



African Forum on
**Youth Skills and Enterprise
in the Digital Age**

18th - 19th April 2018
Tunis, Tunisia

Organizers

 **African Union**  **gesci**
Provided by UN ICT Task Force

 Ushirikia wa Maendeleo ya Elimu Barani Afrika
الرابطة لأجل تطوير التربية في أفريقيا
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The African Forum on Youth Skills and Enterprise in the Digital Age

CONTEXT – Addressing Youth Employment in Africa

The African Development Bank Group’s “Long-Term Strategy Briefing Note 4: Africa’s Demographic Trends” mentions that the continent’s population, aged 15-34, is set to grow from 358 million in 2010 to 540 Million in 2030. According to a joint World Bank Group and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) report “in Africa each year between 2015 and 2035, there will be half a million more 15 year-olds than the year before”.

GESCI (The Global E-Schools and **Communities Initiative**), based in **Nairobi**, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, have organised *the Youth Forum on Youth Skills and Enterprise in the Digital Age* - an initiative of the **Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025** (CESA) of African Union within which GESCI chairs the ICT In Education Cluster.

The Forum will bring together Ministers, senior policymakers, government administration senior officials, development partners, private sector, representatives of African youth, young

entrepreneurs, civil society and experts to showcase, share and discuss comprehensive and innovative TVSD/TVET models.

GESCI will showcase its highly innovative ***Creative Digital Media Skills for Employment, Enterprise and Start-Ups*** model which was researched and developed in its digital media centre in Nairobi.

Jerome Morrissey, CEO, GESCI, said: *'The Creative Digital Media project is an innovative skills and start-up initiative which applies digital technologies to culturally-based content in the animation, mobile games, apps and music/sound production environments.'* He said: 'The cultural and creative sector is one of the fastest growing in the world',

Contributing towards the following expected outcomes:

1. Developing a shared and commanding understanding of how digital technologies can be leveraged for skilling the youth and empowering them to create enterprise in the digital era and lead the socio-economic transformation of their communities.
2. Sharing knowledge, experiences, good practices and lessons learnt to better inform policies and programmes aiming at skilling the youth and enterprise creation in the digital age.
3. Raising awareness on the necessity to build strong skill sets and volunteer political commitment to explore innovative approaches for leveraging digital technologies for youth skilling and enterprise creation.
4. Promoting youth digital skills and enterprise high-level policy dialogue platform and network that includes the public sector (ministries, agencies and institutions in charge of vocational education and youth, Regional Economic Communities - RECs); development cooperation agencies and international organizations; private sector; civil society and youth organizations. Such a policy platform and network are necessary for the development

of the ecosystem that will foster partnerships to advance policy and strategy development and implementation.

5. Sharing Youth's digital skills development and enterprise creation strategies to help address youth unemployment and bridging the skills gap within Africa by identifying game-changing experiences and lessons learnt.
6. Creating a platform for the promotion of the competitiveness and attractiveness of TVET sectors across Africa by identifying innovative and creative skills through an "African creative skills competition".

More details on the forum available at :

<http://digitalskills4africanyouth.org/>

About GESCI

The Global E-Schools and Communities initiative (GESCI) is an international non-profit organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya. GESCI was founded by the United Nations in 2003, GESCI's mission is to assist governments in their efforts to promote socio-economic development, through the successful and widespread integration of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for the development of knowledge societies, for the enhancement of teaching and learning through ICT integration and for ICT skills for youth employment.

More information available at www.gesci.org

For more information:

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