

# END OF PROJECT

## DIRECT SUPPORT FOR CITIES

### CALL FOR THE ASTON EXPERTS DATABASE

#### 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 href="#">a baseline study</a> 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 <b>local stakeholders</b> 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 <b>clear vision</b>, an <b>action plan</b> to reach that vision, a <b>stakeholder group</b> 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 <b>transnational meetings, workshops</b> and exchanges to share ideas and what we are learning. We're equally looking into the <b>skills needed</b> for cities to succeed their digital transition.</p>	<p>The 'doing' phase where we're each <b>implementing pilot projects</b>, 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 <b>bankable</b> and not and the <b>calendar for action</b>.</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

## **C / CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE END OF THE PROJECT**

ASToN key objective is to reinforce the capacity of city practitioners that are involved in the network. Our starting assumption is that the digital transformation of cities should have local authorities in the drivers' seat. In order for that to happen, a specific set of knowledge and skills regarding the governance of digital technologies are needed. Furthermore, we believe that cities working together, exchanging lessons and good practices can enable the creation of a cohort of city leaders able to drive change locally and impact the global trends as well.

The key principles of our capacity building approach have been highlighted in [the ASToN Baseline Study](#).

## **D / SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED**

ASToN Secretariat is looking for a consultant to contribute to the implementation of the overall capacity building strategy. S/he will provide direct support to the ASToN cities linked with their ongoing activities until August 2022.

The tasks to be completed are specifically linked with the project's Experimentation Phase and are to be delivered directly at city level (on-line):

- > Provide coaching to cities for the implementation of their experiments (follow-up on the calendar of Experimentation Phase activities) through coaching calls or other methods previously agreed with the city;
- > Support the learning process at city level by organising specific reflection sessions;
- > Support the initial reflection on the local action plans based on the experimentation results.
- > Contribute to the design and creation of support tools and instruments for the use of cities

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

The contract will run until 31 August 2022.

A maximum budget of 25.000 € without VAT is available for the period June - August 2022 for this work.

## **E / WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR**

The profile we're looking for:

- > Proven experience in supporting civil servants through the design and implementation of innovation processes (3 to 5 years of experience) ;
- > Previous direct work with African cities on digital transition and public sector innovation;
- > Proven experience in using the lean approach method and innovative tools for public sector service design (1 to 3 years);
- > Knowledge of the African urban context and the specific challenges cities from the continent are being confronted with.

## direct support for cities •

- > Previous experience with an international cooperation programme on 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 on the methodological approach)
- > A financial offer (with daily rate of the consultant and split over the contact period)
- > An updated CV of the consultant.

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

Offers to be sent no later than 27 June 2022 midnight CET