



# Second Issue of INVENT Newsletter: Special Issue Electronic Town Meeting

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INVENT



## Electronic Town Meeting

**ETM** is a community forum that gives participants an opportunity to deliberate their ideas and opinions with the help of digital technology. It is the successor of the *Town Meeting*, which was one of the direct democracy forms used since the seventeenth century.



## INVENT ETM

On the 17th of October 2016, INVENT project organized an ETM on Innovation in Jordan. All stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem were invited to participate in the discussion. The event activity started with a welcome speech by Dr. Ahmad I. Abu El-Haija, the Director of National Erasmus+ Office – Jordan. Dr. Ahmad briefed the participants on Erasmus+ projects in Jordan and presented some of the success stories of the program and the future plans and projects for his office with the EU

## PROCEDURE OF ETM

More than 60 participants participated in INVENT ETM. They were divided into groups of 5-6 on a table; taking into consideration that participants on each table be from different background to heat the debate The ETM event was divided into 5 discussion sessions, and the main conclusions of each session will be listed in the next pages.



## ETM Methodology



## ETM METHODOLOGY

In the beginning a piece of information on the subject of discussion is given to the participants by the **EVENT Manager**. An experienced **Facilitator** runs the discussion on every table and a **Rapporteur** records the events of the debate immediately on a computer linked to forum's

computers network.

the **Theme Team** collect instant feedback from 2 or 3 rapporteurs and edit it without interfering, send their reports to the **Theme Team Manger** who collect it and send it to a **Specialist Editor** who edit the instant report

## 1'st session

"How can we help Science to go out of labs to the Market"

### Conclusions

- Have different view about how we can help science to go out of labs.
- Establishment of Innovation and technology transfer centres to link researchers with companies
- Supporting graduate student and participation of industry projects

### Difficulties

- The absence of effective national center
- Bureaucratic boundaries
- The lack of trust between the academic and the industrial sector

### Recommendations

- Focusing on job training
- Marketing of researchers' innovative ideas and projects should be adopted by universities
- Creation of a unified database of the problems and challenges in the industrial sector

## Time Line of the Event



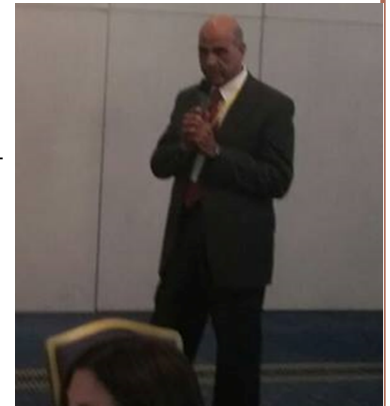
Introduction on Erasmus+ INVENT Project and on the current event was presented by **Dr. Fahmi Abu Al-Rub**, INVENT Manager and Coordinator.

**Dr. Abu Al-Rub** also presented the results of the surveys of the academia and the industrial sector in sight of the project objectives and results of the focus group meetings done before by the project team.

Welcome note By **Dr. Ahmad I. Abu-El-Haija**

The Director, National Erasmus+ Office – Jordan

**Dr. Ahmad** briefed the participants on Erasmus+ projects in Jordan and presented some of the success stories of the program and the future plans and projects for his office with the EU



**Dr. Fawwaz Z. Elkarmi**, Assistant Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) presented a lecture on Innovation in Higher Education and Industry in Jordan, as an opening to the discussion sessions.

## 2'nd session "How to attract investors to invest in Science and Innovation in Jordan?"

### Conclusions

- Provide guarantees and honest risk analysis by the owner of the idea to the investor
- Intellectual property protection is important
- Attractive and clear presentation of innovative ideas is the best way to convince the financier that science is a secure investment.

### Recommendations

- Training students to write project proposals, work plans, schedule and to do feasibility study
- Define the possible stakeholders and enhance communication between them.



## 3'rd session

### "How We Measure Innovators and Scientist qualification for Jordan Development"

#### Conclusions

- Different points of views were expressed about measurement process

#### Performance Indexes

- The number of patents that have been converted to business
- Number of Jobs created as a result of innovative research projects
- The number of spin-off companies that resulted from innovative research projects



## 5'TH SESSION

### "How Governmental intervention can play a stronger role in raising public R&D and stimulating private R&D?"

#### Conclusions

Participants pointed out that government intervention has a significant impact on funded research projects. Many participants stated that the Government should update the law of scientific research and redraft some other related laws and regulations (tax law and investment fund law) to promote the process of research, development and enforcing the laws that support the universities as well as modernizing the educational curriculums to stimulate the interest in creativity and innovation among both children in schools and students in universities.



#### Notes on the Opinions and Recommendations of ETM

- There were different perspective regarding the role, expectations and priorities of the CTIs
- Many recommendation intersect directly or partially with the specific objectives of INVENT Project
- The opinions emphasize the important role of Centers for Transfer of Innovation (CTIs) as a foster and regulatory body.

## 4'th session "How can we foster women opportunities for entrepreneurship in Jordan? "

#### Conclusions

some opinions focused on importance of strengthening the role of women on the map of entrepreneurial business in Jordan while other opinions disagreed on the idea of the allocation of Innovation centers for women only, but instead, their role must be strengthened so that they have equal opportunities with men in all Innovation centers.

#### Tools of Fostering as suggested

- Providing financial support and funding as well providing social support.
- Development of laws and regulations governing the employment of women and activating the existing laws
- Rise of awareness of women and their communities of the importance of women's work

