



THROUGH OUR LENS

#AUEU25 Photo Competition



#AUEU25 THROUGH OUR LENS PHOTO COMPETITION

Celebrating 25 years of AU-EU Partnership



As part of the year-long celebration marking 25 years of the unique AU-EU partnership, the EU Delegation to the African Union and the African Union Commission [launched an international photography competition](#).

A visual tribute to this enduring partnership which attracted more than 700 talented young photographers from both continents, each offering unique perspectives that capture the essence and concrete impact of our shared journey. From those, the selection panel selected 25 finalists. 25 powerful images, 25 real stories of the [AU-EU partnership's 25th anniversary](#).

2025 was a remarkable year for the AU-EU partnership. Besides the silver jubilee joint campaign to engage with citizens in both continents, the year hosted two high-level successful events: the [3rd EU-AU Ministerial - May in Brussels](#) -, and the [7th AU-EU Summit - November in Luanda](#) -, where we reinforced the commitment to deliver peace and prosperity via effective multilateralism.

**Discover the 25 finalists and, among those,
the two Grand Winners.**

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Thank you to the members of the selection panel:

- **Javier Niño Pérez**, European Union Ambassador to the African Union, represented by Rita Fortunato Baptista
- **Steve Patrick Lalande**, African Union Director for Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, represented by Mahlet Feleke & Mourad Chouicha
- **Stephanie De Lima**, CEO of tetra x Africa (France)
- **Agaba Solomon Peabo**, Africa No Filter (Uganda)





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And the winners are...



GRAND WINNER | AFRICA

Michael Aremu Adeoye

NIGERIA

“LIMITLESS”



September 2025 - Abuja, Nigeria

“Posture, perspective, and patterns collide in a single frame. The thought of doing the unusual led me to get closer to the floor to show how posture speaks, perspective reveals and patterns bind.

Dialogue, openness, diversity, learning and listening from each other: the core of the AU-EU Partnership. Sometimes, to find the best solution, we need to look from a different angle.”

These principles and the strong commitment to deliver peace and prosperity through effective multilateralism were reaffirmed by the almost 80 African and EU leaders that met at [the 7th AU-EU Summit](#) in Luanda, Angola on 24-25 November 2025. For [25 years, Africa and Europe have worked together](#) to promote peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. [The AU-EU partnership](#) is guided by Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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GRAND WINNER | EUROPE

Mariana Serejo

PORUGAL

“THE DUTY TO PROTECT”

August 2025 - Maputo, Mozambique

“He came from the world of arms, where duty is carried out one measured step at a time, and paused upon the warm soil of Africa where voices are made of laughter and dreams. Children run towards him, unaware that the man in uniform is also a father, a son, a guardian: someone who carries within both courage and the quiet promise to care. In that moment, there is no war, no border, no command: only the certainty that to protect is also to love, and the truest strength is the one that lifts the heart.”

Peace and Security is one of the main pillars of the AU-EU Partnership, with the EU being the longer-lasting and larger partner to AU-led solutions for sustainable peace in the continent. The EU has provided more than €3.5 billion for the African Peace and Security agenda and architecture. Around 2 000 European military personnel, police officers and civil servants work alongside their African counterparts in the 11 ongoing EU civilian and military missions in Africa, among which is the [EU Military Assistance Mission Mozambique \(EUMAM\)](#).



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Meet the other 23 finalists:



FINALIST

Abdul-Gafar Mudathir

NIGERIA



“THE WATER BENEATH US”

November 2025 - Victoria Island Waterways, Lagos, Nigeria

“Lagos' waterways show a simple truth: when we move better, we live better. The Omi Eko project reveals what the AU-EU partnership can unlock: new routes, less gridlock, more chances for people to connect. This image reflects a future where Africa and Europe build together, allowing opportunity to flow as freely as the water beneath us.

The water has always been here. The AU-EU partnership envisions its transformation.”

Omi Eko is an example of sustainable mobility projects shaping inclusive development under the Global Gateway investment package, concentrating on sustainable investments in infrastructure (digital, energy, transport), health, education and skills, as well as climate change and environment.

It aims to boost public and private investment to create sustainable growth and jobs for Africa's growing youth population. It has the overarching objective of bolstering Africa's socio-economic, green and digital transformation through innovative sources of funding.

