

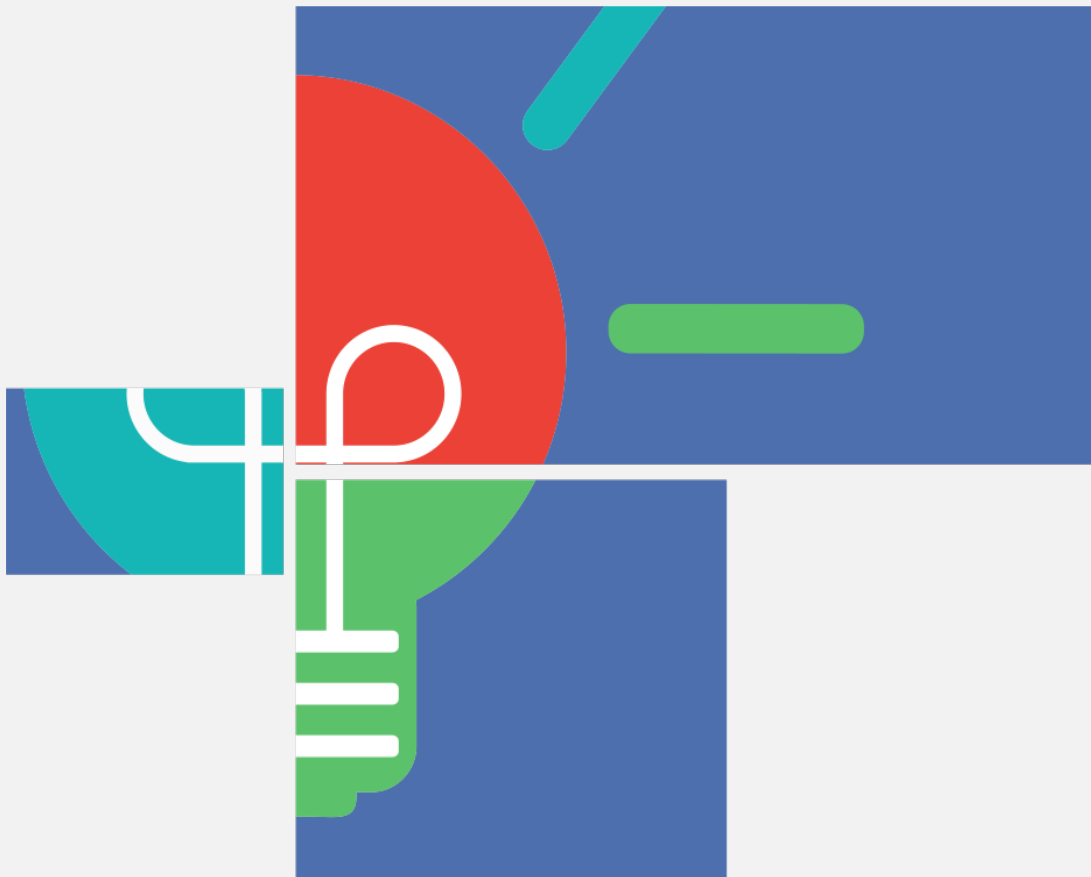


Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union




## D1.2 Catalogue of Inspiring Practices and lessons learnt

October 2022



## Document Information

<b>Project Title</b>	PROMOTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ENVIRONMENT IN THE LIBYAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM
<b>Project n.</b>	618491-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
<b>Deliverable</b>	D1.2 Catalogue of Inspiring Practices and lessons learnt
<b>Workpackage</b>	1 - Synergies creation: best practices and lessons learnt
<b>Status</b>	Version 1.0
<b>Confidentiality Status</b>	Public
<b>Author (Partner Institution)</b>	UNIMED and University of Tripoli
<b>Contributors (Partner Institutions)</b>	All Partners
<b>Abstract (for dissemination)</b>	A set of inspiring practices from both EU and North Africa collected through desk research and an online form with the support of all the partners. These practices focus on research management, research methodology, research implementation, with a special but not exclusive attention to Environmental studies, and are meant to be inspirational to the Libyan universities.
<b>Copyright</b>	 <p>This work is licensed under a <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License</a></p>

## Introduction

The objective of Work Package 1 is to perform preparatory activities in order to build the basis for Work Package 2 Action Plan and the further project steps. An analysis of the state of the art of research centers in Libya has been the first step, in order to conduct a proper and reliable knowledge base for the definition of the Research Agendas, for the design of the training (WP3 and WP4) as well as to better understand the context of action. The update of need analysis is necessary due the rapid changes in the country and due to the fact, that during the time lapse from the conception of the IBTIKAR proposal and its implementation (11 months), lots of variables in the country could have changed the scenario.

Desk research on the Libyan research environment has been complemented by a survey to collect up-to-date quantitative and qualitative data and by visits performed by the University of Tripoli (WP1 Leader) to the Partner universities in Libya. As a final step of WP1, a set of inspiring practices from both EU and North Africa has been collected by UoT and UNIMED with the support of all the partners. These practices focused on research management, research methodology, research implementation, with a special but not exclusive attention to Environmental studies.

The current document reports the outcomes of the process of collection of inspiring practices, the methodology adopted, the results of the analysis. Moreover, an online version of the catalogue of inspiring practices will be developed on the project website: [www.ibtikarproject.eu](http://www.ibtikarproject.eu)

## Methodology

According to the project proposal, and in line with the outcomes of the desk research conducted in the framework of WP1, the University of Tripoli together with UNIMED developed an online form for the collection of the inspiring practices. The form (Annex I) was used to collect a list of good practices from Europe, North-Africa and more in general from the South-Mediterranean region, to be of inspiration for the Libyan institution in their research developments and strategic decisions. These practices can be grouped into 3 macro-areas: research management, research methodology, and research implementation. Target group of the initiatives were both academic and administrative staff, as well as university leaders.

Criteria were established to analyze the practices and define their potential value for the Libyan system, which are: relevance, impact, transferability, sustainability. A specific template was developed to report the analysis of the practices, as you can see in the following pages.

The online form was distributed wide and far to collect inspiring practices, first and foremost to the project partners, then 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 (such as APRE, the Agency for the Promotion of European Research in Italy, and the DG Education of the European Commission).

## Data gathering results

After two rounds of data collection between July and September 2022, the process of data collection was considered concluded. All in all, 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.

Finally, 9 of the 10 inspiring practices shared by the universities of the project and coming from the UNIMED network were considered as valuable examples, while a further selection was performed on the +300 additional cases collected. A first selection was made 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.

The list of the 17 final inspiring practices is presented here below, with a specific reference for each initiative of the macro-area it relates to and the target group it tackles. Then a factsheet for every inspiring practice is presented where a deeper analysis of each case is reported.



