The explosion in online media and the growing demand for citizen oversight of public actions in Africa represent an unprecedented opportunity for young Africans to innovate in the field of citizen action and tackle the challenges facing their countries. The Citizen connections project aims to accompany these young agents of change as they become increasingly professional, and help them to develop their digital citizen action projects.

AIMS

- To enhance the skills of committed young African citizens.
- To support them in bringing their projects to fruition.
- To establish a community of young leaders based on shared values and practices.

WHEN?

From September 2016 to June 2017

FOR WHOM?

15 young Africans with innovative ideas relating to citizenship.
HOW?

- 6 weeks of online activities, followed by the final selection of 15 participants.
- Inaugural session, training and intensive project course in Paris.
- Participation of some of the beneficiaries, whose projects are related to open government, in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit, to be held in Paris in December 2016: gaining a better understanding of the political issues surrounding open data, and meeting the major European and African players in this sector.
- “Bush camps” near Dakar and Abidjan: participants will stay in a rural area with no Internet access, where they will talk to the local people and if necessary refocus their projects, and then be trained on the issues and good practices relating to project management.
- Online and community activities: discussions amongst participants within the project’s Facebook group, and with the trainers via video chats.
- Final seminar in Paris: work focusing on evaluating the projects undertaken by the participants and how they have developed over time, and on taking stock of this inaugural Citizen connections project.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Enhancement of the participants’ skills in managing digital and citizen action projects.
- Devising, implementing and following-up of innovative and viable digital projects having a civic dimension.
- Establishment of a community around values and good practices, promoting long-term partnerships.

CFI, the French media development agency

CFI provides support to media organisations as development actors across several continents. A subsidiary of France Médias Monde and an operator of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the agency is currently working on around 30 projects that fall under three major programmes: Media and Governance, Media and Business, Media and Development.

The “Media and Development” programme helps media organisations to take ownership of development issues (education, health, gender) by strengthening the relationship of trust between journalists and civil society.

Contact

Emilie BERGOUIGNAN / Project manager
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 62 32 87 / ebn@cfi.fr  
cfi.fr