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**Table of Contents**

- 1. Summary..... 3
- 2. Introduction ..... 3
- 3. WEBINARS ..... 3
- 4. Conclusions ..... 5
- 5. The experts ..... 5
- 6. References ..... 6

## 1. Summary

In the framework of the MERID project, Work Package 4, two Webinars were organised to raise awareness and provide supporting information on the EU Programme H2020. The target audience comprised researchers from the Middle East as MERID encourages their participation in the opportunities offered under this programme.

The first Webinar was held on 15 February 2017 on the topic “**Enhancing research and innovation cooperation and promoting researchers participation in H2020 Research and Innovation programme: the case of MCSA- RISE (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange)**”. The second was organised on 9 February 2018 on the topic “**Opportunities for research and innovation cooperation offered by the new H2020 Work Programmes 2018-2020, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digital Single Market Strategy**”.

## 2. Introduction

Deliverable 4.5 has been envisaged in the framework of Work Package 4 “Training, capacity & awareness building for promoting cooperation in H2020”, which is specifically aimed at:

- Promoting and encouraging cooperation and partnership in H2020 among EU and Middle East research and innovation actors through training, capacity and awareness building activities and events. This will be carried out in accordance with the results/recommendations emerging out of WPs 2 and 3 in order to foster partnerships for mutual benefit and between thematic/geographic areas with high cooperation potential and interest;
- Synergising with WP5 in relation to the use of distance learning and e-communication tools.

WP4 responds in particular to Objective 5 of the project entitled “Enhancement of the capacity of intermediary organisations.”, as well as Objective 6 entitled “Enhancement of the capacity of research stakeholders”, and Objective 7 entitled “Transfer of information to research constituency”.

Two online Webinars were planned and held during the project.

## 3. WEBINARS

1. **Enhancing research and innovation cooperation and promoting researchers participation in H2020 Research and Innovation programme: the case of MCSA- RISE (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange).**

This was the first free access Webinar delivered on 15 February 2017 lasting 60 minutes including a 15 minute Q&A session. Its aim was to provide information on how to increase the participation of Middle Eastern researchers in Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme Enhancing Research and Innovation Cooperation. The Webinar broadcast on 15

February 2017 particularly focused on a particular measure of H2020, the MSCA-RISE. RISE is one of the 4 types of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions which has the general objective of supporting research training and career development for researchers at all stages, targeting innovation skills by encouraging transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility as well as research excellence

After a brief overview of the measure and type of action, the Webinar focused on best practices to provide practical guidance to potential beneficiaries. In particular, the case of the RISE CLUSDEV MED was presented, where the main objectives were to build joint collaborative projects for developing clusters as new potential instruments to reinforce research in the food, water and energy sectors by drawing together academic research teams from the EU and Mediterranean countries with multidisciplinary skills and expertise in the field of clusters. The target participants were researchers, SMEs and institutional actors. The Webinar was preceded by a dissemination campaign through the MERID website, the AGORA platform, the partners' networks aiming to increase the level of participation. The Webinar was hosted on the Zoom.us platform. The number of registered participants was 20 and they belonged mainly to academia/research institutions in Europe and the Middle East.

The Webinar was organized and delivered by MERID project partners CIHEAM Bari and Europe for Business with the support of SCOM.

Link to the recorded Webinar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiweXmWt0DM>

## **2. Opportunities for research and innovation cooperation offered by the new H2020 Work Programmes 2018-2020, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digital Single Market Strategy**

The second Webinar organized in the framework of the MERID project was held on 9 February 2018 at 11 am CET. It lasted 60 minutes including a 15-minute Q&A session. Its aim was to increase the rate of participation in all the opportunities opened by the new Work Programmes 2018-2020 of H2020. The contents were particularly focused on the following items:

Opportunities for research and innovation cooperation offered by the new H2020 Work Programmes 2018-2020 to the MENA countries;

Insights into the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its consequences on businesses, governments and people;

The impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on the Mediterranean countries;

The Digital Single Market Strategy;

Policy areas linked to the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the framework programme (H2020);

Stimulating and managing digital innovation in the Mediterranean countries.

The Webinar was preceded by a dissemination campaign through the MERID website, the AGORA platform, the partners' networks aiming to increase the level of participation. The webinar was hosted on the Zoom.us platform. The number of registered participants was 20 a belonging mainly to academia/research institutions in Europe and the Middle East.

The Webinar was organized and delivered by the MERID project's partners CIHEAM Bari, Europe for Business and SCOM.

#### Programme

- 11:00-11:05 Welcome and introduction of speakers
- 11:05-11:15 Overview of the opportunities for research and innovation cooperation offered by the new H2020 Work Programmes 2018-2020 to MENA countries
- 11:15-11:45 Insight on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its consequences on businesses, governments and people; The impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on the Mediterranean countries; The Digital Single Market Strategy; Policy areas linked to the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the framework programme (H2020); Stimulating and managing digital innovation in the Mediterranean countries
- 11:45-12:00 Questions and Answers

Link to the recorded webinar:

<http://meridproject.eu/2nd-merid-webinar/>

## 4. Conclusions

Overall the experience has been successful as it contributed to the achievement of the objective of work package 4.

## 5. The experts

The experts were selected from MERID partners in order to ensure an optimal level of information delivered combined with experience developed on the subject.



**Virginia BELSANTI**, European project expert at CIHEAM Bari since 2002. Degree in Political Science, Economics-International specialization (Uni Bari), MA in Diplomatic Studies (London), Post-graduate Diploma in Management of Local Development (ILO), Certificate in Partnership Brokerage (TPI London), Certificate in Writing in the Sciences (Stanford). She is an expert in EU project and policy planning, covering different aspects from partnership brokerage, project design to content definition and administrative management. She has been involved in a variety of activities

related to training, research and cooperation in the areas of poverty and rural development, innovation systems, management of local development, policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable development promotion; research cooperation, multi stakeholder dialogue promotion. She has a 15-year experience of training design and research tutoring.



Davide MEINERO is managing director at ID Consulting, where he's in charge of relationship management and consulting services addressed to a variety of different customers. Working as a lecturer at the School of Management of the University of Turin, Davide Meinero developed a strong expertise on several subjects: economic analysis of institutions, ethics in economics, political economy, developmental economics and monetary policy. His mission combines relations with the EU institutions, media communications, issue management, information, dissemination and strategic communication advice, policy analysis and assessment of public policy issues, technical assistance for project proposals, planning and implementation of advocacy strategies.



French.

**Leonardo PICCINETTI** is Senior Research and Innovation Advisor and Managing Director at Europe for Business. He has extensive experience in consulting on Research and Innovation EU funding schemes and has worked on several EU Projects on food, water, energy and ICT-related fields. Leonardo holds a BSc in Economics from University of Rome with a special focus on water management in Mediterranean countries. He finished his Master in European Studies at Sussex European Institute at University of Sussex United Kingdom. Leonardo is currently studying Business Sustainability Management at University of Cambridge United Kingdom at Institute for Sustainability Leadership. He is independent evaluator for H2020 programme. Leonardo is fluent in Italian, English, Spanish and

## 6. Bibliography

H2020 web portal  
H2020 online manual  
Work package 2018-2020