

# Overview of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

**Mr Lukovi Seke**  
*AUDA-NEPAD*

**Dr Vincenzo Lorusso**  
*European Commission*

AU-EU Innovation Festival,  
Cape Town, 15 June 2023

 **Global  
Gateway**



# Thank you!

**#AUEU #InnovationFestival**  
**#InnovationAgenda #MakingItHappen**  
**#PositiveAgenda**



# Overview of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

LET'S GET IT STARTED!

AU-EU Innovation Festival,  
Cape Town, 15 June 2023

 **Global  
Gateway**



# Slido Question #1

Where do you come from?

# Slido Question #2

What sector do you come from?

1. Higher Education and Research Institutions
2. Start-up or Incubator / Hub
3. Private sector
4. Government
5. NGO or Civil Society Organisation

# Slido Question #3

Did you participate in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder event in November 2022 in Nairobi (or online)?

# Slido Question #4

What is the **keyword** that summarises your expectations and in your interest in today's AU-EU Innovation Festival?



# The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda

*For building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs*

- Mainstay of the **AU-EU Cooperation in R&I** for the next decade, outcome of the **1<sup>st</sup> AU-EU R&I Ministerial** meeting of July 2020.
- Aiming to translate R&I endeavours into **tangible products, services, businesses and jobs** and develop a long-term and sustainable operational **AU-EU R&I cooperation model**.
- Acknowledged in the final Declaration of the **6<sup>th</sup> EU-AU Summit – A Joint Vision for 2030**; final version endorsed by a **AU-EU Senior Officials Meeting** of May 2023.
- **Currently in the process of adoption.**
- Flagship initiative of **The Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package**.

 **Global  
Gateway**





# The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda

*For building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs*

- [Working document](#) of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda drafted through a comprehensive concerted “**Team Africa-Europe**” work, involving the AU and EU Member States and Commissions, in the framework of the **AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**.

## 4 objectives:



### Make it real

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



### Generate impact by design

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



### Strengthen people, communities & institutions

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



### Learn, monitor, and scale it up

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



**Short-, medium- and long-term set of actions**, according to four joint priority areas:

- Public Health*
  - Green Transition*
  - Innovation & Technology*
  - Capacities for Science*
- + the additional
- Cross-cutting issues*

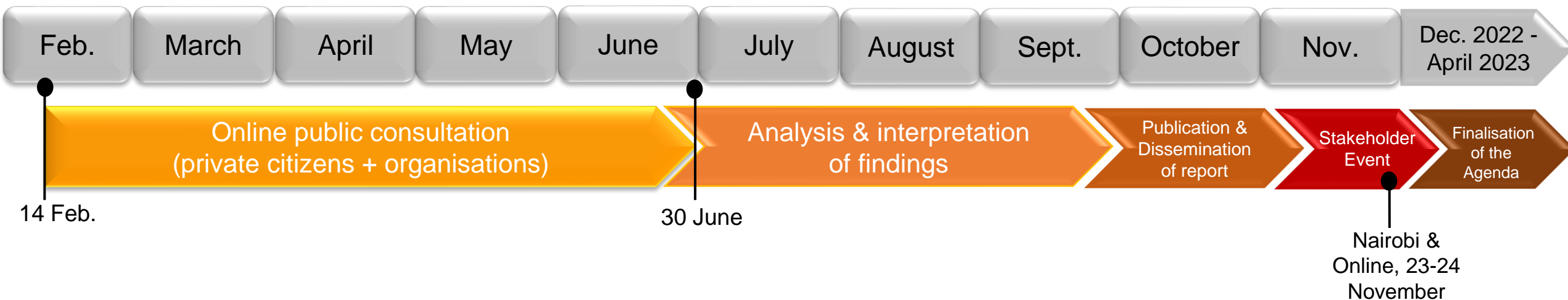


Mapping of **gaps & needs** for each priority area

- Working document published in **February 2022**, under public consultation until **30 June 2022**, further discussed with Stakeholders over a ‘**Stakeholder Dialogue Process**’ throughout the year 2022, culminated in the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event](#) in November 2022 in Nairobi.
- **Final version** of the Agenda prepared through a continued concerted “Team Africa-Europe”, building on the feedback and input received from Stakeholders.

