

INNOVATION POLICY FOR INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB REGION

Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia

ESCWA Activities & Perspectives



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Technology for Development

Vision

ESCWA aims at Enhancing the quality of life in the Arab region capitalising on the power of Technology and Innovation

Mission

To help the Arab region embrace knowledge based-economy, digital economy and information society, as the **development paradigm**, leveraging relevant technology and innovation policies

Role of Innovation and Technology in achieving the 2030 Development Agenda

- Today, technology has important role in our life, and in this 4th Industrial Revolution, a number of technologies emerges.
- Technology and Innovation has tight links:
 - Innovation is essential for **development of new technologies**
 - Innovation is important for the **development of technological solutions and applications**
 - Innovation is crucial for the **localization and customization** of technology to local needs.



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Innovation for Sustainable Development

- Promote **innovation policies**, strategies and eco-systems in the Arab region and improve their coherence at regional level.
- Observe, monitor and analyze the status of Innovation in the Arab countries.
- **Support Arab countries for developing appropriate legal system that promote Innovation: IPR, patent system,etc.**
- Strengthen the link and collaboration between academia and private sector in the Arab countries.



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Innovation for Sustainable Development

- Encourage **innovation for inclusive social and economic development** to achieve the 2030 Development Agenda.
- Foster innovation in public and private sectors and in various sectors to enhance the delivery of services and products.
- Promote **scientific culture and innovation culture** in the Arab society.
- Strengthening the **regional collaboration** between Arab countries in RDI, STI for addressing the regional development challenges in various sectors.

Importance of IP

Role of Innovation and Technology in achieving the 2030 Development Agenda

- Technology and innovation are essentials for achieving Goal: 9 and 17,
-as well as other SDGs, especially: 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 16.

- Technology and innovation will support the integrated approach of the 2030 Development Agenda.

- IPR is essential for Innovation and for SDGs





Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9.5- Enhance **scientific research**, upgrade the **technological capabilities** of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, **encouraging innovation** and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.

9.b- Support domestic **technology development**, research and **innovation** in **developing countries**, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment



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Innovation Policy

.....Published and current reports

- The **Innovation Landscape** in the Arab Countries: A critical analysis, 2017
- **Innovation Policy** for Inclusive Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, 2017
- **Arab Horizon 2030: Innovation and Technology Perspectives** in the Arab region, 2019
- **Intellectual Property Systems** in the Arab Region, 2019



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Promoting Innovation among stakeholdersPublished and Current Reports

- Guidelines on Fostering **Innovation in the Public Sector** of the Arab Region, 2017
- **Community-based Innovation** for improved social well-being, 2017
- Fostering **Innovation in Small and Medium Enterprises** in the Arab Region, 2018
- Entrepreneurship **Ecosystem** in the Arab Region, 2018
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities for Arab Youth and Women**, 2019



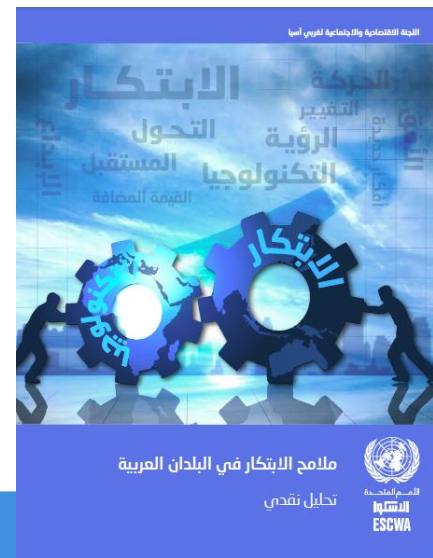
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Promoting Innovation in specific sectors/contexts

.....Future Reports

- Technology and Innovation policies for **boosting reconstruction** in the Arab region
- Innovative solutions to enhance **specific sectors** in the Arab region: Transport, Agriculture...etc
- Open Government and Open Data for advancing Entrepreneurship in the Arab Region



