

European Development Days 2022

Proceedings

The European Development Days (EDD) are Europe's leading forum on international partnerships. Organised by the European Commission, the forum brings key actors together to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

For its 15th edition, the EDD focused on "Global Gateway: building sustainable partnerships for a connected world". Global Gateway is the new European Strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport, and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. It stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet, to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from climate change and protecting the environment, to improving health security and boosting competitiveness and global supply chains.



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Special Events

Special Event: Opening Ceremony

Organised by European Commission

Moderator

- Florence Ranson, Moderator, Communicator & Founder of REDComms

Speakers

- Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
- H.M. Queen Mathilde of the Belgians
- H.M. King Letsie III of Lesotho
- Charles Michel, President of the Council of the EU
- HE Nana Addo Dankwa Qkufo-Addo, President of Ghana
- HE Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- HE José Maria Neves, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
- HE Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
- HE John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize
- HE Anatole Collinet Makosso, Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo
- Aziz Akhannouch, Head of Government of the Kingdom of Morocco
- Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank
- Odile Renaud-Basso, President of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Session description

The Opening Ceremony was the high-profile launch for the EDD 2022. It laid the foundations for the powerful and inspiring debates to come, and set the tone for the event.

Heads of State and Government as well as Heads of International Organisations delivered keynote speeches outlining how they see the Global Gateway in the international and domestic contexts.

It was opened by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, with Florence Ranson as Master of Ceremonies.

Synopsis

The ceremony highlighted the strength and importance of the partnership between EU and partner countries. Global Gateway was warmly welcomed by leaders and applauded for enabling the co-designing of solutions to the climate crisis, which would contribute to a fairer and more equitable world. With EU support, partner countries can become climate resilient and compete on the global economic stage by becoming leaders in renewable energy production. Vaccine inequality was also discussed, in addition to the war in Ukraine and current efforts to work towards food security.

Key points

- Leaving the beaten path and forging new ones. Focus on new partnerships that are equitable. Co-designing solutions to the climate crisis. Working towards a fairer, more united world.
- Climate adaptation and the EU assisting countries in becoming climate resilient.
- Connected global community, stable co-dependency, collaboration and partnerships.
- Excellent relationships between the EU and Africa are essential for global security in the 21st century.
- Global Gateway warmly welcomed by European and African leaders alike. Key opportunity for African nations to become leaders in renewable energy production and compete on the global economic stage (several mentions of hydrogen).
- EDD22 and the Global Gateway deepen the partnership between the EU and African nations.
- Vaccine inequality discussed.
- Acknowledgement of Ukraine crisis and working towards food security.

Quotes

- President Ursula von der Leyen, *“With Global Gateway we can make our partners more resilient because your strength is our strength too”*.
- H.M. Queen Mathilde, *“The EU Green Deal is a bold project and illustrates that we can achieve the SDGs”*.
- HE King Letsie, *“The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the existing inequalities in our countries and between the north and the south. Stronger partnerships, collaboration and cooperation are essential elements”*.
- President Charles Michel, *“Peace, prosperity and stability. They go hand in hand. Europe will always be the partner of development, the partner of progress, and the partner of peace & stability”*.
- HE Nana Akufo-Addo, *“The long standing relationship between Africa and Europe, founded on ties of blood, culture, geography and history should serve as a platform for enhanced cooperation between us”*.
- HE Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, *“Now, more than ever, we need to come together in solid partnerships based on shared values to turn these numerous challenges into shared growth”*.
- HE José Maria Neves, *“I reaffirm the importance of deepening economic and trade relations between the EU and Cabo Verde”*.
- HE Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, *“We wish to reiterate the need for energy transformation that is fair, just and equitable”*.
- HE John Briceño, *“The EU’s contribution has helped with our transformation through the development of small and micro enterprises, through major investments which have driven our competitiveness, and in the areas of renewable energy”*.
- HE Anatole Collinet Makosso, *“The Global Gateway strategy is a new type of partnership. It works towards a fairer world, a world of greater solidarity, a more united world. The government of Congo subscribes to this ambitious programme which defines the contours of the world to come”*.
- HE Aziz Akhannouch, *“The Global Gateway is an opportunity for the EU and its partners, in particular in Africa, to bring together human development and infrastructure development”*.
- Werner Hoyer, *“We are ready to deliver concrete investment-based solutions for the challenges we are facing”*.

- Odile Renaud-Basso, *“Connectivity is vital for development and for economic resilience. This is why we at EBRD warmly welcome the EU’s Global Gateway strategy”*.
- Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen: *“We must do everything we can to assist our international partners and defend the universal values the EU was founded on. The EU is taking both short- and long-term action toward that end”*.



Special Event: Sustainable Finance at the heart of Global Gateway

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Ayaan Adam, CEO AFC Capital Partners, Africa Finance Corporation

Opening remarks

- Koen Doens, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Speakers

- Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
- Werner Hoyer, President of European Investment Bank
- Tony Elumelu, Founder of The Tony Elumelu Foundation
- Elodie Laugel, Amundi, Chief Responsible Investment Officer of Amundi and Global Head of Institutional Business Development Support
- Koen Doens, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Session description

With its Global Gateway communication of December 2021, the EU set out concrete ideas for investment in sustainable and high-quality infrastructure development around the world, in order to help to tackle the most pressing global challenges.

The need for a holistic approach has never been as striking. The COVID-19 pandemic and its global economic fallout have dramatically impacted countries around the world, increasing financing needs and decreasing availability of resources for high-quality infrastructure projects. While public resources will continue to play an important role, there is especially a need to close the global investment gap by scaling up the flow of private capital towards investments in low and middle-income countries.

Sustainable finance is key to bridge this financing gap and achieve the objectives of Global Gateway. Yet, scaling up sustainable finance globally is challenging and even more so in low- and middle-income countries.

During this special event, panellists and participants discussed what these challenges are and how they can be addressed. In particular, they exchanged their views on:

- how to build a conducive environment for attracting additional private finance at scale in low and middle income countries;
- what policy incentives and partnerships are needed for an optimal crowding-in of private sector financing in low and middle income countries;
- the role of sustainability-related financial instruments and products including green bonds or other innovative financing mechanisms

Synopsis

Given the strong growth in demand for sustainable financing investments and instruments, such as green bonds, the panellists discussed challenges including how to find suitable opportunities based on trust and transparency and the importance of harmonising the taxonomy to create a global framework for sustainable financing. Focus was also put on whether countries with low or net-positive emissions should be treated differently from highly industrialised countries and the power of small and medium enterprises to drive economic growth. In addition, panellists broached the issue of why it is critical that the objective of financing should be to improve people's lives.

Key points

- Koen Doens stressed that a high-level expert group will provide recommendations to the Commission on how the EU can scale up sustainable finance.
- Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila brought up the discussions between Namibia and the EU to issue a green bond.
- Werner Hoyer reaffirmed the need for new funding sources and underlined the huge opportunities presented by green bonds.
- Tony Elumelu highlighted the importance of SMEs as a strong engine of growth.
- Elodie Laugel reflected on how to mobilise capital for emerging economies.

Quotes

- Koen Doens, *"Investors no longer face a choice between profit and doing well for people, planet and prosperity"*.
- Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, *"We have decided that growth is not important for its own sake; it should also contribute to improved human conditions"*.
- Werner Hoyer, *"Boosting activities in less developed countries or emerging countries requires the combination of three things: lending, blending and advising. It is not enough to offer a loan, it must be accompanied by the necessary blending facilities"*.
- Tony Elumelu *"We should all come to the table in a fair manner, so we support those who truly contribute less (on the point that many African countries have low/net positive emissions)"*.
- Elodie Laugel, *"The capital is there, the commitment is there and there is common recognition of the need. We need to fill the expectation gap so there is a match"*.



Special Event: Global Health Policy Forum

Stakeholder consultation: A new EU Global Health Strategy

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderators

- Gabriella Fesus, Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Francisco Perez-Cañado, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
- Margherita Leone, Senior Advocacy Advisor, Save the Children
- Manon Kayser, EU Advocacy Officer, Global Health Advocates

Speakers

- Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Security
- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Peter Piot, Professor, Special Advisor Cabinet of European Commission President Von der Leyen
- Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Ayoade Alakija, Co-chair and Special Advisor Co-Chair, African Union's African Vaccine Delivery Alliance, WHO Special Envoy for the ACT-Accelerator
- Anders Nordstrom, Global Health Ambassador, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Serah Makka-Ugbabe, Executive Director, ONE
- Jennifer Brant, CEO & Founder, Innovation Insights
- Florian Westphal, CEO, Save the Children Germany
- Elise Rodriguez, Head of Advocacy, France and EU Global Health Advocates
- Birgitte Hagelund, Health Policy Officer, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
- Olyainde Moutairou, EDD Young Leader, Benin

Session summary

During the May 2021 Global Health Summit, President von der Leyen committed to the relaunch of the Global Health Policy Forum (GHPF).

With the announcement of a new EU Global Health Strategy in May 2022, the relaunch of the Forum formed part of the EU's stakeholder consultation process to develop the Strategy.

The Forum had two main topics:

1. Towards a new EU Global Health Strategy
2. Sustainable funding for Global Health

Participants were able to provide input on issues such as priority setting, partnerships, effectiveness and financing.

Synopsis

This forum allowed for intervention from stakeholders on how to develop the EU Global Health Strategy. The discussion highlighted the importance of inclusiveness, not only in terms of ensuring that the strategy supports those disproportionately affected by poor health services, but also by ensuring that the voices of all partner countries are heard. The EU must build on partner countries' priorities and move away from the old model of global health based on donor recipient partnerships, and towards mutually beneficial partnerships. The strategy must be holistic and integrate education, community, digitalisation and climate resilience.

Key points

- Inclusiveness and reaching those disproportionately affected by poor health services, infectious diseases and pandemics.
- Role of communities: building local expertise.
- Policy coherence.
- Health delivery across different contexts.
- Digitalisation as a strong enabler of the strategy.
- Scale: aligning funding with global health needs.
- Long-term funding to improve health: Innovative financial tools like social impact bonds; funding community-based organisations, integrated investment and investment in education.
- Sexual and reproductive rights were not adequately covered in the previous global health strategy.
- Migrants should be included in universal health coverage.
- Control over production of vaccines (and other health products/technologies) should not stay with the EU - developing countries should retain control when investing in infrastructure there.

Quotes

- Jutta Urpilainen, *"The new strategy will help us achieve the SDGs through stronger health systems. As part of the Global Gateway, we want to lead global action rooted in the universal values of human rights, equality, solidarity and cooperation"*.
- Stella Kyriakides, *"Health challenges know no borders. We have shown EU leadership on health during the pandemic - we will build on this to shape a changing world"*.
- Peter Piot, *"As long as there are stark inequalities in health, there won't be equal development and stability in the world"*.
- Jennifer Brant, *"COVID-19 revealed we cannot do things alone"*.
- Margherita Leone, *"We must not impose the strategy from the top, we need to work with partners in order to achieve long-lasting change"*.
- Manon Kayser, *"Our goal as NGOs is to make the strategy efficient, concrete and with sufficient funding attached"*.
- Florian Westphal, *"Beyond the acute crisis, the strategy must focus on the long term in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030"*.

- Olyainde Moutairou, *“Three points should be prioritised in the global health strategy - invest more in reproductive health, nutrition, and scientific research on the promotion of health”*.
- Elise Rodriguez, *“The strategy must reaffirm health as a public good. The EU has a big role to play in building self-reliant health systems in all countries”*.
- Francesca Ligi, *“Capacity building should be a priority to reach marginalised communities”*.
- Marjeta Jager, *“Access to water and soap is absolutely linked to health, it’s all we had against COVID-19 in the beginning”*.
- Serah Makka-Ugbabe, *“Good quality healthcare requires money. EU should fund the speed and scale required to address health. The converging global crises are a great example of how interconnected we are”*.
- Ayoade Alakija, *“The holistic meaning of health is a state of complete wellbeing, including planetary wellbeing”*.
- Anders Nordstrom, *“COVID-19 is not only a health crisis, it is a societal crisis affecting all elements of society”*.



Special Event: The Global Gateway in Central Asia

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Siobhan Hall, EU Energy & Climate Journalist

Speakers

- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Aziz Abdukhakimov, Deputy Prime Minister of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan
- Usmonali Usmonzoda, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Erkinbek Osoev, Minister of Transport and Communication of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Aset Irgaliyev, Chairman of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Strategic Planning and Reforms
- Mark Bowman, Vice President Policy and Partnerships, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Session summary

Sustainable connectivity is a high political priority for both the EU and Central Asia: building on the EU Strategy for Connecting Europe and Asia (2018), it is also a central element of the EU's Strategy on Central Asia of 2019 and of the Global Gateway strategy adopted in 2021.

This panel explored what “sustainable and trusted connections” mean in a Central Asian context and how it is being put into action, ahead of the EU-Central Asia Connectivity Forum later this year.

Synopsis

The panellists discussed the importance of connectivity in Central Asia and developments to date. There was a particular focus put on transport and the importance of improving regional and international transport corridors to enhance trade and economic growth. The panellists agreed that digitalisation is a crucial step in improving the region's connectivity, as it will also enable developments in sectors such as transport and energy. The potential of hydropower and its contribution to decarbonising the region was also highlighted, as was the need for a strong partnership between Europe and Central Asia.

Key points

- Global Gateway puts people at the centre and bridges inequalities. Infrastructure & climate goals would cost EUR 1.3 trillion.

- Digital connectivity will be fostered through a regional Team Europe initiative.
- Global Gateway is fully aligned with the development strategy for Uzbekistan 2022-2026.
- EU is a key partner of Uzbekistan.
- Connectivity is important for shared prosperity.
- Global Gateway is meant to accelerate green & digital transitions globally. Digitalisation, hydropower and energy were discussed.
- Global Gateway builds on partnerships - public & private financing through IFIs to achieve SDGs. The role of young people and education is the heart of our partnership.

Quotes

- Jutta Urpilainen, *“We believe that its (Central Asia’s) geographic situation and young population give it the potential to fully harness the opportunities for growth & human development”.*
- Aziz Abdukhakimov, *“Relations between Uzbekistan and the EU reached a new level in recent years”.*
- Usmonali Usmonzoda, *“Hydropower will play an increasingly large role in decarbonising Central Asia”.*
- Erkinbek Osoev, *“The Global Gateway is timely and important to strengthen connectivity, including in the transport sector”.*
- Mark Bowman, *“The war in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus the importance of connectivity between Europe and Asia”.*



The Global Gateway in Africa

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Kandeh Yumkella, Founder and CEO TENN & Co-chair African Europe Strategy Group on Energy, African Europe Foundation

Speakers

- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
- Amadou Hott, Minister in charge of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, Senegal of the Republic of Senegal
- Tseliso Kalake - Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lesotho

Session summary

The Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, worth EUR 150 billion, was announced at the EU-AU Summit in February 2022. This high-level panel assessed potential opportunities for the Global Gateway in achieving joint strategic objectives in Africa, especially in the challenging international context in which we are living. We looked at how actors from both continents can work to ensure a resilient, autonomous, and prosperous Africa.

Synopsis

The panel discussed key challenges facing Africa, including ensuring ample electricity and food supplies, and how to empower young people as future entrepreneurs. The need to balance investment in infrastructure with investment in people and regulation was also stressed. Panellists pointed out that for investors to have confidence in Africa, they need to be sure of a stable long-term policy environment. The audience heard that the EU-Africa Investment Package now needs to be put into action, and that success would include the implementation of projects, increased foreign direct investment and improvements in healthcare, education, skills and entrepreneurship.

Key points

- EU-Africa Investment Package is worth EUR 150 billion and shows the importance of the EU-Africa Partnership.
- Green hydrogen project is going to green the economy and address the green energy deficit in Africa & Europe.

- How to address energy issues? Global Gateway is meant to accelerate the green & digital transitions globally. Energy is part of the green transition.
- Should we leapfrog into the future e.g., hydrogen? We are bringing private investors from Europe & Namibia to deploy available technologies to supply green hydrogen and develop related industries.
- Young people represent a major resource in Africa. It is important to empower them.

Quotes

- Jutta Urpilainen, *“We need to walk the talk. We have to be able to deliver. It is important to have political declarations but it is not enough. We also need concrete deliverables, and one is this investment package for Africa”*.
- Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, *“Recognise growth and enhancement of prosperity is not a zero-sum game... When one prospers, the other one also has to prosper”*.
- Amadou Hott, *“When you do all the reforms, you also need to have resources to prepare projects that you can provide to investors”*.
- Tseliso Kalake, *“Lesotho is committed to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable modern energy by 2030”*.



Special Event: The Geopolitics of the Global Gateway

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships and the European External Action Service

Moderator

- Susanne Lynch, Author, POLITICO

Speakers

- Ana Paula Tostes, Associate Professor, Rio de Janeiro State University
- Fabienne Hara, Secretary-General of the Paris Peace Forum
- Nobukatsu Kanehara, Senior Advisor, Asia Group
- Kandeh Yumkella, Founder and CEO TENNN, Co-chair Africa Europe Strategy Group on Energy

Session summary

Speakers were invited to reflect on how increasing global connectivity in a sustainable manner can help tackle today's global challenges, and on the geopolitical implications of this new approach

Synopsis

With panellists coming from different regions (South America/Brazil, Africa, Japan and Europe), this session discussed the opportunities of the Global Gateway Strategy and its geopolitical relevance. The interventions stressed the correlation between having strong relations inside the different countries of each specific region and a good partnership with the EU. They also highlighted the need for real strategic partnerships, in which both partners were placed on an equal level, to avoid the risk of interdependencies.

Key points

- Brazil has two perceptions about the Global Gateway Strategy: On the one hand, there is a strong connection between South American countries and Europe; on the other, there is a lack of connectivity in the region, and poverty is increasing, especially due to the pandemic.
- EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement - Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil: the conclusion of the agreement is related to the sustainability mechanism.
- There is a strong correlation between having a strong Mercosur and a good partnership with the EU.
- In the context of fiscal constraints and the food crisis, Africa's relationship with the EU must shift to a mutual partnership.
- The African Union is asking for a permanent seat in the G20.
- Impact of the war in Ukraine: Ukraine is feeding 400 million people - disruptions of the market have been very bad. Beyond food, there is a need for a global recovery plan.

- COVID-19 has reversed progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by about 25 years, such as fighting against poverty and gender balance.

Quotes

- Nobukatsu Kanehara, *“We are on the same page, and we have to continue the same methods”*.
- Fabienne Hara, *“But beyond food there is a need for a global recovery plan”*.
- *“There is a need for creativity - we need to reinvent the system as it is. It is very state based but many actors from many sectors have a say on how global public goods are defined. We need to find new ways of coming together - finding new ways of addressing new challenges, coalitions, invent new forms of democracy - to start in small new communities and go to bigger communities”*.
- Ana Paula Tostes, *“We are in one of the worst moments for the Amazon because of the current situation”*.

Special Event: Global health? Local answers: resilient health systems and medical training

Organised by European Parliament - Committee for Development

Moderator

- Florence Ranson, Moderator, Communicator & Founder of REDComms

Opening remarks

- Udo Bullmann, Member, European Parliament Committee on Development

Speakers

- Amadou Hott, Minister in charge of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation of the Republic of Senegal
- Miryan Sena Viera, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Republic of Cabo Verde
- Danielle Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, Co-chair of African Union Vaccine Delivery
- György Hölvényi, Member of European Parliament
- Richard Hardi, Centre Ophtalmologique St Raphael, Democratic Republic of Congo

Session summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted global inequities in access to healthcare and vaccination as well as structural weaknesses of the health sector in developing countries. Africa is particularly hit by

major diseases other than COVID-19, which are seeing a resurgence while 99% of its vaccines are imported. How can technology transfers and capacity-building offer a response to these challenges?

Synopsis

The panellists agreed that COVID-19 had highlighted how fundamental having good healthcare systems is to countries' economies and security. They underlined the role of politics and policy in healthcare development, and stressed that economic and finance ministers should be involved in this regard. The audience heard that investment is needed in areas of hard infrastructure, such as energy, water and digitalisation, but also in education and the retention of workers. Good governance was identified as being paramount to ensuring strong healthcare systems, though panellists agreed that this is not only the domain of governments, and that non-state actors, such as the diaspora, NGOs and churches, should also be involved.

Key points

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had economic and social impacts, especially in the Global South. The pandemic has reversed 10 years of progress, particularly towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, there have been effects from climate change, floods and droughts.
- Need to rebuild capacities. Can only face challenges with resilient health systems.
- Key words are inclusion and justice. Need to talk about how policy drives the transfer of technology. Vaccine production needs a global community to purchase vaccines.
- Building up health systems is crucial for building a peaceful world.
- Essential role of non-state actors: they can ensure that funds are well spent, carry out quality control, ensure there is proper monitoring.
- Need to take advantage of ICT as we're in the digital revolution. Need multi-country collaboration and a strengthening of cross-regional cooperation and research.
- Capacity can only be built together.
- Importance of security.

Quotes

- Udo Bullmann, *"Building up health systems is crucial for building up a peaceful world"*.
- Amadou Hott, *"We have to work and invest on the soft side but also on the hard side; having the right hospitals in the right place"*.
- Danielle Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, *"We need politics to get more involved in politics and politics to get more involved in health"*.
- Miryan Sena Viera, *"One of the main aspirations that was set out was that all African citizens have the access to affordable health care"*.
- György Hölvényi, *"Wake up Europe, do your homework. Wake up Africa, do your homework. And take joint action"*.
- Richard Hardi, *"The golden words are training, training, training. But once we train people they need to be able to work somewhere. They need to have access to energy, water, structures that work"*.

Special Event: The Global Gateway in the Indo-Pacific

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Florence Ranson, Moderator, Communicator & Founder of REDComms

Opening remarks

- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Speakers

- Shamsul ALAM, Minister of Planning of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Special Representative of the President, Chief Negotiator for the Council for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
- Bruno Maçães, former Secretary of State for European Affairs in Portugal and author
- Petr Gandalovic, Director of Department for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance of Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jean-Louis Ville, Director Middle East, Asia and Pacific, Directorate-General for International Partnerships European Commission

Session summary

This session examined how such partnerships are being implemented between the EU and the Indo-Pacific, discussing lessons learnt as well as existing successes from the EU Strategy for Connecting Europe and Asia (2018) to build on.

Synopsis

The discussion highlighted the size and diversity of the Indo-Pacific: a vast region ranging from land-locked countries to remote islands. The panellists agreed that the Global Gateway needs to avoid a 'one size fits all' approach and really tailor investment to countries' specific needs. Priorities include addressing the consequences of climate change; digitalisation and cyber security; and guarding against inequality as the region grows over the coming decades. The panel also emphasised the importance of expanding cooperation beyond development aid to create positive, reliable and inclusive partnerships.

Key points

- The EU is a top investor in Indo-Pacific, and a development and trading partner.

- The Indo-Pacific region is emerging as the dominant geopolitical and economic centre of the world, and this brings international tension.
- We don't want a one-size-fits all policy.

Quotes

- Shamsul Alam, *"Protecting people and planet is our top priority and EU is well-placed to steer the journey"*.
- Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, *"Indo-Pacific is emerging as the dominant geopolitic and economic centre of the world. With this brings international tension. We want positive engagement, not geostrategic competition"*.
- Bruno Mações, *"The Indo Pacific region is growing fast, represents dreams of several billion people and represents the future of humanity. Important to connect these aspirations with technical connectivity"*.
- Petr Gandalovic, *"We have made the Indo-Pacific one of the priorities of our Presidency. One event has already taken place in Prague. Our priorities are connected with your region because this is what we see as a great theme: adaptation to the climate change. It is clear that we are in this together."*
- Jean-Louis Ville, *"We will address the issues in the Pacific. We will address the climate consequences of climate change. Not climate change. Countries in the Pacific make very little emissions, so it's not a problem of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The problem is the consequences of these emissions worldwide for the country."*



Special Event: Food security in time of crisis

What role can Team Europe and other development partners play in a connected world?

Organised by French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Moderator

- Suzanne Ngo-Eyok, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT Managing Director for Africa - CGIAR

Speakers

- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships, France
- Mohamed Salem Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians abroad, Mauritania
- Kako Nubukpo, Commissioner for Agriculture, Water Resource and Environment, West African Monetary and Economic Union (UEMOA)
- Koen Doens, Director-general for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Jean-François Riffaud, Director-General - Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim - ACF)
- Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Session summary

The special event aimed at reflecting on the role in the unfolding global food crisis for various development partners, including Team Europe, the potential changes in the development paradigm as well as the concrete solutions to respond to the crisis and ensure longer-term resilience and sustainability for food systems.

