



European  
Commission



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)  
FOR SDGS ROADMAPS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**Kick-off meeting and capacity  
building training workshop**

# Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals Roadmaps in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Kick-off meeting and capacity building training workshop

Kigali, Rwanda - Park Inn by Radisson

7th – 9th, February 2023

### Background

In 2022, the Joint Research Centre and the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission joined forces launching the project Science Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Roadmaps in Africa.

The objectives of the STI for SDGs Roadmaps in Africa project are to contribute to the formulation of effective STI policies and strategies and to support the development of effective innovation ecosystems towards the SDGs in Africa, in line with the EU priorities for STI cooperation with Africa. As a final objective, the project aims at strengthening STI capacities and building more inclusive and sustainable societies.

The project uses the novel approach developed by the Joint Research Centre to develop operational roadmaps for future investments in research and innovation priorities. These roadmaps are based on the unique potentials and challenges of each target country and mobilise science, technology and innovation to address key societal, environmental and economic issues in line with the achievement of the SDGs.

The methodological approach stems from the experience of Smart Specialisation Strategies in the European Union and beyond and the successful adaptation of Smart Specialisation approach to the rationale of STI for SDGs roadmaps as defined by United Nation's Inter-Agency Task Team (UNIATT) in cooperation with JRC.

The duration of the project is two years. During 2022, an initial screening of the Sub-Saharan African countries has allowed to identify 14 countries that meet minimum requirements for the future development of STI for SDGs Roadmaps (i.e. political stability, existence of basic R&D data, ongoing STI policy-related initiatives, existence of Voluntary National Reviews for SDGs, and STI policy frameworks)<sup>1</sup>.

These countries' STI systems have been further analysed to map their key policy actors and institutions, national strategies, other STI organizations, STI performances and business environment, linkages between STI and SDGs.

These findings, together with the countries' expression of interest were the basis to finally identify 6 countries that will go through the whole STI for SDGs roadmap development process in the second year of

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<sup>1</sup> Western Africa: Gambia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Cabo Verde; Eastern Africa: Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Tanzania, Rwanda; Southern Africa: Namibia, Malawi, South Africa.

the project, throughout 2023. These countries are **The Gambia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, and Seychelles.**

### Structure of the event

The meeting is scheduled for two and half days, starting in the morning on 7 February and ending on 9 February. The first day will be entirely dedicated to the project kick-off with the presence of JRC and DG INTPA, as well as representatives of the pilot countries who will share the state of the art on STI systems, policies and frameworks towards the SDGs. Needs, expectations and next steps will be discussed both in plenaries and bilateral meetings.

The second and the third days are devoted to capacity building training workshop delivered in collaboration with invited partners, including UNDESA and AUDA-NEPAD. This session will provide knowledge and more details on the steps of STI for SDGs Roadmap development.

The event will be the occasion to hold bilateral meetings with countries' representatives on the next steps of the project.

### Objectives

The meeting will have the following objectives:

- Officially launch the pilot phase with the six countries that will be part of the project
- Describe the project on STI for SDGs roadmaps in Africa and raise awareness on the activities that will be carried out, milestones and achievements
- Present the findings of the JRC research mapping the STI systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and receive feedback and comments from participants
- Gain better knowledge of the status of STI for SDGs in the countries, with a focus on gaps, needs and challenges that could potentially be addressed with the STI for SDGs roadmaps
- Define next steps to kick start the activities within each country
- Strengthen capacities on the steps for STI for SDGs roadmaps development
- Raise awareness on STI for SDGs roadmaps development in the global landscape and the DESA activities on localisation and SMEs in target countries.