# Year 2022: Stakeholder Dialogue Process

- The year 2022 entailed a (multi-sectoral) **Stakeholder Dialogue Process**, to ensure the final version of the Innovation Agenda will address actual societal needs.
- Several initiatives planned:



Throughout the year: Engagement of and discussions with Stakeholders across all sectors in both Europe and Africa (and beyond) through webinars, conferences, events, publications and ad-hoc meetings.



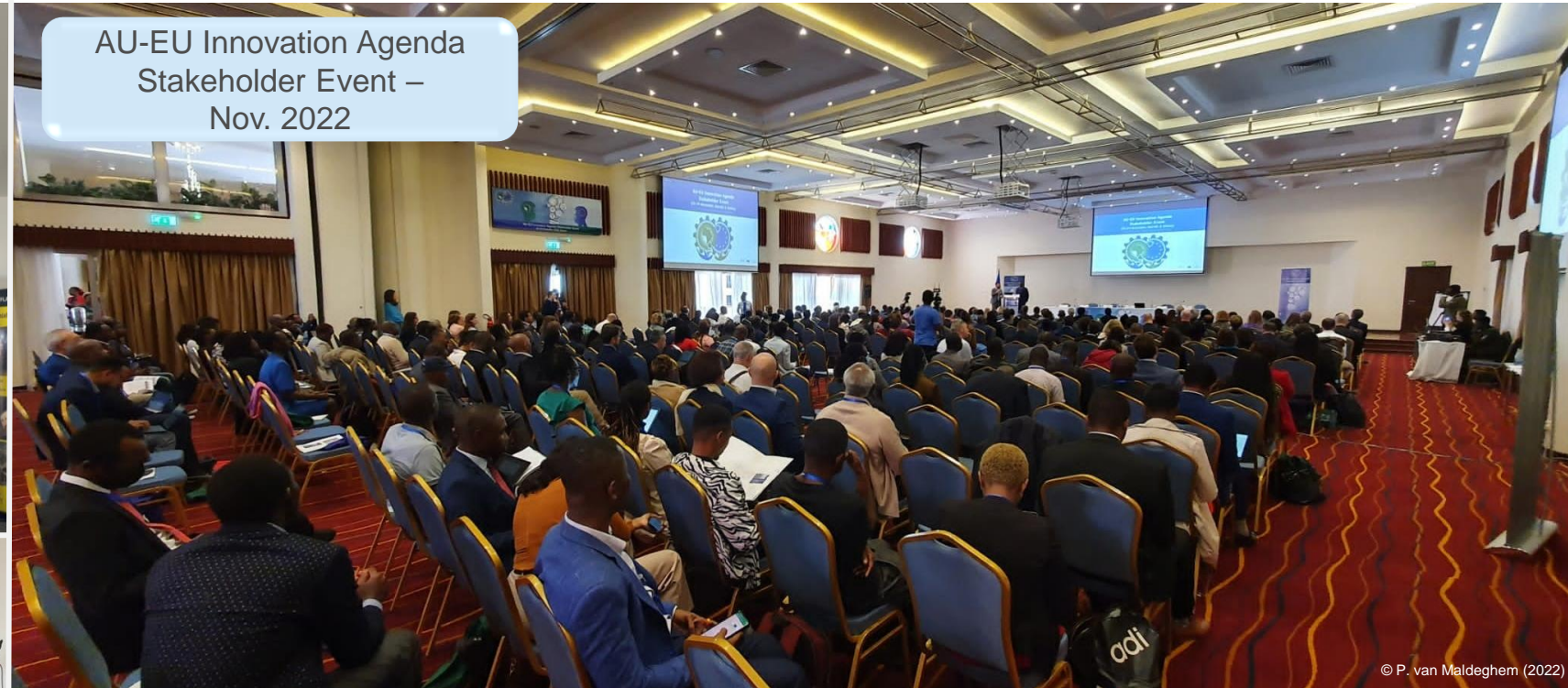
# Year 2022: Stakeholder Dialogue Process

