

Diaspora engagement initiatives on **digitalisation**

The [European Union Global Diaspora Facility](#) (EUDiF) is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). EUDiF is the first EU-funded project that works towards fostering an informed, inclusive and impactful diaspora-development ecosystem on a global scale.

In 2020 EUDiF completed a diaspora engagement mapping of 107 countries, exploring policies, practices and trends in diaspora engagement around the world. The table below is a compilation of all spotlight initiatives related to digitalisation around the world, gathered through our mapping exercise and further research.

We are interested in learning more from you! Should you wish to share details on diaspora engagement initiatives linked to digitalisation with us, please complete the [diaspora-led projects form](#).

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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NAME	DESCRIPTION	LINKS
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN			
Barbados	“We Connect” programmes	The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation government agency launched its three main programmes in 2020 (Bajans Connect, Innovate Barbados, and Bloom) under the theme “We Connect”. This initiative integrates these three programmes under a common strategy focused on engaging the diaspora’s potential as an export market as well as its potential contribution to Barbados’ development through the exchange of ideas, expertise, and investment. Innovate Barbados and Bloom focus on brainstorming and incubating innovative solutions to development challenges. Their particular focus on the blue and green economies is indicative of interests to promote diaspora involvement in these sectors.	http://www.bidc.com/bajansconnect , http://www.bidc.org/innovate , https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/are-you-up-for-the-blue-flame-challenge/ , http://www.bidc.org/bloom https://bidc.org/business-news/we-connect-launch
Bolivia	“Bolivia en tus manos”	New technologies have been introduced to increase access to consular services for Bolivians abroad. “Bolivia en Tus Manos” applies facial recognition techniques to provide Bolivians with documents. A Digital Consulate allows Bolivians living abroad to process documents and renew their driving licenses. Additionally, a Mobile Consul assists individuals 24 hours a day with their questions.	http://www.cancilleria.gob.bo/webmre/noticia/3659
Bolivia	Tigo Money and Western Union	To improve the effectiveness of remittances to Bolivia, Tigo Money and Western Union collaborated to offer immediate international remittance transactions through mobile wallets. Users can send funds from a Western Union agent or through their digital channels onto Tigo’s Mobile Wallet application. The funds can be transferred or used to make payments. Western Union’s tariffs are applied to the money transfer, which is paid by the person who sends the money; the recipient is not	https://www.paginasiete.bo/economia/2016/8/12/tigo-money-western-union-servicio-remesas-105980.html#!

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		charged. The objective is to provide clients with access to Western Union's services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	
Brazil	Brazilians in the world	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website offers information about associations and organisations managed by Brazilians abroad, Brazilians in the World Conferences, and the latest developments on consular diplomacy. The website aim is to strengthen and broaden the dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Brazilian communities abroad, as well as among themselves.	http://www.portalconsular.itamaraty.gov.br/no-exterior/brasileiros-no-mundo/conselhos-de-cidadaos-cidadania http://www.brasileirosnomundo.itamaraty.gov.br/trabalho-empreededorismo-retorno-remessas/programa-remessas
Brazil	SIMPLE	Brazil-based exchange broker Frente Corretora de Câmbio (The Front Exchange) launched a fintech collaboration with San Francisco-based start-up Ripple. The blockchain platform, Simple, is designed to allow people in Brazil to send money abroad without the high fees and the slow transaction times that are common in traditional money transfer mechanisms. Ripple uses Simple to address the fragmentation and unreliability of current remittances structures.	https://fintechsbrasil.com.br/2021/03/12/simple-plataforma-digital-de-cambio-da-frente-corretora-ve-janela-de-oportunidade-apos-saida-da-transferwise-do-brasil/
Colombia	Democracy Earth Foundation	The tech non-profit launched digital voting platform Plebiscito Digital and worked with several civil society organisations to allow Colombians abroad to cast symbolic votes through the platform. The Digital Plebiscite was powered by blockchain technology, testing a new way of validating and authenticating electoral votes.	https://democracy.earth/ https://www.oecd.org/gov/innovative-government/embracing-innovation-in-government-colombia.pdf

