

# IDEA D4D Hub Project

October, 2022

## Revised Action Plan



Funded by the H2020 Framework Programme of the European Union (Grant Agreement 101017015)



---

# COVER PAGE

Deliverable D4.3

Revised Project Action Plan

Work Package 4: Project Management

Date of delivery: 31st of October 2022

Leader: GIZ

Authors: Lucrezia Biteete

## Contributors

Name	Organisation
Lucrezia Biteete	GIZ

## Revision History

Version	Date	Reviewer	Modifications
1.0	31.10.2022	Lucrezia Biteete	Established

The IDEA D4D Hub project is funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme. With a duration of 22 months starting in December 2021, it seeks to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations and academia in Africa to participate in a meaningful dialogue around inclusive digital transformation. It is implemented by 5 partners; BetterplaceLab, Enabel, Expertise France, GIZ and Smart Africa Secretariat.

---

# Overview

The Innovation Dialogues Europe Africa (IDEA) D4D Hub Project officially started on 1st of December 2021 and will continue until 30th of September 2023. The project is part of the context of the D4D Hub, which was launched in December 2020 to coordinate the efforts of the EUC, member states, private sector and financing institutions around inclusive and human centered digital transformation. This project specifically focuses on civil society organisations (CSOs) and academia.

The project is currently in the implementation phase. Activities in two of the five project countries have already started (Mozambique and Burkina Faso). In addition, on 11th July 2022 the European Commission signed an Amendment to the grant agreement. The main background was the reallocation of some funds and tasks from one partner to two other partners. The amendment does not change the overall objectives, activities, time schedule or budget of the project. However, some changes to the deliverables were made following the reorganisation of the project activities. This is described further in detail below.

Generally, the project is well on track with the activities. There is significant interest in the project in the countries and also at regional level. Further activities are described in the 1st Communication and Dissemination Report, as well as the State of Play (in Annex).

## Goals

The strategic objectives of the project are:

1. Empower strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation on research and innovation in the digital economy between Africa and Europe
2. Strengthen the international dimension of Horizon 2020 (H2020)
3. Contribute to the implementation of the European Commission D4D Strategy

The direct objectives of the project are:

1. Supporting and strengthening the role of ICT/digitalisation stakeholders (civil society and academia) to engage and contribute actively to multi-stakeholder dialogues for human centered digital transformation
2. Supporting the development of joint digital innovations as a response to societal challenges hindering an inclusive digital society

---

# Progress

As of October 2022, the following progress towards the objective can be highlighted:

- 39 CSOs participated actively at workshops in Mozambique and Burkina Faso
- Participants provided positive feedback from the workshops and their content
- Over 85 applications were received for the Innovation Days in Mozambique
- Key challenges for civil society organisations were identified in Mozambique and Burkina Faso (participation in digital policy processes, digital skills and literacy, access to devices and network)
- Almost 50% of workshop participants in Mozambique participated at two capacity building sessions on digital policy and the “Digital Enquirer Kit”
- Implementing in the Team Europe Approach in the countries has improved in-country coordination between the partners present (GIZ and Enabel in Mozambique, GIZ, Enabel, EF and Smart Africa in Burkina Faso). For example, Enabel and Mozambique are now part of a donor coordination group in Mozambique. In both countries Enabel and GIZ are discussing other D4D Hub activities with the EU delegation (AU-EU D4D Hub Project)
- The project has put digital transformation on the agenda at the EUDs and greatly improved their awareness of the role of civil society and academia. Two staff members of the EUD in Burkina Faso participated during the entire workshop and reported having learnt a lot about civil society and digital topics as a result.
- The project has been in touch with other EU-funded initiatives that focus on civil society and academia such as ResiCodi and The Charter Project Africa
- An impressive database of stakeholders in Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Pan-African stakeholders and networks has been established
- After a poor female participation during the workshop in Mozambique (10%) the approach was improved and the project achieved 40% female participation in Burkina Faso
- Over 50 participants worked for two days in teams to co-create solutions in Mozambique. The participants’s feedback was that they greatly appreciated learning about digital topics, solutions, technologies and policies
- The stakeholder identification resulted in a great and diverse group of participants from the entire ecosystem for the innovation days in Mozambique, including 8 participants from other regions of the country. Several participants reported that they appreciated the group being more diverse than the usual ecosystem gatherings, something that could be attributed to the consortium that collaborated on the stakeholder identification, as well as the outreach via social media

- 
- The project has played an important role in advising the Global D4D Hub Secretariat in the establishment of the CSO and Academia Advisory Group. A first engagement was held with CSOs in the preparation of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum in March. Another consultation meeting was organised with CSOs in July, where the IDEA Project supported with their networks and with moderation. The IDEA Project has also provided significant input on the TORs.

