

Honourable Minister, esteemed guests,

Welcome.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to Dr Betta Edu, Nigeria's Minister of Humanitarian Affairs. And an equally warm welcome to the Chair of the Rabat Process, Mr Fouad Kadmiri.

It's wonderful to see everyone here today, and to see the Rabat Process countries so well represented.

Your presence underlines the continued importance of this Euro-African dialogue on migration and development, and the commitment of youth representatives and senior experts from partner countries and international organisations.

Together with Nigeria, it is our honour to co-host you all here.

We cooperate on creating opportunities and overcoming challenges in a wide range of areas, from trade, employment and security to education and migration.

The Netherlands and Nigeria recently joined the Rabat Process Steering Committee and took on the responsibility of jointly organising this thematic meeting with a special focus on youth. This focus reflects our shared commitment to promoting meaningful participation and opportunities for young people, and ensuring that we meet their needs in our efforts to address the root causes of irregular migration.

I am grateful for this opportunity to work with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons of the Nigerian Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, to further strengthen and broaden our cooperation on migration, and to find solutions for the challenges we both face.

As global developments evolve, so do the drivers of migration. Young people are searching for educational and employment opportunities, and pressing for their voices to be heard and included in decision-making. As part of our commitment to actively supporting and empowering young people, we need to engage in dialogue and exchange best practices so that our efforts continue to address current challenges.

In November 2020 the Netherlands introduced its Youth at Heart strategy. Putting Youth at Heart of policies not only addresses challenges but also harnesses the potential of countries with disproportionately young populations. By promoting meaningful youth participation, we can capitalise on young people's potential to enrich decision-making processes, to share their perspectives and to participate as leaders, partners and beneficiaries in our policies and programmes.

In line with the principles of Youth at Heart, our approach is not to speak *about* young people but to engage in dialogue *with* them. By doing this, we aim to fully align our efforts with the goals of this meeting, and respond to the ambitions of highly motivated young individuals.

With this in mind, we consulted the Lagos and Abuja Youth Advisory Committees in preparing for the meeting. The outcomes of those talks helped shape our agenda today and tomorrow. I am pleased that two Advisory Committee members and several youth leaders are present here today to moderate the sessions and give presentations. I am also glad to welcome the youth representatives joining us online for the discussions.

Over the course of these two days, we will listen to youth representatives as they confront the challenges that young people encounter in education, employment, youth and women's leadership, and involvement in national and international decision-making. More significantly, we will learn about their perspectives on addressing these challenges. Our goal is to create an enabling environment that will improve access to education and employment, thus enabling young people to realise their full potential.

I hope this thematic meeting will yield ground-breaking ideas that will challenge and inspire us all and set an example for future Rabat Process dialogues.

I wish you all a very fruitful day.

**DECLARATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND POVERTY
ALLEVIATION, DR. BETTA EDU AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE THEMATIC MEETING OF THE RABAT PROCESS ON
MIGRATION, YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Protocols

On behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the government, and the good people of Nigeria, I would like to welcome you to this thematic meeting of the Rabat Process on Migration, Youth, and Development, being co-hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

2. Firstly, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for electing to physically host this thematic meeting of the Rabat Process. I also express appreciation to colleagues from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Netherlands, as well as the colleagues from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons who have ensured that this thematic meeting holds successfully.

3. Exploring the connection between migration, youth, and development is important because the youth, who make up 16% of the world's population, are a growing mobile demographic that can play a significant role in fostering positive development.

4. In Nigeria, like in other parts of Africa, the youth have developed a robust startup ecosystem, attracting over 2 billion USD in investment between 2015 and 2022. In 2022 alone, 107 startups in Nigeria, founded

by persons between the ages of 25 and 35, attracted over 800 million USD in investment. In Egypt, startups raised 791 million USD and South African startups raised 993 million between 2015 and 2022 according to Disrupt Africa's 2022 startups report.

5. The youth are not only pioneering innovation through tech startups, but they are also making significant strides in the creative industry, education, medicine, science, leadership, and sports.

6. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), 11% of the total migrant population in the world, i.e., 232 million migrants worldwide, are young migrants between the ages of 15 and 24 years, which also accounts for 2.6% of the global youth population. This is a sizeable demographic, with unique skills and capacities, highly motivated and yearning for expression.

7. In Nigeria, the *Japa Syndrome*, which refers to young highly skilled workers and university graduates, migrating in their numbers in search of better education, better-paying jobs, and self-actualization, in Europe and North America, has become a hot-button topic, especially when you consider that in 2022, diaspora remittances to Nigeria, stood at \$21.9 billion.

8. However, these young migrants are faced with diverse challenges in their quest for new opportunities and avenues for expression, such as the dangers of human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and other forms of exploitation.

9. A recent survey of immigrants in the United States indicated that almost 50% of migrants between the ages of 15 and 35 years of age

surveyed, had experienced some form of depression or psychosocial challenges.

10. This thematic meeting will provide a platform to deliberate on the challenges faced by young migrants, as well as celebrate the achievements and innovations of the youth. It is an inclusive and diverse platform that will foster dialogues that will lead to meaningful steps and actions towards better youth representation and participation in migration policy development between member states, particularly with regard to education, employment, empowerment, knowledge transfer, innovation, and leadership. Over the next two days, it is essential that we actively engage and participate fully, for us to achieve our objectives and expected outcomes.

11. In closing, I would like to appreciate the Chair of the Rabat Process, the Kingdom of Morocco, for their able leadership, our core stakeholders, the European Union (EU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), fellow members of the Rabat Process Steering Committee and all our Partner Countries for the continued support for the success of the Rabat Process. I would also like to thank the members of the Khartoum Process, who have also taken out time to be here. You are indeed welcome.

12. I wish us all fruitful deliberations, as I look forward to robust conclusions, at the end of day two.

Thank you for listening.

Thematic Meeting on Migration, Youth and Development
Erica Gerretsen intervention, 19th October 2023, VTC , 9.00 – 9:30 a.m.

Opening remarks:

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great honour for me to intervene today for the Thematic Meeting of the Rabat Process on migration, youth and development.
- I would like to thank the Vice-Minister, Paul Huijts for hosting this meeting, together with the Honourable Minister Betta Edu from Nigeria.
- I would also like to thank Director Fouad Kadmiri as Chair of the Dialogue, for the excellent work Morocco is achieving under its chairmanship.
- Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Rabat Process.
- The European Union firmly believes that engaging young people is crucial to building a sustainable, peaceful and equitable future worldwide. As part of this engagement is the promotion of an active participation of young migrants, including young members of the diaspora in policy dialogue, social justice, inclusion, social cohesion.
- We really welcome that this meeting opens the door to youth and is committed to listen to youth needs and perspectives. We need multi-stakeholder platforms that integrate young people, in all sectors, and in policy dialogues, especially platforms for a more holistic, inclusive and diverse discussion on how to engage youth with migration policy decision makers and relevant international, regional and national actors - linking their role to migration. In this endeavour, gender is also important to fully consider, in line with the Gender Action Plan, which is now at its 3rd edition. It is our most ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU External Action.
- The European Union is working on the implementation of the Youth Action Plan in EU External Action, adopted one year ago.

- The Youth Action Plan aims at establishing a meaningful and structural partnership with young people in the European external action.
- Youth organizations over the world, including diaspora youth organizations, were consulted for the elaboration of the Youth Action Plan. They issued a number of important recommendations in all areas, for example regarding the relation between climate change, environmental degradation and migration, or the importance of applying an intersectional approach for leaving no one behind.
- Through the new Youth Dialogue Platform, we hope to maintain a structured and regular dialogue with youth organizations during the implementation.
- The Youth Action Plan has three pillars of action: engage, empower and connect.
- First of all, we want to engage young people and increase their voice and leadership, in particular of girls, in policy and decision-making.
- We're leading by example by strengthening youth institutional engagement in the European institutions.
- Our EU Youth Sounding Board for International Partnerships, a group of 25 young people from around the world, was established in 2021 to advise us on youth participation and empowerment, helping us “youth-proof” our policies and programmes. We are now in the second cohort.
- We are also establishing youth advisory structures in the EU Delegations in our partner countries to meaningfully engage young people and hear their views on our external action. To date, around 30 EU delegations have set up or are in the process of setting up youth advisory structures, with many more to be created in the coming years. This is the case for example of the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria.
- At regional level, the EU has supported youth engagement ahead the AU-EU Summit, with the organizations of the Africa-Europe week. The AU-EU Youth Lab Programme will also

contribute to bringing the voices of young people in the Africa-EU Partnership processes and support youth-led cooperation initiatives between the two continents.

- Giving voice also means building narratives in order for a positive story to be told about migration of young people and the potential that they hold. Giving a voice to youth is important. Amplifying the voices of migrant youth is essential. We are funding a programme called “EUDiF – European Global Diaspora Facility”. EUDiF shines a light on the importance of youth across the spectrum of sustainable development and explore how young diasporans can be included in policy dialogue and development discussions, as shown just two days ago at the EUDiF’s ‘Future Forum’ event in Brussels. It has established for instance a successful Diaspora Youth Internship Programme.
- Secondly, we strive to empower youth by reducing inequalities and by ensuring that young people have the skills and the resources they need to put the sustainable development goals back on track and shape the green and digital societal transformations.
- The EU has already increased investments in education from 7% to over 10% in our international partnerships. But we want to do more.
- This is why we have just launched the new Youth Empowerment Fund, a 10 million euros pilot programme to support grassroots youth initiatives worldwide, which contribute to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.
- This initiative just launched some weeks ago will be implemented through the Global Youth Mobilisation Initiative led by the Big Six, a consortium of the biggest youth organizations. Together, the EU and the Big Six will direct funds towards the areas that matter most – from mitigating climate change, to reaching youth who are disadvantaged due to disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- In Sahel, the project Youth Europe Sahel will support six countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso) in strengthening young people’s participation in social decision-making bodies, promoting intercultural dialogue, human rights and social cohesion, as well as strengthening career guidance services to promote entrepreneurship and access to employment.

- More specifically and in order to make sure that the contribution of young migrants is fully realised, we focus on key areas of support, from education and skills training. We currently have programmes linking Education, TVET & skills and migration for Youth in Mauritania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Senegal or Ivory Coast. In 2022, we have signed a €55 million development cooperation agreement with the Federal Government of Nigeria to support the creation of new green and smart jobs for young graduates, including women and groups living in vulnerable situations.
- Finally, connect. The people-to-people dimension of Global Gateway.
- The third pillar of the Youth Action Plan will increase opportunities for young people to connect, network and exchange with their peers.
- The EU has done already a lot, not least through its flagship programme Erasmus+, which will continue to benefit thousands of young people in the world, or through the Intra African Academic Mobility Scheme which contributes to improving the skills and competences of students, trainees and staff through learning mobility opportunities across the African continent.
- We will also launch the Africa-Europe Youth Academy, funded with 50 million euros. It will offer formal and informal opportunities for young people to connect, exchange, and improve their leadership skills in Africa and with the European Union.
- I wish you all a fruitful meeting in the Hague. I was not able to travel there but I am convinced we will achieve important milestones during those two days.

*Royaume du Maroc
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de la
Coopération Africaine
et des Marocains Résidant à l'Étranger
Direction des Affaires Consulaires et Sociales*



المملكة المغربية
وزارة الشؤون الخارجية
والتعاون الأفريقي
والمغاربة المقيمين بالخارج

مديرية الشؤون القنصلية والاجتماعية

**Déclaration de M. Fouad KADMIRI
Directeur des Affaires Consulaires et Sociales**

**Réunion thématique sur la migration, la jeunesse et le
développement (Processus de Rabat)**

La Haye, Pays-Bas

19-20 octobre 2023

Mesdames et Messieurs les co-Présidents : M. Paul Huijts, Vice-Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Royaume des Pays-Bas et Mme Betta Edu, Ministre Fédérale des Affaires Humanitaires et de la Lutte contre la Pauvreté de la République Fédérale du Nigéria ;

Mme Erica Gerretsen, Directrice du Développement Humain, des Migrations, de la Gouvernance et de la Paix, à la Direction Générale des Partenariats Internationaux de la Commission Européenne ;

Mme Monica Zanette, Responsable des Initiatives Panafricaines au Centre International pour le Développement des Politiques Migratoires (ICMPD) ;

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un honneur pour moi de m'adresser à vous aujourd'hui au nom de la Présidence marocaine du Processus de Rabat pour souligner l'importance qu'accorde notre dialogue à la thématique de cette réunion centrée sur la migration, la jeunesse et le développement.

Mes remerciements vont en particulier à nos deux co-Présidents : les Pays-Bas et le Nigéria, ainsi qu'au Secrétariat du Processus de Rabat, qui n'ont pas tari d'efforts pour garantir la tenue dans les meilleures conditions de ce Forum de débat interactif.

L'organisation conjointe de cette réunion démontre concrètement l'engagement des Pays-Bas et du Nigéria, deux nouveaux membres du Comité de Pilotage du Processus de Rabat, à œuvrer de concert pour la réalisation des objectifs du Dialogue Euro-africain sur la Migration et le Développement. Tout en leur souhaitant la bienvenue au COPIL, la Présidence marocaine de notre Dialogue tient donc à les assurer de son plein appui et ne manquera pas de leur apporter sa pleine collaboration.

Mesdames et Messieurs les co-Présidents,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le Royaume du Maroc, qui a eu l'honneur d'abriter la réunion de lancement du Dialogue Euro-africain sur la Migration et le Développement, en juillet 2006, a toujours placé l'optimisation de la contribution de la jeunesse en matière de migration et de développement au cœur des priorités définies par les pays partenaires.

Ainsi, le plan d'action de Rabat de 2006 avait déjà appelé à la conclusion d'accords d'échange de jeunes professionnels pour perfectionner leurs connaissances linguistiques et professionnelles et pour acquérir une expérience de travail salarié dans un autre pays et à la définition de mesures pour assurer le retour de ces migrants dans leur pays d'origine à l'issue de leur séjour. Cet appel avait été lancé dans le contexte plus large du développement des connaissances et du savoir-faire et des mesures visant à assurer que des compétences suffisantes sont disponibles pour le développement des pays africains.

