The AU-EU Innovation Agenda

Working document

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Presented by

Mr Lukovi Seke
African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)
&
Mr Jens Hoegel
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I), EU Commission

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1. Policy context

Strengthened EU-AU R&I cooperation to enhance sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job generation set out in important policy decisions:
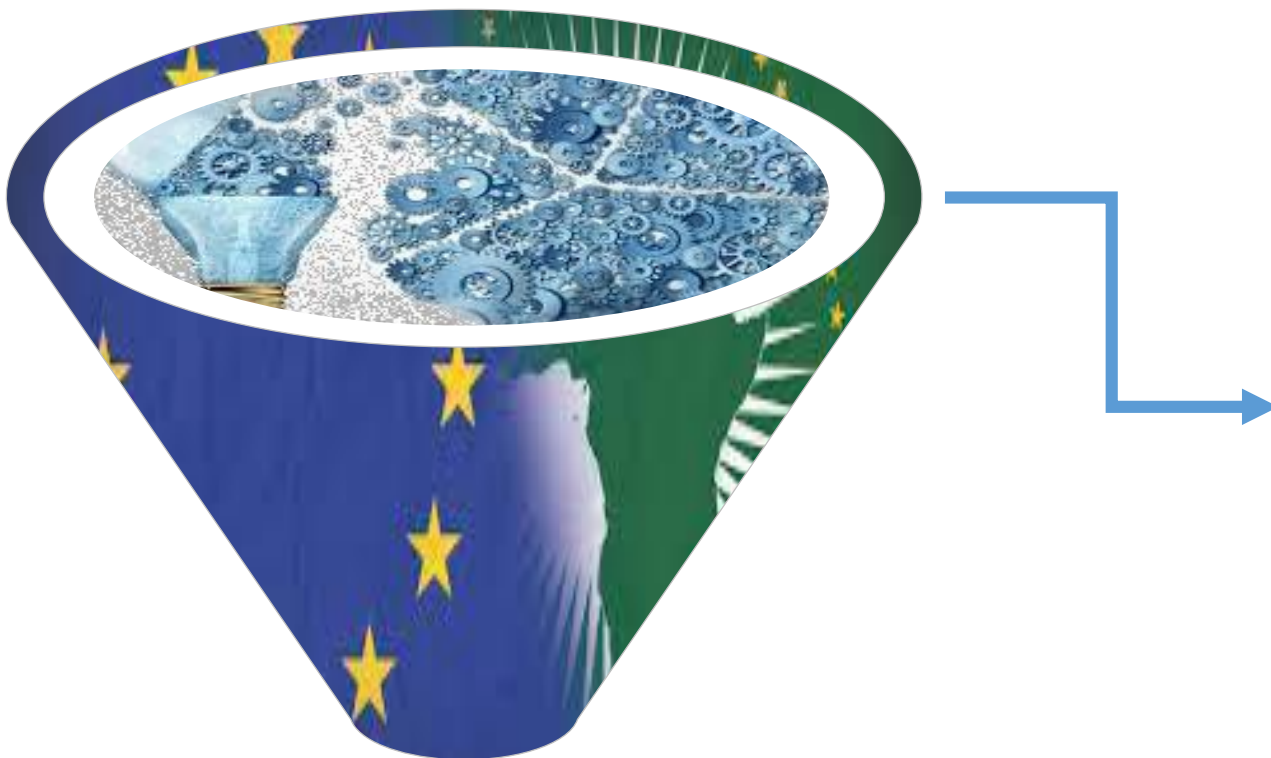
UNSDGs: 2030 Agenda & its 17 Goals

AU Agenda 2063

STISA 2024 & CESA16-25

AUC DTS 2020-2030

EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa

EU Global Approach to R&I

2. Background

R&I Ministerial Meeting of the HLPD on STI jointly agreed to focus on:

1	2	3	4
Public Health	**Green transition**	**Innovation & Technology**	**Capacities for Science**
417 joint projects	311 joint projects	> 10 joint projects	3 joint projects
1.4 BEUR	816 MEUR	74.2 MEUR	188.8 MEUR

Ministers also agreed to start developing a joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda

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3. Policy context

The collaboration under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda needs to occur with various stakeholders, leveraging the demographic dividend to empower the youth.
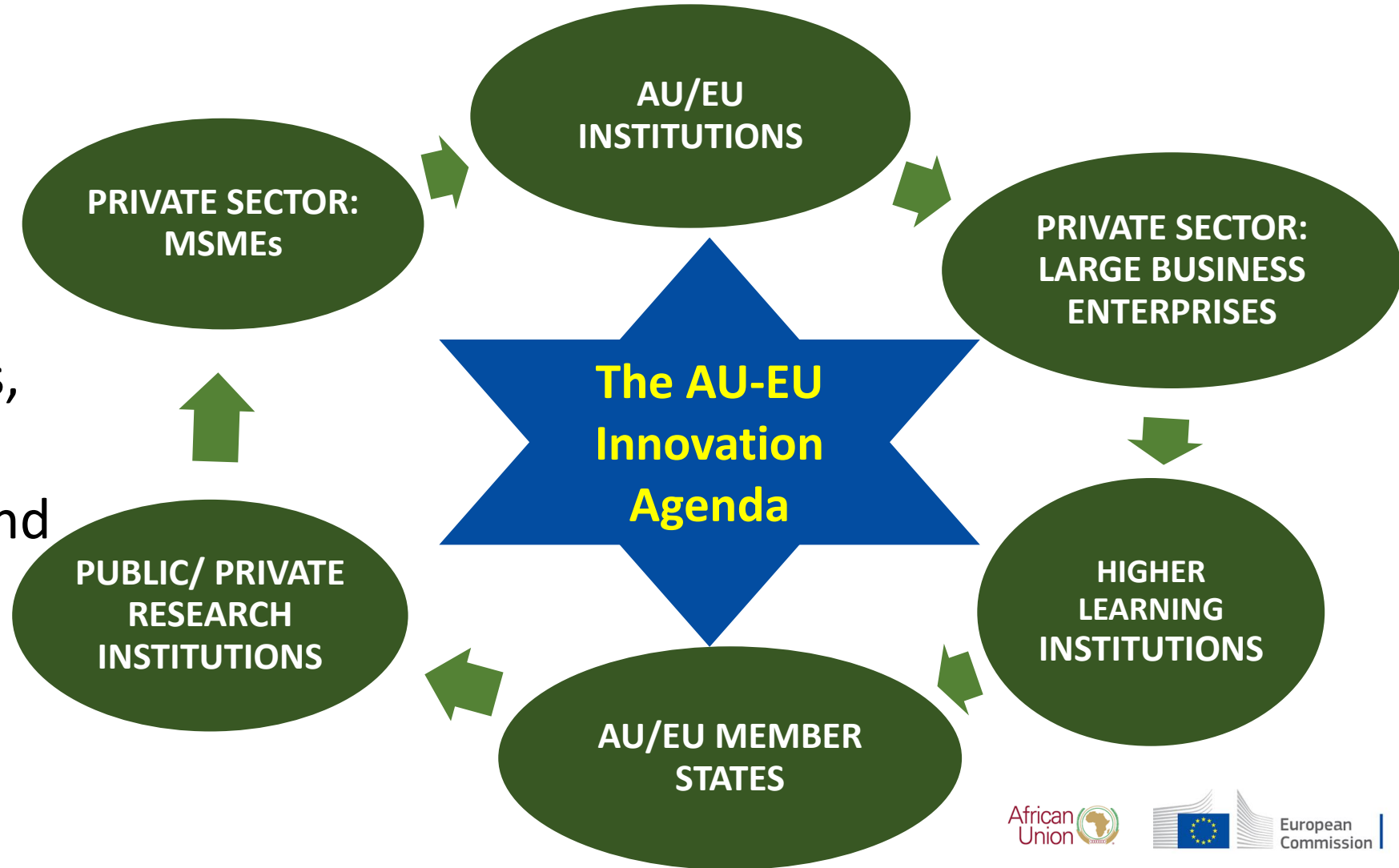
4. Needs and gaps analysis

The needs and gaps analysis identified five areas :

A The innovation ecosystem

B Innovation management

C Knowledge exchange, including technology transfer

D Access to finance

E Human capacity development

5. Objectives

A joint working group of the AU-EU HLPD on STI took stock of multiple sources

AU-EU HLPD on STI

Previous and ongoing joint R&I activities

Results and lessons learnt of the Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership pilot project

Opinions of the AU-EU Advisory Group on R&I

Discussions that took place at the EU-AU R&I Ministerial 2020

The pilot mapping exercise of projects of the EU-AU R&I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture, as well as progress of the R&I Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)

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Objectives...

Make it real

- **Translate innovative capacities and achievements into tangible outputs**, supporting sustainable growth and jobs, in particular for the youth.

Generate impact by design

- **Foster - strengthen innovation ecosystems** to enhance socio-economic impact

Strengthen people, com-munities & institutions

- **Develop sustainable, long lasting and mutually beneficial higher education and R&I partnerships**

Learn, monitor, and scale it up

- Scale-up instruments that can take forward existing successful programmes and projects, enable - strengthen the knowledge triangle of education, R&I & place special focus on **public participation, transparency, and inclusion**

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6. Actions
6.1) Short-term actions

Cross-cutting
1. Networking of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms.
2. Pro-active involvement of citizens in the innovation ecosystems
3. Identifying/Sharing climate resilience/adaptation practices (SDGs 13)
4. Fostering the participation of financing partners

Public Health
1. Support to Health R&I outputs into relevant products, policy guidance and services
2. Joint R&I agendas on health priorities, enhancing best practices and common standards, Using emerging tech (e.g., digitalisation, ICT, robotics, AI)

Green Transition
1. Developing/transferring innovative renewable energy production and use devices, suitable for easy and prompt adoption by 'energy communities.
2. Supporting the development of innovative climate services through a new "space STI cooperation" action for risk reduction at local and regional level.

Innovation & Technology
1. Supporting research and innovation cooperation between AU and EU research organizations and companies (in particular SMEs) from low tech to high tech
2. Supporting tech/innovation hubs, networks, & operations of accelerators and incubators.

Capacities for Science
1. Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU HE/Gov. institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities.
2. Improving transparency/recognition of qualifications/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility & Digital education transformation

Actions...
6.2) Medium term actions

Cross-cutting

① Re-skilling/upskilling citizens to profit from innovation and technologies to prevent inequalities and/or discriminations (SDGs 8-9-13)

Public Health

① Ensuring tech-transfer and affordable, available, accessible and quality vaccine, medicines and health technologies & production

Green Transition

① Fostering digital applications and green technologies for agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption.

② Developing in Africa renewable fuels in a changing world for climate change mitigation.

Innovation & Technology

Capacities for Science

① Promoting joint master/doctoral degrees between AU-EU universities, mobility of researchers

② Creating enabling STI environment for sustainable innovation ecosystems (Quadruple helix actors)

Actions...
6.3) Long-term actions

Cross-cutting

① Promoting R&D with a special focus on youth, women and demography, mitigation and management of global challenges

Public Health

① Promoting Precision medicine & Design/Implement new methods & tools to counteract future health threats (long standing/re-emerging/antimicrobial resistant pathogens

Green Transition

① Improving the agricultural innovation ecosystem to co-invest in start-ups and agro-SME

Innovation & Technology

① Facilitating inclusive/affordable access to world-class research and innovation infrastructures

② Dissemination of knowledge through digital transformation

Capacities for Science

① Bridging R&I in fostering the emergence of or strengthening centres of excellence,

② Modernizing/Reinforcing R&D & Higher education systems (RHESs)

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7. Next steps

➢ **17 February 2022:** EU-Africa Business Forum: Kick-off of the stakeholder consultation on the AU-EU IA online workshop 'The EU-AU Innovation Agenda at the 2022 EU-AFRICA Business Forum', under the general roof of the EU year of youth.

➢ **17-18 February:** Expected acknowledgement of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda by State Leaders at AU-EU Summit (Summit Declaration).

➢ **Throughout 2022:** continued stakeholder consultation, identification and formulation of calls for proposals and projects in support of selected actions identified in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

➢ **Q1.2023:** Approval of final AU-EU Innovation Agenda at the second AU-EU R&I Ministerial, including the launch the selected activities.

8. Acknowledgement
With many thanks to …

❑ EC-AUC co-chairs & Bureau Members of the EU/AU HLPD-STI

❑ Participating EC, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD Directorates and/or Departments, such as

- ✓ **EC** DGs INTPA, EAC, JRC
- ✓ **AUC** Departments of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
- ✓ **AUDA-NEPAD**, through both Technical Cooperation & Programme Funding (TCPF, CEO's Office) and Programme Innovation and Planning Directorate (PIPD)

❑ AU & EU MS experts (Team Africa and Europe)