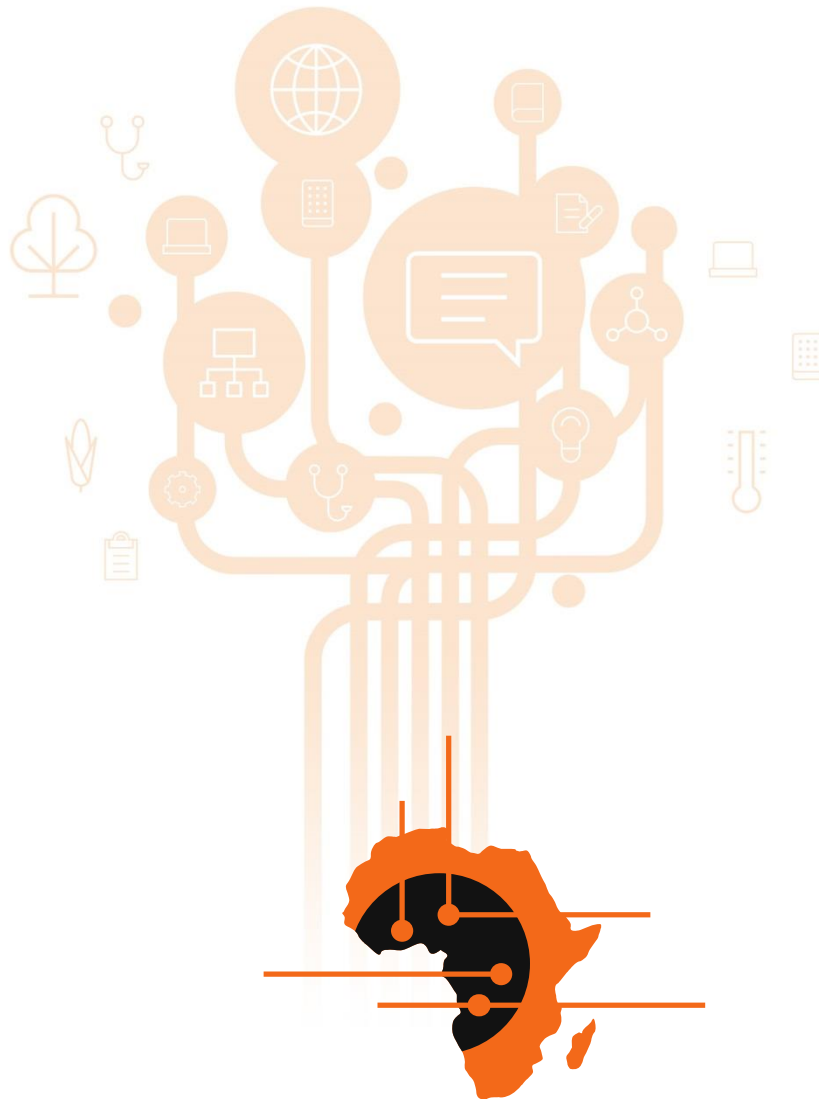




Funded by the
European Union's
H2020 Programme

D2.1
Creation of the Policy and Donors
West and Central Africa Group
(PODWAG)



TANDEM
TRANSAFRICAN NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DOCUMENTATION SHEET	
Project Acronym	: TANDEM
Project Full Title	: TransAfrican Network Development
Grant Agreement	: GA #654206
Call Identifier	: H2020-INFRA-SUPP-2014-2
Topic	: INFRA-SUPP-7-2014
Funding Scheme	: Coordination and Support Action (CSA)
Project Duration	: 24 months (May 2015 - April 2017)
Project Officer	: Leonardo Flores Añover, Unit C.1, DG CONNECT : European Commission
Coordinator	: Damien Alline, Institute de Recherche pour le Développement (France) - IRD
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Website	: www.tandem-wacren.eu