# Lessons

The following lessons can be highlighted so far:

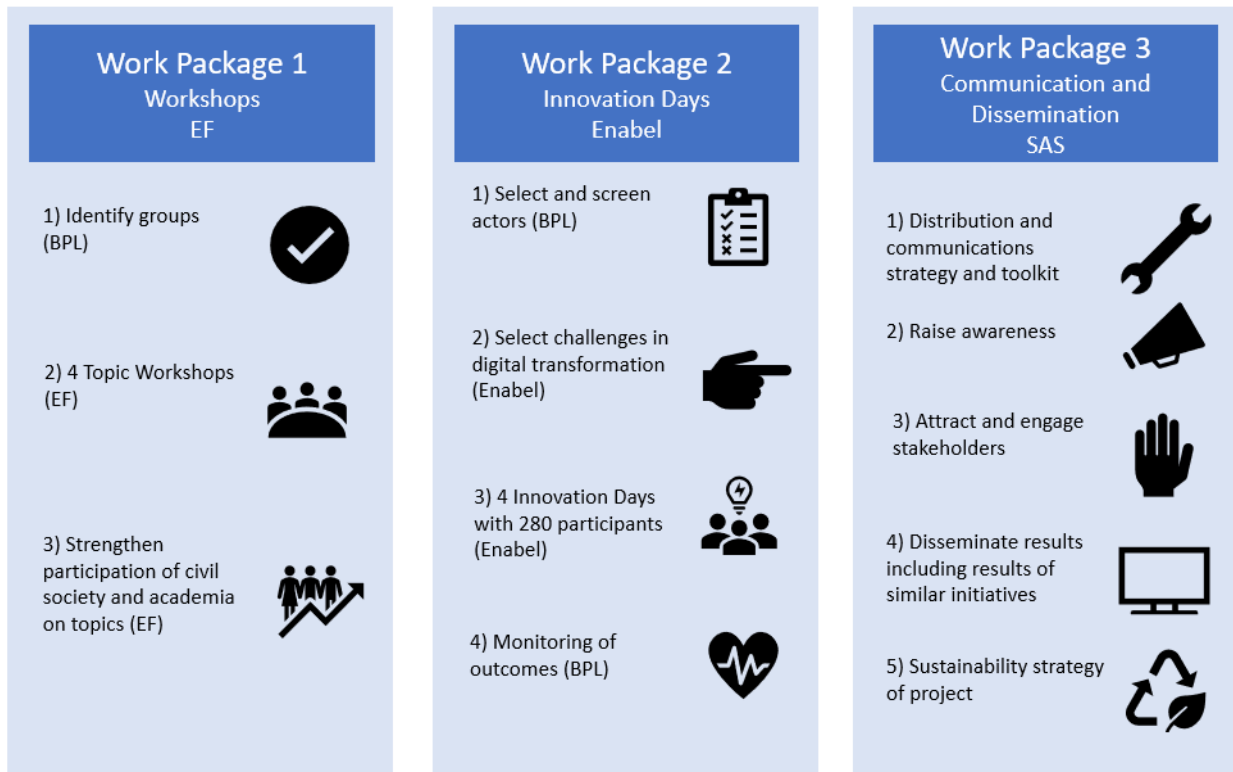
- It is more challenging than initially thought to achieve the Europe-Africa dialogue. Several approaches were attempted and discussed:
  - A hybrid format was first discussed for the innovation days, but then abandoned due to the challenges in achieving good innovative co-creation processes in a hybrid format
  - It was attempted to identify interesting organisations in Europe from the same language sphere or with an interest in Mozambique, who could have two 45 minute engagements with the teams during the innovation day for knowledge exchange. However, the response from the European organisations was poor.
  - It was then attempted to reach out to European actors already present in Mozambique to participate during the innovation day. Some participants did have a European angle, like a participant from a Dutch chamber of commerce that creates links between companies in Mozambique and the Netherlands. However, most European participants thought two days was too long to be absent from their jobs or businesses

The consortium is now discussing how to approach this in the subsequent countries. One of the options discussed is to use the stakeholder database to disseminate calls targeting CSOs in Africa on digital topics.

