



WP6

Urban entrepreneurial policy for sustainable development in EGYPT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the main results of analysing the Urban Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (EE) in Alexandria, Egypt, relying on a unique U-SOLVE approach. The analysis relied on secondary data from prior studies and reports investigating the same issue in Egypt and primary data collected from 63 ecosystem actors representing academia, business actors, business support organisations, and NGOs. Preliminary data was collected using a survey purposively designed to understand the entrepreneurial ecosystem in all USOLVE-partnering countries. The survey was created in consultation with all partners and the project's coordinator to ensure a level of standardization and preserve a degree of freedom for contextual adjustments. The outputs identify the main Urban Development Sustainability Challenges (UDSCHs), the structural and functional characteristics of the EE in Egypt, focusing on the city of Alexandria, and actors' needs to perform better in solving the UDSCHs.



Results indicate that Egypt has a viable entrepreneurial ecosystem involving a variety of financial, scientific, and business support organizations. The city of Alexandria faces many Urban Development Sustainability Challenges; on the top of them are Sustainable Energy, Urban Food Systems, and Waste Management. Results also show that business support organizations in the urban entrepreneurial ecosystem want to connect with higher education and research institutions, and the other way around. NGOs consider public authorities to be the most crucial actors, and they need to work together—private businesses and entrepreneurs eager to connect with all ecosystem actors, particularly with financial organizations. According to the data collected from the ecosystem actors, the current urban entrepreneurial ecosystem is functioning well in creating knowledge by universities and research institutes and supporting businesses through incubation, clusters, networking, or consultancies. Even though all ecosystem functions seem to be addressed on a good level, financing/capital availability is still the worst function on the poor level. Ecosystem experts expressed their positive evaluation of the potential impact of the current entrepreneurial activities on enhancing businesses and living conditions on the social, economic, and ecological dimensions. However, ecosystem actors need more support to perform better. In this regard, it is remarkable to observe that accessing sandboxes, living labs, and other co-design facilities and joining international, impact-oriented projects are coming in the first place as high priorities for ecosystem actors. Generally, the outputs validate the main approach of the U-SOLVE project and the need for building Urban Living Labs (ULLs) to support ecosystem actors in solving urban challenges the city faces. In addition, the results could be used to establish an implementation strategy for the projected ULLs by defining their targeted goals and the main blind spots in the current entrepreneurial ecosystem that should be fulfilled



INTRODUCTION

Business development and socio-economic enhancement in the MENA countries have fallen to create decent jobs and match the improvement of the local labor. In 2018, the International Monetary Fund estimated that 5+ million MENA workers join the labor market every year. Such estimation is aligned with a previous report - Arab Human Development Report (2016), which indicated that 60 million jobs have to be initiated to be able to attract newcomers/new graduates to the local workforce in the upcoming decade. Additionally, there are other structural challenges and obstacles within the job/work ecosystem in those States, which is overwhelmed by informal employment patterns reaching 65-80% of overall employment in the Arab States (ILO report, 2018). Moreover, available data show that the female labor force in various MENA states, under the private sector, are more likely to evident higher rates of vulnerable employment, namely in countries such as Egypt, Morocco, and Palestine. Female workers are more concentrated in the agriculture sector (i.e., 37% in Egypt), which object to more vulnerable employment conditions than their male counterparts (World Development Indicators, WDI, 2018). ILO in 2018 estimated that 69 % of females in the MENA States (for instance, 23% in Palestine) are engaged in informal work relations as the primary source of their families' income. It is also essential to highlight the weak and fragmented social protection coverage schemes in the MENA States and the restrictive financial services.

While all groups were affected, youth and women were the most vulnerable groups due to years of socio-economic marginalization and political exclusion (Abdou and El Ebrashi, 2015: 38). Generating employment opportunities for MENA youth is considered one of the main challenges for the economy and policymakers. The problem is exacerbated by the size of Egypt's population and the number of annual newcomers into the labor market, which indicates matters will worsen if nothing is done.

These challenges mentioned above also encourage MSME in MENA, primarily if provided with the right financial, technical, and managerial skills and support. Recent local efforts at the various MENA States to restructure their economies. These efforts have also promised a new logic of economic inclusiveness and business development, which carves out a more prominent role for the private sector. In this environment, first-mover small-medium size enterprises could set repeatable precedents for others. Similarly, dialogue between Civil Society Organizations, non-Governmental organizations, and the government and the private



sector could result in favorable legal changes regarding MSMEs registration, tax reduction/ exemption, and support mechanisms. Furthermore, financially sustainable business models with solid focuses (social, technological, organization) can negotiate income inequality in MENA -> inclusive growth.

Since 2000, the term ‘ENTREPRENEURSHIP’ has been recognized as one of the fastest flourishing sectors globally, with a significant rise in small-medium size enterprises, but with limited survival rates, especially in developing countries, such as the MENA States. While most successful start-ups and funds are localized to the ICT sector, sustainable ‘WEFE’ entrepreneurship suffers from significant neglect. MSMEs, particularly those led by youth and women, need to continue financial and technical support, robust business models, and reliable support organizations to survive and grow.

The practice of entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) predates the term’s modern conceptualization. Entrepreneurial initiatives to find solutions to group problems have existed, but with multiple needs and constraints, varying from access to finance (a main problem across the board in MENA) to issues of legislation, structure, rights, organization, and informal economy. Post-Uprising policy concerning youth unemployment has included a significant focus on ENTREPRENEURSHIP as a source of gainful employment for youth. Entrepreneurship remains a new solution in several MENA states to the problems of youth and women unemployment and should be encouraged alongside conventional entrepreneurship.

To fight high rates of unemployment, Studies (AECOM, 2016: 30) stated that MENA Countries would need innovative solutions and various forms of entrepreneurship (business, social, technological...). Entrepreneurship can generate direct and indirect employment and new jobs. This is the case in all MENA, a common factor being youth’s dominant involvement in solving socio-economic problems through innovation and technology. The clear majority of Entrepreneurship is founded and led by youth (Abdou and El Ebrashi, 2015).

ENTREPRENEURSHIP Emerged as the most adaptable organizational form to address shortfalls in socioeconomic development and empowerment of underprivileged social groups, youth, and women, ENTREPRENEURSHIP is remarkably gaining ground in the MENA territory. Following the Arab Spring in 2011, young people were encouraged to address socioeconomic challenges in their countries and “take matters into their own hands” (Brueggemann, 2018).



Entrepreneurship is also a crucial pathway to achieving sustainable development goals SDGs stated by the united nations for creating better social, economic, and ecological living conditions. Goal 11 of the SDGs speaks of “Sustainable Cities and Communities” and motivates cities to find innovative solutions for Urbanism Development Sustainability Challenges (UDSCHs) through supporting entrepreneurs and startups. However, entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activities can not evolve in a vacuum. It needs a healthy ecosystem to help entrepreneurs and startups put their innovative solutions into implementation. In this context, **Living Labs** emerged as a practical approach to bind citizens with the official governmental apparatus and all ecosystem stakeholders in a creative co-creation space to define UDSCHs and offer collective solutions to those challenges considering the Doughnut economic model; SOLVE project engages directly with this issue. The following sections shed light on basic conceptual backgrounds such as the **national innovation system, innovation ecosystem, and ecosystem services**. In addition, we introduce the global context of USOLVE- meaning SDGs, **UDSCHs** and the **Living Labs** as an approach to solving the problem. Then, the methodology of this research will be briefly explained before we outline the results by highlighting the results that will provide an overall evaluation of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Egypt, with a focus on Alexandria city.

U-SOLVE- ENTREPRENEURSHIP ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUALIZATION

While there is increasing awareness about innovation ecosystems, there remains uncertainty about who does what to support early-stage entrepreneurs. The separate line between the ecosystem’s actors, roles, and functions is not yet clearly defined. An Entrepreneurial ecosystem can be considered as a combination of roles and functions. Roles are filled by different actors (i.e., people and organizations), including investors, media, co-working spaces, universities, and government. Functions are performed by roles/actors and include providing access to talent, mentoring, providing capital, developing policy, and building infrastructure.

U-SOLVE project focuses on mapping the main ecosystem functions & actors and their interrelationships. Therefore, we distinguish between functions and actors in the ecosystem to figure out who does what and whether the whole ecosystem functions are fulfilled or not.



ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS

Comparing the three above mentioned measurements (Table 1), we combined the main super functional domains of the entrepreneurship ecosystem and created a framework to analyze the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the U-SOLVE project (Table 2).

