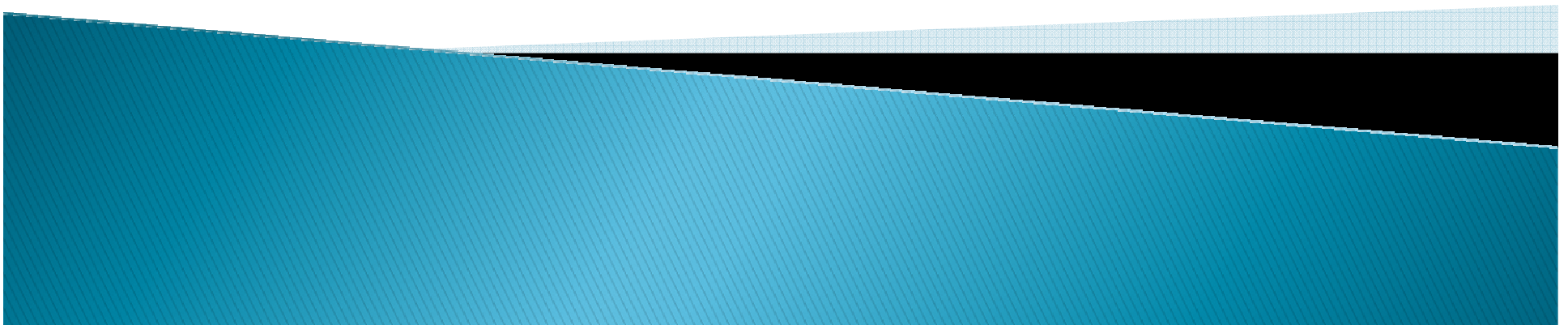


# Characteristics of Common Surveys

Fred Gault  
UNU-MERIT and TUT-IERI

Release of the AIO 2010 and Launch of ASTII Phase 2  
May 24, 2011  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



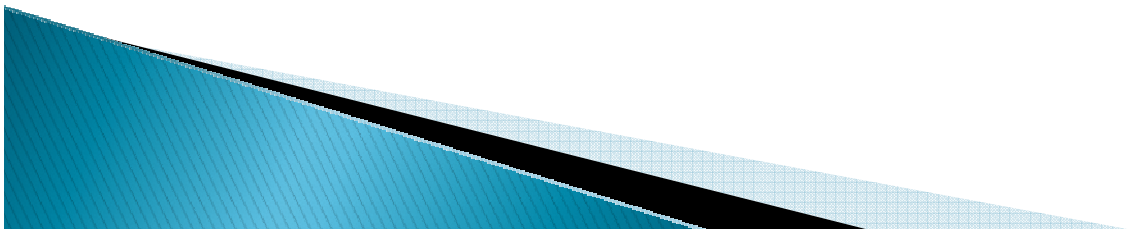
# Why Common Surveys?

**The AIO should provide -**

- ▶ **statistically sound comparisons of the R&D and innovation activities of participating countries**

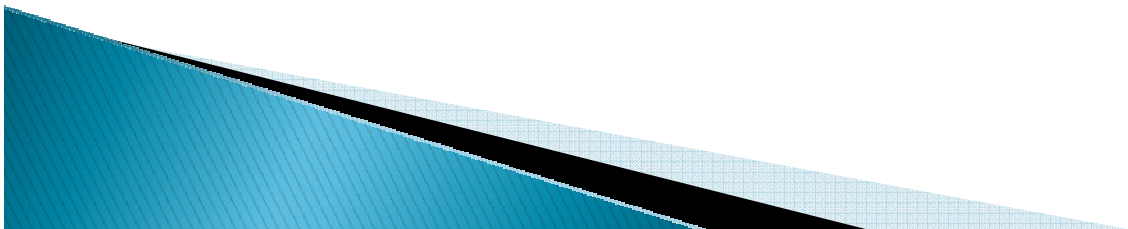
**and**

- ▶ **time series for measuring change**



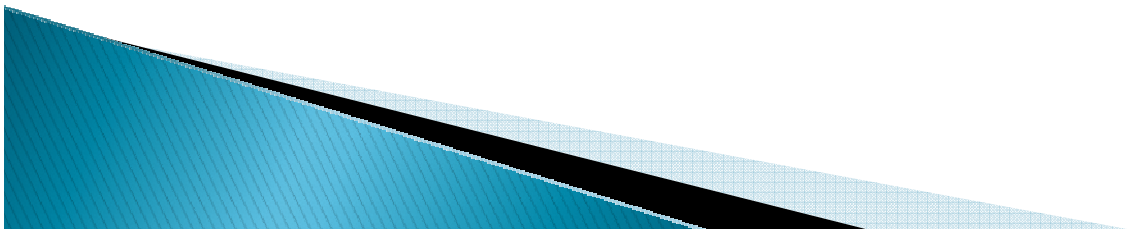
# How to Create Common Surveys?

