THE OPPORTUNITY

The YouthConnekt is a youth empowerment initiative which takes a ‘platform approach’ to solving challenging development issues through ecosystem building, knowledge development and continental collaboration.

YouthConnekt Africa enables government to government collaboration and wider ecosystem building to accelerates youth development across the continent. Since 2017, the YouthConnekt Africa has grown from 6 initial member states to being a connector of 32 African Member states. The coordination of this growing initiative is assured by the YouthConnekt Africa Hub, which is headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda.

The YouthConnekt Africa Hub seeks to hire an Executive Director who is passionate about youth development and capable to effectively engage a multiple stakeholder platform.

VISION

Connecting African youth for socio-economic transformation.

MISSION

YouthConnekt Africa hub is a Pan-African platform that seeks to empower young people through enhancing their knowledge, experiences and skills while investing in their ideas, innovations and initiatives.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Youth in the driver’s seat:** mobilization of youth in the conception, design and implementation of programs. Youth are seen as implementers not only as beneficiaries.
- **Contextualization to country realities.** Country chapters are supported to contextualize YouthConnekt initiatives to their needs and operating environment.
- **Innovation.** In program design and implementation, in the use of technology and in fundraising.
- **Implementation.** Efficient, effective and sustainable.
- **Data driven:** Use of data to inform decisions, drive actions and advance our thought leadership agenda.

OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate the institutionalization of Youth participation in political debates, decision making and development processes at national, regional and continental levels.
- To coordinate a global network of partners and create a continental ecosystem for African Youth.
- To develop and share knowledge on innovative and progressive program and policy design for Youth initiatives.
The YouthConnekt is a multifaceted youth empowerment initiative which takes a ‘platform approach’ to solving challenging development issues through ecosystem building, knowledge development and continental collaboration.

YouthConnekt Africa aims at connecting young people with peers and role models, skills development, access to finance and entrepreneurship, and at strengthening the youth development ecosystem across Africa through knowledge development and dissemination of scalable youth development practices.

YouthConnekt is dedicated to finding new and improved ways to address youth development in respect and in line with national development priorities and contexts. With a wide range of innovative programmes under the YouthConnekt approach, each national chapter chooses activities that fall in the 4Es Agenda.

**Empower:** Create platforms that increase the participation and leadership of young people as active citizens of their nations, to equip youth with right attitude, cultural behaviour and correct health information to enhance their meaningful civic engagement as future leaders;

**Employ:** Promote and support programs and policies that support skilling young people and increase sustainable jobs;

**Entrepreneurship:** Build capacities, enable access to finance and markets for youth enterprises at start-up and scale level;

**Educate:** Focused on school to work transition skilling mechanisms responding to the needs of the various age segments of youth.

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**Policies**

We bridge the gaps between nations by bringing together government leaders & policy influencer to share knowledge, exchange strategic ideas and implement policies to advance the achievement of goals for youth in alignment with the African Youth Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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**Programs**

We identify existing programs aligned with the YouthConnekt Africa goals, and facilitate a platform to work together to achieve our common goals. These programs also assist in measuring, monitoring & maintaining successful initiatives aligned with the YouthConnekt objectives.

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**Partnerships**

We seek partnerships with private sector, government institutions, civic society, development partners, and academia to deliver programs, bring other partners on board, innovate & provide solutions for implementation.

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**Popular Mobilization**

Inspire, organize and empower authentic youth to give energy to issues and drive policy changes through the media and direct engagement with policymakers.

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**POP Culture**

Work with influential, credible public figures from across the cultural spectrum to mobilize and inspire global action.
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROLE

The YouthConnekt Africa Hub seeks to hire an experienced and driven Executive Director to lead the development of the organization and delivery of its mission. The Executive Director will work closely with the YouthConnekt Africa's Steering Committee – constituted of Ministers of Youth and Heads of key regional organisations across the continent, and globally.