The high-level panellists were invited to share their analysis of the situation, and their actions and their assessments of potential needs for Team Europe and other development partners to work best collectively and provide an efficient and timely response in support to affected countries.

The following questions were posed to guide the panellists in their interventions:

- What is today at stake regarding global food security and nutrition and particularly in the light of the consequences of the Russian war in Ukraine?
- Which actions are already undertaken or planned for by your organization/ country?
- How can development partners best work together and with all relevant stakeholders in this context of global food crisis?

Synopsis

Panellists outlined what they are doing within their own practices to address the sustainability of the food system during times of crisis. Consensus was shown on the need to build a more resilient, greener and global food system and to increase funding, in addition to the necessity of implementing a

framework designed to develop more localised agricultural production systems and supply chains. The French Development Minister presented the three pillars of the FARM initiative: trade, solidarity and sustainable production. She then called on the G20 to play their part in terms of ensuring a clear vision of market flows and stocks to preserve the fluidity of world trade in agricultural products.

Key points

- Multiple crises. To find the good solutions, we need to think of the impacts.
- The crises we are living through today are not new. Fragilities have been detected before.
- Action must be fast, collective and strong - and meet expectations of partners.
- FARM aims to respond with specific proposals: 3 pillars: 1) trade: preserve fluidity of world trade. Need to avoid restrictive export measures. Call on to G20 to play their part. 2) solidarity 3) sustainable production.
- Urgency to rethink a new model that is greener and more resilient.
- Need for a holistic approach that supports local production.
- Money is key and should be given to those most vulnerable.
- Funds allocated should support the primary farming system and primary needs.

Quotes

- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, *"If we talk about action it has to be fast, collective and strong, and it needs to meet the expectations of our partners. The European Union and other friends quickly mobilised FARM initiative. So FARM aims to respond to the food crisis with very specific proposals"*.
- Kako Nubukpo, *"COVID has already revealed the real fragility of our economic models and shown the urgency to rethink new, more resilient and more ecological models"*.
- Mohamed Salem Merzoug, *"Vulnerability is not related to luxury products but to WHOLE supply chain at global level with respect to raw materials and output products"*.
- Koen Doens, *"In the action plan that the European Union has put forward, we want to take a holistic approach"*.
- Jean-François Riffaud, *"Food sovereignty is core. Without it we cannot fight all these issues"*.
- Jyotsna Puri, *"What we are witnessing today is clearly the recognition that there are several crises upon us... A food crisis is upon us"*.



Special Event: Economic and Investment Plans in EU's neighbouring regions; putting the Global Gateway into motion

Organised by European Commission – Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Moderator

- Maciej Popowski, acting Director-General – Directorate General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Opening remarks

- Oliver Varhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Speakers

- Jovana Marovic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro
- Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank
- Marc Vancoppenolle, Vice-President and Head of Government Affairs International, Nokia Bell NV
- Miranda Betchvaia, Young European Ambassador

Session summary

In this regional event, the speakers presented the role of the Economic and Investments Plans (EIPs) for the Western Balkans, the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood as main drivers of the Global Gateway and stressed the necessity for countries to invest and develop infrastructures they need to create sustainable prosperity, jobs and services. A focus was made on the Economic and Investment Plans.

Through the implementation of the EIPs, the European Union supports crucial infrastructure investments needed to foster connections, trade and growth. This requires innovative financing modalities to mobilise the private sector through public financing, leading to economic growth, and boosting the twin green and digital transitions. Partnerships with International Financial Institutions are key in view of bridging the investment gap.

Synopsis

The panellists discussed some of the specific priorities for EU neighbourhoods, such as fostering good governance and business environments, digital connectivity and environmental protection. They also highlighted the importance of small and medium-sized businesses to national economies and spoke about how to foster investment in these companies, both through encouraging private investment and through public guarantees and loans. The critical role of young people in communicating the benefits of partnering with the EU was also emphasised, as was the need to move from policymaking to delivering results.

Key points

- Economic and Investment Plans (EIPs) designed with the idea of connecting major cities with each other and with EU capitals.
- EIP is fostering regional cooperation, economic consolidation and political momentum.
- Key focus areas broadly could include good governance & democracy, digital policies and economy.
- Climate: Global Gateway is fertile soil for cooperating on climate policies, but also need the implementation of policies. Everyone holds responsibility for becoming climate aware and setting boundaries in our lives.
- Cyber Security: resilient and reliable networks are critical.
- Difficulty prioritising investment: Not easy because we need investment in many areas. Government priorities are to build democracy, strengthen the economy and transport infrastructure. Ecology/environment also a priority. Digitalisation as well.
- SMEs: to manage them as a portfolio to diversify risk.

Quotes

- Oliver Varhelyi, *“Connectivity is the lifeline between Europe and our neighbours, a lifeline that needs expansion”*.
- Maciej Popowski, *“We are ready to go to work on the very practical aspects of connectivity”*.
- Ricardo Mourinho Felix, *“Green technologies are based on digital so digital networks are key to move forward in the green transition”*.
- Marc Vancoppenolle, *“When assessing projects (for Global Gateway), should look at technical security, trustworthiness, respect for European values and sustainability”*.
- Miranda Betchvaia, *“Education is key - without support from the EU I would not be here speaking to you today”*.



Special Event: Humanitarian-development-peace nexus, an essential approach to address global food insecurity

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Moderator

- Joanna Darmanin, Head of Unit, European Commission - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Speakers

- Helen Eduards, Director General for International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- Andrea Koulimah, Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, European Commission – Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
- Willem Olthof, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission – Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Marta Valdés García, Deputy Humanitarian director, director of Humanitarian performance and Innovation at Oxfam
- Dunja Dujanovic, Programme & Results Team Leader, FAO Emergencies

Session summary

This panel highlighted the need for immediate life-saving assistance, but also of a medium and long-term approach. Addressing urgent food crises needs to go hand in hand with the transformation towards sustainable food systems. Responding with a humanitarian development peace (HDP) nexus approach allows us to tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, and increase resilience.

This panel discussion built on concrete examples of successful nexus approaches and explored how operational links can be further strengthened between humanitarian, development and peace actors.

Synopsis

Panellists discussed how recent thinking around people-centred, participatory action and conflict sensitive programming provides an opportunity to work across sectors and test the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. The need for increased humanitarian funding that was not earmarked was highlighted, as was the need to make immediate investment into critical life-saving services in food security to ensure a flexible response to challenges faced by populations. Approaches to resilience building were discussed, such as increasing capacity to withstand shocks and reducing dependencies on specific supplies, inputs or export markets.

Key points

- Resilience means more diversification and buffer mechanisms.
- The EU will be cooperating with about 60 partner countries on sustainable food systems, including many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Stepping up research and innovation support through the DESIRA programme.
- To ensure an adaptable and flexible response to challenges, need to make immediate investments into critical lifesaving services in food security and nutrition.
- Investment in national assistance: need political commitment to invest in disaster risk management.
- Social protection: politicians to ensure systems protect public, ensure social safety nets.
- Put people at centre of a multisectoral approach.
- Gender inequality is driver of conflict, so we need to integrate it into all nexus strategies. A systemic approach is needed.

Quotes

- Helen Eduards, *“Team Europe is helping Ukraine to temporarily shift grain exports from sea to land”*.
- Andrea Koulimah, *“The Ukraine war is yet another reminder of the interdependencies and interconnectivness in the current world. The impact of the war is felt globally”*.
- Willem Olthof, *“Resilience means ability to withstand and to sustainably recover from shocks and stresses; we have to think at all levels - at household level, at farm level, at landscape level and at country level”*.
- Marta Valdés García, *“We need to ensure we make immediate investments into critical life saving services in food security and nutrition to ensure we can have an adaptable and flexible response to the challenges the population is facing”*.
- Dunja Dujanovic, *“Participatory action is a big test for the nexus approach. Will it work and go to scale or fall in cracks of existing investment patterns and financing mechanisms”*.



The Global Gateway in Latin America and the Caribbean

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Ana Paula Tostes, Associate Professor, Rio de Janeiro State University

Speakers

- John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize
- Pilar Cancela Rodríguez, Secretary of State for International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain
- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Mario Cimoli, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN
- Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Vice-Director General for Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica
- Vitoria Galvao, EDD Young Leader, Brazil

Session summary

Following the launch of Global Gateway, this panel explored what “sustainable and trusted connections” mean in a Latin American and Caribbean context and how they can be put into action, drawing on experience from the region.

Synopsis

The panel discussed how the EU and the Latin America and Caribbean region share common values, such as democracy and environmentalism, and have been working in partnership for many years. However, further cooperation is needed to achieve common norms in terms of the regulatory environment and the strength of institutions so as to attract private sector investment. There was a strong focus on the current inequity of internet access in the region and the need to close this digital divide, not only in terms of infrastructure but also with regard to skills. The panel highlighted how internet access is vital for education and social equality, as well as for innovation.

Key points

- Building ambitious and innovative partnerships is not new to Latin America and the EU. There is a political commitment and will to this approach. This November the EU LA&C digital agenda will be launched.

- Spain is not a stranger to Latin America and the Caribbean. In the upcoming Spanish presidency, the relationship will be a priority.
- Digitalisation brings power to the hands of people. It brings information and makes governments accountable. However, 200 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean currently do not have access.
- Digitalisation should never be seen as the objective but as a way of achieving sustainable development. It has a huge impact in all the other SDGs, e.g., gender equality. Access to digitalisation can help us fight against climate change.
- Digital skills and education: it is about access to digital services and digital skills. We need to invest in infrastructure but also in education - to provide young people with digital skills. It is a question of social cohesion, a way of reducing inequality.
- One proposal is to have a digital basket to allow connectivity and household to have digital tools. Also, need to work on infrastructure. In Chile, richer people have internet, poorer do not and this affects who goes to school.
- Need for a new social pact. Public policy has to involve local communities.
- One of the key challenges is corruption, weak governance and weak institutions. If we want to attract European companies to invest, we need to improve the business environment so that it is attractive and predictable.

Quotes

- John Briceño, *“Digitalisation brings power to the hands of people. It brings info & makes governments accountable”*.
- Pilar Cancela Rodríguez, *“Digitalisation should never be seen as the objective but as a way of achieving sustainable development. It has a huge impact in all the other SDGs, e.g. gender equality”*.
- Jutta Urpilainen, *“We need to invest in infrastructure but also in education - to provide young people with digital skills. It’s a question of social cohesion, way of reducing inequality”*.
- Mario Cimoli, *“To speak about inclusion...When a family has internet and a mobile phone, it’s in general the father that has it. The mother cannot use it and the daughter cannot use it. So there is also the problem of gender inequality”*.
- Vitoria Galvao, *“We need a new social pact. Public policy has to involve local communities and that’s only possible when we’re all sitting around the table on an equal footing”*.



Award Ceremony for the 30th Lorenzo Natali Media Prize

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Moderator: Ikaba Koyi, Freelance journalist

Speakers

- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Paul Boyer, Winner of the Best Emerging Journalist under 30 Prize
- Rémi Carton, Winner of the Best Emerging Journalist under 30 Prize
- Vânia Maia, Winner of the Europe Prize
- Ritwika Mitra, Winner of the Grand Prize

Session summary

The Lorenzo Natali prize recognizes outstanding journalism that shines a light on the major challenges of the day. The session celebrated the 2022 winners in the three prize categories: Grand Prize, Europe Prize, Best Emerging Journalist under 30.

Synopsis

The Grand Prize went to Ritwika Mitra, with the Europe Prize being awarded to Vânia Maia. Both Paul Boyer and Rémi Carton received the prize for the Best Emerging Journalist under 30. Over 500 applications from 88 countries were shortlisted by experts from four partner universities. The five Grand Jury members considered reporting, rigour, language and style in their evaluation. All award recipients expressed the importance of journalism in shining a light on pressing human rights issues and speaking up for those whose voice has been silenced.

Key points

- Over 500 applications from 88 countries.
- Five experts (grand jury members) from four partner universities shortlisted the entrants.
- Reporting rigour language and style were considered.
- 30th anniversary of award.
- Award for the best emerging journalist goes to: Paul Boyer and Rémi Carton and
 - Journalism which narrated the horrifying enslavement of children in Haiti
- The Europe Prize goes to Vânia Maia
 - Film shines the light on exploitation of illegal immigrants in Europe
 - Mentioned the importance of journalism in shining light on the migrant policies

- The Grand Prize goes to Ritwika Mitra
 - Covers the intersection of most pressing issues we are facing at the moment
 - Climate change, livelihood distress, trafficking, poverty

Quotes

- Jutta Urpilainen, *“This price honours journalists like you who shine a light on human rights issues around the world. We need people like you who are speaking up for those who cannot”.*
- Rémi Carton, *“This prize rewards courage in journalism”.*
- Paul Boyer, *“As young journalists it is more than an award, it is confirmation we chose the right job”.*
- Vânia Maia, *“I urge the EU to continue and increase its support of journalism”.*
- Ritwika Mitra, *“I feel this award is a reiteration that the voices of marginalised women have been heard - their courage and resilience has been highlighted. These awards give us the confidence to move forward and cover underreported stories”.*



Special Event: Closing Ceremony

Organised by European Commission

Moderator

- Ikaba Koyi, Freelance journalist

Speakers

- Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Afolake Oyinloye, Freelance Journalist

Session summary

The Closing Ceremony was the last event of EDD 2022, providing a chance to reflect on the outcomes of the two days' discussions and looking to the future and the concrete steps that emerged from the event.

The Closing Ceremony was hosted by European Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, with Ikaba Koyi as Master of Ceremonies. N'Faly Kouyate provided a musical performance.

Synopsis

'Inspiration' and 'empowering' were the two words chosen by participants to sum up EDD 2022. Summarising the findings from the two days of discussion, Afolake Oyinloye stated that, 'the SDGs are more important than ever as they provide a compass for sustainable recovery from the current global crisis.' She then listed the suggestions made during the two-day event for moving forward, which include setting up permanent youth led dialogue, building genuine partnerships, ensuring investment is aligned with individual country strategies and strengthening the governance and political systems behind investment. The interest of local communities must lie at the heart of all proposed solutions, she concluded.

Key points

- SDGs are more important than ever as they provide a compass for sustainable recovery from the current crisis.
- To set up permanent youth-led dialogue.
- To build more true partnerships - drawing on strengths on both sides.
- Ensure investment is aligned with country strategies.
- Governance and political systems behind investment must be strengthened.
- The interest of local communities must lie at the heart of whatever solution is being proposed.

- Global Gateway: Boosting links in digital climate, energy and transport, strengthening health, education and research systems and putting people and values democracy and fundamental freedom and human rights first.

Quotes

- Jutta Urpilainen, *“Gateway goes both ways - it opens a passage, it creates a link, it is a connection”*.
- Afolake Oyinloye, *“We heard loud and clear that partnerships with Africa, Asia, and the Americas must be based on needs and aspirations for all involved”*.



THEME 1: DIGITAL

Topic 1: Inclusive and green digital growth

High-Level Panel: Digital technologies for inclusive, climate-responsive development

Disruptive technologies can play a key role in closing gaps in global development- in gender, youth and underserved communities by ensuring emerging tech tools meet their needs and are accessible and affordable for all.

Organised by World Bank Group

Moderator

- Vince Chadwick, Brussels correspondent, Devex

Speakers

- Hela Cheikhrouhou, Regional Vice President, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Simonetta Cheli, Director of Earth Observation Programs, European Space Agency
- Bernard Yvetot, Vice-President International Strategy, Orange
- Ilias Iakovidis, Advisor, Green Digital Transformation, European Commission Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
- Ngawang Gyeltshen, EDD Young Leader, Bhutan

Session summary

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the importance that access to digital technologies, and good quality data has for development, and accelerated the pace of digital adoption. Despite progress, emerging/developing markets still lag behind in digital connectivity, availability of investment capital and tech talent. The World Bank Group's new Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development approach, in alignment with the EU Green Deal, is increasing efforts for a climate-responsive, inclusive and sustainable recovery and reconstruction. The session focused on the experience of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in partnering with key European partners to catalyse investments, enable linkages between investors, experts, businesses and the public sector, build skills and reduce the knowledge gap in the sector in emerging markets.

Synopsis

The panel discussed several technological programmes currently in use to stimulate development: Destination Earth, which uses open-source satellite data to support modelling; the Digital Product Passport, which is the tech equivalent of farm-to-fork; and the European Blockchain Services

Infrastructure. Speakers underlined that tech is not a panacea, and that we still need to develop a metric to measure digital sustainability. Local, contextualised approaches are also important to keeping development autonomous.

Key points

- Access to capital is not on equal footing around the world. In developing countries, access to capital is constrained.
- Destination Earth integrates data sources from satellites to support modelling.
- Need to increase the number of undersea cables so that there are no problems when the network is cut.
- Bhutan's vision for becoming an organic nation is also a call for other nations to follow suit.

Quotes

- Hela Cheikhrouhou, *"We forget that climate change is related to climate science and the observation on how the climate is evolving, and I think that the European Space Agency and other such institutions play an extremely important role to understand what climate change means for us"*.
- Simonetta Cheli, *"We are working today with data from ESA to support food prediction, crop monitoring and forecasting in this area"*.
- Bernard Yvetot, *"We are very much looking at how to develop more sovereignty. We invest in developing data centres in Africa, so that data can flow from one place to another and data can be kept locally"*.
- Ilias Iakovidis, *"Digital can be a solution, or it can be pollution"*.
- Ngawang Gyeltshen, *"Bhutan's vision for becoming an organic nation is also a call for other nations to follow suit"*.



LAB DEBATE: Catalysing young agri-entrepreneurs successes

Promoting skills development and links to innovation, technology and smart farming

Organised by The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee

Moderator

- Yvonne Chileshe, Expert Commodities, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
- Escipion Oliveira Gomez, Assistant Secretary General Structural Economic Transformation and Trade, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States Secretariat

Speakers

- Kombo Ekra Noël N'guessan, Head of operations and R&D, LONO
- Rachel Renie, Managing Director, D'Market Movers
- Sandra Snowden, Director, Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa

Session summary

This Lab Debate discussed the drivers of innovation for young entrepreneurs in the agrifood sector. It showcased business models which promote sustainability, links with research, technology development and adoption and the use of digital tools.

Young entrepreneurs' stories from different regions in the world highlighted local employment creation, support to the green growth agenda and partnerships developed with policy, research and finance. Some of the business models presented use smart farming technologies for increased efficiency and have solid links with research allowing improved capacities for product development. This Lab discussed the need for relevant skills and capacities amongst youth that match the demand from markets, industry and consumers and promote innovative businesses.

Synopsis

The session showcased various young agri-entrepreneurs' initiatives, such as supporting farmers in reducing waste and creating added value, encouraging the consumption of local fruits and reducing waste in agriculture.

Panellists noted two needs: more support in the area of R&D to expand their initiatives and the increased use of innovative business models to supplement, and not replace, existing ones. One way to achieve this is to use agricultural by-products for industries other than food, such as cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Key points

- For every kg of product, there is 2-10kg of waste and organic material available, but not in the value chain.
- Innovative business models to supplement existing ones.
- We need the right partner to expand - R&D is not cheap.
- Need to change the diet of Caribbean people to encourage them to eat local food.
- Empowering youth in agribusiness.
- Trying to bridge food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: Tracing textiles: Advanced technologies for sustainable value chains

Unleashing the potential of blockchain for traceability, transparency and circularity in garment & footwear

Organised by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Moderator

- Maria Teresa Pisani, Project Lead and Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Speakers

- Giorgio Ravasio, Country Manager Italy, Vivienne Westwood Srl
- Gediminas Mikutis, Chief Technology Officer, Haelixa
- Nancy Salam, Export Manager, Salamtex Lace Egypt

Session summary

Improving transparency and traceability is a priority for companies in the garment and footwear industry to manage value chains more effectively and comply with due diligence requirements to address human rights and environmental impacts and embrace sustainable production and consumption patterns.

Advanced technologies like blockchain can accelerate the transition towards more responsible and circular business models by connecting all actors of the value chain. Such visibility supports accountability and market access for compliant actors in advanced and emerging economies.

This project presentation focused on opportunities to scale-up impactful solutions illustrated by lessons learned and best practices from UNECE's Proof-of-Concept with blockchain pilots for sustainability in textiles.

Synopsis

Speakers stated that supply chains in the textile industry are global, complex and opaque. This generates tremendous waste and encourages greenwashing.

Technology such as DNA markers, RFID codes and NFC chips are already being used to ensure traceability from raw materials all the way to brands. Blockchain technology further enables easy collection and secure storage of information, thus democratising the supply chain and increasing automation. However, there needs to be more interoperability between these systems.

Key points

- There is a lack of transparency in the textile industry. The supply chain is global, complex and opaque.
- Need to combat the tide of greenwashing.
- Fashion has a potential to cause a ripple effect on other industries.
- 40-60% of consumers would pay more for products with better environmental performance.
- Digital traceability (blockchain, ERP) enables easy collection and secure storage of information - democratising the supply chain.
- Traceability blockchain tech will help increase automation.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Paving digital pathways, with and by women and youth

How can we re-imagine and interlink the online and offline journeys of women and youth – from the first click to real-world results?

Organised by #SmartDevelopmentFund

Moderator

- Valentina Cullmann, Advisor, Global Scaling #SmartDevelopmentFund, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Speakers

- Darren Seiffert, Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Hafsa Jumare, CEO, CoAmana
- Hanna Steinebach, Project Manager, Wingcopter

Session summary

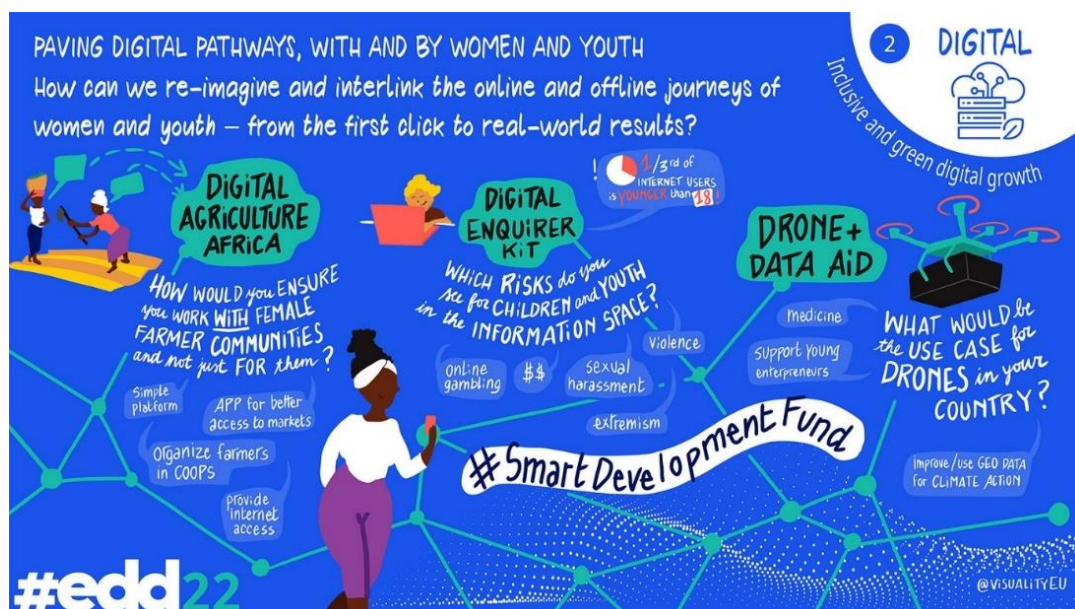
Even though digital could be the “great enabler” in tackling inequalities and providing future perspectives - this potential is far from realised. In this session, we invited participants to explore the numerous exciting ways women, youth and indigenous groups can be central and agentic to digital development solutions. Leveraging the ecosystem of three #SmartDevelopmentFund projects, the

session worked with innovators of Digital Agriculture Africa, Drone + Data Aid and the Digital Enquirer Kit. In this brainstorming session, participants had the opportunity to discuss hot topics such as how to work “with” rather than “for” young female farmers, how drones can be used for health care purposes around the globe, as well as the specific risks and opportunities available to women and youth in online information spaces.

Synopsis

The speakers, Hafsah Jumare, CEO of CoAmana Market Limited, Hanna Steinebach from Wingcopter, and Darren Seiffert of GIZ, introduced themselves and their topics.

Then, attendees broke up into three groups to discuss risks for children and youth in the information space, use cases for drones in their respective countries, and how to best work with female farmer communities. During the brainstorming session, solutions such as better digital education, expanding satellite internet and using drones to monitor plant health were suggested.



