

REGIONAL

ACJ


AFRICA CREATES JOBS

2021

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

26-27 AUG

WEST AFRICA



Skills and Jobs
for West Africa's Economic Growth

① — ② — ③ — ④ — ⑤ — ⑥

CONCEPT NOTE

The African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), held the inaugural “Africa Talks Jobs (ATJ)” in 2017, as a dialogue platform to develop a continental answer to youth employment and skills promotion. Amongst the key partners mobilised was Business Africa as the continental body representing private sector employers. To date, through this partnership, efforts are underway to continue to strengthen public and private sector partnerships to improve employment prospects for youth. In 2019, stakeholders at the Africa Talks Jobs Conference agreed to re-orientate the dialogue towards ‘Africa Creates Jobs’ in the spirit of mobilizing and further strengthening partnerships to transform and scale up skills development delivery and employment creation.

This programme is co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



As the continent faces the challenges of adjusting to an economic recovery post the Covid-19 pandemic, policy makers are also grappling with how to spur growth through opportunities for expanded industrialization, markets and trade brought about through adoption of the new African Continental Free Trade Agreement. With these prospects in sight, this year the Africa Creates Jobs dialogue will take place in **November 2021**, under the theme **'Skills and Jobs for Africa's Economic Growth'**, to explore how the envisaged growth could meet the demand for over 20 million jobs that the continent needs per year. This year's dialogue will focus on:

- The current macroeconomic conditions and key growth sectors for job creation.
- Creating better linkages between industry and skills development to ensure skills meet the market needs of the current context.
- Pathways for integration of skills from the informal sector for mainstream socio-economic development.
- Clear linkages between the National, Regional and Continental priorities in the implementation of Continental Technical Vocational Education and Training Strategy to foster youth employment; and the TVET Decade Plan of Action.

Bringing together stakeholders from the business community, higher education, TVET and secondary schools, civil society, youth organizations and policy makers, the 2021 Africa Creates Jobs will contribute to stakeholders meeting the challenge of **'Skills and Jobs for Africa's Economic Growth'**.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

As a prelude to the Continental Africa Creates Jobs conference, online workshops will be organized in 5 African regions to share knowledge and experience among Member States. Information from these workshops should guide investment decisions by Member States as they select sub-sectors prone to boost employment in a Covid-19 environment. Regional workshops will also provide opportunities for cross-regional lessons learned which will be aggregated at the continental level to feed into the continental ACJ in November 2021. The main input documents will be the Macro-economic analysis and Rapid Skills Assessment Reports which were undertaken in 8 African Union Member States, which present possible scenarios of job growth potentials along national productive sectors. These reports will be shared before the meeting.





THE WEST AFRICA REGIONAL ACJ

Businesses, policy makers, TVET schools, secondary and higher education professionals, youth organizations and civil society from West Africa will come together on **August 26th & 27th 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm** (West African Time) to discuss **'Skills and Jobs for West Africa's Economic Growth'**.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the West Africa Region saw a sharp drop in its economic growth rate from 5,8% in 2019 to 0,9% in 2020. However, for 2021, with a number of key measures, the West African Economic and Monetary Union targets growth of 5,8%.

In this context, businesses are seeking to adapt to new market needs and new business processes. The demand for capacities in leadership, change management, digitalization and remote work is skyrocketing, yet these skills are in limited supply.

As the West African region adjusts to this new economic challenges, key questions arise:

- **What are the key sectors of the economy that can ensure growth and create jobs?**
- **What are the skills needed to drive growth and competitiveness in these sectors?**
- **What are the linkages, policies and practices needed to create the synergy among public and private stakeholders to seize these opportunities?**
- **What are the key lessons from the experience of the East African Community in facilitating economic growth and job creation?**

Join the discussions to reflect, learn and share your experiences in order to determine policies and strategies for your region.

MEETING STRUCTURE AND APPROACH

The West Africa Regional ACJ will be held **online**, using the **Zoom platform**. **ASP YEE** (African Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship) will be used to share information including reports and good practices.

Key Reference documents will be shared prior to the meeting to ease remote participation and better understanding of presentations.

The online workshop will be held **August 26th & 27th, 2021, from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm (WAT)**, following the agenda below:

DAY 1	
Timing	Modules
10.00 - 10.30	Module 1 - Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks (AUC, ECOWAS, BA Regional representative) • Introduction of participants • Workshop Objectives and Framework
10.30 - 11.30	Module 2 – Macroeconomic trends for West Africa Key findings from macroeconomic and labor market analysis studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continental trends • Specificities of the Regional economy • Informal economy in the region • Discussion
11.30 - 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 - 12.45	Module 3 – Skills for West Africa Growth Sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Growth Sectors for West Africa • Skills requirements for Growth Sectors • Integrating Skills from the Informal Sector • Discussion
12.45 - 13.00	Conclusion - Day 1 Wrap up Evaluation of Day 1
DAY 2	
10.00 - 10.15	Module 1 - Introduction Brief summary of Day 1 Workshop Objectives and Framework
10.15 - 11.30	Module 4 - Adapting recommendations to the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of key recommendations • Reflections from the ECOWAS Secretariat Stakeholder dialogue to develop recommendations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply side (TVET) • Private sector • Informal sector • Governments (Measuring Demand, Business Environment, etc.)
11.30 - 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 - 12.30	Module 4 - Adapting recommendations to the region (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from groups • Perspectives from ECOWAS • Regional recommendations to the Continental ACJ
12.30 - 13.00	Module 5 – Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Way Forward • Evaluation • Closing remarks