EU external cooperation as an avenue for strengthened Finnish-African HEI partnerships on digital and green transition

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European policy frameworks for deepened partnerships with Africa

• ”Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa” (2020), ”Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world; The Global Approach to Research and Innovation” (2021); Finland’s Africa Strategy (2021) -&gt; long-term, diverse partnerships around common values, interests, and challenges such as digital and green transition.

• The EU’s Global Gateway strategy (2021) -&gt; values-based cooperation, secure connectivity infrastructures, including connectivity for research and education networks.

• Global Gateway investment package announced at the EU-AU Summit (2022):
  • Secure, resilient infrastructure, policy and regulatory frameworks, and business, research and innovation networks to accelerate digital and green transition.
  • Implemented through a Team Europe approach.
  • Team Europe Initiatives under preparation. Investments through European development finance institutions and the private sector.
• The D4D Hub serves as a strategic multi-stakeholder platform that fosters digital cooperation between Team Europe and its global partners.

- The platform is composed of digital visionaries from multiple stakeholder groups coming together for a joint action.
- It creates opportunities for dialogue, partnerships and investments to advance human centric digital transformation in partner countries.
- It builds a joint digital expertise and networks.
- It aims at pooling resources, fostering visibility and impact for Team Europe Interventions.
- It promotes the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learnt on Digital4Development.
- Several thematic working groups and three regional branches.
Regional and global D4D initiatives in preparation

- **D4D Framework for Digital Economy and Society in Africa**
  - Data Governance in Africa
  - African-European Digital Innovation Bridge
  - AfricaConnect

- **Global Twin Transition Initiative**

- **D4D Hub as the platform to develop new projects and initiatives**

  - Involvement of HEI networks is stressed. Call for applications for D4D Hub academia advisory group is open: [https://d4dhub.eu/csaag](https://d4dhub.eu/csaag)