africa)

*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.*

With Ahmed Bastawy, Smart Cities Startup Hub (Egypt)



## 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.*

**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

Expertise France, the French agency in charge of international technical cooperation

*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.*

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

Panelists:

- Aphrodice MUTANGANA, COO, Digital Africa
- Fadilah Tchoumba, CEO of ABAN (TBC)
- 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**

*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:

Nanko Madu - Director of Programmes, AfriLabs

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

**Presentation: AEDIB 2.0 and Next steps**

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

**Panel:**

- Georgiana Macovei, DG INTPA, European Commissions
- John Stever, Managing Director Innovation for Policy Foundation
- Lawrence Nderu, JKIAN (AEDIB|NET DIH in Kenya)
- Association of African Universities (Applied Research Institute)
- Dario Giuliani, Founder & Director Briter Bridges

**17:45-18:00**

**Closing**

by Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)