MAPPING STI POLICY CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES AND EXPLORING ITS TRANSFORMATIVE VALUE FOR THE SDGs
WHO WE ARE

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What is the global landscape of STI capacity building?
No mention of SDGs, although sustainability may be a minor aspect of the training.

Greater focus on sustainability of the training but has little to no explicit connection to SDG.

The initiative is highly connected to SDG and has an explicit connection to SDG.
GLOBAL STI CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES ACCORDING TO CONNECTION TO THE SDGs

Key takeaway
The majority of global STI capacity building initiatives do not mention the SDGs as a significant aspect of the programme.

SDG Connection definitions:
- **High** - training is highly relevant to the SDGs and an explicit connection is made in the programme description and/or title
- **Medium** – sustainability may be a significant focus of the initiative, although there is no explicit connection to the SDGs.
- **Low** – there is little to no mention of sustainability or the SDGs in the training
GLOBAL STI CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES ACCORDING TO TARGET AUDIENCE

- Professionals: 57 initiatives (58%)
- Students: 29 initiatives (30%)
- General: 10 initiatives (10%)
- Other: 2 initiatives (2%)

Most global STI capacity building initiatives are targeted towards professionals and students; means that participants must be a part of a certain professional network and/or pay high fees.

There are very few initiatives that cater to a ‘general’ audience.

This emphasises that barriers to entry are high.
Whilst there are many initiatives that are workshops, short courses and degrees, these often have high barriers to entry as participants need to have professional experience or high fees.

Furthermore, there is a distinct lack of openly available initiatives, such as MOOCs and guidebooks.
Academic institutions are major conveners in the field. This is mostly due to the large number of degree courses in the dataset (27%).

Despite this, they provide very little training that specifically cater to the SDGs.
Non-governmental agencies have a relatively large influence on STI capacity building and deliver the greatest proportion of initiatives with a high SDG connection.
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION TO THE SDGs

Government agencies and private organisations have comparatively less influence in STI policy capacity building.

Although government agencies deliver some initiatives, these have a predominantly low SDG connection.
Yet, when only accounting for initiatives with a high connection to the SDGs, the number of countries providing such programmes is more limited, although there is still a higher concentration in the USA and western Europe.
KEY TAKEAWAYS: THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

There is a lack of openly available initiatives, in terms of the training types and target audiences.

Although academic institutions are major actors in this space, NGOs are more aligned with the SDGs.

Whilst most initiatives are developed in the West, the countries targeted by these are very broad, so local contexts may not be given enough consideration.

There has been a global shift towards digital transformation, but there is an under-utilisation of online platforms by international organisations (Lambert and Hassan, 2018).

There have been calls for greater importance to be placed on interlinkages across societal actors, to allow SDG progression (Stafford-Smith et al., 2017; Bowen et al., 2017).

The SDGs require close attention to contextual priorities (Nilsson, Griggs and Visbeck, 2016; Stafford-Smith et al., 2017; Managi, Lindner and Stevens, 2021).
So, we’ve explored the global landscape of STI capacity building initiatives. This showed the critical influence of short-term professional workshops and courses. However, their connections to the SDGs is weak and barriers to entry are high.

Now we’re going to delve deeper into the value of STI policy capacity building for the SDGs in the UN-IATT.
Part B: Exploring value

**KEY INTERVIEW RESULTS**

**Value**
- Gaining practical knowledge
- A greater awareness of STI systems and SDG implementation
- Strengthening human capacities
- Peer-learning
- Diversity of the UN-IATT

**Challenges**
- Participant seniority and knowledge gaps
- Time constraints
- Context
- Interactivity during workshops
- Resources

**Suggestions on improvement**
- Guidebook
- Context
- Entrepreneurship
- Use more local resources
SURVEY ANALYSIS RESULTS

STI policy and policy instruments for SDGs
- Current approaches to STI Policymaking in the context of SDGs
- STI Policy instruments: Design and implementation
- Innovation and entrepreneurship

Quality of the sessions
- 96% of the 25 respondents expressed that the sessions met their expectations
- 80% rated the sessions are very useful for their work

Recommended topics from the trainees
Education; Multi-stakeholder governance; Entrepreneurship; R&D, technology and innovation; the Implementation of the SDGs; Monitoring and evaluation; Sharing experiences
What does the future look like?
This project has gathered insights on the global landscape of STI capacity building, as well as its transformative value in aligning with the SDGs in the context of the UN-IATT Workstream 6 activities.

