



**5th African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes
targeting Territorial Authorities in Hybrid Mode**

under the theme of :

« LOCAL AFRICA GOES DIGITAL & SMART: TIME TO ACT IS NOW !!! »

**« LA TRANSFORMATION DIGITALE ET INTELLIGENTE DE L'AFRIQUE
LOCALE: LE TEMPS D'AGIR C'EST MAINTENANT »**

**In the Marrakech-Safi Region
From December 06 to December 11, 2021**

**With the support of the Kingdom of Morocco and of the European
Commission**



« *Together for a High-Performing Local Africa* »

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The digital revolution over the past decade has created a real dynamic in the way we live, lead, govern, work, manage, and deliver. All over the world, we are fully immersed in the Knowledge, Digital and Artificial Intelligence Society. Cities around the world are moving and changing, imbalances are increasing, and problems are becoming more complex, especially in terms of Local Governance, Local Management, and Delivery of Local Public Services to meet the expectations, concerns, and needs of the populations. For Africa, the changes are profound, the stakes are high; and the territorial challenges are to be taken into consideration and urgently. **The time to act is now.**

Now, countries and cities are insisting in their strategic vision on e-Governance, digitization, and the development of smart cities, making this choice a strategic direction to ensure the dynamics of sustainable development at local and territorial level, within the framework of the implementation of the global 2030 Agendas and the African Agenda 2063.

In this regard, Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) calls for the advent of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to ensure access to justice for all and establish effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, through investment in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as well as in digital and intelligence. All these technological innovations have accelerated the pace of our daily lives, opened up information that has become more accessible, raised the voices of people, citizens and civil society, and changed the way we solve problems, design public policies; and provide services to people. At the same time, governments find themselves under pressure from resources and growing public demands, having to do much more, with less.

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 has been a force multiplier of these trends, introducing remote working to the government, digital service delivery, virtual service teams and even new digital service portfolios.

The same applies to Africa's Agenda 2063, which represents the Vision and Roadmap for the African Continent, aiming to transform it into a global power and strategic actor of the future, on the basis of its Seven (7) Aspirations for inclusive and sustainable development.

Technology will be used more to make better decisions, monitor and guarantee performance, and deliver quality services. The private sector, as well as civil society in the broad sense, will have to play a more important role in all aspects of the creation of added value. These are essential elements for preparing for the future, ensuring inclusive policies and responsive services, reducing inequalities, reducing the costs of public services, gaining proximity, and above all increasing confidence in public institutions and in Governments, and resolutely embark on the path of Sustainable Development that leaves no one behind.

In Africa, the African telecommunications sector, which is at the heart of the digital transformation, has shown robust growth in terms of subscriber numbers, turnover and investment spending. The mobile payment services revolution is another example to remember in this regard: with 300 million accounts (the highest figure in the world), mobile payment services have begun to expand access to financial services to unbanked populations and to open up access to innovative business models to local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

An increasing number of startups (innovative start-ups) and young Africans with a keen interest in digital technologies are taking advantage of these technologies and of Africa's specific needs to deploy high-growth business models, create job opportunities targeting young people, and work to promote innovation in the continent. The value of some African startups is currently estimated at more than USD 1 billion. More than 640 technopoles and incubators are active within the continent, compared to 314 in 2016.

Communication infrastructure has developed regularly, and prospects for the implementation of new projects remain robust. In 2018, funding for digital infrastructure amounted to 7 billion USD, 80% of which came from private investors (ICA, 2018). Through the flagship programs of Agenda 2063, the African Union is implementing 114 ICT infrastructure projects aimed at improving the main Internet exchange points, to build new high-throughput fiber optic infrastructure and upgrade existing land optic backbones (AUDA NEPAD, 2020).

Africa is becoming a world leader in agricultural technologies. Indeed, according to a study by Microsoft, the African agricultural sector is expected to grow exponentially over the next decade, due to a boom in agricultural technologies, with a projected value of 1,000 billion dollars by 2030 (<https://www.agrimaroc.ma/afrique-leader-mondial-agritech/>). Startups specializing in this field and those whose activity is linked to data mining are growing all over the continent. This contributes to reducing social inequalities, through the consolidation of the digital skills of the working population and actions focused on technical and vocational education and training for women.

