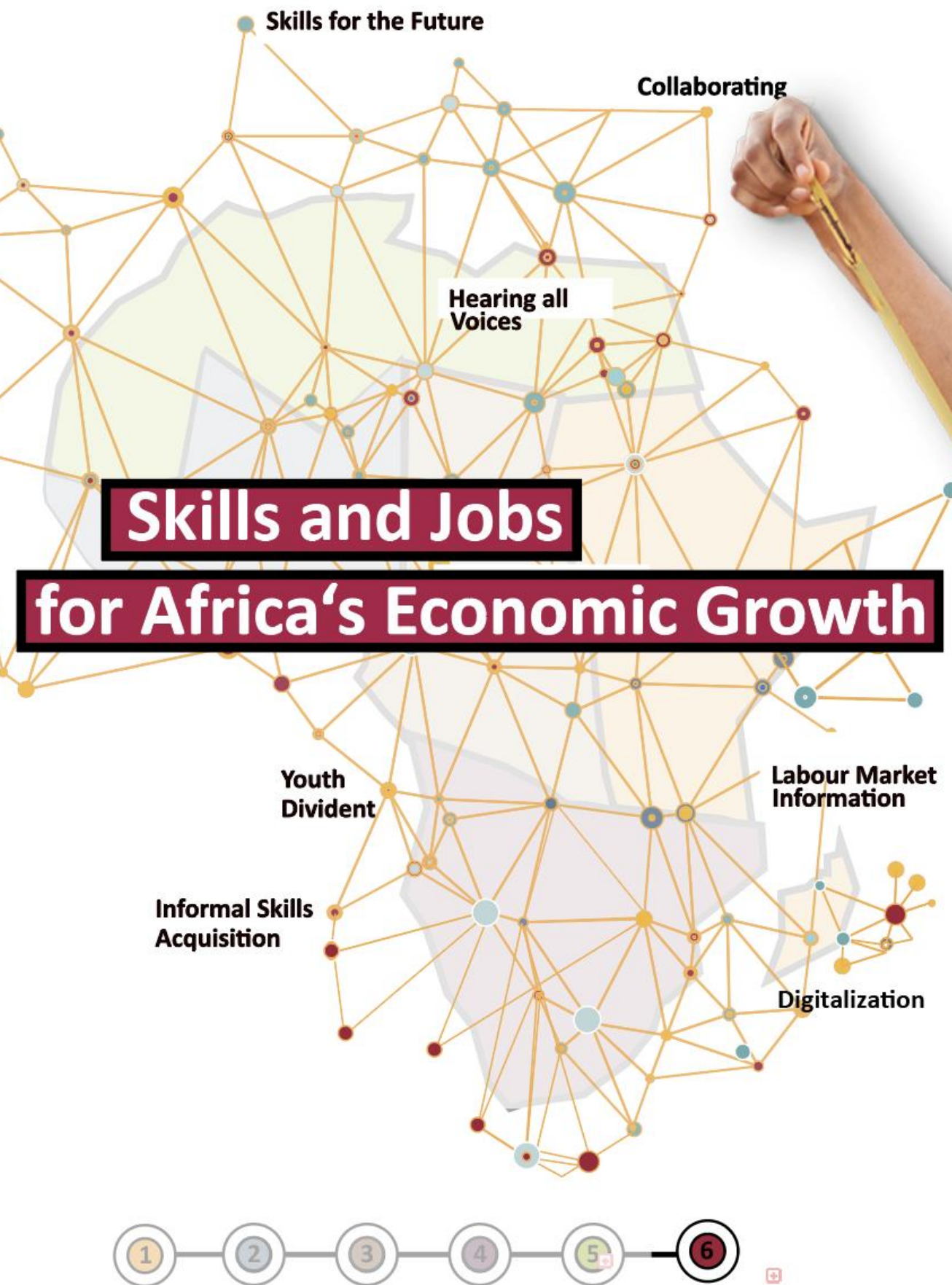


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**Driving a Responsive and Agile Skills and Jobs Agenda
for Economic Growth for African Youth**

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



Understanding the Context (1)



Problem Statement: Skills mismatch persists

- Driving economic growth requires the appropriate skills that respond to the demands of employers. Addressing how to close the skills mismatch is not happening at the required pace and quantity. Turn-around times to get youth from learning to earning a decent living wage are further widening.
- Furthermore, contracting economies due to the impacts of COVID-19 means no job growth and workplace productivity is impacted, few jobs created and, in many instances, job losses and therefore no new jobs for labour market entrants.
- The downside is an expanding informality in self-employment or temporary work placement resulting in unemployment and under-employment of youth and lack of funding to transform TVET national systems to be responsive to demand-side needs.



