

**Side Event: Strengthening instruments for policy implementation
in science, technology and innovation**

8:30 – 9:45 EST / 14:30 – 15:45 CET, May 10th, 2024

Venue: virtually on Teams

Summary

1. Key messages

The event stressed the importance of effective Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy implementation and policy instruments. It underscored the need for collecting and sharing information on STI policy and policy instruments to design evidence-based policies. The event also highlighted the crucial role of international collaboration in capacity-building, peer learning, and experience sharing among countries to develop and implement tailored policies with a collaborative approach. It exemplified the value of knowledge-sharing partnerships like this side event resulting from collaboration between UNESCO, the OACPS R&I Programme of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Secretariat, and the UN Interagency Task Team on Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT- WS6), and called for more such initiatives.

2. Summary of the presentations and discussion

Challenges in the implementation of STI policy do not come from the implementation phase alone; some could have been addressed during the formulation process. This is why the OACPS [Handbook on how to formulate and implement effective Research and Innovation \(R&I\) policies](#) combines STI policy formulation and implementation. Among many practical recommendations, the handbook underlines enhancing support for peer-learning for STI policy implementation and fostering experimentation to explore different ways in addressing challenges in STI policy implementation.

The OACPS handbook was considered useful to address challenges in in the development and implementation of effective Research and Innovation (R&I) policies by providing a comprehensive guide and practical recommendations to help countries develop evidence-based, tailored and targeted R&I policies with broad stakeholder participation. The handbook was also acknowledged to be valuable in providing lessons learnt and experiences from countries facing similar situations and offering data on R&I policies at various stages, serving as a handy reference to inform decision-making.

The UNESCO report [Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments for the Sustainable Development Goals: A Global Outlook](#) was developed combining statistics and case studies to understand how countries implement policy instruments. It aims to allow policymakers to understand how similar STI issues are being tackled around the world and provide ideas on how to improve the design and implementation of their own policy instruments. Key recommendations cover areas such as SDG integration, evidence-based policymaking using data and information platforms like [UNESCO's Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments \(GO-SPIN\)](#), diversification of policy instruments, and continuous learning and adaptation.

The UNESCO report was praised for providing experiences and resources to help countries find solutions by examining how others have addressed similar issues. It was also considered valuable in supporting mutual learning among countries and serving as a basis for developing training materials for the [UN IATT Work Stream on Capacity-building's training workshop on STI policy and policy instruments](#). Furthermore, UNESCO's GO-SPIN platform, which provided statistics for the analysis of trends in policy instruments in the report, was acknowledged to be useful in providing insights that can inspire countries to design new policy measures and instruments.

3. Organisation & Participation

The virtual side event was organised by UNESCO, the OACPS R&I Programme of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Secretariat, and the UN Interagency Task Team on Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT- WS6). It was attended by 143 participants from ministries of STI, academic institutions, UN agencies, non-government organisations and other types of agencies across the globe.

4. Useful resources shared during the event

- OACPS Handbook on how to formulate and implement effective Research and Innovation (R&I) policies: https://oacps-ri.eu/wp-content/uploads/Handbook_MLE-RI-policies.pdf
- UNESCO report, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments for the Sustainable Development Goals: A Global Outlook: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389665>
- Policy Support Facility website <https://oacps-ri.eu/en/policy-support-facility/>
- UNESCO GO-SPIN Platform for information on STI policy and policy instruments: <https://gospin.unesco.org/frontend/home/index.php>
- UN IATT WS6 training workshops on Science, Technology and Innovation policy and policy instruments: <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/interagency-task-team/capacity>
- More information on the side event: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/sti-forum-side-event-strengthening-instruments-policy-implementation-science-technology-and>