

Fund for Local Cooperation (FLC) funded project 2021-2022 Supporting Circular Economy start-ups, Good Governance and vibrant democracy

Organisation: Wom - Hub

Project Name: Accelerating Female founders to support innovation and Job creation in the circular economy

Accelerating female founders to support innovation and job creation in the circular economy is a unique incubator programme powered by WomHub. The aim of the programme is to support South African female founders whose businesses have a circular economy focus, to develop their business skills. The incubator takes a holistic approach by enriching the founders with core leadership skills, using the business diagnostic tools to strengthen their businesses and support the growth of the business to create investor readiness and job creation. The incubator is an 8-month hybrid support programme, which includes in-person support at the WomHub Innovation Hub as well as virtual mentoring and venture support.

Grant Amount € 90 000

Website: www.womhub.com

Organisation: ICLEI- Local Government for Sustainability - Africa

Project Name: Accelerating Circular Economy in Africa (ACE Africa)

The ACE Africa project aims to support the growth of circular economy businesses in Southern Africa. Circular economy is a growing area of interest for achieving sustainability across multiple sectors, and it is clear that, in Africa, private sector is leading the transition to circular economy. With a focus on the intersecting areas of food, health and climate change, this project will guide entrepreneurs, and new start-ups through an incubation programme and provide a platform for exposure to, and interaction with, mature circular economy businesses, funders and government officers. The desired outcomes are to support a number of businesses to mature, to contribute to improved innovation ecosystems for circular economy, and to provide guidance to local government on how to improve or support innovative businesses that enhance circular development. The project will be implemented in three phases:

- Phase 1 focuses on broadening the understanding of circular development, inviting start-ups and entrepreneurs into the incubation programmes, and upskilling the chosen companies.
- Phase 2 supports the growth and development of these startups, and further circular economy businesses through a yearlong Action and Learning Festival. The festival brings together circular economy businesses and stakeholders for co-learning and sharing and includes webinar presentations, matchmaking opportunities, business showcases and city-to-city and city-to-business exchange events.

- Phase 3 documents the learnings that have emerged throughout the project and develops guidance documents, policy briefs and action plans which identify key opportunities and actions for supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses to contribute to Southern African cities' strategic priorities and wider goals of food security, climate resilience, health and wellbeing, and circular development.

Grant Amount €190 000

Website: www.africa.iclei.org

Organisation: Fetola Foundation

Project Name: The circular Economy Accelerator

The Circular Economy Accelerator is a transformative growth and development programme built to accelerate the lasting success of South African SMEs active in the circular and green economies. The overarching aim is to make a significant and lasting contribution to sustainable development and economic growth by boosting the success of this critical sector. The programme is a multi-phase, co-funded catalytic initiative that utilises proven business growth methodologies and an innovative Green-Tech Exchange platform to deliver long-term proven results.

The Circular Economy Accelerator will stimulate economy recovery and promote vitality and growth of small enterprises in underserved communities in South Africa.

Grant Amount € 249 000

Website: www.fetola.co.za

Organisation: Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

Project Name: Enhanced civil society capacity to address violence in South Africa

The objective of this project is to enhance civil society's capability to promote and support practical efforts to address violence in South Africa. This will be achieved through working towards the following three outcomes. Firstly, to improve knowledge amongst civil society organisations and government departments on the key factors driving emerging trends and patterns of violence. Secondly, to strengthen the ability of civil society organisations to contribute and support community based and government-led interventions to prevent and reduce violence. Thirdly, to support a trained cohort of facilitators from civil society, community and government organisations to enable better cross-sectoral collaboration, and interventions to actively prevent violence.

Grant Amount € 90 000

Website: www.Issafrica.org

Organisation: South African Institute of international Affairs (SAIIA)

Project Name: Youth@SAIIA programme: Youth Participation for a vibrant Democracy

The Youth Participation for a Vibrant Democracy (YPVD) project will advance sustained action and public participation by youth (13-25 years) and educators (high school) within decision-making spaces at local and national levels, including governance, accountability, public processes, and activities that support a shift to a more equitable, democratic, and sustainable future. The YPVD will do this by: 1) identifying a cohort of national 'Youth Coordinators' to help run the project and ensure that the YPVD is youth-led; 2) increasing youth and educator understanding of political systems and participation in decision-making processes through participation in the growing national Youth Policy Committee, newly forming Youth Policy Committee High Schools network, and Young Leaders Conference; 3) launching an 'Activity Lab' for youth participants and educators to move beyond awareness-raising of issues, receive expert guidance and identify and implement activities for greater government oversight and in line with relevant youth-identified policies; and 4) developing social media campaign and podcast series for improved source of active youth CSOs and projects, and youth-friendly content and public participation related information in South Africa. The YPVD is a youth driven and co-designed project that provides a hybrid model of virtual and in-person (where deemed COVID-19 safe) activities. The project focuses on in-person engagement in Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Western Cape, with further national participation through virtual events.

Amount granted € 80 000

Website: www.saiia.org.za