Creating the Right Ecosystem for Knowledge Valorisation
A Case Study of ODTÜ Teknokent

1. Date and place: June 16-18, 2014 at ODTÜ Teknokent, Ankara, Turkey

2. Beneficiaries:
Managers of Science and Technology Parks in the MENA region. Each country will be represented by at least two participants with the exception of the host country.

3. Rationale
The workshop will be organised in a cooperation between the ISESCO, ESCWA Technology Centre in Amman as partners of the World Bank (WB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), through the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), in their joint effort to promote the knowledge economy in the MENA countries.

Fundamental to the development of knowledge economies, innovation ecosystems are based on close cooperation between the public sector, the private sector (including the financial sector) and academia. Following up on the previous workshop in Casablanca on the effective governance and management of S&T Parks, this workshop will analyse the contribution of these four sectors to the value creation in technology and knowledge transfer. The ODTÜ Teknokent (Middle East Technology University’s Technology Park) is one of the S&T Parks in the Mediterranean basin that has developed an ecosystem where government, academia, the business sector, and the financial sector effectively work together and where value is being created.

4. Background
Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KT) represents the movement of codified (know what) and tacit knowledge (know how) from one actor to another. The challenge in KT is to create “economic value” by either building upon and adding to this knowledge (R&D, prototyping etc.) and commercialising it, for instance through, consultancy, licensing of IPR’s, and business creation through enterprises, or by spin-offs, or better employability of graduates for the local industries. Many countries have realised the importance to create an ecosystem where government, educational and scientific institutes, and enterprises -including the financial sector- work hand in hand. They have created Science and Technology Parks to facilitate access for firms to key factors as R&D, human capital, innovation infrastructures, venture capitalists, technological capital and social capital by interaction between these above mentioned actors in a Triple, or Quadruple (including the financial sector) Helix model.
5. Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:
- Understanding how to create value through Knowledge Transfer within S&T Parks
- Understand the role of the government, universities, industry and financial enterprises in this process; strengthening mechanisms, and best practices;

6. Topics

The workshop will discuss the following topics:
- How to set up knowledge and technology transfer system within S&T parks and/or universities;
- Modalities to create value through Knowledge Transfer (IPR, Licensing, spin-offs, business creation, consultancy, contract education);
- Human and institutional capacities to enable Knowledge Transfer with S&T Parks (e.g. policies, functional and operational requirements);
- What are the obstacles to create these Knowledge Transfer modalities?
- Incentives, financing tools and funds through the Knowledge Transfer value chain?
- Impact and impact metrics for the evaluation of value creation through knowledge transfer.

7. Expected outcomes

The participants will benefit from the international perspective provided in this Workshop from both experts in Europe and Turkey and co-participants from MENA countries. They will obtain interesting and meaningful insight into technology transfer and commercialization topics through sessions, case studies, experts’ interventions, and speed-networking sessions. They will develop and enhance their capacity after two and half days of experience and expertise sharing.

8. Participants

The workshop is tailored to practitioners from the MENA region in particular Science and Technology Parks (STP) managers, Technology Transfer Officers (TTOs), and representatives of academia.

9. Organisation, Venue and Dates

The regional workshop will be hosted by ODTÜ Teknokent in Ankara Turkey and will take place on 16-18 June, 2014.

10. Workshop format and language

The workshop will consist of invited lectures, panel discussions, and speed-networking sessions. The working language will be English and translation (French/English) will be provided.
11. Additional information

For additional information please contact the following:

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