

SUPPORT FOR END OF PROJECT CAPITALISATION

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

A / CONTEXT

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 3-year 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 December 2022. The activities are organized in **3 phases** as follows:

EXPLORE	ENGAGE	EXPERIMENT
<p>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 learn, and how far we think we can go.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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 validate what's working and what's not.</p> <p>Besides the local work, we're holding a series of transnational meetings, workshops and exchanges to share ideas and what we are learning. We're equally looking into the skills needed for cities to succeed their digital transition.</p>	<p>The 'doing' phase where we're each implementing pilot projects, experimenting, working on our challenges in our respective cities, and leaving no one behind as we do so.</p> <p>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.</p>
Sept 2019 - June 2020	July 2020 - December 2022	Dec 2021 - June 2022

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

The 3 components

These are the 3 components of the ASToN network, each one feeding into the other to support cities to achieve their goals.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- Activities to be delivered by cities at local level
- Set-up and management of Local Action Group
- Drafting of the Local Action Plan
- Experimentation
- Communication activities



NETWORK ACTIVITIES

- Activities the 11 cities will engage in together
- Either as an entire network, or a specific subset of the network

LEARNING AREAS:

- Cross-cutting issues related to digital, tech and innovation
- Relevant to cities and should be applied across all themes

THEMATIC CLUSTERS

- 5 thematic areas identified in the network
- Group supports each other as peers to consider how digital tools and methods can be applied

ASToN

C / KNOWLEDGE CAPTURING AND SHARING FOR THE END OF THE PROJECT

ASToN being a flagship project, it is crucial for us to capture the life and the learning that takes place in the network and be able to share it further. With this aim in mind, we drafted a Knowledge Capturing and Sharing (KCS) Strategy early 2021 that rolls out the principles and features that our knowledge work should have.

Our KCS strategy and activities are based on the following objectives:

Objective 1 - Securing knowledge for future projects

ASToN considers it crucial to preserve and pass on the practical and tacit knowledge its cities have collected throughout their urban digital transformation journeys. Securing ASToN's knowledge, especially for the purpose of passing it on for other projects both within and outside Africa forms the core of this objective. For the ASToN cities, informed by local contexts, ideas and solutions, the captured knowledge would include learning from what worked and what did not. Looking ahead, it would also encourage building up on success and unlearning approaches that no longer serve the cities.

Objective 2 - Enhancing skilled network of partners

ASToN seeks to enhance its existing skilled network of partners that can exchange and apply learnings across contexts. These connections would spark win-win situations, and allow the various actors within ASToN to learn from each other's experiences and professional expertise.

Objective 3 - Sharing learnings with a wider audience to inform and inspire

As a pilot project, ASToN has collected unique information across departments, teams and digital transformation themes. These learnings can be of immense value and inspiration for other cities and a wider audience. A key objective for ASToN is thus to place the 11 cities as digital leaders who inform and inspire other cities and audiences with their work and learnings.

D / SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED

ASToN Secretariat is looking for a consultant to contribute to produce some of the main knowledge products linked to the end of the project activities December 2022.

The tasks to be completed are the following:

1. Coordinate and produce the following outputs telling the story of the ASToN cities:
 - Following the thematic focus of the cities experimentation and local action plans, draft **4 in-depth case studies** that look into how cities are approaching the challenges of land management, etax, mobility or citizen engagement from a digital transition perspective. These case studies should approach the topic through the lens of all the cities working on it and compare and contrast their work, for the use of other cities outside the network that could be interested in the issue.
 - Produce **11 stories (1 per city) highlighting the individual story of change**, how ASToN had an impact on the professional life and career of the people involved in the project with regards to the connections that were built throughout the network, the tools and methods that were used, the learning shared within the partners. The stories would have a strong visual component (photos, illustrations etc)
2. Contribute to **the knowledge products focusing on the ASToN method and tools** (network blueprint, digital transition guide for the African cities, experiments catalogue) with examples from the cities, the other knowledge work (detailed at point 1 above) and provide feedback on the draft versions of these documents.

support for end of project capitalisation •

3. Coordinate the design of the **knowledge section on the ASToN website**. Together with the communication agency, the service provider will contribute to the design of the main features of the on-line hub, decide its architecture, content and the organisation.

The tasks will be carried out in close consultation with the ASToN Secretariat.

The contract will run until 31 December 2022.

A maximum budget of 28.000 € without VAT is available for the period May - December 2022 for this work.

E / WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

The profile we're looking for:

- > Proven knowledge of sustainable urban development issues from an international perspective (3 to 5 years of experience);
- > Work experience in Europe and world-wide on urban issues (at least one experience with a non-European institution);
- > Good understanding of international cooperation, city network dynamics and capacity building programmes;
- > Good knowledge of communication and capitalisation tools. Communication experience is considered a plus;
- > Previous experience with an international cooperation programme in urban matters is considered a plus.

F / OFFERS

Offers must be written in English. Offers shall include:

- > A short letter of intent outlining the experience and motivation of the consultant. .
- > A short proposal of workplan (first thoughts and ideas)
- > A financial offer (with daily rate of the consultant)
- > CV of the consultant.

Offers must be sent to the ASToN Secretariat via e-mail to Thierry Picquart thierry.picquart@aston-network.org and Simina Lazar simina.lazar@aston-network.org

Offers to be sent no later than 15 May 2022 midnight CET