



**European  
Network of  
Living Labs**

# **Africa-EU Cooperation on Open Living Labs**

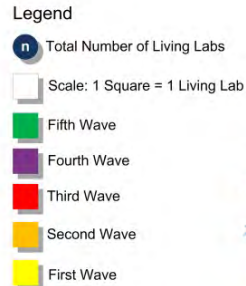
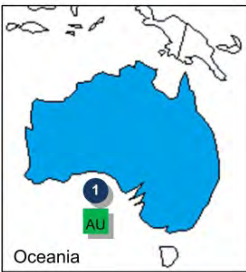
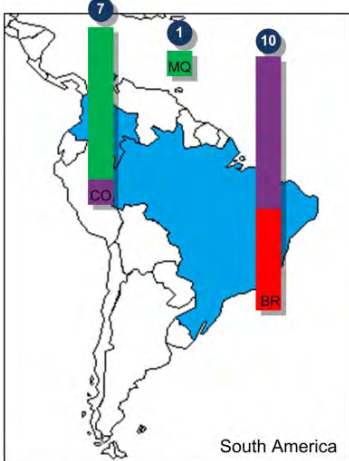
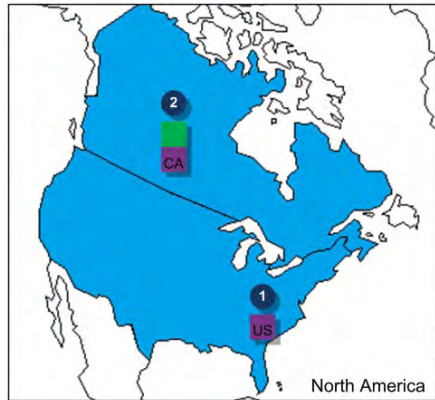
## ***Status and Perspectives***

Prof. Álvaro de Oliveira  
President of the ENoLL Council  
(European Network of Living Labs)

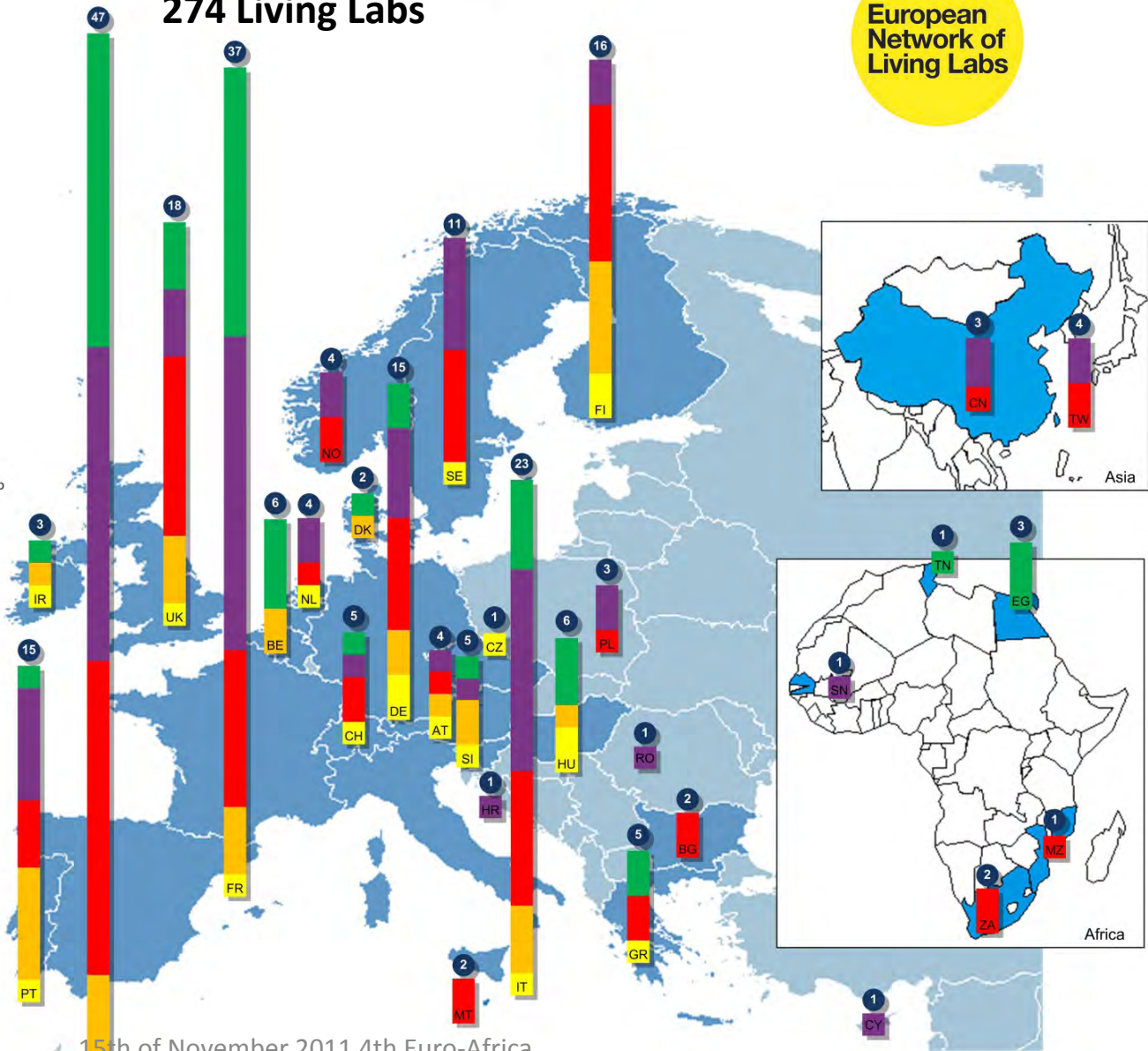
14th of November 2011 4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research Cape  
Town, South Africa

