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# Mediterranean **S**cience, **P**olicy, **R**esearch & **I**nnovation **G**ateway



MedSpring is an EU funded project with the objective to encourage and strengthen the **Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on Research and Innovation** by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organizations, associations and civil society.

It focuses its efforts around three major societal challenge themes: **resource efficiency (particularly water), high quality affordable food and energy.**

<http://www.medspring.eu>

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## Research & Innovation

Research and Innovation are increasingly important in addressing the many social changes and challenges faced by all countries of the world.

Cooperation activities and EU funded projects can engage European and Mediterranean partner countries in a joint effort to develop specific subject areas targeted by innovation.

In this framework, Horizon 2020 tackles societal challenges with the aim of bridging the gap between research and the market and helping innovative enterprises and entrepreneurs to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with tangible commercial potential.

Highly competitive research platforms need to be developed with high result valorization, as well as enhancing partnerships among researchers, private entrepreneurs, civil society and institutions to bring together different knowledge, capacities and resources, in order to support this approach. International cooperation has immense potential in playing a proactive and pivotal role in achieving the H2020 main goals as well as to contribute to European external policies, like the European Neighborhood Policy, particularly when addressing the most relevant societal challenges in the Mediterranean region.

More specifically, **MedSpring has identified three major challenges for strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on research and innovation :**

- Resources efficiency (particularly **water**)
- High quality affordable **food**
- Energy.**

**Research & Innovation in the pursuit of social change**

**Research**      **Innovation**

**New solutions for food energy water access**

# First Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage Event

## On Research And Innovation

Cairo, 12-13 February 2014

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**med Spring**  
Brokerage Event  
Cairo, Egypt 12-13 February 2014

Within the framework of MedSpring project, MHESR (Egypt), DLR (Germany), CIHEAM IAMB (Italy), ANIMA Investment Network (France) and MCST (Malta) organized the first MedSpring Brokerage event on Research and Innovation from the 12th to 13th February 2013 in Cairo, Egypt.

For two days, 15 Mediterranean young entrepreneurs and researchers gathered together to present their **innovative ideas** and had the opportunity to find away to concretize them by attracting financial, technical and networking support.

More than 50 people participated in the event, among them both idea-carriers and interested investors. On average, each idea-carrier had the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussion with at least 10 potential collaborators and partners for investment or technical and scientific support.

The brokerage event opened with a presentation of the main coaching actors participating in the event: the European Investment Bank, the Central Bank of Egypt, Anima Investment Network, Nile Capital, Flat6Labs, and many others. The opening session was followed by a section in which all the idea-carriers made a brief but appealing presentation of their projects. Some of the projects are still in their inception phase, others have a more consolidated structure. The following step was a **coaching section**, in which all the idea-carriers received advises and comments on their project's plan by a group of international experts. Idea-carriers were asked to implement comments and advises and to present their project in front of an audience of interested stakeholders, for the **matchmaking meeting**, in which they had the opportunity to meet face-to-face their potential partners and discuss on opportunities for cooperation partnership, investment and fund raising.



From solar cookers+ and hybrid wave-wind energy+ to food platform+ and a machine for raising water+, **MedSpring project brings together the private sector with researchers and investment institutions to give sustainable projects the chance to start and grow.** The second day, during a session opened to wide public, some experts (from DLR, ZENIT and EIB) held speeches on **funding opportunities for SMEs under H2020 programme**, self-assessment tools for SMEs and approaches to foster Research, Development and Innovation in the frame of European Investment Bank opportunities.