UNGA77 8th  
Science Summit –  
Sept. 2022



© V. Lorusso (2022)

AU-EU Innovation Agenda  
Stakeholder Event –  
Nov. 2022



© P. van Maldeghem (2022)



© V. Lorusso (2022)



© P. van Maldeghem (2022)



# 8 parallel Thematic Workshops according to the 4 priority areas



© V. Lorusso (2022)



© V. Lorusso (2022)



© V. Lorusso (2022)

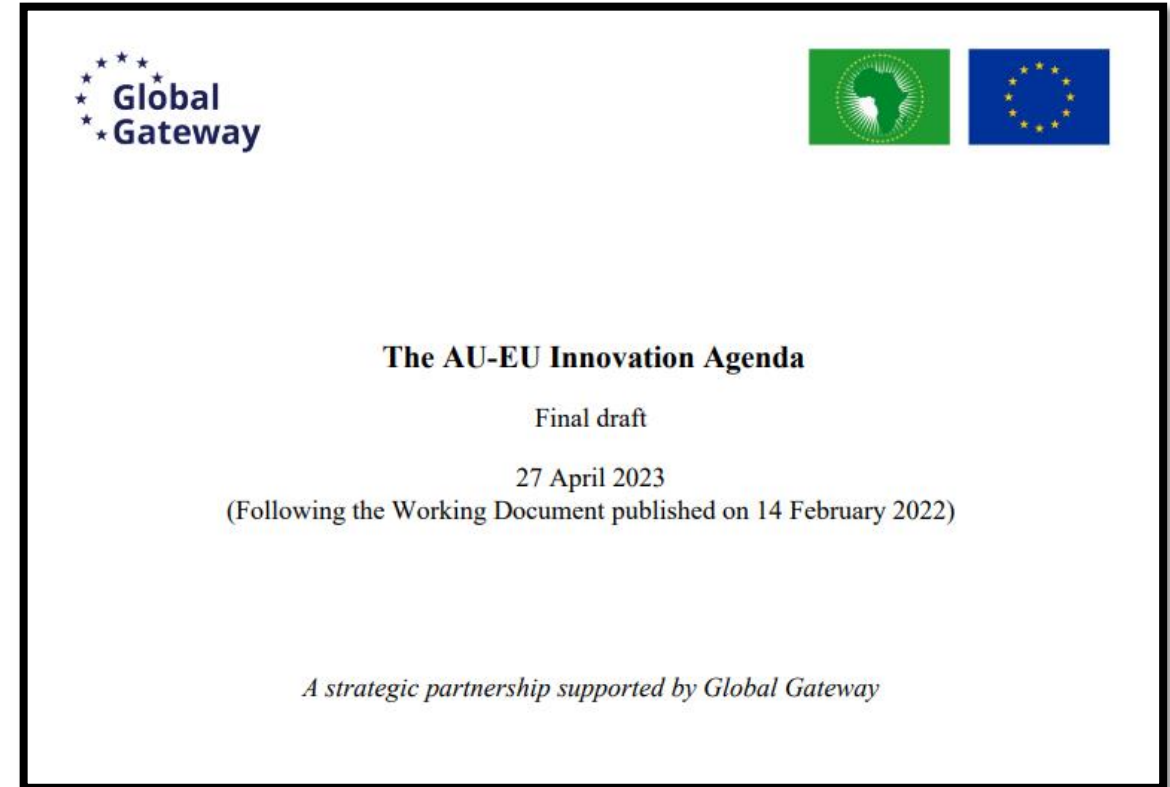




# Structure of the *Final Draft* of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

1. Policy Content
2. Objectives (n=4)
3. Actions
  - 3.1 Short-term
  - 3.2 Medium-term
  - 3.3 Long-term
4. Monitoring & Evaluation
5. Roadmap
6. Annex 1: Summary of needs and gaps

Additional sections were addressed through a supplementary '**Roadmap Document**' composed of 5 sections



# AU-EU Innovation Agenda, Final Draft

- Final version taking into account:
  - Feedback and input provided by stakeholders (quantitatively and qualitatively) on the Draft Agenda, throughout the year 2022
  - Additional comments by Members of the HLPD Bureau
- How the updated version compares with the draft AU-EU Innovation Agenda:
  1. **Same objectives** (n=4), with some expansions and specifications
  2. **More actions**, across priority areas, especially for the short-term
  3. Some of the **existing actions** were **strengthened, fine-tuned**
  4. **Additional needs & gaps** identified (with respective actions addressing them)
  5. A 'living' **Roadmap** document was added.

