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Royal Scientific Society

CALL FOR INDIVIDUAL EXPERT

Consultancy Mission for the Development of Suitable Innovation and Entrepreneurship Supporting Initiatives for the Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund in Jordan

Public sector intervention is often needed in order to inspire, support and capitalize on the innovative and technological output of a country. Such intervention may be in the form of regulatory instruments, indirect financial incentives, non-vested direct support, or direct support against a stake in the outcomes.

The present consulting mission aims to support the Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund in Jordan (SRISF) to design programs that would allow the fund to support technological innovation and entrepreneurship in Jordan in a manner that would encourage and support innovation while improving the sustainability of the fund, based on the prevailing regulatory environment and the local ecosystem

Technical & financial specifications

Background information on THE NEXT SOCIETY

THE NEXT SOCIETY is an open community of changemakers, entrepreneurs, investors, corporates, NGOs, public and private innovation, research and economic development hubs from Europe and 7 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

It aims at **mobilising, promoting and reinforcing innovation ecosystems** and economic development in the MENA region.

To reach these goals, THE NEXT SOCIETY supports the emergence of talents and innovative leaders who will drive the next trends and usages by targeting start-ups, clusters and technology transfer offices to accompany their development.

Launched by ANIMA Investment Network and 30 partners, **THE NEXT SOCIETY** has launched a **four-year action plan (2017-2020), co-funded by the European Union** up to 90% for a global amount of EUR 7.8 million, which impacts 4 levels of the innovation ecosystems:

1. Improve **policy frameworks**: THE NEXT SOCIETY establishes a public-private dialogue and benchmarks Mediterranean innovation ecosystems in order to design and implement country strategic roadmaps and improve innovation support strategies.
2. Foster **start-up** successes: THE NEXT SOCIETY offers tailor-made support to Mediterranean start-ups to help them go international and raise funds thanks to tailor-made services: innovators academies, mentoring, soft landing, bootcamps, international business development missions and power dinners with investors. Download the [Start-up Booster Track](#) brochure.
3. Promote and internationalise **clusters**. THE NEXT SOCIETY develops peer-learning services for business and industrial clusters as well as foreign partnerships and guides them towards a Cluster Excellence management approach. Download the [Cluster Booster Track](#) brochure.
4. Accelerating **technology transfer** towards the enterprise. THE NEXT SOCIETY involves technology transfer offices, universities, researchers and creators to develop solutions to the challenges faced by their countries, through calls for projects and workshops with potential users of these solutions (large international firms, industry leaders, investors, entrepreneurs, civil society). Download the [TTO Booster Track](#) brochure.

For more information, please download THE NEXT SOCIETY presentation brochure [here](#).



Technical assistance mission

Context

In order to support an effective transition into a more competitive knowledge economy, the newly enacted Jordanian Law of Higher Education and Scientific Research (law 17, 2018) established the Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund (SRISF) as a fund and department within the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. This new fund takes the place of the Scientific Research Support Fund, established in 2009, which supported hundreds of largely academic research and development projects without documenting significant economic successes. According to the 2018 law, the goal of this revised fund is stated as “the encouragement and support of applied scientific research and innovation in the Kingdom”. Moreover, one of the revenues of the SRISF is stated as income generated from patents, intellectual property rights, and technological investments supported by the fund.

This regulatory adjustment and subsequent institutional development are in line with wider governmental efforts to support national innovation and entrepreneurship through regulatory instruments and programs.

Currently, SRISF is a finite financial fund primarily designed to support academic research and development programs. Though a call for innovative projects has been launched, and a mechanism for supporting such projects developed, these tactics follow the same design and financial regulations as standard R&D projects. The difference in operations, objectives, financial tactics, and required oversight between an R&D project and a tech venture firm necessitate new dedicated design for programs that are geared towards the for-profit funding of innovative ventures.

The present consultation assignment is to support SRISF to deliver on its expanded institutional mandate by designing programs that support Jordanian innovation and entrepreneurship.

Such a design must take into consideration prevailing regulatory environment in a manner that carries a reasonable burden for regulatory reform within the institution. Furthermore, it must be based on a knowledge of the local innovation ecosystem, synergizing with existing programs and institutions, and avoiding duplication. Finally, the design must show an understanding of the accessible ventures and value chains.

Format and objectives of the mission

This call is open for all experts with knowledgeable in the field, with demonstrated recent activities in Jordan, knowledge of the relevant regulatory environment, and with a deep understanding of the Jordanian innovation ecosystem.

The assignment is to work with SRISF to design for-profit programs that support Jordanian innovation and entrepreneurship.

To achieve this, the scope of work will work to be delivered in close collaboration with SRISF leadership and personnel, includes the following components:

- exhibit an understanding of the institutional mandate
- report on relevant regulations, highlighting those in need of development

- highlight relevant synergies and gaps in the ecosystem
- reflect on global best practice
- suggest designs of at least 2 programs to achieve the global goal of this mission
- present the outcomes as a report including all the above

Activities that must be carried out to understand the context:

- engagement sessions with SRISF leadership and personnel;
- desk review of regulatory environment and ecosystem mapping;
- interviews with stakeholders (academics, entrepreneurs, investors, etc.).
- desk review and identification of relevant best practice;
- interviews with top 5 industrial stakeholders;
- design of programs based on all of the above.

Collaborative framework

The mission will start as soon as the global health context allows the development of activities for a two-week timeframe. For its whole duration, the experts will work in close collaboration with SRISF and more widely with the stakeholders of the Jordanian innovation ecosystem.

Deliverables of the mission

- A technical assistance mission report that includes:
 - o Institutional mandate and needs,
 - o Relevant ecosystem mapping,
 - o Relevant regulatory instruments,
 - o Examples of best practice,
 - o Outcomes of stakeholder sessions including accessible projects and value chains,
- Development of new programs for the direct for-profit support of innovative projects with suggested mechanisms, KPIs, and governance.

The report should be delivered on 31st May 2020. The consultant will present mission outcomes during the Advocacy Panel meeting of THE NEXT SOCIETY in Jordan planned in June 2020. These deadlines will be confirmed when establishing the engagement letter according to the global coronavirus COVID-19 situation.

Budget & payment conditions

The budget allocated for the entire mission must include all necessary mission costs.

THE NEXT SOCIETY management team will proceed to the payment of the estimated costs the latest 2 months after completion of the action and the validation of its deliverables.

Selection Criteria & Process

Profile of the expert(s)

The expert should fulfil the following criteria:

- At least 10 years of experience in innovation and technology field (mandatory)
- At least 3 years of experience in the Jordanian innovation ecosystem
- Proven knowledge and expertise in research-based start-ups and technology transfer processes and practices acquired as entrepreneur and/or investor and/or consultant
- Proficiency in Arabic is strongly desirable.

Application & selection process

Applications should include:

- A detailed resume highlighting the expert experience in the fields relevant to the expertise mission
- A technical offer including a description of the methodology used, main milestones and implementation steps as well as an estimate of the time spent on each task;
- A financial offer (days and costs in person days).

Deadline : Applications should be sent to THE NEXT SOCIETY coordination team on the following email address: welcome@thenextsociety.co before April 12th, 2020.