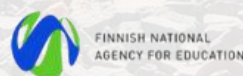
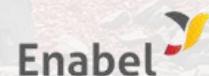


OP-VET & friends Webinar

# From Investment to Skills: Developing Human Capital along the Lobito Corridor

25 June 2026

Implemented by




#TeamEurope  
Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa (TEI OP-VET)

# Simultaneous Interpretation – How to Use It


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## Before we start...



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# Agenda

- Introduction
- The OP-VET approach
- An Introduction to the Lobito Corridor
- Project Spotlight: Lobito Connect
- Roundtable Discussion on the Lobito Corridor
- Q&A and Discussion
- Conclusion and Wrap-up

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# Objectives

- Highlight the strategic importance of the Lobito Corridor for jobs, investment and skills development
- Show how the OP-VET approach links vocational training with real labour market demand
- Present a concrete initiative from the Lobito Corridor ecosystem
- Foster dialogue between public, private and training stakeholders and development partners



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*We will support **smart investments** in quality infrastructure, respecting the highest social and environmental standards, in line with the **EU's values and standards.***

*The **Global Gateway strategy** is a template for how Europe can build **more resilient connections with the world.***

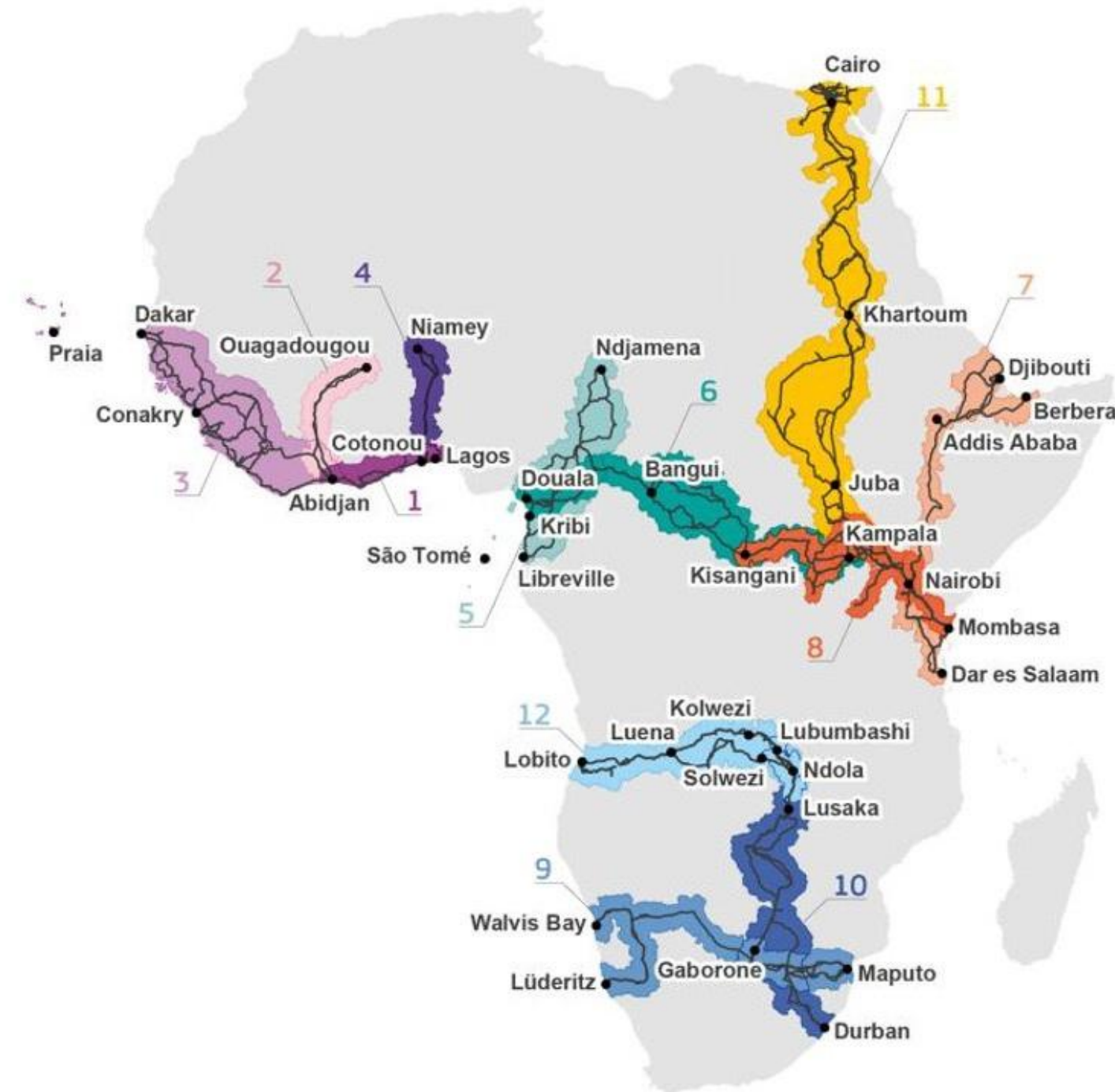
***Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission*

