

**RENEWED PARTNERSHIP
ON THE MOVE**

Annual Report 2024

CAMEROON - EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION

**RENEWED PARTNERSHIP
ON THE MOVE**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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Access road to the bridge over the Logone River in Yagoua
Far North Region, Cameroon

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Glossary

11th EDF

Eleventh multi-annual financial protocol of the ACP-EU cooperation, within which the European resources allocated for the development of ACP States were programmed for the period 2014-2020. This eleventh financial protocol was the last one under the European Development Fund (EDF) mechanism.

ACP Ministerial Council

A decision-making and guidance body comprising ACP Ministers from each Member State. The Council meets twice a year: in a joint session with the EU in May / June and in an ACP budget session in November / December.

ACP Summit

Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the ACP Group member countries to set the broad guidelines for ACP operations and partnership policy with the EU.

Africa Investment Platform

A European cooperation financing mechanism that pools non-repayable aid from the EU budget to mobilise financing from the EIB and other financial institutions.

Blending

Mechanism for mobilising additional external funding, by mixing EU grants with loans from other financial institutions and development organizations.

Cameroon - EU partnership Coordinator

Mindful of the disappearance of the function of EDF National Authorising Officer, the role of supervising the partnership process with the EU is now devolved to MINEPAT, based on its governmental prerogatives of coordinating the economic and technical cooperation with Cameroon's Technical and Financial Partners.

Commitments

Resources allocated under a financing agreement, which will be disbursed for the implementation of the said agreement.

Economic and technical dialogue

Newly created dialogue forum at national level aimed at strengthening the supervision and monitoring of Cameroon-EU cooperation, specifically targeting the economic and commercial sphere. The major priorities of the national economic policy and the new privileged thematic orientations of the European cooperation in the area of investment and trade militated in favour of the establishment of this forum.

Economic Partnership Agreement

Trade agreement aimed at developing free trade with the European Union. The Cameroon-EU bilateral EPA entered into force in August 2016 and seeks to eliminate 80% of customs duties charged on European products over a period of 13 years.

EDF National Authorising Officer (EDF-NAO)

The national authority under the EDF regime, in charge of implementing the European cooperation resources, in the person of the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) who represents Cameroon in all OACPS and OACPS-EU cooperation activities.

EU Sector Budget Support (EU-SBS)

EU intervention procedure, involving the payment into the Public Treasury of resources allocated to the implementation of development programmes/projects, agreed upon in party agreements with the Government.

European Development Fund (EDF)

This is the main European instrument for the programming of development finance under the eleven successive cycles of ACP-EU cooperation, from 1957 to 2020.

European grants

Direct donations awarded to various state or non-state actors to promote an EU policy objective either through an action (action grant) or the coverage of an organization's operating costs (operating grant).

Financing agreement

Jointly signed cooperation document materialising the granting of funding by the EU for the implementation of a development project/programme agreed upon with the Government.

Global Europe (or Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - NDICI)

A unified European cooperation instrument that brings together for the first time most of the EU's funding streams intended for international cooperation. It is currently used to support sustainable development in countries within the EU's neighbourhood including those in Asia, America, Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

For the OACPS countries in particular, this instrument replaces the EDF, whose 11th cycle expired in 2020. For the period 2021-2027, the total budget envelope of this instrument stands at 79.5 billion euros (52,163 billion CFA francs).

Global Gateway Strategy

A European cooperation initiative aimed at mobilising up to €300 billion in investments worldwide between 2021 and 2027, including €150 billion for Africa. It focuses on sustainable, high-quality infrastructure projects in the fields of digital technology, energy, transport, health, education and research, in close collaboration with partner countries.

Global Value Chain

All the productive activities carried out by companies in different geographical locations around the world to bring a product or service from the design stage to the production stage and delivery to the final consumer.

Indirect Management

A method of action whereby the European Union entrusts the budgetary implementation of programmes/projects to third countries, international organizations, development agencies of EU Member States or other certified bodies.

Multi-annual Indicative Programme

Framework document for cooperation with the EU under the new regime of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). It is drawn up and concluded for each region/country and sets out the financial allocation and areas of intervention of EU development cooperation resources.

NDICI

English acronym for the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. It is the new financial instrument of European cooperation that replaces the EDF and whose mechanism applies to the 2021-2027 programme of the OACPS-EU partnership.

NDS30

National Development Strategy over the 2020-2030 period. This is the new reference document of the national development policy, adopted in November 2020, and which will replace the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) which reached the end of its decade of implementation (2010-2020).

OACPS

Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS). This is the new name for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) formerly established under the Georgetown Agreement of 1975. The ACP Group officially became the OACPS on 5 April 2020, following the entry into force of the revised Georgetown Agreement as approved by the Heads of State and Government. It is still made up of 79 countries including 48 from Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific, all signatories of the Cotonou Agreement.

OACPS-EU

Multilateral cooperation relations between the 79 OACPS Member States and the EU. The Cameroon-EU bilateral partnership is derived from this multilateral cooperation.

Partnership dialogue

Information exchange process and joint monitoring of the partnership.

Samoa agreement

A legal agreement that will govern the ACP-EU partnership for the next twenty years, starting from the date of its signature in Apia (Samoa) on 15 November 2023. It shall replace the Cotonou Agreement, which has been in force since 2000.

Sector Reform Contract for Rural Development

Financing agreement attached to the Sector Budget Support granted by the EU for the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development in the rural sector. Initially signed for the period 2017-2019, the operation was first extended until 2021, and then renewed in 2023, to continue through 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Structured Political Dialogue

Bilateral dialogue forum established by Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement for the joint monitoring of the entire European cooperation process.

Support Unit to the EDF National Authorising Officer:

Technical and operational entity placed under the direct authority of the Minister, Coordinator of the Partnership, whose mission is to assist and support him in the mobilisation and optimal, efficient and effective management of the resources derived from the European Cooperation.

Team Europe

Mobilisation of the European Union alongside its locally represented Member States, within the framework of joint development cooperation initiatives aimed at improving the effectiveness of the support packages and enhancing the impact of the interventions.

Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF)

Instrument in the form of an agreement, dedicated for the funding of complementary and cross-cutting interventions of the European cooperation.

The Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation

Diplomatic personality at the head of the National Representation (Delegation) of the European Union. The Ambassador alongside the Minister, Coordinator of the Partnership, is responsible for managing the European partnership process at national level.



Abbreviations

ABC - PADER: Supporting the Development of the Cotton Basin – Rural Development Support Programme

EU-SBS: EU Sector Budget Support

ACFCAM: Association of Forest Councils of Cameroon

ACP: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

FDA: French Development Agency

EPA: Economic Partnership Agreement

TA: Technical Assistant

ATIBT: International Tropical Timber Technical Association

AWF: African Wildlife Foundation

AfDB: African Development Bank

EIB: European Investment Bank

CAON-FED: Support Unit to the EDF National Authorising Officer

EC: European Commission

FA: Funding Agreement

CIFOR: Centre for International Forestry Research

SC: Steering Committee

CRM: Critical Raw Materials

CRS-ABS: Sector Reform Contract-Sector Budget Support

DACC: Competitiveness Support Facility for Cameroon

DICOSE: Technical coordination and monitoring/evaluation mechanism for project implementation

EUD: European Union Delegation

ECDPM : European Centre for Development Policy Management

EcoNorCam: Northern Cameroon Ecosystem

EFI: European Forest Institute

ENSPY: National Advanced School of Engineering in Yaoundé

EDF: European Development Fund

FEDD+: European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus

FEICOM: Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance

IF: Institutional Facilitation

OF: Operational Facilitation

GIZ: German Agency for International Development Cooperation

KFW: Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Financial Cooperation Agency)

KHPC: KIKOT-MBEMBE Hydro Power Company

MINADER: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MINCOMMERCE: Ministry of Trade

MINDLEVEL: Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development

MINEPAT: Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development

MINEPIA: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries

MINFI: Ministry of Finance

MINFOF: Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

MINHDU: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

MINMIDT: Ministry of Industries, Mines and Technological Development

MINPMEESA: Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts

MINREX: Ministry of External Relations

MINTP: Ministry of Public Works

CSO: Civil Society Organisation

AAP: Annual Action Plan

PADL: Local Development Support Programme

PAGIRN: Support Programme for Regional Integration and Investment in Central Africa

PAMFOR: Forest Governance Improvement Programme

MIP: Multi-annual Indicative Programme

SME: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

PRODESV: Programme for the Economic and Social Development of Crisis-hit Medium Cities

PROSCIG: Promoting gender transformation approaches to strengthen civil society resilience in Cameroon

TFP: Technical and Financial Partner

SODECOTON: Cameroon Cotton Development Corporation

ReSiNoc: Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems in Northern Cameroon

PMU: Project Management Unit

EU: European Union

VCY: Yaoundé Ring Road

WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society



Foreword of the Minister, Coordinator of the Cameroon - European Union Partnership

In tune with the partnership
renewal

The long-standing and historic partnership that exists between Cameroon and the European Union, under the umbrella of relations between ACP countries and the EU, reached a new milestone with the signing of the Samoa Agreement on 15 November 2023. Well before the signing of the Samoa Agreement, the termination of the EDF in December 2020 had given way to a new financial partnership arrangement, with the launch of NDICI-Global Europe in January 2021.

This dual development, relating to the renewal of the global legal framework and the establishment of new financial cooperation instruments, marks the advent of a new era of OACPS-EU partnership characterized by significant paradigm shifts.

The Samoa Agreement, which establishes a renewed partnership from the political and institutional perspective, aims to lay the foundations for more coordinated alliances and actions on the international scene, where the OACPS-EU duo can exert a major influence in addressing certain global challenges.

