

Press Release

Network with a vision: launch of the second edition of AGYLE, the African-German leadership programme

“AGYLE - African German Young Leaders in Business” is expanding its network by another 40 young leaders / AGYLE’s 2022 digital week to take place from 27 June to 1 July / information on this year’s selected young leaders as well as on the programme is available at www.agyle-programme.com

Berlin, 23 June 2022 – Today, Africa is widely considered to be a continent of opportunities. And yet, when it comes to communicating Africa's creative potential and collaborating with Germany in important fields of the future, a lot of convincing is still needed. As part of this year’s edition of “AGYLE - African German Young Leaders in Business”, the African-German leadership programme, 40 outstanding personalities from the African countries of Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Tunisia as well as from Germany have now been selected by the expert jury. Almost 200 candidates had submitted their application for the 2022 programme, the core theme of which is “Green innovation - young leaders tackling climate change”. During the upcoming digital week, which will be packed with events, the new cohort of business leaders will focus especially on shaping innovative ideas and concepts to address the climate crisis.

“In view of global challenges, such as tackling climate change, overcoming pandemics or extracting alternative raw materials, Africa has increasingly moved into focus as a strategic partner. Creative exchange and in-depth cooperation between young leaders from Africa and Germany are thus a real investment in the future”, says Ute Weiland, CEO of Germany - Land of Ideas.

“AGYLE is building a bridge across the Mediterranean Sea by connecting promising young talent from Africa and Germany to facilitate economic exchange and develop innovative project ideas. The challenges of recent years have taught us that we need to collaborate more closely. Today, we can see how important it is to support each other with our respective strengths and to learn from each other's experience - and this is exactly what the AGYLE network is all about”, says Almuth Dörre, Acting Director of the Agency for Business & Economic Development (AWE).

The AGYLE network has grown to include as many as 80 young leaders from four African countries as well as Germany. Covering a broad spectrum from start-ups, new technologies and green innovations to circular economy, agriculture and tourism, many exciting sectors are represented here. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the AGYLE programme and the associated sustainable business network were launched in 2021 by the Agency for Business & Economic Development (AWE) and Germany - Land of Ideas. The aim is to leverage the economic potential of African-German relations and to promote the development of innovative concepts.

AGYLE’s 2022 digital week: Green Innovation - generating fresh ideas through African-German collaborations

Between 27 June and 1 July 2022, all participants will gather online for **AGYLE’s 2022 digital week**. This exclusive event week will focus on interdisciplinary exchange and networking, professional motivation and

cross-border cooperation among the young leaders. The centrepiece of the joint week will be a virtual **design thinking lab** that will enable mixed teams to develop and refine their ideas and prototypes for new business models.

The most promising idea will be awarded a prize by the jury in a final event: a professional coaching to take their idea to the next level. The programme of events also includes virtual discussion rounds as well as inspiring talks and cultural activities.

AGYLE's 2022 digital week: public programme of events

- 27 June, 12–1 pm (Berlin CET)
Official kick-off event for AGYLE's 2022 digital week

The 2022 digital week will be officially opened by **Almuth Dörre**, Agency for Business & Economic Development (AWE) and **Ute Weiland**, Germany - Land of Ideas. Link to the live stream: <https://youtu.be/eOzsRjMezBE>

- 28 June 12–1 pm (Berlin CET):
Talk: "The importance of African-German cooperation"

In his talk, **Prof. Dr-Ing. Siegfried Russwurm**, President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), will be exploring the importance of African-German economic cooperation. Link to the live stream: <https://youtu.be/BrWikyGCBIY>

- 1 July, 1.30–3.30 pm (Berlin CET):
Pitch presentations of the 2022 AGYLE teams

In this pitch, the five interdisciplinary teams will be presenting their prototypes for new ideas and business models they will have developed over the course of the week. The winning team will be selected by the jury of experts. Link to the live stream: <https://youtu.be/mCuWtbdkGR4>

About AGYLE – African German Young Leaders in Business

AGYLE, the African-German Young Leaders programme, connects up-and-coming leaders from Germany and Africa to establish a sustainable business network and promote the development of innovative ideas and business models. Through direct encounter and collaboration, the programme strengthens African-German dialogue and lays the foundation for new means of economic cooperation. AGYLE is a programme of the Agency for Business & Economic Development (AWE) and Germany - Land of Ideas; AWE is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is supported by GIZ and DEG.

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