Table 1 Elements entrepreneurial ecosystem analysis

<i>Functional Domains</i>	<i>Column 1 OECD Eurostat</i>	<i>Column 2 Geographic of EEs Leendertse et al., 2021</i>	<i>Column 3 ANDE</i>
Formal institutions		X	
Policy	X		X
Informal institutions (Culture)		X	
Entrepreneurship culture	X	X	X
Support/services/Connection	X		X
Networks		X	
Physical Infrastructure	X	X	X
Finance	X	X	X
Human Capital	X		X
Leadership		X	
Talent		X	
R&D/Innovation	X		X
New Knowledge		X	
Market	X		X
Demand		X	
Intermediate services		X	
Entrepreneurial performance/Output (Productive Entrepreneurship)	X	X	X
Outcomes (Economic Growth, Social Impacts)	X	X	X

In Table 2, we compared ANDE and the geographic model of Leendertse et al., 2021, and defined eight main elements to measure the functionality of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The table also encompasses a definition to explain what each element means.

Table 2 USOLVE Entrepreneurial Ecosystem's Functional Domains



<i>Functional Domains</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Example</i>
Formal institutions/Policies	The rules of the game in society and Entrepreneurship supporting policies	Tax rates, tax incentives, cost to start a business
Informal institutions/Culture	The degree to which entrepreneurship is valued	entrepreneurial motivation, cultural and social norms, importance to be innovative, and trust in others
Physical Infrastructure	Transportation infrastructure and digital infrastructure	Access to telecom, Access to Electricity Access to Infrastructure
Finance/Capital	The availability of venture capital and access to finance	Debt access, VC access, Grants
Knowledge Creation (R&D/Innovation)	Investments in new knowledge	Patents, Intramural R&D expenditure
Market/ demand	Potential market demand	Domestic sales, international sales, Target market size
Human Capital (Talentes& Leadership)	The prevalence of individuals with high levels of human capital, both in terms of formal education and skills The presence of actors taking a leadership role in the ecosystem	Graduation rate, Quality of education
Business Support (Networks & Intermediate services)	The connectedness of businesses for new value creation and the supply and accessibility of intermediate business services	Industry Networks, Incubators/accelerators, legal/accounting services

ECOSYSTEM ACTORS

As mentioned above, every ecosystem's function could be fulfilled by different actors who play different roles in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. For instance, financing/capital could be offered by banks, venture capitalists, business angels, etc. Business support services as a function could be provided by accelerators and incubators hosted by a public or a private ecosystem actor. Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Actors could be simplified and defined as people or organizations who work and interact to pursue ecosystem functionality. Table 3 below provides a general framework that demonstrates the main eight ecosystem functional domains and provides examples of expected actors under each functional domain, reviewed and integrated into the U-SOLVE perspective.



Table 3 Entrepreneurial Ecosystem - Domains and Actors

Formal institutions/ Policies	Informal institutions/ Culture	Physical Infrastructure	Finance/ Capital	Knowledge Creation (R&D/ Innovation)	Market/ demand	Human Capital	Business Support Services
National Government	Media	Electricity Providers	Banks	Public Research Centres and Laboratories	Domestic corporations	Universities	Incubators
State Government	Government	Transport providers	Venture Capital	Private research Centres and Laboratories	International corporations	Technical training institutes	Accelerators
Local Government	Schools	Communications (mobile& Internet)	Angel Investors	Technology platforms	Consumers	High schools	Industry associations/Networks
Development agencies	Professional associations	Other utility providers (gas, water)	Foundations	Sand boxes, Living Labs other co-development facilities	Distribution networks	Community colleges	Legal services
	Social organizations	Managers of natural infrastructures	Microfinance Institutions	Relevant startups and other private innovative actors	Retail networks	Informal learning environments	Accounting services
	Cultural and civil society organizations	Managers of cultural infrastructures	Public capital market		Marketing networks		Technical experts/mentors
			Development finance institutions		Industrial clusters/chains		Credit rating agencies
			Government finance		Prosumers' associations and other emerging demand-side networks		Fablabs, maker spaces

MIXED RESEARCH DESIGN

Given the U-SOLVE's entrepreneurial ecosystem targeted assessment, a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods was adopted. The analysis for mapping entrepreneurial ecosystem goes through two phases

PHASE 1: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH



MAPPING ECOSYSTEM ACTORS:

The first step toward mapping the entrepreneurial ecosystem is to have a national overview (government and policy) of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Egypt. Actors and Stakeholders of the Macro level are diverse and fragmented. Different ministries and governmental bodies and initiatives implement innovation and Entrepreneurship programs. The Central bank of Egypt (CBE) has recently begun its involvement in spurring employment (a task not commonly in its remit), and other government authorities (Ministry of Investment, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Social Solidarity...) are working either with international organizations or separately to implement relevant, but overlapped programs. Such efforts and actions are mapped in the next section. Particular attention will be paid to initiatives and programs specifically designed for marginalized groups, i.e., youth and women.

DATA COLLECTION: DESK RESEARCH

Researchers on the project reviewed existing research and data sources such as published studies, articles, reports, and actors' websites to draw an initial picture of the current entrepreneurial ecosystem actors and classify them under each predefined functional domain. This desk research focused on capturing an overview of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Egypt in general at the three levels: macro, meso, and micro levels. The results show how the urban ecosystem's strengths and design measures would be developed to create new MSMEs. In such a transnational roadmap, common development lines and possible knowledge transfer and resource sharing paths will be characterized together with a clear identification of the involved actors of the local ecosystem to build the criteria of selection and match accordingly. The desk research and analysis are accompanied by a questionnaire that will be circulated to active and relevant actors in those countries as part of the U-SOLVE project.

RESULTS

1. EGYPTIAN CONTEXT



INTRODUCTION

After Uprising in 2011, Egypt has drawn down foreign exchange reserves, and the Egyptian economy suffered from several crises that threatened the coherences of the nation, including:

- High Unemployment rate, especially among young people and women;
- National tendency to emigrate, especially from the most talented and skilled Egyptians;
- Reduction in remittance income;
- Manufacturing sector is still underperforming, and the country still lags behind the key regional and global competition;
- Uncompetitive market structures, uncertainty regarding government investment/industrial policies, shortage of skilled taskforces;
- Low productivity levels and relatively high levels of informality within the MSMEs sector, where over 80% of Egyptian enterprises are informal.

NATIONAL CHALLENGES

In 2017, the national academy of scientific research and technology conducted a national survey for more than 3000+ Egyptian enterprises to identify the challenges facing micro and small enterprises in Egypt, **including competition policies, bureaucratic regulations of both registration of new companies and the closure of companies, weak enforcement of intellectual property rights including trade-marks, patents, and utility models.** Moreover, an analytical review of Egypt's innovation ecosystem (Radwan, 2017) indicated that the informal business sector, which contributes 30-40% of the gross domestic product and the investors' protection law, is among the most important priorities areas at the Egyptian innovation ecosystem. It further indicated that Egypt has less supportive taxation measurements and investors' protection when compared to other countries in the Middle East region.

According to World Bank data, GDP growth in Egypt stagnated from 7% in 2008 to just above 4% in 2018, experiencing a low of 1.7% in 2011. Overall, Debt has recently exceeded 100% of GDP, and poverty has risen to almost 30% of the population (partly not an organic rise, but instead due to new and more accurate census data). Since 2011, Egypt has been facing pressing challenges such as a substantial drop in its significant increase in the unemployment rate, 13.3 % from 2013-to 2015 (WB, 2017). To restore its macroeconomic



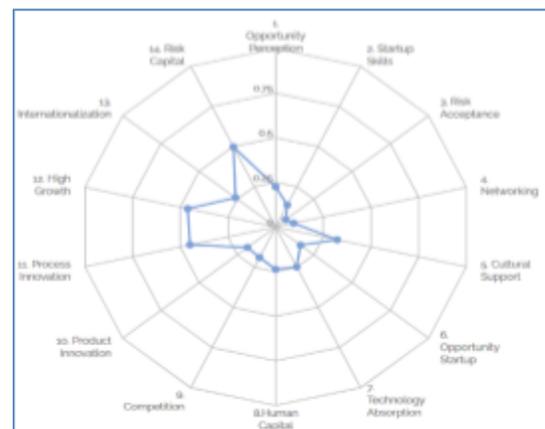
stability, Egypt, in mid-2016, started an ambitious transformational economic reform, followed by a deep restructuring its business-enabling environment. Despite devoted efforts to upscale key social protection measures, social conditions remain hard due to high inflation. The ability of the private sector to create jobs is critical to reaping the benefits of reform plans. Now, Unemployment dropped to 9.9% FY 2017/18. MSMEs are widely recognized as a key source of inclusive growth within the economy. As evidence, MSMEs represent 80% of GDP and 75% private-sector employment (EU- MiSMESIS, 2018). However, in Dec. 2015, WB-Social Fund for Development evaluated 180 employment and entrepreneurship projects in Egypt, stating that only 2% apply real impact assessment approaches. Employment sectorial distribution indicates 27%-32% of the labor force work in Agriculture, characterized by low value-added & productivity.

ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM IN EGYPT

In 2017, the Global Entrepreneurship & Development Index ranked Egypt 85 out of 116 and the pre-last of the Middle East and North African countries. According to GEDI, Egypt's business entrepreneurship ecosystem is suffering from significant weaknesses on specific pillars: [Pillar 2: Start-up skills, with a clear demand to empower young entrepreneurs' skills and leadership of directors of business intermediaries]. [Pillar 3: Risk Acceptance and availability of business angels]. [Pillar 4: Networking, aiming to share resources and mobilize expertise among various actors]. [Pillar 10: Product Innovation, to develop ideas/concepts into final products]. [Pillar 13: Internationalization, to enter the global market via a different mechanism, i.e., marketplace].

In 2020, according to the Doing Business report issued by the World Bank, Egypt moved from 120th place in 2019 to 114th in 2020. The report highlighted Egypt's improvements in doing and creating business easier by introducing a one-stop shop for the process, improving the reliability of electricity, protecting minority investors, and making tax payments easier. Various studies show that youth are engaged in MSMEs significantly across different sectors (e.g., ICT, education, agribusiness, health, urban

Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 6 GEDI 2020 - Egypt Assessment Pillars





development). Identifying themselves as ‘accidental entrepreneurs,’ the Egyptian entrepreneurs mostly do not have any formal training on entrepreneurial skills and their adaptation to the social change dimension (Younis, 2017). Thanks to the last decade's social and governmental movement that initiated several public and private business-social incubators and entrepreneurship/business development services and programs, as we will see in the next sections.

Egypt’s entrepreneurship ecosystem has expanded along several dimensions:

- Initiating various Venture Capital (VC) grants and a positive flow of local and international investments in MSMEs, mainly ICT. More entrepreneurship programs become more noticed;
- A variable range of technological innovation infrastructures and business support organizations (BSOs) to Egyptian MSMEs that was largely established based on the national 2005 industrial development strategy, aiming to boost the potentials of Egyptian enterprises and companies;
- Egypt embarked on an economic reform program and novel legislative measures. Reform of the macro-economy is key to encouraging and attracting more entrepreneurs and businesses to Egypt. Doing business 2018 reports incremental progress in reducing the “time-to-start” new business in Egypt, which is partly resulting from the recent reform strategy by the general authority of financial investment in Egypt;
- Advancing the MSME development and the national science, technology, and innovation ecosystem (STI) is characteristic of new initiatives, legislative measures, improved policies, and novel infrastructures, including the new Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Agency. In 2017, the Agency offered 215+ million EGP to fund +14K micro-small projects to create +19K jobs.



2. ACTORS MAPPING OF THE EGYPTIAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

MACRO LEVEL: GOVERNMENT: MINISTRIES, PROGRAMS, AND THE CBE

ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY (ASRT)

In 2018, with the financial support of the European Commission under the Action “TED-PPP” coordinated by the academy, ASRT launched for the first time the “Egyptian Innovation Bank” (<https://eib.eg/login/?lang=en>), which MAP & MATCH incubators and accelerators, technology transfer offices, database of senior business consultants and angels, innovation and technological clusters, and database of funding agencies and programs to stimulate interactions between innovation support organizations and service providers. EIB is operated virtually and hosted by the ENISTNET (Egyptian National S&T Network) at ASRT. The business and innovation enablers are mapped and profiled in the platform.

At the time of reporting, the EIB DB includes 145 registered innovation enablers classified under nine essential service categories such as co-working spaces, administrative and legal support, seed funding, funding and access to finance, crowdfunding and venture capitalists, incubators, training centers, business plan competitions, business development support, and research and technology services.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MCIT)

TIEC (TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER):

The Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center's (TIEC) main objective is to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the ICT sector in Egypt. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) launched TIEC at Smart Village in 2010. Since then, it has been the leading regional Hub and world-class center for ICT-based innovations and entrepreneurship in Egypt.

EGYPTINNOVATE HUB



EgyptInnovate is an online national innovation hub where innovators and entrepreneurs can get educational material and be linked with other counterparts. The HUB has its practical tools and templates and access to various networks from the innovation hubs and spaces around the globe. The HUB aims to expose Egypt’s innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem as main actors locally and globally, connecting nodes and building cooperation. According to the MCIT, entities involved in innovation-led growth in Egypt in the following makeup:

Table 4 Breakdown of Stakeholders in the Innovation Ecosystem in Egypt

www.egyptinnovate.com/en

<i>Startups</i>	682	<i>Accelerators/ Incubators</i>	27
<i>Funding/ Investing entities</i>	43	<i>Co-Working Space</i>	138
<i>Research Centers</i>	14	<i>Service Providers</i>	79
<i>Academia</i>	27	<i>NGOs</i>	33

It is important to note that the MCIT-EgyptInnovate hub and the ASRT-Egypt Innovation Bank platform are the only public online platforms/hubs in Egypt that target start-ups, SMEs, innovation support organizations, and entrepreneurs.

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Ministry of Investment have many initiatives with great relevance to the Entrepreneurship ecosystem in Egypt.

GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR INVESTMENT AND FREE ZONES

GAFI is the principal government body regulating and facilitating investments in Egypt (www.gafi.gov.eg). GAFI’s mandate can be classified into endorsing various industrial and service sectors in Egypt with investment potentials, creating investment services and facilities, enhancing opportunities for innovation, and providing financial and non-financial support for entrepreneurs.



Example of Non-Financial services to MSMEs: GAFI has launched the service “Limited Liability Corporations” to provide legal support and services to company formation. Such digitization of initiating your company has shortened the process to a single day. Such speeding up the process reflects a substantial increase (doubled) in the number of established MSMEs in Egypt, which positively affects the Entrepreneurship ecosystem in Egypt. A study (Doing Business – Egypt 2019) shows Egypt is improving in the ‘starting a business’ metric, but female entrepreneurs face greater difficulties than males (check the gender sector).

BEDAYA

In 2009, GAFI established the Bedaya as its Entrepreneurship Service, Funding, and Consultancy body. BEDAYA offers a set of various financial and technical supports in exchange for equity. Prospective fund recipients must meet minimum net-worth requirements to be eligible for funding, except for environmental projects exempt from this rule. For instance, Renewable Energy SMEs have special attention. Bedaya has been providing support to an SME for five years, after which the supported enterprise is usually listed on the Nile Stock Exchange (NILEX).

FEKRETAK SHERKETAK (WWW.SHERKETAK.COM)

It is a national initiative aiming to empower the Egyptian entrepreneurship ecosystem and provide different support and services to Egyptian young entrepreneurs all over the country. In 2017, the program initiated a national accelerator FALAK in which Egyptian Entrepreneurs can be at any phase of the maturity cycle. The acceleration program offers funding, mentorship, coaching, capacity-building programs, and a wide variety of benefits in a Toolbox that can develop and grow their businesses.

CENTRAL BANK OF EGYPT - NILE UNIVERSITY: رواد النيل NILEPRENEURS

Originally, the CBE dealt with monetary national policy and currency matters. In 2008, the Bank started stimulating youth employment via different actions and sectors, including supporting entrepreneurship. In 2008, The Bank issued a decision to exempt the MSMEs loan portfolio from mandatory reserve ratios, effectively making more funds available to MSMEs. In 2016, 200+ Billion EGPs (\approx 13 billion USD) were pledged as loans to or investments in MSMEs. After spending 25% of the available budget, 33 000+ new



MSMEs have been established. In 2019, the CBE recently launched a One billion EGP support fund (≈ 60 million USD) to invest in innovative projects in Egypt. It also provides interest-free loans to youth-led innovative projects.

NilePreneurs (<https://np.eg/en/nilepreneurs-2020-year-in-review/>) “is a nationwide initiative started in 2019 and powered by the Central Bank of Egypt and the Egyptian Banking Sector. Fuelled by various partnerships with governmental and private sector entities, NilePreneurs has been supporting start-ups and SMEs in manufacturing, agriculture, and digital transformation by applying different innovation instruments. The initiative is piloted at Nile University and has expanded to 4 other universities, and is still growing.

Nilepreneurs incubated business ideas and prototypes related to ‘multifunctional furniture, allowing businesses with related ideas or prototypes to ‘take the challenge’ for potential funding and other types of support. The Initiative Services can be classified into the incubation services, ‘awareness program’ that benefits all Egyptian entrepreneurs at all stages of maturity, ‘enterprise development’ program to directly help businesses grow, and ‘design house’ service, translating ideas into detailed specifications.

MICRO, SMALL, MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Previously it was known as the Social Fund for Development, as an autonomous development and poverty-alleviation agency, established in 1991 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP. In 2015, it was changed to be 4.1.1.1.5 Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise Development Authority. In 2017, MSMEDA allocated 4.8 Billion EGP (0.3 B USD) to support projects. MSMEDA has expanded the provision of non-financial services to help MSMEs founders develop their enterprises and services. MSMEDA provides also support to non-governmental organizations to finance microenterprises. Such a service plans to support 2 800 micro-enterprises, with at least 25% allocated to women-led/owned enterprises.



LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

REGISTRATION FOR FORMAL ACTIVITY

According to OECD (2014), The entrepreneurship ecosystem was defined as “a set of interconnected entrepreneurial actors (both potential and existing), entrepreneurial organizations (e.g., firms, venture capitalists, business angels, banks), institutions (universities, public sector agencies, financial bodies), and entrepreneurial processes (e.g., the business birth rate, numbers of high growth firms, levels of “blockbuster entrepreneurship,” number of serial entrepreneurs, degree of sell-out mentality within firms, and levels of entrepreneurial ambition) which formally and informally coalesce to connect, mediate and govern the performance within the local entrepreneurial environment.” The first pillar of the ecosystem focuses on the enabling factors and strategies, with two sub-elements: government and leadership. The Government part covers: institutional/structural (e.g., investment and support), financial support (*e.g., GERD, BERD, tax benefits*), **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, and VENTURE-SUPPORTIVE LEGISLATION.**



Table 5 MSMEs ‘Type’ and Responsible Government Authority

Entity Type	Ministry or Responsible Authority
Registered Companies	Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation - MIIC
NGOs	Ministry of Social Solidarity - MOSS
Incubated projects	TIEC, GESR (Misr al-Kheir), AUC venture capital, Nilepreneurs. ..etc.
Youth initiatives	Generally informal
Women’s initiatives	Generally informal

According to studies, a Venture format would enable greater government support for it, which success stories show is needed. Registration benefits, access to financiers, special tariff rights, and better placement within Global Value Chains (GVCs) are among the benefits that could be expected from MSMEs legal formats in Egypt, according to studies and other country’s experiences (Abdou and El Ebrashi, 2015: 47).

TAXATION

One of the main challenges facing any start-up by people motivated by opportunity is facing red tape and tax paying.

According to an EU project implemented by AECOM—namely, EU Synthesis Report (2016)—the main drawback to registering MSMEs in the MENA has to do with additional taxes incurred in income, value-added, and other taxes (AECOM, 2016: 62). MSMEs are also susceptible to audits and legal expenses, registration costs, and associated requirements such as renting an office space. MSME's founders voiced this concern.

In its report on 2019, the World Bank measured various indicators for the business environments of various countries at different levels, ranked Egypt 159/190 countries in ‘Paying Taxes.’ The ranking was based on 1) tax amounts, 2) the method and frequency of filing and paying taxes, 3) the time required to comply with tax filing and payment, 4) a post-filing index to measure the time required to comply with and resolve refunds and corrections. According to a WB study, around 400 hours annually are needed to deal with taxes in Egypt by an average medium-sized enterprise (WB- Doing Business, 2019). Comparatively, the average time required in the MENA region was half (200 hours), while in OECD high-income countries, the average is 160 hours. On the other hand, the report highlighted Egypt's high FINANCIAL AUDITS frequency.



FINANCIAL LIBERTY

According to Egyptian law, the corresponding Ministry must first approve donor funding, foreign funding, and other forms of non-earned income. This particularly influences NGOs and public entities as private business enterprises are not required to get such approval. Registered companies are much less affected as income is restricted from similar inspections. Private Sector companies are also more capable, if less needing, of accepting and using donor money without red tape. Such a privilege is positive for Egyptian MSMEs

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

According to the WB Doing Business 2019 Report, Egypt's main obstacles to doing business were related to trading across borders (rank: 171/190), paying taxes (rank: 159/190), and enforcing contracts (rank: 160/190). The latter ranking is determined by sorting the scores of the various indicators used for 'ease of enforcing contracts.' The indicators include numerous measures for time and cost (% of claim value) and the quality of judicial processes index.

Egypt set different measures aligned with the TRIPS agreement in the late 1990s, and the Egyptian Intellectual property rights law came into force in June 2002 (law 82 of 2002). The enforcement of Egypt's IPR law is challenged by many factors, including the unavailability of an electronic registry system for most of the IP protection categories, including Patents and Utility models, in addition to the large informal business sector and the insufficient training for the judiciary and other enforcement agencies in IPR issues. In addition to law enforcement, access to knowledge has also been recognized as another major obstacle. Existing intellectual properties such as patents, utility models, copyrights, and industrial designs shall be considered input for further R&D and technology development. However, the shortage of "access-to-knowledge" breaks up the routine cycle of innovation activities and increases the opportunity costs for entrepreneurs and innovators.

Egypt's International Property Rights Index (IPRI) score increased in 2018 by 15%. Egypt's current global rank is 77 (out of 125), and its regional rank is 11 (out of the 15 MENA countries scored in the index). Egypt's global and regional positions mean there is work yet to be done in property rights and a strong basis to build off.



MESO LEVEL MAP

This part of the report will focus on the MESO level of the Entrepreneurship ecosystem in Egypt and the main actors and stakeholders that provide technical, financial, and other types of support to MSMEs. We can call them ‘Intermediary Organizations (IOs)’. IOs in Egypt take many legal formats and working modalities (private/public, academia/business, non-for-profit/for-profit...). While such support may consider part of IOs' work and mandate as supporting MSMEs, other IOs are fully devoted to the purpose.

IOs are growing in the MENA region and Egypt, with more financial and non-financial resources and instruments to unleash the Entrepreneurship environment. However, there is still a remarkable deficiency of impact assessment of those IOs and the whole ecosystem of MSMEs in Egypt. Over the last five years, several actions and platforms have emerged to tackle this issue, as we will present in the next section. Such a mapping task under U-SOLVE Action makes it the right moment to conduct such an analysis..

EUROPAID-ECOSYS+ (ASRT)

ECOSYS+" The Egyptian Innovation Ecosystem Accelerator is a smart, built-in innovation resources portal to stimulate inclusive entrepreneurial growth by effectively interacting with innovations enablers, service providers, and innovators to leverage resources and assets while offering targeted support to promising ideas.

ECOSYS+ is co-funded by the European Union and is the result of collaborations between Egypt, Italy, and Ireland through a variety of involved expertise, including the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), Industrial Council for Technology and Innovation -Ministry of Trade and Industry in Egypt (ICTI), NilePreneurs-Nile University (NilePreneur), Estebda - Yomken.com, Easy Integrazione di Sistemi, Sustainable Innovation Technology Services (SITeS)."

USAID-SEED: STRENGTHENING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

(Source:<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1883/2015-11-25%20SEED.pdf>)

SEED project offered technical and infrastructure support to 18 business service providers, incubators, and accelerators in Egypt to serve the MSMEs to help develop their business ideas, strengthen essential business development services, introduce new financial tools, and enhance financial literacy and management. SEED



will also improve access to essential financing, information, and technology, reduce bureaucratic procedures, address policies that impact the ease of doing business, and expand and improve public one-stop shops responsible for business registration and licensing.

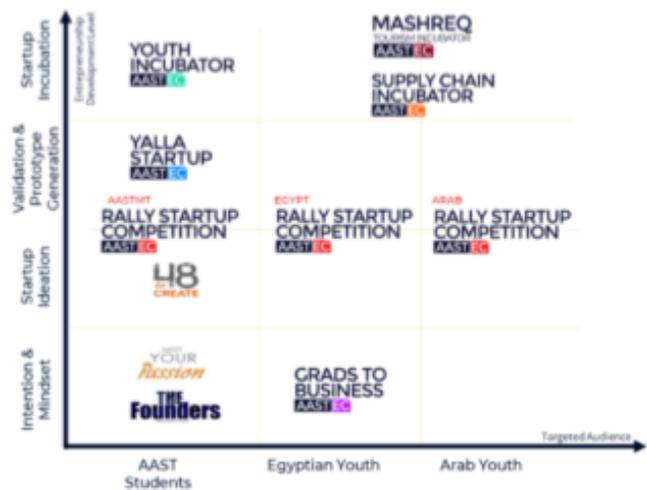
Main COMPONENTS: 1) improving quality, availability, accessibility of financial and non-financial services; 2) connecting entrepreneurs and MSMEs with services; 3) linking service providers; 4) encouraging formalization of private enterprises, and 5) strengthening the ability of business associations to address policies that impact the ease of doing business.

AASST ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE

(Source: <http://www.aast.edu/en/centers/Entrepreneurship/index.php>)

The AAST Entrepreneurship Centre was established by the Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport in 2015 with the main focus of empowering the Arab youth to create a sustainable ecosystem in the Arab region & Africa. After a couple of years of continuous support to the academy community and seeing the returned benefit to the students & Egyptian ecosystem, AAST Entrepreneurship Centre started to go beyond the academy. It launched several programs for the Arab youth in different stages of the start-up maturity level. The center supports young entrepreneurs through their journey to become great business leaders.