FINALIST

Adam Ibrahim

SOUTH SUDAN

“A NEW BEGINNING”

October 2023 - Yei, South Sudan



“A single mother sits at her sewing machine with her infant strapped to her back, stitching together a better future for them both. After intensive training, she embarks on a new career path alongside other women who share her dreams and challenges.

Taken during an EU-supported vocational training program empowering women through small business skills, this image embodies the strength and determination of women striving for financial independence despite difficult circumstances. More than a training: it opens doors to hope and dignity. “

Vocational Education and Training (VET) can lead to strong social and economic transformation to achieve a equitable society. VET is, therefore, a priority of the AU-EU partnership, paving the way for multiple opportunities for all. The [Team Europe Initiative on Opportunity-driven Skills and Vocational Education and Training in Africa](#) strengthens vocational education and training systems by aligning them with concrete employment opportunities emerging from public and private investments, making skills development a core enabler of sustainable growth and job creation. [Here](#) are some other real stories from women that, by acquiring new skills, were able to find jobs, boost their businesses, and support their families.

AU and EU work together to advance gender equality, namely through the [Spotlight Initiative Africa](#).

FINALIST

Tchinindebe Judith Detchibe

CHAD

“LA RÉSILIENCE FÉMININE”

September 2025 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



“This photo captures the hands of the women from the 5th cohort of the Nairobi Summer School after a tree-planting session. It reflects collective strength, climate commitment, and the impact of the AU-EU partnership in supporting initiatives led by young women to restore African ecosystems.”

Climate action lies at the heart of the AU-EU partnership - not only as a response to environmental emergency, but mainly as the strategy to unlock innovation, stability and future-proof opportunities. We listened to different voices gathered at the Africa Climate Summit 2, on why climate is an imperative and how the AU-EU partnership is already delivering on it.

Africa has the potential to be a driving force in the global climate transition by harnessing its abundant renewable energy resources and empowering its young population to drive innovation. The EU is the world’s largest climate finance contributor and has cut emissions by 37% since 1990, with ambitious targets set to -55% for 2030, and climate neutrality by 2050. Together, Africa and the EU advance mitigation and adaptation, address biodiversity loss, aiming to strengthen resilience and to enable a sustainable development path. A few examples of joint action are the Continental Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) for Africa and the Mission Soil Manifesto, the Team Europe Initiative on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa.

FINALIST

Emmanuel Sowah

GHANA

“THE SUN BETWEEN US”

October 2025 - Accra, Ghana



“African engineers and European technology, under the sun that will feed the panels. This image illustrates how the collaboration between Africa and Europe is yielding observable and quantifiable results in various important areas, such as local capacity building, skill development, and sustainable energy. Through research and investment in human development, people in Ghana and all across Africa are learning useful skills that bolster both continents’ energy sector.

It vividly represents larger objectives of the AU-EU Partnership: investing in people, encouraging environmental-friendly solutions, and generating economic possibilities that benefit communities on both continents.“

Europe and Africa, are joining forces to champion a green future that creates jobs, empowers communities and nurtures the environment. Through the Global Gateway and the international pledging [campaign Scaling up Renewables in Africa](#), the aim is to rapidly expand clean energy, aiming to triple renewable capacity by 2030. Young [voices and stories](#) that are shaping Africa’s greener future.

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Favour Megwara

NIGERIA

“DIVER CITY”



November 2024 - University of Lagos Swimming Pool, Lagos, Nigeria

“Two elite swimmers, one with deep dark skin wearing an orange/black suit and a blue cap, the other with fair skin in a bright orange suit and a white/blue cap, execute a synchronized dive. They slice through the air above the vibrant orange lane ropes of the pool. They highlight the 'diver city' (diversity) of athletes competing together, united by a powerful moment of pure focus and motion.”

The European Union and Africa partnership is about how security and prosperity in both continents are intertwined, is about creating bonds, about empowering young people, celebrating diversity, turning potential into opportunity.

Sport is part of it. As an example, the recent agreement between [European Commission and CAF](#) will reach up to 33,000 education institutions across Africa: using sport to keep kids in school and creating the conditions to tap their potential - on and off the pitch.