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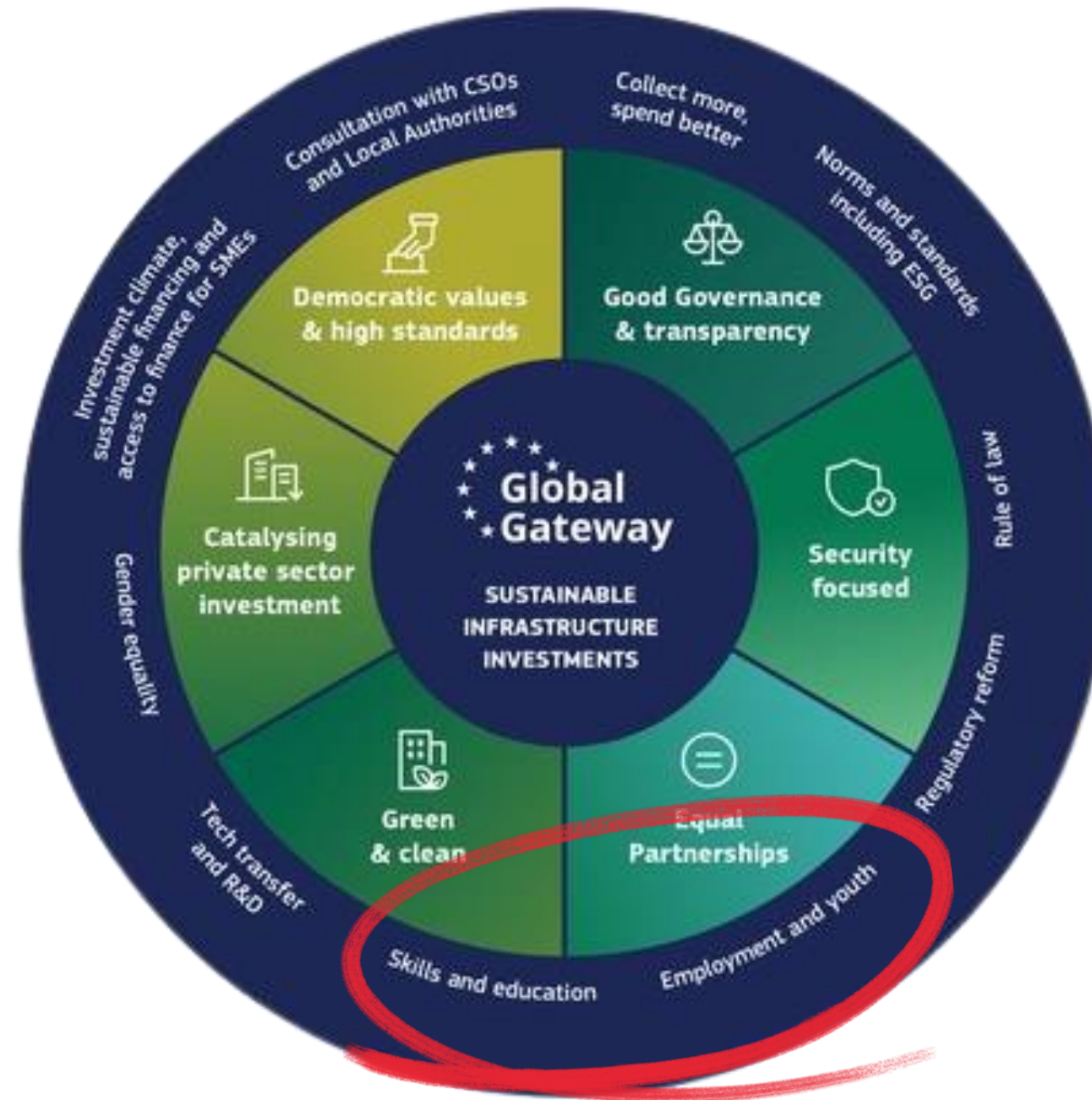
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**Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa (TEI OP-VET)**

