

PROJECT **StudENT for Africa**

ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



University of Bologna: www.unibo.it

StudENT For Africa: www.site.unibo.it/startupdayunibo/it/studentforafrica

StartUp Day: www.site.unibo.it/startupdayunibo

AlmaCube: www.almacube.com

Fondazione Alma Mater: www.fondazionealmamater.it


The University of Bologna is



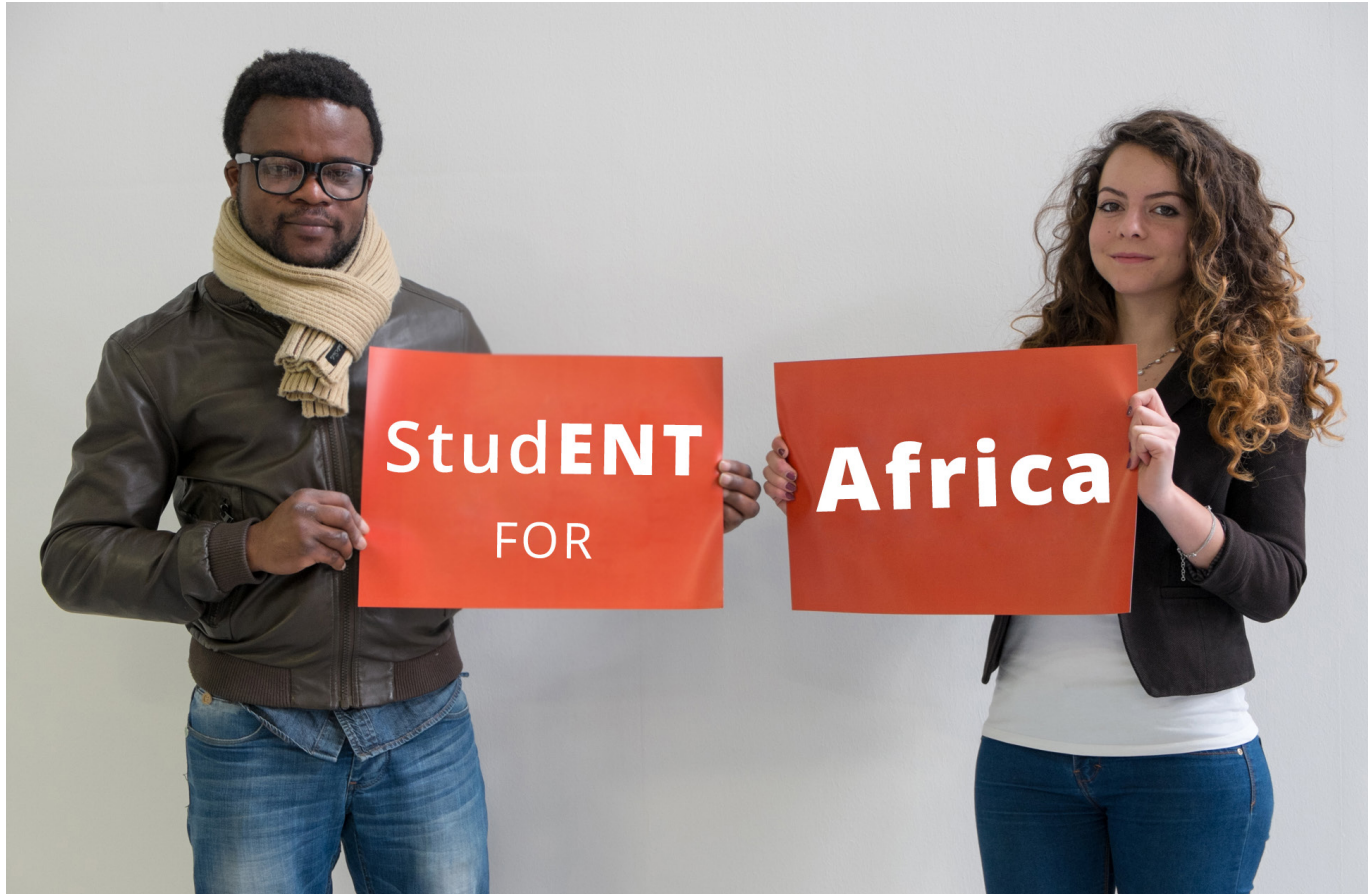
one of the largest and most active Italian universities in research and technology transfer in Italy. It stands among the most important institutions of higher education in EU with more than 85,000 enrolled students, 2,748 Academic staff, 2,967 administrative staff units. Based in five campuses (Bologna, Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna, Rimini), with a branch in Buenos Aires, it offers a diversified teaching catalogue that is tailored to the needs of the present-day society: over 200 degree programmes among its 32 Departments and 5 Schools are offered. 5000 graduates are enrolled in PhDs and 3rd cycle programmes.

