



# Alliance for Entrepreneurial Universities in Africa (AEUA)

## Editorial

The main objective of the AEUA is to encourage universities to promote, nurture and drive entrepreneurship and business development within the institution, in the region and beyond.

Through collective and aligned engagement, partnerships, and support in encouraging universities to become entrepreneurial in nature, the Alliance envisions the successful development of entrepreneurial universities in the African continent by:

- ◆ Advancing university initiatives that promote innovation and entrepreneurship, including entrepreneurship curriculum,
- ◆ Creating a conducive environment for universities to embark on initiatives whereby income could be generated through innovative businesses,
- ◆ Sharing relevant knowledge, resources, experience and good practice, and
- ◆ Forming strategic partnerships.

The Alliance is gaining momentum with 22 members registered from October 2022 to January 2023 across Africa and a number of Global partners. The upcoming African Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Forum and Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 26 February – 2 March 2023, Niger will be an opportunity to showcase AEUA members, a Youth Bootcamp and Innovation Challenges.

One action plan identified to boost our student entrepreneurship initiatives is the creation of a Student's Entrepreneurship Hub which will be student-led. It is envisaged that the Hub would be an interest and idea-sharing platform to connect people and function as a directory of resources to help navigate the entrepreneurial ecosystem. We are planning to showcase such student led initiatives at the 2023 STI Forum.

## Members Geographical Distribution

October 2022—February 2023



★ Members

## Inside this issue

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### Member Entrepreneurship Support

#### **Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Kick-off event**

**Annual EDHE Kick-off 2023 hosted alongside the Academia-Industry Training (AIT): Swiss and African Science and Business Innovators (SASBI) AIT-SASBI Conference 22 – 23 February 2023 at the Southern Sun Hotel O.R Tambo, South Africa.**

The event aims to have a rich international learning experience for key stakeholders, along with peers from Switzerland, Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana, promote and furthering entrepreneurship within Higher Education, raise the awareness of cross-border opportunities, create a framework in this ecosystem to establish a thriving Swiss – African start-up business community in designated areas like Cleantech and Edtech, and creating a sustainable impact, and focus on establishing a lively alumni network of further partners from within Higher Education and from the private sector.

The EDHE theme for 2023 is positioned for social innovation for societal impact #innovaton4impact, which will delve deeper into how social innovation might develop and implement new ideas and approaches that address social needs and improve the well-being of entrepreneurs, the Higher Education sector, and the broader community.

The AIT SASBI Conference will be presented in a hybrid format.

Target audience: The EDHE Kick-off and AIT- SASBI conference aims to host participants from South Africa, Switzerland, and other African Countries, with an interest and involvement in entrepreneurship, and social and tech-driven innovation for impact.

To participate register on the EDHE website: <https://edhe.co.za/edhe-kick-off-2023/> or download the Glue Up App and register: <https://app.glueup.com/event/edhe-kick-off-and-ait-sasbi-spring-conference-2023-70452/>.



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### Student Entrepreneurship Highlight

The annual EDHE Entrepreneurship Intervarsity identifies the top student entrepreneurs at South African public universities, recognises and showcases their businesses, and invites investment to support student businesses. The 4th Intervarsity was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

Students from all public South African universities were eligible to submit entries across the four categories of the competition, namely; Innovative Business Ideas, Existing Business: Tech, Existing Business: Social Impact, and Existing Business: General.

This competition also provides an opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs in the ideation phase to pitch their innovative business ideas. In the process, universities will have the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial talent and demonstrate how they support and grow the next generation of business leaders.

Mr Matimba Mabonda, founder of LolaGreen and a University of Cape Town student, was named the overall winner of the EDHE Entrepreneurship Intervarsity and the EDHE Studentpreneur of the Year 2022. His innovative business idea is both ingenious and completely sustainable—he wants to manufacture bricks from waste plastic.

Mr Mabonda won a R120 000 cash prize and qualified for business support and mentorship to develop his winning business idea.

Tech Winner: Asonle Gevenga founder of Fleeker Finance, Social Impact Winner: Munashe Dzikiti, founder of eRank Play. 1st Runner up; Sphamandla Mhlophe, founder of Allen Farm Agri. 2nd Runner up; Benathi Makiyela, founder of Makiyela Recycling. General Winner: Nicoline Kriek, founder of The French Parfumerie.





UNECA has placed youth at the heart of the future economic development motor of Africa. For the past three years UNECA has contributed in the organization of bootcamps and innovation challenge competitions to allow the emergence of African ideas and paradigm shifts in African knowledge creation models. UNECA is building on these models coupled with global models to culminate into an African Entrepreneurship Academy which will be hosted by the AEUA.

