



**THEME [INCO.2012-1.3]
INCONET – Mediterranean Partner Countries**

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**Title: Second Training on Innovation for Mediterranean
Research and Innovation Managers and Decision
Makers**

Funding scheme: Coordination and support action

Project Acronym: MEDSPRING

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Summary

The 2nd *Training on Innovation for Mediterranean Research and Innovation Managers and Decision Makers* – Bonn 20-21 September 2016 - has been organized in the frame of the EC-FP7 funded project MED-SPRING (Work Package 7), to support networking and cooperation in Research & Innovation in the Euro-Mediterranean area and with a specific target on Mediterranean Research & Innovation Managers and Decision Makers taking into account the follow up of the first *Training on Innovation* held in Naples on 25-27 November 2015. On the 22 September was held the MEDSPRING legacy meeting on capacity building – an internal working session of consortium members and appointed partners aimed at discussing possible activities after the conclusion of the project.

The international event gathered speakers and trainees from 12 Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Jordan, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia with the main goal to strengthen capacities to favor innovation both at national and international level and build more bridges among academia/research, industry and civil society.

The training, conceived as a tool to foster countries' competitiveness while addressing specific societal challenges, was successfully implemented contributing to capacity building and promotion of networking and dialogue between EU Member States and Mediterranean Countries.

1. Rationale of the Initiative

The *Second Training on Innovation* (STI) has been organized in the frame of the EU funded project MED-SPRING (Work Package 7) to support networking and cooperation in R&I in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

As well as the first training on innovation, the idea on which the initiative has been built is that Research and Innovation are among the main assets for increasing countries' competitiveness while addressing specific societal challenges. Cooperation activities and EU funded projects can engage European and Mediterranean partner countries in a joint effort to develop specific subject areas targeted by innovation. The specific of the STI two-day training is to target responsible players at the macro and meso level of National Innovation Systems in MPCs as well as in EU MS.

Main topics of the training were the following:

- analytical processes for the definition of research priorities and potentials;
- foresight and road-mapping for coherent trans-sectoral national innovation policies; strategic up-scaling of innovation ecosystems;
- orientation and streamlining of funding policies towards knowledge transfer, innovation, valorisation and societal impact (coherent funding schemes based on analysis and foresight);
- international collaboration and its effect on the achievement of strategic goals in partner countries (MS and MPC), particularly with regard to structural effects (entrepreneurship, practice-oriented qualification frameworks, start-up initiatives and their viability, job creation),
- national policies for the support of cluster development and the adoption of smart specialisation strategies.

2. Venue and Organisation of the Training

The *Training on Innovation* was held on **September, the 20th – 21th, 2016 in Bonn – Germany** at the DLR building.

2.1 MED-SPRING partners involved in the organisation

Task leader: DLR (Germany)

Preparatory documentation and drafting the agenda (scientific organisation): DLR (Germany); CIHEAM/IAMB (Italy); CNR (Italy); ISERD (Israel).

Logistical organisation: DLR (Germany)

2.2 Organization and Participants

Organization: The organisation of the “training on innovation” has managed to involve an important number of countries: Algeria, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Jordan, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia. More specifically: 12 trainees, 6 German and 1 Israeli external experts and 16 project partners from 11 different institutions (excepted DLR). The participants have been accommodated in a hotel while the training activities were held in the DLR building; DLR has also provided an interesting social program to complement the training activities.

Target of the training: officials and experts from the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Ministries, national RDI agencies representatives and experts with immediate responsibility for national policy development in research knowledge transfer, policies of private-public partnerships, national RDI infrastructures or other innovation related fields

Participants represented governmental organizations, research institutions and business clusters. The **agenda** and the complete list of **participants** can be found in the Annexes

Most of the participants arrived in Bonn on the 19th and left on the 22th September since, after the final session of the training, DLR organized a boat tour on the river Rhine with a guided tour through the Arp Museum; more over most of the project partners took part in the MedSpring legacy meeting on the 22th morning.

Another event, the social dinner, was organized on the 20th by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research in the near town of Königswinter.

3. Themes and Issues addressed

The agenda was articulated in 3 sessions of talks/presentations and one workshop split in 3 sessions:

Strategic initiatives on innovation – good practices from MEDSPRING countries: introducing the main topics of the training and highlights good practices from participating countries.

