

Partnering for Inclusive Growth in local Skills Ecosystems

13th July 2023

WHAT IS IRM?

Key growth sectors of economy are made up of large numbers of artisanal SMEs that are not creating jobs because they are informal and face significant barriers to market access and growth.

The IRM Initiative recognises that youth unemployment will not be solved through labour absorption in the formal sector alone, and that township youth in particular face significant barriers in accessing and sustaining employment opportunities.

As the country transitions to the green economy, we need to address some of the structural inequities in our economy that prevent the ability of SMEs to grow and create jobs.

The focus of IRM enterprises could include Light Manufacturing, Plumbing, Electrical, General Maintenance, Domestic Appliance Repairers, Autobody Repair, Cellphone Repairs etc.



IRM
INSTALLATION, REPAIR AND
MAINTENANCE INITIATIVE
An initiative of NBI



IRM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Unlock large-scale demand for IRM skills within targeted industries across the industrial economy.

Unlock in particular the potential of township based IRM SMMEs to provide demand for skilled and productive labour.

Enable public TVET colleges to deliver agile vocational skills programmes aligned to occupational demand.

Coordinating the activities of various ecosystem role-players to achieve the overall goal.

Equip young people to access sustainable employment or self-employment opportunities in IRM roles across the industrial economy.

CASE STUDY: CONTEXTUALISING THE IRM PARTNERSHIP IN ATLANTIS

The NBI, Atlantis SEZ and West Coast TVET College have entered a collaboration to demonstrate the efficacy of the IRM model for inclusive local economic development around a green industrial node.

The partnership seeks to achieve the following:

- Local ecosystem mapping and strategy
- Establish the IRM hub as a ecosystem intermediary
- Unlock demand for IRM services and products in local value/supply chains in the SEZ and more broadly
- Providing packages of support to existing IRM SMEs to strengthen the enterprise, technical skills and market access, on the proviso that they take in young people to train and employ.
- Delivery demand-led skills training and workplace learning that are aligned to the skills demands in SMEs
- Supporting young entrepreneurs with IRM skills to incubate new businesses and link them to local markets.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Infrastructure development and maintenance - Linking township contractors to public and private sector construction and maintenance supply and value chains.



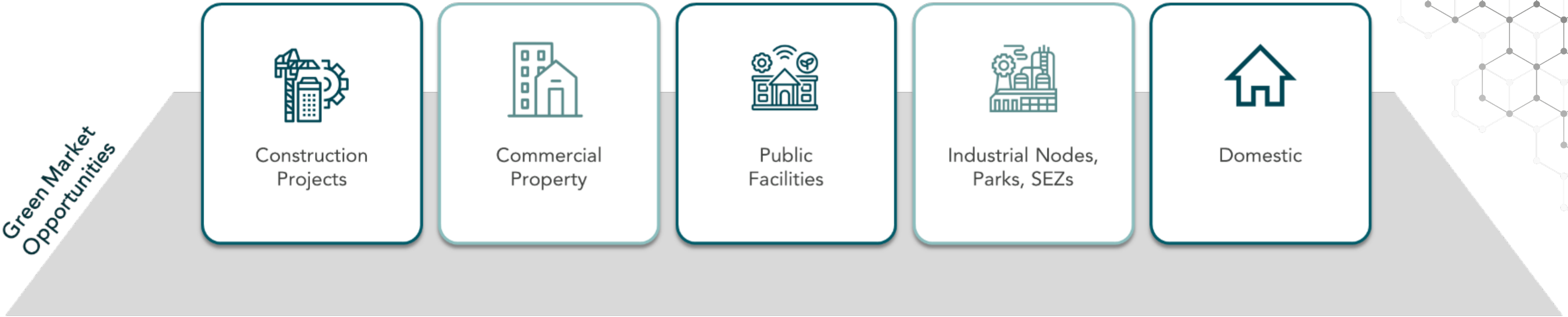
Green and circular economy - Leveraging off demand for sustainable construction and maintenance practices, resource efficiency and opportunities in recycling and waste value chain.



