



# SRTD Newsletter



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*SRTD project is funded by the European Union with 4 million Euros to help the innovation and R&D sectors of the Jordanian economy. The project aims at increasing Jordan's scientific and technological capacity by fostering research and innovation linked to private sector and by accelerating the Kingdom's integration into the European Research Area. The Higher Council for Science and Technology and Jordan Enterprise are co-funding some of the activities implemented by the project.*

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## Welcome to SRTD Newsletter

Welcome to the fifth issue of the SRTD e-newsletter. This issue will provide you with the latest activities and achievements of the project; you may also find the forthcoming activities we are planning to conduct in the upcoming three months. We hope you enjoy reading the latest update on our Programme and find it helpful and informative.

## Focal Points Activities

### **Awareness Campaigns**

This time presentations were different; following their intensive training conducted by the SRTD project to enhance their abilities the Focal Point Liaison Officers conducted the presentations. Meetings were held in Natural Resources Authority and The Royal Scientific Society.

### **"Bridging Science & Business III: Strengthening the Links" 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**

#### **Amman-Jordan**

SRTD conducted the third meeting of the bridging science and business meetings under the title "Strengthening the Links", H.E Dr Adel Al Tweissi - Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology - attended this time to encourage the liaison officers to participate in such meetings. In this meeting, Dr Adnan Rawashdeh and Dr



Nidal Abdallah presented the outcomes of their participation in the Conference on networking and successful research and development, Germany. Another presentation was conducted by Dr. Suhel Kiwan who talked about his participation in the European Union Sustainable Energy

Week, Belgium. The workshop finished with an exercises for detecting and correcting mistakes in example submitted proposals. This exercise allowed LO's to gain better knowledge about the proposal evaluation procedures and techniques.

### **Researchers: Training Activities**

#### ***"Writing Proposals for FP7 People Programme" 11<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2010***

##### ***Jordan***

SRTD Project conducted a series of workshops entitled "Writing Proposals for FP7 People Programme". The workshops were held in collaboration with four universities; Mutah University, Al Zarqa'a Private University, University of Jordan and Jerash Private University.

The workshops that were presented by Mr. Leonardo Piccinetti, Managing Director of Europe for Business Ltd, United Kingdom & Belgium. They aimed at providing researchers with the proper skills for



writing a competitive proposal to participate in one of the People Programme. This programme is considered to be one of the main specific sub-programs of the European R&D funding programmes the Framework 7 that allow researchers to join a European research team that doesn't have their experience, establish collaboration through a research project, and spend their sabbatical leaves in Europe. Each workshop was followed by individual counselling which provided help to the interested researchers to prepare an appealing proposal to apply for the People programme.



#### ***"Conference on networking and successful research development" 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010***

##### ***Germany***

Four Jordanian researchers were selected to attend the networking and successful research development conference in Germany. The conference focused on the thematic areas: energy, Nano-technology and new materials production and information and communication technologies. The Jordanian researchers also arranged in advance meetings with researchers in German universities and research centres in order to discuss establishing collaborative research in the different thematic areas.

## **"European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)" 22<sup>nd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.**

### **Belgium**

Five Jordanian researchers were nominated to attend the European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Belgium. The Week brought together a wide variety of public and private organizations from global corporations and it focused on showcasing new approaches to the production and consumption of energy. The Energy Week also consolidated in one day all information related to EU funding opportunities in the area of sustainability. This helps prospected applicants find the most suitable funding scheme for their own project idea.

## **"Research Industry Collaboration" 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> May, 2010**

### **Jordan**

Part of the objective of SRTD is to connect the research community with industry, therefore research visits were organized with the visiting expert from Germany, Mr. Uwe Seidel. He conducted interviews with some SMEs, to identify what they are trying to achieve with their research, what barriers they find, what opportunities they are missing.

There are many sector-focussed networks in Europe, and introduction to these networks is an important output for each SME, these visits tried to link them to the best options available.

Mr. Uwe Seidel is the head of small and medium-sized enterprises, he is an expert in analyses of National and Regional Innovation Systems, business and innovation centres (Consulting in setting up and project coaching), incubating projects in South-East-Europe and the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, has been project manager in several national and EU programmes, as well as in the MENA-region, has knowledge in design, management and supervision of feasibility/viability studies on innovation and R&D topics, and has extensive expertise in the management of projects, reporting and analysis.