## List of inspiring practices

Name of the initiative	Reference institution	Macro-area of competence	Target Group	Countries involved
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
eLearning course: "Reporting Climate Change"	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
CRISR 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	Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA)	Research implementation Cooperation in research	Academic staff Administrative staff	France

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)			University leaders Stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society.	
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway (MED-SPRING)	CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI – ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO 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
STOI 4EWAS, Quintuple Helix Approach to Targeted Open Innovation in Energy, Water, Agriculture in the South Mediterranean Neighborhood	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Research management Research methodology Research implementation Communication of research Cooperation in research	Administrative staff Academic staff University leaders Overall community Life-long learners Policy-makers	Euro-Mediterranean countries

# Inspiring practices analysis

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Integrate Climate Change as a micro-credential course for applying internationalization at HEIs.
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Palestine
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Bethlehem University
<b>Brief description</b>
<p>The aim is to shift climate change as a micro-credential curriculum, from viewing this as the responsibility of environmental science specialists to promoting a climate change curriculum for all disciplines. Climate change is a global issue and a common concern. It must be integrated into the academic and higher education curriculum for all academic disciplines, focusing on applying the integration now.</p> <p>The idea is to offer short forms of virtual education, resembling the patterns of micro-credentials. It is part of a process to bring changes in teaching and learning and enhance the transformative potential of institutions.</p> <p>Climate change presents challenges relevant to all disciplinary areas and governance. The micro-credential course allowed a multidisciplinary approach and widened the target groups including, beyond university students and teachers, also adult learners and senior students.</p> <p>It is part of our responsibility as academics, to prepare all students (the future leaders) for a future of global heating and all the associated challenges. One of our roles as academic community members is to serve society. It includes the development of an attractive, diverse, high-quality educational provision and promotion to attract as many people to education, especially to higher education, as possible.</p>
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research management</li> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Research implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
<p>The value of the initiative is proven through the words of one of the participating students:</p> <p>"The program was a new experience full of positives and benefits. It changed my point of view on many things. The program covered topics we used to overlook, especially in the Arab countries. We shared a lot about our climate change stories, so we were more aware of this problem in many places on earth. We developed theoretical</p>

solutions that can get us out of this predicament. As a student, I am convinced that it was a character builder program, as it required me to present my opinion to students whose views may differ from what I think. It also allowed me to learn more about what is happening in my country and compare it with other countries. I have become bolder in expressing my opinion and accepting what others say."

Being the course online, granted access to many learners beyond their formal enrolment in one or another programme. It allowed to share experiences as a virtual collaborative space and enabled the knowledge of different contexts, increasing the learner international exposure. The multi-disciplinary approach is also a key element of the initiative: offered programs raise students' awareness of global socioeconomic concerns and challenges from different points of view. It created an opportunity to achieve additional competencies, frequently beyond the significant field of study, and have them formally certified as a valuable educational experience.

### Relevance of the initiative in its specific context

(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)

It was awarded to over 250 BU students from different academic disciplines. It was included in their portfolio (cover letter and resume) as a benchmark, documenting the student's virtual international experience and exposure. Several micro-credentials are now under development for the upcoming academic year 2022-23. We are working not only on micro-credentials intended for undergrads but also for postgraduates.

In our case, credentials were transferred as US academic credit hours. They involved rigid quality assurance, including a thorough formal assessment of learning outcomes based on presenting certificates and badges awarded by external evaluators as measurable learning outcomes based on participation in learning activities. Still, to create a complete micro-credentials cycle, we must jointly develop with partners from industry, local governments, and non-profit organizations or micro-credentials awarded for service to society-based learning activities, which we haven't yet reached this level of integration.

### Target Group of the practice

- Administrative staff
- Academic staff
- University leaders
- Overall community
- Life-long learners

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

To improve the quality of HEIs and strengthen the importance of education for future labor market challenges, strengthening the interaction between HEIs nationally and globally is required. HEIs need to take into consideration virtual collaboration, best practices of internationalization, and the opportunities opened by applying micro-credentials, as a way to improve employability. HEIs must increase their relevance by adopting a transversal entrepreneurial dialogue between local and international universities, companies and decision-makers.

The initiative is a tassel of this long-lasting process. It contributed to the development of a virtual international collaborative space to tackle common challenges, training staff and students on applying a multi-disciplinary approach, strengthening intercultural competences and sensitivity.

The long-term outcome will be to create a civilized and globalized generation that understands local and global issues with self-motivated lifelong learner skills, empowered to enhance professional and leadership skills. The profound impact of applying micro-credentials is developing cross-cultural communication skills and can engage in

constructive dialogue across divides. It will further enable us to connect educators to accelerate the speed and spread of sharing experience and knowledge as HEIs can get a broader panoramic understanding of the future labor market needs and demands.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

To replicate the initiative, HEIs shall:

- Engage teachers and develop contents (this can happen engaging other universities at national level and/or other universities worldwide willing to offer a virtual collaborative experience)
- Develop clear incentives for participants to secure engagement and involvement in the process (recognition of participation, possibility of exchanges, introduction of the online course in the study programme)
- Define a clear understanding of commonly used terminologies to set a common ground for understanding
- Keep active communication and information dissemination.

Moreover, the application of a micro-credential approach underlines the importance of assessment of learning outcomes as a critical component of education, including validation and recognition of different learning experiences. This is becoming a raising concern as well as a great opportunity in the MENA region. Adopting innovative approaches allows HE to focus on skills and competences addressing market needs and societal needs.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Being the initiative based on online collaboration and virtual learning, it can be easily offered by all these institutions having the needed digital infrastructures and/or offering digital access to students and learners. It implies an agreement for collaboration between academics and/or institutions, which can be the starting point for future collaboration and cooperation agreements. It can start as a bottom-up single case (for example including an international virtual collaborative experience within a single course) and later be proposed as a structural change (including micro-credential and virtual collaboration within degree programs). Moreover, climate change may become an issue integrated in each higher education curriculum as a transversal element, fostering integration between disciplines and granting to students and academic a wider approach to such a global issue.

### Contact and references

Mahdi Kleibo, Lecturer, Coordinator & Facilitator Internationalization Office

Email: [mkleibo@bethlehem.edu](mailto:mkleibo@bethlehem.edu)

Link: <https://onlineresilience.uni-med.net/2022/06/07/what-do-i-need-to-know-about-integrating-micro-credentials-as-part-of-applying-an-internationalization-scheme-for-heis-within-the-labor-market-perspective-updated-06-06-2022>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
E-learning course “Reporting Climate Change”
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Università Telematica Internazionale UNINETTUNO
<b>Brief description</b>
UNINETTUNO and COPEAM, thanks to the support of the EIB - European Investment Bank, launched the international e-learning course “Reporting Climate Change”. This innovative training opportunity is open to TV, radio and press journalists from the MENA region, the Balkans and the sub-Saharan Africa, and it aims at reinforcing their knowledge and reporting skills about the current sustainable development challenges and the impact of climate change. Several international experts – from the academic, scientific and media sectors – are involved in the course’s modules to deliver video-lessons (available in English, French and Arabic), to talk about case-studies and in-the-field experiences, to provide a rich multimedia supporting material about key-issues such as climate change, water security, energy transition, sustainability, environmental crimes. At the end of the training programme, the participating journalists having completed the course will receive a certificate of completion co-signed by the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, COPEAM and the European Investment Bank.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research implementation</li> <li>○ Communication of research</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
<p>The initiative underlines the value of communicating research. It involves different professionals to stress the relevance of communicating research from several perspectives, and mainstreaming topics such as climate change and related consequences, to allow the wider public to better understand the challenges we face. Scientific communication shall be understood wider than communication between experts, granting access to information to the societies, engaging local communities and the general public into the discussion.</p> <p>Moreover “Reporting climate change” is the only online course about environment and climate related issues delivered in English, Arabic and French. Some on-line webinars are also organized to promote the networking and the exchange of experiences among the beneficiaries.</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)

In the last decade, environmental sustainability and climate change have increasingly become global topical issues. The Mediterranean basin, in particular, is a fragile region exposed to the consequences and the impact of the current ecological challenges. In this context, information media need to be more and more capable to effectively cover these subjects and, at the same time, to raise citizens' awareness about the risks connected to climate change. In addition to this, networking between journalists dealing with scientific and environmental questions, as well as a direct dialogue between experts/scientists and the media professional community can also contribute to a larger and better media narration of the ongoing climate crisis .

In the light of the above, COPEAM/Uninettuno/EIB "Reporting climate change" is an effective training & networking tool for journalists, able to raise awareness, to improve the quality of information and to build a transnational community of specialised journalists.

