



# Bridging Continents through Innovation: Africa-Europe Innovation Dialogues

22/10/2025

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Time	Agenda
08:30	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
<b>HYBRID</b> 09:00	<p><b>Welcome and opening greetings:</b> Francie Sadeski (Director of Technopolis Africa, Technopolis Group, AEIP Project Coordinator) &amp; Tendai Pasipamire (Partnership Lead, Enrich in Africa Center – EiAC, AEIP Team member)</p> <p><i>Institutional greetings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Francesca Doria (Head of Unit, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, EISMEA)</li><li>• Brando Okolo (Head of Science, Technology and Innovation, AUDA-NEPAD)</li></ul> <p><i>Keynote: “Latest developments in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda”</i> Vincenzo Lorusso (Policy Officer for Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation with the AU and bilateral cooperation with Rwanda, Nigeria and South Africa, European Commission DG Research and Innovation) and Lukovi Seke (Principal Programme Officer for African Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators, AUDA-NEPAD), Co-Chairs AU-EU Innovation Agenda Working Group</p>
09:40	<p><b>Setting the Stage: The Rationale for the Africa–Europe Innovation Platform</b></p> <p>This session will set out the transition from the opening presentation to the launch of the Platform. Drawing on the history of Africa-Europe innovation cooperation and research on the ecosystem, it sets the context in which the AEIP is being launched as a response to the ecosystem. <b>Presented by Francie Sadeski.</b></p>



<p>10:00</p>	<p><b>PANEL 1: Unveiling the Africa-Europe Innovation Platform: Features, activities and next steps. Moderated by Silvi Serreqi (Project Adviser, EISMEA).</b></p> <p>This presentation of the AEIP will include the first demo of the digital component of the Platform, its objectives, and an onboarding of stakeholders, presented by Tendai Pasipamire (EiAC).</p> <p>A panel of AEIP Project team members will also briefly present their activities and through a panel, answer questions about key components of the AEIP. Activities that will be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thematic Challenges by Stephan Kreutzer (Partner, Technopolis Germany)</li><li>• Capacity building/Trainings: by Covadonga Rayon (Project Manager, EBN)</li><li>• De-risking support to SMEs: Tegan George (Project Manager, VC4A)</li><li>• Twinning: by Covadonga Rayon (Project Manager, EBN) on behalf of Baluku Dounnah (Senior Programmes Officer, AfriLabs)</li><li>• Communities of Practice: Dr Agyemang Okyere Darko (Programmes Officer, AAU)</li></ul>
<p>11:00</p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>11:30</p>	<p><b>PANEL 2: Sister Initiatives of the AEIP</b></p> <p>This panel on sister initiatives will demonstrate the real-life implication of bringing these networks together. Key initiatives and networks are being invited to the panel to discuss what they can gain from and contribute to the network. <b>Moderated by Stephan Kreutzer (Partner, Technopolis Germany).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panellist 1: Silvia Diazzi (Communications and Dissemination Manager at Youthmakers Hub on behalf of AU-EU Youth Voices Lab – Power of the Collective)</li><li>• Panellist 2: Léonard Leveque (Senior Consultant at LGI Sustainable Innovation on behalf of LEAP-RE)</li><li>• Panellist 3: Gideon Brefo (CEO of Hapa Space on behalf of SEADE)</li><li>• Panellist 4: Isabel de Vera (Call Coordinator, Innowwide)</li><li>• Panellist 5: Adolfo Cires Alonso (Investing in Young Businesses in Africa/IYBA for DG INTPA)</li><li>• Panellist 6: Lara Pandya (Team Leader, Strategic Partnerships and Communications, Global Health EDCTP3)</li></ul>



12:30	<b>Lunch Break</b> <i>(Tendai Pasipamire as MC hereafter)</i>
13:30	<b>PANEL 3: Bridging continents – accelerating innovation together:</b> Moderator presents speakers/initiatives who have explicitly worked on Africa-Europe cooperation across the innovation value chain, with guiding questions to initiate the conversation. <b>Moderated by Dr Agyemang Darko (Project Management Officer, AAU).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panellist 1: CSO - Efe Ukala (Founder, ImpactHER)</li><li>• Panellist 2: BSO - Joana Afonso (Marketing Manager, IPN)</li><li>• Panellist 3: Academia - Ann Kingiri (Researcher, ACTS)</li><li>• Panellist 4: Funder/investor – Ali Mnif, (Chief Investment Officer, Digital Africa)</li></ul>
14:30	<b>One Minute, One Idea: The Nano-Pitches!</b> Participants have been invited to submit nano-pitches to present their organisation and their offerings, as well as what they are seeking. Each pitch is 1-minute and timed very carefully to keep an energised, speedy, and slightly pressured setting. The objective for this session is to give the floor to as many bodies as possible, while also injecting an energetic and unique moment to the agenda. <b>Moderated by Hannah Hayes (Senior Communications Manager, Arctik).</b>
15:00	<b>PANEL 4: Diaspora's contribution to innovation at the Africa-Europe interface</b>  This panel will provide a conversational roundtable engaging representatives of Diaspora associations on their role in driving forward innovation cooperation between Africa and Europe. Moderated by <b>Abu Cassim (Acceleration Team Lead, VC4A).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panellist 1: Ninon Duval (Director, Bond'Innov)</li><li>• Panellist 2: Maureen Duru (Founder/Director, The Food Bridge)</li><li>• Panellist 3: Michelle Amoakoh (Business Unit Lead, AiDiA)</li><li>• Panellist 4: Mirana Rajoharison (President, ALEFA Diaspora)</li></ul>
<b>IN- PERSON</b>  15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>



<b>16.00-17.00</b>	<b>Matchmaking and Networking Session (Introduced by Tendai Pasipamire, EiAC)</b>  This session is an opportunity for participants to network and really break the silos. This will be facilitated by the event app Conversation Starter, where individuals can book 4 x 15 mins meetings with each other, at designated standing desks of the venue.
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Closing plenary</b> Closing remarks will be delivered by Vincenzo Lorusso (DG RTD) and Lukovi Seke (AUDA-NEPAD), Co-Chairs AU-EU Innovation Agenda Working Group, providing reflections on the AEIP and introducing the Innovation Fair on the next day at Maison de la Poste.
<b>17:30</b>	<b>End</b>