

On-line training sessions on STI policy and policy instruments for SDGs

Concept note

18-20 October 2022

By UN-IATT Workstream 6 on Capacity-Building in STI for SDGs

Registration and Zoom [link](#)

Background of UN-IATT WS6

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* highlight the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies and actions for meeting the SDGs. The *Technology Facilitation Mechanism* (TFM) and its *UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs* (IATT) were established in order to mobilize STI solutions for attaining the SDGs.

The IATT is composed of diverse entities, including UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNU MERIT, WIPO, UNDESA, UNEP, UNESCWA, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNECE, UNESCAP and among others. The IATT's *Work Stream 6 (WS6)* on capacity building is responsible for designing and delivering training courses and workshops on STI Policy for SDGs addressed to policy-makers and key STI managers from developing countries.

The WS6 has delivered two pilot regional trainings in presence (for Arab States and Central American Countries) and four series of online trainings (2020-2021) that benefited over 500 officials from over 70 countries. Resources and more information about the training could be found on the IATT WS6 website ¹.

Objectives of the training

Regions and countries need to build capacities to create robust STI systems for achieving SDGs and addressing the pressing environmental, health, economic and social challenges of the global crisis, such as the current pandemic. In Africa, governments are increasingly recognizing the need to invest in STI capacities in order to implement the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the African Strategy on STI (STISA-2024).

In this context, the UN-IATT and GIZ organize a series of three virtual training sessions on STI Policy and Policy instruments for high-level STI officials.

The purpose of the three on-line training sessions is to build awareness and understanding concerning key aspects of STI policies and instruments, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship, and how they relate to the SDGs.

The sessions aim at engaging participants in interactive discussions and practical reflection on existing approaches, case studies and national experiences in establishing and managing STI in the context of the SDGs. Interactive tools, such as Mentimeter will be used during the sessions.

The proposed sessions will have the following specific objectives:

1. Sharing knowledge and practices using different methodological approaches to the design and implementation of STI policies and instruments

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/interagency-task-team/capacity>

2. Recognizing the importance of transparent, participatory, inclusive and evidence-based STI policy-making processes
3. Understanding the importance of establishing appropriate and well-balanced policy mix of instruments and means that held address the global challenges
4. Sensitizing the participants to the requirement for successful STI policy implementation
5. Increasing awareness that productive actors – private enterprises, public firms, small and medium-sized enterprises, farmers, inventors, entrepreneurs – are as crucial to responding to the global crisis and contributing to the achievement of SDGs
6. Appreciating the need to support innovation and entrepreneurship through government support, financing etc.

Content of the training

The proposed on-line sessions will introduce STI policy-makers and managers to theory and practice of STI policy, in the context of the SDGs. Three sessions of two hours each are proposed and structured along the core elements: STI policy-making for SDGs; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and Policy instruments.

Session 1: Current approaches to STI Policy making in the context of SDGs (18 October 2022 : 2-4 pm (GMT+1 – Tunisia)

Session introducing existing approaches and methodologies for policy – making and implementation across UN agencies with discussion on case studies in developing, reviewing and implementing STI policies and strategies. Illustrations of how STI policies are being geared towards achieving SDGs and strengthening STI systems for better responses to current and future crisis.

Session 2: Innovation and entrepreneurship (19 October 2022 : 2-4 pm (GMT+1 – Tunisia)

Session discussing the concepts of innovation and entrepreneurship, with focus on governmental support to start-ups, SMEs and innovators, followed by best practices and successful stories from innovation entities in response crisis and global challenges, and examples of direct policy impact on innovation.

Session 3: STI policy instruments design (20 October 2022: 1-3 pm (GMT+1 – Tunisia)

Session introducing the concepts of policy instruments, including legal frameworks, funding mechanisms etc., followed by methodological approaches for the design of policy instruments across UN agencies. The session will illustrate how existing STI policy instruments can be used / adapted to try to find solutions in times of crisis.

Profile of Participants

A group of 70-80 STI officials from Tunisia and other countries in North Africa and Arab States have been invited to participate and to engage in the interactive discussions bringing examples of actions and practices from their countries' experiences.

Profile of Trainers

STI policy specialists from the following UN agencies and institutions will animate and deliver lectures during the five sessions: UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNU-Merit, UNEP, UNESCWA, UNECLAC and EU-JRC.

Interpretation

The training will be delivered in English with interpretation in French.