Figure 2 AAST Entrep. Center - Startup Maturity Matrix



FALAK STARTUPS

(Source: <https://falakstartups.com/about-falak-startups/#>)



The Ministry of International Cooperation initiates it. Falak Start-ups' mission is to empower talented and ambitious seed stage tech start-up founders and help them thrive in the region's rapidly changing entrepreneurship landscape. Its sector-agnostic offering focuses on improving start-ups' product-market fit; fine-tuning their business, operating, and revenue models, growing their customer base; and raising follow-on investments. FALAK arms entrepreneurs with the necessary tools, resources, and networks to develop their strategies and scale up their businesses. It offers equity investment, growth hacking, networking, mentorship, training, and various perks and benefits. After meeting the needed KPIs, its database of founders can highlight their start-ups on our Virtual Stage platform, a tool for connecting with potential investors, policymakers, stakeholders, and partners. Its support is ongoing through the start-ups' journey. We are a constant advisor and advocate for all our portfolio companies.

Falak Start-ups' offers an unrivaled ticket size of up to 2,000,000 EGP and provides the support start-ups need to gain momentum and accelerate their growth. Falak also supports its portfolio of start-ups in securing follow-on investments from venture capital firms, angel investors, and/or corporates. Although Falak Start-ups is industry agnostic and focuses on tech-enabled and scalable start-ups, it has an additional focused track specializing in Financial Technology. It also fosters sector-specific sub-tracks with the support of key industry partners. Its start-ups operate from its fully equipped state-of-the-art, 700m2 office in the heart of Downtown Cairo that meets all office space needs.

ASHOKA ARAB WORLD (AAW)

(Source: <https://www.ashoka.org/en/about/arab-world>)

Since 2003, Ashoka Arab World has pioneered and been the platform for social entrepreneurship across the Arab region, identifying and selecting the region's leading social entrepreneurs across 12 countries. From establishing the first terminology for social entrepreneurship in Arabic to hosting the first international summits on social entrepreneurship in the Arab world and serving on the boards of emerging local and regional organizations with social entrepreneurship-oriented programs, Ashoka Arab World has paved the way for a formal and flourishing social entrepreneurship sector in the region.

FLAT6LABS



(Source: <https://flat6labs.com/>)

Flat6Labs is the MENA region's leading seed and early-stage venture capital firm, currently running the most renowned start-up programs. Annually, Flat6Labs invests in more than 100 innovative and technology-driven start-ups enabling thousands of passionate entrepreneurs to achieve their daring ambitions and ultimately become institutional co-founders. Flat6Labs manages several seed funds with a total AUM above \$85M. More than 25 leading institutions have invested in the Flat6Labs managed funds, believing in the asset class and Flat6Labs' proven track record as the market leader. Flat6Labs provides a wide range of investment ticket sizes ranging from \$50K to \$500k, supporting start-ups through their early journeys from Pre-Seed all the way to Pre-Series A-stages. Alongside the investments, Flat6Labs' exceptional start-up programs, executed to cater specifically to the needs of the innovative entrepreneurs, help them accelerate their growth by providing them with a plethora of support services and connecting them to unparalleled opportunities with an expansive network comprising hundreds of business mentors, investors and corporates. Launched and headquartered in Cairo in 2011, Flat6Labs has multiple regional offices with ongoing plans to expand into other emerging markets.

At the time of reporting, the entity published that they managed to: exist in 7 locations all-over the Arab states, 1000+ registered mentors, 8000+ jobs have been created, organizing 40+ demo days at various MENA countries, and most importantly, supporting more than 2000 MSMEs in MENA region.

Flat6Labs- EGYPT

Since its launch in 2011 by Sawari Ventures, Flat6Labs has been a key player in building and re-shaping the entrepreneurial scene in Egypt, offering young innovators with unique business ideas the opportunity to turn their vision into market-leading ventures. Egypt is recognized for being such a fertile place of growth due to the remarkable increase in the number of deals and total funding (31% increase in 2020) that the country has seen in recent years.

INJAZ EGYPT

(Source: <http://injaz-egypt.org/>)



INJAZ has been working in Egypt since 2003 to promote employability and entrepreneurship skills among Egypt's chronically unemployed youth. At the time of reporting, Injaz had impacted, according to their own self-reporting, 690,000 students, 335 public schools, 33 universities, 53 start-ups, and recruited +5000 volunteers (www.injaz-egypt.org).

Injaz offers different programs and tracks: **Work Readiness, Financial Literacy, and The Entrepreneurship track.**

ICECAIRO

(Source: <http://www.icecairo.com/fablab>)

ICECAIRO is a technology innovation hub that aims at accelerating Egypt's economic growth by promoting market-driven and environmentally viable innovations. <http://icecairo.com/> <http://icecairo.com/arabic>. Established in 2011, **IceCairo** is a green technology innovation hub, a community of individuals with innovative ideas working on local solutions to local & global challenges.

It is part of the emerging ice (innovation – collaboration – entrepreneurship) network of technology innovation hubs, currently implemented in Ethiopia, Egypt, and Germany. IceCairo provides shared workspace, training, and networking opportunities like its sister hubs.

With a state-of-the-art digital fabrication facility, including 3D printing, laser cutting, CNC machining, and total project fabrication. The IceHubs represent local community, international network, business incubation, investment opportunity, inspiration, high-tech, improvisation, low-tech, collaboration, dreaming & making.

NAHDET EL MAHROUSA

(Source: <https://www.nahdetelmahrousa.org/>)

Founded in 2003, Nahdet El Mahrousa, meaning “Egypt’s Renaissance,” is an NGO built to help social entrepreneurs in Egypt by providing incubation services and seed funding. NM puts special focus on youth by including them in its mission statement and tailoring programs specific to them. NM services are split up into five areas:



Table 6 Nahdet el Mahrousa Main Focus Areas

1	Entrepreneurship Training: complete training and coaching provided to phase I and phase II prospective Ses
2	Mentorship: one-on-one guidance between managing partners of prospective SEs and experts with proven entrepreneurial success in Egypt
3	Management Support (for start-ups): bi-monthly one-on-one support offered to early stage SEs, their teams, and management
4	Technical Consultations: NM mobilizes its membership base and extended network of SEs, SESOs, and business entrepreneurs as sector- and field-specific consultants to one another
5	Fully equipped co-working spaces: Office space available to SEs to work, hold meetings, or host events

According to its internal impact assessment, NM has, in its first decade, incubated around 40 social enterprises and impacted 50,000 beneficiaries in the area of youth development, education, employment, healthcare, and culture. This includes SEs covered in this report, such as Studio Meem and Nawaya. NM also maintains an active presence and dissemination effort, including a regular newsletter to raise awareness about the SE ecosystem in Egypt. While seemingly a minor aspect, such outreach and awareness campaigns are critical to beginning the policy conversation in Egypt around SEs.

PHASE. 2 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

URBAN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

In this phase, the research focuses on exploring the Urban Entrepreneurial Ecosystem with a focus on the city of Alexandria, covering the following points

- 1- Exploring the main urban development sustainability challenges the community faces in the city.
- 2- Evaluating the functionality of the current entrepreneurial ecosystem
- 3- Mapping the connectedness between ecosystem actors through Social Network Mapping.
- 4- Defining the needs of ecosystem actors to perform better
- 5- Exploring the potential impact of solving entrepreneurial activities on different the social, ecological, and economic levels



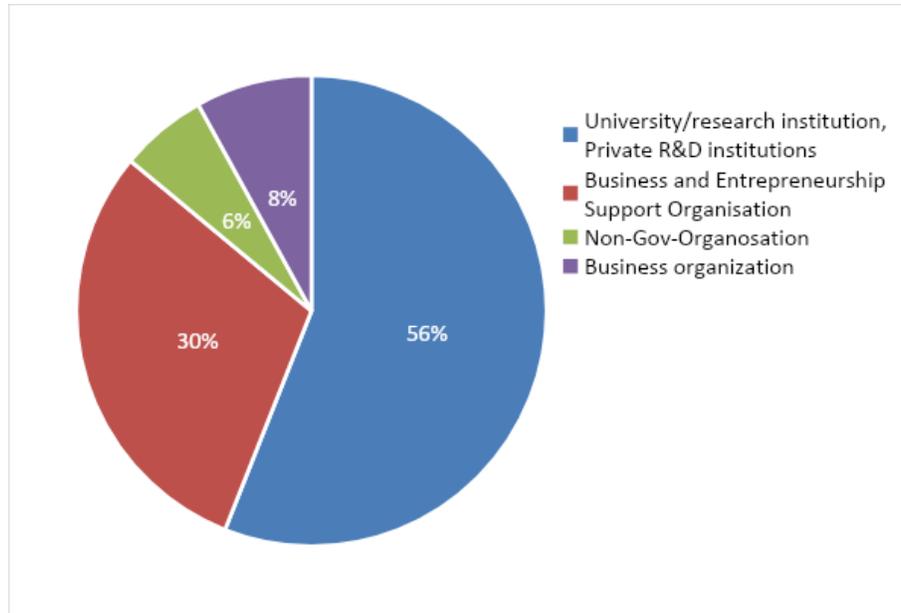
DATA COLLECTION: USING A SURVEY

Using indicators from the ANDE and OCED/Eurostat framework, besides some other indicators extracted from the geographic mode of Leendertse et al., 2021, we designed a survey to capture ecosystem experts/actors' opinions on the ecosystem's functions in Alexandria City. The survey was designed around four blocks (**Appendix A**):

1. Demographic information
2. Detailed questions regarding each ecosystem's function
3. Connectedness and interactivity of entrepreneurial ecosystem actors
4. The impact of entrepreneurial ecosystem activities on sustainable development.

