

The UNESCO-AECID project supports the development of legal frameworks, policy instruments and governing bodies for the effective implementation of national Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies in Africa



"We need stronger science, more connected science. We need science that is more deeply integrated with policy-making,"

Mr. Ban Ki-moon on 16.09.2016 during the presentation of the Scientific Advisory Board Report.



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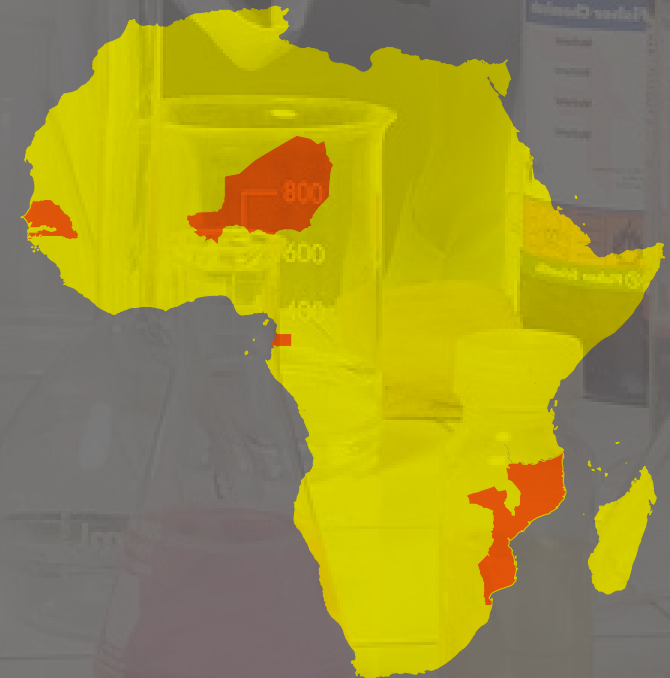


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UNESCO-AECID

Cooperation to promote Science,
Technology and Innovation (STI) for
Sustainable Development in Africa



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Project website:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/science-technology/sti-policy/africa/development-of-sti-policy-instruments-in-africa/>

<http://en.unesco.org/go-spin>

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is key to drive Sustainable Development in Africa

The governance of STI systems has become more complex and yet is critical in enabling inclusive, transdisciplinary and transnational STI activities to effectively contribute to national development goals.

The translation of STI Policy (STIP) objectives into effective policy instruments is indeed a major challenge in the African region that accounts only for 2,6% of World Share of Publications according to the UNESCO World Science Report 2015. UNESCO has extensive experience in the Sub-Saharan Africa region thanks to the gracious support of the Spanish government, since 2008, to a STIP Capacity Building project benefiting more than 20 Member States.

Within this cooperation framework, UNESCO has been supporting since 2014 the development of STI policy instruments in Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

Closing session of the Workshop in Baney- Equatorial Guinea



Summary and Background

The project capitalises on the methodological framework built by the Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy instruments (GO-SPIN) to analyse and map national STI landscapes and propose

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) can spur inclusive and sustainable development in multiple ways if the enabling conditions are met.

effective STI policy instruments to enhance their performance.

The initiative provided technical support to the four participating countries for the development of specific STI policy instruments, legal frameworks and governing bodies, by strengthening national capacities to design, implement and evaluate them.

Guiding Principles for STI Policy Instrument Design: Lessons Learn:

In the light of the project's experiences, some of the main characteristics of effective STI instruments are:

Tailored and Systemic: GO-SPIN provides the methodological, holistic framework required to assess the country's STI system and formulate tailored policy instruments that meet the requirements in terms of complementary/synergistic/contrasting effects within the specific system in which the instruments will be embedded.

Transdisciplinary and transversal approach: STI policy instruments are designed to be cross-cutting and to address development challenges from a transdisciplinary perspective. The project has established inter-sectorial national taskforces to co-design and implement STI policy instruments that promote sectorial cooperation.

Inclusive, innovative and co-designed:

Multiple stakeholders, including policy makers, civil society, industry and the scientific community have participated in national workshops to discuss on main gaps and contribute to the design of specific policy instruments. UNESCO priority objectives to enhance Youth and Gender equality have been integrated in the co-design of every policy instrument. The common issue for funding policy instrument implementation calls for new and innovative paths that different actors, as indigenous peoples, women and youth can provide.

Balanced mix: STI Policy should have an appropriate mix of supply and demand of operational instruments that can integrate society's needs and contributions in an innovative way.

Promote the Science Policy interface:

The need of STI policies and instruments is not always perceived as a priority by decision makers and society. Science popularisation activities and small pilot projects can show more clearly the benefits of STI to solve community problems and contribute to the promotion of the science-policy interface. National workshops create spaces for dialogue with the scientific community and underline the need of science advice for policy formulation.

Enhance transnational/regional cooperation:

In a world and region that are becoming more interdependent, policy making is adopting an increasingly transversal and regional/global dimension. Scientific cooperation inside the African region is the smallest in the world, there is therefore a clear need to join forces to address common challenges. The project has created strong links among countries, as well as an online platform to promote regional and international STI exchange.