

INNFORMED

An Overview of the INNFORMED Project

INNFORMED is an initiative to support the use of Foresight techniques in Science and Technology related public policy development in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. It is financed by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme INCO programme.

INNFORMED will use **Innovation Systems** thinking and a **foresight** approach to **develop** a structured Euro-Med dialogue in research and innovation, to embed innovation systems thinking in the region, to deepen and strengthen MEDA capabilities in RTDI related policy process design and implementation, and to **develop success scenarios** for turning current MEDA strengths and RTD investments into growth opportunities.

The work will involve the design of pilot foresight programmes, the organisation of success scenario workshops and the compilation of workshop reports for each Partner country, as well as the development of a 'Mediterranean Foresight Manual' to support the wider take-up of these techniques in the region.

The initiative will draw upon existing foresight experience in Malta, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt. It will call upon MoCo in a strategic consultative capacity and link up with ongoing INCO projects such as ESTIME and ASBIMED.

The work of the INNFORMED initiative will be carried out by a consortium of European organisations in collaboration with a network of partners. The consortium is lead by Crehan, Kusano & Associates of Belgium and consists of CKA along with The University of Manchester and the Malta Council of Science and Technology. The Partners are organisations directly or indirectly involved in the development science and technology policy in each of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

The INNFORMED initiative is structured in three phases:

- Phase I lays the foundation for Phase II by identifying partners and teams to support the work locally, and to select the thematic, sectoral or systemic focus for the activity and designing Phase II.
- Phase II is dedicated to the execution of local Foresight pilots
- Phase III is the dissemination phase

Phase I Tasks

PI-T1: Initial scoping exercise. This will involve a visit to the country to discuss the initiative with key policymakers, experts and other stakeholders, and will terminate in the conclusion of agreements with MEDA partners.

PI-T2: Preliminary analysis of the RTDI system of the country that will lead to the selection of aspects of the national innovation system which would benefit from the application of Foresight.

PI-T3: Selection of national teams to be involved in the project work for the duration of the project and facilitation of first contacts between the INNFORMED consortium and members of the national team who will carry out the detailed work of the project.

PI-T4: A series of 'Foresight Design Workshops'.

The first of these will serve as a team building exercise for the existing members of the consortium as well as for the Partners who will work with them locally. Lasting several days and building upon the previous experience and existing know-how of the local partners, this will involve familiarisation and training in key foresight and innovation policy analytical approaches. This workshop will also introduce selected participant observers from the remaining non-associated MEDA countries who will take part in the training. The main output from the workshop will be an improved capacity in terms of trained experts, a common vision for the project and specific plans to implement the national pilots.

This workshop will be followed up by a series of local design workshops in each of the four Mediterranean target countries. The aim is to further establish the local consortium partners as authorities and points of reference for foresight practice and to create a more general awareness among local stakeholders of the role that foresight can play in socio-economic development.

The precise number of workshops and their theme is an issue to be decided in the first Design Workshop.

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Phase II Tasks

PII-T1: Organisation of ‘Success Scenario Workshops’ in each country involving local stakeholders to develop a ‘roadmap’ to success a specific outcome of the Pilot Foresight Exercise.

The Success Scenario Workshop starts with a **preparatory or pre-foresight phase** during which the national experts, with support from the consortium, prepare background analyses and input scenarios to support the workshops. The workshops themselves bring together key stakeholders in the selected aspects of the national innovation systems for a period of about two days during which they will systematically consider the prepared background material, including input scenarios, identify the key drivers and dependencies and then prepare the Success Scenario – essentially a vision of the country’s aspirations in that sphere of activity over a chosen time period – generally between 5 and 15 years.

The participants will identify actions needed to achieve the success scenario and performance targets that measure progress towards it.

These will form the main ingredients of the workshop output – an agreed roadmap that will lead to a success scenario outcome over a period of 10 to 15 years.

The detailed design of this work is carried out in Phase I. The success scenario approach is described in more detail in Annex 3 of this agreement

PII-T2: Observers from other countries will participate in the local Success Scenario Workshop events, both to contribute their own perspectives and to take action learning back to their own countries.

PII-T3: Reports will be written on the success scenario workshops. The emphasis of each report will be on the scenario and on its related roadmap.

Phase III Tasks

PIII-T1: The writing of a Mediterranean Foresight Manual to be lead and coordinated by the consortium.

PIII-T2: Organisation of a major dissemination event. MEDA partners will be asked to make a significant contribution to this. The details will be worked out at a later stage in the development of the INNFORMED project. They will be decided on the basis of mutual agreement between the partner and the consortium.

Contacts

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