Understanding the Context (2)

Our Assumptions for the ACJ

Member States, individually and collectively are grappling with how to bring about transformative results in the development and growth of their economies. With the ACJ, we believe that by bringing together all stakeholders that influence the skills and employment agenda into the 'same room', through dialogue and drawing from the different perspectives and experiences, we can together shape solutions.

The ACJ Continental Dialogue is a platform for dialogue with purpose, to provide reflection and learning as key drivers for innovations as well as to develop possible solutions and responsive actions to unlock opportunities for the millions of African Youth.



Harnessing the Opportunities (1)

Dialogue with a Purpose

The ACJ Dialogue is about framing a shared agenda about the systemic changes and policies that will help the Continent to cultivate the skills we need to grow Member State economies.

Our collective challenge is to ensure that we harness the opportunities for creating better linkages of industry to skills for development brought about by the push for expanded industrialisation, markets and trade as envisioned in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Harnessing the Opportunities (2)



Emerging Opportunities

Pre-COVID 19, Africa's economies were already facing massive transitions (bludgeoning youth population, automation and the emerging "Fourth Industrial Revolution"). Mobilizing investment to develop relevant skills, create better jobs and improve access for disadvantaged groups has never been more important and urgent in Africa.

The AfCFTA serves as a catalyst for new ways of doing business, producing, working and trading within Africa. If done right, this can lead to the creation as well as expanding economic prospects, including better integration into value chains thereby creating an environment for the quantum of jobs, self-employment and enterprise development opportunities for African youth.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely here to stay for a while. Therefore, the urgency to ensure that recovery strategies take into account the short to medium term, and critically the long term perspective of having in place a dynamic and responsive skills and employment ecosystem.

Harnessing the Opportunities (3)

Where to Start?

- Putting in place comprehensive labour market information systems for a dynamic and responsive labour force is integral to economic development., including linking sector development strategies to build national labour force capacity along national productive sectors. Addressing the disparities of access to digital capabilities for education and skills for a digital economy, linking skills development for small enterprise development as well as identifying pathways for better integration of the informal sector are some of the issues to be considered.
- Success factor include improving conditions for scaling up public-private partnerships in order to ensure sustainability & responsiveness to market dynamics.
- Using a gender responsive lens as well as addressing marginalized groups (disabled, migrants, rural) for an inclusive and comprehensive vision of the future.

Creating a Vision for African Youth

ACJ! 2021 Objectives

- Reflect on Regional ACJ assessments of macro economic trends and patterns.
- Identify strategies, tactics and solutions in response to the assessments, that will be tailored to member state contexts.
- Showcase good practice from the field with evidence driving alignment between supply and demand.
- Facilitate an exchange of knowledge, tools and lessons learnt to influence people, institutions and systems.
- Identify replication or scaling opportunities

ACJ!2021 Sub-Themes

Sub-Theme 1

Understanding the AfCFTA

Understanding the opportunities available under the AfCFTA for job creation, skills and enterprise development

