

From May 23-25, the Global Steering Group for Impact Investing (GSG) held its **annual Leadership Meeting** in Turin, Italy, the organisation's first in-person meeting since the start of COVID-19. The meeting included more than 140 leaders from over 51 countries who came together to reflect on progress with regard to ecosystem building, co-create solutions to current challenges and priority areas, and identify ways to achieve our vision. The event was generously co-hosted by the Italian National Advisory Board and Torino Social Impact.



Raising awareness for a new era of impact

“

Governments have the ability to influence financial markets and should be pushing for transparency. Transparency enables us to make a comparison between the impact of different companies and their profitability.

”

Sir Ronald Cohen, Chair of GSG

Our Italian partners held a public event welcoming the delegates and presenting challenges and opportunities for the impact movement.

High level panel discussions focused on how to harness data and technology for the common good, and develop and scale social innovations.



Click on the picture to watch Sir Ronald Cohen, Chair of GSG, in discussion with Maurizio Molinari, Director of la Repubblica (one of the largest national newspapers), or click [here](#) to see the full event.

Our progress towards an impact economy



Our community continues to grow

The Nigeria and Türkiye National Advisory Boards (NABs) are the newest to join the GSG community, which now includes **30 NABs and RABs** (Regional Advisory Boards) **covering 35 countries**. Together, we represent over **900 influential market leaders and stakeholders**.



With GSG's support, NABs are collaborating to advance impact investing globally

In 2021, **2/3 of NABs started a collaboration with peers in other countries** in various areas including collaborative research, market sizing harmonisation, SDG solutions, SME finance, and policy engagement. NABs are also co-designing projects and building funded partnerships, evidenced by an increase in joint grant applications for market building support.



NABs have been leading the growth of impact investing ecosystems

NABs all over the world have been increasing their communications capacity and reach, producing knowledge products to support the growth of their national ecosystem, convening and educating key stakeholders, and influencing policy change.

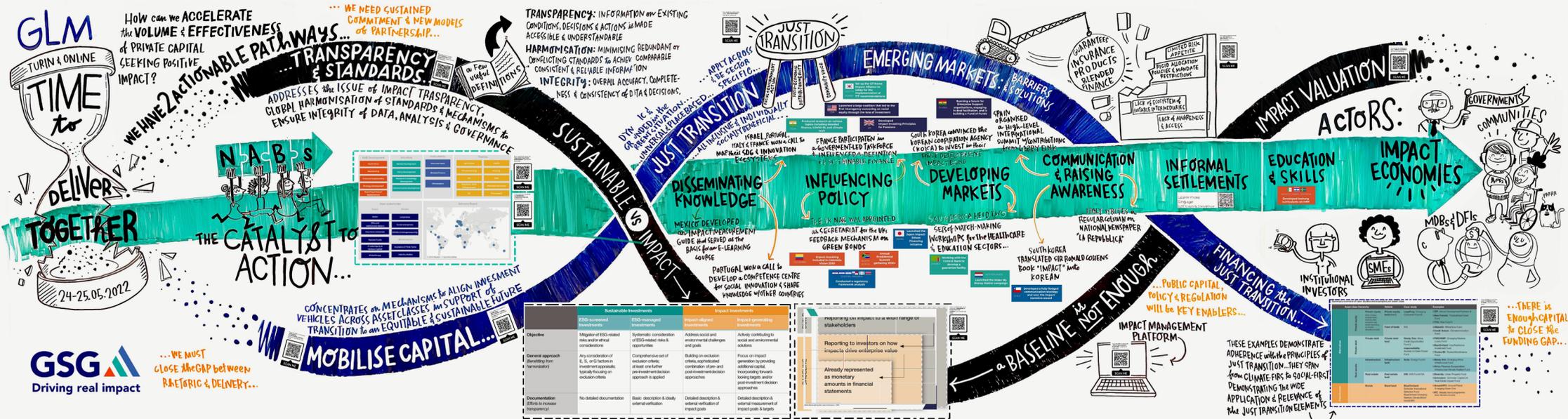
EXAMPLES OF NAB ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

 CHILE Developed a fully fledged communication strategy and won the impact narrative award	 SOUTH AFRICA Annual Presidential Summit gathering 1000+	 SPAIN High level international summit featuring 90 speakers including Larry Fink
 NETHERLANDS Initiated a campaign to get the general public to ask their money manager to invest into impact	 INDIA Produced research on various topics including blended finance, COVID-19, and climate tech	 UK Developed Impact Investing Principles for Pensions
 MEXICO ISRAEL SWEDEN Developed training curriculums on IMM	 CENTRAL AMERICA Conducted a regulatory framework analysis	 SOUTH KOREA Set up the G7 Korea Impact Alliance to lobby for the implementation of ITF recommendations
 USA Launched a large coalition that led to the first interagency convening on racial equity through the lens of investment	 COLOMBIA Impact investing included in Colombia Vision 2050	
 JAPAN Launched the Japan Impact-Driven Financing Initiative	 ZAMBIA Working with the Central Bank to develop a guarantee facility	 GHANA Running a forum for Enterprise Support organisations, engaging in deal facilitation, and is building a Fund of Funds

Spreading solutions to scale our impact

Going forward, our focus will be on **scaling our impact and achieving systemic change**

We will do this through collaboration between NABs and partners, in alignment with the recommendations of the G7 Impact Taskforce (ITF).



