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Summary

The aim of the Task 5.4 is to organize brokerage-venturing events for innovation on selected societal challenges (water, food and energy) in MPCs. The brokerage aims at supporting the creation of partnerships and critical mass of local/regional idea-carriers a nd young entrepreneurs with potential investors in the region, favouring positive feedbacks on the creation of innovative start-ups opportunities, especially for youth.

In the present deliverable, the process to develop and implement the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Hackathon on "Eco-efficiency in the agro-food chain", organized in Amman, Jordan, from 14-15 December 2016 by the MED-SPRING and SRTD-II projects, with the collaboration of Barilla, Cluster Spring, Seeds and Chips and Torino Wireless companies, is summarized.

1. Introduction

The first "E **uro-MedHackathon on Eco-Efficiency in the Agro-Food Chain"** (http://www.medspring.eu/event/call-innovators-euro-med-hackaton-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain) has successfully taken place in Amman (Jordan) on **14th-15th December 2016**. The event, in the framework of the EU funded "Mediterranean Science, Policy, Re search & Innovation Gateway-MedSpring" project (coor dinated by CIHEAM Ba ri), was co-organised with the support of the EU funded Project "Technical Assistance to the Higher Council for Science an d Technolo gy (HCST) for the implementation of the Support to Research, Technological Develop ment and In novation in Jordan Phase II-SRTD-II" which hosted and co-funded the event activities.

The aim wa s to develop novel ide as in the field of agro-food chain sustainability trying to match private sector de mand and provide imme diate marketability to the product or process resulting from the hackathon experience.

The private sector was r epresented by four Italian companies, Barilla, Seeds&Chips, Torino Wireless a nd SPRING invited to shortlist the 30 ideas participating in the Euro-MedHackathon. They also offered their sponsorship for the awards to the final 3 winners.

More than 40 participants including young innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs, from 10 Euro-Me diterranean Countries g athered at t he Landmark Hotel, the event venu e, and worked in a collaborative and participative way towards its success.

During the event the 20 shortlisted ideas were presented and voted (by the audience) to identify the six best accessing the final stage of the hackathon and the leaders of the working groups formed. The task of each working grou p was to improve/redefine the novel idea and present a w ell-designed output. All the young innovators enthusiast ically joined f orces t o work together and network for 24 h ours. The event concluded with the presentation of the output of ea ch working group; the jury voting for the three f inalists and the award ce remony. Each private sector company offered a prize for the three finalists.

Overall the experience was successful, it e ncouraged new forms of collabora tion and exchange among the young innovators, resea rchers, ente rprises and scientific in stitutions. Sharing 24 hours together developed a community feeling and fostere d the creat ion of new linkages. Fe edback was welcome a nd accepte d to improve a format that can be nefit the process of bridging the gap betwe en research and the pri vate sector helping in matching demand and supply of innovation.

2. Rationale and Methodological Background

The new Eu ropean Research Framework Programme "Hori zon 2020" will run from 2014 to 2020 with th e objective to implement research and innovation and supp ort building Europe's global competitiveness and create new growth and jobs in Europe. H2020 object ives will be pursued in accorda nce with the mai n principle s of the Innovation Union (http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm), particularly:

- Strengthening the EU's position in science by boosting top-level research in Europe.
- Strengthening industria l leadership in innovatio n including major investment in key technologies, while ensuring access to capital and support for SMEs.
- Addressing major concerns such as climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making re newable en ergy more affordable, ensuring fo od safety a nd security or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

Horizon 2020 will tackle societa l challenges with the aim of bridging the gap between research an d the marke t and help ing innovative enterprise s and entrep reneurs to develop their techno logical brea kthroughs into viable p roducts with tangible co mmercial potential. Highly competitive resea rch platforms need to be developed with high r esult valorization, as well as enhancing part nerships among researcher s, private entrepreneurs, civil society and institutions t o bring together different knowledge, capacities and resources, in order to support this approach.

International cooperatio n has immense potential in playin g a proactive and pivotal role in achieving the H2020's main goals as well as to contribute to European external policie s, like the European Neighborhood Policy, particularly when addressing the most relevant societal challenges in the Mediterranean region.

More specifically, MedSpring has id entified thre e major challenges for strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on research and innovation:
- Resources efficiency (particularly **water**)
- High quality affordable **food**
- **Energy.**

2.1 the Hackathon: event rationale and main objectives

Building on the three previous Brokerage events in Cairo (February 2014), in Berlin (February 2015) and in Valenzano (Italy) (May 2016), the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Hackathon on "Eco-efficiency in the agro-food chain" too k place in t he Landmark hotel in Amman, Jordan, from 14th to 15th December 2016.

The brokera ge events o f MedSpring generally a im at facilita ting the link between re search and innovation through the creation of private-public and research-enterprise partnerships.

The main objective of this exercise was to increase the opportunities to estab lish new profitable contacts and offer participants a platform to:
- Share knowledge, particularly research knowledge
- Promote their technologies and experiences
- Acknowledge the most innovative solutions
- Develop cross-regional technological, commercial or research partnerships.

Aware of the importance to promote, through a participa tory and horizontal a pproach, the meeting between dema nd and supply of innovation, MedSpring organised a **regional co-working event** aimed at identifying solutions to address specif ic problems of the public/private sector in the main thematic challenges of the project (food, energy, water).

The **Hackathon** (a marathon of yo ung innovators, selecte d through an on-line call and divided into small gro ups during the event , for a 24 h brainstorming resulting in a product/process design) was identified as the ideal event format, able to achieve these goals.

In order to ensure continuity and coherence with the previous brokerage events, idea carriers were select ed, by mean of an on -line ca ll, o n the ba sis of spe cific criteria (th ese are described later on in the present document). Idea-carriers coming from th e previous brokerages events were addressed again, among others.

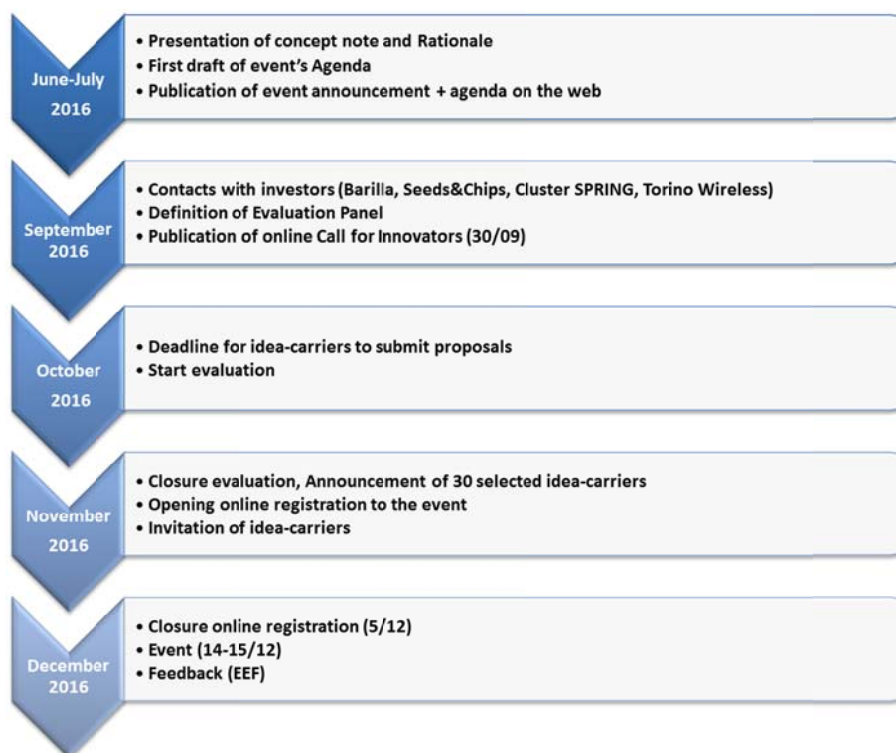The event organization/implementation followed the steps and timing below (Figure 1)

June-July 2016	• Presentation of concept note and Rationale • First draft of event's Agenda • Publication of event announcement + agenda on the web
September 2016	• Contacts with investors (Barilla, Seeds&Chips, Cluster SPRING, Torino Wireless) • Definition of Evaluation Panel • Publication of online Call for Innovators (30/09)
October 2016	• Deadline for idea-carriers to submit proposals • Start evaluation
November 2016	• Closure evaluation, Announcement of 30 selected idea-carriers • Opening online registration to the event • Invitation of idea-carriers
December 2016	• Closure online registration (5/12) • Event (14-15/12) • Feedback (EEF)

Figure 1 – Step-by-step process toward the hackathon event

a) Preparation of Concept Note and Rationale.