Sub-Theme 2

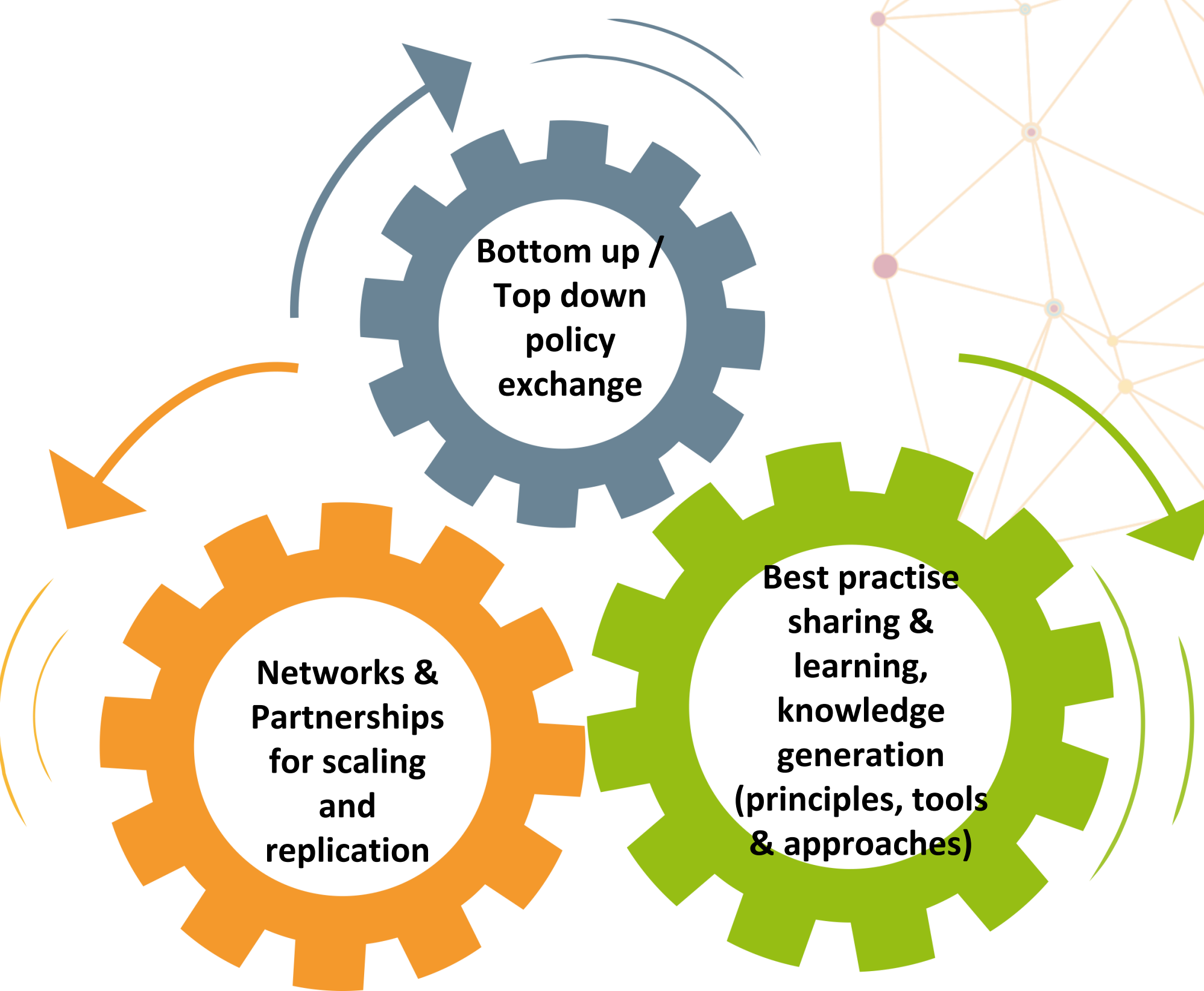
Building up a responsive skills development system

Setting up the skills development ecosystem to respond to productive sector growth potentials along the AfCFTA

Sub-Theme 3

Pathways for the informal sector

Addressing trade, jobs and skills acquisition/enterprise development opportunities



ACJ aims at:

- Economic growth
- Social development
- Emerging Opportunities
- Job creation
- Skills development

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Effective policy environment for a skills revolution

- Enabling public and private sector jobs growth
- Responsiveness, sustainability in dynamic economic transitions

Responsive TVET systems

- Supply better suited to meet the demands of transforming economies

Fit for purpose labour force

- Skills to increase work place productivity
- Skills for adaptability
- Informal sector quality skills

