



Establishing the EU-Mediterranean ICT Research Network

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Abstract	This document analyses the entries of the EU-MPC Directory in its status of the end of the project (end 2011).
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Table of Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. INTRODUCTION.....	5
3. THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE DIRECTORY	5
4. ANALYSIS OF DIRECTORY ENTRIES	5
4.1 THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	5
4.2 THE ORGANISATIONS	7
5. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED.....	8
6. ANNEX 1	10

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EU-MPC Research Directory is one of the core elements of the Join-MED project and the most important tangible result. It contains more than 1400 entries, representing individual researchers from universities or developers in the private ICT sector. These are working at more than 600 organisations: research institutes, private companies, SMEs, public or non-profit.

During the life-time of Join-MED the entries in this directory went up by more that factor 3 from 450 to 1400 and in particular the non-MPC entries went up from 50 to 280. The latter is a good proof that the strategy of Join-MED to involve more Europeans in the network was successful.

2. INTRODUCTION

The MPC Directory had been initiated in the MED-IST project back in 2007 and has been extended and refined in Join-MED, both in terms of its structure and its scope by putting more emphasis on European R&D organisations and researchers to be included.

While IT Consult is responsible for the IT Infrastructure of the directory, each MPC partner is responsible for maintaining consistency of the entries from their own countries and the completeness of the information provided by the registered members. This worked well in some of the partner countries but not in others.

3. THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE DIRECTORY

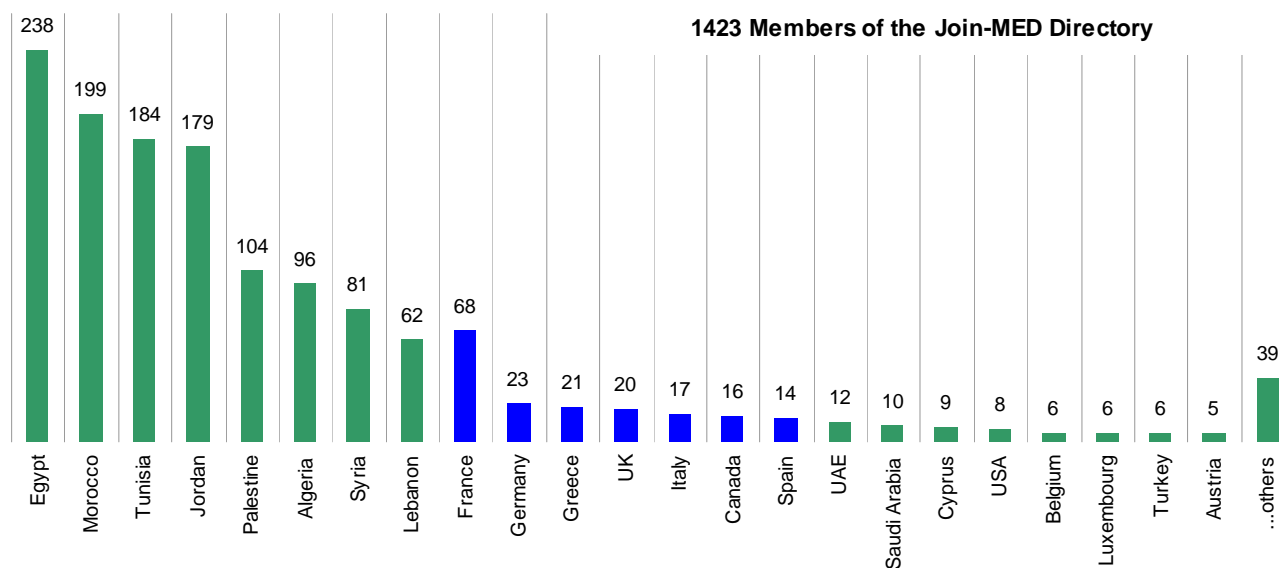
The overall structure and the questionnaires used are described in detail in "D2.1 Criteria for identifying suitable R&D organizations". In its latest release, the structure has been slightly modified, adding a CV option for the registered researchers and a regrouping of the questions, differentiating more clearly between personal and organisational information.