FINALIST

Fidelis Kathure Ringera

KENYA

“FIRST WINTER”

November 2024 - University of Vaasa, Finland



“First Winter captures the pure joy of experiencing snow for the first time. Three friends stand in a snowy landscape, smiling with arms open as they embrace the cold air and the beauty around them. Soft evening light, snow-covered ground, and bare winter trees highlight the magic of the moment. It is the reflection of warmth, friendship, and the wonder of discovering winter for the first time, as they embrace new experiences abroad.”

[Youth Mobility for Africa](#) and [Erasmus+](#) are two examples of programmes that promote learning mobility opportunities within Africa and between Africa and the EU. The AU-EU partnership invests in youth human capital, boosts employability, and fosters conditions for academic and labour market mobility.

FINALIST

Gérard Andy Nibizi

BURUNDI

**“UNITED FOR A BETTER
ECONOMY”**



November 2025 - Bubanza Province, Burundi

“Rural labourers are reaping the benefits of harvests and enjoying the fruits of their work thanks to collaborative seed improvement projects between the EU and Africa.”

The AU-EU partnership strengthens [trade and investment](#), as EU is Africa's top trading and investment partner and 44 African countries benefit from duty-free access to the EU market, and 97% of African exports enter the EU without tariffs.

Following up on commitments made at AU-EU agriculture ministerial conferences, the [last one on June 2025 in Rome](#), both Unions promote investment and financing in agri-food value chains, sustainable practices and climate resilience, research, innovation, and technology, and market access and trade facilitation. The [Africa-Europe rural transformation action agenda](#) sets out concrete initiatives to strengthen rural areas and the food supply chain in Africa. [PrAEctiCe](#), which helps smallholder farmers in their agroecological transition, and [IYBA-SEED Hub](#), a knowledge platform dedicated to strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems in Africa, are examples of concrete projects that enhance local entrepreneurship, autonomy and prosperity.

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Hardy Bope

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

“GREEN CORRIDOR”

March 2025 - Kimwenza, Kinshasa Province, DRC

“From Kinshasa, Kimwenza, a young farmer works the land at dawn. This “green corridor” symbolises hope and resilience. The image reflects the impact of the AU-EU Partnership which supports African youth in sustainable development initiatives, strengthening food security and promoting agriculture as an engine for the future.”

The [Green Corridor](#) is a lifeline to preserve the last lungs of the earth through green economic growth. By empowering local producers, fostering environmental protection and improving security, this initiative lays the foundation for a greener and more prosperous future. The AU-EU partnership also invests in other [strategic corridors](#), such as the [Lobito Corridor](#), to enhance connectivity, local value chains and facilitate trade and mobility within Africa as well as between Africa and Europe.



FINALIST

Hillary Otieno Omondi

KENYA

“STRINGS OF CONNECTION”

August 2024 - Dunga Hillcamp, Kisumu-Kenya

“The Nyatiti connects people through its calm sound. In this moment, I saw how culture builds bridges. With support from the AU-EU partnership, artists find chances to grow, share ideas, and protect our stories. Strings of Connection shows how music creates understanding between continents and opens new paths for young Africans in the creative world.”

Both the [Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture](#) program and [Maisha](#) initiative are examples where the AU-EU Partnership promotes a collaborative approach, nourished by exchanges with artists and cultural players. Culture becomes a force for transformation and authentic cooperation, founded on shared creativity, mutual respect and reciprocal recognition.



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Jobo Sootho

BOTSWANA

“GUARDIANS OF THE LAND”

February 2024 - Kasane, Botswana

“Captured during an EU-supported Men & Boys for Gender Equality field trip in Botswana, this image reflects the harmony between nature, human development, and progress that defines 25 years of AU-EU partnership. The elephant, a symbol of wisdom and strength, moves through the Okavango Delta sustained by local and global conservation projects. It reminds us that our shared future depends on this difficult, but crucial balance between people, planet, and prosperity, moving forward strong and united.”