AGORA: Leveraging on Digital Technology for Inclusive Youth Development

Digital technology, Green Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment

Organised by: AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub

Moderator

- Aba Esther Eshun, Young Expert, Business Job Creation and Entrepreneurship, AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub

Speakers

- Esmat Elsayed, Liaison Officer, European External Action Service

Session summary

A CSO representative and a young entrepreneur were engaged during the "How to session" by a facilitator. The CSO shared information on the specific digital technology developed to engage young entrepreneurs to develop and sustain their green businesses, the successes, challenges and the way forward. The CSO also elaborated on initial challenges faced and how they overcame the challenges to make it attractive for young entrepreneurs.

The young entrepreneur in a green business shared experiences on the uptake and usage of the digital technology, the impact of digital technology.

Synopsis

The panel heard about the importance of talking about education before thinking about green tools. This approach would help to address problems of gender balance, notably when girls do not go to school, and of language skills in places where hundreds of tribal languages exist. A lack of access to the internet for many schools during the COVID-19 pandemic created a huge educational divide. The panel concluded that digitalisation offers green opportunities but that education does not all have to be digitalised, with in person education vital for language, social and basic human skills.

Key points

- Need for mutual exchange, not donor-recipient relationship.
- How to ensure sustainability: on international front. With digital tools, but also local stakeholders play a critical role.
- Education: it does not have to be all digitalised. Physical education is essential.
- The Internet is the place for best practice, not for bad practice. Should not be used to breach cultures and customs.

Quotes

- Esmat Elsayed, *"We must always think about local stakeholders first. The truth is when we use these technologies we want to be able to benefit people in our communities"*.

AGORA: Digitalisation the key to sustainable coffee?

How can inclusive digital tools enable transparency and green growth for the coffee sector

Organised by Fairtrade International

Moderator

- Cristina Reni Anzola, Alliances for Action. Market Development Coordinator, International Trade Centre

Speakers

- Rafaël Van den Bruel, Manager/Founder Coffeelab Independent
- Rafael Fonseca Exports Manager, Cooperativa Mista Agropecuária de Paraguaçu

Session summary

Digitalisation is growing in popularity in coffee supply chains, now more than ever, following the digital transformation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. It influences market access, contract negotiation, supply chain traceability and compliance to a growing number of legislative requirements. And at the field level, it relates to farm level data collection, internal control systems, productivity enhancement, and monitoring and evaluation. However, digitalisation's benefits are yet to be fully reaped by smallholder farmers – due to the barriers of knowledge and accessibility.

Synopsis

Digitalisation in the coffee sector offers both challenges and benefits to coffee producers and exporters, the panel heard. The endless possibilities include improved traceability and training; however, old-fashioned capacity building skills are still needed to help small family coffee growers who will need to spend most of their time growing coffee. The panel concluded that it was important to use digitalisation to share information upstream with producers as well as downstream with exporters.

Key points

- Digitalisation is a way of bringing more quality to lives e.g., mapping farmers and members farms through satellite images.
- Need to improve traceability.
- Challenges: lack of interest from growers; digitalisation has got to be easily accessible to producers.

Quotes

- Cristina Reni Anzola, *"Digitalisation in coffee goes from seed to cup"*.
- Rafaël Van den Bruel: *"Digitalisation will be the future but let's take care. It can even create a much more unbalanced sector if we don't"*.
- Rafael Fonseca: *"Most small family producers don't have the capacity to export. So they look at normal brokers and supply chains. We could just see a repetition of the old cycle, putting more modern clothes on to the same actors"*.

Topic 2: Open and secure internet

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: Global Gateway: The EU's contribution to an open and secure internet

Organised by European External Action Service

Moderator

- Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow and Head of GRID, Centre for European Policy Studies

Speakers

- Lotte Knudsen, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
- Helen Eduards, Director General, International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- Mamadou Biteye, Executive Secretary, The African Capacity Building Foundation
- Emmanuel Ganse, EDD Young Leader, Benin

Session summary

The secure, open and resilient Internet is a key asset for all citizens, businesses and governments. Trustworthy and reliable services and digital tools are essential elements for economic growth, innovation, development, social cohesion, security, defence and the fight against climate change. The EU supports a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace, grounded in the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic values.

Geopolitical competition is threatening the open and secure Internet. State actors, which wish to limit freedoms, and non-state actors, which misuse system vulnerabilities for financial benefit, for information gathering, for disinformation and misinformation purposes, are undermining the long-term integrity of the Internet.

How is the EU responding to this global threat? How is the EU addressing this critical issue through dialogue and partnerships? The EU launched its Global Gateway initiative in 2021 aiming to boost smart, clean and secure infrastructure links in digital, energy, transport, and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. What is the potential of the Global Gateway to support an open and secure Internet that would be beneficial to all? How does the EEAS approach the issue and promote appropriate tools for an open and secure Internet globally?

Synopsis

Panellists noted that cybercrime, disinformation and censorship are major obstacles to a free internet, especially in Africa. Both state and non-state actors weaponise the internet, making it unsafe for users.

The EU can contribute by helping Africa to develop proprietary platforms that respond to African needs. In this context, speakers stated there must be a human-centric, development focused approach

to technology that includes cybersecurity education and support for democratic principles. In addition, investment in infrastructure is needed to ensure access for everyone.

Key points

- Global Gateway responsibilities: connect everyone, allow collaboration, keep open-ended nature of legislation to find the right balance.
- State- and non-state actors are increasingly engaging in cybercrime, disinformation, and other means of weaponising the internet - these tensions risk undermining global digital norms.
- Sweden: it seeks openness, transatlantic link, increasingly capability, role and contribution of EU includes establishing strong partnerships.
- Gender digital divide: women and girls suffer disproportionately. Further deteriorated during pandemic.
- Making digitalisation green is important.
- Digitalisation in itself does not contribute or take away from equality; it is how we use it. The aim is a people-centred approach. Use digitalisation to promote sustainable development for the people.
- Finding the right balance between free speech and protection: what is illegal and not allowed offline should be the same online.
- Africa: everyone should have access to the internet. Challenge: bad connections, censorship.
- Role of EU: Help Africa develop technology to be independent, to respond to African needs.



LAB DEBATE: Connecting struggles to stay connected

Tackling internet shutdowns and censorship

Organised by Global Focus

Moderator

- Sara Brandt, Policy Advisor and Coordinator, Global Focus

Speakers

- Felicia Anthonio, #KeepItOn Campaign Manager, Access Now
- Christelle Kalhoule, Chair, Forus
- Vanja Skoric, Programme Director, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law
- Gentjan Skara, Lecturer of EU Law, Leadership Development Association Balkan

Session summary

Digital solutions offer major opportunities for civil society to link struggles, mobilise and find new ways of engaging. However, as digital opportunities arise, threats to internet freedom and the free flow of information also emerges, such as internet shutdowns and censorship. In 2020, at least 155 internet shutdowns in 29 countries were documented by Access Now and the #KeepItOn coalition. At the same time, digitally mediated gatherings are now acknowledged and protected by the international human rights standards.

This session engaged the audience in a highly relevant discussion of challenges to civil society advocacy and mobilisation and invited speakers and participants to share best practice examples of how to counter these – connecting struggles to stay connected. It was also an opportunity for CSOs to strengthen advocacy on the issue of shutdowns at the EU.

Synopsis

In 2020 and 2021, there were 341 documented cases of internet shutdowns worldwide, with these often occurring either during elections or social movements. According to panellists, these shutdowns are often used by state governments to cover up human rights abuses. Citizens must push back against such shutdowns; for example, through the use of litigation, which has seen some success in several African countries. Panellists also called for the mandating of the meaningful participation of civil society organisations and marginalised groups when it comes to designing tech platforms.

Key points

- Tech companies should design technology.
- Meaningful inclusive involvement of civil society.
- Over 182 incidents of internet shutdowns in 2021. In 2020, 159.
- Internet shutdowns allow governments or perpetrators to hide human rights abuses.
- More than 50% of the world population lack digital access: no participation.

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: Online Gender-Based Violence: Advancing digital rights in Latin America

Challenges and opportunities of regulation and access to justice related to online gender-based violence

Organised by Fundación Avina

Moderator

- Sara Fratti, Program Coordinator, Fundación Avina

Speakers

- Angelica Contreras, Member, Cultivando Género
- Karen Vergara, Directora de Incidencia Amaranta
- Maricarmen Sequera, Co-investigator, Fairwork Paraguay

Session summary

When the rights of Internet users are protected, civic participation is more likely to flourish, leading to more empowered, inclusive and accountable societies. Fundación Avina, in partnership with OSF, Luminate, and the IDRC, has promoted digital rights regulations and policies related to online gender violence across Latin America. We presented an overview of online gender-based violence regulation trends in the region and discussed lessons learned from our work advancing access to justice for women and LGTBQ+ communities, and their right to digital spaces free of violence. Finally, we discussed actions we've supported throughout the region, including advocacy strategies, innovative communication campaigns, strategic litigation, and protection of rights at the Constitutional level.

Synopsis

Speakers held that although online gender-based violence is prevalent, it is not sufficiently acknowledged. Civic participation in Latin America, especially among women, is significantly curtailed by gender-based online violence. The issue is further exacerbated by the fact that women are often reluctant to report these cases, and the judiciary is not always adept at recognising this problem. Panellists agreed that the first step is to acknowledge the issue and give names to each type of online violence. The internet should be a safe, violence-free space that allows users greater control over their privacy.

Key points

- Need to include young people and women.
- Open internet needs boundaries.
- Feminist internet is a trans-feminist internet. A safe and violence-free place: full access for women, more privacy control, more recognition for the different types of gender-based violence (sexual harassment, identity theft, data theft).

- Need more women to file complaints.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Treatment of trauma on mobile phone

The Importance of self-help therapy for traumatised communities on the move

Organised by University of West London

Moderator

- Cornelia Toelgyes, Journalist

Speakers

- Cheihk Fall, Associate Legal Officer
- Ilse Derluyn, Professor, Ghent University
- Jimmy Ben Forry, Psychiatrist, Kampala International University
- Selam Kidane, Lecturer/Psychotherapist, University of West London
- Pauline Kamau, American Friends Service Committee

Session summary

The session engaged the audience in innovation of digitally based psycho-social support of trauma in Northern Uganda. Rethinking trauma treatment, the session looked at examples of rehabilitation in Northern Uganda, education for trauma treatment and trauma treatment via mobile phones. In addition, the situation of traumatised persons on the move, such as refugees, was highlighted.

The session heard from experts of the University of West London, the ICC Trust Fund for Victims, Tilburg University, the Kampala International University in Uganda and Ghent University, in collaboration with ICC Trust Fund for Victims (TFV).

Synopsis

Speakers shared stories and lessons learnt from their experience of working with trauma and trauma victims. They discussed the opportunities that technology such as mobile phones and podcasts can offer in terms of connecting trauma victims to support, particularly for those who are in remote or dangerous locations. They also discussed challenges from both the technological and emotional perspectives in this regard. The session also touched on the importance of trauma-informed peace building.

Quotes

- Selam Kidane, *“There are serious levels of trauma. Even in well-resourced emergency contexts, mental health is not prioritised, there is food support, education and physical health*

support but not mental health support. This doesn't make sense when we consider the level of trauma that exists".

- Jimmy Ben Forry, "Whenever we have a new things being brought into a community, we need the individuals who are using it to take ownership of it. How it will be implemented, how it will be used, how we can ensure that they own it".
- Ilse Derluyn, "They do sensitisation training in northern Uganda and talk about mental health. Creating social support and connection is important".
- Cheihk Fall: "The Trust Fund for Victims has been created to implement reparative measures for crimes that fall under the jurisdiction of the international criminal court. Psychological support can be a part of the reparations, alongside physical support."



BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Black Holes in the Internet

Victims without recourse to justice

Organised by Tilburg University

Moderator

- Pieter De Baan, Executive Director, Trust Fund for Victims

Speakers:

- Pauline Kamau, Quaker International Affairs Representative, American Friends Service Committee
- Adeline Bedoucha, Associate Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims
- Franziska Eckelmans, Legal Adviser, Trust Fund for Victims
- Klara Smits, PhD Researcher, Tilburg University
- Nataliia Vdovychenko, Junior Researcher, Tilburg University
- Morgane Wirtz, PhD candidate & journalist, Tilburg University

- Sara Creta, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University
- Cristina Ribeiro, Investigations Coordinator, International Criminal Court

Session summary

This session organised by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and ICC Trust Fund for Victims with experts from Tilburg University aimed to engage the audience to discuss how victims that can not be reached by digital means, can access justice and how atrocity crimes can be prevented.

In the digital era, it is assumed that anyone can be reached. However, in many instances, victims of international crimes can not be reached and they can not reach out to the institutions that provide mechanisms for the protection of victims and prosecution of grave international crimes. Perpetrators of international crime may isolate the victims and prevent persecution. This also prevents victims from receiving assistance. It stops justice and prevention of atrocity crimes.

This session highlighted the digital isolation of victims in Libya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. Drawing on the expertise of the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) and of the International Criminal Court and the ICC Trust Fund for Victims the session discussed how victims are reached, justice is promoted and the prevention of such crimes is advanced.

Synopsis

Speakers delved into the idea of communication ‘black holes’ whereby people are effectively out of reach for a variety of reasons. They highlighted the impossibility of seeking justice and reparations when victims cannot be reached. Victims can be particularly hard to contact due to their lack of ownership of a mobile phone and their frequent movement. Speakers also discussed the positives and negatives of communication technology. Though it can enable contact and ease isolation, conversely, digital media has been weaponised in some instances.

Quotes

- Pieter De Baan, *“Even the most sophisticated international organisations need to learn how to navigate the black holes”.*
- Morgane Wirtz, *“Criminalisation is not a solution. It puts people in the darkness when what we need is to bring light to a situation”.*
- Franziska Eckelmans, *“Displacement can lead to isolation, people are taken away from the people and places they know.”*



AGORA: Digital and human rights at time of democratic crisis and shrinking civic space

Approaches and practices to prevent the accumulation of power in the digital sphere from damaging democracies and basic rights in the South

Organised by Oxfam Intermon

Speakers

- Hernan Saenz Cortes, Oxfam International
- Renata Ávila Pinto, CEO Open Knowledge Foundation

Session summary

This session sought to highlight the impact of the expansion of technology and digitalisation on human rights and democracy in the South and the main issues around it (data privacy and sovereignty, inequality, shrinking civic space, etc.). This meant addressing the challenges of incorporating digital rights into human ones while taking into consideration the geopolitical landscape. Specifically, which role the European Union could play in it.

We had a discussion on potential tools for dealing with these challenges at four levels, seeking to build a common ground among all participants:

- Public sector (regulations or other possible procedures)
- Civil society (construction of alternatives, defence of rights)
- Private sector (concrete practices / other business models)
- Academia

Synopsis

Technology represented as a building was the image that held together presentations at this panel. With digitalisation said to be a hostile space, especially for the most vulnerable in society, calls were heard for the EU to forge new partnerships and rebuild. Instead of patching up problems, as has been the case with the climate crisis, Europe, Africa, Latin America and others now have a chance to build better principles going forward. The panel concluded that we are in the early days of the infrastructure of the future.

Key points

- To build something better, need to be based on better principles and on the needs of people.
- Need for meaningful partnerships.
- Decolonisation.

Quotes

- Renata Ávila Pinto, *“Technology today is a very hostile space. There are no exit ways. No private rooms. It’s not a space designed to cultivate the best of us”*.
- Hernan Saenz Cortes, *“We need to think about what the EU has to offer. It needs to be something new”*.

AGORA: Social Transformation and Experiences of Overcoming Internet Shut-outs

Experiences in Kenya and Timbuktu

Organised by Research Advisors and Experts Europe

Moderator

- Gordon Simango, Director, Liaison Office at the African Union, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

Speakers

- Adeline Bedoucha, Associate Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims

Session summary

This session facilitated by the ICC Trust Fund for Victims and Research Advisors and Experts Europe looked at how religious and community leaders, including women's leaders, are working with internet-based communication to create awareness of situations where atrocities are committed on vulnerable communities in informal settlements. The sessions heard from examples in Nairobi (Tangaza

University) and Timbuktu. The discussion focused on intra-religious and community dialogue in the digital era.

Synopsis

This panel looked at how technology enabled the payment of reparations regarding crimes committed in Timbuktu in 2012, despite government restrictions put on some online activity and jihadi attacks on internet infrastructure. People eligible to claim reparations were able to submit information via WhatsApp and then delete their information, with cash then being transferred entirely by phone. The panel concluded that in Africa, where more than 60% of the population is 35 or younger, the internet should be used to promote democracy. Digital engagement would also help to harness the skills of a young workforce in countries struggling with unemployment.

Key points

- Policy level: need to work more on it.
- To engage multilateral institutions.
- Youth: in Africa over 60% is under 35.
- Digitalisation can be used for democratisation by engaging young people.

AGORA: How to make the most of the Team Europe Partnerships Portal

A new era of working better together

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Speakers

- Matthew Green, Communications Director, Ecorys
- Felix Fernandez-Shaw, Director, Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Kadi Metsandi, Director, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Estonian Foreign Ministry

Session summary

This session pitched the Team Europe Partnerships Portal, from its goals to its functionalities, in a 20-minute TED Talk- like presentation. TEPP is a platform to support partner countries in finding innovative, effective and efficient tools that can help achieve the SDGs, eradicate poverty and address inequality and build inclusive and sustainable societies. The platform creates a bridge between members of Team Europe and partner countries, supporting the emergence of partnerships. It provides key information about Team Europe providers' (Who) goods and services, including technical expertise support (What) that is accessible to partner countries, European Delegations and Member States Embassies and offices in the field (Where).

Synopsis

The Team Europe Partnership Portal is a 'match-making' platform for partner countries offering solutions in the field of sustainable development. It brings governments, NGOs, private companies and many diverse organisations together in a 'one stop shop' location that is designed to be user-friendly, secure and part of Europe's Global Gateway strategy. It covers a wide range of sectors including energy, environment, agriculture, science, human rights and migration. The portal is now open for registration: public, private and financial organisations are encouraged to sign up!

Key points

- Team Europe Portal started with fight against COVID-19.
- Sustainable development: cooperation, integrate approached, inclusivity, partnerships.
- Secure and user-friendly platform for countries to come together.
- With info about goods and services, funding opportunities, wide range of sectors, energy, environment, agriculture, science, education, migration, human rights, peace and security.
- Public and private entities from the EU can register.

Topic 3: Digital and data economies

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: Contribution of digital to Africa's green growth and progress

How the digital and green twin transitions support economy, boost innovation, and help Africa meet SDG targets.

Organised by European Commission - DG for Communication Networks, Content and Technology

Moderator

- Vilas DHAR, President, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

Speakers

- Jérémie Pellet, Director General, Expertise France
- Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalisation, Technology and Agri-Business, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Adia SOWHO, Chief Marketing Officer, MTN Nigeria
- Caroline Kamaitha, Vice-President Africa, Société Européenne des Satellites (SES)
- Nanko Madu, Director of Programmes, AfriLabs
- Tanja Goenner, Chair of the Management Board, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Honorary Chairperson, Alliance for Affordable Internet
- Junior Tagne, EDD Young Leader, France/Cameron

Session summary

The Global Gateway and the launch of the Digital4Development (D4D Hub) highlight the EU's ambition to support partner countries' digital transition. But what are the prerequisites for "meaningful connectivity" in Africa? What opportunities lie within the twin transition for young entrepreneurs and SMEs?

This panel saw speakers from diverse public and private backgrounds discuss different implications of Africa's journey towards a digital and green future. European public officials highlighted the EU's role in deepening ties with African partners to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Private sector speakers representing small and big enterprises on both continents focused on infrastructure, green business models, and decentralized growth. Civil society and youth leaders put an emphasis on human-centric digital transformation and what the twin transition means for the next generations.

Synopsis

The digital and green twin transitions are essential to Africa's growth and development, but there are several obstacles, including low (digital) literacy, low participation in rural areas and a lack of affordability.

To support growth, people have to be meaningfully connected to the internet through regular access,

appropriate devices and unlimited broadband at 4G-like speeds. Governments should also convene partnerships between regulators and telecom providers to build shared infrastructure that minimises costs.

Key points

- Use geospatial technology for new solutions.
- Meaningful connectivity, what it really is: regular access (daily use), appropriate device, unlimited broadband, 4G-like speed.
- Affordability: the cost should be 1GB for 2% of the household income monthly (this is not the case today).
- Circular economy in digital.
- Protect people and planet while rolling out telecommunication infrastructures.
- 30% of the African continent is not connected.
- Focus on twin revolution.
- Digital cooperation is fundamental: need innovative financing through cooperation.
- Ambition 2025: leading digital solutions for Africa's progress.

Quotes

- Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, *"It is about bridging the gaps, connecting the dots, articulate better the stakeholders"*.
- Caroline Kamaitha, *"Together we can do it"*.
- Junior Tagne, *"We must think about an inclusive digital strategy"*.



LAB DEBATE: Startups as a tool for empowerment and job creation

Human-centric digital innovation as an enabler for local economies and beyond

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Christine Mhundwa, Deutsche Welle

Speakers

- Kwena Mabotja, Global Director Purpose and Sustainability Marketing and Solutions, SAP SE
- Moataz Helmy, Chairman, AfriLabs
- Peter Thimme, Director Business Innovation & Syndication, DEG
- Antti Karhunen, Director for Sustainable Finance, Investment and Jobs, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Session summary

A reliable partnership can provide mutual benefit to African and European stakeholders in areas including digital technologies and skills, both of which are essential for economic growth. Supporting digital entrepreneurship, including tackling the pressing needs of youth entering the job market, as well as the specific hurdles faced by women in accessing the digital economy, is key.

The session was designed as an incubator, bringing together various stakeholders, beyond traditional development actors. The event featured a genuine discussion about collective goals and challenges, resulting in concrete proposals, with a particular focus on women and youth, and beyond the 'Big Four' (Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, and Kenya).

Synopsis

A number of challenges must be addressed to stimulate digital entrepreneurship in Africa. In this regard, the underrepresentation of women in tech can be tackled through inclusion and diversity programmes that feature and are led by women. To address business sustainability, entrepreneurs should partner with large corporations to leverage both their knowledge and access to markets. Governments need to create a startup ecosystem which combines public will, private sector creativity, investor funding and academic research.

Key points

- Zero inequality is a major pillar.
- Inclusion of women, social and inclusive entrepreneurship, led by women; digital skills for women and children.
- Underrepresentation of women.
- Skills for Africa: it recruits unemployed graduates, gives them certification, places them with customer or partner.
- No clear African definition for start-up. We deal with startups in the same way as SMEs, but they face different challenges.
- Public sector needs to partner with private.
- Investing in young businesses in Africa.

Quotes

- Kwena Mabotja, *“There is a role for the private sector to play. We bring value by providing the tools to enable startups to scale their innovations and improve access to customers”.*
- Antti Karhunen, *“We believe in the transformational capacity of digital entrepreneurship”.*

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: Empowering digital innovation in Africa

The role of local tech entrepreneurs in the continental digital transformation

Organised by Bond'Innov

Moderator

- Ninon Duval Farre, Director, Bond'Innov

Speakers

- Martin Labbe, Tech Sector Development Coordinator, International Trade Centre
- Malick Diouf, CEO, LAfricaMobile
- Carine Vavasseur, Chef de Division Innovation et Animation d'écosysteme, Délégation Générale à l'Entreprenariat Rapide des Femmes et des Jeunes

Session summary

This session focused on tech sector development in 11 African countries, offering insights into digital development in Africa. It highlighted key role of The Netherlands' government and the European Commission to build capacity among tech startups and digital entrepreneurs. Implemented by the International Trade Centre, it built on the experience of the Youth Empowerment Project in The Gambia and the Netherlands Trust Fund IV project in Uganda and Senegal; and the NTF V Fast Tracking

Digital Entrepreneurship programme in seven new countries: Benin, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Rwanda, Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

Synopsis

The session highlighted the importance of digital innovation in Africa, which can foster the creation of more successful businesses. The speakers noted that it is crucial to study the local reality and recognise individual needs and involve beneficiaries in designing programmes for entrepreneurs. It was stressed that many people still continue to work in the area of agriculture, while the focus today is put on providing services. The need to bolster fast growth in Africa was highlighted, with the subject of the hubs constituting a core element for developing start-ups being discussed. The need to encourage entrepreneurs to go back to the hubs following the COVID-19 pandemic was also emphasised.