So far, more than 50 journalists have been trained though this on-line programme, so feeding an international community of information professionals able to properly tackle these issues and deliver to their audience an effective information.

### Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- Professional Journalists

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

In the specific context of the action, reinforcing the journalists knowledge and reporting skills about the impact of climate change reinforce in turn their capacity to instruct and inform the people on how to react and think correctly about sustainable development challenges. If we look at the practice from a wider perspective, we can consider that training academics, administrative staff, media specialists with the Libyan institutions have the potential to widen communication of research outcomes and engage the wider community in the definition of actions to respond to the environmental challenges, for the benefit of the society.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The full online program is available on the platform 24/7; video lectures are selected from international experts (academic, scientific and media sectors) and are available in three languages (English, French and Arabic).

This kind of model can be adapted to any other context and to any other target of audience.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Once designed, recorded and post-produced (process implying a cost, which can be contained using the university infrastructures), the course - whether it targets professionals, academics, researchers, media specialists, etc - can be made available with no additional costs over time on the institutional channels and learning platforms.

### Contact and references

Nicola Paravati, Head of International Affairs Office at UNINETTUNO

[nicola.paravati@uninettunouniversity.net](mailto:nicola.paravati@uninettunouniversity.net)

Link: <https://www.uninettunouniversity.net/en/reporting-climate-change.aspx#climate-1>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Solution Oriented Research unit
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
United Kingdom
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Heriot Watt University
<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>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research implementation</li> </ul>
<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 differentiate 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> (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)
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>Target Group of the practice</b>

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff

### Impact

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.

### Transferability of the initiative

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.

### Sustainability of the initiative

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.

### Contact and references

Link: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/research.htm>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Contamination Laboratory of University of Salento or CLab@Unisalento
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
University of Salento
<b>Brief description</b>
<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>
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Research management</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
<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>Target Group of the practice</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Academic staff</li> </ul>
<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>
<p><b>Contact and references</b></p>
<p>Gianluca Elia, University of Salento gianluca.elia@unisalento.it</p> <p>Link: <a href="https://www.clab-salento.it/">https://www.clab-salento.it/</a></p>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway (MED-SPRING)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b>
The name the country where the inspired practice came from
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
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b>
The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI – ISTITUTO AGRONOMO MEDITERRANEO DI BARI (CIHEAM-IAMB)
<b>Brief description</b>
<p>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:</p> <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> <p>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 &amp; technological cooperation, research &amp; 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.</p>
<b>Idea focus</b>
The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research management</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>

### Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?

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.

### Relevance of the initiative in its specific context

(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)

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.

### Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- University leaders
- Policy-makers

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The final event of the project, open to the public, was hosted by the European Commission, titled “The MedSpring 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 jointly 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.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

Among the many actions put in place during the project, some can be replicable producing a great impact:

- 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.
- “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
- Creation of a multi-discipline and multi-stake expert group.
- Awareness events at national and local level. An example is the organization of ‘scientific coffees’ aimed at connecting researchers with the general public.
- Online activities such as consultations, surveys, good practices exchange
- Creation of an online platform as a key virtual ecosystem for sharing information, priorities, opportunities linked to research and innovation.
- Establishment of a working group for the analysis and monitoring of existing national research programmes

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.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

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 collaboration will be essential for joint successful collaborations and ventures over time.

### Contact and references

CIHEAM-Bari  
iamdir@iamb.it

Link: <https://www.iamb.it/>

Link: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/311780/reporting>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
5TOI Quintuple Helix Approach to Targeted Open Innovation in Energy, Water, Agriculture in the South Mediterranean Neighborhood
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Spain
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA
<b>Brief description</b>
<p>The 5TOI_4EWAS project adopts an innovative approach to addressing the interconnections between Food, Energy, and Water (FEW) through a NEXUS perspective, leveraging the Quintuple Helix Approach (QHA) to involve diverse stakeholders across Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). This initiative aims to foster regional development and enhance innovative ecosystems by integrating smart specialization strategies and addressing societal challenges.</p> <p>Key objectives include strengthening the FEW NEXUS approach by creating a balanced, innovative-driven ecosystem and aligning with regional initiatives and existing bilateral agreements. The project emphasizes broad stakeholder involvement to refine priority-setting mechanisms and ensure effective collaboration. Additionally, it seeks to increase research capacity, promote the mobility of young researchers, and establish stable conditions for open innovation through international cooperation.</p> <p>The proposal also plans to build synergies among ongoing efforts via structures like the NEXUS Think Tank (NTT) and Network of Advisors Board (NAB), while facilitating the development of a Joint Action Plan (JAP) as a science diplomacy tool. This will help address obstacles, foster cooperation, and enhance research and innovation policy dialogue between the EU and MPCs. Furthermore, the project aims to enhance access to scientific excellence through capacity-building activities, joint research, and entrepreneurial collaborations, supported by large research infrastructures.</p>
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research management</li> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Research implementation</li> <li>○ Communication of research</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
<p>The 5TOI_4EWAS project is inspiring for its innovative approach to the Food-Energy-Water NEXUS, fostering regional development in Mediterranean Partner Countries through inclusivity, collaboration, and alignment with existing initiatives. By combining capacity building, international cooperation, and science diplomacy, it empowers researchers and stakeholders to address global challenges sustainably.</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 proposal generated significant changes by fostering deeper cooperation, increasing awareness of research opportunities, and addressing challenges in international collaboration. It provided a platform for sharing knowledge, organizing events, and ensuring that both regional and EU actors can engage in mutually beneficial research partnerships. Locally, it empowered research communities in partner countries, while nationally, it enhanced the capacity of both EU and international institutions. On an international level, the initiative supported broader scientific cooperation and alignment with EU priorities, promoting sustainable development and long-term partnerships across regions.</p>
<p><b>Target Group of the practice</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ Academic staff</li> <li>○ University leaders</li> <li>○ Overall community</li> <li>○ Life-long learners</li> <li>○ Policy-makers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond</p>
<p>5TOI_4EWAS initiative made a significant impact by enhancing research cooperation between the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). It improved access to EU funding, fostered stronger partnerships, and addressed barriers like limited infrastructure and intellectual property challenges.</p>
<p><b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields</p>
<p>Several elements of the 5TOI_4EWAS initiative can be adapted and transferred to other contexts and fields. Its approach to multi-stakeholder collaboration, knowledge transfer, and capacity building can address complex challenges in fields like climate change and public health. Strategies to overcome cooperation barriers and create frameworks for international collaboration are transferable to various domains, while its model for integrating regional partners into EU-funded programs can foster global research cooperation. These elements offer a flexible framework for driving innovation and cross-border collaboration in diverse contexts.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability of the initiative</b> The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time</p>
<p>The establishment of strong, lasting partnerships between the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) creates a solid foundation for ongoing collaboration. By involving diverse stakeholders, including researchers, industry, and policymakers, the initiative fosters broad ownership and support, which helps sustain its efforts over time.</p>
<p><b>Contact and references</b></p>
<p>Link: <a href="https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/692523">https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/692523</a> <a href="https://www.uab.cat/">https://www.uab.cat/</a></p>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community (Net4MobilityPlus)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Poland
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences
<b>Brief description</b>
The Net4Mobility+ project aimed to strengthen the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) National Contact Points (NCP) network, enhancing its professionalism and visibility. Over 3.5 years, the project focused on improving the network's development through knowledge exchange, good practices, and ensuring equal access to information. The initiative raised the quality of support provided to the global research community. In response to COVID-19, the consortium adapted by transitioning from physical services to an online format, enriching the toolkit to meet the new challenges of virtual support.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research management</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
By offering personalized guidance on funding opportunities, the MSCA network supports researchers and institutions in navigating EU research programs, promoting global talent exchange and fostering innovation. It also encourages strategic partnerships, enhances research capacities, and raises the visibility of MSCA, ultimately contributing to a more interconnected and collaborative scientific ecosystem which drives progress and addresses global challenges.
<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)
The Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) National Contact Points (NCPs) was developed to support the mobility of researchers and foster international collaboration within the European Union's broader strategy to enhance research and innovation. Its creation responds to the need for guidance in navigating the complexities of MSCA funding programs, designed to promote researcher mobility, career development, and knowledge exchange. This initiative is crucial as it provides essential support for researchers and institutions seeking to engage in EU-funded projects, particularly those looking to collaborate across borders.