Since late June 2016, just after the conclusion of the 3 rd Brokerage event in Bari (26-27/5/2016), contacts were held between CIHEA M-IAMB a nd HCST t o organiz e the 4 th brokerage and venturing for innovation. Several internal meetings were held among involved partners to define the event structure; from the earliest meetings the need of change the already well-established brokerage's structure has arisen, pointing at an event aimed at identifying solutions to specific problems in the W-E-F sector. The ideal format was the Hachathon; a 24h brainstorming of young innovators, resulting in a process/product design. The event structure was presented and disseminated among MedSpring Partners through the concept note that was published on the web (AGORA, MedSpring website) at the end of July 2 016 (Hac kathon 1 st announ cement: http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/euro-mediterranean-hackathon-jordan-1st-announcement).

b) Involvement of private funders

Some Italian private companies were identified and contacted to act as main sponsors of the Hackathon. Their role was to id entify a sp ecific need re quiring an innovative solution (prototype, application, industrial process). This was called "the challenge". The challenge defined the thematic focus of the event and, consequently, the profiles of the young innovators that were selected. A representative of each Company was involved to be be part of the Evaluation Panel that selected and awarded the prize to the winning team at the end of the competition. The private companies provided a fund to host the winning team at their headquarters to develop the "innovative solution".

The sponsoring companies were the following:

- Barilla Group (http://www.barillagroup.com/en),
- SPRING (http://www.clusterspring.it/home-en/),

- Torino Wireless (http://torinowireless.it/en/), and
- Seeds & Chips (http://www.seedsandchips.com/).

After the su mmer hol ydays break, agreements between MedSpring project and e ach of the private companies were prepare and signed.

c) Selection of Idea-carriers.

The Idea carriers were selected through an on-line "Call for Innovators" (ANNEX 1) launched on 30 Sept ember 2016 through the project website and Agora (as we ll as main Sponsors' and Partners' website s) (Call for Innovators: http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/first-medspring-euro-medhackathon-call-innovators).

The call aimed to identif y 30 innovat ors on water-food-energy, to work o n energy an d water efficiency along the different phases of agro-food chain (from farm to fork).
The evaluation purpose was to identify ideas that offered a **potential for further development**.
Therefore, the short application form was only aimed at provide to evaluators some elements allowing the m to identif y the poten tial of the a pplicant to **develop innovative solutions addressing the Call Challenge**: "Eco-Efficiency in the Agro-Food Chain".
Evaluators assigned a score (ranging from 1-poor to 5-excellent) for each of the following criteria:
1. DESCRITION OF THE IDEA
2. TARGET IDENTIFICATION
3. IMPACTS EVALUATION
4. THEMATIC RELEVANCE
5. INNOVATIV ENESS
6. MARKETAB ILITY

Among 50 ideas submit ted, 30 were shortliste d by an Evaluation Pane l composed by 10 experts belonging to the Sponsors. The selected idea-carriers were coming from different Mediterranean countries (4 from Alg eria, 1 form Egypt, 1 fo rm France, 1 from Iraq, 3 from Jordan, 7 from Morocco, 3 from Pal estine, 3 from Tunisia and 7 from T urkey). The profiles of idea-carriers (11 female and 19 male) were: yo ung researchers/entrepreneurs, belonging to research agencies/universities from EU-Mediterranean countries.

In the following figure the distribution of idea-carriers per Country.
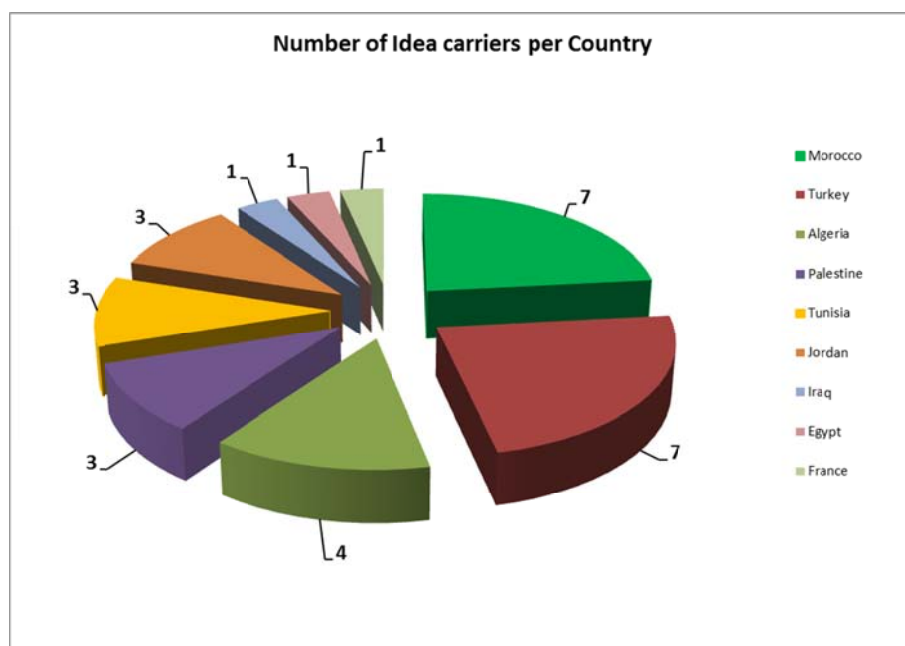
Figure 2 – Distribution of selected Idea-carriers per Country

The shortlist of sele cted ide a-carriers was p ublished on the Agora (http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/medspring-1-st-euro-medhackathon-idea-carriers-selected) a s well as on the project website (http://www.medspring.eu/article/euro-med-hackaton-eco%E2%80%90efficiency-agro%E2%80%90food-chain-selected-idea-carriers)

and communicated by mail to the part icipants on 20 [th] November 2016.

Table 1 – The final list of invited idea-carriers

Code	First name	Family name	Gender	Nationality	Country
MAR05 Lahbib		Latrach	Male	Moroccan	Morocco
FRA01 Imad Eddine		Djelaili	Male	Algerian	France
MAR02 Rac hid		Salghi	Male	Moroccan	Morocco
TUR03 Asli Elif		Tanugur	Female	Turkish	Turkey
TUR06 Suleyman		Aytekin	Male	Turkish	Turkey
DZA02 Lynda		Allouche	Female	Algerian	Algeria
MAR07 Sara		Ladouy	Female	Moroccan	Morocco
EGY01 Haytham		Mohamed Salem Mohamed	Male	Egyptian	Egypt
MAR03 Mohamed		Farhaoui	Male	Moroccan	Morocco
DZA03 Fouad		Menaceur	Male	Algerian	Algeria
MAR04 Mohammed		Aourach	Male	Moroccan	Morocco
DZA06 Lakhdar		Meftah	Male	Algerian	Algeria
JOR06 Husein		Kattab	Male	Jordanian	Jordan
MAR06 Lama		Rissouli	Female	Moroccan	Morocco
JOR03 Osama		Mohawesh	Male	Jordanian	Jordan
TUR09 Nüket Aygen		Türcan	Female	Turkish	Turkey
TUN02 Khaled		Bouchoucha	Male	Tunisian	Tunisia
PSE04 Tahseen		Sayara	Male	Palestinian	Palestine
PSE02 Tamer		Aaboufoul	Male	Palestinian	Palestine
TUN01 Imen		Hmani	Female	Tunisian	Tunisia
TUR02 Füsun		Akgül	Female	Turkish	Turkey
MAR09 Jihad		Hammoucha	Female	Moroccan	Morocco
PSE03 Mahmoud		Rahil	Male	Palestinian	Palestine
TUN03 Hèla		Hassairi	Female	Tunisian	Tunisia
TUR04 Fatih		Balci	Male	Turkish	Turkey
DZA05 Sakina		Benabdelkader	Female	Algerian	Algeria
TUR10 Evren Azer		Koculu	Male	Turkish	Turkey
JOR04 Abdoul		Rjoub	Male	Jordan	Jordan
TUR11 Serkan		Naneci	Male	Turkish	Turkey
IRQ01 Ruaa		Jabbar	Female	Iraqi	Iraq

d) Opening of online registration to the event

The management of the registratio n system for the event was made possible   through an online format. Registration for the event was opened in November 2016.

e) Definition of event Agenda, identification of potential investors, invitation of selected participants

HCST and SRTD-II staff was in cha rge of defining event location, logistical aspe cts and the overall coordination of t he event - this was don e in clo se collaboration with the MedSpring Coordination Staff (CIHEAM-IAMB)

The final version of the Agenda is reported in ANNEX 2.

f) Structure of the event

The two-days event were organized as following.

