



UNITE SmartSimple Conference 2023:

**A Gathering of
Innovators and
Collaborators**

Empowering Grants Management in the Heart of Barcelona

The annual UNITE SmartSimple conference took place in the vibrant city of Barcelona, bringing together industry leaders and SmartSimple users for a transformative learning experience. From May 24th to 26th, 2023, participants immersed themselves in enriching activities, insightful discussions, and the exploration of groundbreaking technologies. The CivSource Africa and CivFund team felt privileged to be part of this exceptional learning excursion, driven by their passion for effective grants management.

Barcelona, renowned for its dynamic atmosphere, served as the perfect backdrop for the conference. The city's energy and vibrancy created an environment conducive to innovation and collaboration. Industry leaders and SmartSimple users from various sectors gathered, fostering connections, and inspiring one another throughout the event.

To kick off the conference, attendees enjoyed a delightful networking dinner, setting the stage for meaningful connections and relationship building. Leaders from diverse sectors came together, establishing a sense of community and collaboration among the SmartSimple user base. The spirit of cooperation and mutual support permeated the conference.

Nestled in the heart of Barcelona, the awe-inspiring CosmoCaixa museum served as the conference venue. Participants had the privilege of embarking on a guided tour, immersing themselves in the museum's captivating exhibits. The museum offered a unique blend of entertainment and educational experiences, catering to both children and adults.

Focused Discussions and AI Integration: The conference agenda featured focused discussions and interactive panel sessions, with one of the main highlights being the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with the SmartSimple platform. Recognizing the potential of AI, participants explored how its integration could enhance the grants management process. Scenario-mapping sessions sparked innovative ideas, showcasing how AI could streamline beneficiary selection in the face of a high volume of grant applications.

The conference provided an invaluable platform for SmartSimple users to exchange experiences and insights regarding the system's application in their operations. Engaging in fruitful discussions, attendees shared ideas and best practices, fostering a culture of continuous growth and improvement. The collaborative environment facilitated a rich learning experience for all participants.

The Journey for CivSource Africa and CivFund: On November 12th, 2021, CivFund, the grant-making arm of CivSource Africa, unveiled SmartSimple, an innovative system set to revolutionize grant-making across the continent. This exciting introduction ignited a renewed sense of passion and commitment within CivFund to make a lasting impact in the field. Now fully operational, the SmartSimple Grant-making system proudly hosts a number of funds: [Kuonyesha Art Fund](#), [Resilience Fund](#), [Corporate Accountability Fund](#), and [Zishaye Grassroots Fund](#). With active engagement from 99 partners and various stakeholders, the system enables seamless interaction, collaboration, and enhanced efficiency.

Participation in the UNITE SmartSimple Conference 2023 marked a significant milestone for the dedicated CivSource Africa and CivFund team. Their unwavering dedication to effective grants management was exemplified by their enthusiastic involvement in the event. Key team members, Ivan Muguya and William Denis Omara, eagerly immersed themselves in workshops and discussions, eagerly absorbing invaluable insights from industry leaders and fellow SmartSimple users. The conference served as a catalyst for expanding their knowledge base and forging connections with like-minded professionals that will continue to inspire collaboration and growth. Consequently, CivSource Africa and CivFund have honed their journey in grants management, propelling them to stay at the forefront of industry trends and best practices.

The UNITE SmartSimple Conference 2023 in Barcelona provided an unparalleled platform for industry leaders and SmartSimple users to come together and explore the forefront of grants management. Through engaging activities, enlightening discussions, and exposure to cutting-edge technologies, participants left the conference equipped with new ideas and perspectives to enhance their work. For the CivSource Africa and CivFund team, the conference was a transformative experience that will undoubtedly shape their approach to grants management and further strengthen their commitment to excellence in the field.

©Ivan Wandira Muguya
IT Associate at CivSource Africa

