

The programme “**Emerging African Innovation Leaders - G7 exchange & empowerment program for enabling innovation within the next production revolution**” ([www.africanlead.net](http://www.africanlead.net)), jointly managed by Politecnico di Milano and Politecnico di Torino, was launched in April 2018 with the support of the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS), as an output of the dedicated outreach session on Africa during the G7 Summit in Taormina, under the Italian Presidency.

The programme focuses on developing stable relationships between Leaders in 6 African countries and Italian companies in the **Green and Digital sectors and Innovation**, in order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in those countries.

**PAESI TARGET**  
ETHIOPIA  
KENYA  
MOZAMBIQUE  
NIGER  
NIGERIA  
TUNISIA

**TIMEFRAME**  
**18 Months**  
(Apr 18 - Oct 19)



**1ST GENERATION**  
**21 Experts**  
selected among over  
450 candidates

**2ND GENERATION**  
**270 Experts**  
selected by the  
1st generation



## NIGERIA

### NEXT PRODUCTION REVOLUTION COMPETENCE CENTRE

**EMERGING AFRICAN INNOVATION LEADERS**  
G7 exchange & empowerment program for enabling innovation  
within the next production revolution

AID 11346



## NEXT PRODUCTION REVOLUTION COMPETENCE CENTRE

### Issue addressed

- Declining industrial productivity
- Electricity access
- Energy inefficiency

### Description

The project aims to create a Next Production Revolution Centre of Competence (NPRCC), that is a multi-sectoral centre for NPR training, demonstration, promotion and dissemination among various sectors and industries in the country. The NPRCC is designed around 3 main pillars: energy, digitalisation and mobility and is intended to be a collaborative body made up of and led by various players from academia, industry and the government, hosting highly qualified and multidisciplinary researchers and professionals to undertake strategic research. The centre's objectives include demonstrating the benefits of NPR for sustainable development in West Africa through real cases and promoting investment and partnerships among local and international stakeholders. The centre plans to start with two initiatives which capture the value of the Next Production Revolution and address the country's main challenges:

1. use of blockchain technology for mini-networks serving the energy communities;
2. Digital technologies for efficient energy management.

### Opportunities for Italian companies

Nigeria is important to the Italian economy as it is one of the top ten African countries for Italian FDI (US\$ 505m of US\$ 21,531m in 2015). The project can identify new business models that combine energy efficiency with off-grid generating plants to reduce costs, redevelop the territory and involve communities.

### Strategic value

The project has a two-sided strategic value: at territorial level, as it affects one of the most important and relevant countries in Africa, and at sector level, as it emphasises the crucial issue of energy infrastructure for Africa and Nigeria in particular.

The project operates at the intersection between the two most important sectors for incoming foreign direct investment in the period 2003-2015: the electronics and ICT sector and the energy sector. Italian companies can therefore get a competitive advantage both in terms of territorial relationships and in terms of innovations that are replicable in Africa and internationally.

Innovation in the field of mini-grids can have disruptive effects by reducing both energy generation costs and invested capital, with a potential market of US\$8bn.

At local level, the project makes possible an increased access to energy along with the transfer of technologies to people; with a view to creating new development opportunities.