A follow up report will be presented to each of the SMEs for the generalised issues to identify where intervention could improve the situation for SMEs.

## **"The FP7 Week" 9th- 13th May, 2010**

### **Amman- Jordan**

FP7 Week was organized to provide Jordanian researchers with key information about research opportunities, how to participate and what to expect when conducting joint research with European partners.

The FP7 week was hosted by the University of Jordan and lead by the FP7 visiting expert from Spain, Ms. Irene Larroy, covered in 5 days.

The workshop was opened by messages to encourage the Jordanian researchers to increase their



participation in EU Funded programmes addressed by HE Dr Adel Tweissi, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and HE Dr Dia-Eddin Arafah, Vice President for Scientific Faculties and Institutes of the University of Jordan.

Ms. Larroy, who has diplomas in Program for Management Development from ESADE Business School and in Chemical Engineering from University of Barcelona, is an Expert in proposal preparation, partner search, grant agreement negotiations and management of approved projects. She has more than six years of experience in the Framework Programmes as advisor for a Regional Contact Point, and has been coordinator of proposals and projects within Research Centres with more than 50 projects approved under FP5, FP6 and FP7.

The workshop week was full of researchers eager to benefit from the great opportunity available to all interested Jordanians, more than 100 people attended each of the programme days, that covered the topics; FP7 Proposal Writing, Partnering in FP7, FP7 Proposal Evaluation and Contract Negotiation, FP7 Finance and Funding Schemes, also experts had the opportunity for One-to-one meetings with the expert for their specific cases related to their FP7 proposal.



**"3rd Internship" 16<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May, 2010  
United Kingdom, Belgium**

A week-long internship was organized for Focal Point Liaison Officers focusing on SMEs, but including some Research Centres, that took place in Coventry University, Cambridge University, Birmingham Science Park, and the EBN (European Business Innovation Centre Network) in Belgium, organized by the expert from Ireland, Ms. Siobhan McQuaid .

Ms. Siobhan McQuaid, is an external consultant and senior advisor to EBN Brussels, she has an experience in European Project Engineering & Implementation in particular FP6 and FP7. She has been head of Projects for EBN, also project manager in a Business and Innovation Centre with specific responsibility for European and international projects.



The Jordanian delegation group included Dr. Mazen Matalka from the

King Hussein Institute for Biotechnology & Cancer, Dr. Bashar Khasawneh from the King Abdulla II Design and Development Bureau, Ms. Rabab Tayyem from King Hussein Cancer Center, Mr. Tareq Saleem from Triumpharma, Eng. Manar Hamid from Allied Chemical Manufacturing and Trading, Mr. Anas Khasawneh from Jordan Chamber of Industry, Mr. Hussein Natsheh from Ciapple, Mr. Haroon Qteishat from TerraVertis and Ms. Maral Nersessian from the SRTD Project.

The purpose of the internship was to;

- Meet European SMEs involved in EU research - to understand the benefits, difficulties, etc of being involved
- Network with groups of European SMEs in particular sectors
- Meet research centres / universities actively involved in research with industry - what are they looking for in SME partners
- Meet the European Commission - DG Enterprise, DG Research



The internship programme was structured around the following principal themes:

- a. Overcoming the challenges to building FP7 partnerships between Europe and leading research players from third countries.
- b. Strengthening SME involvement in FP7.
- c. Identifying opportunities for SMEs and research institutes from Jordan in the following FP7 themes and facilitating networking and consortium building activities in these themes:
  - Health
  - Agro-Bio-Food
  - ICT/NMP
  - Energy
  - Environment

The first three days of the programme were open only to participants from Jordan. The final two days of the programme were organized in parallel

with meetings of the BIC Thematic Working Groups in Agro-Bio-Food, Health, CleanTech and ICT. Networking dinners were also organized in Birmingham and in Brussels to facilitate the development of new partnerships between participants.



## JIC Network Activities

### **"Grow Box Tool" 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 Jordan**

SRTD in collaboration with Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) through the JICs Network organised a mission for Capacity Building for the Growbox: Incubatee Assessment Tool, during the period 16-20 May 2010. The aim of this mission was to build the capacity of the JICs by providing them with tools for managing the entire process of incubation from pre-incubation until post-graduation.

