

## BIC Africa Newsletter Issue 3 - December 2022

**Season's Greetings**  
And a Happy New Year!!



### **BIC Africa organises the first Annual Gathering 2022 in Addis Ababa**

On the 17th of November 2022, the first edition of BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2022 was held in Addis Ababa, with a focus on “Connecting African Business Incubators”. In this flagship event, more than 100 relevant actors of the innovation and entrepreneurship arena from the BIC Africa project countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Somalia), Comoros and Europe attended the event in person. BIC Africa is funded by the European Union.

The event showcased the role of regional collaborations and facilitated exchanges in the innovation and entrepreneurship arena in Sub-Saharan Africa, to drive innovative start-ups across, focusing on youth and women. Moreover, the participants had the chance to connect for future potential collaborations and leverage unique mutual understanding.

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**BIC Africa activities updates and events**



### The first BIC Africa Bootcamp was held in Brussels, Belgium

On the 29th and 30th of November 2022, the first BIC Africa Bootcamp held in Brussels, Belgium for the business incubators and accelerators from the BIC Africa project countries Angola, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Somalia.

The BIC Africa European Bootcamp was designed to provide selected African business incubators BIs with an opportunity to meet, connect and exchange knowledge among themselves and with experts in incubation and innovative entrepreneurship from the EU|BIC community.

The Bootcamp aimed at facilitating intercontinental connections between European and African business incubators, sharing experiences and strategies that can be harnessed by the incubators from the BIC Africa four target countries.

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### Meet the winners of the AU YOUTH PAVILLION BIC Africa - AeTrade Business Idea Challenge.

On the sideline of the Africa Industrialization Week (AIW2022) that took place in Niamey, Niger, and online from the 20th to 25th of November 2022. BIC Africa in collaboration with AeTrade Group, supported by the African Union, has organized an award ceremony side event on the 23rd of November 2022. At this award ceremony, Beverly Senda, from Kenya and Fela Akinse, Nigeria were announced as the winners of the AU YOUTH PAVILLION BIC Africa-AeTrade Business Idea Challenge.

H.E. Albert M. Muchanga Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission and Mr Muluaem Syoum CEO of AeTrade Group graced the ceremony as special guests and handed over the certificates to the winners. The winners were awarded a 4000 EURO cash prize.

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### Ethiopia: Successful launch of BIC Ethiopia

In October 2022, sequa (Lead Implementing Partner) organised the launch of BIC Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. The aim of BIC Ethiopia is to enable business incubators to support start-ups of agricultural technologies and agribusinesses as well as MSMEs to improve their market access, generate higher incomes and create jobs in the country.

The fact that BIC Ethiopia is strongly supported by all stakeholders was demonstrated by the keen interest in the event and the high-level participation, led by His Excellency Ato Nigussu Tilahun, Minister of State for Jobs, Employment and Labor Market of the Ministry of Labor and Skills, and by Mercedes Marin Nortes of the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia as well as the consortium partners and stakeholders.

BIC Ethiopia is a four-year project with a budget of EUR 5.5M, of which 90% is funded by the European Union. The project is being implemented since January 2022 by a consortium with sequa in the lead and the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA), adelphi, Menschen für Menschen (MfM), GrowthAfrica and Icehawassa.



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