

On-line training on science, technology and innovation (STI) policy and policy instruments for SDGs for Asia and the Pacific

Draft Concept note and programme

18-21 November 2024, 9-11 a.m. Central European Time (CET) on Zoom

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

Registration link: <https://unes.co/9dx91e>

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 Sustainable Development Goals (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 to attain the SDGs.

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

WS6 has delivered several regional and international trainings online and in presence that benefited 1,270 officials from more than 75 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. Governments are increasingly recognizing the need to invest in STI capacities in order to implement national and regional strategies on STI.

In this context, the UN-IATT will organize a series of four virtual training sessions on STI Policy and Policy instruments for STI officials, and policy analysts and experts.

The purpose of the training is to build awareness and understanding concerning key aspects of STI policy-making, policy instruments design and implementation, as well as STI policy monitoring and evaluations. Building on the various expertises of the engaged agencies, this training addresses how these areas contribute to achieving 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 have the following objectives:

1. Sharing knowledge and practices using different approaches for the design and implementation of STI policies and policy instruments;
2. Recognizing the importance of transparent, participatory, inclusive and evidence-based STI policymaking processes;

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

3. Understanding the importance of establishing an appropriate and well-balanced policy mix of instruments and means that help address the global challenges.
4. Introducing concepts and methodologies around monitoring and evaluating STI policies
5. Sensitizing the participants to the relationships between STI policies and the SDGs

Content of the training

Session 1: Current approaches to STI Policy making in the context of SDGs

18 November 2024, 9-11 a.m. CET

Session introducing existing approaches and methodologies for policymaking and implementation across UN agencies and beyond with discussion on 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, including how science is used for decision-making processes. Gender equality aspects in STI will be discussed, focusing on how design and implementation of STI policies can bridge the gender gap and thus promote gender equality.

Session 2: STI policy instruments design

19 November 2024, 9-11 a.m. CET

The session will introduce key concepts concerning policy instruments, including legal frameworks, funding mechanisms etc., followed by methodological approaches for the design of policy instruments and country experiences.

Session 3: STI policy instruments implementation

20 November 2024, 9-11 a.m. CET

The session will focus on the challenges and good practices for effective implementation of policy instruments. These will be explored through the analysis of its key dimensions as well as the presentation of concrete country experiences.

Session 4: STI policy Monitoring and Evaluation

21 November 2024, 9-11 am CET

The last session will introduce approaches, practices and methods for STI policy Monitoring and Evaluation with presentation and discussion on case studies and examples of current practices, challenges and lessons learnt.

Profile of Participants

STI policymakers, policy analysts and STI officials and managers from countries in Asia and the Pacific, [including the Science Technology Engineering & Innovation Policy Asia and the Pacific Network \(STEPAN\)](#) and others, will be invited to participate in the sessions and discussions and are encouraged to bring examples of STI policies, instruments, activities and practices from their countries' experiences.

Profile of Trainers

STI policy specialists from UN agencies and other entities will animate the discussion, deliver lectures and execute interactive exercises during the four sessions. These include UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNU-MERIT, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE, UNESCWA, EU-JRC, OACPS R&I and University of Sussex.

Language

The training will be delivered in English.

Session 1 Current approaches to STI Policy making in the context of SDGs

18 November 2024, 9:00-11:00 Central European Time

Concept note and agenda

Session 1 will discuss how agendas for STI policies need to be set if they are to work towards achieving SDGs, including strengthening national innovation systems to better respond to current and future challenges and crisis.

Session 1 will provide an overview of a strategic systems approach to STI Policy for the SDGs, while highlighting the need for a transformative approach by developing directionality and reflexivity based on multistakeholder participation in policy making.

Through multistakeholder and participatory processes, informed by science and based on objective evidence, policymakers can develop shared visions of strategic goals, identify tested policy tools for scaling up, inform the design of policy incentives or uncover capability gaps between different types of firms or other relevant agents.

This 2-hour training session will present an overview of current approaches to STI policy and will benefit from country experiences from the region and broader. It will consider the importance of science for policymaking. It will also take up the question of how we can link science to innovation for the SDGs.

The presentations will focus on:

- 1. Introduction to STI policy for SDGs approaches:** the presentation will make a brief overview of existing approaches and frameworks in policy-making, focusing on the STI policy cycles, from priority setting to design, review and implementation of STI policies. The presentation will include key aspects and questions that a STI policy might address. It will focus on key challenges in fostering STI for SDGs, highlighting the need to follow participatory and inclusive approaches and engaging broad range of stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels. Gender equality aspects in STI will be presented, focusing on how design and implementation of STI policies can bridge the gender gap and thus promote gender equality
- 2. Country experience in STI for SDGs policy-making and implementation:** the presentation will present STI policy approaches that have been applied in countries that are currently implementing STI for SDGs projects and activities. Examples will illustrate different practices and experiences in designing strategies and integrating STI for the achievement of the SDGs. The examples will share policy approaches that have been applied as well as issues of STI governance, coordination and capacity-building.
- 3. Science for supporting decision making:** broadly this theme will look at how governments, businesses and civil society can build processes to bring the best science and evidence into their decision making processes on STI policy. The presentation will provide some basic principles surrounding these processes, such as ensuring the scientific and evidence-based findings are considered legitimate by the user audience, that they findings are also considered relevant to solving the question at hand and

finally that the process developing the science or evidence for decision-making is considered scientifically or technically credible.