Lors de la cinquième Conférence Ministérielle sur la Migration et le Développement, tenue en mai 2018, à Marrakech, les jeunes avaient encore une fois été l'objet d'une attention particulière, aussi bien sous l'angle du développement que celui de l'emploi, puisque le plan d'action de Marrakech avait notamment appelé à promouvoir les initiatives de soutien à l'entrepreneuriat et à l'investissement productif des jeunes issus de la diaspora africaine, et encourager ces jeunes à mettre leurs compétences au bénéfice de leurs pays d'origine, en plus de favoriser la mise en place de réseaux d'échanges entre instituts de formation professionnelle et agences pour l'emploi en Europe et en Afrique, afin de mieux valoriser les compétences des jeunes migrants et d'adapter la formation technique aux besoins du marché de l'emploi.

Ces différentes mesures ont encore été développées davantage dans le Plan d'Action de Cadix qui guide nos travaux pour la période 2023-2027.

Mesdames et Messieurs les co-Présidents,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Sur le plan démographique, le Maroc est encore considéré comme un pays « jeune » dans la mesure où près de 43 % de la population a moins de 25 ans, et 15,8% de celle-ci a entre 15 et 24 ans.

Les jeunes marocains représentent aujourd'hui un grand potentiel qui permet au Royaume de rayonner à l'échelle planétaire. Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, que Dieu L'assiste, a mis en avant le rôle de cette jeunesse dans un discours adressé à la Nation à l'occasion du 24ème anniversaire de l'accession du Souverain au Trône de Ses glorieux ancêtres, je cite : «Chaque fois que la jeunesse marocaine a eu les moyens de donner la pleine mesure de son sérieux et de son patriotisme, elle a fasciné le monde par des performances d'un calibre inédit, à l'instar de l'exploit accompli par la Sélection nationale à la dernière Coupe du monde de football. De l'aveu de tous, en interne comme à l'international, nos enfants ont offert les plus belles images de ferveur patriotique, d'unité et de cohésion familiale et populaire et ils Nous ont rendu particulièrement fier, ainsi que l'ensemble du peuple marocain».

Ce même engouement au potentiel de la jeunesse marocaine, Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, que Dieu L'assiste, l'affiche également pour la jeunesse africaine, à laquelle il a consacré une grande partie de son Discours au 29ème Sommet des chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Union Africaine, je cite : « L'avenir de l'Afrique passe par sa jeunesse. En 2050, 400 millions d'Africains auront entre 15 et 24 ans. Comment œuvrer pour résorber le chômage qui frappe de plein fouet la jeunesse du continent ? La réponse réside dans un traitement volontariste du triptyque "éducation, enseignement supérieur et

formation professionnelle" avec une exigence élevée de qualité. Elle réside également dans les investissements conséquents, durables et judicieux qui doivent être entrepris dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la santé, de la formation professionnelle et de l'emploi.»

Mesdames et Messieurs les co-Présidents,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Au terme de mon discours, permettez-moi de revenir brièvement sur la thématique de la réunion d'aujourd'hui pour souligner son importance dans un contexte marqué par la prédominance des approches exclusivement sécuritaires dans la gestion des flux migratoires.

L'importance démographique des jeunes est source d'opportunités et de défis. Elle constitue un atout considérable puisque la jeunesse est en mesure de fournir à l'économie une force de travail majeure au sommet de sa capacité productive. Cependant, pour s'assurer que les jeunes puissent contribuer pleinement à la vie économique et sociale, il est nécessaire de mettre en œuvre des politiques publiques adaptées dans les domaines fondamentaux (éducation, emploi, santé).

Dans ce contexte, la coopération internationale est fondamentale, aussi bien pour établir des plans de formation pertinents que pour créer des opportunités réelles d'emploi. Le Processus de Rabat peut servir de plateforme d'élaboration de tels partenariats entre les pays africains et européens, notamment dans les domaines de la formation professionnelle et de la migration circulaire.

Nous devons tous œuvrer pour que la migration des jeunes africains, vers l'Europe ou ailleurs, soit un choix plutôt qu'une nécessité. L'Afrique a besoin de ses jeunes pour réaliser son plein développement et l'Europe a tout intérêt à apporter son plein soutien aux efforts des Etats africains pour atteindre cet objectif louable.

Merci de votre attention et plein succès à nos travaux !

Thematic Meeting “Migration, Youth and Development”

19-20 October 2023, The Hague

Ms Monica Zanette, Head of Pan-African Initiatives, ICMPD

Opening remarks

Check against delivery, speak at steady pace

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to be present today in this beautiful venue in The Hague for this Thematic Meeting of the Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process on migration, youth and development. As ICMPD representative and head of the Rabat Process secretariat, I am delighted that The Netherlands and Nigeria embraced this topic. The nexus between youth, migration and development extends beyond economic contributions. Young people are often the most vocal advocates for change. They bring a global perspective and a unique ability to bridge cultural gaps. Youth is a force for the promotion of tolerance, peace, and social cohesion, all of which are vital for sustainable development.

I am particularly pleased that for the first time we have brought youth representatives to these debates, and I warmly welcome them to this meeting. Their participation reflects the flexible nature of Rabat and Khartoum Process dialogues that are ready to take up innovative topics involving a variety of stakeholders beyond governmental partners. A flexibility that was illustrated a few weeks ago in Berlin, where civil societies joined the Khartoum Process flagship thematic meeting on climate change and mobility.

The strengthening of synergies between migration, youth and development was recognised last year by the Ministerial Conference organised under the Spanish chairmanship. It is highlighted by the Cadiz Action Plan, the objective 1 aims to “Maximise the positive impact of regular migration” and objective 3 recognises the need to “Promote regular migration and mobility, in particular of young people and women, between and within Europe, North, West and Central Africa, including through Talent partnerships”. Youth is also recognized in the Joint Valletta Action Plan, which you will hear more about tomorrow.

Over the next two days, this thematic meeting will provide a multi-stakeholder platform that is diverse and inclusive of youth. Rabat and Khartoum Process partners as well as youth representatives will engage to better understand current challenges, best practices, and emerging trends on youth development. On this basis, discussions will focus on ways to better empower, educate, and employ youth – as well as take steps towards more meaningful youth representation and participation. This meeting will also be an opportunity to examine frameworks and processes from a youth-centric and development lens and translate lessons learned into pragmatic solutions and actionable recommendations.

Thematic meetings such as the one of today have proven since many years to be particularly instrumental in this respect.

Let me also refer to another forum the European Union Global Diaspora Facility implemented by ICMPD. Early this week, EUDiF held its third Future Forum in Brussels and discussed the diaspora partnerships for development. Several participants are with us today and I am sure they will relay interesting practices shared during the Future Forum.

In closing, the synergy between migration, youth, and development is a topic of great significance in today's world. It is our responsibility to ensure that youth is provided with the necessary tools, opportunities, and support systems.

It is through collective action, informed policies, and shared responsibility that we can ensure that the potential of young migrants is harnessed which will be beneficial for all.

Finally, let me conclude by thanking our Dutch host for welcoming us in The Hague. I also thank our Nigerian co-host for the excellent cooperation and relentless efforts in making this event a success. Last but not least, I would like to thank the European Commission, for their precious support without which none of this would be possible. Allow me also as a last word to thank my colleagues in the Rabat Process Secretariat for the organisation of this event.

I very much look forward to our discussions and to the results of this important meeting. I am sure that we will learn a lot over the next two days, and I wish you all a very interesting and inspiring meeting.

Thank you very much.




Trends in youth participation - national and global perspectives

Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda

Youth participation - The WHY

- Right to participate in decision-making processes
- Youth development and empowerment
- **Policy/programme effectiveness and relevance**





Meaningful inclusion of youth in the Rabat process: How to establish effective youth participation mechanisms at national and regional levels?

Lessons learnt and recommendations from:

1. Global Compact for Migration (GCM) process
2. Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) process
3. National Youth Policies

Migration Youth and Children Platform



- A self-organised space for youth to participate in high level migration advocacy
- A global network of thousands of individuals and youth-led organisations (up to 30 years old) that represent all regions of the world
- Established in response to the negotiations for the Global Compact for Migration
- Officially mandate to facilitate youth participation in the GFMD processes
- Has worked with local and national governments, UN agencies and INGOs to advise on youth participation in decision making

Global Compact for Migration

- 'Organic' youth engagement
- Various spaces open for youth inputs but no sustainable mechanism
- Working towards the improvement multi stakeholder engagement
- Focused on individuals rather than on collective action



Global Forum on Migration and Development

- Partnership approach to youth participation
- Institutional, officially mandated youth engagement
- Reliance on volunteer contributions from Member States
- Recognition that youth are not homogenous group - diversity
- Recognition of self-organised, collective youth action



National-level findings



- “Scoping study: A comparative analysis on National Youth Policies”
- 10 countries on a global scale
- Youth participation from the intersectional perspective
- Most of young people interviewed noted a lack of diversity in the existing youth structures



Establishment of youth participation mechanisms - key recommendations

1. Trusting youth abilities to drive solutions - together with young people, create sustainable youth participation structures that are transparent, institutionally mandated, resourced, and self-organised.
2. Inclusive engagement - recognise that social inequalities will persist if not addressed intentionally.
3. Resources for youth-led projects - provide financial support & capacity building support
4. Youth engagement as a strategy for promoting peace and security - commit to promoting and protecting young people's human rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, right to job and economic freedom, and right to political participation.



Thank you!



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Rabat Process
Euro-African Dialogue on
Migration and Development
Reference country action



Mainstreaming and Harnessing 'Japa' Movement

Lukmon Akintola & Oluwafunmilayo Ajala

Putting Key Words in Context

- **Japa** – This is a commonly used word in Nigeria. It is a Yoruba word that means **run, flee, or escape**. In this context, it means a desire or an act of migration (which could be through regular or irregular pathways).
- **Migration** is the movement of persons from one place to another, either internally or across borders. People migrate for several reasons, such as fleeing violent conflicts and climate hazards, in search of better job opportunities, education, businesses, among others.
- **Youth** – The African Union Charter defines ‘youth’ as young persons between the ages of 15 – 35years old, while the Nigerian constitution says 18 – 35years old.



- Migration is a significant part of human endeavor. If managed effectively, migration can significantly drive political and socio-economic development for both home and host countries.
- In the past few years, Nigeria has been experiencing increasing number of young people leaving the country for several reasons, such as education, jobs, among others. Some are leaving due to unstable economic situation and security challenges back home.
- Within 2019 and 2021, UK study visas issued to Nigerians increased from 19,000 to 59,000 (210% increase). In 2022, UK issued 324,000 visas to Nigerians, while 132,000 visas were issued in the 2023.
- Report from the African Polling Institute revealed that 7 in 10 Nigerians would be willing to migrate abroad, if they had the resources.

Migration & Development

Migration & Development

Figure 4: Visas granted to dependants of sponsored study visa holders by nationality, and percentage of all sponsored study related visas for dependants, year ending June 2020 to 2023

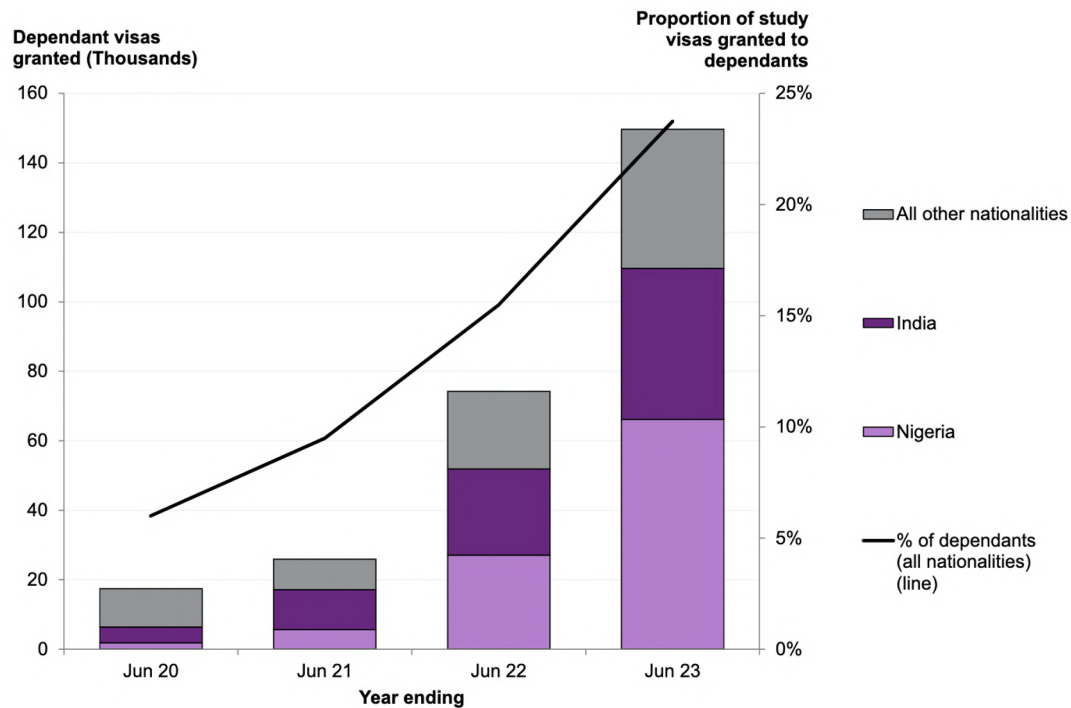
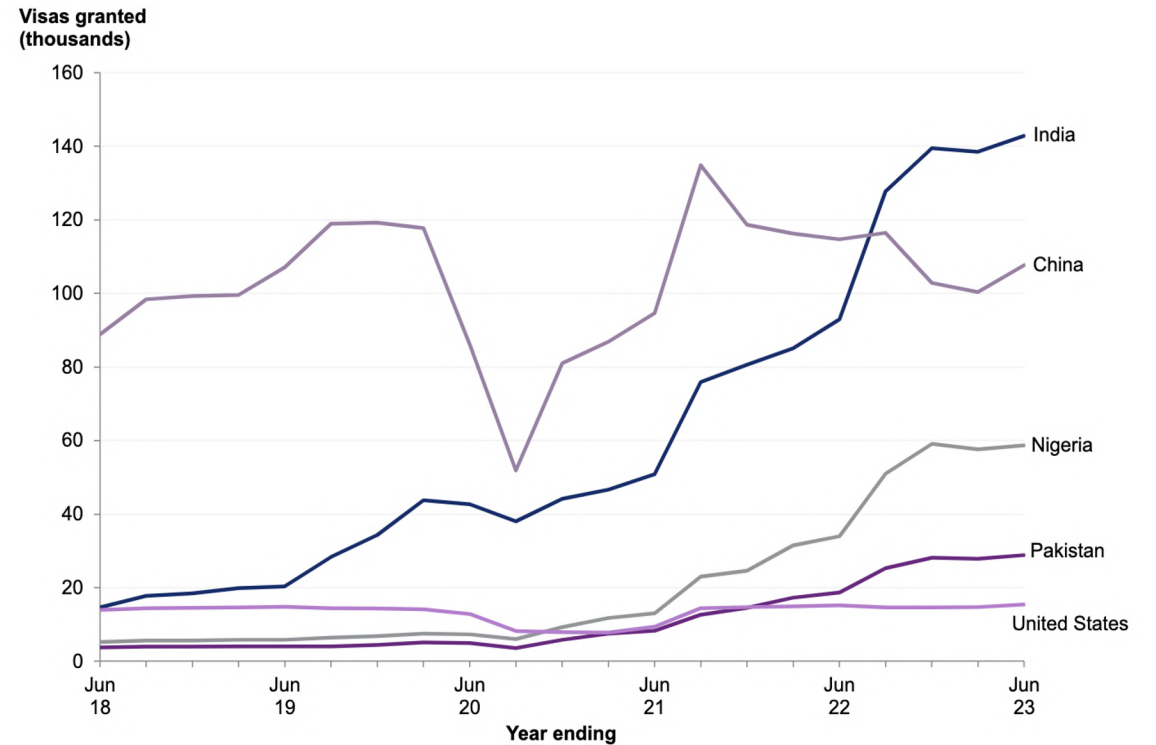