## Draft agenda

<b>Day 1: 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Kick off meeting of the project on STI for SDGs roadmaps in Africa</b>	
8h30-9h00	<b>Welcome coffee and registration</b>
9h-9h30	<p>Moderator: Natalija WALDHUBER, EU DEL Rwanda</p> <p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvo Uyarra Belén, Head of EU Delegation in Rwanda</li> <li>• Dr Eugene Mutimura, Executive Secretary NCST, Rwanda</li> </ul> <p><b>Introductory remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit, JRC- European Commission</li> <li>• Thierry Barbe, Head of Union, DG INTPA (video address)</li> </ul>
9h30- 9h45	<p><b>Setting the scene</b> Moderator: Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit, JRC- European Commission</p> <p><b>EU Africa cooperation on STI</b> Peter Koren, Programme Manager - Research &amp; Innovation for Development, DG INTPA – European Commission</p>
9h45-10h15	<p><b>Presentation of the project and the report</b> Angela Sarcina, JRC – European Commission</p>
10h15-10h30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10h30-11h00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11h00-11h10	<p><b>Overview of the agenda</b> Angela Sarcina and Michal Miedzinski, JRC – European Commission</p>
11h10-12h30	<p><b>State of art on STI systems, policies and strategies towards the SDGs – Part 1</b> Moderator: Chux Daniels, JRC Expert and Research Fellow in STI Policy at Sussex University</p> <p><i>JRC will present the introductory factsheet for each country (5 minutes) and then, each representative will have 20 minutes to present their relevant policy framework on STI and SDGs. The presentation will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Each presentation should answer the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the team.</li> <li>- Recent developments on STI policies and strategies.</li> <li>- Priority SDGs and relevant knowledge gaps</li> <li>- International collaborations with other institutions/organisations (if any)</li> <li>- Best practices and success stories useful to other partners.</li> <li>- Expectations, needs, challenges for STI for SDGs roadmaps development, including within the project.</li> </ul> <p>Representatives from (in alphabetical order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gambia</li> <li>• Malawi</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch break</b>
13h30- 14h50	<p><b>State of art on STI systems, policies and strategies towards the SDGs – Part 2</b> Moderator: Michal Miedzinski, JRC- European Commission</p> <p><i>JRC will present the introductory factsheet for each country (5 minutes) and then, each representative will have 20 minutes to present their relevant policy framework on STI and SDGs. The presentation will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Each presentation should answer the following questions:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introduction of the team.</i></li> <li>- <i>Recent developments on STI policies and strategies.</i></li> <li>- <i>Priority SDGs and relevant knowledge gaps.</i></li> <li>- <i>International collaborations with other institutions/organisations (if any).</i></li> <li>- <i>Best practices and success stories useful to other partners.</i></li> <li>- <i>Expectations, needs, challenges for STI for SDGs roadmaps development, including within the project.</i></li> </ul> <p>Representatives from (in alphabetical order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mauritius</li> <li>• Namibia</li> </ul>
14h50- 15h10	<b>Coffee break</b>
15h10 -16h30	<p><b>State of art on STI systems, policies and strategies towards the SDGs – Part 3</b> Moderator: Angela Sarcina or Ale, JRC – European Commission</p> <p><i>JRC will present the introductory factsheet for each country (5 minutes) and then, each representative will have 20 minutes to present their relevant policy framework on STI and SDGs. The presentation will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Each presentation should answer the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introduction of the team.</i></li> <li>- <i>Recent developments on STI policies and strategies.</i></li> <li>- <i>Priority SDGs and relevant knowledge gaps.</i></li> <li>- <i>International collaborations with other institutions/organisations (if any).</i></li> <li>- <i>Best practices and success stories useful to other partners.</i></li> <li>- <i>Expectations, needs, challenges for STI for SDGs roadmaps development, including within the project.</i></li> </ul> <p>Representatives from (in alphabetical order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rwanda</li> <li>• Seychelles</li> </ul>
16h30- 17h30	<p><b>Moderated technical discussion on needs, challenges and next steps</b> Moderator: Angela Sarcina and Michal Miedzinski, JRC- European Commission; Chux Daniels, Sussex University</p> <p>Focus on gaps, needs and challenges that could potentially be addressed with the STI for SDGs roadmaps</p> <p><i>The moderator will open the floor for comments</i></p>
17h30- 17h45	<p><b>Wrap-up and setting the scene for the capacity building workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alessandro Rainoldi, JRC- European Commission</li> <li>• Peter Koren, DG INTPA – European Commission</li> </ul>
<b>Official dinner</b>	

Day 2: 8 <sup>th</sup> February		Capacity Building workshop (part 1)	
9h00- 9h10	<b>Opening remarks</b> JRC, Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit, JRC - European Commission		
9h10-9h20	<b>Overview of the agenda</b> Angela Sarcina and Michal Miedzinski, JRC - European Commission		
9h20- 9h50	<b>STI for SDGs roadmaps development – policy context and methodological overview</b> Angela Sarcina and Michal Miedzinski, JRC - European Commission		
9h50-10h20	<b>Q&amp;A</b>		
10h20 -11h15	<b>Define objectives and scope</b> Moderator: Alessandro Rainoldi, JRC - European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduction, Angela Sarcina, JRC - European Commission (5mins)</li><li>- Group discussion (30 mins)</li></ul>		
11h15 - 11h35	<b>Coffee break</b>		
11h35 - 13h00	<b>Assessing the current situation</b> Moderator: Alessandro Rainoldi, JRC - European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduction, Michal Miedzinski, JRC- European Commission (15 mins)</li><li>- Lukovi Seke, ASTII Project Lead, AUDA-NEPAD (20 mins)</li><li>- Innovation ecosystem mapping approach, <i>Marcelo Tedesco, GED</i> (20 mins)</li><li>- Group discussion on localised evidence: insights from countries (30 mins)</li></ul>		
13h00 - 14h00	<b>Lunch break</b>		
14h00 – 15h00	<b>Develop vision, goals and targets</b> Moderator: Michal Miedzinski, JRC- European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introductory presentation on the Global Pilot programme, <i>UNDESA</i> (15 mins)</li><li>- Ghana example (15 minutes)</li><li>- Group discussion (30 mins)</li></ul>		
15h00 – 15h30	<b>Coffee break</b>		
15h30 – 18h30	<b>Bilateral discussion and networking</b> (1h per country; 3 countries to be defined)		
Dinner			