The Academy is intended to be a one stop shop for all contents and materials to support youths at universities and colleges. It will also be the place where universities can share teaching and learning materials, practices and methodologies.

### August 2021



#### Nanotechnology Research and Innovation Bootcamp

**Dates:** 10 -13 August 2021  
**Venue:** Virtual (AMRS Zoom)

**Theme:**

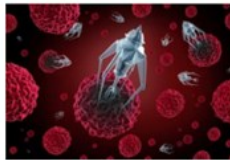
*Harnessing Nanotechnology for Sustainable Development in Energy, Water, Health and Agriculture*



TRANSFORMING  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD  
SECURITY



PROVIDING CLEAN WATER



REVOLUTIONIZING  
HEALTHCARE



PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY

The Bootcamp was aimed at Undergraduate students, Graduate students, and Postdocs with an interest in using nanotechnology for the development of Africa. A total of 100 participants from the five regions of Africa attended the event.

### January 2023 - Nanotechnology Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

Under the umbrella of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, UNESCO organized this Bootcamp from 29 January to 2 February 2023 to consolidate efforts to raise awareness of nanotechnology and its potential industrial applications by offering training on both nanotechnology and entrepreneurship for graduates in Africa. The event took place in a hybrid format.

In collaboration with the British University in Egypt, among other partners, 12 teams from nine African countries were selected to join the Bootcamp (Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sudan, Zambia).





## February 2023 - Fourth Youth Innovators Design Bootcamp 2023 | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (uneca.org)

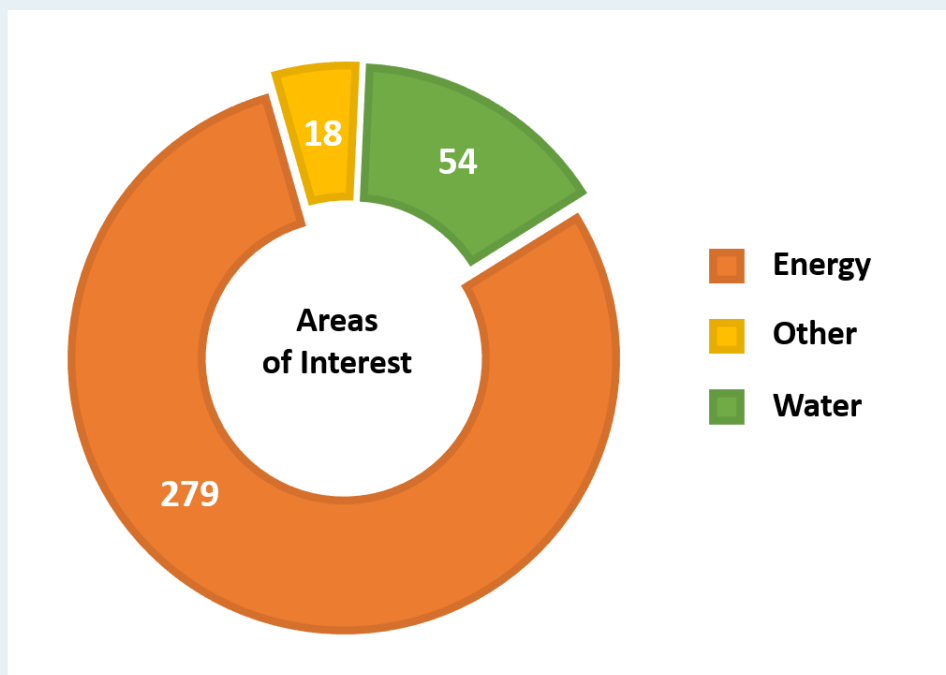
The Bootcamp will focus on emerging technologies and their applications in renewable energy and water solution for Africa and will take place during the STI Forum 2023. The two fields – energy and water technologies - were selected given that Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 7 are under review in 2023, and their special importance to Africa’s development.

The bootcamp is designed to expose youths to the value chains of different advanced renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, battery and hydrogen. The bootcamp will also enable youths to explore innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities and industrial scale manufacturing and deployment of technological solutions for energy and water in the world. This bootcamp is also intended to enable and engage youths to explore technology, innovations and entrepreneurial opportunities offered by new and emerging technologies to create employment, promote industrial development and improve the overall quality of life.