He/She will focus on building strong partnerships and collaboration with national and international institutions with common values and interests. The Executive Director will oversee all aspects of the work of the YCA Hub and programme and will support the growing network of YC national initiatives. As a strategic collaborator and eloquent communicator, he/she will create and nurture partnerships that increase YCA outreach and enable the Hub to succeed and be sustainable.

He/she will provide quarterly reports to the YCA Hub Steering Committee and will lead an Africa-wide youth empowerment programme that aims at nurturing the skills, attitudes, knowledge, and motivation of African youth to shape a better future for themselves and the continent.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

YouthConnekt Africa Hub Positioning: The Executive Director will lead the strategic positioning of YCA as a continental brand known for promoting innovative solutions on youth development. S/he is accountable for leading and managing the establishment, growth and consolidation of the organization as a continental institution with a clear and accepted value proposition.

Partnership Management and Resource Mobilization: The Executive Director will represent the YouthConnekt Africa Hub at major national, regional and international events, helping to market the work of the organization and attract needed partnerships and resources (technical, financial, networks, etc.) to enable YouthConnekt Africa Hub to deliver on its mandate. S/he will contribute to catalyzing effective partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders in youth development and youth economic empowerment including government and non-governmental institutions, bilateral and multilateral financing institutions, civil society organizations, research centers and the private sector.

Contribution to Policy Leadership: The Executive Director will contribute to and promotes constructive dialogue on the development of pro-youth development policies. S/he regularly participates in relevant policy meetings and events of interest to YouthConnekt Africa Hub’s target groups and which involve the government, donors, and civil society to link the realities on the ground and the voices of the Youth with national policies and programmes.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education:
Master’s Degree from an accredited institution in Public Policy, International Development, Business Administration, Economics, Development Policy or other job-related fields.

Experience:
Minimum 10 years of progressively responsible experience in managing national and international programmes on employment creation, SME & entrepreneurship development, and youth civic engagement preferably in Africa. Experience managing staff to implement youth focused programs in an international organization is highly desirable.

Citizenship:
Candidate should be the citizen of an African Union member state.
KEY SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

The Hub’s Executive Director should have the following skills, knowledge and attributes:

- Passion for YouthConnekt Africa’s mission and impact areas;
- Results-focused strategic thinker with strong critical thinking skills;
- Excellent communicator - writing, speaking, presentation, and listening skills;
- Ability to effectively engage with key internal and external constituencies;
- Experience in successful fundraising and other forms of resource development;
- Ability to adapt to, and work effectively in, a highly nimble and growing organizational framework;
- Ability to foster a culture of integrity, excellence and transparency;
- Ability to interact well with all levels of officials from various Government and other partner organisations;
- A deep understanding of, and commitment to cultural sensitivity and diversity;

REQUIRED COMPETENCES

- Experience in policy advisory work at senior level in innovation, entrepreneurship development, employment creation and youth civic engagement, or related areas ;
- Knowledge and experience in youth socio-economic development issues in the context the African Continent;
- Experience working with diverse stakeholders – government, development partners, private sector.

EQUALITY STATEMENT

Equality and diversity are at the core of YouthConnekt Africa’s values. Staff are expected to work collectively and individually to promote a constructive and sensitive approach to others from a variety of backgrounds, where the work of others is valued and respected.

If you have any queries on any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information, or would like to have an informal discussion, please email jobs@youthconnektcafroica.org in the first instance.

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HOW TO APPLY

To apply, provide a CV, a two-page cover letter, and certified copies of degrees and relevant professional certificates in a single document. The document should be saved in the following format: Your First Name Your Last Name - Document Name - Date (yymm).

The cover letter should explain why you are interested in this position and how your skills and experience make you the right fit for the role and organisation.

Submissions should be addressed to the YouthConnekt Africa Chairperson via jobs@youthconnektAfrica.org. Learn More about YouthConnekt Africa here: www.youthconnektAfrica.org

TIMELINE

Closing date: May 12th, 2023