

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Digital Explorers

✓ Project completed

About the Project

Digital Explorers was the first MPF pilot project to offer a tailor-made labour mobility programme for young ICT specialists from Nigeria to work in Lithuania. Through this career advancement programme, the project provided professional growth opportunities and international exposure for young Nigerian ICT specialists while contributing to developing the digital economy, talent attraction and business relations in and between both countries.



Partners

This MPF project was implemented by Enterprise Lithuania (LT) in cooperation with AfriKo (LT), Diversity Development Group (LT), Code Academy (LT) and Ventures Platform Foundation (NG).



Countries

Lithuania and Nigeria



Time frame

1 January 2019 – 31 December 2021 (36 months)



Budget

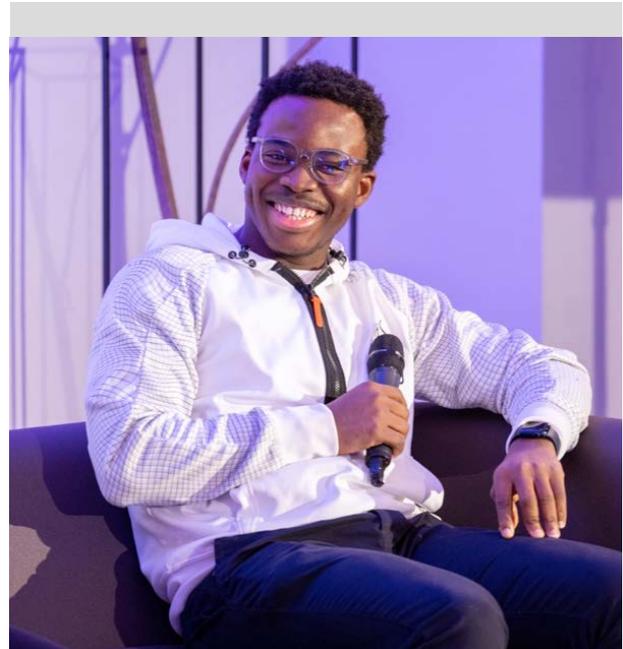
EUR 1,349,161.60 (94.9% from AMIF)

Activities



Pre-departure

The pre-departure phase of the project was marked by strategic discussions with Lithuania's ICT sector association INFOBALT and representatives of relevant Lithuanian public institutions to prepare an awareness-raising strategy addressed to Lithuanian companies, which ensured the successful placement of trainees with specific programming skills required by the ICT labour market. Attracting, selecting and matching young Nigerian ICT specialists with Lithuanian ICT companies and preparing them for the career journey ahead were among the project's key activities. The programme comprised two calls for applications, which resulted in two separate mobility tracks (hereafter referred to as the 'first track' and the 'second track'), and facilitated the recruitment and training of 30 young Nigerian ICT specialists.



Interview with Digital Explorers programme participant John Oluwadamilare Ojetunde in Vilnius, Lithuania, December 2021.



Interview with Digital Explorers programme participants in Vilnius, Lithuania, December 2021.



Skills enhancement

The skills enhancement activity was designed to prepare the young Nigerian ICT specialists (Digital Explorers) for employment opportunities in Lithuania as well as to contribute to their overall professional advancement. For the second track, the aim was to specifically cater for a group of 15 Nigerian female trainees specialising in the field of data analysis and data science, particularly preparing them for reintegration into the Nigerian labour market upon returning home.



Mobility

The migration context between Lithuania and Nigeria was analysed to inform the programme's design and to contribute to strengthening labour migration relations between the two countries. This activity supported the temporary migration of selected Digital Explorers and their integration into the Lithuanian ICT labour market and society and ensured that their professional development goals were met.



Second track participants in Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2021.



Hackathon held in Abuja, Nigeria, for the selection of Digital Explorers, May 2019.



Reintegration

The reintegration activity was designed to ensure that programme participants, who had undergone the required training and completed the period of employment, were successfully placed in pathways for further career advancement. Initially, the reintegration phase was only intended for those returning to Nigeria. However, during implementation, it became apparent that those who had the opportunity to remain in Lithuania and decided to stay also needed integration assistance from the programme. As a result, (re-)integration activities for the second track were available for all Explorers, including those who remained and secured jobs in Lithuania.



Capacity building and institutional engagement

This component aimed to facilitate learning and institutional exchanges between Nigerian and Lithuanian institutions (public and private sector) for creating digital entrepreneurship ecosystems and an enabling environment for the growth of start-ups. Among the key accomplishments in the context of these activities, the project facilitated the opening of two (2) Lithuanian visa centres in Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria, produced a legal context analysis document focusing on the opportunities and challenges of hiring foreigners in the Lithuanian labour migration context and facilitated knowledge exchange between Nigerian and Lithuanian public sector institutions responsible for GovTech and FinTech innovations.

The Digital Explorers project also directly contributed to TeleSoftas opening a branch office in Nigeria - a form of foreign direct investment that will likely lead to local job creation in the short and medium term. TeleSoftas is among the Lithuanian companies participating in the project that hired the first track of Explorers.



Project closing event in Vilnius, Lithuania, December 2021.



Lessons from the journey of Digital Explorers

- [Breaking new ground for talent exchange between Lithuania, Nigeria, and the world \(external evaluation report\)](#)
- [Making Sense of the Journey of Digital Explorers \(final report\)](#)
- [Multifaceted impact: Digital Explorers' value for money assessment"](#)



More online resources by Digital Explorers

- [Digital Explorers website: https://digitalexplorers.eu/](https://digitalexplorers.eu/)
- [The Hackathon organised by Digital Explorers: https://youtu.be/7Tvz6XP2tII](https://youtu.be/7Tvz6XP2tII)
- [The journey of the Digital Explorers \(first track\): https://youtu.be/ocQ96Ym-6nk](https://youtu.be/ocQ96Ym-6nk)
- [The journey of the Digital Explorers \(both tracks\): https://youtu.be/23SlmeT24JI](https://youtu.be/23SlmeT24JI)

Implemented by



The Migration Partnership Facility



This project was awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD to support the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

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