



Policy Forum on Development

Thematic Webinar Digitalisation

Barbara BARONE

DEVCO C.5 - Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation,
Infrastructures

barbara.barone@ec.europa.eu

3rd Nov 2020

1- EU Vision on Digitalisation

[...]The world we want to live in. A world where we use digital technologies to build a healthier, greener society.[...]

President VDL State of the Union Speech 2020

- Digitalisation is a new strategic priority for the European Commission
- International partnerships are crucial to achieve EU ambitions in the domain of digitalisation
- Digitalisation is crucial to achieve the key priorities of International Partnerships (Green Deals, Sustainable Jobs and Growth, Migration and Mobility, Governance and Security, etc), the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- Focus on its impact on Inequalities, women and youth.

2- EU Digital Policy Framework

The transition from 2014-2020 MFF to 2021-2027 MFF

- 2017: the new European Consensus on Development & Staff Working Document on Digital4Development: Mainstreaming Digital Technologies and Services into EU Development Policy
- 2018/2019: Africa-Europe Digital Economy Partnership and the Report of the AU-EU Digital Economy Task Force
- 2019: “A Europe fit for the digital age” becomes a priority for the European Commission
- 2020: EU Digital Policy Package (Communication on Shaping Europe’s Digital Future; European Strategy on Data; White Paper on Artificial Intelligence); Team Europe Approach and Digital Response to Covid-19 (including EC recommendation on a common Union toolbox); 5G Toolbox; Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027); Digital Services Act (announced); Global digital cooperation strategy (announced);

3. EU Digital Strategy

The Communication on Shaping Europe's Digital Future



The EU will:

- ◆ aim to become a **global role model** for the digital economy;
- ◆ **support developing economies** in going digital;
- ◆ develop **digital standards** and promote them internationally.

Follow-up Actions (2020-21)

- Global Digital Cooperation Strategy



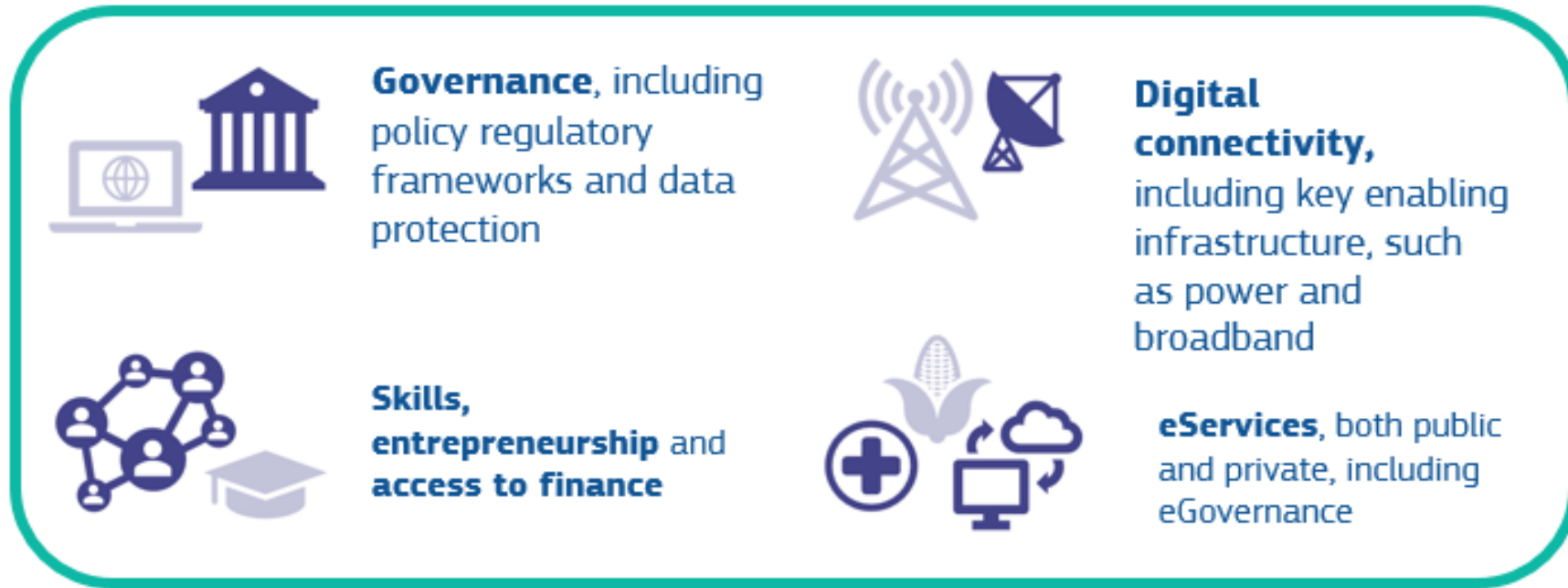
3. EU Digital Strategy

The Communication on Shaping Europe's Digital Future



4. EU Digital Strategy – D4D

The Four-Pillar Approach of Digital4Development (D4D)



**Projects
Grants
Blending
EFSD Guarantees**

Mainstreaming
Mapping of over **200 DEVCO projects**
with digital components

4. EU Digital Strategy – D4D

Towards Programming - building on D4D experience (2017-2020):



Strategic evaluation, diagnostics & identification (Strategic evaluation on Digitalisation in SSA; Digital4Women; Country-specific State of Play of Digitalisation)



Thematic Support to HQ and Delegations (Training/webinar and guidelines on digitalisation and digital mainstreaming in various sectors e.g. eGovernance, eAgriculture, eEducation, digital&green, etc; development of Digital Internal marker; work on revision of the EURF; etc)



Team Europe Approach and Digital Response to COVID-19 (about EUR 60 Mln rapid response projects fostering digital connectivity, digital innovation in support of the healthcare and education sectors, or fighting disinformation and fake news, etc)



Multistakeholder Dialogue and Partnerships (EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force; D4D Hub)

4. EU Digital Strategy – D4D

The Digital4Development (D4D) Hub - global and regional branches



a **strategic platform for EU coordination** (EC, EU MS, IFIs, private sector, civil society and academia)

It aims at creating **opportunities for dialogue, partnerships and investments** to advance the digital transformation in partner countries.

By building on joint **digital expertise and networks** and by enhancing regional and global **partnerships** in the area of digital transformation

organised in **three regional branches**: (1) Africa, 2) Asia and the Pacific; and 3) Latin America & the Caribbean.

4. EU Digital Strategy – D4D

The “Africa-Europe D4D Hub” pilot

- **Already operational**
- **Officially launched in Dec. 2020**
- It offers: **(i) Demand-driven technical assistance** to support identification & implementation of digitalisation priority actions; **(ii) Knowledge sharing on best practices;** **(iii) inter-African and African-EU collaboration** for increased partnerships, investment and policy dialogue;
- 5 EU MS (DE, BE, LUX, EE, FR); African Partners: Africa Union, Smart Africa
- A key instrument for the implementation of the Digital programmes under next MFF and good experience in the pre-programming phase and COVID-19 response

4. EU Digital Strategy – D4D

Level of intervention

- **Country level:** bulk of the work (in line with geographisation and policy first principles); for programming we will build on the work done with the Team Europe Initiatives (pre-programming phase);
- **Regional/ continental:** e.g. EU-AU Data Flagship - contributing to the development of the Africa Data economy
- **Global:** scaling-up partnership (D4D Hub global), serving the EU ambition of being stronger global actor and a champion of multilateralism

Thank you!