While Europe and Africa work together to strengthen political leadership and [civil society](#) action for [positive masculinity](#) to fight against Gender Inequalities and Violence, highlighting the flagship [Spotlight Initiative](#), climate action lies at the heart of the AU-EU partnership. Not only as a response to environmental emergency, but mainly as the strategy to unlock innovation, stability and future-proof opportunities. [Listen](#) to different voices gathered at the Africa Climate Summit 2 on why climate should be a priority.



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Mahali Motantsí

LESOTHO

“UNITED IN PURPOSE”

November 2025 - Ha Tsolo, Lesotho

“Intertwined hands symbolizing 25 years of AU-EU Partnership. The EU flag (golden stars on blue) and the AU flag (Africa map with radiant circle). At their meeting, a white bridge of harmony. Green (growth), blue (peace), white (faith) blend AU-EU benefits to youth, artists, education and development. It honours mutual respect, cultural fusion, and envisions continued creativity, and progress.”

During 2025, African Union and European Union [celebrated 25 years](#) of strengthened partnership since the [Summit in Cairo in 2000](#) with the joint campaign #AUEU25. The [7th AU-EU Summit](#) in Luanda, Angola, on 24-25 November 2025 marked a quarter-century of partnership and improved economic, political and social ties and renewed the commitment to promote Peace and Prosperity through Effective Multilateralism.



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Michael Osei

GHANA

“THE NEW AGRARIAN SMILE”



November 2025 - K.N.U.S.T Botanical Garden, Kumasi, Ghana

“The New Agrarian Smile captures a young Ghanaian farmer at the Kwame Nkrumah University farm area close to the Botanical Garden in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region who passionately embraces drone technology for his maize and cabbage crops. This photograph highlights the dynamic tension between traditional farming and digital innovation. It directly reflects the AU-EU Partnership's focus on Youth Empowerment and AgriTech adoption, showcasing a hopeful future where technology secures livelihoods and food security in Africa.”

As the source of livelihood for 70% of the African population, agriculture and the rural economy play a fundamental role in securing a peaceful, prosperous and integrated future for Africa. Through strong cooperation, the [AU-EU partnership on food and farming](#) promotes knowledge transfer, sharing good practices, and actions that contribute to job creation and inclusive growth in Africa's rural economy. Besides, the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#) actively tackles global challenges such as climate change, security threats, food security, digital transformation, sustainable development, and public health crises. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of these challenges on the continent, they develop locally tailored solutions.

FINALIST

Minou Kaël Rakotoarivony

MADAGASCAR

**“THREE VISIONS TO
RESTORE ONE”**



September 2025 – Antananarivo, Madagascar

“As humans, cooperation is the most effective way to realize one vision. We can't go far alone. We are billions in this world to help each other. Three visions to restore one: in this photo, the expert needs strong allies to help one person see life again thanks to international knowledge and cooperation.”

The [AU-EU Health Partnership](#) is a shared commitment to health security and health sovereignty, as reaffirmed at the [AU-EU health annual high-level steering meeting](#) in November 2025. Africa and Europe are committed to charting a new era of global health diplomacy – one that strengthens domestic investment, promotes equity, and ensures resilient health systems for all. The [Platform for Harmonised African Health Manufacturing](#), the [Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines, and Health Technologies in Africa](#) (MAV+), health professionals' capacity building and the delivery of [Team Europe donations of mpox vaccine](#) doses to address the outbreak in Africa are just a few examples of concrete initiatives jointly implemented by AU and EU. Health is a critical pillar to long-term development and security.

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Moses Ojo

NIGERIA

“TOGETHER IN RESILIENCE”

January 2024 – Nigeria

“This powerful image captures the essence of global cooperation in the fight against the climate crisis. An African man and a European woman stand together on a shore covered in debris, actively participating in a [beach clean-up](#). The contrast between the natural beauty of the coastline and the widespread plastic pollution serves as a clear visual representation of the environmental challenges we all face.

The photograph highlights how individual actions amplify the AU-EU partnership efforts to protect ecosystems and promote sustainability. The image stands as a testament to shared responsibility, resilience, hope, and the strength of working together for a better, cleaner future.”

The [EU and Africa work together on ocean issues](#) for a long time. From fisheries to ocean governance, fighting pollution, blue economy, and maritime security.



