

## A free massive open online course (MOOC) promoting citizen action in French-speaking Africa

*CFI, the French media development agency, is drawing on the strength of digital tools to encourage the emergence of citizen projects in 22 African countries.*

In less than a decade, the explosion of online media and the growing demand for more effective public action in Africa have revealed the innovative “CivicTech” opportunities presented by citizen initiatives. Although digital tools are now readily available, the lack of a dynamic ecosystem plus insufficient knowledge are hindering the development of these projects. To address this, CFI is launching a free MOOC that will begin on 19 October.

CivicTech brings together digital initiatives to support democratic practices. These initiatives are a relatively quick and cost-effective way to help more citizens get involved in public life. To gain a simpler understanding of this promising sector, CFI has produced [the Citizen Connections MOOC](#), considered to be a tool used to raise awareness of the challenges, restrictions and possibilities presented by digital and citizen innovation.

This MOOC is part of the “[Citizen Connections 2](#)” project co-funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and is for anybody who wishes to develop or use digital and citizen solutions, particularly young people and women, but also public authorities, the media and civil society organisations (CSOs). The [MOOC](#) will contribute to instilling an overall culture and to providing basic skills in order to improve the level of social or civic engagement among people online. It will also promote the creation of a community in order to enhance their networking ability.

### **Six weeks of building skills**

This online training course is free and will run for 6 weeks. Registered participants will receive a subject module every day of the week and this will include a video, materials, a quiz and access to an online discussion. Once the course is complete, the most experienced participants will be able to apply to the call for projects, hoping to be among the 50 winners who will receive project development support for 8 months.

Register at [connexions-citoyennes.com](https://connexions-citoyennes.com)

The MOOC begins on 19 October

As a France Médias Monde Group subsidiary under the supervision of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, CFI actively promotes the development of the media in countries of the Global South, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Mediterranean and the Levant. At the heart of its work are young people in African and Mediterranean countries, digital technology and the new channels of communication it offers and, last but not least, gender equality. The agency is committed to working together with media organisations to promote dialogue between local authorities and citizens in order to increase mutual understanding. [cfi.fr/en](http://cfi.fr/en)

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