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI - Global Europe), which replaces the EDF, is the main pillar of the EU's external action budget and supports the EU's action to defend and promote its interests and values worldwide.

As part of its cooperation policy, Cameroon quickly incorporated this evolving dynamic, which has a positive impact on the implementation of its national development programme, supported by the National Development Strategy (NDS30).

The Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP 2021-2027), which constitutes the current operational framework for Cameroon-EU bilateral cooperation, has undergone a first phase (2021-2024) funded with a budget of 116 billion CFA francs, implemented as part of the effective implementation of the NDICI-Global Europe. The second phase (2025-2027) is already underway, with a total budget allocation of €91 million, or approximately 60 billion CFA francs.

As part of the implementation of the MIP, a major effort is under way to capture the resources made available

by the EU under the Global Gateway strategy. The work of the inter-ministerial committee set aside for this purpose has already produced initial results in terms of positioning of two major infrastructure projects with imminent financing prospects at the level of the EU.

Other important opportunities and prospects were highlighted at the end of the holding of the first edition of the Cameroon-European Union Business Week, the third session of the Economic and Technical Dialogue on Cameroon-EU partnership, and the meeting of OACPS Mining Ministers which was held at Yaoundé.

The Government has been delighted to receive various support packages from the EU in the form of grants and budgetary support used for the implementation of the NDS30. For this reason, the pursuit and strengthening of the European partnership are considered as a top priority in the country's development policy.

In terms of 2024 achievements, the major concrete manifestation of this priority option was the ratification of the Samoa Agreement, marking Cameroon's official accession to the new mechanism governing OACPS-EU relations.

This new mechanism builds on the institutional changes brought about by the entire renewed partnership, which have an impact on the national system for the coordination of the partnership with the EU, in which CAON is the operational pivot.

In the context of the new partnership deal, efforts to adapt in view of effective national coordination have, among other actions, led to an institutional renewal of CAON. The revamped entity, which shall take shape in early 2025, shall be expected to play a stronger and more dynamic role in the monitoring of the European partnership in Cameroon.

Alamine OUSMANE MEY

Minister of Economy,
Planning and Regional Development,
Coordinator of the Cameroon-EU Partnership

Message of the Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to Cameroon

In the renewed drive to
strengthen the partnership



Since 2021, the European Union and its partners in the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) embarked on a new phase in their relationship, one that is forward-looking, more political, more ambitious and more human. This dynamic is embodied in the new cooperation framework established at the end of the European Development Fund (EDF), through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI - Global Europe).

Behind these names, which can sometimes seem obscure and technical, lies a strong political will: Europe's desire to build, together with its African, Caribbean and Pacific partners, a thinking and action community based on mutual respect, frank dialogue, shared priorities and the promotion of our common values. The partnership is no longer just a matter of funding, but a human commitment, mutual listening and joint mobilisation in the face of global challenges.

In a world fraught with tension, where the principles of solidarity are often relegated to the background, this cooperation takes on its full meaning. It affirms, more than ever before, that people need each other. It reminds us that no nation can tackle the major challenges of our time single-handedly: climate change, inequality, demographic, digital and energy transitions, migration management, or peace and security.

The Samoa Agreement, which succeeds the Cotonou Agreement, is part of this vision. It gives a new impetus to the relationship between the European Union and OACPS countries, including Cameroon. It strengthens political dialogue and paves the way for cooperation that is more firmly rooted in national and regional realities, while fitting into global strategies such as the 'Global Gateway' approach to embark together on a more equitable and sustainable development at the service of our populations, without hidden debts or dependency.

In Cameroon, this dynamic is already at work. Thanks to the 'Team Europe' approach, the European Union and its Member States present in Yaoundé including Germany, Belgium, Spain, France and Italy are working together in a coordinated manner to finance concrete infrastructure that is useful for economic growth and the fight against poverty (roads, bridges, electricity,

Internet, etc.). The 2021-2024 Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), with a budget of over 116 billion CFA francs, has made it possible to lay solid foundations. For the 2025-2027 period, an additional 60 billion CFA francs will be allocated to strengthen key development sectors, complementing the major projects carried out under the 'Global Gateway' initiative.

Various events such as the annual Economic and Technical Dialogue with the Cameroonian Government and the first edition of the Cameroon-European Union Business Week held in February 2024, are testament to a vibrant relationship based on trust, respect and shared ambition. We intend to build this relationship day by day with our Cameroonian partners, in a spirit of openness and progress.

In 2025, the final institutional transformation of the Support Unit to the National Authorising Officer (CAON) into the Support Unit to the European Union Partnership will consolidate this new phase. This structural change is an opportunity to further establish the cooperation on a solid, responsive and effective basis, capable of translating the shared vision into concrete results for the population.

Together, the European Union and Cameroon are demonstrating that a partnership based on people, solidarity and the desire to build bridges rather than walls is not only possible, but also promising for the future.

S.E.M Jean-Marc CHÂTAIGNER

Ambassador, Head of Delegation
of the European Union in Cameroon

Highlights of the cooperation in 2024

From
20 to 22 February 2024



First economic and investment forum between Cameroon and the European Union, known as the "CAMEROON-EU Business Week".

*The Conference Centre and Hilton Hotel
Yaoundé*

26 March 2024



Double ceremony for the signing of Financing Agreements for the following programmes: "Support for economic development by promoting value chains and private initiative" and "Support for increasing the renewable electricity production capacity".

*MINEPAT
Yaoundé*

From
23 to 24 May 2024



Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of mining.
Hilton-Hotel
Yaoundé

14 November 2024



3rd session of the Economic and Technical Dialogue on the Cameroon-European Union partnership.
Hilton-Hotel
Yaoundé

Summary of the report

The Samoa Agreement that was signed in November 2023 arrived at the end of its first year of existence by the end of 2024. As of 1 January 2024, this Agreement, which was still provisionally implemented, was still waiting for its formal enforcement, subject to the prior satisfaction of the internal procedures of both parties including the OACPS member states and the EU.

Cameroon, which has distinguished itself as one of the key players in the process of bringing the Agreement into force, complied with these conditions by ratifying the Agreement earlier this year.

In the run-up to the entry into force of the Samoa Agreement, the institutional and policy partnership dialogue was essentially driven at OACPS level by high-level discussions on the reorganization of this organization, and at bilateral level by efforts to adapt the national coordination organ to the new institutional partnership framework.

With regard to the strategic focus area of partnership development, the European Union continued to support Cameroon's development efforts within the main framework of its current bilateral cooperation programme defined in the 2021-2027 MIP, whose mid-term review during the assessment of 2024 activities offered the opportunity to assess the achievements of the first phase (2021-2024) and the prospects for the next phase (2025-2027) of the MIP.

In addition to the continuation of the support, three major cooperation opportunities were promoted, against the backdrop of the evolution of the Global Gateway Strategy in Cameroon:

- The holding in February 2024 of the "Cameroon-European Union Business Week" on the sidelines of the 9th edition of the PROMOTE International Trade

fair, resulted in the identification of opportunities and prospects for the strengthening of economic relations between Cameroon and the European Union, through a number of recommendations to be implemented by the key players.

- The third session of the Cameroon-EU Economic and Technical Dialogue held in November 2024, resulting in the identification of new orientations to further strengthen cooperation within a context of renewed partnership marked by the gradual implementation of new instruments.
- The meeting of OACPS Mining Ministers held in Yaoundé in May 2024, which, in addition to the EU's support for the development of the mining sector in Cameroon, provided an opportunity to adopt the so-called Yaoundé Declaration on the OACPS' position on critical raw materials (CRMs) in the face of the European Union's proposed regulation on the guarantee of a secure and sustainable supply of CRMs.

In financial and operational terms, the portfolio of Cameroon-EU cooperation programmes and projects has increased with operations financed under the new NDICI-Global Europe instrument, within the framework of an implementation process that has been combined with the implementation of residual operations under the 11th EDF.

The transition from the EDF to NDICI-Global Europe has given rise to an operational process that increasingly involves a multitude of funding partners and implementing stakeholders beyond the EU entity. Nevertheless, the operationalisation of this portfolio raises concerns about the operational ownership of national actors and beneficiaries, in view of the observed relative tendency towards isolated programming and less participatory implementation.

**The Nachtigal Hydroelectric dam
Constructed on River Sanaga
Centre Region of Cameroon**

Introductory remarks by the National Coordinator

In the dynamic drive towards
the implementation of the
renewed partnership



The active dynamics for the implementation of the Cameroon-European Union partnership continued in 2024, in line with the implementation of the new cooperation modalities initiated in 2021 thanks to the entry into force of the post-EDF financing instruments and the establishment of the global post-Cotonou legal framework.

In this new era of renewed partnership, the deployment of the European cooperation for the development of OACPS countries in general, and Cameroon in particular, was focused on several recent pillars, which form the new basis for action. These include the Samoa Agreement, the NDICI-Global Europe instrument, the Global Gateway strategy and the NDS30.

The current implementation of the Cameroon-European Union partnership bears the imprint of these different pillars, in a logic of progressive application, with well-understood objectives of effective mobilisation of actors and resources.

On the basis of these pillars and in line with its missions as a central operational supervisory structure in support of the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Coordinator of the Cameroon-European Union Partnership, CAON has endeavoured to revamp this partnership, directly in line with the new paradigms in force.

Actions undertaken in the course of 2024 involved pursuing the coordination of the efforts of stakeholders in the optimal mobilisation and activation of cooperation resources, while ensuring proper and effective implementation of the new partnership arrangements.

The launching of the new partnership deal offered the opportunity to study a number of institutional and strategic files, linked to the provisions and actions to tie in with this new situation, as well as the promotion of opportunities and prospects relating to the new era.