DELIVERABLE DOCUMENTATION SHEET	
Number	: Deliverable D2.1
Title	: Creation of the Policy and Donors West and Central Africa Group (PODWAG)
Related WP	: WP2 (Advocacy)
Related Task	: Task 2.1 (Creation of the Policy and Donors West and central Africa Group (PODWAG))
Lead Beneficiary	: WACREN
Author(s)	: Boubakar Barry – Boubakar.Barry@wacren.net
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Reviewer(s)	: Full Name (ORGANISATION) : Full Name (ORGANISATION) : Full Name (ORGANISATION)
Nature	: R (Report)
Dissemination level	: PU (Public)
Due Date	: July 31, 2015 (M3)
Submission date	: August 21, 2015
Status	: Final

QUALITY CONTROL ASSESSMENT SHEET			
Issue	Date	Comment	Author
V0.1	18/08/2015	First draft	Boubakar Barry (WACREN) Task Leader
V0.2	DD/MM/YYYY	Review first draft	
V0.3	DD/MM/YYYY	Contribution to Sections X.X & X.X	
V0.4	DD/MM/YYYY	Contribution to Section X.X	
V0.5	DD/MM/YYYY	Contribution to Sections X.X & X.X	
V0.6	DD/MM/YYYY	Second draft	
V0.7	DD/MM/YYYY	Peer review	
V0.8	DD/MM/YYYY	Peer review	
V0.9	DD/MM/YYYY	Peer review	
V0.10	20/08/2015	Peer review	Consortium partners
V0.11	21/08/2015	Quality check	Consortium partners
V1.0	21/08/2015	Submission to the EC	Damien Alline (IRD) Coordinator

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This document is a deliverable of the TANDEM project, which has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration under Grant Agreement (GA) Nb #654206.

Executive summary

This document is a deliverable of the TANDEM project, which is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under Grant Agreement #654206.

It describes the role of the Policy and Donors West and Central Africa Group and gives its composition.

The PODWAG is composed of 20 members representing governmental policy and decision-makers, regulatory authorities, telecommunications operators and international donors (target number of members for PODWAG was 15).

The group has an advisory role to the TANDEM project and will work in three (3) working groups: policy working group, donors working group (financing) and regulatory working group.

The following institutions are represented in PODWAG:

1. Continental and regional organizations, ministries, universities:
 - i. African Union Commission (AUC)
 - ii. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
 - iii. Association of African Universities (AAU)
 - iv. Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Togo
 - v. Ministry of Higher Education and Education of Senegal
 - vi. University of Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Benin
 - vii. University Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
2. Regional and international research centres:
 - i. AGRHYMET Regional Centre, Niger
 - ii. Malaria Research and Training Centre (MRTC), Mali
 - iii. Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France
 - iv. West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
3. International development partners (donors):
 - i. African Development Bank (AfDB), through its Togo Country Office
 - ii. World Bank, through one of its Senior Consultants
4. Telecommunications Operators and Regulatory bodies:
 - i. West African Telecommunications Regulatory Assembly (WATRA)
 - ii. MainOne, Nigeria
 - iii. Globacom, Nigeria
 - iv. Sonatel/Orange, Senegal
5. Individual experts

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GLOSSARY / LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
AGRHYMET	AGRrometeorology, HYdrology, METeorology
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
MRTC	Malaria Research and Training Center
PODWAG	Policy and Donors West Africa Working Group
TANDEM	TransAfrican Network Development
WASCAL	West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WACREN	West and Central African Research and Education Network
WATRA	West African Telecommunications Regulators Assembly

Introduction

This document, *D2.1 – Creation of the Policy and Donors West and Central Africa Group (PODWAG)* is a deliverable of the TANDEM project, which is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under Grant Agreement #654206. TANDEM aims at supporting dialogue between the EU and African Research and Education Networks, with special attention to Western and Central Africa, which at e-Infrastructure level is coordinated by the Western and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN). The scope of the project is to promote cooperation by exploiting the interconnection between the European research and education network (GEANT) and the established African regional networks.

The PODWAG was supposed to be composed of 15 members pre-selected by the TANDEM partnership through formal commitment letters, representing governmental decision -makers, regulatory authorities, telecommunications operators and international donors.

Due to the very positive feedback of contacted institutions, the number rose to 20 members.

The group has an advisory role to the TANDEM project and will work in three (3) working groups: policy working group, donors working group (financing) and regulatory working group.

This deliverable gives the composition of PODWAG; its members are high-profile individuals with excellent track records in their respective fields of expertise. All members of the group have confirmed their willingness to be part of the group.

