

Within its 2021-2027 programming exercise, the EU Commission (International Partnerships General Directorate) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service, have initiated a project on "Strategic Corridors and Urban Systems in Africa" (CUSA). The purpose of the project is to identify a series of Strategic Corridors in Africa where EU investments can converge in view of supporting connectivity within Africa and between the EU and Africa. A recently published [report](#) shows which ones these corridors are, while the second phase of the study (CUSA-2) will focus on their detailed analysis both in terms of spatial and thematic aspects.

By concentrating investments in a limited number of Strategic Corridors, the EU aims at making a difference in increasing intra-trade capacity and reinforcing the economic attractiveness of Africa. Moreover, focused intervention on selected corridors are supposed to better absorb the expected increase in demand for transport in Africa that is a consequence of the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

On a total of 55 Strategic Corridors analyzed, most of them in East Africa, the study identifies 11 Strategic Corridors, of which (4) are in West Africa, while 2 are in Central, 2 in East, 2 in Southern and 1 in North-East Africa, as shown in the figure below. The concept of "corridor" adopted in the EU study follows the EU corridor definition based on [Regulation n. 1315/2013](#) , which at art. 43 defines trans-european corridors as

integrated

networks of infrastructure which connect at least two borders and

combine at least three modes of transport

. Among the priority corridors, there is the Dar es Salaam-Nairobi-Addis Ababa-Berbera-Djibouti corridor, which includes the Djibouti-Addis Ababa and the Addis Ababa-Berbera corridor, in Somaliland. The shortlist has been designed by analysing the potential of such corridors to contribute to: 1) strengthen Europe-Africa connectivity; 2) address human development & peace and security issues; 3) ensure green and resilient mobility; and 4) favour sustainable growth and jobs.

