

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS 2024 ESWATINI STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT (SRIM) II SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium Task Team (STT) is pleased to call for submission of abstracts for the 2024 Eswatini Strengthening Research and Innovation Management (SRIM) II Symposium to be held on the 19th – 20th June 2024 at Happy Valley Hotel in Ezulwini, Eswatini.

A. Introduction

Eswatini is a participant in the Strengthening Research and Innovation Management (SRIM) II Programme which is partly sponsored by the South Africa Department of Science and Innovation and SADC Secretariat and implemented by the Southern Africa Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA). The overarching goal of the SRIM II programme is to support, facilitate and promote management of science, technology and innovation (STI) at institutional, national and regional levels for socio-economic value and wealth creation. The SRIM II key objectives include:

- Promoting connection and cooperation between R&I management practitioners, institutions and other role players within the SADC R & I ecosystem.
- Advancing R & I management and strengthening the professional and technical skills and capacity of institutions and practitioners in the SADC region.
- Developing knowledge outputs and resources for better coordination and support of the R&I ecosystem in the region.

The symposium seeks to create awareness on the role of research and innovation (R&I) management in supporting and accelerating impactful multidisciplinary research endeavours while advocating for the establishment of dedicated research and innovation management system in national tertiary institutions. The theme of the conference is therefore “***The role of Research and Innovation Management in Accelerating Inclusive Multidisciplinary Research and Promoting Research Impact.***” In today's fast-paced and increasingly interconnected world, the need for collaborative and inclusive research efforts has never been more important. Research and innovation management play a critical role in accelerating inclusive research and promoting research impact. As we continue to work towards a more sustainable, equitable, and innovative future, **the role of research and innovation management will remain crucial in supporting and accelerating impactful research endeavours.**

B. Who can participate

R&I management practitioners, researchers, innovators, industry and policy makers in Eswatini and SADC. A total of 150 participants will attend the symposium in-person and the remaining will join online. The event will also be live streamed to an online audience through SARIMA and social media platforms of participating institutions.

C. Symposium format

The symposium will run over two (2) days, starting with a keynote presentation or a high-level panel discussion. Presentations will be arranged in sessions which may be structured around conventional presentations and discussions, or they may take more interactive formats, including panel discussions.

D. Sub-themes of the symposium

The role of research and innovation management in accelerating inclusive multidisciplinary research and promoting research impact is a critical aspect of advancing knowledge and addressing complex global challenges. As such, the symposium will take into account the following subthemes that reflect the diverse set of issues and opportunities that exist within this domain.

The symposium will address the following sub-themes:

i. Diversity and inclusion in research and innovation

Research and innovation management practices plays a key role in ensuring that research teams are diverse and inclusive, and that research processes are accessible to individuals from a range of backgrounds and experiences. By addressing this subtheme, the symposium will explore how diversity and inclusion can be integrated into research and innovation management practices, and the potential benefits that this can bring for the quality and impact of research.

ii. The role of multidisciplinary research in addressing complex challenges

Research and innovation management practices have a key role to play in supporting and facilitating cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary research, and the symposium will explore how these practices can be best leveraged to promote collaboration and integration across disciplines.

iii. Research impact and the translation of research outcomes into real-world benefits

This subtheme speaks to the need to ensure that research efforts are not just producing knowledge for knowledge's sake, but are also making a tangible difference in the world. Research and innovation management practices can support the translation of research outcomes into practical applications and policy insights, and the symposium could explore best practices and case studies in this area.

iv. Ethical and responsible research practices

As research endeavours become ever more complex and interconnected, it is crucial that we are attentive to the ethical implications of our research efforts, and that we are committed to conducting research in a responsible and accountable manner. The symposium could explore how research and innovation management practices can support ethical research conduct, and how these practices can be integrated into the broader research landscape.

v. The role of Artificial Intelligence in Research and Innovation Management

Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshapes is key in how future research and innovation management is conducted. Consistent with rapid technological development and the replacement of human organization, AI may indeed compel management to rethink a company's entire innovation process. Research and innovation managers are increasingly faced with highly volatile and

changing environments, evermore competitive global markets, rival technologies, and dramatically changing political landscapes AI has the potential to create better ways for firms to respond to their increasingly competitive environment, manage the growing amounts of information around them and ensure maximum impact of their research efforts.

E. Abstract Submission

- 1) Registration (which is complementary) is required to attend the symposium. Registration can be done online <https://conference.eventsair.com/2023srim/indtwes/Site/Register>
- 2) Abstracts must be submitted to research@uniswa.sz.
- 3) Abstracts describing original work are invited in any of the sub-themes for oral presentations.
- 4) Abstracts should clearly specify the core idea and the context of the research or practice. Insufficiently developed abstracts will not be selected.
- 5) The Abstract consists of the following information:
 - Title, indicating what the presentation is about.
 - The format and structure should be clearly expressed.
 - Name, email address, title and institution/organisation of each author.
 - Name of the sub-theme to which you are submitting to.
 - 3-5 key words.
 - Abstracts should have a word count not exceeding 300 words.
 - Abstracts should be in English.
- 6) Participants may submit only one individual oral presentation abstract or one individual poster abstract.
- 7) Participants may submit more than one co-authored oral presentation.
- 8) All abstracts will be reviewed for individual quality and, if accepted, will be assigned to a session or grouped into sub thematic sessions by the STT. The STT reserves the right to reclassify submitted abstracts into the most appropriate subtheme or session or presentation format.

F. Important Dates

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: **Friday 24 May 2024**

Notifications on abstract outcomes: **Friday 31 May 2024**