

BIC Africa Newsletter Issue 12 - November 2025



BIC Africa Annual Gathering 2025: Empowering Youth-led Startups to transform Agri-Tech, Agribusiness & Value Chains for Food Security

On the 23rd of October 2025, we successfully hosted the fourth edition of BIC Africa Annual Gathering at the Palmeiras Hotel in Luanda, Angola with more than 90 in-person participants and 140 online. This year's gathering, themed ***"Empowering Youth-led Startups to Transform Agri-Tech, Agribusiness & Value Chains for Food Security"***, co-organised by the Angola Incubator Project, and funded by the European Union, in collaboration with INAPEM and the Delegation of the European Union to Angola.

The program started with welcoming remarks from Mateja PERTERNELJ, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Angola and Vasco NUNES, Angola Country Officer from IFC. Bráulio Augusto (PhD), the Chairman of the Board of Directors of INAPEM, welcomed the participants and kicked off the event. During his speech he highlighted the institution's commitment to strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and international cooperation, highlighting programs such as BIC Africa. The regional connections that BIC Africa promotes could significantly contribute to the sustainable growth of the Angolan ecosystem.

The gathering featured three high-impact panels moderated by leading ecosystem voices.

The panel discussions featured meaningful exchanges of best practices and insights on the challenges and opportunities facing agri-tech, agribusiness and value chains in Africa. Speakers reinforced the Angolan ecosystem's visibility and its links to the broader African and European start-up networks and shared how to empower young entrepreneurs and women in agrifood sectors and accelerate food-security-oriented innovation.

We were delighted that the gathering brought together ecosystem actors from across the five BIC Africa country-projects (Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia), as well as

participants from Europe and beyond.

A heartfelt thank you to the 90+ participants, 140+ online attendees, exhibitors, speakers, moderators, and the phenomenal BIC Africa team who made this gathering a true success.

Special thanks to our financial partner the EU, and our local partners – IFC, the EU Delegation to Angola, and INAPEM for their unwavering support and contribution.

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BIC Africa activities updates and events



The 2nd edition of the BIC Africa African Boot Camp held in Luanda, Angola.

The BIC Africa African Boot Camp for business incubation experts held successfully on the 21st and 22nd October 2025 in Luanda, Angola. This second edition brought 15 business incubation experts from Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, and Madagascar.

Over the course of two days, participants engaged in a practical journey from diagnosis to design, operation, and funding, working on real incubator case studies drawn from diverse contexts – public, private, university, and non-profit. The aim was to enhance the capacity-building into concrete strategies for sustainable business incubation this edition shifted training into execution from learning to doing.

The boot camp was organised by EBN with the support of the Angolan Incubator project, INAPEM and facilitated by experts from the EU/BIC community, Inês Guedes from EurA Innovation Ecosystems and Francisco Aguiar from Startup Leiria.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants for their commitment and active contribution. We also thank the expert facilitators, the IFC team, INAPEM and EU Delegation to Angola for their crucial role in ensuring the boot camp's resounding success.

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BIC Africa Staff Exchange for Ethiopian Experts held in Luanda.

Between 16 to 20 October 2025, representatives from 1888EC and R&D Group participated in the BIC Africa Staff Exchange Programme in Luanda, Angola. This second-round staff exchange programme, building on the success of the first exchange held in May in Ethiopia, whereby two Angolan incubation managers visited R&D Group and 1888EC.

Abnet Tadesse Belayneh, CEO of loanlinket at 1888EC and Ewintim Awoke, Ewintim Awoke Misikir, Business Development Support Lead at R&D Group visited Acelera Angola, ISPTec's SonaJovem 5.0, and Founder Institute Luanda, engaging directly with incubator managers and supported startups. The exchange showcased how Angola's entrepreneurship ecosystem blends corporate-academic partnerships, stage-gated venture pipelines, and global-local linkages to drive startup success and investment readiness. This enabled the Ethiopian Business Incubator managers to relate their situation to those of the Angolan incubators and adopt some of the learnings to their local context in Ethiopia. We thank the host business incubators, the Angola Incubation project implemented by IFC and the EU delegation to Angola and other partners for supporting the successful exchanges.

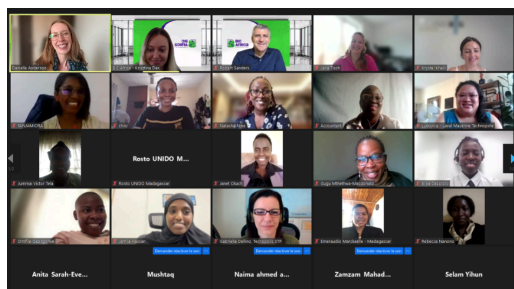
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BIC Africa Diaspora Entrepreneurship Webinar Series: Dialogue with African Diaspora Entrepreneurs in the IT Sector.

