



AEIP
AFRICA + EUROPE
INNOVATION PLATFORM

Africa-Europe Innovation Dialogues 2026



Ideas in motion.
Partnerships in action.



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



3-4 November 2026

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Ideas in motion. Partnerships in action.

3-4 November, Mövenpick Hotel Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Overall approach - *what, where, why*

The second Africa-Europe Innovation Platform's (AEIP)'s stakeholder meeting will take place in Abidjan on 3-4 November 2026 under the title **Africa-Europe Innovation Dialogues: *Ideas in motion. Partnerships in action.*** The event will bring together African and European innovation stakeholders to review progress across the shared ecosystem, discuss current priorities, celebrate AEIP milestones, exchange ideas and develop new opportunities for cooperation. It will also provide a platform to showcase forthcoming opportunities for innovators and create practical networking moments for actors across the value chain, including start-ups, SMEs, universities, research organisations, business support organisations, policy actors, investors and civil society representatives.

The conference will bring AEIP to Africa for the first time, with a strong focus on the local Ivorian ecosystem and its links to regional and Africa-Europe innovation cooperation. A bilingual format will support inclusive participation from both Anglophone and Francophone innovation communities. Selected sessions will also be livestreamed to allow remote participants to follow key parts of the programme. This event builds on the success of the previous one in [Brussels, October 2025](#).

The programme is structured over 1.5 days.

PROGRAMME

Day 1

	3 November 2026		
09:00	Arrival and registration, coffee		
9:30	Welcome and opening Stephan Kreutzer, Partner at Technopolis Germany and Stephanie Abogne, Co-Director of Technopolis Africa		
9:45	Opening Remarks His Excellency, Irchad Razaaly, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire		
10:05	Opening Remarks <i>To be announced</i>		
10:25	Latest developments in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda: A short video Vincenzo Lorusso, Policy Officer of the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation and Lukovi Seke, Principal Programme Officer from AUDA NEPAD		
10:55	The Africa-Europe Innovation Ecosystem: What are the priorities shaping the ecosystem and where are the opportunities? (Panel) Geth Maiga (Côte d'Ivoire Country Expert for the Africa-Europe Digital Innovation Bridge) Irene Annor-Frempong (Coordinator of Consortium Europe-Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation) <i>Other speakers to be confirmed</i> Moderated by Matthias Ploeg		
11:40	Coffee Break Art4Change Exhibition // Networking tables // Digital space registration support		
12:10	The Côte d'Ivoire Experience: How can innovation coordination be harmonised between national and regional levels? (Panel) <i>Speakers to be announced.</i> Moderated by Mafini Dosso.		
12:55	Lunch Break Art4Change Exhibition // Networking tables // Digital space registration support		
14:25	AU-EU Innovation Agenda: Where are we? <i>Led by Technopolis Germany</i> The AU-EU Innovation Agenda directs African-Europe R&I activities, partnerships, funding, and more, from 2023-2033. With the short-term actions defined until 2026, this workshop reflects on the progress achieved so far, and the path ahead.	Masterclass on getting VC ready <i>Led by VC4A and Digital Africa</i> Get venture capital ready: test your funding fit, build a credible data room, target the right investors, and structure your business for international growth success through this crash course.	Matchmaking Café <i>Led by AfriLabs</i> This interactive session showcases successful Africa-Europe innovation partnerships and connects stakeholders through structured matchmaking, enabling participants to exchange lessons, explore collaboration opportunities, and build relationships across sectors and regions together.

15:25	Nano Pitches One Minute, One Idea: The Nano-Pitches! Attendees will be invited to present 1-minute pitches on their organisation, project, initiative, or best practises or even epic fails in this dynamic session focused on showcasing our community – but under time pressure! <i>Moderated by Hannah Hayes and Trizah Ehachi</i>		
15:55	Coffee Break Art4Change Exhibition // Networking tables // Digital space registration support // Photo Session		
16:25	Thematic Challenges: Innovation Partnership in Action <i>Led by Technopolis Germany</i> Winning pairs of the Thematic Challenge on the Green Transition and Public Health will present their innovative solutions and their experience on cross-continental partnership, and share best practises. The next Thematic Challenge will also be launched.	IP Navigation clinic <i>Led by SPI</i> Got a great idea? Learn how to protect it, collaborate across borders and navigate AI-related ownership through lively expert insights, practical tips, audience discussion, plus a fun, fast-paced quiz challenge.	[CLOSED DOOR] Africa-Europe R&I Sustainability This is an closed-door, invite only session for coordinators of initiatives to discuss the sustainability of projects and funding in the Africa-Europe R&I space. <i>Moderated by Tendai Pasipamire (EIAC)</i>
17:25	Closing plenary Stephan Kreutzer, Partner at Technopolis Germany and Stephanie Abogne, Co-Director of Technopolis Africa		
17:40	Cocktail session + networking		