Future developments in innovation policies, programmes and instruments for future cooperation: based on a DLR online demand survey among participants prior to the event to provide know-how on the strategy building processes which might be resumed during the workshops.

WS session 1: The first session of the workshop uses the University of Bremen collaboration with MENA countries on institutional strategy processes as point of departure to build the discussion on smart specialization and models of innovation strategies. Instruments of strategy building such as road-mapping were used for simulations on adaptation of strategies.

WS session 2: partly drawn on exercises effected during the 1st Training on Innovation in Naples on 'funding system', highlights success factors of national strategy building processes and pay particular attention to the role of international cooperation in supporting these processes.

WS session 3: finalizes the workshop session with an interactive “road-mapping” exercise.

Final Session: A time dedicated to the presentation of some outcomes and open ends of the MedSpring project.

More in detail:

3.1 talks/presentations

With the welcome addresses, Virginia Belsanti (CIHEAM) illustrated a synthesis of the MedSpring project and the project focus on a sustainable innovation. Ralf Hermann (DLR) focused his welcome on an agenda presentation.

The first session, "Strategic initiatives on innovation – good practices from MEDSPRING countries", was opened by Peter Webers (Federal Ministry for Education and Research) presenting the Ministry structure and activities with a particular attention to the Strategies for Research, Development and Innovation and the S&T Cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa.

The second speech of the day was delivered by Anya Eldan who talked about Governance of innovation initiatives in Israel, introducing the activities of the Israel Innovation Authority; an office deputed to manage the budget aimed at innovation funding innovative enterprises at whatever level from start up to big companies and without technological or sectoral priorities. This, in a small country, together with the un-involvement with the political world and the fact that only the application –not also the research – is financed, make easier the funding of good ideas.

Rafael Rodriguez (CSIC) in his intervention "How to streamline research policies to support RIS3?" highlights some real problems in the Governance and management structures. Particularly he refers to the necessity of a shift in the organization methodology and in the way to work and cooperate in many European and Mediterranean countries both from a political and a bureaucratic point of view. Also from an academic perspective, he notes that researchers will not be interested in the development of products and services based on their own patents or in the development of prototypes until these activities will not be evaluated in their curricula.

Abdelraheem Abual Basal presented the Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship (QRCE) - part of Princess Sumaya University for Technology, a national Center of Excellence for Entrepreneurship - and its activities to help develop Technology Entrepreneurship in Jordan. Among those, he presented the Queen Rania National Entrepreneurship Competition (QRNEC) and some of the QRNEC winners.

The second session was launched by Ralf Hermann, who underlined the importance of capacity building activities in innovation, being a crosscutting issue, but also detailed some priority for future collaborations, introducing in this way, the theme of MedSpring legacy meeting.

Tobias Redlich introduced the "twinning for innovation" project between the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) and the Helmut-Schmidt-University.

Michael Rehberg of the Innovation Strategies and Instruments department of DLR talked about Entrepreneurial Regions with a particular attention to the bottom-up oriented programme to support innovation on a regional level, provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

The third session was originally intended as some short speech on the MedSpring project outcomes and ideas on future opportunities aimed at giving inputs for discussion. Results should have been collect also to further implement the MedSpring legacy meeting on capacity building. As a matter of fact, also for some delay in the previous session, the open exchange didn't take place, giving space only to some question time.

Simona De Luca presented a synthesis of the “Report on Instruments and Joint actions to improve mobility in the Mediterranean region” the work on mobility CNR and CSIC realized under WPS 6 of the MedSpring project focusing on the impact of mobility on innovation with a particular attention on problems and best practices found on mobility patterns and how mobility tools and schemes can help foster innovation.

Stephan Epe introduced the DLR’s Project Management Agency/International Bureau and its activities in Fostering Innovation Ecosystems in Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries outlining a new funding initiative by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

3.2 workshops

The 1th WS session was more an introductory speech that Tanja Woronowicz did to introduce the models of innovations strategies standardized by the University of Bremen so as to facilitate the following discussion among innovation players and introducing the simulation activities. The debate showed that people was quite impressed by the methodology presented; two where the main critical issues arisen: which level (Region, University, etc.) was the most adequate and the need of a will to implement such a methodology that, imposed (as for instance the quality certification) could became as any other imposed standardization tool, that only get the proceeding heavier without real results.