An electronic version of the survey was created in two languages, i.e., English and Arabic, and sent to more than 150 ecosystem actors from academia, business, policymakers, NGOs, funding institutions, etc. we received 63 responses representing different ecosystem actors in Alexandria city. The analysis and results rely on a sample consisting of 56% academics, 30% business support organizations, 6% NGOs, and 8% Private business actors (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Sample Breakdown of EE Actors



URBAN DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES(UDSCHS)

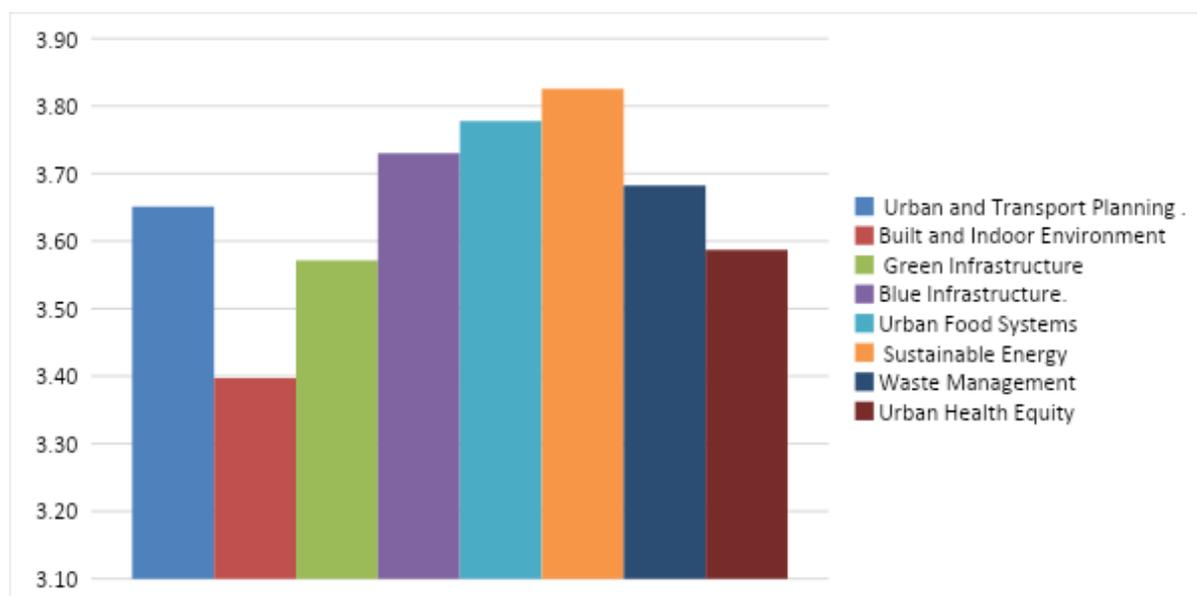
In the survey, a list of Urban Development sustainability challenges was given. Respondents were asked to evaluate them on a Likert scale from 1 to 5, while one means that the challenge is not crucial at all and five means it is very crucial. Results appear in Figure 4 below indicate that all listed challenges received a value beyond the median 3. Ecosystem actors perceive all Urban sustainability challenges as crucial without significant differences between them. This reflects that urban development challenges have a mutual impact on each other; one problem generates and echoes others. On the other hand, solving one issue will generate a positive domino effect. Yet, the actors have ranked **Sustainable Energy, Urban Food Systems, and Waste Management** as the top three major challenges to urban development sustainability in Alexandria. However, for the sake of the next steps in WP4, we ranked urban sustainability challenges according to their level of cruciality as following

1. **Sustainable Energy:** renewable Energy.



2. **Urban Food Systems:** healthy diets, food safety and security.
3. **Blue Infrastructure:** water elements, wastewater management, water treatment, and accessibility.
4. **Waste Management:** recycling.
5. **Urban and Transport Planning:** traffic-related issues, noise, gas emissions.
6. **Urban Health Equity:** threats related to environmental injustice to access health facilities and services.
7. **Green Infrastructure:** protection of natural resources
8. **Built and Indoor Environment:** internal environmental quality, inadequate ventilation, indoor pollution.

Figure 4 Urban Development Sustainability Challenges



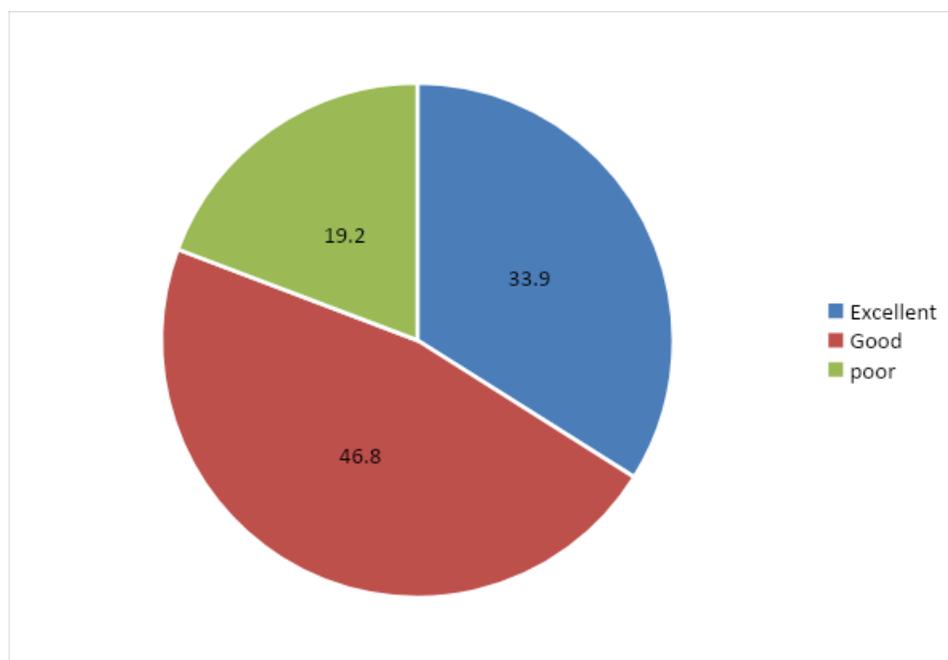
EVALUATING THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE CURRENT ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM



Ecosystem functionality can be captured in terms of the services that any functional ecosystem should provide for the stakeholders, particularly entrepreneurs and startups. Understanding the current status of the urban entrepreneurial ecosystem would guide U- SOLVE pROJECT in defining the blind spots where additional instruments such as ULLs can serve and fill a real gap in the ecosystem. In the survey, actors had to evaluate the urban entrepreneurial ecosystem in terms of eight functions (i.e., Access to capital/finance, Knowledge creation, Accessibility to physical and digital infrastructure, human resources, Existence of business supporting organizations, regulations and policies, Entrepreneurial, culture and awareness, The market for innovative products).

In general, figure 5 shows that actors evaluate the Urban Entrepreneurial Ecosystem UEE as having good or excellent overall functionality.

Figure 5 General Evaluation of UEE functionality



Looking deeply into the individual functions of the UEE (Figure 6) , we figure out that actors evaluate knowledge creation through university and research institutes as the most significant functions (47.6%), followed by the presence of business support organizations (42,9%). On the other hand, access to finance still appears to be the most challenging function in the ecosystem, as actors evaluate it as the worst function on the poor evaluation scale.

Figure 6 Functional evaluation of UEE



In appendix B, each function is analyzed using different sub-indicators that represent the main obstacles and underpinnings that determine the overall functionality of the UEE.