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Moses Serunjogi

UGANDA

“BEYOND ABILITY”



October 2024 – Katende Mpigi District, Uganda

“This image embodies the [AU-EU Joint Vision 2030](#), namely its “People” pillar. It captures inclusive education in action at a local model school in Katende Mpigi district that integrates learners with disabilities alongside their peers. The story is living proof of AU-EU collaboration, promoting social cohesion, equitable access to quality education, and empowerment of all children. I captured this candid moment where the unspoken support and unity care allow these young students to become champions.”

Promoting inclusive education and equality is part of the path towards the society model reflected by the AU-EU partnership. [Ruth, a 10-year-old student in Zambia](#), is one of the many stories proving that inclusive education can transform lives. Many initiatives remove barriers to education and expand learning opportunities for all children. The [Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa](#) (RTIA) supports teacher governance and development, so to ensure that schools have enough skilled, motivated, and inclusive teachers to deliver high-quality education for all.

FINALIST

Rebecca-Georgia Dunca

ROMANIA

“DIPLOMACY IN COLOURS - THE EU AND AU IN ONE HEARTBEAT”

June 2025 – Alexandria, Egypt

“On the stage of Université Senghor's Classe Diplomatique, a Romanian diplomat stood, and Africa answered in harmony. This moment embodies the EU-AU partnership beyond protocols: diplomacy as dialogue of hearts, culture as bridge, and humanity as its universal language. Moved that my lens could catch the AU-EU heartbeat – a living dialogue, felt beyond words.”

The [Joint Declaration from the 7th AU-EU Summit](#) in Luanda, Angola on 24-25 November 2025 underscored that the AU-EU Partnership has shown resilience in the face of past and present geopolitical challenges, reaffirming that our common future lies in closer cooperation and collective action for the mutual benefit of the peoples of Africa and Europe.

On the [25th anniversary of the AU-EU partnership](#), African and EU leaders look forward to future cooperation based on mutual ambition for integrated, prosperous and peaceful continents for the wellbeing of our people. They reaffirmed the strong commitment to international order based on international law and effective multilateralism and to uphold the rules and principles of the Charter of the United Nations - including those of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence -, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.



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FINALIST

Rita Bull

SIERRA LEONE

“BUILDING UNITY THROUGH DIALOGUE: A COMMUNITY EMPOWERED PARTNERSHIP”



2025 – Bo city, Sierra Leone

“This photo shows was taken during a community outreach session focused on development and education. It shows how open dialogue between youth and local leaders can drive real change. The AU-EU partnership promotes lasting development and peace by empowering people to work together, build trust, and create local solutions. It highlights the importance of community voice, inclusion, and collaboration.”

Youth and local leaders gathered to engage in open dialogue ensures sustainable peace and human development. Implementing the [Women, Peace and Security agenda](#) represents an essential tool in ensuring that the rights, agency and protection of women and girls are observed.

A meaningful and equal participation of women, [youth](#) and local communities in processes of conflict prevention, peace-making, peacebuilding and post-conflict rehabilitation leads to long-term results.

