

Welcome.

Financing digitalisation for inclusive and green growth:

Delivering on Global Gateway and the
SDGs

Monday 12 June 2023, 09.00-17.30 CEST

SQUARE Meeting Centre, Mont des Arts, 1000
Brussels, Belgium



D4D
HUB



Sida

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2023.eu

Swedish Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

1. Background

A human-centred digital transformation is crucial for reaching the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. However, especially in lower-income countries, digital transformation agendas are often critically underfinanced, with a digital gap between countries and within countries. As a result, connectivity, digital infrastructure, government services, trade, and commerce may not reach their full positive potential for sustainable development.

Mobilising capital to close gaps in digital transformation remains a challenge for Global South countries in particular. **Both public and private sector are crucial partners to address this challenge:** private capital is the main source of funding for digital transformation, while policy and regulation need to provide an enabling environment for sustainable and profitable investments.

The [Global Gateway](#) investment package provides new opportunities for Team Europe to contribute to the SDGs and the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) for financing development cooperation. Its financing plans for Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) can boost digital transformation towards green transition and sustainable poverty reduction. Improved digital infrastructure is also closely linked to transparency, accountability, community services, democracy, human rights, as well as regional cooperation. Through the Global Gateway, Europe offers an alternative, [human-centred approach to digital transformation](#) in the geopolitical context.

As a strategic multi-stakeholder platform for [Team Europe](#) coordination, the [D4D Hub](#) is uniquely placed to facilitate joint partnerships to finance human-centric, sustainable, inclusive digitalisation. Sweden is one of the Hub's 13 EU member states and organizes this event through the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#) under the auspices of the [Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#).

2. Purpose of the event

Given the importance of digital technologies for reaching the SDGs, the main purpose of the event is to **find innovative methods of mobilizing funds and matching needs and access to financing for sustainable, human-centred digital transformation.**

Public and private sector actors are invited to present their best practices, plans and learnings from innovative financing approaches. The goal is to identify successful financing models to **scale them up in a #TeamEurope framework**, together with the private sector.



3. Agenda

08:15 – 09:00	Arrival and registration of participants
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome and introduction by the moderator
09:05 – 09:35 (30 min)	<p>Welcome words</p> <p><i>This session will set the stage of the event and frame key elements for meeting the challenge to scale up joint financing of digitalization efforts.</i></p> <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johan Forssell, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Trade, Sweden (video message) • Jutta Urpalinen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, EU (video message) <p>Keynotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koen Doens, Director-General, International Partnerships, European Commission • Carin Jämtin, Director-General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida • Maria Håkansson, CEO, Swedfund
09:35 – 10:30 (55 min)	<p>Opening panel: “Enabling factors for digitalisation investments”</p> <p><i>The time is ripe for more and broader investments in digitalisation. In this opening panel, speakers from private sector and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) will discuss challenges and opportunities for digital investments today. Public, private, and blended capital are all key components of financing the human-centred digital transformation—but how do the investments reach their goal and desired impact?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening keynote by Lacina Koné, Director-General & CEO, Smart Africa • Presentation of Background Paper on Financing Digital Transformation by San Bilal, Senior Executive, ECDPM <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caroline Le Meaux, Global Head of ESG Research, Engagement and Voting, Amundi 2. Ana Valero, Regulatory & Policy Director, Telefonica Hispam