# ENoLL Five Waves

## 274 Living Labs



1 <sup>st</sup> Wave	–	19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wave	–	32
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wave	–	68
4 <sup>th</sup> Wave	–	93
5 <sup>th</sup> Wave	–	62
<b>Total</b>		<b>274</b>



15th of November 2011 4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research Cape Town, South Africa

# Globalization of ENoLL

## **Expansion initiatives outside of Europe**

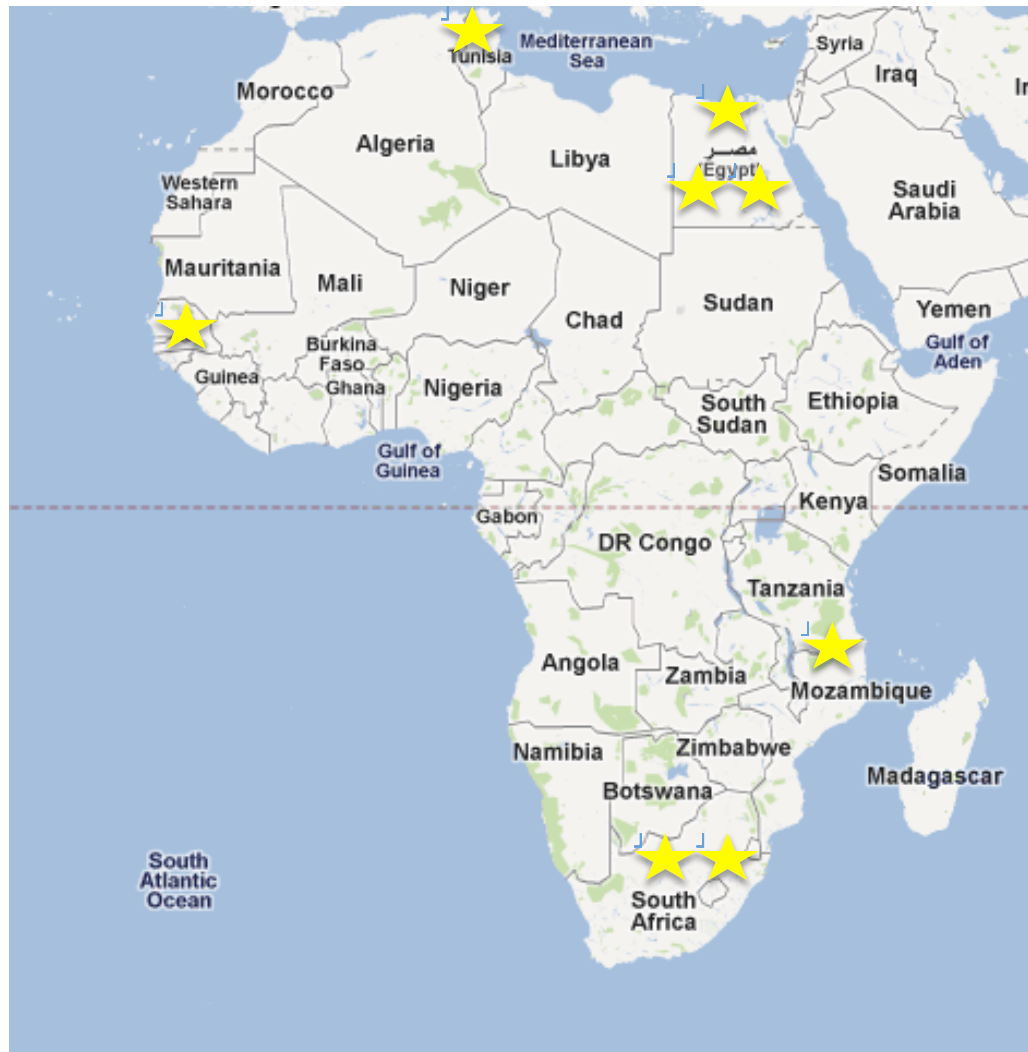
- Brazil Network of Living Labs (BNoLL)
- Africa Network of Living Labs (ANoLL)
- China Network of Living Labs (CNoLL)
- Taiwan
- Korea
- USA

