

Team Europe Initiative Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa

Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) offer investment opportunities across various sectors. While each country has its own unique set of opportunities and challenges, a key challenge is to match the employment expectations of large numbers of Africans with the reality of decent jobs available and for investors to find the relevant skills needed for their investments.

Joint action by industry stakeholders and the educational sector is hence needed to formulate effective programmes for current and future workforce development to respond to concrete job opportunities and address the skills gaps.

In line with the **Global Gateway Strategy**, the regional **Team Europe Initiative Opportunity-driven Skills and Vocational Education and Training in Africa (TEI OP-VET)** was launched in **April 2024** to empower the labour force in SSA countries with the skills required to **benefit from investments and arising job opportunities** in their economies.

Employment is the leading perspective of the TEI OP-VET. By **orienting VET and skills development towards concrete and decent employment opportunities** arising from investments and related **value chain developments**, the programme addresses the skills dimension as integral component and enabler of **investments under the Global Gateway**.

The five-year programme (2024-2029) is **funded by the European Commission and Germany (BMZ)** and is jointly implemented in a Team Europe approach by Enabel, Expertise France, EDUFI and GIZ.

What is the difference we want to make?

What distinguishes this programme from others is its **opportunity-driven approach**. Employment is the leading perspective, and collaboration with the private sector, be it in (social) sector dialogues, the identification of employment opportunities, the development and implementation of concrete training or in the transition towards employment, is a necessary requirement and key element of the TEI OP-VET.

Opportunity-driven approach to VET and skills development

The **opportunity-driven approach** to VET and skills development acknowledges that VET does not create jobs. Instead, **VET and skills development act as an enabler and support function for decent employment**. The opportunity-driven approach therefore introduces a **paradigm shift** where employment is the leading perspective.

The starting point is the **identification of concrete and decent employment opportunities and required skills profiles**. On this basis, training programmes are **oriented towards concrete employment opportunities** and strengthened in their ability to respond to the skills profiles required by the labour market.

When **coupled with investments, private sector engagement and public-private partnerships**, VET and skills development equips individuals with the skills they need and strengthens regional economies by **bridging the gap between education and employment**.

The TEI OP-VET is structured around 3 pillars:

Request-based Technical Assistance (TA) Facility:

Support EUD's, EIB/EBRD, EU MS and their partners to better (re)orient sector-specific or VET and skills interventions towards concrete employment opportunities, aligned with investment initiatives linked to Global Gateway priority areas in SSA.

For further information and/or requests for support from the TA Facility: ta_facility@tei-opvet.eu

Regional exchanges on Public-Private-Partnerships:

Increase exchanges on a regional level between private sector actors, VET providers and the public sector on partnerships for opportunity-driven VET and skills development across Global Gateway priority areas in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For further information and/or requests for support send an email to: regionalexchanges@tei-opvet.eu

Opportunity-driven VET and skills development projects:

Selected opportunity-driven VET and skills projects fostering partnerships between private sector actors, VET providers and the public sector. These projects are in line with specific Global Gateway priority areas and (regional) value chains in SSA, funded through a Call for Proposals launched September and November 2024 (now closed).

Activities under the **TEI OP-VET** will apply a gender-responsive lens and address marginalised groups for an inclusive and comprehensive approach to VET and skills development.

Geographical scope of the TEI OP-VET

The **TEI OP-VET** is a **key element under the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package** announced at the 2022 EU-Africa-Summit, supporting skills needed in sectors that are part of the package. It is a regional programme open for all partner countries in SSA to ensure that skills and VET provisions are responsive to concrete and decent employment opportunities created by investments and related value chain developments in the following priority sectors of the Global Gateway:



DIGITAL



TRANSPORT



HEALTH



CLIMATE
& ENERGY

Partners

The Team Europe Initiative Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa (TEI OP-VET) interacts with multiple stakeholders at local, national, regional and international level:

- Private sector and business networks in Africa and the EU involved in Global Gateway priority sectors and related value chains in SSA (e.g. EU-Africa Business Fora)
- Public and private sector partners in the context of the European Commission's and EU Member States' country and regional programmes and TEI's

Synergies with other initiatives

The TEI OP-VET seeks to cooperate with other regional and national TEIs and programmes funded by the European Commission and EU Member States providing support services and creating synergies in relevant areas, such as:

- Sector specific TEIs which have identified skills as a relevant support service (e.g. MAV+)
- TEIs providing support to the ecosystem for entrepreneurial development (e.g. TEI IYBA)
- Capacity building of VET providers and facilitation of exchange (e.g. Erasmus+ CB-VET)

Your Gateway to skills and jobs
Scan here for more info on TEI OP-VET