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<p>Haiti</p>	<p>“By and for the diaspora” campaign 2019</p>	<p>In the “By and for the Diaspora” (2019) campaign, the government aimed to present, through interactive live broadcasts on television and social networks, the different ministries, directorates, and government services to the diaspora in order to increase their understanding and improve their access to government services. More than one hundred thousand Haitians in the diaspora followed the first two broadcasts, mainly via Facebook Live. MHAVE plans to offer these sessions continuously to introduce public services to members of the diaspora. Prior to this campaign, MHAVE also launched a promotional tool for diaspora members willing to invest in the country. The purpose of this tool was to simplify administrative procedures and provide information to diaspora members to facilitate their ability to conduct business in the country.</p>	<p>http://www.loophaiti.com/content/par-et-pour-la-diaspora-nouveau-programme-au-service-de-la-diaspora</p> <p>https://lenouvelliste.com/lenouveliste/article/139535/KODYADEV-a-web-space-to-promote-Diaspora-investment</p>
<p>AFRICA</p>			
<p>African diaspora</p>	<p>The African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE)</p>	<p>In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, ADYFE adapted their services in order to maintain the link between the African diaspora and the continent by setting up several online platforms and mentorship services. “Office time” is a platform which enables entrepreneurs to connect with one or two coaches to help them resolve specific problems.</p>	<p>https://www.adyfe.eu/</p>

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Congo	Involvement of the diaspora in the elaboration of the National Strategy for the Development of the Digital Economy 2018-2022	<p>Key actors and digital enthusiasts in Congo met in March 2018 in Brazzaville to validate the national strategy document for the development of the digital economy of the Republic of Congo. The strategy was developed with the aim of including the diaspora in the ICT sector in order help diversify the Congolese economy. The Ministry for Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy saved money by opting for a participatory approach that made it possible not only to develop local skills, but also to involve the Congolese diaspora in the process of drafting this strategy.</p>	<p>https://www.digitalbusiness.africa/congo-brazza-apres-participation-public-de-diaspora-strategie-de-developpement-de-leconomie-numerique-cours-de-validation/www.postetelecom.gouv.cg</p>
Congo	UNDP and PRATIC partnership to support digital technology an innovation	<p>The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the association PRATIC signed a memorandum of understanding on 17 April 2019 in Brazzaville to support Congolese start-ups and incubators through an innovation accelerator laboratory and help the country achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>	<p>http://www.adiac-congo.com/content/osiane-2019-le-pnud-et-lassociation-pratic-lacent-un-laboratoire-daccelerateur-dinnovations</p>
Côte d'Ivoire	CinetPay	<p>CinetPay is a fintech company that facilitates national and international payments and transfers in eight African countries. They allow mobile phone users who do not have bank accounts to access digital financial services and markets, as well as ease transfers made between different accounts and different platforms. This caters to the fact that many remittance receivers in West and Central Africa are more likely to have mobile phones than bank accounts. To date, the initiative has signed agreements with major payment companies (e.g. Visa, Mastercard, Orange Money, MTN Mobile Money, M-Pesa, Wari) and has facilitated more than 8 billion transactions.</p>	<p>https://cinetpay.com</p>

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Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon	Diaspo Assur	Diaspo Assur is the first pan-African brokerage company in France. They provide the African diaspora with life and non-life insurance products for families and loved ones in their countries of origin and allows them to take out insurance cover remotely.	https://diaspoassur.com/
Côte d'Ivoire	Official Portal of the Ivorian Diaspora (Portail officiel de la diaspora Ivoirienne)	As Ivorians living abroad constitute 5.2% of the country's entire population, the government recognizes their contribution to national funding and public development assistance. To address the problem in the lack of statistical data on the diaspora, the Ministry of African Integration and Ivorians Living Abroad ("Ministère de l'Intégration Africaine et des Ivoiriens de l'Extérieur) launched a web portal to consolidate information on the diaspora, as well as opportunities for investment and available support for potential investors.	https://diasporacotedivoire.org/Home/DetailApropos?identifiant=1002
Democratic Republic of Congo	La Fondation Solidarco: Santé Solidaire en RDC	Solidarco offers health coverage for the Congolese diaspora's relatives and family members residing in Kinshasa. They provide free treatment for 80% of the pathologies frequently encountered in the DRC, as well as full coverage of laboratory examinations, x-rays, routine surgery, childbirth, generic drugs and hospitalisations of less than 15 days. The initiative started in 2008 when the Congolese diaspora, who were receiving demands from their relatives for healthcare funding, came to André Flahaut, a Belgian politician, to set up a health mutual that is financially supported by the diaspora. Solidarico is supported by Wallonia-Brussels International (Wallonie – Bruxelles International).	https://www.solidarco.org/