## The Africa-Europe Investment Package



- Mobilising over **EUR 150 billion in investments** for Africa’s socio-economic, green and digital transformation
- Building **more resilient connections** between Africa and Europe
- Supporting the priorities of the **African Union’s Agenda 2063**
- Creating **strategic, sustainable, and secure transport corridors** and supporting value chains, services and jobs will benefit industries in both Africa and Europe
- The external investment arm of the **Critical Raw Materials Act** (CRMA), functioning to secure resilient supply chains for materials needed for the green and digital transitions

# 360° support to Global Gateway - TEI OP-VET



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## Global Gateway EU-Africa

Africa-Europe Global Gateway Investment Package (**GGIP**) of EUR 150 billion between 2021-2027

Global Gateway priority areas:

-  **Digital**
-  **Health**
-  **Transport**
-  **Climate & Energy**
-  **Education & research**

**TEI OP-VET** launched as part of the GGIP in **April 2024**

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## Team Europe Initiative - OP-VET

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**A Team Europe Initiative to support Opportunity-driven skills and vocational education and training (VET) in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

We are co-funded by the European Union and the German Government

€ 75 million (EU) + 1.050.000 (BMZ)

📅 March 2024 - February 2029



# Why Opportunity-driven Vocational Education and Training (OP-VET)?

## A PARADIGM SHIFT



Employment as the leading perspective



Reverse-engineered VET starting from concrete employment opportunities



Engaging the private sector to create a win-win for learners & business

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## 3 Ingredients for a Successful OP-VET Approach



### Early and strong Private Sector involvement

Facilitating structured public-private dialogue and partnerships



### Focus on investments that provide employment

Starting from concrete employment opportunities linked to Global Gateway investments



### A value chain approach

Targeting sectors and value chains with high employment prospects for maximal economic and social impact

# Key Steps in Opportunity-Driven VET Programmes



First, concrete employment opportunities based on investments are identified



Then, human resources are defined, and skills needs are specified



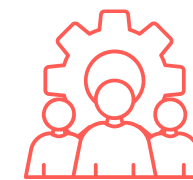
VET is then selectively organised to address these skills gaps, focusing on job profiles requiring vocational skills



Finally, graduates can find decent employment within companies operating in the targeted value chains/sectors



## Triple Benefits of OP-VET



### Private Sector

Gains access to a skilled and job-ready workforce, enhancing productivity and competitiveness.



### Local Population

Improves employability, with a focus on creating opportunities for youth and women.



### Education/Training Sector

Strengthens the capacity and alignment of VET programmes to meet labour market demands.

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# How to maximise the positive impact of the Lobito corridor in DRC?