- The SDGs provide an important opportunity to steer STI and STI policy to address sustainable development challenges. The SDGs offer a means for researchers, public and private research funders, policymakers and societies at large to study which directions for STI are most likely to count as progress in relation to human challenges. The presentation will address the main sustainability challenges of current STI practice including the orientation of “global” research shaped through existing inequalities and the problem of over-focus on technical solutions in isolation from underlying social and political inequalities and conflicts, among others.

Agenda Session 1 Current approaches to STI Policy making in the context of SDGs

November 18, 2024

Time CET			
9:00	Introduction	Welcome remarks	Moderator (UNCTAD)
		Welcome remarks	UNESCO Jakarta
		Overview and outline of the sessions	Moderator
		Mentimeter explanation	Moderator
		Participants profile(Mentimeter quiz)	Moderator
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9:15	Session 1: Strategic approaches to STI policy for SDG		
		Outline of session and speakers	Moderator
	Presentation #1	Current approaches to STI Policy for SDGs	UNESCO
	Presentation #2	STI Policy Practice: UAE	ESCWA
		Mentimeter quiz	Moderator
	Presentation #3	Country experience: Timor- Leste	INCT, Timor-Leste
	Presentation #4	Country experience: Malaysia	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
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9:58		Q&A	Moderator
	Presentation #5	Science for supporting decision making	UNEP
	Presentation #6	Linking science to innovation for the SDGs	UNU-MERIT
		Mentimeter quiz	UNU-MERIT
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1041		Q&A	Moderator
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1056	Closing	Summary remarks and Mentimeter quiz	Moderator

Session 2 STI policy instruments design

19 November 2024, 9:00-11:00 CET (Central European Time)

Concept note and agenda

Session 2 introduces the discussion of policy instruments, including legal frameworks, funding mechanisms, etc., followed by methodological approaches and country experience for the design of policy instruments.

The session will start with a review of different policy instruments and methodologies for policy instruments designs. The session will continue with an overview of the step-by-step recommendations for the design and evaluation of competitive research funding programmes. Guidance for the design of National Innovation Funds will be provided including examples from different African countries.

The session will discuss examples of demand-side policy instruments and the roles that governments can play to support demand for innovation. This will include a presentation from Malaysia’s experience in design the National Biotechnology Law and a case study on procurement for innovation.

Agenda Session 2. STI Policy Instruments Design

November 19, 2024

Time CET			
9:00	Introduction	Welcome remarks	Moderator (UNEP)
		Overview and outline of the sessions	Moderator
		Mentimeter question	Moderator
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9:10	Conceptual aspects		
	Presentation #1	Public policy and policy instrument design for STI	UNCTAD
	Presentation #2	Design and Evaluate Research Funding with Impact	UNU-MERIT
		- Including Mentimeter questions	
	Presentation #3	Insights and guidance for the design of National Innovation Funds	OACPS R&I

		Q&A	Moderator
10:00	Examples and country experience		
	Presentation #4	Demand-side policy instruments	UNIDO
	Presentation #5	Country experience- Malaysia :designing the National Biotechnology Law	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
	Presentation #6	Case study: Procurement for Innovation - Including Mentimeter questions	UNCTAD
		Q&A	Moderator (UNEP)
10:50	Closing	Summary remarks and Mentimeter	Moderator

Session 3 STI Policy instruments implementation

20 November 2024, 9:00-11:00 CET (Central European Time)

Concept note and agenda

This third session focuses on the requirements for successful implementation of STI policy instruments. The topic will be discussed through the analysis of key dimensions influencing the implementation of policy instruments, as well as the presentation of concrete experiences in countries with different levels of development.

The **introductory part** of the session will start by assessing the level of knowledge and interest of participants through a series of questions which participants will vote on, after which, their answers will be tabulated and projected on screen.

The first presentation will examine critical aspects of implementing STI policy instruments. It focuses on key execution elements, including strategic planning, quality management, monitoring frameworks, and adaptive learning processes. The discussion aims to enhance program effectiveness and efficiency through practical insights.

The webinar moves away from the generic issues and focuses on concrete experiences around the globe drawing on the accumulated knowledge of the different UN and European Union agencies involved in WS6.

