

## TEI Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa

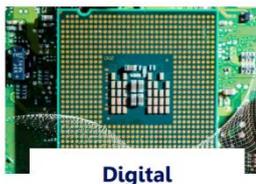
The Team Europe Initiative (TEI) intends to complement Vocational Education and Training (VET) programmes financed by the European Commission or Member States at country level by helping these to orient towards concrete employment opportunities created by (EU) investments, trade, (regional) value chain development and other market dynamics in partner countries, including those supported by the Global Gateway. It thus seeks to support a paradigm shift where the VET offer is reverse engineered from concrete job opportunities.

### Political context

The initiative is a key element under the **EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package** announced at the 2022 EU-Africa-Summit, supporting skills needed in sectors that are part of the package.

The **African Union Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to Foster Youth Employment** also stresses the importance of a paradigm shift from focusing on supply-driven formal VET to a demand-driven more holistic VET policy approach.

### Global Gateway Priorities



Digital



Climate and energy



Health



Transport



Education and research

### How do we want to achieve it?

1. The **identification of employment opportunities** and related skills profiles
2. **Advisory services** for VET provision responsive to identified opportunities and profiles
3. Fully engaging the private sector in this process and stimulation **of opportunity-driven PPP for VET** including mobilization of forthcoming Erasmus+ partnerships.

### What do we intend to achieve?

#### What is difference we want to make?

The overall objective of the action is to ensure that VET provisions in **Sub-Saharan Africa** are **responsive to concrete and decent job opportunities** created by investment, trade and other market dynamics in selected sectors and value chains (VC).

### Which countries can receive support?

The initiative will come in support of **more than 40 countries in Sub-Sahara Africa** who have identified VET and skills development as significant activities under the priority areas addressing the *green and digital transitions, sustainable growth and decent job creation, strengthening of health systems* or as dedicated priority areas in their **EU MIPs** or as **envisaged by MS implementation in national TEIs**.

### Participating EU Member States



**Expected start date:** Q1 2024

**Duration:** 5 years

## TEI support at regional level

The initiative consists of three **building blocks**:

1. **Technical Assistance (TA) facility** providing support based on requests from EU Delegations, EU Member States or private sector organisations to identify employment opportunities and required skills needs around flagship initiatives and translate findings in targeted recommendations for VET system support responsive to identified employment opportunities;
2. **Regional exchange on Public-Private-Partnerships** to promote opportunity-driven VET and skills development in SSA, and to create a space to allow for practical exchange between public and private stakeholders on active partnerships. This includes a linkage to relevant Erasmus+ financed actions on capacity building for PPP in VET to strengthen EU-Africa engagement on skills;
3. **Competitive Funding mechanism** to finance regional and multi-country VET initiatives in support of (regional) value chains that complement country MIPs, as well as actions that more generally support this paradigm shift of reverse engineering VET in function of employment opportunities market dynamics create.

## In practice

Where a specific investment (e.g., pharma, hydrogen, etc.) is envisaged under EU initiatives, the TEI would **help to identify the required skills profiles in the context of this investment** and translate this in recommendations for the VET system to be able to deliver. The implementation for these recommendations would be done using **country envelopes** and **managed by EUD or local TEI group**.

## Partners

The TEI will interact with multiple stakeholders at regional/international level:

- **Private sector/business networks** in Africa and the EU – in selected value chains and sectors (e.g. Engage in the EU-AU Business Forum).
- **Authorities with a continental or regional mandate** although the focus will be on business networks. At country level there will be direct interaction with public and private sector partners in the context of the Commission's and MS country programmes.

## Synergies with other initiatives

The TEI will seek to **cooperate with other regional and national TEIs** providing support services in relevant areas, such as:

- TEIs providing support to the ecosystem for entrepreneurial development;
- Sector specific TEIs which have identified skills as a relevant support service

**Crosscutting topics:** gender equality; green & just transition; digitalization

## What is currently happening?

A **mapping of relevant business networks in Africa** that need to be engaged in an opportunity-driven VET approach is being initiated.

The **first case studies** have been initiated at country level for the textile & apparel sector in Ghana, the agri-food sector in Senegal, and at regional level the pharma industry with MAV+.