**François Kacen**  
TPSD Facility III

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# Lobito corridor – TPSD Facility

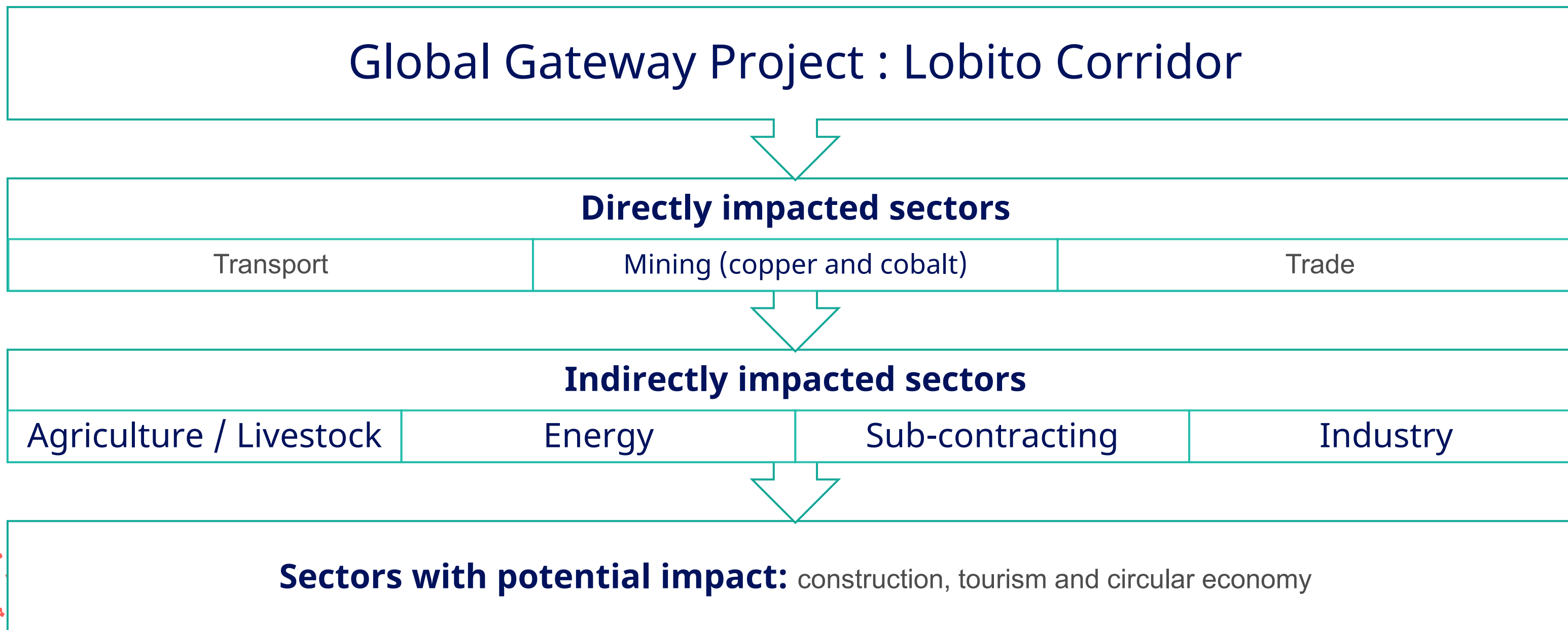
- 2-phase mission: 1<sup>st</sup> exploratory, 2<sup>nd</sup> identification
- Strong Team Europe and Facilities coordination



