PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 12 September 2016

Innovate Africa Competition

$1 000 000 to be won for supporting innovation in online media in Africa

The digital revolution is radically transforming how information is accessed. All around the world we are witnessing an explosion of websites, blogs, and radio and TV programmes online. In Africa, almost 340 million people are now on the internet, 127 million use Facebook, and 850 million have mobile phones. A new media ecosystem is emerging, bringing with it fantastic opportunities for newly democratising countries to access freer, more diverse information. In view of this development, CFI and Code for Africa have joined forces to launch Innovate Africa. Applications are now open for this competition, which will provide $1 000 000 in grants to Africa's most innovative projects.

The aim of Innovate Africa is to help a new generation of African media professionals as they create innovative information services in line with advances in technology usage across Africa. The project is designed to enhance the quality and impact of online African journalism and expand its audience using economic models that encourage independent work.

Hackathons, a MOOC and a fast-track training programme designed to foster the emergence of innovative projects

In 2015, CFI and Code for Africa organised a series of 7 hackathons* and 6 data bootcamps* in 13 different African countries to bring together local developers and web journalists. For French speakers CFI offered a MOOC in July 2015, in which 2 800 journalists and developers took part. The best 20 projects from the MOOC were given international mentorship throughout 2016. Following on from this, the best of Francophone Africa’s young web professionals are now able to submit their innovative projects to the competition that has just opened.
A million dollars set aside to back the projects
The candidates with the best online media projects from all over Africa now have until 1 December to apply. The most promising projects will receive funding and a share of an overall pot of $1 000 000 (from $10 000 to $100 000 per project).

Application submissions:
https://innovateafrica.fund/en

About CFI
The French media cooperation agency has spent the last 25 years promoting media development in countries from Africa to Asia. CFI is currently involved in around thirty projects that fall within four major programmes: media and pluralism, media and enterprise, media and development, and media and human resources. www.cfi.fr

About Code for Africa
Code for Africa is Africa’s largest data journalism and civic technology initiative, operating a network of CitizenLabs in various locations across the continent to support digital experimentation and transformation in the media, newsrooms and social justice organisations. In addition to the technology labs, Code for Africa runs training and funding schemes to build the digital infrastructure and ecosystem that are essential to African media. www.codeforafrica.org

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* hackathons: these events gave web application developers the opportunity to set up teams around project leads with the aim of creating an application prototype within a few hours. They took place in Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire), Dakar (Senegal), Antananarivo (Madagascar), Douala (Cameroon), Tunis (Tunisia), Casablanca (Morocco) and Algiers (Algeria)

* d|Bootcamps: d|bootcamps are workshops that focus on the use of data. They were organised in Abuja (Nigeria), Accra (Ghana), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Johannesburg (South Africa), Kampala (Uganda) and Nairobi (Kenya)
Afrique Innovation, is a project by: 

In partnership with: