STI for the SDGs

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Overview

• A research project working to improve our understanding of how STI contributes, or not, to meeting the UN SDGs

• Our aims are:
  • to produce an unprecedented mapping of how different areas of STI relate, positively or negatively, to different SDGs and their complex interlinkages.
  • to provide decision makers with evidence and tools to help align STI with the SDGs.

• Mapping publications and patents in relation to SDGs, a large scale Delphi and case studies in Argentina, Kenya and India

• We will publish a full report in November 2021.

• Led by the SPRU at the University of Sussex, STEaPP at UCL and UNDP, and funded by UKRI. Working in partnership with several leading universities and organisations.
Global bibliometric mapping

• An indication of findings so far based on work done Tommaso Ciarli, Hugo Confraria, Ismael Rafols and Ed Noyens

• Here I present a very partial and incomplete account of the rich analysis that those colleagues have done
Build your interpretation of what constitute SDG research

STI investments dashboard
Most research is unrelated to SDGs

Note: 90% of SDG related research is done by HI & UMI countries
Summary of some main findings on SDG related research priorities.

• Overall, lower income countries seem to be relatively specialised in SDG related research.

• Relative (mis)alignments in different SDGs
  • Positive relationship (alignment) in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Health and Well-being) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) -> Countries that have major challenges in these SDGs are relatively specialised in research related to those SDGs.
  • Negative relationship (misalignment) in SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG13 (Climate Action) -> Countries that have major challenges in these SDGs are NOT relatively specialised in research related to those SDGs.

• Absolute (mis)alignments
  • More than ~50% of the research in WoS is unrelated to the issues addressed in the SDGs.
  • Within SDG related research, more than 90% is done in high and upper-middle income countries where most of the SDG challenges are smaller.
What the Delphi and case studies will add to the analysis?

• What is needed in addition to funding and outputs to achieve impact and outcomes? Where have the complex relationships between research, innovation and SDG outcomes worked?

• How can we think differently about the focus within areas of research?

• Where should decisions get made and where should research happen?

• Where are the main data and evidence gaps?
A few (provocative!) policy related questions

- Is enough resource going into SDG relevant research and innovation?
- How do research funders best navigate the boundaries between research and SDGs?
- Do we need a more systematic approach to gathering evidence about the relationships between research funding, innovation and development?
- Should we better integrate ‘science for policy’ issues into science policy and funding decisions?
Contribute to our Delphi

• Share your perspectives

Please give us your views:
http://strings.org.uk/about-2/