By the close of the year 2024 under review, the drive towards the implementation of the renewed partnership can be assessed under three main points, around which the developments in this report have been structured:

- Cameroon's institutional and political endeavour to comply with the new general framework of the OACPS-EU partnership provided by the Samoa Agreement signed in November 2023, and whose first year of existence marked by the provisional application as of 1 January 2024. This period witnessed the formality of ratification by Cameroon as part of the overall process of entry into force, subject to the satisfaction of the internal terms and conditions of the various member states on both sides of the OACPS and the EU.
- The strengthening of the strategic partnership through the organisation of activities and events to promote new opportunities and dialogue on the development prospects of the European cooperation in its renewed articulations, including the Global Gateway strategy as a focus for the mobilisation of the resources made available.
- The mid-term operational implementation of the current cooperation programme, in this case the 2021-2027 MIP, whose implementation review for the first phase extending from 2021 to 2024 enables us to assess the effectiveness of the new operational provisions of the European partnership, in relation to the progressive implementation of the NDICI-Global Europe instrument.

This annual activity report for the year 2024, reviews all the above points under the generic theme of "renewed partnership on the move", in a dual approach of action assessment and visibility of the implementation process of the European partnership in Cameroon within the context of renewal of this partnership.

Aliou ABDOULLAHI

National Coordinator of the
Cameroon - European Union Cooperation,
Head of the Support Unit to the EDF
National Authorising Officer (CAON-FED)



Year 1 of the Samoa Agreement

The move towards
institutional and political
alignment

The Samoa Agreement, which currently governs the partnership between the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries making up the OACPS Group and the 27 States grouped within the European Union (EU), was signed on 15 November 2023 at Apia in the Pacific Ocean.

This agreement, which was designed to establish a stronger political partnership between the parties aimed at producing mutually advantageous results in the light of the common and converging interests and the values they share, provisionally entered into force on 1 January 2024, pending its formal entry into force, subject to the prior satisfaction of the parties' respective internal procedures.

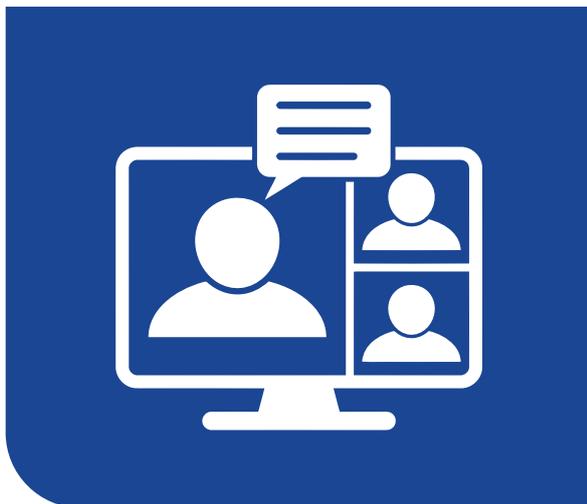
The year 2024, which marks the end of the first year of the Agreement's existence, witnessed the start of the formalisation process with a view to its effective entry into force.

It is in this vein that, among other topical issues of the European cooperation, the institutional and political dialogue of the OACPS-EU partnership focused on options for the reforming of the OACPS within the context of renewed partnership, while at national level, the political authorities were busy concluding Cameroon's expected ratification, while working to adapt the coordination of the Cameroon-EU partnership to the new institutional situation.

Reforming of OACPS against the backdrop of the implementation of the Samoa Agreement

In the course of 2024, the major institutional concerns of the OACPS' operations were at the heart of the deliberations of the Organization's highest bodies.

The related meetings set the pace for the rebuilding of the OACPS, against a backdrop of the implementation of the Samoa Agreement, marked in particular by changes in the terms and conditions of financial support from the European partner.



117th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers

24-26 July 2024

MINEPAT - Yaoundé, Cameroon
(By videoconference)



OACPS extraordinary summit (Enlarged TROIKA Summit)

23 September 2024

New-York, USA



118th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers

04-06 december 2024

Brussels, Belgium



The movement to rebuild the OACPS took shape around several themes addressed at the 117th and 118th sessions of the OACPS Council of Ministers held in June and December 2024 respectively, as well as at the enlarged TROIKA Summit organised on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024 in New York.




Financial governance and budget management



Institutional capacity building



New OACPS headquarters



Renewal of the General Secretariat's governing body



Various institutional reforms



Restructuring of the financing, organisation and human resources of the General Secretariat

Enlarged TROIKA Summit
23 September 2024
New-York, USA

Anchoring of Cameroon to the operationalisation dynamics of the Samoa Agreement

At the national level, the ratification of the Samoa Agreement and the publication of a public information leaflet on its contents marked Cameroon's commitment to the implementation of this Agreement in 2024.



Ratification of the Samoa Agreement

As far as the full enforcement of the Samoa Agreement is concerned, it is expected to enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the European Union and its Member States and at least two thirds of OACPS member states have completed their internal procedures to this effect and deposited their instruments expressing their consent to be bound to the General Secretariat of the European Union Council.

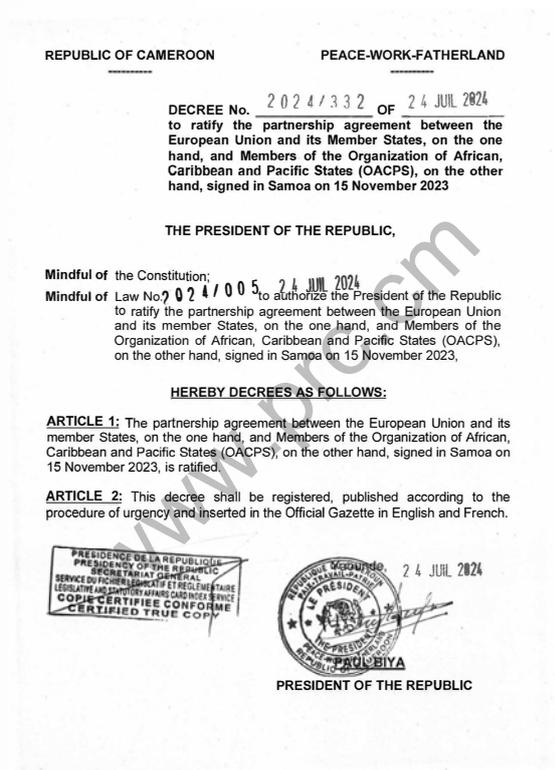
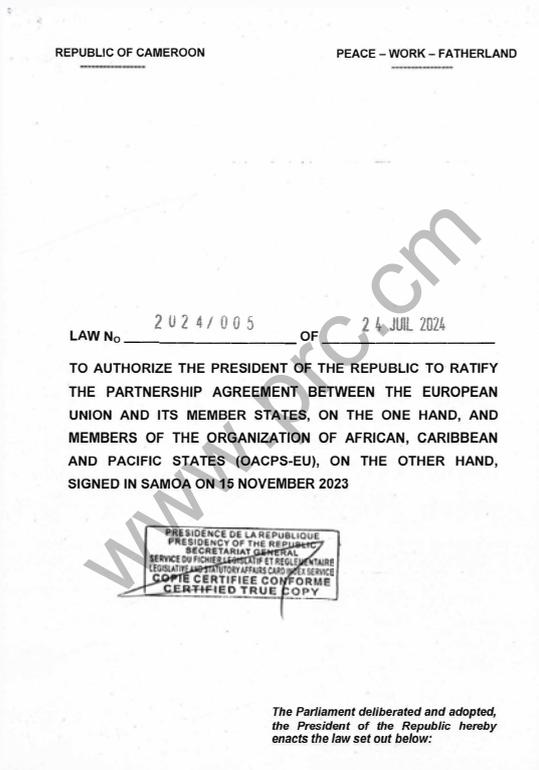
While complying with the provisions of these general arrangements, the national authorities concluded the internal ratification procedure in July 2024, marking Cameroon's official accession to the Agreement and making the country one of the leading players in its implementation.



The publication of a leaflet to raise public awareness on the Samoa Agreement

Under the general supervision of the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Coordinator of the Cameroon-European Union Partnership and OACPS Focal Point in Cameroon, the Inter-ministerial task force in charge of preparing Cameroon's position in the negotiations of the ACP-EU Post Cotonou Partnership Agreement, has published a brochure entitled '**Ten points to know to understand the Samoa Partnership Agreement**'.

CAON played an active role in the publication of this leaflet, which was mainly intended to serve the purposes of communication. It seeks to raise awareness among the various national stakeholders on the main aspects of the new Agreement, ensure that it is widely understood and effectively implemented.



Adapting the national coordination of the partnership to the institutional new deal

The paradigm shifts brought about by the new EU financial mechanisms and the new partnership management arrangements at the OACPS-EU level and at the Cameroon-EU bilateral level have had an impact on the European cooperation coordination system, which was adapted during the period under review in three areas of intervention: partnership dialogue, institutional and political coordination and technical and operational coordination.



Cameroon-European Union partnership dialogue

Institutional consolidation of the Economic and Technical Dialogue on the Cameroon-European Union partnership




National institutional and policy coordination

From the EDF National Authorising Officer to the National Coordinator of the Cameroon-European Union Partnership




National technical and operational coordination

The institutional redeployment of CAON in the pipeline





Drawing inspiration from the major guidelines of the Samoa Agreement on partnership dialogue, Cameroon and the EU have agreed to consolidate the Economic and Technical Dialogue body set up a few years ago and whose 3rd session was held in November 2024.