- Discussions are on-going about the main focus of the innovation days: should it be the impact of bringing the ecosystem together and going through the process, or should emphasis be on getting high quality outcomes? For Mozambique, which has an ecosystem in very early stages and only few semi-operational innovation hubs, there was a huge value in itself to get the stakeholders together.
- The consortium is discussing how best to sustain and follow up the outcomes from the innovation days, and how to measure impact of the project activities. Also see the forthcoming M&E methodology.

# Activities

The project has four work packages (the 4th of Project Coordination, headed by GIZ):



The main change done with the Amendment was to change the leadership of WP1 to Expertise France. BPL took over the stakeholder identification in WP1 because this was well interlinked with their task of selecting actors in WP2. EF took over the capacity building task in WP1 as well.

WP4 consists of project coordination and management, and is led by GIZ.

The different work packages are all interlinked. In particular, WP1 feeds into WP2 activities. WP3 is involved all along to engage stakeholders in the activities and disseminate results.

---

# Risks

The following risks and challenges were identified for the execution of the project by the consortium. An updated analysis of each risk is found on the right hand side in the table.

Risk	Updated assessment
Lack of funding for innovation projects can lead to a lack of engagement by stakeholders for the innovation days	This is still a risk considered high. The engagement during the Mozambique Innovation Day was high, but this could be linked to the high interest in the topic due to relatively few activities on digital topics in the country. The consortium is discussing approaches to how collaboration can be sustained and impact measured.
Covid-19 restrictions: presence and mobility is restricted	Luckily, Covid-19 restrictions have not had an impact on the project activities so far. Most activities have been held physically with minor restrictions.
National political agendas restricting the availability of stakeholders (elections, Internet shutdowns, shrinking democratic spaces)	In Burkina Faso, the second coup of 2022 took place only days after the workshop. Shrinking democratic space and antagonism between the actors in the ecosystem (especially between government and civil society) will be a challenge for the innovation days in Burkina Faso, where all ecosystem actors are supposed to be there. Government actors are also in a state of paralysis after the coup. The good relationship Smart Africa has with government agencies will help mitigate this risk.
Topics are restricted by socio-economic and political environment	Tunisia and Morocco entered into a diplomatic crisis in 2022 over West Sahara. The two events were supposed to be done in close collaboration. However, they might now be

	organised in a more separate manner.
Lack of resources (mentors, jury, experts, facilitators)	Due to the great networks and mobilisation through country offices on the ground, this has not been a problem.
Unbalanced participation between regions	Only central Africa is not represented in the project.
Overlapping agendas between various AU-EU projects and lack of coordination	Several of the project team members are also active in other D4D Hub projects such as the AU-EU D4D Hub Project and AEDIB.NET. This greatly helps mitigate this risk and ensures synergies.
There might be a mismatch between set deliverables and deadlines in the grant agreement, compared with actual implementation of activities	To mitigate this risk, an amendment to the grant agreement was completed.

# Work Packages

## WP1: Strengthening the capacities of civil society and academia

The main objective of WP1 is to strengthen the capacity of civil society and academia to participate in the development of an inclusive and sustainable digital economy and society and human-centric digital transformation that safeguards democratic values and rights in the interaction between citizens and technology.

There are three sub-objectives:

1. Include civil society and academia to the creation of new innovative solutions to ensure that the solutions are relevant to the challenges of the society and the people.
2. Enable civil society organisations to acknowledge the benefits and speak up about the risks of the society in the digital economy.



- 
3. Support the development of innovation networks between African and European counterparts to sustain joint initiatives.

### Current Issues

The methodology for the workshops is continuously being adjusted. Based on the experience from Mozambique, the workshop in Burkina Faso went beyond just identifying the topics and already started working on the solutions.

The approach for the capacity building activities is also being revised. Due to relatively poor participation in Mozambique, a different approach will be chosen for Burkina Faso. In addition, feedback from the Innovation Day in Mozambique showed that capacity building in soft skills such as leadership skills, innovative thinking, team work etc is also needed for the CSOs to play a key role at the Innovation Day.

The consortium is also discussing how best to sustain the community that is established through the workshops and capacity buildings. At the moment, only CSOs and Academia are part of the community and they are currently two separate Whatsapp Groups (one in each country).

### Deliverables

Based on the Amendment, the deadlines for the deliverables for WP1 were changed to:

1. Report on identified civil society topics (submitted)
2. Report on the topic-specific workshops (due 30.06.2023)
3. Report on the activities to strengthen the participation of African civil society (due 30.09.2023)

## WP2: Pooling of challenges and engaging stakeholders

The objective of WP2 is to pool the challenges that society is facing in digital transformation to tackle them in the process of ICT research and innovation, and to facilitate practical collaborations between key stakeholders of the digital economy and society to boost the development of new strategic partnerships and collaboration for joint digital social innovation.

