THE THREE FUNCTIONS OF GO→SPIN

STI Governance

Policy Design

Capacity-building

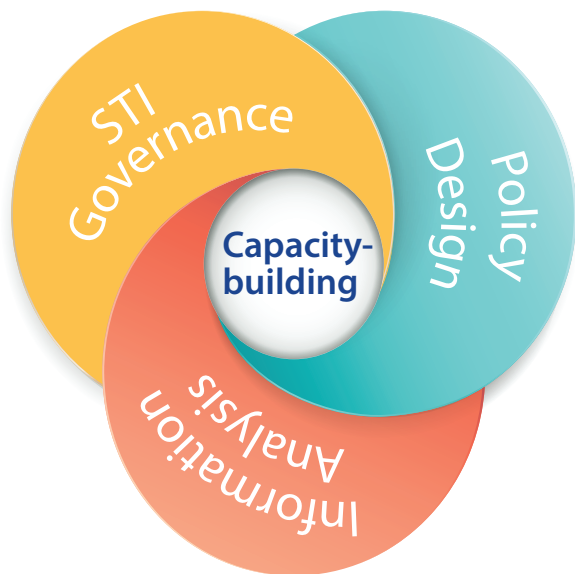Information Analysis

Prof. Marcia Barbosa, 2013 L'Oréal-UNESCO laureate for Latin America © L'Oréal Foundation/Micheline Pelletier

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN GO→SPIN

Countries interested in maintaining an inventory of their national research and innovation system within GO→SPIN are invited to contact:

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UNESCO
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

GO→SPIN
FOR SCIENCE POLICY

GLOBAL OBSERVATORY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO→SPIN)

Towards better governance of science, technology and innovation (STI)

WHAT IS GO→SPIN?

The Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments provides new tools to make it easier to standardize, systematize and analyse the STI landscape of countries and regions.

WHAT ARE POLICY INSTRUMENTS?

Any policy needs to implement a set of policy instruments to foster the desired effect. Policy instruments include laws, competitive grants and public subsidies.

WHY IS GO→SPIN TIMELY?

Increasingly, science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) are driving socio-economic growth, social inclusion and sustainable development. They can play a key role in enhancing the quality of life, such as by improving health care, food security and risk resilience.

Science, technology and innovation do not operate in a vacuum, however. To be effective, they need to be regulated and nurtured via good governance. Good governance, in turn, results from the design, implementation and monitoring of multidimensional, comprehensive and inclusive policies.

Nanotechnology Innovation Centre in Pretoria, South Africa
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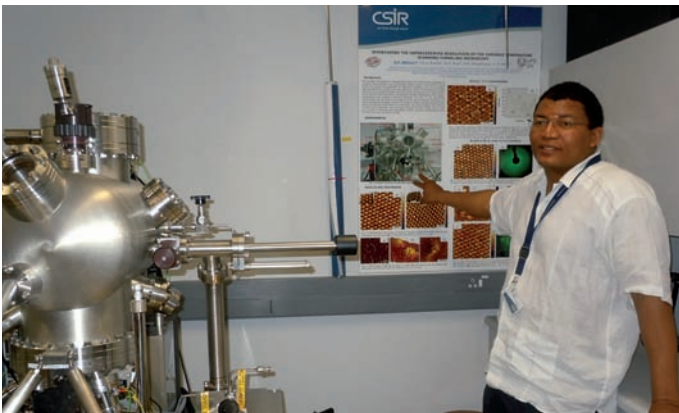
HOW DOES GO→SPIN WORK?

1. Firstly, a national inventory is compiled

Once a country has expressed interest in compiling a national inventory of its science and innovation system, UNESCO sends out a survey for the country to complete. In liaison with UNESCO, the country subsequently describes and analyses the components of its science system:

▶ institutions which coordinate and/or perform research and innovation,
▶ innovative firms,
▶ organizational structure of the governing bodies and the way in which they interact,
▶ standard analysis of explicit STI policies,
▶ standard analysis of SETI legal frameworks
▶ standard analysis of different types of operational policy instruments,
▶ temporal series of various input and output indicators on research and development.

2. The inventory is then made widely available

The inventory is subsequently entered into an open access database managed by UNESCO, in order to allow broad access, international comparisons and regular updates.

In parallel, the inventory is published in book form on UNESCO's portal, within UNESCO's new series of GO→SPIN Country Profiles in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.

Each inventory is updated on a regular basis by the country. It serves as a monitoring tool and can also be used to improve governance and for the purposes of training and research.

HOW DOES GO→SPIN CONTRIBUTE TO POLICY DESIGN?

Since 2012, UNESCO has run several training workshops in Africa to help national officers design and implement different types of SETI policy instrument.

These workshops have been designed for planners and administrators, as well as for parliamentarians, university researchers and entrepreneurs.

The workshops may serve as the first step in the development of a national inventory of SETI within GO→SPIN (see previous page).

More workshops are planned for 2014–2017. Countries are invited to express interest in hosting or participating in one of these workshops.

Instruments to ensure a policy obtains the desired effect

STI POLICY — Statements by high-level government officials or representatives of the private sector, generally associated with top-level government bodies

SETI POLICY INSTRUMENTS

SETI LEGAL FRAMEWORK — Laws, decrees, regulations, bylaws, contracts and international agreements

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR SETI — Individual institutions and organizations; procedures and methodologies they employ

OPERATIONAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS — Actual working mechanisms that make the instrument function on a day-to-day basis

EFFECTS

Adapted from Sagasti and Aráoz (1976)