



What is the AU-EU Youth Action Lab? What are Innovation Grants?

05 February 2025

Never have I ever:

Learned how to say “my name is...” in another language - if you can, introduce yourselves!

Aprenderam a dizer “o meu nome é...” noutra língua - se puderem, apresentem-se

Appris à dire « mon nom est... » dans une autre langue - si vous le pouvez, présentez-vous !

Never have I ever:

Worked with a consortium with people from two or more countries

Trabalhou num consórcio com pessoas de dois ou mais países

Travaillé au sein d'un consortium composé de personnes originaires de deux pays ou plus

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Never have I ever:

Written the best grant application of all time!

Escreveu o melhor pedido de subsídio de todos os tempos!

Rédiger la meilleure demande de subvention de tous les temps !

- **Welcome**
- **What is the AU-EU Youth Lab?**
- **What are the Innovation grants?**
- **How to apply?**
- **How To Build A Successful Application?**
- **How To Create a Strong & Clear Budget?**
- **Next steps**
- **Q&A**

**Background Introduction:
What is the AU EU Youth Lab?**

What's the AU-EU Youth Lab programme?



The AU – EU Youth Lab's global objective is to contribute to the empowerment of youth in Africa and European Union to strengthen their involvement in active, meaningful and innovative ways.

PARTICIPATION & REPRESENTATION

Advancing youth participation and representation in policy and decision-making processes.

EMPOWERMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

Providing training and capacity building to young people and youth organisations.

YOUTH INITIATIVES

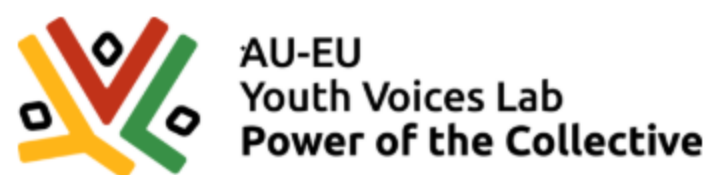
Providing financial support to youth-led initiatives.



What's the AU-EU Youth Lab programme?



THE AU – EU YOUTH LABS



- ❖ AU-EU Youth Voices Lab App
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Grants from 1,000 to 10,000 EUR



- ❖ Grants from 5,000 to 50,000 EUR
- ❖ Digital Collaboration Platform
- ❖ Capacity Strengthening



🎯 Types of Grants in the Youth Action Lab



🌟 Cooperation Grants 🤝

Bringing youth-led initiatives together across Africa & Europe 🌍

💰 Grants: 50,000 EUR.

🎤 Representation Grants 🏛️

Amplifying the voices of underrepresented young changemakers 🗣️

💰 Grants: 10,000 - 20,000 EUR.

💡 Innovation Grants 🔬

Driving bold, youth-led solutions to tackle intersectional challenges at scale ⚡

💰 Grants: 30,000 - 50,000 EUR.

🚀 Entrepreneurship Grants 📁

Enabling youth-led enterprises and organisations to grow and drive meaningful change 💡

💰 Grants: 30,000 - 50,000 EUR.



**What do you think of the AU-
EU Youth Action Lab so far?**

What are Innovation Grants?

Innovation Grants

- ❑ We aim to fund youth organisations that implement an innovation that is linked to a global challenge!
- ❑ An **innovation is a broad term** and often mistaken as only something that is completely new or perhaps something focusing on new technologies. While this could be the case, **innovations are so much more!**
- ❑ In the Innovation Grant opportunity, we define **innovation as designing, testing, scaling or improving a new or existing activity** for young people in their own context with **long-term impact**. In other words, an impact that will benefit your community and your peers also after your grant project ends



Types of activities

Meaningful youth participation in decision-making

- For example: a new methodology for young people to monitor the commitment of decision-makers to increase access to quality education.

Implementation of a youth-driven solution

- For example: implementation of a new climate resilience approach in each context.