[Click here to zoom in on the image](#)

Our priorities

1

Developing country-level impact ecosystems to harness private capital for public good

2

Promoting impact transparency, harmonisation of standards, and regulatory reporting, with local engagement and implementation

3

Increasing impact investment from development agencies and mobilise private capital for emerging markets

4

Supporting Just Transition initiatives to reduce inequalities and preserve the environment

5

Supporting informal settlements and refugee social equity solutions through impact investment

6

Scaling education, skills and development programmes through Results-Based Finance

We identified concrete ways to spread existing solutions developed by the NAB community:

1

Developing country-level impact ecosystems to harness private capital for public good

▲ OPENING-UP PENSION FUNDS TO IMPACT INVESTING

NABs can encourage pension funds to integrate impact investments into younger savers' pensions due to the longer time horizon, and pursue twinning opportunities for pension funds from the Global North to exchange with those of the Global South. They can identify key gatekeepers' incentive structures, connect asset managers with actuaries, and ensure these actors are well-versed in impact investment instruments while suggesting opportunities that align with existing pension fund structures. Leveraging partners such as [Pensions for Purpose](#), NABs can draw inspiration from initiatives such as the [Impact Investing Principles for Pensions](#) or the [GSC's resource library on pension funds](#).

▲ MOBILISING SDG-DRIVEN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

NABs in Israel, Portugal, Italy and France will perform a mapping of their SDG and innovation-led ecosystems as part of a 2-year EU Horizon2020 grant programme. By identifying the best practices of their peers, NABs have the opportunity to leverage existing knowledge, talent pools and financial capital to address regulatory barriers and knowledge gaps preventing the uptake of SDG-driven technology and innovations in their own countries. NABs can create platforms for collaboration and knowledge sharing, engage with the government, and support intermediaries.

▲ **SUPPORTING THE SCALE-UP OF PLACE-BASED IMPACT INVESTING** To help under-invested places absorb institutional capital at scale, NABs can generate awareness through case studies, convene actors, engage in advocacy, and provide advisory support for impact strategies and new financial instruments, leveraging the [UK NAB's experience](#).

▲ **STRENGTHENING NAB STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE**

Adopting a participative approach to build and run a NAB is essential to create a healthy and active ecosystem. NABs can share their experience on how to successfully develop and implement the adequate strategy, governance structure, and partnerships for their country's context.

2

Promoting impact transparency, harmonisation of standards, and regulatory reporting, with local engagement and implementation

▲ **HARMONISING MARKET SIZING TO DELIVER CONSISTENT IMPACT DATA AND INFORM DECISION-MAKING**

In partnership with EVPA, several NABs in Europe started working on harmonising their market sizing methodologies. Our common vision is to provide market intelligence that can inform investment activity and public policy while also enabling countries to benchmark themselves against others. A harmonised framework will help preserve the integrity of the market while also laying foundations for a comprehensive, comparable and segmentable data set.

▲ **TRANSFORMING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM WITH IMPACT TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE**

Building on its partnerships with the Impact Management Platform (IMP) and the Impact-Weighted Accounts Initiative (IWA) and members of the G7 ITF transparency working group, GSG plays a leadership role advocating for a better integration of regulatory processes and helps NABs speak with one voice to more effectively support local actors in driving the transparency agenda in their markets. NABs can both influence these initiatives, and back the global movement for them by testing systems locally and contributing country perspectives.

3

Increasing impact investment from development agencies and mobilise private capital for emerging markets

▲ **BUILDING IMPACT WHOLESALERS AND FUND OF FUNDS TO MOBILISE CAPITAL AT SCALE**

NABs are exploring and developing impact investment wholesale funds and fund of funds, drawing from the experience of countries such as the UK, Japan, South Korea, Portugal and the EU. NABs can address barriers such as identifying and securing sources of funding, affecting regulation, and addressing risk aversion. In emerging markets in particular, there is also a need to address gaps such as technical capacity building for emerging fund managers and SMEs, and raising awareness among government stakeholders.

4

Supporting Just Transition initiatives to reduce inequalities and preserve the environment

▲ **DESIGN CONTEXTUALLY RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS**

Drawing from Mobilising institutional capital towards the SDGs and a Just Transition, NABs can identify ways to support Just Transition initiatives. For example, they can build a Just Transition Fund, considering alignment with national policy, potential funders, pipeline, investment strategy, impact metrics, and community representation in both the design and implementation. NABs can also work on community engagement and empowerment, looking to the example of the South Africa Just Energy Transition Initiative.