1- PODWAG role

The “Policy makers, Donors, regulatory authorities of West and Central Africa Group” (PODWAG) has a consultative/advisory role for the project.

Besides holding discussions using the Colaboratorio platform that will be made available to them, it is expected that the members of the group conduct a survey that will lead to recommendations for WACREN development.

2- PODWAG structure

Pillar One of the project structure is the enhancement of the dialogue between WACREN and policy makers, international donors, regulatory authorities and telecom operators, in order to get recommendations on policy, financial (funding opportunities, sustainable funding models for NREN and WACREN) and regulatory issues (see Figure 1).

PODWAG contributes to Objective 1 of the TANDEM project (obtaining political and financial support) by establishing a dialog platform through which its members discuss policy, financial and regulatory issues relevant to WACREN.

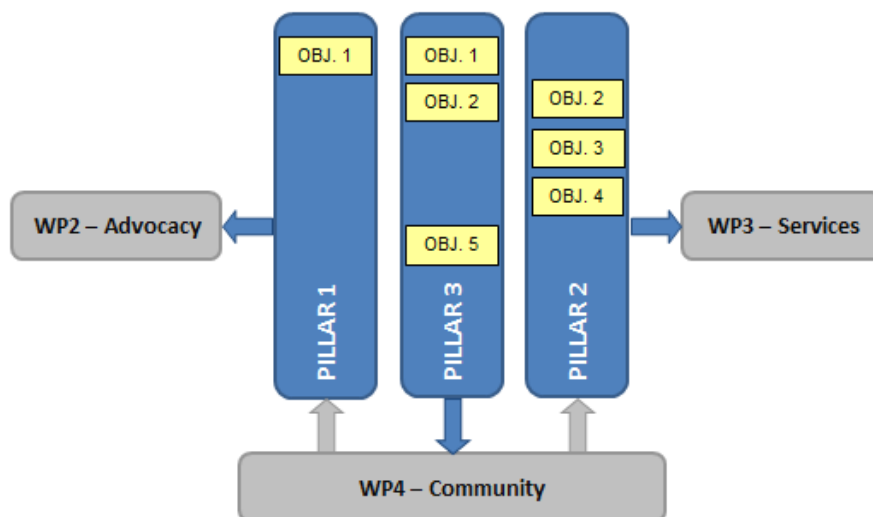


Figure 1: TANDEM structure

PODWAG will establish a permanent dialogue at the policy maker and donor level, creating a community that will survive well beyond the end of the project. By bringing to the same table the relevant policy and decision makers as well as other stakeholders, TANDEM will foster the inclusion of WACREN and the NRENs in the decision-making processes. The decisive impact therefore lies in building linkages and relationships at the political, regulatory and financial decision-making level, enabling WACREN and the NRENs, starting with the PODWAG experience but extending beyond the project, to become stable reference points involved in decision-making which it will be possible to consult and involve at appropriate times.

Figure 2 below shows a synopsis of PODWAG.