## **Collaboration agreements**

- FAO Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (MoU and Action plan)
- United Forum Ubiquitous Network Industry and technology Development Forum (China)
- Beijing City Administration and Public Service Innovation – Information System and Equipment Center (CAISEC) China
- World Bank (In progress)
- INSME International Network of SMEs (In progress)
- EEN Europe Enterprise Network (In progress)



# Living Labs in Africa



Cooperation Forum on ICT Research Cape  
Town, South Africa

# African ENoLL Living Labs

- Living Lab Maputo (Mozambique)
- African Living Lab ISEG/UNIDAF (Senegal)
- Siyakhula Living Lab (South Africa)
- Sekhukhune Living Lab (South Africa)
- Egyptian-Dutch Agricultural LL (Egypt)
- Start-Up Systeme Tunisia (Tunisia)
- Egyptian School Education Living Labs (Egypt)
- Egyptian Retail Trade Development, Grocers/ Retail Traders Connection & Empowerment” Living Lab (Egypt)

## The Case for African Living labs (1/2)

- There are 8 African Living Labs members of ENoLL and an estimated number of 10 emerging ones that are expected to apply for membership during the 6<sup>th</sup> Wave ,now open. The excellent work developed by these Living Labs has demonstrated the benefits that they can bring to Africa.
- ENoLL and LLiSA signed a MoU in February 2011 in order to closely cooperate in the development of LLs in Africa. The first joint initiative took place on the workshop held on 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2011, in Gaborone, Botswana.
- African Living Lab cases were presented at this event, and their impact on the Innovation policies of African States was discussed. As a result it was agreed to create a Task Force (ANoLL Task Force) co-chaired by the EC and the AUC, to draft and promote the public consultation of a white paper on the role and supporting mechanisms for Living Labs in Africa, under the Framework of EC – AUC RDI Cooperation Agreement.
- ANoLL Task Force was mandated to create the concept and the action plan for implementation, ensuring an open and transparent process widely participated. Furthermore it was recommended to keep close link with the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) and existing African Living Labs namely, LLiSA and the ENoLL African Living Lab Members

