



**THE MEDITERRANEAN AS AN OPEN LIVING LAB:
Citizen-driven innovation systems in the Mediterranean
International working group**

17th & 18th November 2016

Citilab, Cornellà de Llobregat, Barcelona (Spain).

Innovate in a turbulent context

A young and emerging generation of Mediterranean researchers and innovators aim to generate inspiring models of innovation, more adapted to the digital and multicultural societies of the whole Mediterranean region in 21st century. From Lebanon to Spain. From Greece to Tunisia. Countries, regions and cities are looking for models of innovation more open, technologically advanced and adapted to their particular cultural environments.

Open living labs, fablabs, media labs, and the like are increasingly developing spaces for emerging bottom-up innovation ecosystems in Mediterranean countries. Specifically Living labs are defined by the European Network of Living labs, ENoLL, as “open and citizen-centric innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach integrating research and innovation in real life communities”.

ENoLL counts today over +150 active members worldwide. Over the past 10 years, it has developed know-how and services on open innovation, value co-creation and validation in real-life scenarios, especially at the regional and city level. As a result a new innovation model called Quadruple Helix has started, putting the citizen in the centre of the innovation ecosystems.

Despite regional conflicts, the Mediterranean is a region of the future. 70% of its 500 Million strong population is under 30 years old with huge potentialities. Many of our current problems (unemployment, urban inclusive development, gender equality or religious tensions) can be tackled with a new culture of cooperative innovation, driven by the citizens themselves. Combining the benefits of high tech, citizen engagement and cultural diversity, we can turn our region into an innovative and inspiring lab of the XXI century.

“The Mediterranean as an open living lab” seminar, gathers entities, organizations and individuals from around the region that believe and develop a citizens-driven innovation approach. Living labs, fablabs, citizen labs, social innovation organizations, and co-working spaces are all called upon to establish a network of labs in the



Mediterranean, sharing their assets, innovations, experiences, goals and fears. From Istanbul to Barcelona, from Palermo or Nice to Tel Aviv, from Cairo to Zagreb or Beirut, all these experiences have valuable expertise to share in order to learn together and establish enriching cooperation frameworks.

Objectives and main goals:

- *Mapping existing Mediterranean labs initiatives: projects, people and policies.*
- *Charing main experiences and initiatives in the region on:*
 - o Creating value added jobs in the Mediterranean societies.
 - o Developing new skills.
 - o Empowerment of smart cities and smart citizens and sustainability.
 - o Regional Innovation Ecosystems and the Role of Living Labs.
- *Defining and agreeing on next steps:*
 - o How labs can benefit from the EU's Smart Specialization Strategies?
 - o How to encourage and enhance collaborations between North and South Med Labs: programs and initiatives suggestions.
 - o Proposal of new frameworks of cooperation for citizen-driven innovation systems in the region.

Organizers:

Citilab Barcelona

European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)

With the support of:

I2CAT Foundation, Generalitat de Catalunya

Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB)

France/Francophonie Living Labs



17th November

13.00-15.00 Informal lunch at Citilab

15.00-15.30 Opening session

Welcome from organizing institutions.

Héctor Santcovsky, Director, Social and Economic Development, Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

Javier González, Director, Citilab

Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Tuija Hirvikoski, President, ENoLL

15.30-16.30 First Session

Mapping Mediterranean labs: Projects, people and policies.

The first of the goals of this seminar is starting to map the current situation of labs in the Mediterranean. We define "labs" as open and collaborative structures of innovation in cities, regions or any territorial or thematic area (e. g. health, environment, political rights, etc.)

Moderator: Jesse Marsh, Coordinator, Atelier Estudio, Palermo

Open roundtable:

Brigitte Trousse, University of the Côte d'Azur, Inria & France/Francophonie Living Labs

Yilmaz Çakir, Coordinator, Basakshahir Living Lab, Istanbul

Sherif Eltokali, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Egypt

16.30 -17.30 Second Session

Sharing main experiences and initiatives in the region

Creating value added jobs in the Mediterranean societies

The young Mediterranean generations are fully connected to the world through smartphones and internet, and very active in the digital social networks. Yet unemployment also plagues the young generation in the region. While a new generation of entrepreneurs is born in Beirut, Barcelona, Istanbul, Cairo, Casablanca or Tunis,



among many other cities, a question arises: how do we combine digital technologies with creation and provision of new jobs?