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FINALIST

Salah Azeddagh

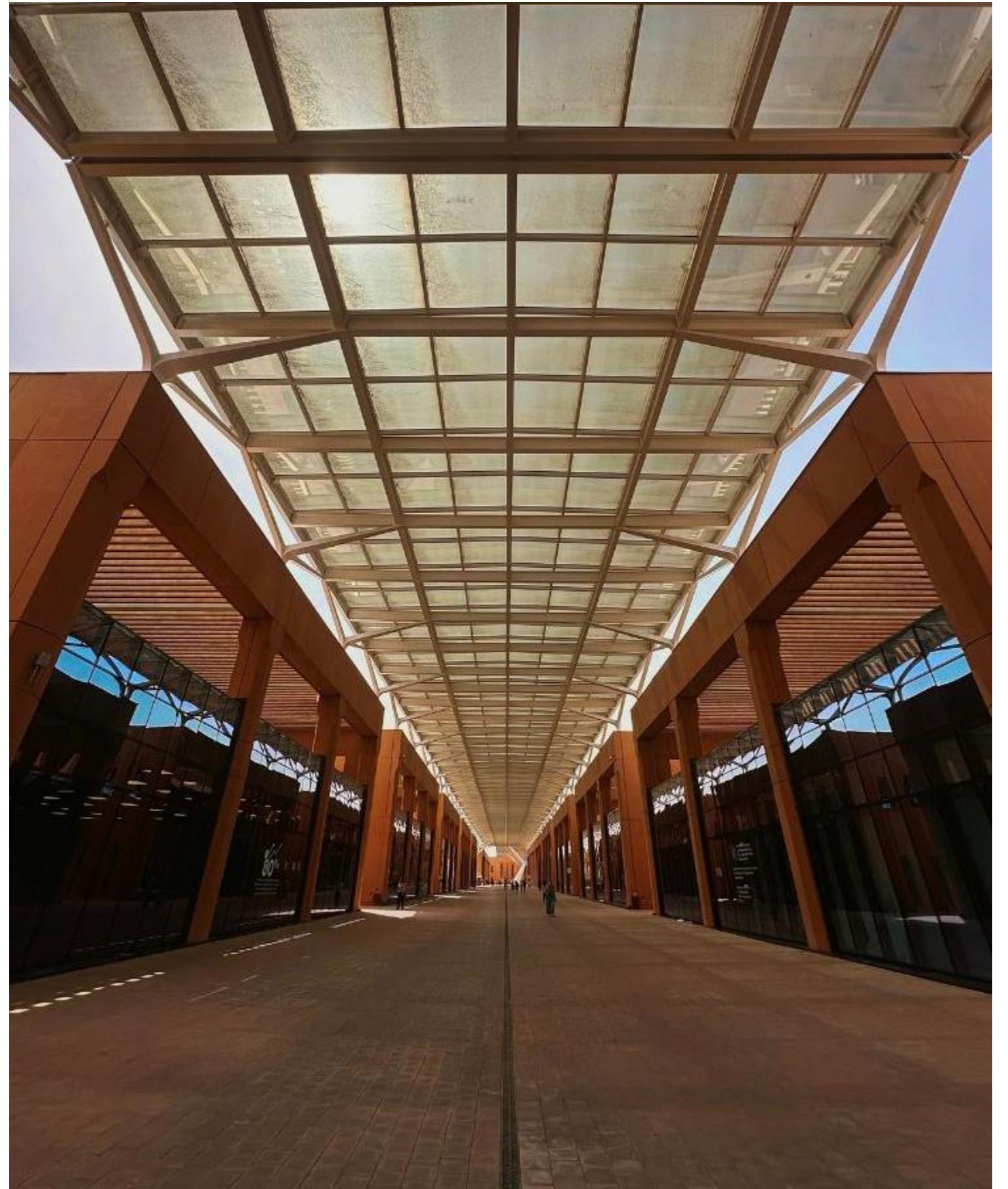
MOROCCO

“ONE DIRECTION”

September 2025 – Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P),
Ben Guerir, Morocco

“When I photographed this passage at UM6P, the symmetry made me think of Africa and Europe moving forward together. The campus hosts partnerships with European institutions where students research, learn, and build projects side by side. The image reflects the shared direction of the AU-EU partnership and the real opportunities it creates.”

[Strengthening scientific capacities in Africa](#) is a key priority of the AU-EU partnership, as well as to enhance exchange and collaboration between African and EU universities and research institutions. The [Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025](#) deepens EU-Africa cooperation in Research and Innovation (R&I). Other examples of programmes that promote learning mobility opportunities within Africa and between Africa and the EU are [Youth Mobility for Africa](#), [Erasmus+](#), [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#), and [African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence](#).