# 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage and Venturing Event

## on Research and Innovation

Berlin, 24-25 February 2015

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Brokerage Event

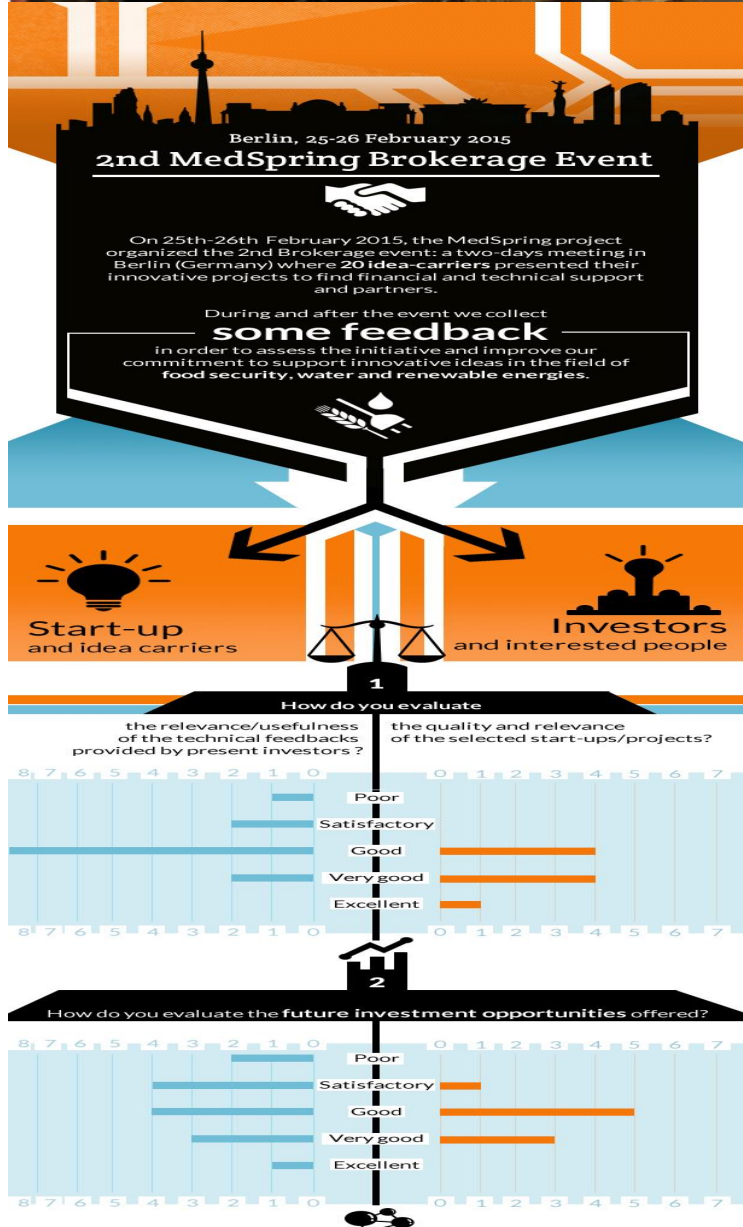
On 24 and 25 February 2015, MedSpring project organized, in collaboration with MHESR, MCST, ANIMA and CIHEAM-IAMB, in Berlin (Germany), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage and Venturing Event on Research and Innovation+hosted by DLR.

Coming to its second edition, and building on the 1<sup>st</sup> Brokerage event (held in Cairo on February 2014) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brokerage Event was a regional Euro-Mediterranean event where companies, organizations, entrepreneurs and researchers from different EU and Mediterranean countries participate with the aim of facilitating bridging between research and innovation through the creation of private-public and research-enterprise partnerships.

It also aimed at activating relevant actors in the Mediterranean region, helping them to enhance clustering for innovation involving young entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs).

The brokerage event stimulated the participation of representatives of identified innovation clusters as well as ideas carriers from different European countries. Existing regional networks and cluster initiatives were also involved in the event in order to help triggering local to regional commercial-technology partnerships.

About 90 participants from 18 countries attended the brokerage event: young entrepreneurs/researchers, start-ups, researcher institutions, tech-driven enterprises, SMEs and other relevant private/public potential investors/networks from Euro-Mediterranean Countries met in Berlin to share their interest and offers for cooperation as well as to get funding opportunities. Among them, 20 young entrepreneurs and researchers were invited to present their innovative ideas.