The 2nd WS Session “Interactive session on knowledge transfer, processes and instruments of regional innovation strategy building; incl. exchange on national innovation systems in the various participating countries” conducted by Michael Boronowsky and Tanja Woronowicz was very effective and conducive to sharing useful and interesting opinions as well as presenting some peculiar aspects of the innovation systems of various participating countries.

The 3rd WS Session “Interactive ‘road-mapping’ exercise” conducted by Martin Möhrle was also very participated and animated, it represented an important moment to make a comparison among different innovation environments in different countries and also helped to understand differences and similarities on a more detailed level between the different countries; quite entertaining while enlightening was, for instance, with the exercise of tailoring bike production to the needs related to specific areas even at urban level.

4. Main outcomes and follow-up

On the basis of the presentations made and of the discussion, **participants** declared to have met their expectations considering the training objectives.

In particular, they acknowledged the importance to have clear guidelines on how to design an innovation strategy that takes into consideration national priorities and a multistakeholder involvement. Many MPC would benefit from specific training on innovation strategy design and also on how to design a smart specialization strategy that can highlight sector potentialities of each specific country.

It was very interesting the focus on training on the models of technology transfers that could be further investigated. More exercises on the evaluation of innovation capacity of an institution are considered useful as well as more training sessions on how innovation can be implemented at institutional level. Further recommendations include to give a better focus on:

- How to increase the relation between the private sector and higher education and how we can do what is called “Technology transfer
- Innovation policy building at institution level
- Intellectual property laws
- Financial governance in an innovation strategy
- How to write an innovation road map
- IP policy interaction with innovation strategy

The results from the evaluation forms (see the questionnaire distributed in the annex 5.3) as well as the active participation of trainees who enriched the debate and showed a real interest in the subjects presented by the speakers and to keep a **network on innovation issues**.

the table below shows some of the evaluation results, related to the questions including an evaluation grid:

	score				
Question on:	1 (low)	2 (low)	3 (medium)	4 (high)	5 (high)
1.Training objectives achieved				9	
2.Organization				9	
3. General level of speakers					9

ANNEXES



MEDSPRING: Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway

Concept Note and Agenda
2nd Training on Innovation for Mediterranean Research Managers
and Innovation Managers / Decision Makers
(WP7.5, Capacity building in research, development and innovation)
Bonn, Germany, 20-22 Sept 2016

Venue:

DLR (German Aerospace Center)
Project Management Agency
European and International Cooperation
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 5, 53229 Bonn
Building BO5, room 0-018

Rationale

MEDSPRING is an EU funded project with the objective to encourage and strengthen the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on research and innovation in relation to key societal challenges such as resource efficiency (particularly water), high quality affordable food and energy, and the nexus between them. The four-year project is funded under the 7th EU Research Framework Programme (CAPACITIES Programme – International Cooperation).

In line with the DoW and the agreements of the 2016 Annual Meeting in Tunis, the second “Training on Innovation” is scheduled for 20-21Sept in Bonn / GER. It is the sixth and last workshop in WP7 ‘Capacity Building’ (T7.5) of the project.

The two-day training targets responsible players at the macro and meso level of National Innovation Systems in MPCs as well as in EU MS. Main topics will be:

- analytical processes for the definition of research priorities and potentials
- foresight and roadmapping for coherent trans-sectoral national innovation policies; strategic up-scaling of innovation ecosystems
- orientation and streamlining of funding policies towards knowledge transfer, innovation, valorisation and societal impact (coherent funding schemes based on analysis and foresight)
- international collaboration and its effect on the achievement of strategic goals in partner countries (MS and MPC), particularly with regard to structural effects (entrepreneurship, practice-oriented qualification frameworks, start-up initiatives and their viability, job creation)
- national policies for the support of cluster development and the adoption of smart specialisation strategies (S3)



Participants

MEDSPRING will invite and support two participants from each of the eight project member MPCs (MOR, DZA, TUN, EGY, ISR, JOR, PSE, LEB). The participation of a maximum of one EU MS participant per country is possible, provided additional funds by the participant or the referring member state.

