

PRESS NOTE / PHASE 2: TRAINING AND CO-CREATION

The Ayoka Fellowship is an intercontinental Social Innovation Lab that will link young African and Spanish entrepreneurs and/or leaders. They will receive training in social entrepreneurship and social innovation to maximize the impact of their projects on their communities and also to be able to scale their projects to promote grassroots development and/ or work towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The second phase of the Ayoka Fellowship, our young leaders receive virtual training in entrepreneurship and innovation and are able to reflect together with experts in their areas of work on how they could make a difference especially by having a focus on the Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. As a part of this phase, two workshops, "Allies for Change " and "How to Define and Visualize Change" took place on the 21st and 28th of February. We hosted two precious speakers for these workshops with great pleasure. In these interactive workshops, speakers encouraged our fellows to consider the ecosystem they are in and how to use their potential to change this ecosystem with their projects.

Our first speaker Viviane Ogou Corbi, graduate in International Relations and the founder and president of the Think-and-do Tank; La Puerta de África (aims to promote youth empowerment and research between Europe and Africa), conducted the Allies for Change workshop. She encouraged our fellows to exchange their ideas on their strategies to solve common problems and try to find mutual objectives for their projects. Furthermore, her goal was to create both a creative and a challenging ground for our fellows to give feedback to each other regarding the projects. In addition, Viviane has been a spokesperson for the Madrid delegation and also the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and has also participated as a panelist in conferences. Thus, she gave examples from her own experiences to draw our fellows' attention to the importance of collaboration and stakeholders.

Our second speaker, Solomon King Benge was the founder of Fundi Bots which is a robotics non-profit that uses robotics training inside and outside African schools to create and inspire a new generation of students and innovators. He is also a 2014 Echoing Green Fellow and a 2014 Ashoka Fellow. Sharing his personal experience and inspiring journey, he made a presentation of his great effort on Fundi Bots and the challenges he's been through. Furthermore, he indicated that it is crucial to nurture strong, close relationships with donors/funders when it comes to building an entrepreneurship. He also highlighted how important it is to (re)calibrate one's own North Star to never lose the initial goal, even though one is struggling.