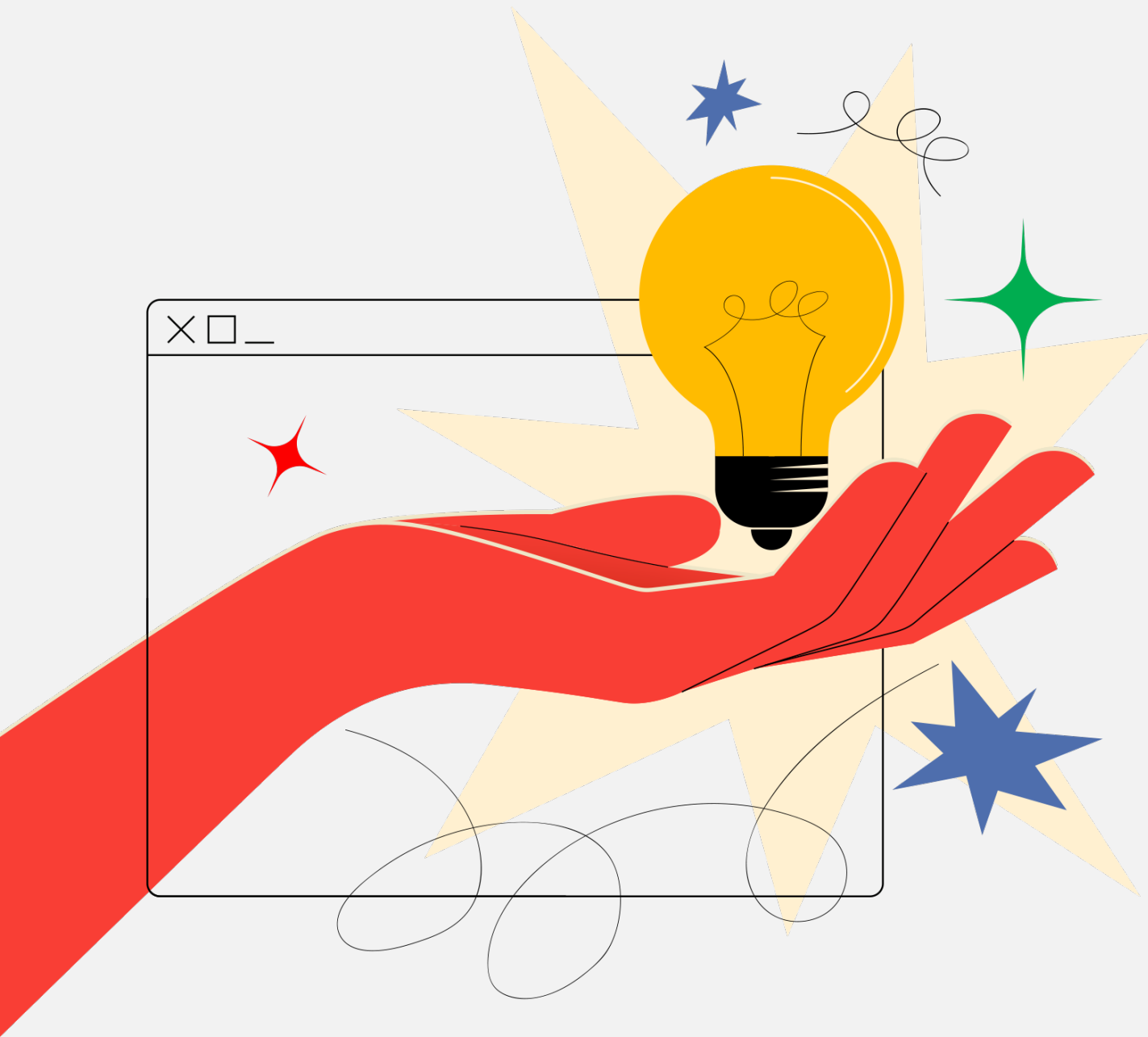


# Inspiring practices collection: results and workshop idea



Co-funded by the  
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# WP1 Update Needs Analysis

## Objective of Work Package 1

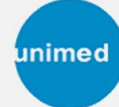
- ✓ perform preparatory activities to build the basis for Work Package 2 Action Plan
- ✓ perform an analysis of the state of the art of research centers in Libya
- ✓ create a proper and reliable knowledge base for the definition of the Institutional Research Agenda and for the design of the training (WP3 and WP4)

## WP1 tasks

- ✓ Desk research on the Libyan research environment
- ✓ Survey to collect up-to-date quantitative and qualitative data
- ✓ Visits performed by the University of Tripoli (WP1 Leader)



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# Inspiring Practices collection

## Final step of WP1

- ✓ Collection of inspiring practices from both EU and North Africa and South-Med.
- ✓ Aim: being of inspiration for the Libyan institution in their research developments and strategic decisions.
- ✓ Practices focused on research management, methodology, implementation, but include now also cases on communication of research and cooperation in research

## Result

- ✓ A document
- ✓ An online catalogue



# Methodology

The University of Tripoli developed and launched an **online form** for the collection of practices.

