

Secure your spot in the

AIT – SASBI Residency Program

Bring your Swiss-based science startup to the next level!
Maximise the potential of your startup with this fast-track acceleration program.



Apply before November 1, 2021
www.venturelab.ch/sasbi-market-discovery

1-3 weeks residency program in the
African Lioness States of your choice
(Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya, or South Africa)



The **Swiss-Africa Science and Business Innovators Program** aims to foster knowhow transfer and start-up ecosystem enabling in African Lioness States.

A maximum of 10 Switzerland based entrepreneurs with scientific linkages (sciencepreneurs) will be selected to take part in a 1 to 3 weeks residency program in the African Lioness States of Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa with the aim to get a better understanding of the African economic environment, to validate their business idea and investigate the potential success of products or services in the local market.

The selected participants are free to choose the country they want to visit, where they will benefit from business contacts of local partners, e.g. Swiss embassy, innovation offices at local universities, innovation hubs of the AfriLabs Network, etc. These entry points will lead to relevant connections for potential cooperations.



The Africa Market Discovery Residency provides a unique, high-quality learning opportunity for graduate student-entrepreneurs.

"This initiative will bring Swiss innovation to Africa for market access and commercialization.

Extending their stay of up to 3 weeks will allow science based start-ups to dive deeply into the local ecosystem and build up long-term and viable partnerships."

Dorina Kühner, SASBI Project Manager

Why join?

Selected young entrepreneurs receive a unique opportunity for exposure to top African entrepreneurial expertise and markets. A half-day kick-off workshop in Switzerland will introduce to specificities of the target markets. During this program, participants will

- **Develop** a better understanding of the market in one of Africa's Lioness States.
- **Validate** their business idea or product and find out how to deliver a concrete offer to customers.
- **Access** a wide network of peers, mentors and industry experts.
- **Boost** the recognition of their innovation and market access.
- **Engage** with local stakeholders and learn about successful business practices and partnerships.
- **Become** pioneers of the Swiss – Africa entrepreneurs' community.

Eligibility

Open to high-level and carefully selected researchers in the fields of mobile health, innovative finances, sustainability (i.e. energy, material sciences, tourism, agritech, social innovation):

Master, PhD, Postdoctoral researchers at Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and research institutes or centres of technological excellence in Switzerland with research track record working on a non-profit basis and seeking to explore the successful market application of their high-level applied research in African markets.

Deadlines

Deadline for application: November 1, 2021

Selection of participants: First week of December 2021

Kick-off workshop in Switzerland:

Mid of December 2021

Business discovery program in African

Lioness States: first half of 2022

Program

1 to 3 weeks residency program

Participants can choose which of the African Lioness States they want to visit for the up to three weeks residency. They can also pick the most suitable time to travel to the respective country in the first half of 2022. The residency will be completed by meetings with Swiss Embassies and Chambers of Commerce, Innovation Offices at local universities, and innovation hubs of AfriLabs.

Information

The program covers the expenses for the flight to one of the five African countries as well as accommodation for up to 21 days. Project related inter-regional flights can be considered, all other expenses are to be borne by the participant. See detailed conditions of participation on

www.venturelab.ch/sasbi-market-discovery

Contact & Partners

For further information contact Dorina Kühner (dorina.kuehner@unibas.ch)

University of Basel | National – International Cooperation operates within the Swiss government funded Leading House Program for joint research and innovation activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. www.sareco.org

Venturelab designs and operates programs to support the best startup talents in training, financing and global business development. www.venturelab.ch

Switzerland – Global Enterprise provides target country expertise. www.s-ge.com

The SECO Startup Fund offers loans for start-up business projects of Switzerland domiciled entrepreneurs/enterprises in emerging economies. <https://www.secostartupfund.ch/>

AfriLabs is the largest network of technology hubs and innovation centers in Africa. It supports economic and social growth and raises high potential entrepreneurs in Africa, across several sectors. Founded in 2011, it creates physical nexus points for developers, entrepreneurs and investors. www.afrilabs.com