	<p>3. Fazia Pusterla, Representative in Europe of the Inter-American Development Bank</p> <p>4. Yanis Kuehn von Burgsdorff, Brussels Representative UN-DESA</p> <p>Moderator: Kudzai Mubaiwa, Board Treasurer for AfriLabs</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What does an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable digital transformation look like? – How can policy and regulation encourage more private sector investments in digital? – How can public and private partners work together to enable financing (guarantees, blended finance)? – What change do you want to drive in the next 3 years?
<p>10:30 – 11:00 (30 min)</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:45 (45 min)</p>	<p>Connectivity Session 1: “Innovative financing to bridge the connectivity divide”</p> <p><i>The global connectivity landscape is characterized by vast imbalances, commonly referred to as the digital divide. To achieve last mile connectivity, substantial investments in digital infrastructures are necessary, even in commercially challenging areas. This requires the development of a broader investor base, more robust financing tools, an enabling policy environment, and improved coordination systems. Innovative approaches to financing connectivity are crucial in bridging the gap and lead the way for secure, safe and meaningful connectivity. This panel will look at financing methods, strategies and initiatives that have pushed the envelope to address market failures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote by Akanksha Sharma, Head of Climate Tech and Digital Utilities, GSMA • Case presentations:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pascal Murasira, Managing Director East Africa, Norrskan Foundation 2. Khalid Ben Jalani, Senior Partner, AfricInvest 3. Laure Blanchard-Brunac, Director Policy and Partnerships, European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI) 4. Ibrahim Senyonga, General Manager, MTN Uganda 5. Naomi De Groot Head of Communications and Partnerships for the East and Southern Africa Region, UNCDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion with case presenters and keynote speakers and Q&A with the audience (10 min) <p>Moderator: Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga, Co-founder, Sehat Kahani</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are some of the successful business models that incentivise investment from different players? – What are the partnership models you would recommend where the risks and benefits are shared? – What change do you want to see (and drive) in the next 3 years?
<p>11.45 – 12:45 (60 min)</p>	<p>Connectivity Session 2: “Safe and meaningful connectivity: the European offer for sustainable infrastructure”</p> <p><i>The Global Gateway strategy seeks to increase investment in the secure and resilient digital infrastructures that form the backbone of the internet. Front runners in digital infrastructure will share best practices in financing connectivity— both from financiers’ and implementers’ perspectives. The session will focus on sustainable digital infrastructure investments with developmental impact across sectors, while upholding standards and principles of openness, security and digital sovereignty.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote by Mikael Bäck, Vice-President, Ericsson and Board Member, Digital Europe • Keynote by Christian Eisner, Head of Regional Treasury & Structured Finance EMEA and Global Structured Finance Lead, Nokia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case presentations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jaakko Kangasniemi, CEO, Finnfund 2. Benoit Denis, Senior Economist Digital Infrastructure - Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank 3. Yonas Maru, Founder, Bandwidth and Cloud Services Group (BCS) 4. Ana Chirita, Director, National Association of ICT Companies in Moldova 5. Tanya Cox, Director, Concord • Panel discussion with case presenters and keynote speakers and Q&A with the audience (25min) <p>Moderator: Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga, Co-founder Sehat Kahani</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How do we unlock sustainable investment in digital infrastructures, with developmental impact, while ensuring adequate environmental standards? – How can the Global Gateway strategy promote fundamental European values and principles in the rollout of sustainable connectivity? – How can we foster an investment ecosystem to continue building digital infrastructure, industry, and services in partner countries?
<p>12:45 – 13:45 (60 min)</p>	<p>Networking Lunch</p> <p><i>The standing lunch setup allows for ample networking opportunities between different stakeholders like investors, corporate and DFI representatives, public administrators, and more.</i></p>
<p>13:45 – 14:40 (55 min)</p>	<p>Twin Transition Session 1: Unlocking capital for a green and digital economy and society</p> <p><i>Artificial intelligence, data-guided renewable energy, satellite tech, autonomous drones—technology trends are advancing at speed of light. But the “valley of death” between product development and profit is deep and stifles innovation in digital and green. How can innovative financing leverage technology to tackle environmental and climate challenges?</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote by Thomas Östros, Vice-President, European Investment Bank • Case presentations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael Franz, Team Lead, GET.invest 2. Anne Kästner, Sustainable Finance Specialist, SEB 3. Aya Tarek Helmy, Co-Founder, BENAA Foundation 4. Karin Edström, Investment Manager, Green Tech Almi Invest • Panel discussion with case presenters and keynote speakers and Q&A with the audience (35 min) <p>Moderator: Kaoru Inoue-Belmans, Operations Manager, Africa-Europe Foundation</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How can financing support key innovators who address climate and environmental challenges on a local level? – Which are the barriers to financing high-risk “green and digital” innovation and how can we overcome them? – What is the role of the public sector in facilitating more private sector investments into twin transition?
<p>14:40 – 14:55 (15 min)</p>	<p>Short break</p>
<p>14:55 – 15:45 (50 min)</p>	<p>Twin Transition Session 2: Guarantees, sovereign bonds, blended finance: which mechanisms can advance the green and digital transition?</p> <p><i>This session will showcase different financing mechanisms for the digital and green transition. Small and medium as well as large investors can benefit from instruments like SDG sovereign bonds, guarantees, and blended finance. Speakers will discuss what more is needed to unleash investments in digital transformation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote by Tenke Zoltani, Senior Thematic Debt Advisor, UNDP • Keynote by Paul Horrocks, Lead Manager Private Investment, OECD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case presentations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Franziska Ehm, Global Head of Private Debt and Opportunities, Allianz 2. Dave Okech, Founder & Chief Imagination Officer, Aquarech 3. Maelis Carraro, Managing Partner, Catalyst Fund 4. Samantha Ndiwalana, Senior Researcher, World Benchmarking Alliance • Panel discussion with case presenters and keynote speakers and Q&A with the audience (20 min) <p>Moderator: David Van Dijk, Team Lead, EIB Boost Africa</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the possible routes, vehicles and instruments for financing twin transition and bridging the digital gap? – What opportunities do SDG-sovereign bonds, SDG-corporate bonds, and blended finance represent? – What is the sustainable impact that investors are looking for in twin transition and how can it be measured? – What change and new incentives would you like to see and drive within the next 3 years? – How can companies’ digital sustainable impact be measured?
<p>15.45 – 16:00 (15 min)</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:30 (30 min)</p>	<p>Closing panel: “Getting the money where it needs to be!”</p> <p><i>Following the case presentations and proposals for the way forward, we will once more reflect upon enabling and constraining factors for financing digitalisation as seen from various perspectives. How can we turn financing into meaningful change? How can twin transition and connectivity be implemented faster and fairer to reach the SDGs? How can international partnerships between Europe, Africa, LAC, and Asia-Pacific deliver on Global Gateway investments?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote by Berlotte Ba, Deputy CEO, COO MENA and Africa, Orange

