EFFECTIVE INTERREGIONAL INCUBATOR FOR YOUTH

Combining Innovation, Higher Education, AI and Multilingualism

The Commonwealth Secretariat, OBREAL Global and the Association of African Universities (AAU) have agreed to set up an **'Effective Interregional Incubator for Youth'** aimed at students enrolled at higher education institutes/universities who are invested in their own personal and professional transformation, and also inspired to contribute significantly to solving present and future challenges of a globalized and changing world and to make higher education institutions more sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible.

In the framework of an open competition, a number of them will receive mentoring, a small amount of seed funding and support for the obtention of additional funds, in order to implement innovative international projects that involve the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). These projects will help empower Universities and offer outreach to them from an interregional perspective while respecting and promoting multilingualism (so, **the activity will call young people to combine, in an interregional perspective, four features: Innovation, Higher Education, AI and Multilingualism).**

The initiative is multiannual. Its promoters invite other institutions to join it and enlarge its scope and outreach.

The students and projects selected in a first call addressed to Africa are the ones in the following pages.

Multilingual AI platform for fostering cross-regional collaboration and startup development among young graduate entrepreneurs

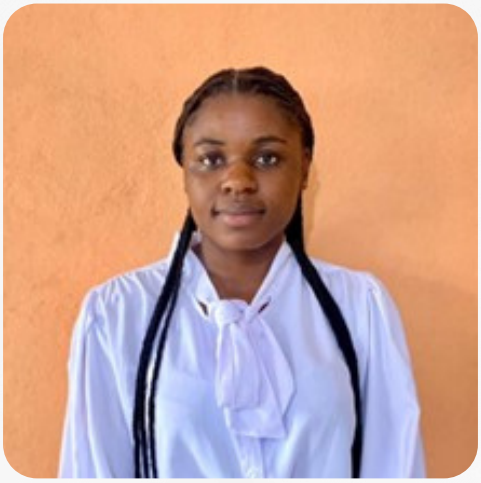
Nsikak THOMPSON

Nsikak Thompson is an undergraduate in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, with experience in software engineering, mainly mobile engineering, mobile platform applications and deployment infrastructure.

The project envisages the development of a multilingual artificial intelligence-driven platform to enable young graduate entrepreneurs to bring their startup ideas to reality. The platform breaks down linguistic barriers using Artificial Intelligence, facilitating smooth communication and teamwork from many cultural and multi-regional backgrounds. This project will enable young graduates to locate the tools, relationships, and resources required to build and ship their first minimum viable project.

Utilizing AI-powered calls to improve maternal and infant health in remote regions in Cameroon

Kinang Kindness CHECHE



Kinang Kindness Cheche is an MA student in data science at the University of Buea, Cameroon with hands on experience in software development, system design, coding, and graphic design.

The project addresses the problem of access to quality maternal and infant healthcare services in remote regions of Cameroon with the objective of minimizing preventable health complications and reducing the current much too high maternal and infant mortality rates. It will organize a system of AI-powered multilingual calls able to deliver antenatal and postnatal health information, guidance, and reminders to expectant and new mothers and caregivers of infants.

Empowering Young People in Marginalized Ethnic Communities using AI and Multilingualism

Dennis TANUI

Dennis Tanui is a BA student of Economics at Taita Taveta University in Kenya, passionate about using innovative technologies to empower marginalized groups by bridging the gap between technology and societal progress.

The project aims to develop an innovative AI-powered multilingual learning platform designed to address critical challenges faced by marginalized ethnic communities in Eastern Africa, ensuring that educational content is not only available but also relevant and culturally sensitive. The methodologies and framework of this platform are designed with scalability in mind, allowing them to be adapted and applied to other marginalized communities globally.

AI254's Kenyan indigenous languages revival and educational accessibility initiative

Stephen OGOLA

Stephen Ogola is a 3rd Year student at Maasai Mara University in Kenya pursuing a Bachelor's degree in computer and computer sciences, and the founder of AI254.

The project envisages the development of an Artificial Intelligence Language model that will enable university students to access academic content, globally collaborate on projects, innovate across borders, and seamlessly learn in their native languages. AI254 will enhance educational access and inclusion, by bridging some of the existing language barriers, and incorporating students with hearing impairments into the mainstream university education systems through real-time speech-to-text and sign language-to-speech translation and transcription.

Gender – sensitive solutions for homelessness using AI and multilingual support

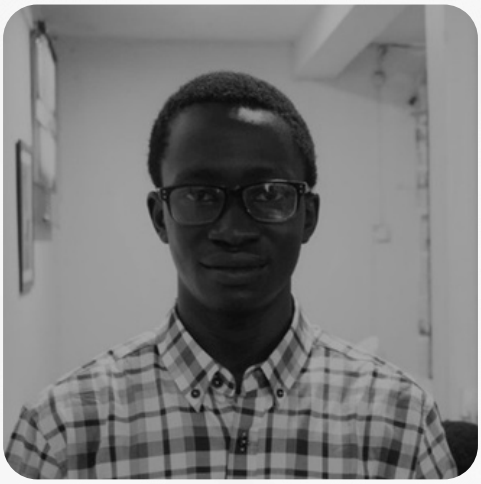
Dinah B. MASANDA

Dinah Buyeke Masanda is a Marketing Professional with over 5 years of experience, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree focused on marketing in the Co-operative University of Kenya.

The project aims to develop AI-driven tools tailored to assist homeless individuals, focusing on their specific needs based on gender. It targets in particular Mombasa, where a very diverse population speaks different languages, and where the increasing use of sheng, an upcoming and informal slang, makes very difficult the provision of services. This inherent multilingual feature makes the project adaptable to similar contexts in other world regions.

AI-powered crop disease detection and management app for small-scale farmers

Yaasir FALANA



Yaasir Falana is a student of Computer Science at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He practices software engineering, with a primary expertise in frontend and backend technologies and a strong passion for machine learning and data analysis.

The project addresses the challenges small-scale farmers encounter in maintaining healthy crops and intends to favour a swift farming system transformation focusing predominantly on disease management. To achieve this, the app will provide accessible, AI-powered tools for crop disease diagnosis and management information with user-friendly multilingual proficiency. To foster rapid adoption among small-scale farmers, the project will also encourage community collaboration.

Artificial Intelligence driven solutions for sustainable agriculture

Frank M. MUZHANYE

Frank M Muzhanye is a final-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Technology Honours in Electronic Engineering at Harare Institute of Technology, Zimbabwe. He specializes in the development of software systems and AI applications and IoT technologies.

The project aims to overcome some of the barriers faced by small-scale farmers to access relevant information. It will provide a multilingual platform giving access to a wide range of real-time data but also able to be tailored to specific agriculture and population sectors. Because of its very nature, the project is very easily adaptable to the situation in other world regions.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