First day morning session

The First Euro-Mediterranean Hackathon on ``Eco-efficien cy in the ag ro-food chain" event took place in the Landmark hotel in Amman, Jordan, from 14th to 15th December 2016.
The private sector drove the work of the Hackathon before the event, as they ide ntified a specific nee d requiring an innovative solution (prototype, application, industrial process), called "the challenge". The challenge identif ied the the matic focus of the event and, consequently, the profiles of the young innovators select ed to come to the mee ting. The private sector was also part of the evaluation panel that se lected and awarded the prize to the winning team at the end of the competition.
The first plenary session began in the morni ng of Wednesday, 14th December with the welcome words by the representative from HCST, ... , the MED-SPRING project Coordinator, Claudio Bogliotti and t he SRTD-II Coordinator, Omar Amawi, and the representative fro m Seed&Chips (one of the sponsors), Mr. Marco Gualtieri. They commented on the importanc e to prom ote, through a participatory and horiz ontal approach, this m eeting between dem and and supply of innovatio n. That's w hy the MedSring project organized such a regional co-working event.
There was then the presentation of the structure of the event, the goals, the code of conduct, the rules fo r pitching a nd hacking were explained by Gae tano Ladisa (MedSprin g project staff).
Three different presentations were given after the welcome addresses.
The first o ne called *"The MedSpring experience, from brokerage to hackat*hon" was presented b y Claudio Bogliotti, the MedSpring project Coor dinator. He pointed out the fact that this event was not planned in the beginning, but it was good to facilitate the link between research a nd innovation through the creation of priva te-public an d research-enterprise partnerships, in order to mobilize entrepreneurs in the hosting regi on and en courage clustering f or innovation involving young ent repreneurs from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). It was also a g ood idea to increase th e opportunit ies to estab lish new profitable contacts and offer participants a p latform to share knowledge, particularly on research, t o promote their technologies an d experien ces, to acknowledge the most innovative solutions an d to develo p cross-regi onal techno logical, commercial or r esearch partnerships.
The second presentatio n, *"The SRTD-II experience: transferring innovative science into business"* was presente d by Omar Amawi, who is the S RTD-II project Coordin ator. He introduced the SRTD-II project: "Transferring innovative science into business" and r elated it to the SRT D-I one, with the main object ive to strengt hening links between Research Community and Private Sector in line with the main purpose of the SRT D project, converting scientific and technical r esults into competitive commercialized products. In order to achieve this, the SRTD project worked to implement a ctivities aiming at developing relation s between the Universities, Research Centers and businesses, in particular SMEs.
The third presentation *"Brief overview of hackathon call: Eco-Efficiency in Agro-Food Chain"* was presented by Marco Gualtieri, who is t he Seeds&Chips company president. He exposed the vision o f the company, that is shared wi th CIHEAM-IAMB: they both support research and innovation in the Food System and believe that young innovators all over the world can make the difference. He considered the need to take into consideration the Agro Food Sector in its entire sense, from farm to fork and beyond. It's not only vital for the people, but also the most important economic sector worldwide, with a value of over 5000 billion euro and 40% of global workforce, and it is strongly connected to health and environment.

He also introduced the "Global Food innovation Summit" which is be ing organized in Milano next 8-11 May 2017.
In the second part of the meeting there were the pitch presentations by the idea carriers in a plenary session. Each selected idea carrier had 5 minutes to present his/her idea.

First day afternoon session
In the afternoon the audience voted the best ideas and its announcement was   provided. Then the co-working teams were set-up and started working to develop the ideas. The teams continued commenting their idea s during the networking dinner, whe re also the Jordanian SRTD II projects and researchers were invited.
The final list of 6 teams (with the Team Leader) is the following:
1. **"Tools For Food"** Rachid Salghi (TL), Suleyman Aytekin and Abdoul Rjoub.
2. **"WATECH – Purify your Life"** Lahbib Latrach (TL), Mohamed Farhaoui, Mohammed Aourach, Hela Hassairi and Serkan Naneci.
3. **"Bee&You"** Mustafa Bayraktar (TL), Lynda Alouche and Sakina Benabdelkader.
4. **"Novel ideas to integrate water harvesting and conservation systems"** Haytham Mohamed (TL) and Tahseen Sayara.
5. **"WeEcoNitro"** Husein Kattab (TL), Fouad Menaceur, Fatih Balci and Ruaa Jabbar.
6. **"BuildLife"** Sara Ladouy (TL), Fusun Akgul and Evren Azer Koculu.

Second day morning session
On Thursday morning   the groups met again and worked to develop the id   eas as a continuation from the day before, until lunch time.

Second day afternoon session
After lunch the team leaders prese nted their work with a 10-minutes speech. T   he jury, composed by Carlo Vo lpi - Omar Amawi, Ma rco Gualtieri, met later t o evaluate the final project ideas.
The criteria for the final evaluation were:
        1 - description of the idea
        2 - target identification
        3 - impacts evaluation
        4 - thematic relevance
        5 - innovativeness
        6 - marketability
        7 - Presentation effectiveness

The main c omments from the jury before gra ding the final results were that they e xpected more inputs from other members of the team, a s most of the presentations were very similar to the original present   ations from the idea   carriers. No change of ideas from   the first presentation, and lack   of information on how   to market   the product s, as t hey were too academic.
The award ceremony was prese   nted by Omar   Ama wi and the r epresentatives of the companies Seeds and Chips and Barilla (in video-conference).
The list of winners in order are:
1. " **WeEcoNitro**" Husein Kattab (TL), Fouad Menaceur, Fatih Balci and Ruaa Jabbar.
2. " **Tools For Food**" Rachid Salghi (TL), Suleyman Aytekin and Abdoul Rjoub.
3. " **Bee&You**" Mustafa Bayraktar (TL), Lynda Alouche and Sakina Benabdelkader.

Omar Amawi and representative from Barilla   company, Giancarlo Addario, who were connected r emotely, closed the ha ckaton than king all the presents a nd pointing out the importance of celebrating these kind of technical events in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

The plenary sessions (opening ceremony,   key lectures, pitching   session, team work's presentations, award and closure ce remony) were live-streamed via the MedSpring Agora to allow participation   and interaction with the civil societ   y (http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/1st-euro-medhckathon-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain-livestream).

After collect ing authorizations, all t he presentations (of invited speake rs and idea-carriers) were uploa ded on the   project web site (http://www.medspring.eu/event/call-innovators-euro-med-hackaton-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain) and on the Agora (http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/1st-euro-medhackathon-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain-presentations).

g) Feedback.

An online Event Evaluation Form (ANNEX 4) was prepared and during the event participants were invited to fill-in. Results and outcomes are reported in the chapter 3.

Flash reports/photo-gallery/storify/video on the brokerage events results were prepared by S-Com and disseminated through the Project's Facebook page and the Agora.