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lacina Koné, Director-General & CEO, Smart Africa 2. Franziska Ehm, Global Head of Private Debt and Opportunities, Allianz 3. Akanksha Sharma, Head of Climate Tech and Digital Utilities, GSMA 4. Carla Montesi, Director, Green Deal and Digital Agenda, DG INTPA, European Commission, Directorate-General for international Partnerships 5. Carin Jämtin, Director-General, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida 1. Moderator: Kudzai Mubaiwa, Board Treasurer, AfriLabs <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are your main takeaways from today? – What should be the next steps?
16:30 – 17:30	Parallel closed-door sessions
16:30 – 17:30 (60 min)	<p>Closed-door session 1: “Investor Roundtable: Bridging the gaps to unlock investments through de-risking and trusted partnerships” (60 min)</p> <p><i>The session aims to provide room to discuss and explore innovative and concrete ways to increase financing for digital transformation. Participants should be organisations with the capacity to invest or de-risk investments. The discussion will be based the learnings, best practices and ideas presented throughout the day, but it will also draw on a recent paper commissioned by the EC on the subject. The paper builds on the work of a focus group made up of European DFIs, interviews with private sector actors as well as EU member states and development agencies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants: Investors • Format: Open moderated roundtable discussion with the goal to identify new approaches and partnerships, as well as a roadmap for continued interaction.
16:30 – 17:30 (60 min)	<p>Closed-door session 2: “Towards the EU-CELAC Summit: engaging Private Sector in the EU-LAC digital investment agenda” (60 min)</p>

In the lead up to the EU-CELAC Summit that will take place in Brussels in July this year, this session will provide an opportunity to discuss private sector engagement opportunities in the EU-LAC digital investment agenda. The meeting will be chaired by Felix Fernández Shaw, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at DG INTPA. We welcome the participation of companies actively present in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

- **Participants:** Private sector companies active in the LAC region
- **Format:** Moderated session

4. Speaker interventions

Unless otherwise specified, the following guidelines can help speakers prepare their interventions:

Keynotes:

- Duration: 5 minutes
- Slides: optional (max. 5)
- Content: As discussed with session organizer

Case presentations:

- Duration: 3 minutes
- Slides: max. 5
- Content: As discussed with session organizer. Generally, a focus on success stories and best practices to facilitate financing, as well as lessons learnt regarding barriers and enabling factors.
- Format: Present your case on stage. Feel free to involve the audience in your presentation to make it more interactive by asking simple questions, to “raise hands if you ever X”, etc.

