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Online event

Agenda for an AU-EU partnership for investment

Online, 13 July 2020, 3 pm – 5 pm (CEST)

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The COVID-19 pandemic is causing unprecedented socio-economic consequences. In Africa, economic growth is expected to decline from 2.4% in 2019 to -2.1 to -5.1% in 2020, household welfare losses will range from 7% to 10% on average, about 19 to 22 million jobs could be lost. Already before the Corona pandemic a huge knowledge gap existed with respect to potentially viable development pathways for African countries as development pathways that European and Asian countries used in the past to promote broad-based and productive transformation offer little guidance for today's policymakers in Africa.

Many external actors have responded by launching and/or supporting policy initiatives to promote private investments and investments in infrastructure. The EU has initiated the Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs, EU member states have launched the German Marshall Plan with Africa or the French Choose Africa initiative. As a result of the Corona pandemic, the fiscal space of (African) countries is shrinking and private companies could be more hesitant to invest. At the same time, well established global value chains are reorganising which might open windows of opportunities for African companies, replacements of fossil resources with biomaterials could be accelerated or digital technologies that reduce transaction costs more easily available.

In this context, the purpose of the expert round table is to discuss in which sectors and policy fields African and international investments might be most useful to support structural transformation and decent job creation. In particular, specific opportunities for the EU and AU to establish concrete (joint) initiatives to support sustainable investment and decent jobs creation in Africa, as well as to discuss enabling policy environments and conditions that would facilitate such initiatives to emerge.

The event is part of a series of policy briefs and online events ahead of the AU-EU summit, jointly organized by the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), and the European Center for Development Policy and Management (ECDPM) with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

By invitation only. For more information on this event contact [Tilman Altenburg](#), Head of Programme at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).