



# Webinar on Digitalisation in Sub-Saharan Africa: a strategic assessment of EU and other international actors

Focus on West, Eastern and Southern Africa

*28, 30 September and 2 October 2020*

# Objectives of the Webinar



**Enhance your knowledge** through the dissemination and implementation of the recommendations and lessons learnt from the *“Study for the assessment of DEVCO work in digitalisation in Sub-Saharan Africa”*.



**Feed the programming exercise** by discussing the strategic approach and priority areas of intervention in your region/country of focus.

# Agenda

## **Introduction**

## **Findings of digitalisation assessment in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Strategic Assessment (relevance and effectiveness)

## **Findings of digitalisation assessment in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Comparative analysis

## **Lessons learnt and recommendations**

Forward looking conclusions to inform current & future cooperation strategy

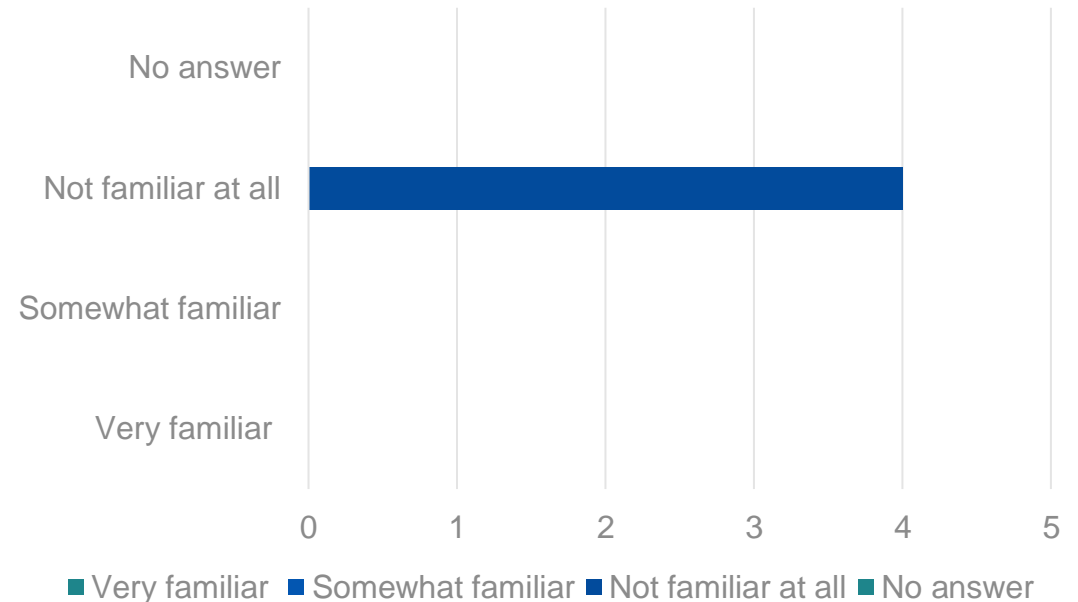
## **Conclusions**

# Pre-webinar survey results (1): West Africa

How would you define digitalisation?



How familiar are you with the EU's development cooperation frameworks for digitalisation (D4D SWD, DETF) ?

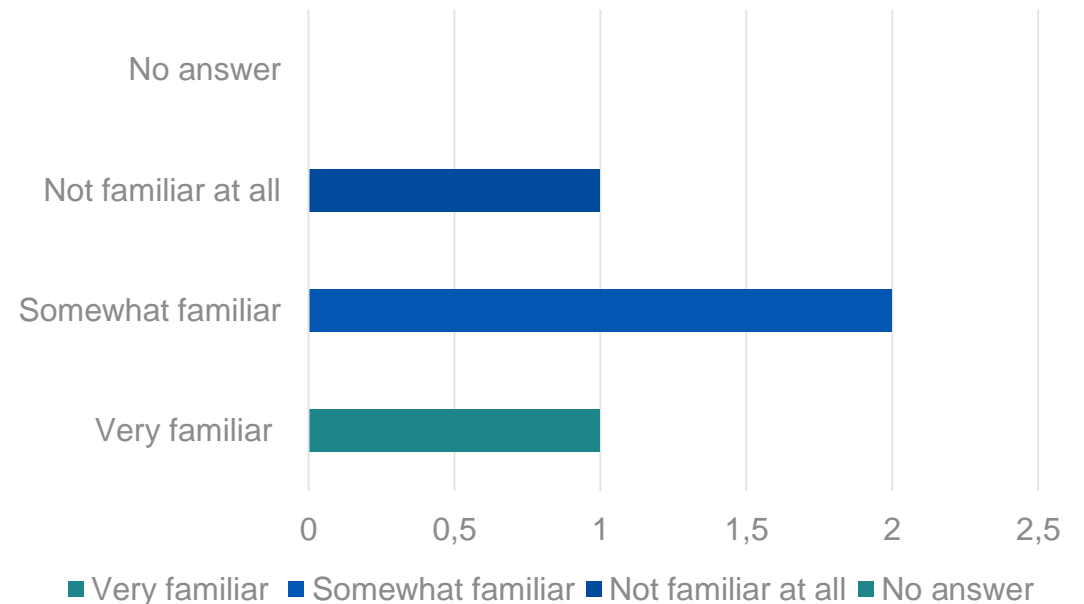


# Pre-webinar survey results (1): East Africa

How would you define digitalisation?



How familiar are you with the EU's development cooperation frameworks for digitalisation (D4D SWD, DETF) ?

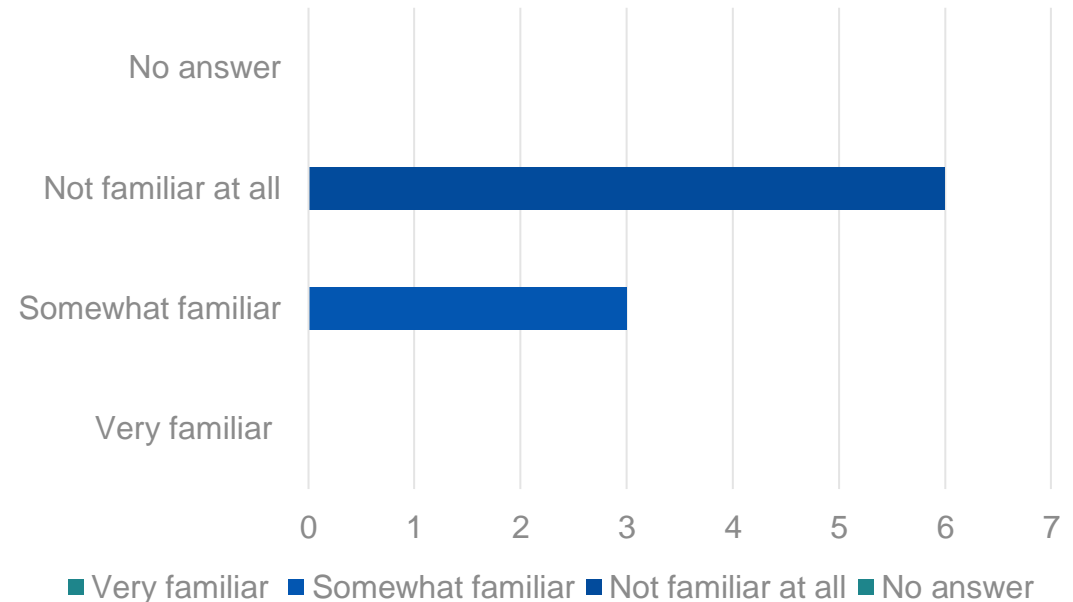


# Pre-webinar survey results (1): Southern Africa

How would you define digitalisation?



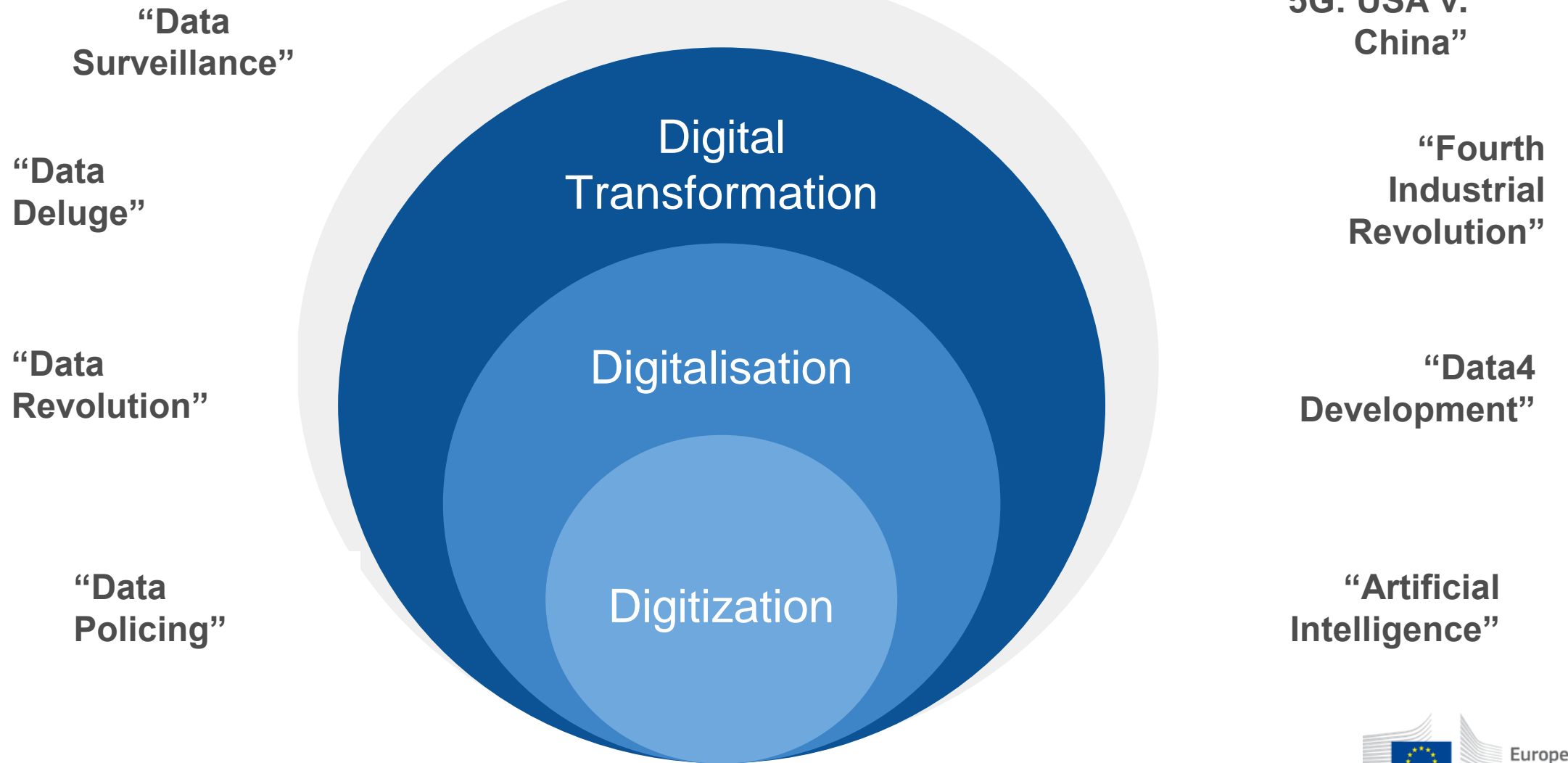
How familiar are you with the EU's development cooperation frameworks for digitalisation (D4D SWD, DETF) ?



# Findings of digitalisation assessment in Sub-Saharan Africa

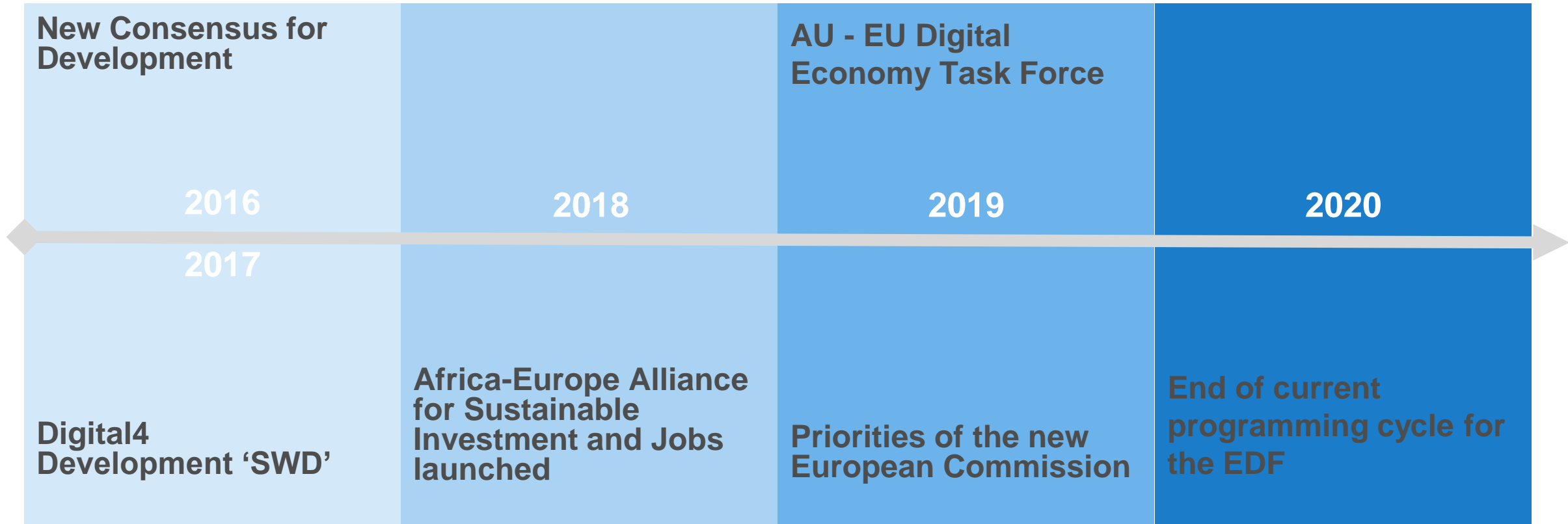
Introduction to digitalisation in the development cooperation context and  
strategic assessment of DEVCO's work

# Concepts





# Context



# DEVCO's Digitalisation Frameworks

## D4D: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy

(2017)

Access to open, affordable & secure broadband connectivity & digital infrastructure including the necessary regulatory framework

Digital literacy and digital skills

Digital for growth, entrepreneurship and job creation

Digital technologies as an enabler

## DETF: New Africa-Europe Digital Economy Partnership

(Digital Economy Task Force Report, 2019)

Accelerating the achievement of universal access to affordable broadband

Guaranteeing essential skills for all, in education and VET, to enable citizens to thrive in the digital age

Improving the business environment & facilitating access to finance & business support services to boost digitally enabled entrepreneurship.