Nevertheless, to achieve the SDGs, the various Global Agendas (Climate Agenda, New Urban Agenda, Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction) by 2030 and the 7 Aspirations of Agenda 2063, Digital transformation and the promotion of smart cities must become the foundation of the Transformation of the Continent, beyond these important successes.

The role of governments, most of which have implemented public policies and national digital strategies, is to create a supportive environment, facilitating and encouraging the many actors and stakeholders to take advantage of this momentum, particularly at the level of Local and Regional Governments and African Cities. Although many African countries have developed national digitization strategies, such strategies are generally exclusively focused on the digital sector. Most of these strategies aim to expand the coverage of communications infrastructure networks, promote technopoles and technology parks, and implement regulatory reforms to attract large companies. These strategies target only certain sectors and tend to overlook the possibilities of using digitalization to transform the non-digital sectors. New digitalization strategies must limit spatial, territorial, and social inequalities, and in terms of competitiveness levels observed on the labor market and guarantee digital solutions to the non-digital economy. Governments need to identify and drive the most successful digital innovations for rural development.

These public policies and so many national strategies would benefit from being localized and territorialized to allow Local and Regional Governments to take ownership of this transformative momentum. Indeed, one of the major challenges facing the digital transformation lies in the territorialization and localization of public policies and national strategies so that this momentum becomes a reality at the local and regional level. The digital transformation momentum is not an end per se. It is about making territories more competitive, improving people's living conditions, improving the quality of services provided to citizens and, above all, staying resilient in the face of crises and disaster risks, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

African Local and Regional Governments, which are on the front line of the COVID-19 crisis, have used ICTs and digital technology to manage, prevent, monitor, anticipate, and stem the spread of the pandemic, with the support of national and subnational authorities, the private sector and the various components of civil society. African Local and Regional Governments have also invested in these levers to ensure the continuity of local public services, particularly for critical sectors, such as education, health, and access to basic services. We have also observed the habituation that many Local and Regional Governments have had during the lockdown period to exchanges through the use of digital platforms and considered this habituation as a door of no return to the practices of the past.

This is the case of several African cities and regions which have or are beginning to take a crucial interest in the acceleration of their digital transformation and the territorialization of national strategies for digitization and dematerialization of services in order to anticipate the management of this crisis and of the post-crisis, and to build back better the Local Public Institutions. These digital tools and services will certainly serve to bridge the socio-economic gap, but, above all, to promote the transformation necessary to achieve the Global Agendas and the African Agenda 2063.

In this regard, it should be noted that despite this momentum, few African Cities and Local and Subnational Governments have adopted genuine digitalization strategies that have made digital technology the strategic lever in terms of their leadership, governance, their organizational and operating methods, their management, their infrastructures, and their public services.

Despite the existence of important African initiatives, sometimes leading to awards delivered by regional or international institutions, digital transformation is not yet a priority project for decentralization, for Local Governance, and for Local and Territorial Development.

The digital transformation momentum thus raises several questions:

- Are there any public policies and national strategies at the level of all African countries?
- How are these national policies and strategies localized and territorialized at the territorial level?
- What are the procedures, approaches, ways, and means to make a city smart, as seen in several cities in Europe, Asia, North America, Central America, and Latin America?
- What are the concrete requirements of Local and Regional Governments when they want to engage in the dynamics of digital transformation, or when they express their ambition to become Smart Cities, in terms of infrastructure, human resources, financial resources, technological infrastructure, and other subjects?
- Are there any standards, indicators, roadmaps that can be adapted to the African context?
- How to make the most of the existing best practices in terms of digitization and smart cities?
- How can UCLG Africa build and disseminate a range of services in this area?

It is in this context and to answer these questions that United Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) through its two Development clusters, namely the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) and the Operations and Technical Assistance, decided to dedicate the 5th edition of its African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes targeting Local Governments (FAMI), in hybrid mode (both in person and online), to the following general theme:

“LOCAL AFRICA GOES DIGITAL & SMART: TIME TO ACT IS NOW !!!”.

