



Global  
Gateway



## EU-Africa: Global Gateway Investment Package - Digital transition

#GlobalGateway #AfricaEU #TeamEurope

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### The EurAfrica Gateway cable

The EurAfrica Gateway Cable, connecting the EU with Africa along the Atlantic Ocean coast, will foster the digital sovereignty of the two continents by:

- ensuring the highest infrastructure and cyber security standards
- increasing inter-continental data flows development.

A secondary back-up connection to the Ella Link cable connecting Brazil to Europe via the African continent will extend the global dimension of the connectivity network and provide greater resilience against possible disruptions.

A series of studies are being conducted to develop an international submarine fibre cable system connecting Europe and Africa via the Mediterranean enhancing secure and affordable access to the digital and data economy, in particular in West and Central Africa, as well as Eastern Africa. The cable system could see extensions also to other regions to increase overall international connectivity.

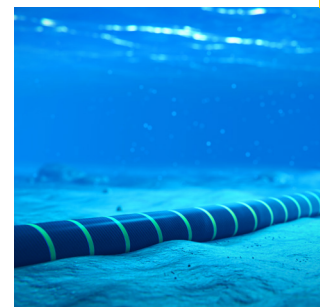
#### Infocus examples:

With the Medusa flagship, underwater cabling in the Mediterranean will connect Northern African countries to EU countries. An extension of the cabling to West Africa is currently envisaged, with a first landing in Dakar (Sénégal).

**With the Africa 1:** Africa 1 subsea digital cable linking Europe to Eastern Africa

€100  
million

from the  
EU budget in  
grants, with further  
contributions  
from Team Europe  
foreseen





## Building Regional Fibre Optic Backbones across Africa

### Regional Fibre Optic Backbones

The Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package will scale up regional connectivity and enable the deployment of digital services, digital businesses and innovation by supporting construction of networks of fibre-optic cables across Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2024 the EU will implement the regional fibre backbones initiatives set to empower 100 million people across eight African countries. With a focus on bridging the digital divide, this ambitious endeavour will extend broadband coverage to communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Madagascar. These projects will further bridge the digital divide, improve economic opportunities to underserved communities, and increase social cohesion.

The impact of this initiative extends far beyond individual users. 4,000 schools, 2,000 hospitals, and over 1,000 public institutions will be connected ensuring a trickledown positive impact on education, healthcare, and public services in rural regions.

With 12,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cables, the first of its kind backbone will span Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa, close regional “missing links” and address the quality, speed, and cost-effectiveness of broadband services across the entire sub-region.

In partnership with African and European private sector, this project will ensure secure and trusted, reliability, and the high quality of networks and thereby promoting a safer and more resilient digital ecosystem.

With a total cost of around €500 million, the EU will provide €90 million in grants, along with financial support from EIB and other European Financial Institutions.

#### In focus:

##### **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:**

834/900 Km of optic fibre cables installed; Network Operation Centre built and equipped.

##### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:**

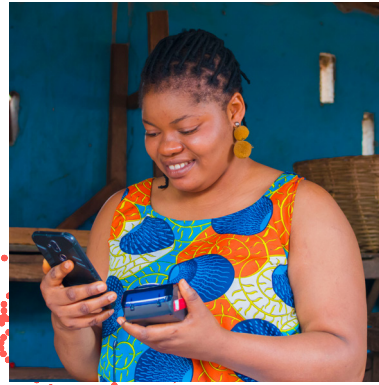
delivery of high speed broadband in 9 towns and deployed along the railways (1,280 km long) and on poles along roads (139 km).

##### **KENYA:**

construction of optic fibre infrastructure and last-mile connections: 1000 km long international connection between Kismayo (Somalia) and Dadaab (Kenya)

**€700  
million**

from the EU budget,  
set to leverage  
up to **€2 billion**  
in investment



**€8 million**  
from the EU budget, with further contributions from Team Europe foreseen



## Africa Europe Digital Innovation Bridge

**€100 million**  
from EU budget, set to leverage **€300 million** in investments

The Africa Europe Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB) Initiative aims to support partner countries in strengthening their digital and innovation ecosystems and promote intercontinental cooperation between stakeholders in Africa and Europe. The ultimate vision is to establish a single market for digital innovation between both continents. The initiative will:

- facilitate the launch and scale-up of innovative African start-ups and SMEs;
- strengthen digital innovation ecosystems in African countries and link them to European digital innovation ecosystems;
- support the creation of new Digital Innovation Hubs in Africa and strengthen existing ones.



**In focus: In Kenya, a national Team Europe initiative on Human-Centred Digitalisation has 3 specific objectives, notably:**

1. To reduce the Digital gap and foster digital connectivity, by (1) leveraging investments in digital connectivity infrastructures, (2) connecting underserved remote areas, and (3) providing digital servicing of schools and/or potentially of health centres;
2. To leapfrog the digital economy transformation, by supporting the creation of jobs and promotion of digital skills with a focus on women and youth;
3. To strengthen an open and inclusive digital governance, by promoting the use of secure, human-centered, open and integrated e-government systems and standards.

**The expected contributions of EU partners to the Team Europe Initiative on Digitalisation amount to €432 million.** Team Europe partners include Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the EDFI's AFD, EIB, and KfW.



## Team Europe Initiative on Data Governance in Africa:

To be launched in the next months, this action will support the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as their Member States in developing data policy frameworks building on the AU Data Policy Framework, developing data use cases to showcase the value of data, and supporting the identification of investments in green and secure data infrastructure in Africa, by leveraging on partnerships with the private sector and financial institutions.

This €57 million Team Europe Initiative brings together funding from the EU (€30 million) and our Member States (€27 million) - Germany, Finland, Belgium, Estonia. In line with the AU Data Policy Framework, it will support African countries and regional economic communities in developing data policy frameworks and identify investment opportunities in green and secure data infrastructures.

In focus country examples: Support to data centres is envisaged in Cabo Verde, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda. In Cabo Verde, the data centre in Mindelo will contribute to Oceanography and the Blue Economy.



## Progress made

Since the launch of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package, here is the progress made:

- the EU has launched digital economy packages in Nigeria and in the Democratic Republic of Congo and will soon do so in Kenya as well. The digital economy packages provide a holistic approach, including infrastructure, e-government, digital entrepreneurship and skills, for a human-centric digital transformation in the African partner countries.
- EurAfrica Gateway blending platform has been established at regional level with the availability of €300 million in grants.