Accelerating the adoption of eServices & the development of the digital economy for achieving the SDGs.

“The new EU internal guidelines on digitalisation for programming”; the D4D Hub (2019)

# DEVCO's Digitalisation Frameworks

- Four main priority areas of the DEVCO digitalisation strategy

Governance (Policy  
and Regulatory  
Frameworks)

Digital connectivity  
and infrastructure

Digital skills and  
entrepreneurship

Digital services

# Scope of the study

## Geographic

Sub-Saharan Africa, Regions (East, West, Southern and Central Africa), and Countries

D4D, Digitalisation, Digital Transformation, ICT

## Thematic

## Priority Areas

Policy and Regulatory Framework, Digital Connectivity & Infrastructure, Digital Skills, Digital Entrepreneurship, Digital Services

2012 - 2019 (length of projects in Digitalisation Mapping Tool - DMT)

## Temporal

# Key evaluation questions

## **Strategic Assessment**

*Relevance*: To what extent are projects and programmes funded by DEVCO aligned with the D4D framework?

*Effectiveness*: What are the barriers and enablers to mainstreaming digitalisation in development cooperation?

## **Comparative Analysis**

Who are the relevant stakeholders involved in digitalisation in SSA? Based on their strategies and approach, are there some potential synergies between these stakeholders and the EU?

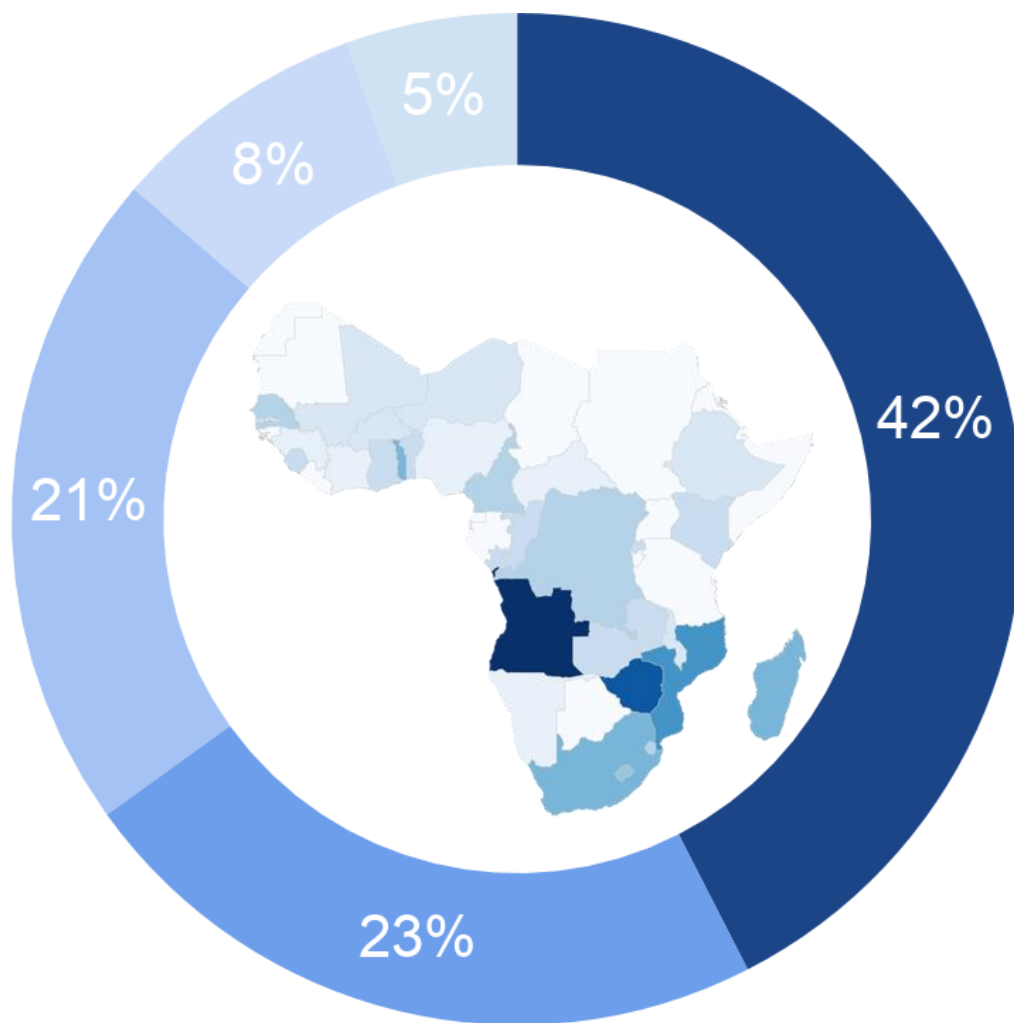
# Strategic Assessment



# Relevance

To what extent are projects and programmes funded by DEVCO aligned with the D4D framework?

# Digital projects



- Southern Africa, Indian Ocean (62 projects)
- Western Africa (33 projects)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (31 projects)
- Central Africa (12 projects)
- Eastern Africa (HoA) (8 projects)

Digital projects (by geographic allocation) are concentrated in West and Southern Africa



# Digital projects



**147**  
Digital Projects



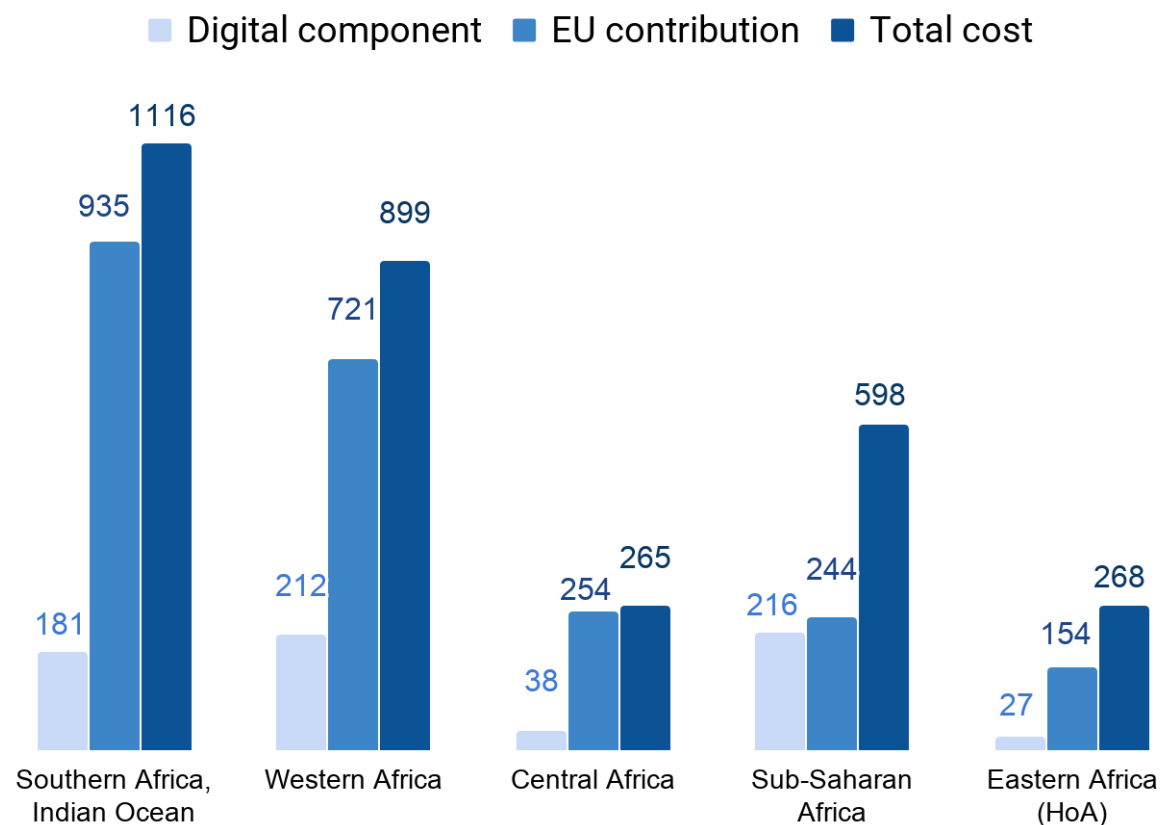
**3.15**  
Total cost  
(billion EUR)



**2.31**  
EU contribution  
(billion EUR)



**0.67**  
EU Spending in  
Digital Component  
(billion EUR)



Digital projects (*by funding allocation*) are concentrated in West and Southern Africa

# Southern Africa

Number of projects

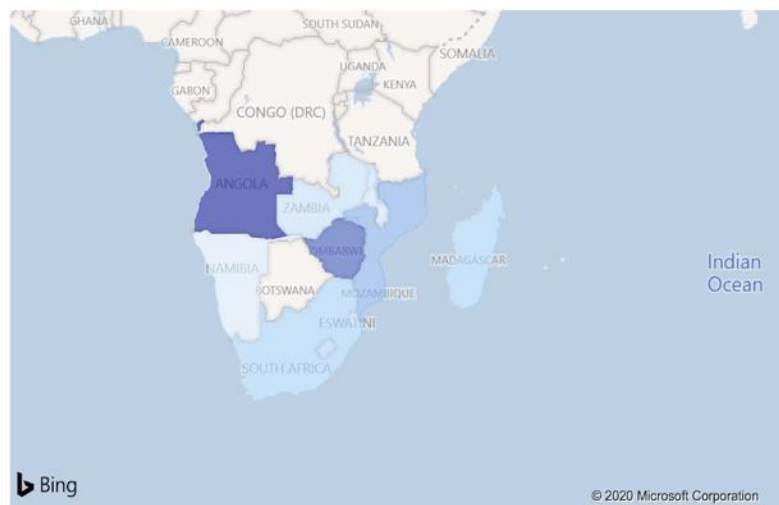
62

Total cost  
(million EUR)

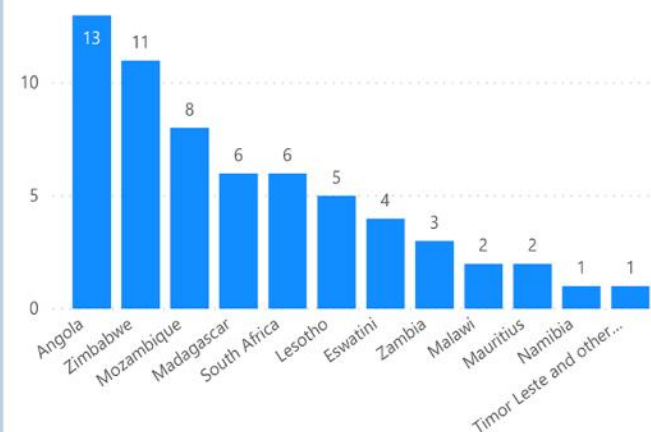
1,116

EU contribution  
(million EUR)