The Samoa Agreement calls on the Parties to maintain a regular, balanced, comprehensive and in-depth dialogue leading to commitments and, where appropriate, actions on both sides with a view to the effective implementation of the partnership between the ACP countries and the EU. The dialogue should be undertaken in a flexible and customised approach at regular intervals in the most appropriate format at the national, regional and multi-country level.

Economic and technical dialogue on the Cameroon-EU partnership:

The dialogue interface aimed at coordinating and strengthening the partnership

- Strengthening bilateral relations, supporting Cameroon's development and contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;
- Strengthening economic relations;
- Support to structural reforms;
- Support to key sectors;
- Collaboration on concrete projects;
- Sharing information and best practices;
- Cooperation in various fields.

The introduction of the NDICI to replace the EDF and its intervention mechanisms put an end to the role of National Authorising Officer played by the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development in the management of European cooperation resources in support of national development.

This change of financial instrument has generated considerable changes in the resource management system and, by extension, in the institutional and political coordination of cooperation.

In this context, and in exclusive compliance with his prerogatives relating to the organisation of government work, the Minister now acts as Coordinator of the Cameroon-EU Partnership, while maintaining a focus on institutional dialogue with the EUD.

The Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development: National Coordinator of the Cameroon-European Union partnership

- Responsible for coordinating the Cameroon-EU cooperation;
- OACPS focal point for Cameroon;
- Bearer of the full powers of the President of the Republic when signing agreements with the EU;
- Responsible for drawing up and monitoring national policy on cooperation with the EU;
- Cameroon's representative at negotiations and meetings with the EU;
- Oversees the implementation of cooperation agreements with the EU.

Following government directives, coupled with the approval of the EU, the year 2025 will witness the establishment of the Partnership Support Unit (CAP), to replace CAON-FED.

This will mark the conclusion of the dialogue on the institutional transformation of CAON-FED, in order to adapt the technical and operational coordination unit to the new situation of renewed European partnership.

The NDICI AFRICA Agreement ACT N°. 062-052, signed on 4 September 2024 for a period of five (5) years, will be the major conclusion of this transformation process. The resources granted and dedicated to 'Measures to support Cameroon-EU cooperation' will be used, among other objectives, to set up the EU Partnership Support Unit.

From CAON-FED to CAP : Adapted missions of technical and operational coordination of the European Partnership

- Assist the Government and non-state actors in the implementation of the OACPS-EU partnership;
- Supervise and protect national interests during the formulation and monitoring of the implementation of EU-funded programmes in all its windows;
- Contribute to the organisation of partnership dialogue in all its aspects, at the strategic and policy levels;
- Continue to facilitate dialogue on budget support and sectoral policy dialogues.



Navigating the mid-term of the 2021-2027 MIP

Strengthening
the strategic partnership

Civil Society and Gender (CISOg)
For a resilient civil society in Cameroon

Within the framework of the European cooperation process in Cameroon, the year 2024 marked the end of the first 2021-2024 phase of the Multiannual Indicative Programme - MIP 2021-2027.

In this mid-term year of the 2021-2027 Global Programme, the review of the evolution of the cooperation process shows an increased deployment of development support both in terms of achievements (2021-2024) and programming prospects (2025-2027), and an increase in opportunities within the framework of the development of the strategic partnership.

Increased Intervention dynamics within the framework of the follow-up of the NDS30

In line with the NDS30 guidelines and in accordance with its priority areas of intervention, the European Union is continuing its support for Cameroon's development efforts, within the main framework of its current bilateral cooperation programme defined in the 2021-2027 MIP, the mid-term review of which, during the 2024 review, made it possible to assess the achievements of the first phase (2021-2024) and the prospects for the next phase (2025-2027).



**2021-2024
MIP**

116,7 billion CFAF
the final stages of commitment

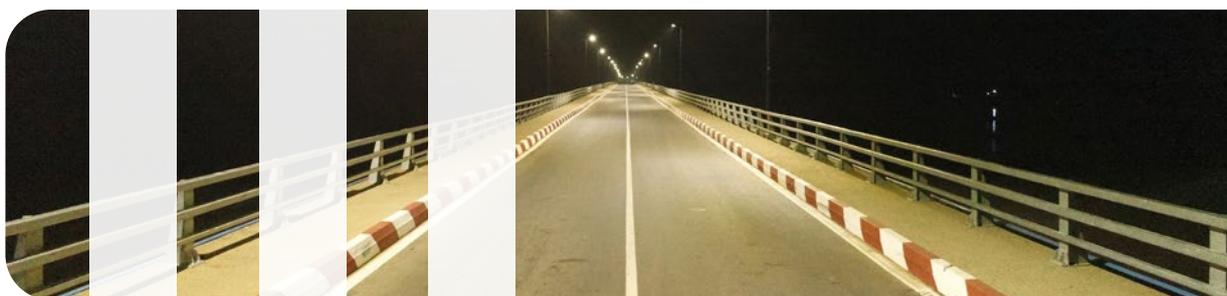
- 15.7_{bn}** Inclusive and sustainable green cities
- 13.1_{bn}** CASEVE: Cameroon Septentrion Vert (TEI Northern part of the country)
- 13.5_{bn}** Natura South-East - Sustainable territories
- 13.5_{bn}** Support to food security
- 13_{bn}** Promotion of gender transformation approaches to strengthen the resilience of the civil society in Cameroon
- 2.7_{bn}** Support for enhancing the renewable electricity production capacity
- 9.8_{bn}** Support for economic development through the promotion of value chains and private initiative
- 28.9_{bn}** PADL Support Programme for Local Development

An aerial view of the Maroua solar park Far North Region, Cameroon



**2025-2027
prospects**

60 billion CFAF
In the course of programming



2021-2024 MIP commitment status

Programmes/Projects	Allocation (billion CFAF)	Date of Agreement	Objectives
Inclusive and sustainable green cities	15.7	04/10/2022	To improve the living environment of urban populations in Cameroon, especially women and vulnerable groups
CASEVE: Cameroon Septentrion Vert (TEI Northern part of the country)	13.1	04/10/2022	To improve the resilience of the three northern regions in the face of demographic pressure and food crises exacerbated by insecurity and climate change
Natura South-East Sustainable territories	13.5	18/07/2023	To improve the governance of territories and natural resources by decentralised stakeholders and local representatives
Support to food security	13.5	18/07/2023	To improve the resilience of food production systems, through the adoption of climate change adaptation measures, sustainable intensification and agro-ecological transition
PROSCIG: Promotion of gender transformation approaches to strengthen the resilience of the civil society in Cameroon	13	18/07/2023	To promote citizen participation, improve the civic space, strengthen the contribution of women's organisations, women's rights defenders and civil society organisations.
Support for enhancing the renewable electricity production capacity	2.7	26/03/2024	Improve the access of all to an electricity supply, based more on renewable energies in Cameroon, by focusing on the two areas: Strengthening the capacity of the supervisory authorities - Mobilisation of project financing from private developers
Support for economic development through the promotion of value chains and private initiative	9.8	26/03/2024	Contributing to inclusive economic development and the creation of decent jobs through private sector development
PADL Support Programme for Local Development	28.86	08/07/2024	Promote inclusive local development, in particular by improving adaptation to climate change and the financial governance of decentralisation stakeholders



Three main areas of intervention envisaged

- 1

A green and resilient northern Cameroon
- 2

Migrations
- 3

Infrastructure



Increased opportunities associated with the development of the strategic partnership

In 2024, the strategic development aspects of the European partnership were mainly structured around the promotion of three major areas of cooperation opportunities, in the context of ongoing implementation of the Global Gateway Strategy in Cameroon.



Cameroon-EU Business Week Forum

Promotion of investment and commercial opportunities in Cameroon for European and Cameroonian investors




OACPS ministerial meeting on critical raw materials

Development of the OACPS-EU and Cameroon-EU strategic partnership in the mining sector




3rd session of the Economic and Technical Dialogue on the Cameroon-EU partnership

Implementation of the NDICI and the Global Gateway coupled with the improvement of the business climate to strengthen the partnership





'Cameroon is a source of projects, programmes and above all entrepreneurial dynamism. (...) The idea for us is to seek ways and means of supporting Cameroonian companies to develop themselves and seize the opportunities offered by the European market'

H.E Jean-Marc CHATAIGNER,
Ambassador Head of the EU Delegation



'The OACPS members countries are committed and support the global drive towards the green and digital transitions. However, we believe that our endowment with critical raw materials should first and foremost be used to promote the green and digital transition in our countries. Promoting this key objective of the OACPS is an essential aspect of our members engagement with trade and development partners'

H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto CHIKOTI,
Secretary General of OACPS



'A vibrant private sector, a productive private sector, also means so many jobs created, so much wealth created, and an improvement in the quality of life of the people. This is an aspect that is close to our hearts, and in the dynamics of our cooperation with the European Union, we believe we can receive more support'

Alamine Ousmane MEY,
MINEPAT - Coordinator of the
Cameroon-European Union partnership