As this has been the case since 2017, the FAMI forum is intended to be a meeting that leaves no one behind, certainly dedicated to Local Authorities and Training Institutes in Africa, but also to all the other actors and stakeholders concerned by the dynamics of the transformation of Local Africa.

GENERAL GOAL

The Forum will be an opportunity to inform and exchange views and ideas on the dynamics of digital and smart transformation at the level of African Local and Regional Governments, especially in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, with a focus on the commitments made, the progress achieved, the innovations relevant to Governance and Development at the local and territorial level, the challenges and obstacles faced, as well as the most relevant means to overcome them.

SPECIFIC GOALS

- Take stock of the digital and smart transformation commitments made, both internationally and in Africa.
- Discuss global trends in e-Governance and the digitalization of public services.
- Learn more about the role of digitalization in African countries' public policies and strategies;
- Learn more about the place of the digital at regional and local level, through moments of learning and benchmarking by peers;
- Promote Transformative Local Leadership as well as existing best practices at the local level, particularly in terms of digitization of services and smart cities;
- Define the major challenges and obstacles facing the dynamics of the digital economy and of the smart transformation at the regional and local levels;
- Agree on the main pillars of a roadmap for smart digital transformation at the local and regional level in Africa;
- Provide spaces for awareness, learning, training, capacity building, coaching, and networking;
- Present the results of ALGA and agree on the strategic orientations for the future in the framework of the meeting of the 6th Academic Board of the Academy;
- Discover a new Region of the Kingdom of Morocco, in this case the Region of Marrakech-Safi;

This event will also be an opportunity to set up two UCLG Africa Networks, namely:

- The Network of Permanent Secretaries of National Associations of Local and Regional Governments, members of UCLG Africa;
- The Network of African Managers in charge of Decentralized Cooperation and Partnerships.

DATE AND VENUE

From December 06 to December 11, 2021, in the Marrakech-Tensift Region **(TBC)**.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Representatives of States and National Governments.
- Representatives of international organizations.
- Local and Regional Governments.
- National Associations of Local and Regional Governments.
- Local elected representatives, both men and women
- African Territorial Managers.
- UCLG Africa's ALGA Anchor Institutes and Partners.
- Universities and Training Institutions.
- Development Partners and Donors.
- The different components of civil society.
- Private Sector Representatives.
- Students and Youth.

MAIN SEGMENTS OF FAMI V

- An official opening session;
- One or two distinguished guests.
- A plenary session dedicated to the general theme of the Forum.
- Parallel workshops.
- Information days, awareness-raising, training, capacity-building and exchange of best practices on digitalization and smart cities, as well as on other topics agreed with ALGA Partners.;
- The holding of the 6th Meeting of ALGA's Academic Board.
- The organization of the General Assembly of the Permanent Secretaries of the National Associations of Local and Regional Governments, members of UCLG Africa.
- The organization of the General Assembly of African Managers in charge of Decentralized Cooperation and Partnerships.
- The organization of an excursion and discovery of the Cultural Heritage of the Marrakech-Safi Region.

THE ORGANISERS & PARTNERS

- United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) and its African Local Government Academy (ALGA);
- The General Directorate of Territorial Governments (DGCT) of the Interior Ministry **(TBC)** ;
- The Marrakech-Safi Region, the Municipality of Benguerir, and the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University **(TBC)**;
- National Associations of Local and Regional Authorities of Morocco (Association of the Regions of Morocco - ARM, Moroccan Association of Prefectures and Provinces - AMPCPP,, and the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils - AMPCC) **(TBC)**;
- Partners in the process of being identified: UN-DESA/DIPGD, WeGO, ASAN, OECD, ... **(TBC)**;
- Sponsors.

ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Due to the persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic, FAMI V will be organized in hybrid mode, mixing face-to-face and virtual meetings.

WORKING LANGUAGES

To reflect African Cultural Diversity, interpretation services will be available in English, French, Arabic, and Portuguese.

