

ASTON IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH SKILLS IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, SMART CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA

(MOBILITY, TAX COLLECTION, LAND MANAGEMENT,
PARTICIPATION, CITY CLEANLINESS AND MORE)

A / DESCRIPTION

ASToN is a network of 11 African cities using digital tools to overcome local and global challenges. With over 30 million citizens between them, the cities are responding to questions like:

- > *How can a transition to digital technology improve my city for citizens and what should I be doing about it?*
- > *How might we collaborate and learn together with other cities to make that transition faster and more sustainable?*
- > *How can we make sure no one is left behind in the process?*
- > *Which digital experiments can I run that can have a positive impact on my city and citizens at scale?*

Through a 2 and a half years programme of **peer exchange and learning**, engaging local stakeholders and experimentation, ASToN cities are accelerating progress towards becoming sustainable and inclusive places to live and work. Our hope is that by creating a cohort of cities and collaborating in this way, ASToN cities can become leading digital actors, faster, and in a way that's appropriate and sustainable for each own's local context.

Following a selection process based on an open call, 11 cities are now part of the ASToN network: Bamako (Mali), Benguerir (Morocco), Bizerte (Tunisia), Kampala (Uganda), Kigali (Rwanda), Kumasi (Ghana), Lagos(Nigeria), Matola (Mozambique), Niamey (Niger), Nouakchott (Mauritania) and Seme-Podji (Benin).

This flagship programme is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), managed by the French National Urban Renovation Agency (ANRU) and uses URBACT knowledge and tools.

B / HOW IT WORKS

The network kick-started its activities September 2019 and it is due to last until mid-2022. The activities are organized in **3 phases** as follows:

EXPLORE	ENGAGE	EXPERIMENT
Through research and visits we published a baseline study of where cities are now with a vision of what's next - what we'd like to	By the end of ENGAGE phase, cities will have a clear vision , an action plan to reach that vision, a stakeholder group to put the plan into action and ways to	The 'doing' phase where we'll each implement pilot projects , experimenting, working on our challenges in our

- (Mobility, tax collection, land management, participation, city cleanliness and more)

learn, and how far we think we can go. Cities started to involve local stakeholders and build up a picture of what it's going to take, to make the changes we want, and what we'll each need to do it.	validate what's working and what's not. Besides the local work, we'll hold a series of transnational meetings, workshops and exchanges to share ideas and what we are learning. We'll look into the skills needed for cities to succeed their digital transition.	respective cities, and leaving no one behind as we do so. By the end of EXPERIMENT phase, cities will have a clear idea of the actions which are bankable and not and the calendar for action .
Sept 2019 -June 2020	July 2020 - March 2022	6 months between April - Dec 2021

Phase 2 activities are organized around **3 components** as follows:



C / WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

In order to accompany cities in their ASToN journey, we are putting together a **rooster of experts that can help us with:**

- > **Technical cross-cutting areas** related to governing the smart city like: digital transformation of government, digital policy and governance, data use for policy making, data ethics, open data, data rights, new models of financing, digital communication.
- > **Thematic areas** cities are working on from a digital perspective: mobility and transport, land management and addressing systems, collection of taxes, citizen engagement, waste management and city cleanliness.

- (Mobility, tax collection, land management, participation, city cleanliness and more)
- > **City innovation and innovative ways of policy** making and delivering services to the citizens like participatory approaches, social innovation and service delivery, design thinking

We want to build a pool of experts that can support our initiative as ad-hoc consultants, and can be deployed at short notice or on longer-term engagements to accompany the network activities. The types of projects could include, *for example*:

- > *Coordinating the activities of thematic cluster like the one on mobility composed of the cities of Niamey, Lagos and Kampala and overview the local action plans the cities are drafting on this topic.*
- > *Delivering a session/ thematic workshop on the topic of digital rights and data ethics for local governments*
- > *Putting together a training for local governments on digital tools for participatory approaches*
- > *Contributing to a publication on city cleanliness or smart city governance in Africa – and of course many more.*

The daily expertise fee for the ASToN project is generally set at 750€ (all taxes included). Nonetheless, the fee can vary depending on the length and type of the mission.

If this sounds interesting to you and fits your profile, please send an email to the ASToN Secretariat hello@aston-network.org with a **cover letter of max one page** explaining why you think you would be a good fit for us, along with a **cv of max two pages**.

In case your application is validated and your cv is part of our pool of experts, we can contract you for short or long term missions, based on the match between your profile and the different missions available within the project.