

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

Concept note

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

Presentation

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 currently composed of diverse entities, including among others UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNU MERIT, WIPO, UNDESA, UNEP, WB, ITU, UNESCWA, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNECE, UNESCAP and others. The 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 policy-makers and key STI managers from developing countries.

The WS6 delivered so far two regional trainings, organized in collaboration with the UN regional economic and social commissions, for Arab States (Jordan, April 2018) and for Central and South American countries (Panama, May 2019). Preparation for new regional and national training courses have been undertaken, in partnerships with regional partners, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). However, due to the global pandemic, the training activities had to be postponed and the travel and sanitary conditions in most countries still don't allow reprogramming of these trainings.

The WS6 has thus developed a short series of three on-line training sessions for STI officials to present, discuss and analyse the conceptual and methodological approaches, as well as the actions and means of implementation put in place by governments around the world in addressing and responding to today's crisis.

Objectives of the on-line training sessions

Sound and inclusive STI policies are needed to achieve the SDGs and can bring solutions to the global health crisis. Many regions and countries need to build capacity in STI policy in order to strengthen their national STI systems and thus foster STI for addressing the pressing health, economic and social challenges of the pandemic crisis.

The purpose of the short on-line training sessions designed by the IATT WS6 is to build awareness and understanding concerning key aspects of STI policies and instruments, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship processes 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 global and unprecedented crisis.

The proposed sessions will have the following specific objectives:

1. Sharing knowledge and practices using different methodological approaches to policy-making and implementation of STI policies ;
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. 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
5. Appreciating the need to support innovation and entrepreneurship through government support, financing etc.

Content of the on-line sessions

The proposed on-line training sessions will introduce STI policy-makers and managers to theory and practice of innovation policy, in the current context of facing global crisis such as the COVID-19. Three sessions of two hours each are proposed and structured along three core elements: STI policy-making for SDGs; Policy instruments; and Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

1. Current approaches to STI Policy making in the context of SDGs (19 November 2020)

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.

2. STI Policy instruments: Design and implementation (26 November 2020)

Session introducing the concepts of policy instruments, including legal frameworks, funding mechanisms etc., followed by methodological approaches for the design and implementation 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 such as COVID-19.

3. Innovation and entrepreneurship (3 December 2020)

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.

Profile of Participants

A group of 20 to 30 STI officials, mainly from ministries in charge of STI in countries involved in IATT STI policy projects and activities, will be invited to participate and will be invited to participate in the interactive discussions bringing examples of concrete actions and practices from their countries' experiences. Priority to be given to African countries and Least Developed Countries (in partnership with the TBLDC).