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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

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**PROJECT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE  
OF EXCELLENCE IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) IN TUNIS, TUNISIAN REPUBLIC**  
*(Item proposed By Tunisia Republic)*

**PROJECT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE  
OF EXCELLENCE IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) IN TUNIS, TUNISIAN REPUBLIC**  
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**Project Profile**

**Project title:** African Centre of Excellence in ICTs (ACEICT).

**Requesting Organ:** Government of Tunisia

**Background of Project:** The proposed creation of an ACEICT by the Government of Tunisia is consistent with the desire to make a lasting contribution to reducing the digital divide and join in the effort to achieve economic growth in the African Continent.

This initiative was presented by Tunisia at the «Connect Africa» Summit held in October 2007 in Kigali, Rwanda, and confirmed by the Addis Ababa Declaration on ICTs in Africa, which was adopted in February 2010 by the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU.

The Project to establish an ACEICT was also presented at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis in November 2005.

**Project Objectives:** The objectives of ACEICT are to:

- provide high-level analysis on public policy, development strategies and deployment of new services;
- ensure business intelligence and technological monitoring at continental level in the ICT field;
- create a space for decision-makers in public and private sectors to promote ICT projects within the scope of a public-private partnership;
- conduct studies and develop applications and advanced services in the field of ICTs (e-government, e-commerce, mobile and wireless technologies, etc.);
- develop African expertise (through training) and sensitize decision-makers on key issues in the ICT sector;
- organize exchanges between:
  - counterpart agencies (regulators);
  - industry stakeholders (government and private operators);
  - providers and users of applications and content.
- promote the appropriation of ICTs by African women.

**Expected outcomes:**

Besides the expected reduction of the digital divide, the establishment of ACEICT seeks to:

- improve governance and encourage innovation in the ICT field;
- enhance efficiency in public services;
- stimulate investment in information and communication technologies, as well as strengthen the competitiveness of firms operating in the ICT field;
- contribute to the attainment of the economic and social development goals of the African Continent.

**Activities to be conducted:** ACEICT activities involve the provision of services grouped under the following heads:

- training cycle for managers with potential from the public and private sectors;
- conference cycle for conferences intended for Ministers and business leaders;
- online observatory for markets, R & D and best practices;
- directory of ICT and R &D in Africa;
- state of the digital world in Africa with baseline report on the ICT world;
- management consulting for governments and public organisations for the implementation of ICT strategies;
- policy programme and newsletter showcasing the markets observatory;
- study trips in Africa and abroad, as well as an original equipment manufacturers' showroom (display of technological innovations within the premises of ACEICT).

**Estimated Project Costs:** The estimated budget (from public financing) is 15.5 million Euros, of which 7.3 million are earmarked for land acquisition and construction of the building. The remaining 8.2 million Euros will serve to support ACEICT during the start-up phase and for developing its activities during the first 8 years.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has undertaken to finance the feasibility study for the project. The first phase of this study has been finalised and a business plan

for the project has been developed and validated by the steering committee responsible for monitoring the project.

The attached table gives the budget estimate (in thousand Euros) as validated by the steering committee of the project.

**Envisaged Implementation Schedule**: the project is planned to start at the end of 2011.

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Adhesion Countries		263	441	637	851	1,085	1,340	1,618
Subscription Enterprises		412	691	998	1,334	1,701	2,101	2,537
Revenue (sales by choice)		40	127	266	372	488	615	754
Sponsoring		21	28	36	45	54	65	76
Public Financing	3,417	3,768	3,786	1,330	1,227	965	679	297
Total Revenue	3,417	4,502	5,074	3,267	3,829	4,294	4,800	5,282
Proportion of Public Financing in Revenue	100%	84%	75%	41%	32%	22%	14%	6%
Salaries and Social Costs	483	883	1,174	1,388	1,526	1,616	1,712	1,798
Costs IT, Finance and Payroll	173	257	147	156	164	170	177	183
Operational Costs (Travels + Board)	253	464	606	729	864	942	1,025	1,076
Sum Real Fixed Costs	909	1,604	1,927	2,274	2,554	2,728	2,914	3,057
Incidentals 10%	91	160	193	227	255	273	291	306
Total Fixed Costs	1,000	1,764	2,120	2,501	2,809	3,001	3,205	3,362
Total Variable Costs		321	538	766	1,020	1,202	1,595	1,919
Total Costs	1,000	2,085	2,657	3,267	3,829	4,294	4,800	5,282
Land + Construction	2,417	2,417	2,417					

2011-06-30

# Project for the establishment of the African centre of excellence in information and communication technologies (ICT) In Tunis, Tunisian republic (Item proposed By Tunisia Republic)

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