



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

African Center for Career Enhancement & Skills Support ACCESS 2.0

Call for applications

ACCESS-Tunisia 2025 Project and Start-up Ideas Competition

Submission deadline: December 15, 2025

Event dates: December 27-28, 2025, in Tunis



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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About the ACCESS 2.0 Scientific Cooperation Program (2025-2029)

The African Center for Career Development and Skills Support (ACCESS 2.0) is a consortium of seven African universities and one European university, the University of Leipzig (Germany). It brings together universities from Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia, and the University of Leipzig. The central objective of this consortium is to study the stagnation of the labor market in Africa, despite the rising educational levels of citizens in these countries. Originally, the program implemented a research initiative focused on graduate unemployment in African countries. At the same time, within this project, ACCESS develops and implements new teaching models aimed at strengthening the employability of African students. The consortium also seeks to increase opportunities for African students in the global labor market by connecting them with companies that can recognize and utilize their skills. Building on existing collaborations between the University of Leipzig and its African partner universities, ACCESS 2.0 aims to create a practice-oriented platform for African higher education institutions, development cooperation partners, professional associations, and agencies in the Global South.

About the Project Ideas or Business Idea Competition (BIC)

The African Center for Career Development and Skills Support (ACCESS 2.0) at the University of Tunis, in partnership with the University of Leipzig (Germany) and the African German Entrepreneurship Academy (AGEA), is launching a call for applications to select, from 50 participants in the 2025 Business Idea Competition, **three promising start-up project ideas** that address real needs in the Tunisian economy and society. This program, following the AGEA model (www.ageacademy.de), successfully implemented in several African higher education institutions, aims to inspire students, researchers, and young graduates to develop innovative, research-based start-up ideas that respond to development challenges—particularly those affecting rural areas in Tunisia. The ACCESS Tunisia Business Idea Competition aims to identify innovative, research-based start-up ideas that can evolve into sustainable spin-offs. The competition also serves as a preparatory step for teams wishing to participate in advanced programs. Selected Tunisian teams will benefit from additional training, coaching, and international visibility. In fact, ACCESS 2.0 may propose them in 2026 for international idea competitions within the framework of AGEA.

Program Objectives

- **Develop entrepreneurial skills:** Provide young graduates, Master's, and PhD students with structured and practical training in entrepreneurship, tailored to innovation and the valorization of research, building on their original academic background.
- **Strengthen university–industry collaboration:** Consolidate ties between Tunisian universities and the industrial sector to promote high-impact innovations that are market-oriented.
- **Promote research-based solutions:** Support the development of solutions derived from research to address national and global development challenges, particularly those related to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**.
- **Prepare competitive teams:** Equip Tunisian student teams to successfully participate in **AGEA international Business Idea Competitions** as well as the **AGEA Start-up Class in Germany**.

Eligible Themes

Applicants must propose a start-up idea related to at least one of the following themes:

1. **Labor market analysis and skills forecasting:** Predict future professional skills through research.
2. **Research commercialization and spin-off creation:** Transform academic research into viable start-ups.
3. **Applied R&D for economic growth:** Research-based solutions aimed at generating employment.
4. **Evidence-based learning systems:** Turn research in education into practical teaching models.
5. **AI- and data-driven education:** Use AI, data analytics, and data science to improve learning outcomes.



6. **University–industry knowledge transfer:** Convert research results into applied skills and real-world solutions.

Who can apply ?

- Master's or PhD students, recent PhDs (within the last 3 years)
- Researchers, lecturers, and university professors
- Young graduates (Master's or PhD)

Benefits for selected applicants

- Participation in the **Entrepreneurial Bootcamp** (training + coaching)
- **Personalized mentorship** provided by ACCESS-Tunisia academics and industry experts
- Access for the best Tunisian projects to the **AGEA international competition** in 2026
- Opportunity to be selected for the **AGEA Start-up Class** in Germany on April 15, 2026
- **10-day intensive training** in 2026
- Support for **EXIST funding applications**
- **International visibility**, investment preparation, and promotional videos
- **Mobility support** for selected teams to Leipzig: opportunity to join the **AGEA Pan-African Innovation community**

Event Details

Dates: December 27–28, 2025

Location: The Dot, Rue de la Fleur d'Érable, Cité les Pins, Tunis 1053

Format: Workshops, coaching, pitch sessions, and selection of the best projects

How to Apply ?

Fill out the application form here : [Tunisia Business Idea Competition 2025](#)

Applicants will need to provide information on: the problem being addressed and its scientific context, research-based evidence, the innovative nature of the idea, the prototype or MVP, market potential, etc.

Legal Notice & Privacy Policy

The AGEA Academy is a brand of the international SEPT program of the University of Leipzig. Data protection follows the official **Data Protection Statement** of the University of Leipzig. No personal data is collected beyond the application form, and applicants can request access to their recorded data at any time. The intellectual property of submitted proposals remains with the applicants. Any unauthorized reproduction of AGEA documents is prohibited. Complete legal information is available on the official website.

Apply Now – Limited to 50 Participants

This is a unique opportunity to transform your scientific research into a high-impact start-up, with the support of Tunisian and international experts.



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Deadline: December 8–15, 2025

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International AGEA Business Idea Competition Allemagne, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda

We invite interested applicants to consult the following links for more information and to access the application procedures:

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