Industrialisation and localisation - Alignment to sectoral and local industrial development plans



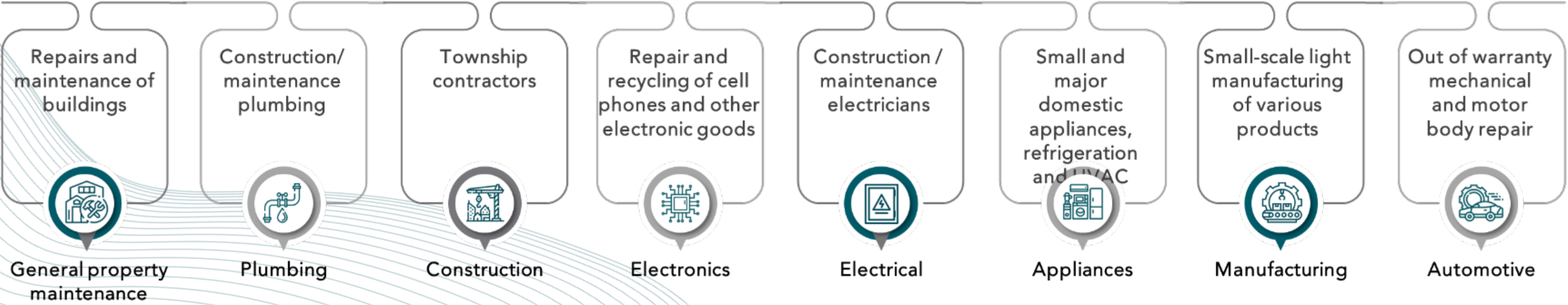
ENVISAGING THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM



Resource Efficiency Specialisations (Energy, Water and Waste)