**Two rounds of data collection** between July and September 2022.

The online form was distributed wide and far:

- ✓ to the project partners
- ✓ through the UNIMED network of associated universities (149 members from 24 countries at the time of the research, namely between July and September 2022) and institutional partners
- ✓ from Partners to others

Result: 7 inspiring practices were collected from the IBTIKAR project partners, 3 were shared by the UNIMED members, while +300 more were collected through desk research and thanks to the contribution of APRE (Agency for the Promotion of European Research in Italy).



# Outcomes

- Criteria were established to analyze the practices and define their potential value for the Libyan system: **relevance – impact – transferability - sustainability.**
- 9 of the 10 inspiring practices shared by the universities of the project and the UNIMED network
- A further selection was performed on the +300 additional cases collected. At first, on the basis of the topic of the initiative, its scope of action, target group and potential relevance for the Libyan context. 35 out of +300 cases were identified. These 35 cases were further analyzed to select the 8 best practices able to contribute to the discussion around research in Libyan universities.
- Final list of **17 inspiring practices** (and more can be added in the future!)



# 17 Inspiring Practices

A table listing the selected cases.

A factsheet for every practice was drafted with a specific reference to macro-area and target group.

Each factsheet presents a deeper analysis of each case including examples of how to replicate the initiative.

Name of the initiative	Reference institution	Macro-area of competence	Target Group	Countries involved
Libyan National Project of Cancer Research (LNPCR)	University of Misurata	Research management Research implementation	Academic staff	Libya
Integrate Climate Change as a micro-credential course for applying internationalization at HEIs.	Bethlehem University	Research management Research implementation Research methodology	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders Overall community Life-long learners	Palestine
Reporting Climate Change (eLearning course)	UNINETTUNO	Research implementation Communication of research	Academic staff Professional journalists	MENA region, Balkans, Sub-Saharan Africa
Solution-oriented research	Heriot Watt University	Research implementation	Academic staff Administrative staff	UK
Fondazione Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici (Fondazione CMCC)	University of Salento	Research implementation	Academic staff	Italy
CRIS Research center for the Security and Resilience of Critical Infrastructures (CIs)	University of Salento	Research methodology	Academic staff	Italy
DTA Technological Aerospace District	University of Salento	Research management	University leaders	Italy
Contamination Laboratory of University of Salento or CLab@Unisalento	University of Salento	Research methodology Research management	Academic staff	Italy
Research on Health Promotion to sun exposure and prevention of skin cancer	University of Granada	Research implementation	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders	Spain
PREparing for a Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (PRE_LEAP_RE) and its follow-up project Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (LEAP-RE)	Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA)	Research implementation Cooperation in research	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders Stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society.	France

Name of the initiative	Reference institution	Macro-area of competence	Target Group	Countries involved
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway (MED-SPRING)	CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI – ISTITUTO AGRONOMICCO MEDITERRANEO DI BARI (CIHEAM-IAMB)	Research management Cooperation in research	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders Policy-makers	Italy, Egypt, Spain, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Cyprus, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Belgium
Boosting Best Available Techniques in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (BAT4MED)	INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE TECNOLOGIA	Research management Cooperation in research	Academic staff University leaders Overall community	Spain, Belgium, Italy, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco
Ingenious Science shops to promote Participatory Innovation, Research and Equity in Science (InSPIRES)	Barcelona Institute for Global Health	Research methodology Research implementation	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders Overall community	Spain, Hungary, France, Netherlands, Italy, Tunisia, Bolivia
Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water related International Research Cooperation of Algeria (FAWIRA)	National Institute of Agronomic Research of Algeria	Research management	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders	Algeria
VRE for regional Interdisciplinary communities in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean (VI-SEEM)	NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (Greece)	Research methodology Research infrastructures	Academic staff Administrative staff	South East Europe and Eastern Mediterranean
Network of Science with and for Society National Contact Points (SiS-NET)	Icelandic Centre for Research	Research methodology Cooperation in research	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders	Iceland
Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community (Net4MobilityPlus)	Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences	Research management Cooperation in research	Academic staff Administrative staff University leaders	Poland



