



POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Reform Implementation Support

Development of a national R&I policy in Lesotho



Result Factsheet



OBJECTIVES

The PSF service aimed to assist the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (MCST) of Lesotho in defining an inclusive, evidence-based Research and Innovation (R&I) Policy and in developing a national Innovation Agency.



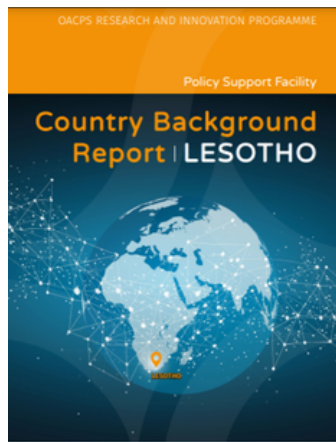
METHODOLOGY

- Planning phase: a desktop review of relevant national and regional R&I documents to get key insights in the R&I system, its needs, challenges and recent developments.
- Field phase: information collection from a wide range of stakeholders (interviews and workshops).
- Closing phase: presentation of main recommendations during a validation event to foster ownership and trust from a broad set of stakeholders.



OUTPUTS

Two reports were published:



MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve the quality, relevance and inclusiveness of higher education and technical and vocational education and training, with a focus on STEM fields;
- Prioritise investments in collaborative R&I by strengthening cooperation between government, academia, industry, and society, mobilising indigenous knowledge systems and grassroots innovations;
- Create a more conducive environment for innovation (through tax measures incentives, innovation hubs, an open data platform, etc.);
- Strengthen the governance structure and encourage the involvement of youth to improve research capacity.



NEXT STEPS

The PRR was converted into a new R&I policy and presented to the Ministerial cabinet. The policy is expected to be submitted to parliament for approval early 2023.

Different activities have already been led by MCST to operationalise the recommendations.

If the new R&I Policy is endorsed, it is expected to increase the level of investments in R&D.



DURATION

June–November 2021



TEAM

6 international experts
20 national representatives
from 10 institutions



STAKEHOLDERS

150 representatives from over
20 institutions



KEYWORDS

inclusiveness, STEM,
indigenous knowledge
systems, grassroots
innovations, innovation hubs,
open data



CONTACT

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