Day 2

4 November 2026		
08:30	Arrival and registration	
9:00	Welcoming and opening Agenda and objectives for the day Stephan Kreutzer, Partner at Technopolis Germany and Stephanie Abogne, Co-Director of Technopolis Africa	
09:15	Youth Entrepreneurship Lab <i>Led by The Youth Café</i> Youth and women facilitated roundtable on circular economy. We will have 3 rotating table discussions covering: • Practical barriers facing youth and women in the circular economy sector. • What a fair Africa-Europe circular economy partnership would look like • What you would need to start or scale a circular economy solution in your country/ How you can pitch your idea to investors.	World Café <i>Led by SARIMA</i> Strengthening linkages between academia, industry and civil society in Africa and Europe: Through facilitated table discussions, participants will examine the opportunities, barriers and practical mechanisms for building trusted, equitable and impact-driven partnerships. Conversations will focus on how research and innovation managers can act as strategic connectors—facilitating collaboration, supporting co-creation, strengthening innovation ecosystems, mobilising resources, navigating policy and regulatory environments, and ensuring that research translates into meaningful societal and economic impact.
10:15	From Ecosystem Support to Venture Building: How to Create Investable Companies with the Resources You Actually Have <i>Led by EBN and Philip Rhoden</i> The objective will be to look at how ecosystems move from supporting entrepreneurs to actually building investable ventures, particularly in environments where capital, specialist expertise and mature startup pipelines are limited.	Communities of Practise: Building ecosystems: how can initiatives better connect to avoid fragmentation? <i>Led by the AAU</i> This programme will explore how Communities of Practice through innovative mediums bridge the gap between research, practice, and policy by creating spaces where evidence, lived experience, implementation insights, and policy priorities can interact to generate practical and inclusive innovation outcomes. Leonidas Leiva (Enabel) Sikho Msomi (City People Durban) Theresa Bilola (Integrated Carbon Observation System) Nadia Owusu (Youth Advocate)
11:15	Coffee Break Art4Change Exhibition // Networking tables // Digital space registration support	

11:45	Access to Capital for Innovative Start-ups and SMEs: Investor Perspectives, Market Challenges and Lessons Learned Explore how innovators, investors and support organisations can unlock access to capital across Africa. Through practical discussion and peer exchange, participants will identify barriers, opportunities and exchange on best practises. Speakers: Sarah Wanjohi (Atlantica Ventures) Benoit Delestre (Saviu) Ayebobo Niang (Jango) <i>Additional speakers to be announced, moderated by Alessandro Pietri (AfDB), with facilitation from VC4A and Digital Africa</i>	Qualifications Recognition for Research, Innovation and the Future of Work <i>Led by the AAU</i> This panel session focuses on how the recognition of higher education qualifications can support research collaboration, innovation, employability, and workforce development across Africa, and how it also relates to exchange with Europe. It positions qualifications recognition not only as an academic mobility issue, but also as a strategic tool for strengthening research ecosystems, aligning education with labour market needs, and preparing graduates for emerging sectors. <i>Denise Bärnfeind (UAS Tecehnikum Wien) Jaume Fortuny (OBREAL Global)</i> <i>Additional speakers to be announced, moderated by Jemima Dotsey (AAU)</i>
12:45	Closing Remarks	
13:00	Lunch Break	
	Site Visit A: Hub Ivoire Tech A short walk from the Mövenpick Hotel, watch innovation in action at the new Ivorian community of incubators, accelerators, investors, experts. Mentors who have ideas to change the world. (This visit is only organised in French).	Site Visit B: Horizon Europe Information Session Hop on a bus and head to the Université Félix-Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB) for an information session on Horizon Europe and the Africa Initiative IV organised by the European Delegation to Côte d'Ivoire, EURAXESS, and the Ivorian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and UFHB. (This visit is only organised in French).