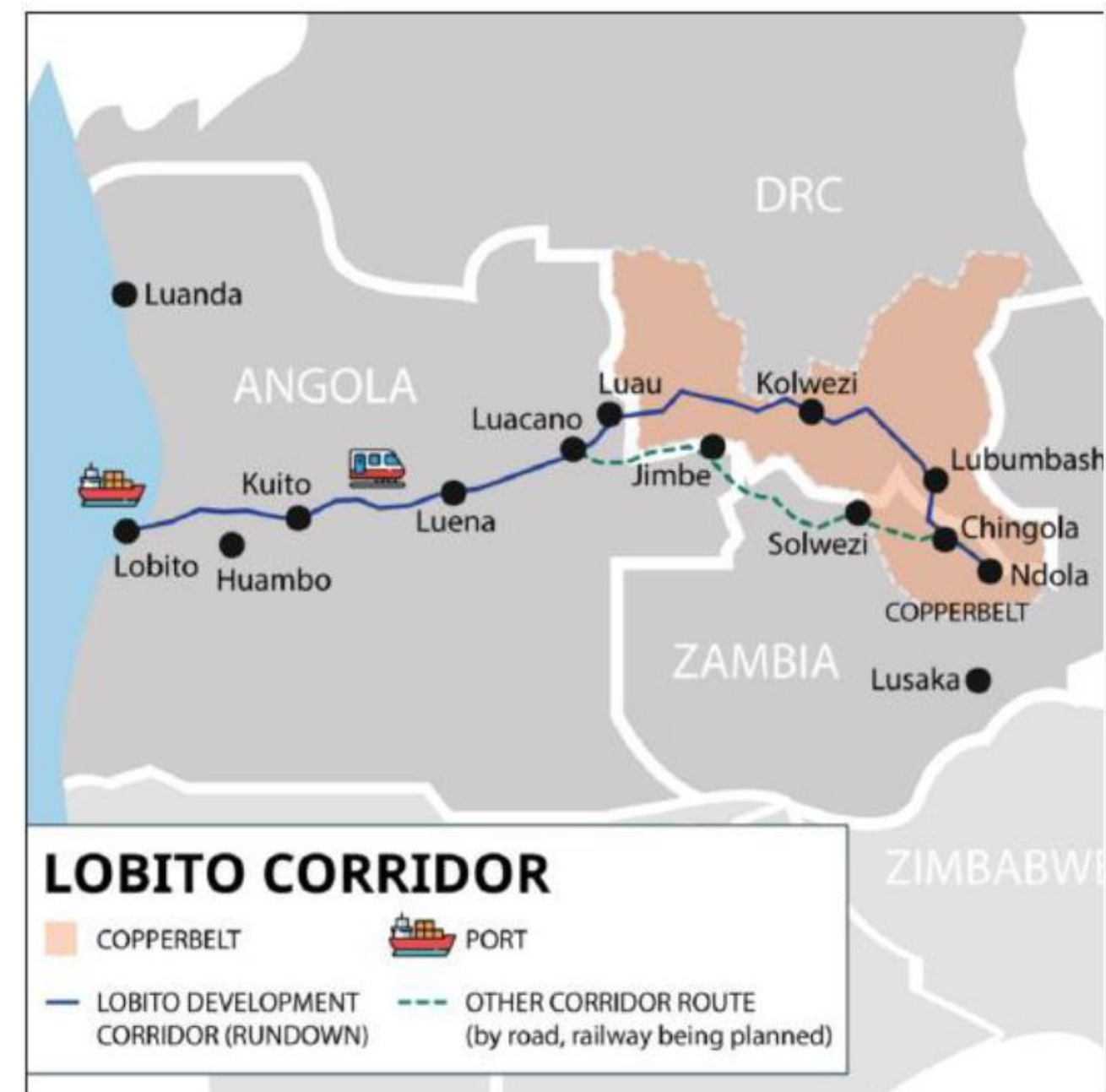
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# Lobito corridor – impacted sectors



# Sectors directly impacted – Rail/road/port transport



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# Sectors directly impacted – Mining