# Updated Objectives (still 4, same titles, expanded language\*)



## 1. Make it real

Translate innovative capacities and achievements into tangible outputs **across sectors**, supporting sustainable growth and jobs, in particular for the youth. **Ensure that also local innovation, grassroots' projects and less codified forms of knowledge** are taken into account, leveraging also knowledge from humanities and social sciences.



## 2. Generate impact by design

**Foster - strengthen innovation ecosystems to enhance socio-economic impact**, through exchange of knowledge, technology, competences, human resources and experience. **To achieve this, openness in science and innovation will be enhanced, while entrepreneurship, joint ventures, PPPs, support to incubation and access to funding for R&I will be strengthened, aiming for just twin (digital and green) transitions.**



## 3. Strengthen people, communities & institutions

**Develop sustainable, long lasting and mutually beneficial higher education and R&I partnerships** between AU and EU partners. **In doing so, care will be taken in involving also the African Diaspora, and in empowering communities, also through citizen science initiatives, aiming for gender balance. Special care will be paid to training of researchers and recognition of curricula, as well as to strengthening R&I infrastructures and cooperation therein, considering the need for creating and sustaining employment opportunities and job attractiveness for youth and women.**



## 4. Learn, monitor, and scale it up

**Scale-up instruments that can take forward existing successful bilateral or multilateral programmes and projects between AU and EU, enable - strengthen the knowledge triangle of education, R&I & place special focus on public participation, transparency, and inclusion particularly for the youth, women and vulnerable groups, advancing knowledge and fostering entrepreneurship and co-creation, to limit and counteract talent drain. A special effort will be put in ensuring the full involvement of all actors in the innovation ecosystem (science, citizens, industry and policy).**

\*Here presented as a summary, a slightly more expanded language will be found in the Agenda – additional/amended text in red.

# Needs and gaps analysis identified five areas:



**A** The innovation ecosystem



**B** Innovation management



**C** Knowledge exchange,  
including technology transfer



**D** Access to finance



**E** Human capacity development

Throughout all the aforementioned areas of needs and gaps, the importance of engaging the **African diaspora** in Europe (and elsewhere) is recognised as crucial for knowledge and experience sharing for developing expertise and innovations in Africa and Europe.



# Slido Question #5:

Looking at the upcoming implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, to which of the priority areas of the Innovation Agenda, do you believe your work will contribute the most? (Multiple choices are possible)

1. Public Health
2. Green Transition
3. Innovation & Technology
4. Capacities for Science
5. Cross-cutting issues

# Short-term Actions



## Cross-cutting

- 1 Networking of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms
- 2 Pro-active involvement of citizens in the innovation ecosystems
- 3 Fostering the participation of financing partners
- 4 Create easily accessible and widely available microcredit schemes for researchers & innovators



## Public Health

- 1 Support to Health R&I outputs to turn into relevant products, policy guidance and services
- 2 Developing joint R&I agendas on health priorities, enhancing best practices and common standards, using emerging tech (e.g. genomics, digitalisation, ICT internet of things, robotics, AI) encompassing communicable and non-communicable diseases (including, among others, poverty related-neglected diseases, antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses) as well as mental health, in infants, youth and adults



## Green Transition

- 1 Identifying/Sharing climate resilience and adaptation practices (SDGs 13) during consultative meetings
- 2 Developing/transferring and supporting the market uptake of innovative renewable energy solution and use devices, suitable for easy and prompt adoption by 'energy communities'
- 3 Supporting the development of innovative climate services through a new "space STI cooperation" action for risk reduction at local and regional level
- 4 Fostering the development and enhancement of sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems value chains
- 5 Supporting the development and scale up of efficient and sustainable management of water resources
- 6 Supporting the development and scale up of efficient and sustainable management of cultural heritage and cultural practices, encouraging a green management of cultural and natural heritage