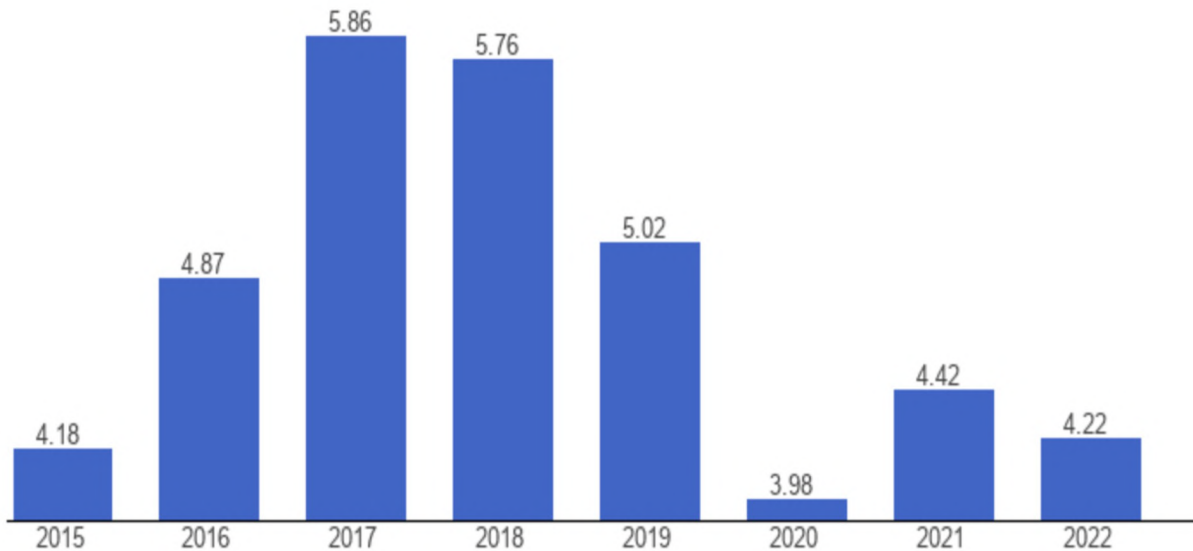
Figure 3: Sponsored study visas granted to main applicants between year ending June 2018 and year ending June 2023 (top 5 nationalities)



Source: UK Home Office

Migration & Development

Recent values



- As of 2022, Nigeria is the largest recipient of remittances in Sub-Saharan Africa, receiving \$20.9 billion
- As of 2019, remittances account for 5% of Nigeria's GDP, but dropped to 4.22% in 2022
- With increasing prices of goods in Nigeria, World Bank projects that remittances will increase significantly

Drivers of Japa Movement in Nigeria



Education



Job opportunities



Quality life



Reconnecting with family



Insecurity



Police Brutality



Climate Change/
Environmental issues



Unemployment

Implications of 'Japa' on Socio-economic Development

Business (Entrepreneur)

Positive

- Market expansion for businesses
- Creating diverse network of business associates

Negative

- Decreasing number of skilled professionals
- Businesses struggle to get or retain quality talents
- Disrupting local business ecosystem

Health

Positive

- Remittances
- Knowledge & skills transfer

Negative

- Decreasing number of health workers (doctors and Nurses)
- Mental Health challenges for young migrants due to new and unfamiliar terrain

Agriculture

Positive

- Local commodity exchange
- Export opportunities
- Skills transfer
- Diaspora investment
- Strengthening supply chain
- Empowering retail businesses

Negative

- Decreasing number of young farmers
- Food insecurity

Climate Change

Positive

- Adaptation strategy
- Sustainable climate justice
- Climate financing
- Knowledge exchange

Negative

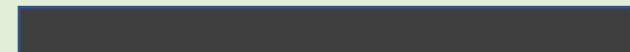
- Expose climate migrants to risk (child trafficking, poor jobs)
- Denied access to political participation
- Unfavorable living conditions

Recommendations

- Reframing the narrative of 'Japa' or 'Japada' as a significant driver of socio-economic growth and development for both home and host countries (as highlighted in the GCM and Rabat Process).
- Integrating diaspora population into the political landscape in their home countries (freedom to exercise their rights to vote), also strengthening communities for new migrants in their new location
- Integrating the voices of young migrants into national, regional and global migration policy conversation
- Periodic and sustainable engagement with diaspora community on local issues (climate change, investment, skills transfer, etc) and integrating their voices to national policies.
- Creating enabling environment that will encourage diaspora investments
- Encourage free flow of remittances, including fast and free international money transfers, incentives for diaspora investment in key sectors.



Thank you for listening





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP
State Secretariat for Migration SEM
Directorate International Affairs

Thematic meeting on Migration, Youth and Development

Fostering circular migration and innovation
exchange for youth

**Vania Nzeyimana, Integration specialist, State Secretariat for Migration,
Federal Department of Justice and Police, Switzerland**

Rabat Process, 19-20 October 2023, The Hague



Swiss engagement to foster circular migration

- **Trainee exchange agreements** for young professionals with several countries
- **Supporting projects in countries of origin** (examples):
 - Nigeria: Trainee programmes including internships in Switzerland with Nestlé and Bühler
 - Gambia, Tunisia, Kameroun, Nigeria: Hospitality training in Kenya with internships in home country
 - Remotecoders in Egypt: IT Training and work for European companies



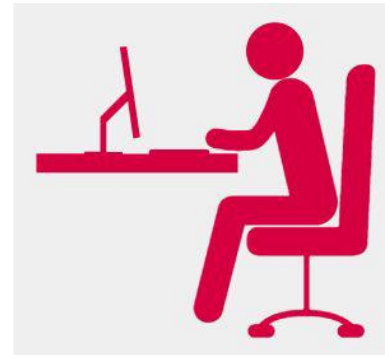
Start of an idea: Powercoders

CONTEXT

120'000 refugees in
Switzerland



Shortage of skilled labour in the
Swiss IT-sector (40'000 by 2024)



MISSION of Powercoders:

Integration of refugees into IT-industry labor market through
intensive training in coding



Powercoders

HOW

1. Recrutement
2. Training (3 months, Powercoders)
3. Internship (6-12 months, IT-company – Powercoders Job coach)
4. Integration (long-term solution with IT company or IT-Department)

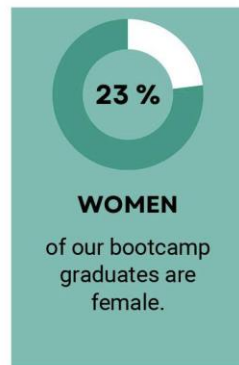


Powercoders

IMPACT NUMBERS 2017 – 2023



6 YEARS OF IMPACT { POWER.CODERS }





From Powercoders to Remotecoders

CHALLENGE



160,000 engineering graduates
in the MENA region per year but
few career entry jobs

- UNESCO -



There will be 1.67Mio
unfilled jobs in EU IT sector
by 2025.

- empirica -



Remotecoders

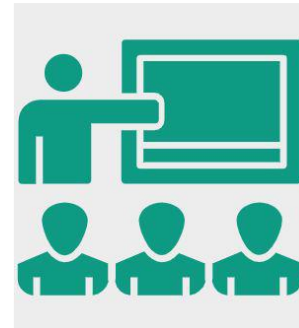
SOLUTION – pilote project in Egypt



1.
**Initiate
partnerships
with companies**



2.
**Recruit seniors
in Egypt
as team leads**



3.
**Recruit & train
vulnerable
talent in Egypt
(incl. Migrants
and displaced)**



4.
**Adapt team to
company needs**

Rabat Process

Empowering youth innovators

by Blessing Abeng



Kingdom of the Netherlands



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development



Challenges

Young innovators are trying to build solutions to local problems leveraging global infrastructure or concepts.



A real story



Y Combinator



Solutions

How we can create and
catalyze access



**Empowered innovators
empower innovators**

Recommendations

- Launch a focus group to test out a young innovators exchange program between ECOWAS and EU countries to facilitate cross pollination of ideas, solutions, and systems.
- Collaboration between operators in the fintech space and financial ministers of the ECOWAS countries to figure out how to solve the lack of interoperability among payment systems leveraging Pan-African Payment and Settlement Systems (PAPSS) or cryptocurrency.

Recommendations

- Setup bilateral cooperations to facilitate trade and collaboration by bridging the gaps between EU-ECOWAS countries to build systems and policies to automate and catalyze equitable trade and movement.
- Partner with VCs and organizations interested in investing in R&D, startups, and innovations from and for Africa for economic growth.

questions?

@blessingabeng_

THE KENYA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Impact/
Goal

Youth contribute positively to national socio-economic and political development... Kenya reaps demographic dividend

Outcome

Youth have money in the pocket

Youth feel included

Output

Decent Jobs

**Profitable
Businesses**

**Commercialized
Talent**

**Youth
Leaders**

**Participation &
Governance**

Priorities
Strategies

**Labour market
information**

**Experience,
Employability
skills**

Technical Skills

Basic Education

**Production, route to
Markets, Services**

Finances

**Entrepreneurship
Skills, information**

**Macroeconomic
interventions**

Sell/Market

Nurturing

**Identification
of Talent**

**Appointments in
Public Service**

Elections

**Enabling
electoral policies**

**Mentorship and
Coaching**

**Support and
Facilitation**

**Networks,
associations**

Volunteerism

**Information,
Civic Awareness**

Cross
cutting

Character

Health

Rule of Law

**ENABLING LEGAL, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK; FUNDING/ BUDGETS;
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION; COORDINATION; DATA & STATISTICS;
EVIDENCE; SUSTAINABILITY**



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
DR. CORNELIUS OMBAGI, PHD, DIRECTOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

**A PRESENTATION ON 'BEST PRACTICES IN FOSTERING YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION, KENYAN**

PERSPECTIVES:' HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2023

AT THE NETHERLANDS

Introduction and Context

In Kenya, the population of youth is 13.2M (29% of the total population). It is further worth appreciating that, Kenya is endowed with a youthful, talented and energetic population. The youth presents Kenya with an opportunity for faster economic growth but also has a formidable challenge. High youth population presents opportunities; demographic dividend that can have a positive impact on economic growth through increased savings, higher productivity, political stability, and social and sustainable development. The ability of Kenya to harness the demographic dividend depends critically on their investments in human capital, its commitment to create sufficient job opportunities and prepare youth to step into these jobs. In Kenya, Youth diversity is an issue that is characterized by geography and gender, yet it also reflects the varied experiences and life situations of young people. Youth with disabilities; indigenous youth; bisexual and transgender youth; migrant, displaced and refugee youth; youth in conflict and post-conflict situations; and rural youth, among others, often face challenges and barriers to participation specific to their situation. As many Youth identify with more than one group, the challenges they encounter are often multiplied. The inadequate information and data on marginalized and vulnerable youth makes identifying and addressing their distinctive challenges particularly difficult.

Highlights on key best practices in fostering youth empowerment and innovation

There is emphasis on customizing skills programmes to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.

List of best practices to skill youth for employability and exports from the Kenyan perspective

- Public-private collaboration to identify skills mismatches and design training Informal and/or institutionalised collaboration between TVETs and firms in private sector.
- Identification of missing skills Design of appropriate training programmes
- Ensure trained youth get jobs by strengthening training institutions
- Improve capacity of TVETs to deliver job-relevant training programmes
- Monitor participant placement in employment or entrepreneurship
- Customise training programmes for disadvantaged youth
- Ensure programme structure and logistics facilitate participation by female and rural youth
- Address their constraints to employability

There is emphasis on supporting youth entrepreneurship and innovation to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.

List of best practices to support youth entrepreneurship and innovation in Kenya

- Improving access of young entrepreneurs to relevant skills
- Improving the scale and quality of entrepreneurship education and skills development, coaching and mentoring Facilitate the acquisition of management skills and financial literacy
- Linking youth-led companies to appropriate business ecosystem
- Creating youth accelerators and other brick-and-mortar support centres
- Supporting peer and mentoring networks
- Promoting and enhancing online hubs and communities for young entrepreneurs
- Tailoring support to address barriers affecting young female entrepreneurs
- Addressing legal impediments
- Reducing procedural obstacles
- Making trade policy gender-responsive

There is a government strategy for youth economic empowerment and innovation to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.

List of best practices in government strategy for youth economic empowerment and innovation:

- Facilitating access to finance to youth owned enterprises, start-ups and innovation incubation
- Boosting availability of financial services specifically targeting venerable and marginalized youth
- Increased access to finance for young entrepreneurs and innovators through innovative financial mechanisms
- Equipping young entrepreneurs and innovators with financial capabilities
- Facilitate access to finance
- Boosting availability of financial services specifically targeting youth Increase access to finance for young entrepreneurs through innovative financial mechanisms
- Equipping young entrepreneurs with financial capabilities
- Addressing market failures
- Facilitating collaboration between youth, trade and education institutions
- Tackling age- and gender-based discrimination
- Providing ICT and basic infrastructure
- Prioritizing sectors
- Facilitating inclusive consultation
- Choosing sectors that have high export and youth potential
- Reinforcing market linkages and integration into value chains and identifying value chain development needs
- Aligning skills training and entrepreneurship support programmes
- Crafting strategic plan for youth empowerment and innovation
- Creating shared vision for youth in empowerment and innovation

- Setting out a plan of action in target sectors and across economy for youth empowerment and innovation
- Clarifying resourcing and responsibilities and monitoring progress on youth empowerment and innovation

Area 1: Instruments and national policies targeting youth in Kenya

1. Kenya has demonstrated its commitment and dedication to the empowerment and integration of its youth towards economic development.
2. **The Kenya Government** has adopted and is implementing a number of policy and programmatic interventions in education, health, economic and governance sectors geared towards creating opportunities for demographics that have previously been at the periphery of development. These include the youth, women, and persons with disabilities. It is the Government's firm belief that empowering these population segments is a critical part of harnessing a demographic dividend for long term growth.
3. Kenya has engaged the World Bank for support towards a youth employment project Dubbed-Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project. The project is aimed at addressing youth unemployment by improving youth employability, addressing skills mismatch by providing training and internships. The project aims at increasing earning and training opportunities to of about 280,000 youth within a five year period (2016-2021).

The Role of Youth Policies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. Youth are being referred to as the “torchbearers” of the 2030 Agenda and have a pivotal role to play both as beneficiaries of actions and policies under the Agenda and as partners and participants in its accomplishment.
5. The Kenya Youth Development Policy 2019 recognizes youth diversity and target youth categories based on their needs. Based on the youth categories, the policy has eighteen priority areas, which are mainstreamed in the broader sustainable development goals.
6. Kenya has been keen to strengthen its Youth Policy Implementation for the benefit of its youth. The policy developed through a consultative process, is a demonstration of the Country's commitment in spearheading multi- dimensional approaches and initiatives to address the challenges currently facing our youth, while optimizing the several strengths and opportunities that the youth present.

Youth Democratic Governance

7. Young people's participation in economic, political and community life is essential to facilitating social and economic development, challenging social norms and creating innovations that lead to development for everyone. African countries should strive to put in place strategies that promote lasting peace and promote democratic governance systems such

as holding elections when due, addressing security concerns. Supporting youth by providing spaces to actively participate in governance processes should be a priority.

Youth Mainstreaming

8. Mainstreaming of youth issues into plans, strategies and policies will greatly boost addressing youth issues. Kenya should therefore put in place mechanisms that effectively mainstream sustainable development programmes;

Youth Information

9. Kenya has broadened the information sharing base on youth development in Africa through periodic, annual or biannual reports.

Area 2: Youth Education and Training

10. In many regions, young women face particular challenges in terms of securing and completing an education.
11. Youth should access the education they need. The rights-based approach to education that focuses on the fundamental principles and benchmarks, indicates that education issues should go beyond Access or even about Quality and include other consideration as Availability, Acceptability and Adaptability (education should evolve with the changing needs of society and confront any discrimination, and it adapts to specific local needs and contexts.
12. Skills mismatch is one of the greatest contributors to youth unemployment in Africa. The industry demands are not met by the skills imparted to our Youths from the training institutions, causing unemployment.

Kenya offers free education – Kenya is implementing the Competency Based Curriculum, enhancing apprenticeship and TVET curriculums to resolve the skills mismatch issue. Further, it has subsidized education at university level – loans also available through HELB.

13. **National Youth Service** offers skills and trainings in numerous trade areas such mechanics, paramilitary, driving, electrical, among others.

In recognition of the changing needs of young people the NYS has been revamped, expanded and transformed to make it more responsive to current demands.

Area 3: Entrepreneurship

14. With right attitude, a set of ideas, entrepreneurial mindset and small loan or grant, youth are ready to innovate, venture, start and own their businesses as well as drive social change. Entrepreneurship not only has the ability to create jobs but also create wealth, nurture entrepreneurs, who are great assets to the economy.

15. In Kenya, in spite of the benefits that is realized from entrepreneurship, in terms of solving unemployment, more than often youth lack awareness of information on available and existing entrepreneurial support structures, rigorous and rigid procedures of business registration, its attached costs and inadequate entrepreneurial skills.
16. Kenya has established a Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Hustler Fund and capital fund known as UWEZO Fund to provide credit to youth entrepreneurs interested in venturing in business and business-oriented undertakings. Further, it set aside **30 percent government procurement quota** to the youth, women and persons with disabilities and promoted internship and innovation.

Area 4: Youth and Environmental Sustainability

17. Climate change is one of the global issues of interest in the 21st Century, whose impacts are evident and far reaching. Report on Africa response to challenges on environment, shows climate variability and change remains one of the pertinent issues compared to other regions. High human activity and natural and complex processes at the global level are some of the causes of climate variability. A report on climate change of a two third of a sample of 30 countries in Sub Saharan Africa noted the excessively high temperatures that exceeds global mean surface annual temperatures increase of 0.6-0.7°C above Pre Industrial Levels. The question of interest is how can youth in Kenya be effectively involved to ensure environmental sustainability?

Area 5: Youth and Health

18. Health challenges are among key issues facing the youth in Kenya. Food insecurity has been cited as contributing to spiraling food commodity prices in global markets. Prolonged droughts, land degradation and climate change, affect human health. The high proportion of the population affected by drought and foods and food price volatility is a situation of the unstable and vulnerable food systems Kenya.
19. Drug abuse is one of the top problems confronting the youth in Africa today. Incidences of drug and alcohol abuse and related anti-social behaviour have tremendously increased in recent years causing an economic burden the country.
20. Teenage Pregnancy and Early Marriage. The participation of women and decision and their contribution to the economy is greatly hindered by teenage pregnancies and early marriage.
21. Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, propensity to commit suicide, eating disorders and psychosis contribute to youth mental health problems. This calls for the promotion of the mental health amongst youth including psychosocial support and interventions

Area 6: Youth participation in Democratic Governance

22. Youth play a critical role in Kenya's political future, and more so in governance. Report shows that youth make a bigger percentage of people in voting and labour force. Due to their high population, 29% of Kenya's population, there has been concerns as to whether youth are really PARTNERS in political, social and economic development.
23. This brings into fore, the concept of democratic governance. Democratic Governance is having citizen participation in decision making or policy making process characterized by transparency and accountability in both public and private sector.
24. In Kenya, while progress has been realized to support democratic governance, more so during elections, more efforts are needed to building lasting peace. Kenya has realized the following milestones in involving youth in democratic governance.
 - i. Promulgation of Constitution of Kenya in 2010 that opened democratic spaces, where public participation is mandatory in program, policy and legislative processes.
 - ii. Creation of 47 Counties that paved way to a decentralized governance structures. Youth are thus able to participate in community leadership and activities
 - iii. Public participation and being involved in public committees
 - iv. The establishment of the National Youth Council vide Legal Notice No. 10 of 2009 was enacted in 2009 as an Act of Parliament to be the youth voice.

Area 7: Youth Engagement and Associational Bridges

25. Kenya has a history of strong family and community ties and hence ought to engage her youth to neutralize and foster positive attitude, while minimizing polarizing attitudes among the existing ethnic diversity, maintaining positive interethnic relations, mitigating on the renaissance of far-right groups, and growing support for anti-immigrant parties. This question is critical for young people, whose adolescence is a period for the formation of attitudes towards ethnic difference.
26. Youth engagement can be an effective tool for fostering positive contact, promoting shared values, beliefs and ideals. In Kenya, a discourse on Building Bridges Initiative is aimed at bringing Kenyans together and enhancing ethnic tolerance, arising more on political inclinations.

Area 8: Youth in Conflict

27. Youth though a critical segment of the population, at times find themselves being used as perpetrators of conflict or as victims. As noted by United Nations Development Fund in 2006, the UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change youth is a potential threat to security and asserted that a "surging youth population", combined with unemployment, urbanization and other factors; can lead to violence. Further as young people grow in number

and faces fewer education opportunities; unemployment, the HIV/AIDS scourge, war and other forms of violence.

28. Most other analyses of conflict in different parts of the world are starting to identify a 'youth factor' as a key element in the generation or perpetuation of violence. In Africa and East African region in particular, youth are prone to cross border conflicts, civil wars, arm trafficking and fragile democracies.
29. In 2008, in Kenya youth found themselves as perpetrators of conflict or as victims in post election violence but however participated peacefully in ushering in new leadership in 2013 general elections.

Recommendations

1. Governments should put emphasis on customizing skills programmes to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.
2. Strengthen multi stakeholder engagement in supporting youth entrepreneurship and innovation to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society
3. Develop holistic strategy on youth economic empowerment and innovation to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.

Key Questions

Q1. What is the role of political good will in realization best practices in fostering youth empowerment and innovation from the Kenyan perspectives?

Q2 How does co-creation support youth empowerment and innovation for youth circular immigrants in Kenya?

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**BEST PRACTICES IN FOSTERING YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND
INNOVATION, KENYAN
PERSPECTIVES**

A PRESENTATION

BY

**DR. CORNELIUS OMBAGI, PHD,
DIRECTOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

NATIONAL DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF YOUTH TALENT AND INNOVATION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS,

GOVERNMENT OF KENYA

Introduction and Context

- In Kenya, the population of youth is 13.2M (29% of the total population). It is further worth appreciating that, Kenya is endowed with a youthful, talented and energetic population. The youth presents Kenya with an opportunity for faster economic growth but also has a formidable challenge.
- Youth are defined in the Constitution of Kenya (2010) as persons aged between 18 and 35 years.

HIGHLIGHTS ON KEY BEST PRACTICES

- Skilling youth for employability and exports from the Kenyan perspective
- Public-private collaboration to identify skills mismatches
- Design training Informal and/or institutionalised collaboration between TVETs and firms in private sector.
- Identification of missing skills Design of appropriate training programmes
- Ensure trained youth get jobs by strengthening training institutions

- Improve capacity of TVETs to deliver job-relevant training programmes
- Monitor participant placement in employment or entrepreneurship
- Customise training programmes for disadvantaged youth
- Ensure programme structure and logistics facilitate participation by female and rural youth
- Address their constraints to employability

List of best practices to support youth entrepreneurship and innovation in Kenya

- Improving access of young entrepreneurs to relevant skills
- Improving the scale and quality of entrepreneurship education and skills development, coaching and mentoring Facilitate the acquisition of management skills and financial literacy
- Linking youth-led companies to appropriate business ecosystem
- Creating youth accelerators and other brick-and-mortar support centres

- Supporting peer and mentoring networks
- Promoting and enhancing online hubs and communities for young entrepreneurs
- Tailoring support to address barriers affecting young female entrepreneurs
- Addressing legal impediments
- Reducing procedural obstacles
- Making trade policy gender-responsive
-

List of best practices in government strategy for youth economic empowerment and innovation:

- Facilitating access to finance to youth owned enterprises, start-ups and innovation incubation
- Boosting availability of financial services specifically targeting vulnerable and marginalized youth
- Increased access to finance for young entrepreneurs and innovators through innovative financial mechanisms
- Equipping young entrepreneurs and innovators with financial capabilities

- Facilitate access to finance
- Boosting availability of financial services specifically targeting youth
Increase access to finance for young entrepreneurs through innovative financial mechanisms
- Equipping young entrepreneurs with financial capabilities
- Addressing market failures
- Facilitating collaboration between youth, trade and education institutions

- Tackling age- and gender-based discrimination
- Providing ICT and basic infrastructure
- Prioritizing sectors
- Facilitating inclusive consultation
- Choosing sectors that have high export and youth potential
- Reinforcing market linkages and integration into value chains and identifying value chain development needs
- Aligning skills training and entrepreneurship support programmes

- Crafting strategic plan for youth empowerment and innovation
- Creating shared vision for youth in empowerment and innovation
- Setting out a plan of action in target sectors and across economy for youth empowerment and innovation
- Clarifying resourcing and responsibilities and monitoring progress on youth empowerment and innovation
-

Recommendations

- Governments should put emphasis on customizing skills programmes to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.
- Strengthen multi stakeholder engagement in supporting youth entrepreneurship and innovation to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society
- Develop holistic strategy on youth economic empowerment and innovation to ensure inclusiveness opportunities to develop skills among the youth are expanded to include youth who are venerable and marginalized in the society.

Key Questions

- Q1. What is the role of political good will in realization best practices in fostering youth empowerment and innovation from the Kenyan perspectives?
- Q2 How does co-creation support youth empowerment and innovation for youth circular immigrants in Kenya?



Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) Follow-up

Rabat Process | Khartoum Process
Thematic Meeting

Migration, Youth and Development

The Hague, 19-20 October 2023



Funded by the European Union



Support to the Africa-EU Dialogue on Migration (MMD)
Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) Follow-up

The JVAP Database is a self-reporting tool used on a voluntary basis. By design, the dataset is a partial overview of initiatives linked to the JVAP domains and priorities. ICMPD assumes no responsibility or legal liability concerning the content of the data and its use.

