PROJECTS
10
Digital Social Innovations

COUNTRIES*
South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, Senegal

DURATION
06/2024 - 12/2025

The Data Governance in Africa Initiative is implemented with the financial support of the European Union and five EU Members States (Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, and Germany) as part of the EU Global Gateway Strategy.

D4D HUB
EU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
DIGITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT HUB

Data Governance in Africa Initiative
FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
'Think Like an Investor'
Private Sector Call for Proposals

The **Data Governance in Africa Initiative** supports a "development-oriented and human-centric data economy and society in Africa." The Initiative is part of a broader strategic partnership between the **African Union** and **European Union** regarding Digital Cooperation and is seen as a key component of the Joint AU-EU Vision for sustained and sustainable economic growth.

The Call for Proposals outlined in this document falls under this Initiative and is part of a larger collaboration between Enabel, HAUS, and ESTDEV and HAUS, respectively the **Belgian**, **Estonian** and **Finnish** development agencies, that are launching a separate, complementary Call with a different set of stakeholders in Africa's digital & data ecosystems.

HAUS and **ESTDEV** will support **private sector** actors through **capacity building** & **investment readiness**.

Enabel's Innovation Hub (Wehubit) will support **government institutions**, **academia**, **civil society**, **NGOs**, and **social enterprises** through grants and capacity building.

*The compilation of countries where Enabel, ESTDEV, and/or HAUS have ongoing or planned programs and networks (to be confirmed).
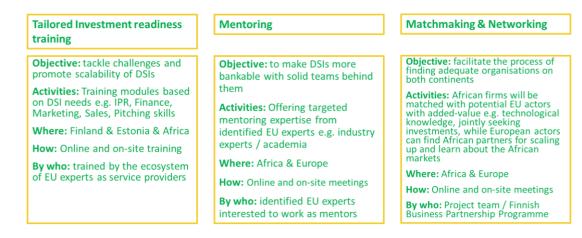
The **objective** of the Call for Proposals is to boost growth by supporting the expansion and sustainable adoption of data-driven Digital Social Innovations (DSIs)[1] in Africa's digital ecosystem, catering to entrepreneurs, startups, and SMEs. It also seeks to attract European and African investors to drive social impact and economic growth while facilitating European actors in finding African partners and understanding African markets.

What is important and necessary for the call for proposal?

➢ **The applicant (s)** needs to emphasize alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), scalability, understanding of local context, and previous performance.

➢ Emphasizing multi-stakeholder involvement, particularly African-European collaboration, impactful initiatives, and innovative strategies is essential for enhancing visibility.

What the Call for Proposals will offer?

Tailored Investment readiness training	Mentoring	Matchmaking & Networking
Objective: tackle challenges and promote scalability of DSIs	**Objective:** to make DSIs more bankable with solid teams behind them	**Objective:** facilitate the process of finding adequate organisations on both continents
Activities: Training modules based on DSI needs e.g. IPR, Finance, Marketing, Sales, Pitching skills	**Activities:** Offering targeted mentoring expertise from identified EU experts e.g. industry experts / academia	**Activities:** African firms will be matched with potential EU actors with added-value e.g. technological knowledge, jointly seeking investments, while European actors can find African partners for scaling up and learn about the African markets
Where: Finland & Estonia & Africa	**Where:** Africa & Europe	**Where:** Africa & Europe
How: Online and on-site training	**How:** Online and on-site meetings	**How:** Online and on-site meetings
By who: trained by the ecosystem of EU experts as service providers	**By who:** identified EU experts interested to work as mentors	**By who:** Project team / Finnish Business Partnership Programme

Outputs of the Call

➢ 10 DSIs will undergo tailored investment readiness training and receive mentoring, coaching, and support from experienced professionals, mentors, and peers.

➢ The project facilitates pitching, matchmaking, and networking for DSIs to engage with potential investors, partners, mentors, and stakeholders across Europe and Africa.

➢ The project cultivates a dynamic digital innovation ecosystem in Africa, aligned with the Data Governance in Africa Initiative goals and promoting continent-wide sustainable development.

Thematic scope

Overall, data driven DSIs should help bridge digital disparities, such as urban/rural, gender, and youth divides. Here are some themes they could tackle:

➢ E-Health/epidemics (e.g. cross-border health data sharing)
➢ Digital inclusion (e.g. addressing youth & gender gaps, digital rights, education)
➢ Climate change, energy, natural resource management, and climate-smart agriculture
➢ Financial inclusion, open finance, and banking
➢ Connectivity (e.g. last-mile access, infrastructure, regulatory issues)
➢ Governance (e.g. e-governance, smart cities, transportation, taxation/customs)

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[1] In the context of this Call, DSI refers to a data driven new or improved product, service or process that leverages technology to address social or environmental challenges and generate positive societal impact.

▶ Applicant Eligibility

➢ Application is open to both individual organizations and consortiums aiming at scaling up. Consortiums must be led by a private sector entity registered in South Africa, Kenya, Senegal, Zambia, Tanzania, or Botswana. European consortium partnerships are strongly encouraged.

▶ Timeline and Phases

June-July 2024		August-September 2024		October 2024 to December 2025		January - July 2026

PHASE 1
- **Launch** of the Think Like an Investor Call for Proposal for Digital Social Innovations for Private Sector

PHASE 2
- **Evaluation and Selection** of the Digital Social Innovations to benefit from "Think Like an Investor" service package

PHASE 3
- **Output Service Implementation** including investment readiness, mentoring & matchmaking

PHASE 4
- **Wrap up** and reporting, packaging of good practice