The workshops offer a lot of value, but long-term impact is currently uncertain and increased efforts need to be made to mobilise a feedback mechanism to assess this.

Online space should be utilised more to provide additional learning materials to accompany workshops, even acting as a standalone learning resource to increase accessibility.

It is important that different contextual priorities are being met. Collaboration between different societal actors in local regions would add to the richness of capacity building, ensuring that contextual priorities are addressed.
Summary Statistics

The desktop research returned a total of 97 STI capacity building initiatives. Each of these were mapped to different characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Country of Organisations</th>
<th>Training Provider</th>
<th>Training Type</th>
<th>STI Expertise</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Locality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target Audience</td>
<td>Target Audience Location</td>
<td>Delivery Method</td>
<td>SDG Connection</td>
<td>STI Capacity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of global STI capacity building initiatives by target audience

![Number of global STI capacity building initiatives by target audience](image)

Figure 8: Distribution of global STI capacity building initiatives according to the type of target audience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>Number of STI Initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Number of global STI capacity building initiatives according to the type of target audience.

SDG Connection: a closer look

The level of the SDG connection gives an indication of how closely STI policy capacity building initiatives are aligned with the SDGs. The contribution of the SDGs in the content of the STI capacity building initiatives was highly variable. To better understand the differences that the levels of SDG connection had on the characteristics of STI capacity building, further analysis was conducted. This allowed for the dissemination of the interdependencies and gaps that exist in STI capacity building for the SDGs.
Thank you!

Any questions?
REFERENCES


Appendix
INTERVIEW RESULTS: CHALLENGES FOR UN-IATT WS6

**Participant seniority and knowledge gaps**
- Different levels of STI expertise among participants.
- Middle-level and lower-level policymakers lack authority to formulate policies.
- Lack of participants’ and policymakers’ background knowledge in STI policy

**Time constraints**
- The duration of the training workshops is short, which runs for one hour at one time.
- Limited peer learning.
- Due to time limitations, only basic concepts can be covered.

**Context**
- Different levels of development of participating countries
- Hard to find a balance between general topics and specific topics
- Lack of consideration of the mindset and perspective of policymakers

**Interactivity during workshops**
- Online training workshops are less interactive and participants struggle to stay engaged.
- Digitalisation of online training workshops poses logistical challenges.

**Resources**
- No dedicated resources for the UN-IATT WS6.
- No mechanisms for UN agencies to share resources with other agencies.
INTERVIEW RESULTS: AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

UN-IATT members and trainers

- Gender
- Dedicated sessions for high-level decision makers
- Collaboration with other UN-IATT workstreams

Workshop attendees

- Guidebook
- Entrepreneurship
- Context
- Use of more local resources
- Improved feedback mechanism
### IMPACT: WHAT IS THE MAIN VALUE IN HAVING STI FOR SDGS TRAINING SESSIONS?

**Current situation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The value of STI for SDGs workshops</th>
<th>Trainers &amp; Workstream 6 members</th>
<th>Trainees</th>
<th>Academics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Upskilling policymakers</td>
<td>• Enriching knowledge</td>
<td>• Using STI as a means for SDG achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Diversity of STI policy</td>
<td>• Sharing STI information</td>
<td>• Aligning STI policy to SDGs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>knowledge and expertise</td>
<td>• Strengthening network</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Peer learning</td>
<td>• Raising initiatives for STI on capacity building</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Enhancing development</td>
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<td>• Further UN agenda</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Raising awareness</td>
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<td>• Stakeholder engagement and</td>
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<td>collaboration</td>
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</table>
**IMPACT: WHAT IS THE MAIN VALUE IN HAVING STI FOR SDGS TRAINING SESSIONS?**

**Ideal scenario**

- Sufficient understand of STI policymaking for SDGs.
- Participants have the sufficient tools to design and implement STI policies
- Participants can engage with stakeholders to further STI policy outcomes for the SDGs
- UN-IATT will be able to provide continuous support and assistance to participants
- Participants have a greater insight into how STI policy tools are implemented in different contexts
- Individuals and organisations have a better understanding of how their SDG priorities can be met
- Participants are able to communicate the teachings from the UN-IATT training back to their work to enable greater organisational learning
STI Expertise

Basic

Absolute basic policymaking and the lowest barriers of entry.

Intermediate

Covers Basic STI Policy and must have entry level experience on Policymaking.

Advanced

Case Studies  Best Practices  Emerging Issue

Knowledge and Experience Required