

AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH ACADEMY

**Join the AEYA New Leaders
Lab**

Implemented by

Applications must be submitted by 23:59 (GMT) on 19 JULY 2026

Are you ready to make a difference?

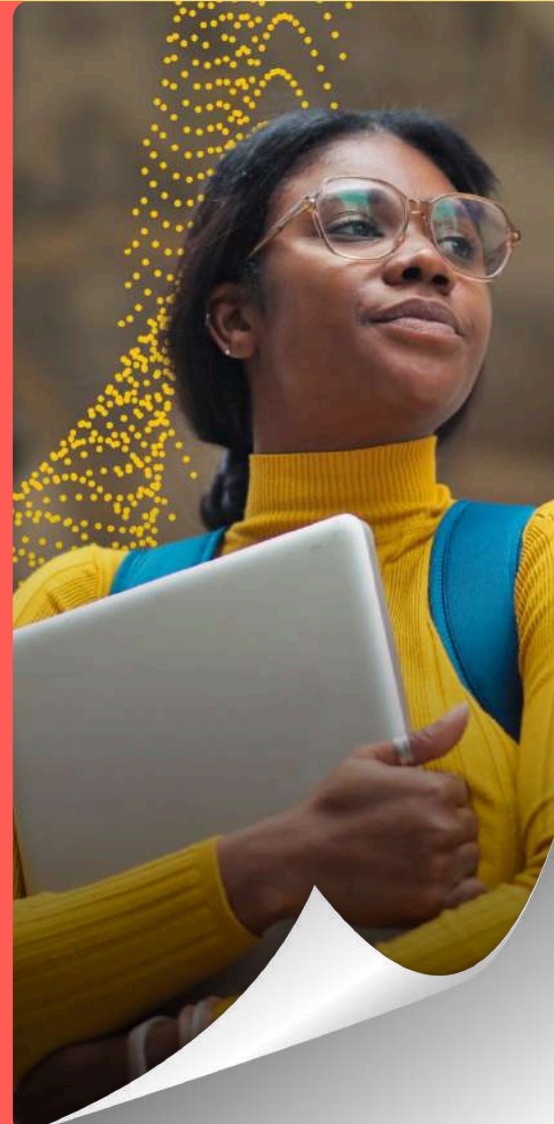
- Are you actively engaged in your community, leading initiatives, solving local challenges or developing an entrepreneurial idea? or aspiring to do all of the above ?
- Do you want to strengthen your leadership skills, connect with other young changemakers from across Africa and Europe, and turn ideas into meaningful actions?

Apply to become part of the AEYA New Leaders Lab and join a generation of young leaders committed to positive change!

1. What is the New Leaders Lab?

The AEYA New Leaders Lab (NLL) is a leadership development programme designed for young women and men aged 18-30 across 19 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia).

The programme aims to equip young people with the interpersonal and technical skills, the confidence, and tools needed to become effective leaders and active contributors within their communities.



2. Why join the New Leaders Lab?

Throughout the New Leaders Lab, participants will have the opportunity to:

Explore different approaches to leadership and identify their own leadership potential

01



Collaborate with peers from diverse backgrounds and countries

02



Develop an entrepreneurial, social, or environmental project idea that responds to challenges within their communities

03



Strengthen practical leadership and problem-solving skills;

04



Build a network of young leaders committed to sustainable development and positive social impact.

05



By the end of the programme, they will be better prepared to lead initiatives, mobilise others, and transform their project ideas into reality. Does that sound like you? Apply to join the AEYA New Leaders Lab.

3. How long is the New Leaders Lab?

- The programme will run for a maximum of 4 months, starting from late August/early September. Participants are expected to commit 90-120 hours distributed over the four-month duration.
- Upon completion of the programme, participants will compete for financial support to help bring their project ideas to life. Selected participants and other programme alumni will also benefit from tailored mentoring provided by African and European experts.



4. Who can apply?

We are looking for motivated young people who are eager to learn, grow, and contribute to positive change in their communities.

To be eligible, applicants must:



Be between 18-30 years old (born between 1996 and 2008)

1

Resident of one of the 19 eligible countries

2



Have basic knowledge of English, French, or Portuguese, regardless of the educational level

3

Demonstrate engagement in community, civic, entrepreneurial, or leadership activities, OR show a strong motivation to become an active and engaged citizen;

4



Have an idea for a project you would like to develop during the programme

5



Please note that age and country of residence are mandatory eligibility requirements. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be considered

5. How to apply?

Complete the application form using the link provided or by scanning the QR code

As part of the application, you will be asked to:

- Share some basic information about yourself;
- Tell us about your leadership experience and activities;
- Present a project idea you would like to develop.

After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of your application



6. What is the selection process like?

Applications will be assessed based on the applicant's personal experiences and leadership aptitudes as well as the relevance of the submitted idea[1] Updated





7. What happens after the selection?

All applicants will be notified via email of their selection status, by the local university, incubator, or training institution responsible for implementing the programme in their respective country.

For selected candidates :

At the discretion of the implementing organisations, successful applicants may be invited to attend a follow-up interview.

Relevant information regarding programme activities, schedules, logistics, including instructions on available per diem and any follow-up steps will be shared with successful candidates before the start of the programme.

Please note that the per diem policy varies based on the local reality in each country and will be shared by the local implementing organisations.

9. Inquiries

- For further information and clarification, potential applicants may submit their questions concerning the Call for Applications at aeacademy@expertisefrance.fr by June 30th 2026.
- A list of frequently asked questions will be made available on the programme official website (Capacity4dev.europa.eu) on a weekly basis by July 5th 2026.
- Online and in-person info-sessions will be held in support of the application process. Dates will be shared on social media pages, the abovementioned website and via email.

10. Privacy Notice

Applicants' information will be securely stored and used solely for the implementation and monitoring of the AEYA project.





11. About the Africa-Europe Youth Academy (AEYA) project

The project ‘**Africa-Europe Youth Academy**’ (AEYA) implemented by Expertise France (EF) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) is the flagship of the Connect pillar of the **Youth Action Plan (YAP)** in the EU external action and part of the “**Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship**” under the **Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package**.

It aims to increase opportunities for young people in their diversity (young women and vulnerable youth) to act as leaders and multipliers for sustainable development at social-environmental, economic, cultural and political level and improve the quality and accessibility of youth leadership actions in Africa and between Africa and Europe.

For this Call for Applications, within the framework of the Aeya project, comprehensive research, mapping and needs assessments were conducted across 19 African countries to gather key insights into the national youth ecosystems, inclusion dynamics, and structural constraints affecting youth empowerment initiatives. The findings of these assessments have served as a foundation to ensure that the New Leaders Lab is guided by and designed with quality, evidence-based insights and tailored to the specific needs and opportunities identified within each national context.

The implementation of the New Leaders Lab is entrusted to local universities, incubators or training centers depending on the country, under the coordination of Expertise France, AICS and its partners (University of Turin / University of Pavia).

