

The programme “**Emerging African Innovation Leaders - G7 exchange & empowerment program for enabling innovation within the next production revolution**” (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.

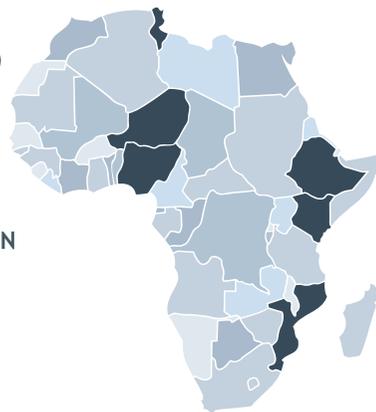
The programme focuses on developing stable relationships between Italian companies in the **Green and Digital sectors and Innovation Leaders in 6 African countries**, in order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in those countries.

PAESI TARGET
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
MOZAMBIQUE
NIGER
NIGERIA
TUNISIA

TIMEFRAME
18 Months
(Apr 18 - Oct 19)

1ST GENERATION
21 Experts
selected from over
450 candidates

2ND GENERATION
270 Experts
selected by the
1st generation



TUNISIA NEXT PRODUCTION REVOLUTION HUB

EMERGING AFRICAN INNOVATION LEADERS
G7 exchange & empowerment program for enabling innovation
within the next production revolution
AID 11346



NEXT PRODUCTION REVOLUTION HUB

Issue addressed

- Industrial innovation
- Relationship between industry and academia

Description

The Hub aims at enabling close collaboration between universities and industries to make people develop the necessary skills to face this new industrial revolution. The Hub adopts a multidisciplinary approach involving various aspects of Industry 4.0, and in particular additive technologies, to raise awareness of the benefits of integrating these technologies into production lines in the Tunisian industrial sector. Equipping the Hub with Additive Manufacturing (AM) systems for metal and polymeric materials, in particular, can give, on one hand, to companies the opportunity to conduct feasibility studies and assess the benefits of investing and, on the other hand, to universities the opportunity to train people for employment in companies, thus reducing the gap between the introduction of a new technology into a consolidated production system and its efficient use.

Opportunities for Italian companies

Tunisia is a key partner for Italian investments and, among the African nations, was the first recipient of greenfield foreign direct investment from Italy. The high level of graduate unemployment highlighted in the African Economic Outlook (31%) suggests that Italian companies

could benefit from underused human capital.

Within the Hub, Italian companies can find partnership opportunities with Tunisian companies on NPR (Next Production Revolution) technologies and additive manufacturing technologies in particular. On one hand, Italian companies providing additive manufacturing technologies can introduce their products into an emerging market using the Hub as a centre for training and product demonstration. On the other hand, the increased competitiveness of Tunisian companies adopting NPR technologies can attract investment from Italian companies in specific Tunisian manufacturing sectors, which create 60% of industrial wealth.

Strategic value

Tunisia is one of the African countries that soon realised that digital transformation and the next industrial revolution could offer the opportunity to make the big leap into the future. Tunisia has a comprehensive innovation ecosystem which enables to integrate NPR technologies. The Tunisian government launched and supports various innovation policies and initiatives at a national level to modernise the economy (National Strategic Plan “Digital Tunisia 2020”; Bill Startup act, Tunisian Renewable Energy Action Plan 2030), and especially the “Smart Industrie 2017” initiative, which aims to promote Industry 4.0 among Tunisian companies and to create new opportunities for innovation and business (<http://www.tunisieindustrie.nat.tn/smartindustrie/home.asp>).