The importance of this network lies in its role in increasing access to funding opportunities and helping researchers overcome barriers to mobility, while also encouraging the formation of cross-border partnerships. For researchers, it offers greater access to resources, career development, and the chance to work in diverse international environments, thus enhancing their expertise. For institutions, the initiative strengthens research capacities and promotes global visibility, leading to more dynamic and competitive research environments.

At the local and national levels, the NCP network enables researchers and institutions to connect with European opportunities, thereby increasing their chances of obtaining funding and forming strategic collaborations. On the international stage, it promotes the mobility of talent and encourages knowledge sharing, contributing to the growth of a more interconnected and innovative global research community.

### Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- University leaders

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The initiative has had a profound impact by enhancing research mobility, strengthening cross-border collaborations, increasing participation in EU research programs, building institutional capacities, and fostering global knowledge exchange. These effects not only benefit the immediate scientific community but also contribute to global advancements in research and innovation.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

This model of providing personalized support and guidance can be applied to various sectors like innovation, entrepreneurship, and international development, where expert advice is crucial for navigating complex systems. The centralized approach to sharing information and resources can be extended to areas such as social enterprises or public health, ensuring stakeholders have easy access to opportunities. Additionally, the focus on fostering international collaboration and networking is highly transferable, benefiting sectors like business partnerships or NGOs. The network's emphasis on capacity building for institutions can also be adapted to higher education or community development, helping organizations access resources and form partnerships. Moreover, the use of digital tools for global connectivity can be replicated in other industries to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration. Lastly, the MSCA NCP network's strategies for mobility, innovation, and international cooperation can be effectively applied across various fields to drive growth and foster global collaboration.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Firstly, the initiative's alignment with broader EU goals of enhancing research mobility, fostering innovation, and building global scientific networks guarantees its ongoing relevance. As long as the EU prioritizes research and innovation, the network will continue to be an essential tool for supporting these objectives.

Secondly, the flexibility of the network allows it to adapt to evolving research landscapes and funding schemes. This adaptability ensures that it remains responsive to the changing needs of researchers and institutions, which is critical for its long-term effectiveness.

<p>Thirdly, the establishment of strong partnerships between national contact points, EU institutions, and international organizations creates a stable foundation for the initiative. These partnerships facilitate resource sharing, knowledge exchange, and collective problem-solving, reinforcing the network's sustainability.</p> <p>Furthermore, the network's capacity-building role for researchers and institutions promotes long-term success. By helping these groups access funding, expand their collaborations, and develop their capacities, it strengthens the overall research ecosystem, ensuring that the initiative continues to produce lasting benefits.</p> <p>Lastly, as international cooperation in research becomes ever more important, the MSCA NCP network is positioned to play a central role in driving these efforts forward.</p>
<p><b>Contact and references</b></p>
<p>Link: <a href="https://net4mobilityplus.eu/">https://net4mobilityplus.eu/</a> <a href="https://www.ippt.pan.pl/">https://www.ippt.pan.pl/</a></p>
<p><b>Title of the initiative</b></p>
<p>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)</p>
<p><b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from</p>
<p>France</p>
<p><b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from</p>
<p>Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA)</p>
<p><b>Brief description</b></p>
<p>LEAP-RE is founded on the groundwork laid by the PREparing for a Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (PRE-LEAP-RE) initiative. This preparatory phase facilitated the development of a Research &amp; Innovation (R&amp;I) agenda, as well as a Human and Institutional Capacity Building framework focused on Renewable Energy (RE). Additionally, it established the organizational and funding principles necessary for the execution of a Joint Programme between Africa and Europe (AU-EU), uniting national funding agencies and other significant stakeholders in the EU-AU RE research landscape. Consequently, PRE-LEAP-RE served as the essential precursor to LEAP-RE, which will carry forward the implementation of the established AU-EU Joint Programme.</p>
<p><b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research implementation</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>

<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
<p>By aligning research and innovation with sustainable development goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN for the 2015-2030 period which intends to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, the project strengthens partnerships across sectors, enhances local capacity building, and promotes climate resilience. Its focus on joint research initiatives and reducing fragmentation in energy development makes it a model for international cooperation in addressing global challenges. Moreover, it demonstrates the power of cross-continental collaboration for lasting impact on sustainable energy systems.</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>The LEAP-RE initiative emphasizes six thematic priorities that tackle significant challenges in the advancement of renewable energy. These priorities encompass innovations in energy systems, the implementation of smart grids, enhancing energy access, the recycling of renewable energy components, and developing solutions for agricultural productivity and household energy consumption. By concentrating on these specific areas, the initiative aims to promote sustainable energy solutions, mitigate environmental impacts, and enhance economic opportunities, especially within African and European settings.</p>
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Academic staff</li> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ University leaders</li> <li>○ Stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond
<p>The initiative has made significant strides in enhancing renewable energy adoption across Southern Africa, addressing the region's pressing energy challenges, supporting countries in leveraging their renewable energy potential, such as solar and wind, which are abundant in many African nations. These efforts are aimed at increasing energy access, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and fostering economic growth by creating jobs in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>All the activities in Southern Africa include comprehensive resource assessments, mapping areas with high potential for solar and wind energy development. Additionally, it has facilitated national and regional energy planning, helping governments incorporate least-cost renewable energy options into their long-term energy strategies.</p> <p>The impact of the action is notable in countries like Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, where renewable energy projects are gaining traction. These efforts are contributing to a more sustainable and economically viable energy future for Southern Africa, aligning both national development goals and international climate targets.</p>
<b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields
<p>The LEAP-RE initiative's model can be transferred to other fields like healthcare, education, or sustainable agriculture. Its strategy of reducing fragmentation by aligning existing frameworks and promoting joint capacity-building and research is adaptable to other global or regional cooperation efforts aiming to address complex, multi-</p>

dimensional challenges. This approach can enhance innovation, create impactful partnerships, and improve problem-solving across various sectors.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The EU Green Deal promotes a novel growth strategy that strengthens Europe’s dedication to the advancement and enhancement of renewable energy sources. Concurrently, the African Union (AU) emphasizes renewable energy as a vital component for the sustainable development of the continent. This focus is central to the AU’s Agenda 2063, where renewable energy is identified as a key priority for realizing the first aspiration of the Agenda: “A prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.” Specifically, it aligns with goal 7, which aims for “Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.” However, significant challenges remain before renewable energy can become the predominant power source for both regions. In Africa, for instance, estimates from Oxford University suggest that renewable sources will account for only 10% of the energy mix by 2030 unless urgent measures are implemented.

To this effect, over a period of five years, from 2020 to 2025, the LEAP-RE programme aims to foster a long-term partnership among African and European stakeholders through a quadruple helix model that includes government entities (programme owners and funding agencies), research institutions and academia, the private sector, and civil society. The programme intends to achieve significant impact by developing a comprehensive framework, methodology, and collaborative model. A key objective is to minimize fragmentation by harmonizing current bilateral and multilateral frameworks. LEAP-RE will facilitate the establishment and joint execution of research, innovation, and capacity-building initiatives.

