



#TeamEurope Initiative: Investing in Young Businesses in Africa

Why?

Africa is one of the world's most entrepreneurial continents:

More than **1 in 5 working-age** start businesses

2 in 3 small businesses were strongly **damaged** by the pandemic. Those **led by women and youth** were hit hardest.

Small businesses represent: Over **70%** of jobs globally **50%** of world GDP

The small size of many African businesses **makes it harder for them to access finance**

What?

Across Africa, a new Team Europe initiative will help:

- New businesses to **get off the ground**
- Existing businesses to **expand**
- Create **jobs**

It will do so by:

- Increasing financial and technical support to **small companies at pre-seed stage**
- Supporting access to finance for **start-ups at seed and early stages**
- Supporting the **entrepreneurial ecosystem** and the investment climate, including implementation of **reforms** within the Compact with Africa framework

How?

Through a **permanent coordination platform**. This will allow participating Team Europe actors to develop initiatives in:

Finance – to provide:

- Grants
- Blended financing
- Risk-sharing guarantees

Expertise – to support:

- Education and training
- Local investment funds

Business environment – to help:

- Make doing business easier
- Provide more vocational training