Innovation Landscape in the Arab Countries

In collaboration with Mr. Samir Aita



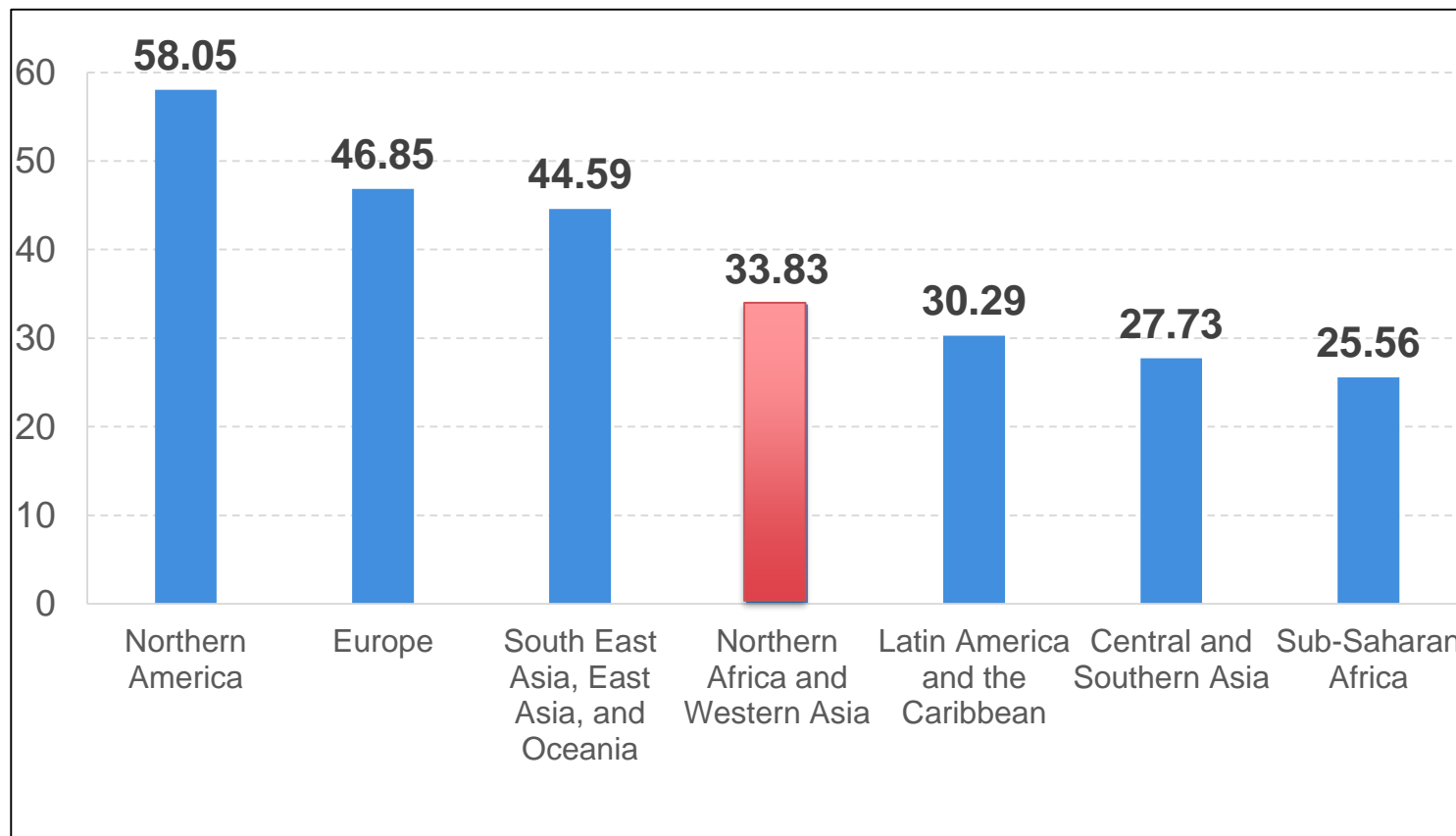
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Arab Countries Ranks in Global Innovation Index, 2016

Country	2016		2015	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
United Arab Emirates	39.4	41	40.1	47
Saudi Arabia	37.8	49	40.7	43
Qatar	37.5	50	39	50
Bahrain	35.5	57	37.7	59
Kuwait	33.6	67	33.2	77
Lebanon	32.7	70	33.8	74
Morocco	32.3	72	33.2	78
Oman	32.2	73	35	69
Tunisia	30.6	77	33.5	76
Jordan	30	82	33.8	75
Egypt	26	107	28.9	100
Yemen	14.6	128	20.8	137
Sudan	15	141
	31.85		32.67	