Moderator: Elias Ghanem, Expert, Lebanon

Open roundtable:

Roser Santamaria, Researcher in LabourLab, Citilab, Barcelona

Juan Bertolin, Innovation and projects director, ESPAITEC, Castellón

Ramy Boujawdeh, Deputy General Manager, Berytech Living Lab (Bell), Beirut

17.30 -18.30 Third Session

Developing new skills

School curriculums in the Mediterranean are changing. New educational policies are introducing “computational thinking” in the classroom in countries like Israel, Spain, and France. STEM curriculums are also greatly demanded, and teachers and students are further called upon to become innovators and entrepreneurs. Schools are becoming educational labs and this should be strengthened to skill the youth for the future.

Moderator: Laia Sanchez, Citiliab

Open roundtable:

Gazbia Sorour, Coordinator, Innovation for Development Lab, UNDP Egypt

Dov Winer, In House Consultant, MAKASH, Jerusalem

Jose García, Education Area Coordinator, Citilab, Barcelona

Samia Chelbi, Director, Living Lab DigiArt Living, Tunisia

18th November

09.00-10.00 Fourth Session

Key Issues in the Mediterranean

Empowerment of smart cities and smart citizens' and sustainability

From the top-down Smart City approach, we are moving to more citizens-driven innovative cities. How are labs engaging citizens in defining their own urban environment? How do they use open data for urban planning? How are citizen participation platforms paving the way to more democratic future cities and territories in the Mediterranean?



Moderator: representative AMB / i2CAT

Open roundtable:

Aawatif Ayar, Professor, University of Casablanca

Natxo Verona, Barcelona City Council

10.00-11.00 Fifth Session

Regional Innovation Ecosystems and the role of Living Labs

How new regional innovation policies in Europe can benefit the Mediterranean countries?

Is it possible to extend the regional collaboration between Northern and Southern Med regions? How to do it?

Moderator: Artur Serra, Vice-President, ENoLL

Open roundtable:

Gabriel Rissola, Senior Scientist JRC-IPTS, European Commission, Seville

Ricard Benítez, projects manager, Digital Inclusion and Training Area, Generalitat de Catalunya

Federico Martire, Coordinator, Western Mediterranean Branch Office, ENPI CBC MED

11.00-11.30 Coffe/Tea Break

11.30-12.30 Sixth Session

How to develop and strengthen inclusive citizens-driven innovation policies and schemes

How to encourage and enhance collaboration between North and South Med Labs. How labs can benefit from the EU's Smart Specialization Strategies? How migrations of all kind through the Med can open new opportunities of collaboration between North and South? What kind of new frameworks for cooperation between Med Cities or Regions favoring citizen-driven innovation projects in the Mediterranean can be drafted?

Inspiring suggestions for new regional programs and initiatives.



Moderator: Javier Albarracin, Director of Socioeconomic Department, IEMed

Open roundtable:

Xavier Tiana, General Secretary, MED Cities

Tatiana Fernández, Coordinator of RIS3CAT. Generalitat de Catalunya

Saleem Zoughbi, Professor, Bethlem University

12.30-13.00 Final Session

Summary and recommendations

Artur Serra, Vice President, ENoLL

Javier Albarracin, Director of Socioeconomic Department, IEMed

Jesse Marsh, Coordinator, Atelier Estudio, Palermo

13.00- 15.00 Informal lunch at Citilab

Invited experts

Ricard Faura, Head of Digital Inclusion and Training Area, Generalitat de Catalunya

Julien Palier, CEO & Founder, Daysk

Alain Jordà, Expert in local development

Kristian Petrick, head of research, Eco-Union

Alejandro Gonzalez, project manager, Eco-Union

Miriam Fernández, Coordinator of RIS3-VAL. Generalitat Valenciana

Xavier Simó, Founder and President, Inlea