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Djibouti	E-documents service	Djibouti Post Office has developed a new e-documents service for the diaspora to enable them to order official justice documents (such as duplicate marriage certificates) securely online.	https://www.laposte.dj/ https://www.rtd.dj/actualites/social/la-poste-de-djibouti-offre-un-nouveau-service-a-la-diaspora-djiboutienne
Egypt	Ministry of emigration and affairs of Egyptians abroad e-portal	The ministry's e-portal provides digital services to Egyptians abroad. These include a diaspora complaints portal, guides on investment opportunities in Egypt (especially in the housing and infrastructure sectors, but also in IT), remittance service registration with the Central Bank of Egypt, guides on housing for Egyptians abroad, a 'Science Hub' for skills and knowledge collaboration and exchange, and an e-fatwa service that provides religious guidance.	http://www.emigration.gov.eg/DefaultAr/Pages/services.aspx
Eritrea	EriReader project	A group of young diaspora Eritreans from the United States started the EriReader Project, with the aim of providing one tablet for each Eritrean student, as inspired by the demonstrated need and policies of the Commission of Higher Education of Eritrea. EriReader works in collaboration with the Eritrean Development Fund (EDF) in Washington, DC. and the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA-UK), in London, UK. So far, EriReader has sent over 200 tablets and is in the process of sending 60 more in the near future.	http://www.edfonline.org/projects/erireader/
Fiji	iVolavosa mobile application and the Fijian Cultural Programme	The iVolavosa mobile application is an online dictionary for iTaukei language, which is one of Fiji's official languages. The mobile application was launched by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Trust Fund Board as a tool for the preservation of iTaukei culture. The Fijian diaspora is a key target audience for this service, as it allows to learn the iTaukei language from abroad. In addition, in 2019 the iTaukei Trust Fund Board initiated a pilot project in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the University of East Anglia and Fijian	www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/Speeches/HON-PM-BAINIMARAMA-AT-THE-LAUNCHING-OF-THE-IVOLAVO www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/PARTNERSHIP-

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		communities in the UK to revitalise cultural diplomacy and develop a sustainable Fijian cultural programme in the UK. In the framework of this project, the iTaukei Trust Fund Board is developing an educational resource kit to promote Fijian language and culture.	PROMOTES-CULTURAL-DIPLOMACY
Fiji	BizFIJI online portal	Launched under the Fijian Government's Digital Transformation Programme, BizFIJI acts as Fiji's centralised source of information for new business owners and investors. BizFIJI is a key element of the government's efforts to stimulate investment from its diaspora, and it was presented by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama in his address to the Fijian diaspora in Sydney in September 2019.	https://www.business-fiji.com/
Guinea	BIG Diaspora	In 2020, Coweb Digital Finance, a financial technology ('fintech') company in Guinea and the Islamic Bank of Guinea developed this digital platform to 'solve the problems' of the diaspora, including by enabling the opening of personal and business bank accounts in Guinean francs and euros, rapid bank transfers, creation of enterprises in Guinea, access to property investments, and the relocation of 'high-potential' Guineans abroad back to Guinea.	https://big-diaspora.com/
Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger	WorldRemit	In 2019, WorldRemit, a cross-border digital payments services, launched a new international mobile-to-mobile service in Malawi, Niger, Madagascar, Mozambique and Guinea. Its new app and website allow diaspora living in over 50 countries to send instant, low-cost money transfers.	https://www.worldremit.com/en/fr