Panel discussions:

- Questions per speaker: 2-3
- Duration of answer: Ideally, no more than 2 minutes. Keep it short and sweet! Interactivity with other panel members is recommended (reference other speakers’ points, answer questions posed to them if they apply to your circumstances, etc.)
- Content: As discussed with session organizer, oriented towards the “guiding questions” above

5. Target Audience

Proposed stakeholders from both Europe and its **partner countries** are:

- Private sector **digitalisation entrepreneurs**,
- Private sector **financiers/investors**
- **Institutional investors**
- **Civil society**,
- **Government/international/multilateral stakeholders** (partner country authorities, European Commission, EU MS, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), UN, Multilateral Development Banks, development cooperation agencies, and export credit agencies).

6. Key issues to be discussed

- Which are the **mandates and roles** of involved stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for mobilising sustainable financing for investments in digitalisation?
- Which are the **enablers and constraints** as seen from various stakeholder perspectives?
- What can be learned from **cases** where a favourable mix of instruments have been mutually supportive to mobilise sustainable financing for investments in digitalisation and development?

7. Outcome

Departing from opportunities and needs in partner countries:

- Showcase stakeholder opportunities and needs and exemplify how investments can be facilitated,
- Deepened understanding of the roles, mandates and working methods of stakeholders in working with financing of digitalisation,
- Risks and challenges to be addressed in a more coordinated manner to increase investment opportunities,
- Identify elements for a road map that indicates what different stakeholders can do and how to contribute to an increased joint impact.

8. Format

The event will take place in Brussels as a hybrid event with virtual participation possibility. As a multi-stakeholder partnership event, strong emphasis will be placed on physical participation of high-level policymakers and private sector representatives. The exclusive venue will allow for a maximum of 200 physical participants and feature two breakout rooms for closed-door meetings. These rooms can be used for public-private dialogues around investments, policy frameworks, and joint initiatives.

The public interventions will focus on **presentations of best-practice cases of financing for digital development (FFDD)**. Each case should illustrate enablers and constraints with a view to identifying how to overcome constraints and how to leverage enablers. Ideally, each case presented would include input from a combination of stakeholders, e.g., private sector entrepreneurs, financiers, development partners, etc.

Previous and ongoing Team Europe programmes can provide useful blueprints for joint action on FFDD. Therefore, lessons learned from previous and ongoing Team Europe programmes could be a main source of inspiration for the event.

9. Key speakers

The event has already attracted a wide range of **high-profile speakers** and important organizations from around the world. Stakeholders from both **public and private sector, investors, innovators, civil society & academia, and youth** representatives will join in-person and online.

In addition to our rich plenary session offer, the event will feature ample opportunities for **networking** during coffee and lunch breaks, as well as a **closed-door** offering in the afternoon and early evening.

10. Communication

Help us amplify the reach of our event and spread the message by

- disseminating the [event website](#) among your network
- posting about the event on social media using the hashtags **#GlobalGateway**, **#EU2023SE**, **#D4DHub**, and **#FinancingDigital**
- sharing our LinkedIn post on your social media channels

11. Logistics

Please bring a **valid photo ID** with you for registration at the venue.

11.1. Directions to venue

The SQUARE very conveniently sits next door to the main transport hub of Brussels, the Central Station, where train, tram, metro and bus all meet. The **fast train** to the international Brussels Airport takes less than half an hour. The venue also offers a spot for cyclists and recharging facilities for electrical cars. Car drivers will find plenty of secured and covered **parking facilities** under SQUARE or close by.

Please note: Participants should use the **Ravenstein Entrance** to the SQUARE venue, as seen below:



11.2. Accommodation

The SQUARE is centrally located, and suitable accommodation can be found in the near proximity. The following hotels are close by:

- [9Hotel Sablon](#)
- [Hilton Brussels Grand Place](#)
- [Warwick Brussels](#)
- [Bedford Hotel & Congress Center](#)