# Lessons Learnt

- ✓ Follow running project with a high potential of impact.
- ✓ Improve **synergies**, strengthen regional partnerships, encourage joint scientific research.
- ✓ Reduce fragmentation by **increasing coordination** between national research programs and between institutional research priorities, so as to promote complementarity.
- ✓ Promote **joint research activities**, where institutions can benefit from the labs, equipment, facilities as well as the expertise of other institutions in the country.
- ✓ Creating a **virtual think tank** / hub to share knowledge and information, a virtual space for networking, hosting resources, downloadable documents, links, articles, contacts, etc.

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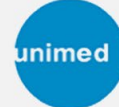
# Lessons Learnt

- ✓ Promote financial capacity building and **diversification of funding tools** (i.e. support innovative ideas by launching an annual Call for Innovation Proposal, which can be submitted to funding agencies, stakeholders and co-funding mechanisms).
- ✓ **Science with and for society**: public awareness and society as an important stakeholder.
- ✓ Intensifying **community engagement**, ensuring **access to research results** for the wider public, include civil society in the reflection on the socio-economic impact of research.
- ✓ Develop **open innovation policies**, open access and open science, to support smart intellectual property rights management, free flow of data, co-creation of knowledge, transdisciplinarity.
- ✓ Support to twinning, teaming and **networking between research centers**.

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# Workshop idea

- A working group with **about 40 participants**
- **1 rapporteur** for the restitution to the plenary audience
- Presentation of **3 practices** as inspiring examples with a **focus on the transferable elements**
- Comments from the audience to respond to the following **guiding questions**:
  - ✓ Are these examples feasible in our institution / context?
  - ✓ How can we implement the action?
  - ✓ Who can be involved?
  - ✓ Which resources can be put in place by universities?
  - ✓ What is needed (that is not there yet)?



# Solution-oriented research Unit

## research implementation – academic & administrative staff

<b>Idea origin</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Heriot Watt University, UK
<b>Brief description</b> The idea of the initiative is to create a solution-oriented research unit in the university that help in collaborating with the private sector. This unit shall enable researchers at the University to have access to private companies to locate problems in specific fields of interest and attempt to study and find solutions to them.
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b> The initiative is a new process at the university, and aims to insert the unit as part of the university organigram. In this sense, it aims to promote a structural reform to modernize the university governance and management processes. The unit aims to be a collaborative space between HEIs and local stakeholders, with a particular focus on the private sector, thus reinforcing the dialogue between education and industry. As innovative element, it <u>differentiate</u> from technology transfer offices because it implies a flow of information in the opposite direction: in the first case, research results are transferred to the industrial world; in the latter case instead the companies and actors in the private sector gives inputs and direction to the research processes at the university.
<b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> ( <u>why</u> was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)
The initiative supports the dialogue between HEIs and private companies which share the same objective of tackling societal needs and challenges. It has the potential to improve the relevance of the research developed at the university, and to connect research outcomes to industrial developments. Moreover, the private sector can benefit from the knowledge base and research results produced by university researchers and improve the quality of the products and services produced for the society.

<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond
It opens research opportunities to staff at the university, which will result in serving the community. It opens opportunities for the private sector to be more relevant for the society. It promotes a bilateral approach to the exchanges between academia and industry, so that they complement and increase synergies.
<b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields
The approach adopted for generating connection between the university and the private sector can be replicated. In case a new unit cannot be created, the research centers and/or the international relation office can be promoter of the dialogue between academia and industry and reinforce contamination and knowledge exchange.
<b>Sustainability of the initiative</b> The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time
Higher Education Institutions shall invest in dedicating human resources, space and facilities in the creation of the new unit. Over time, being the unit promoter of the encounter between the university and the stakeholders in the private sector, it is very likely that private companies will be willing to fund research projects and equipment.