## Innovation & Technology

- 1 Supporting research and innovation cooperation between AU and EU research organizations and companies (in particular SMEs) from low tech to high tech
- 2 Supporting tech/innovation hubs, networks, & operations of accelerators and incubators
- 3 Linking science with education, by promoting a culture of innovation and scientific communication programmes at all education levels



## Capacities for Science

- 1 Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU Higher Education / Governmental institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities
- 2 Improving transparency/recognition of qualifications/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility
- 3 Setting up training programmes in the priority areas of AU-EU cooperation in R&I to increase youth's employability
- 4 Fostering the development of high-performing digital education systems and upgrade digital skills and competences for digital transformation

# Medium-term Actions



## Cross-Cutting

- ① Re-skilling / upskilling citizens to profit from innovation and technologies to prevent inequalities and / or discriminations (SDGs 8-9-13)
- ② Ensuring sustainability of research mobility programmes by providing conducive support infrastructures for scholars returning to Africa to create jobs / entrepreneurship/start-ups



## Public Health

- ① Ensuring tech-transfer and improving and developing affordable, equitably available and accessible and quality vaccine, medicines and health technologies
- ② Ensuring the development of specific training curricula and capacity building throughout the value chain of health technologies



## Green Transition

- ① Fostering digital applications and green technologies to enhance climate resilience and adaptation for agricultural and agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption
- ② Developing in Africa renewable fuels energy in a changing world for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- ③ Catalysing the development of circular economy strategy and policies in both FNSSA and CCSE
- ④ Developing citizen science and engage key players to reduce unprecedented climate risks in line with the climate adaptation pillar of the CCSE partnership



## Innovation & Technology

- ① Enhancing R&I infrastructure and manufacturing capacity in Africa, so to strengthen supply and value chains within the continent, to enable also the fulfilment of medium- and long-term of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda



## Capacities for Science

- ① Promoting joint master/doctoral degrees between AU-EU universities, mobility of researchers
- ② Creating enabling STI environment for sustainable innovation ecosystems (Quadruple helix actors)

# Long-term Actions



## Cross-cutting

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



## Public Health

- ① Designing and implementing new methods and tools to **monitor, prevent and** counteract future health threats (long standing/re-emerging/antimicrobial resistant pathogens **as well as chronic diseases**), promoting One Health and precision medicine, in a changing environment, **embedding the mental health dimension in this approach**



## Green Transition

- ① Improving the agricultural innovation ecosystem to ~~co-invest in start-ups and agro-SME~~ strengthen capacities of actors to co-design, co-invest and **scale up and employ innovative technologies and methodologies through a multi-stakeholder approach, engaging the private sector and fostering PPPs in the areas of FNSSA and CCSE**, enhancing capacity for **job creation in agriculture / fisheries** and for proactive innovation policy



## Innovation & Technology

- ① **Reinforcing and** Facilitating inclusive / affordable access to world-class R&I infrastructures
- ② Dissemination of knowledge through digital transformation



## Capacities for Science

- ① Bridging R&I in fostering the emergence of new or strengthening of existing centres of excellence
- ② Modernising and reinforcing R&D & Higher education systems (RHESs)



# ‘Roadmap’ document of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

- A “**living document**” supplementing the final version of the AU - EU Innovation Agenda.
- It consists of **5 sections** illustrating:
  - 1. Governance** of the Innovation Agenda
  - 2. Monitoring & Evaluation** methodology
  - 3. Inventory of relevant past and present AU and EU initiatives on science, technology and innovation** on which the Innovation Agenda will build
  - 4. Results of the mapping of joint AU - EU R&I projects in the area of FNSSA**, assessed for their innovation and business potential and unmet needs to be addressed for their potential scale up
  - 5. A “toolkit” for initiatives that will implement the Agenda that will enable the implementation** of the short-, medium- and long-term actions of the Innovation Agenda



