

# Enabling Tech-driven Entrepreneurship in the Arab region.

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UNITED NATIONS

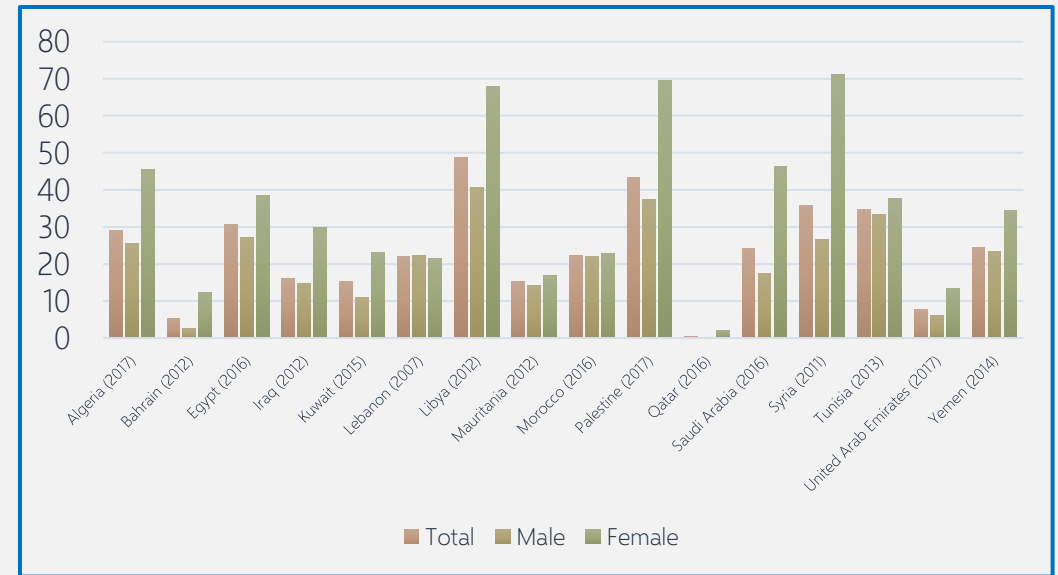
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# Arab Youth and Women Labor Force Participation

- Youth bulge and brain drain in many Arab countries
- Arab youth unemployment is at around 30%. It is highest among world regions and 3-4 times higher than total unemployment.
- Unemployment affects the educated even more, as they are not willing to accept any employment
- Arab Youth total Labor Force Participation rate is lowest among world's region and highlights the highest gender gap with south Asia
- Arab Women total Labor Force Participation rate lowest among all world regions. It is 3.5 times lower than for men.



# Policy Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Policy dialogue** with decision-makers in the Arab region:

- Study on “Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - Promising Perspectives for the Arab Region”
- Studies on “Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Youth and Women”, and on “Community-based innovation and technology for improved social well-being in the Arab region”
- Many expert group meetings to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Innovation and entrepreneurship



# Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - Promising Perspectives for the Arab Region

Various Innovation Models are needed for accelerating the achievement of SDGs

- Linear innovation (traditional)
- Mission-oriented innovation
- Open innovation
- Grassroot innovation;
- Social innovation



- Technology-driven innovation
- Multi-disciplinary innovation
- Inclusive Innovation
- Frugal Innovation
- Reversed innovation

**The adoption of various Innovation models require different working mechanisms, and these mechanisms should be reflected and integrated in the STI policies.**

# Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - Promising Perspectives for the Arab Region

Four Packages of Recommendations for Arab countries

## First Package

Stimulating the adoption of **new technology** in economic and social development

## Second Package

Establishing **incentive financing measures** to support the national innovation and entrepreneurship system

## Third Package

Supporting the building of a **national innovation system** and stimulating grassroots innovation approaches

## Fourth Package

Building **specialized institutions** and providing technological infrastructure to stimulate grassroots innovation