## The Case for African Living Labs (2/2)

- ENoLL has been empowered (September 2011) by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force (EC and AUC) to act on behalf of the Task Force in order to facilitate the implementation of the Terms of Reference agreed for the draft of the white paper
- African Living Labs study, led by LLiSA : “Supporting the Evolution of Sustainable Living Labs and Living Labs Networks in Africa”, was adopted to be the basis for a Scoping paper.
- The African Living Labs study was made available to a wide number of organizations . This public consultation was published by the European Network of Living Labs ([www.openlivinglabs.eu](http://www.openlivinglabs.eu)) requesting contributions to be incorporated in the scoping paper. The initial draft of the Scoping paper was published as part of the public consultation process.
- The current version of the Scoping paper (Version 5 dated on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>) is based on the African Living Labs study and includes the contributions received from the Task Force members and other additional expertise coming from ENoLL members until the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2011.
- Public Consultation is still open for further contribution.



# Sustainable Living Labs in Africa

## African Living Labs experience

- Cases studies from Southern Africa, East Africa, North Africa, West Africa and Central Africa are part of the study which also includes some relevant cases received from the EU and Brazil.
- Living Lab communities in Africa show a strong focus on the innovation co-creation engaging rural and other disadvantaged communities, and leveraging community-based technological solutions, in tandem with innovation-driven research, development and training in relation to community wellbeing, education and usage of social media and mobile communications.
- Most common domains are related to Health, Digital Literacy, ICT and mobile services and markets, entrepreneurship capacities , social innovation, water and food sustainability
- It is imperative to have a strong focus on community development and empowerment, skills transfer and support for entrepreneurial activity in the form of social enterprises and SMEs
- Highlighted the importance of exchange of knowledge between the ENoLL members world-wide and existing and emerging Living Labs in Africa

# Sustainable Living Labs in Africa

## Success Factors (1/3)

- Need to identify Win – Win, mutually beneficial opportunities (New Market Opportunities for Europe together with Opportunities to co-Create new products, services and business models designed for African needs)
- Success factors from developed countries need to be adapted to the African environment and culture.
- Focus of Living Labs need to be aligned with national and regional policies (both to maximize impact and secure funding) as well as potential market opportunities
- Direct relationship between eSkills Development Programmes, Incubators and Living Labs are important mechanisms to support wider socio-economic impact
- Active, early engagement with community leaders, gatekeepers and key influencers is key to manage expectations and clearly explain responsibilities and potential benefits



# Sustainable Living Labs in Africa

## Success Factors (2/3)

- Benefits for participating stakeholders must be balanced with community impact (Community development, skills transfer, and support for entrepreneurial activity)
- Identify the champions and natural leaders. Promote commitment to team building and a Train the Trainer methodology (To create capacity within the team and within communities which they engage).  
Learning Living Labs.
- The development of a comprehensive training plan focused on Living Labs skills will contribute to decrease the key risk factors.
- Clear operational terms of reference , measurable success factors, sustainable business models, impact on the innovation policies and governance structures are part of the Living Labs priorities.

# Sustainable Living Labs in Africa

## Success Factors (3/3)

- Establish a common owned vision for the goals and objectives of the Living Labs and its Network through active engagement and co-creation of all key stakeholders
- Consider co-locating Living Labs with incubators or thematically relevant government or research organizations with strong procurement, payment, auditing and reporting systems to lower costs and access complementary resources and skill sets
- Support strong, focused leadership with clear vision, motivation and the ability to generate trust among Members and across living Labs.
- Living Labs must actively support skills development of Members and communities with which they engage and support community engagement and development
- Living Labs must proactively address the needs of Members, their communities and all stakeholders who either fund or use services of Living Labs or its Members
- While virtual infrastructure is essential to maximize knowledge sharing and community building, regular face-to-face interactions facilitate developing trust relationships, overcoming cultural differences and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

# Recommended Actions

It is recommended to launch actions towards a **framework for cooperation between European and African Living Labs** in creating sustainable networks of Living Labs in Africa. These actions should be **implemented in 2 phases**. **Phase 1** will include the following actions:

- **Feasibility study** serving as the basis for the planning and implementation of the next steps eg. include as part of its deliverables the definition of a **concrete strategy, the roadmap, implementation action plan and the most appropriate European as well as African national and regional funding mechanisms** in order to define and to create strategies for sustainable Living Lab Networks in Africa
- The feasibility study should be **coupled with a few pilot cases**, running in parallel to feed knowledge from ‘hands-on’ experience (bottom-up and user driven approach) into the study namely the Roadmap and Action Plan. Pilots should be considered as experiences that feed (In a bottom-up approach) knowledge to test above mentioned feasibility study.