As a comprehensive research, the University of Bologna invests in the multidisciplinary crosscultural approach and in the inseparable connection between research and teaching. One of the most active universities leading and participating in European research and academic cooperation projects, Bologna has formed knowledge alliances with industry and public/private organizations. It is a hub of international networks.

ENGAGEMENT
in **Academic** *
Entrepreneurship

 has become over the years a priority for universities worldwide. In a broad sense academic entrepreneurship refers to the interaction between university, industry, markets and society at large and encompasses different channels through which the output of academic research can be conveyed to the market. These channels include patents, licenses, university industry collaborations, academic consulting and new venture creation. This latter, among the various mechanisms in support of the commercial exploitation of research, has received increasing attention. As a consequence, universities have put in place policies,

strategies and actions to support the creation of new companies, both to exploit research results, including IP and non IP-based technologies (academic spin-offs), and to leverage on successful business ideas on students' side (student start-ups). **StudEnt for Africa** is one of the main ongoing activities in the context of the academic entrepreneurship strategy.



StudENT
FOR

Africa

ABOUT StudENT for Africa FACTS and Figures

The African Students community is the largest International students community at the University of Bologna.

More than 800 people from Africa are enrolled in bachelor degree courses (64%), master courses (33%), and phds (3%).

Most of them (83%) come from Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal Ghana and Nigeria.

More than 40% of African students at Alma Mater Studiorum are enrolled in Engineering degrees (25%) and Business and Management Degrees (18%), well represented are also

degrees in Arts-Humanities and Education (16%) Medical and Nursing (11%), Political Sciences (9%) and Hard Sciences (7%).

Tackling Africa's sustainable development issue is and will be one of the major challenges to be addressed in next decades by the entire world and our country in particular.

With a view to accepting the challenges imposed by modern society and directing its institutional activities towards the pursuit of sustainable development, the University of Bologna invests in a student entrepreneurship program aimed at fostering their personal, cultural and professional growth in a global perspective, with a special focus on its potential impacts in African territories.



*SUPPORTING
ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP*

Student for Africa the **strategy** behind the project

Alma Mater as a leading University in Italy on academic entrepreneurship, fostering the diffusion of impact entrepreneurial culture, aimed at the sustainable development of African Countries, based on the valorization of research results and student based entrepreneurship.



Mission

- to foster the diffusion of entrepreneurial culture among Alma Mater students
- to promote the commercial exploitation of university research results through the creation of spin-offs
- to have an impact on local and African society



Objectives

- to empower a new generation of entrepreneurs able to combine sustainable economic success with positive social impact in African countries;
- to engage a network of Italian and African cross-stakeholders to support the ability of the Alma Mater Studiorum start-ups to grow in the future in the African Market;
- to promote synergies (formal relations, joint activities) with other initiatives aimed at the same target of beneficiaries with a view to mutual benefit;
- to show the potential of young entrepreneurs and foster a joined-up policy framework involving public, private and civil institutions.



Target

University of Bologna students interested in developing sustainable business activities in Africa.