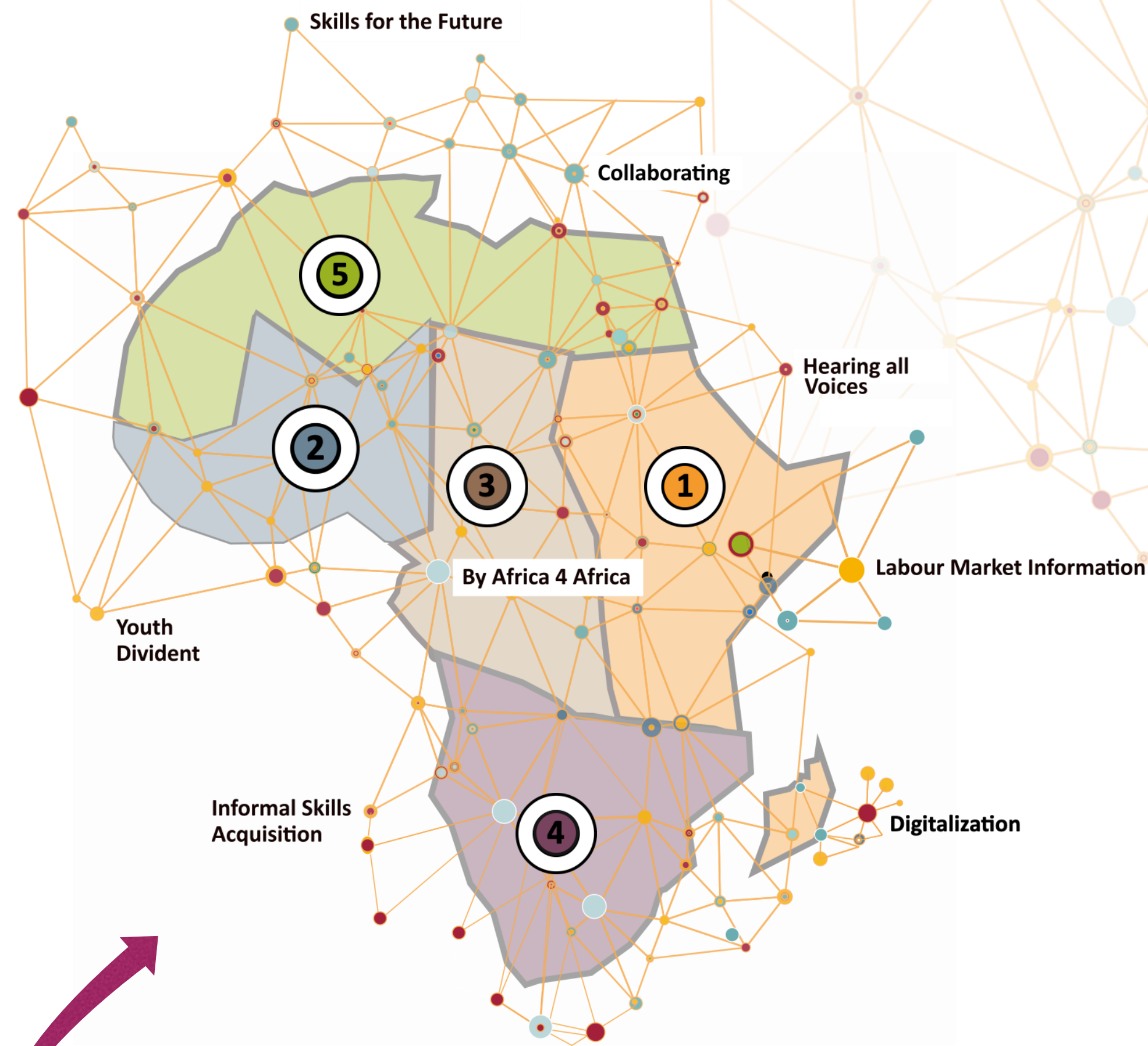
Vision 2030 and beyond

- Setting the key milestones for a skills revolution by 2030
- Transforming the ACJ platform on the African Skills Portal for Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship (ASPYEE) into a knowledge repository for learning for replication



Medium to long term vision of ACJ!

Regional ACJ Dialogues



| | Workshops | Proposed Period |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| | East Africa | 16 & 17 August |
| ① | West Africa | 26 & 27 August |
| ② | Central Africa | 2 & 3 September |
| ③ | Southern Africa | 23 & 24 September |
| ④ | Northern Africa | 7 & 8 October |
| ⑤ | | |
| ⑥ | ACJ Continental | |