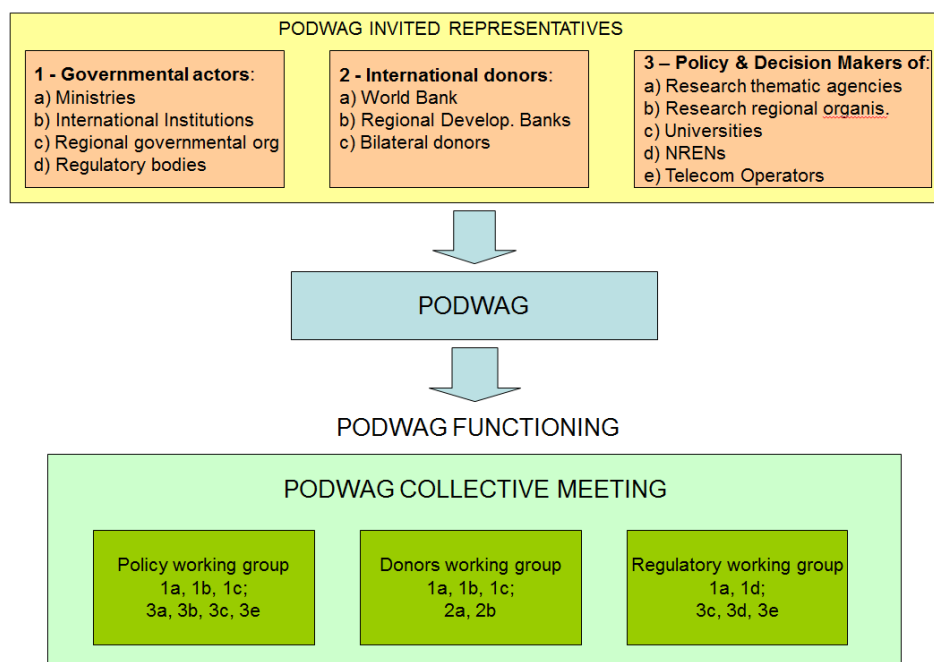


Figure 2: Synopsis of PODWAG

3- PODWAG composition

The consultative group will be composed of representatives of the following institutions:

1. Continental and regional organizations, ministries, universities:
 - i. African Union Commission (AUC)
 - ii. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
 - iii. Association of African Universities (AAU)
 - iv. Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Togo
 - v. Ministry of Higher Education and Education of Senegal

- vi. University of Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Benin
- vii. University Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- 2. Regional and international research centres:
 - i. AGRHYMET Regional Centre, Niger
 - ii. Malaria Research and Training Centre (MRTC), Mali
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- 3. International development partners (donors):
 - i. African Development Bank (AfDB), through its Togo Country Office
 - ii. World Bank, through one of its Senior Consultants
- 4. Telecommunications Operators and Regulatory bodies:
 - i. West African Telecommunications Regulatory Assembly (WATRA)
 - ii. MainOne, Nigeria
 - iii. Globacom, Nigeria
 - iv. Sonatel/Orange, Senegal
- 5. Individual experts

The names of the members of PODWAG with their affiliations and functions are provided in the table below:

Table 1: PODWAG members

N°	Name	Organisation	Function
Organisations, ministries, universities			
1	Prof. Ramata Bakayoko-Ly	Université F. Houphouët Boigny	President
2	Prof. Etienne E. Ehilé	Association of African Universities	Secretary-General
3	Prof. Ramatoulaye Diagne Mbengue	Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Senegal	Technical Adviser for Academic Affairs
4	Prof. Jean-Pierre Ezin	ECOWAS	Commissioner, Education, Science and Culture
5	Prof. Eugène Ezin	Université Abomey-Calavi	Director, IT Training and Research Institute
6	Mrs. Ama Dzifa Gameti	Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Togo	Permanent Secretary
7	Mr. Moctar Yedali	African Union Commission	Head of Division, Infrastructure and Energy Department
Regional and international research centres			
8	Dr. Jean Albergel	IRD	Country Director, South Africa
10	Prof. Sanoussi Atta	AGRHYMET	Head, Training and Research Department
9	Dr. Seydou Doumbia	MRTC	Director General

11	Dr. Laurent G. Sedogo	WASCAL	Executive Director
International development partners (donors)			
12	Mr. Michael Foley	World Bank	Senior Consultant
13	Mr. Salieu Jack	African Development Bank	Chief ICT Specialist
Telecommunications Operators and Regulatory bodies			
14	Dr. Elhadj Maman Laminou	WATRA	Executive Secretary
15	Mr. Kazeem Oladepo	MainOne	Business Executive, Ghana and Francophone West Africa
16	Mr. Joseph Odoi	Globacom	Head of Business, Glo1, Ghana
17	Mr. Chidi Udo	Globacom	Head of Finance
18	Mr. Abdou Karim Mbengue	Sonatel/Orange	Head of Institutional Communication and External Relations
Individual experts			
19	Dr. Lishan Adam	ICTFD	ICT Consultant
20	Prof. Maurice Tchuente	Université Yaoundé 1	Professor

4- Next steps

Now that the PODAWG has been established, the next step is to start discussions in the three working groups that will deal with policy, funding and regulatory issues respectively.

A community will be set up on the Colaboratorio platform to support discussions among the members.

The first face-to-face meeting of the PODWAG members will be held in Accra in November 2015.