



POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Mutual Learning Exercise National Research and Innovation (R&I) Funds

EXPERT PANEL



CHAIR

Dr. Flora Tibazarwa, Director,
EcoTek
Tanzania



RAPPORTEUR

Prof. John Ouma Mugabe,
Professor of Science and
Innovation Policy, University
of Pretoria
South Africa



EXPERT

Dr. Eric Bienvenu Tra Bi Tra,
Head of Research Studies and
Legal Affairs, Fonds pour la
Science, la Technologie et
l'Innovation (FONSTI)
Côte d'Ivoire

PSF TEAM



OACPS R&I PROGRAMME

DURATION



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psf@oacps-ri.eu
www.oacps-ri.eu

BACKGROUND

In the face of challenges such as youth unemployment, industrialisation needs, and climate change, national R&I funds play a pivotal role in fostering innovation and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. This **Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE)** under the PSF framework aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building among countries on the establishment and implementation of national R&I funds.

OBJECTIVES

Knowledge Exchange: Share experiences, challenges, and best practices in establishing national R&I funds.

Capacity Building: Enhance the skills of policy makers through workshops focused on fund governance, legal frameworks, and sustainability strategies.

Networking: Foster regional collaboration by creating a network of R&I authorities for on-going support and partnership.

FOCUS AREAS

- Establishment of robust governance structures for R&I funds.
- Legal forms and suitable implementation mechanisms for national R&I funds.
- Eligibility criteria for supported projects and strategies for financial sustainability.
- Synergies, collaborations, and cooperation with existing R&I structures.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Inception Phase:** Online meetings to prepare for the exchange meeting and gather initial information.
- **Knowledge Exchange Meeting:** Held in April 2024 in Lomé, Togo, to share experiences and best practices on the establishment of R&I fund.
- **Handbook Development:** Drafting of a comprehensive guide based on collected insights and feedback.
- **Validation and Capacity Building:** Final event in Nairobi, Kenya, for Handbook validation and capacity building workshops.

OUTPUTS

Handbook: A comprehensive guide on developing and implementing national R&I funds, featuring shared challenges, solutions, and a regional benchmarking analysis.

Network: An informal network of R&I representatives for continued knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Capacity Building: Strengthened abilities of national administrations to establish and manage R&I funds effectively.