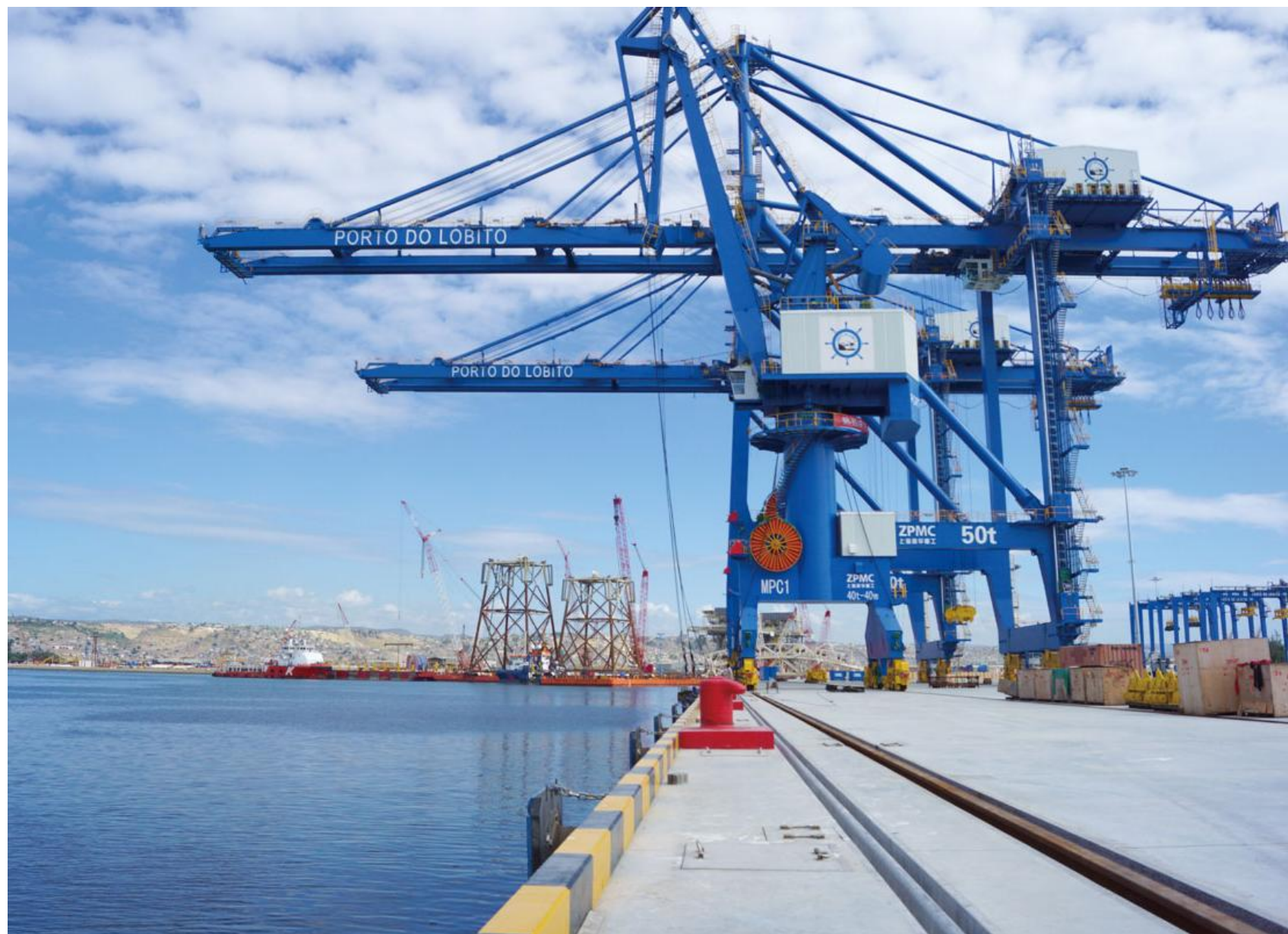


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# Sectors directly impacted – Trade