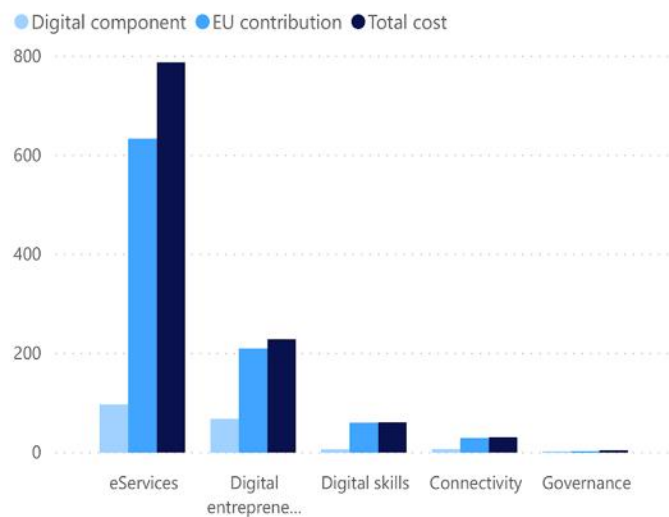
935



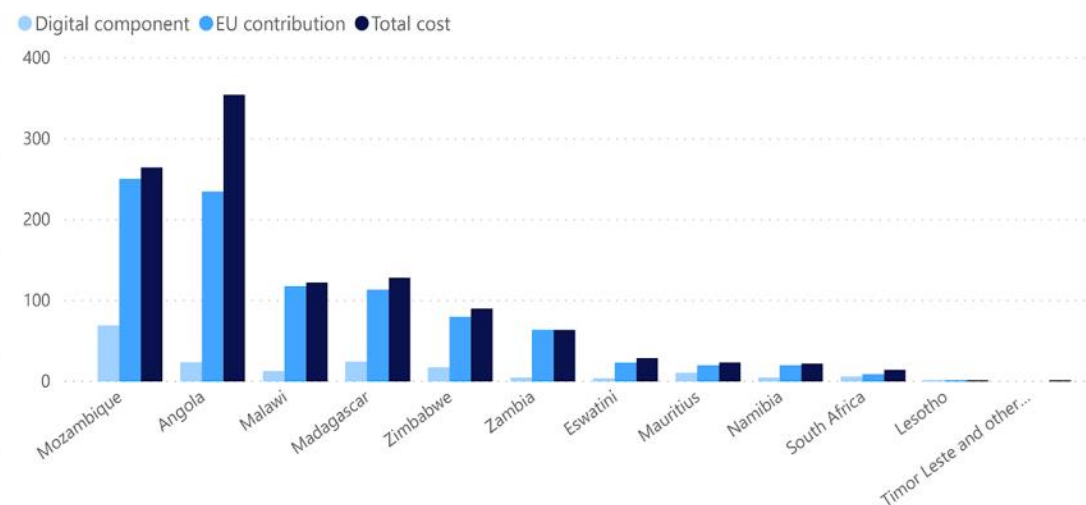
Number of projects per country



Distribution of costs per D4D area



Distribution of costs per country



# Eastern Africa

Number of projects

8

Total cost  
(million EUR)

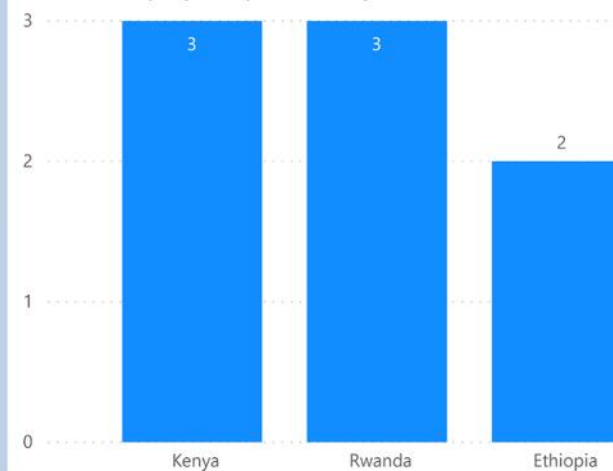
268

EU contribution  
(million EUR)

154

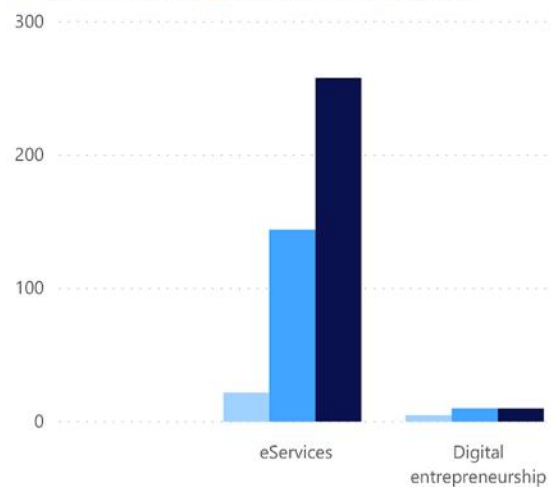


Number of projects per country



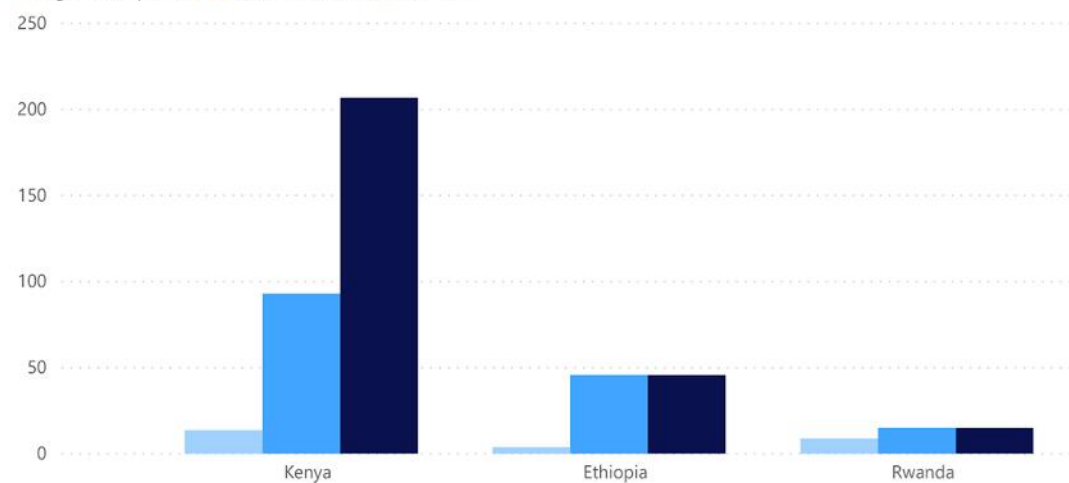
Distribution of costs per D4D area

● Digital component ● EU contribution ● Total cost



Distribution of costs per country

● Digital component ● EU contribution ● Total cost



# Western Africa

Number of projects

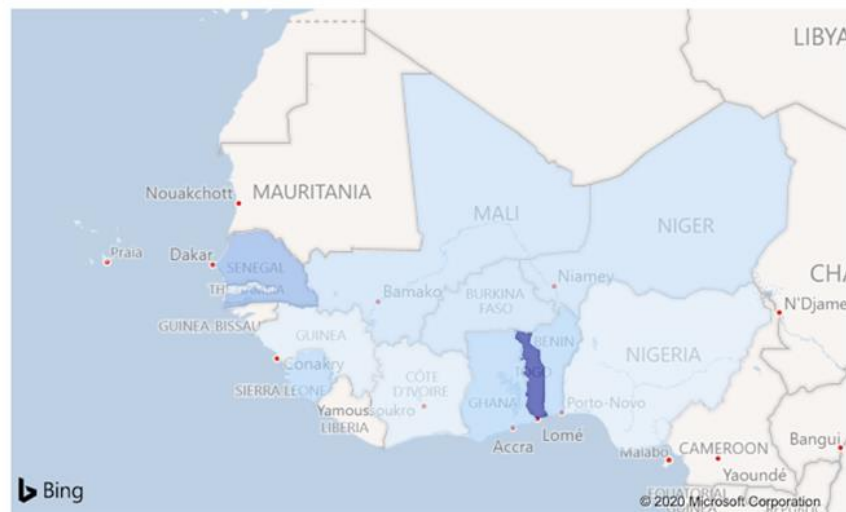
34

Total cost  
(million EUR)

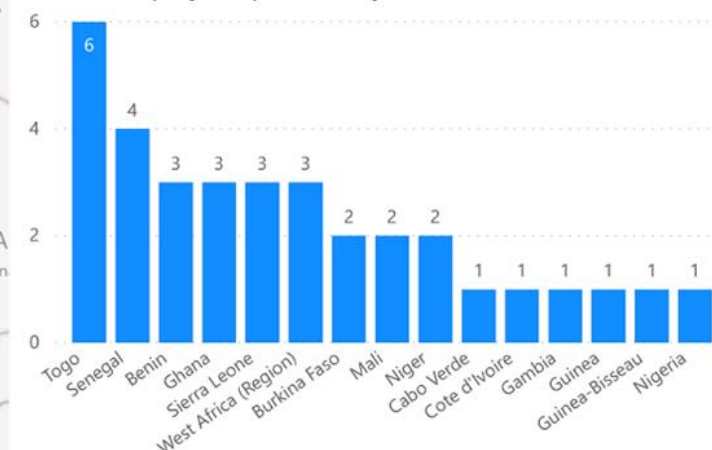
904

EU contribution  
(million EUR)

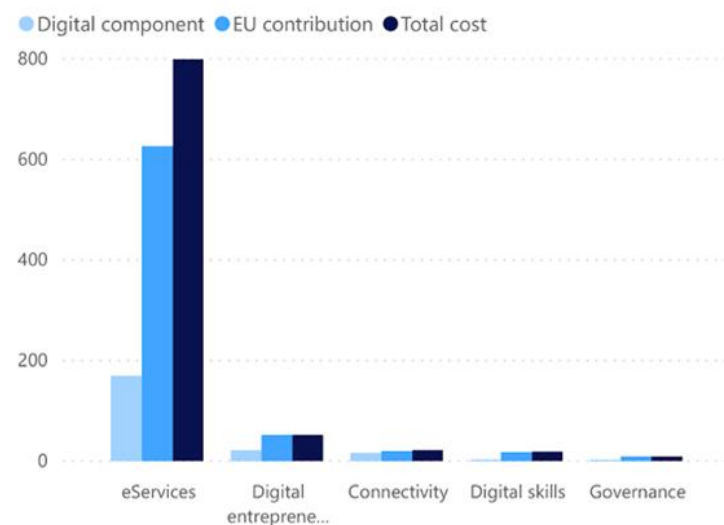
726



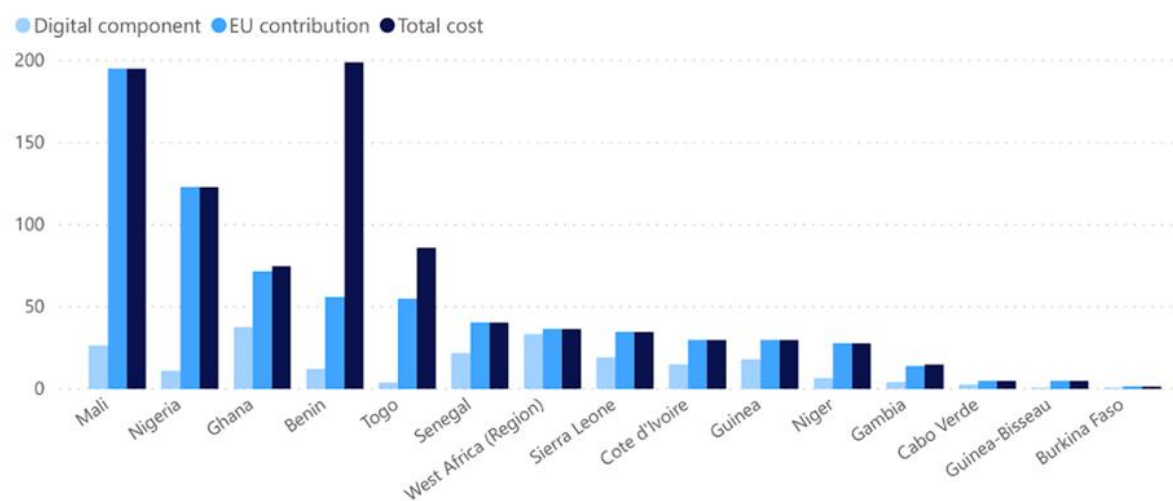
Number of projects per country



Distribution of costs per D4D area



Distribution of costs per country





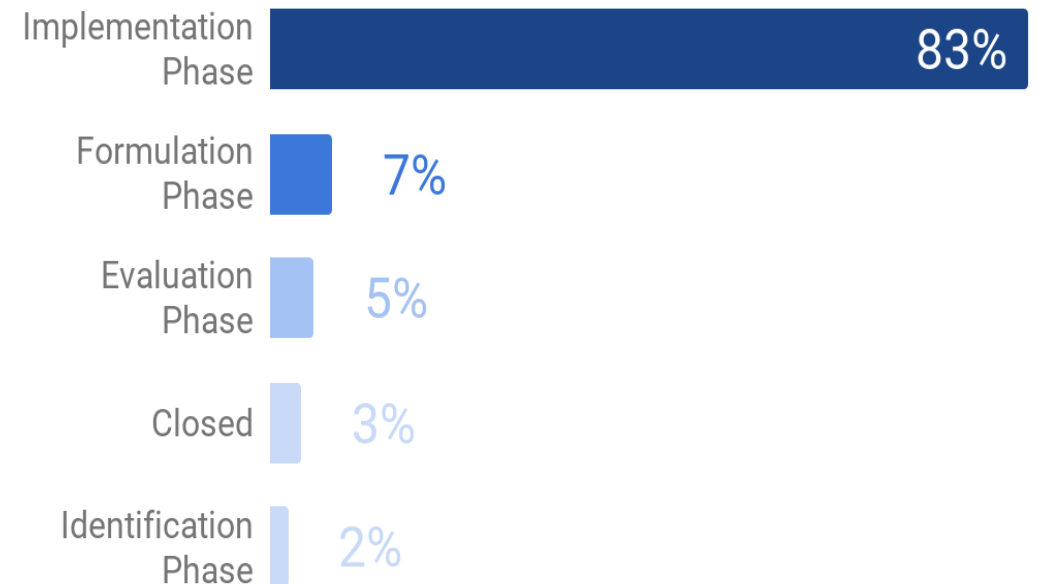
# Effectiveness

What are the barriers and enablers to mainstreaming digitalisation in development cooperation?

How are digital projects contributing to the objectives and priorities of the D4D Framework?

What are the barriers and enablers hindering or abetting future effectiveness ?

### State of play of DEVCO's projects in SSA



# Effectiveness Enablers



## INTERNAL

- The prioritisation of **digitalisation as a geopolitical objective** has helped align and consolidate DEVCO's commitment to digitalisation in SSA.
- The **EU's extensive network of Delegations** as well as its engagement with national, regional, and continental actors, as well as trajectory of cooperation in the region are seen positively by partners.

