

## Press Release – Opening of a Coding School in Abidjan

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- Simplon.co, in partnership with the French Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire, the Societe Generale Foundation and the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie*\*, is launching Côte d'Ivoire's first inclusive computer coding school.

- Côte d'Ivoire's first computer coding school, "The inclusive digital factory", will be inaugurated on 6 December, 2018 at 2.30 pm on the premises of the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF) at Félix-Houphouët-Boigny University in Abidjan.

Housed on the AUF's premises, this new school will provide young Ivoirians with seven months of training, including a one-month internship, as Web and Mobile developers.

The aim of this project is to improve the employability of young people – and in particular women – through the development of skills in the field of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence. In order to promote and ensure gender equality in the digital universe, a specific emphasis has thus been put on recruiting women, who will account for 41% of the initial intake.

- Indeed, in accordance with its Digital and Development Plan and the French Global Digital Strategy launched by Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on 15 December 2017, France sees digital technology as both an inclusive growth driver and an instrument for development.

A year after the French President's speech in Ouagadougou, France is thus now putting into practice its commitment with regard to the training and employability of young Africans and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in one of the priority countries vis-à-vis development.

The Societe Generale Foundation, a longstanding partner of Simplon.co, is joining in with these efforts by supporting this initiative that is in keeping with its strategic focuses. Furthermore, it is supporting Simplon.co in Senegal, Morocco and Tunisia.

\* *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (the Francophone University Association): a global network of French-speaking higher education and research institutions