

Strategic Opportunity-Driven VET and Skills Development Projects

Under Pillar 3, the **Team Europe Initiative Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa (TEI OP-VET)** translates its opportunity-driven approach into concrete action through a set of **grant agreements** that directly link vocational education and training and skills development with employment resulting from investments and value chain growth. Guided by the “reverse-engineering” logic of the OP-VET approach, each project begins by identifying **concrete job opportunities**, then defines the **corresponding skills needs**, and finally delivers **tailored training** that leads to and links decent employment opportunities.

Private sector engagement, local ownership, gender equality & inclusion, a just green transition, digitalisation, and decent work are core principles that guide the implementation and ensure that the TEI OP-VET contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth across partner regions.

Sectors selected based on prioritised Global Gateway value chains:



Transport
(corridors, ports, urban mobility)



Critical Raw Materials



Renewable Energy & Green Hydrogen



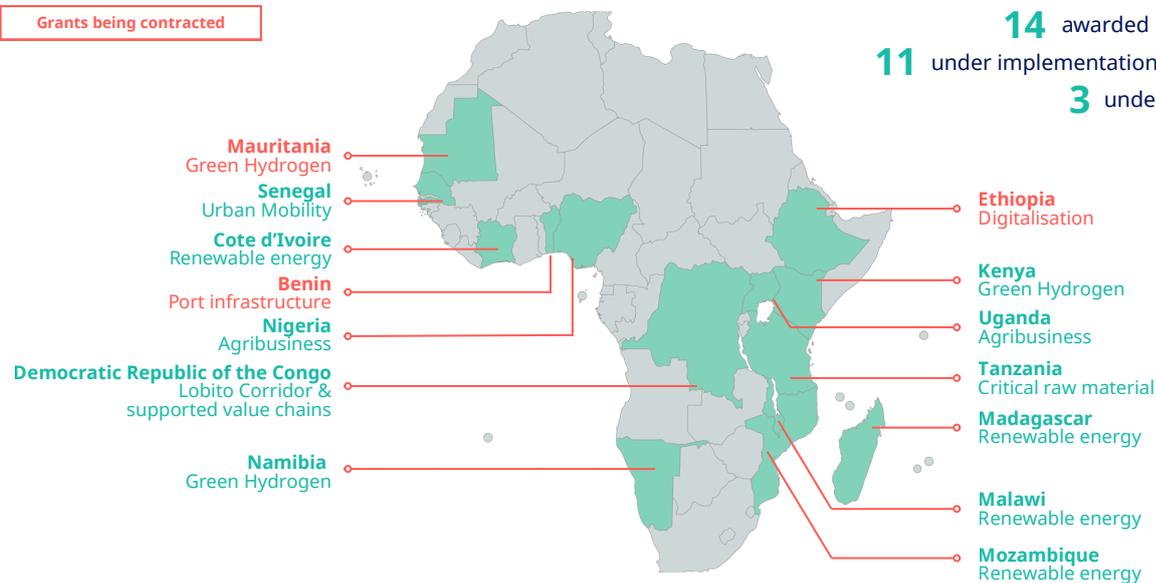
Agribusiness

Grants in implementation

Grants being contracted

Grant Portfolio Snapshot (2026)

14 awarded in 2024-2025
11 under implementation (24 months)
3 under contracting



Key principles guiding the implementation

Connected grants

Projects in the same or related value chains are actively linked to reinforce coherence and impact.

Global Gateway alignment

All grants contribute to Global Gateway priority areas and value chains.

Private sector-led

Skills development and training are designed and delivered in close cooperation with the private sector.

Stronger VET provision

Projects enhance the capacity of local VET providers and promote opportunity-driven training.

Regional & EU synergies

Complementarity is fostered within the wider EU and EU Member States' portfolio.

Sustainable impact

Private sector engagement is coordinated across projects to maximise results and sustainability.

A set of **capacity and competence development measures** supports this cooperation, promoting **exchange, learning, and long-term impact**.

An OP-VET Project in practice

How the TEI OP-VET supports the Green Hydrogen sector in Namibia

The **IGNITE Green Hydrogen (GH2)** grant project in **Namibia** demonstrates how the **TEI OP-VET** fosters alignment across initiatives and applies the OP-VET approach in practice. The project builds on a **comprehensive skills needs and gap analysis** in Namibia's **Power-to-X (PtX) / Green Hydrogen (GH2) sector** and is directly linked to the investment "Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme (NGH2P)", including the key **Hyphen Hydrogen Energy project**.

To address emerging **employment opportunities**, IGNITE GH2 focuses on **workforce development** and the **training of identified target occupations**. Close continuous **collaboration with the private sector** - notably **Hyphen Hydrogen Energy** and **Zhero** as implementation partners - ensures that industry needs are met, translating directly into **employment**.



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Additionally, the TEI OP-VET **Technical Assistance (TA) Facility** supports the Namibian Green Hydrogen-related portfolio through the integration of the OP-VET approach into the design of new EU and EU Member States' programmes. This aims to **advance Namibia's green industrialisation by building bridges between national, EU, and international interventions**.

There are strong linkages and opportunities for **knowledge exchange** with the OP-VET grant in the field of Green Hydrogen in **Kenya (VET4HYDROGEN)**, and an emphasis is placed on strengthening learning and coordination across projects.

What does opportunity-driven VET mean?



The opportunity-driven approach to VET (OP-VET) acknowledges that VET does not create jobs. Instead **VET acts as an enabler and support function for decent employment**.



Introducing a **paradigm shift in VET/skills development**: It is **reverse-engineered from concrete job opportunities**. VET is coupled with investments, private sector engagement and public-private-partnerships.

What is the TEI OP-VET about ?

The **Team Europe Initiative Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Sub-Saharan Africa (TEI OP-VET)** aims to link skills development and VET with investments in Global Gateway priority areas (Digital, Health, Transport and Climate & Energy) to unlock the employment potential created by these investments and related sector/value chain developments.

It is running from **2024-2029** and is structured around **3 pillars**:

- **Request-based Technical Assistance Facility**
- **Regional exchange and public-private partnerships**
- **Opportunity-driven VET and skills development projects**



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