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The "3<sup>rd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Brokerage and Venturing Event on Research and Innovation" was held on 26 and 27 May 2016, in Valenzano (Italy), hosted by CIHEAM-IAMB, in collaboration with MHESR, MCST, ANIMA and DLR.

Coming to its third edition, and building on the previous events (in Cairo on February 2014 and in Berlin on February 2015), it was a regional Euro-Mediterranean event where companies, organizations, entrepreneurs and researchers from different EU and Mediterranean countries participated with the aim of facilitating bridging between research and innovation through the creation of private-public and research-enterprise partnerships. It also aimed at activating relevant actors in the Mediterranean region, helping them to enhance clustering for innovation involving young entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs).

The brokerage event stimulated the participation of representatives of identified innovation clusters as well as idea carriers from different European countries. Existing regional networks or cluster initiatives were also involved in the event to help triggering local to regional commercial-technology partnerships.

More than 60 participants (young entrepreneurs/researchers, start-ups, researcher institutions, tech-driven enterprises, SMEs and other relevant private/public potential investors/networks) from Euro-Mediterranean Countries met in Valenzano (under the CIHEAM-IAMB premises) to share their interest and offers for cooperation as well as to get funding opportunities. Among them, about 24 young entrepreneurs and researchers were invited to present their innovative ideas.



## TRAINING ON INNOVATION

NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>- 27<sup>TH</sup> 2015, NAPLES - ITALY

MED-SPRING project organized a "Training on Innovation", from 25th to 27th November 2015 in Naples (Italy). In synergy with the capacity building initiatives of the EU funded project MERID, the Training on Innovation aimed to support networking and cooperation in R&I in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Research and Innovation are among the main assets for increasing countries' competitiveness while addressing specific societal challenges. Cooperation activities and EU funded projects can engage European and Mediterranean partner countries in a joint effort to develop specific subject areas targeted by innovation.

In this perspective, the overall objectives of the training were:

- To strengthen participants' capacities in R&I cooperation through the improvement of knowledge and skills required to promote innovation at institutional level;
- To implement research and innovation strategies at local and national level,
- To network for building R&I international partnerships and identifying funding opportunities.

The training was addressed to officials and experts from the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Iran and Iraq. Two young researchers funded through the EU funded MEDMOBIL project also joined the training. Participants represented governmental organizations, research institutions and business clusters

All the training materials and presentations are available on-line at the following address:

<http://www.medspring.eu/event/med-spring-training-innovation>

2<sup>nd</sup> TRAINING ON INNOVATION

for Mediterranean Research & Innovation  
Managers and Decision Makers  
Bonn, Germany, 20-21 September 2016



MED-SPRING organized its "2nd Training on Innovation", hosted by the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) in Bonn, Germany from 20th to 22nd September 2016. Overall, it was the sixth and last workshop on Capacity Building of the MED-SPRING project.

Targets of the two-day training event were responsible players at the macro and meso level of National Innovation Systems in MPCs as well as in EU MS (governmental organizations, national research agencies and facilities). Participants came from Algeria, Egypt, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia.

European and Mediterranean partner countries engaged in a joint effort to develop specific subject areas targeted by innovation. The overall objectives of the training were:

- analytical processes for the definition of research priorities and potentials,
- foresight and road mapping for coherent trans-sectoral national innovation policies; strategic up-scaling of innovation ecosystems,
- orientation and streamlining of funding policies towards knowledge transfer, innovation, valorization and societal impact (coherent funding schemes based on analysis and foresight),
- international collaboration and its effect on the achievement of strategic goals in partner countries (MS and MPC), particularly with regard to structural effects (entrepreneurship, practice-oriented qualification frameworks, start-up initiatives and their viability, job creation),
- national policies for the support of cluster development and the adoption of smart specialisation strategies (S3).

All the training materials and presentations are available on-line at the following address:

<http://www.medspring.eu/event/med-spring-training-innovation>



**MARRAKECH COP22 | CMP12 | CMA1**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016

Morocco hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bab Ighli, Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016.