Photo-gallery: http://agora.medspring.eu/en/gallery/1st-euro-medhackathon-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain-photogallery

Twitter Mo ment: http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/1st-euro-medhckathon-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain-moment

The event was also covered by local media http://bit.ly/2i2xFXd

3. Statistics on participants, Event evaluation

3.1 Problems encountered

Despite of the qui te high nu mber of sel ected Idea carriers i n comparison with the previous brokerages (30), only **20** par ticipated a t the event . This was due to bur eaucratic problems related to issuing visas, in addition to other last-minute issues.

3.2 Participants per country

The 2-day event was attended by more than **40** participants (ANNEX 3). The majority of the participants came from Jor dan (41%). Other co untries (Tu rkey, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Malta, Iraq, Spain, Palestine) made up the remaining 59% (Figure 4).
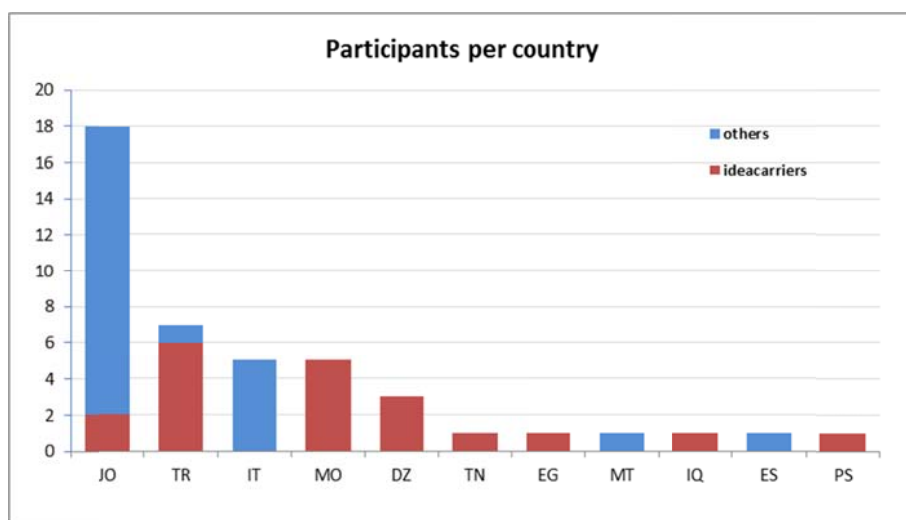

Figure 3 – Number of registered participants per Country

3.3 Participants per type

In accordance with the categories of organizations, the majority of the participants belong to idea-carriers (mainly from Research Centres and Universities) (71%).
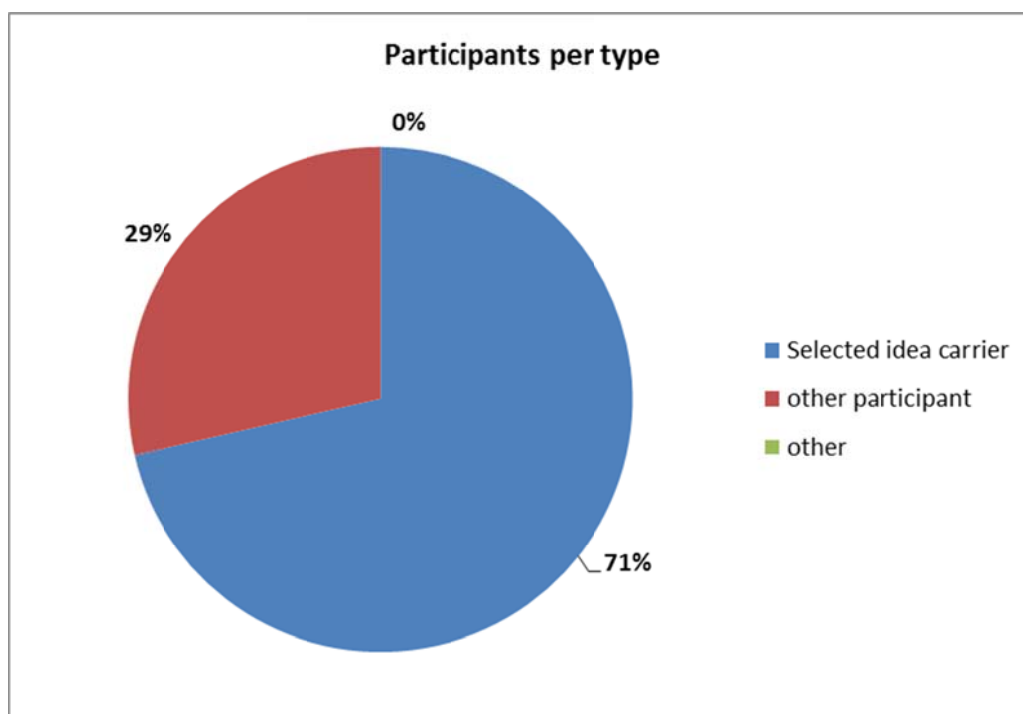
Figure 4 – Participants (%) per type

3.5 Event evaluation

A feed back form was published on-line and made already available for participants at the end of the event (ANNEX 4).

The questionnaire was very simple and quite different from the Event Evaluation Forms adopted in the previous brokerage events.

Here below the questions from which different indicators were estimated in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the event.

<u>Online registration</u>

Most of the participants rated the registration system as "excellent" (67%).

Figure 5 – Overall rate for online registration (upon 21 questionnaires)

Facilities (location, food, work area)

The p articipants showed to   appreciate the facili ties made   available f rom the   Jordanian organization. They rated the services between "very good" (43%) and "excellent" (52%).

In order to have a less formal environment, someone suggested to have, for the next events, a more creative venue (not hotel).
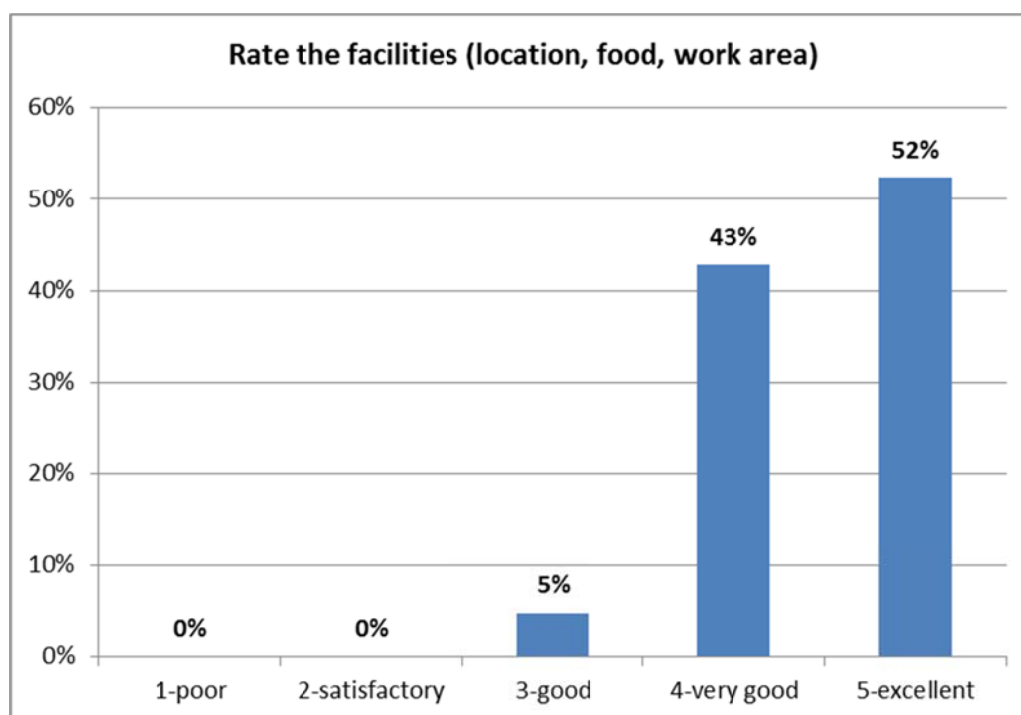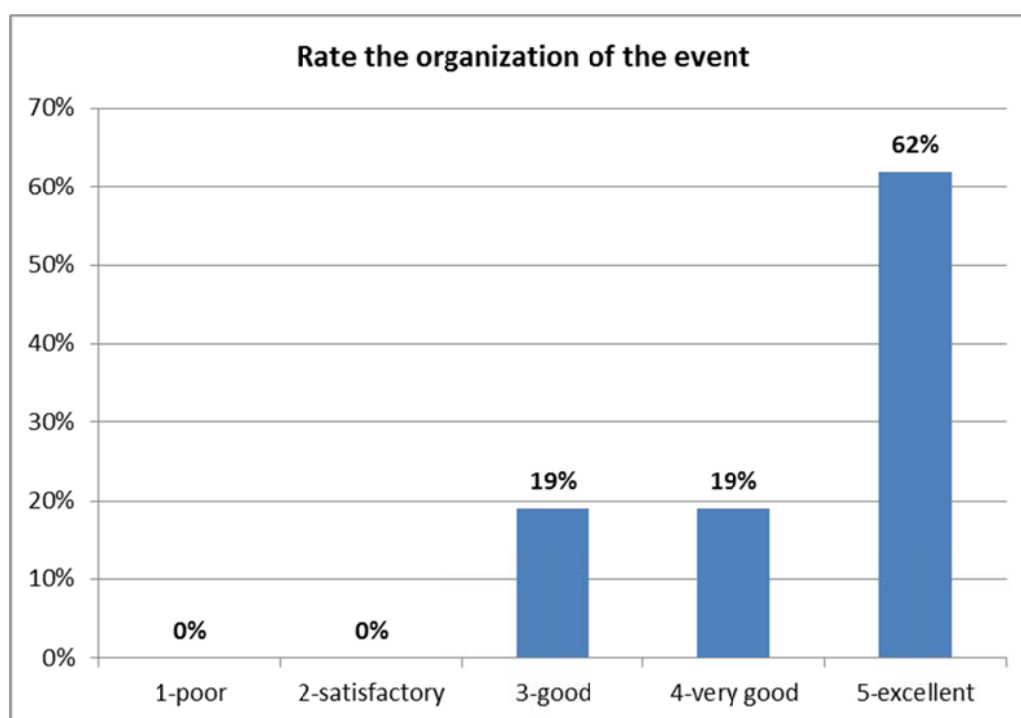
Figure 6 – Facilities rate (upon 21 questionnaires)