The hand was 3D-printed in carbon fiber-reinforced co-polyester material for under \$75 on a \$1700 Ultimaker 3D printer by Asem Hasna, a Syrian refugee on the ROW team who learned 3D printing in three weeks. (image via 3ders.org)

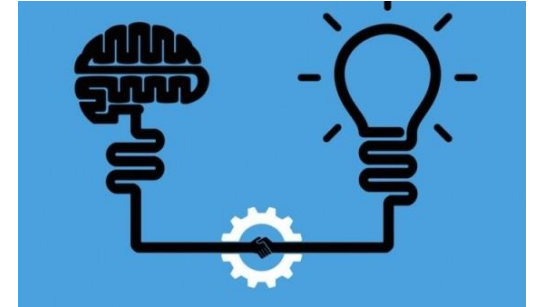
# Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Youth and Women

## Challenges

1. Innovation level in most countries
2. Entrepreneurship eco-system
3. Technology readiness and technology absorption
4. Financing mechanism
5. Education on entrepreneurship
6. Intellectual property
7. Doing business environment



# Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Youth and Women



## Recommendations

1. Implement **regulatory reforms** that favor entrepreneurship
2. Integrate **comprehensive entrepreneurship education** in national curriculums for all levels to embrace entrepreneurship.
3. **Enhancing Entrepreneurship Potential in advanced technology**: Facilitate the acquiring of new technologies, and offer entrepreneurs a safe place experiment with innovative technologies
3. **Social Entrepreneurship**: Allow the registration of SE and encourage investments in SE
4. **Digital Platforms and Content**: to support entrepreneurship in the Arab countries



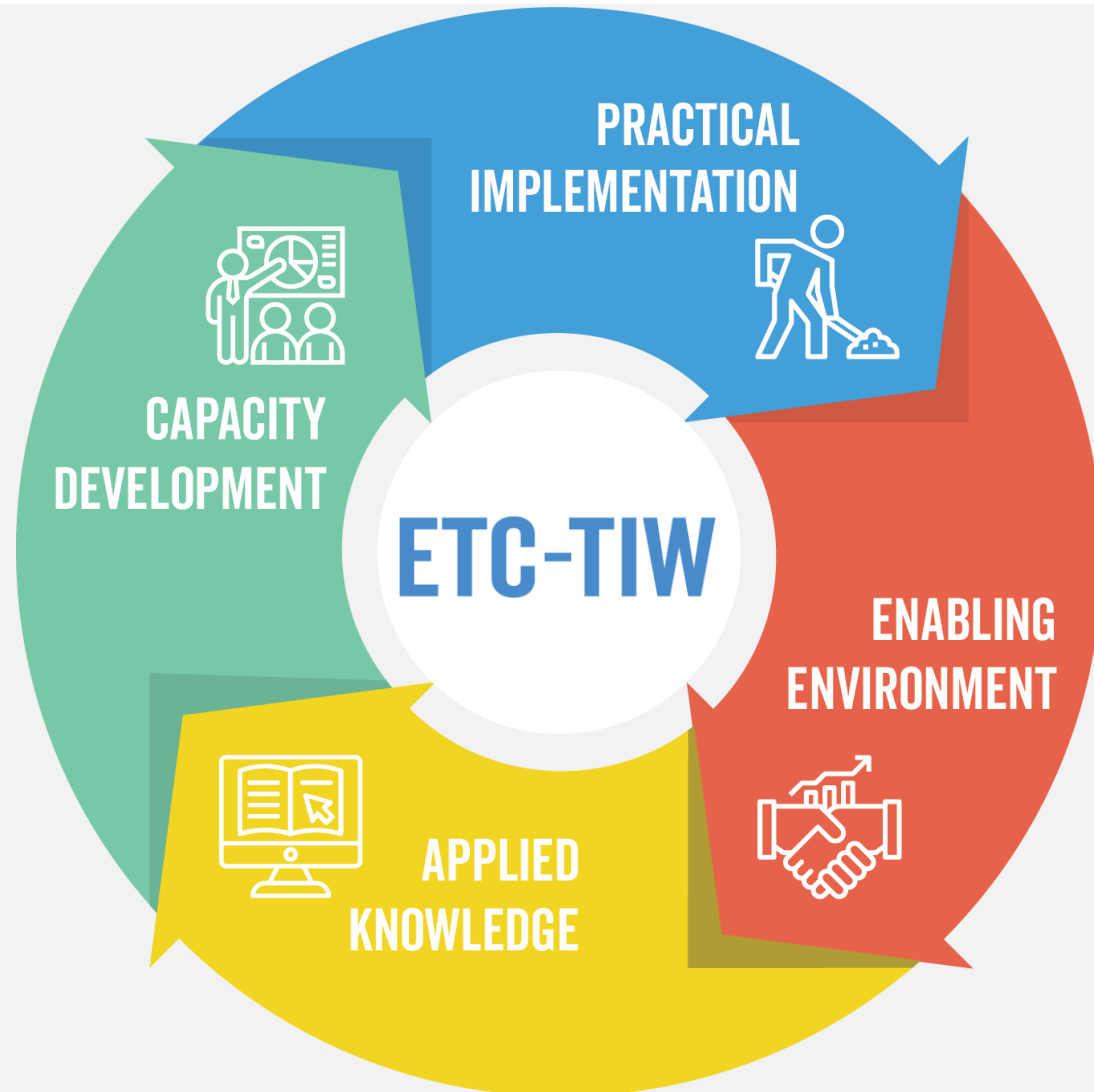
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# ESCWA Technology Center Focuses on Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the Arab region