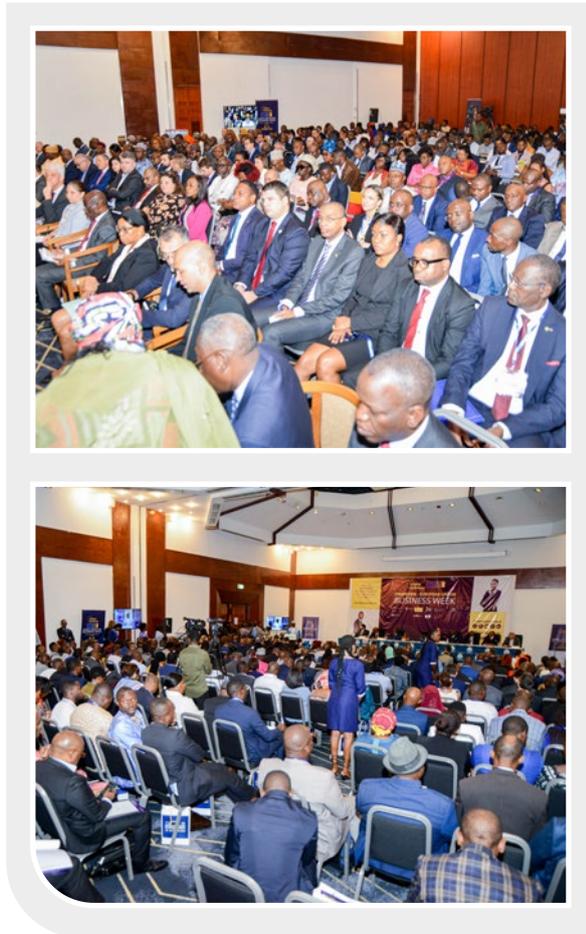


Increased opportunities associated with the development of the strategic partnership (1)

Cameroon-European Union Business Week Forum

Under the general theme of 'The Global Gateway and commercial and investment opportunities in Cameroon', the forum was held in Yaoundé from 20 to 22 February 2024, on the sidelines of the activities of the 9th edition of the PROMOTE International Trade Fair, with the overall objective of strengthening economic relations between Cameroon and the European Union through the promotion of commercial and business opportunities in Cameroon for investors in general and European investors in particular.

At the end of the forum, a number of opportunities emerged, whose harnessing by the key players depends on the implementation of certain recommendations agreed upon during the discussions.



Massive and high-quality participation

- Companies and development banks of European countries
- Institutions; Members of government and representatives of government bodies
- Business organisations
- Technical and financial partners
- Business leaders
- National and European financial institutions

Dense and varied promotional activities

- B2B meetings between Cameroonian and European companies
- B2G meetings between European companies and Cameroonian authorities
- Conference-debates on subjects of common interest:
 - Improvement of the business environment
 - Green economy
 - Cameroon-EU Economic Partnership Agreement
 - Support for young entrepreneurs

Opportunities and recommendations stemming from the Cameroon-EU Business Week Forum

	Opportunities	Recommendations
Business environment	National reforms to improve the business climate and commercial and investment opportunities in Cameroon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve the effectiveness of public-private dialogue. ■ Diversify the financing approaches of European financial institutions in order to reach a larger number of SMEs. ■ Improve investment incentives in Cameroon
Green economy	3 million euros (1.9 billion CFA francs) in European funding for the 2021-2027 period to be used for investments in the energy sector in Africa.	Develop partnerships to build on and seize various investment opportunities.
Infrastructure and digital development	<p>Global Gateway infrastructure financing strategy.</p> <p>Grants for institutional support (legislative and regulatory framework, vocational training, studies and project preparation, etc.) and sometimes for investments.</p> <p>Concessional sovereign public or private debt/loans, , as well as the possibility of blending loans and grants.</p> <p>Guarantees for private sector loans, financed by the EU and implemented by financial institutions: EIB, AFD, KfW, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen the adoption of EU financial instruments for infrastructure under the Global Gateway strategy. ■ Give the pride of place to infrastructure development. ■ Increasingly mobilise private participation and financing through PPPs in the implementation of infrastructure projects..
Mining and industry	<p>Cameroon's mining sector is still virgin and endowed with numerous unexploited resources.</p> <p>Significant institutional and regulatory reforms under way.</p> <p>European regulations on critical raw materials (essential for the digital and ecological transition and defence issues), promoting a secure and sustainable supply of these materials for the EU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Finalisation of national regulatory reforms. ■ Support for Cameroonian SMEs by the European Union in the mining sector. ■ Development of investment partnerships.
Economic Partnership Agreement	<p>Development of exports</p> <p>Expansion of markets.</p> <p>Technology transfers.</p> <p>Competitiveness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mastering the rules of origin. ■ Establish a genuine strategy for the effective implementation of this instrument aimed at fostering integration and economic development
Private sector support financial instruments	<p>European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) Loans – Guarantees – Risk coverage, etc.</p> <p>European Investment Bank (EIB) EIB window for the financial sector, SMEs, major projects, microfinance institutions (credit lines for banks for the financing of SMEs– project financing – microfinance – risk capital coverage, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assimilation of the mechanisms and terms of European financial instruments for the benefit of the private sector. ■ Aligning ESDF+ financial instruments with local initiatives and priorities for better convergence of actions. ■ Improvement of access conditions to loans, guarantees and subsidies, in relation to the economic fabric, which consists mainly of very small enterprises and SMEs.
Team Europe Initiative 'Investing in Young Businesses in Africa' (TEI-IYBA)	<p>European initiative for youth employability and inclusive growth through the financing of SMEs promoted by young people and women entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Initiative to mobilise all types of resources from the European Union, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in order to support entrepreneurship among young people and women in Africa.</p> <p>Ambition to develop a reserve of projects for young people and women, in order to make them bankable and support entrepreneurship, with a target of at least four thousand (04) women and young people in Africa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support young people in carrying out their projects. ■ Promote an enabling environment to allow women entrepreneurs to overcome challenges in a dynamic and innovative world. ■ Improve the business climate; ■ Accelerate digital transformation and connectivity.



Increased opportunities associated with the development of the strategic partnership (2)

Meeting of OACPS Ministers of Mines in Yaoundé

At the end of their meeting held in Yaoundé on 23 and 24 May 2024 as part of the process of drawing up the OACPS position on Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) in response to the European Union's proposed regulation on the guarantee of a secure and sustainable supply of CRMs, the OACPS Ministers of Mines agreed on the so-called Yaoundé Declaration, adopting the document relating to this position and defining the action plan for implementing the strategy adopted.



“**‘Unlocking OACPS’
potential:**
*ensuring energy and digital
transitions thanks to the critical
raw materials’*”

It was under this generic theme that the OACPS ministerial meeting, bringing together about sixty ministers from member states, representatives of international organizations, pan-African, regional and sub-regional organizations, financial institutions and mining experts, examined the challenges to be met from the energy, cooperation, legislation and infrastructure standpoints with a view to implementing a better development strategy for critical minerals and rising up to the challenges in terms of financing and industrialisation.



80
million euros
worth of EU funding in the
pipeline for the development
of critical minerals research in
Cameroon

On the sidelines of the OACPS ministerial meeting on mining, an agreement was signed on 23 May 2024 in Yaoundé between the Acting Minister of Industries, Mines and Technological Development and the Ambassador Head of Delegation of the European Union in Cameroon, relating to the European Union's support for mining development in Cameroon.

The main focus areas of intervention in relation to the planned support include the following:

- Finalising the decree of implementation of the Mining Code;
- Setting up a community mining code;
- Improving transparency and compliance with local laws.



ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)

POSITION PAPER ON CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS (CRMs)



THE YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION

The OACPS position paper on CRMs represents a multi-disciplinary approach to ensuring that the secular global demand for critical raw materials does not perpetuate the long-lasting dependence on commodities that defines the secular trade performance of ACP countries.

The proposed strategy is built around four main pillars:

- (a) the institutional framework;
- (b) geostrategic commitment;
- (c) trade and industrialisation policies;
- (d) sustainability governance.



'Our discussions with MINEPAT and the Minister in charge of SMEs also focused on the possibility of obtaining additional funding through the financial support mechanisms for entrepreneurs offered by the Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) and the Global Gateway strategy'.

Jean Marc CHATAIGNER,
Ambassador - Head of the EU Delegation



'Cameroon needs a National Strategy for the mining sector. We are very happy that the EU has made this funding available to us. This is a very important step for us'.

Prof. Fuh Calistus Gentry,
Acting Minister of Mines, Industries and Technological Development

Increased opportunities associated with the development of the strategic partnership (3)

Third session of the Cameroon - EU Economic and Technical Dialogue

The 2024 edition of the Economic and Technical Dialogue on the Cameroon-European Union partnership was held in Yaoundé on 14 November 2024 under the dual theme of the effects of the implementation of the NDICI and the Global Gateway on the one hand and the improvement of the business climate on the other.

Discussions between the Cameroonian and European parties gave rise to new guidelines for further strengthening of the cooperation against a backdrop of renewed partnership marked in particular by the gradual implementation of new instruments.



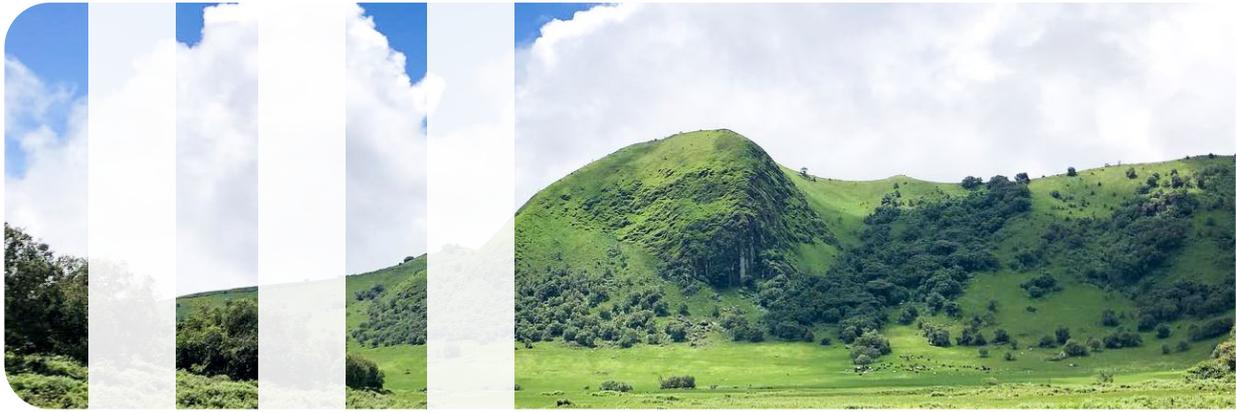
1

Effectively implement the new financing instruments including the NDICI-Global Europe and Global Gateway, in particular by supporting the implementation of structuring infrastructure projects and assisting the private sector.