Join us for an insightful webinar “Dialogue with African Diaspora Entrepreneurs in the IT Sector” and gain firsthand insights, practical strategies, and expert guidance on launching and scaling successful startups. Connect with African diaspora from Europe and the United States and discover how diaspora-led innovation is unlocking new opportunities across the global IT business. [if !supportLineBreakNewLine]

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The 5th edition of the BIC Africa Women Entrepreneurs Acceleration Programme concludes after 12 weeks

The fifth edition of the BIC Africa Online Acceleration Programme for Women Entrepreneurs has successfully wrapped up on the 22 July 2025, marking another important milestone in supporting women-led businesses across Sub-Saharan Africa. Over the course of 12 weeks, 30 selected women entrepreneurs participated in a rich and dynamic learning journey designed to strengthen and scale their businesses.

The 2025 cohort included women entrepreneurs from 12 Sub-Saharan African countries, a diverse and committed cohort, including the BIC Africa's target countries: Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Somalia. The selection was made from over 170 applications, reflecting the growing demand for high-quality entrepreneurial support.

This year's edition featured 12 hours interactive online sessions delivered between May and July 2025, covering core topics on financial management, marketing strategies, business storytelling, pitching techniques, leadership and time management led by female experts in the field of entrepreneurship and business profession from Africa, Europe and beyond. The participants had also engaged in four group coaching sessions, peer-to-peer exchanges, and practical assignments, all tailored to their unique entrepreneurial and business contexts. A special gratitude to our financial partner, the European Union and to our trainers, coaches, mentors from Europe and beyond, and the country projects.

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BIC Africa held the 3rd edition of the Soft-Landing Programme for Somali Business Incubation Managers in Slovenia.

BIC Africa successfully held the third edition of the soft-landing programme at the Sežana Incubator in Slovenia for three Somali Business incubation managers from the 27th to 30th May 2025, representing three prominent business incubators in Somalia.

The three days soft-landing programme was carried out by EU|BIC Sežana Incubator, led by **Maja Cergol Lipnik**, Assistant Director of the Sežana Incubator, who hosted **Ayub Mohamud Hussein**, Director Public Relations at SIMAD iLAB, **Ahmed Yusuf Mohamed**, Regional Coordinator at HarHub, **Mohamed Ali Dahir**, Education Program Director at iRise Hub and representatives from the BIC Somali project. The delegation visited key Sežana Incubator infrastructures, Sežana's ecosystem community, including schools, colleges, and had met with startups. This third edition, built on the success of the past two editions, successfully achieved empowering the visiting incubator managers through a first-hand learning and exchange with Slovenian practices in the field of business incubation, development of support programmes, ecosystem building and cooperation with local and international actors focusing on creative entrepreneurship that gave participants the chance to reflect on how such approaches could be adapted and applied in their own contexts. Moreover, the programme provided them with a valuable opportunity to explore the local ecosystem, explore new collaboration avenues, and strengthen entrepreneurial support systems across borders.

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BIC Africa Participated in the EBN Congress 2025 in Barakaldo, Spain

BIC Africa was proud to take part in the EBN Congress 2025, held from 18 to 20 June in Barakaldo, Spain. This year's congress held under the theme: "Innovation for a Sustainable and Resilient Future" co-organised by EBN – European Business & Innovation Centre Network and EU/BIC BIC BIZKAIA EZKERRALDEA.

As part of the three-day programme, Krisztina Dax, BIC Africa Project Manager and Robert Sanders, BIC Africa Team Leader participated in the congress where they could exchange on best practices and strengthening global networks. They had the opportunity to connect with peers and stakeholders from the EU/BIC community, speakers and other participants. They engaged in insightful exchanges on innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, and the role of business incubation in advancing sustainable development in Africa. BIC Africa had a booth, and the congress participants had the opportunity to connect directly with Krisztina and Robert, to learn more about the project activities, regional partnerships, and impact across the five target countries. BIC Africa's participation and support to this year's congress, alongside other sponsors, underscored our ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships between African and European innovation ecosystems. We are grateful for the chance to engage with innovators, partners, and changemakers driving impact across Europe and Africa.

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BIC Africa Participates in the 2nd EU-Kenya Business Forum.

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.

The two-day Forum attracted over 700 participants from Kenya, East Africa, and Europe, including policymakers, business leaders, investors, ecosystem enablers, civil society actors, and development partners. Through thematic workshops, B2B (business-to-business), B2G (business-to-government), and B2F (business-to-finance) matchmaking sessions, participants explored how technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, e-commerce, and other digital tools can transform trade and support more inclusive and resilient economic development.

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.

A heartfelt thank you to the EU Delegation in Kenya and the European Commission for organising and inviting us to this impactful forum.

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