Overall organization of the event

Participants rated "excellent" (62%) the organization of the EU-MedHackathon. Particularly appreciated was the pitching session, who gave to idea-carriers information and ideas about different research lines. A participant suggested, or the next event, to start from the social event to get participants the opportunity to meet each other.

Figure 7 – Event's organization rate (upon 21 questionnaires)

How challenging was the competition

Participants evaluated the competition between "good" and excellent" (38%). Some of them suggested to divide the competition into different sectors and to choose one project/idea for each field.

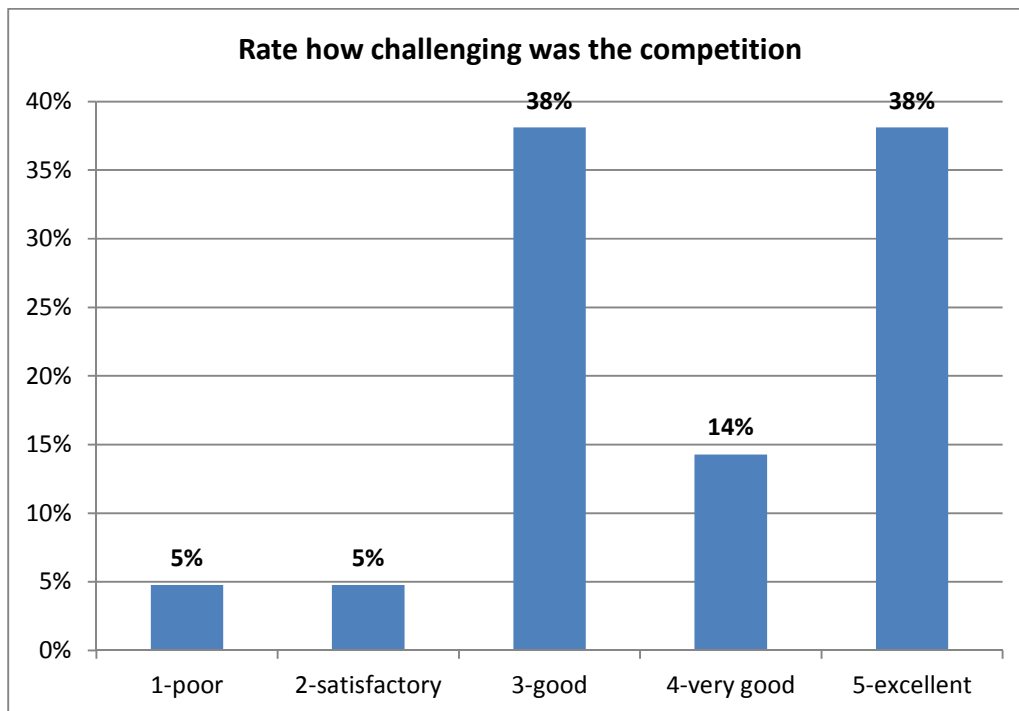**Rate how challenging was the competition**

Figure 8 – Competition challenging rate (upon 21 questionnaires)

Effectiveness of the group work

On this point there were discordant opinions and, even if the evaluation ranged from "good" to "excellen t" for the most part o f the participants (67%), there were also u nfavourable opinions expressed (19%).

People appreciated the idea to ha ve mi xed groups and coming up with new and more complete ideas respect to the original one.

Some complaints have arisen ab out the sh ort time for group work and the difficulty to integrate all ideas into a frame (the one of the group's leader) already well defined . Such a problem led to the fact that everyo ne have to accept the leader's idea . As reporte d by the final evalua tion panel, the con sequence of this thin g was that, in some of the fina l presentations, the contributions from other group's members were not visible at all.

It was sug gested to a dd an expert/coach to supervise t he group work and to support participants in the creation phase, making more effective the work in the group.

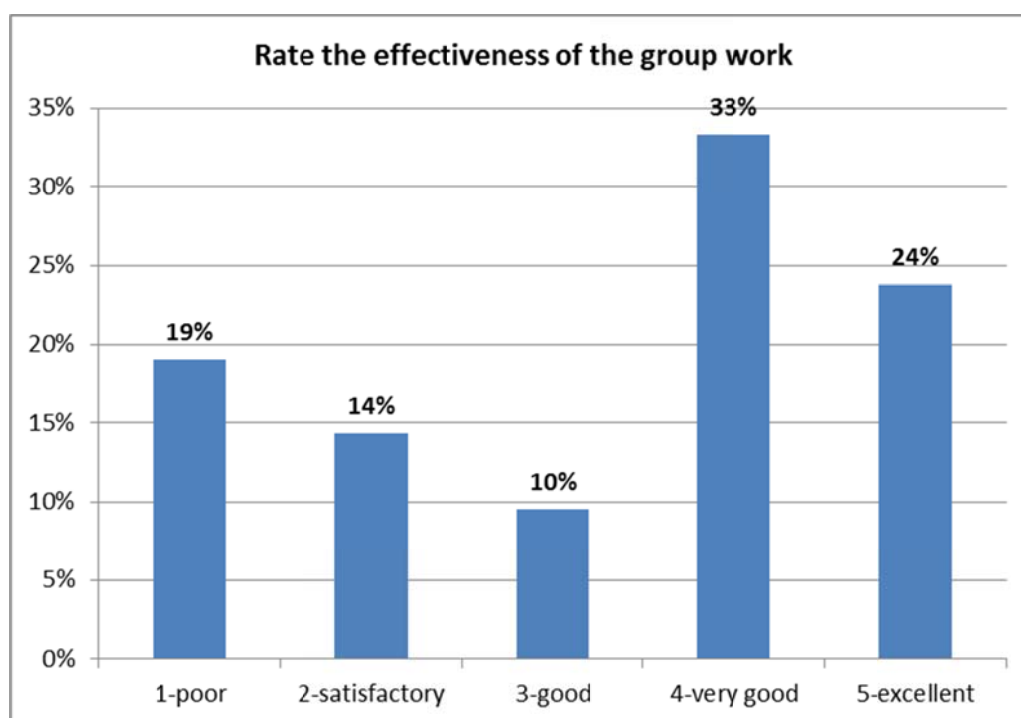*Figure 9 – Effectiveness of group work rate (upon 21 questionnaires)*

