



1. Innovation ecosystem in Egypt

In the past 10 years, Egypt has succeeded in becoming a regional leader for promoting start-ups and innovation. The country has been ranked as the fastest growing start-up ecosystem in the Middle East and the second largest after the UAE. In the year 2020 25% of all venture capital investments were spent in Egypt.

The fast development of the Egyptian start-up scene is the result of the efforts of the Egyptian government in the past years focusing in its country development strategy (Egypt Vision 2030) on the development on an innovation and technology ecosystems, as laid down in the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy of the Ministry of Higher Education and the Innovation Strategy of the Ministry of Industry & Trade. The government's efforts were complimented by programmes of private and donor institutions, academia and finance institutions that have stepped up offering support services and finance to the start - up scene. This institutional set-up combined with a young and relatively tech-savvy population are the backbone of Egypt's growing start-up scene.

2. How the ecosystem will be supported by INTECMED project

Despite this obvious success of establishing an extensive support ecosystem for start-ups in Egypt, many SMEs and start-ups still have challenges developing innovative products and services and they lack managerial skills to overcome the establishment phase of the first 1-2 years.

In the frame of the INTECMED Project, the Egyptian partners CEEBA and SEKEM Foundation jointly will develop an innovation ecosystem at local levels to support the creation of innovative business ideas focusing on technology transfer and commercialization of research results supported by creating linkages between the innovation drivers and the innovation hosts, the science and higher education and the private sector.

A series of project tools such as the Regional Alliance for Technology Transfer, the Regional Innovation Facility Points established in Alexandria, the ebazaar, match-making events and the innovation transfer exhibitions will support creating the linkages needed between the different innovation players paving the way for further development of the system past the project's lifetime and give the chance for participants to expand their reach past local borders.

Furthermore, a tailored mentoring and training process will raise the innovation capabilities of SMEs and (to-be-) start-ups to integrate innovative technologies and approaches into their business project proposals. It will equip SMEs and start-ups with the needed skills for product development, management, and internationalization contributing to a sustainable professionalization process.

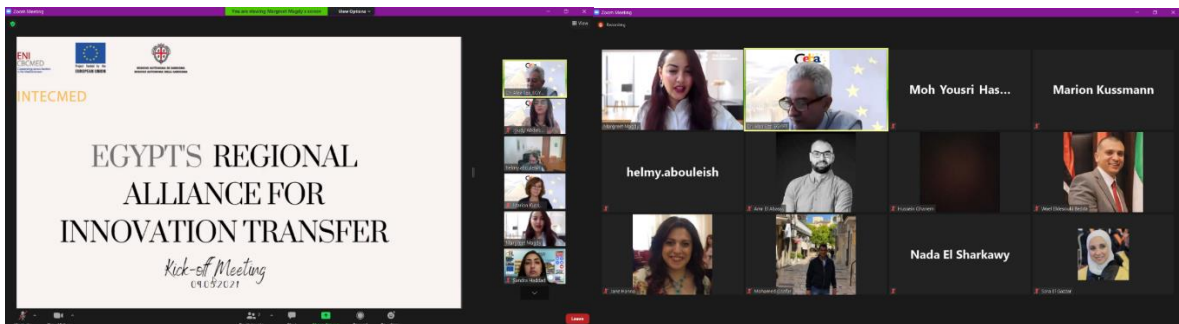




3. Short description of the Regional Alliance Innovation Transfer (RAIT) in Egypt

Egypt's RAIT was kicked off in May of 2021 bringing together innovation players from business support organizations, academia, private sector and finance institutions. The advisory council supports the Egyptian INTECMED partners CEEBA and SEKEM Foundation in localizing the project's methodologies and planned actions to fit the needs of Egyptian SMEs and start-ups. A tailored approach to the call for proposals, mentoring and training activities will empower them to transform innovation ideas and research results into successful business plans and sustainable business set-ups.

Egypt's RAIT is working to build a local ecosystem where innovators of academia and spin-offs meet with SMEs to jointly develop sustainable innovative business ideas while in the same time equipping the SMEs, spin-offs and start-ups with the needed management skills.



Egypt's RAIT Members		
Research and Education	Business Support Organizations	Policy Makers
Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development	The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce	Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Development Agency (MSMEDA)
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA)	
AAST Entrepreneurship Center	SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF)	
	Business Development of National Bank of Egypt (NBE)	





INTECMED

To promote the INTECMED project in Egypt, and to get the relevant stakeholder on board of the project, CEEBA held “Egypt Blending BSO & Incubator Support”, which garnered support from international, governmental entities and citizens. The event focused on building synergies with other EU funded projects and raising awareness of the support given by each project. The event was a hybrid online/offline event in the Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Smart Village campus.



147
online participants
80
on-site participants
42
organisations



Dr. Rania Al Mashat
Minister of International Cooperation



Dr. Nivine Gamea
Minister of Trade & Industry



Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghafar
President AASTMT



Fabrizio Paloni
ENI CBC Med JTS Coordinator



Amb. Raouf Saad
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs



Amb. Christian Berger
EU Ambassador



Ahmed El Wakil
President ASCAME



Konstantinos Giotopoulos
INTECMED



INTECMED



Anna Catte
Director General, ENI CBC Med JMA

My sincere congratulations for the great work done. It has been a unique opportunity to bring CBC projects to the attention of high level decision makers and to pave the way for an effective capitalization initiative. Really, a very good example for all.