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India	e-Migrate	As per the Emigration Act, 1983, an emigration check (ECR) is required for special categories of Indian passport holders (individuals who have not completed their 10th grade education) and who plan to travel to one (or more) of the 18 countries listed by the Indian Bureau of Immigration. However, a computerised system, e-migrate, enables this process to happen smoothly, and provides additional support tools such as a Handbook for Pre-Departure.	http://www.emigrate.gov.in/
Ivory Coast	SUSU - Enabling the diaspora to fund healthcare for their families	SUSU is a digitally-driven healthcare start-up that allows diaspora members to subscribe to healthcare for their relatives in Côte d'Ivoire. SUSU arranges healthcare and health insurance for its beneficiaries in Côte d'Ivoire, working with a network of local partners based in Abidjan. SUSU's services comprise preventive care, medical care, treatment of chronic illness, and provision of medicines based on the specific needs of diasporas. Within only two months of its operation, more than 500 beneficiaries from Abidjan were covered by SUSU.	https://www.susu.fr/
Kenya	BitPesa	Founded in 2013, BitPesa is a digital foreign exchange and payment platform that uses blockchain technology to transfer money more directly, cheaply and quickly by reducing the number of intermediaries. BitPesa is a contender to traditional remittance platforms such as banks, Western Union and MoneyGram, and has offered, for example, the use of bitcoin to enable a 3% cut-rate fee on all remittance transfers in Kenya.	https://www.bitpesa.co/ https://www.coindesk.com/bitpesa-uses-bitcoin-slash-kenyan-remittance-costs
Lebanon	Lebanese Nationality Program	Initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, the program aims to re-establish ties with Lebanese expatriates by offering an online platform through which emigrants of Lebanese descent can apply for nationality. Available in four different languages, the website highlights the various benefits of reclaiming the Lebanese nationality such as voting rights and residency.	http://www.lebanity.gov.lb/

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Morocco	Forum des Compétences marocaines résidant en Asie	In November 2020, the Ministry for Moroccans Residing Abroad (Ministère délégué chargé des Marocains Résidant à l'Étranger) organized the first Forum of Competencies of Moroccans residing in Asia (le Premier Forum des Compétences marocaines résidant en Asie), under the theme "For the effective contribution of Moroccan skills abroad to investment projects and the promotion of innovation and artificial intelligence in Morocco". The Forum created the first network of Moroccan professionals in Asia, which facilitates the transfer of knowledge, expertise and know-how on new technologies, as well as the sharing of information on development opportunities available in Morocco.	https://marocainsdumonde.gov.ma/communique-de-presse-organisation-du-premier-forum-des-competences-marocaines-residant-en-asie/
Niger	Diaspora media	The Directorate of Togolese Abroad (DTE) created a modern website in 2018 to share information with the diaspora in English and French. It regularly publishes stories on diaspora-related developments and national news, while also using the website to communicate the role of the DTE and the Government Roadmap for the Togolese Abroad, as well as posting links to diaspora services. Users can also subscribe to the website's newsletter.	http://nigerdiaspora.net/index.php/le-nigerien-de-la-semaine-archives
Senegal	SenExpertise	SenExpertise is a website that serves as a database of Senegalese experts and young volunteers residing in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy, who want to contribute to Senegal's socio-economic development. The website aims to consolidate registrations from experts and volunteers to participate in development projects, as well as from Centers of Excellence that benchmark in-demand skills in Senegal.	https://senexpertise.sn/
Togo	Diaspora online portal	Also known as the Mauritius Diaspora Programme, this brings together a range of incentives and entitlements to encourage inward migration, investment, and skills transfer from the diaspora, including tax exemptions, access to the Property Development Scheme, and right to	https://diasporatg.org/

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		permanent residence for Mauritian diaspora who are not citizens of the country. The scheme has a dedicated diaspora web-portal.	
Tunisia	Facilitating Diaspora Investment and Entrepreneurship	This initiative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Central Bank of Tunisia facilitates diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, including support for start-up businesses, digitalisation of transactions, and development of more flexible foreign exchange regulations.	https://www.bct.gov.tn/bct/sitepr od/page.jsp/id=235
Ukraine	Global Ukraine Business Hub	The Global Ukraine Business Hub is a new social project aiming at promoting unique creative Ukrainian modern brands. The project includes the creation of an innovative on-line promotion and communication platform connecting Ukrainian businesses with Ukrainian diaspora members. Through this project, the Ukrainian diaspora can buy Ukrainian goods and popularize new Ukrainian products as business ambassadors. Other key activities include organising meetings, trainings and workshops.	https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/diaspora_handbook_en_for_web_28may2013.pdf

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