<b>Day 3:</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Capacity Building workshop (part 2)</b>
09h00 - 09h10	<b>Opening remarks</b> Peter Koren, Programme Manager - Research & Innovation for Development, DG INTPA – European Commission	
09h10 - 10h00	<b>Assessing alternative pathways</b> Moderator: Chux Daniels, JRC Expert and Research Fellow in STI Policy at Sussex University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductory presentation, Michal Miedzinski, JRC- European Commission (20 min)</li> <li>- Group discussion (30 mins).</li> </ul>	



10h00 - 11h00	<b>Develop detailed STI for SDGs Roadmaps for implementation</b> Moderator: Chux Daniels, JRC Expert and Research Fellow in STI Policy at Sussex University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductory presentation, Angela Sarcina, JRC - European Commission (10 mins),</li> <li>- Ghana (30 mins)</li> <li>- Group discussion (30 mins).</li> </ul>
11h00 - 11h15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11h15 - 12h30	<b>Execute, monitor, evaluate and update plan</b> Moderator: Alessandro Rainoldi, JRC - European Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductory presentation, Michal Miedzinski, JRC- European Commission (10 mins)</li> <li>- Lukovi Seke, ASTII Project Lead, AUDA-NEPAD (20 mins)</li> <li>- TIPC (15 mins)</li> <li>- Group discussion (30 mins)</li> </ul>
12h30 -13h30	<b>Wrap-up and closing remarks</b> Moderator: Angela Sarcina and Michal Miedzinski, JRC - European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final Roundtable: short reflections from the countries</li> <li>- Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of unit, JRC- European Commission</li> <li>• Peter Koren, Programme Manager - Research &amp; Innovation for Development, DG INTPA – European Commission</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13h30 - 14h30	<b>Lunch break</b>
14h30 – 17h30	Bilateral discussion (1h per country; 3 countries to be defined)

### **List of participants**

Last name	First name	Affiliation and title
<b>Malawi</b>		
Mikeka	Chomora	Director of STI, Ministry of Education
Kadzamira	Gift	Acting Director General at NCST
Nagoli	Joseph	National Planning Commission, Director of Knowledge and Learning
<b>The Gambia</b>		
Darboe	Mucktarr M.Y	Deputy Permanent Secretary-Technical, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
SOWE	SAMBA	DIRECTOR STI
MANNEH	FATOU	SEN. RESEARCH OFFICER
<b>Mauritius Island</b>		
Bahorun	Theesan	Executive Director, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
Madhou	Madhvee	Research Coordinator, Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
SUKON	KAVIRAJ SHARMA	(Dr.) Chairman - MRIC
<b>Namibia</b>		
Lupahla	Nhlanhla	NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NCRST), GENERAL MANAGER: RESEARCH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

CheikhYoussef	Natascha	MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, DEPUTY DIRECTOR: INNOVATION
MUDUMBI	BRIAN	NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NCRST), SENIOR SCIENTIST: NATURAL SCIENCES RESEARCH
<b>Seychelles</b>		
Estico	Felix Xavier	Director General, Division of Science, Technology & Innovation
Nalletamby	Michael	Principal Secretary at DST
<b>JRC Experts</b>		
Daniels	Chux	JRC expert - University Sussex
Tedesco	Marcelo	JRC expert - GED
Sánchez	Víctor	JRC expert - GED
<b>African institutions</b>		
Dr Bi Irie	Vroh	African Observatory for STI ( <i>AOSTI</i> ).
Seke	Lukovi	NEPAD
<b>JRC Team</b>		
Rainoldi	Alessandro	Joint research Center (JRC) European Commission
Sarcina	Angela	Joint research Center (JRC) European Commission
Miedzinski	Michal	Joint research Center (JRC) European Commission
Koren	Peter	International Partnership (INTPA) European Commission
<b>Rwanda</b>		
Sibomana	Louis	Head of Science, Technology Development and Outreach Department , National Council for Science and Technology (NCST)
Yongabo	Parfait	Division Manager in charge of Institutional Development, Applied Research and Consultancy, Rwanda Polytechnic
Cyulinyana	Marie Chantal	Science and Technology Foresight Analyst, National Council for Science and technology (NCST)
Rutabayiro Ngoga	Said	Technology Innovation Division Manager, Rwanda Information Society Authority(RISA)
Dr Mutimura	Eugene	NCST Executive Secretary
Calvo Uyarra	Belén	Ambassador of the European Union to Rwanda
WALDHUBER	Natalija	International Aid / Cooperation Officer at the EU Delegation in Rwanda