## Roadmap of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

April 2023

*A strategic partnership supported by Global Gateway*



# 5. Toolkit for initiatives that will implement the Agenda

## Checklists proposed

### Programmes / projects / partnerships



1. Alignment with one or multiple objectives of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.
2. Fall under one of the actions of the 4 thematic areas (i.e. Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation & Technology and Capacities for Science) or the area of “Cross-cutting issues”, as they are defined in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.
3. Include an action plan and already one or more secured funding sources (i.e. project/programme/partnership ready to start).
4. Ensure AU-EU co-ownership, whether financial or in-kind, from conceptualisation to implementation and M&E of results.
5. When possible, catalyse synergies with other initiatives, triggering collaboration among multiple funders (e.g. AU, EU and beyond).
6. Provide tangible/measurable socio-economic development, either directly or indirectly, in Africa and/or Europe (with clear economic, social and environmental Key Performance Indicators included in the programming).
7. Include a clear sustainability component, with an action plan being foreseen also for the aftermath of the initiative.
8. Aim for active local engagement and uptake of proposed innovative solutions.
9. Empower youth and/or women and/or vulnerable groups and their entrepreneurship.
10. Foresee a clear inclusive communication package (on action plan, results and impact) for the general public/civil society, at local level too.

### (Educational and Research) Scholarships

1. Alignment with one or multiple objectives of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.
2. Fall under one of the actions of the 4 thematic areas (i.e. Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation & Technology and Capacities for Science) or the area of “Cross-cutting issues”, as they are defined in the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.
3. Include one or more secured funding sources (i.e. scholarship programme ready to start).
4. For research scholarships: ensure Africa-Europe co-ownership, whether financial or in-kind, from conceptualisation to implementation and M&E of results.
5. When possible, catalyse synergies with other scholarship schemes (e.g. AU, EU and beyond).
6. Provide tangible/measurable socio-economic development, either directly or indirectly, in Africa and/or Europe (with clear economic, social and environmental Key Performance Indicators included in the programming).
7. Include a clear sustainability component, for the aftermath of the scholarship programme (e.g. future training by those who were trained; measures to counteract talent drain).
8. Entail research and/or curricular activities involving at least one African and one European institution.
9. Empower youth and/or women and/or vulnerable groups and their entrepreneurship.
10. Foresee a clear inclusive communication package (on scholarship scheme, beneficiaries and results) for the general public/civil society, at local level too.

