



FACTSHEET

Project holder
ADYFE
 African Diaspora Youth
 Forum in Europe



Location: Abuja, Nigeria

Objectives

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

DIDA's goal is to provide a space for entrepreneurs with valuable technological content and diaspora-based innovations, which are highly sought after by MSMEs (Micro-Small and Medium Sized Enterprises) all across the African continent.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Initiating and strengthening innovative cooperation schemes of the Diaspora on the continent, as well as promoting dialogue among the two continents
- Participating in technological transfer
- Creating partnerships and businesses that contribute to the development of communities through job creation
- Boosting local economic opportunities, as well as generating innovative products and services that respond to the realities of the African market.

Duration: July 5, 2021
 to November 29, 2021
 Project cost: 52 249€
 Amount allocated by ADEPT: 11 313 €
 Contribution to SDGs:



The Diaspora Innovation Days in Africa: “Diaspora skills and technological transfer towards hubs and SMEs in Africa: dialogue between SMEs and the Diaspora”

Context



It has been a few years now that ADYFE and its partners, especially UNIDO, have joined forces through the Accelerated Africa Conference (AAC+) in order to amplify the dialogue and exchange between the diaspora, development partners and international institutions, as well as key African stakeholders, especially private sector representatives and young entrepreneurs. The aim of this initiative is to enhance skills and technological transfer between the diaspora and the African continent.

In the wake of the Africa-Europe High Level Forum in 2018 between the EU and the AU, and the inclusion of the AAC+ as the opening event then, ADYFE has been recognized as the major player able to boost entrepreneurship among young people from the diaspora. Indeed, these young entrepreneurs could benefit from and contribute to the development of the African continent and increase economic exchange between both continents.

In this regard, the initiative “Diaspora Innovation Days in Africa” (DIDA) was designed to enhance the transfer of technology and knowhow from the diaspora towards the continent.

The 2021 ADYFE Diaspora Innovation Days in Africa (DIDA 2021) was the second gathering of its kind but this one had a new valuable and useful aspect, since it was held both online and in-person, in Abuja, Nigeria. It therefore had a wider impact, enjoyed increased visibility, and above all, allowed for a higher engagement and access for and from entrepreneurs from the Diaspora.



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Partners

- UNIDO
- AFRILABS
- CIDO
- AFREXIMBANK

Activities

- Office-time coaching and crowd-coaching sessions
- Tech-Innovation marketplace
- Panel on “Soft-landing and Diaspora”
- Business to Business (B2B) meetings

Outcomes

The DIDA 2021 succeeded in:

- **Raising the visibility of already existing Diaspora or Africa based innovative, technological, and digital solutions** to encourage entrepreneurs and SMEs (Small to Medium sized enterprises) all over the African continent
- **Enhancing the value of 10-15 Diaspora or Africa based entrepreneurs** promoting innovative solutions, especially in the agri-business sector during the Tech-Innovation marketplace activity, and supporting their growth through access to new markets and the development of new partnerships
- **Offering capacity-building sessions to 100 youths, want-preneurs and entrepreneurs**, in order to give them access to information and mechanisms in agri-business and improve their knowledge and use of ICTs and digital means. This will enable them to succeed in business management and entrepreneurship management
- **Implementing knowledge and technology sharing and transfer in the agri-business sector among at least 150 diaspora entrepreneurs and SMEs**, which will generate employment and income while contributing to local and economic growth
- **Promoting exchanges between 200+ participants, coaches and entrepreneurs** with a focus on Tunisia, Cabo Verde, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Zambia, in alignment with the OYA program.

Feedback

The DIDA event highlighted the already present potential of the Diaspora as a major development partner, that can embody the bridge needed to bring expertise and know-how, as well as facilitate the exchange of information.

Youssef Simbo Diakite, Project Coordinator, ADYFE:

“Through the DIDA 2021, we have achieved to build connections, exchange ideas, transfer knowledge and technologies, build partnerships, and increase awareness on the need to build multifaceted partnerships.”

Those partnerships are built “amongst all actors from government, to private institutions, to banks and financial institutions, as well as development organizations and ecosystem builders such as innovation and entrepreneurial hubs; with the view of answering the challenges that entrepreneurs already operating on the continent or young people wishing to start their entrepreneurial journey can face.”



ADEPT's input

ADYFE would like to engage in the development of an overall engagement strategy between ADYFE and ADEPT, in order for the latest to become a co-organizer of the event and to establish a medium to long term cooperation strategy, that would complement each organization's service offer. It would also allow for the African Diaspora based in Europe to sustainably increase their interventions and strengthen their impact and contribution towards the development of the African continent, beyond remittances.

- As far as the environmental impact and the preservation of the environment are concerned, the processing and conservation methods will allow for the reduction of waste. The training sessions raised awareness on the use of household food waste, particularly for chicken feed, or the use of corn cores during smoking to reduce the amount of wood used.

Testimonies from participants

Melanie Keita, CEO of Melanin Capital

"My name is Melanie Keita, I am the CEO of Melanin Capital, a fintech [company] that is trying to support the diaspora and Africans to invest in sustainable development in their home country. It is really a pleasure for me to be here in Abuja and to be part of this DIDA program that has enabled me, as an African from the diaspora, to come directly and meet hubs, investors, and potential partners for me to be able to develop my project on the continent. So, this is thanks to programs like DIDA that are powered by OYA, ADYFE and many other partners that have made it possible for me to come and to develop my business directly in Africa."

Andrew Minja, Co-founder of Nexan Technologies Ltd

"I am Andrew, currently in Abuja in Nigeria, at DIDA 2021, and overall, it has been a really interesting event for entrepreneurs and diaspora like myself; we get to meet and connect with fellow entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the ecosystem and this has given us a lot of insights on different aspects of what we do, and it has also been a great opportunity to connect with fellow like-minded people and also to explore the opportunity to collaborate. So, overall, it has been a really good event we organized."

Ahmed Soumare DIRA, CTO of DiraPartners

"We are here with AFRILABS and ADYFE, and working with them, to develop the diaspora, and also develop start-ups and entrepreneurs targeting the African markets. So, what we provide is counseling, consulting and also all the strategy for startups to develop their activity in Africa. On the second hand, we also provide that platform as a matchmaking data-driven platform that helps investors and startups to match each other."

Christian, Co-founder and CEO of IT-Collab Cameroun

"Based in Tiakola, Cameroon, we work on social innovation and business creation. I find that the DIDA program responds perfectly to one of the concerns of our continent, which is the transfer of technology taking into account the needs of communities. So, for me, this is a better way to meet the needs of Africa in terms of capacity, to seize opportunities, transform them and meet the relevant needs of our communities, and to effectively meet the challenge of a complete transformation of Africa in the next fifty years. The joint ventures that could develop between spin offs, startups from Europe, who are a source of innovation and also a source of network, and startups from Africa, who better master the realities, will be essential for the products and services offered on the market to have a real added value and create impact in all ecosystems."

Youssef Diakite, Co-chair of ADYFE

"DIDA 2021 has allowed us these two days, to really exchange with the hubs and other SMEs present on the continent and more specially to focus on technology which is the source of innovation, the source of creativity on the continent. These two days have been rich in exchanges. The themes that we took this year are the themes that were based on finance and technology, that the diaspora could bring on the continent. There were also the infrastructure and the agri-business: what could be the contribution of the diaspora in these different sectors? We were able to exchange with more than 500 SMEs here in Abuja and we are thinking of repeating the same thing next year in Lusaka, so that the technological exchange, the exchange of skills becomes a reality between the Diaspora and the institutions of the country."