COP22 built on last year's Conference of Parties in Paris (COP21), focusing on action to achieve the commitments of the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

COP 22 was "the innovation in adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change".



## PRE COP22 - Science Café On Climate Change



According to the agreements of the 2016 MED-SPRING project Annual Meeting in Tunis, and within the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> international symposium on "Environment and Sustainable Development" hosted by University Mohammed V of Rabat (Morocco) from 10 to 15 October 2016, the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Training (MESRSFC) of Morocco organized a MedSpring Scientific Coffee under the topic "Climate change: What scientific and societal challenges?".



The event was held on Monday 10 October 2016 at the "Faculty of Sciences" in Rabat (Morocco). Participants were researchers, experts, NGOs members, students and people belonging to professional associations and industrial sectors, civil society individuals interested and dealing with themes related to the discussed societal challenges.

## COP22- NEXUS SIDE EVENT

**COP22 ó Nexus Side Event òWater-Energy-Food Research and Innovation to address the nexus in the Mediterraneanö ó November 15, 2016 ó European Union Pavilion ó Brussels Room.**

In the framework of COP22, several side events were organized in the European Union Pavilion to showcase the contribution of research and innovation on climate-related challenges. An European Commission side-event titled òWater-Energy-Food: research and innovation to address the nexus in the Mediterraneanö was organized on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.

This event brought together institutional actors and research and innovation stakeholders to discuss about Water Energy and Food Nexus dominated by the interdependencies and linkages between human activities and natural environment and to share views on the challenges and solutions for a low-carbon economy linked to sustainable resource management. The debate focused in particular on the challenges of the Mediterranean region.

The first part of this session was an high-level panel discussion where experts and institutional actors joined visitors to the EU pavilion on a discussion about the importance of research and innovation for the sustainable management of the nexus. The second part of the event was an information session, highlighting selected EU research and innovation projects and initiatives with focus on the Mediterranean region.



**MedSpring Project**  
Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

**1<sup>st</sup> Euro-MedHackathon**  
**"ECO-EFFICIENCY IN THE AGRO-FOOD CHAIN"**

**Call For Innovators**  
For the Euro-Med Hackaton- Eco-Efficiency In  
The Agro-Food Chain



One of the MedSpring project objectives is to enhance innovation in the frame of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and support young researchers and entrepreneurs in the region developing solutions to main challenges identified by society, stakeholders and industry in the region in the area of food, energy and water.

In this regard, MedSpring Project launched a call for innovators, supported by the EU funded project MedSpring and aimed at supporting the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on Research and Innovation.

The call objective was to select the best 30 innovators on water-food-energy to be invited to the Euro-MedHackaton event in Amman (Jordan) on 14-15 December 2016. This event was organized by MedSpring in close collaboration with the EU-Jordan SRTD II initiative.

About 50 applications were collected through a specific "Call for proposals" that was closed on 31 October 2016.

**"1st Euro-MedHackathon: Eco-Efficiency  
in the Agro-Food Chain"**  
in Amman, Jordan, 14-15 December 2016

MedSpring project organized the "1st Euro-MedHackathon: Eco-Efficiency in the Agro-Food Chain" in Amman, Jordan, on 14 and 15 December 2016, hosted by HCST, in collaboration with STRD-II programme, MHESR (Egypt), and CIHEAM-IAMB (Italy). It was a regional co-working event to develop solutions to specific problems and challenges identified by the private sector.

Every year MedSpring project organizes a special brokerage event to collect innovative and disruptive ideas on water-food-energy, offering to young idea-carriers from the Mediterranean countries opportunities to meet potential investors.

The main thematic focus of this event was on water, food and energy. The MedHackathon featured a marathon of young innovators selected through an online call.

Different prizes were offered by private companies as Barilla Group, SPRING, Torino Wireless and Seeds & Chips.

<http://medspring.eu/event/call-innovators-euro-med-hackaton-eco-efficiency-agro-food-chain>

**med  
Spring**

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