Strings Project Workshop

Perspectives and Policies to steer science, technology and innovation for the SDGs

Monday 28 February & Tuesday 1 March 2022

All times are in GMT (London time)

Online, via Zoom

Agenda

Day one – Monday 28 February 2022

13:00 – 13:05   Welcome and Introduction by the Chair
Andrew Stirling, Professor of Science & Technology Policy, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, UK

13:05 – 13:15   Opening Remarks
Pedro Conceição, Director, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme, USA
Michael Booth, Joint Head of International Partnerships, UK Research and Innovation, UK

Session 1 *Can current science, technology and innovation (STI) pathways lead to sustainable development?*

13:15 – 13:35   The STRINGS consortium presents the main evidence from our research about past, current and future misalignments between STI priorities, directions and pathways and SDG challenges; and the main challenges of aligning STI with SDGs
Tommaso Ciarli, Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, The Netherlands & Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex

13:35 – 14:05   Presentation of evidence and experiences of STI prioritisations and pathways from different contexts and organisations
Peggy Oti-Boateng, Former Director, Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building; Senior Science Advisor for Natural Sciences, Office of the ADG/SC, UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector, France
Rajeswari Raina, Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), Shiv Nadar University, Delhi, India
Anil Kumar Gupta, Founder, Honeybee Network, India

14:05 – 14:35   Discussion of the evidence presented
Bitrina Diyamett, Founding Executive Director, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO), Tanzania
Francisca Mutapi, Professor in Global Health Infection and Immunity, The University of Edinburgh, UK
David O'Brien, Senior Program Specialist, International Development Research Centre, Canada

14:35 – 14:55   Plenary discussion about current STI directions, which may not be contributing, or may even be harming, sustainable development. The discussion will inform the following three sessions

14:55 – 15:05   Break

	Session 2 *What local and global governance is needed to steer STI for the SDGs?*
	Chaired by **Tommaso Ciarli,** *Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, The Netherlands & Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex*
15:05 – 15:25	STRINGS presents its main proposals on nurturing diversity and plurality in STI pathways and establishing global platforms and coalitions to improve decision making on STI investments
	Andrew Stirling, *Professor of Science & Technology Policy, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, UK* **Geoff Mulgan,** *Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation, University College London, UK*
15:25 – 16:10	Presentation of different experiences and existing attempts to improve local/global STI governance mechanisms and platforms **Anabel Marín,** *Research Fellow, Head, Business, Markets and the State Cluster, Institute of Development Studies, UK* **Francisco Sagasti,** *Senior Affiliated Researcher, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos; Professor, Universidad del Pacífico, Peru* **Aldo Stroebel,** *Executive Director, Strategy, Planning and Partnerships, National Research Foundation, South Africa*
16:10 – 16:40	Breakout sessions –experiences of all participants are discussed
16:40 – 16:55	Plenary presentations from breakout sessions and discussion
16:55 – 17:00	Closing remarks from the Chair **Tommaso Ciarli,** *Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, The Netherlands & Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex*

Day two – Tuesday 1 March 2022

13:00 – 13:05	Welcome from the Chair **Joanna Chataway,** *Professor and Head of Department of Science Technology, Engineering & Public Policy, University College London, UK*
	Session 3 *What STI can lead to a positive impact on SDGs? Under what conditions? In which contexts? With which synergies and trade offs?*
13:05 – 13:25	The STRINGS consortium presents their proposals to revise research and innovation funding and impact evaluation, as well as research and innovation collaborations across stakeholders and disciplines **Saurabh Arora,** *Senior Lecturer, Technology and Innovation for Development, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, UK*

Valeria Arza, Senior Researcher in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET-CENIT), Argentina
John Ouma-Mugabe, Professor of Science and Innovation Policy, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Rasheed Sulaiman V, Director, Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy, India

13:25 – 14:10	Presentation of experiences from different contexts on how different STI pathways may have different impacts on the SDGs

Mary Abukutsa-Onyango, Professor of Horticulture and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
Wilhemina Quaye, Chief Research Officer, Director, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana
Montira Pongsiri, Senior Advisor, Climate Change and Health, Save the Children, USA

14:10 – 14:40	Breakout sessions –experiences of all participants are discussed
14:40 – 14:55	Plenary presentations from breakout sessions and discussion
14:55 – 15:05	Break

Session 4 *How do we recognise STI impacts on SDGs? Using more inclusive data, tools and methods for research and policy*
Chaired by **Hugo Confraria,** *Postdoctoral Researcher, UECE, ISEG, University of Lisbon & Research Fellow, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, UK*

15:05 – 15:25	STRINGS consortium presents proposals to combine different data, methods and tools to elicit STI directions and pathways

Ine Steenmans, Lecturer in Futures, Analysis and Policy, University College London, UK
Ismael Rafols, Senior Researcher, Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands

15:25 – 15:55	Presentation of different tools and methods used in different local and global contexts for delineation and decision making

Tatiana Fernández, Head of Economic Promotion, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Government of Catalonia, Spain
Glenda Kruss, Executive Head of the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII), Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
María Verónica Moreno, Head of Solutions Mapping, Accelerator Lab, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Argentina

15:55 – 16:10	Q&A session

16:10 – 16:40	Breakout sessions to discuss the properties of the different methods and tools, and interactions between researchers and users
16:40-16:55	Plenary presentations from breakout sessions and discussion
16:55-17:00	Closing remarks **Tommaso Ciarli,** *Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, The Netherlands & Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex*

*** END OF WORKSHOP ***

Workshop description

In times of unprecedented uncertainty, there is a great need for advice on how to direct research and innovation investments towards sustainable and inclusive solutions. This STRINGS international workshop aims to:

i)   facilitate a dialogue and support constructive discussions between key stakeholders who study or make decisions at the intersection between STI and SDGs;

ii)   tackle the complex relations between STI and SDGs; and ultimately

iii)   help to improve prioritizations in STI in order to address the SDGs.

Tailored for researchers from various backgrounds interested in the role of STI in achieving the SDGs, policymakers dealing with science and technology decisions, and users of science and technology to achieve the SDGs, the workshop will provide a forum for cutting-edge research findings to be presented and discussed, to help inform and learn from the participants' work. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss future areas of research that can help users and policy makers to better understand how STI can be used to achieve the SDGs.

What will be presented?
- ✓ A sample of local and global perspectives and agendas on STI and the SDGs from different research projects, funders, policy makers, international organisations and NGOs
- ✓ STRINGS' key findings, main messages, and practical actions to steer STI towards the SDGs
- ✓ STRINGS concepts, heuristics and tools to support research prioritisations, funding and evaluation to address sustainable development across contexts

Who should attend?

The workshop will bring together a global multi-stakeholder audience working at the crossroads of STI and sustainable development, from research, policy, civil society and the private sector.

- ✓ Researchers and organisations working on mapping STI in relations to the SDGs, studying specific STI pathways in relation to the SDGs, or collecting data on both STI and the SDGs
- ✓ Funders interested in improving the alignment of their research portfolio to the SDGs
- ✓ International organisations and aid agencies interested in better understanding how to use different forms of STI to address the SDGs
- ✓ NGOs interested in understanding and/or promoting different STI pathways in relation to the SDGs
- ✓ Anyone willing to mobilise efforts and resources for better directing STI towards the support of the SDGs

Why attend?

- ✓ To learn from others' research findings and experiences that help explain the complex relations between STI and the SDGs
- ✓ To think with key players in research funding, international organizations, aid agencies and NGOs about how to improve decision making in STI investments to better serve the aims of the SDGs
- ✓ To co-design key policy recommendations for steering STI polices for the SDGs
- ✓ To discuss practical advice on how to best adapt data visualisations and mappings of STI related to the SDGs to improve decision making
- ✓ To contribute to a transdisciplinary research agenda to improve understanding of how STI contributes to the SDGs