

BIC Africa Newsletter Issue 11 - May 2025



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

The fifth edition of the BIC Africa Online Acceleration Programme for Women Entrepreneurs kicked off on the 6th of May. After a rigorous selection process, we have selected 30 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds and business sectors, representing 12 Sub-Saharan African countries, out of an impressive 170 applications. Over the next three months, the 30 participants will embark on an intensive journey composed of six online interactive training, four online group coaching, and two online networking sessions. The programme aims to equip them with the tools and perspectives they need to thrive and scale their business sustainably in both local and international markets, while creating jobs, innovating within their industries, and contributing to sustainable development. In addition, the programme will open the door for further opportunities and awards like one-to-one mentoring sessions with business incubation experts and be introduced to the alumnae network of the BIC Africa Women Acceleration programme.

This edition will be led by a team of four seasoned expert trainers of women trainers, hailing from Africa and Europe, from EU|BIC community. These trainers bring a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs. Through their guidance, the participants will gain deeper insights into financial management, marketing strategies, and business innovation. Their diverse backgrounds offer participants unparalleled insights into best practices, cultural nuances, and innovative business strategies. Moreover, by bridging expertise from two continents, the trainers serve not only as coaches but also as role models, demonstrating what is possible when knowledge, resilience, and ambition align.

BIC Africa continues to champion the transformative potential of women-led businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa. This uniquely tailor acceleration programme is also a platform for unleashing innovation and fostering economic empowerment.

We congratulate the 30 outstanding entrepreneurs selected for this edition and we look forward to witnessing your growth and success. We also thank all those who have submitted their application for this cohort.

This programme is made possible by the financial support of the European Union and implemented by EBN.

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[Meet the Entrepreneurs](#)

BIC Africa activities updates and events



BIC Africa Participates in the 2nd EU-Kenya Business Forum: Advancing Trade Through Digital Transformation

The second edition of the EU-Kenya Business Forum took place in Nairobi on 12 and 13 May 2025, with the theme "Digitalising Trade." The Forum was jointly organised by the EU Delegation to Kenya, EU Member State embassies, and key Kenyan stakeholders. Its main objective was to strengthen trade and investment ties between the EU and Kenya by leveraging digital transformation as a catalyst for improving trade efficiency, expanding market access, and fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

BIC Africa was proud to participate and exhibit at the forum, alongside GrowthAfrica a partner in BIC Ethiopia. Our presence provided an excellent opportunity to engage with local businesses, the EU Delegation to Kenya, EU Member States' delegations, European Commission representatives, and numerous European companies operating in Kenya. The two-day forum brought together over 700 participants from Kenya, East Africa, and Europe, including policymakers, business leaders, investors, ecosystem enablers, civil society actors, and development partners.



BIC Africa Soft-Landing Programme for Angolan Business Incubation Managers held in Portugal

The BIC Africa Soft-Landing Programme for six Angolan Business Incubation Managers successfully took place between the 17th and 20th of March 2025 in Portugal.

The soft-landing carried out by EU|BIC IPN Incubadora, led by Alexandre Almeida, Project Incubation Project Manager, and EU|BIC Startup Leiria, led by Vítor Ferreira, CEO, supported by EBN team, and Krisztina Dax, BIC Africa Project Manager, who accompanied the mission. The Soft-Landing programme successfully achieved its objectives, including enhancing the strategic capacity of the visiting BIs, fostering knowledge exchange, exploring how some of the principles could apply to the organisations and local realities in Angola, and identifying avenues for future collaboration between Angolan and Portuguese incubation ecosystems.

We thank our host organisations and experts, the IFC Angola team, and inapem for supporting the programme and for the commitment to strengthening entrepreneurship in Angola.

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BIC Africa Staff Exchange for Angolan and Malagasy Experts 2025

BIC Africa is facilitating a strategic staff exchange initiative aimed at strengthening business incubation and fostering cross-border collaboration among African innovation ecosystems. In addition, it aims at providing a practical peer-to-peer knowledge transfer among business incubation experts and to facilitate short-term inter-regional exchanges of business incubator staff members about practical experience in the day-to-day operations and management of business incubation services for their clients.

From 28 to 30 May, a delegation of Angolan experts will be hosted in Ethiopia, where they will engage in knowledge-sharing sessions, peer learning, and networking with local innovation hubs. A second exchange will follow from 2 to 4 June, for Malagasy experts participating in a similar programme in the Comoros.

This initiative is designed to meet several key objectives:

- **Provide business incubators (BIs)** with first-hand experience in the management, structure, and operational activities of their African counterparts.
- **Foster connections** between BIs for knowledge sharing, partnerships, and future exchange programmes.
- **Enhance the capacity** of selected BIs through peer learning and networking, enabled by regional collaboration.
- **Bridge regional ecosystems** by directly connecting BIs to co-design and implement incubation programs that support scalable businesses.
- **Empower BIs** to identify and develop collaborative business models that are aligned with local realities, driving their growth and long-term sustainability.

These exchanges reflect BIC Africa's commitment to supporting inclusive innovation and entrepreneurship across the continent, by strengthening networks and promoting collaborative development among African incubators.

The first edition successfully held in October 2024 in Madagascar for the Comorian business incubation experts.

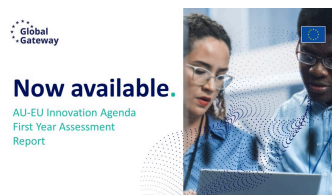


BIC Africa to Participate in EBN Congress 2025

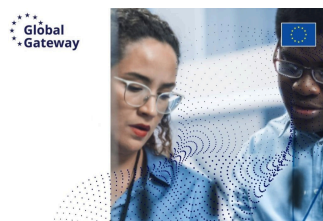
BIC Africa is attending the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) Congress 2025 (#EBN2025) taking place 18 - 20 June in Barakaldo, Spain. This annual event brings together over 300 attendees and more than 175 innovation organizations from 37 countries worldwide.

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Resources & Opportunities



The AU-EU innovation Agenda First year assessment of the 10-year Agenda

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Launch of Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025: Africa Initiative III now open for proposals

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