

## **ECA and Spanish partner launch CREATIC4AFRICA to enhance creativity and technological innovation in African Youth.**

*ECA Press Release No. 11/2011*

Addis Ababa, 22 February 2011 (ECA) - The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Spanish-based Technology Centre for ICTs (CTIC), have launched the CREATIC 4AFRICA programme for 2011 to establish an innovation hub for Africa's youth who are keen to create new ICT-based applications to better their societies.

Initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between ECA and CTIC during the Second Science with Africa Conference on Science in June 2010, CREATIC4AFRICA aims to spur innovation among Africa's youth by enabling them develop ideas into viable and solution-based applications, working in CTIC's innovation laboratory in Spain.

CREATIC4AFRICA represents a firm commitment to creativity and technology innovation as the driving force behind social and economic progress in Africa. The initiative will support and promote ingenuity and innovation springing from Africa by funding ideas generated and developed by Africans who are familiar with the cultural and socioeconomic challenges of their countries.

It is expected that as a result of this project, five African fellows will develop an innovative ICT based application responding to particular needs of their communities, whilst at the same time being commercially viable and sustainable.

Mrs Aida Opoku Mensah, Director of ICT, Science and Technology Division at ECA, said at the launch that Angola, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Senegal would be considered in the pilot phase.

She said selected candidates would develop their respective ideas at the CREATIC4AFRICA innovation lab where a team of professionals will work them through individualized coaching and mentoring, so that each innovative ICT based application developed in the lab can contribute to the development of their community as effectively as possible once the candidates return to their home countries.

CREATIC4AFRICA will accept innovative ideas related to any field of ICTs, however, priority will be given to ideas that can be framed in the following research areas: Mobility and Device Independence, Semantic Technologies, 4U (Universal access to information, useful technologies, usable tools and clearly focused on the environment and user needs) and Open Linked Data.

This innovative project was made possible with the support of the Spanish Agency for Development and the Government of Finland, through its cooperation programme on ICT development in Africa. It will be implemented in collaboration with the University of Oviedo, Spain.

The call for proposals as well as the criteria for selection are available at [www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica/creatic4africa](http://www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica/creatic4africa) or <http://creatic4africa.fundacionctic.org/>

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