# ESCWA Technology Center Pillars focused on Entrepreneurship



ETC conceptual approach is based on 4 main pillars that shape its wheel:

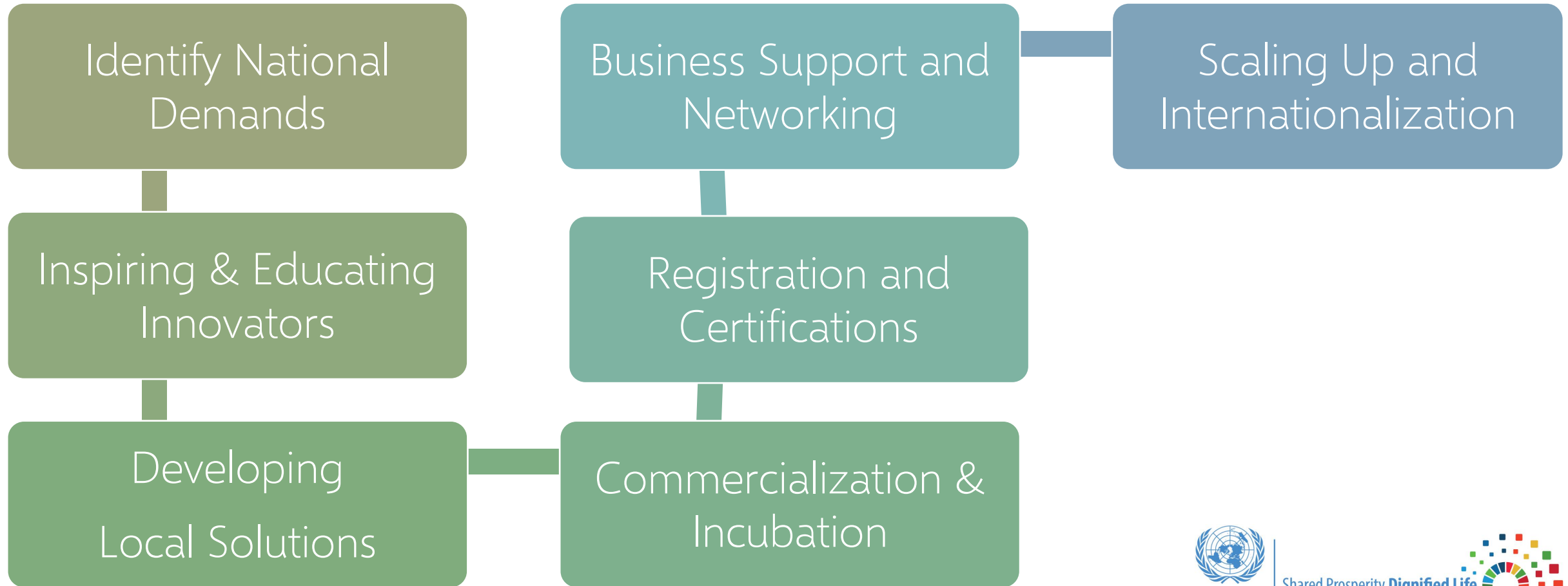
Pillar 1: Promoting open applied knowledge.