### Contact and references

Link: [contact@leap-re.eu](mailto:contact@leap-re.eu)  
<https://www.leap-re.eu/>  
<http://pre.leap-re.eu/>  
<https://www.cea.fr/>

### Title of the initiative

Boosting Best Available Techniques in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (BAT4MED)

### Idea origin (country)

The name the country where the inspired practice came from

Spain, Belgium, Italy, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco

### Idea origin (institution)

The name the institution where the inspired practice came from

INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE TECNOLOGIA

### Brief description

The BAT4MED project, funded under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, aims to transfer the principles behind the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) directive to countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The project brings together 8 organizations from 6 different countries, 4 organizations from 3 EU Member States (Spain, Belgium, Italy), 3 from 3 MPC (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) and 1 international organization based in Egypt, and aims to assess the technological adaptation of six industrial sectors and to transfer the relevant BAT (Best Available Technologies) to the countries engaged.

#### Idea focus

The focus of the inspired practice was on

- Research management
- Cooperation in research

#### Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?

BAT4MED project focused on enhancing environmental protection in the Mediterranean region by minimizing the negative impacts of industrial activities. It seeks to assess and promote the adoption of the EU's Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) approach in Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC), supporting the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) in national environmental programs. The project aims to facilitate the transfer and uptake of environmental technologies in developing countries, addressing industrial pollution, which contributes significantly to pollution in the Mediterranean.

BATs will be selected for each sector, considering local conditions, and the project will also explore the alignment of MPC policies with EU standards. Additionally, BAT4MED includes a robust set of activities aimed at raising awareness and disseminating information on industrial pollution prevention.

#### Relevance of the initiative in its specific context

(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)

Industrial pollution in the Mediterranean has emerged as a progressively critical issue over the past twenty years. In both advanced and emerging economies, swift and unregulated industrial growth, coupled with insufficient focus on environmental safeguarding and resource management, has intensified the problem of industrial pollution. Consequently, this has led to the deterioration of marine and coastal ecosystems, heightened contamination of both surface and groundwater, diminished air quality, and improper disposal of hazardous industrial waste - factors that collectively diminish the quality of life in the Mediterranean area and, in numerous instances, pose risks to human health.

#### Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- University leaders
- Overall community

#### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The project worked towards policy convergence in pollution prevention and control across all participating third countries, examining the gaps between EU and non-EU countries and evaluating available policy options. This process has set the foundation for implementing Best Available Techniques (BAT) to address the health and

environmental impacts of industrial emissions in the Mediterranean. Additionally, it advanced knowledge on the evaluation of preventive and abatement technologies across various sectors. Recognizing that many challenges faced by Mediterranean industries are shared across the region, the project produced results with broader applicability. These findings have been successfully transferred to other non-EU Mediterranean countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The project's methodology, which includes assessing local industrial contexts, selecting the most promising sectors for environmental improvement, and applying the EU's Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) approach, serves as a model for how to tackle pollution while promoting sustainable industrial practices. Its emphasis on transferring Best Available Techniques (BAT) and promoting environmental technology uptake further contributes to its long-term impact, making it a model for other regions facing similar challenges.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The sustainability of the BAT4MED initiative is supported by its strong alignment with EU policies on pollution control, which ensures that the efforts made during the project will continue to be relevant and applicable long after its conclusion. By fostering collaboration among a diverse range of stakeholders - spanning both EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries, as well as international organizations - the project has built a solid foundation for ongoing action. This collaborative approach helps secure long-term commitment and shared ownership, crucial for the continuation of industrial pollution prevention efforts in the region.

### Contact and references

Link: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/265327>  
<https://iat.es/>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Ingenious Science shops to promote Participatory Innovation, Research and Equity in Science (InSPIRES)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b>
The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Spain, Hungary, France, Netherlands, Italy, Tunisia, Bolivia
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b>
The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Barcelona Institute for Global Health
<b>Brief description</b>
InSPIRES unites practitioners and specialists from Europe and beyond to collaboratively design, pilot, implement, and disseminate innovative models for Science Shops (SS). The InSPIRES models inherently incorporate Responsible Research and Innovation, Open Science, and Impact Evaluation, aiming to strategically enhance the engagement of civil society and other stakeholders in the research process.
<b>Idea focus</b>
The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Research implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
InSPIRES focuses its efforts on advancing research and innovation in health and environmental sectors, prioritizing gender equality and the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, adolescents, migrants, and refugees. By integrating initiatives like Science Cafés and other public engagement strategies, it fosters dialogue and participation. The project incorporates a “glocal” perspective - combining global insights with local relevance - to ensure that its community-based participatory research and innovation activities are inclusive, context-specific, and culturally sensitive.
<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)
Informed by a thorough communication strategy and a dedicated commitment to the formulation and execution of a sustainability strategy, the outcomes of InSPIRES will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide evidence and assist political entities and decision-makers in advocating for modifications in local, regional, national, and international policies;</li> <li>2. Foster discussions regarding the role of society in scientific endeavors, promoting the systematic and ethical participation of civil society stakeholders and their societal interests in research and innovation activities;</li> </ol>

3. Facilitate the creation of new Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Open Science (OSc) strategies and guidelines, within the framework of secure environments that encourage the involvement and engagement of civil society throughout the entire scientific process.

#### Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- University leaders
- Overall community

#### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The INSPIRES initiative has generated significant impact emphasizing co-creation between scientists and communities to align research with societal needs, enhancing its practical relevance. This participatory approach has fostered trust and collaboration, ensuring that research outcomes are not only scientifically robust but also socially actionable.

#### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

By integrating the voices and needs of local communities, the INSPIRES approach ensures that research results are actionable and sustainable, a principle applicable in urban planning, public health, and sustainability projects. In this respect, processes and tools developed in INSPIRES are designed to be replicated in different geographical or disciplinary contexts, demonstrating adaptability for global challenges.

#### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The long-term success of the INSPIRES initiative is rooted in its emphasis on fostering collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and communities, creating a resilient and adaptable network. By focusing on aligning research with the specific needs of local communities, the initiative ensured sustained relevance and stakeholder commitment. Efforts to build capacity among both researchers and community members established a strong foundation for ongoing innovation, while its flexible methodologies allowed for scalability and adaptation to various contexts. Additionally, the initiative's focus on knowledge dissemination and outreach facilitated the broader application of its principles, extending its impact beyond the immediate scope. Institutional support from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) and other partners provided the necessary resources and credibility to maintain its operations over time.

#### Contact and references

Link: <https://www.isglobal.org/-/inspires>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water related International Research Cooperation of Algeria (FAWIRA)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Algeria
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
National Institute of Agronomic Research of Algeria
<b>Brief description</b>
The FAWIRA project aims to enhance INRAA's ( <i>Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie</i> ) capacity for research in food, agriculture, and water by integrating it into the European Research Area and fostering a center of excellence. It addresses Algeria's socio-economic needs by identifying research priorities, building human and technical capacity, establishing collaborative networks among stakeholders, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of its initiatives through knowledge dissemination and strategic partnerships.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Research management</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
The capacity-building efforts undertaken through the FAWIRA project significantly enhance INRAA's ability to contribute to Algeria's national research and development priorities, particularly in addressing critical food security challenges. The project has also initiated and supported activities with tangible socio-economic impacts, including fostering sustainable development, leveraging research outcomes, and promoting innovation. These efforts have stimulated entrepreneurship, advanced the agricultural and food industries, and improved water resource management, ultimately driving job creation and economic growth in these key sectors.
<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)
The FAWIRA project, focused on food, agriculture, and water research in Algeria, achieved significant results by identifying research and innovation priorities, establishing a comprehensive database, and fostering policy alignment to strengthen Euro-Algerian collaboration. It enhanced innovation by creating industry-academic clusters, such as the olive oil initiative in Bouira, and developing strategic plans for competitive research. The project prioritized human capacity building through training workshops, brokerage events, and coaching sessions, which supported researchers in formulating proposals and engaging in international projects like Horizon

2020. The establishment of an agrifood technology laboratory at INRAA further bolstered technical capacity, supported by specialized training and infrastructure development.

