

## Successful innovation: Project workshop with Walter Sisulu University



Photo: (from left to right) Mushoni Bulagi (HSRC), Sabelo Malindisa (Walter Sisulu University), Peter Jacobs (HSRC), Phila Dyantyi (HSRC), Siphumelele Ntshebe (Walter Sisulu University)

The research team in IED has moved its longstanding joint-project on innovation with Walter Sisulu University (WSU) to a new level. With funding support from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), this new phase will focus on building a community of practice in support of innovation-driven local economic development. Researchers from the Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator represented the bigger WSU team.

Deliberations focused on anchoring the COP around the Local Innovation Advancement Tools (LIAT). LIAT is a combination of information and decision tools designed to position innovation more firmly in the strategic mandates of municipalities. WSU will lead the LIAT-COP processes in OR Tambo and connect it with another strategic initiative known as the Innovation Champions for Local Economic Development – IC4LED. Alongside exchanging ideas about innovation in the municipal sphere, the workshop also focused on ways to strengthen the WSU-HSRC strategic partnership beyond the LIAT-COP and IC4LED initiatives being rolled out in OR Tambo region. The workshop concluded with concrete deliverables and outputs over the next few months, including a stronger governance structure to ensure that the agreed targets are achieved.