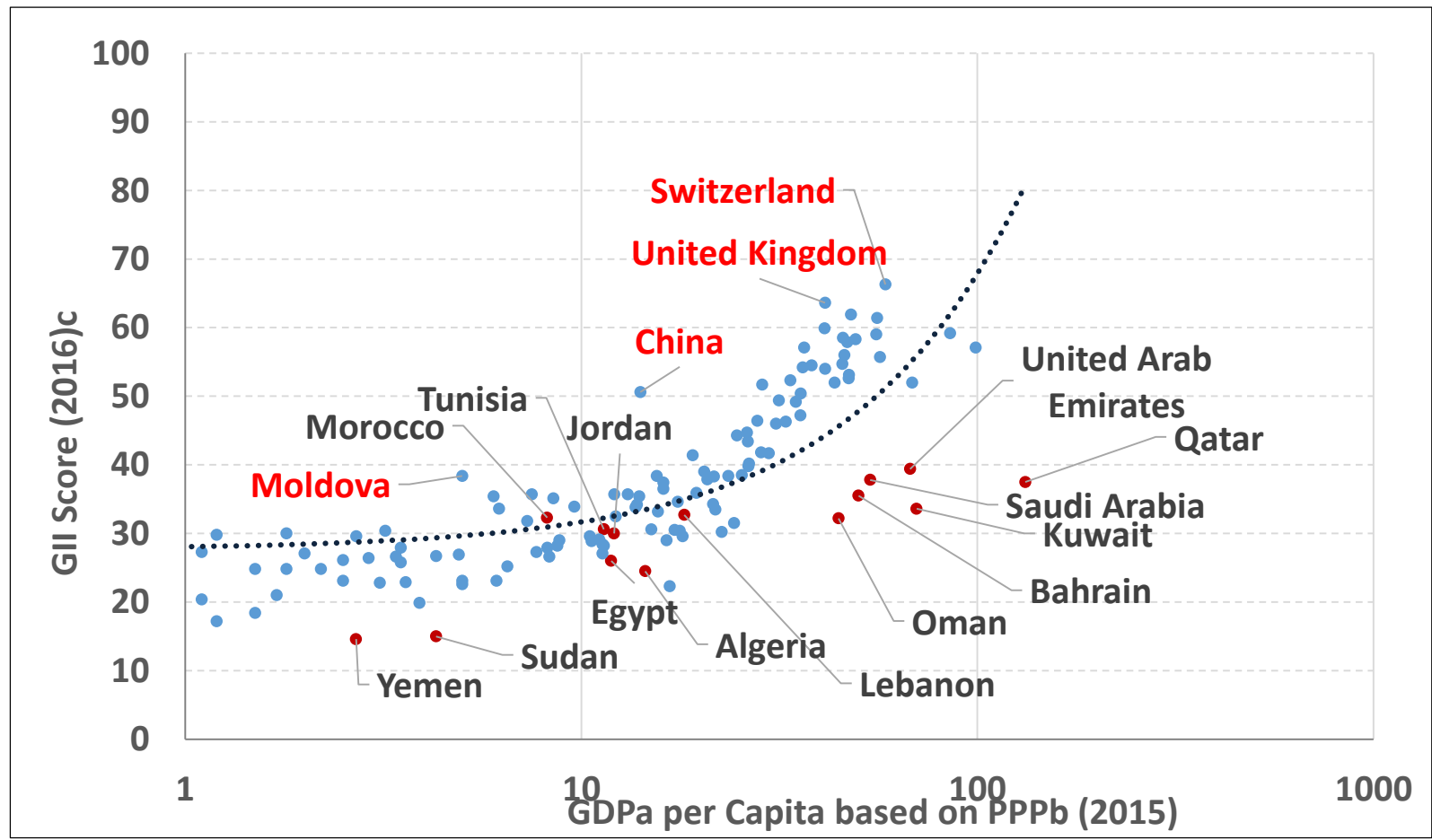
Regional innovation ranking (GII)



Source: *Global Innovation Index 2016*. Available:
http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_gii_2016.pdf



Global innovation Index / GDP ppp per capita



**There is clear need for
enhancing Innovation in all
Arab countries.....**

Innovation Policy for Inclusive Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

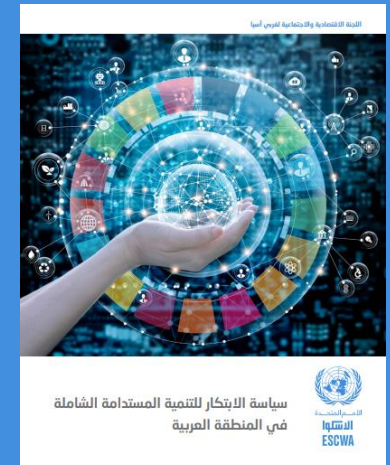
In collaboration with Dr. Souheil Marine



