

WORKSHOP SERIES

Implementing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

4

AI for facilitating and strengthening R&I at the
Africa-Europe Interface - 15 April 2025
Marrakech (Morocco) & online



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4th WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU-EU INNOVATION AGENDA (Hybrid)

« Artificial Intelligence for Facilitating and Strengthening Research and Innovation
(R&I) at the Africa-Europe Interface »

Date: 15 April 2025 (3 hours)
10:00 – 13:00 local GMT+1 time
Location: GITEX Africa, Marrakech, Morocco

CONCEPT NOTE
v6, 10 April 2025

Drafted by the Organising Task Force of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda Working Group

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

This Workshop is the fourth of the series contributing to the implementation of the 10-year AU-EU Innovation Agenda (2023-2033). The Workshop will focus on the transformative and enabling role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in facilitating and strengthening Africa-Europe collaborations in Research and Innovation (R&I).

This event aims to highlight and reflect on the short-term actions (Q3 2023 – Q4 2026) outlined in the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#), with a particular emphasis on how AI can:

- Enhance scientific collaboration between African and European researchers and innovators;
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and technology transfer; and
- Strengthen innovation and technological ecosystems across both continents, especially in the strategic priority areas of intervention of the Agenda of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (part of the broader priority area of “Green Transition”) and of Public Health.

As the first of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda workshops to be held in North Africa, this Workshop will also seek to showcase regional innovation ecosystems and bring the AU-EU Innovation Agenda closer to Northern Africa’s research and innovation stakeholders.

The hosting at [GITEX Africa](#) 2025 in Marrakech, Morocco presents an exceptional opportunity to leverage the creativity, networks and technological leadership of one of the continent’s premier tech events. GITEX Africa’s focus on cutting-edge technology, including AI, start-up ecosystems and digital transformation, aligns perfectly with the Workshop’s objectives.

FORMAT

This hybrid Workshop will take place from on 15 April 2025, from 10:00 am to 01:00 pm GMT+1, as integral part of the programme of GITEX Africa 2025. The three-hour Workshop will follow a dynamic and interactive format, combining panel discussions, training and capacity-building sessions, and facilitated networking opportunities. The organisers will actively seek to engage speakers and exhibitors already participating in GITEX, enriching the content with practical AI applications and business insights.

The Workshop conduction language is English.

SPECIFIC TOPIC

The Workshop will focus on: “Artificial Intelligence for Facilitating and Strengthening R&I at the Africa-Europe Interface.”

It will examine the potential of AI to:

- Enable collaborative R&I across Africa and Europe, including through enhanced data access and sharing, multilingual knowledge platforms, and automated research analysis;
- Support innovation ecosystems, facilitating capacity enhancement, matchmaking and collaborations between researchers, innovators, investors and policymakers;
- Strengthen research translation and commercialisation, identifying how AI can accelerate the development of market-ready innovations in areas such as climate, food security and agriculture, health and digital transformation.

This thematic focus is fully aligned with the AU-EU Innovation Agenda’s short-term actions for “supporting the transformation of R&I outputs into relevant products, policy guidance and services”, and for “spreading availability and use of key enabling and emerging technologies”, including AI.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

This Workshop will consist of four key elements, as elaborated below.

1. Introductory Session – Setting the Scene (30 minutes)

The introductory session will include:

- Welcoming addresses by AUDA-NEPAD, European Commission and Moroccan authorities’ representatives,
- A presentation on the progress of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda implementation, with a specific focus on AI-related activities and developments since the previous Workshops,
- An overview of the programme.

2. Experience Sharing – Testimonials from Researchers and Innovators (30 minutes)

This session will feature testimonials from African and European researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs actively using AI to advance R&I at the Africa-Europe interface. These testimonials will illustrate tangible benefits of applying AI to collaborative R&I, while highlighting challenges and lessons learned.

Testimonials will be selected to ensure representation from both Africa and Europe, with particular attention to:

- Stakeholders who have been previously involved in initiatives pertaining to the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda and who are already part of the community following and contributing to the realisation of this joint Agenda;
- Success stories demonstrating how the AU-EU Innovation Agenda has supported AI-related collaboration.

Each testimonial should not exceed 5 minutes, followed by 2-3 minutes of Q&A, and will highlight how each initiative employs and leverages the use of AI to empower Africa-Europe collaborations.

3. Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme – Practical Capacity Building (75 minutes)

This segment will provide practical training and capacity enhancement on the application of AI to foster Africa-Europe R&I collaborations. Topics may include:

- AI tools for collaborative research project management,
- AI for data-driven decision making in innovation ecosystems,
- AI-supported innovation matchmaking platforms,
- AI applications in sectoral research (e.g., climate, food security and agriculture, health and digital governance),

Where possible, the training session will draw on AI platforms and solutions showcased at GITEX Africa, making use of real-world examples and demonstrations, and provide case studies from the Northern Africa region.

Each training presentation will not exceed 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of Q&A.

4. Networking Café – Facilitating Matchmaking and Collaboration Building (45 minutes)

The Networking Café will offer an informal yet structured space for participants to meet, exchange ideas, and explore opportunities for cross-continental collaboration. Rather than using separate breakout rooms, this session will unfold in a single shared space (both in-person and online), organised around three thematic discussion moments, each focused on a priority area of AI for sustainable development:

- Key moment 1: AI for Food Security & Agriculture
- Key moment 2: Transforming Healthcare with AI
- Key moment 3: AI for Climate Services

Two co-moderators will guide the conversations, introduce each theme, and invite participant reflections. Technical experts from Sessions 2 and 3 will be present to provide context, answer questions, and share insights when needed, but will not deliver formal presentations.

CREATIVE LINK TO MOROCCO AND GITEX AFRICA

To fully leverage the geographical and cultural context, the Workshop will:

- Highlight Northern African innovation ecosystems, including AI research and innovation landscape;
- Incorporate Moroccan cultural elements into the Networking Café, such as local refreshments and traditional hospitality-inspired set-up;
- Invite GITEX exhibitors with AI-related innovations to contribute to panels, training and networking sessions, enriching the AU-EU Innovation Agenda dialogue with cutting-edge technological perspectives;
- Consider local case studies from Moroccan AI initiatives demonstrating successful collaborations with European partners.

NOTE ON DOCUMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

As for previous Workshops, note-taking will be ensured. A summary report will be produced, capturing key messages, identified opportunities, and potential follow-up actions to further strengthen the AI dimension of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The deep-tech training component of the Workshop will be recorded and made available online via the European Commission's (EU Science & Innovation) YouTube channel.