During the mission, Mr. Philippe Lambert/founder and CEO of Growbox International visited the JICs for capacity building based on individual training and assessments in order to strengthen the skills, abilities, and processes of the JIC administrators with the tools.

Also two meetings were held with the Mr. Lambert, SRTD, JEDCO and the JIC directors; one at the start of the mission to present the tool, its benefits and uses to the Network. The second was held at the final day of the mission to agree on the customization needed to be made to the tool to meet the specific needs of the Jordan innovation centres (JICs).

The Growbox is a software toolkit aimed at supporting the creation and management of Jordanian enterprises, and is adapted to the needs and gender specific characteristics of the start-up entrepreneurs in the country. It is an innovative toolkit that assists aspiring entrepreneurs in identifying and documenting matters in a way that helps them create a balance between personal and professional commitments.

Two modules are currently available. START TOOL; a pre diagnostic tool to help the Incubator responsible profile candidates who want to become entrepreneurs. PLAN TOOL; a module for development of business plans, which integrates within its functionality, an approach to incorporate gender-specific issues.

## Grants Update

Dr. Ayman Issa, SRTD research grant beneficiary, won the annual prize for the best software of the year 2009, a prize by Philadelphia University to reward distinguished Jordanian researchers and entrepreneurs. The project of Dr. Issa "Software Requirements Use Case Patterns Catalogue" competed with seven



other projects. This software aims at bridging the gap between academia and industry in the field of software engineering. The catalogue is now used as a framework for a new use case patterns driven approach for

engineering requirements.

Three of our research grant beneficiaries were selected to present their projects during the 15<sup>th</sup> Science Week which was launched under patronage of His Royal Majesty King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2010; beneficiaries were :

Dr. Fares Al-Momani presented his project entitled "Solar Renewable Energy as an Alternative to Improve Industrial Wastewater Treatment Efficiency". This was presented during the session "Drivers of Change: Energy:

Dr. Malyuba Abu Daabes, who discussed her winning project during the session "Drivers of Change: Waste" that explains the Removal of Heavy Metals and Phenolic Compounds from Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Leachates in Jordan.

Dr. Mohammad Qtaishat, who is preparing a novelty about Composite Membranes for Desalination by Membrane Distillation presented his idea during the session "Drivers of Change: Water".

On the final session of the Science week; His Royal Highness Prince Hasan Bin Talal honoured the participated grant beneficiaries.

Eng. Sami Al-Manadi, another grant beneficiary, this time a start- up grant beneficiary was honoured as new Engineer with an innovative project

during the third innovation forum that was organized by Engineering

Association under the patronage of H.R.H Princess Somaia Bint Al Hassan. Eng.

Manadi's project, titled: Electronic Paying by Distance, which is funded by SRTD programme, focusing on Transportation sector,

and looking forward to find tools help in solving some transportation problems; these tools are: Electronic Paying by Distance & the Electronic Vehicle.



## Technology Transfer

**"Technology Transfer Offices Establishment: Hands-on" 20<sup>th</sup> March- 2<sup>nd</sup> April' 2010 Jordan**

To help the Technology Transfer Officers at the 11



The Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) is a foundation established jointly by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research and the Ministry of Economy and Finance to promote excellence in basic and applied research and to contribute to the economic development of Italy

branches to establish the Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) at their hosting organizations and enable them to understand the Mission of Technology Transfer SRTD invited the expert Dr. Lorenzo De Michieli from Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia / Italian Institute of Technology to come and identify the needs and opportunities for the TTOs and to help the officers in adopting best practices approaches in TTOs. This mission aimed to let each appointed officer to meet and work together with the expert to define the action plans for establishing and running the office in the first year. After each meeting the expert conducted a presentation about Technology Transfer Office objectives and activities for the employees in each hosting organisation.

***"Regional Training in Technology Transfer in MENA Region" 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010***

***Jordan***

The SRTD supported the recently established Tech Transfer Offices to attend the regional seminar in establishing TTO in MENA region organised by Queen Rania Centre for Entrepreneurship (QRCE) in Jordan. The two days training was conducted by experts from Praxis, a leading knowledge transfer association based in the UK. The experts were Dr David Secher from Cambridge University, UK, and Dr Lita Nelsen from MIT, US.

Praxis is a national training programme aimed at technology transfer professionals working in universities, research institutions and industry. The training covered several topics including issues related to Tech Transfer Office Establishment and management, dealing with researchers, identifying industrial needs as well as collaborative research.