Final evaluation panel

The m ajority of p articipants (85%) rate d the work done by t he final e valuation pa nel from "good" to "excellent". All idea-carriers appreciated the suggestions coming from the panelists about strength and weakness of the groups presentations.
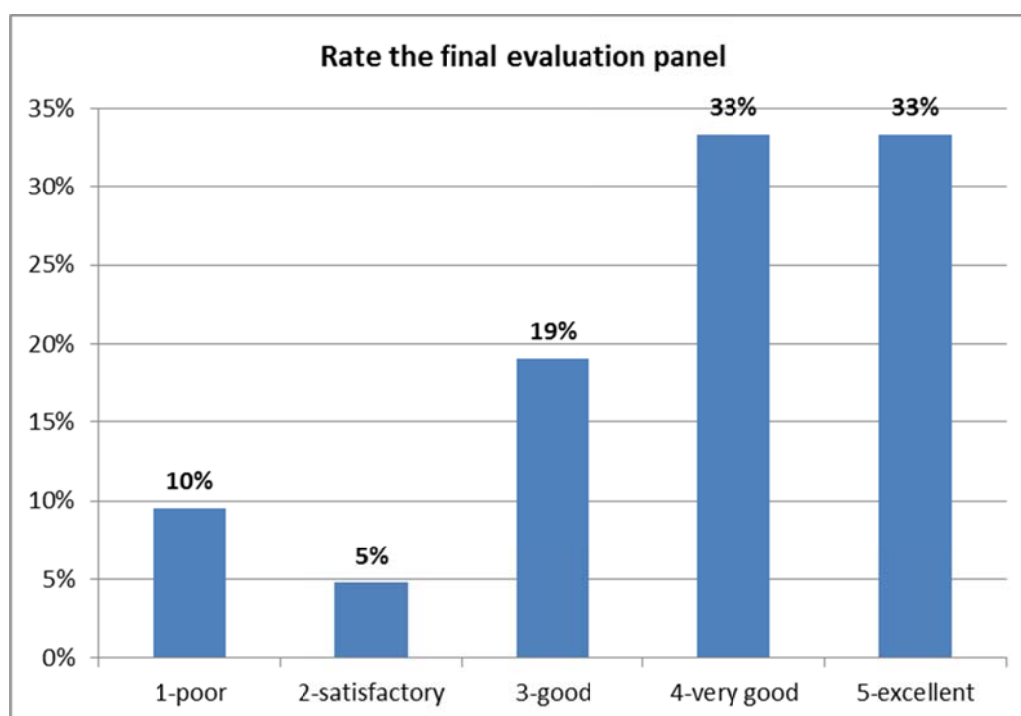
Figure 10 – Final Evaluation panel rate (upon 21 questionnaires)

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The prizes

Participants were asked to rate th e pri zes. In ge neral parti cipants a ppreciated th e prizes awarded (58%) even if some of them would prefer to receive a financial award.

Complaints have arisen about the way t o vote th e idea carriers (after their pitching) that was carried out by th e same au dience; so me parti cipants did not appreci ate at all this way (despite this is very common in hackathon events!).

Figure 11 – Final prizes rate (upon 21 questionnaires)

The performance of the organization staff

Almost all the part icipants rates as "excellent" (71%) and very good" (19%) the perf ormance of staff in organizing and manage the event.

Figure 12 – Organization staff performance rate (upon 21 questionnaires)

Finally it was asked to participants whether they would come to another similar event. The majority (76%) has expressed the wish to participate in a similar event in the future.

Figure 13 – People who would participate to another Hackathon in the future (upon 21 questionnaires)
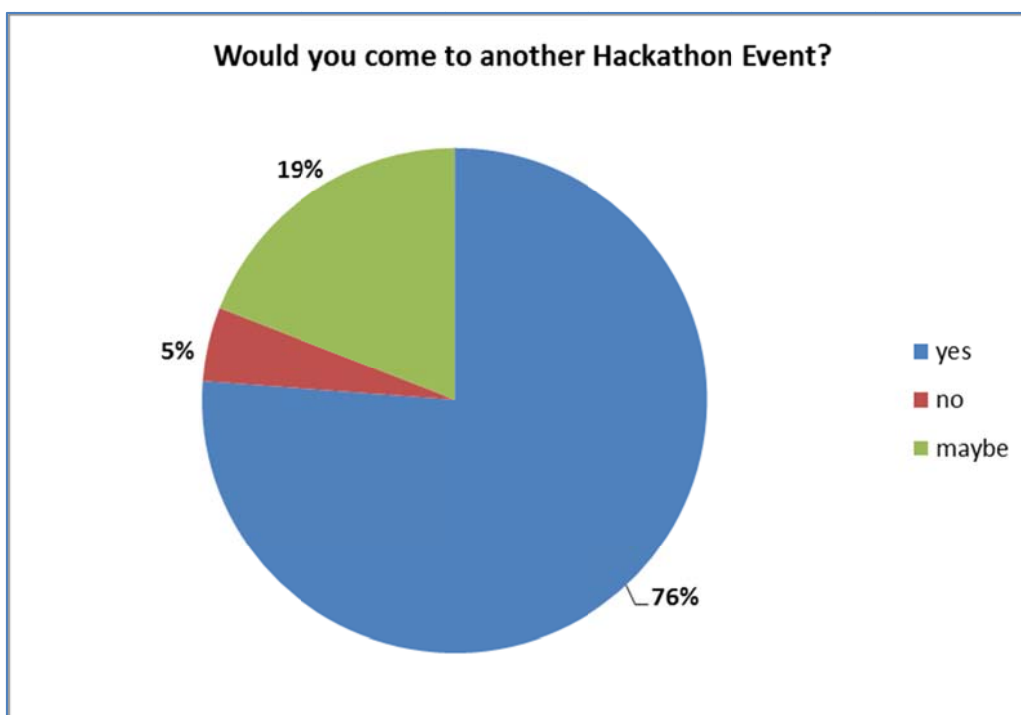
Some questions were a sked to eva luate the busi ness meeti ngs (formal and infor mal) held during the two-da y ev ent. A lmost a half of partici pants d eclared they had formal /informal business meetings outside the competition.
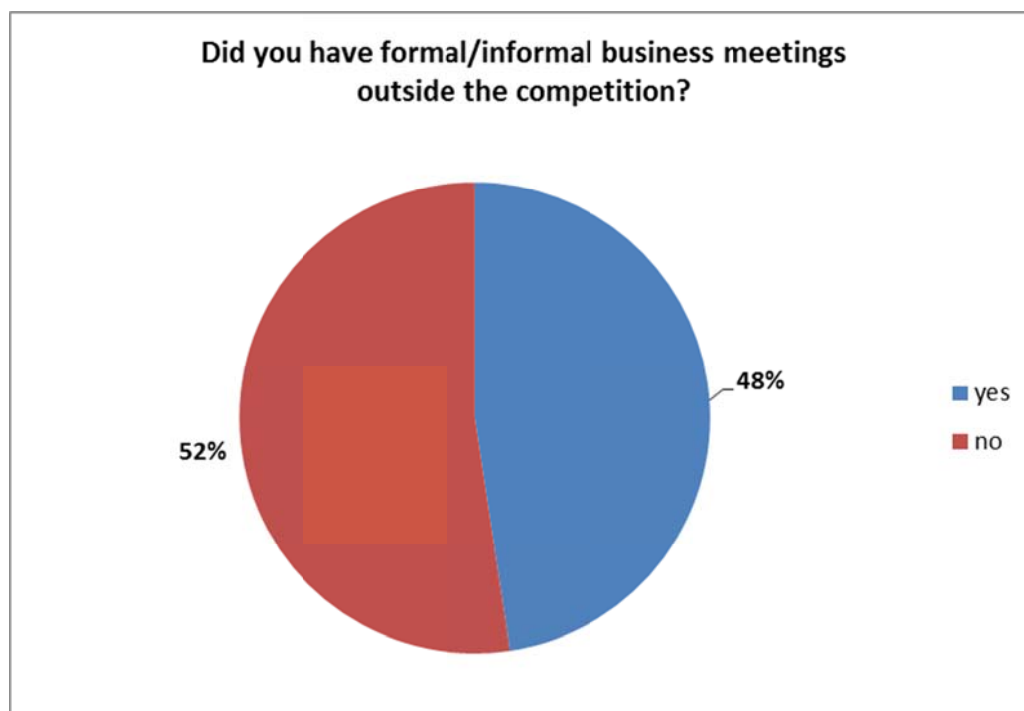