Pillar 2: Emboldening the local technological capacities.

Pillar 3: Encouraging the implementation of appropriate technologies.

Pillar 4: Advocating local and regional enabling environments.

# Tech-driven Entrepreneurship Journey

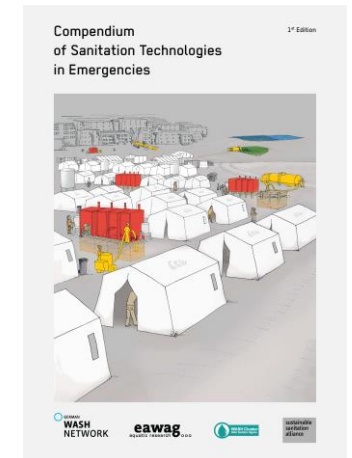
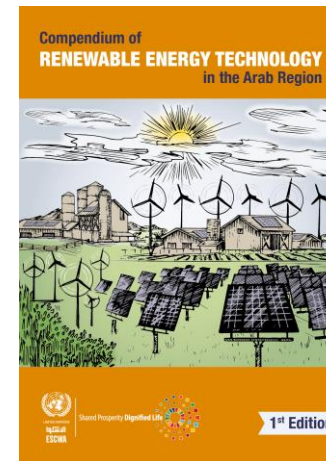
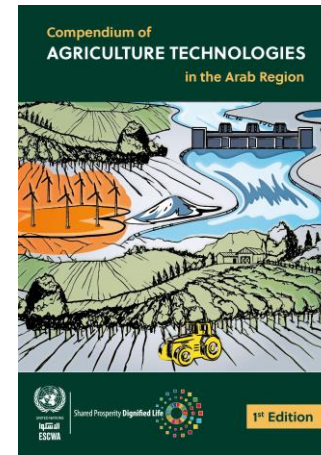


# Educating Innovators

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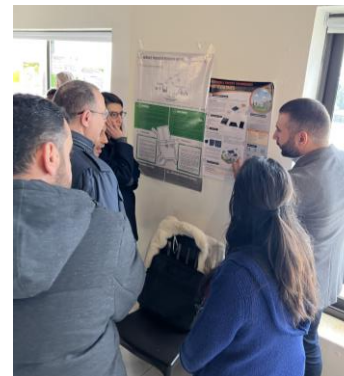
## Compendiums of Technologies

Guidelines and reports about the use of technology in specific sectors such as: agriculture, renewable energy and sanitation technology.



## Technologies Compendiums info-sessions

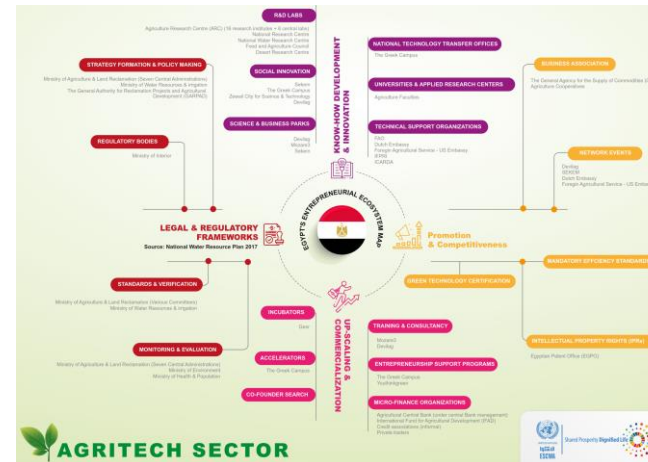
Capacity building workshops at regional and national levels.