Implemented by ICMPD



Data model last modified: 11 April 2023



About JVAP

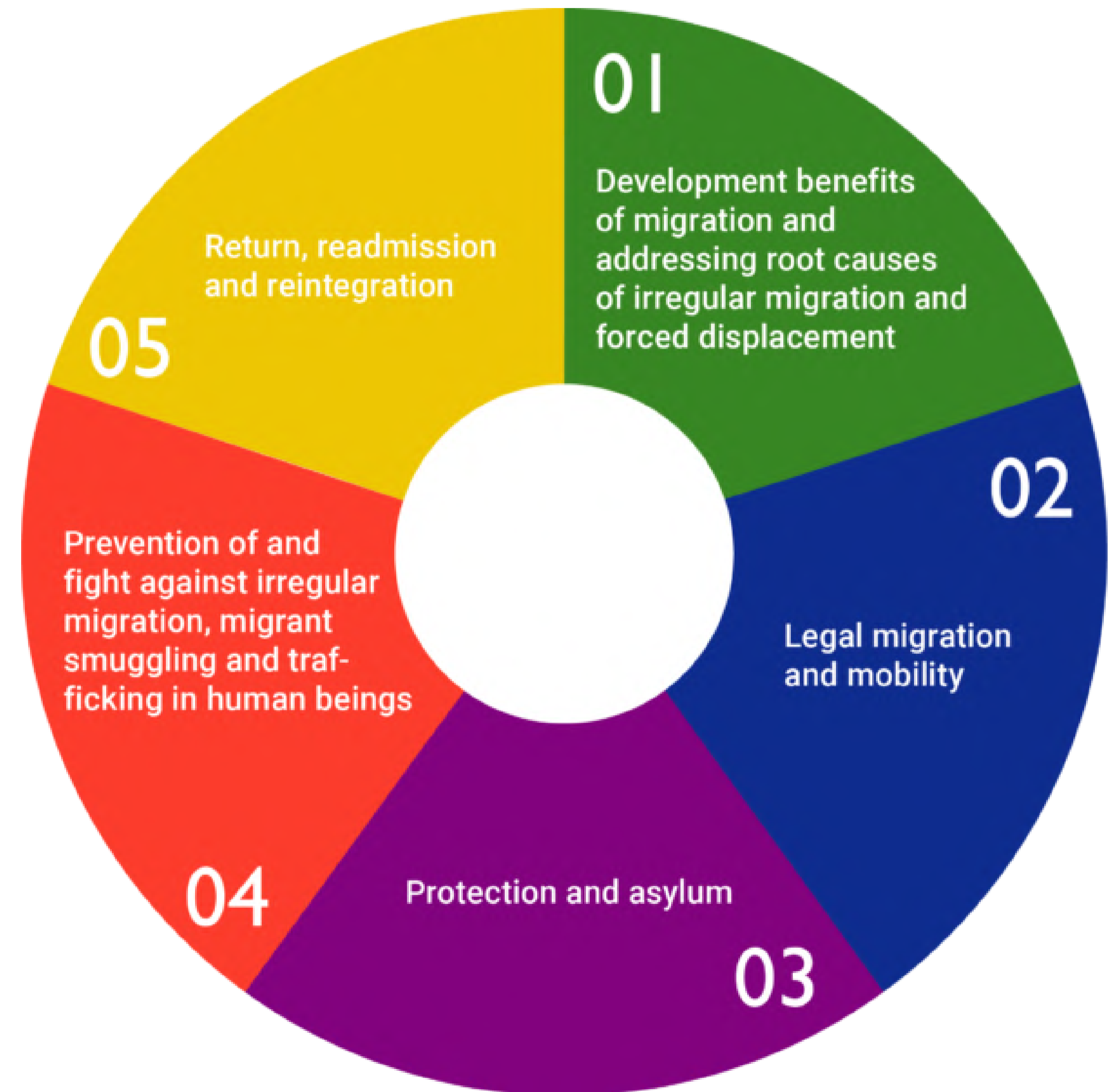


African and European partners agreed to:

- Strengthen cooperation
- Recognise the benefits of migration
- Adopted:
 - A Political Declaration
 - An Action Plan
- Built around 5 Domains and 105 Priority Areas

JVAP Data Collection

- Mapping of initiatives:  and 
PROJECTS OR PROGRAMMES and POLICIES OR LEGISLATIONS
- Implemented since 2015
- Funded/adopted by JVAP Partners
- Implemented in KP and RP regions
- Relating to the five JVAP domains



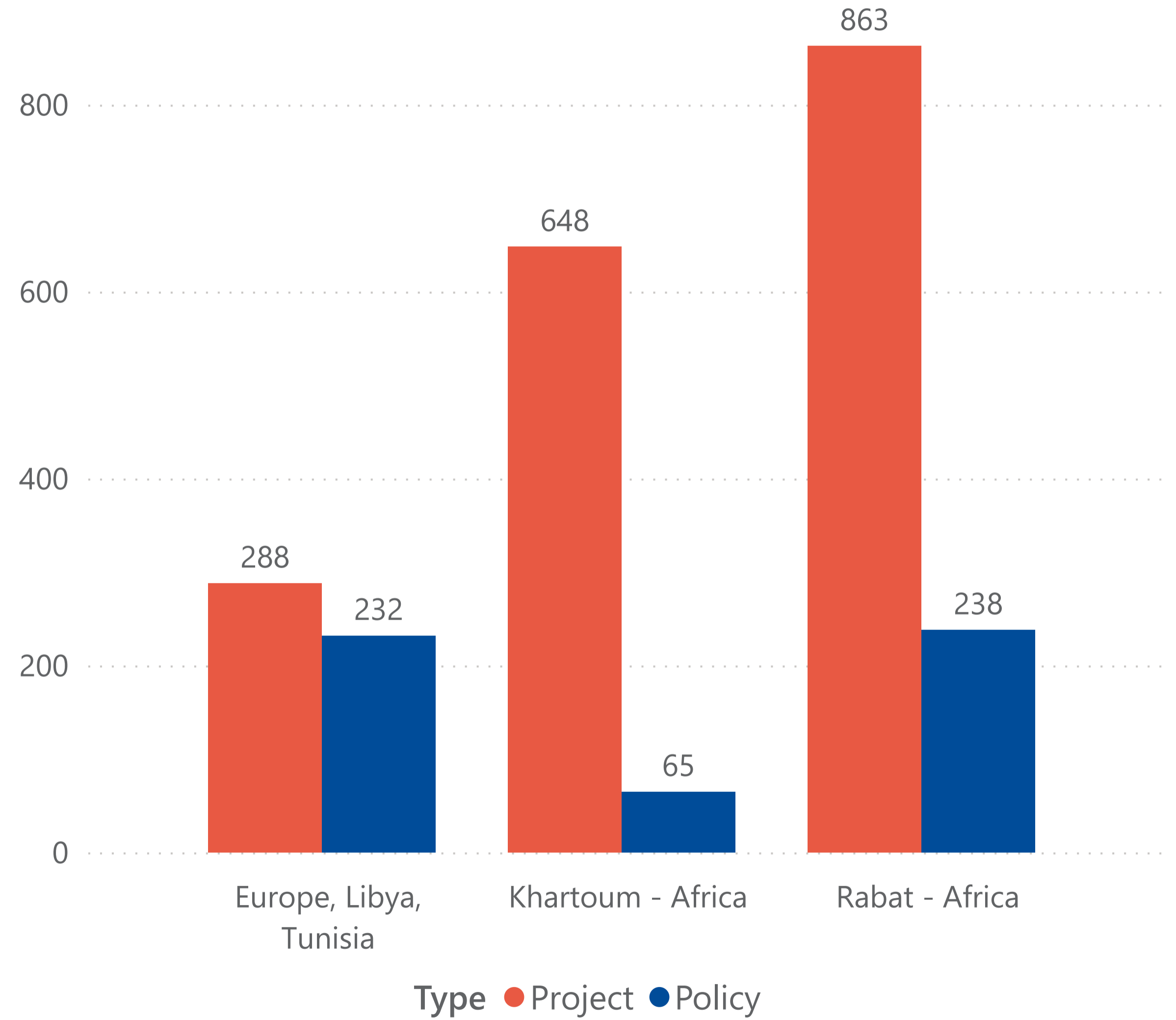
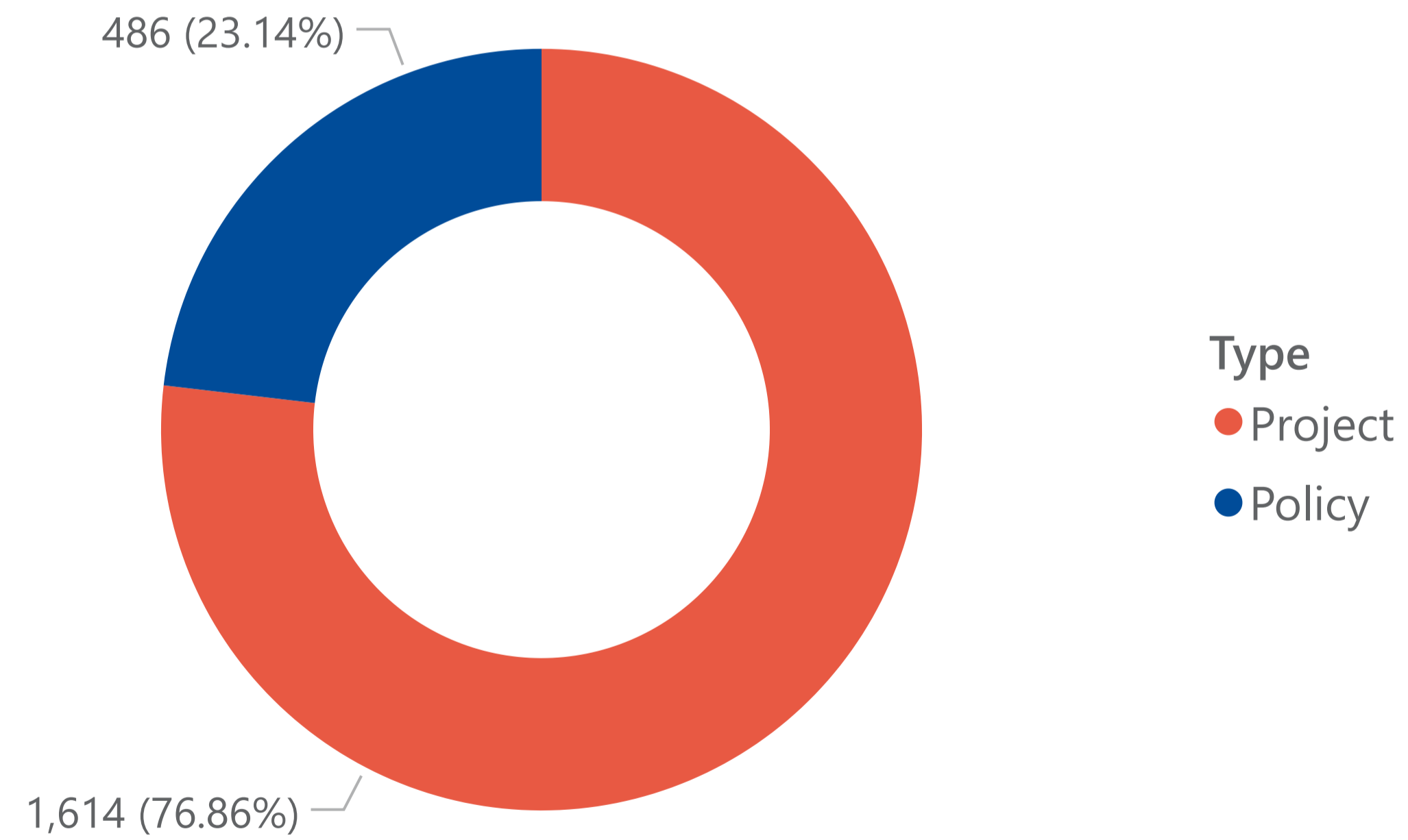
Overview of JVAP Data