***"Intellectual Property Protection and Exploitation Training" 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010***

***Jordan***

The training was held at the Higher Council for Science and Technology for the Technology transfer officers at the 11 TTBOs and IPCO. The European expert Mr. András Haszonits Head, Industrial Property Education Section, Industrial Property Information and Education Centre, Hungarian Patent Office, gave presentations on IP protection methods and strategies, patenting process, IP exploitation and licensing and Spin-offs.

***"Intellectual Property Protection and Exploitation Seminars" 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010***

***Jordan***

SRTD in collaboration with the National Center for Agriculture Research and Extension, University of Jordan, Jordan University of Science and Technology and Yarmouk University organized four presentation to raise the public awareness on the importance of Intellectual property. The four presentations were conducted by the European expert András Haszonits who talked about ways of identifying the commercial values and the exploitation approaches of IP, he also presented the importance of Industry- Academia Cooperation.

***"ASTP Annual Conference 2010 Building on 10 years of success" 27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2010***

***Paris- France***

The SRTD Project supported 11 Technology Transfer officers from to attend the of ASTP (Association of European Technology Transfer Professionals) annual conference 2010 in Paris, France. The conference

The non-profit Association of European Science & Technology Transfer Professionals. ASTP is practitioners and members focused and is growing rapidly; our association consists of more than 600 members, covering 38 countries. The majority of our members are Technology Transfer Professionals at public knowledge institutions

had three parallel sessions

- The role of Tech Transfer Office
- Best Practices of Technology Commercialization
- Interactive sessions and case studies

The Technology transfer officers had the chance not only to attend the lectures by international experts in this field but it was also good opportunity for networking with international Tech Transfer experts and be aware of the ongoing international activities in this field. Moreover the conference discussed several challenges facing Tech Transfer offices around the world which are somehow similar to the challenges facing Jordan where the participants learned a lot about the achievements of international offices and the programs they are following to overcome such barriers.

It is worth mentioning that the SRTD supported the Technology Transfer officers to be members of the ASTP besides attending the conference as part of the support to the capacity building of technology transfer officers and the establishment of the offices in Jordan.

## Forthcoming Events

The SRTD Project wishes to announce about the forthcoming events to be held in the coming few months.

### **"Technology Transfer Officers Study Tour" 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> June, 2010**

The SRTD is arranging for a study tour for the Jordanian Technology Transfer officers to visit several Tech Transfer Offices around Europe to further develop their capacity and allow them to have closer look at the operation of their European counterparts. The participants will visit Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria. By observing how European countries have developed with TT strategies and discussing with European experts it is hoped that the Jordanian TT Officers will be able to more rapidly develop their offices.

### **"Technology Transfer Training" (In July)**

In July the SRTD is going to organize training entitled Identifying commercially viable IP within Research Institutes. This training targets the Tech Transfer officers to enable them to deal with researchers and Evaluate Technology opportunities they have.

This training aims to let the Tech Transfer officers start the first steps in looking for commercially viable IP within their research institutes, interacting with the researchers and extract valuable information for the commercialisation process.

### **"FP7 Thematic Area: Nanotechnology Workshop" Starting 18th – 22nd July, 2010**

Half day presentation and 1.5 day meetings, to be repeated twice.

Delivered by Mr. Giles Brandon

### **"FP7 Thematic Area: KBBE; Knowledge Based Bio-Economy / Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology Workshop" 25th -29th July, 2010**

Half day presentation and 1.5 day meetings, to be repeated twice.

Delivered by Mr. Jean-Christophe de Tauzia

**"FP7 Thematic Area: Energy Workshop" 1st -5th August, 2010**

Half day presentation and 1.5 day meetings, to be repeated twice.

Delivered by Mr. Milan Gesseneck

**ENPI CBC Med (European Neighbourhood Policy Initiative Cross Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean) Programme Proposal Writing Workshop**

Two days programme, to be repeated twice.

Delivered by MS. Pamela van de Bunt

*SRTD Team would like to congratulate the Deanship of Research at Jordan University of Science and Technology for issuing their first newsletter.*

*SRTD Team would like to thank all who made the mentioned previous activities successful specially the Center for Educational Development at the University of Jordan for all the support in organising the FP7 Week.*

*The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of SRTD Programme and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union*