Strategic planning efforts included the development of a business plan to enhance INRAA's integration and international presence. Networking activities connected the consortium with over 43 national and international events, ensuring alignment with EU-funded projects and fostering collaborations.

### Target Group of the practice

- Administrative staff
- Academic staff
- University leaders

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The project aims to foster stronger connections among Algeria's triple helix actors - research institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and public bodies - while advancing Euro-Algerian scientific collaboration. By facilitating the integration of researchers and INRAA into the European Research Area (ERA), the initiative seeks to enhance institutional excellence and capacity building, positioning INRAA as a key player in international research and innovation networks.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The model of institutionalizing "open days" for stakeholder dialogue can be transferred to any field seeking collaboration across sectors. Furthermore, the approach of integrating economic valorization of research outcomes into institutional structures can be replicated to promote sustainable research elsewhere.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The consortium has created solid foundations for the sustainability of the project by implementing several key measures. These include developing a strategic business plan for INRAA, establishing a new department focused on the economic valorization of research results, and institutionalizing "open days" to foster dialogue among stakeholders in the triple helix model. These "open days" also serve as an ongoing tool for updating the database on agricultural research needs and priorities in Algeria. Additionally, new research projects, such as those under Horizon 2020, have been developed and submitted, ensuring continued progress and collaboration in the field.

### Contact and references

Link: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/295088/reporting/de>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Network of Science with and for Society National Contact Points (SiS-NET)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Iceland
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Icelandic Centre for Research
<b>Brief description</b>
The SiS.net project aims to enhance the effectiveness of National Contact Points (NCPs) in the 7th Framework Programme's (FP7) Science in Society (SiS) program by strengthening their networks. It builds on previous NCP initiatives to provide better services to stakeholders in the EU, associated countries, and International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC). The project ensures continuity between FP7 and Horizon 2020, fostering cooperation among NCPs and helping them navigate policy areas, research topics, and regulations to support their stakeholders more efficiently.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research methodology</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
The proposal promoted mutual learning and capacity building among NCPs by facilitating training sessions, network meetings, and mailing lists. These activities allowed for the exchange of best practices, enabling SiS NCPs to support each other in addressing challenges during the implementation of FP7 SiS calls.
<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)
The SiS.net project was developed to improve the capacities of National Contact Points (NCPs) within the FP7 Science in Society programme. It was essential for optimizing NCPs' support to stakeholders and promoting Responsible Research and Innovation. The initiative encouraged better collaboration, strengthened policy development, and expanded engagement across diverse audiences. The outcomes were significant at local, national, and international levels, improving services for participants, fostering stronger European networks, and reinforcing the science-society connection.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- University leaders

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

Sis.net produced significant impact both internally and externally. It successfully mobilized its network of SiS NCPs through effective communication and networking events, and exceeded expectations by organizing brokerage events and a European Parliament meeting, fostering interaction and policy discussions among stakeholders. Additionally, the inclusion of ICPC partners broadened the network, enhancing global collaboration and participation in the SiS programme. These efforts strengthened capacities and facilitated policy development, furthering the initiative's reach and impact.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The SiS.net project focuses on sharing best practices among NCPs to enhance their effectiveness in supporting organizations participating in Horizon 2020. By professionalizing and standardizing services across Europe and Horizon 2020 participant countries, it ensures more consistent and high-quality NCP support. These practices can be adapted to other research and innovation contexts, promoting better collaboration and service provision across diverse institutional structures.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The success of the initiative over time was largely driven by effective communication efforts, which promoted SiS.net as the network for SiS NCPs and contributed to the wider promotion of the FP7 SiS programme. The network's reach expanded significantly, raising awareness about Responsible Research and Innovation and emphasizing the crucial role of science in society. This wider engagement demonstrated the network's growing influence and the increasing importance of its initiatives.

### Contact and references

Link: <https://arquivo.pt/wayback/20160109174822/http://www.sisnetwork.eu/>  
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/289064/reporting>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
CRISR - Research center for the Security and Resilience of Critical Infrastructures
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name of the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from
University of Salento
<b>Brief description</b>
CRISR is a research center at the University of Salento focused on the security and resilience of Critical Infrastructures (CIs). It conducts research within the scope of both national and European CI contexts. CRISR employs a cross-domain approach to examine the technical, managerial, legal, and social aspects of CI security and resilience.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research methodology</li> <li>○ research implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
The CRISR initiative is considered an Inspiring Practice because of its interdisciplinary approach to critical infrastructure (CI) security and resilience, combining technical, managerial, legal, and social perspectives. It addresses complex challenges at national and European levels, fostering innovation and collaboration across multiple domains. This holistic focus ensures that the center contributes to robust solutions that enhance the security and resilience of CIs, making it a valuable model for addressing global infrastructure challenges.
<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)
Its importance lies in providing research and solutions that span technical, legal, managerial, and social dimensions, helping to safeguard CIs from various risks. The center generates significant change by equipping stakeholders with interdisciplinary knowledge and strategies, fostering resilience in infrastructure systems. It holds relevance locally, nationally, and internationally, as it supports security efforts across diverse sectors, contributing to the broader European and global resilience agenda.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Academic staff</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

CRISR has positively affected national and European infrastructure security through its interdisciplinary research, providing valuable insights that help enhance resilience and preparedness against threats.

#### **Transferability of the initiative**

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

Its interdisciplinary model, combining technical, legal, and social approaches, can be adapted to other sectors and regions, facilitating resilience improvements in diverse contexts.

#### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

CRISR's success is driven by ongoing collaboration with research institutions, industry, and government, as well as its capacity for innovation, ensuring long-term relevance in infrastructure security.

#### **Contact and references**

<https://crisr.unisalento.it/>

Antonio Ficarella: [antonio.ficarella@unisalento.it](mailto:antonio.ficarella@unisalento.it)

Antonella Longo: [antonella.longo@unisalento.it](mailto:antonella.longo@unisalento.it)

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
DTA Technological Aerospace District
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name of the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from
University of Salento
<b>Brief description</b>
DTA fosters collaboration within the aerospace sector by leading research, development, training, and the transfer of technological innovation. It brings together industry excellence to drive advancements in these areas, supporting both technological growth and professional development.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
DTA is considered an Inspiring Practice due to its ability to foster collaboration and drive innovation in the aerospace sector. By facilitating research, development, and technology transfer, it bridges the gap between industry excellence and practical applications, enhancing competitiveness and professional development. Its systematic approach ensures that it continuously achieves ambitious national and international goals, making it a model for innovation-driven success.
<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)
The DTA initiative was developed to strengthen the aerospace sector by promoting research, technological innovation, and collaboration. It is crucial in enhancing the competitiveness of the Apulian production system, fostering professional development, and creating new technologies.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Academic staff</li> <li>○ University leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond
DTA enhances the competitiveness of the Apulian production system by fostering scientific and technological excellence. It develops key technologies, creates new professional roles, and builds infrastructure to support research and innovation. DTA employs a systematic approach that drives the achievement of ambitious objectives

at both national and international levels. Moreover, the District invests in research projects and skills with a high degree of innovation and in specialized training courses.

#### **Transferability of the initiative**

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

DTA's model can be adapted to various sectors, particularly in fields like aerospace, engineering, and technology. Its focus on professional development and infrastructure creation is transferable to other regional or sector-specific contexts.

#### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The initiative's ongoing success is driven by continuous innovation, strong partnerships with industry leaders, and a strategic focus on long-term value creation through training and infrastructure development. These elements ensure the initiative remains relevant and capable of adapting to the changing needs of the market.

#### **Contact and references**

<https://www.dtascarl.org/en/homepage/>

[segreteria@dtascarl.it](mailto:segreteria@dtascarl.it)

[distretto@pec.dtascarl.it](mailto:distretto@pec.dtascarl.it)

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name of the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from
University of Salento
<b>Brief description</b>
The CMCC Foundation (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change) is an international, independent research center focused on the interaction between climate change and society. It conducts multidisciplinary analyses combining climate modeling, impact assessment, and environmental economics to support sustainable growth and policy development.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research management</li> <li>○ research implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
CMCC provides scientific insights for a successful transition to a sustainable future and is a global leader in climate research. Its interdisciplinary structure fosters collaboration across various fields, enabling comprehensive studies on climate-related challenges.
<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>In its specific context, the initiative is particularly important for the Euro-Mediterranean region, which faces severe climate risks such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and coastal vulnerabilities. CMCC's work has generated significant change for its target groups by equipping decision-makers with reliable data, fostering climate resilience, and shaping adaptation and mitigation policies.</p> <p>At the local and national levels, CMCC supports governments and institutions in designing climate policies, urban adaptation plans, and sustainable economic strategies. Internationally, it plays a key role in global climate discussions, contributing to reports for organizations like the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change) and providing tools such as the G20 Climate Risk Atlas.</p>
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ Academic staff</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The CMCC Foundation (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change) has significantly influenced climate science and policy through its comprehensive research and collaborative initiatives. By integrating climate modeling with impact assessments and environmental economics, CMCC provides critical insights that inform sustainable development and environmental protection strategies.

One notable contribution is the G20 Climate Risk Atlas, developed by CMCC, to offer detailed analyses of climate risks for G20 countries. This resource aids policymakers in understanding and addressing climate-related challenges specific to their nations.

CMCC also emphasizes the importance of urban areas in climate adaptation efforts. Their studies on food waste highlight the pivotal role cities play in reducing waste and achieving UN 2030 Agenda targets.

Additionally, CMCC's research on urban climate impacts, such as heatwaves and floods, provides valuable data for cities to develop effective adaptation strategies.

Through these initiatives and a commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, CMCC continues to be a vital contributor to global climate research and policy development.

### **Transferability of the initiative**

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The CMCC Foundation's initiative is highly transferable due to its interdisciplinary approach, scalable research framework, and strong collaboration with policymakers and stakeholders. Its climate modeling, policy insights, and urban adaptation strategies can be replicated across different regions and sectors. Through training programs and open-access data, CMCC ensures broad knowledge transfer, making its methodologies adaptable to various geographical and institutional contexts.

### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Several factors favor the initiative's long-term success. The foundation's collaboration with policymakers, international institutions, and research networks ensures its findings remain relevant and actionable. Its ability to secure funding from diverse sources, including public and private institutions, enhances financial stability. The increasing global emphasis on climate action and sustainability further supports CMCC's role as a key player in shaping policies and strategies. Additionally, its commitment to innovation and interdisciplinary research fosters resilience, enabling the initiative to evolve alongside scientific and technological advancements.

### **Contact and references**

[info@cmcc.it](mailto:info@cmcc.it)

[cmcc@pec.cmcc.it](mailto:cmcc@pec.cmcc.it)

<https://www.cmcc.it/about/the-cmcc-foundation>

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
Research on Health Promotion to sun exposure and prevention of skin cancer
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name of the country where the inspired practice came from
Spain
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from
University of Granada
<b>Brief description</b>
The study aims to approach habits and conducts related to sun exposure among universities communities to improve their skin cancer prevention framework.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
The goal is to pursue an international healthcare certification (e.g. Quality Healthcare Certification "Soludable") focused on sun protection and skin cancer research at universities. This involves establishing recognized standards for skin cancer research and promoting sun safety practices within academic institutions, ultimately fostering better prevention and awareness globally.
<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)
Launched in 2020 with the support of the Ministry of Health and Families of the Government of Andalusia, this initiative aims to promote healthy sun exposure practices across various sectors, including health, education, tourism, work, sports, and gastronomy. Collaborating with numerous institutions and companies, it seeks to establish policies and habits that foster better sun safety among individuals in both public and private spheres.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ Academic staff</li> <li>○ University leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond
<i>Soludable</i> promotes healthy sun exposure practices across various sectors, improving public awareness and fostering positive behavioral changes in the community regarding skin protection and cancer prevention.
<b>Transferability of the initiative</b> Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

Its multi-sector approach can be adapted to other regions or health initiatives, addressing sun safety within different cultural and institutional contexts.

#### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The initiative's continued success is supported by its broad institutional partnerships, effective communication strategies, and alignment with public health policies, ensuring long-term impact.

#### **Contact and references**

Jacobo Cambil Martín  
jcambil@ugr.es

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
VRE for regional Interdisciplinary communities in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean (VI-SEEM project)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name of the country where the inspired practice came from
Greece
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN GREECE
<b>Brief description</b>
The VI-SEEM project established a unified Virtual Research Environment (VRE) to support scientific collaboration in Climatology, Life Sciences, and Cultural Heritage across Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research infrastructures</li> <li>○ research methodology</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
It provided e-Infrastructure resources, training, and support, helping to bridge the digital divide and reduce brain drain. The initiative's success lies in its cross-border collaboration, sustainability through partnerships, and adaptability to other scientific fields.
<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)
The VI-SEEM initiative was developed to address the lack of access to research infrastructure in Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Eastern Mediterranean (EM) regions facing digital divides and brain drain. By connecting 14 SEE countries and 6 EM states, it enabled cross-border collaboration in climatology, life sciences, and cultural heritage. The project empowered researchers with resources and tools to conduct advanced studies, producing new knowledge and fostering innovation. Its impact spans local, national, and international levels, driving regional scientific progress.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ Academic staff</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond
The initiative significantly improved research capabilities in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean by providing e-infrastructure resources, fostering collaboration, and supporting scientific communities in climatology,

life sciences, and cultural heritage. It reduced regional disparities in research access, facilitated large-scale simulations, and enhanced knowledge sharing. Beyond its immediate context, it contributed to bridging the digital divide, strengthening scientific networks, and aligning regional research with broader European and global standards.

#### **Transferability of the initiative**

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The project core elements—integrated e-infrastructure, interdisciplinary collaboration, and digital resource-sharing—can be adapted to other regions and research fields. Its model of unifying computing, data, and visualization services can benefit disciplines such as environmental science, biomedical research, and engineering. The framework for regional cooperation can also be applied to other underserved areas seeking to strengthen scientific capabilities.

#### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Its sustainability is ensured by strong institutional partnerships, long-term integration of e-infrastructures, and ongoing support for scientific communities. Its collaborative model fosters knowledge sharing, while its adaptable framework allows for future technological advancements. By aligning with European research priorities, the initiative secures continued relevance and funding opportunities.

#### **Contact and references**

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/675121/fr>

## Lesson learnt

Along with the selection of inspiring practices, we have gone through a deep desk research and a wide process of analysis of cases. Even if some initiatives were not selected as good practices for the current analysis, food for thoughts can be shared as outcomes of the overall process.