Figure 14 – People who had formal/informal business meetings (average upon 21 questionnaires)

4.Conclusions

- Overall the event was a success. It was well organized, in a very professional way in a very short time.

- As already experienced in the previous ev ents, the collabo ration with the countries' RDI progra mmes was crucial in selecting and funding young re searchers and entrepreneurs.

- The selecte d projects were deemed to be very interesting by the experts, the y showed the diversity of talents an d new projects emerging in the Mediterranean region in the areas of targeted societal challenges.

- Young rese archers an d entrepren eurs shows to be still not familiar with the "hackathon format". Nevertheless t he co-working opportunity encouraged new forms of collaboration and exchange among the young innovators, researcher s, enterprises and scientific institutions.

Recommendations:

- To have a less formal and more dynamic ev ent structur e (more in line with th e "hackathon style") by shortening th e official moments (sp eeches, key lectures, …) and by hosting the event into a creative venue.

- As underlined by the Evaluation panel, to get already well-defined or already patented ideas, proved to be a mistake. For future events it is advisable to have the innovators working on a common idea, launch ed during the competition, in order t o have a fin al output that is the product of the group work.

- Ensure participation of investors, "business ang els" and funding agencies but also small companies and industries that are interested in the fields of the ideas presented to increase potential investment opportunities.

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ANNEX 1 – Call for Innovators

MedSpring Project
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

Call for Innovators
"ECO-EFFICIENCY IN THE AGRO-FOOD CHAIN"

Euro-MedHackathon

(Amman, 14-15 December 2016)

The present **call for innovators**, supported by the EU funded project MedSpring and aimed at supporting the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on Research and Innovation, has the objective of selecting **the best 30 innovators** on water-food-energy to be invited to the upcoming Euro-MedHackaton event, planned in Amman (Jordan) on **14-15 December 2016**.

The Euro-MedHackathon event is organized by MedSpring in close collaboration with the EU-Jordan SRTD II initiative (www.srtd.hcst.gov.jo)

For further project information: www.medspring.eu, www.agora.medspring.eu

Thematic objective of the call

MedSpring is looking for novel ideas which could have a strategic impact in the Mediterranean region while being of interest to private industry and sponsors. **The main thematic objective of the call is "Eco-Efficiency in the agro-food chain"**.

In particular, the call aims at selecting innovative ideas addressing energy and/or water efficiency along the different phases of agro-food chain: production, transformation, distribution and consumption (farm to fork). When addressing system efficiency innovators should take into account for the contribution to agro-food chain sustainability both from socio-economic and environmental point of view, including sustainable use of food waste. Ideas should demonstrate a clear way towards already marketable products, process or prototypes, providing new ideas based on applications in ICT, engineering, natural and biological sciences or other disciplines. Moreover, ideas should also take into account impacts on local economies, improvement of life quality and reduction of GHG emissions while also engaging rural and coastal communities in bio-economy activities.

Best three ideas will be awarded a prize in the Euro-MedHackathon event in Jordan on 14-15 December 2016.

Call prize

Call prize is sponsored by private companies and given to the best three innovators teams, which will be ranked in the occasion of the Euro-MedHackathon in Jordan. The **prize** offered by private companies will consist of either:

- an in-house period financed by the sponsoring company/ies during which the winning team will be hosted to explore concrete implementation and commercialization of the innovative idea or
- the opportunity to be included by the sponsoring companies in international consortia applying to H2020 calls or other EU research and innovation funds related to the above mentioned challenge.
- the possibility to apply to Seeds and Chips, the Global Food Innovation Summit, scheduled in Milan (Italy) on May, 8-11 2017

The sponsoring companies are the following:

- Barilla Group (http://www.barillagroup.com/en),
- SPRING (http://www.clusterspring.it/home-en/),
- Torino Wireless (http://torinowireless.it/en/), and
- Seeds & Chips (http://www.seedsandchips.com/).

MedSpring Project
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

From the call to the Euro-MedHackathon:

One of the MedSpring objectives is to enhance innovation in the frame of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and support young researchers and entrepreneurs in the region developing solutions to main challenges identified by society, stakeholders and industry in the region in the area of food, energy and water.

The ideal format of the event is an **Hackathon:** a marathon of young innovators, selected through the above call and divided into small teams during the event, for a 24h brainstorming resulting in an innovative product/process design.

Euro-MedHackathon is addressed to **30** young innovators (young researchers or young tech-driven entrepreneurs) coming from the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Ideas should respond to specific need requiring innovative solutions (prototype, application, industrial process). Such a need (the "challenge") will be identified in coordination with private companies; the challenge identified reflects the thematic focus of the event and, consequently, defines the profiles of the young innovators that will be selected.

If you are a young researcher and/or a young entrepreneur from the Mediterranean, you are encouraged to respond to this call. An on-line form is available (hereafter referred to as the Call), which you are invited to fill in. Only applications using the attached format (https://goo.gl/forms/Mi6A7mDZBMogM4V82) will be accepted.

The deadline for applications submissions is **31 October 2016**. No late submissions will be accepted.

A panel composed by MedSpring partners and Private companies/funders (Evaluation Panel – EP) will shortlist up to 30 applications to participate in the Hackathon, to be held in Amman (JO) **on 14-15 December 2016**. The shortlist will be published on MedSpring and SRTD-II websites by mid-November 2016.

The Euro-MedHackathon: where, when, how

The event will take place in **Amman (Jordan), 14 – 15 December 2016**. MedSpring and SRTD II has selected Jordan to increase the synergies of local community between researchers and investors and enhance the Jordanian engagement in EU research area.

During the Hackathon, after the presentation of all the ideas, the audience will select the best 3 ideas and co-working groups of 3/4 innovators will be formed. Following the team work, they will present their product/process to a jury (composed by MedSpring/SRTD II partners and representatives of private companies acting as main sponsors). The jury will select and award the prize to the winning team at the end of the competition.

Timeline

30 September 2016: *Call for proposals for innovative ideas is published*

31 October 2016: *Deadline for submission of application*

20 November 2016: *Announcement of the 30 finalists which will participate to the event with the support of MedSpring*

14-15 December 2016*: Euro-MedHackathon in Amman (JO)*

Further Information

Follows us on MedSpring website: http://www.medspring.eu/event/euro-med-hackaton and on the Agora: http://agora.medspring.eu/en/articles/euro-mediterranean-hackathon-jordan-1st-announcement

Please contact (brokerage@medspring.eu) if your questions aren't answered here.