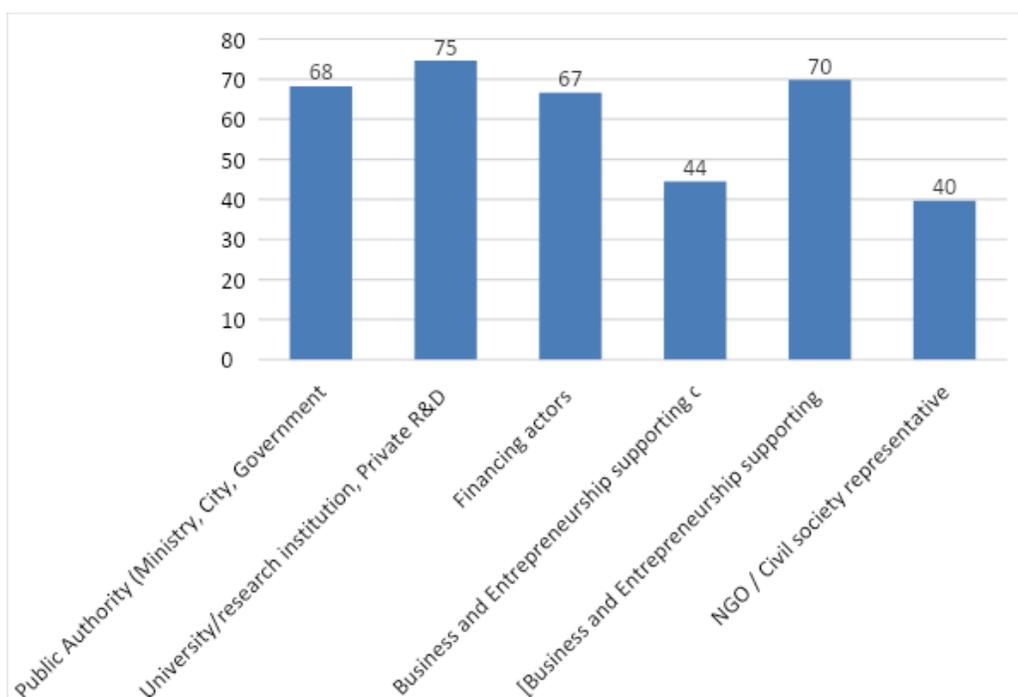
URBAN ECOSYSTEM ACTORS

IMPORTANT ACTORS

The desk research results show the richness and granularity of the entrepreneurial ecosystem scene in Egypt. In the survey, respondents were asked to indicate which ecosystem actor is considered the most important for solving UDSCs. While all actors are almost on the same level of importance (Figure 7), accumulated evaluations indicate that universities and research institutes followed by the private sector; are the most important players. Which validate the overall approach of the U-SOLVE project of supporting startups and entrepreneurs to get their innovative solution implemented



Figure 7 General evaluation of EE actors according the their importance



ACTORS CONNECTIVITY: SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

Applying social network analysis aims to understand the complexity and structural connectedness between ecosystem actors. Ecosystem connectedness is crucial in improving the overall outcomes of the ecosystem and helps avoid redundancy by creating new entities. Knowing which actor is playing the central role in the ecosystem and which actor wants to connect with whom is in benefit of the U-SOLVE project to define the objectives and the strategy of the projected Urban Living Labs. Unfortunately, building social network analysis required intensive data collection, which can not be fulfilled in our case. We relied on the survey of the key actors of the EE to obtain information about the connectivity among the actors. The following Figure is a result of analyzing the survey with the key actors in the EE when we asked them to define which other actors they perceive as highly important for their activities and would prefer to connect with. The degree of

connectivity is represented in this Figure by the bold line (which refers to the strong connection) to dashed lines (the weak connection).

Figure 8 Mapping Connectivity Between Core EE actors

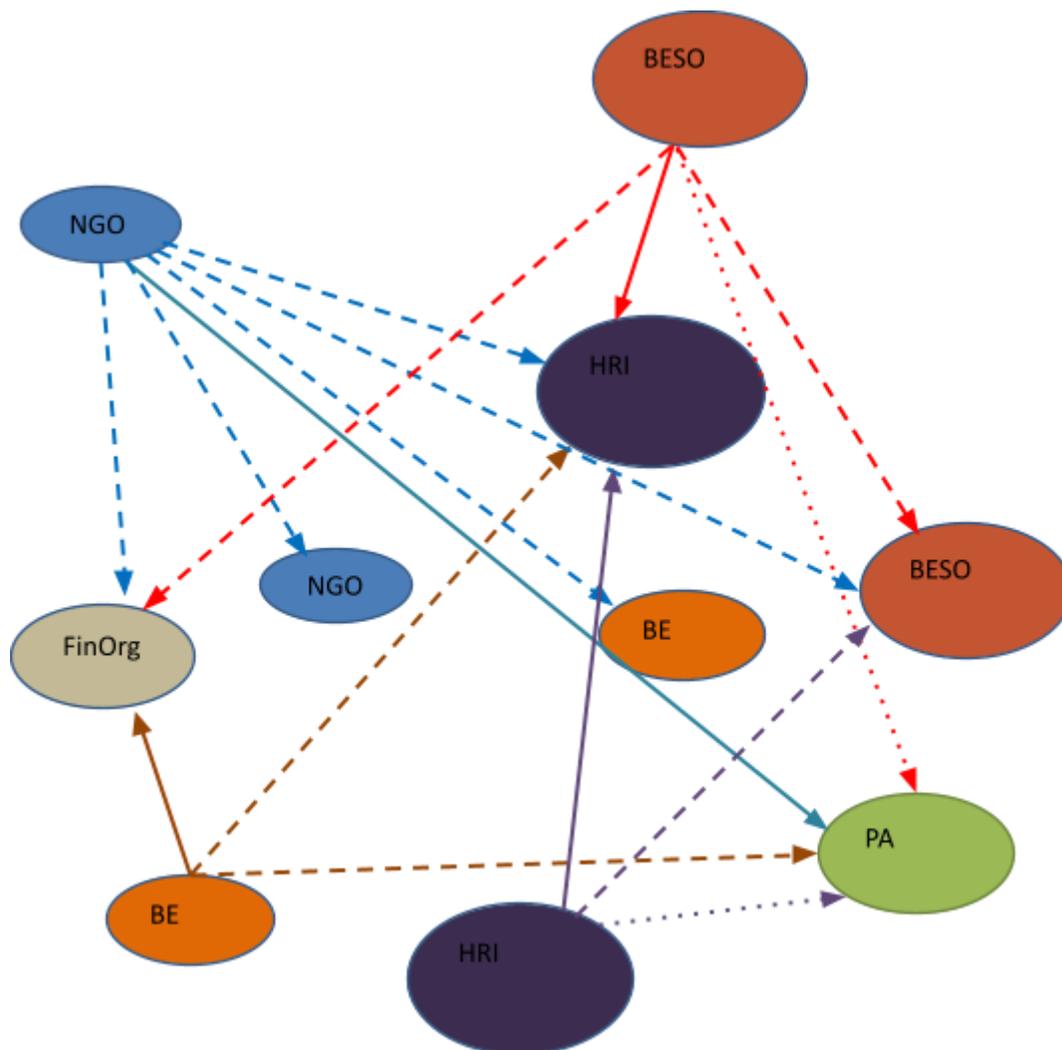


Table 7 Desired Connections between EE actors



Actor	Actor would prefer to connect with
Business and Entrepreneurs Supporting Organization BESO	Higher Education and Research Institutions HRI
HRI	HRI and BESO
Business and Entrepreneurs BE	Financing Organization FinOrg
NGO	Policy Agency PA

ACTORS AND FUNCTIONS

The U-SOLVE project adopts a model that depends on both OECD and ANDE frameworks to identify functional domains and key actors in the EE working in urban development. For entrepreneurs, it is crucial to have a holistic map that links entrepreneurial ecosystem functions and actors together. Here we rely on the interactive impressive map created by the Arab Entrepreneurs house (Figure 9). This map is opened and accessed where each ecosystem actor can join and place his organization in the right section according to its function in the ecosystem.

