Web Call

AID 11346
Emerging African Innovation Leaders
G7 Exchange & Empowerment Program for enabling Innovation within the Next Production Revolution

WP1.3

Politecnico di Milano
Politecnico di Torino
Framework of Emerging African Innovation Leaders

The Italian G7 Presidency during the Summit in Taormina launched a fully dedicated Outreach Session on Africa continent. Particular attention was given to the potential of innovation and the role of human capital in boosting sustainable and inclusive growth in the continent. In this framework, the G7 Italian Presidency announced the introduction of an “Emerging African Innovation Leaders G7 Exchange and Empowerment Program”.

The AfricaInLead program is focused on boosting African prosperity through the embracement of the Next Production Revolution (NPR) sharing comprehensive understanding of Innovation dynamics with the aim at educating next generation leaders towards new thinking over sustainable solutions. The project managers are Politecnico di Milano (https://www.polimi.it/) and Politecnico di Torino (https://www.polito.it/), two leading Italian technical universities with a strong background in both research and innovation.

The general objective of the project is to promote Africa embracement of the NPR while enforcing the EU-AU cooperation on the matter and achieving the mutual benefits and socio-economic innovation that may come when coping this approach with Sustainable Development Goals to promote an equitable and long-lasting prosperity in Africa. Priority target countries are Tunisia, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

The specific objective is to accompany empowerment and ownership of Africa toward the embracement of the NPR with special reference to digitalization, energy and mobility.

Two are the main results of the project:

1. A qualified community of AFRICA INNOVATION BROKERS (AIBs) is created as the seed for the next generation of African Leaders, equipped with the right and verified capacity and competences for boosting Africa leapfrogging, so to favor the embracement of NPR and the diffusion of its benefits.
2. A platform for innovation, the AFRICA INNOVATION CRADLE is working as a digital tool to enable the AIBs to replicate and expand their pilot experience toward a larger number of local innovation networks.

The AIBs training programme is centred on the development of competences and capacities in a group of African innovation leaders who are expected to spur the transition to the NPR in their countries. To this purpose, it comprises learning activities such as in-presence training (complemented by MOOCs), exposure to Italian and European innovation experts and innovative firms and institutions, and the design of a local NPR innovation action supported by expert mentors. A new online platform, will be created in order to support the interaction between African Innovation Brokers and international actors. The trained AIBs will develop a specific project in collaboration with Italian mentors and subsequently become trainers of a new generation of trainees.

Training may cover several topics ranging from digitalization, to sustainable energy solutions and smart mobility. Special attention will be given to hands-on project activities and project works that enable the participants to implement the theories they gain and foster team and interdisciplinary cooperation between people from different backgrounds. Exposure event will create contact between the African Leaders and the Italian and European ecosystem of innovators.

Please visit our Emerging African Innovation Leaders Web Page (www.africainlead.net) to get more information about the project.
Workplan

The African Innovation Brokers training is composed by different sessions with different teaching mix. The sessions are distributed along 12 months, participation to the sessions is mandatory. The continuative commitment along the 12 months is although compatible with professional activities. The sessions are:

- **In presence learning**: the session will deal with training on Innovation and Leadership themes with particular focus on the Next Production Revolution and exposure to the best actors of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Italy. The duration will be 5 weeks *in-presence*, including 2 weeks of exposure including participation to the World Manufacturing Forum in Italy, to join capacity building tours. *(September 26th – October 26th)*

- **Project work development**: the trained AIBs will transform the theoretical and practical knowledge into a real outcome for the benefit of each national policy and strategy on innovation and the domestic development of further capacity building. Mentorship by Italian experts and 2 weeks of *in-presence* revision and refinement ensure AIBs’ alignment to advanced and relevant NPR experiences. *(indicative period – End of Year 2018)*

- **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)**: online training activities performed with high level will be available on the African Innovation Cradle platform. These MOOCs will support collaboration among participants and idea sharing to define new innovative entrepreneurial ideas that could be further implemented with the help of the online/physical community. *(Indicative Period: November 2018 – September 2019)*

- **Training of trainees**: empowerment process through action conducted by the AIBs in their national context to create national networks of a second generation of Leaders *(Indicative Period: Spring 2019)*

In-presence Activities Venue

The in-presence learning (5 weeks) and the revision and refinement of the project work (2 weeks) will be held at the School of Management of Politecnico di Milano, Via Lambruschini 4c – 20156 Milan - [https://www.polimi.it](https://www.polimi.it) - [http://www.som.polimi.it/](http://www.som.polimi.it/)

What we look for

The candidate profile of the Emerging Innovation Leaders should have:

- personal experiences and motivation on Innovation
- academic background in scientific or business field
- willing to extend knowledge about the NPR
- motivated to engage in team working
- leadership attitude
- excellent communications skills
- capacity to understand English effectively
- priority will be given to national citizens of Tunisia, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique

Certification

Participants will receive a certificate of attendance from Politecnico di Milano and Politecnico di Torino at the end of the project. To receive this certificate, participants have to be present at almost all of the sessions over the training courses.
Application Procedure

An early bird deadline for application will be the 20th of July 2018 before 3:00 PM (CET) with priority selection. A final deadline for application will be 26th of July 2018 before 12:00 PM (CET) Kindly prepare your necessary documents (refer to Terms of Reference) and, kindly send them to info-africainlead@polimi.it. All participants are invited to send the application with the requested information as soon as possible.

Scholarship for covering the costs of the in-presence activities (fees, travels, accommodation and food) is provided by the Emerging African Innovation Leaders project.

For any information you may contact info-africainlead@polimi.it.

Personal data will be managed under the provisions of the European Union GDPR - General Data protection Regulation (679/2016/EU).