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Sarah Costes

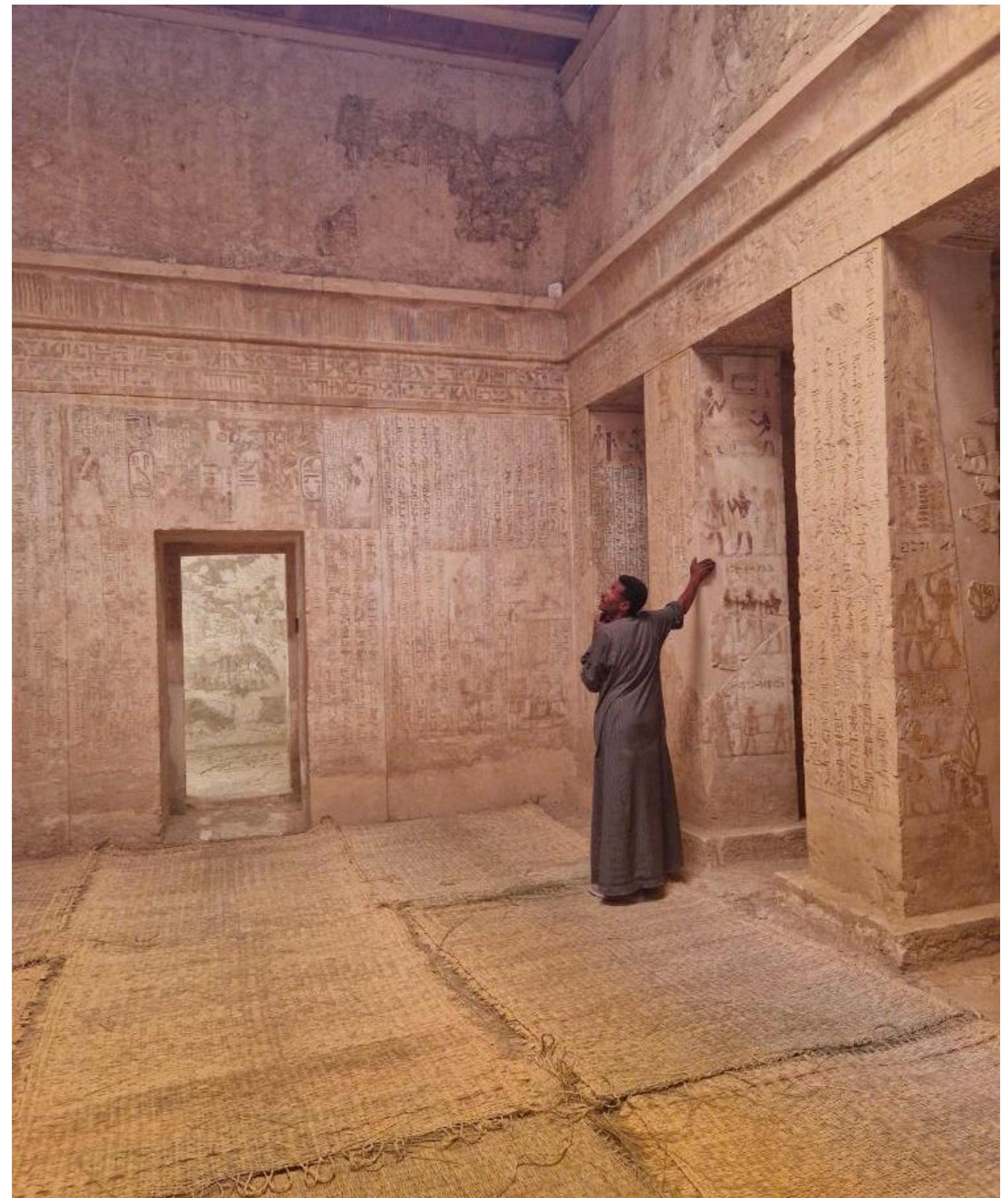
FRANCE

“LE BÂTISSEUR DE MÉMOIRE”

May 2023 – temple of Hatshepsut in Luxor, Egypt

“An Egyptian guide explains the conservation techniques used at the mortuary temple of Hatshepsut in Luxor, Egypt. He shares how the money raised from tourist visits is redistributed to the village communities, particularly for access to water and children's education, as travellers advance through the walkways as if discovering them for the first time.”

Africa and Europe are bonded by history and share strong cultural ties. The AU-EU partnership promotes both [culture](#) to drive connection, economic opportunities and the protection of heritage and the development of sustainable and inclusive tourism, that drives local economic growth with environmental preservation. Museums are bridges between the two continents, and an upcoming AU-EU initiative will allow for collaboration, dialogue, and mutual learning.