2

Contribute to improving the business climate by making it even more attractive. Put in place all the instruments likely to strengthen dialogue between the private and public sectors.



Main guidelines that emerged from the 3rd Cameroon-EU Economic and Technical Dialogue

Strengthen communication in order to promote better adoption of the instruments available and remove difficulties in accessing resources

Mobilise all efforts by bringing together the public and private sectors to take advantage of the Global Gateway Strategy

Promote support for the development of SMEs in order to facilitate their access to opportunities and financing

Implementation of the NDICI and Global Gateway in Cameroon

Place emphasis on sustainable connectivity infrastructures, as part of a concrete partnership through the Global Gateway

Consolidate and intensify the Cameroon-EU partnership for the emergence of more visible SMEs

Business climate

Encourage the enforcement of Law No. 2023/008 of 25 July 2023 to lay down the general regime of public-private partnership contracts in order to guarantee the security of investments

Promote alternative methods of settling commercial disputes and encourage economic operators to make use of these instruments

Finalise the evaluation and revision of Law N°. 2013/004 of 18 April 2013 laying down private investment incentives in the Republic of Cameroon

Strengthen the maturation and management of projects in order to effectively mobilise financial resources

Accelerate the revamping of the Cameroon Business Forum in a renovated format

Pursue public finance reforms aimed at broadening the tax base and accelerating the settlement of domestic debt

Accelerate the overall reform of the land tenure system, including the digitisation of the land registry

The Global Gateway Strategy underway in Cameroon

Within the framework of the implementation of its national development programme underpinned by the NDS30, Cameroon has undertaken to make the most of the financial envelope of 150 million euros (98.394 billion CFA francs) earmarked for Africa under the European Global Gateway strategy, launched at the end of 2021 by the European Commission to contribute to the development of the EU’s partner countries, primarily located on the African continent, by mobilising the private sector to accelerate the digital, energy and ecological transitions in emerging and developing countries.

The strategic approach adopted for this purpose is based essentially on the work of the institutional mechanism that has been put in place, and whose current action dynamics allow for the assessment of the progress made in mobilising this initiative for Cameroon in five major points.

March 2023

Creation of an Inter ministerial committee

- Establishment by Ministerial Order No. 0003/ MINEPAT of the inter-ministerial committee for coordinating the preparation of Cameroon’s regional project files eligible for funding under the Global Gateway strategy in view of financing with Global Europe and Team Europe resources as well as by other investors.
- Establishment by Decision No. 00000694/D/ MINEPAT/SG of the composition of the bodies of the Committee, including the Technical Secretariat which is the centre of the institutional system.



January 2024

Holding of the second Session of the Inter-ministerial Committee

- First portfolio of projects to be submitted to the Global Gateway strategy.
- Presentation of the comparative advantages of the funding mechanisms proposed by other partners outside the Global Gateway strategy.

1. The institutional mechanism in action

October 2023

Holding of the first Session of the Inter-ministerial Committee

- Mobilisation of members and understanding of missions.
- Presentation of the Global Gateway strategy.
- Validation of the annual roadmap.

October 2024

Holding of the third Session of the Inter-ministerial Committee

- Involvement of the private sector and project promoters.
- Creation of a bank of projects eligible for the Global Gateway strategy.
- Preparation of the file to be tabled before the European authorities.

2. The strategic process on the move

Close follow up of sector-specific government services and potential project promoters with a view to mounting mature and eligible projects

Constitution of the bank of projects to be forwarded alongside the application for funding under the Global Gateway Strategy mechanism

Advocacy at the level of the European Union

identification and examination of submitted projects in keeping with the eligibility criteria and the priority areas of the Global Gateway Strategy

Forwarding of the list of projects alongside the funding application addressed to the European Union





3.

Ongoing financial mobilisation

Projects considered as flagship projects by the EU (September 2024)

- Yaoundé Ring Road Project
- The Kikot hydroelectric dam construction project

Projects selected by the Committee

- Development of an Integrated Industrial Zone at the Kribi Ports Authority
- Rehabilitation of National Road N°. 3: Yaoundé-Douala (Dibamba bridge)

4.

Strategic prospects of the second cycle of the Global Gateway strategy extending from 2028 to 2034

➤ Cameroon's participation in the 2026 Global Gateway Forum

➤ Information monitoring of countries and institutions that have benefited from 'Global Gateway funds'

➤ Closer dialogue with other Team Europe partners

➤ Contribution to the regional coordination of the Global Gateway Strategy in Central Africa

➤ Securing the approval by the European Commission of the financing of the projects submitted to them

➤ Search for investment windows that are complementary to the Global Gateway strategy

➤ Support for the maturing of the eligible projects identified

Full mastery of «Global Gateway» funding mechanisms

Optimum maturation of projects

5.

Challenges and constraints to address

Mobilisation of the private sector to support the projects

Effective logistical and financial arrangements for the Committee

Financial and operational renewal

Multi-stakeholder trend
in search of efficiency

In 2024, the operational portfolio of the Cameroon-EU cooperation was further densified with programmes and projects financed under the new NDICI-Global Europe instrument, within the framework of an implementation process that was coupled with that of the residual operations of the 11th EDF.

The transition from the EDF to NDICI-Global Europe has given rise to an operational process that increasingly involves a multitude of funding partners and implementing stakeholders of this portfolio beyond the EU entity.

However, there are concerns about national ownership of the whole process, given the relative tendency towards isolated programming and less participatory implementation.

Table 01 :
Status of implementation of the active Cameroon-EU cooperation portfolio

Programmes / Projects	Operational implementation		
	Major actions / changes	Institutional facilitation (IF) / Operational facilitation (OF) CAON	
SRC-SBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the general conditions and performance indicators for variable instalments of EU budget support for the year 2024 Structural Reforms Monitoring Committee 	<p>IF: Participation in the work of the Structural Reforms Monitoring Committee</p> <p>OF: Monitoring the implementation of general conditions and performance indicators for variable instalments</p>	
Rural development and environment	<p>PAMFOR Forestry Governance Improvement Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DICOSE 3 Current execution of the last three remaining components 	<p>IF: Support for the implementation of the new programme architecture</p> <p>OF: Participation in DICOSE and operational follow up</p>	
	<p>ABC-PADER Facilitating changes in the cotton-production basin of Cameroon - Rural Development Support Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd and 4th (final) Steering Committee Operational closure Final evaluation 	<p>IF: Coordination of the sustainability study mission</p> <p>OF: Participation in steering committees and field missions, and support for the implementation of recommendations</p>	
	<p>Modernisation of SODECOTON's industrial facilities and energy transition</p>	<p>Operational programming as part of the contribution to the African Investment Platform (AIP) to boost the Industrial sector of the northern part of Cameroon</p>	<p>IF: Examining the funding application file</p>
	<p>CASEVE Cameroon Septentrion Vert (TEI Northern part, Cameroon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of teams Contacting/raising awareness among target councils Team Europe follow-up mission 	<p>IF: Assistance to the Europe Team</p>	
	<p>ReSiNoc: Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems in Northern Cameroon</p>	<p>Institutional arrangements</p>	<p>IF: Institutional monitoring</p>
	<p>EcoNorCam Ecosystems of North Cameroon</p>	<p>Institutional arrangements</p>	<p>IF: Institutional monitoring</p>
	<p>Natura South-East - Sustainable territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing inception of the first three components The last two components awaiting contractualisation 	<p>IF: Institutional monitoring</p>	
Infrastructures	<p>PRODESV: Programme for the Economic and Social Development of Crisis-hit Medium Cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider extending the implementation period to 31 May 2025 16th Steering Committee 	<p>IF: Examination of the rider file</p> <p>OF: Participation in Steering Committee - Operational monitoring</p>	
	<p>Support for enhancing the renewable electricity production capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding agreement signed in March 2024 Preparation of the separate MINEE-EU-AFD agreement 	<p>IF: Examination of the funding agreement- Follow-up of the preparation of the separate agreement</p>	
	<p>The Yaoundé Ring Road (Section T3: 22.8 km)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and financial maturation in progress EIB identification mission Financial lobbying /TFPs Related studies - Nouma urban development" 	<p>IF: Participation in various working groups involved in project development (MINDUH-MINEPAT-EUD-Global Gateway, etc.) - Mobilisation of European partnerships (EU, EIB, etc.) - Participation in preparatory missions and activities for project launch</p>	
	<p>PAGIRN-ICT ICT Forecasting and Planning (PPTIC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider to the PAGIRN funding agreement for the extension of the Programme implementation period (10/2025) Ongoing examination of the rider extending the implementation period of PAGIRN-ICT 	<p>IF: Examination of the file of the second rider</p> <p>OF: Participation in supervision meetings - Operational monitoring</p>	
	<p>PAGIRN-Corridors Long-term management of corridors and harmonisation of load control mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation of the final deliverables of the Technical Assistance Mission Brainstorming on the long-term concession of the Brazzaville-Pointe Noire corridor (on the sidelines of the workshop on the validation of deliverables) 	<p>IF: Participation (MINEPAT representation) in the Committee for the presentation and validation of the final deliverables of the Technical Assistance Mission.</p> <p>OF: Operational monitoring.</p>	
<p>Kikot hydroelectricity development project</p>	<p>Project in development phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and functioning of State monitoring bodies (Task force - Thematic Group 'Monitoring of the Government Council') Ongoing mobilisation of Technical Assistance 	<p>IF: Participation in the work of state monitoring bodies - Examination of the technical assistance mobilisation file - Support for the GT134 technical assistance mission that visited the project site</p>	
Economy	<p>DACC Competitiveness Support Facility for Cameroon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th Steering Committee Meeting Closing of the Technical Assistance component Mid-term review 	<p>IF: Follow-up of the drafting of the final report of the TA</p> <p>OF: Operational monitoring - participation in the Steering committee</p>	
	<p>Support for economic development through the promotion of value chains and private initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding agreement signed in March 2024 Ongoing process (December 2024) to recruit the Technical Assistance and Management Consultancy Firm 	<p>IF: Examination of the file for the signature of the funding agreement- Follow-up of the recruitment process of the TA</p>	
Governance	<p>PROSCIG: Promotion of gender transformation approaches to strengthen the resilience of the civil society in Cameroon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation agreement signed with GIZ in September 2024 	<p>IF: Examination of the contract signature file</p>	

