

Why Afric'innov?

Incubators, technopoles, hubs and other places of support for entrepreneurship are flourishing all over Africa. These structures, which are valuable and necessary as a development bridge, enable innovators to considerably increase their chances of success and create sustainable, job-creating businesses.

Often young, these structures have very varied levels of professionalism, are sometimes isolated and lack the appropriate means to develop. Financing these structures, like the start-ups they accompany, remains one of the major difficulties and a brake on innovation; banks and private investors can hardly finance risk and the start of an entrepreneurial journey, while public policies often remain inadequate to the realities of innovators.

Faced with this observation, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and a consortium of African incubators and French structures involved in innovation have launched Afric'innov, with the objective of helping to professionalize the support structures for entrepreneurship in Africa through capacity building and networking.

This project will test incubator support services and new seed funding mechanisms for three (03) years.

Components:

- ***An online shared resources center***

With different levels of access, this collaborative "toolbox" for incubators will provide access to structured and organized content to help support structures to be more efficient in their business.

- ***A media and web platform for business incubators***

Africinnov.com aims to be THE professional network of business incubators in Africa. It will include a media, a mapping of incubators, a qualified directory of startups, information on ecosystems... etc.

- ***An all-in-one software package for the follow-up of incubating startups***

Supporting project leaders requires the use of several tools that are not always adapted. The Africinnov software package will provide a complete tool for monitoring incubated companies.

- ***A seed funding facility for startups accompanied***

Afric'innov will grant repayable advances at 0% interest rate to member incubators. These advances are destined to finance or reflow each incubator's local seed funding arrangements.

- ***A process for the labelling of business incubators***

The Afric'innov label will enable start-ups and investors to identify and valorize structures who work efficiently to support innovative entrepreneurship within the African ecosystems.

- ***A Training programs for the teams in charge of coaching***

The professionalization of structures requires the training of teams in charge of coaching. Afric'innov responds to this need by organizing blended-learning training sessions.

Afric'innov will allow:

- Incubators to be collectively more attractive, visible and effective by stimulating exchanges between them in order to strengthen their know-how.
- to reduce the operating costs of each structure and open up new value-added services, with a logic of sharing and optimizing resources.