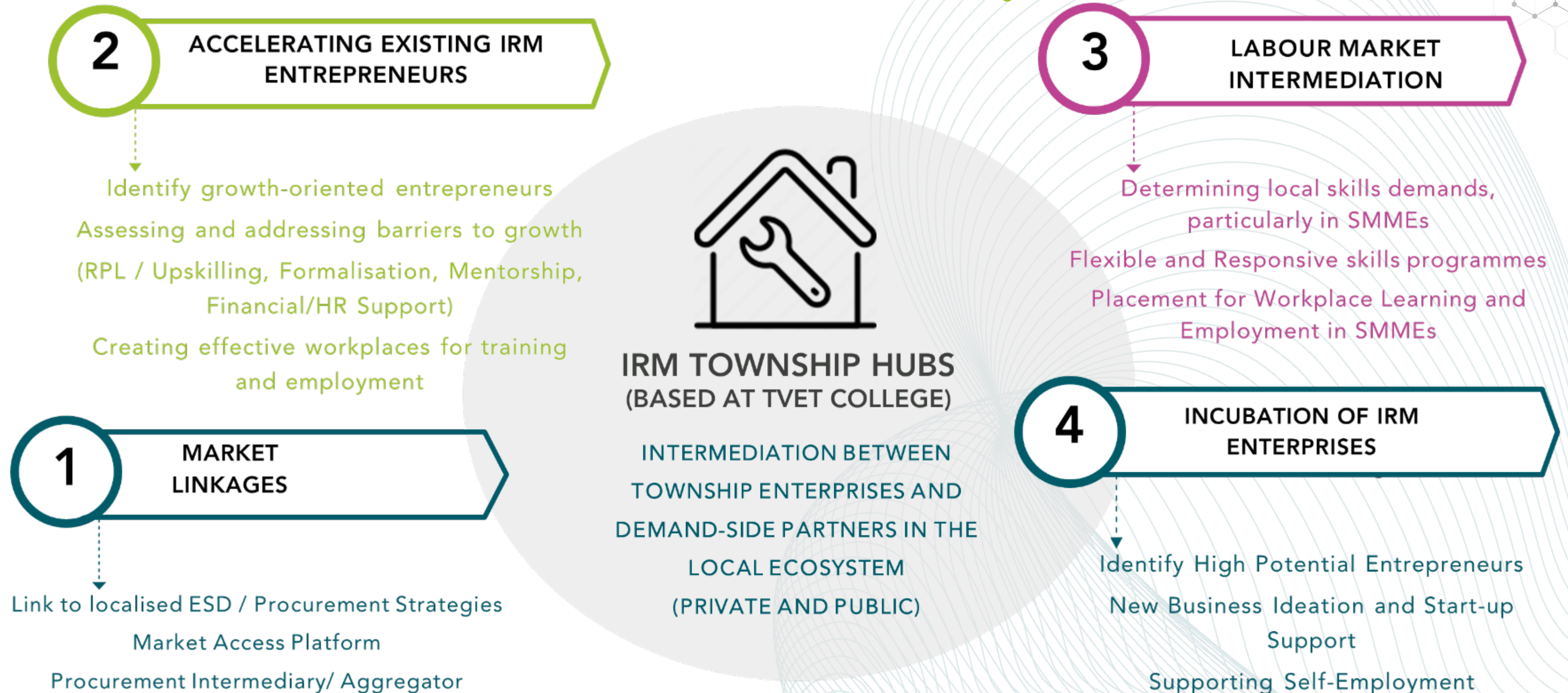
Circular Economy Innovations

Artisanal Entrepreneurs

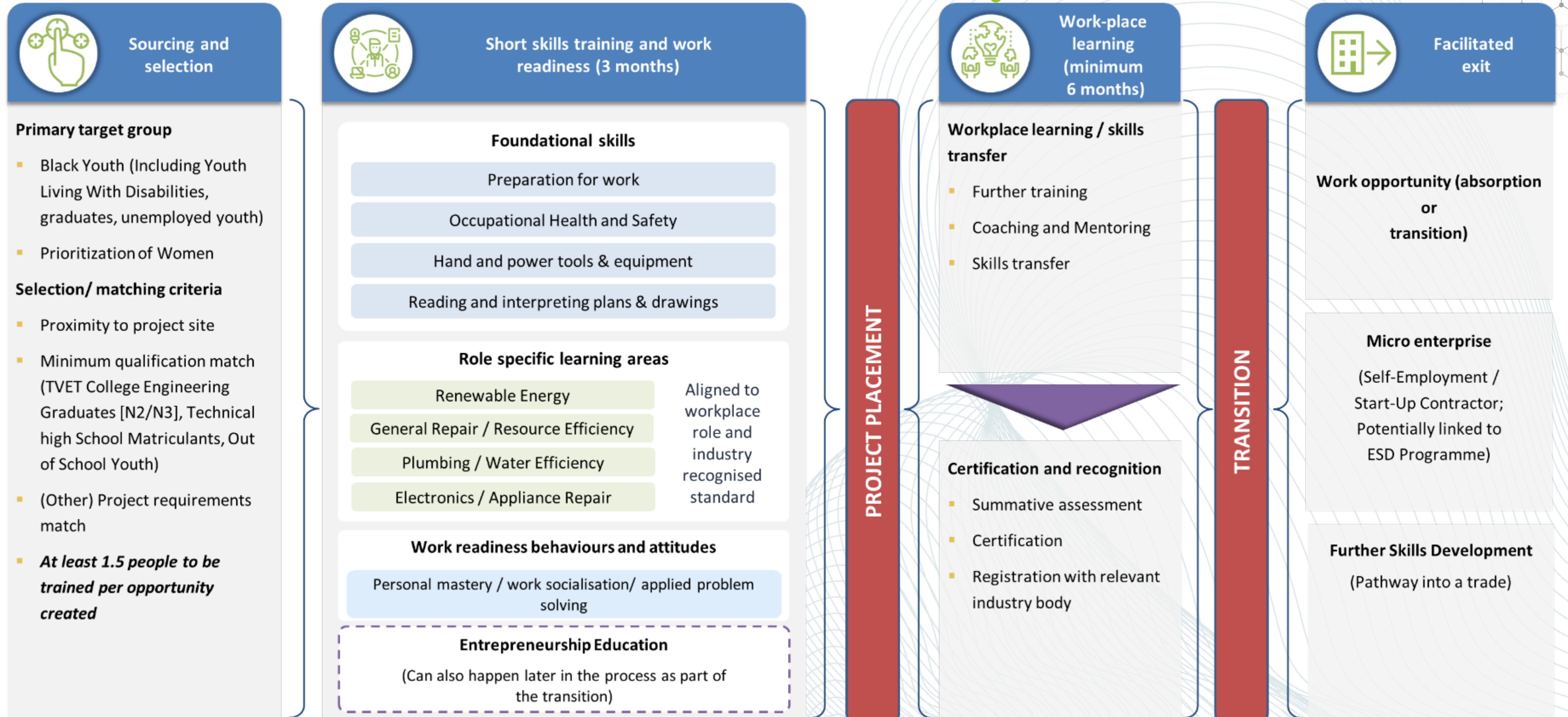


Artisanal Skills Sets

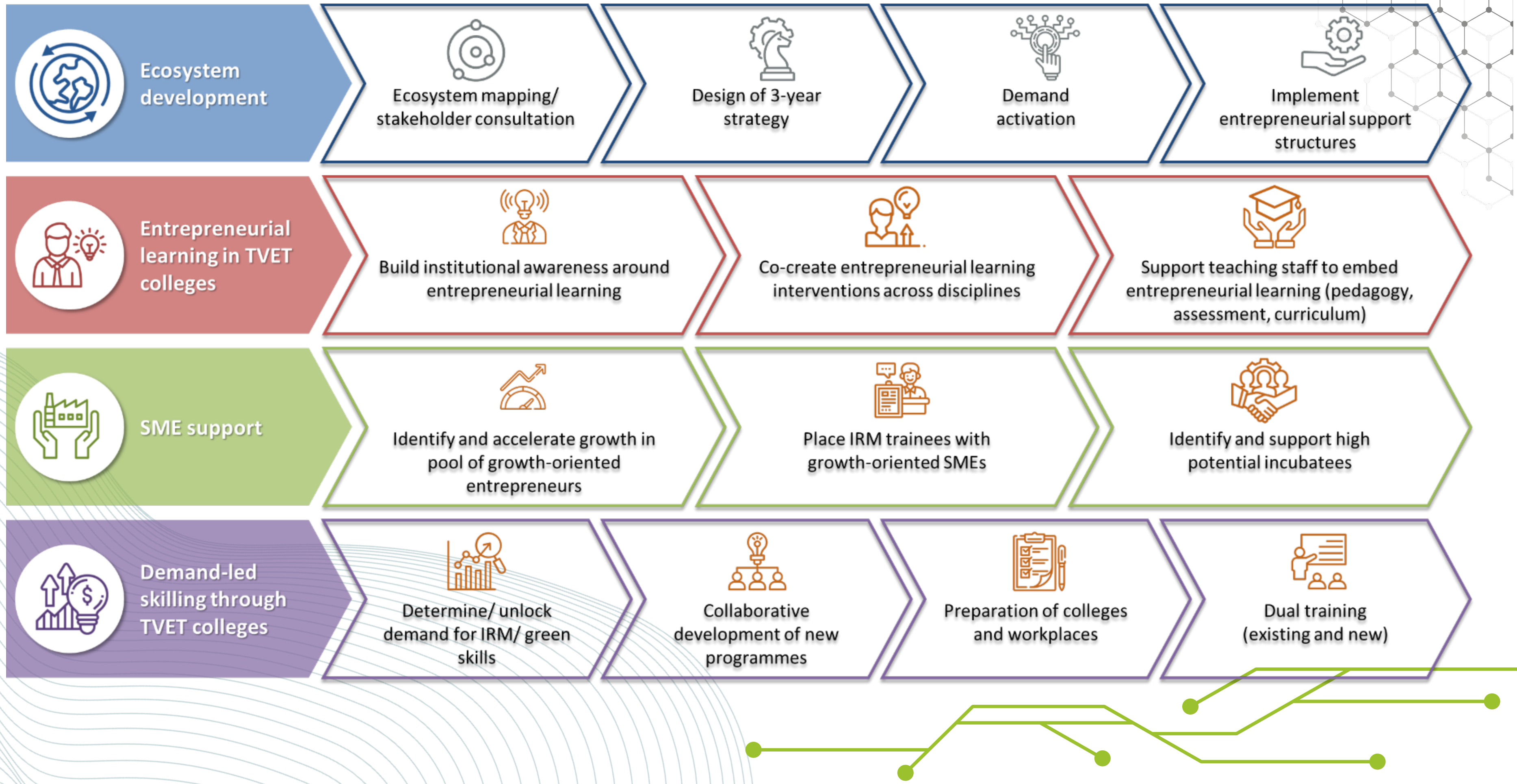
LOCATING TVET COLLEGES AT THE HEART OF LOCAL ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEM



IRM TRAINING MODEL



IRM INTERVENTIONS TO CREATE ENABLING CONDITIONS



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The National Business Initiative is a voluntary coalition of South African and multinational companies, working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa and the shaping of a sustainable future through responsible business action. Since our inception in 1995, the NBI has made a distinct impact in the spheres of housing delivery, crime prevention, local economic development, public sector capacity building, further education and training, schooling, public private partnerships, energy efficiency and climate change. The NBI is a global network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and an implementation partner of We Mean Business, the CEO Water Mandate and CDP.