- ▶ Surveys must have common
  - Questions (African NESTI), field tested
  - Industry coverage (ISIC.rev.4 or?)
  - Employment size ranges (10+?)
  - Methodology for producing population estimates
    - Stratified samples or representative samples ...
    - Edit, imputation, weights, non-response surveys, ...
  - Methodology for doing analysis
    - Needed for micro data analysis
- ▶ Countries must decide of surveys are to be
  - Voluntary or compulsory – has a major influence on response rates



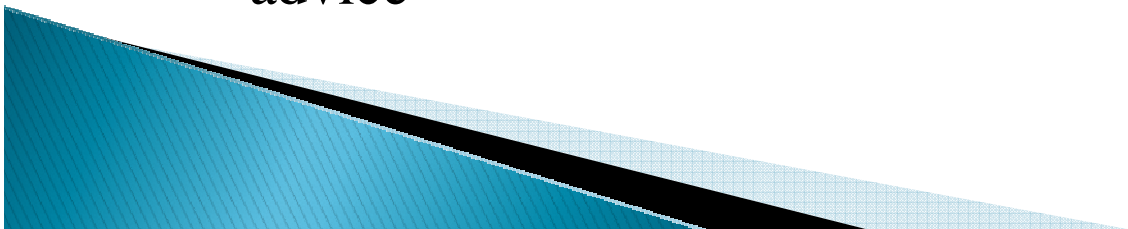
# Possible Role of an African NESTI

- ▶ Forum for
  - Consensus on the approach
  - Sharing of expertise to make it happen
  - Agreeing on training needed to achieve the objective of common surveys
- ▶ Then for
  - Consensus on the approach to analysis
- ▶ **Common surveys do not prevent countries from doing more for their own benefit**



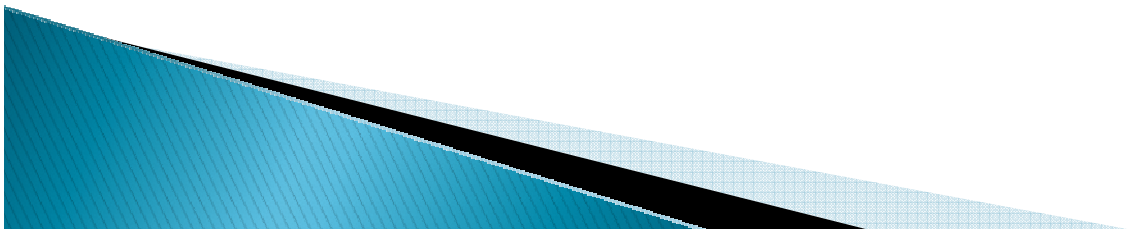
# Benefits

- ▶ Understanding your own innovation system and the place of R&D in it
- ▶ Benchmarking against comparable countries based on AIO results
- ▶ Sharing of knowledge about what works in the system and what does not
- ▶ Moving from
  - measurement and understanding to
  - policy comparison and
  - advice



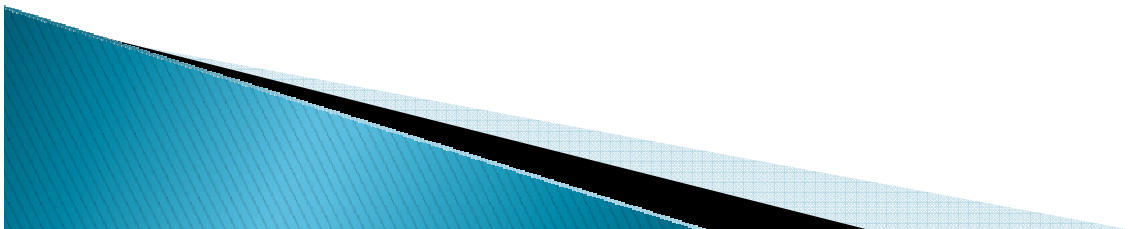
# Benefits

- ▶ Measuring R&D and innovation informs the policy process leading to African policies
  - Accounting for
    - The informal economy
    - Indigenous knowledge (food, medicine, sustainability, ...)
    - Economic structure (Agriculture as industry, ...)
    - Demographics (Low median age, ...)



# Benefits

- ▶ Greater emphasis on
  - Public sector “innovation”
  - Social “innovation”
  - User innovation ( consumers and firms)
  - ...
- ▶ Placing Africa in a leading position on topics that matter to Africa



# The Challenge for Phase II

- ▶ Common surveys
- ▶ Common methods of analysis
- ▶ Next AIO
- ▶ Moving from measurement to policy, but
  - Do not forget measurement

