

## Education companies to be scaled up to improve access to quality education in West Africa through I&P and Mastercard Foundation partnership

[October 26, 2021, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire] – Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P) and the Mastercard Foundation today announced a **partnership to scale up entrepreneurs in the education sector (edupreneurs) across three countries in West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal**. The program will support **30 companies** with funding and technical assistance to digitally transform their operations over a three-year period with the goal of improving access to quality education across the region.

The program falls under the *I&P Education to Employment* initiative and aims to build the resilience of edupreneurs impacted by COVID-19 in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal. Interested entrepreneurs in the education sector will benefit from capacity building and funding to scale their operations and prepare them for growth post the pandemic.

**Through a rigorous selection process, the program has announced its first partner, the TgMaster Group.** TgMaster Group, through its higher education arm, TgMaster University, specializes in training students in relevant subject matter areas and supporting those wishing to access business school education in Europe through private tutoring, coaching, and mentoring services to enable them to take certified international tests in support of their applications. Within the program, TgMaster University will establish a new and innovative training offer in Côte d'Ivoire.

*"I&P is delighted to be part of this partnership as we are continuously inspired by the innovativeness of talented young entrepreneurs on the African continent. This partnership reflects the successful implementation of a deep conviction that we share with the Mastercard Foundation: that the collaboration between the private and public sectors in education offers African youth great opportunities for improved access to relevant education,"* said Emilie DEBLED, Executive Director, Development and Partnerships at I&P.

The partnership with TgMaster University will support:

- The launch of the university, the training of its management, and the establishment of a quality learning environment.
- The digitization strategy of the university through the development of a traditional and e-learning program.
- The expansion of the university across Côte d'Ivoire
- A scholarship program, targeting disadvantaged young women, and the implementation of protection policies for learners.

*"Through this partnership, we are able to build the skills required to prepare young Ivorians for the future of work. Our goal is to provide our students with solid and relevant professional education based on international standards so that their skills are aligned with the Ivorian job market demands,"* explained Achille KOUKOU, Co-founder of TgMaster University.

Beyond the funding support, the technical assistance provided by I&P will allow TgMaster University to increase the appeal of its educational offering in Côte d'Ivoire, notably through its partnerships with

international schools. It will also help to strengthen the local employability of young people and encourage the return of students studying abroad to Côte d'Ivoire.

*"Building the capacity of edupreneurs and enabling them to scale their operations is a major step in improving access to and quality of education to equip young people with the skills required to access dignified work opportunities across the continent,"* said Serge-Auguste Kouakou, Senegal Country Head at the Mastercard Foundation.

#### ABOUT INVESTISSEURS & PARTENAIRES



Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P) is a pioneering impact investing group entirely dedicated to financing and supporting start-ups and medium-sized enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa. I&P was launched in 2002 by Patrice Hoppenot and has been directed by Jean-Michel Severino since 2011. The team of approximately 100 people is based in 10 African hubs (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Uganda and Senegal), in Paris and in Washington D.C. I&P has partnered with more than 170 companies operating in about 15 African countries in a wide range of sectors. I&P brings long-term financing as well as strategic, managerial and technical support. As an impact investor, I&P's mission is to maximize the societal impact of its partner companies and contribute to dynamic and inclusive growth in Africa.

**I&P Éducation et Emploi** is one of the group's most recent developments: a hybrid financing program made of two pillars, an investment fund and an access fund, aims to support private institutions and companies in the educational ecosystem, and improve access to a relevant and valuable education on the continent. To learn more about our activities, please visit us at: <https://www.ietp.com/en>

#### ABOUT TGMMASTER UNIVERSITY



TgMaster University was founded by two young Ivorian engineers, Achille KOUKOU and Léonce ANO, who are both strongly committed to building youth employable skills to enable young Africans contribute to the economic development of the continent. The University welcomed its first cohort of students in October 2021, offering courses in digital transformation and management.

#### ABOUT THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION



The [Mastercard Foundation](https://www.mastercardfdn.org) works with visionary organizations to enable young people in Africa and in Indigenous communities in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work. It is one of the largest, private foundations in the world with a mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion to create an inclusive and equitable world. The Foundation was created by Mastercard in 2006 as an independent organization with its own Board of Directors and management. For more information on the Foundation, please visit: [www.mastercardfdn.org](https://www.mastercardfdn.org)

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