2,100

Initiatives

€ 16.2bn

Funding



Initiatives on Youth and Development

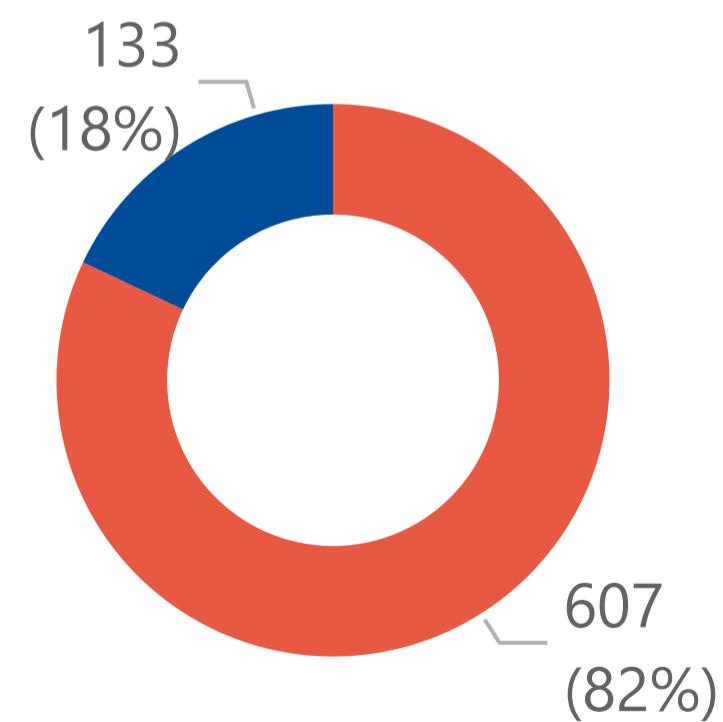
740

Initiatives

€ 4.0bn

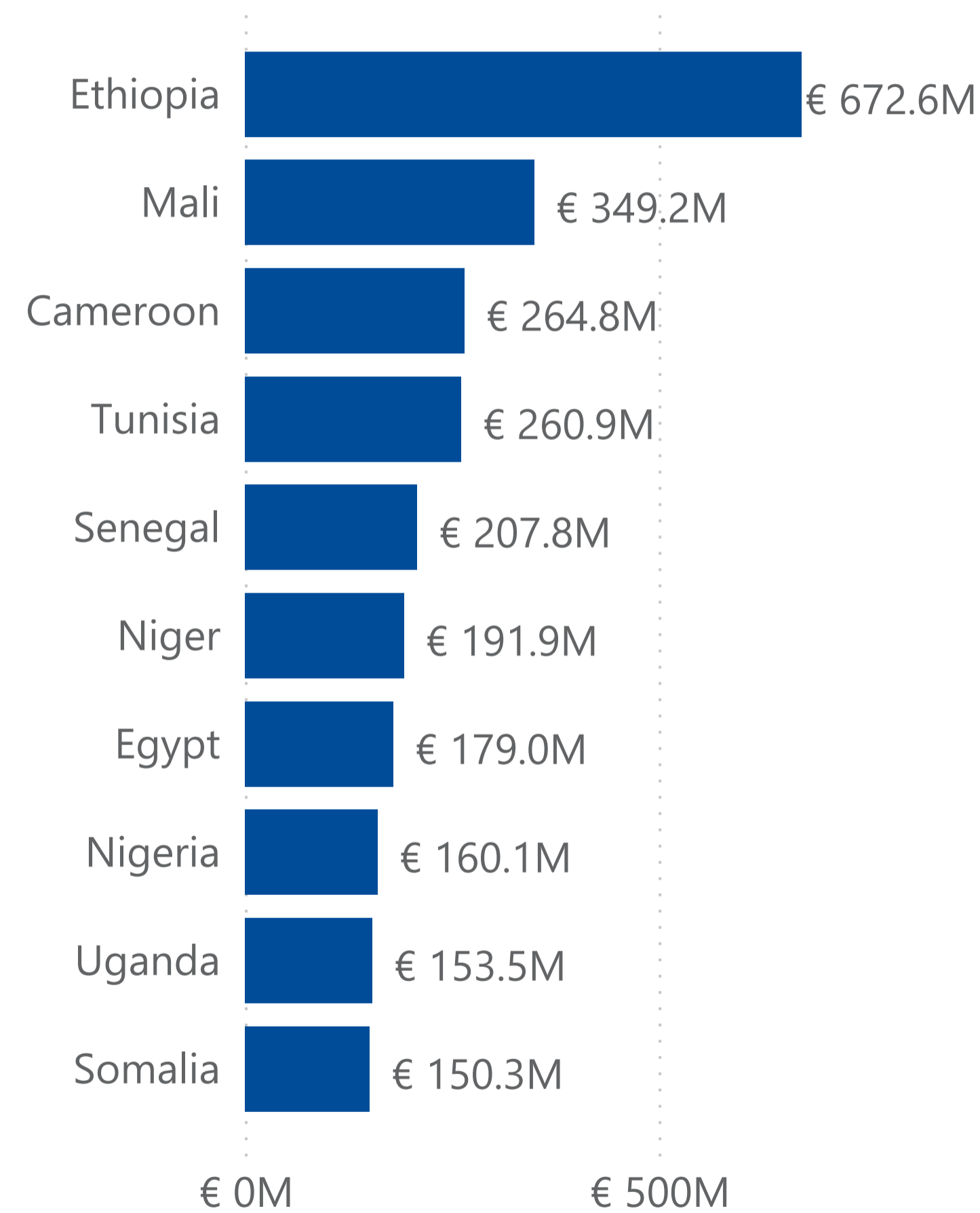
Funding

Initiatives by Type

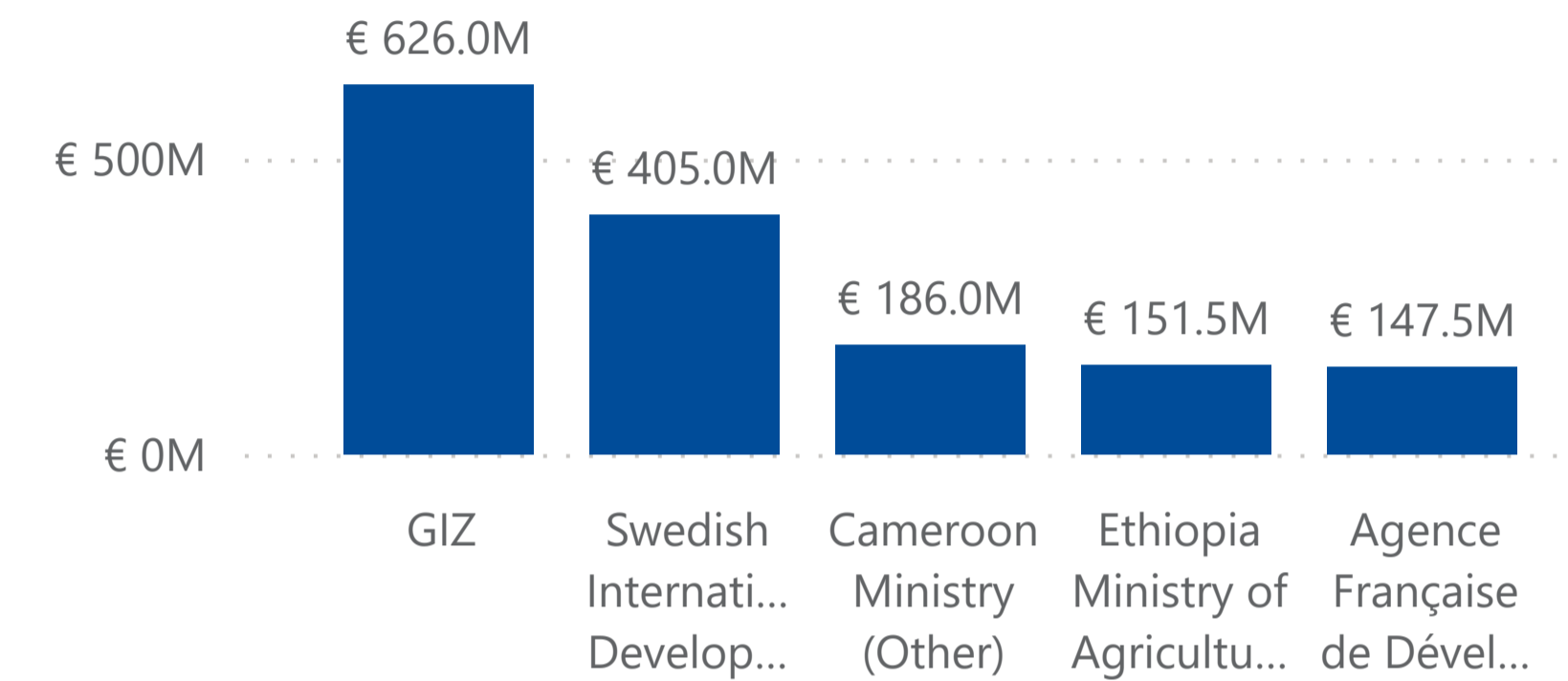


Type
● Project
● Policy

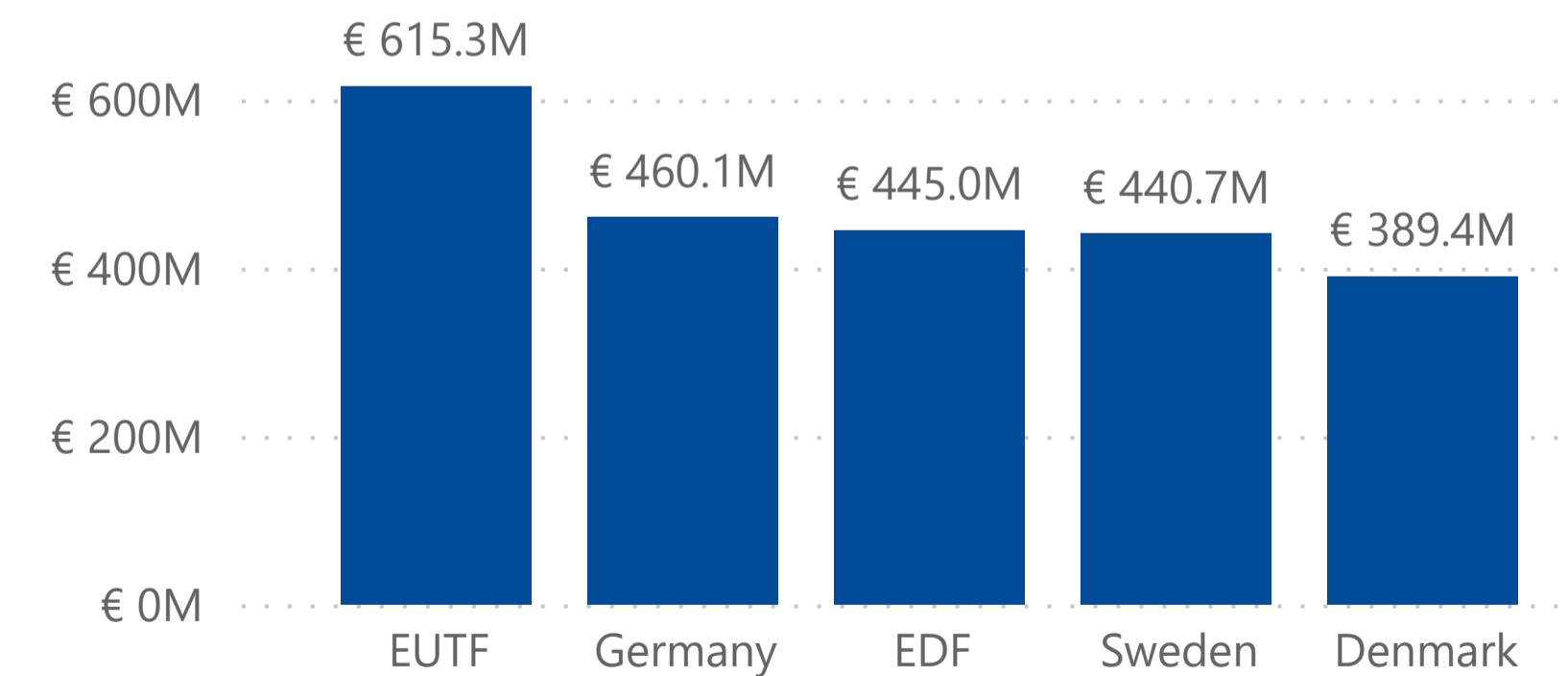
Top 10 Countries of Implementation



Top 5 Implementing Organisations



Top 5 Funding Partners



Domains Breakdown

Domain 1: Development benefits of migration & root causes of irregular migration

Domain 2: Legal migration and mobility

Domain 3: Protection and asylum

686
Initiatives

€ 3.8bn
Funding

53
Initiatives

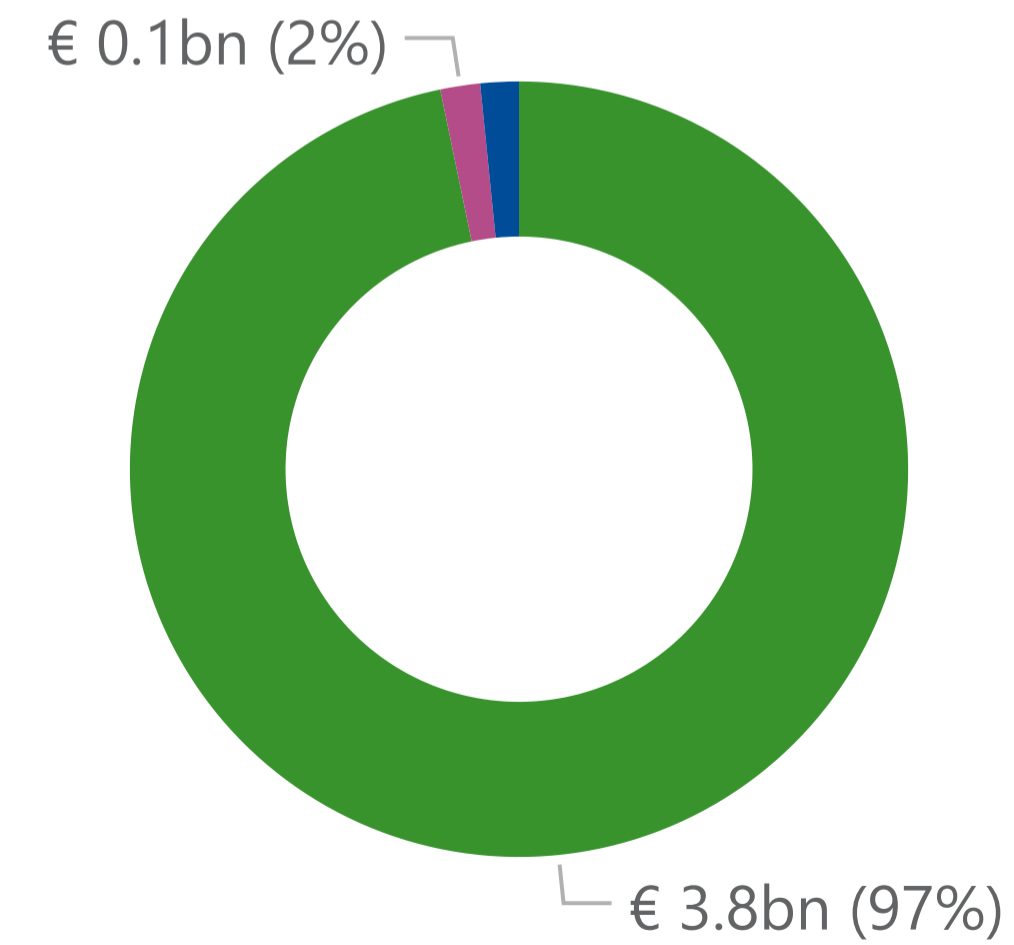
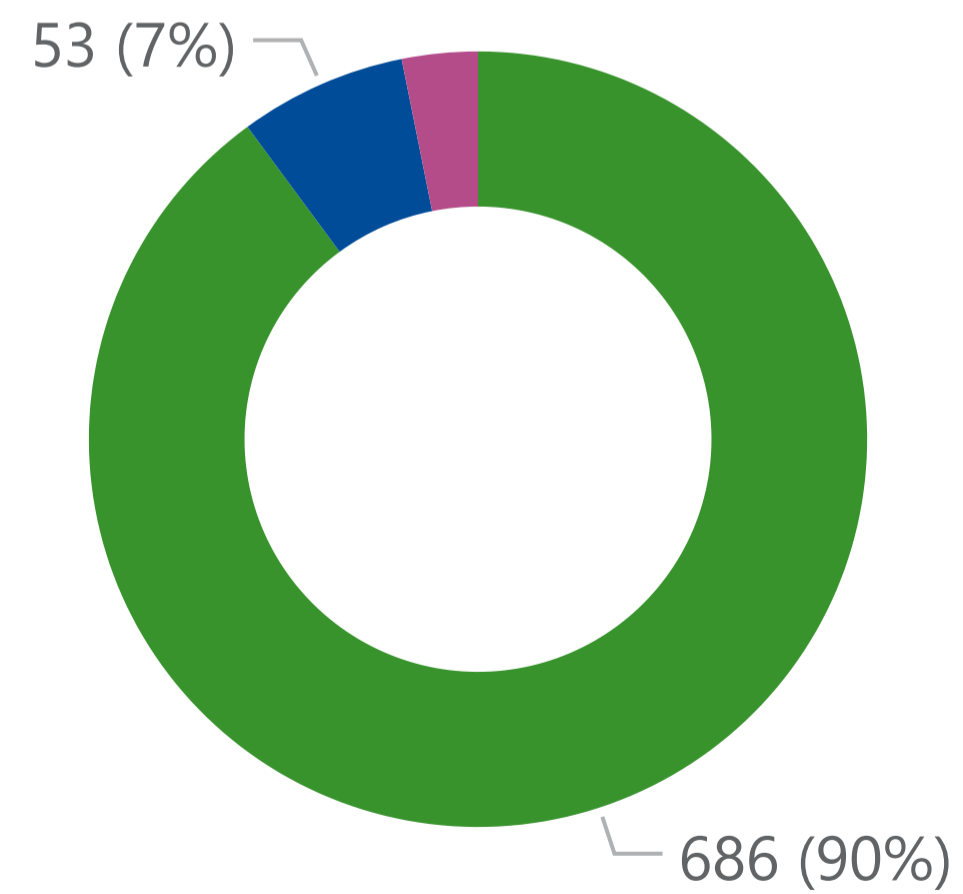
€ 63.1M
Funding