Participants should represent ministries or national RDI agencies with immediate responsibility for national policy development and road-mapping activities in research or other sector related ministries, for knowledge transfer, policies of private public partnerships, national RDI infrastructures or other innovation related fields. The participation of at least one participant with a strong sectoral background in the main MEDSPRING topics (i.e. ministries or national / regional authorities in charge of water, energy, food and agriculture, environment, urbanism and similar) is highly recommended to expand the stakeholder constituency of future Euro-Med innovation partnership programmes.

Regular participants shall be pro-actively invited and selected by each of the MPC representing consortium members (ministries, national authorities), upon formal invitation by the MEDSPRING co-ordinator.

In addition, MEDSPRING consortium members from EU MS and MPC can participate if the remaining project budget of their referring organisation allows the covering of their travel expenses.

Additionally, day 3 will be dedicated to a closed session of a MEDSPRING legacy task force on capacity building, consisting of consortium members with strong emphasis on innovation and knowledge transfer (e.g. DLR, CIHEAM) and expertise in capacity building, curricular development and training activities (e.g. UNIMED, EMUNI), plus senior advisors from the MEDSPRING External Advisory Board and, possibly, other necessary contributors. In a small and focussed group of less than ten participants, the group shall delineate the framework of an innovation training curriculum for MPC innovation managers and innovation-oriented researchers, to be implemented in annual or bi-annual blended learning courses after the end of the MEDSPRING project. This includes concepts for the acquisition of funds for the curriculum implementation.



MEDSPRING Training on Innovation

Bonn 20/21 Sept 2016

(organised by DLR, Germany, CIHEAM-IAMB, Italy, CNR, Italy, ISERD, Israel)

Training programme

Tue, 20/09/16

9h00-9h15 Welcome (DLR, CIHEAM)

9h15-11h00 Strategic initiatives on innovation – good practices from MEDSPRING countries (plenary session)

The session introduces the main topics of the training and highlights good practices from participating countries. Four thematic inputs of max 25" each incl. Q/A, leading to the content of the training workshops.

GER: Peter Webers (BMBF): BMBF MENA strategy for cooperation in research and innovation

ISR: Anya Eldan (IIA): Governance of innovation initiatives in Israel (IIA, start-up policy frameworks, support of knowledge transfer and incubation)

JOR: Abdelraheem Abualbasal (Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship, PSUT): The QRCE's prospects for national and regional entrepreneurship education

ESP: Rafael Rodriguez (CSIC): How to streamline research policies to support RIS3?

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 Future developments in innovation policies, programmes and instruments for future cooperation (plenary session)

The session highlights methods of analysis and strategy formulation. The session will be carried out in a participatory and interactive exchange. It will provide know-how on the strategy building processes which might be resumed during the workshops.

Ralf Hermann (DLR International Bureau): MEDSPRING findings on needs for further cooperation (policies, programmes, instruments) 15"

Tobias Redlich (AGYA) – cooperation in the academy's working group 'Innovation' 15"

Michael Rehberg (DLR Innovation Strategy Unit): Entrepreneurial Regions ('Unternehmen Region') – Insights in a bottom-up oriented innovation initiative 30"



WORKSHOP: INCLUSIVE AND DEMAND DRIVEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGY BUILDING

The workshop will depart from TZI's collaboration with MENA countries, especially in the framework of the EU-Tunisia bilateral programme FETRIC, on institutional strategy processes, and also look at national and regional framework conditions. Inputs from participants are required to fuel the discussion on demands by R&I institutions, bottom-up approaches to innovation, and possible national responses regarding regulations, financial support, funding policies, capacity building etc. The topic of RIS3 will be resumed, and adaptation strategies of established EU MS practices to MPCs discussed. Instruments of strategy building will be looked at, and outlines of strategy processes (e.g. road-mapping) may be used for simulations (cf. workshop description by TZI for more details)

Workshop conductors from University of Bremen (TZI, IPMI):

Michael Boronowsky, Tanja Woronowicz (session 1 & 2), Martin Möhrle (session 3)

12:30-13:00 Workshop session 1: Introduction on 'Smart Specialisation' and process models of innovation strategies ('innoSPICE', 'regioSPICE')

13:00-14:30 Lunch buffet and informal exchange

14:30-16:00 Workshop session 2: Interactive session on knowledge transfer, processes and instruments of regional innovation strategy building; incl. exchange on national innovation systems in the various participating countries

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 Workshop session 2 ctd.

