

European Investment Promotion in Africa as a Counter-Migration Initiative?

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European Investment Promotion in Africa as a Counter-Migration Initiative?

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office)
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
AHK	Außenhandelskammer (Foreign Trade Chamber)
AKP	Gruppe der afrikanischen, karibischen und pazifischen Staaten (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States)
APIP	Agence de promotion des investissements privés (Guinea)
ATTAC	Association pour une taxation des transactions financières pour l'aide aux citoyens (Association for the taxation of financial transactions and citizen's action)
B2B	Business to Business
B2C	Business to Consumer
BaFin	Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (Federal Financial Supervisory Authority)
BAMF	Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)
bbl	barrels (oil)
BMF	Bundesministerium der Finanzen (Federal Ministry of Finance)
BMWi	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie (Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology)
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development)
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEOS	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CESifo	Center for Economic Studies, Institute for Economic Research, Munich
DEG	Deutsche Entwicklungsgesellschaft
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

DIHK	Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag (German Chamber of Commerce)
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEIP	European External Investment Plan
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIC	Ethiopian Investment Commission
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
EPZA	Export Processing Zone Authority
Et al.	and others
EZ	Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (development cooperation)
f.	Following (next) page
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
ff.	Following pages
FMCG	Fast Moving Consumer Goods
fsQCA	fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis
FTE	Full time equivalents (in the context of employees)
GAFI	General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (Egypt)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIGA	German Institute of Global and Area Studies
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNI	Gross National Income
GSEZ	Gabon Special Economic Zone Authority
GTAI	German Trade and Invest
HDI	Human Development Index

ICT	Information and communications technology
IDP	Internally displaced person
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IAG	Ibrahim Index of African Governance
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Organization for Migration
IPDC	Industrial Park Development Corporation of Ethiopia
IZA	Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit Bonn (Institute of Labor Economics)
JV	Joint Venture
LC	Letter of Credit
LDC	Least Developed Country
LSE	London School of Economics
M&A	Mergers and Acquisitions
MNC	Multinational Company
MPRA	Munich Personal Research Papers in Economics Archive
NEPZA	Nigeria Export Processing Zone Authority
NPV	Net Present Value
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDG	Président Directeur Général (Chief Executive Officer)
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
R&D	Research and Development

RDB	Rwanda Development Board
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
TZ	Technische Zusammenarbeit (technical assistance)
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VDMA	Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbauer (German Mechanical Engineering Industry Association)
vs.	versus
WEF	World Economic Forum
WTO	World Trade Organization

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January 2020,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Oliver Ried". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Oliver Thorsten Ried

Part I: Introduction and Preliminary Thoughts

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the so called “European Migrant Crisis” unfolded over the course of several months. Images of groups of desperate people crossing European borders on foot with nothing more than they could carry, made international headlines. For a short period of time the German public was caught in a combination of disbelief, anxiety and “Willkommenskultur”. The events and their aftermath have profoundly changed Europe’s political landscape. Still today, five years later, the experience influences the political debate. One outcome of the 2015 crisis is the renewed attention of European leaders, and especially the German government, for Africa.

This thesis investigates the new interest and the true impact potential beyond unrealistic ambitions and media fuzz.

Domestic political pressure, exaggerated horror scenarios of a mass invasion stirred by right-wing populists and geopolitical realpolitik forced the German leadership to act. This was done with the German G20 initiative that marks a turning point in the German Africa policy. The “Marshall Plan for Africa” stipulates “private sector investments, job creation and trade” as one of three key focus areas of German support efforts. The other two pillars are “peace, security and stability” as well as “democracy, rule of law and human rights” (BMZ, 2017, S. 4 ff.).

The initiative was targeted at what is considered a root cause of unwanted migration from Africa to Europe. The narrative goes as follows: People are migrating from low-income to high-income countries because the latter offer better economic opportunities. Better opportunities at home will reduce the number of people who want to leave. Private sector investments by foreign companies are able to provide these opportunities in the form of jobs.