Key points

- Still many people who live from agriculture. But the focus is on services.
- Hubs are the natural breeding ground for start-ups.
- Need a design thinking approach. Centred on the beneficiary.
- Need a robust ecosystem.
- Recommendations: need to know the target and its needs. Programmes need to be better oriented. Better synergies.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Bringing people at the centre of the AU-EU digital partnership

How to put our shared digital principles into action?

Organised by AU-EU Digital for Development Hub

Speakers

- Maria Lorente-Perez, Facilitator & OD/Leadership Consultant, SenseTribe Consulting SL
- Stephany Macedo- Senmache, SenseTribe Consulting SL
- Paola Cervo, Coordinator AU-EU D4D Hub, AU-EU Digital for Development Hub

Session summary

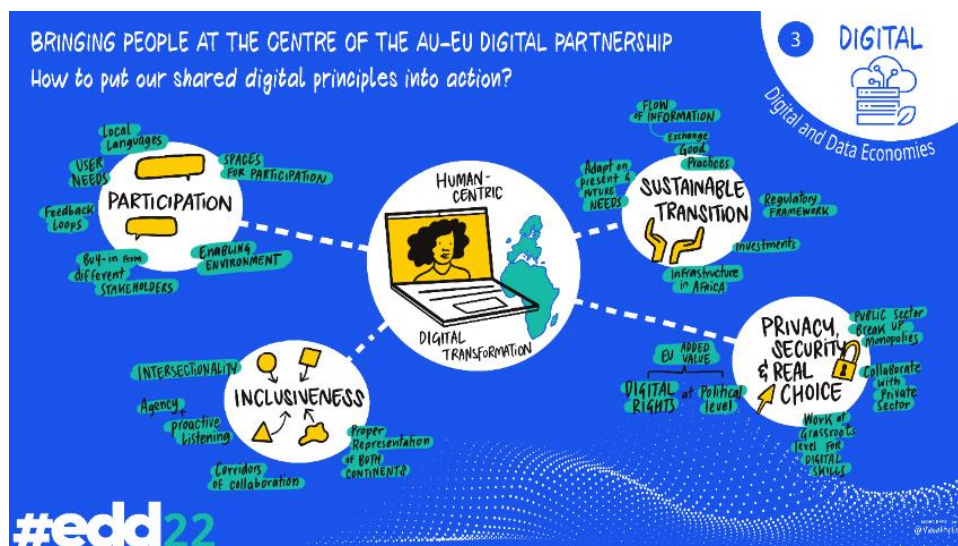
Facilitated by the AU-EU Digital for Development (D4D) Hub, this brainstorming session brought the EDD community together to discuss how to promote a human-centric digital transformation in the context of Africa-Europe relations. Its purpose was to gather views on the principles that should guide joint digital initiatives, raise new ideas on how to translate such principles into actionable guidelines, and share implementation experiences. The results of the session will be published in a report which will be delivered to African and European policymakers and inform the AU-EU D4D Hub's activities.

Synopsis

The session invited the participants to discuss how human-centric digital transformation can be shaped through the principles of inclusiveness, a sustainable transition, full participation, and privacy and security. The participants agreed that a two-way conversation between the AU and the EU and new opportunities for collaboration is the way to create inclusiveness, while a regulatory framework is needed to guarantee a sustainable transition. The importance of opening a space for feedback was highlighted as a key factor for full participation. The involvement of public, private and grassroots sectors in ensuring digital rights was suggested as a way to provide digital privacy and security.

Key points

- Keep nurturing to promote human-centric digital transformation.
- Create a shared common ground for the transformation.
- Sustainable transition.



BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Youth on tackling transitions to economic livelihoods during times of crisis

Bridging learning to earning: A discussion with youth on the results of the Yoma #NewSkillsTogether Programme

Organised by Generation Unlimited (United Nations Children's Fund)

Moderator

- Nadi Albino, Deputy Director of Partnerships, Generation Unlimited (United Nations Children's Fund)
- Eugenio Donadio, Head of Partnerships, Goodwall

Speakers

- Vincent Berendes, Junior Advisor Digital Transformation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Franziska Seiffarth, Advisor Digital Transformation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Session summary

The session was built on the participatory nature of the EDD, featuring global youth participants and insights from the Yoma #NewSkillsTogether program, which was developed to understand the obstacles for youth-related to work after/during COVID-19 and how can we remove them. Specific ideas to be highlighted from youth included:

- Foundational and transferable skills needed to thrive in school, work and life
- Current obstacles for transitioning successfully from school to jobs or entrepreneurship
- What youth need in order to start their entrepreneurship career, challenges and possible solutions
- What youth need in order to secure investors and advocates for their dream project or business

Synopsis

The brainstorming session highlighted that young people tend to be more actively involved when it comes to questions such as climate change and the environment, with their contribution to finding sustainable solutions to today's crises being called crucial. In this regard, four groups of young people were asked to discuss how to better engage youth in green growth and build digital and entrepreneurial skills. Ideas raised during the session in this context included providing more mentorship opportunities, changing school curricula to meet the current needs and realities, and introducing tax reductions for youth-owned businesses.



AGORA: Using geospatial data to develop economy innovation in Africa & Latin America

Thanks to geospatial data and earth observation, unlocking data economies potential in Africa & Latin America for more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies

Organised by Expertise France

Moderator

- Philippe Lattes, President, Spacespeed

Speakers

- Gayane Faye, Lecture & Researcher, Coordinator of Senegal Space Program, Director of Applied Remote Sensing Laboratory at Cheikh Anta DIOP University
- Gautier Uchiyama, Policy Officer, Agence Française de Développement
- Jeremie Pellet, Director General, Expertise France

Session summary

Digital and data economy (particularly geo spatial data) have the potential to bring large-scale improvements in areas such as sustainable investments and government services to citizens. The session was structured around two case studies:

- The Digital Innovation Hub in Senegal that aims to provide services linked to earth observation (example: monitoring of agriculture through geospatial data to achieve food security);
- A Data management Tool Project in Latin America based on a multi-dimensionnal approach (climate, due diligences, risk) to better allocate the financial support toward sustainable investments (energy, agriculture).

The session presented the impacts of such solutions and raised specific issues (ethical, governance frameworks) in order to interact with the participants.

Synopsis

Challenges for the future use of geospatial data range from helping banks to make sustainable investment decisions to increasing the number of women in space, the panel heard. The three main priorities for regions including Africa and Latin America are accessing data, using the data to develop new tools, and training people to master and use the data. The panel concluded that geospatial data has enormous power and potential, and that Africa is leading the way for Europe in many cases when it comes to innovation

Key points

- In space we are facing a new era: new players. E.g., Elon Musk revolutionising space sector.
- 3 main challenges in developing countries: data; tools/methodology; and human capability.
- Need to improve access to data, need to master and adapt many new tools.
- Need to have women in space. Integrate.

Quotes

- Gayane Faye, *"We need to have women in space. Integrate. Now we are only men. We are planning to have an African woman in space next October"*.
- Jeremie Peller, *"Africa is leading the way for Europe. For innovation. We will be confronted with the same issues at the end of the day"*.

THEME 2: CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Topic 1: Green and just energy transition

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: European architecture for development, delivering joint inclusive responses to the climate crisis

Aligning investments for a just energy transition by applying the policy first approach (Policy first principle is a methodological approach defending that the joint identification of shared (EU, MS, partner countries) policy priorities requires structured, permanent, and tailor-made dialogue mechanisms with partner countries during both programming and implementation)

Organised by Practitioners' Network for European development cooperation

Moderator

- Carl Michiels, Director, European Centre for Development Policy Management

Speakers

- Vitoria Galvao, EDD Young Leader, Brazil
- Anna Terron Cusi, Director, International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP)
- Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
- Simon O'Connell, CEO, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
- Remy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement
- Mandy Rambharos, General Manager, Eskom Just Energy Transition

Session summary

The EU and Member States are facing three crucial challenges when approaching development cooperation with partner countries: accomplishing real impact to comply with the 2030 Agenda, while becoming a stronger geopolitical actor. Where is the added value of Global Gateway as an investment strategy and Team Europe as a solid approach?

European development actors are currently working on a roadmap to improve the European Financial Architecture for Development, making it more coherent, inclusive and impactful, while ensuring a strong EU policy steer. Private sector and Investment banks cannot ensure development effectiveness alone. Neither can MS cooperation agencies, MS governments or European institutions. This can only be achieved through tailor-made dialogue with partner countries and coordination between EU development actors.

Synopsis

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change requires much more cooperation between European financial architecture for development and civil society, panellists stated. It was also highlighted that Team Europe must help local actors to avail of European financing and that there is no 'one size fits all' solution. Moreover, marginalised communities and youth need to be connected with finance opportunities and smaller tranches of financing need to reach micro enterprises.

Key points

- EIB reform. Missing: visibility of European action.
- There is no climate transition without public finances.
- No one size fits all solutions. Solutions have to be demand-driven.
- Young people: how to scale involvement? Access to finance, access to information, communication. Youth-led labour market initiatives.



LAB DEBATE: The Sustainable Twin-Goals of the Global European Hydrogen Facility

Energy Security for the North and Economic Opportunity for the South

Organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Moderator

- Frank Mischler, Head of Brussels Office, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Speakers

- Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to the Director General, European Commission Directorate-General for Energy
- Belhassen Chiboub, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines, Tunisia
- Kirsten Westphal, Executive Director Analysis & Research, H2Global Foundation
- Enja Saethren, Head of Government Affairs & Support Mechanisms, Scatec ASA

Session summary

This innovative session focused on the Global European Hydrogen Facility, as announced by the European Commission this year.

The Facility will be a funding instrument to support the rapid market ramp-up of renewable hydrogen/PtX value chains: it will pave the way for PtX products produced from renewable energies in partner countries (such as those in North Africa) to be available in Europe. This will support the decarbonisation of sectors that are hard-to-electrify or otherwise defossilise, thus representing an essential step towards achieving carbon neutrality.

Speakers debated the export of renewable hydrogen/PtX from North Africa to the EU, and the need for the Facility in order to support this trade and the potential interaction with existing instruments (H2Global).

Synopsis

Demand for investment in green hydrogen is high, especially for sectors that cannot be electrified, such as steel and cement. The Global European Hydrogen Facility is set to invest large amounts into green hydrogen in countries such as Tunisia, and the panel noted the need to develop a system from scratch, thus requiring work to be focused on developing infrastructure, connections, demand, supply and a regulatory framework. Panellists also discussed the importance of partnerships, meeting local needs in producer countries and carrying out local social and environmental risk assessments.

Key points

- Global European Hydrogen Facility is set to invest large amounts into green hydrogen.
- Tunisia is a priority country - solar and wind.
- Energy transition means renewable energy.
- REPowerEU means about 70% of energy coming from renewables.
- We need hydrogen for the future but in partnership to make it viable. Need market enablers.

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: JUST2CE: working towards an inclusive and just transition to Circular Economy

Acknowledging the role of societal development goals of Circular Economy and the relationship between science, civic participation and participatory governance.

Organised by African Circular Economy Network

Moderator

- Alessandro Miraglia, Team Leader, Networking and Communication Facility, UNEP Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Speakers

- Jorge Appiah, CEO, Kumasi Hive
- Josep Pinyol Alberich, PhD candidate University of Exeter
- Takunda Chitaka, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, African Circular Economy Network

Session summary

The success of a transition towards a sustainable circular economy does not merely depend on the development of new technologies but also in the reconfiguration of the governance of productive processes into more democratic and participatory mechanisms. JUST2CE aims to understand, in a thoughtful way, under which conditions a responsible, inclusive and socially just transition to a circular economy is possible and desirable, what technical, geopolitical and social factors can enable or hamper such transformation and how these aspects can contribute to the development of transitional policy measures. The session highlighted enablers and drivers to implement a successful transition to a Circular Economy, giving voice to CSOs and stakeholders both from Europe and Africa.

Synopsis

The current linear economic model that depends on extracting natural resources and producing items that will eventually be thrown away, was highlighted as not being sustainable. While a circular economy can provide the solution, the panel heard how it is not simply a case of needing technological

innovation, but also the importance of attaining social justice. In Africa, 400 million people live in poverty and a transition to a circular economy must not place additional burdens on these people. This means ensuring decent work, gender equality, opportunities for disabled people, and improved access to clean water and sanitation.

Key points

- Current linear economic model that depends on extracting natural resources, producing, then throwing away, is not sustainable.
- Need to challenge the narrative of continued economic growth.
- Our economy is not sustainable.
- Cannot keep this rhythm of growth, the planet cannot sustain it.
- 400 million living in poverty in Africa: challenges in access to energy, food and water.
- Reducing inequalities: need decent work, opportunities for disabled people.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Keep Calm & Get Energised: A Climate Game

Get energized with a constructive narrative on climate through fun and play

Organised by Simavi

Moderator

- Selma Hilgersom, Programme Manager Simavi
- Shu Liang, Director, Day of Adaptation

Session summary

In this highly interactive and engaging event, we explored through a collaborative climate board game how we can rewrite the narrative of climate change. Through the workshop, participants were challenged to rethink the “doom and gloom” climate narrative, and engage with those working in different sectors through play and tangible experiences. The participants were also inspired by innovative climate communication which brings in positive balance to a largely technical space, while forming new connections with other EDD participants in an open and welcoming meeting place.

Synopsis

Participants played an adapted version of the ‘Minions of Disruptions’ collaborative game, with the aim being to help local communities reflect on the choices they can make with their limited resources while empowering them to tackle key issues. The game was adapted to be played in rural Kenyan communities where literacy rates may be limited, with a focus on five key elements: water, cattle, milk, pastureland and cooking. It aims to increase marginalised groups’ knowledge on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Key points

- To engage with those working in and outside the water sector.
- Aim is to make people feel empowered and bring the issue closer to them and to make it fun.

Quotes

- Shu Liang, “Empower climate action for individuals and organisations”.



BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Earth Observation services to future-proof people on Earth

Untapped Copernicus synergies for comprehensive support to the Green Transition

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Ivan Davor Kulis, Head of Unit, Knowledge for Sustainable Development and Food Security

Speakers

- Hugo Zunker, Policy Officer, Earth Observation Unit, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space
- Miguel-Angel Exposito-Verde, Deputy Head of Unit, Science, Technology and Innovation, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Session summary

Attendees heard from experts from the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships on opportunities and challenges for international

Space collaboration and the use of the wealth of data that is collected by programmes such as Copernicus.

After an initial introduction, attendees split into groups where they discussed opportunities for reinforcing international dialogue and partnership on Space and how to enhance the update of EO products and services. They talked about the need to conduct a thorough analysis of the current context before moving forward, the need for international dialogue, the opportunities offered by the creation of new space agencies and how to increase the uptake of earth observation data.

Synopsis

Hugo Zunker from the Earth Observation Unit, DG for Defence Industry and Space, and Miguel-Angel Exposito-Verde, DG for International Partnerships, framed the group's discussions by posing the following two questions:

- What are the opportunities for reinforcing the international dialogue and partnership on space?
- How can we further enhance the update of EO products and services?

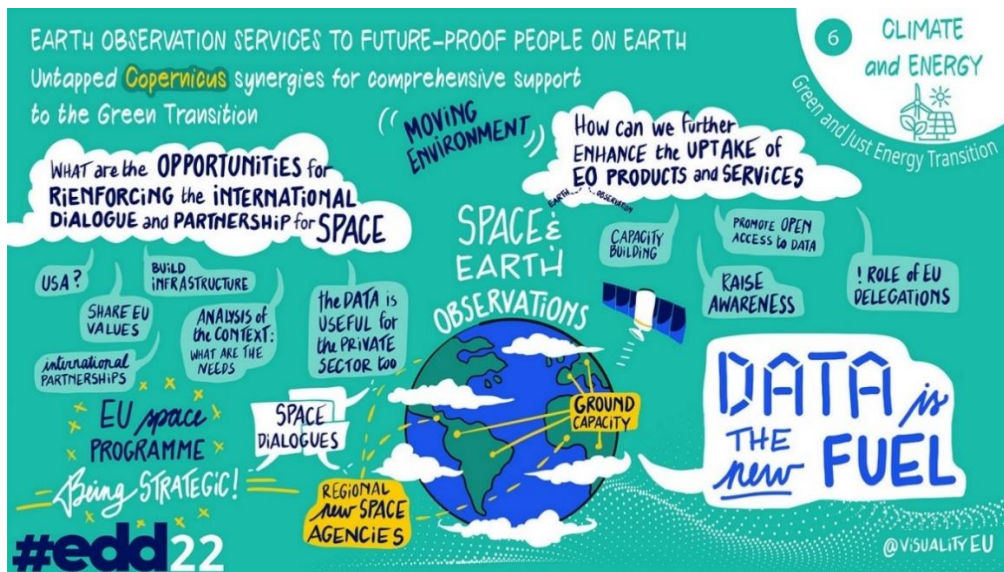
Attendees discussed the opportunities offered by new regional space agencies in Africa and Latin America, the need for an analysis of the context and how to increase the uptake of Earth observation data.

Key points

- We have a geo-strategical window of opportunity that needs to be seized.
- Latin America has a very low uptake of earth observation data.
- Data centres need to be upgraded, modernised. Should be green and secure.
- 1/3 of our apps have some element of geolocation data, which is related to satellites.
- One of Copernicus' strengths: open data, community data.

Quotes

- Miguel-Angel Exposito-Verde, *"It is important to have data that is locally produced and locally used. Data is the new resource that drives the economy"*.



AGORA: Bridging the data gap for climate change, early warning, peace, and security

Hands-on demo and trial of Strata, UNEP's climate security analytics tool

Organised by United Nations Environment Programme

Speakers

- Marie Schellens, Environmental Security Analyst, UN Environment

Session summary

UNEP developed Strata to enhance monitoring, analysis, and early warning of environmental and climate-related security risks. The open-access mapping tool delivers custom data analytics and visualizations on area-specific, climate-related security hotspots.

This easy-to-use, geospatial platform supports project managers, analysts, and policy makers working in the fields of climate change adaptation, natural resource management, peace, and security in crisis-affected regions.

This agora session gave the audience a brief intro and demo of Strata's pilot for the Horn of Africa region, after which participants could roll-up their sleeves to explore the tool themselves hands-on and elaborate on questions and ideas through spontaneous Q&A.

Synopsis

The panel considered how to make sense of the complex issue of climate change and socially vulnerable groups. Climate change-linked risks include food scarcity, environmental terrorism, and agro-pastoral competition in this regard. The Strata project aims to boost capacity on understanding these risks and on how to deal with them, using almost real-time geospatial data to identify hotspots.

The system is not an early warning system in itself but can be used as part of an early warning system with quantitative onsite data.

Key points

- Cross-border transhumance.
- Radicalisation in conflict areas, agro-pastoral competition are related to climate change.
- Climate change is drastically changing how we can produce food. Food security is one of main factors beyond conflict.

AGORA: How can innovations in raw materials in Africa help climate action?

Showcasing how to make low-carbon building materials from development minerals – while raising incomes and creating decent jobs in Africa

Organised by United Nations Development Programme

Moderator

- Uyanga Gankhuyag, Programme Manager, ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme, United Nations Development Programme

Speakers

- Ibrahim Djagra, Président/Coordonnateur, Association of Dynamic Youth for the Emergence of Cameroon (AJDEC)
- Apollo Buregyeya, Chief Executive Officer, Eco Concrete Ltd

Session summary

This session was a conversation with inspiring entrepreneurs from Uganda and Cameroon. It showcased responsible sourcing practices and the commercialisation of their innovations in low-carbon building materials. In Uganda, the enterprise had successfully collaborated with a Belgium-based lab, supported by Horizon 2020 to develop low-carbon cement and is piloting its commercial production. In Cameroon, the social enterprise's mission has another dimension – to help deal with violent conflict inflicted by the Boko Haram insurgency in the Far North Region. The enterprise builds schools, health centres and training centres with low-carbon materials, rebuilding lives and creating jobs for youth. The enterprises such as these - in mining and mineral processing - have been supported by the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme to grow their businesses while contributing to environmental sustainability and creating social public goods.

Synopsis

Innovations in raw materials can contribute to climate action by providing the materials necessary for the green transition, for fertilisers to improve crop growth and to build flood defences. An 'eco-concrete' social enterprise in Uganda which has developed a low carbon, cheaper alternative to concrete was presented during the session. Moreover, the panel heard that when Europe shares its technologies with Africa it can decrease the costs of production, with calls made for a vision of Africa that owns its own knowledge and technologies.

Key points

- Envision Africa that owns its own knowledge and technologies. When Africa inherits technologies, cost of production in Africa are increased.
- Labour minimisation, material cost minimisation.
- Development minerals programme contributes to SDGs.

Topic 2: Integrating energy markets

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: Green Pathways in Latin America

Strengthening the EU-LAC partnership for a green and just transition

Organised by OECD Development Centre

Moderator

- Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre

Speakers

- Hans-Werner Kulenkampff, Chairman of Board, Chilean Hydrogen Association
- Rafael Del Villar Alrich, Chief Advisor to the Governor, Banco de México
- Brian Glynn, Managing Director, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Maurizio Bezzeccheri, Head of Latin America Region, Enel
- Anaïs Matthey-Junod, EDD Young Leader, Switzerland
- Mario Cimoli, Acting Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Anton Leis Garcia, Director, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.

Session summary

The session discussed the opportunities the green transition can bring to the EU-LAC partnership, and how the two regions can build a strong “green alliance” to boost the green transition in LAC while also facing its potential adverse impacts. Speakers also debated how this “green alliance” could ensure aligning the ecological, social and economic transformations in LAC countries.

Synopsis

The Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC) and Europe have a common ambition to tackle the climate crisis through a sustainable energy transition. The panel discussed how the two regions are building equal partnerships through the Global Gateway approach which emphasises cooperation and investment in concrete projects. Panellists noted that local contexts, including low growth rates and high inflation, must be taken into account and that the poorest in society must be included in the transition to green energy.

Key points

- Latin America has many possibilities for renewable energies - solar, hydro but we are continuing to use fossil fuels which makes the energy transition more difficult.
- Latin America countries are large exporters of oil.
- Need courage to invest in healthcare and ensure that Latin America uses such investments to transform economy.
- Potential of promoting hydrogen.
- 45% of volume of resources must go to developing countries.
- Need to focus on developing the role of multilateral organisations.
- Massive investment needed in electric networks.
- Green transition: need to include everyone. Move away from fossil fuels, invest in energy security.



LAB DEBATE Maximising impacts of energy access

How can green and just energy transitions catalyse development opportunities?

Organised by Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

Moderator

- Diane Roeschen, Communications Specialist, Energypedia

Speakers

- Willington Ortiz Orozco, Researcher, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy
- Silvia Sartori, Senior Project Manager, Women's Economic Empowerment, Energia International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
- Bärbel Höhn, BMZ Representative, Energy in Africa

Session summary

Energy, as an enabler of development, is inextricably linked to virtually all other SDGs. A question that receives less attention though is: How can we maximise the development effects of energy access? In principle, energy can (em)power practically any component of the livelihoods of people. However, achieving real and long-lasting results implies a big crucial challenge.

This session covered which context-specific development challenges should be addressed in order to be successful, while also recognising the opportunities and motivations of individuals and their communities.

It also covered creating positive and enduring interlinkages between energy and other sectors such as agriculture, water, education and economic development that can help to boost impacts on all levels.

The session also looked at "SDG7 and beyond" and explored these and other crucial aspects on how energy can maximise the impacts of multiple related SDGs.

Synopsis

Energy can facilitate development by giving people access to key services like water pumps and chilled food storage. The panel noted that renewable energy is the best solution since it is both cheap and climate friendly. However, access to energy is especially limited in rural areas and girls and women are the most affected by energy poverty since basic tasks like gathering firewood often fall to them. The panel concluded that energy can facilitate development when gender is considered and entrepreneurship and political will are present.

Key points

- Energy has synergies with SDGs and it facilitates development.
- Half of African population have no access to electricity, most in rural areas.
- Renewables are the best alternative they are cheap and climate friendly.
- Big gap for female employment: it means women have less of a say in energy markets.
- Need to develop other skills as well, like entrepreneurship, access to market.

Quotes

- Bärbel Höhn, *"We need a political will to invest in decentralised and renewables energies"*.

- Silvia Sartori, *“It is important that gender-disaggregated data are made an integral part of all of these plans”*.
- Willington Ortiz Orozco, *“We need holistic approaches and people-centred perspectives to successfully provide energy access”*.

