



POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Reform Implementation Support  
Development of a digital repository and a STI programme in Timor Leste



Dr. Dionísio da Costa Babo Soares is an East Timorese academic and politician. From June 2012 to May 2020, he held various government portfolios as Minister and advisor to former Prime Ministers on social, political and legal issues. In his career, he has served as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Minister of State Administration, and Minister of Justice.

Dr. Babo Soares is now a senior Professor at the National University of Timor-Leste, and an Honorary Professor of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Peace (UNPAZ) and the University of Dili (UNDIL).

As a policymaker and academic, he has been involved in the process of formulating science, technology and innovation (STI) evidence-based policy. Dr Babo-Soares is also familiar with current trends in project implementation and evaluation on Open Science practices. He worked at the Asia Foundation in Timor Leste and was a co-founder of the Timor Leste Coffee Institute. He was appointed to represent the head of state of Timor-Leste at the summit of heads of states of Portuguese Speaking Countries in Cabo Verde in 2018.

Dr Babo-Soares is an experienced researcher who has worked at the National University of Timor-Leste since 1994.

He has conducted numerous research projects, published books and articles, and contributed to national and international journals.

He has a law degree from Indonesia, a master's degree from New Zealand and a Ph.D. from ANU, Canberra.

**Dr. Dionísio da Costa  
Babo Soares**  
Chair





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Dr. Rath is the Director of Policy Research International Inc. (PRI), in Ottawa, a consulting firm focused on research, policy and evaluations of key development challenges covering science and innovation, energy, climate change and SDGs. In over 25 years at PRI, he worked in over 50 countries, designing and leading complex policy, programme and project development. He has collaborated repeatedly with IDRC, UNESCO, EU, International financial institutions, and leading science policy institutions on research, science and innovation policy design and review.

His work for high-level multi stakeholder groups is exemplified by the South-South programme office of the UNDP Administrator, which led him to Timor Leste; and, as the leader of the independent Technical Advisory Group, providing strategic advice to the trustees of the World Bank and multiple donors, on two global trust funds.

He has also worked on two other important assignments in Timor Leste. After the country's independence, he selected with national stakeholders a set of immediate priorities for development cooperation and UNDP implementation. And in 2019, he led a first review of STI policy for Timor-Leste, for supporting nationally determined SDGs (UNESCO).

Dr. Rath has a Bachelor's degree in Science and Engineering (Indian Institute of Technology), and Masters and Ph.D. degrees on economics, finance, statistics and natural resources management (University of California, Berkeley). He is the author of over 60 papers and publications, on STI, Climate Change and SDG policy issues for developing countries.

**Dr. Amitav Rath**  
Rapporteur





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Paula Morais has more than two decades advising and driving open innovation, e-inclusion, digital transformation, open data, and citizen science from launching the Microsoft Interactive Digital Television in Portugal, to designing Open Education Policy frameworks, working with para-governmental organizations, such as the European Commission, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Department for International development in the UK, International Telecommunications Union, United Nations Development Programme, CARICOM, Governments, Local Governments, companies, Higher Education, NGOs, civil society. She has worked in different countries around the world including in the Pacific, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

**Mrs. Paula Morais**  
**Expert**

Paula has more than 12 years of advising and leading technology-based capacity building, VET, education and open distance learning (ODL) projects, including professional training, design of engagement strategies with key stakeholders, instructional design, teams' management, implementation and evaluation of pilots to be scaled up at national or international level.

A strong strategic adviser, she works cohesively with all levels of management and staff, key stakeholders, from Government officials to civil society representatives, to successfully align visions, policies, strategies, objectives, methodologies, technologies, getting the required buy-in and engagement to co-create and collaboratively design and deliver successfully policies and their subsequent implementation, when relevant. She has extensive expertise in the development and management of digital repositories, including expertise in terms of its operationalisation.







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**Mr. Ron Dekker**  
**Expert**

Ron Dekker is the director of CESSDA ERIC, the Consortium of Social Science Data Archives. He has over 15 years of experience in senior management in research policy and research infrastructures - in international environments.

Ron was at the Dutch Research Council for almost twenty years – running a data agency, program committees and in general management (institutes, infrastructure, and open science).

At the Dutch government, he was project leader on Open Science for the Dutch EU Presidency in 2016, and served as national expert at the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation) in Brussels in 2017.

He also set up and expanded a distributed European Social Data Research Infrastructure and coordinated a 14.5 M€ EC Infrastructure Project on Social Science and Humanities. He was a member of the Executive Board preparing the European Open Science Cloud for the European Commission.

For Technopolis Group, he is leading the Open Science Team and a 41 M€ EC project on realising the European Open Science Cloud. He also led a project on Scientific Service Companies in the Baltic region.

He has strong expertise in Operational Management, Research Infrastructures, Open Science Policy, Granting Procedures, and Research Institute Management – on national and international levels.

Ron studied econometrics and worked for ten years in labour market research at Dutch universities.

