Members of civil society in French speaking Africa are increasingly committed to harnessing new opportunities offered by the development of digital tools in order to achieve clearer and more effective public action. However, they often lack core skills, sufficient knowledge and a robust ecosystem that allow them to sustainably realise and share their initiatives.

Citizen Connections II is proposing to step in and help young active citizens by providing targeted long-term support based on three pillars: raising awareness, incubating projects and developing a civic tech community.

**AIMS**

- Harness the power of digital tools to contribute to young people’s civic engagement and citizen control of public action in French speaking Africa;
- Improve the knowledge and understanding of civic tech;
- Enhance the ability of stakeholders to network, implement and promote civic tech initiatives.
FOR WHOM?

- Young people providing digital citizens’ solutions in French speaking Africa;
- The potential civic tech user and producer base that is online in French speaking Africa;
- Public authorities, the media and civil society organisations (CSOs);
- People in the target countries receiving the civic tech.

WHEN?

From August 2019 to September 2022.

HOW?

- A free massive open online course (MOOC) open to everyone, which is dedicated to digital citizen-action projects in French speaking Africa;
- Support and development of 50 projects led by young Africans, over a period of 8 months;
- Organisation of two conferences and development of a virtual community. Activities will also be organised in many countries.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Heightened awareness among communities and local authorities of the opportunities that digital tools present in terms of citizen initiatives in French speaking Africa;
- Support for young people to develop their digital projects;
- Creation of a network of ideas and experiences in order to stimulate cooperation among the various stakeholders.

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 Enterprise, Media and Development. The “Media and Governance” programme tackles democratic governance issues, notably by strengthening the rule of law, media plurality, the ethical conduct of public debates and the search for pluralistic and high-quality information.

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