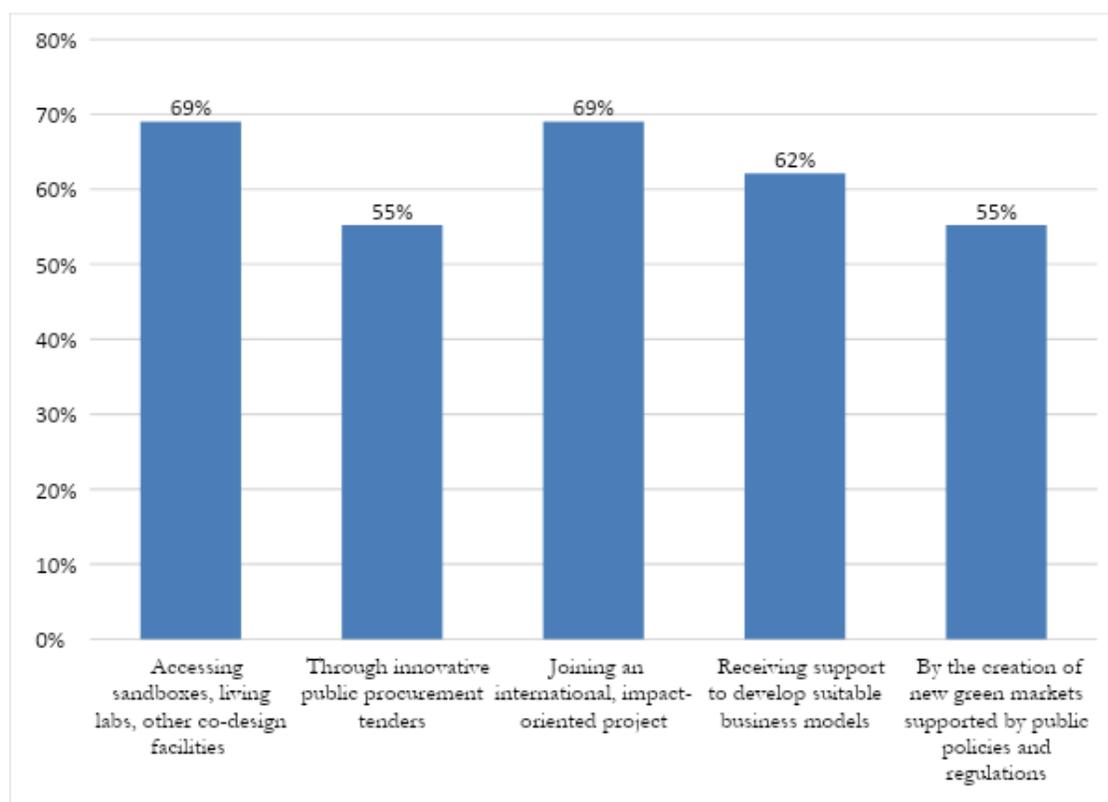
Figure 9 Interactive map of entrepreneurial ecosystem actors and functions in Egypt



Table 8 Ranked Needs of Urban Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Actors

Accessing sandboxes, living labs, other co-design facilities	69%
Joining an international, impact-oriented project	69%
Receiving support to develop suitable business models	62%
By the creation of new green markets supported by public policies and regulations	55%
Through innovative public procurement tenders	55%

Figure 10 Needs of Urban Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Actors

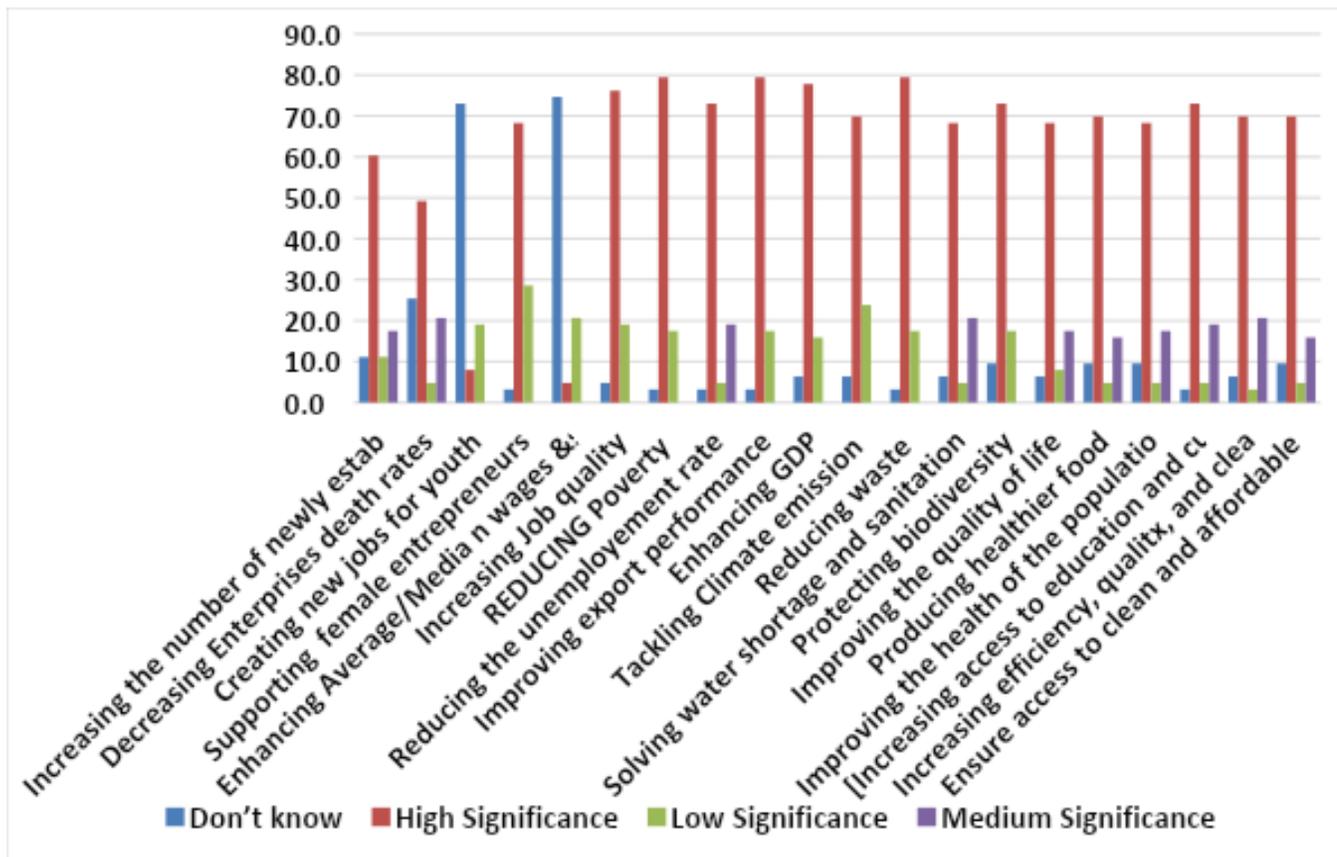


IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

In the survey, EE actors were also asked to express their opinions regarding the impact of the current EE services on improving social, economic, and ecological conditions in Egypt. The results show that the current EE should have a significant role in achieving actual impacts at different levels

U-SOLVE

Figure 11 Impact of EE services on improving social, economic and ecological business and life conditions in Egypt





EGYPT - Local Strategic Urban Action Plan

1. Regeneration of Built Environment:

- Implement sustainable urban development projects, especially in areas experiencing rapid urbanization.
- Promote green building practices and the adaptive reuse of existing structures.

2. Resilient and Renewable Energy Systems:

- Invest in solar energy projects to diversify the energy mix and improve energy access.
- Implement energy-efficient solutions in public infrastructure.

3. Urban Bio-economy:

- Introduce comprehensive waste management initiatives, emphasizing recycling and composting.
- Support urban agriculture projects to enhance local food production.

4. Improved Access to Education:

- Upgrade educational infrastructure to accommodate the growing population.
- Implement technology-driven solutions to improve access to quality education.

5. Improved Resilience to Climate Crisis:

- Develop climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impact of climate change.
- Implement water conservation and management projects to address water scarcity.

6. Entrepreneurial Ventures:

- Support startups in renewable energy, agribusiness, and technology.



- Establish innovation centers to foster collaboration between entrepreneurs and researchers.



Urban entrepreneurial policy for sustainable development in EGYPT

1. Promoting Inclusive Entrepreneurship:

- Develop programs and initiatives that encourage entrepreneurship among diverse populations, including women, youth, and underrepresented communities.
- Foster partnerships with educational institutions to integrate entrepreneurial education and skills development.

2. Supporting Green and Sustainable Businesses:

- Incentivize and support startups and businesses that contribute to environmental sustainability and address climate challenges.
- Encourage the adoption of green technologies and sustainable practices through targeted funding and awareness campaigns.

3. Urban Living Labs for Innovation:

- Establish Urban Living Labs (ULLs) as collaborative spaces for experimentation, co-creation, and evaluation of innovative solutions to urban challenges.
- Facilitate partnerships between entrepreneurs, government bodies, and citizens within ULLs to drive sustainable urban development.

4. Access to Funding and Financial Support:

- Create financial instruments and grants specifically tailored to urban entrepreneurs, with a focus on sustainable business models.
- Develop a transparent and efficient process for accessing funding, ensuring inclusivity and fair distribution.



5. **Policy Coordination and Innovation Ecosystem Building:**

- Establish a coordinating body or task force to streamline urban entrepreneurial policies across different government departments.
- Build a robust innovation ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs with research institutions, industry experts, and international collaborators.

6. **Technology and Digital Innovation:**

- Support tech-driven startups by providing access to incubators, accelerators, and mentorship programs.
- Invest in digital infrastructure to enhance connectivity and create a conducive environment for tech-based entrepreneurship.

7. **Community Engagement and Co-Creation:**

- Involve communities in the urban planning process through participatory approaches and citizen engagement initiatives.
- Encourage entrepreneurs to develop solutions that address the unique needs and challenges of local communities.