The outcomes of the R-ACJs will feed into the Continental ACJ discussions

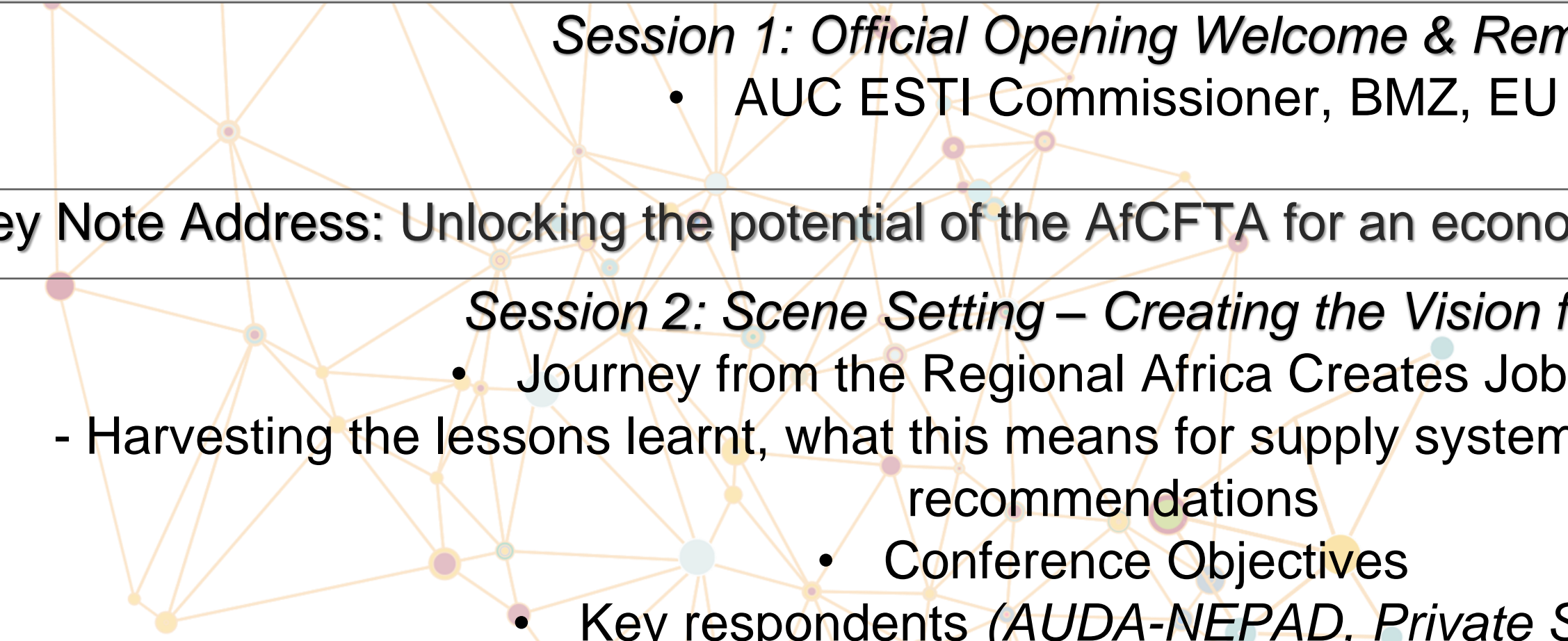
The Regional Africa Creates Jobs dialogues in 2021 will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences.

Main input documents include 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.