Supporting informal settlements and refugee social equity solutions through impact investment

▲ COLLABORATING TO BRING FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS TO INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Leveraging [GSG's newest report on informal settlements](#), NABs can link urbanists to financial markets by collaborating on initiatives and pilots, and partnering with organisations such as UNDP, the World Bank and regional development banks. NABs can also contribute to GSG's advocacy efforts to bridge the gap between policy and practice and raise awareness in the Global North.

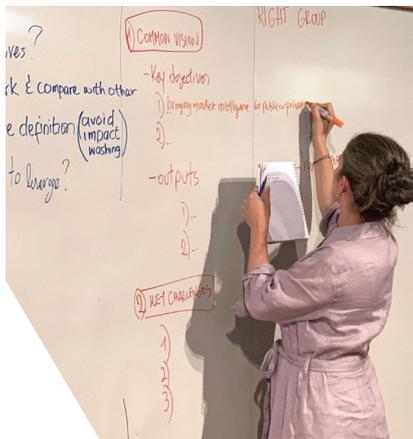


Scaling Education, Skills and development programmes through Results-Based Finance (RBF)

▲ PROMOTING THE USE OF RESULTS-BASED FINANCE

Based on the example of the [Education Outcome Fund](#) and work undertaken by the [Results-Based Finance working group](#), NABs can encourage stakeholder such as philanthropists and the public sector to use their capital in a more catalytic way to support the use of results-based finance. NABs can work on addressing barriers such as origination, scale-up of vehicles, measurement frameworks, and lack of capacity, and identify suitable results-based finance instruments beyond impact bonds.

Our vision for the future



Our aim by 2024

Pushed for policy change that leads to national transformations.

This will have been done by:

- ▲ Developing a pragmatic game plan involving power, influence, relationships, and action,
- ▲ Fostering closer cooperation between NABs and partners
- ▲ Sharing case studies and examples from various regions and other relevant research

Influenced international fora by:

- ▲ Making connections and building influence, through a 3-year learning process driving to 2024
- ▲ Acting on the most compelling G7 ITF recommendations
- ▲ Developing an evidence base to support the case for impact valuation

Helped delivered a Just Transition by:

- ▲ Ensuring that Just Transitions features prominently at high level decision making fora
- ▲ Connecting silos
- ▲ Promoting community equity and ownership models, supporting local development and climate adaptation programmes

Supported the transformation of the financial system with impact accounting by:

- ▲ Improving the way we communicate about impact valuation
- ▲ Connecting global and local efforts
- ▲ Building on the Korea Impact Valuation Institute's success story

Led public markets to demonstrate deep impact by pushing for:

- ▲ The incentivising of investor behaviour
- ▲ The pricing and accounting for impact
- ▲ Corporate obligations and incentives

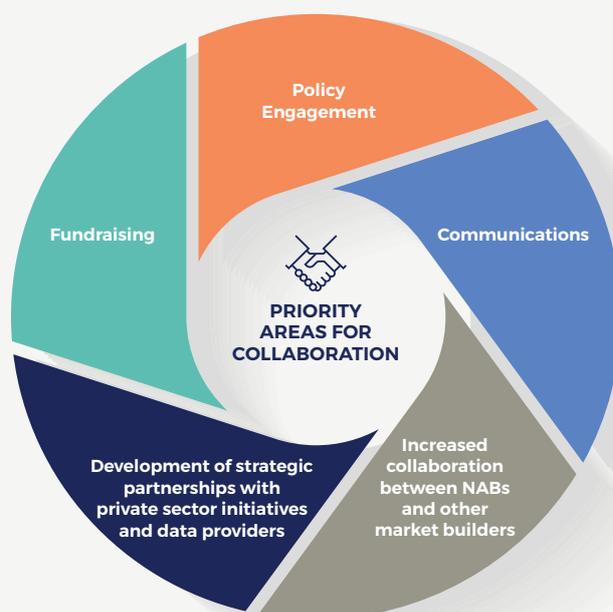
Achieved a globally recognized annual flagship publication by:

- ▲ Defining the purpose and message of the publication
- ▲ Developing the methodology and partnerships for data
- ▲ Collecting case studies and market testing the product

How we will get there



We identified priority working areas to strengthen our collaboration and effectiveness.



To collaborate and exchange knowledge with the GSG community, you can consult the [community calendar](#), join our [LinkedIn group](#), and subscribe to [News4NABs](#) to receive updates, invitations to knowledge sharing activities and access the full range of existing resources for NABs.



The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG) is an independent global steering group catalysing impact investment and entrepreneurship to benefit people and the planet. The GSG currently has 35 countries as members through their National Advisory Boards (NABs). A NAB is a local platform representing all the stakeholder groups

- supply, demand, intermediation, policy, and academia - needed to redirect significant capital flows towards social and environmental impact. Private-sector led, yet in close partnership with national governments, a NAB raises awareness, creates market intelligence, changes policies, and mobilises additional financial resources for public good.