

AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH ACADEMY

1.1 Initiative overview

The [Africa-Europe Youth Academy \(AEYA\)](#) is a project financed by the European Commission as part of the **Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package** under the ‘**Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship**’, whose objective is to create mobility and skills development opportunities for the youth, while building bridges between Africa and Europe. Expertise France implements the Aeya project in consortium with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

The Aeya programme aims to strengthen young people’s role as change agents and leaders of sustainable development, while reinforcing the links between Africa and Europe. Our primary targets are young people between the ages of 18 and 30, with a particular focus on young women and youth in situations of vulnerability. Our main operating partners are youth organisations, entrepreneurship support organisations and other entities working to support young people.

The initiative’s main objectives are:

- Improve access for young people (including young women, vulnerable youth, and those with disabilities) to spaces where they can fully express their leadership potential.
- Young leaders bring about positive change within their communities (by engaging in activities that address gender inequalities and challenges related to vulnerability) and become “multipliers” enabling other young people to take action.
- Promote inclusive and youth leadership at the local, national, and international levels.

1.2 The role of the University of Pavia

The University of Pavia oversees WP2 (AMPLIFY: Developing young people’s potential) in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. This WP aims to create the ‘New Leaders Lab’ (NLL), a local training programme implemented by civil society organisations and universities with the support of European Universities. It will co-create a training curriculum to strengthen the leadership skills of young Africans in areas identified through discussions with local universities, local NGOs and youth associations, as well as a training needs assessment (TNA) completed by approximately 320 young people in the four countries.

In September, the first part of the New Leaders Lab will start with a 120-hour practical training on leadership and the specific topic chosen by each partner University, specifically:

- **Arba Minch University, Ethiopia (Arba Minch)**, with a focus on linguistic, cultural heritage and recovery and preservation of local knowledge;
- **Makerere University, Uganda (Kampala)**, with a focus on rural development and entrepreneurship;
- **Tangaza College, Kenya (Nairobi)**, with a focus on entrepreneurship and social enterprises;
- **Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania (Morogoro)**, with a focus on nutrition and rural development.

Each class will have between 20 and 30 students participating in the activities, selected on two main criteria: a project idea and whether they have proven to be a leader in the past, based on their engagement at the community level, in NGOs or similar activities.

Starting in November (TBC), the second part of the NLL will begin. This will be a **1-week hackathon** conducted in each University, where we will support the young leaders in developing their idea and give them the tools needed to put into practice their project ideas.

1.3 Why we need EC2U support

The University of Pavia would like to include members of the EC2U alliance as mentors for the 1-week hackathon in the 4 countries. This would be a valuable opportunity to build a bridge between European and African Universities, and to enrich the New Leader Lab participants with the opportunity to interact with experts from all around Europe and benefit from their knowledge and expertise.

For each of the four implementing Universities, we would like to select **2 researchers or professors** from the Alliance (**8 researchers in total**) who are willing to support us as mentors in this activity. You will join a team composed of a staff member of Globec, a researcher or professor from the University of Pavia, together with local experts and Professors.

Given that each University selected a specific topic for the training, we would prefer experts in those specific fields, or in youth leadership and/or project management, to support the implementation of the hackathon in the specific country. Nevertheless, feel free to apply even if you are mainly interested in the country!



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1.4 What's in for you?

Participating to the hackathon is a great opportunity to:

- Visit a new University, allowing you to deepen your area of expertise and maybe lay the basis for new scientific collaboration;
- Strengthen the international dimension of EC2U, creating opportunities of collaboration among EC2U and African universities, that might lead to further initiatives and projects;
- The hackathon will not last for the whole day, meaning that you will have the time to explore the surroundings, as well as to visit sites of scientific interest;
- The week is fully funded (travel+accommodation+meals), and you will be paid for the training hours you will act as a mentor. We foresee a commitment of a maximum of 30 hours for the whole week. The salary (TBC) should be around 100 euros per hour of training.

If you are interested and/or you need more information, please contact:

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cc

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