



## POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Reform Implementation Support

## Development of a national R&I policy in Lesotho



Prof. Thamae has excellent knowledge of the Lesotho R&I system and of undertaking reforms in public R&I systems, including funding systems and national innovation agencies.

He has a deep understanding of the needs and challenges in terms of human resources for R&I and researchers' careers at national level as well as of including indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in STI.

Prof. Thamae is the current Dean of the Faculty of Science & Technology (FoST) at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics & Electronics (DoPE). He oversees the reporting of the NUL Energy Research Centre ([erc.nul.ls](http://erc.nul.ls)) and the NUL Innovation Hub ([nulresearchandinnovations.co.ls](http://nulresearchandinnovations.co.ls)).

### **Prof. Leboli Zachia Thamae** Chair of the Expert panel

He was the Head of DoPE from 2010 to 2016 and served as a Board Member and Chairman of different national authorities. He has strong exposure in strategic leadership, corporate governance, policy, reform and regulation of infrastructure services.

Prof. Thamae has been part of the Technology Incubation Group that introduced the Innovation Hub to the NUL that is driving the university's research and innovation activities on STEM.

The group also started with laboratory development of various products from indigenous resources for commercialisation, established university-industry cooperations, designed the R&I ecosystem (product development, start-up incubation, acceleration for mass production) and produced the intellectual property policy for issues of patenting and business licensing.





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Prof. Mantoa has a thorough knowledge of inclusive R&I policies (especially on mainstreaming gender equality in STEM) and of the Lesotho innovation system and its governance. She has also in-depth knowledge of evaluation and monitoring of R&I policies, as well as excellent writing skills.

Since 2012, Prof. Mantoa is the Chairperson of the national chapter of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WISSET).

She is also associate professor at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the former Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology.

**Prof. Mantoa M. Sekota**  
**Rapporteur of the Expert panel**

She conducted a database and baseline study on the situation of women in science and technology in Lesotho for UNESCO and independent mid-term evaluations, such as that on Regional Africa Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the SADC sub-region.

She has worked as national expert for the government of Lesotho and for international organisations, such as UNIDO, UNESCO and the Africa Institute, and was the Chairperson of the Planning Committee of the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Prof. Mantoa has published different publications and was the external examiner of various PhD and MSc theses.





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Mr. Darboe has a robust knowledge of R&I systems and policies related to several OACPS member countries and 'innovation leader' countries.

He is the current Director of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of The Gambia.

He has contributed to the National STI Policy of The Gambia, the ECOWAS Policy on Science and Technology (ECOPOST) and the African Union STI Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

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**Mr Mucktarr M.Y Darboe**  
**Member of the Expert panel**

Mr. Darboe is also the national coordinator for the NEPAD Africa Science and Technology Indicator Initiative (ASTII), the focal person for the African Union's Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC) and the liaison officer for the Committee on South-South Cooperation for Science and Technology (COMSATS).

He is a member of the Governing Board of the African Regional Centre For Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), and was also a speaker at the 2019 World Science Forum.

Since 2020, he has been engaged with UNESCO (UNESCO GO-SPIN and SAGA and UIS's STI Data and Indicators) and the UN Technology Bank for LDCs to conduct national STI reviews and has developed tools for a Technology Needs Assessment in The Gambia with lessons that are intended to be transferred to other countries.

He has a thorough knowledge of the SDGs and the 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want'.





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**Ms. Denise Mary Galvin**  
Member of the Expert panel

Ms. Galvin has a robust knowledge of building entrepreneurship ecosystems, reducing the gap between research, industry, higher education and society.

She has also contributed to fostering collaboration among R&I actors, such as cluster policies and structured public-private partnerships.

Ms. Galvin is a freelance consultant with long-standing experience in all aspects of project management across the public and private sectors, as well as in ACP countries across complex multi-sector and multi-country assignments providing clear guidance to increase R&I capacity and strengthen R&I systems.

She has worked on different projects focusing on the implementation of the Triple Helix Model, Technology Transfer, strengthening and enhancing STEM degrees and career provisions, but also on the design and implementation of project-funding systems to improve research competitiveness.

She worked in the framework of the ACP Science & Technology, especially on providing input to the design of R&I policies, building start-up ecosystems, as well as on data and indicators collection and analysis for performance measurement.

She also worked on EU Horizon 2020 projects related to open science.