24
Initiatives

€ 65.4M
Funding

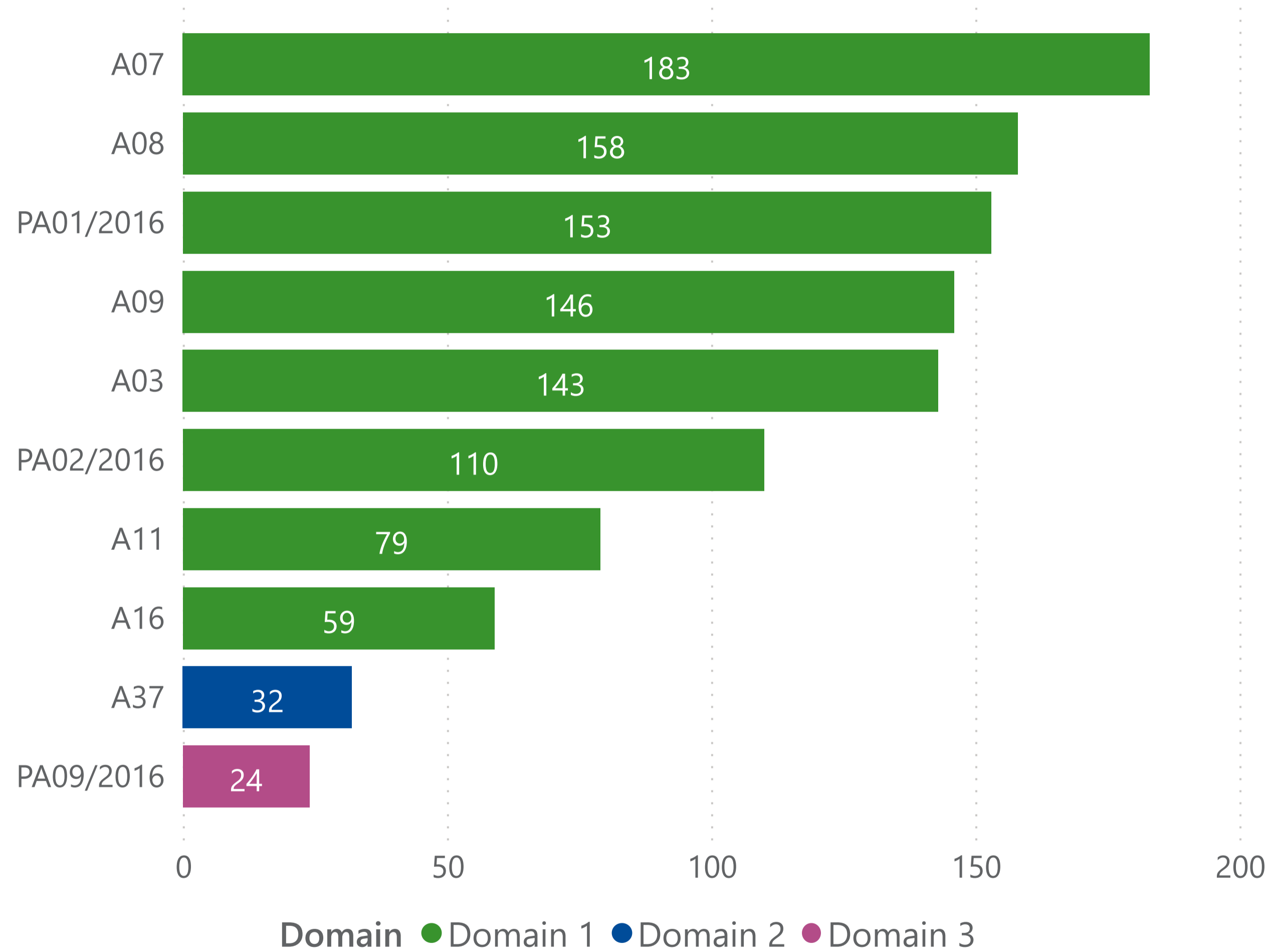
Initiatives per Domain

Funding per Domain

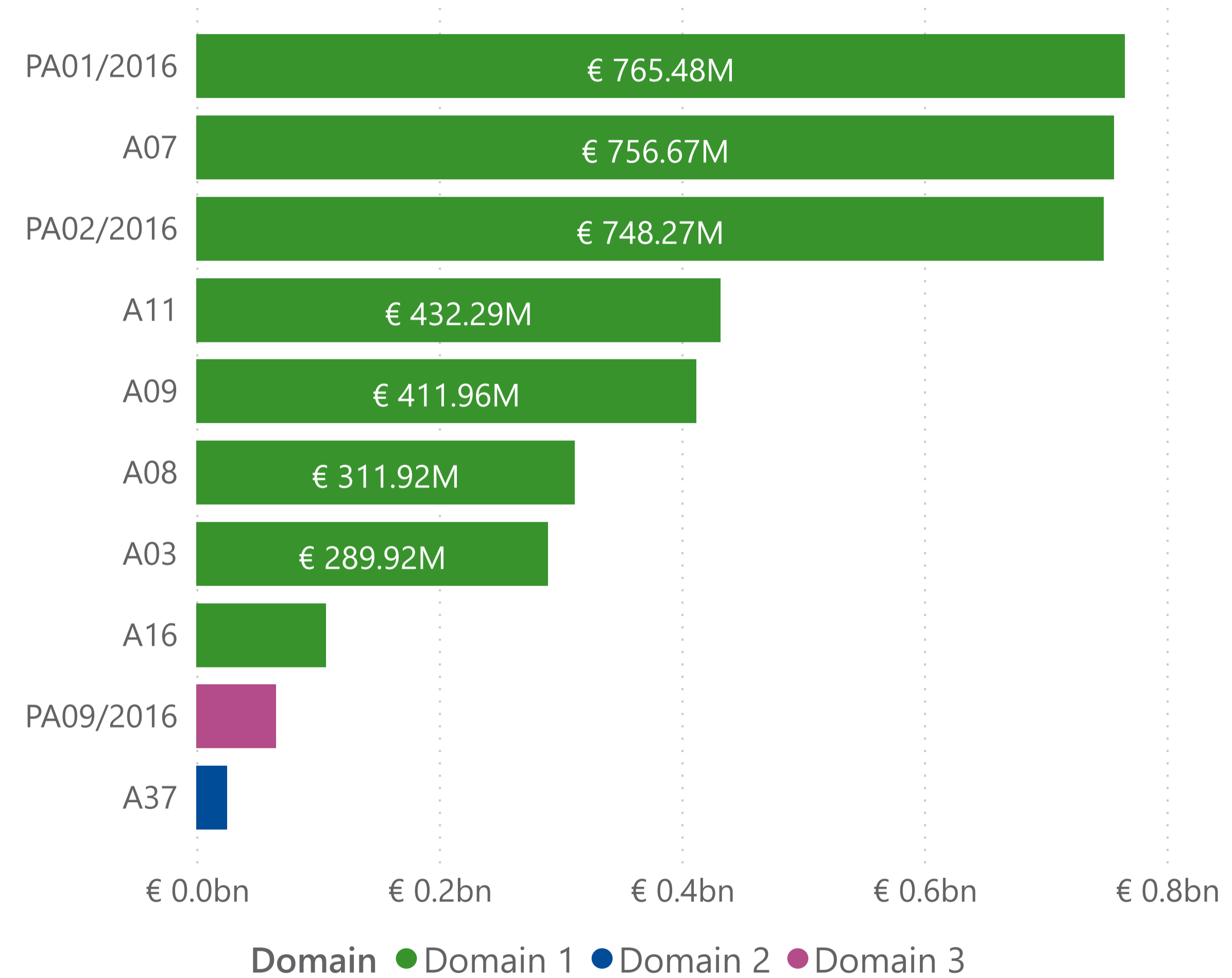


Priority Areas

Most Attributed Priorities

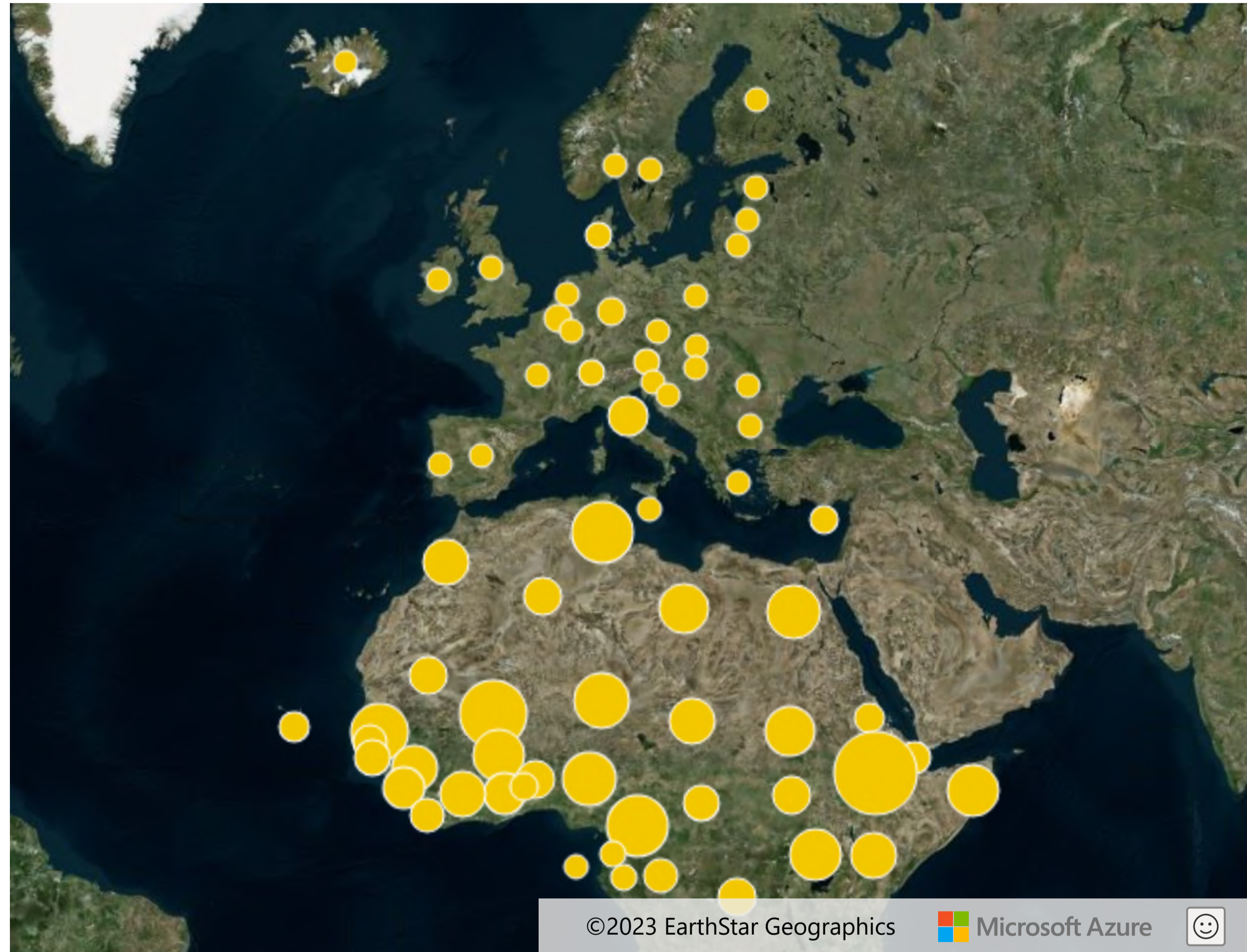


Highest Funded Priorities



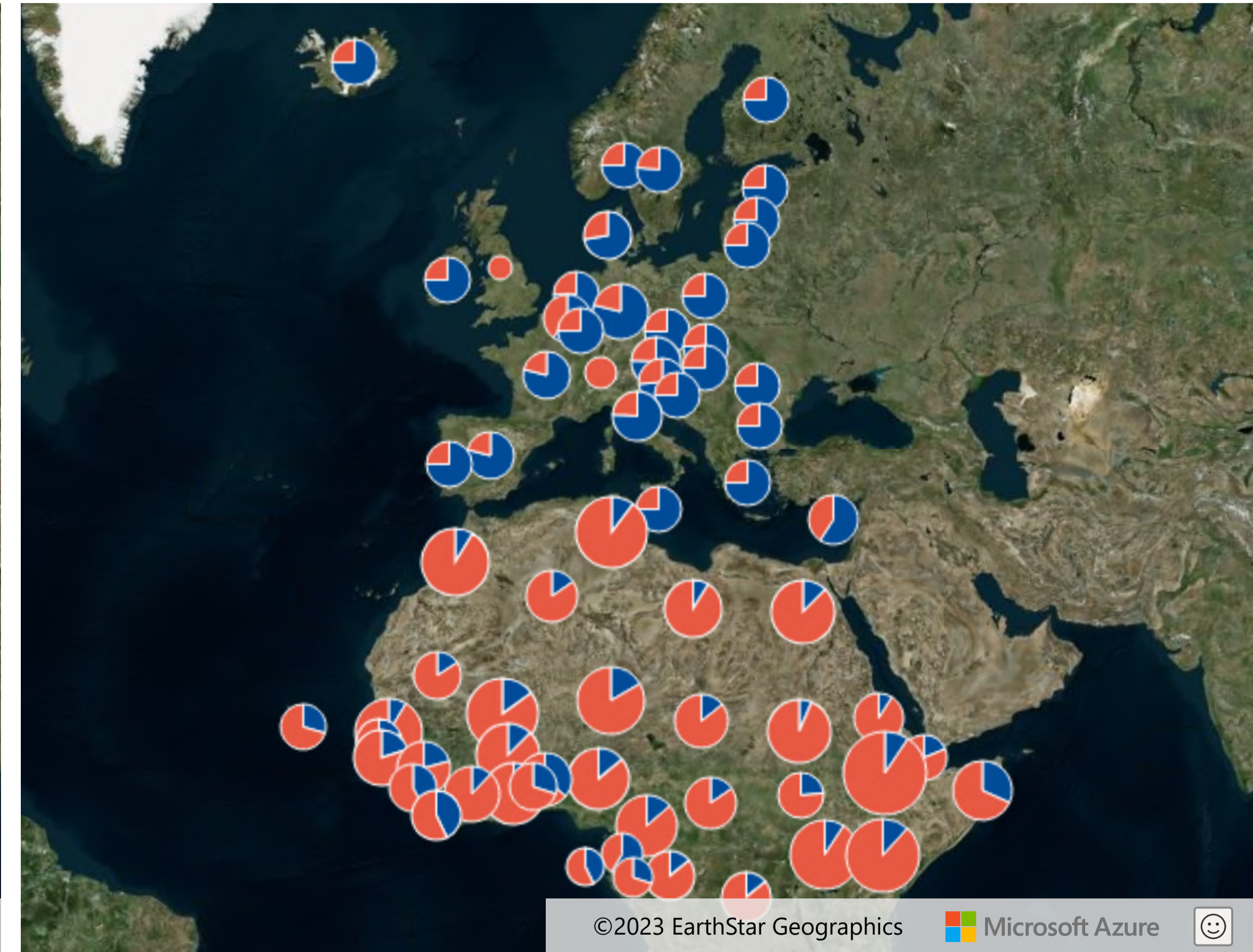
Geographical Distribution

Distribution of Funding



Type ● Project

Distribution of Initiatives



Type ● Policy ● Project



Finding-2: Many Moving Parts

- Initiatives focus on **causal chains** to achieve objectives rather than isolated actions. -> **good practice**
- Ex.: youth need to be trained and certified, companies need to be created, and incentives are needed to increase **job placement** and **job retention**.
- **International cooperation** a significant aspect in youth and development initiatives. Because: international movements, regional economic factors (including macroeconomic factors), and climate change.
- **Sustainability** as a core concept, both in terms of longevity and in terms of environment.

Domain 1 PA01/2016

PA01/2016. Launch projects to enhance employment and revenue-generating activities in regions of origin and transit of migrants in East/North/West Africa to enhance professional skills

89

Initiatives

€ 765.5M

Funding



Finding-3: Crossroads for Multiple Contexts

- Apart from funding and implementing Partners, **communities** central to youth and development initiatives.
- **Diaspora, civil society** (unions and professional chambers included), and **academia** mentioned in several initiatives as key stakeholders.
- Youth described not only as beneficiaries, but also as **key actors of change** in their communities -> effect on displacement, environment, gender, and economy overall.
- Development as a factor in **state-building** and **social cohesion**: mitigating social tensions.





Thank You

Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) Follow-up

www.jvapfollowup.org

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Funded by the European Union



Implemented by ICMPD



Youth voices: from ambition to action

Marc Tilley



Youth action:
an overview of the landscape

Why Youth Participation Matters?

- Young people are typically excluded from democratic and governance processes yet often among the most affected
- Young people have unique vulnerabilities due to our development needs and structural dependencies
- Young people are increasingly likely to move and already make up the majority of people moving across certain routes and regions
- Young people are not only “the future” but also “the here and now”

Benefits of Harnessing Youth Voices

- Ownership
- Legitimacy
- Intergenerational policy formulation is more sustainable
- Broader perspectives and range of approaches
- Trust-building through fairness and transparency

Selection of Relevant International Frameworks

- Global Forum on Migration and Development
- Global Compact on Migration
 - International Migration Review Forum
 - Regional Reviews
- Global Compact on Refugees
 - Global Refugee Forum
- IOM Regional Consultations
- Rabat Process (and other ICMPD dialogues)

Barriers to participation

- Awareness and visibility
- Lack of capacity/culture
- Inclusivity of participation
- Relevant infrastructure
- Confidence and training
- Accessibility
 - Financing
 - VISAs
 - Application requirements



Youth Initiatives: Case Studies and Good Practice

- IOM Regional Consultations
- African Union / IOM Youth Migration Ambassadors Scheme
- Africa Climate Mobility Initiative
- Regional initiatives (YSB/YRC)

Key Recommendations

- A “dual regard” test in policy formulation to ensure all decisions are future-oriented
- Statutory youth steering platforms in formal engagement processes
- Accessible and equitable funding to ensure meaningful youth representation



“No decisions
about us,
without us”





Thematic Meeting on Migration, Youth and Development - Rabat Process

Moderated by Gowinda Ama Armoo, Migrant Youth Advocate, Ghana

Input by Lilian Ebere Anazube, Social Integration Practitioner, Nigeria

Name:

Affiliation:

Role:

This session focuses on the importance of building leadership capacities of migrant youth, especially young women. It provides a space to share lessons learned and good practices from lived experiences and to collectively ideate meaningful leadership empowering for young women amongst stakeholders.

Please reflect on the following prompts as the working group session proceeds. The moderator will indicate time for engagement. Feel free to ideate with a partner.

In what ways can challenges as well as opportunities of intergenerational dialogue and collaboration in empowering young women be addressed? Please identify strategies based on your affiliation and role.



Thematic Meeting on Migration, Youth and Development - Rabat Process

Moderated by Gowinda Ama Armoo, Migrant Youth Advocate, Ghana

Input by Lilian Ebere Anazube, Social Integration Practitioner, Nigeria

How can leadership opportunities become more accessible for migrant youth, especially young women? Please identify steps based on your affiliation and role.

What are some good practices in effectively engaging and amplifying youth voices? Please identify incorporation of these practices based on your affiliation and role.

Notes:

Groupe de travail 1 / Working Group 1

Défis identifiés/challenges identified

1. Lack of social cohesion and youth coordination, lack of space to self-organize and associate
2. Lack of effective youth engagement in policy processes more broadly
3. Lack of political will to integrate young people and implement existing youth policies.
4. Lack of financial support for young people at all levels
5. Lack of necessary skills and capacity for young people in many African countries.
6. Several groups (youth in rural areas & LGTBQ) are still significantly marginalized in the entire policy processes only privileged youth take up opportunities
7. Policies are yet to reflect young participation and representation, or those that exist face issues with implementation
8. Lack of trust of young people in the political system
9. Migrants in transit or leaving the country have urgent objectives + situation of vulnerable migrants

Bonnes pratiques/good practices

1. **West Wing Youth Think Tank:** Supporting and enabling young professionals and university students to engage with the Dutch Embassies on several thematic issues.
 - They received flexible funding from the Dutch MFA but act independently.
 - They provide policy advice to the Dutch government on several thematic issues
 - They also organize trainings on key fundamental skills that for youth
2. **Nigeria - Technical Aid Corps:** This is a program under the MFA that sends Nigerian youth to foreign countries.
 - Several youth initiatives such as #NotTooYoungToRun & #ENDSARS campaigns.
