

# AYOKA FELLOWSHIP

SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB

Puerta de África and Casa Africa invites you to apply to the

## 2022 SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB

A Virtual Programme from November 2021 to September 2022

Deadline 30 September 2021, 12h00 CET

Puerta de África and Casa África are excited to announce the launch of the 2022 Social Innovation Lab to bridge and train African, Afrodescent and European emerging leaders.

We are committed to building a community of social entrepreneurs and activists driven by a the commitment to change the realities of their communities, learn to relate as equals and accelerate social change.

### Puerta de África

At Puerta de África, our mission is to train, bridge and activate young African, Afrodescent and European youth to learn to relate as equals and co-lead social change. The mission begins in Spain, but we expect to extend all our work around Europe and Africa.

The Ayoka Fellowship is part of our Do-Tank Department, committed to train and activate the potential of young people to accelerate social change and development. This is the first cohort of Young Leaders that will engage in this individual and collective journey.

You can learn more about our Youth-led non-profit at [www.puertadeafrica.com](http://www.puertadeafrica.com)

### Casa África

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Casa África works to bring Africa and Spain closer. Our mission is to foster mutual understanding and strengthen relations with African countries through trust. To do this, we organise more than 200 economic, social, cultural, institutional and political activities each year.

Casa África public consortium is currently made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Government of the Canary Islands, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

You can learn more at <https://www.casaffrica.es>

## The Ayoka Fellowship – Social Innovation Lab

The 2021-2022 Social Innovation Lab will bring together, from both civil society and the private sector, 12 exceptional, emerging African, Afrodescent and Spanish young leaders tackling some of the most pressing challenges. Our goals for this first cohort of Ayoka Innovators are:

1. **Connect:** Build a peer-learning community of social innovators on a shared vision of co-leadership.
2. **Research & Co-create:** From the roots of the most pressing challenges, map global solutions and work on a collaborative innovation base to generate applicable solutions for your communities and capabilities.
3. **Share:** Participate in national and global conferences explaining the innovations you are trying to build on to inspire more young people and generate a community of **Afropean changemaker's**.

## Program Content:

1. **The Research Seminar** provides with founding principles of research and supports the young leaders to identify the root problems of their targeted system & the most innovative global solutions for them. It includes a full-weekend virtual training session, a one month research program and individual support. It will culminate in the presentation of the research to a broad public (November - December).

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- 2. The Social Innovation Training:** that encompasses all the basic components of Social Innovation Training. It includes weekly Full-Group Sessions with the entire cohort (January - April). In these you should expect a mix of skill-building workshops and co-creation activities.
- 3. The Implementation:** during five months the young leaders will have to design an innovative path for their non-profit or social enterprise, in order to scale their impact and make a deeper change in their community. The Implementation phase includes monthly mentorship activities and peer-learning.
- 4. The International Conference:** in September 2022 the cohort of young leaders will participate in an international conference presenting the impact of their organizations and engaging with fellow leaders.

## Important dates:

- Application: Sept, 2021 - Oct, 2021
- Selection & acceptance: October, 2021
- Introductory meeting: October 31, 2021
- Research Seminar: November, 2021 - December, 2021
- Training weekly calls: January, 2022 - April, 2022
- Implementation & Mentoring: April, 2022 - September, 2022
- International Conference: Early September, 2022

## Ideal candidates

(Even if you don't feel like being an ideal candidate we encourage you to apply!)

- **Have a clear focus and can describe their impact**

You have been working to advance positive social change on a specific issue or set of issues for at least two years. You can demonstrate that your work has had a measurable impact in advancing on your issue.

- **Hold leadership position in a youth-led organisation or business**

You hold a leadership role in civil society, youth organisation or start-up. You are the founder or head of an organisation, or you are an intrapreneur or leading positive change from within an organisation.

- **Are aware of the difficulties of their own non-profit and are willing to change**

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You demonstrate an ethical, values-based and collaborative approach to leadership.

- **Are ready to deconstruct their stereotypes on European/African persons and build new forms of relationship.**

You are ready to understand racism, privileges and misinformation as part of your journey for leading social change, and to spread the word.

**Eligibility Criteria:** We define Africa to include all 55 African Union member states. Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Morocco and South Africa are especially encouraged to apply.

- **Citizenship/Residency:** You must meet one of the criteria below.
  - You are a citizen of Africa/Spain; OR
  - You are a permanent resident of Africa/Spain; OR
  - You are a refugee or asylum seeker in Africa/Spain; OR
  - You have lived in Africa/Spain for at least three years, regardless of your legal status.
- **Based in Spain or Africa:** You currently reside in an eligible country
- **Geographic Focus:** Your work is geographically focused on creating positive change for your local community, country of residence or origin, and/or the broader region. You demonstrate a strong commitment to continue to focus your work in your community.
- **Leadership experience:** You can demonstrate at least 2 years of relevant experience in your issue area.
- **Age:** You will be between 18 and 35 years old on October 1, 2021.
- **Language Proficiency:** You are professionally proficient in English (spoken and written).
- **Program Commitment:** You can commit to fully participating in the entire duration of the program from October 1, 2021 until September 5, 2022.
- **Permanent stable internet connection:** the ideal candidates need to have permanent internet connection during the duration of the fellowship.

## How to Apply

**The application portal will open on Wednesday, September 1, 2021. The deadline to apply is Thursday, September 30 at 11.59 pm Central European Time (CET)**

Application Process: To prepare for your application, you will have to fill out a form.

**Timely Submissions:** Later or incomplete applications will not be considered. We strongly recommend that you submit your application as early as possible.

**Selection Process:** The Selection Process will take place in October 2021. We will inform all candidates of the final selection via email in middle October 2021. Those who are not selected will remain eligible for future Ayoka Fellowship opportunities.

For any other questions on program eligibility or technical support, please contact us at [ayokafellowhip@puertadeafrica.com](mailto:ayokafellowhip@puertadeafrica.com)

We look forward to learning more about you and your work!

Kind regards,

**Sara, Sarahi and Viviane**

Team Members of Ayoka Fellowship

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