



DIGITAfrica Inaugural Workshop Agenda

24 April 2025 at UCT Campus and Online

Time	Session	Details	Speakers	Session Moderator
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome and Opening Keynote	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The strategic importance of DIGITAfrica in EU-Africa collaboration in Digital Sciences and Research Infrastructures (RI).- Overview of workshop objectives and expected outcomes for DigitAfrica.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof Serge Fdida (<i>Sorbonne University, France</i>)• Prof Joyce Mwangama (<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>)	-
09:30 - 10:45	Session 1: Research Agendas and Technical Frameworks	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Current landscape of African RIs (e.g., STISA-2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local stakeholders speeches (Academia, Industry, Government):	<p>Keynote: Daan du Toit (<i>Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Scott Timcke (<i>Research ICT Africa, South Africa</i>)• Dr Eliud Musotsi (<i>Research Grants National Research Fund, Kenya</i>)• Mark Johnson (<i>Square Kilometer Array, South Africa</i>)	Prof Joyce Mwangama (<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>)
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break			

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11:00 - 12:00	Session 2: Building the DIGITAfrica Network	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding partnerships and establishing regional expertise communities - Mapping roles of academia, industry, and policymakers in the network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Amal El Fallah (<i>Deputy Minister for Digital Transformation, Morocco</i>) • Collin Mashile (<i>Department of Communication and Digital Technologies, South Africa</i>) • Dr Partson Chikudza (<i>Research Council of Zimbabwe</i>) • Dr Michelle Smith (<i>IRCAD Africa, Rwanda</i>) 	Dr Bessie Malila (<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>)
12:00 - 13:00	Session 3: Identifying Common Research Priorities	<p>Panel</p> <p>Identifying common research priorities and technical specifications for a pan-African RI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mitch Cox (<i>University of Witwatersrand, South Africa</i>) • Prof Thomas Magedanz (<i>Technische Universität Berlin, Germany</i>) • Dr Cherif Ghazel (<i>University of Manouba, Tunisia</i>) • Mlamli Boo (<i>University of Johannesburg, South Africa</i>) • Prof Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Gueye (<i>Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal</i>) 	Prof Serge Fdida (<i>Sorbonne University, France</i>)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Hlabishi Kobo (<i>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa</i>) 	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 - 15:00	Session 4: Capacity Building in Digital Sciences	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Designing education and training pathways: <i>SLICES-RI and SoBigData Academies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations of the SLICES-RI Academy and SoBigData Academy <p>Developing the DIGITAfrica Academy and tailoring capacity-building efforts to African needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local speakers about challenges in education in Africa (needs and gaps) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Ahmed Biyabani (<i>Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Rwanda</i>) • Dr Winston Ojenge (<i>Africa Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya</i>) • Emmanuel Rashayi (<i>University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe</i>) • Michela Natilli (<i>National Research Council of Italy, Italy</i>) • Stavroula Maglavera (<i>University of Thessaly, Greece</i>) 	Dr Vitalis Ozianyi (<i>Strathmore University, Kenya</i>)
15:00 - 16:00	Session 5: Economic Dimensions and Sustainability	<p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment strategies, funding opportunities, and socio-economic impacts of a pan-African RI - Crafting a sustainable path for DIGITAfrica, including financial and governance models. (Panelists from partners + regional stakeholders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Charley Lewis (<i>Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, South Africa</i>) • Dr Mmaki Jantjies (<i>Telkom Group, South Africa</i>) 	Prof Albert Lysko (<i>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa</i>)

Time	Session	Details	Speakers	Session Moderator
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabelo Dlamini (<i>South African National Research Network, South Africa</i>) • Mark Johnson (<i>Square Kilometer Array, South Africa</i>) • Prof Vincent Omwenga (<i>Strathmore University, Kenya</i>) • Dumisa Ngwenya (<i>SENTECH SOC, South Africa</i>) 	
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee Break			
16:15 - 17:00	Session 6: Blueprint and Proof of Concept	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstration of potential technical tools and platforms: - Defining the Blueprint / collaborative platform for EU-Africa joint research and education activities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Damien Saucez (<i>French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation, France</i>) • Dr Nikos Makris (<i>University of Thessaly, Greece</i>) 	-
17:00 - 17:30	Finalization and Action Plan	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of workshop discussions and key results - Closing Remarks: Reflections from participants and organizers - Next steps and timeline for implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Joyce Mwangama (<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>) • Prof Serge Fdida (<i>Sorbonne University, France</i>) 	-