### Running projects

The following projects seems to have a high potential of success and the capacity of developing innovative and impactful outcomes. We suggest to follow them closely:

- [Smart Energy Solutions for Africa](#) (October 2021 – September 2025)
- [Tunisian EURAXESS Network](#) (June 2021 – May 2024)
- [BiodivClim](#) (September 2019 – August 2024)

### Improve synergies

- Promote harmonization of standards in research areas at national level
- Promote adoption and usage of e-Infrastructures among the scientific community
- Strengthen regional partnerships and encouraging joint scientific research at all levels
- Facilitate knowledge exchange with relevant partners in Europe and worldwide
- Advocate amongst decision makers and stakeholders, and draw attention to the importance of the infrastructures (equipment and e-infrastructures) to develop research and education
- Reduce fragmentation by increasing coordination between national research programs and between institutional research priorities, so as to promote complementarity of existing collaboration (bilateral or multilateral ones)
- Support mobility between young academics, researchers and entrepreneurs
- Creating a virtual think tank (for example in RE&EE) to share knowledge and information between Euro-Mediterranean Countries, as a virtual space hosting resources, downloadable documents, links, articles, a list of contacts, etc.

### Including society as an important stakeholder

- Increasing public awareness and intensifying community engagement
- Ensuring access to research results with reflection on the socio-economic impact
- Development of a participative approach to increase acceptance
- Develop stakeholder empowerment tools and assessment frameworks
- Co-funding and co-ownership, ensuring engagement of stakeholders and participants for the success of the measures.

## Financial capacity building and funding tools

- Provide trainings to institutions on financial management, enabling them to access funds, and also making best use of the existing financial support (including access to infrastructures and mobilization of human resources)
- Launch of excellence grants as means of joint capacity development
- Support innovative ideas by launching an annual Call for Innovation Proposal, which can be submitted to funding agencies, stakeholders and co-funding mechanisms

## Networking

- Establish a network of research centers at national level. Over the long-term the network of research centers can be a relevant actor in the cross-national cooperation
- Support to twinning, teaming and networking between research centers
- Reinforce the international attractiveness of Libyan universities. This will in turn foster partnering strategies based on common objectives. Networking will contribute to address dispersion and the unequal distribution of competencies.
- Promote joint research activities, where institutions can benefit from the labs, equipment, facilities as well as the expertise of other institutions in the country

## Open Data & Open Access

- Open access to knowledge and the principles of Open Science have the potential to widen the capacity of Libyan universities. It is now widely recognized that making research results more accessible to all societal actors contributes to better and more efficient science, and to innovation in the public and private sectors.
- Enable free flow of data and protecting the right to information
- Make a shared knowledge base available to decision-makers and policy-makers
- Develop Open innovation policies, to support smart intellectual property rights management; reuse and redistribution of data; free access to publications
- Provide opportunities for co-design, co-production and co-delivery of services, with the involvement of both researchers, providers and users
- Foster transdisciplinarity between sectors, research areas and stakeholder groups.

## Example of a Roadmap for Research development<sup>1</sup>

- First phase:
  - Establishment of enabling environment/capacity/regulations
  - Identification of priority for technology innovation, based on existing or new strategies
  - Human capital development
  - Education
  - Baseline assessments
  - Development of specific technology roadmaps
  - Identification of gaps in laboratory and research facilities
  - Laboratory and research facility benchmarking
  - Alignment or synergizing protocols/working arrangements/standards
  - Exchange of experts south-south, and north-south
  
- Second phase
  - Conducting joint research in priority areas identified in the first Phase
  - Development of technologies and innovations
  - Adaptation of technology solutions
  - Exchange of experts
  
- Third phase
  - Commercialization and utilization of research results

---

<sup>1</sup> Roadmap for a jointly funded AU-EU Research & Innovation Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE), Brussels, 18 October 2017. Last access October 2022.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research\\_and\\_innovation/strategy\\_on\\_research\\_and\\_innovation/documents/ccse\\_roadmap\\_2017.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/documents/ccse_roadmap_2017.pdf)

## Workshop during the Tunis week

On the first day of the Horizontal Training week in Tunis (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022), a workshop was held on the Inspiring Practices collected, to present the most relevant ones and discuss how to adapt the good practices in the Libyan context. Practices focused on research management, methodology, implementation, but include now also cases on communication of research and cooperation in research. The presentation was done jointly by Dr. Ali Ganoun from the University of Tripoli (WP1 Leader) and Martina Zipoli from UNIMED (project coordinator).

The rationale behind the workshop was to have a working group with about 40 participants (half of the HT attendees) and present 3 practices as inspiring examples, with a focus on the transferable elements. Then, participants were asked 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)

The cases presented were:

- Solution-oriented research Unit, from Heriot Watt University on Research implementation
- Contamination Lab, from UniSalento, on Research methodology and Research management
- MED-SPRING, European funded project on Research management and Cooperation in research

### Main outcomes of the workshop

- Research is CO created, together with the private sector. It is important to invest in the cooperation with the private sector and local stakeholders
- Reinforcing Technology Transfer Offices and strengthening the cooperation with RCC
- Research is a strategic long-term goal for the university which shall dedicated funds and human resources and infrastructures to support research activities
- Need for a multi-disciplinary approach and for a space to put ideas into practices. Contamination Lab is a new learning model, people crossing each other and connect with each other, and support creativity and entrepreneurial culture.
- Contamination and transdisciplinary learning processes produce an impact
- Investing on communication of research outcomes
- Need for a strategic approach towards research, otherwise efforts are not fully exploited. A single professor or a single lab cannot make a substantial change, it must be systemic.



# Annex I

Link to the online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/8Y7DU51Pi8>



 **Template for Inspiring Practices collection**

**IBTIKAR project - T1.2- Inspiring Practices and lessons learnt collection**

This form related to the collection of a set of inspiring practices from both EU and NorthAfrica through a desk research by UoT and UNIMED with the support of all the partners. These practices will be focused on research management, research methodology, research implementation, with a special but not exclusive attention to Environmental studies

**Notes:**

- 1) At least 3 inspiring practices and lessons learnt needed from each partner
- 2) Practices considered related to the functioning of research management, research methodology, research implementation from both academic and administrative point of view

**UoT IBTIKAR Team**

...



# Template for Inspiring Practices collection

## IBTIKAR project - T1.2- Inspiring Practices and lessons learnt collection

This form related to the collection of a set of inspiring practices from both EU and NorthAfrica through a desk research by UoT and UNIMED with the support of all the partners. These practices will be focused on research management, research methodology, research implementation, with a special but not exclusive attention to Environmental studies

### Notes:

- 1) At least 3 inspiring practices and lessons learnt needed from each partner
- 2) Practices considered related to the functioning of research management, research methodology, research implementation from both academic and administrative point of view

UoT IBTIKAR Team

...

\* Obbligatoria

### 1. Partner Name \*

### 2. Partner Email \*

Inserisci la risposta

### 3. Title of the initiative \*

Inserisci la risposta

### 4. Idea origin (country) \*

The name the country where the inspired practice came from

Inserisci la risposta

### 5. Idea origin (institution) \*

The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from

Inserisci la risposta

### 6. Brief description \*

Brief description of the inspired practice

Inserisci la risposta

### 7. Idea focus \*

The focus of the inspired practice was on

Research management

Research methodology

Research implementation

Altro

### 8. Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice? \*

Inserisci la risposta

### 9. Relevance of the initiative in its specific context \*

Why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group

Inserisci la risposta

### 10. Any Notes

Inserisci la risposta

Invia

Non rivelare mai la tua password. [Segnala abusi](#)

Questo contenuto è creato dal proprietario del modulo. I dati inoltrati verranno inviati al proprietario del modulo. Microsoft non è responsabile per la privacy o le procedure di sicurezza dei propri clienti, incluse quelle del proprietario di questo modulo. Non fornire mai la password.

Con tecnologia Microsoft Forms |

Il proprietario di questo modulo non ha fornito un'informativa sulla privacy su come utilizzerà i dati delle risposte.  
Non fornire informazioni personali o sensibili.

| [Condizioni per l'utilizzo](#)

