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# Business Incubator Communities (BIC) Africa

BIC Africa is a regional network supporting selected business incubators (BIs) in stimulating entrepreneurship and creating new innovative start-ups in Eastern and Southern Africa, with a specific focus on youth and women. We seek to strengthen entrepreneurship and foster decent job creation and sustainable livelihoods.

We support, connect and promote business incubators, tech hubs and innovators of all kinds. Explore business and public/private investment opportunities with African and European initiatives and companies.

BIC Africa is commissioned by the European Union and implemented by EBN. The project will run from 2021 to 2025.



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*Supporting business incubation, building innovation bridges and fostering inclusive, decent job creation, in collaboration between the African and European Continents.*



# Objectives

- Set up a Europe-Africa Coordination Office (EACO) and Regional Network.
- Better connection and synergies between actors of the regional ecosystem.
- Build the capacity of local Business Incubators (BI) and their client companies.
- Improved understanding of the state-of-the-art of the business incubation.
- Establishing and reinforcing a quality label for African business support organisations.
- Build a committee of experts overseeing the creation of a certification system.
- Communication, dissemination and outreach activities to create a strong brand for the Regional Network.

## Regional network

The regional network will offer various services to the selected business incubators in the country projects that will support them to:

- Facilitate capacity-building.
- Make a better connection between European and African innovation hubs to develop intercontinental collaboration.
- Raise awareness about the needs and challenges faced by incubators and advise decision-makers.
- Establish or reinforce a quality label for African incubators and ensure that quality standards are respected in all supported incubators.
- Explore business and public/private investment opportunities with African and European initiatives and companies.
- Help you to benefit from exchanges and cooperation with other initiatives.



# What do we offer



## On-site Bootcamp training

A series of onsite training opportunities for the BI staff members.



## Virtual Academy

A virtual training centre with a range of training modules.



## AU - EU twinning

A twinning programme with EU | BICs for African BI.



## Mentoring

A mentoring programme for the BI staff.



## Tailored advice

Organisation of tailored consultations and support.



## Soft-Landing services

Provision of "Soft-Landing" services facilitating internationalisation support.



## EU Policy workshop

Organisation of policy dialogues and workshops for AU and EU government institutions.



## Helpdesk & Advisory services

Helpdesk and advisory services for BI and other stakeholders.



## Annual Congress

An annual networking event bringing together a wide variety of regional stakeholders from both continents.



## Access to Finance

Advise and facilitate access to finance.

## Country Projects

The country projects are established by the Delegations of the European Union in collaboration with local implementing partners and consolidate the selected business incubators of each country. The Regional Network component will provide the country projects with dedicated capacity building and networking support, while providing networking services to the wider incubation ecosystem in the region, to extend the network ultimately to other countries.



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*We work to stimulate knowledge sharing among the wider incubation ecosystem for business incubators to benefit from cooperation with other initiatives, collaborations between innovation hubs, and shared business opportunities in Africa and Europe.*

## Partners

[European Business and Innovation  
Centre Network \(EBN\)](#)

[The Directorate-General for  
International Partnerships of the  
European Commission \(DG INTPA\)](#)

[The Delegations of the European  
Union in Angola, Ethiopia,  
Madagascar and Somalia](#)

[International Finance Corporation  
\(IFC\)](#)

[sequa gGmbH](#)

[The United Nations Industrial  
Development Organization \(UNIDO\)](#)

BIC Africa is part of a Platform to implement a Team Europe Initiative (TEI) "Invest in Young Businesses in Africa" (IYBA).

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