## EXTERNAL

- The EU is positively perceived as an expert on **policy and regulatory frameworks**, positioned to influence SSA's discourse on data governance
- The EU is seen as an actor that can **achieve impact working together with the AU**
- Favourable momentum for the adoption of digital strategies at the **continental level**

# Effectiveness **Barriers**



## INTERNAL

- **Cooperation on digitalisation** lacks a cohesive, coordinated implementation strategy
- Increasing **staff awareness** of the factors playing into digital ecosystems in HQ and EUEDEs is a necessity
- Static **processes in contracting and implementation** procedures curb the flexibility and agility needed in digital projects
- Unlocking Africa's **digital transformation single-handedly** is costly and unaffordable to the EU

## EXTERNAL

- Stakeholders **do not recognise the EU as a leading actor in the field of digitalisation.**
- A perceived **lack of engagement** on behalf of the EU with the **African or European private sector** hinders its position and visibility in the region
- Countries or companies show reluctance to cooperate with the EU on digitalisation, mainly due to the **barriers and procedures attached to the cooperation process**

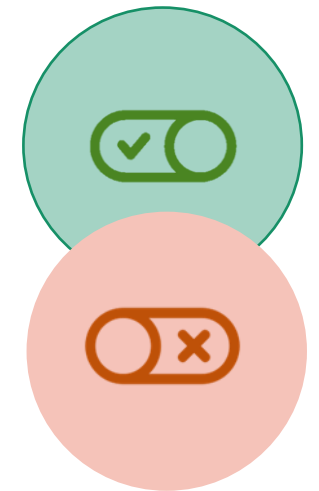


# Pre-webinar survey results (2): Southern Africa

## Barriers

### 1. Structural weaknesses

- 1) Connectivity, lack of access (unaffordable prices, electricity)
- 2) Lack of interoperability (communication between systems)
- 3) Lack of digital skills (illiteracy, education systems)
- 4) Absence of enabling regulatory frameworks
- 5) Rural vs. urban divides, generational gaps, gender inequality
- 6) Absence of freedom of speech, free flow of information



### 2. EU & DEVCO associated barriers

- 1) Dissonance between investing in digitalisation and objectives tied to green new deal
- 2) Sustainability of donor funded innovations
- 3) Absence of staff capacities

# Pre-webinar survey results (2): West Africa

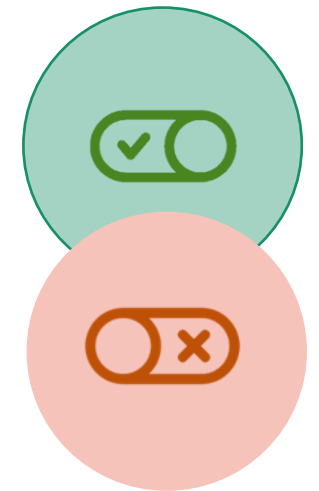
## Barriers

### 1) Structural weaknesses

- 1) Lack of infrastructure and connectivity challenges
  - A. 'The country [of the delegation] is unprepared for digital transformation'

### 2) EU & DEVCO associated barriers

- 1) Lack of knowledge of digital tools
- 2) Resistance to change
- 3) Lack of expertise at delegation level



# Pre-webinar survey results (2): East Africa

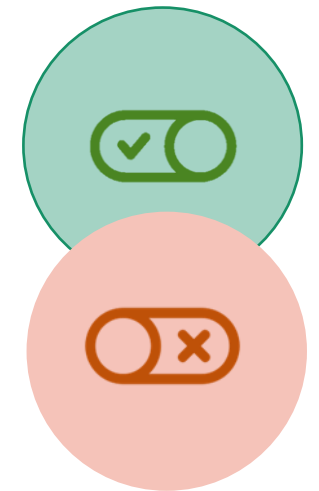
## Barriers

### 1) Structural weaknesses

- 1) Lack of regulatory rules (including digital policy frameworks)
- 2) Increasing digital divide (and costly internet access)
- 3) Challenges brought on by the future of work and automation
- 4) Lack of digital skills and entrepreneurship in the population

### 2) EU & DEVCO associated barriers

- 1) Lack of funds
- 2) Absence of enabling attitudes
- 3) Competition with other actors (China, USA, Russia, India)



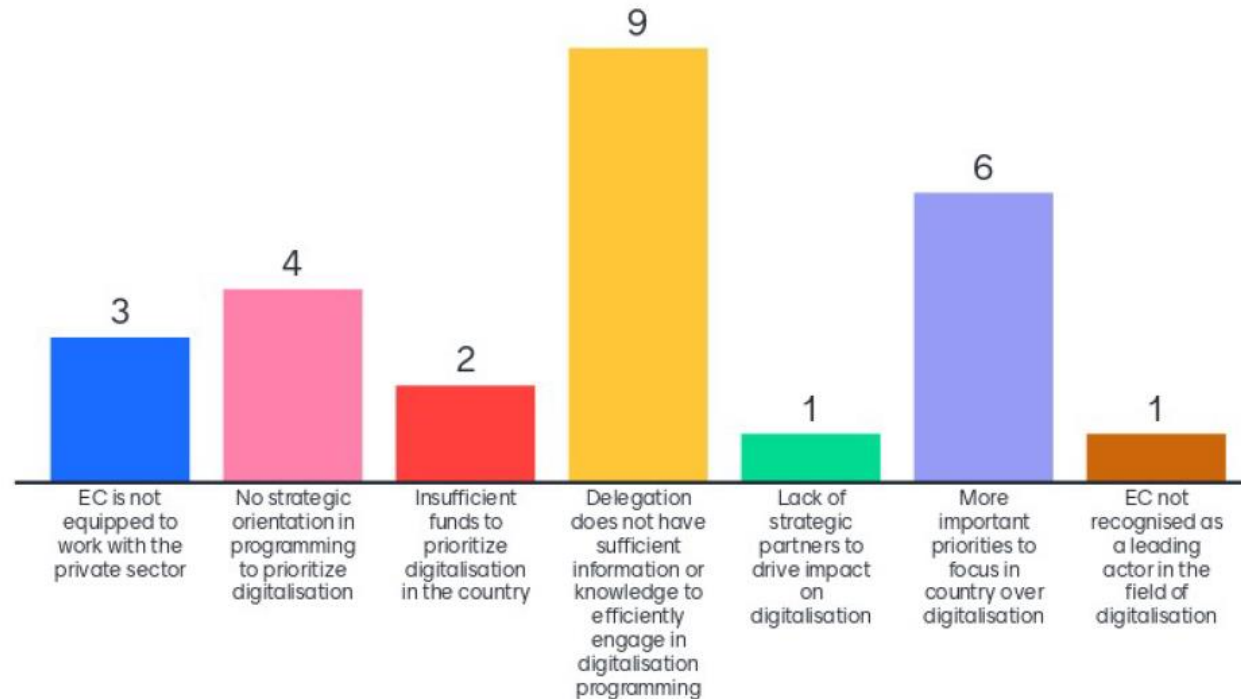
# Q&A and Debate

## Strategic Assessment

1. You are currently in the programming process for the next phase of development cooperation. From your perspective, what needs to be put in place for digitalisation (and digital projects) to be effectively and efficiently mainstreamed and implemented? (consider internal and external factors)

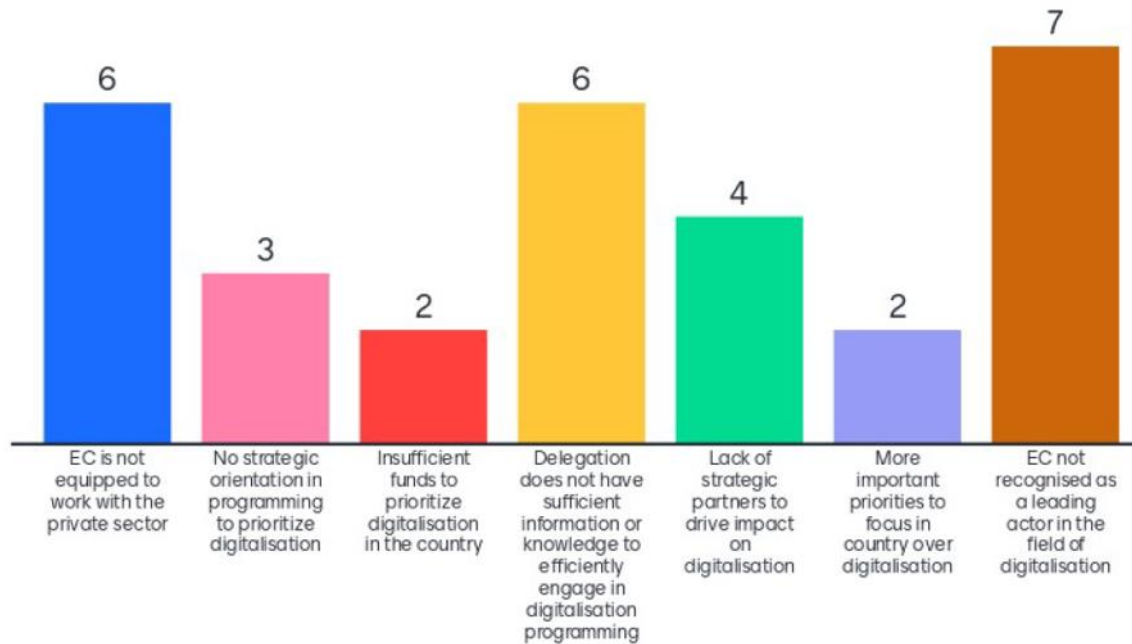
# Results Q1 – West Africa

1) From the barriers to mainstream digitalisation, rank (up to max 3 options) the challenges that are most prevalent in your delegation.



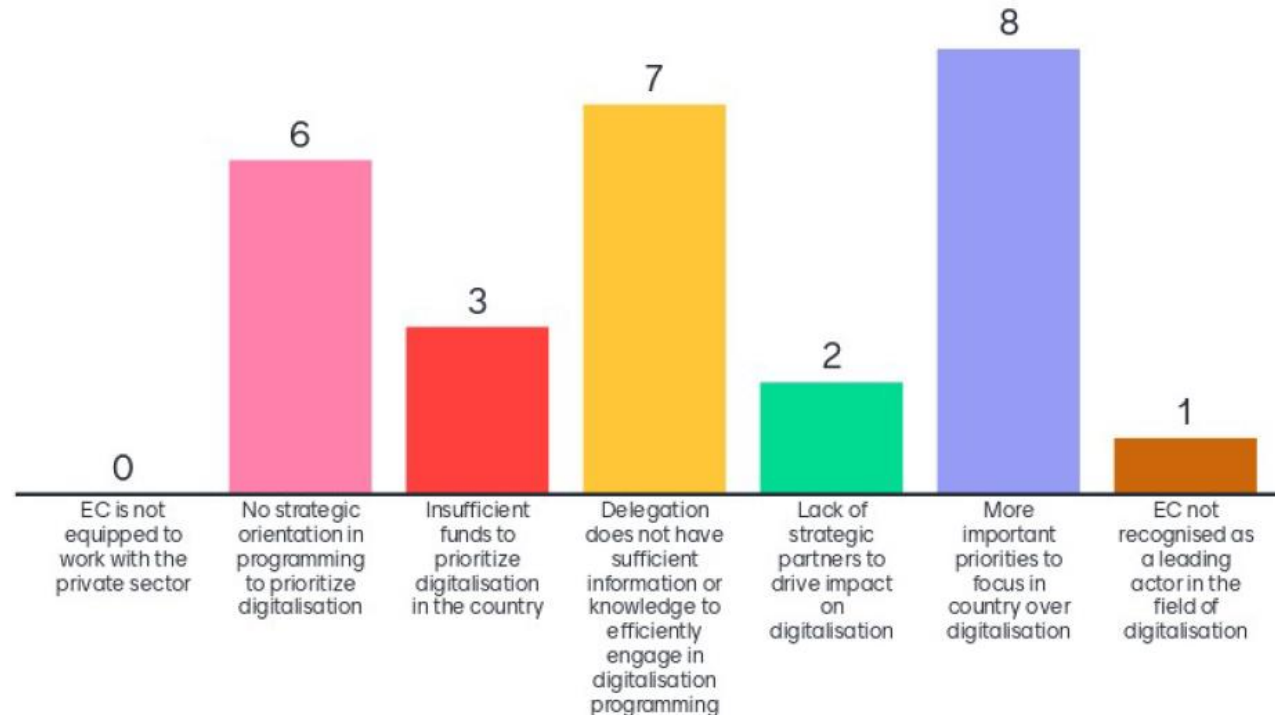
# Results Q1 – East Africa

1) From the barriers to mainstream digitalisation, rank (up to max 3 options) the challenges that are most prevalent in your delegation.



# Results Q1 – Southern Africa

1) From the barriers to mainstream digitalisation, rank (up to max 3 options) the challenges that are most prevalent in your delegation.



# Mentimeter Results Q1A – West Africa



1.a) Suggest additional barriers that we haven't covered in the presentation.

ANYONE

infrastructures, education, implementation

Infrastructure: Very low internet penetration rate, insufficient/unreliable electricity

Not a digital mentality, everything is considered more important than digitalisation while digitalisation should/could be embedded.



# Results Q1A – East Africa

**1.a) Suggest additional barriers that we haven't covered in the presentation.**

Other partners (China) has already a long track record that we would need to catch up

# Results Q1A – Southern Africa

1.a) Suggest additional barriers that we haven't covered in the presentation.

