

Africa Innovation Summit 2018
Workshop A7
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Kigali Convention Center, Rwanda

Creating opportunities for innovation cooperation between Africa and Europe

Facilitator/Panelist: Oluseye Jegede (oluseyej@uj.ac.za), Senior Researcher, University of Johannesburg

Panelists:

- **Maria Cristina Russo**, Director for International Cooperation, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Geci Karuri-Sebina** (gecik@yahoo.com), Associate at South African Cities Network & Visiting Fellow at Wits School of Governance
- **Mammo Muchie** (mammo.muchie@gmail.com), Professor on STI4D at Tshwane University of Technology
- **Udaya Sekhar Nagothu** (Nagothu.UdayaSekhar@nibio.no), Research Professor and Director (Centre for International Development), Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research
- **Bosun Tijani** (bosun@cchubnigeria.com), CEO – Co-creation Hub, Nigeria

Summary:

The first Africa Innovation Summit concluded that '*there was a need for African countries to effectively engage and compete in the global marketplace in order to realize and deliver development dividends to their populace*'. Innovation is indeed a global endeavour; African SMEs and Startups need to tap into global innovation networks to obtain their share of the global value chains. To reach this target, African countries, not only *must upgrade their capabilities and build robust national systems of innovation* but also build synergies with others such as the European innovation ecosystem.

Synergies between Africa and Europe in Research are already well established. The African Union – European Union (AU-EU) Summit of November 2017 launched a new AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; following the first AU-EU R&I Partnership on Food, Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture requested by the AU-EU Summit of 2014. The EU supports these partnerships by investing EUR130 million through the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020.

Taking advantage of this positive momentum, more should be done to enhance innovation cooperation between Africa and Europe. Innovation ecosystems of both continents should be better linked, and synergies should be fostered.

The aim of this workshop is to identify concrete actions to set up between Africa and Europe to foster synergies between the African and European innovation ecosystems. Building on existing

best practices in Horizon 2020 projects, the current state of play of the cooperation will be discussed to identify needs and potential future policy support actions.

Topics to be discussed:

- **Oluseye Jegede:**
 - Set up the overall scene by presenting the main key attractive features of the African Innovation Ecosystem, how dynamic it is in terms of investment, role of corporates, number of startups, structures of incubators, international reach, success stories, etc. The audience should have a clear picture of the African Innovation ecosystem, on which the other panelists will build for the discussion.
- **Cristina Russo:**
 - Presenting the ongoing cooperation between Europe and Africa, the opportunities offered in innovation by Horizon 2020;
 - Exposing the potential future cooperation in innovation.
- **Geci Karuri-Sebina:**
 - Building on the knowledge of the African Innovation Ecosystem, identify how meaningful external (global / European) synergies could be fostered. What kinds of actions are needed, what worked in the past, what did not?
 - Discuss the unique framework conditions of the African Innovation Ecosystem: what are implications for startups and innovators?
- **Mammo Muchie:**
 - Present as a concrete example the achievements of the Horizon 2020 project 'Catching up Along the Global value chain in the 4th Industrial Revolution';
 - Expose how lessons learned in the project could feed into new policy actions in terms of EU-Africa synergies.
- **Udaya Sekhar Nagothu:**
 - Present as a concrete example the achievements of the Horizon 2020 project InnovAfrica in the area of agriculture and food security;
 - Expose how lessons learned in the project could feed into new policy actions in terms of EU-Africa synergies.
- **Bosun Tijani:**
 - Present, as a best practice, the activities of Co-creation Hub and their impact on the Nigerian Innovation Ecosystem;
 - Describe the obstacles and advantages of the Nigerian Innovation Ecosystem for European innovators and vice versa;
 - Expose the mutual benefits stemming from the GO-GA project in terms of synergies between Europe and Africa;
 - Propose concrete action to further deepen synergies in terms of creating networks between hubs and incubators from Africa and Europe.