StudENT for Africa

SUPPORTING THE TURN
OF IDEAS INTO STARTUP IN

4 phases*





Dissemination



Scouting of ideas



**Pre Incubation
Programme**



**Accelerating and
enabling growth**

***** *AND IN EACH OF
THEM PARTNERS OR
STAKEHOLDERS COULD BE
INVOLVED AND GIVE ITS
CONTRIBUTION*

dissemination

INSPIRING
AND RAISING
awareness



Dissemination



Scouting of ideas



Pre Incubation
Programme



Accelerating and
enabling growth





DURING THIS PHASE lectures, meeting with testimonials and meetups will be carried out, with the aim of spreading the entrepreneurial culture, informing of the opportunities offered through the project and giving inspiration through testimonial speeches.

PARTNERS COULD BE INVOLVED IN:

inspirational speeches,
testimonials,
presentation of projects
carried out in Africa,
meetups sponsorship

Scouting of ideas



Dissemination



Scouting of ideas



Pre Incubation Programme



Accelerating and enabling growth





THE ACTIVITIES carried out during this phase are aimed at bringing out, strengthening and selecting the projects of students-researchers through an ideas competition (Call for ideas) during which collective short courses and individual support (initial assessment of ideas) are provided to the participants. The final stage of this phase is the StartUp Day.



Start-up Day

StartUp Day, whose first edition took place in 2015, is a one-day event organized by the University of Bologna in collaboration with AlmaCube, the University incubator,

to bring together student's competences and promising business ideas to help grow and support entrepreneurship. During StartUp Day the best 30 entrepreneurs selected through the "Call for Ideas" get the chance to: meet new team members interested in being involved in the project and strengthening the team offering their skills; present their ideas to investors and meet relevant actors of the startup ecosystem. 392 ideas were submitted for the 2018 edition and more than 2.000 people participated in the event. Since 2019 a section of the "Call for ideas" is dedicated to project intended to have an impact in Africa and at least three of the 30 awarded projects are chosen from these section.

PARTNERS COULD BE INVOLVED IN:

Sponsorship
for StartUp day,
lectures, testimonial
speeches

Pre-incubating services



Dissemination



Scouting of ideas



Pre Incubation
Programme



Accelerating and
enabling growth



PARTNERS COULD BE INVOLVED IN:

sponsorship for meetups/lectures/inspiring speeches, mentorship and coaching of teams, pre seed grant awards

Through pre-incubation activities and specific support of experts in African markets, would-be entrepreneurs are helped in assessing the feasibility of their ideas, creating and testing a prototype, interacting with the whole University community of students, researchers and professors and participating in a startup pitch competition.

Innovation Day Yearly startup pitch competition organized by AlmaCube, the University incubator, offering in kind and in cash prizes.



SERVICES available for the would-be entrepreneurs

KTO The Knowledge Transfer Office provides support on how to exploit university inventions and how to protect them

Pre-incubation programme 12 months (?) training and coaching programme with lectures, testimonials and practice to push further the student's ideas, selected for the StartUp Day, showing potential for business development

FabLab a coworking space targeting University of Bologna students and equipped with tools for makers to create their own prototype, with an array of computer-controlled tools that cover several different length scales and various materials

INCUBATING, ACCELERATING AND ENABLING

growth



Dissemination



Scouting of ideas



Pre Incubation
Programme



Accelerating and
enabling growth





This phase is aimed at supporting the startups settlement and consolidation in the African markets concerned. The incubation, acceleration and growth of start-up and spin-off companies require connection to networks of players able to offer capital, services, opportunities, expertise and knowledge of specific markets to lead the entrepreneurial journey of these companies to success. The University of Bologna will make available the network of its relations with African Universities, key start-up ecosystem players, companies and funding organizations to help the startups boost and scale initial sales and business development with relevant partners.



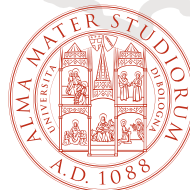
PARTNERS COULD BE INVOLVED IN:

sharing the network of relevant contacts in Africa (reliable players of the local startup ecosystem); offering entrepreneurial internship for startupper

Getting in contact

studentforafrica@unibo.it

UN PROGETTO DI



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

REALIZZATO IN COLLABORAZIONE CON



FAM
FONDAZIONE ALMA MATER

CON IL CONTRIBUTO DI