 Mentimeter

-

Plain access to electricity or basic connection to internet

none the barriers were all covered

Cost of Data

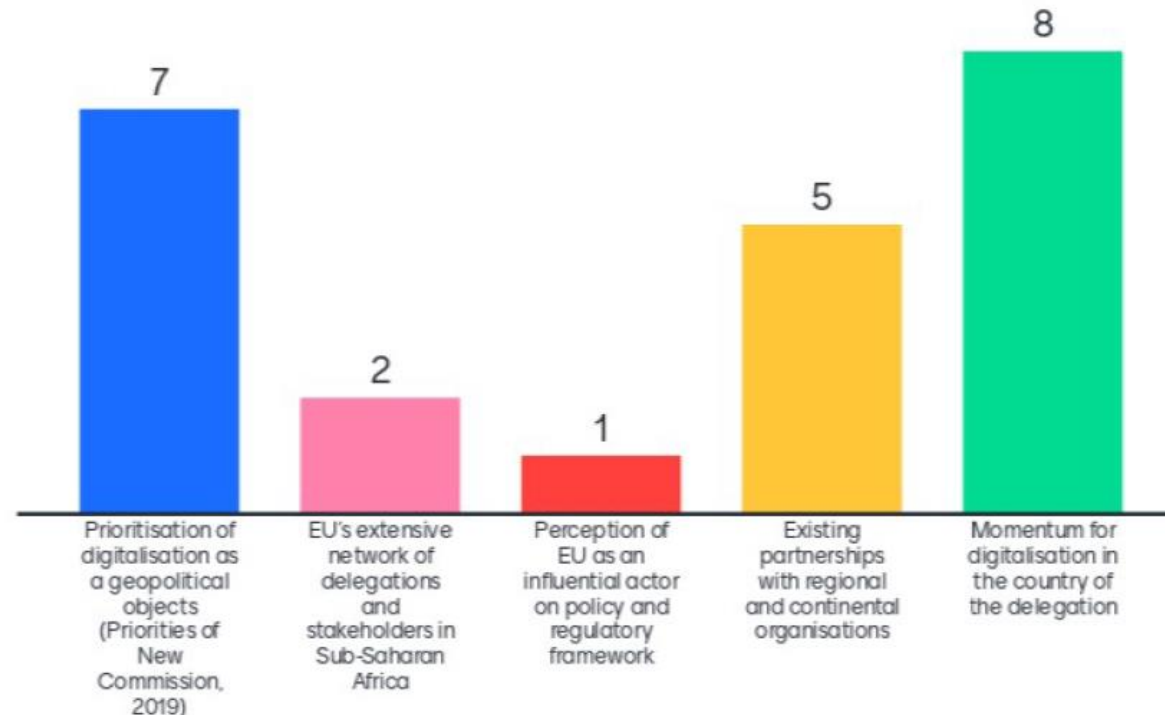
Not a priority for partner countries

connectivity challenges

Not really understanding how digitalisation can improve the life-conditions of people.

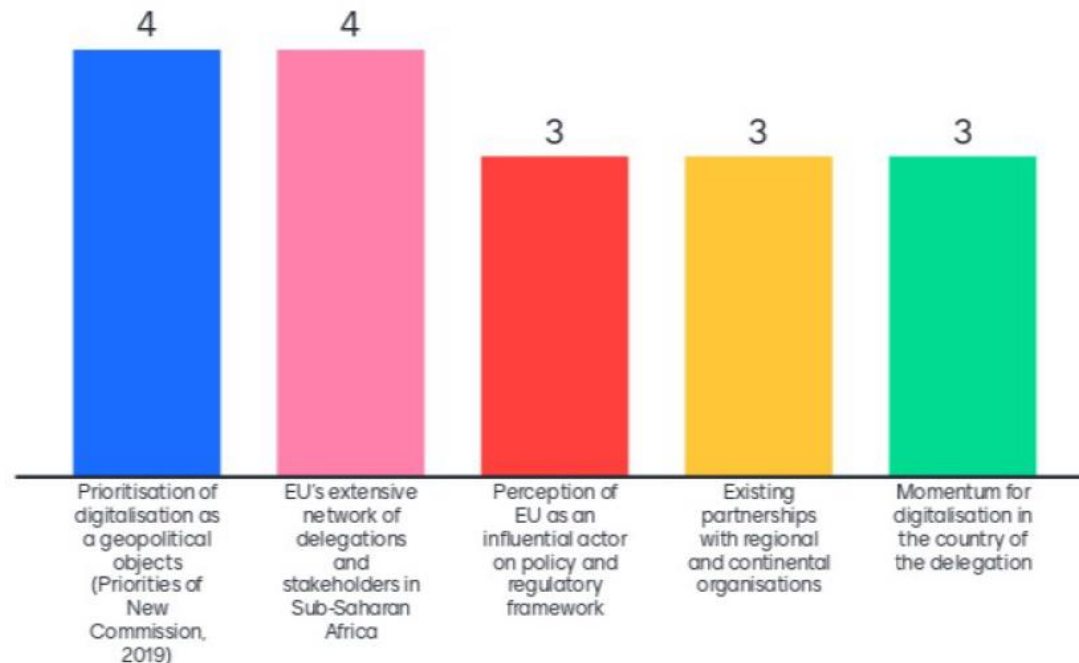
# Results Q2 – West Africa

2) From the enablers listed in the previous slides, rank (up to max. 3 options) the enablers that help advance digitalisation in your delegation



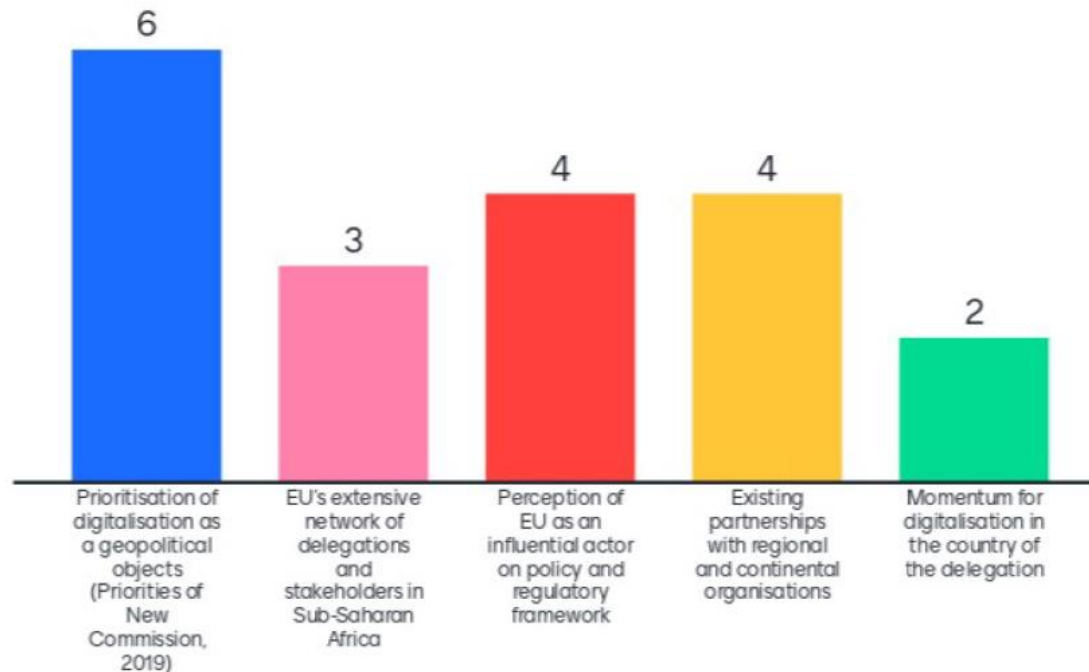
# Results Q2 – East Africa

2) From the enablers listed in the previous slides, rank (up to max. 3 options) the enablers that help advance digitalisation in your delegation



# Results Q2 – Southern Africa

2) From the enablers listed in the previous slides, rank (up to max. 3 options) the enablers that help advance digitalisation in your delegation



# Results Q2A – West Africa

**2.a) Suggest additional enablers that we haven't covered in the presentation.**

ANYONE

# Results Q2A – East Africa

**2.a) Suggest additional enablers that we haven't covered in the presentation.**

Limited enablers...

good coordination with the D4D hub  
in Uganda



# Results Q2A – Southern Africa

2.a) Suggest additional enablers that we haven't covered in the presentation.

 Mentimeter

The programme manager interest

none they were all mentioned

how many private actors are active in the country in the field of digitalisation

political will,digital transformation strategy in beneficiary country



# Findings of digitalisation assessment in Sub-Saharan Africa

Comparative Analysis

# Identification of relevant **external actors** promoting digitalisation in SSA



*\*actors not covered in depth in the scope of this assessment.*

# Institutional donors show a similar consensus in terms priorities and values compared to the EU



- The **AfDB** and the **World Bank** highlight the DETF as a clear route map to support African digital ecosystems. They also expressed support in engaging in the implementation of its recommendations.
- **European MS development agencies** emphasise the importance of building digital ecosystems with concerted European support.
- The **D4D Hub** will be key to ensure joint efforts and effective cooperation, in particular with the private sector

# Private sector is regarded as crucial in supporting connectivity and local innovations



**Private sector** actors are mainly involved in two types of interventions in the digital field:

- 1) in **connectivity**, focused on expanding network connectivity;
- 2) in **local innovations**, focused on supporting local partners and providing funding for innovations (i.e, mobile money).

However, the **EU's** capacity of building a digital ecosystem with private partnerships is characterised as **relatively weak**.

# China presents a transactional approach, with strong difference in interests and values



Dominance by Chinese telecoms, reinforced by **BAXT** tech-companies, with an important contribution to expand **connectivity**:

- Low deployment prices, use of States soft loans
- Digital Silk Road as an integrated industrial and trade strategy

Challenges to **EU** regulations and norms for Internet freedom and governance:

- Detrimental data mining
- Risks for data privacy and cybersecurity
- Digital authoritarianism

# US and India also have defined models that compete with China



## US : “Tech giants, first” & security imperative

Sub-Saharan Africa perceived as an arena:

- Full of opportunities for **GAFAM**’s market expansion
- Where confrontation with **Chinese Tech standards** (5G) takes place

USAID promotes US values and interests, with strong focus on **cybersecurity**

# US and India also have defined models that compete with China

## India: presence in eServices and connectivity

India has the ambition:

- to compete with China's influence by exporting their successful models of **eServices**, such as eHealth and eID systems.
- to be present in the continent's **connectivity efforts**, through its major telecommunication companies (i.e. Airtel and Tata Telecommunications).





# Regional actors recognise the EU's added value in data governance

Regional actors have shared their willingness to strengthen partnerships with the EU

The **EU** is seen positively for its:

- experience in of **policy/regulatory** harmonization and market integration
- **human centered-approach**

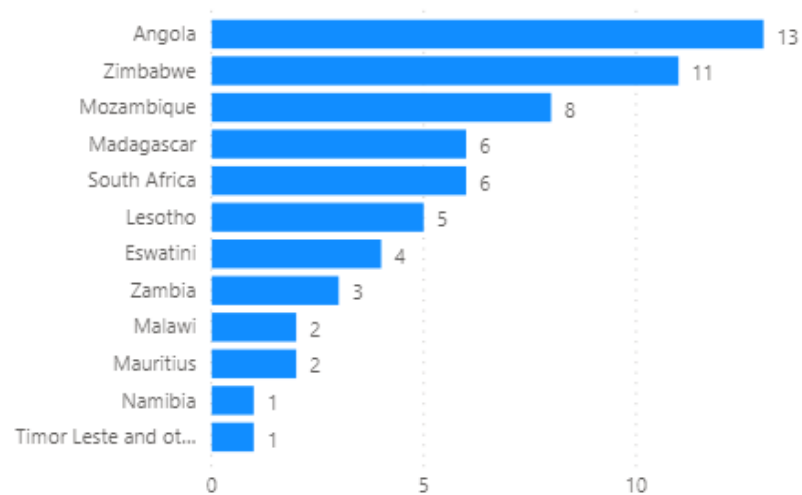
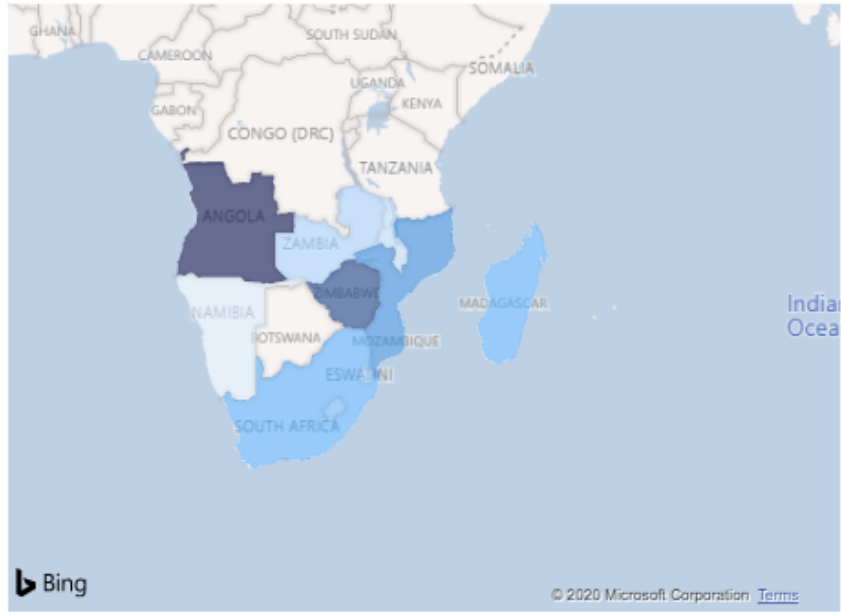
As a result, the **EU** is generally considered by institutional African counterparts as the best-suited and most legitimate partner in assisting the protection of **Africa's data sovereignty and promotion of sound data governance standards**