Pre-events and Social Media blitz

skills&jobsforeconomicgrowth

Day 1: 03 November 2021

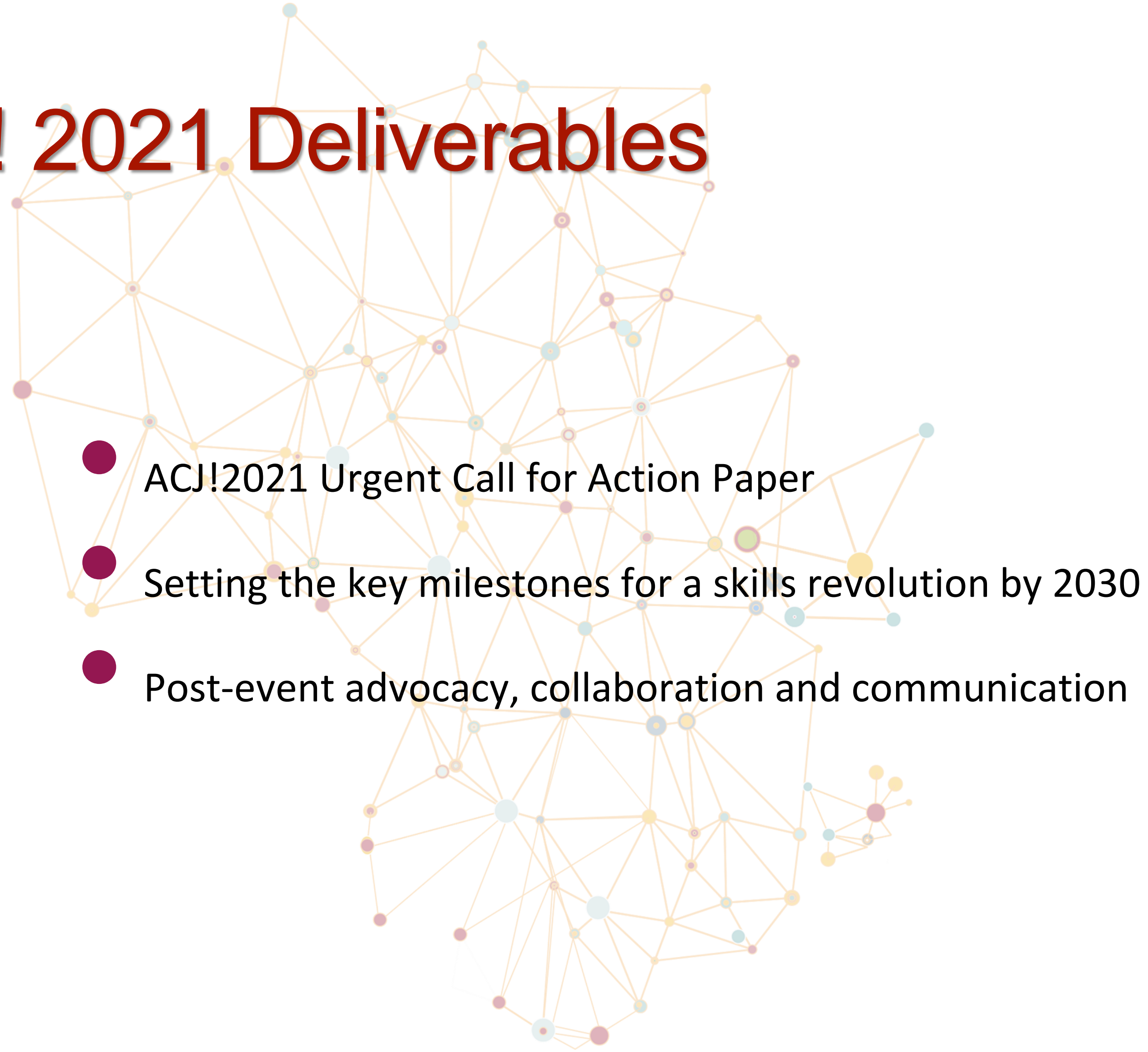
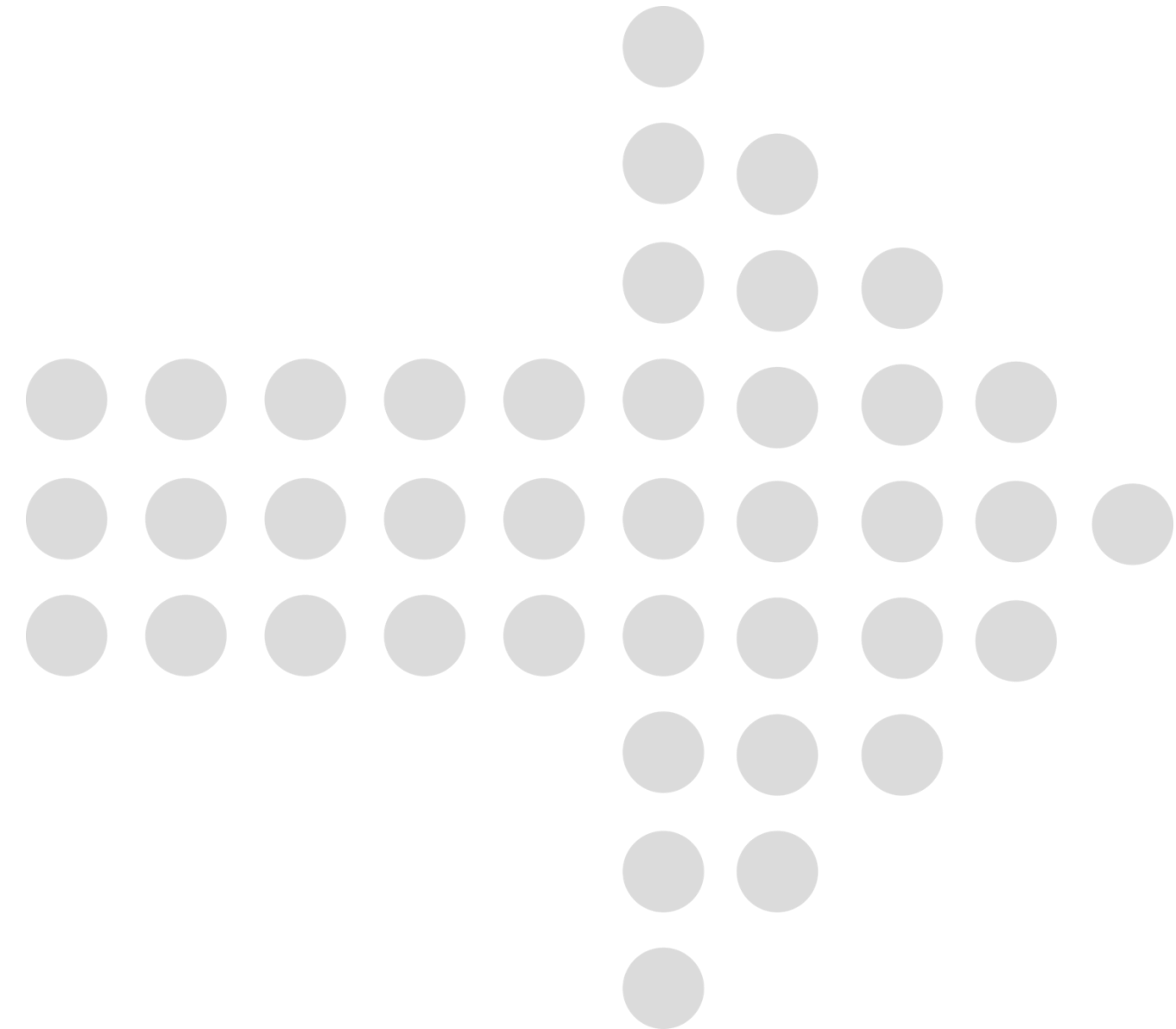
| Time (+3 GMT) | CONFERENCE PROGRAMME |
|---------------|--|
| 09.00-11.00 | <i>Virtual Exhibition/Market place Room</i> opens (Access to pre-conference videos; scene setting videos etc) |
| 11.00-12.30 | <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Session 1: Official Opening Welcome & Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC ESTI Commissioner, BMZ, EU <p>Key Note Address: Unlocking the potential of the AfCFTA for an economic recovery that leads to jobs</p> <p>Session 2: Scene Setting – Creating the Vision for Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey from the Regional Africa Creates Jobs (Video) - Harvesting the lessons learnt, what this means for supply systems and processes; summary of recommendations • Conference Objectives • Key respondents (<i>AUDA-NEPAD, Private Sector</i>) </div> |
| 12.30-12.40 | Health and polling break |
| 12.40- 13.40 | <p>Session 3: Sub-theme Discussions</p> <p><i>a. Sub-theme 2 “Building a responsive skills development system”</i></p> <p><i>Objective: Determining the key levers that enable a responsive skills ecosystems for today and tomorrow</i></p> |
| 13.40-14.15 | Lunch Break |
| 14.15-15.15 | <p><i>b. Sub-theme 3 “Pathways for the informal sector”</i></p> <p><i>Objective: Addressing how to better integrate informally employed into the mainstream</i></p> |
| 15.15-15.30 | <p>Polling Break</p> <p>Fishbowl exchange (Social Media take aways)</p> <p>Wrap up of Day</p> |

Day 2: 04 November 2021

| Time (+3 GMT) | Agenda |
|---------------|--|
| 09.00-10.00 | Market place and Networking Lounge open |
| 10.00-10.20 | Session 4: Bringing the system together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of outcomes of Day 1 |
| 10.20- 10.35 | Youth in Action Winner of the AfCFTA Youth Creative Competition – ‘Umoja Africa Campaign – Youth Contributing to the Implementation of the AfCFTA |
| 10.35 -11.50 | Session 5: Sharing of best practices (Experts panel) <u>Objective:</u> Organising the system for a responsive and agile skills and jobs agenda for economic growth for African Youth |
| 11.50–12.00 | Health and polling break |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Session 6: Roadmap to 2022 , towards the African Skills Revolution a. Business Lunch Marketplace deals |
| 13.00-14.00 | b. Conference Take –aways, Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close of Event • Key recommendations: Policy & Practice • Closing Remarks • Looking to the Future |



Post ACJ! 2021 Deliverables



Looking forward to seeing you there!

For further information, please contact the following:

Technical organisational arrangements

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