Sharing and scaling of a distinct activity with other youth organisations beyond their own context

- For example: development of an online learning product



Eligibility Criteria

1. Your organisation is youth-led: young people (age 18 to 35) are the decision makers.
2. You are a youth organisation that is formal: you are legally registered in your country, have an organisation bank account and a clear governance structure.
3. Your proposed activity takes place in one or more of the 12 focus countries

Our Offer

- Budget available is for a **minimum amount of 30.000 EURO** and a **maximum amount of 50.000 EURO per grant.**
- 9 grants** will be given in this current year.
- Grants will be for a period of **12 months** from **May 2025 to April 2026**
- Inception Meetings** to be held during month of May 2025
- Link and Learn Event** to be held in **November/December 2025** bringing together all the grantees from the 4 grant types









You are located and registered in one of the 12 African Youth Action Lab focus countries: **Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia (Somaliland region), Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**



How to Apply?
ON Grip Platform

Ready to Apply? Here's What You Need to Know!



-  **Get the registration link** from the [AU-EU Youth Action Lab Innovation webpage](#).
-  **One application per organization**—make it count! 
-  **Check all the steps** on [the website](#) before you start.
-  **Submit your application online** through the portal—it keeps things fair and transparent!
-  **Now, let's take a quick tour of the Innovation Grant application together!**



Some tips!



**Pay Attention to
Compulsory Fields & Word
Limits**



**Upload All Required
Documents**



**Include Any Relevant
Policies & Supporting
Information**



**Double-check that
everything is properly
uploaded before clicking
submit.**



**Modification cannot be
made once the application
is submitted!**



**Avoid last-minute
submissions 😊**

**If you feel confident using the platform now, give us a
heart reaction <3**

**Se se sente confiante a utilizar a plataforma agora, dê-
nos uma reação cardíaca <3**

**Si vous vous sentez confiant dans l'utilisation de la
plateforme maintenant, donnez-nous une réaction du
cœur <3**

How To Build A Successful Application?

What Makes A Successful Application?



Meeting both the hard and soft **eligibility criteria**.



Clearly **capturing the innovativeness of your project** i.e. the design, testing, scale up and improvement proposed linked to a global challenge.



Showing how your project benefits **marginalized groups**.



Providing a clear approach to **ensuring the sustainability of your project's results** and continuation of activities after the grant period.



Showing how the organisation will **work and coordinate with others** in inter and intra cooperation.



Showing the **relevance of the proposed project** to the ambitions of the fund











- Focus on **relevance** to the AU-EU priorities.
- Check **eligibility criteria**—small errors can lead to disqualification.
- **Avoid incomplete sections** or not properly answering a question.
- Not paying attention to the **specificity of the content** of the call



How To Create a Strong & Clear Budget?

Budget Guidelines



-  Check the Funding Manual (Pages 9 & 10) for all budget details + FAQs!
-  Use the Official Budget Template
-  Download & fill in the provided template – applications without it won't be considered!
-  Budget must be in Euros (€)
-  Include the local currency used and the exchange rate applied to convert costs into Euros.
-  No strict cap on salaries & overheads – but be reasonable and justify your costs!
-  All expenses must be directly linked to project activities – make sure your budget clearly connects with your work plan and application responses.
-  Be clear & precise – reviewers should easily understand how each cost supports your project. Use consistent language across your **budget, work plan, and application questions** to avoid confusion.



Common Budget Mistakes to Avoid



- ✗ **Don't submit costs without justification** – Every expense should be explained.
- ✗ **Don't use vague budget lines** – Be specific (e.g., instead of "Training Costs," write "Trainer fees for 3-day workshop on digital skills").
- ✗ **Don't include ineligible expenses** – Review the guidelines to see what **can and cannot** be funded.
- ✗ **Don't submit a budget that exceeds the funding limit** – Ensure your total request stays within the grant amount.
- ✗ **Don't wait until the last minute** – Give yourself time to check calculations and ensure alignment with the application.



Next Steps

Closure...

Next Steps



- Go through the website, FAQ and Funding manual carefully.
- Register to the Power to Voices platform and follow the AU-EU Youth Lab Community
- Follow up on any Q&A not answered during the session
- Due Date: 19 February 2025 @midnight CET
- The status of your proposal will be updated on the ON Grip portal





Questions?



Thank you!

We look forward to hearing from you

AU - EU YOUTH LAB