3. **Ivory Coast -** Creating Presidential decree to support young people ideas and drive consultative platforms for between young people and the government, including integration young people
4. **Libya –** Youth Constitutional Committee and Youth as advisory body + Morocco (same Committee)
5. **The Gambia -** National Youth Parliament and the National Youth Council – where young people are leading and meaningfully represented.
6. **IOM –** Youth Ambassadorial Initiatives, IMRF, and Youth in Policy processes.
7. **Burkina Faso –** Youth ministers and representative in governance

Recommandations/Recommendations

1. It is imperative to **strengthen or build the capacity and skills** of young people (including grassroot organizations) to take on leadership and coordination roles.
2. Providing **flexible and non-conditional funding support for youth-led initiatives** at all levels
3. National **education system has a significant role in training young persons or children** in advancing their skills and help them raise their voices
4. Policy formulation need to be future oriented and put in place conscious **monitoring and evaluation of existing youth policies**, at the national and regional levels -(dual-testing approach)
5. Putting in place **formal structures or platforms to advance youth participation** in policy processes, such as affirmative actions and conscious policies.
6. Countries need to avoid **tokenistic policies and meaningfully engaging youth** for the purpose of national and regional development.
7. Providing a **system or environment that allows young people to thrive**, including co-create ideas and advance policy reforms.
8. It is also very important to start **engaging in intersectional and intergenerational** perspectives, including putting in systems to include vulnerable / less privileged youth, and more importantly, put in place some accountability mechanisms.
9. International organizations need to **increase co-creation with youth networks** in different regions.
10. Good practices from the **global north can be contextualized and localized in the global south**.
11. Bringing **High-level discussion to the local level**, which will help integrate young persons at the local levels to global migration conversation
12. **Political will to support and integrate** youth-led initiatives

Groupe de travail 2 / Working Group 2

Défis identifiés/challenges identified

- ✓ Gender gap / low participation of women in decision-making processes
- ✓ Burden of care for women
- ✓ Leadership programmes are too expensive and free one have restrictive requirements
- ✓ Young people in rural areas are left behind
- ✓ Women underestimate themselves
- ✓ Difficulties/fear of men of mentoring young girls (sexual harassment)
- ✓ Competition between women: need for change of mindset
- ✓ Insufficient and inflexible mentorship programmes for women (time schedule)
- ✓ Unwillingness to give young women responsibilities during internships

Bonnes pratiques/good practices

- ✓ Leadership and advocacy programmes
- ✓ Sharing stories of women, breaking glass ceiling
- ✓ Associate new-comers and retired people in mentorship programmes
- ✓ Salaries assessment to tackle salary differences
- ✓ Equality trophy to promote equality in the private sector
- ✓ Quotas for women's representation in governance bodies
- ✓ Role models to empower young women
- ✓ Education for young children "catch them young"

Recommandations/Recommendations

- ✓ Mentorship programmes should be intergenerational and aimed both at men and women
- ✓ Making leadership and mentorship programmes more affordable, accessible and flexible, as well as intended to youth in general
- ✓ Fostering discussions between women: create spaces for discussions, youth forums, etc.
- ✓ Put in place more targeted advocacy programmes for equal consideration between men and women
- ✓ Educate young girls and boys to deconstruct gender-based stereotypes, with the implication of families and States
- ✓ Put in place awareness-raising sessions on gender equality for children (boys and girls) and male decision-makers
- ✓ Enhance representation of women leaders in society by sharing a more diverse picture of women
- ✓ Training men on how to mento women

Groupe de travail 3 / Working Group 3

Défis identifiés/challenges identified

- Combination of access to education and quality of education and the outcomes of the education that are below quality
- Lack of international qualification standards
- Low attention given to vocational education although the most powerful tool to equip economies with labour force needed

Bonnes pratiques/good practices

- Internships of student equip them of better understanding of the market needs to adjust to.
- Example among others: Structure of OFPPT Morocco for vocational training where every province identified market needs and adjust the TVET infrastructure accordingly.

Recommandations/Recommendations

- UN-managed framework for the international recognition of educational and vocational certificates, ensuring qualifications are universally accepted and facilitating cross-border opportunities
- Facilitating cross boarder opportunities for youth paying attention to the language
- Do not talk about migration without education
- Scholarships should be designed according to the needs of the countries of origin and include a return clause to transfer skills and avoid brain drain.
- Employers working hand in hand with educators to ensure that qualifications match market needs.

Groupe de travail 4 / Working Group 4

Défis identifiés/challenges identified

- ✓ No unified payment system within the African continent
- ✓ Lack of financial support for entrepreneurship
- ✓ Lack of support in market access – giving access to consumer base
- ✓ Insufficient collaboration between public and private sectors
- ✓ Lack of monitoring and evaluation systems for some of initiatives established
- ✓ Insufficient collaboration between governments and youth (not enough seat at the table)

Bonnes pratiques/good practices

- ✓ Leveraging technology to solve existing local problems
- ✓ Cross-borders payments within the African continent
- ✓ Digitalisation of skills
- ✓ Localised apprenticeship programmes
- ✓ Incentives for education

Recommandations/Recommendations

- ✓ Encourage training entrepreneurship programmes and financial literacy within school curriculums
- ✓ Reinforcing market access for young entrepreneurs
- ✓ Create platforms that bring entrepreneurs and investors together
- ✓ Raise awareness on the importance of good corporate governance beyond focusing on funding
- ✓ Explore partnership opportunities between public and private sectors, giving private sector incentives
- ✓ Reaching people where they are (in rural areas that don't have connections)
- ✓ Make efforts to have a qualification framework to integrate skills
- ✓ Make education compulsory from 0 to 12 years-old
- ✓ Develop more adapted vocational trainings (music industry, creative sector for e.g.) and scholarships