

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES كة الأورو-متوسطية للدراسات الإقتص

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Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as Drivers for Economic **Development in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries** (SEMCs): What Role for the EU?

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Critical Issue:

STI benefitted thousands of researchers from the EU and SEMCs, but focus has not progressed beyond "performance" of research into "utilisation" of knowledge to expand economic development in the region.

Number of scientific and technical journal articles

High technology exports (% of manufactured exports)



Obstacles to more effective STI cooperation between EU and SEMCs

Asymmetry between EU and SEMCs Supply and demand for knowledge in SEMCs Institutional asymmetry: No adequate Weak linkages `ا≣م protection for between researchers

STI systems in both regions are incompatible in terms of governance structures, number of researchers, research infrastructure, etc.



Financial asymmetry:

No real partnerships have developed given disparity in financial contributions to projects between the two regions; an unbalanced relationship.



Unequal terms of trade:

Large trade surplus in favour of EU and lack of adequate access to EU markets.

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research.

entrepreneurs have short-term vision

and are risk-averse.

Industrial



ideal for knowledge creation and utilisation.

property rights.

Environment is not



Measures to enhance the supply and demand for knowledge



Create an enabling environment that can establish and reinforce linkages between research and business sectors.



Develop and implement a robust industrial policy, focusing on carefully selected strategic sectors.



Improve educational

systems on all levels, encouraging and fostering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and linking education to the jobs market.

Measures to reduce asymmetry between STI systems in EU and SEMCs



- : The EU needs to encourage regional
- cooperation in the Mediterranean.



- Build on current bi-regional EU-supported initiatives, like the PRIMA initiative.



Create a Trans-disciplinary Academy for the Future of the Mediterranean.



: Capacity building, technical assistance and financial support, provided by the EU for creating a dedicated group of science and innovation managers in relevant SEMC institutions.



: Modify free trade agreements with SEMCs to help protect strategic industrial sectors.



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