

END OF PROJECT

SUPPORT FOR CITIES

ACCOMPANY ASTON CITIES TO BUILS FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR
THEIR LOCAL ACTION PLANS

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

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 / THE SCOPE OF LOCAL ACTION PLANS

The main output to be produced by each city involved in ASToN is **the Local Action Plan** – a document which outlines the solution envisaged by the city to the challenge they identified at the start of the project. The design of the Local Action Plan is done by the city together with the relevant stakeholders of the territory and is based on the learnings from the Experimentation Phase.

The Local Action plan can cover a period of several years after the end of ASToN project. Its implementation is not covered by the ASToN budget. The scope and ambition of each Action Plan vary from one city to another and can depend on several factors such as: national and local political context, other on-going projects and programs at local level, city's internal capacity etc.

Each ASToN city is due to finalise its Local Action Plan before 15 October 2022. Specific activities dedicated to **the research of partners and financing the implementation of Local Action Plan** will take place between September and December 2022, depending on each country's context and city's existing partnerships.

All ASToN cities are provided guidance, templates and support to draft their Action Plans, in line with our Capacity Building approach.

E / SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

ASToN Secretariat is looking for a consultant to provide support for cities with the outline of the financing plan of their Local Action Plans. S/he will provide direct support to the ASToN cities linked with their ongoing activities until December 2022.

The tasks to be completed are specifically linked with the activities each city is leading for the finalisation of their ASToN activities and specifically on the Local Action Plan:

- > Provide cities with main **tools and guidance** to reflect upon their financing strategy for the implementation of an Action Plan.
- > Organisation of 2 to 3 **on-line training sessions** with all city representatives to explain main financing principles and opportunities specific to African cities.
- > Prepare a **template for the financing plan** annex of the Action Plan to be used by all the cities.
- > Provide **bespoke support to cities in their financing requests**: suggest potential organisations, train cities for pitching sessions, provide feedback on the financing plans.

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

The contract will run until 31 December 2022.

support for cities •

A maximum budget of 20.000 € without VAT is available for the period August – December 2022 for this work.

F / WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

The profile we're looking for:

- > At least 5 years of work experience for a public body/ financial institution/NGO/ consultancy in the field of international cooperation and partnerships with the Global South, in particular with African partners.
- > Previous experience in development finance, urban sustainable development and innovative finance with a focus on African continent (3 to 5 years of experience).
- > Good knowledge of the potential financing and investing bodies interested to work with African local governments.
- > Good knowledge of the African urban context and the specific challenges cities from the continent are being confronted with.
- > Previous direct work with African cities in providing support strategies and operational solutions for financing urban development (min 1 year).
- > Ability to engage with actors and organizations across sectors and different levels of governance (international organizations, national and local governments, experts).
- > Effective bilingual communication in English and French, able to relay messages in a clear way across different organisations and geographical contexts.

G / 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 activities and 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 and Simina Lazar simina.lazar@aston-network.org

Offers to be sent no later than 10 August 2022 midnight CET