INFORMATION ON THE FORUM

All information on FAMI V-2021, including the program as well as the practical and logistical aspects, can be found on the ALGA website of UCLG Africa:

<https://www.uclgafrica-alga.org/>

REGISTRATION FOR FAMI V-2021

To participate in FAMI V and benefit from all its segments and proceedings you are cordially invited to register in advance according to the following two means:

1. By sending your registration form to the ALGA Staff of UCLG Africa;
2. By registering on the following Zoom link:

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REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEES FOR FAMI V-2021

- For UCLG Africa Members and Networks: **300 Euros.**
- For non-members of UCLG Africa: **400 Euros.**
- Spouses/accompanying persons: **100 Euros.**
- For Delegations/Groups with more than 5 participants: **20% discount.**

Registration fees can be paid: By a bank transfer directly to the UCLG Africa Bank Account:

BANK: BNPPARIBAS Address : 117, Boulevard HAUSSMANN 75008, Paris_ France

Recipient: CITÉS ET GOUVERNEMENTS LOCAUX UNIS

IBAN/ Bank Account Number: FR7630004005670001009726629 BIC/SWIFT Code: BNPAFRPPINT The Bank Transfer must include the following: The full name of the person concerned + CGLU Afrique / FAMI V-2021 de ALGA de CGLU Afrique.

Or upon arrival, at the place of the organization of the Forum and at the time of registration.

These registration fees allow you to benefit from the following main services:

- Access and benefit from all segments and proceedings of FAMI V-2021;
- Have the Forum Kit;
- benefit from Two (2) coffee breaks and one lunch per day during the Forum;
- Participate in the Gala Dinner;
- Enjoy a day trip;
- Benefit from facilitation of the visa process when needed;
- Benefit from domestic transport, especially from and to airports;
- Receive a Certificate of Recognition and/or Participation.

VISAS

To enter the Territory of the Kingdom of Morocco, foreign nationals must carry their visas and all documents required by the Moroccan Authorities, including those related to the Covid-19 Pandemic. There are several countries that are visa exempt.

Participants from Countries for which an entry visa to Morocco is required and from Countries hosting an Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, are required to contact the Embassy Services to obtain their entry visa to Morocco.

For participants from Countries where there is no Embassy of Morocco, the relevant UCLG Africa Services will assist them in obtaining an electronic visa.

MEASURES IMPOSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Participants must comply with all the measures imposed by the health crisis, adopted by their country of origin and by the host country, in this case the Kingdom of Morocco.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

Forum participants are invited to take care of their international transport.

HOTELS

A list of hotels and accommodation options in Benguerir and Marrakech will be made available to participants. All accommodation must be booked and paid for directly with the hotels.

The Organizers of FAMI V -2021 will have a Reception desk at the Casablanca, Marrakech, and Rabat6Salé Airports to welcome you and guide you.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS:

<p>UCLG AFRICA AND ITS ALGA ACADEMY</p>	<p>United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is the Umbrella Organization and the united voice that ensures the representation of Local and Regional Governments throughout the African continent. UCLG Africa, an international organization with diplomatic status, brings together more than 350 million African citizens, 51 national and regional associations, as well as more than 2,000 cities. Its mandate is to promote and anchor the process of decentralization in Africa and within African Local and Regional Governments as autonomous and distinct spheres of Central Governments, thus contributing to the consolidation of the unity of the African Continent. UCLG Africa provides advocacy and mobilization missions, capacity building and empowerment missions, resource mobilization and financing missions, and technical assistance to its Members and Networks.</p> <p>For more information, please visit the UCLG Africa Portal: www.uclga.org - @UCLGAfrica</p> <p>Created in 2009 and operational from 2016, the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) is a subsidiary body of UCLG Africa whose main mission is to promote Quality Standards in terms of training and capacity-building targeting Local and Regional Authorities, to invest in the Human Capital of these entities to empower them, and to anchor performance and professionalism at the local and regional level in Africa.</p>
<p>-The Council of the Marrakech-Safi Region -The Municipality of Benguerir -The Mohammed VI Polytechnic University</p>	<p>TBC</p>

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