ANNEX 2 - Event Agenda

MedSpring Project
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

1ˢᵗ Euro-MedHackathon

"ECO-EFFICIENCY IN THE AGRO-FOOD CHAIN"

Landmark hotel
Amman, JO | 14-15 December 2016

Agenda

Schedule	Wednesday, 14th December 2016
	Plenary session
08.30-09.00	Registration of participants
09.00	Welcome addresses *(HCST, MedSpring Coordinator, SRTD-II Coordinator)*
09.30	Presentation of the structure of the event (goals, code of conduct, rules for pitching and hacking) *(Gaetano Ladisa – MedSpring Staff)*
09.45	1) "The MedSpring experience, from brokerage to hackathon" *(Claudio Bogliotti – MedSpring Coordinator)* 2) "The SRTD-II experience: transferring innovative science into business" *(Omar Amawi – SRTD-II Coordinator)* 3) Brief overview of hackathon call: "Eco-Efficiency in Agro-Food Chain". *(Marco Gualtieri – Seeds&Chips President)*
10.30-11.00	Questions and Answers
11.00-11.20	Coffee break
Schedule	**Pitch presentations of idea carriers - Plenary session**
11.30-14.00	*Each selected idea carriers have 5' to present his/her idea.*
14.00-15.00	**Buffet Lunch**
15.00-16.00	Audience votes the best ideas and announcement of the best ideas
16.00-17.00	Co-working Teams set-up and start of group works
schedule	**Working groups**
17.00-19.30	Groups work to develop the ideas
19.30-23.00	Networking dinner: MedSpring brokerage with Jordanian SRTD II projects / researchers. *(dinner only for registered participants)*
	Thursday, 15th December 2016
09.30-13.00	Groups work to develop the ideas (continued)
13.30-15.00	**Buffet lunch**
15.00-16.30	Team work's Presentations *(each team have 10' to present ideas)*
16.30-18.00	Meeting of the Jury
18.00-19.00	Award ceremony and closing
20.00	(Free) Dinner

ANNEX 3 - List of Participants

Title	Family name	First name	Email address	Country	Name of organization
Ms.	Allouche	Lynda	lyallouche@gmail.com	Algeria	University of Ferhat Abbas Setif 1
Ms.	Benabdelkader	Sakina	Sakina.benabdelkader@yahoo.fr	Algeria	Independant
Mr.	Menaceur	Fouad	f.menaceur@hotmail.fr	Algeria	Laarbi Tbessi University-Tebessa, Algeria
Mr.	Mohamed	Haytham	haytham.salem@alumnos.upm.es	Egypt	Desert Research Center
Ms.	Jabbar	Ruaa	ruaabio58@yahoo.com	Iraq	Ministry of science and technology
Mr.	Badioli	Francesco	badifra@gmail.com	Italy	
Ms.	Belsanti	Virginia	belsanti@iamb.it	Italy	CIHEAM IAMB
Mr.	Bogliotti	Claudio	bogliotti@iamb.it	Italy	CIHEAM IAMB
Mr.	Gualtieri	Marco Edoardo Maria	mara@milanocucina.it	Italy	Seeds&Chips - Milano Cucina Srl
Mr.	Ladisa	Gaetano	ladisa@iamb.it	Italy	CIHEAM IAMB
Mr.	Abu Hmeidan	Yousef	info@ioi-jo.com	Jordan	
Mr.	Abu Hussein	Mahmoud	m.abuhussein@ncrd.gov.jo	Jordan	National Center for Research and Development
Ms.	Alnaber	Majd	majd.alnaber@srtd.hcst.gov.jo	Jordan	HCST
Mr.	Badran	Bashar	bbadran@uop.edu.jo	Jordan	University of Petra
Mr.	Brake	Mohammad	mohammadbrake@hotmail.com	Jordan	
Mr.	Diab	Mohammad	m.diab@ipark.jo	Jordan	iPark
Mr.	Dmour	Hane	gm@facts-center.com	Jordan	Food Scientific Center
Mr.	Halaseh	Imad	i.halasah@gmail.com	Jordan	Mutah University
Mr.	Hattar	Ammar	ammar@ncare.gov.jo	Jordan	National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension
Mr.	Kattab	Husein	hkattab@gmail.com	Jordan	Nitrate Production System
Ms.	Khazaleh	Razan	razan.alkhaza'aleh@aci.org.jo	Jordan	Amman Chamber of Industry

1st Euro-MedHackathon
"ECO-EFFICIENCY IN THE AGRO-FOOD CHAIN"
14-15th December 2016

Title	Family name	First name	Email address	Country	Name of organization
Ms.	Musharbash	Jumana	jumana.musharbash@jedco.gov.jo	Jordan	JEDCO
Ms.	Nersessian	Maral	Maral.nersessian@srtd.hcst.gov.jo	Jordan	HCST
Mr.	Rjoub	Abdoul	abdoul.rjoub@gmail.com	Jordan	Jordan University of Science & Technology
Ms.	Ryzan	Anita	anita.ryczan@eeas.europa.eu	Jordan	european external action service
Ms.	Smadi	Rasha	rasha.s@hcst.gov.jo	Jordan	HCST
Mr.	Volpi	Carlo	carlo.volpi@srtd.hcst.gov.jo	Jordan	HCST
Mr.	Yahya	Nasra	yahyanasr@yahoo.com	Jordan	
Mr.	Micallef	Stephen	stephen.g.micallef@gov.mt	Malta	Malta Council for Science & Technology
Mr.	Aourach	Mohammed	aourach.mohammed@gmail.com	Morocco	University Abdelmalek Essaadi, Tangier, Morocco.
Mr.	Farhaoui	Mohamed	farhaouimed@gmail.com	Morocco	National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water
Ms.	Ladouy	Sara	sara.ladouy@gmail.com	Morocco	MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY IN RABAT
Mr.	Latrach	Lahbib	latrachlahbib@gmail.com	Morocco	National Center for Researches and Studies on Water and Energy, Cadi Ayyad University.
Mr.	Salghi	Rachid	r.salghi@uiz.ac.ma	Morocco	National School of Applied Science Ibn Zohr University
Mr.	Sayara	Tahseen	tsayara@yahoo.com	Palestine	Palestine Technical University-Kadoorie
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Ms.	Hsairi Ep Hassairi	Hela	helahassairi@yahoo.fr	Tunisia	Centre for Water Research and Technologies, CERTE
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Mr.	Balcı	Fatih	fbalci@gantep.edu.tr	Turkey	Gaziantep University

1st Euro-MedHackathon
"ECO-EFFICIENCY IN THE AGRO-FOOD CHAIN"
14-15th December 2016

Title	Family name	First name	Email address	Country	Name of organization
Mr.	Bayraktar	Mustafa	mustafa.bayraktar@sbs-turkey.com	Turkey	SBS Bilimsel Bio Çözümler San. ve Tic. A.Ş.D9
Mr.	Koculu	Evren Azer	azer@roadbeats.com	Turkey	N/A
Mr.	Naneci	Serkan	serkannc@gmail.com	Turkey	Middle East Technical University

ANNEX 4 - Event Evaluation Form

1st EU-MEDHACKATHON - Evaluation form

We would like to get some feedback from you on the 1st Euro-MedHackathon in Amman. Your comments are greatly appreciated

Please take few minutes to complete the following questionnaire by 31st December 2016

*Required

1. **1. What part of the event you liked the most** *

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

2. **2. What would you change about this Hackathon?** *

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

3. **3. Rate the online registration** *
    Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

4. **4. Rate the facilities (location, food, work area)** *
    Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

5. **5. Rate the organization of the event** *
    Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

6. **6. Rate how challenging was the competition** *
Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

7. **7. Rate the effectiveness of the group work** *
Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

8. **8. Rate the final evaluation panel** *
Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

9. **9. Rate the prizes** *
Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

10. **10. Rate the performance of the organization staff** *
Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
poor	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	excellent

11. **11. Would you come to another Hackathon Event?** *
Mark only one oval.

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Maybe

12. **12. Did you have formal/informal business meetings outside the competition?**
Mark only one oval.

◯ Yes

◯ No

13. **13. Other comments or suggestions**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

14. **14. Name/surname**

_____

15. **15. Organization**

_____

16. **16. Country**

_____

17. **17. Are you** *
Mark only one oval.

( ) Selected idea carriers

( ) Other participant

( ) Other: _____

Thank you for your collaboration!

The MedSpring & SRTD-II Coordination Staff

ANNEX 5 - Photo gallery

Photos 1 -8 - Some snapshots from the EU-MEDHACK2017 event in Amman