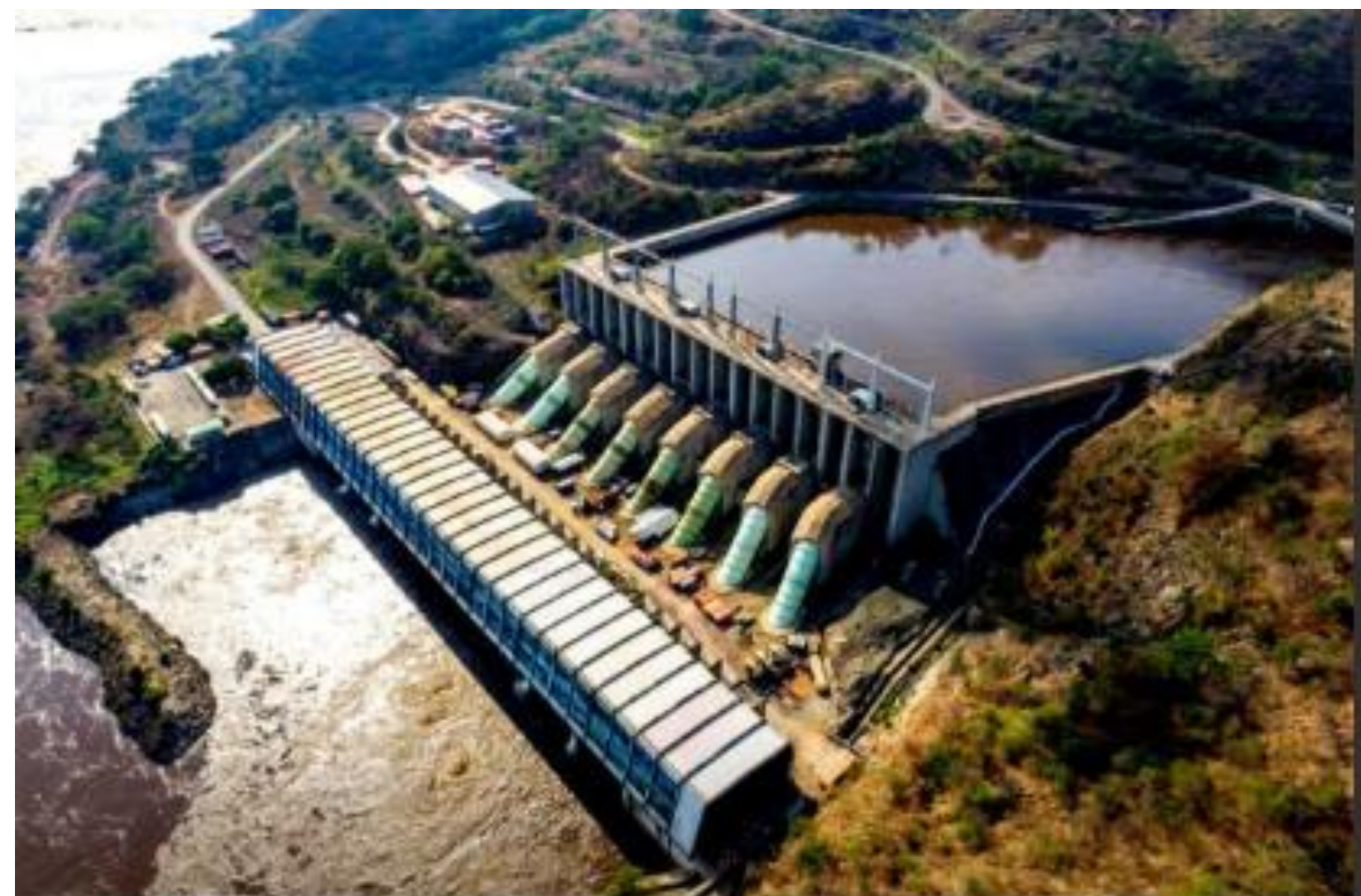


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# Sectors indirectly impacted – Energy



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# Sectors indirectly impacted – Sub-contracting



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# Sectors indirectly impacted – Agriculture



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# Sectors indirectly impacted – Industry



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# Project Spotlight: Lobito Connect



**Gédéon Ngoma**  
**Lobito Connect team leader,**  
**Louvain Cooperation**

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lobito connect



# Connecting local talent to sustainable mining value chains in Haut-Katanga & Lualaba

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# The Lobito Corridor: a strategic opportunity for the DRC

- The Lobito Corridor, anchored by the Benguela Railway (BFC), links the DRC to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Strategic infrastructure to unlock exports of copper, cobalt and other critical raw materials.
- A key driver of green and sustainable industrialisation, trade and regional integration.
- At the heart of Global Gateway investments and geopolitical positioning.
- Major investments are expected in mining, logistics, energy and construction.