### Bootcamp Statistics

Number of Bootcamp applicants = 351

Number of countries represented = 30 Countries





## Innovation Challenge Call 2023 - Inventing a sustainable future for Africa today



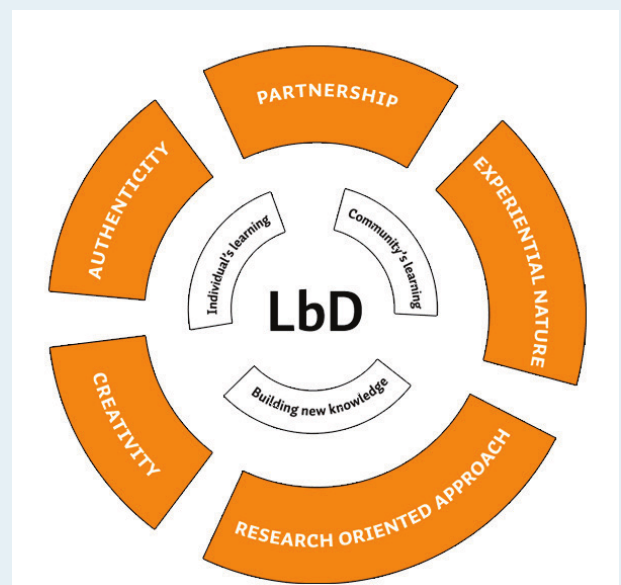
The Innovation Challenge Call brings together a large pool of global scientists, experts, innovators and entrepreneurs to propose feasible solutions to scientific, technological and industrial challenges faced by public and private entities. Public and private entities range from firms, government and civil societies agencies, research institutions, universities, independent teams and individuals etc. The Call presents entities that offer renewable energy and water solutions (or seeking to do so) the opportunity to find solutions to their real-life problems. Inspiring and interesting challenges are also likely to attract potential partners and knowledge providers which could reduce the risks associated with research and development, deployment of new technologies and business practices, and entry into new markets among other risks.

Challenges that receive at least one suggested useful solution will move to the next stage for considerations of possible support, partnerships and collaborations. Good challenges to which challenge owners do not find useful solution may go to the bootcamp and hackathon of the STI Forum 2023.

## Inspiring Global Learning Models - Learning by Developing

Learning by Developing Action Model (LbD) was developed at Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Finland at the beginning of 2000 to answer to the three main tasks given to the universities of applied sciences by the ministry of education and culture in Finland: education, regional development, and research, development and innovation (RDI).

Higher education is expected to prepare students for the future and to provide competences for dealing with transforming society and working life. The LbD action model creates competences needed in the uncertain future. The LbD action model effectively promotes Laurea and its students and staff to flexibly adapt to the transition of working life and actively influence the development of the region. Studying in the project-based courses requires student's own input, active learning and ability for self-reflection on their own progress in order to be able to enjoy studying.



Pedagogical Learning by Developing model © Laurea University of Applied Sciences  
DOI: 10.1109/Engineering4Society.2015.7177900

### Upcoming Events



**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

**Department of Science and Innovation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**African Union**

*Accelerating development and diffusion of emerging technologies for a green, inclusive and resilient Africa*

26 FEBRUARY, 2023 TO 27 FEBRUARY, 2023

Niamey, Niger

The Forum will be held in a hybrid format and the theme has a special focus on the SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. The Forum will lay a greater emphasis on Goal 7 affordable and clean energy given that almost half of the continent's population has no access to electricity and the continent greatly relies on biomass that provides about half of its energy needs.

The overall objective of the Forum is to conduct the regional follow-up and review of progress made, in order to identify potential mechanisms and measures that countries can deploy to scale up actions, facilitate peer learning and advance transformative solutions to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063.

[Fifth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum 2023 | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa \(uneca.org\)](https://www.uneca.org)

### Call for Student Societies membership to the Student Entrepreneurship Hub

The Hub will be a compass for students to navigate the entrepreneurial network and find teammates, partners, and supporters.

The Hub will include two sections:

- ◆ An interest and idea-sharing platform to connect people
- ◆ A directory of resources of the entrepreneurial ecosystem

**Interested student societies coordinators, please contact Asfaw Yitna, [yitna@un.org](mailto:yitna@un.org) or Gedion Workneh, [workneh@un.org](mailto:workneh@un.org)**

### Call for Monthly Showcasing of Entrepreneurship initiatives

If you have an entrepreneurship initiative which you would like to showcase to members and the community in the next newsletter **please contact** Asfaw Yitna, [yitna@un.org](mailto:yitna@un.org) or Gedion Workneh, [workneh@un.org](mailto:workneh@un.org)

### New Members

Please click on the link to fill in the application form and we will revert back to you with more details.

**Membership form <https://forms.gle/7xsKwK24r4twS8Yf8>**