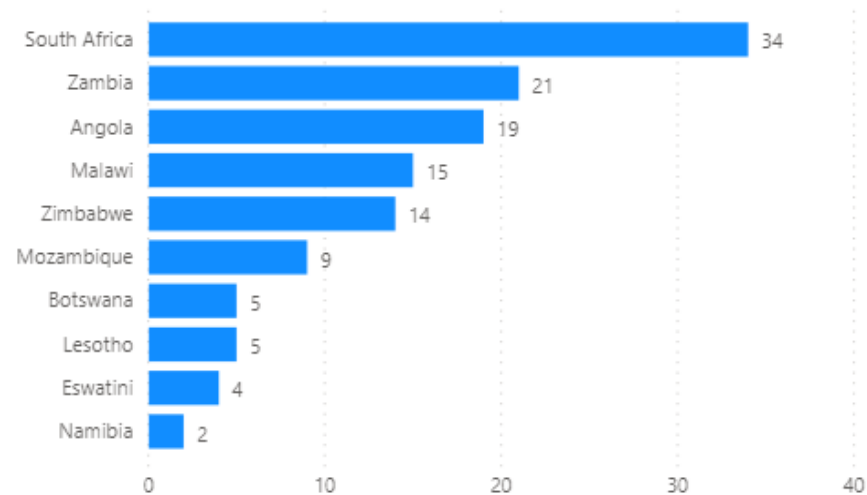
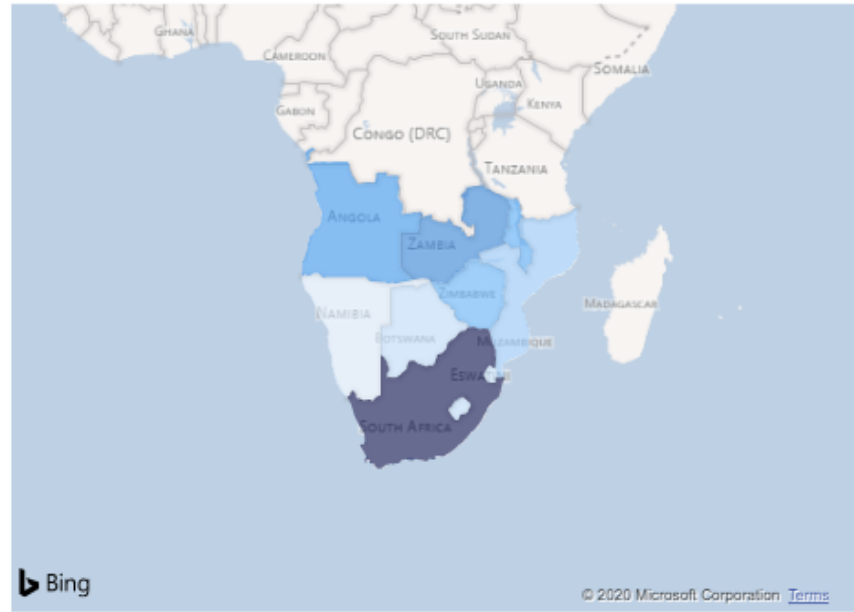


# Southern Africa

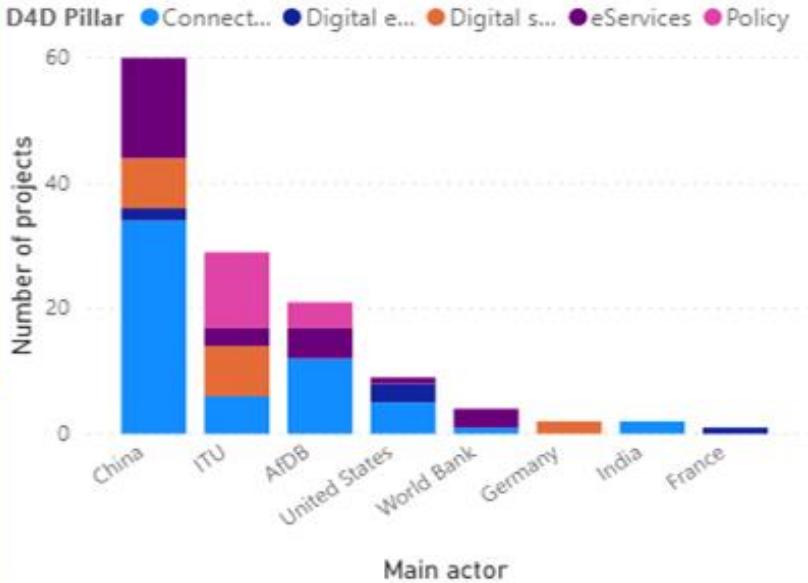
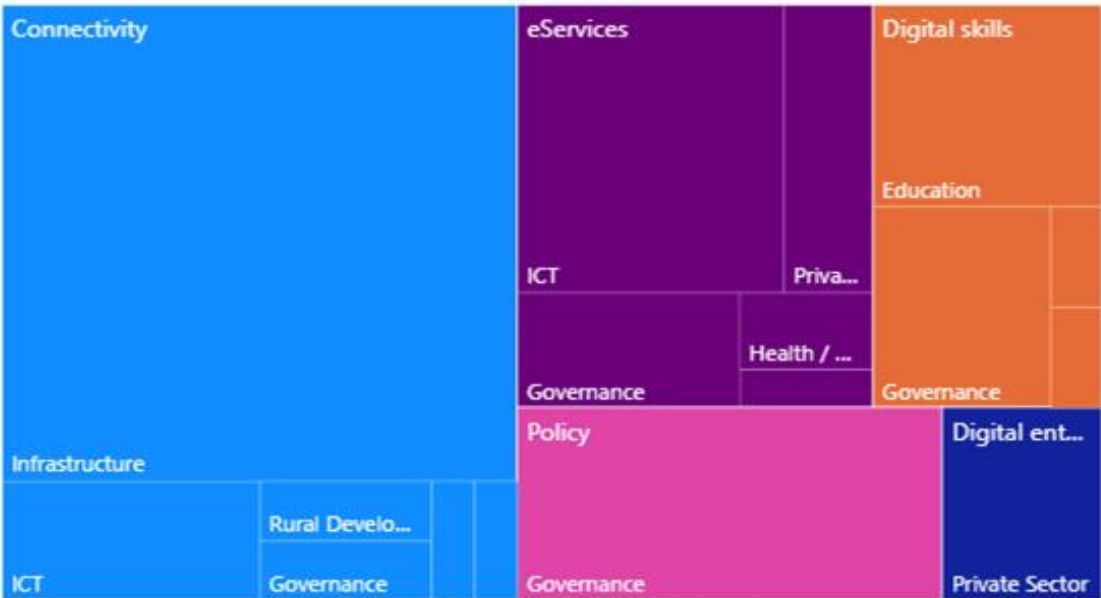
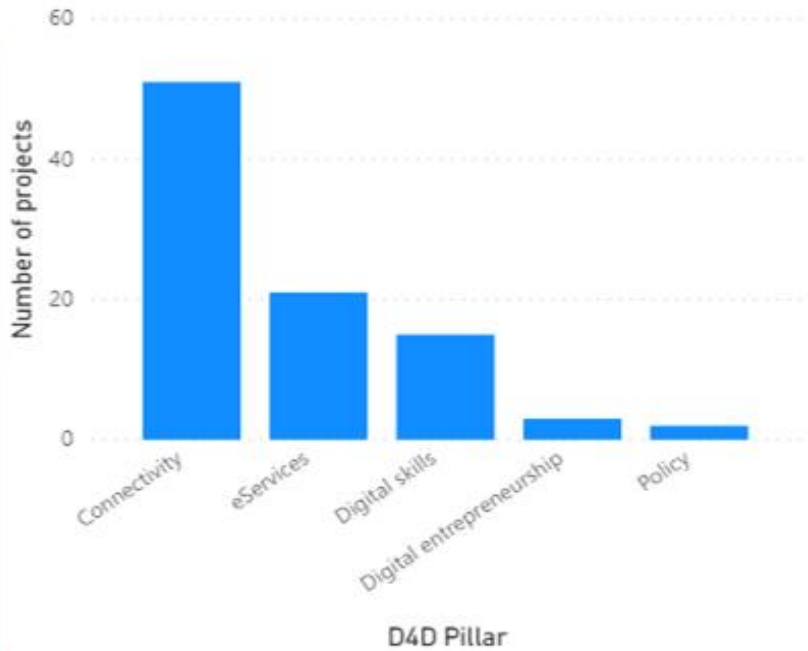
DEVCO



Non-EU actors

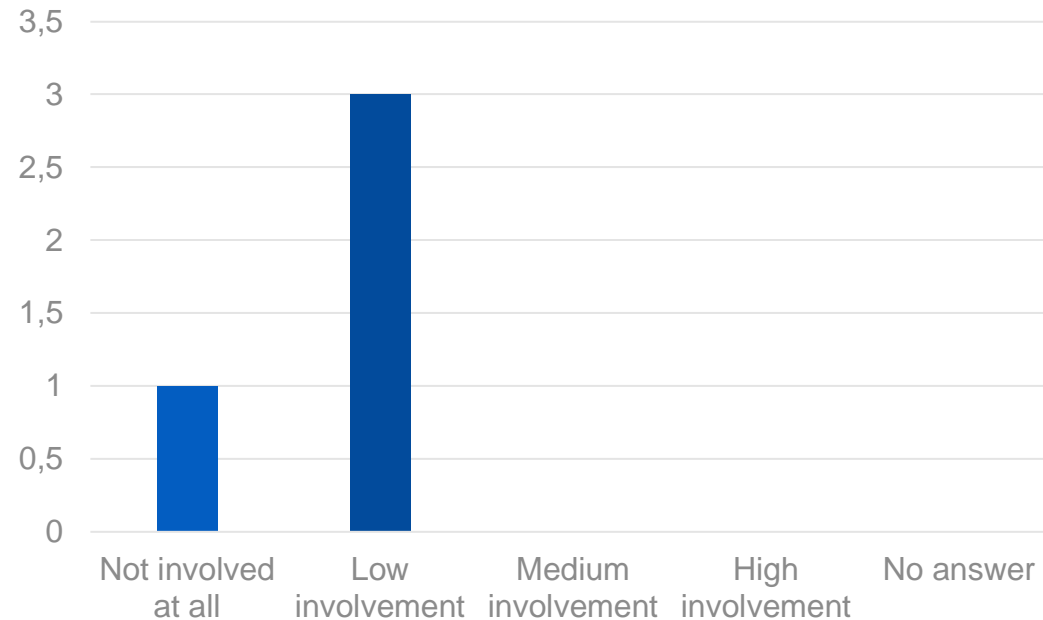


# Southern Africa, *non-EU* mapping



# Pre-webinar survey results (3) – West Africa

**How involved are Member States (including dev. agencies) involved in promoting digitalisation in your country?**



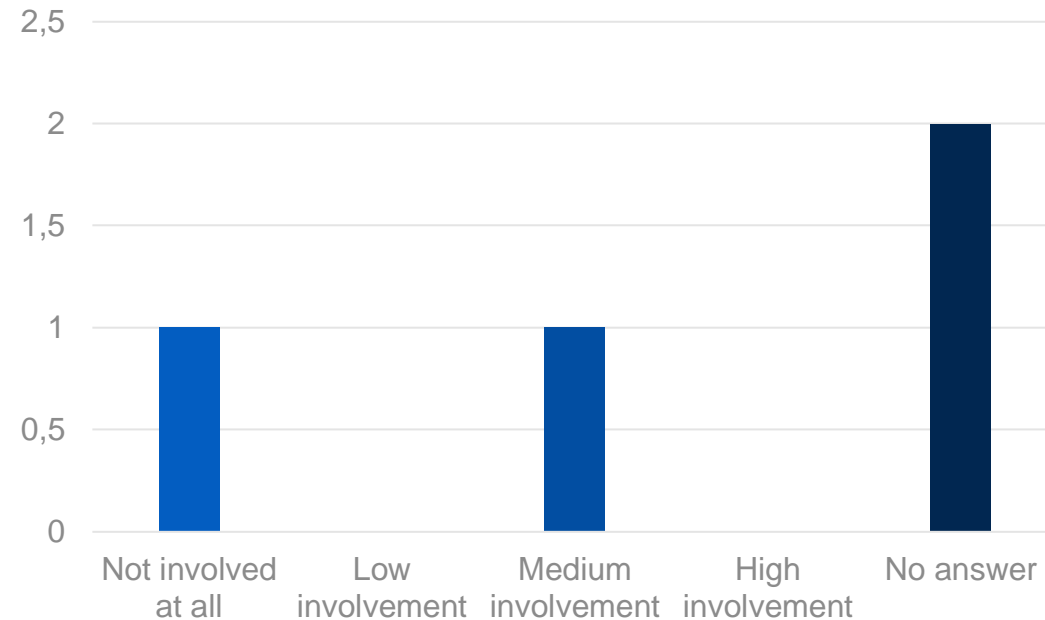
**Which actors do you recognize as being influential in digitalisation in your country?**