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FINALIST

Serge Arnaud Adouobo

IVORY COAST

“DIGITAL DÈS LA BASE”

March 2025 – Boundiali, Côte d'Ivoire



“The Digital From the Base program, held in the north of Ivory Coast, aimed to introduce teenagers to digital professions. Supported by the European Union and implemented with the support of UN agencies, it offered young people a unique opportunity to learn essential digital tools. I captured strong moments illustrating their enthusiasm and their discovery of the digital world.”

The [Global Gateway Africa](#) is a main investment tool to implement the prosperity pilar of the AU-EU partnership. It seeks a transformational impact, namely in the digital and education sectors. Smart Africa is an alliance of African countries, international organizations, and global private sector players tasked with advancing Africa’s digital agenda. [EU and Smart Africa Alliance have further enhanced their collaboration](#) to bridge the digital divide in Africa.

Under the AU-EU Partnership, we also find the [PRIDA](#) (Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa) to promote universally accessible and affordable broadband across the continent, as well as capacity building, unlocking the benefits of the digital transition for all. This leads to more business opportunities, as shown by a [new generation of business-women](#) leading in the digital society.

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FINALIST

Tatenda Tabva

ZIMBABWE

**“EMPOWERED BEYOND
BORDERS”**

November 2025 – Hatcliffe Harare, Zimbabwe



“In the heart of a bustling market, a young vendor proudly showcases a mobile app that connects African youth to new opportunities through AU-EU collaboration. His smile reflects empowerment born from innovation. A proof that technology can turn everyday hustles into global connections. This image celebrates the spirit of partnership, resilience and progress, as Africa and Europe unite to uplift young voices and build a shared digital future where every idea, no matter how small, has the power to grow.”

The unique AU-EU partnership places a [particular focus on youth policies](#) and initiatives. The [Joint Vision 2030](#) commits to invest in youth and to support their empowerment, education, skills, mobility, and employment prospects. This is done through learning exchanges, entrepreneurship promotion, decent job creation, and scaling up youth-owned businesses. The [CSO-Youth Forum as a side event of the AU-EU Summit](#) is a testament to the AU and EU’s dedication to amplifying youth voices at the highest level of decision-making.

The [AU-EU Youth Lab](#) is a main joint programme to empower Youth in Africa. Other examples are the [Africa-Europe Youth Academy](#) – to strengthen the role of young people as change agents and leaders of sustainable development, - and [Boost Africa](#) - a joint initiative between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) that enhances the entrepreneurial power of Africa’s young people.

FINALIST

Ulrich Crizogone Ouamberandji

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

“CAMPAGNE SUR ACTE DE NAISSANCE”



November 2025 – Mairie du 8^e arrondissement, Bangui, Central African Republic

“A simple gesture, but one that holds a promise for the future. Here, a family receives assistance with their child's birth certificate, symbolizing a more accessible, secure, and community-oriented public service.

Thanks to this project, supported by the European Union, thousands of children and families in Bangui are finally gaining access to their fundamental right: legal existence. Each birth certificate issued represents a recognized life, a restored dignity.”

The EU, together with its Member States, remains the [global leading humanitarian donor in Africa](#), maintaining a steady funding to the crises unfolding.

The humanitarian assistance funded by the EU is delivered in partnership with UN agencies, international organisations and NGOs. [The EU steps up](#) at a moment when global attention is shifting and humanitarian needs remain high.

FINALIST

Waad Saber

EGYPT

“CARVING HER FUTURE”



November 2022 – Cairo, Egypt

“In a small carpentry workshop in Abdeen, Cairo, Asmaa works in silence, focused on every cut and curve of the wood. In a world that tried to convince her that this space was “not for her,” she chose to stay. Her presence is not only about breaking a stereotype, but about preserving a traditional craft, creating a sustainable livelihood, and proving that opportunity begins with belief. Through her journey, we see the essence of the AU-EU pillars in action: people empowered to shape their own future, communities strengthened through meaningful work, heritage protected, and a more inclusive and sustainable path being carved forward.”

AU and EU work together to advance gender equality, namely through the [Spotlight Initiative Africa](#).

The [Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package](#) supports early-stage businesses and young entrepreneurs - especially women - in Africa to launch, consolidate and grow sustainable, strong and inclusive businesses and create decent jobs, by offering financial and technical support at the early stages of their development.

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