Following the introductory presentation, the session will move on to the presentation of several **case studies** on a varied set of topics that serve to illustrate issues on STI policy implementation.

The first case is the UNECE's Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development for participating countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The Network intends to enable peer learning and to strengthen capacities of business incubators and accelerators to effectively support innovative firms in the sub-region of Central Asia. However, there are several challenges and factors that have to be considered when trying to impactfully implement this policy instrument.

The second presentation will delve into STI for SDGs roadmaps as comprehensive portfolios of policy instruments, specifically designed to tackle distinct sustainability challenges. Building on the experience of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the presentation will explore the application of a challenge-oriented approach, aligned with the Guidebook for the preparation of STI for SDGs roadmaps developed by the UN Inter-Agency Task Team. Through case studies from various countries, the presentation will highlight key takeaways, including the crucial role of cross-governmental coordination, the importance of participatory approaches and inclusive governance, and the need to localize challenges and policies to ensure effective implementation.

The session then shifts to a South Korean experience on national efforts to tackle global challenges through mobilizing science and technological resources. Current obstacles to further promoting STI for SDGs will also be presented, using Korea's public R&D data on each SDG goal.

The **closing part** of the session will focus on 2-3 key takeaways that participants should take with them for their daily work in implementing STI policy instruments for SDGs. Agencies involved can also provide contact points should the participants wish to follow up in any specific point or access support by a specific agency

Agenda

Session 3: STI Policy instruments implementation

November 20, 2024

Time CET			
9:00	Introduction	Welcome remarks	Moderator (UNIDO)
		Overview and outline of the sessions	Moderator
		Mentimeter question	Moderator
9:10 Conceptual aspects			
	Presentation #1	Challenges and good practice in the implementation of STI policy instruments - including Mentimeter questions	UNESCO
		Q&A	Moderator
9:40 Examples and country experience			
	Presentation #2	UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Network of Business Incubators and Accelerators for Sustainable Development	UNECE
	Presentation #3	Challenge-led approach to STI roadmaps: methodology and lessons learnt from JRC's experience	EC-JRC
		Q&A	Moderator
	Presentation #4	Country experience: Integration of STI program into national missions to tackle global challenges and SDGs	STEPI, Republic of Korea
		Q&A	Moderator
10:50	Closing	Summary remarks and Mentimeter	Moderator

Session 4 STI Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

21 November 2024, 9:00-11:00 CET (Central European Time)

Concept note and agenda

Session 4 will introduce approaches, practices and methods for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) with presentation and discussion on case studies and examples of current practices, challenges and lessons learnt. The session will provide an overall introduction and answers the question “Why should we to Monitor and Evaluate STI Policies?”

This 2-hour training session will be broken up into four parts, including theoretical introductions, Q&A sessions, interactive exercises with the participants, country experiences and a wrap-up session including lessons learned during the entire week-long series of four online sessions.

The parts will focus on:

1. An introduction of the programme and tools used
2. The second block of presentations will introduce the conceptual overview of monitoring and evaluating science, technology, and innovation (STI) policies. In the first lecture we will elaborate on monitoring practices and evaluation methods, including the paradigms that underpin them. The second presentation will focus on the need to conduct evaluations and the difficulties that setting up good evaluation practices bring. A case example will provide insights in an evaluation that was completed in the region.
3. A third block of presentations will highlight the challenges and difficulties in properly doing M&E. We will discuss with participants the practical ways to improve M&E and strengthen skills and institutional capacities to perform M&E in a systematic manner.
4. The wrap-up session will highlight the key take-away messages from this final session. In addition, lessons learned throughout the 4-session workshop week will be highlighted. Lastly, participants are invited to offer their feedback.

Agenda

Session 4: STI Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

November 21, 2024

Time CET			
9:00	Introduction		Moderator (UNU-MERIT)
		Overview and outline of the session	Moderator
		Mentimeter quiz	Moderator
9:15	What is M&E and Why should we use it?		
	Presentation #1	Overview on conceptual issues on STI policy monitoring and evaluation	UNESCO
		-Including Mentimeter quiz	UNESCO
	Presentation #2	Impact evaluations of STI policies and projects - Including Mentimeter quiz	UNU-MERIT and UNESCO chair
	Presentation #3	Assessing policy effectiveness: a key tool for ensuring impact - Including Mentimeter quiz	UNEP
		Q&A	Moderator
10:10	Challenges of M&E systems		
	Presentation #4	STI policy monitoring and evaluation challenges	UNESCO
	Presentation #5	Monitoring & Evaluation Systems: Challenges for STI Policy Evaluation	UNCTAD
	Intervention	Country experience in monitoring and evaluation of STI Policy	Malaysian Industry- Government Group for High Technology
		Q&A	Moderator
10:50	Closing	Summary remarks and Mentimeter	Moderator