LAB DEBATE: Mobilising private capital for a just transition
Accelerating the clean energy transition by unlocking entrepreneurs’ potential
 Organised by European Development Finance Institutions

Moderator

- Mikaela Gavvas, Director of Development Cooperation in Europe & Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development Europe

Speakers

- Femi Adeyemo, Founder & CEO, Arnergy
- Muhammed Sayed, Climate Change Specialist, Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Soren Andreasen, General Manager, European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI)
- Roland SILLER, CEO, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG)

Session summary

This session focused on the leading role the EU can play in supporting the countries in greatest need and deal with the economic transformation required for the green transition, with a focus on:

- How to create enabling environments to mobilise more private capital in green finance
- How to strengthen the resilience of communities, businesses and people to the effects of climate change through financing instruments
- How green finance can empower societies, especially in least developed and fragile countries.
- Global goals vs. actual delivery

Speakers shared experiences on:

- The catalytic role of development finance in accelerating sustainable energy markets
- Hindrances and opportunities for players committed to advance clean energy markets in developing countries

Synopsis

Panellists presented their different perspectives on developments in sustainable energy markets and outlined their contributions in helping to develop clean energy markets and increase energy access in

developing countries. The diverse challenges faced in securing the necessary finance to scale sustainable energy markets for a successful green transition were discussed. The potential benefits of this growing market for private investors were highlighted and optimism was voiced that the clean energy sector will scale rapidly with the increased support of these investors.

Key points

- To unlock climate finance for private sector.
- Mechanisms as the Green Climate Fund, to get concessional finance and blended finance instruments.
- Transformation of energy systems over time involves significant transformation of kinds of jobs in energy sector.
- Bond insurance.
- Renewable energy can play an extremely crucial role, and private sector will be able to scale very quickly.

Quotes

- Femi Adeyemo, *“The time is now. Three years ago I might have some doubts, but given the current realities of what has happened - of what is happening on Africa - there is a lot of development that can be made and when that is happening there is also a lot of profit that can be made because there can be direct replacements of whatever is being spent today on the dirty four - and I’m talking diesel - to the clean, renewable energy and the customers are just waiting for us to act”*.
- Muhamed Sayed, *“Significant investments are needed to support the global transition to a low-carbon future... There is a need for massive scaling up”*.
- Soren Andreasen, *“I believe that renewable and especially distributed renewable energy can play an extremely crucial role in our development goals in that the private sector will be able to scale very quickly, and more quickly than we could scale through public sector interventions alone - and that’s what EDFI is trying to make happen”*.
- Roland Siller, *“We can only do it [accelerate the clean energy transition] jointly with all the creativity and innovation that we have through the entrepreneurs in our partner countries, and we have to listen and adapt and bring in our investment to the benefit of these entrepreneurs”*.

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: Potential role of green hydrogen in just transition

Analysis in three countries: Egypt, Ghana and Kenya - Chile and EU partnership for Green hydrogen development

Organised by African Development Bank

Moderator

- Marco Caponigro, Project Director, GOPA - International Energy Consultants GmbH

Speakers

- Martin Kaltschmitt, Professor, Hamburg University of Technology
- Fabian Carels, Research Associate, GOPA - International Energy Consultants GmbH
- Camilo Aviles, Head of the New Energy Carriers Unit, Ministry of Energy, Chile
- Enrique O'Farrill, Executive Director, Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development
- Gareth Phillips, Manager, African Development Bank

Session summary

This session presented the concrete contribution of green hydrogen to the energy transition. One presentation showcased how green hydrogen could be produced/used in North Africa. Speakers discussed long-term green hydrogen strategies that were developed in a project financed by the African Development Bank then executed by GOPA - International Energy Consultants and Hamburg University of Technology. The project is based on a rigorous evidence-based approach.

The Chilean delegation presented a project implemented in partnership with the EU entitled 'Call for proposals for co-funding pre-investment studies for green hydrogen projects.' This initiative is financed by the Bilateral Development in Transition Fund co-financed by the DG for International Partnerships and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency for Development (AGCID). The mission of the project is to promote pre-investment studies to encourage and accelerate decision-making in order to promote investments in green hydrogen in Chile.

Synopsis

Africa has huge opportunities regarding green hydrogen in areas such as transport and industry, as well as in hard to decarbonise sectors like steel. It could enable African countries to become low carbon and net providers of energy. The panel outlined the key factors needed for this to become a reality: increased solar and wind energy, political stability, coastal access, land, water, infrastructure and expertise. In Chile, green hydrogen is considered key to reaching carbon neutrality. It launched a green hydrogen strategy in 2020 and has global partnerships in place, including with Europe.

Key points

- Green hydrogen is one of the main contributor to green transition.
- Green hydrogen in Africa: many opportunities.
- Methodology : site identification (political stability, coastal access and land availability) and suitability including solar potential, availability of water, infrastructure, expertise.
- Chile: call for partnership between Chilean and European in green hydrogen.
- In 2020 Green hydrogen strategy launched. Huge opportunity because green hydrogen holds the key to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: AgriFi & ElectriFi - the Agriculture and Electrification Financing Initiatives

Narrowing the investment gap in sustainable agriculture and renewable energy

Organised by EDFI Management Company

Moderator

- Frederik van den Bosch, CEO, EDFI Management Company

Speakers

- Esther Altorfer, Managing Director East Africa, Sistema.bio
- Dominiek Deconinck, Chief Investment Officer, EDFI Management Company
- Stefano Signore, Head of Unit, F.1, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Session summary

The session offered a series of firesides chat between a moderator, facility manager and beneficiaries. Our aim was to showcase the achievements of the two facilities and share insights on the use of EU blending instruments to unlock, accelerate and leverage clean energy finance and sustainable agriculture and agri-Besystems finance. The event was the opportunity to present case studies, their impact on local beneficiaries and to hear from entrepreneurs on the ground.

Synopsis

The session shed light on the importance of providing financial solutions that can accelerate the development of clean energy and sustainable agriculture. The European Commission's Global Gateway initiative was brought to the audience's attention, with emphasis put on its value in striving to narrow the global investment gap.

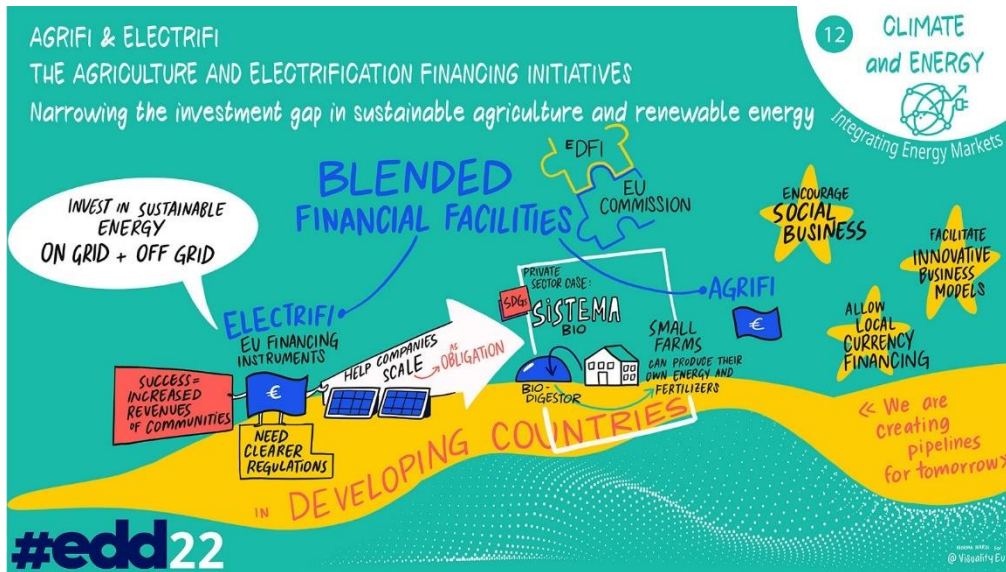
When discussing investment in energy, the need to focus on off-grid solutions was stressed, especially as this approach can help to achieve SDG 7 in sub-Saharan Africa.

With regard to investments in agriculture, the speakers noted that many farmers lack access to training, technology and finance. Moreover, the climate crisis, including increased periods of drought, is making them even more vulnerable. The Sistema.bio's biodigester solution, which transforms organic waste into organic fertilisers, was also presented. It is estimated that it can allow for small farmers to reduce their respective Co2 emissions by 6 to 15 tonnes per year.

Key points

- Global Gateway to bring comprehensive offer to our partners, collective power, increase investment in our partner countries.
- Need to focus on off-grid.

- AgriFi has a mandate to support small farmers.
- Small farmers lack training and technologies to run farms.



THEME 3: TRANSPORT

Topic 1: Infrastructure connectivity

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: Sustainable and smart corridors

Opportunities and challenges for a greener and resilient global connectivity

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Allen Asiimwe, TradeMark East Africa

Speakers

- Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Gambia
- Adina Vălean, European Commissioner for Transport
- Pamela Coke Hamilton, Executive Director, International Trade Centre
- Matej Zakonjšek, Director, Transport Community
- Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Programme Delivery and Coordination African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
- Bethel Madu, EDD Young Leader, Nigeria

Session summary

One of the priorities of the Global Gateway is to invest in clean transport corridors.

The session debated the opportunities offered by transport corridors to facilitate sustainable, efficient, smart, resilient, fair, affordable, secure and safe mobility and trade within the Western Balkans, Eastern Neighbourhood and Africa, as well as between Europe and those partner regions.

It explored how corridors underpin the territorial organisation (rural and urban) through reliable networks and services that create jobs and support value chains that can benefit industries in both Europe and partner countries. The session addressed the challenges of decarbonisation, digitalisation, climate-adaptation, obstacles to trade, financing quality infrastructure and the sustainability of maintenance and operations.

Synopsis

Starting with examples from the EU trade corridor approach, this session discussed the opportunities and challenges with regard to the 11 corridors which have been identified for Africa. Panellists stressed that, unlike in the EU, borders between African countries still persist and represent barriers to trade. Current crises, such as COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and the subsequent global food crisis, are

exacerbating the challenges and further underlining the importance of African countries working together both at government and private sector level.

Key points

- Allen Assiimwe moderated the session around how can we invest in clean corridors, the opportunities these corridors bring, what can we produce but also what the realities are that these corridors offer and what challenges they still face - opportunities to increase trade but also big challenges around connectivities.
- EU-Commissioner Adina Vălean delivered a keynote speech to detail the EU's corridor approach, including green lanes - which are vital to keep transport flows intact - but also newly created solidarity lanes - to diversify and scale up transport on main roads (example: new infrastructure connections to Ukraine and Moldova planned).
- Minister Mamadou Tangara talked about the importance of the Trans-Gambia Corridor.
- Matej Zakonjšek stated that connecting communities is about going beyond patchwork into a true network logic to create transport.
- Pamela Coke Hamilton stressed the importance of corridors for the private sector, and especially small enterprises.
- EDD Young Leader Bethel Madu reflected upon the need to install a working system in Nigeria that supports more employment and helps the youth being economically independent, giving a concrete example from the field.

Quotes

- Adina Vălean: *"Perhaps resilience is the real key word...Solidarity has proven to be one of the best ways to build resilience"*.
- Mamadou Tangara, *"Today more than before The Gambia and Senegal are very close. By building the Senegal Gambia bridge we connected the two sides. To quote Gandhi: 'Let's build the roads and the roads will connect us...' Today more than ever before we know that we are interrelated, interconnected. We are bound to work together"*.
- Pamela Coke Hamilton, *"The best way to make these corridors inclusive is to make them smart"*.
- Matej Zakonjšek, *"Predefined multimodal and multinational corridors are the basic building blocks for prosperity and peace"*.
- Bethel Madu, *"Most young people want to have that freedom to make life choices"*.



LAB DEBATE: Towards quality and green infrastructure investments

Aligning the Global Gateway agenda to the Green Deal

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Jens Sedemund, Head, Environment and Climate Change, Financing for Sustainable Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Speakers

- Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit for Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, European Commission Directorate-General International Partnerships
- Christian Krämer, Regional Director for Latin America and Policies, KfW Development Bank
- Nick O'Regan, Director Implementation Practices and Standards, United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS)
- Werner Schmidt, Director of the Urban and Territorial Development Department, European Investment Bank

Session summary

The developing world is facing a large infrastructure deficit and is foreseeing huge investments in the next few years to address it. These infrastructures will be in place for the coming decades; the decisions we make now will determine if we contribute to transformational change towards environmental sustainability, and low carbon, resilient and inclusive development, or we face a lock-in into carbon intensive and unsustainable infrastructure. If we fail in making our investments sustainable and green, we will fail in achieving the Green Deal's objectives. This session looked at how quality infrastructure can bring new opportunities in developing countries, and examined tools and approaches to ensure that infrastructure projects under the Global Gateway agenda contribute to transformational change whilst respecting the 'do no harm' principle.

Synopsis

The panellists presented solutions their organisations have developed to facilitate the transition towards quality and green infrastructure investments. They stressed the importance of moving away from the traditional approach of focusing on benefits and instead putting the focus on nature-based solutions. The discussion also concentrated on the topic of how financial losses can provide incentives for governments to invest in the green transition.

Key points

- Moderator Jens Sedemund set the context of the lab debate, stating that the lifecycle of infrastructure cannot be changed easily, and that therefore strategic planning is essential.
- Chantal Marijnissen stressed the need to apply standards - both environmentally friendly but also societal standards - and to stick to these standards to go green.
- Christian Krämer highlighted that climate-risk assessment needs to be undertaken in all projects.
- Nick O'Regan reminded the natural environment is infrastructure, and nature-based solution are key.
- Werner Schmidt explained that the EIB has developed many technical advice instruments to help overcome the lack of technical capacities in many countries.

Quotes

- Chantal Marijnissen, *"For us the Global Gateway is the protection of the Green Deal worldwide"*.
- Nick O'Regan, *"We need to add a green lense"*.
- Christian Krämer, *"Digitalisation means a certain boost for this sector"*.
- Werner Schmidt, *"We see a lack of technical capacities in many countries, also at the level of project preparation and implementation"*.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Green Infrastructure to promote Economic and Industrial Growth in Africa

How Early Project Preparation Can Deliver Quality Infrastructure

Organised by African Union Development Agency

Moderator

- Alban Odhiambo, Senior Director Trade Environment, TradeMark East Africa

Speakers

- Anna Jankowska-Eriksson, Market Analyst, International Trade Centre

Session summary

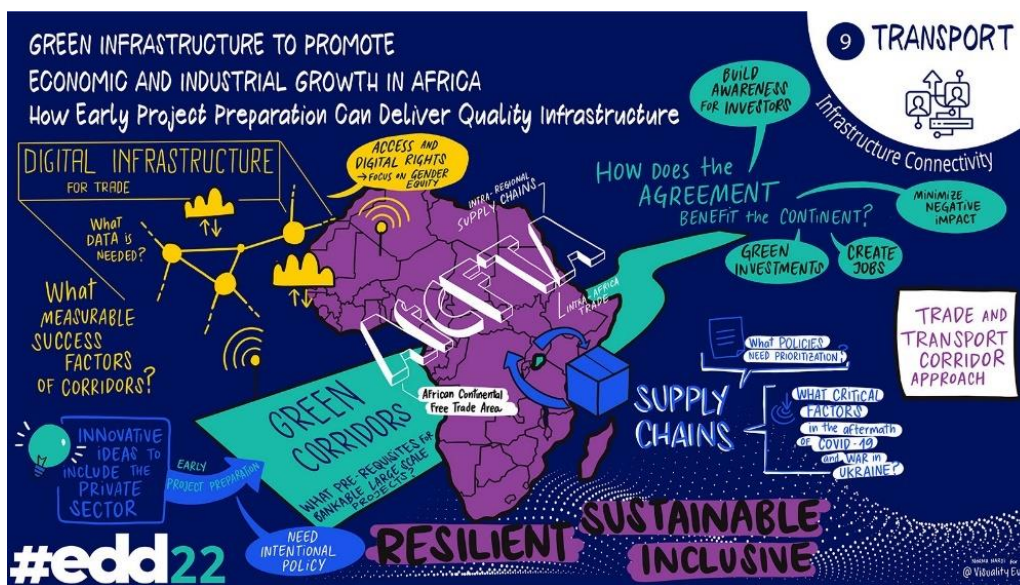
Africa's infrastructure development opportunities are discussed but a deeper discussion with practical solutions is critical. This session motivated such a discussion on green integrated corridors and trade to accelerate climate-resilient infrastructure using early project preparation and guarantee mechanisms. Thus, creating unprecedented trade and investment opportunities within Africa and with other global trade blocks.

In current trivial times, where Africa is looking within, a paradigm shift is pivotal to deliver its integrated corridors approach. Then how do the current project preparation and climate finance opportunities better benefit African countries. Furthermore, the session also discussed how the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) serves as a framework for boosting intra-Africa trade and developing intra-regional supply chains.

Synopsis

The participants were invited to discuss how to promote green infrastructure in Africa with a view to furthering economic and industrial growth in the region. Speakers stressed that the green approach is crucial as it can not only help to create jobs but can also reduce the negative impact with regard to migration and biodiversity loss, and inspire intra-migration on the continent.

Participants brainstormed ideas that would inspire businesses to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure in Africa and discussed the factors required to create sustainable and inclusive supply chains. Suggestions such as creating policy and financial solutions to encourage investment in green corridors, raising awareness of Africa’s green capacity among investors, and involving women in the digital transition were put forward during the session.



AGORA: The EU’s Global Gateway: market creation or international development?

This session will focus on aims and objectives of EU's Global Gateway.

Organised by European Network on Debt and Development

Moderator

- Jean Saldanha, Director, European Network on Debt and Development

Speakers

- Reinhard Bütikofer, Member of the European Parliament, member of the Alliance 90/The Greens
- Felix Fernandez-Shaw, Director, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Session summary

This session launched a joint report authored by Eurodad and Counterbalance exploring the EU's new flagship Initiative The EU Global Gateway. The Global Gateway is a plan to support infrastructure development around the world, mobilising €300 billion between 2021-27 for connectivity projects, notably in the digital, climate, energy, transport, health and education. While being hailed as an innovation for EU development policy, the initiative raises many questions in relation to competing geopolitical interests, repackaging of existing commitments from European DFIs, and the developmental demands of the recipient countries. Main objectives of the session were to present new findings on infrastructure investments under the Global Gateway in line with themes of EDD2022.

Synopsis

The extent to which new initiatives promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation, rather than simply repackaging existing support measures, provided focus for this panel. Sustainable projects, ranging from deep sea cables to vaccine development, need time to develop and must bring together all of Team Europe. The public and private sectors must be brought together to deliver on the ground. All actors concluded that the EU Global Gateway needs to be given a chance to prove itself.

Quotes

- Reinhard Bütikofer, *"This is not an effort to create a market for European industry. It is not old wine in new wine skins. It's a new geopolitical initiative"*.
- Felix Fernandez-Shaw, *"The novelty here is bringing the private sector and all of team Europe together"*.

Topic 2: Green and safe mobility

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: Safe and green mobility in low-and middle-income countries

How international partnerships can transform the countries the most affected by road traffic crashes in a world where everyone can access to safe & green mobility

Organised by Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety

Moderator

- Christopher Burns, Journalist, Burnstorm Communications

Speakers

- Jean Todt, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety
- Dagmawit Moges, Minister of Transport, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Walter Goetz, Head of Cabinet of the European Transport Commissioner Adina Vălean
- Giovanni Pintor, EDD Young Leader, Switzerland/Italy

Session summary

With more than 1.3 million deaths worldwide each year and nearly 50 million serious injuries, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young people between 5 and 29 years old. Road crashes are a global health issue that incites loss of livelihoods and feeds cycles of poverty. Road traffic fatalities disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries, where 90% of global road deaths occur.

Ensuring safe mobility and transport is crucial to access to education, jobs, health and social services, shops, family and friends, sport or culture. Rural isolation disproportionately harms the poor, older persons, persons with disabilities, children and women. Safe transport is critical to moving people out of poverty.

However, 95 per cent of the world's transport energy still coming from burning fossil fuels, the transport sector produces a quarter of all energy-related emissions. There is therefore a strong correlation between road safety and climate change that we need to address globally.

This event included the launch of the book on safe and sustainable mobility for the new Decade of Action for Road Safety, by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt. The book comprises essays from public figures, "Friends of the Special Envoy", representing many sectors and industries and sharing their beliefs on how we can collectively tackle the invisible pandemic of traffic crash fatalities and injuries. Several high-level contributors to the book were present at the event.

Synopsis

Ethiopian Transport Minister Dagmawit Moges spoke about the efforts her country has put in place to promote road safety, from expanding cycle paths and pedestrian paths to introducing road safety as part of the educational curriculum at all ages. Young Leader Giovanni Pintor stressed how implementing safe zones in front of schools helped to reduce accidents. Panellists agreed that the number of deaths caused by road accidents is far too high and that, to achieve the target of SDG 3.6 to reduce this number by half, joint efforts and partnerships are required.

Key points

- Special Envoy Jean Todt reminded that road safety is part of the SDGs, with the target of cutting by half the number of victims by 2030. But the number of victims is increasing - it's around education, law enforcements, post incident care. He admitted that it takes time to change mentalities and stressed that we need strong leaders to decide to change mentalities.
- Minister Dagmawit Moges presented Ethiopia's efforts of ratifying road safety in the country's national policies, with a 10-year perspective plan to reduce traffic incidents from 33.3% to 10%.
- Walter Goetz stressed digitalisation as a chance to reduce risk of accidents and reduce human errors, but reminded also about that fact that it creates new threats (cybersecurity issues, technical failures).
- Young Leader Giovanni Pintor, founder of the movement "Adesso basta", is fighting in Sardinia to prioritise road safety. He showed how fun actions (hip-hop concerts, basketball games etc) can raise awareness with young drivers.

Quotes

- Christopher Burns, *"1.3 million dying in traffic incidents every year - this is like a war!"*.
- Jean Todt, *"The head is the most vulnerable part of the human body. We need to promote the use of helmets"*.
- Walter Goetz, *"We still have 20.000 deaths per year in the EU, which is far too high"*.
- Dagmawit Moges, *"Road safety as of this year [in our country] is part of primary and secondary education. Even at tertiary level we started a programme for road safety. If we don't have educated people in this area, we are losing significant parts of the population"*.



LAB DEBATE: The Lithium triangle in Latin America and high Andean wetlands

How to ensure a just, clean, green energy transition.

Organised by Wetlands International European Association

Moderator

- Fred Pearce, Consultant, Wetlands International

Speakers

- Román Baigún, Programme Manager, Saving High Andean Wetlands, Wetlands International LAC
- Ernesto Feilbogen, Sector Coordinator, GIZ Headquarters Germany

Session summary

High Andean wetlands are of key value for local economies, including pastures for cattle, food resources and fresh water to local communities, and represent an invaluable cultural heritage. They are part of the region known as Lithium triangle (Argentina, Bolivia and Chile) which accounts for 68% of lithium in their salt flats (globally).

Lithium is a key component in rechargeable and in electric vehicles batteries. The EU is not a lithium producer. It relies on imports. The European Commission estimates that demand for lithium will grow 18 times by 2030 and 60 times by 2050.

How to ensure fair investments towards a just, clean, green energy transition including protecting key ecosystems and people relying on them? The Lab debate tried to respond to this question.

Synopsis

During the Lab Debate, Román Baigún from Wetlands and Ernesto Feilbogen, Energy coordinator at GIZ, discussed the risks related to lithium production, the challenges lithium mining causes for local communities, and biodiversity in the region. Mr Feilbogen, who was born in the region, suggested employing hydrogen and the recycling of batteries as possible alternatives. However, he highlighted the need for dialogue with local communities to advance these alternatives. Moreover, Mr Baigún warned that once areas have been destroyed, restoration may no longer be possible. He urged businesses to be more eco-responsible and governments to take on a more proactive role in updating legislation to meet current challenges.

Key points

- A film on the High Andean Wetlands (also known as 'Lithium Triangle' or 'Altiplano' was presented).

- Fred Pearce introduced topic, highlighting the growing concern about the threat that the mining rush for lithium poses to this sparsely populated area.
- A poll was used to see how much the audience knows about what lithium is used for.
- Finally, with the demand for electric vehicles rising, the question was discussed if “green” can be bad, and how the energy transition can be done in a way to protect the Lithium triangle.

