

# **JRC Workshop on Technology Transfer in EU's Eastern and Southern neighbourhood:**

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## **Diagnostic Study of the state of Technology Transfer in Morocco (2019-2020)**

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**8 July 2021**

# **General findings: Government**

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- ❖ **Specific STI policies since the 2000s ( National Innovation Strategy 2009 , Loi portant organisation de l'enseignement supérieur 2014, Stratégie Nationale pour le développement de la recherche à l'horizon 2025)**
- ❖ **Several components of the TT ecosystem established**
- ❖ **Promising results but several issues still to be addressed**

# Intellectual Property System

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- ❖ **Established IPR regulatory framework ( OMPIC, 2000)**
- ❖ **Network of technological innovation centers (TISC) which provides a set of services to various users**
- ❖ **In 2019, resident filled patents: 199; non-resident patents 2531**

# Higher education and R&D institutions

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- ❖ **Good quality of Higher Education (LMD, ECTS)**
- ❖ **Vast network of PROs**
- ❖ **Good performance in terms of scientific publications**
- ❖ **19 TTOs ( lack of skilled personnel and financial resources)**
- ❖ **No specific incentive or mention of innovation for academics career progress**
- ❖ **No direct funds for VRR**
- ❖ **Lack of visibility for the commercialization of research results**

# Industry

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- ❖ **Significant economic progress during the last decade**
- ❖ **Good performance on the ease of doing business (In 2019, 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 190 countries and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the MENA region)**
- ❖ **Very active in attracting FDI, averaging 34% of GDP over the past two decades**
- ❖ **Weak absorptive capacity for innovation**
- ❖ **No indirect financial support systems**

# Venture capital and equity funds

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- ❖ **2013, Maroc Numeric Fund with a budget of EUR 8, 9 million to invest in Moroccan technological start-ups and in 2018, Maroc Numeric Fund II which included private shareholders ;**
- ❖ **2017, Innov Invest Fund, managed by the Caisse Centrale de Garantie with the participation of several private investors.**
- ❖ **Network of 16 partners to support and fund innovative projects and start-ups.**

# Support organizations

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- ❖ **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique ( CNRST), an operator promoting scientific research ; manages several programmes such as the Réseau Maroc Incubation et Essaimage (RMIE) which currently comprise 14 university incubators and Tech-Tamkeen programme which aims to promote TT (creation of a National TTO within the CNRST and a network of innovation experts)**
- ❖ **Technoparks led by Technopark Morocco a public-private organization**
- ❖ **Private Business Incubators and Accelerators**
- ❖ **Moroccan Association for Research & Development**
- ❖ **Cities of Innovation**

# Key points of technology transfer activity in the country

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- ❖ **Several plans to support research, innovation and start-ups, but they have not yet achieved lasting and sustainable results.**
- ❖ **Relations between universities and industry are underdeveloped and there is almost no commercial exploitation of results and universities' IP valorization**
- ❖ **Several issues at the governance, institutional and individuals levels.**



# Recommendations: Government

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- ❖ **Better coordination between the TT actors**
- ❖ **Setting-up adequate monitoring and assessment mechanisms.**
- ❖ **Three Priorities:**
  - **Legal status of TTO,**
  - **Budget allocation reserved for maturing technology transfer activities,**
  - **A single inter-ministerial fund to finance collaborative projects**

# Recommendations: Universities

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- ❖ **Foster the alignment among industrial/economic priorities and academic research.**
- ❖ **Take into account TT activities in the career progression of academics and researchers.**

# Recommendations: industry

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- ❖ **Foster and grow the current industry which is fragmented**
- ❖ **New industry sectors such as RE should benefit for specific support actions.**

# Recommendations: Technology Transfer

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- ❖ **More focus on capacity building, combining the broad range of current initiatives to resolve deficiencies in institutions' ability to develop, handle, use, execute, and scale up their research efforts.**
- ❖ **Promote collaboration with a simple and effective TT model between industry and innovative research that responds to socio-economic needs.**

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**Thank you**

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