19:00-21:30 Social event, hosted by BMBF, at Bredershof (Königswinter)



Wed, 21/09/16

9:00-10:30 Workshop session 3: Interactive ‘road-mapping’ exercise (Martin Möhrle)

10:30-11:30 Coffee break and informal exchange on workshop outcomes

11:30-13:00 Final plenary session

Chair: Virginia Belsanti (CIHEAM) / Ralf Hermann (DLR)

Placed at the end of the workshops as well as of the MEDSPRING Innovation Training, this session is dedicated to outcomes, open ends and future ideas of our collaborative efforts on research and innovation strategies. The role of mobility schemes in innovation oriented cooperation will be looked at. Further, the presentation of the BMBF Innovation Call will delineate future developments of German MENA cooperation plans, calling for feedback from the MENA country participants.

Following up on the workshop sessions, we will discuss future challenges and opportunities: What needs, priorities and suggestions for further collaboration in research policy and management are ahead of us?

Further, participants should feed in their ideas on the legacy of the MEDSPRING capacity building activities. What were positive outcomes that can continuously be used and deepened? What were gaps and shortcomings? And how can further training measures on innovation and research management be implemented? The suggestions will be taken up by a working group for further reflection and planning.

11:30-11:45 Simona de Luca (CNR): Mobility and its impact on innovation

11:45-12:15 Stephan Epe (DLR): The BMBF ‘MENA innovation call’ – short presentation and feedback from participants, with Q/A

12:15-13:00 Open exchange:
Workshop summary and discussion +
MEDSPRING capacity building – achievements and legacy

13:00-13:45 Lunch buffet and informal exchange

Wed 21/09, afternoon:

13:50 Walk from DLR to pier “Bonner Bogen”

14:20 Boat tour on river Rhine with informal exchange between participants /
guided tour through Arp Museum Rolandseck (<http://arpmuseum.org/en/>)

17:40 Arrival at pier “Bonner Bogen”



Acronyms

AGYA	Arab German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities
BMBF	Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Germany
CERTE	Centre of Water Research and Technologies, Tunisia
CIHEAM	International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, Bari, Italy
CNR	National Research Council, Italy
CSIC	Higher Council for Scientific Research, Spain
DLR	German Aerospace Centre / International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
DRSDT	The General Directorate for Scientific Research and Technological Development, Algeria
EMUNI	Euro-Mediterranean University, Slovenia
HCST	Higher Council Science and Technology, Jordan
IIA	Israel Innovation Authority
IPMI	University of Bremen, Institut for Project Management and Innovation
ISERD	Israel-Europe R&D Directorate
NHRF	National Hellenic Research Foundation
PSUT	Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan
TZI	University of Bremen, Center for Computing and Communication Technologies
UNIMED	Euro-Mediterranean Association of Universities and Research Centres

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2nd Training on Innovation

20-21 September 2016

Bonn (Germany)

Dear participant,

We kindly ask you to answer to a very few questions in order to better assess the training results.

Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire & return it to medspring@iamb.it by 27 September 2016.

Participant Name: _____

Email: _____

Institution: _____

The satisfactory scale runs from 0 to 5, where 0 is the less satisfactory and 5 is the maximum achievement

1) How much do you find that the training objectives have been achieved?

0	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2) How do you find the preparatory organization?

0	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3) How do you find the general level of speakers?

0	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4) Please evaluate the overall methodology applied in the workshop activities?

0	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please turn over

5) Please evaluate the level of your involvement within the group?

0	1	2	3	4	5
			x		

6) Please evaluate the workgroup's activities and outcomes?

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

7) Logistics: How do you evaluate the quality of logistics (bureaucratic issues, directions from/to airport, hotel accommodation, equipment ...)?

0	1	2	3	4	5
					x

8) Overall satisfaction: How do you rate the event?

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

9) Which subject (s) do you find better matched the training objectives?

Inclusive and Demand Driven Innovation Strategy Building

10) If a new edition of the training would be organized, which subject do you suggest to introduce?

Innovation policy building at institution level

11) Any other comment ...

Thank you very much for your collaboration!

The MedSpring Coordination Staff