The idea that economic prosperity in their home countries could prevent people from moving towards developed countries¹ is not new. Already in 1993 Bill Clinton, then president of the United States, said: “as the benefits of economic growth are spread in Mexico (...) there will be less illegal immigration because more Mexicans will be able to support their children by staying home” (The White House, 1993). The German argument goes along

¹ The term “developed countries” in opposition to “developing countries” is used in this thesis as a generic term referring to countries that meet certain levels of GDP per capita and industrialization, predominantly in the “Global North”. The term is not intended to be understood as a judgment of the level of human development reached in a particular country or region. In this regard I follow the established practice used by the United Nations (2019).

similar lines. Under the umbrella term of “Fluchtursachenbekämpfung” suddenly funds and political support have become available for a whole new Africa policy that puts investment on the same level as aid.

The following chapters are a review of such an approach with a focus on Germany. Starting out from a macro-perspective I first look at the relationship between foreign direct investment in Africa and economic development and outline some of the macro trends that will shape the continent in the future. Then I become more granular and explore the perspective of the German private sector and how growth and investments would influence migration from Africa to Europe. The thesis concludes with an analysis of the specific tool of Special Economic Zones that has become a widely supported policy instrument to attract investment and create jobs.

1.1 Structure

This introductory chapter provides an outline of the topic at hand and the following main chapters. It introduces the terminology and the methodology used for all following analyses.

Furthermore, *Part I: Introduction and Preliminary Thoughts* contains a look at macro trends that shape Africa’s economic future. Key trends are a rapidly growing population, a rising African middle class, urbanization and natural resource dependence.

The second section under *Part II: Analysis* is structured into three main chapters following the three research questions. Chapter 1, *1. Investment and Economic Growth* is investigating the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) on development and the interaction with other input variables that according to existing academic findings contribute to societal welfare. The section first describes the nature, size and trend of FDI flows to Africa, then provides a literature review of current publications and evaluates the findings of different authors. This is followed by my own quantitative analysis of FDI’s and other input variables’ effect on welfare, using fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) as an analysis tool.

The first part of chapter 2, *Migration movements and private sector opportunity* presents the existing knowledge on migration, the theoretical foundations of migration economics and empirical findings. Then I present the results from a qualitative content analysis of 31 semi-structured interviews to investigate the economic opportunities for European and particularly German companies in Africa and the persisting challenges that private sector investors face. The chapter will then make the connection to the migration debate and analyze the potential impact of a private sector led development approach on migration from Africa to Europe.

In the third chapter, *Special Economic Zones – The magic key?* I focus on the specific policy

element of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). As in the other two, the chapter begins with a review of existing knowledge on SEZs in general and in Africa in particular. It reviews the potential impact on FDI attraction, jobs, exports and additional structural factors, as well as success factors. Out of a comprehensive list of African zones, 11 are investigated in detail. A Geographic Information System (GIS) change detection analysis and field research then allows me to present four archetypes of SEZs in Africa and their job creation potential in a case study approach.

Part III: Results then offers an overview of the findings bringing together the conclusions from all three chapters of part II.

Geographic Clarifications

African countries in the following thesis are attributed to five geographical regions. For the purpose of comparison oil-producing countries that produce more than 200.000 bbl per day are highlighted below (Central Intelligence Agency, 2018).

Table 1: Country Attribution to Regions

Northern Africa	Subsaharan Africa			
	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa
Algeria	Burundi	Angola	Botswana	Benin
Djibouti	Comoros	Cameroon	Lesotho	Burkina Faso
Egypt	Djibouti	Central African Republic	Namibia	Cabo Verde
Libya	Eritrea	Republic of Chad	South Africa	Cote d'Ivoire
Morocco	Ethiopia	Congo, Republic	Swaziland	Ghana
Tunisia	Kenya	Congo, Democratic Republic		Guinea
	Madagascar	Equatorial Guinea		Guinea-Bissau
	Malawi	Gabon		Liberia
	Mauritius			Mali
	Mozambique			Mauritania
	Rwanda			Niger
	Sao Tome and Principe			Nigeria
	Seychelles			Senegal
	Somalia			Sierra Leone
	South Sudan			The Gambia
	Sudan			Togo
	Tanzania			
	Uganda			
	Zambia			
	Zimbabwe			

Source: Own illustration – Data from Central Intelligence Agency (2018). Note: This is a geographical classification that deviates from political organizations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) or the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).