Specific objectives:

1. To ensure that digital transformation serves the public interest by putting values, needs and general interests of society at the centre of this revolution
2. To ensure that key challenges hindering a human-centred digital transformation (e.g. unequal access to digital opportunities, human rights risks, digital gender gap, etc.) are addressed through multi-stakeholder co-created research and innovation initiatives

- 
3. To facilitate practical collaborations between key stakeholders of the digital economy and society to boost the development of new strategic partnerships and collaboration for joint digital solutions.

### Current Issues

Generally, the event in Mozambique was a great success. The participation was great and almost all participants stayed until the end, working hard on their solutions. The jury was impressive with representatives from all stakeholder groups including EUD. Most participants appreciated the event and especially the learning in digital topics, innovative methodologies and the networking. The participants were representing diverse sectors, from CSOs, public and private educational institutions, tech start-ups both local and international, IT companies, IT consultancies, software development companies, government institutions, Innovation programmes and donor organisations.

Based on the first experience in Mozambique, the methodology and approach for the innovation days are now being revised. There is an on-going discussion on whether the focus of the event should be the outcomes (solution proposals) or the process (having the ecosystem together for two days, working together). Depending on the outcome of this discussion, the methodology will be adjusted. The length of the event might also change.

### Deliverables

The deliverables slightly changed through the Amendment:

1. Methodology for the Innovation Days (submitted)
2. Methodology for Monitoring (deadline passed 31 August, to be submitted shortly)
3. Intermediary report on Intercontinental ICT Stakeholders (deadline 31.10.2022, to be submitted shortly)
4. Intermediary list of selected challenges (deadline 31.10.2022, to be submitted shortly)
5. Final list of selected challenges (due 30.04.2023)
6. Lessons learned from the Innovation days (due 31.07.2023)
7. Report on monitoring of the activities (due 30.09.2023)

## WP3: Disseminate and sustain

The objective of WP3 is to maximise the impact of the project by disseminating the results, promoting ICT and digital economy related initiatives, and promoting different cooperation and financing opportunities.

The main activities include:

- 
1. Developing a dissemination and communication strategy ;
  2. Raising awareness about the project and its activities;
  3. Raising awareness about cooperation and financing opportunities;
  4. Attracting participants and engaging stakeholders;
  5. Disseminate the project results;
  6. Creating synergies between the initiatives to ensure the sustainability of the ideas developed in WP2;
  7. Create a sustainability and exploitation strategy for the project.

### Current Issues

Please see the communication and dissemination report deliverable for further details.

### Deliverables

The WP has the following deliverables:

1. Dissemination and Communications Strategy (submitted)
2. Website (submitted): <https://d4dhub.eu/idea-project>
3. 1st Report on Dissemination and Communications Activities (due 31.10.2022, to be submitted shortly)
4. 2nd Report on Dissemination and Communications Activities (due 30.09.2023)
5. Exploitation Strategy (due 30.09.2023)

## WP4: Project Management

The overall objective of WP4 is to ensure the smooth overall project management (costs, time, results) with an emphasis on meeting the EC requirements (concerning reports, formal reviews). This includes the administrative and financial aspects of the grant management. In addition, it includes ensuring that policies are in place to govern project activities such as quality management, internal information flow, dissemination, partnership agreement, intellectual property, ethical issues, gender aspects, conflict resolution and risk assessment.

### Current Issues

The following activities took place or are being undertaken:

- Kick-off was successfully held on 15th of December 2021 with Project Officer at EC
- Amendment to the Grant Agreement was signed on 11th July 2022 and Amendment to Partnership Agreement was concluded and is only pending one signature
- Weekly coordination meetings have been taking place

- 
- Collaboration tools in place and being used by partners: document portal with folder structure, document collaboration tool, task management tool, short messaging tool
  - Financial management and reporting training took place on 18th of January 2022
  - First PMB meeting was held virtually on 22nd March 2022 with all consortium partners present
  - Second PMB meeting was held physically in Maputo on 17th October 2022 with all consortium partners present
  - Several calls have been held by Project Coordinator with other linked initiatives, such as ResiCodi, AU-EU D4D Hub, Global D4D Hub Secretariat
  - A detailed reporting schedule was developed by the Coordinator together with the Financial Officer for the Periodic reporting due 29th January 2023, shared with all the partners and approved

### Deliverables

The WP has the following deliverables:

1. Project action plan (submitted)
2. Quality Management Plan (submitted)
3. Revised action plan (current document)

# Revised Project Schedule