Assessment of operational effectiveness	Prospects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 disbursements 2025 operational activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulties in taking action in a direct management context Difficulties in mobilising counterpart funds allocated to monitoring the implementation of the Programme 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory and multisectoral approach conducive for the effective achievement of results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of sustainability strategies developed in the dedicated study, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the results and significant achievements obtained.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct support for relative operational visibility 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct support for relative operational visibility Relative coordination of multiple stakeholders Bottlenecks faced in the operational implementation 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate programming Direct support for relative visibility 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate programming Direct support for relative visibility 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate programming Direct support for relative visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official launch of the project in the first half of 2025
<p>Participatory implementation, convincing experience and results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational closing Finalisation of services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of the separate agreement Operational start-up
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical (updating of studies) and financial maturation (supporting texts from the national party) Project launch under the EIB's leadership of the TFPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay in mobilising the beneficiary's share of the grant (ENSPY) Delays in the activity implementation schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider extending the implementation period to PAGIRN-ICT Operational monitoring
<p>Relative responsiveness of sub-regional actors in the road maintenance sector in other Central African countries.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation of the contractualisation of the project development TA (State Council mobilised) Continuation of the project development process (preliminary design studies by KHPCI)
<p>Limited ownership by the intermediate organizations compared to the role initially expected of them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of the financial component through dedicated credit lines. Capitalisation and sustainability of achievements, in relation to the final evaluation of the TA.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and signing of the contract with the TA Operational start-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation contract provides for the establishment of steering organs (Steering Committee - Technical Committees) including all project stakeholders (Government - Civil Society - TFPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational start-up First Steering Committee scheduled for January 2025



Bridge over the Logone
Far North Region, Cameroon



A model of the Yaoundé Ring Road



Nachtigal Hydroelectric Dam
Centre Region, Cameroon



Launch of PROSCIG activities
Central Region, Cameroon

Multi-stakeholder dynamics in the financing of the cooperation portfolio

In the current era when the NDICI-Global Europe is in force, the prevailing approach to financing European cooperation programmes and projects is one of mixed funding coupled with the mobilisation of complementary resources, combining grants (donations) from the EU with loans and other funds allocated by various other partners, against a backdrop of a variety of co-financing mechanisms.

Mixed and complementary funding of EU cooperation projects

EU Funding	Financial contributions from the European Commission						
Cofinancing	Team Europe Mobilisation of contributions from the EU and the EU Member States for the financing and coordinated implementation of development projects						
	Contribution agreement Financial contribution from the EU, made available to a partner (beneficiary) for the implementation of a jointly financed project.						
	Grant agreement EU funding of specific activities/operations with the contribution of the beneficiary of the grant for implementing the activity						
Blended finance	Blending Combination of EU grants (donations) with loans, equity capital or other public and private investment funding						
Strategic mobilisation	Africa Investment Platform Pooling of grants from the EU budget to mobilise funding from the EIB, partner financial institutions and public and private investors in support of infrastructure projects and small businesses						
	Global Gateway Strategy Mobilisation of public and private funds through partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms to reduce the investment gap and attract private investors in various key infrastructure sectors.						



A model of the Yaoundé Ring Road

Table 02 :
Multi-partner financing of the active Cameroon-EU cooperation portfolio in 2024 (billion CFA francs)

Programmes / Projects	Total amount	Funding by the EU / Team Europe		Joint funding by partners	
		Instrument / Procedure	Amount	Partner	Amount
SRC-SBS					
PADL Support Programme for Local Development		EU SBS	28.86		
Rural development and environment					
PAMFOR Forestry Governance Improvement Programme	7.47	11 th EDF	6.55	» AFCAM » ATIBT » WRI	0.29 0.23 0.38
ABC-PADER Facilitating changes in the cotton-production basin of Cameroon - Rural Development Support Programme	10.1	11 th EDF	6.16	Germany (BMZ)	3.93
Modernisation of SODECOTON's industrial facilities and energy transition		11 th EDF	6.55		
CASEVE Cameroon Septentrion Vert (TEI Northern part, Cameroon)		NDICI	13		
ReSiNoc: Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems in Northern Cameroon	1.64	NDICI	1.63		
EcoNorCam Ecosystems of North Cameroon	3.28	NDICI	3.27		
Natura South-East - Sustainable territories		NDICI	13.12		
Infrastructures					
PRODESIV: Programme for the Economic and Social Development of Crisis-hit Medium Cities	14.10	11 th EDF	13.12	FEICOM	0.98
Support for enhancing the renewable electricity production capacity		NDICI	2.62		
The Yaoundé Ring Road (Section T3: 22.8 km)	152.16	Ongoing mobilisation of funding: • EIB window • Global Gateway		Ongoing mobilisation of funding: » BDEAC	
PAGIRN-ICT ICT Forecasting and Planning (PPTIC)	1.46	11 th EDF	1.31	» ENSPY	0.15
PAGIRN-Corridors Long-term management of corridors and harmonisation of load control mechanisms	1.18	11 th EDF	1.18		
Kikot hydroelectricity development project		Ongoing evaluation			
Economy:					
DACC Competitiveness Support Facility for Cameroon	6.50	11 th EDF	6.50	/	/
Support for economic development through the promotion of value chains and private initiative	9.83	NDICI	9.83		
Governance					
PROSCIG : Promotion of gender transformation approaches to strengthen the resilience of the civil society in Cameroon	13.77	NDICI	11.15	Germany	2.62

The multi-stakeholder trend in the implementation of cooperation programmes and projects

The involvement of a variety of stakeholders in the implementation of the various projects and programmes in the European cooperation portfolio is characteristic of the new operational framework under the NDICI-Global Europe strategy.

This multi-stakeholder approach involves joint or individual actions implemented by the various contracting entities, operating under separate budgetary and operational arrangements.

Multi-stakeholder intervention in the implementation of EU cooperation projects

Overall EU supervision	Management of the project cycle								
Budget management	Direct management European Commission directly responsible for implementation at various stages of the project cycle (Headquarters in Brussels - EUD - Executive Agencies).								
	Indirect management Project implementation entrusted to third parties: International organisations - national authorities - NGOs and other civil society organisations - Private sector organisations.								
	Delegated management Implementation of projects entrusted to Member States, organisations or agencies, which become responsible for managing, using and monitoring funds, while ensuring the protection of the EU's financial interests.								
Operational contracting	Implementation agreement Implementation involving the beneficiary of the funding and the managing authority, with details of the financing, reporting and financial control aspects of the project.								
	Grant agreement Implementation of specific activities or projects by an entity receiving resources and acting as a financial partner in the action.								
	Technical Assistance Agreement Soutien technique pour la mise en œuvre de réformes, de projets ou de politiques spécifiques.								
Joint execution	Multiple stakeholders in a consortium Implementation with multiple contracting entities acting as a group.								
	Dissociated multiple stakeholders Implementation with multiple contracting entities, acting individually.								
	Local partnership Implementation with the contractualisation association of local partners.								



Kribi Port Authority
Southern Region, Cameroon

Table 03 :
Multi-stakeholder implementation of the active Cameroon-EU cooperation portfolio in 2024

