

JOINT LETTER OF INTENT TO FOSTER A “TEAM EUROPE” APPROACH IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL4DEVELOPMENT (D4D) IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

The following Member States

Belgium

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Netherlands

Portugal

Spain

Sweden

hereinafter referred to collectively as the “D4D Team Europe” have come to the following understanding:

THE D4D HUB AS THE VEHICLE FOR THE “TEAM EUROPE” APPROACH

1. The D4D Team Europe hereby expresses its mutual intent to cooperate with each other in the area of D4D. In order to coordinate existing and future activities with other D4D Team Europe Member States in the area of D4D, the D4D Team Europe will contribute to and steer the work of the D4D Hub on reducing the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, ensuring a human rights-based approach and leveraging digital innovation for inclusive and green sustainable development. Specifically, the following goals are jointly pursued:
 - 1.1. To exchange D4D expertise among D4D Team Europe Member States and establish dialogues with multi-stakeholders and partners;
 - 1.2. To jointly foster sustainable, responsible and inclusive digital economy investments in all our partner countries;
 - 1.3. To establish a collective overview of all D4D activities by the EU and its Member States;

- 1.4. To collaborate during the implementation of joint projects under the D4D Hub;
- 1.5. To develop norms, standards and preconditions to ensure that the goals and activities of the D4D Hub are in line with international law as well as our core values and principles.

THE COMMON D4D APPROACH: CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

2. The Cooperation builds onto core values and principles shared by the “Team Europe” approach and implements the European Digital Strategy “Shaping Europe’s digital future” (2020)¹ and the EU-AU-DETF recommendations. As a Team Europe Initiative, the D4D Hub is aligned with the development needs and priorities of partner countries. The initiative is designed and implemented in close consultation with relevant partners, including those implementing actions on the ground.

These values and principles include:

- 2.1. A coherent human-centric approach to digital transformation;
- 2.2. Local ownership and win-win partnerships;
- 2.3. Multi-stakeholder involvement, including governments, civil society, academia, research institutions, the technical community and the private sector;
- 2.4. Inclusive, sustainable and green digital transformation;
- 2.5. Data security & protection;
3. The implementation is aligned with the “Principles for Digital Development”, which are a set of nine guidelines for integrating best practices into technology-enabled development programs for international development and cooperation, as well as other relevant international frameworks on D4D.

STEERING AND MONITORING

4. The D4D Team Europe hereby expresses its mutual intent to jointly steer and monitor the above-mentioned goals and activities as follows:
 - 4.1. To jointly conduct the political steering of the D4D Hub together with other D4D Team Europe Member States as well as the EU Commission and partners;
 - 4.2. To jointly monitor activities as specified under 1.3 in an appropriate manner and to identify synergies in actions, thus avoiding duplication of effort and reducing overall costs;
 - 4.3. To remain an open and inclusive platform for other EU Member States that are not currently specified as the D4D Team Europe, and additional stakeholders from the public and private sector as well as civil society in partner countries.

¹ As well as the EU Commission staff-working document “Digital4Development: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy” (2017)