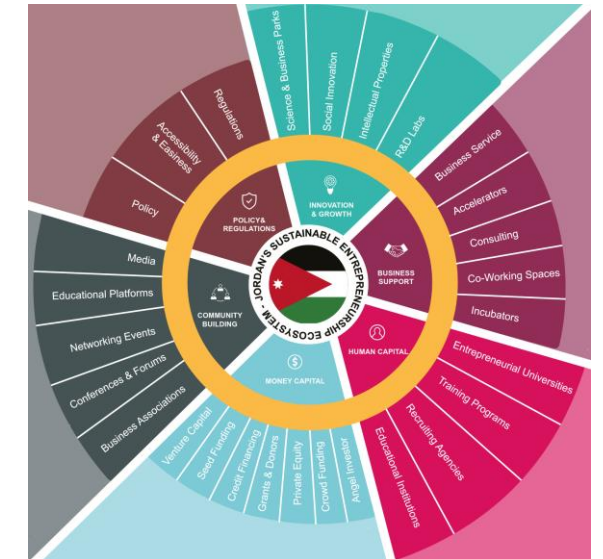
# Business Support and Networking

## Ecosystem Mapping

- Developing the entrepreneurship eco-systems for Arab countries
- Identifying the entrepreneurship eco-system for specific sectors in selected countries

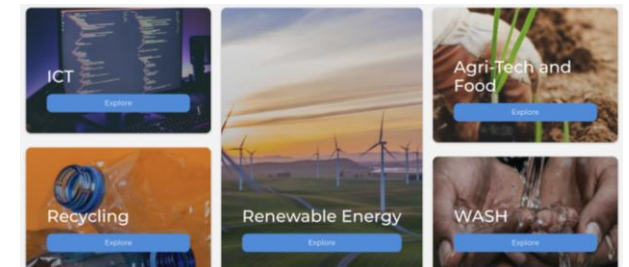
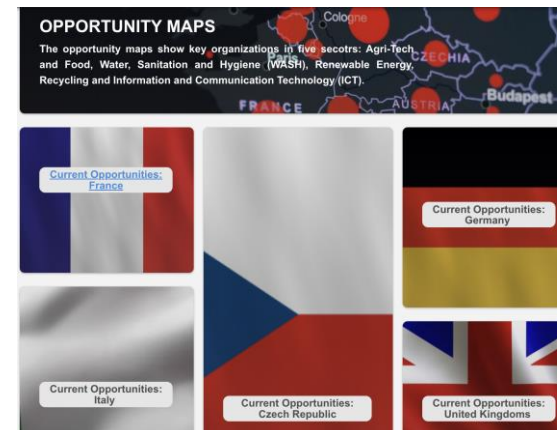


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## Scaling-up and Internationalization

- Opportunities in various countries
- Opportunities in various tech-driven domains
- Tech-driven entrepreneurship conferences



# The Arab SMEs Summit : 30 October – 1 November 2022

- The Summit includes **policy dialogue segment** and **capacity building workshops**
- The Summit aims to help Arab SMEs (Start-ups) to **access regional and international markets, mobilize diverse financial resources**, benefit from regional and international networks, and increase their ability to scale up.
- The Summit brings together some **600 selected participants**, including entrepreneurs, investors, business influencers, political leaders, economists, journalists, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and donors for **20 main sessions and 10 side events**.





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# Thank You!

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