Programmes / Projets	Duration	Contractual terms and conditions of implementation	Implementing partners		Entities in charge	
			National partners	International partners		
SRC-SBS						
PADL Support Programme for Local Development	2024 - 2026					
Rural development and environment	PAMFOR Forestry Governance Improvement Programme	02/2019 - 02/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 1: Grant contract Project 2: Grant contract Project 3: Grant contract Project 4: Grant contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACFCAM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATIBT FODER - CED FLAG ATIBT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACFCAM ATIBT WRI (Project 3) ATIBT
	ABC-PADER Facilitating changes in the cotton-production basin of Cameroon - Rural Development Support Programme	09/2020 - 08/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities Authorities Producer organisations Civil society actors 	(GIZ) Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIZ
	Modernisation of SODECOTON's industrial facilities and energy transition	01/2024 - 12/2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blending AFD 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFD
	CASEVE Cameroon Septentrion Vert (TEI Northern part, Cameroon)	06/2023 - 06/2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component 1: Contribution agreement Component 2: Contribution agreement Component 3: Grant contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SODECOTON 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIFOR - ICRAF - Care France ACEFA - AFOP Noé Conservation - Conserve Global 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIFOR AFD AWF
	ReSiNoc: Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems in Northern Cameroon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant contract 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICRAF, IRAD, CIRAD, CIFOR 	
	EcoNorCam Ecosystems of North Cameroon					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCS
	Natura South-East - Sustainable territories	10/2024 - 12/2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component 1: Grant contract Component 2: Grant contract Component 3: Grant Contract 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONG Noé, Nature+ UNESCO Nitidae - CED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWF GIZ EFI
Infrastructures	PRODESV: Programme for the Economic and Social Development of Crisis-hit Medium Cities	2018 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management delegation agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEICOM Councils concerned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMBERO consultancy firm (TA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KfW
	Support for enhancing the renewable electricity production capacity	10/2024 - 12/2029				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFD
	The Yaoundé Ring Road (Section T3: 22.8 km)					
	PAGIRN-ICT ICT Forecasting and Planning (PPTIC)	2021 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUP'PTIC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENSPY
	PAGIRN-Corridors Long-term management of corridors and harmonisation of load control mechanisms	2021 - 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance contract 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher Consulting
	Kikot hydroelectricity development project					
Economy:	DACC Competitiveness Support Facility for Cameroon	01/2020 - 05/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCA Baank CBC Bank 	EIB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOFRECO-PwC
	Support for economic development through the promotion of value chains and private initiative	2024 - 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance contract 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing recruitment process
Governance						
PROSCIG : Promotion of gender transformation approaches to strengthen the resilience of the civil society in Cameroon	2024 - 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society stakeholders 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIZ 	

From EDF (co-management) to NDICI (direct management): The problem of operational ownership

The current practice of programming and implementing programmes and projects of the European cooperation under the new NDICI-Global Europe instrument is revealing a disquieting abandonment of the principle of ownership by national stakeholders, linked to the implementation of the direct management system, as opposed to the joint-management system that prevailed under the EDF.



Increasingly isolated programming

The tendency towards limited involvement of national stakeholders and beneficiaries is observed in the current process of formulating EU-funded actions.

Even though the EU claims to align its development support with the priority options of the NDS30 and the focus areas agreed upon in the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), it no longer systematically involves the country in defining the thematic content, the treaty provisions and the operational structuring of its interventions.

Mindful of the abolition of the role and mandate of the National Authorising Officer under the former EDF regime, which put an end to the joint management of European cooperation resources, the National Party finds itself without any room for manoeuvre to influence in the best possible way the consistency of these interventions with national strategies and policies in the areas concerned.

This situation, which tends to undermine the principle of ownership necessary for the rational order of things, raises concerns about the long-term effectiveness and impact of these interventions, whose financing agreements are prepared and drawn up outside the formalised consultation forums that existed before.

The attached analysis table from the independent reflection and action centre, ECDPM, on the implications of the changes brought about by the transition from the EDF to NDICI, is highly illustrative.

Decreasingly participatory implementation

The problem of limited ownership is more visible in the project implementation phase, where, in conjunction with the effects of isolated programming, there is a very limited participation of national actors and beneficiaries, both in terms of institutions or other stakeholders.

The limited operational visibility and delays in implementation are the consequences of this phenomenon, which has diverse origins and manifestations:

- Inadequate preparation of the stakeholders and beneficiaries given that they are not involved in the formulation of the operations. Consequently, they are surprised by the roles they are called upon to play in their implementation;
- Inaccurate knowledge of the operations programmed in some cases and information of key institutional stakeholders at the time of signing the funding agreement in other cases;
- The perception of divergence between the thematic content and the sectoral strategies and policies, requiring prior clarifications and harmonisation;
- The direct and unilateral use of a multitude of external players with little obvious knowledge of the field;
- The vagueness of the provisions of the agreement on the institutional and operational mechanisms for action and coordination, in a context of multiple external and local players.

Table 04 :
Practical changes in the relationship between the EU and its partners (*)

Within the framework of the EDF	Within the framework of the IVDCI	Implications
Co-signed agreements	Financing agreements (sometimes with empty content) signed by the partner country's financial authority	» Limited ownership of the process and involvement of the former National Authorising Officer structure in the development of the content of policies
Flexible/accommodating procedures (D+3)	Procedures limited to one year between signature and end of implementation N+1	» Less flexibility for EUD
EDF multi-annual programme	Multi-annual indicative programmes (MIP) broken down into annual action plans	» Less visibility and predictability for partner countries
Joint management via national and regional authorising officers	Direct management	» Less ownership by partner countries » More possibilities for the EUD
Political dialogue is no longer linked to the instrument	Nothing compulsory, depends on the country: Cameroon: Political dialogue, MINREX - Economic dialogue, MINEPAT	» Adaptable to the realities of the country in question » Not legally binding
Different thematic programmes implemented at country level, managed by headquarters	Geographisation implies greater focus on geographic programmes, and less focus on thematic programmes	» Greater EU coherence at country level (The EUDs were not always properly informed of funds allocated to thematic programmes)
National and regional authorising officers	No single-entry point for EUDs	» Loss of single-entry point but greater opportunities for direct commitment with relevant ministries
Priority to grants and projects	Open to a wider range of financial instruments (loans, mixed financing, EDFD+ guarantees)	» Greater diversity of financing options according to sectors/interest, greater use of development finance institutions (DFIs) and public development banks (PDBs), potential for mobilising private investment
EDF outside EU budget	EU budget under the NDICI - Global Europe	» Limited influence of certain Member States on the formulation and adoption of programmes

(*) *Amandine Sabourin, Katja Sergejeff and Alexei Jones: 'The new EU development policy shifts in practice: views from Kenya and Cameroon', ECDPM - Discussion Paper No. 358 - December 2023.*

Communication is more than public relations

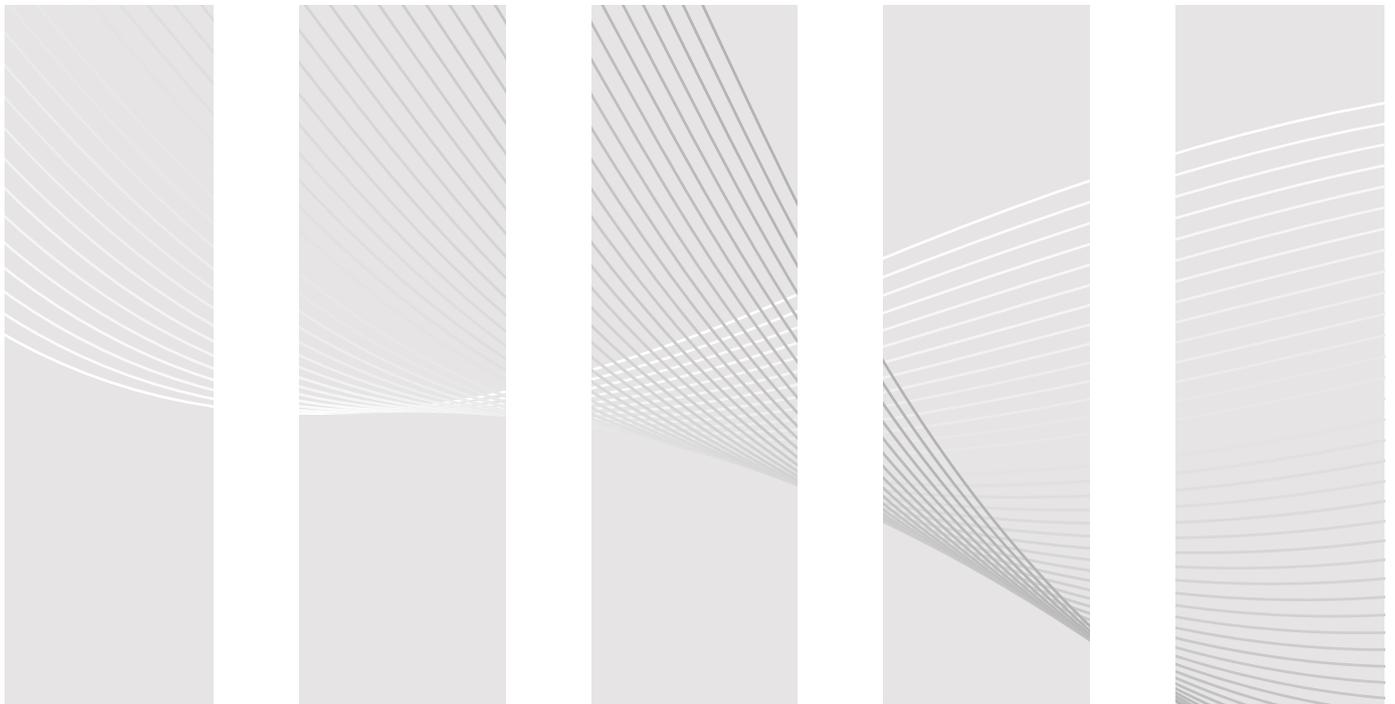
'The new Global Europe instrument is known by many stakeholders in Cameroon (...) and so is the end of the EDF, but the details and potential impacts are still unclear for them. It is still difficult for European actors in the field to communicate clearly about new EU initiatives, instruments and processes on which they are themselves just starting to grasp.

There is a strong need for more information sharing towards partners, including governments, civil society, local authorities and the private sector. Some communication efforts, such as the regional workshop on Global Gateway, organised in Cameroon in January 2023, were cited as good examples as they raised both awareness and interest at a high level.

However, no amount of communication will save the day without a tangible impact. Improved communication and information-sharing must come with swift actions on the ground. The ability to deliver fast on the promises made and expectations raised by the Global Gateway in particular will be crucial for the EU's credibility'.

"Through the looking glass : Global Europe in partner countries"

Amandine Sabourin, Katja Sergejeff and Alexei Jones, ECDPM, Document de réflexion – July 2023



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