

**14 November - 16 November 2024**

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

UNCTAD STI Park Development Project

National training workshop on Science, technology and innovation policies and park practices

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are key drivers enabling and accelerating the global transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies in developing and developed countries alike. Well-developed and dynamic STI parks play an important role in increasing knowledge and technology flows, supporting technology diffusion and promoting innovation. STI are also critical for countries to recover fully from Covid-19 pandemics and build a better future.

STI parks have been operationalized in a wide variety of economic and development contexts to stimulate innovation growth and increase competitiveness. As outlined in UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation report 2018, many parks have experienced a disappointing outcome. While many projects in this area achieve some level of success as commercial ventures, their results are often more limited in terms of their main developmental objectives. Many developing countries are seeking advice on how to develop their own range of STI parks, incubators and accelerators. However, often they face serious capacity bottlenecks in terms of policy formulation and policy implementation as evidenced in the STIP reviews undertaken with assistance from UNCTAD. The UNCTAD project Science, Technology and Innovation Parks for sustainable development: building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries, funded by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund under the UN Peace and Development Fund aims at building expertise and enhancing capacity to formulate coherent and integrated policies and institutional frameworks in beneficiary countries, including Uzbekistan by providing them opportunities for South-South collaboration to learn from other developing countries that have used STI parks, incubators and accelerators successfully.





Objective

This workshop aims to strengthen Uzbekistan's capacity to design, operate and manage STI parks in a manner that contributes to the implementation of the country's STI policies and enhancement of the country's STI capacity, which ultimately promotes the country's sustainable development.

Over three intensive working days in Tashkent, participants will engage in training that includes lectures and discussions focused on the establishment, development, and management of STI parks and the enabling STI policy environment. The workshop is designed to provide participants with essential skills and knowledge for effective STI park management, covering critical areas such as policy coherence, financial sustainability, outreach strategies, tenant management, incubation processes, and the evaluation of innovation outcomes. The workshop will also address specific challenges within Uzbekistan's STI ecosystem based on the analysis that UNCTAD has conducted for the country (forthcoming publication), as well as the feedback and interactions from the participants to this workshop in Tashkent.

Target participants

This national workshop will include policy makers, STI park practitioners (in broad definition, including full-fledged STI parks, technology parks, innovation parks or hubs, incubators, technology transfer centers, start-up studios, industrial techno parks, Special economic zones or free trade zones hosting STI parks too, etc.), researchers and academics engaged in STI policy studies, technology transfer, commercialization of research or academic achievements.

By bringing together relevant actors, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers and academia from Uzbekistan, the workshop will facilitate the creation of national STI expert networks, enabling ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange. The diverse mix of participants will help promote the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are crucial for the successful implementation of STI park strategies in the country.

Contact

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