

BIC Africa Newsletter Issue 10 - December 2024



BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2024: Accelerating Access to Sustainable Financing for Young Business in Africa!

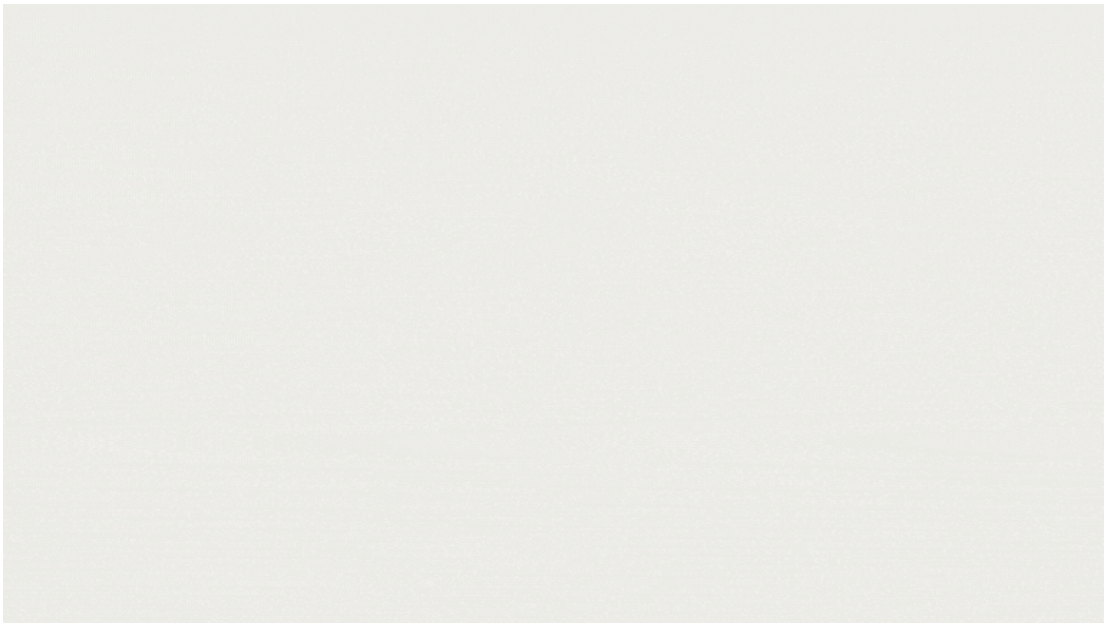
The BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2024 (#BICAfrica2024), co-hosted by the INCUBOOST project, took place on the 24th of October 2024 in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The theme for this year's gathering was "Accelerating access to sustainable financing for young businesses in Africa!," tackling the crucial role of access to sustainable finance for young businesses in Africa. Solutions were explored to bring their ideas to fruition, drive local economic development and create new market opportunities. Moreover, the importance of building resilience, adapting to changing social and economic conditions, and long term sustainability was discussed.

This third edition brought together over 100 participants, with additional participation online, including business incubation leaders, startup ecosystem experts, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, policymakers, and other stakeholders from the five BIC Africa project countries (Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Somalia), as well as participants from the European ecosystem.

Special thanks to everyone who took part in-person and online. We would like to thank our phenomenal speakers, moderators, the INCUBOOST project – UNIDO, UNCDF and PPI, the implementing partners of the country projects, and the EU Delegations of Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Somalia, for making the BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2024 (#BICAfrica2024) a great success.

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BIC Africa activities updates and events



BIC Africa held a 3-day Boot Camp for Comorian and Malagasy BIs in Madagascar

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the BIC Africa boot camp for Comorian and Malagasy business incubators, held from October 21st to 23rd in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The boot camp was designed on a comprehensive needs analysis and focused on key topics such as financing an incubator, managing an incubator, supporting incubated companies and their financing, implementing quality assurance measures, and mobilising the diaspora to boost investment in Africa.

