



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

## **National Innovation Ecosystem Assessment Tool**

*Eight key areas*

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### **Description**

UNECA had adapted and tested a national innovation assessment tool to help African countries make informed policy decisions to support development of appropriate measures. It is intended to specifically assess the policy environment and its ability to support innovation through simple questions that can easily be graded. The results generated could be used to develop new or appropriate science, technology and innovation (STI) policies to meet their specific development aspirations, opportunities and needs.

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<b>General innovation policy</b>	Innovation statements in national development plan
	Policies to remove obstacles
	Innovation in entrepreneurship policy
	Innovation in research policy
	Innovation in industrial policy
	Targets for increasing spin-offs/ new innovative firms
	Budget allocation for innovation policy
	Support system for research commercialization
	Agency with primary responsibility for innovation
	An official politician for innovation development
	Mechanisms to assess and track innovative climate and culture
	Evaluate and monitor the impact of Innovation measures
	Track and report on business dynamics
Support and/or publish research on innovative entrepreneurs	
Annual report on the state of innovative entrepreneurship	

<b>Innovation in education</b>	Integrate innovation at all levels of the education system
	Stocktaking of the extent in education at school level
	Innovation-oriented courses at primary level
	Innovation-oriented courses at secondary level
	Innovation-oriented courses at vocational/technical level
	Funding support to student innovative ventures
	Innovation-oriented courses university students
	Involvement of private actors
Budget allocation for innovation education programmes	

<b>Financing</b>	Policy to increase new and early-stage financing
	Government-supported micro-financing programme
	Micro-loans for target groups
	Government-backed credit guarantee scheme
	Government loan or equity programmes
	Government support for angel networks/investors
	Government venture capital funds
	2nd tier stock markets

<b>Business environment</b>	Easy of starting business
	Government reviewed the time and cost
	Single point to access information and advice
	Initiatives to reduce/relax admin burden
	Simplify patent processes and strengthen IPR
	Government concessional or favourable tax rates
	Tax credits exist to encourage R&D
	Are tax incentives for innovative firms
	Incentives for venture capital invest in new ventures
	Reduced SME administrative burden

<b>Counselling and information</b>	Increase the level of support
	Government-sponsored web portal for entrepreneurs
	Development of mentor programmes
	National incubator strategy
	Support for spin-offs from university and R&D
	Standards for service providers for innovations
	Support the for peer mentoring and self-help
Forums and horizontal networks for all actors	

<b>Promotion of innovation</b>	Policy to increase awareness of innovation
	Events that profile innovative start-ups
	Recognise innovators through national award
	Promotion of innovation in mass media
	Govt budget allocated promotion
	Govt sponsor profile innovation systems

<b>Target groups</b>	Stated policy to increase innovative of target groups
	Government examine barriers faced by different groups
	Special initiatives targeting female entrepreneurs
	Young people with innovative ideas
	Special initiatives targeting Ethnic minorities
	Special initiatives targeting unemployed
	Immigrants/expatriates with innovative ideas
	Policy in favour of spin-offs public R&D

<b>Research policy</b>	Special support for policy-oriented research
	Advisory group of researchers on Innovation Policy
	Govt refer to research in design of Innovation Policy
	Regular meetings discuss recent research innovation
	Budget item for research in Innovation Policy
	Creation of centres of excellence in innovation research
	Support research to increase the number of innovations

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