Digital technologies - Internet, mobile phones, and all tools to collect, store, analyse and share information - have spread rapidly. The digital revolution is changing lives, economies and jobs. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have disrupted the employment market by creating new types of jobs, improving job matching to supply and demand and increasing employment by enhanced productivity and a boost to economic growth. Although automation may also lead to job destruction... This is why the digital revolution needs an adapted response - regulations, policies, and skills - to ensure nations can reap the digital dividend benefits, as recommended in the World Bank’s World Development Report 2016 and promoted by the Agence Française de Développement. Today’s younger generation is the first ever to have grown with digital technology – we call them the digital natives – and are the ideal candidates for the digital jobs’ market. What should Government, donors, academia, and private sector do to enable growth of Digital jobs; while producing skilled youth for these new jobs’ pipeline? This one-day event will address the reality and opportunities for job creation and development in the Mediterranean. It will also provide policy makers with recommendations to implement concrete actions for policy makers to maximize youth’s potential in order to promote economic development in the Mediterranean.

9:00-9:30 Introduction

- Christian ESTROSI*, President, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region
- Jean-Claude GAUDIN*, Senator Mayor of Marseille
- Jérémie PELLET, Deputy Director-General, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Mourad EZZINE, Manager, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)
- Boutheina GUERMAZI, ICT Practice Manager, MENA, The World Bank
9:30-11:00 Digital technologies for youth inclusion in the Mediterranean

With a large youth representation and youth unemployment ratio, the MENA Region faces a potential crisis unless new sources of growth in promising economic sectors such as ICT are identified and exploited. In many MENA countries, the education sector should be reformed to include specific qualifications and specialisations in the ICT sector. The private sector can play a larger role in helping governments and academia focus investments on high-priority and high demand skills, thus young students are ready for employment the moment they graduate. A number of success stories exist in the region: creation of start-ups incubators, mentoring entrepreneurs, partnerships with private sector, matching job applications, curriculum reform... These current issues will be debated in this panel.

Moderator: Samia MELHEM, Lead ICT Policy Specialist, The World Bank

Speakers:

› Allam AHMED, Senior Lecturer, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
› Jamal BELAHRACH, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in charge of Human Capital, Communication and CRS, Office Chérifien des Phosphates, Morocco
› Tahar BEN LAKHDAR, Founder-Director, Ecole Supérieure Privée d’Ingénierie et de Technologie (ESPRIT), Tunisia
› Joanna NIEDZIAKOWSKI, Head, International Relations, SIMPLON, France
› Gwenaël PRIE, Lead ICT Specialist, AFD
› Khaled SEDRAK, Founder and CEO, NxtVn, Egypt

Experts from the audience:

› Bertrand EFFANTIN, Strategic Institutional Partnerships Manager, Mercy Corps Europe
› Mohamed SAMEER, CEO, S3Geeks, Egypt

Debate

11:00-11:20 Coffee break
11:20-12:30 Digital technologies and development: which implementation?

Digital technologies offer immense possibilities to innovate, transcend the distance and foster social inclusion. For example, ICT are now used to help refugees access to online education in refugee camps, to help create innovative services to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or to empower citizen with civic tech applications. However, few of these benefits would be achieved without putting into place investment in connectivity infrastructure and a regulatory legal environment, therefore furthering innovation in these services.

Moderator: Cyrille BELLIER, Deputy Director, Strategy, Partnerships and Communication, AFD

Speakers:

- Ahmed DARWISH, Chairman, Suez Canal Economic Zone, Egypt
- Noomane FEHRI, Independent Expert, Tunisia
- Maria Amata GARITO, Rector, UniNettuno, Italy
- Nibal IDLEBI, Chief of Innovation, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
- Samiha KHELIFA, Lecturer, Sousse University, Coordinator of the MOOC on Radicalisation and Terrorism, Tunisia
- Mounir MAHJOUBI*, President, French Digital Council, France
- Carlo Maria ROSSOTTO, Lead ICT Policy Specialist, The World Bank

Experts from the audience:

- Jonathan METGER, Chief of Party, NETHOPE, United States of America
- Yazeed SHEQEM, MENA Director of Programs and Strategy, Souktel Digital Solutions, Palestinian Territories

Debate

12:30-14:00 Lunch
14:00-16:00  
**Ministerial session**

Summary of the panels by the moderators and Wala KASMI, President of the ‘Youth Decides’ Association (Tunisia). The Ministers will respond to the points highlighted by the panels and will discuss possible solutions in their respective countries.

**Invited Ministers:**

- Moulay Hafid ELALAMY, Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and Digital Economy, Morocco
- Yasser EL KADY, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt
- Boutros HARB, Minister of Telecommunications, Lebanon
- Iman HOUDA FERAOUN, Minister of Post, Information and Communication Technology, Algeria
- Panagiotis KOUROUMBLIS, Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Greece
- Axelle LEMAIRE, State Secretary to the Minister of Economy and Finance, in charge of digital Affairs and Innovation, France
- Anouar MAAROUF, Minister of Communication Technologies and Digital Economy, Tunisia
- Emmanuel MALLIA, Minister for Competitiveness and Digital, Maritime and Services Economy, Malta
- Allam MOUSA, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Palestinian Authority
- Nicolas SCHMIT, Minister of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy, Luxembourg
Agence Française de Développement (AFD), a public institution in charge of implementing the French Government’s policy, acts to fight poverty and promote sustainable development. Present on four continents through a network of 75 offices, AFD finances and supports projects that improve the living conditions of the people, promote economic growth and protect the planet. In 2015, AFD committed € 8.3 billion to finance projects in developing countries and in the overseas territories. www.afd.fr

The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a space where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Members of CMI are Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, the City of Marseille, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, the European External Action Service (observer), the European Investment Bank, and the World Bank Group. The AFD and the German cooperation also count among its partners. www.cmimarseille.org, Facebook : /cmimarseille, Twitter : @cmimarseille

The World Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030:
1) End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than $1.90 a day to no more than 3%;
2) Promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country.

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