



DRAFT AGENDA

Expert Group Meeting on

“STI Roadmaps for SDGs – paving the pathways for sustainable recovery and future resilience”

Online informal expert consultation - part 1

Date: 22 June

Time: 9.30-12.30 NY time (15.30-18.30 CET)

Venue: Virtual Meeting (Webex)

Background

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹ recognises science, technology and innovation as a means to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Starting in November 2018, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has been working with UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs to share the EU experience on Smart Specialisation (S3) Strategies as one of the global methodologies for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Roadmaps for the achievement of SDGs, with a distinctive localised (place-based) approach and widespread application across EU regions. This approach is being piloted in Serbia, which is one of five Countries taking part in the Global Pilot Programme.

The Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps was launched in 2019 with an initial group of five pilot countries, based on a newly developed draft "Guidebook for the Preparation of STI for SDGs Roadmaps". The joint work on the Guidebook and Global Pilot Programme has brought together different UN Agencies such as UN-DESA, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD and the World Bank, together with other international partners such as the Government of Japan, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the OECD. The Guidebook is accompanied by two background papers: on available STI road-mapping methodologies and international partnerships.

In the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is more urgent than ever to have such multi-stakeholder cooperation to help address the current crisis, mitigate its longer-term impacts, and prepare for future challenges that can threaten progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Objective

This meeting will focus on the lessons learnt from the Global Pilot Programme for STI for SDGs from the perspective of the pilot countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, India and Serbia and the UN and partners focal points: UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, the World Bank and EU – JRC. It will be open to the interested observers from the candidates to the Global Pilot Programme.

¹ https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

This will be a basis to discuss the potential application of the STI for SDGs roadmap to support the economic and social recovery and greener development models based on the experience of IATT partners and the countries participating in the Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDGs Roadmaps.

Structure

A half-day session will be structured into two main parts. The first part will give an overview of the context, state of play and recent developments followed by an interactive, moderated discussion. The second part will focus on specific examples of the discussed issues and aim to learn from the experience gathered so far. It will also be followed by an interactive, moderated discussion – between the panelists and with a wider audience.

Participation

The virtual event will bring together speakers from the EU and UN and the UN Member States. It is directed to the countries and organizations interested in applying science, technology and innovation in order to achieve SDGs, respond to the development challenges and contribute to the post-crisis recovery and resilience in a sustainable and knowledge-based manner.

Key issues to focus

- The role of STI for SDGs Roadmaps in increasing the development of national STI systems, mapping the STI capacities and stakeholders and facilitating evidence – informed policy making and better cooperation in crises – the experience, challenges and successes of the pilot countries.
- What are the major milestones of the work on STI Roadmaps so far and what are the planned next steps?
- STI for SDGs Roadmaps as potential pathways to sustainable recovery and future resilience.
- What is importance of this work for the international organizations: United Nations/the World Bank and the European Commission/Joint Research Centre?
- What efforts are still needed from the international partners and the pilot countries in order to consider the Global Pilot Programme successful?

Deliverable

Conclusions on how to apply the experience of international organizations and UN Member States on using science, technology and innovation to achieve SDGs to build pathways to sustainable recovery and future resilience.

Proposed speakers:

9.30 – 9.40 **Opening remarks**

9.40 – 11.00 **Country progress in the UN-IATT Global Pilot Programme**

Country interventions (5-7 mins) and moderated discussion:

11.00 – 11.10 **Virtual coffee break**

11.10 – 11.40 **Global efforts to mobilise Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals**

Japan's policy package for Society 5.0 and STI for SDGs

11.40 – 12.20 **Conclusions on the country progress, STI methodologies and next steps**

Interventions by discussants (3-5 mins) and open discussion with the participants

12.20-12.30 Closing remarks