

AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH ACADEMY

Develop Youth Leadership
in Sub-Saharan Africa



Supporting the youth in developing leadership skills and implementing sustainable solutions, while building bridges between Africa and Europe.

Implemented by

1 Context

Current African Population⁽¹⁾



- Young people under 30 years old
- Remainder of the African population



In 2050

Africa's youth population is expected to double by 2050, highlighting the urgent need to address the needs and aspirations of this demographic.

In 2100

Half of the world's young people will be African, positioning the continent as a key player in global affairs.



Major challenges facing African youth⁽²⁾

- High unemployment
- Economic insecurity
- Limited access to services (healthcare, education)
- Political disengagement
- Distrust of institutions
- Under-representation in decision-making bodies

In light of these factors, Africa's youthful demography today represents an opportunity to address many of the continent's challenges, from employment to political instability. With the right investments in education, skills development and leadership opportunities, young people can indeed become agents of change and innovation in Africa's continued growth and transformation, and in building bridges with Europe.

- ▶ Young people in Africa are increasingly turning to civil society to demand change:
 - ➔ Higher political participation;
 - ➔ Better governance;
 - ➔ Opportunities for economic growth.

(1) United-Nations, *Young People's Potential, the Key to Africa's Sustainable Development*, 2024

(2) Afrobarometer, *Annual Report*, 2024

2 Objectives of the Project

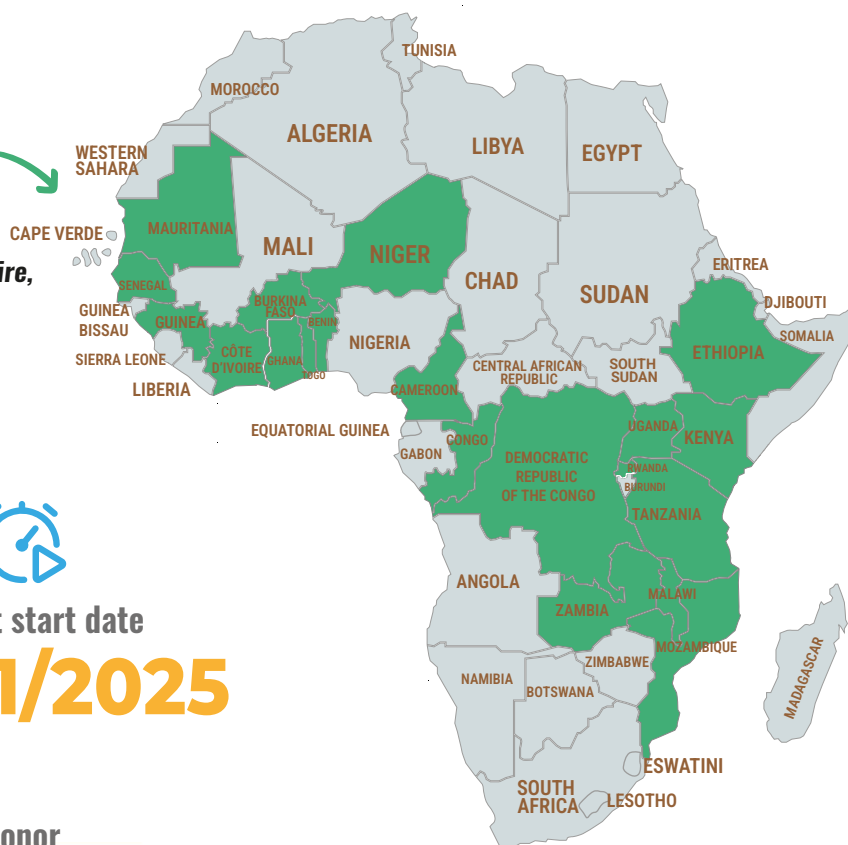
The Africa-Europe Youth Academy (AEYA) is one of the flagships of the **Youth Action Plan (YAP) in European Union external action** and part of the **Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package** under the 'Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship'. Expertise France is lead of the project and operates in consortium with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

The Aeya programme aims to **strengthen the role of young people as change agents and leaders of sustainable development**, while reinforcing the links between Africa and Europe. Our primary targets are **young people between the ages of 18 and 30**, with a particular focus on young women (OECD DAC 1 marker) and youth in **situations of vulnerability**. Our main operating partners are youth organisation, entrepreneurship support organisations and other entities working to support young people.

3 Key Figures

■ 20 implementation countries

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.



Budget (in M€)

15 M€



Project start date

02/01/2025



Duration (in months)

48 months

(4 years)

Donor



Implemented by



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Key Activities and Methodology

The main activities are the following:

1. Unlock Potential

Objective: Increase access for young people (including young women and young people in situation of vulnerability) to spaces where they can express their leadership potential.

Methodology: Support 'Spaces for Youth' created by and for young people across the continent with grants, training and capacity-building.

Results:

- Up to 50 youth organisations receiving grants
- Up to 10 youth organisations receiving technical assistance
- Up to 10 European actors involved in 'Spaces for Youth'

2. Amplify Potential

Objective: Young leaders enable positive change in their communities (by engaging in activities taking gender inequality and vulnerability challenges into account) and become 'multipliers' empowering other youth to take action.

Methodology: Create the 'New Leaders Lab', a local training programme implemented by civil society organisations and universities.

Results:

- 1,000 youth trained in leadership skills (50% women)
- 150 young leaders awarded prizes to boost their projects
- 10 organisations supporting the youth capacity-built

3. Connect Potential

Objective: Promote inclusive youth leadership at the local, national and international levels.

Methodology: Develop online training and mentoring programmes for young people, including alumni from European Union funded projects; organise events by and for youth at the local level.

Results:

- 1,300 young women and men connected through an online mentoring programme
- 1,000 youth trained online
- 400 alumni from EU programmes enrolled
- 6 courses created on Africa-Europe content
- Local events involving 1,200 young people locally