**With whom should DEVCO should partner with in future actions in the country of your delegation?**

# Pre-webinar survey results (3) – East Africa

**How involved are Member States (including dev. agencies) involved in promoting digitalisation in your country?**



**Which actors do you recognize as being influential in digitalisation in your country?**

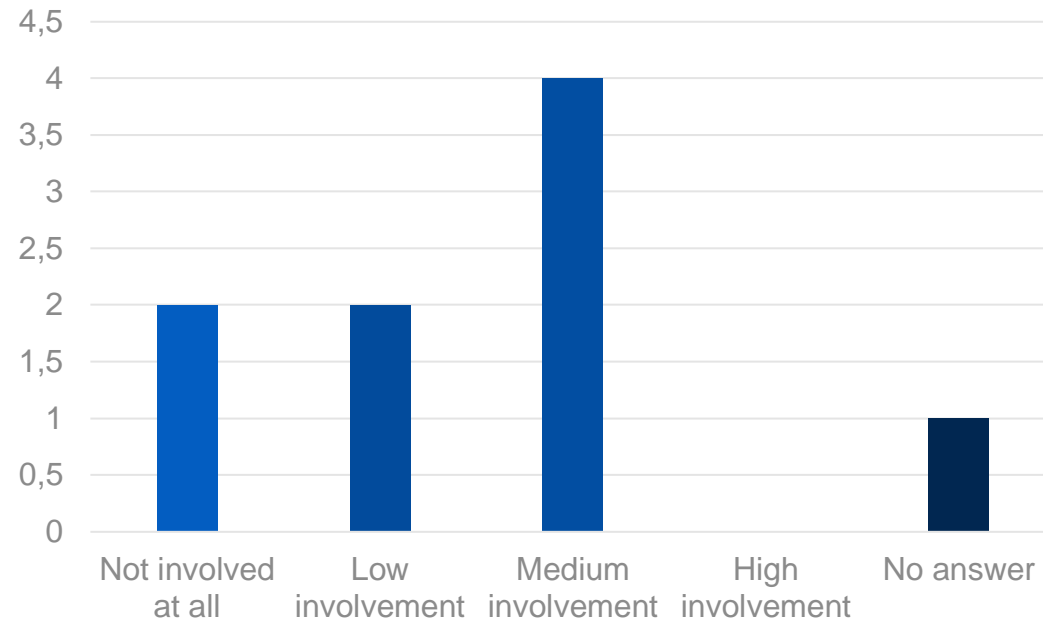
EU  
China  
President  
National Bank of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Innovation and Technology  
Communication Authority  
Telecom  
State

EU MS National Agencies  
European Private Sector (D4D Hub)  
National Bank of Ethiopia  
Ministries

**With whom should DEVCO should partner with in future actions in the country of your delegation?**

# Pre-webinar survey results (3) – Southern Africa

How involved are Member States (including dev. agencies) involved in promoting digitalisation in your country?



Which actors do you recognize as being influential in digitalisation in your country?



With whom should DEVCO should partner with in future actions in the country of your delegation?

# Pre-webinar survey results (3) – West Africa

## **EU's Added Value**

- Strong network of delegations; present at country level
- Long term partner of various African stakeholders

# Pre-webinar survey results (3) – East Africa

## EU's Added Value

- Opportunities to promote fundamental values – inclusiveness, human-centric digitalisation underpinned by a rights-based approach
- The responsible use of technology

# Pre-webinar survey results (3) – Southern Africa

## EU's Added Value

- Emphasis on data protection
- Provide a 'sober' digitalisation perspective (climate change aware and responsive)
- Can leverage the External Investment Plan
- Physical presence



# Q&A and Debate

## Comparative analysis

1. What is DEVCO's most significant added value in your region in the field of digitalisation?
2. Which stakeholders do you consider your delegation should partner with in future digital projects?

# Results Q1 – West Africa

Identify 1-3 local, national or regional stakeholders who, in your opinion, do a good job of advancing digitalisation in the context you work in.

 Mentimeter

Private sector

World Bank, ECOWAS, AfDB

World Bank, NITA (National  
Information Technology Agency)  
Ghana

I don't know

Ministry of Education in collaboration  
with USAID, World Bank

1) DSTI directorate of science  
technology and innovation Sierra  
Leone 2) Ministry of Education

Except of World bank, no idea of other  
stakeholders

# Results Q1 – East Africa

Identify 1-3 local, national or regional stakeholders who, in your opinion, do a good job of advancing digitalisation in the context you work in.

 Mentimeter

Giz?

State, Ministry of Innovation and technology, ECA...

For the future, I would say: Ministry of Labour and social development, Ministry of Finance and economic planning, Prime minister office, Ministry of Justice... But it could also be the European Chamber of commerce

World Bank, GIZ

Ministry of ICT, Private sector players (Safaricom, Jumia, etc), EU DFIs especially EIB

1. Google (balloons for remote connectivity; free online training on digital stuff, etc...) 2. Safaricom with M-Pesa electronic payments 3. The Government of Kenya

Line Ministry (ICT) Kenya, key donor partners

World Bank, AFD

# Results Q1 – Southern Africa

Identify 1-3 local, national or regional stakeholders who, in your opinion, do a good job of advancing digitalisation in the context you work in.

 Mentimeter

Private Sector Organizations

Telecom Company, Indian Ocean Commission

Telecom, Vodacom,

local telecom companies Econet and Vodacom,  
World Bank

The private sector and some government  
departments

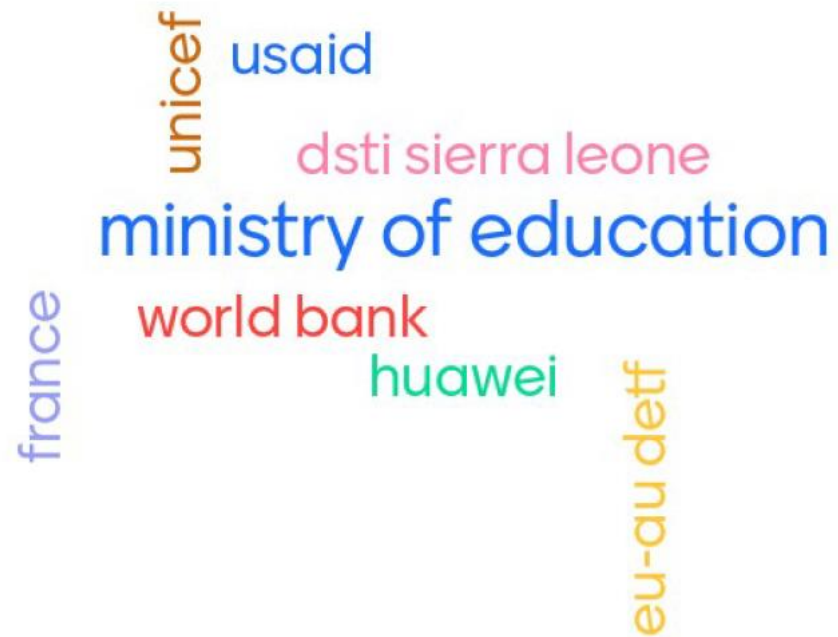
Econet, a mobile service provider having a  
monopoly; International NGOs like DWHH is very  
active with moderate results and no sustainability

Private sector ITC companies, research  
institutions (CSIR in South Africa), Government  
and state owned enterprises

Bongo Hive, Hackers Guid

# Results Q2 – West Africa

Identify 1-3 European or external stakeholders (external to the country where you work) that in your opinion do a good job of advancing digitalisation





# Results Q2 – East Africa

Identify 1-3 European or external stakeholders (external to the country where you work) that in your opinion do a good job of advancing digitalisation

 Mentimeter



## Results Q2 – Southern Africa

Identify 1-3 European or external stakeholders (external to the country where you work) that in your opinion do a good job of advancing digitalisation

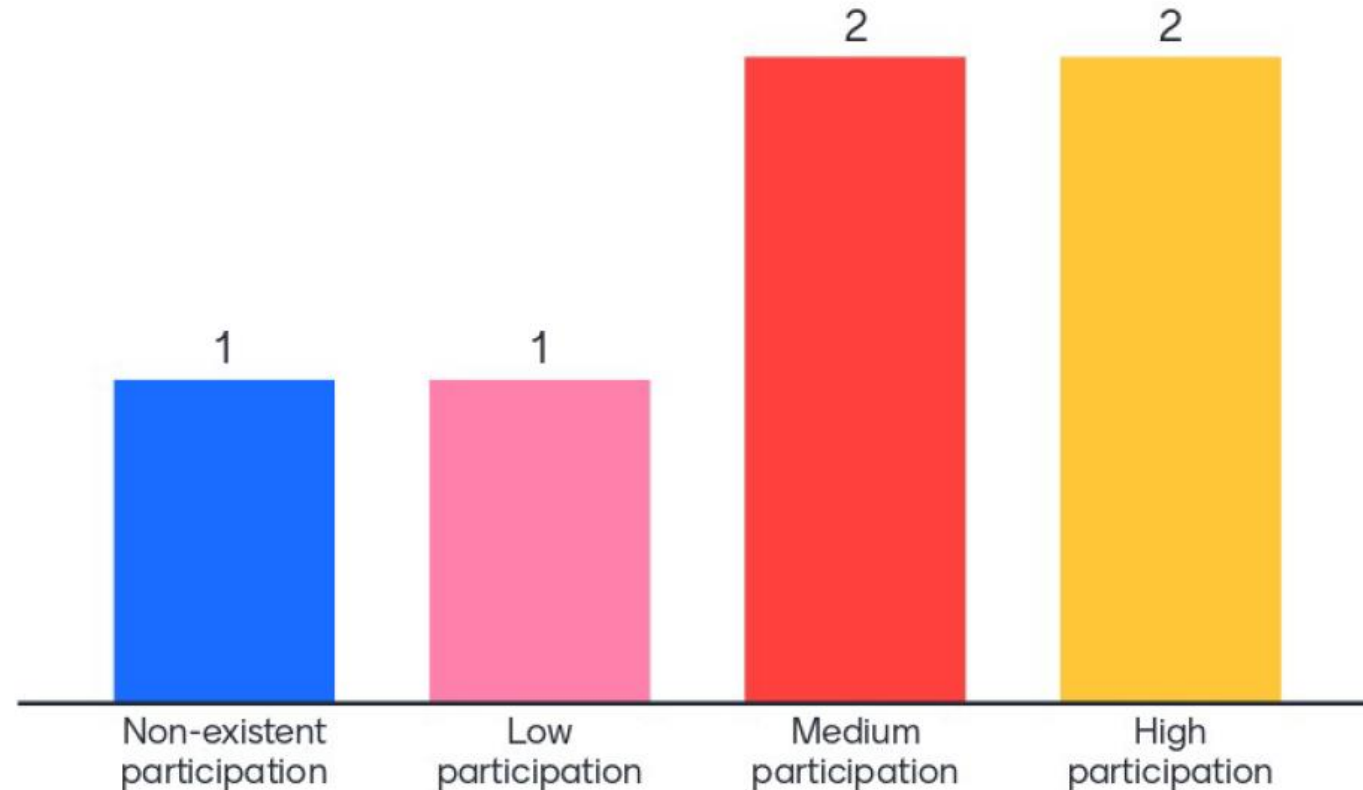


A word cloud of stakeholders, with 'european commission' being the largest and most central. Other visible stakeholders include 'china', 'world bank', 'orange fr telecom', 'african union', 'estonia', and 'sadc'.

china world bank  
european commission  
sadc orange fr telecom  
estonia african union

# Results Q3 – West Africa

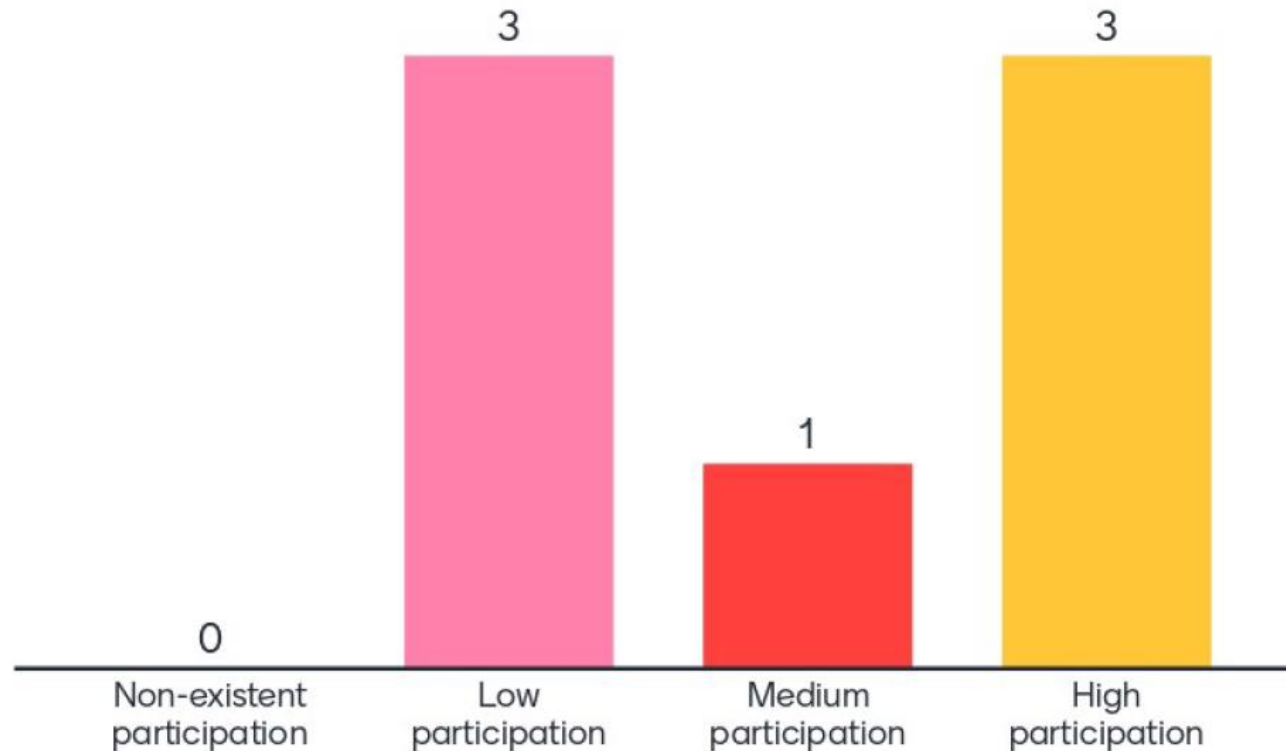
To what extent does the private sector participate in promoting digitalisation in your country?