**Phase 2 will be defined by the Living Labs Roadmap and Implementation Action Plan** and it will be the actual implementation of Living Lab Projects and cross border Networks linked to the different funding mechanisms

# Feasibility Study (1/3)

- Feasibility study for the **initial needs assessment** consisting of a description of the **landscape of current activities** and the profiles of interested organizations both in Africa and Europe and provide results from a **mapping survey** among the different actors
- Analyse the different commercial, cultural, economic and research **environments** including local, regional and national governments . Survey **donor policies** around which the Living Labs can be aligned,
- **Identify and support emerging** Living Labs and analyze their existing and **potential needs and gaps** as perceived by them, coaching them on the advantages and disadvantages of **different options** to tackle different needs.

## Feasibility Study (2/3)

- **Identify key stakeholders** (relevant government institutions, industry, research/academia, civil society and other international funding opportunities)
- Identify and facilitate potential partnerships namely between mature Living Labs and emerging Living Labs . Promote **peer-to-peer learning activities** with the emphasis on reciprocal learning, and identify other relevant actors involved in for example skills development and incubation activities
- Elaborate on **different cooperation models** and on a proposal(s) on how to operationalize the **knowledge exchange** between African and European stakeholders, giving further suggestions and identification for a **roadmap** for Africa EU cooperation on setting up sustainable Living Lab in Africa , its **operationalization** (Phase 2) and its **cross border cooperation**.
- Take in consideration lessons learnt from the **establishment of similar initiatives** such as the Network of Living Labs in Europe (ENoLL) and other large regions such as Brazil.
- Identify partnerships for **priority areas of interest**, such as :Social Innovation, Sustainability, competences creation, disease prevention.

## Feasibility Study (3/3)

- Implement a few International Cooperation pilots possibly **based on already existing and identified ‘champions’**. The results of these pilots should feed into the co-creation of the roadmap for Africa EU cooperation on Living Labs
- Actions should also incorporate **awareness raising and training activities**, leveraging from the already **existing and operational initiatives** for example such as the one conducted in the framework of LLiSA, ENoLL and other complimentary initiatives for knowledge sharing and skills transfer, TANZICT-programme and the programmes of international organizations such as the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Finally, analyze the feasibility and provide recommendations for a **joint funding mechanism to be supported by the EC and other international organizations** (World Bank, FAO etc) and other individual donors aiming at the increase of the impact and the sustainability of such initiative

# European Living Labs

(Expressed interest in African Cooperation)

- Amsterdam (Amsterdam Living Lab-AIM), Netherlands
- Lulea University of Technology, Center of Distance Spanning Technology (Botnia Living Lab), Sweden
- Forum Virium Helsinki (Helsinki Living Lab) Finland
- IBBT (iLab.o), Belgium
- Trentino as Lab (TasLab), Italy
- Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Laurea Living Lab) Finland
- Citilab Barcelona, Spain
- Manchester MDDA, UK
- ISaLL (Energy), Portugal

Preliminary list



**Aalto University**  
School of Economics

# Thank you!

**[www.openlivinglabs.eu](http://www.openlivinglabs.eu)**

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## Socio-economic Context (IST Africa Study)

- African Context:
  - Circumstances such as socio-economic, cultural and socio-political factors vary enormously across the African continent
  - The proposal is to target countries and RECs where ICT adoption and skills development are priorities for faster adoption of Living Labs and establishing Living Labs Networks
  - More focused on community development (Not forgetting the rural community perspective and engagement), socio- cultural and economics
  
- Global ENoLL context:
  - Innovation settings (“open innovation environment”),
  - Operating environments (“real-life settings”),
  - Affecting innovation processes (“user-driven innovation” and “co-creation process”),
  - Related to user engagement and from which innovation outcomes are expected (“new services, products and societal infrastructures”)
  - Social Innovation to address community development