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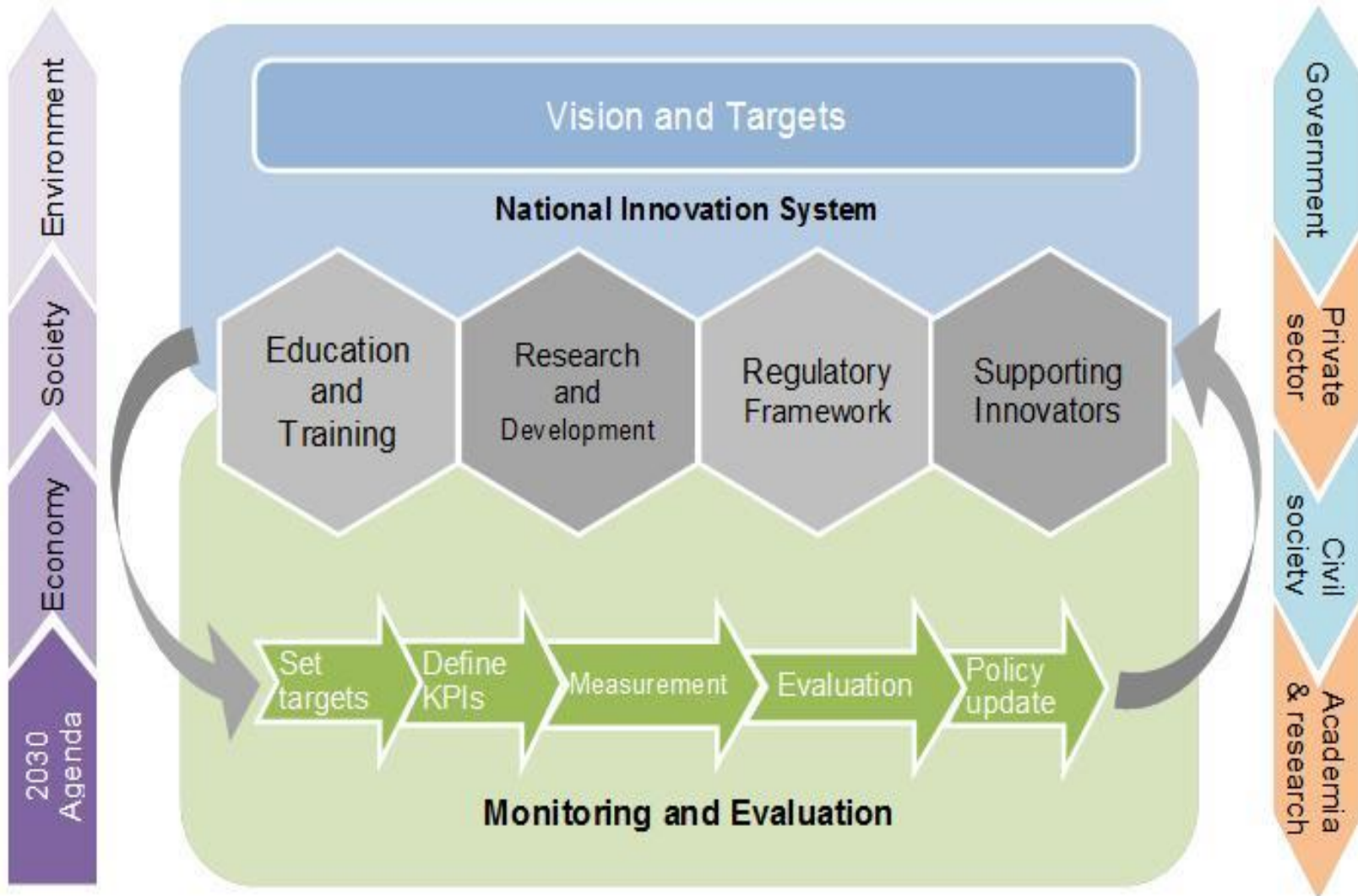


Innovation Policy for the Arab Countries



- **Encourage member countries to formulate innovation policies** that promote the role of technology for inclusive economic growth and support the achievement of SDGs.
- **Bridge the gap between Arab countries and many developed and developing countries** that have made strides in technological and knowledge development and thus enhanced their economic growth.
- **Provide Arab countries with a comprehensive framework** to develop a national innovation system that supports economic growth and contributes to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

ESCWA Framework for Innovation Policy



3rd Pillar- Consolidating Regulatory Framework



- **Patenting activity in Arab countries is weak** in absolute numbers, and essentially dominated by non-residents in the vast majority of Arab countries.
- **Arab countries should strengthen their patenting regimes** by applying appropriate principles.
- Establishing a **fair competition law is an essential complement to IPR** as it contributes to the establishment of fair market behaviour.
- Fair and transparent **competition** is still absent in the vast majority of Arab countries.

Concluding Remarks

- Transforming Arab countries into **learning societies** capable of leveraging science, technology and innovation at the service of an inclusive and sustainable development is both **doable** and **necessary**
- Arab countries should work at various levels in the same time to enhance innovation and leverage the added values of technologies.

THANK YOU!

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