

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGION - Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area

#GLOBALGATEWAY

#TEAMEUROPE

TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL

Geographic coverage: entire African continent: actions implemented at continental, regional and (multi-) country level

TEI engagement - around three areas of work:

- Develop EU common messages on AfCFTA
- Strengthen EU coordination on AfCFTA and joint strategic dialogue (continental, regional and national level, PANAF expert group)
- Provide support to the AfCFTA under the Team Europe umbrella. Example: Team Europe Technical Assistance Facility to support AfCFTA

AfCFTA Labelled Support (Identify and map the interventions). Core support:

Negotiation ownership and management of the AfCFTA agreement:

- Completed and successful AfCFTA negotiation
- Strong and improved ownership, institutional capacity building

AfCFTA agreement rules and related reforms: enabling Policy, legislative and Regulatory environment

Thematic areas and future contributions from the Commission and EU MS:

- Adoption of common and harmonised Rules of Origin (DE, EC, FR, PT, SE)
- Liberalising and facilitating Trade in Services: policy negotiation, regulatory alignment, solid domestic regulations (DE, DK, EC, PT, NL)
- Sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures: standards, SPS governance system (DE, EC, FR, SE, NL)
- Technical Barriers to Trade (DE, DK, EC, PT, SE)
- Trade facilitation (DE, EC, FI, FR, IE, NL, PT, SE)
- Competition: transparent and fair policy (DE, DK, EC, FI, FR)
- Investment: regulatory framework (DE, DK, EC, PT)
- Intellectual Property Rights (DK, EC, FI, FR, NL)
- E-Commerce and Digital Single Market: SMEs and women (DE, EC, FR, SE, NL)
- Cross-cutting themes: support to green transition, private sector, youth and women (DE, DK, EC, FI, FR, NL, IE, SE)

Thematic coordination groups identification and monitoring of joint and/or coordinated actions.

MODALITIES/TOOLS

Direct Technical assistance

Blending loans and grants

Guarantees

Technical assistance through international organisations

KEY DELIVERABLES

1. Set up and operationalisation of the TEI Technical Assistance Facility to the AfCFTA (TAF AfCFTA), in support of trade and economic integration matters related to the effective implementation of the AfCFTA
2. Development, launch, and operationalisation in July 2022 of the AfCFTA e-tariff book, in partnership with WCO,
3. 2 programmes adopted to support Market Access and Quality Infrastructure and to launch of Study on Economic Integration progress towards the Customs Union
4. Capacity building for standardisation – to enable active participation of African National Standardisation Bodies (NSBs) in international standardisation organisations such as ISO and IEC and of their national governments in ITU.

*This Team Europe Initiative is work in progress

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NATIONAL CONTEXT

The AfCFTA is the World most ambitious economic integration initiative, expected to cover a market of 1.2 billion people

Intra-African Trade remains low. Tariff and non-tariff barriers needs to be addressed, and trade facilitation enhanced

Very strong African ownership

- African Union's Flagship project part of Agenda 2063 priorities
- Dedicated African body set up to manage the AfCFTA : AfCFTA Secretariat
- Existing Regional economic integration processes within the Regional Economic Communities, contributing to the AfCFTA

European added value

- EU experience of customs union and single market. Long-standing supporter of economic integration in Africa, as an engine for inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, decent jobs, trade, investment and sustainable development across the continent.

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGs

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



EU Trade Policy Review

EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa

COVID-19 pandemic

**SDGs included based on a new JRC electronic text mining tool, which identifies SDGs (targets)

TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

- Boost intra African trade and drive African post-COVID-19 economic recovery
- Develop opportunities offered by the green and digital transition
- Deepen the sustainable economic transformation of the African continent, promoting the creation of more and better jobs and fostering inclusive and sustainable growth