



ARCHIPELAGO

an African-European partnership
for vocational training

Project funded by the European Union



ARCHIPELAGO
A joint African and European private
sector initiative for vocational training
and the integration of the youth in Africa



20 projects competitively selected

managed by African and European
business support organisations (BSOs)
and training centres

45

African partners

40

European partners

10,500

direct beneficiaries – youth,
entrepreneurs and business support
organisations (BSOs)

15 million euros

For a duration of 58 months from
January 2019



The ARCHIPELAGO programme, funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen the employability of the youth and the entrepreneurial capacity of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in 12 target countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad region. The approach is based on partnerships between African and European private sector organisations, together with technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres, joining hands to implement dual vocational and entrepreneurship trainings and support to integration of young people into the African labour market.

The 20 projects are implemented by consortia comprising a total of 45 African and 40 European partners in a wide range of economic sectors, including agriculture, agroindustry, hospitality, construction, electricity, solar energy, port logistics, textile and crafts.



Employability of young people

ARCHIPELAGO is an inclusive economic development programme that focuses on the employability of young people and the most vulnerable groups, improving their professional skills and increasing their chances to access the labour market.

Private sector initiative

The ARCHIPELAGO Programme aims to provide young people with trainings and skills that match the labour market and the needs of the private sector.

Africa-Europe partnerships

ARCHIPELAGO's approach is that of an institutional partnership: African business support organisations and training centres connect with their European counterparts in order to impart important knowledge and skills to young people.

Entrepreneurship and dual vocational training

Following an open and transparent selection process, the partnership projects develop adapted entrepreneurship and dual (workplace and TVET centre) vocational training programmes. The acquisition of skills and aptitudes is validated by a certification.



7,130

young people trained in dual vocational training (of which 40% are women)

3,000

persons trained in entrepreneurship



New TVET programmes developed or adapted and improved



60

new relevant services developed and provided by BSOs



46,000

indirect beneficiaries

11,500

direct beneficiaries

Major Indicators



1,800

company directors sensitized on work-based learning



60

local business issues taken up by business support organisations (BSOs) in Public-Private Dialogue



30

training providers and

20

BSOs mobilised, trained and strengthened to provide better TVET services



800

MSMEs involved in identification of skills gaps

A message from the partners of the Consortium on the recognition and sustainability of the ARCHIPELAGO Programme

Launched in 2019, the Archipelago Programme has proven that the involvement of the African and European private sectors is particularly effective when it comes to creating sustainable and quality jobs on the African continent. Vocational and entrepreneurship trainings are, from our point of view, major means of ensuring development.

Our three organizations, sequa gGmbH, Eurochambres and CPCCAF would like to express their gratitude to all the private and public players who are supporting the 20 vocational and entrepreneurship training projects that have been set up in the countries of the Sahel and the Lake Chad region.

We are also thankful for the support of the European Commission and the confidence of its teams dedicated to external action and to international partnerships.

The mid-term evaluation commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships states in its final report issued in March 2022 that Archipelago is an innovative, efficient, and effective approach worth continuing and appreciates the fundamentals of the programme:

- The dual training as vector for economic and social integration, provided by professionals to the target populations (young people and in particular women)
- An approach based on a prior diagnosis, allowing for a good understanding of the ecosystems in which the private sector is operating while also identifying the market needs and opportunities for each value chain, in order to be able to build concrete actions between African and European private sector stakeholders.
- A support to intermediary bodies (employers' associations, chambers, business associations, etc.) in partnership with their networks of vocational training centres, through an Africa-Europe institutional partnership approach.

The European Commission's ambitious EU-Africa strategy states "*We need to partner with Africa, our twin continent, to tackle together the challenges of the 21st century and to further our common interests and future*". Taking into account this ambition and the lessons learned, we are ready to explore additional thematic avenues for the continuation of Archipelago, incorporating green growth and digital subjects, and to widen its geographical scope across the African continent, generating new or reinforcing existing partnerships between European and African stakeholders.



best regards,
Gebhard Weiss

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Luc Frieden

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Burkina Faso



Cameroon



Chad



Ghana



Ivory Coast



Mali



Mauritania



Niger



Senegal





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