Quotes

- Román Baigún, *“We agree that we need to convert to cleaner technologies and this is where lithium plays an important part. But we encourage participating countries to be responsible, and we urge them to go for technologies that don’t have such an impact on the environment”.*
- Ernesto Feilbogen, *“Why don’t we make companies part of the solution instead of part of the problem. We need to move together, and if possible, in the same direction”.*

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION Achieving the SDGs by Bike: How Two Wheels Accelerate Development Outcomes

Bicycles are a green, safe and affordable solution to mobilize and thus empower rural communities

Organised by World Bicycle Relief

Moderator

- Judith Helfmann-Hundack, Senior Adviser Development Policy and Impact Investing, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Speakers

- Winnie Sambu, Research and Evaluation Manager, World Bicycle Relief
- Lawrence Banda, Monitoring and Database Manager, World Bicycle Relief
- Patrick Chikomba, Junior Food Security Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Session summary

In remote regions in low-income countries, where no paved roads or public transport is available, distance is a critical barrier that keeps millions of people from accessing education, income opportunities, and health services. Bicycles are a green, safe and affordable solution to mobilise and thus empower rural communities, and to invigorate development efforts in a broad range of fields, from agriculture to health to education to social and political participation. In the session we presented the findings of a rigorous randomised controlled trial conducted in 2017 by Innovations for Poverty Action that show the impact of our bicycle programs on girls’ education & empowerment in rural

Zambia. After focusing on education, we discussed how bicycles can make your development project more efficient and impactful.

Synopsis

The panellists presented the positive results of distributing bicycles to vulnerable communities, especially with regard to girls and women living in rural, remote areas. Speakers also highlighted the positive outcome achieved with partner organisations (UNICEF, World Vision, Save the Children etc.) who function as intermediaries to reach vulnerable communities not only in Africa, but also in Latin American countries such as Columbia. The examples showed how receiving the bicycles increased girls' punctuality at school, thus helping them to learn better and become more self-confident.

Key points

- Judith Helfmann-Hundack introduced the session stating that the 25 last years have been the biggest game changer - but still mainly women and children (especially in rural areas) are threatened to be left behind.
- Winnie Sambu presented the World Bicycle Relief and how their Buffalo bicycle, a very robust bike for people who need to confront the distance challenge to access health, medication, or to carry out work (milk, steel frames etc).
- Lawrence Banda presented the study entitled "Wheels of change" which underlined the benefits for rural communities, and especially girls and women.
- Patrick Chikomba shared his experiences with the FANSER project (Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience Project).

Quotes

- Judith Helfmann-Hundack, *"We believe that distance is the main barrier to be a game changer and a barrier to achieve the SDGs"*.
- Winnie Sambu, *"It's not just about the individual who receives that bicycle but how it improves the life of the communities"*.
- Lawrence Banda, *"It is just amazing how you see this transformation. This is a bicycle these communities have so much respect for. It is a status. It transforms the attitude of the girls and their levels of confidence. They have control of decisions that concern their lives"*.
- Patrick Chikomba, *"Without the bicycles I fear it is very difficult to reach households that are in difficult situations"*.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Smart infrastructure secures national strategies for development and environment

Sustaining economic growth by reconciling infrastructure development with national climate and biodiversity priorities

Organised by Wildlife Conservation Society

Moderator

- Hugo Rainey, Senior Advisor, Business & Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society

Speakers

- Suzanne Cotillon, Biodiversity consultant, Biotope
- Denise Nicolau, Biodiversity offsets Programme Coordinator, Foundation for Conservation of Biodiversity

Session summary

Economic development and improved livelihoods for people are clear priorities for countries globally. Infrastructure investment and expansion are projected to grow in the coming decades, bringing many people out of poverty. Global climate targets from COP26 in 2021 and the developing Global Biodiversity Framework around COP15 in 2022 inform national strategies. People and economies benefit from reduced climate risk and from the integrity of nature. Sustaining benefits from infrastructure development is more likely if climate and biodiversity outcomes are integrated into transport planning.

We discussed questions based on our COMBOprogram.org experience supporting public and private sectors and civil society to reconcile economic development with climate and biodiversity priorities.

Synopsis

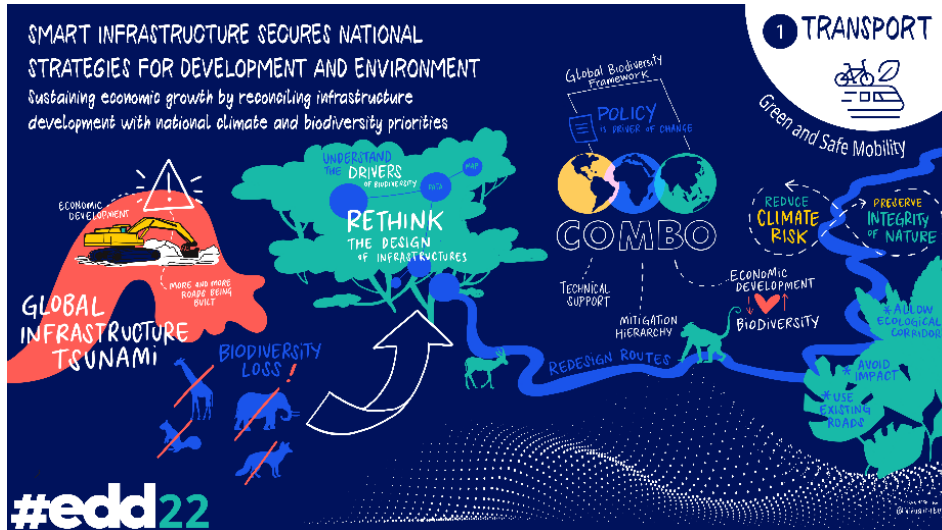
The session asked the participants to discuss how mitigation policy and data can be used for infrastructure development. The discussion highlighted the importance of considering the drivers for biodiversity loss when planning road infrastructure. Additionally, two case studies were presented. The case study of Mozambique focused on how biodiversity conservation was addressed in economic development policies. The case study on Gabon showed how data on fauna and flora contributed to decision-making on road development and helped reduce the risks of deforestation and biodiversity loss.

Key points

- We need to provide finances to development but also considering biodiversity.
- When develop the high impact projects, we need to consider the impacts first.

Quotes:

- Yung Wang, "Infrastructure can fragment biodiversity. It is important to keep mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructural policies. There are many opportunities to tweak a design to change the impact on biodiversity".



Topic 3: Urban development, smart and interconnected cities

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: Sustainable cities as vehicles of green, productive, just, and smart development

Linking investment in regional and urban infrastructure to the role of cities in economic transformation

Organised by UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Moderator

- Edlam Yemeru, Director a.i., Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Speakers

- Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Head of the South Development Department, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Maimunah Moh'd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission
- Alban Odhiambo, Senior Director Trade Environment, TradeMark East Africa
- Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
- Katarina Polomska, EDD Young Leader, Chile/Slovakia

Session summary

EU Global Gateway Strategy shifts the emphasis of ODA to investment in major infrastructure through blended finance and guarantees. Linking investment in regional and urban infrastructure and the role of cities and urban development to structural transformation of national economy is an important prerequisite to synergetic and sustainable investment at different territorial scales. Territorial analysis and monitoring of impact of investment in infrastructure and urban development can help achieve important synergies of large and medium-size investment creating important evidence for policy decisions. It requires conducting territorial analysis, cooperation across levels and sectors of governance, and close monitoring of the impact of investment to productive and equitable development.

Synopsis

The panellists stressed that corridors are not only about connecting cities to cities, but also about connecting rural areas. Rural areas need to be linked to cities in terms of access to digitalisation, energy

supply, and trade possibilities. At the same time, local governance and trust in its leadership must be strengthened through building true partnerships with local, public and private actors. The territorial approach is fundamental to delivering on the SDGs.

Key points

- The central point of Global Gateway is corridor development and development of connectivity, connecting cities to cities. 80% of GDP is generated in cities.
- Global Gateway is also about innovative funding: ESF+ also has a new window - the cities window, with not only guarantees but also blending to put cities very high on the agenda.
- We need an urban planning and deal with the extension of cities.
- We need an integrated approach - we are working with Member States, investment institutions, local partners.
- We need an urban planning and deal with the extension of cities.
- Biodiversity, climate change and social dimension are taken into account in this integrated approach.
- Rural areas, which are in between cities, are just as important in this approach as cities. Available livelihoods and a rights-based approach are therefore crucial.

Quotes

- Edlam Yemeru, *"We are in an urban era"*.
- Marjeta Jager, *"Corridor development is a central point of the Global Gateway. Cities are typically the start and the ending point of corridors. When we talk about corridors we need to speak about cities and how they are linked to these corridors"*.
- Thomas Gass, *"Between the cities there is the rural area. We need to not forget that it is a lot about the relationship between the rural and the urban area"*.
- Katarina Polomska, *"Livelihoods need to be available everywhere...A rights-based approach is crucial for migration in urban and rural areas"*.
- Alban Odhiambo, *"As we are expanding corridors, how do we prepare for the urban movement that is happening?"*.



LAB DEBATE: Achieving coherent investment in inter-connected cities

Underpinning sustainable growth through synergetic infrastructure investment at different territorial scales

Organised by URBAN Intergroup at the European Parliament

Moderator

- Edlam Yemeru, Director a.i., Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Speakers

- Jan Olbrycht, President, Urban Intergroup in the European Parliament
- Carla Montesi, Director, Green Deal & Digital Agenda, Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Maria Shaw-Barragan, Director, Lending in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia and Latin America, European Investment Bank Global
- Katharina Rochell, UN-Habitat's Urban Development Specialist, United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- Eric Karerangabo, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA)

Session summary

This lab focused on how to achieve synergies of public and private investment in infrastructure to support the structural transformation of national economies at different territorial scales, along the development corridors connecting regions and cities and linking the corridors to hinterland and intermediary cities. Coordinated investment for larger economic, social and environmental impact requires effective multilevel governance and enabling policies at all levels and sectors of governance securing coherence of national and subnational spending, public revenues, and external finance for productive investment in infrastructure and urban development. The lab explored how such coherence can be achieved in various governance contexts along the development corridors in sub-Saharan Africa.

Synopsis

The panellists stressed that a country-by-country approach is needed, particularly in terms of working with local governance to create an ecosystem approach for financing green transitions. Ensuring blending and public and private partnerships is just as important to this approach as the need to build trust among all partners involved.

Key points

- Katharina Rochell presented the key findings of the UN-Habitat report, jointly commissioned jointly prepared and commissioned by the European Parliament, but also concluded with the European Commission (and other EU institutions): improve institutions, optimise own sourced revenues (OSR) but also enhance access to external finance (loans, municipal bonds, PPP).
- Jan Olbrycht stressed that it is about urban planning, multilevel governance - different levels of governance - obstacles persist but we know that we need to revise our thinking, build the trust of all partners.
- Maria Shaw-Barragan highlighted that EIB Global had been launched to work in partnerships on a global level, and work with local governments.

Quotes

- Jan Olbrycht, *“Multilevel governance means to be a partner, sit together and find solutions for cities”*.
- Carla Montesi, *“Support sustainable cities is clearly a priority to the EC. 8% of GDP is produced in cities, but also more than 70% of emissions are produced in cities”*.
- Maria Shaw-Barragan *“The climate is a global public good, we need to work on it together”*.
- Eric Karerangabo, *“We need to develop policies and strategies that support mainstreaming the green transition, especially in infrastructures”*.

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: Starting small, falling fast and learning to become more resilient

African cities’ journey towards digital transformation through pilot projects and expérimentations

Organised by African Smart Towns Network (ASToN)

Moderator

- Simina Lazar, Network Lead, Africa Smart Towns Network (ASToN)

Speakers

- Hamadou Yalcouye, Coordinateur local, Agence de Développement Régional de Bamako, coordinateur local ASToN
- Martin Ssekajja, Head of IT, Kampala Capital City Authority

Session summary

How can cities apply the lean approach and learn from it?

What is needed for local governments to test project digital & tech ideas in this way and which are the benefits?

We looked into these questions and some more through the experience of 3 African cities.

The event presented cross initiatives and projects from diverse African cities involved in digital transition journeys. The discussion focused on their experiences, implementing a pilot project as part of their long-term plan to develop digital tools and practices to become more sustainable and inclusive cities. Cities shared their experience engaging in an experiment and debated with the audience to provide recommendations on how to adopt innovative and inspiring practices.

Synopsis

Hamadou Yalcouye, a local coordinator in Bamako, presented a platform to implement a local transport tax, while Martin Ssekajja presented an incident reporting platform in Kampala. Both panellists agreed that having been able to test the platforms before implementing them helped make these platforms more efficient and better accepted, not only by the local authorities - who took ownership of these products -, but also by the users, the inhabitants of these two cities. They also stressed the importance of the exchanges within the ASToN network, which helps cities share their experiences.

Key points

- Simina Lazar introduced ASToN, a network of 11 cities from 11 different countries, born from partnership between Urbact and French Development Agency.
- Hamadou Yalcouye presented situation in Bamako (huge population growth, huge pressure on public services, 57% of population younger than 20 years) and how the city decided to create synergies at local level. They created a platform ('E-vignette') to introduce a mobility tax.
- Martin Ssekajja presented the situation in Kampala (the largest city of Uganda), and its new IT strategy (2020-2025) to become Smart City. To improve mobility "KlaKconnect" has been introduced. It provides real time information about traffic incidents and how to navigate around the city (incident reporting system) technology implementation.

Quotes

- Simina Lazar, *"ASToN is born from the strong conviction that when cities work together, they can move faster and bring changes faster, because we all know that we don't have a lot of time"*.
- Martin Ssekajja, *"Before you go out to roll out a project, test it in a small environment"*.
- Hamadou Yalcouye, *"We are learning every day, also thanks to the experimental approach"*.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Culture for Peace and Security

International cultural relations as a global gateway to peace, stability and development.

Organised by: European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)

Moderator

- Rosanna Lewis, Senior Relationships Manager, Culture Responds to Global Challenges, British Council

Speakers

- Sina Lebert, EU Liaison Officer, Goethe-Institut
- Sybilla Britani, Network Manager, European National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC Global)
- Lina Kirjazovaite, Programmes Manager, European National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC Global)
- Isabelle Van de Gejuchte, Senior Manager Policy Engagement, British Council
- Pedro Affonso Ivo Franco, Consultant, Culture, Creativity and Development Consulting
- Stephanie Grant, Senior Programme Manager, Cultural Protection Fund, British Council

Session summary

Through 11 case studies worldwide, EUNIC's report on cultural relations in fragile context argues that cultural aspects can find a good entry point in contemporary notions of peace, which are increasingly connected to development and social justice and thus contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. This provides an opportunity for the EU to affirm its influence in the world, as well as a concrete framework for new models of international partnerships worldwide.

Based on robust evidence the report outlines clear pathways to strengthen the position of cultural aspects in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both where culture is mentioned explicitly and elsewhere and by developing strategies and policies which make these connections explicit and build strong partnerships.

This session invited relevant stakeholders in the fields of culture, sustainable development, international cooperation, peace and security (including public and private sectors, practitioners and policy makers) to share insights and examples of the role of culture in creating sustainable pathways for peacebuilding and security in fragile contexts with the goal of creating new models for international partnerships worldwide.

Synopsis

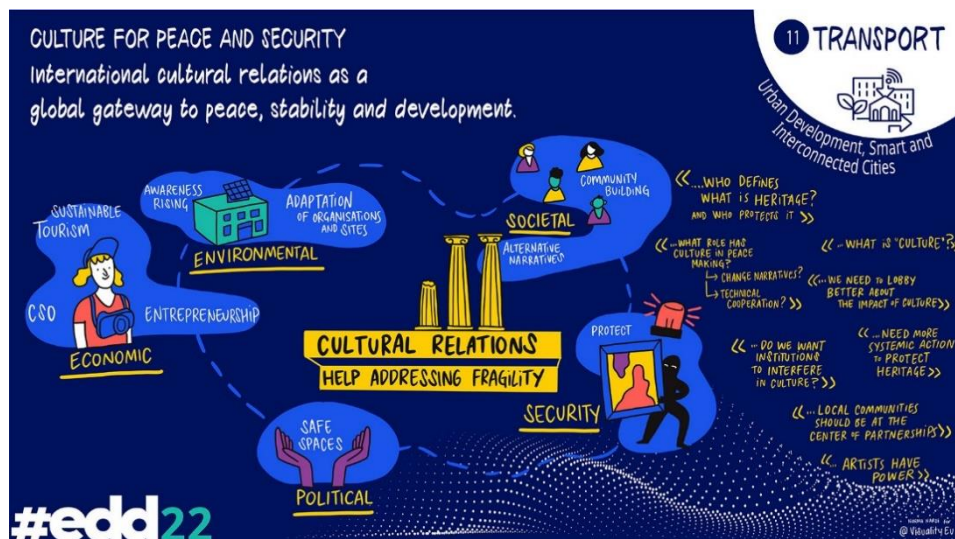
The session opened with the presentation of the EUNIC's report which highlighted the importance of taking a holistic approach to sustainable peace, an approach that connects development, peace and humanitarian work.

The participants discussed the issues raised in the report and debated how cultural heritage at risk can be protected, in addition to how art can address economic, environmental, political, security and

societal fragilities. The importance of ensuring that development policies take culture into consideration was underscored, with the role culture plays in reconciliation processes also being discussed. Furthermore, it was stressed that systemic preventive policies to protect cultural heritage are needed.

Key points

- Protecting culture at risk and addressing fragilities through art.
- Advocacy and allowing diverse actors to deliver the project.
- The role culture plays in reconciling processes at urban and national level.
- What it is meant by culture, notation of identity, extend the understanding of conflict in vulnerable areas.
- How to ensure that development policies take culture into account.
- If culture places a role in peace security, is it about changing the narrative, the understanding at local level.



BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Beyond creative placemaking

Participatory and bottom up multi-stakeholders models to engage and mobilize citizens' creativity in building innovative, inclusive and sustainable infrastructures for urban regeneration

Organised by Groupe de Recherche en Architecture OUvert.e

Moderator

- Valeria Marcolin, Co-director, Culture et Développement

Speakers

- Louise Haxthausen, Director, UNESCO Representation to the European Institutions

Session summary

In the past decades the nexus between culture, creativity and urban acupuncture experiments (including eco-acupuncture) have been showing successful results in "leveraging culture to transform impoverished places into vibrant and resilient communities" (Artscape), support innovative and bottom up experiences, actively involving local communities in their neighbourhood regeneration and economic development through social/cultural infrastructures dedicated to CCIs, including public libraries and third places (Fablab, incubators, co-working etc). The session built on good practices/studies from the applicant, main co-organizers and partners from regions of the world (specific focus in Africa) to discuss how localised experiences could be further promoted and scaled-up at national/regional/international levels.

Synopsis

During the introduction, the moderator laid out some of the issues that can arise during urban regeneration. Participants then discussed how city planners, architects, local communities and international organisations can work together to ensure that redevelopment benefits both local citizens and businesses. In groups, participants discussed how to avoid the displacement of local populations when an area is regenerated, how to create cultural heritage and how to work together to meet communities' needs.



AGORA: Sustainable urban eco-tourism for green recovery of heritage settlements

Local action for addressing urban challenge to promote low carbon development for economic prosperity of urban heritage settlements in Nepal

Organised by UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Speakers

- Pragya Pradhan, Habitat Programme Manager, UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Session summary

The session sought discussion on low-carbon development for economic prosperity of rapidly urbanising cities, through strengthening local actions on safeguarding and integrating cultural heritage in urban planning. The discussion was instigated by highlighting achievement and learnings of the EU funded project “Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth of Heritage Settlement” in Lalitpur City, Nepal. The achievements expand beyond reconstruction of over 12 heritage infrastructure damaged by 2015 earthquake, to preservation of intangible heritage linked to establishment of local enterprises to support economic recovery of earthquake affected communities, mostly women and youth, showcasing potential of urban heritage eco-tourism replicable to 50 heritage settlements in Kathmandu Valley and beyond.

Synopsis

This panel looked at the EU SWITCH-Asia project, examining how Nepal worked towards not only physical reconstruction but also cultural heritage restoration following the 2015 earthquake. Switching to responsible production and construction relied on using local resources and crafts to foster projects including eco-tourism, low-carbon transport, and heritage walks, with a particular focus put on women and youth. The panel concluded that rapid urbanisation and living heritage conservation can go hand-in-hand.

Key points

- Sustainable tourism and green growth: how can rapid urbanisation and living heritage conservation go hand in hand?
- Switch to responsible production and consumption. local resources, crafts focus, eco-tourism.

Quotes

- Pragya Pradhan, “Community engagement is critical.”

THEME 4: HEALTH

Topic: Security of supply chains and development of local manufacturing

HIGH LEVEL PANEL: Partnering for African Sovereignty on medical products access

Building the conditions for a resilient and sustainable Pharmaceutical Sector in Africa

Organised by Agence Française de Développement

Moderator

- Gallagher Fenwick, Independent consultant

Speakers

- Margaret Agama, Ag. Director Health and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate, African Union Commission
- Marie-Paule Kieny, Chair of the Board, Medicines Patent Pool
- Morena Makhoana, CEO, Biovac
- Jérémie Pellet, CEO, Expertise France
- Chiaratou Olayindé Moutairou, EDD Young Leader, Bénin,

Session summary

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the lack of manufacturing medical products capacity in Africa and dependence on international imports and donations.

To address the challenge of equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, the African Union has launched several initiatives and announced the goal to produce locally 60% of the Africa's vaccine requirements by 2040. At this momentum, operationalization of the African Medicines Agency will also be a game changer that will contribute to ensure a sustainable development of local manufacturing.

The AFD Group, as part of a larger Team Europe effort, is contributing to this AU ambition to build reliant pharmaceutical systems. This includes supporting manufacturing capacities as well as human capital skills set and strengthening the regulatory framework.

Synopsis

The discussion was centred around the transfer of technology, expertise building, strong regulation and focus on localisation as essential components to developing Africa's medical manufacturing

capacity. Development should be sustainable to ensure Africa is ready for, and resilient to, the next global pandemic. Knowledge and IP transfer from large pharmaceutical companies is necessary for the local manufacturing of vaccines. Education in terms of medical training - but also at community level - will build medical sovereignty. Long-term European partnerships will be vital in terms of providing financing and transferring skills.

Key points

- Aim of session: share objectives with the African continent, present challenges, support development of environment to create sustainable pharmaceuticals.
- Key themes: knowledge transfer, expertise building, local production, patent transfer, regulation, community - building their understanding of healthcare, understand community challenges, support from international community in the form of partnerships to ensure Africa is ready for next pandemic.
- African medicines regulation treaty came into force in October 2021 and seeks to improve the harmonisation of medications.

Quotes

- Gallagher Fenwick, *"African medical sovereignty is a vital goal"*.
- Margaret AGAMA, *"Africa is a continent of 1.2 billion people, it's subject to sub standard, fake medicines and technologies"*.
- Marie-Paule Kieny, *"The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the importance of health sovereignty"*.
- Chiaratou Olayindé Moutairou, *"When the community understands what is going on, this builds a feeling of trust"*.
- Morena Makhoana, *"We want to underline the importance of sustainability of vaccine production. This needs to be maintained between pandemics"*.
- Jérémie Pellet, *"We need to fight against healthcare inequality by working on technical aspects and full healthcare coverage"*.



LAB DEBATE: Conversion of public debt for investments in public health for resilience

Release G20 and the SDG compliant approach to debt conversion for public health to build the resilience of health systems

Organised by LINK 2007

Moderator

- Roberto Ridolfi, President, Link 2007

Speakers

- Erica Gerretsen, Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Jerry Ictho, Senior Technical Advisor Programmes in Uganda, Doctors with Africa CUAMM
- San Bilal, Senior Executive, Head of Economic Recovery and Transformation, European Centre for Development Policy Management
- Jackline Kiarie, Regional Programme Manager, Amref Health Africa

Session summary

Funding the international cooperation for Sustainable Development suffers from sustainability issues and it is worsening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. RELEASE G20 initiative calls for debt reduction with the creation by the debtor country of a Sustainable Development - SDG FUND to accelerate sustainable investment in infrastructure and services. Health, as a development issue, continues to have a significant impact on the economic and social security of countries and regions across Africa. Africa's underlying burden of endemic diseases is the largest in the world. To prevent future epidemics and to address the growing issue of antimicrobial resistance African governments need to invest heavily in epidemic surveillance, laboratory infrastructure and human resources development.

Synopsis

The speakers discussed how financing can most effectively support a strong healthcare system in Africa. Governance emerged as a key theme, along with capacity building and better resource allocation. Comprehensive debt swaps were highlighted as a promising financial tool for converting debt into useful investment vis-à-vis the SDGs. The amount of funding allocated to low-income countries was also mentioned. Larger financial commitments from EU Member States are required, as is better regulation which supports the local level. The need to strengthen community surveillance and ensure that research facilities can quickly detect and respond to infectious diseases was also stressed.