# MASSIVE INVESTMENTS... BUT A SKILLS CHALLENGE

THE LOBITO CORRIDOR IS CREATING NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:



TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS



MINES AND STRATEGIC MINERALS



ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



SUBCONTRACTING AND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES



BUT BUSINESSES ARE FACING A MAJOR CHALLENGE:



INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE



ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL



HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (HSE)



DIGITAL SKILLS & STEM



SOFT SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY



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# MASSIVE INVESTMENTS... BUT A SKILLS CHALLENGE

## HOW DID WE IDENTIFY THOSE NEEDS?



SKILLS GAP ANALYSIS



CONSULTATIONS WITH MINING COMPANIES AND THEIR SUBCONTRACTORS



DISCUSSIONS WITH TRAINING CENTRES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES



BOOTCAMP AND DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

“  
The opportunities are real, but companies are all telling us the same thing: they are struggling to find the skills they need locally.  
”



# LOBITO CONNECT: LINKING INVESTMENTS TO LOCAL SKILLS

## TRAINING FOR THE JOBS OF TOMORROW

- Tailoring training programmes to market needs
- Strengthening vocational training centres
- Development of technical and soft skills



## SUPPORTING LOCAL SMES

- Entrepreneurship bootcamp
- Support in accessing economic opportunities along the Corridor



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Organisations involved in identifying needs
- Training tailored to the realities on the ground



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# TURNING THE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR INTO A CORRIDOR OF OPPORTUNITIES



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# LOBITO CONNECT IS ABOUT TURNING A RAILWAY INTO A PATH FOR THE FUTURE: LOCAL TALENT, COMPETITIVE SMES, AND A RESPONSIBLE MINING ECONOMY

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# Roundtable discussion



**Erick Lwamba Mayanga**  
*Chairman of the Board,  
Entreprise Agro-Industrielle du Congo*



**Anthony Kabaghe**  
*President of Zambian Chambers of  
Commerce and Business Association  
Zedfield Mining, Zambia*



**Manuel Mbangui**  
*General Director of INEFOP  
(National Institution of  
Vocational Training and  
Employment), Angola*

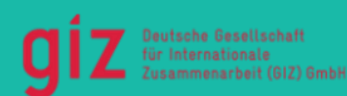


**Angela Mbaulu Dito**  
*Youth Representative, Youth  
Sounding Board, DRC*

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für internationale  
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# Roundtable discussion Q&A

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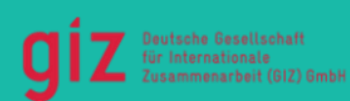


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the European Union



# Webinar Takeaways

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# Upcoming Summer Workshops

## Interactive online workshops to continue the discussion on OP-VET in the Lobito Corridor

- **9 July** – With Enabel  
**Skills recognition that works for employers**  
*How can industry shape skills recognition that responds to labour market needs?*
- **16 July** – With UNIDO and Enabel  
**Public-private partnerships for skills development**  
*How can public-private partnerships better connect vocational training with investment opportunities and workforce demand*
- **11 August** – With GIZ  
**Gender and inclusion in the Lobito Corridor**  
*Advancing gender equality in skills and employment in the Lobito Corridor*
- **25 August** – With CSR Europe  
**Sustainable Mining Livelihood Fund**  
*Building sustainable livelihoods around mining investments*

Register here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/TXFvmmwZLd>

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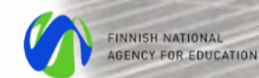
# Join us

Support this transformative initiative and help shape Africa's future. Let's bridge skills with opportunities for sustainable development!



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# THANK YOU!

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OP-VET Training Module

<https://opvet-training.lovable.app/>



Capacity4Dev

<https://bit.ly/488AWjv>



Newsletter

<https://bit.ly/44UvX48>



LinkedIn

<https://bit.ly/4bSeEVH>



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**Your feedback is extremely  
valuable to us. Please fill in  
the short survey that will appear  
after ending the meeting**

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