# Contamination Lab UniSalento

research methodology, research management – academic staff

<p><b>Idea origin</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from</p>
<p>University of Salento, Italy</p>
<p><b>Brief description</b></p> <p>The Contamination Lab of the University of Salento, CLab@Salento, is a "widespread" laboratory of contamination of ideas and knowledge, intended as a physical and virtual place of continuous training ('technological gym') for innovation and entrepreneurial culture through the use of innovative learning models with strong interdisciplinary connotation. Coherently with its vision and mission, CLab@Salento aims to: develop creativity, innovation and business culture; develop a spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship, understood as the ability to translate ideas into actions; develop team building skills and a profitable contamination between different scientific areas; integrate managerial and scientific skills for the analysis of business opportunities.</p> <p>The learning and experimentation activities of CLab@Salento mainly concern three Strategic Areas that represent the interdisciplinary challenges on which the University of Salento is committed: Smart technologies (nanotechnologies, robotics, innovative materials, digital economy &amp; banking, new digital tools); Bio economy (bio-based industries, biotechnologies, blue growth, green chemistry, food safety); Creative cultural industries (tourism, storytelling, empowerment, enhancement of cultural heritage). CLab@Salento is part of a wider network called Contamination Lab Network to share innovation and experimentation practices.</p>
<p><b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b></p> <p>The CLab@Unisalento experience is considered an inspiring practice due to the use of an innovative learning model, with strong interdisciplinary connotation. CLab@Unisalento promotes creativity and entrepreneurial culture and encourages the translation of the ideas into synergic actions. It allows researchers and young entrepreneurs to meet, exchange and develop innovative ideas together. Moreover, it encourages practitioners from different fields to meet, create teams and benefit from each other. The integration of scientific domains and the multidisciplinary nature of the lab are essential elements to boost innovation and innovative skills development.</p>
<p><b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> (Why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)</p> <p>The CLab@Salento is a permanent point of reference in the area for students and young talents of all disciplines (starting from human and social sciences to engineering and physics, passing through biology and the arts) allowing the University of Salento to widen its relevance in the region and boost its social responsibility.</p>

<p><b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond</p> <p>CLab@Salento is a laboratory in which virtuous contamination processes are developed, in order to increase the spirit of initiative, the creativity and the entrepreneurial culture of students, researchers, academics, entrepreneurs. It gives the possibility to innovators to learn how to translate ideas into actions, to carry out projects with a social and entrepreneurial vocation, and to contribute to the needs of the territory in which the University of Salento is. Moreover, it encourages synergies and complementarity of research and ideas, and facilitates partnerships with local companies, public agencies, funders, promoters, national organizations (for industry and research), etc.</p>
<p><b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields</p> <p>The idea of creating opportunities for contamination (whether they are physical spaces, virtual spaces, a teaching approach) is transferable beyond the specificities of institutions and national contexts, with the potential of generating a noteworthy impact for the overall national research agenda and the society.</p> <p>Getting inspired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspiring &amp; Engaging: <a href="https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-1-inspiringengaging/">https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-1-inspiringengaging/</a></li> <li>- Experimenting &amp; Developing: <a href="https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-2-clab-experimenting-developing/">https://www.clab-salento.it/fase-2-clab-experimenting-developing/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainability of the initiative</b> The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time</p> <p>Higher Education Institutions shall invest in dedicating space and facilities in the creation of the Contamination lab, and in disseminating the existence and relevance of such a space within the institution but also outside the institution. Over the long-run, this laboratory of ideas and knowledge has the potential of becoming a point of reference of innovators and researchers, as well as local stakeholders and funders, promoting an entrepreneurial culture and attracting talents and grants.</p>

# MED-SPRING

research management, cooperation in research  
academic staff, administrative staff, university leaders, policy-makers