Key points

The following themes were discussed during the debate:

- Ownership (country level ownership when investing).
- Innovative financing.
- Antimicrobial resistance.
- Capacity building.
- Resource management and allocation.
- Accountability.
- Strengthen community surveillance through training.
- Equity - most money goes to rich countries, comprehensive debt swap.
- Global regulation and policy to support on local level.

Quotes

- Roberto Ridolfi, *"Debt must be managed and sustainable or the country will suffocate"*.
- Jerry Ictho, *"The issue of antimicrobial resistance in Uganda is hug"*.
- San Bilal, *"We are at a historical moment in time, in terms of the scale of the crisis we have.. We need to respond at scale"*.
- Erica Gerretsen, *"When we do investment, it must be fully aligned with the countries policies and priorities"*.
- Jackline Kiarie, *"It's vital that we work with the right people in the right capacity to make the right decisions"*.

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: AI impact on society: futurism & practice

AI and data innovation for the future of healthcare

Organised by Assortis

Moderator

- Stefano Sedola, Partner, Stratejai

Speakers

- Andrea Pescino, Co-founder, Healthcare Data Innovation Council
- Elena Bonfiglioli, General Manager Healthcare, Microsoft
- Meni Styliadou, Vice President Distinguished Fellow, Takeda
- Alberto Borrego, Head of Europe Health, NTT Data
- Miriam Stankovich, Senior Digital Policy Specialist, DAI

Session summary

The session brought diverse case studies showing AI application in the health sector, focusing on how AI powered by data has made healthcare efficient and accessible and how it can lead innovation in developing countries. The panel was composed of world leading representatives in the field of technology, pharma and healthcare.

A Networking Event with the Assortis Members, EDD Participants and the speakers of the panel followed the session.

Synopsis

The panel presented case studies on the application of AI for collecting and regulating data, along with utilising data to detect and prevent diseases. All participants emphasised that data is at the core of modern AI. In order for populations to engage in data sharing, trust must be fostered through the right governance models. AI will change the way we treat diseases, and will be able to assist doctors to make better, more evidence-based decisions and address healthcare worker shortages. By providing local community workers with AI diagnostic capabilities, developing countries can leapfrog healthcare deficits.

Key points

- Data collected in India can help prevent and control what's happening in other countries e.g. South Africa.
- AI has the power to enable developing countries to leapfrog in healthcare provision tools and process need to be brought to the people.
- Community workers need the capability to do the diagnosis and connect with a specialist for treatment.

Quotes

- Andrea Pescino, *"The higher the quality of data we have, the better the transformation will be"*.
- Elena Bonfiglioli, *"The health of the population is key to the competitiveness and development of countries"*.
- Meni Styliadou, *"We need trust, and we can only build this through local engagement"*.
- Alberto Borrego, *"Gathering information before the disease appears is one of the major advantages AI can provide"*.
- Miriam Stankovich, *"Data should not be biased and ownership should be clearly defined"*.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Strengthening national PATHways for a global One Health vision

Delivering on the One Health Joint Plan of Action of the Quadripartite (FAO, WOA, WHO and UNEP)

Organised by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Moderator

- Andrea Winkler, Professor of Global One Health and Co(joint)-Director Center for Global Health at the Technical University of Munich

Speakers

- Carla Montesi, Director for the Green Deal and Digital Agenda, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Janyl Moldaliev, Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Keith Sumption, Chief Veterinary Officer, Director, Joint Zoonotic Diseases and AMR Centre (CJWZ)
- Peter Sousa Hoejskov, Technical Officer, World Health Organization
- Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe, World Organization for Animal Health

Session summary

In 2021-22, the Quadripartite developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) which is intended to guide the four organizations to work together on One Health with the aim of supporting their Members/Member states and key stakeholders to strengthen One Health capacities, policies, approaches and leverage the needed investments to mainstream One Health globally and locally. It provides a framework for action and proposes a set of activities and integrated package of services that the four organizations can offer together to advance and sustainably scale up One Health. Within this session, the organisers invited the audience - a wide range of stakeholders - to help build ideas, propose concrete recommendations and practical solutions on how strengthen a One Health approach at regional and national level, and how the Joint Plan of Action can support implementation at scale.

The session aimed to:

- Raise awareness on the importance of the One Health approach at all levels, challenges and opportunities for countries and how the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) offers an integrated package of support
- Gain audience's perspectives and suggested solutions on how to strengthen a OH approach at country/regional level. These will inform the Quadripartite OH JPA implementation plan and how to best offer an integrated support package to countries.

Synopsis

The speakers outlined the benefits of a 'One Health' approach. The health of animals, plants, the planet and humans are connected and taking a holistic approach can lead to better outcomes for all, including reducing risks from future zoonotic epidemics.

Panellists also discussed the challenges of collaborating across diverse organisations and the need for ideas to be translated both into other languages and into the language used by other institutions. They highlighted the importance of tailoring action plans to a country's specific needs.

Quotes

- Carla Montesi: “We need a holistic approach to achieve human, animal and environmental health”.
- Peter Sousa, “The implementation of the joint plan of action needs to be tailored to a country's specific needs”.
- Janyl Moldaliev, “We need to focus on prevention and work more effectively on it in the future”.



BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Digitalisation and resilience to adverse shocks in a developing context

Opportunities and Challenges in a post-COVID-19 World

Organised by Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (Ferdi)

Moderator

- Holy Ranaivozanany, Head of Outreach, Advocacy and Partnerships, Africa-Europe Foundation

Speakers

- Antonia Gleizes-Lacombe, Chief Marketing Officer, Janngo and Partner, Janngo Capital
- Renée Chao-Beroff, Co-founder & Chairman of the Board, Wi-Agri
- Jenny Aker, Professor, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Session summary

As of 2021, thousands of digital technologies were deployed globally to help households, SMEs, and governments maintain economic activities and access to health care during the pandemic. These innovations encompassed e-health interventions, covering issues such as health staff training or child-maternal health promotion, but also new technologies with a strong impact on transportation, transaction and information costs and thereby on poverty reduction, gender issues and so forth. These technologies cover areas such as digital marketplaces, digital financial services, logistic supply-chain applications, or digital communication software. This session aimed at discussing how such digital technologies have helped households, firms and administrations cope with the consequences of the pandemic, but also with other types of adverse shocks.

Synopsis

After acknowledging that digital infrastructure should be a complement to traditional infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa, and not a complete solution, speakers went on to highlight many of the benefits that it can provide.

From helping students in Botswana stay connected to their educational environment when schools were shut due to COVID-19 to utilising digital payments to reduce the risk of thefts from producers during harvest season, attendees heard how digital technologies are helping communities deal with day-to-day problems and adverse shocks.

Quotes

- Jenny Aker, “Digital can’t solve everything but in a context where we can’t meet, learn, earn or trade face-to-face, digital offers us opportunities”.



AGORA: Healthcare during Connectivity Blackouts

Experiences of providing healthcare during conflict from Tigray, CAR and DR Congo

Organised by Research Advisors and Experts Europe

Moderator

- Elien Spillebeen, Journalist, MO* Magazine

Speakers

- Amanuel Haile, Chief Executive Director, Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital-College of Health Sciences, Mekelle University
- Franziska Eckelmans, Legal Adviser, Trust Fund for Victims
- Pauline Kamau, Quaker International Affairs Representative, American Friends Service Committee

Session summary

This session was organised by Research Advisors and Experts Europe together with the ICC Trust Fund for Victims (TFV). It considered the question of providing support to victims as reparations of Rome Statute Crimes. During situations of widespread crimes against humanity, sexual violence and war crimes, civilian victims may struggle to access adequate healthcare. If such situations are combined with widespread shut-downs of communications technology, basic needs and aid, how can barriers to assist victims of these crimes be overcome? This session discussed experiences with such situations. The session heard from healthcare workers in Ayder Hospital in Northern Ethiopia (Tigray), the Central African Republic, and in DR Congo who have faced such struggles, as well as organisations trying to assist them.

Synopsis

Speakers stated that communications and electricity blackouts appear to be a part of modern warfare strategies. This means that many of the horrors of conflict, including gender-based violence, remain hidden from international audiences. In the wartorn Tigray region in Ethiopia, the Ayder hospital is suffering from a severe lack of basic supplies and equipment. For example, cancer patients currently cannot receive treatment there as only emergencies can be treated. Speakers discussed the vital importance of the internet to spreading the message about such gruesome realities of war.

Key points

- Amanuel Haile from Ethiopia reported that at the Ayder hospital staff was left without salaries for 1 year on. There is lack of food, drugs, chlorine and bed sheets. They use drugs past their sell by date, cannot treat cancer, only serving emergency patients due to severe shortages of fuel. There has been no electricity for a few weeks, surgeries were delayed and no means to sterilise.
- Pauline Kamau stated that organising deliberate blackouts is part of warfare today, and that the lack of motivation to invest can be part of a political strategy. Sexual and gender based violence are often used as a weapon.

THEME 5: RESEARCH

Topic 1: Science, Technology, Innovation and Research

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: The AU-EU Innovation Agenda

The 17-18 February EU-Africa Joint Summit acknowledged the African Union-European Union Innovation Agenda as part of the Global Gateway Strategy; thus launching its implementation.

Organised by European Commission – Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Moderator

- Filip Van Den Abeele, Thematic Moderator, Read My Lips

Speakers

- Mmusi Kgafel, Minister of Trade and Industry Republic of Botswana
- Maria da Grace Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament
- Irina Reyes, Member of Cabinet of the European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel
- Bosun Tijani, CEO, Co-creation Hub
- Aggrey Ambali, Head of Science, Technology and Innovation Hub, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- Mohammed Belhocine, Professor, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union
- Elisha Caleb, EDD Young Leader, Kenya

Session summary

The session aimed to present the Innovation Agenda and the challenges it raises; as well as review the feasibility of the measures to be deployed both in Africa and in Europe in the short-, medium- and long-term.

Implementation of the joint Agenda will be built on the experience and networks of previous and ongoing R&I activities, and proposes additional actions and related financing needs. Some of these could be covered by the biennial work programmes of Horizon Europe, the regional and national multi-annual indicative programmes of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), and other relevant AU-EU programmes.

Furthermore, several EU and AU Member States have shown an interest to increase their support to AU-EU STI cooperation in African countries and contribute to the implementation of this AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

In order to ensure that the Agenda will be designed and implemented in response to current and future needs, the session sought input and feedback from the session’s participants on the objectives, ideas, additional work streams and proposed actions of the Innovation Agenda.

Synopsis

Participants underlined the need for the Innovation Agenda to be based on equitable, inclusive partnerships and mutual respect. Emphasis was given to the importance of building bridges through increased partnerships, especially across the private sector, in part to stimulate market access for innovation. There was a plea for more capacity building, knowledge transfers and exchanges, in addition to a call for better leveraging of scientific knowledge. A call was also heard to increase the role of digital technology in the Innovation Agenda, as an enabler of innovation. The importance of fully including youth from the outset of this process was highlighted, as was the need to avoid a ‘brain drain’ to harness economic growth.

Key points

- The AU-EU Innovation Agenda is included in the final declaration of the joint summit as the Africa regional part of the Global Gateway Strategy. This underlines the role of R&I being part of a joint vision for a renewed Partnership for sustainable development.
- Against this background, the High-Level Panel on the Innovation Agenda fits perfectly well under the Science, Technology, Innovation and Research topic of the 15th edition of the EDD and its focus on “Global Gateway: building sustainable partnerships for a connected world.”

Quotes

- Elisha Caleb, *“Innovation has always brought two things together which were apart. In this context, innovation is bringing the AU and EU together. Having said that, the only way one great speaker say the only way to be safe is to be together and reaching prosperity together at the end of the day. The only goal that we have today is innovation in the young people. And the young people can be the greatest trigger of these innovations by implementing all their projects on grassroots levels and if given the right tools from the responsible authorities”.*
- Aggrey Ambali, *“I think we have learned from the COVID pandemic the role of research and innovation in addressing the challenges that we face on both sides of the Continent. I think that what could be important is the process whereby we should have research and innovation integrated in the investment figures”.*
- Irina Reyes, *“I don’t think the current draft is digital enough and I think that is something we need to look at together more”.*



LAB DEBATE: Connecting partner researchers for sustainable and resilient agriculture

Exploring the model of long-term collaboration platforms as a way to foster knowledge exchanges and innovation in agriculture

Organised by Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement

Moderator

- Sylvain Roger Perret, Scientific Director, Environments and Societies Department, CIRAD

Speakers

- Dien Nguyen Thi, Lecturer, Vietnam National University of Agriculture
- Prisca Mugabe, Deputy Dean, University of Zimbabwe
- Nicolas Antoine-Moussiaux, Associate Professor, University of Liège

Session summary

Agriculture has a major role to play for achieving the SDGs but its resilience and sustainability are increasingly at stake. Addressing the challenges it faces requires knowledge for evidence-based decisions and solutions.

Quality and relevant agricultural research calls for data sharing and knowledge exchanges across regions. Research and training platforms in partnership ("*dispositifs de recherche et de formation en partenariat*", dPs) are structured around priority thematic areas jointly defined by the partner research organisations involved and guiding the work of multidisciplinary teams, under a common governance.

This unique model fosters dialogue and collaborative thinking around global issues while supporting the emergence of specific and local innovation for increased impact.

Synopsis

The session provided greater insight into 'Research and training platforms in partnership' (dPs). The panellists presented their own experiences of working within a range of Dps, and highlighted their wide-ranging benefits, most notably trust and connectivity. Emphasis was given to the ability of Dp partners to interconnect through cross boundary research 'ecosystems', which offer diverse and permanent partnerships. Such partnerships help stimulate capacity building and enable researchers - especially young researchers - to develop in depth relations with local communities to the benefit of knowledge building over time.

Quotes

- Sylvain Roger Perret, “Now all research in agriculture is expected to provide solutions much faster. To be closer to all elements of society who operate in this jungle of challenges.”

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: Regreening Africa and the Great Green Wall

Evidence and lessons from an ambitious land restoration partnership to support the Great Green Wall

Organised by World Agroforestry Centre

Moderator

- Filip Van Den Abeele, Thematic Moderator, Read My Lips

Speakers

- Mieke Bourne, Regreening Africa Programme Manager, World Agroforestry Centre
- Bernard Crabbé, Team Leader of the Environment and Circular Economy sector at the European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Birguy Lamizana Diallo, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Session summary

The session shared Regreening Africa’s unique partnership approach and integration of research, practice, and policy to support land restoration. This innovative setting has proved successful in fighting land degradation, strengthening resilience to climate change and agroforestry value chains, and challenging poverty and food insecurity in the Sahel. It helps boost cooperation and cross-sectoral action, delivering integrated and digital solutions addressing some of the region’s most pressing challenges.

The session highlighted evidence on progress and lessons learnt related to matching practices to local contexts, the importance of monitoring and learning, policy engagement, youth and women inclusion and value chains. The second part of the session reflected on how the evidence and lessons from Regreening Africa, and other successful efforts can be inter-connected and applied to future restoration initiatives and investments such as the Great Green Wall.

Synopsis

Panellists summarised the successes of the Great Green Wall initiative and lessons learnt to date. Key lessons included the importance of empowering and incentivising local communities to ‘own’

restoration projects. Success rests on a combination of solutions matched to local contexts as well as the provision of tools to enable community-led land management. Initiatives such as this must address the drivers of degradation, ensure proper governance and funding, and set up robust monitoring and reporting processes to reliably measure progress. The importance of building diverse strategic partnerships and strengthening private sector investment was also underlined.

Quotes

- Mieke Bourne, *“It doesn’t take as much as we imagine to start the process of regeneration”*.
- Bernard Crabbé, *“We should not underestimate the challenge. We’re talking about investing into degraded lands, some affected by political insecurity. We see opportunities, but must not underestimate the challenges”*.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Mobility and sustainability in Higher Education and Research

Promoting knowledge exchanges for positive and shared socio-economic pathways for the SDGs and beyond

Organised by Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

Moderator

- Emmy ARTS, PhD student Université Paris Cité (France) / UNICAMP (Brazil), Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

Speakers

- Jean-Baptiste Meyer, Enseignant chercheur, Institute of Research for Sustainable Development
- Diego Carambula, PhD Student, University of Paris
- Ghislaine El Abid, Phd Candidate Université Paris Cité, IRD, Ceped, France Et Université Internationale de Rabat, Center for global studies, Maroc, IRD

Session summary

Academic mobility is considered as a normal and desirable phenomenon for a knowledge circulation propitious to innovation and development. Scholars’ exchanges (students, teaching staff, and R&D S&E) have thus been encouraged with expectations of cross fertilisation and economic growth. However, conditions have dramatically changed recently with potentially major impacts on mobility: universalisation of higher education in the global south, the advent of the SDGs as a compass for international cooperation, the emerging sustainability science as an overall agenda for scholarly institutions. Demographic, diplomatic and epistemic issues are thus questioning the traditional views about mobility. The lab debate addressed these in their socio-economic, environmental and geopolitical dimensions.

Synopsis

During the session, the speakers presented their research on academic mobility and its impact on today's challenges, with particular regard to our carbon footprint. The data presented by the IRD showed that three-quarters of emissions produced by academics came from attending short-term meetings, such as conferences, abroad. The audience suggested that spending longer amounts of time abroad for research purposes can be more favourable than taking short trips. It was also pointed out that it is important to avoid only sending senior researchers to attend conferences as this would limit opportunities for junior researchers. Virtual mobility was also brought to participants' attention as it can reach more students across the world. Finally, it was noted that COVID-19 showed that knowledge mobility is possible and, as such, 'brain drain' can be converted into 'brain gain' if the adequate policies are put in place.

Key points

- Presentation of studies on the benefits of transnational cooperation - economic growth, and research productivity.
- Researchers' mobility environmental impact.
- Carbon offset.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of our emissions come from small seminars, conferences.
- Virtual student mobility.
- COVID-19 put a lot of pressure to create virtual mobility programmes. Virtual mobility reaches more people.



AGORA: Evidence for impact: meet the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID)

Explore FID's unique approach and funding opportunities drawing on scientific evaluation to foster innovative policy-alleviation policies.

Organised by Fund for Innovation in Development

Moderator

- Thomas Melonio, Executive Director of Innovation, Strategy and Research, Agence Française de Développement

Speakers

- Juliette Seban, Executive Director, Fund for Innovation in Development

Session summary

The Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) is an independent body presided by Nobel laureate Esther Duflo and hosted by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

Through flexible grant funding, FID enables innovators and researchers to test new ideas, experiment and build rigorous evidence of what works, and scale the most cost-effective and highest-impact solutions to today's most pressing challenges.

This Agora session was the opportunity for all development practitioners, including research institutes, NGOs, for-profit companies, governments and donors working on initiatives in all low- and middle-income countries to exchanges with FID's team on its innovative approach and funding opportunities (from 50K€ to 4M€).

Synopsis

Applicants from any sector or geography can apply for funding by the FID, which has a very broad definition of innovation, the panel heard. The AFD-hosted body prides itself on giving a response to all applicants, typically within two to three months. Projects given as examples included the use of mobile phones to promote adult literacy, and the development of a mosquito-repellent ointment. The panel concluded that, although a French initiative, the FID aspires to be considered part of Team Europe.

Key points

- Promotion of adult education.
- Lower illiteracy level.
- Spreading new development practices.

AGORA: Generation Equality for an inclusive digital transformation

Bridging the digital gap for truly sustainable connections working for the people and the planet

Organised by UN Women

Speakers

- Dagmar Schumacher, Director, Brussels Office, UN Women
- Noora Rikalainen, Team Leader, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Session summary

Despite several important initiatives, including in the COVID-19 context, a significant digital gender gap remains globally, limiting the equitable realisation of the benefits of the digital transformation across high-, low- and middle-income countries. Going beyond access to digital technologies, there is a need for a gender perspective to tackle the challenges related to exclusion from economic opportunities and employment, the perpetuation of biases and discrimination through AI-based technologies and increased online harassment and violence. Building on the Generation Equality Forum (2021) and its Action Coalitions, the session highlighted key results the EU Global Gateway shall achieve to contribute to strengthen connections between Europe and the world and help partner countries address the digital gender divide.

Synopsis

The digital gender gap includes a lack of access to digital tools for girls and women, with panellists also noting that online gender-based violence is experienced by 38% of women. The Generation Equality Forum works on bridging the digital access gender gap, investing in technology for women, building inclusive innovation ecosystems and eliminating online gender-based violence and discrimination. Panellists heard that Finland will raise these topics at international forums and that the EU is also taking action. They added that, as this is a new topic, there is a lack of tools and guidelines in place; however, there is a lot of eagerness to address issues in this area.

Topic 2: Quality education

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: A Global Gateway to reimagine learning and skills for the future

Connecting for, in and through education

Organised by European Commission - Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Moderator

- Lynn Wesenbeek, Moderator and Journalist, Read My Lips BV

Speakers

- Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Neema Lugangira, Member of Parliament, United Republic of Tanzania
- Leonardo Garnier Rimolo, Special Advisor for the Transforming Education Summit, United Nations
- Christina Williams, Steering Committee Member, European Union Youth Sounding Board
- Funmilayo Taiwo, EDD Young Leader, Nigeria

Session summary

The global geopolitical landscape has shifted to a multi-conceptual framework where traditional, singular ideas about how to best look after world affairs have splintered into multiple approaches and conflicting agendas. Innovations and transitions that we want to promote to address educational challenges are at the same time triggering new risks, including the creation of new social divisions. This high-level panel reflected on how education can be transformed through creating and reinforcing connections without jeopardizing the dimensions of inclusion, equity and quality that are set into SDG4. The calls for transforming education are out there.

Speakers focused on three dimensions: making connections in education to improve and co-create knowledge, making connections for education to continue fulfilling its enabling potential, and finally making connections through education to provide a basis for social justice, address inequalities and belief in necessary institutions.

Speakers touched upon the different perspectives that transformation involves, including challenges and opportunities from a gender perspective, a youth perspective, a duty-bearer perspective, etc.

Synopsis

Panellists underlined the need for a far more ambitious transformation concerning education and emphasised the importance of investing in the sector to secure a lasting global recovery. The need to empower young people to actively take ownership of what, where and how they learn was discussed, as was the need to rethink *how* we teach. The Global Gateway was highlighted as an opportunity to advance gender equality, with the urgent requirement to eliminate all forms of exclusion in education being stressed. The importance of ensuring both a digital transformation and comprehensive connectivity was also underlined. The session closed with the Youth Sounding Board issuing a challenge to governments to show ambition when rewriting the rules.

Key points

- Without investing in health, education and research we will not have a lasting global recovery. That is why it is important to recognise that education is at the centre of the Global Gateway.
- Global Gateway presents an opportunity to advance gender equality. Looking at Nigeria as a country, 60% of out of school students are girls. We are trying to change the narrative right now using an integrated approach.
- Rather than only preparing for the most likely future, we need to become better at imagining alternative futures for education.

Quotes

- Andreas Schleicher, *“Make young people active agents to take ownership of what, where and how they learn”.*
- Marjeta Jager, *“We need to unify efforts to bring the education back on political agenda...bring all ministers....to have an integrated approach, an alignment of the education agenda. All actors need to put together all the tools we have to bring the quality of education and learning for life back to the agenda”.*
- Christina Williams, *“I challenge you to be ambitious. If we want to transform education, we must transform our policies. I'm calling on you to write the rules governments... and give us comprehensive connectivity”.*



LAB DEBATE: Rethinking quality VET to attract investment

How can VET and the private sector join forces to stimulate growth with maximum local benefits by using digital and green opportunities?

Organised by VET Toolbox (consortium between British Council, Enabel, Expertise France, GIZ and LuxDev)

Moderator

- Bartelijne Van Den Boogert, Head of project, VET Toolbox

Available at: <https://youtu.be/fUGr1u7TFrc>

Speakers

- Simone Andersson, Chief Commercial Officer, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre (WEEE Centre)
- Omar Sadek, Head of Department, Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Nigeria (AHK Nigeria)
- Paul Umukunzi, Director General, Rwanda Technical Vocational Education and Training Board (RTB)

Session summary

Great potential lies in Vocational Education and Training (VET) seizing investment/employment opportunities to the benefit of the local population. Where investors and employers find the required skills locally, sustainable social and economic development can be boosted. High time to rethink what 'quality VET' means: can VET take up the lead and collaborate with investors/employers in an agile way through innovative training strategies and future-oriented skills development programmes?