The boot camp was organized by EBN/BIC Africa with the support of the INCUBOOST project and facilitated by experts from the EUJBIC community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants for their commitment and dedication. We appreciate the support of the expert facilitators, the INCUBOOST team and EU Delegation to Madagascar for their crucial role in ensuring the boot camp's resounding success.

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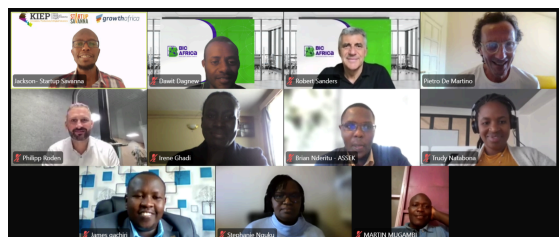


BIC Africa Launches Staff Exchange Programme to foster Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange between African Business Incubators

The first BIC Africa Staff Exchange Programme, a pivotal strategy for practical peer-to-peer knowledge transfer among African Business Incubators (BIs), was held in Madagascar from the 16th to 18th of October 2024 for 5 Comorian BIs hosted by 5 Malagasy BIS. This innovative programme aims to facilitate short-term inter-regional exchanges of business incubator staff members, providing a platform for mutual learning and the acquisition of practical experience in the day-to-day operations and management of business incubation services.

Designed to foster long-term sustainable relationships, the programme scouts regional connections and opportunities for client companies. The programme operates in a two-way manner, with the visiting representatives from Comoros becoming hosts in the second round. Both visiting and host BIs will benefit from new knowledge, skills, and a better understanding of each other's ecosystem development perspectives.

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BIC Africa Participated in the Unlocking ESO Self-Sustainability Webinar

BIC Africa held a successful two-day Angolan boot camp in Luanda

BIC Africa held a successful two-day boot camp on the 24th and 25th of September in Luanda, with 22 participants representing 15 business incubators from across Angola. The boot camp began with welcoming remarks from JOÃO NKOSI, Chairman of INAPEM, and an opening speech by Allan Varela, Director at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Republic of Angola.

The boot camp was organised in partnership with IFC Angola, INAPEM and supported by the EU Delegation. It was developed and delivered through a needs assessment training content, co-created and led by experienced incubation experts from the EBN network in Europe. The boot camp aimed at enhancing the business incubators' strategic positioning and implementation strategies using the business model canvas framework.

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On Thursday, 29th August 2024, BIC Africa participated in a webinar titled "Unlocking ESO Self-Sustainability" organised by Startup Savanna. The event focused on aligning deal flow strategies with the path to self-sustainability for Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs) targeting the Kenya ecosystem. The webinar featured a short presentation of BIC Africa project by Krisztina Dax, followed by insights from leading European experts in the field.

The first presentation was by Pietro De Martino, Vice President of the European Business & Innovation Centre Network (EBN) and Incubation Manager at FILSE Spa from Italy, followed by Philipp Roden, Director of Lipo.ink from Check Republic. Both are EU|BIC certified and renowned incubators and innovation centres in their respective countries and regions.

BIC Africa's support in facilitating connection with European ESOs and participation in the webinar underscored our commitment in facilitating the exchange of best practices and innovative strategies between African and European ecosystems.

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BIC Africa Virtual Training Programme 2024 and 2025

The BIC Africa Virtual Training Programme for 2024 and 2025, designed by the BIC Africa Virtual Training Centre, offers business incubators a unique chance to connect with experts in incubation and innovative entrepreneurship. The training is conducted in English and participants can choose the sessions they are interested in, and those who attend two or more sessions will receive a digital Certificate of Attendance.

[Read more and Register Now](#)

Resources & Opportunities



**BIC Africa Diaspora
Entrepreneurship Webinar Series
3rd edition 17 Dec 2024**

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**Launch of the Seed Lab's second Call
For Applications. Deadline 20 Dec
2024**

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