

POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Reform Implementation Support Development of a national R&I policy in Lesotho



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PSF TEAM



OACPS R&I PROGRAMME

DURATION



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- Enhance collaboration between government, academia, industry and civil society to make R&I beneficial to society.
- Improve inclusiveness through mainstreaming gender equality in STEM and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.
- Achieve the UN SDGs, the objectives of STISA 2024 and the 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want'.

OBJECTIVES

To support the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology of Lesotho in defining an inclusive, evidence-based **Research and Innovation (R&I) Policy** and to provide recommendations for the development of a national **Innovation Agency**.

The service will also elaborate on the budgetary requirements to implement the R&I Policy, set up and operationalise the national Innovation Agency.

The PSF service will be carried out by an international panel of experts who will actively collaborate with the national team of Lesotho and the PSF team.

FOCUS AREAS

The current National Science and Technology Policy 2006-2011 is overdue for review and is also lacking clear guidance on strengthening R&I. With a well-coordinated R&I system, stable funding can be sourced and progress in R&I made. Thus, it is primordial for Lesotho to develop a specific R&I policy.

OUTPUTS

Aligning with the current policy planning process in Lesotho, the following outputs are expected after 6 months:

The PSF service will contribute to, among others:

- Raise the profile of innovation in Lesotho.
- Synergise the national R&I system and promote open science and open innovation.

- **Country Background Report:** an assessment of the state-of-play of R&I in Lesotho (baseline information, existing practices, SWOT analysis, etc.);
- **Policy Recommendation Report:** provision of tailor-made recommendations towards the development of the national R&I Policy and a step-by-step guide for establishing a national Innovation Agency.