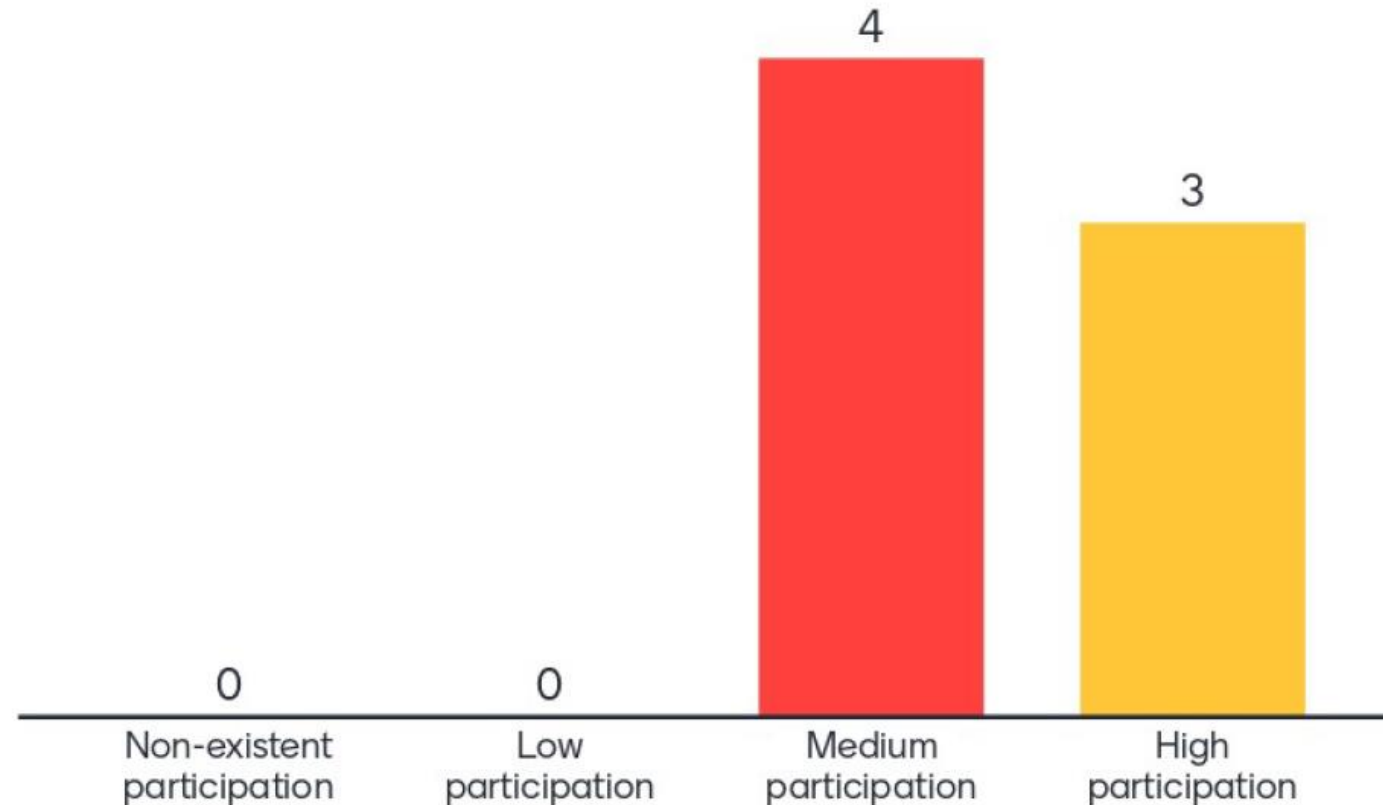
# Results Q3 – East Africa

To what extent does the private sector participate in promoting digitalisation in your country?



## Results Q3 – Southern Africa

To what extent does the private sector participate in promoting digitalisation in your country?



# Lessons learnt and recommendations

# Lessons learned

1. **EU has a unique position to advance rights-based approach to digital transformation**
2. **Potential to impact policy and regulations on data sovereignty, continental digital integration**
3. **Increasingly building mechanisms for [EU] private sector engagement**
4. **Lack obvious strategic orientation for programs within D4D framework pillars**
5. **No streamlined information on D4D framework and digitalisation across HQs and Delegations**

# Recommendations

## Cross-cutting Recommendations

- Assess enabling **factors** and **barriers** to **drive priorities**
- Strategically **link local assistance** with **regional-** and **continental-level strategies**
- Recognize and encourage innovative approaches and **promote lessons learned and sharing of experience** across Delegations
- Develop the **appropriate willingness** and expertise to **engage** with the **private sector**
- Recruit professionals who are familiar with and can **increase awareness** of the importance of digitalisation

# Recommendations

## Digital Connectivity



- Develop country-level and regional **diagnostics** to drive **strategies** on **connectivity and infrastructure**.
- Treat connectivity as the **foundational** step to promote further **comprehensive actions** across all pillars
  - Prioritize **cost-sharing and collaborations** to increase **footprint** on infrastructure
  - Identify **value chains** where enhanced connectivity (+investment in skills and digital services) is most likely to have a **direct impact** on the population
- Invest in **sustainable energies** as an **enabling factor** in the digital transformation and development of services
- Invest in closing the “**physical**” **digital divide** between urban and rural areas

# Recommendations

## Digital Skills



- Support the development of digital literacy and skills throughout the **whole education cycle**
  - Enhance **basic digital literacy** concerning **data privacy** and **safe digital behaviour patterns**, with a specific focus on girls and women
  - Support the development of **e-learning capabilities** as a means of mitigating the COVID shocks to educational systems
  - Leverage **Erasmus+** as a tool to increase opportunities to set up cooperation with SSA universities, researchers, and institutions
  - Invest in closing the “**structural and cultural**” digital divide that negatively affects women, minority groups, conflict-affected populations, and other populations of concern including children with disabilities
- Explore the potential **involvement of diaspora groups** and migrants as a source of peer-to-peer learning and digital skills development.

# Recommendations

## Digital Entrepreneurship



- Support governments in the development of legislation and infrastructure for the development of digital business, emphasising **provision of appropriate protection** for investors and entrepreneurs
- Coordinate with governments and other donors to clearly **define and identify funding mechanisms** for **digital entrepreneurs**, focusing on the creation of small, dynamic projects
- Build **pipelines and networks** between European companies and African counterparts to **strengthen SMEs, digital and entrepreneurial ecosystems**
- Promote the emergence of a **regional network for young technology entrepreneurs** through collaboration with corporate and financing partners, social enterprises, hubs, and networks



# Recommendations

## eServices



- Streamline digitalisation, not over the qualities of the technology but as a **means of delivering benefits and solving real problems**
- Develop project-specific strategies for the **diffusion of innovation** which take into account any resistance and lack of political will of actors involved in the digital transformation process (i.e. “spoilers”).
- Adopt a **clear ‘value-for-money’ approach** to assistance which identifies country and regional sectoral priorities that promise the **highest return in terms of benefit** to the population and are currently insufficiently resourced or prioritised
- Incentivize European private sector involvement by **communicating more forcefully about the market potential of SSA in the area of eServices**

# Recommendations

## Governance



- Identify **critical regulations** such as data governance **tailored** for the African context
- Increase efforts to **voice concerns about digital surveillance and create mechanisms to curtail undue violations of privacy**  
Streamline digitalisation, not over the qualities of the technology but as a **means of delivering benefits and solving real problems**

# Pre-webinar survey results (4) – West Africa

**Has digitalisation been prioritized in programming discussions?**

Yes	No
'Transversal issue'	'Not really prioritized'
'Identified as key enabler'	'Limited'
'Appears in development agenda'	

**Forward looking objectives of an EU digitalisation strategy (delegation/specific)**

- Improve 'traditional' citizen-facing services
- Increase transparency and efficiency of government
- Creation of adequate legislation
- Improvement of connectivity coverage
- Support digital rights management

# Pre-webinar survey results (4) – East Africa

**Has digitalisation been prioritized in programming discussions?**

Yes	No
‘Selected as important area’	‘Marginal’
‘Team Europe initiative was prepared’	‘Limited’

**Forward looking objectives of an EU digitalisation strategy (delegation/specific)**

- Capacity building
- Infrastructure
- Regulatory framework
- D4D pillars per the SWD

# Pre-webinar survey results (4) – Southern Africa

## Has digitalisation been prioritized in programming discussions?

Yes	No
'To some extent'	'Very little'
'Team Europe initiative was formulated'	'Limited'
'Predominant place in our Team Europe Initiative'	'None'
'All current projects under governance include a dig component'	'Not very much'
'Talking about it in new programming'	
'Being discussed'	

## Forward looking objectives of an EU digitalisation strategy (delegation/specific)

- Reduce corruption
- Remove intermediaries (improve efficiency of services)
- Regulatory framework (define clear frameworks)
- Invest in small and cheap solutions that make a difference
- Connectivity (resilient ICT networks)

# Pre-webinar survey results (4) – West Africa

## Recommendations to HQ

- Build own internal capacity and knowledge
- Create expertise – or bring on digitalisation specialists – to plan and manage digital initiatives

# Pre-webinar survey results (4) – East Africa

## Recommendations to HQ

- Make a good case as to why digitalisation is important for LDCs
- Create a real EU Digital Strategy in Development Cooperation (SWD too old)
- Develop the D4D Hub
- Create more digital fora for EUDELS

# Pre-webinar survey results (4) – Southern Africa

## Recommendations to HQ

- Define how the EU will ‘leave no one behind’ in the digitalisation process
- Invest in capacity building and trainings (more ‘tech-savviness’)
- Improve communication between HQ and EUDELS
- Attempt to create tailor-made assistance
- More coordination with DG CONNECT and Member States
- Promote Twinning
- Consider working hand in hand with China and USA



# Q&A and Debate

## Recommendations

1. Please share a concrete example from the formulation or implementation of a digitalisation project and describe the major obstacles and the successes or good practices encountered.
2. From your perspective which recommendations are / should be prioritized?
3. Write down one piece of advice you would have for DEVCO to inform current and future cooperation strategy and delivery on digitalisation

# Results Q1 – West Africa

From the recommendations listed in the presentation, which one(s) would you identify as a priority for your delegation?

 Mentimeter

-

Capacity building at local level

Private sector engagement for much needed infrastructure investments, strategic cooperation with key partners with advanced digitalisation agendas

Align with World Bank; Regional expertise;

combine energy to connectivity

European private sector involvement

capacity building of local resources and support to local digital market

# Results Q1 – East Africa

From the recommendations listed in the presentation, which one(s) would you identify as a priority for your delegation?

 Mentimeter

the 4 pillars are priorities. The idea is to provide a holistic approach to the digital area.

Above those listed we need 1) DEVCO DG to take identification seriously. TEIs are methodologically upside down first determining flagships and then substantiating them. 2) Limit the interference of HoDs in technical aspects of cooperation.

Develop expertise to engage with private sector

# Results Q1 – Southern Africa

From the recommendations listed in the presentation, which one(s) would you identify as a priority for your delegation?

 Mentimeter

the emphasis that digitilisation is as important as water, sanitation, health etc. it needs to be embedded in all new programmes going forward as much as gender/Climate change

Coordination with DG CONNECT

enhancing digital entrepreneurship, enhancing digital skills, streamlining digitalisations as a means of delivering benefits and solving real problems

Coordination between HQ and EU Delegations


Support e-learning capabilities; enhance basic digital literacy; streamline digitalisation as a means of delivering benefits and solving real problems

To establish TA support facilities to EUD

Start with a diagnostic, have general objectives first and working backwards

# Results Q2 – West Africa

Write down one piece of advice you would have for DEVCO to inform current and future cooperation strategy and delivery on digitalisation

 Mentimeter

-

Also link into the AU digitalisation agenda

Do not overlook, for disadvantaged countries like ours, the fact that the current deficiencies in basic education compromise the development of digital technology and its conscious use for the most disadvantaged categories.

Facilitate expertise for EUDs on HOW to streamline digitalisation into interventions, best practices, approaches across the sectors

# Results Q2 – East Africa

**Write down one piece of advice you would have for DEVCO to inform current and future cooperation strategy and delivery on digitalisation**

 Mentimeter

Digital Studies to support the implementation of the National Strategies.  
More "Business Forum" to create more awareness.

1) more funds for studies. 2) merge all EU development cooperation agencies into an EU Development Bank

More resources to conduct studies for evidence-based decision making



# Results Q2 – Southern Africa

Write down one piece of advice you would have for DEVCO to inform current and future cooperation strategy and delivery on digitalisation

 Mentimeter

Nothin

Digitilisation is one of the separating factors between the haves and the have nots and it needs. Its as important as Climate change ,gender and other pressing matters

More frequent webinars like this one

greater collaboration with other DGs, development partners, private sector, etc. to identify challenges, gaps and consolidate sustainable, multi-stakeholder approaches

I would advise to streamline the knowledge about the benefits of digitalisation

digitalisation is not scary or 'techy' - it's important to accept it and equip ourselves with knowledge and translate it into our projects

# Conclusions

See



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