<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from	<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>	<b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields
Italy The project is conducted involving several countries: Italy, Egypt, Spain, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Cyprus, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Belgium	Keywords of the practice are research cooperation, synergies and reduced fragmentation, engaging the civil society in the dialogue on R&I, supporting training and capacity building, building a shared knowledge space. Despite the project was financed and implemented about 10 years ago (2013-2017), the approach and the cooperation framework among different stakeholders are valuable and still relevant. The winning idea was to involve in the dialogue governmental institutions, research organizations, associations and NGOs, the civil society as well as universities, with the scope of contributing to the quality of the research in the Med and to carry out a comprehensive analysis of societal challenges. Another element of value of the project was the idea of monitoring actual cooperation policies and opportunities.	Among the many actions put in place during the project, some can be replicable producing a great impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local brokerage events, involving local authorities, researchers, the private sector, policy-makers and decision-makers, innovators and civil society representatives, to exchange ideas and proposals.</li> <li>- "Inter-institutional events" gathering research actors and programme managers to discuss common priorities and challenges, and draft a plan for cooperation and mobility schemes in the Euro-Med region</li> <li>- Creation of a multi-discipline and multi-stake expert group.</li> <li>- Awareness events at national and local level. An example is the organization of 'scientific coffees' aimed at connecting researchers with the general public.</li> <li>- Online activities such as consultations, surveys, good practices exchange</li> <li>- Creation of an online platform as a key virtual ecosystem for sharing information, priorities, opportunities linked to research and innovation.</li> <li>- Establishment of a working group for the analysis and monitoring of existing national research programmes</li> </ul> After each event, a position paper has been drafted and widely circulated, giving sound recommendations to policy makers and research managers. The project also organized a Euro-Mediterranean Hackathon (held in Amman in December 2016), where around 90 innovative ideas were presented by 200 young idea carriers.
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from	<b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)	<b>Sustainability of the initiative</b> The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time
CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI – ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO MEDITERRANEO DI BARI (CIHEAM-IAMB)	The project was particularly important as an additional tassel in the overall policy dialogue about cooperation in research in the Euro-Med area. It was able to put together 28 partners from 18 countries, including national research centers, ministries, higher councils for research, universities, networks, foundations, etc. Such a diverse and high-profile consortium was able to influence policies, processes, raise awareness and develop communication and cooperation channels for exchange and cooperation in the region.	The overall action is hardly replicable unless a high-profile consortium applies for funding. However, several of the actions implemented during the project are replicable, relying on a strong collaboration between Libyan Higher Education Institutions, national decision-makers and stakeholders at local level. Universities shall invest in training human resources and in establishing long-lasting relations and networks, so as to reinforce synergies. These collaborations will be essential for joint successful collaborations and ventures over time.
<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond	
The project focused on three societal challenges (Energy, High Quality Affordable Food, and Scarcity of resources) and aimed at tackling policy objectives by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organizations, associations and civil society. The specific objectives of the project were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) enhancing European-Med Partner Countries co-ownership in research cooperation;</li> <li>2) creating synergies in order to reduce fragmentation of research actions;</li> <li>3) involving the civil society in the institutional dialogue on research and innovation;</li> <li>4) developing cooperation instruments to tackle societal challenges with a view to sustainability;</li> <li>5) supporting research and innovation capacity building through comprehensive training and contributing build an Euro-Mediterranean shared knowledge space in order to develop common planning capacity and a sustainable regional RDT policy and cooperation.</li> </ol> The overall objective of MED-SPRING was to contribute to the quality of the Euro-Mediterranean research area, with a particular focus on the bi-regional Euro-Mediterranean scientific & technological cooperation, research & innovation, policy dialogue and cooperation monitoring. The proposal aimed at creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organizations, associations and NGOs helping integrate society in the institutional dialogue. To this end, it supported synergies and networking to strengthen joint activities and cooperation in EU programmes, as well as a monitoring of regional RTD cooperation and policies. In particular, the proposal is structured to address three societal challenges: energy, high quality affordable food, scarcity of resources. These challenges have been selected on the basis of the result of the long-standing and ongoing EU-MPCs policy dialogue and represent the most significant areas of common interest in current Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.	The final event of the project, open to the public, was hosted by the European Commission, titled "The <u>MedSpring</u> legacy for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on R&I" (July 2017). The event shows the great relevance given to the EC to the project, and was an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of MED-SPRING providing inputs for actions and steering the European Commission policy and planning towards areas functional to fill the remaining gaps and needs. The project managed to engage institutions into a policy dialogue well beyond the project lifetime and scope, for a thorough reflection including all perspectives, with senior researchers, young innovators, cooperation actors, EU officers, international organizations, representatives of the private sector, public/governmental administrations, NGOs (including representatives of the civil society), all witnessing the project positive impacts and willing to <u>join</u> design the road ahead. In terms of impacts, there has been a successful element common to all the project's pillars: the establishment or strengthening of networks, partnerships, relationships and dialogue platforms that have contributed to the achievement of the project objectives. This "fil rouge" among all the pillars has increased the level of dialogue among research, policy level and civil society which is functional to reinforcing the NEXUS approach when tackling the societal challenges related to water, energy and food. The project has contributed to create a conducive environment for research and innovation by building an effective ecosystem in which policy makers, researchers, civil society and public/private entrepreneurs collaborate towards innovative solutions for problems related to water scarcity, sustainable food production and consumption and sustainable energy production and management. The continuous involvement of young researchers and innovators laid the basis for further actions to facilitate job creation and approach migration related issues by offering opportunities for local development.	