During this session, speakers and audience debated how to revamp the VET system in co-creation with the private sector, to effectively cater for current and future skills needs, using digital and green solutions and striving for equity and decent employment for all.

Synopsis

- Panellists discussed the biggest concerns of investors in sub-Saharan Africa, including how the perception of corruption and lack of transparency can lead to uncertainty and trust issues for investors, as well as risks related to conflict.
- Changes in the expectations of VET were explored; for example, to produce a qualified workforce, the VET system needs to be structured in a way that there is no mismatch between employment opportunities and training.

- The need to widen training to include soft skills, such as digital competencies, was emphasised, as was the requirement to learn what investors need in terms of human resources.

Key points

- Simone Andersson stated that skills are lacking when it comes to curricular electronics and waste management. Here representing private sector that needs these skills.
- Paul Umukunzi wants private sector to organise training programmes for out of school youth and others.
- Omar Sadek is promoting on a dual approach of theory and practice to upgrade human capital.
- VET needs to be structured so there is no mismatch between employment opportunities and training.
- VET needs to add soft skills to technical ones for job seekers and job creators, who can create their own businesses/SME.

Quotes

- Omar Sadek, “There is so much that can be done ...and there are possibilities for us do something for people, climate and industry. Fulfil the needs of the world and you will not be disappointed.”

PROJECT/REPORT PRESENTATION: E-learning online & offline for vulnerable communities

Strengthening Peace-Education and Resilience of Vulnerable Youth

Organised by Mekelle University Faculty of Health

Moderator

- Jago Kosolovsky, Editor-in-chief, MO* Magazine

Speakers

- Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, Vice Chancellor, Kampala International University
- Franziska Eckelmans, Legal Adviser, Trust Fund for Victims
- Reginald Nalugala, Tutor in multidisciplinary approach to social transformation across Africa, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa
- Diederik Van Iwaarden, Liaison officer, Dynamics of Youth, Utrecht University
- Naomi Stocker, Ghent University
- Bertin Bishikwabo Lukeba, Programme Officer, Trust Fund for Victims
- Jamal Warsame, Country Coordinator, East Africa University
- Helen Abreha Tesfay, Doctor, Europe External Policy Advisors

- Kamate Abdramane, Programme Manager, Institut Français
- Akati Khasiani, Programme Manager, ACP-EU Culture Programme Eastern Africa, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States Secretariat, EU Culture Programme
- Selam Kidane, Lecturer/ Psychotherapist, University of West London

Session summary

This session focused on innovation in digital online/offline education to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable youth in the digital era. The discussion focused on the relevance of cultural literacy in preparing such programmes, to make online/offline education relevant to each place.

The objective of the session was to discuss how culturally aware online/offline education can challenge social norms and stereotypes, strengthen critical thinking skills and contribute to peace-building, inter-religious dialogue and mutual understanding.

Several initiatives were presented for discussion: the East Africa based Digital Innovation and Skills Hub (DISH), the ICC TFV approach to Peace Education, the ACP-EU Culture programme on cultural and creative approaches to the socio-economic development of ACP countries. Skill-building focuses on a combination of Computer Science, Health, Mental Health, Law and Customary Law, Peace-Building and Communication, Education and Business Administration. The curricula are developed with cultural awareness.

The session explored ways of bridging the digital divide by providing equal access to digital technology, skills and employment for students in the Horn and other ACP regions with a culturally sensitive design.

Synopsis

Panellists presented diverse programmes designed to build up the resilience of vulnerable youth through e-learning initiatives. Emphasis was put on the need to work together and to build a solid structure and strategy. Participants were particularly moved by a video presentation of the DISH project in Tigray, a region which has no access to electricity or internet due to the ongoing siege. The video described in detail how the innovative DISH learning management system is enabling vulnerable young people in Tigray, primarily women, to participate in offline e-learning courses at their own pace and in their mother tongue, highlighting the importance of providing education during conflict.

Key points

- The session dealt with how we can engage African youth, especially those in vulnerable situations.
- In the context of Tigray, the DISH Project has given hope to many young people so that they can learn and educate themselves at their own pace and convenience, even in times of crisis.
- Innovation is one of projects that emerged from COVID-19.
- In Democratic Republic of Congo, Peace School aims to restore peace through awareness raising workshops based on a peer-to-peer approach. Awareness raisers become ambassadors for peace in their own communities.

Quotes

- Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, *“A lot can be achieved if we can combine in our efforts and also align and harmonise whatever we are doing for the good of the youth who hold the future for our continents”*.
- Franziska Eckelmans, *“There has to be a structure, there has to be a strategy, and on that we need to work together”*.
- Kokob Gebru, *“In times of multiple crises, implementation of such innovative initiatives is impossible without the support and solidarity of the global partners”*.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION: Digital Inclusion within development actions in post-COVID times

It is not about headsets, it is about mindsets

Organised by European Training Foundation

Moderator

- Fabio Nascimbeni, Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation
- Joanna Anstey, Team Leader Strategic Communication, European Training Foundation

Speakers

- Delphine Dall'Agata, Associate Programme Officer, International Training Centre of the ILO
- Olivier Gineste, European Coordinator, Union Nationale des Maisons Familiales Rurales d'Education et d'Orientation (UNMFREO)

Session summary

The session focused on the issue of 21st century digital inclusion and worked out some key features that development actions should have to be really (digitally) inclusive for all stakeholders. We started from the results of the 2021 ITC-ILO Digital Inclusion Summit, reviewing the new understandings of digital connectivity (what it really means to be connected?), digital literacy (how literacies are changing in our polarised societies?) and digital tools (how to move towards digitally inclusive services by design?). Participants started from the 42 practical tips which emerged from the Summit and worked to transform them into concrete recommendations for development actions in the field of digitalisation, to enable these to help partner countries address the digital divide and further integrate into the global digital ecosystem.

Synopsis

After an introduction that covered ideas concerning digital connectivity, digital literacy, digital services and content and radical inclusion, participants broke out into four groups. They were tasked with selecting what they considered to be the two most relevant tips for a more digitally inclusive future from 42 options that were laid out on postcards. After discussing the options, a spokesperson from each group reported back on what they had chosen and why.



AGORA: Inclusive Growth –Digital Transformation of African smallholder farmers

How can access to technology improve market access for SHFs?

Organised by Bayer AG

Moderator

- Khadi Camara, Deputy Head Countries & Markets, German African Business Association

Speakers

- Adegboyega David Sodade, Project Manager, The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
- Everlyn Musyoka, Smallholder Strategy and Partnerships Lead Africa, Bayer CropScience

Session summary

COVID-19 has posed further challenges to Africa’s food and agriculture sector and to its millions of smallholder farmers. At the same time the pandemic has accelerated efforts to develop innovative digital technologies. For digitalisation to become a changemaker in Africa’s agriculture and to enhance food security while creating employment for young people in the agricultural sector, it is crucial to place smallholders' needs front and center. The session discussed how the needs of smallholder farmers in Africa may be addressed and how digital skills and technologies play a key role in that journey.

Synopsis

The digital transformation can bring many benefits to smallholder farmers in Africa, including access to training, access to markets and possibilities for mobile banking and financing. The panel discussed how digital tools can both make sure that farmers are getting the right products and inputs and allow them to check whether these are counterfeit or not, in addition to ensuring that farmers are selling their produce at the right prices. Digitalisation can also help agriculture become more attractive for the younger generation who often associate farming with poverty.

Key points

- Knowledge transfer for African small holder farmers, ensuring the farmers get the right products and inputs and are trained in best practices to improve their productivity.
- Dedicated technical assistance and training for small enterprises.
- Bridging the gap on banking. transformation of mobile banking sector to allow smallholder farmers to be banked and access credit.
- Capacity building - a majority of smallholder farmers have been growing but are producing way below the capacity of what Africa can produce.
- Not much of relevant infrastructure in rural communities, resulting in farmers not being able to get the right prices for their produce.

AGORA: Impact of gender stereotypes in school

How young people drive change for gender equality

Organised by United Nations Girls' Education Initiative

Moderator

- Eline Versluys, Education Manager, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative

Speakers

- Chiaratou Olayindé Moutairou, Réseau ouest africain des jeunes femmes leaders du Bénin

Session summary

In this fireside chat, UNGEI's flagship Gender at the Centre Initiative Lead Eline Versluys talked with a young feminist, Chiaratou Olayindé Moutairou, from Bénin on her experiences of gender discrimination in school.

The audience heard real stories about how gender stereotypes influence young people's chances in school and beyond. They also listened to some solutions offered through the GCI, an EU-supported innovative program to promote gender equality in education in Africa. And they heard young people's ideas about what needs to happen to ensure that all girls and boys can learn free from stereotypes. Slido was used to assess the audience's knowledge of harmful gender stereotypes.

Synopsis

Gender stereotypes have a profound impact on female education, and they must be tackled as early as pre-school. Young Leader Chiaratou from Bénin recounted her school experience: she was top of her class but this was seen as unusual and teachers used this to make fun of the boys. Before her exams, she was obliged to do housework while her brother could go out to exercise because women are seen as wives and houseworkers first. To address this, we must educate teachers, remove gender stereotypes from schoolbooks and give equal education to girls and boys, she said.

Key points

- Gender stereotypes have a profound impact on accessing education and learning in a safe environment.
- Education has the power to challenge these norms, teach children different ways to look at themselves and build an equal society.
- Injustice, barriers, patriarchy, exclusion...teachers having false ideas such as boys being better at science, parents always assigning household tasks to girls so they have less time for homework, bullying at school.
- At 2 years old gender stereotypes start to develop. By the age of 6 these ideas are rigid. Need to start educating about gender at preschool.
- Young leader Chiaratou from Bénin talked about her experience in primary school - she was the top of the class but teachers used this to make fun of young boys as if it were abnormal that a girl is the best.
- First train the teachers to think differently about gender. Then change training materials like books and school manuals that can engrain stereotypes. Finally, give the same education to both girls and boys.

AGORA: Low tech', high impact: Massive teacher training with the Future Teacher Kit

Selected by the UN, OECD, and GIZ as a finalist of the 2021 GIZ Innovation Challenge, the Future Teacher Kit team will pitch their solution of a scaled teacher training approach - and engage a debate on the need for more partnerships to tap the underexploited potential of low-tech as a catalyst of quality education.

Organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Speakers

- Alisa Buchstab, Junior Policy Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Eilean von Lautz-Cauzanet, Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Mathuba Gomolemo, Ministry of Tertiary Education, Botswana

Session summary

Launched by GIZ in partnership with UNESCO, the Future Teacher Kit has been entirely co-designed with over 1500 teachers. The result? An in-service teacher training solution that taps the advantages of mobile phones and messenger systems such as WhatsApp and Telegram. The goal? Provide teacher training at a global scale.

The Future Teacher Kit equips teachers with foundational and 21st-century teaching skills. Tapping the potential of scaled low-tech such as mobile phones and messenger systems, it facilitates an individual learning process and gives teachers access to collaborative communities of practice (CoP). Teachers receive on their preferred messenger system monthly training packages incl. resources and activity challenges, allowing them to acquire and implement new skills “on the go”.

Synopsis

The ‘Future Teacher Kit’ is a messenger-based tool for teachers that was piloted in Jamaica and will soon be rolled out in Botswana. It helps teachers learn new, digital skills in minimal time, is low tech, easy to access, adaptable to lock-down situations and easy to scale. The kit also allows teachers to connect, collaborate and share knowledge. It covers topics such as how to teach in hybrid settings, gender inclusion, breaking down stereotypes, the climate crisis and how to foster critical thinking.

Key points

- Our world requires learning about climate crisis, the pandemic, digitisation, we all have to adapt constantly.
- Teachers had to adapt in record time, teachers try their best to get students ready for the future.
- Teachers worldwide need to be trained in digital skills despite their lack of time.
- During the pandemic the use of phones helped teachers stay connected with other teachers and become more resilient.
- Teachers need to interact and learn from each other.
- Targeting soft skills of teachers to learn from each other and share experiences.
- Social skills are currently underestimated skill.
- Digital skills and how to teach in hybrid settings.
- Critical thinking, including topics such as the climate crisis, gender inclusion, tackling stereotypes.



Speakers and moderators

Mr.	Kamate	Abdramane	Programme Manager, Institut Français
Mr.	Aziz	Abdukhakimov	Deputy Prime Minister of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan
Ms.	Ayaan	Adam	CEO AFC Capital Partners, Africa Finance Corporation
Mr.	Nana	Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo	President of Ghana
Mr.	Femi	Adeyemo	Founder & CEO, Arnergy
Ms.	Margaret	Agama	Acting Director Health and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate , African Union Commission
Ms.	Jenny	Aker	Professor, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
Mr.	Aziz	Akhannouch	Head of Government of Kingdom of Morocco
Mr.	Shamsul	Alam	Minister of Planning of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ms.	Nadi	Albino	Deputy Director of Partnerships, Generation Unlimited (United Nations Children's Fund)
Ms.	Esther	Altorfer	Managing Director East Africa, Sistema.bio
Ms.	Simone	Andersson	Chief Commercial Officer, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre
Mr.	Soren	Andreasen	General Manager, European Development Finance Institutions
Ms.	Joanna	Anstey	Team Leader Strategic Communication, European Training Foundation
Ms.	Felicia	Anthonio	#KeptOn Campaign Manager, Access Now
Mr.	Nicolas	Antoine-Moussiaux	Associate Professor, Université de Liège
Mr.	Jorge	Appiah	CEO, Kumasi Hive
Ms.	Emmy	Arts	PhD student, Université Paris Cité (France) / UNICAMP (Brazil), Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
Ms.	Keren	Asaba	Drone Flight Operator/Data Analyst, TOA Custodian Nigeria Limited
Ms.	Allen	Asiimwe	Chief of Programmes, TradeMark East Africa
Ms.	Renata	Avila Pinto	CEO, Open Knowledge Foundation
Mr.	Camilo	Avilés	Head of the New Energy Carriers Unity, Ministry of Energy, Chile
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Mr.	Román	Baigun	Programme Coordinator, Wetlands International LAC
Mr.	Lawrence	Banda	Monitoring and Database Manager, World Bicycle Relief
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Mr.	Maurizio	Bezzeccheri	Head of Latin America Region, Enel
Mr.	San	Bilal	Senior Executive, Head of Economic Recovery and Transformation, European Centre for Development Policy Management
Mr.	Bertin	Bishikwabo Lukeba	Programme Officer, Trust Fund For Victims, International Criminal Court

Mr.	Mamadou	Biteye	Executive Secretary, The African Capacity Building Foundation
Mr.	Federico	Bonaglia	Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre
Ms.	Elena	Bonfiglioli	General Manager Healthcare, Microsoft
Mr.	Alberto	Borrego	Head of Europe Health, NTT DATA
Ms.	Mieke	Bourne	Regreening Africa Programme Manager, World Agroforestry Centre
Mr.	Mark	Bowman	Vice President Policy and Partnerships, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Ms.	Sara	Brandt	Policy Advisor and Coordinator, Global Focus
Mr.	John	Briceño	Prime Minister of Belize
Mr.	Andreas	Brink	Senior Scientific and Technical Project Officer, European Commission – Joint Research Centre
Ms.	Sybilla	Britani	Network Manager, European National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC Global)
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Ms.	Kwena	Mabotja	Global Director Purpose and Sustainability Marketing and Solutions, SAP SE
Mr.	Bruno	Maçaes	Former Secretary of State for European Affairs in Portugal
Ms.	Stephany	Macedo Senmache	SenseTribe Consulting SL
Mr.	Bethel	Madu	Bryme Designs
Ms.	Nanko	Madu	Director of Programmes, AfriLabs
Mr.	Morena	Makhoana	CEO, Biovac
	Anatole Collinet	Makosso	Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo
Ms.	Valeria	Marcolin	Director, Culture et Développement
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Ms.	Christine	Mhundwa	Moderator, Deutsche Welle
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Mr.	Carl	Michiels	Director, European Centre for Development Policy Management
Mr.	Gediminas	Mikutis	Chief Technology Officer, Haelixa

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Mr.	Jamal	Warsame	Country coordinator, East Africa University
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Mr.	Bernard	Yvetot	Vice-President International Strategy, Orange
Mrs.	Chrysoula	Zacharopoulou	Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships Government of France
Mr.	Matej	Zakonjsek	Director, Transport Community

Organisations

ABAN – African Business Angel Network
Action Africa Help International AAH
Addis Ababa University
Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)
Africa-Europe Foundation
African Circular Economy Network
African Development Bank
African Energy Guarantee Facility
African European Digital Innovation Bridge Network (African European Digital Innovation Bridge)
African Network For Solar Energy
African Smart Towns Network (ASToN)
African Trade Insurance Agency
African Union
African Union Commission
African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
AfriLabs
Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
Aidsfonds
Air Water Africa
ADPP - Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo - Angola
ADPP - Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo - Guinea Bissau
ADPP- Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo - Mozambique
ALDA
ALDA + Srl Benefit Corporation SB
All African Council of Churches
American Friends Service Committee
Amref Health Africa
Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for international Solidarity
ASCAME- Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos
Associação In Loco
Association avenir Femmes
Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AiMF)
Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EUROCHAMBRES)
Association pour le Développement des Initiatives Citoyennes et Européennes
Assortis
AU-EU Digital for Development Hub
AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub
Austrian Development Agency
Barcelona City Council
Bayer AG
Be-almerys
Belgian Federal Public Service - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium
Berlin International Film Festival - World Cinema Fund

BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries)
BIOFUND
Biotope
Bolt
Bond'Innov
British Council
BUSINESSMED - Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises
CABI
Capacity4dev
CARE Österreich
Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (cdp)
Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research
Central American Social Integration Secretariat
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)
Centre international d'études pour la conservation et la restauration des biens culturels (ICCROM)
Centre national du Cinéma et de l'Image animée
Centre régional pour les arts vivants en Afrique
Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development
Chinese Academy of Transportation Sciences (CATS)
CIVITTA
Climate Action Network Europe (CQN)
CliMates
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO)
Conférence permanente des chambres consulaires africaines et francophones (CPCAF)
Conservation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Offset
Consortium for Sustainable Africa
Cooperación Latinoamericana de Redes Avanzadas
Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti Onlus
Coordinadora Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Pequeños Productores y Trabajadores de Comercio Justo (CLAC)
Counter Balance
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness
Culture et Développement
DAI
DAPP - Development Aid People to People - Malawi
DAPP - Development Aid People to People - Zimbabwe
Days of Adaptation
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - GOV.UK
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung
Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik / German Development Institute (die)
Development Aid People to People - Namibia
Development Aid People to People - Zambia
Devtales Partners
DGD-Ministry of Development Cooperation
Digital Africa
Digital Response Connecting Citizens

Digital4Development (D4D) Hub
 DIGNITY SERVICE
 Doctors With Africa CUAMM
 Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation
 DRC Government (Ministry of Health and National Authorising Officer/EDF
 DT Global
 Dublin City University
 e-Governance Academy
 East Africa University
 Eastern College Somalia
 EBN
 Ecorys
 EDFI Management Company
 Elcano Royal Institute
 Embassy of Cameroon in Belgium
 Embassy of Madagascar in Belgium
 Embassy of Madagascar in Belgium
 Enabel - Belgian Development Agency
 Energia International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
 Energypedia
 Enhanced Integrated Framework
 Ericsson
 Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications
 Ethic & Sustainability Eurocenter
 EU D4D Coalition
 EU Delegation in DRC
 EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region
 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 European Centre for Development Policy Management
 European Centre for Electoral Support
 European Commission
 European Commission – Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology
 European Commission – Directorate-General for Defence Industries and Space
 European Commission – Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
 European Commission – Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
 European Commission – Directorate-General for International Partnerships
 European Commission – Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
 European Commission – Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
 European Commission – Joint Research Centre
 European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI)
 European Digital Rights
 European External Action Service (EEAS)
 European Investment Bank (EIB)
 European National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC Global)
 European Network on Debt and Development (eurodad)
 European Parliament
 European Parliament - Committee for Development

European School of Sustainability Science and Research
European Space Agency (ESA)
European Think Tanks Group
European Training Foundation
EUROsocial
EUROSTAT
Expertise France
Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation (AEXID)
Factoría de Arte y Desarrollo SLU
Fairtrade International
Finnish Centre of Expertise in Education and Development
Fondation Anansoft
Fondation Hironnelle
Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (Ferdí)
Fondo Extremeño Local de Cooperación al Desarrollo
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Forum Energies Renouvelables -Développement Economique Durable Solidaire & Intégré
Forus
French Facility for Global Environment
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Fund for Innovation in Development
Fundación Avina
Fundación Carolina
Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas
FundingBox
Generation Equality Forum
Generation Unlimited (United Nations Children's Fund)
Goelec
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Ghent University
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
Global Campus Alumni
Global Campus of Human Rights
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
Global Focus
Global Health Advocates
Global Student Forum
Goethe-Institut
Goodwall
GOPA - International Energy Consultants GmbH
Government of Bangladesh
Government of France
Groupe de Recherche en Architecture OUvert.e
Groupe Walaha
HOTAES - Hospitality and Tourism Association of Eswatini
Humana People to People
Humana People to People - Belize
Humana People to People - South Africa

Humana People to People India
ICI Santé
ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
Institut du Développement Durable et Relations Internationales
Institut Français
Institute of Development Studies
Istituto Italo-latinoamericano
Istituto Marquês de Valle Flôr
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Interarts Foundation
International Alert
International Criminal Court
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
International Parliamentary Network for Education
International Trade Centre
IOTA Foundation
Istituto Affari Internazionali
Italian Climate Network
ITC ILO (International Training Center of the ILO)
JCP SRL
Kampala International University
KfW Development Bank
KfW DEG
Laboratoire Take Power
LINK 2007
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Lux-Development
Mangoo Technology
Mekelle University
Merieux Foundation
Microsoft
Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
Ministry of International Cooperation, Egypt
Ministry of Water, Kingdom of Lesotho
Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali
MO*
Morija Museum & Archives
Movimiento por la Paz
MUNASIM FMK
Music in Africa Foundation
Münchener Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft
Ndejje University
Nokia
NTT DATA

NTU International A/S
Nuffic
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
OECD Development Centre
Orange
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
Organisation of ACP States
Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States Secretariat
Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, ACP-EU Culture programme
Ouagadougou City
Overseas Development Institute
Oxfam France
Oxfam Intermon
Pacific Community
Pallottine Missionary Foundation Salvatti.pl
Paz y Esperanza
Pemerintah Provinsi DKI Jakarta, the Provincial Government of the Special Capital Area Jakarta
Plan International
PLATFORMA
Policy and Management Consulting Group
Positive Planet International
Practitioners' Network for European development cooperation
Radio Ndeke Luka
Research Advisors and Experts Europe
Réseau ouest africain des jeunes femmes leaders du Bénin
RESICODI
SAP SE
SATEC
Save the Children
SB Overseas
Search for Common Ground
Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety
Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises
Sequa gGmbH
SES
Sierra Leone
Simavi
#Smart Development Fund
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (aacid)
Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)
Station Europe
Steinbeis Europa Zentrum
Stichting DOEN
STiR Education
Stratejai
Sudan Organisation for Research and Development
Sustainable Finance Risk Consulting GmbH

Sustainable Trade Initiative
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility
TAKEDA
Tangaza University College
Team Belgium (Enabel, Bio & DGD)
The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP)
The ONE Campaign
The Publications Office of the EU
Tilburg University
TradeMark East Africa
Trust Fund for Victims
UN Environment
UN Women
UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
UNIDO
Union des MFR de Madagascar
United Cities and Local Governments
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
United Nations
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)
United Nations Environmental Programme
United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
United Nations Road Safety Fund
United Nations World Food Programme
Universidad Pública de Navarra
Universidade Católica Portuguesa
Université Catholique de Louvain
Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
Université de Liège
Université Saint Joseph de Beyrouth
University of Dschang, Cameroon
University of Edinburgh
University of Ngaoundere
University of Wageningen
University of West London
University of Zimbabwe
Universität Kassel
UNMFREO
UNOPS
URBAN Intergroup at the European Parliament
Utrecht University
VC4A
Vesalius College

VET Toolbox (consortium between Enabel, British Council, GIZ, LuxDev and AFD)
Vietnam National University of Agriculture
Ville d'Abidjan
VNG International
Vodafone PLC
WaterAid
Wetlands International European Association
Whisper to Humanity
Wildlife Conservation Society
Women Engage for a Common Future, France
World Agroforestry Centre
World Bank Group
World Bank/GFDRR
World Bicycle Relief
World Health Organization
World Organisation for Animal Health
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy