PROGRESS REPORT

March 2021

D4D HUB

EU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

DIGITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT HUB

Digital for Development (D4D) Hub

This progress report presents an overview of the D4D Hub goals and of the progress made by the Global D4D Hub towards its goals during the period 2018-2021, including through the support of the AU-EU D4D Hub project. The report is intended for an internal audience, i.e. D4D Hub Members.

The D4D Hub is a strategic platform that gathers key stakeholders from EU Member States, private sector, civil society and financial institutions in a Team Europe spirit with several objectives: scaling up investments in the digital transformation of partner countries; promoting a comprehensive values-based rulebook for a digital economy and society worldwide; and fostering a stronger and more strategic EU engagement in international digital partnerships (-> more here).

The D4D Hub was launched on December 8th, 2020 by European political leaders, the European Commission President, eleven EU Member States, private sector partners, civil society and academia. Since then, the first team establishing the D4D Hub Secretariat has undertaken great efforts to continue paving the way for the initiative's ambitious goals. The establishment of the operational branch for Africa is supported by the AU-EU D4D Hub project activities.

The strong foundation of Team Europe D4D cooperation has been growing, since 2018. Activities reported from the year 2020 have been majorly driven thanks to contributions made by the founding members of the D4D Hub. Building onto the successful preparations in 2020 and in order to comprehensively implement the ambitious goals set out by the high-level launch, additional contributions of technical or financial nature are required to further operationalize the existing political initiative of Team Europe partners from the EU Member States, implementing agencies, financial institutions, private sector, civil society and academia.

[1] This project is financed by the European Commission DG INTPA and co-financed by five EU Member States (BE, EE, FRA, GER, LUX). This report does not aim at providing an exhaustive overview of all the activities implemented since December 2020 within the framework of the AU-EU D4D Hub project.

Establishment of the D4D Hub as a global political initiative: High-level Launch of the D4D Hub with European and African Leaders, public and private sector partners, civil society and academia actors

The D4D Hub Secretariat supported the preparation of the successful high-level launch event of the D4D Hub on December 8th 2020. As the first milestone, 11 EU Member States co-joined a Joint Letter of Intent on the political cooperation under the D4D Hub.

> **"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how much our lives depend on digital technologies. With the Digital4Development Hub, Team Europe is building strong ties across the globe to make the digital revolution an opportunity for everyone."**
> president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

The online flyer for the announcement of the launch event and the virtual studio of the launch event based in Tallinn.

Launch website: d4dlaunch.eu

Strengthening the TeamEurope approach for the EU digital programming and support to the NDICI programming exercise

Geographic programming in African countries

The D4D Hub Secretariat supported EU Delegations for the NDICI programming exercise at national level. In many cases, connections were established with local D4D Hub counterparts for the identification of synergies and joint opportunities. Countries supported so far: Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Regional programming in Africa, LAC, ASEAN, Central Asia

Since February 2021, the D4D Hub Secretariat has planned and facilitated weekly D4D Hub working meetings to gather the diverse inputs and strategic interests of the eleven Member States and the EIB around regional TeamEurope D4D Initiatives in Africa, LAC, ASEAN, Central Asia. The Secretariat supports the elaboration of new or more focused proposals at regional level.

Three core achievements:

1 More than 100 meetings including design, planning and facilitation of several consultation workshops with European and/or local stakeholders

2 Wide-spread mobilisation of D4D expertise by all members

3 Mapping of numerous digital portfolios of D4D Hub members' activities and best practices

FROM 2019 TO DATE

Operationalization of the political initiative:
Regional implementation of the D4D Hub

1. Facilitation and formulation of nine D4D initiatives and projects under the Africa branch

D4D Hub Members, with the support from the D4D Hub Secretariat, have identified and/or formulated **8 D4D initiatives and projects in Africa,** since 2019. The implementation of some of these projects has already started. Thanks to the network established by the D4D Hub, European and African partners interested in those new initiatives and projects were quickly mobilised. Partners include, amongst others: the European Commission, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Spain, African Union Commission, Smart Africa, i4policy foundation, AfriLabs, African Business Angel Network

Eight D4D initiatives and projects

AU-EU D4D Hub project

African European Digital Innovation Bridge initiative

EU-AU Data Flagship Initiative

IDEA D4D Hub project

Emergency response action to the Covid-19 crisis for the IGAD region

Emergency response action to the Covid-19 crisis for countries of Eastern and Southern Africa

#SmartDevelopmentHack Spring 2020

Horn of Africa Initiative, formulation

2. Establishment of additional regional branche

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regional branch: D4D Hub Members, with the support from the D4D Hub Secretariat, have identified key priorities in the region. The elaboration of a regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) that will lay the groundwork for the set-up of the LAC regional branch is ongoing, in collaboration with DG INTPA.

SINCE OCTOBER 2018 TO DATE

Building the multi-stakeholder-platform for knowledge sharing & and joint D4D engagement

The D4D Hub Secretariat facilitates knowledge sharing between the D4D Hub members, the D4D Coalition (private sector partners) and European Commission services. EU Member State Organisations, together with the European digital private sector, organised the first multi-stakeholder workshops in October 2018. These workshops facilitated exchanges on D4D best practices in fields such as smart cities, connectivity and digital entrepreneurship. Since then, several consultation processes and workshops have been held. One of the last consultation processes (February 2021) gathered EU Member State Organisations and the D4D Coalition to learn about and contribute to a European Commission (DG CNECT) study on the mapping and assessment of connectivity infrastructure around the EU. On other occasions, partners could contribute to a mapping of their thematic as well as geographic interests in D4D cooperation. In the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, the D4D Secretariat prepared an overview of potential emergency response actions in different policy fields (health, education, economy, connectivity, etc.), together with partners and including the private sector. The D4D Hub Secretariat has also majorly facilitated the preparation of a governance architecture for the D4D Hub initiative.

In order to support the establishment of the multi-stakeholder platform, the D4D Hub Secretariat has started to liaise with several external stakeholders, including other EU initiatives and facilities, so to define their role and possible interplay with the D4D Hub. This includes, for example, the Africa RISE facility, the African Development Bank, Business Europe, Concord Europe, the European University Institute, Friends of Europe/Africa Europe Foundation, Internet Society, PRIDA, etc.

Communication & Visibility

The D4D Hub Secretariat is currently preparing the launch of the www.d4dhub.eu webpage. During 2020, the team oversaw the design of the logo for the global D4D Hub, as well as the logo for its regional Africa branch.

The Global D4D Hub visual identity has been developed with D4D Hub Members, in alignment with the first operations in Africa (e.g. presentation materials).

The D4D Hub Secretariat was majorly involved in the preparations of events – to name the two biggest virtual events, the High-level launch in December and the Smart Development Hack in spring 2020.