# 5. Toolkit for initiatives that will implement the Agenda

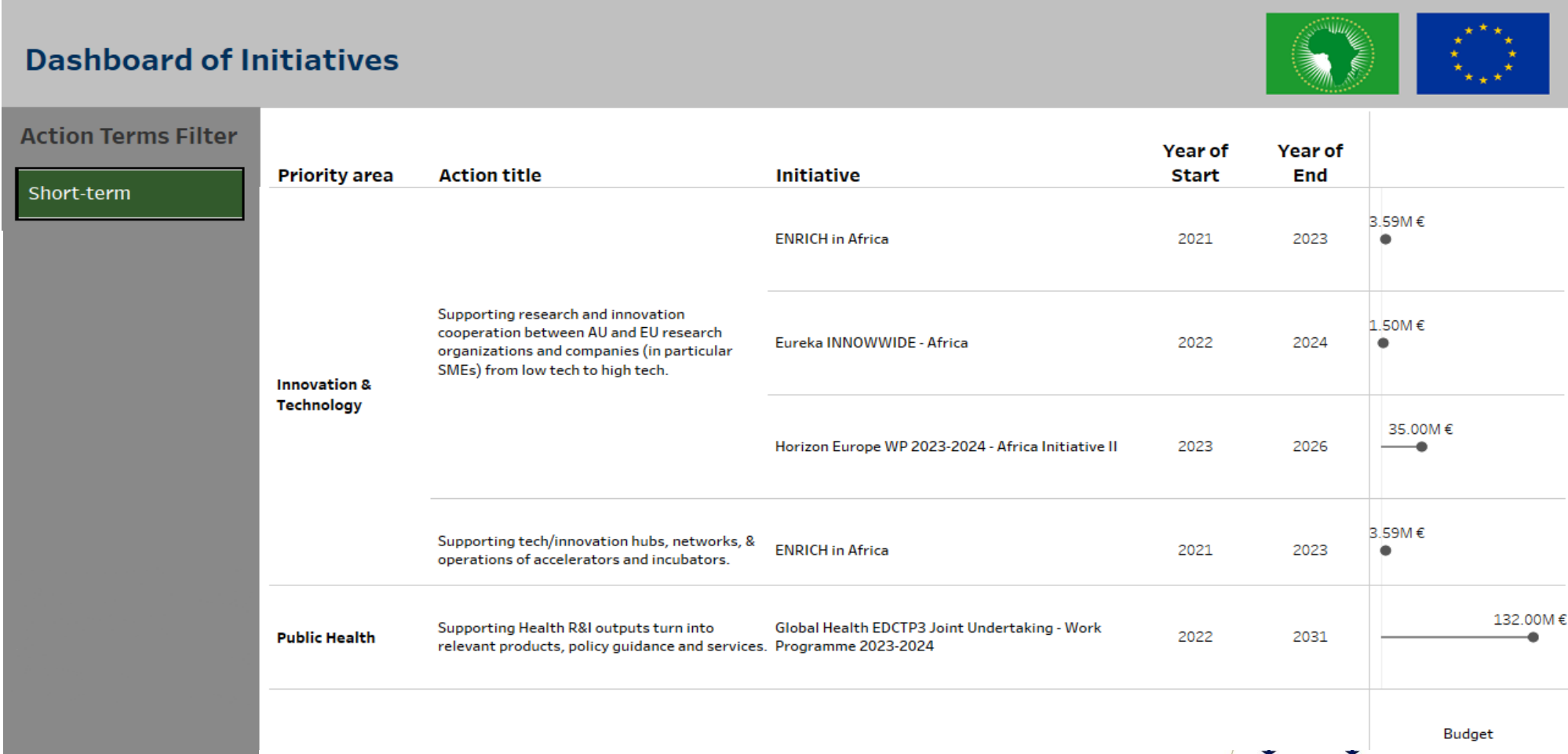
## “Dashboard” of initiatives (sample, 1 of 2)

Dashboard of Initiatives							
Action Terms Filter		Priority area	Action title	Initiative	Year of Start	Year of End	
<b>Short-term</b>		Capacities for Science	Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU HE/Gov. institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities.	Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 - Africa Initiative II - The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform	2024	2028	2.50M €
Medium-Term							104.00M €
Long-Term		Cross-cutting	Networking of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms.	Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 - Africa Initiative II - The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform	2024	2026	2.50M €
							4.00M €
		Green Transition	Fostering the development and enhancement of sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems value chains.	Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 - Africa Initiative II - Support for the implementation of a sustainable platform for the EU-AU cooperation under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership	2023	2027	4.00M €
							0.15M €
		Green Transition	Developing and transferring innovative renewable energy production and use devices, suitable for easy and prompt adoption by 'energy communities'.	Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 - Africa Initiative II - Accelerating the green transition and energy access in Africa	2024	2029	20.00M €
							10.00M €
		Green Transition	Supporting the development of innovative climate services through a new "space STI cooperation" action for risk reduction at local and regional level.	Horizon Europe WP 2023-2024 - Africa Initiative II	2023	2026	152.00M €



# 5. Toolkit for initiatives that will implement the Agenda

## “Dashboard” of initiatives (sample, 2 of 2)



# Acknowledgements

- EC-AUC co-chairs & Bureau Members of the EU/AU HLPD-STI
- Ad-hoc Innovation Agenda Working Group of the AU-EU HLPD Bureau on STI and its dedicated Taskforce team (Team Africa-Europe)
- Participating EC, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD Directorates and/or Departments, such as
  - EC DGs RTD, INTPA, EAC, JRC, EEAS
  - AUC Departments of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
  - AUDA-NEPAD, through both Technical Cooperation & Programme Funding (TCPF, CEO's Office) and Programme Innovation and Planning Directorate (PIPD)
- AU & EU MS experts (Team Africa and Team Europe)
- All Stakeholders involved (from AU, EU and beyond)