4. ANALYSIS OF DIRECTORY ENTRIES

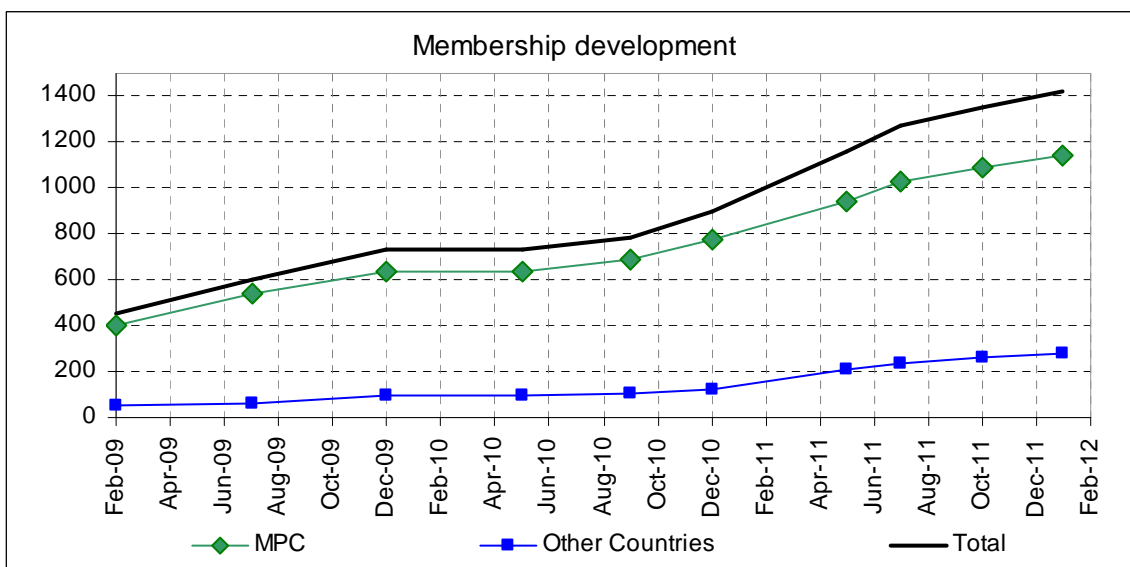
4.1 The individual members

The total number of individual registrations in the MPC Directory is currently 1423 (reflecting the registrations on 16 January 2012). During the Join-MED project the number of non-MPC (mainly European but also other international countries) increased from 25 out of 430 (6%) to 280 (20%).

The current distribution of all members of the MPC Directory is:



The overall development of the database is shown in the following overview:



Increase from Feb 2009 to Jan 2012:	Total:	968
(Join-Med Project)	MPC	738
	Others	230

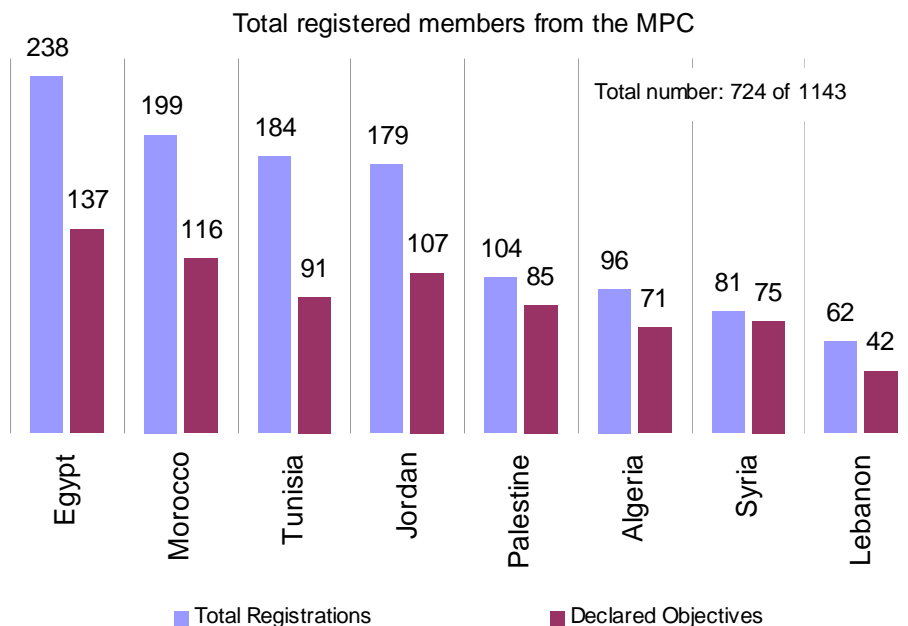
Changes in number of entries from start to end of Join-MED (MPC countries only)				
	From	by	To	Factor:
Syria	3	78	81	27.0
Jordan	44	135	179	4.1
Algeria	25	71	96	3.8
Tunisia	52	132	184	3.5
Egypt	88	150	238	2.7
Lebanon	30	32	62	2.1
Morocco	105	94	199	1.9
Palestine	58	46	104	1.8
TOTALS	405	738	1143	2.8

Most remarkable are the activities of Syria that had been neglected during the Med-IST project. Although the total number of Syrian members is relatively small, the percentage of the ones who have declared their ICT objectives is the highest of all countries. This indicates that the right selection of organisations has been made by our Syrian partner HIAST.

One of the purposes of the Directory is to facilitate the finding of potential partners for future FP activities, and is important that members not only provide their contact data, but specific information about themselves as well as their research departments or companies.

The main information required is their interest in the FP7 ICT challenges and objectives. This information is also the basis of the partner search facility. However, not all registered members have provided this information, either because they are not sufficiently familiar with the ICT Workprogramme, they are not really ICT experts, or simply not interested to do so.

Still, in the current database 724 (51%) MPC members have declared FP7 ICT objectives, compared to 239 (56%) in February 2009.



4.2 The Organisations

Following the overall aim of Join-MED to facilitate the creation of networks between organisations, more emphasis has been put on the description of the organisations in which the members of the Directory are working. The main emphasis within the description of organisations is the profile of the organisation and the description of the RTD Topics.

For individuals, apart from their FP7 Focus, a short CV is important. For all the researchers that were invited to the Networking Events and the Final Conference it was a requirement to provide such short CV.

The following table gives an overview of the current status, for individual researchers and for the description of the organisations.

COUNTRY	Individuals						Organisations		Rank
	GrandTotal	... from universities	... from SMEs and Private orgs	... from Public and Nonprofit orgs	Declared their FP7 Focus	Provided their CV	Organisation profiles provided	RTD Topics described	
Syria	78	45	19	14	94.90%	39.70%	76.90%	80.80%	0.80
Algeria	95	77	4	14	74.70%	68.40%	93.70%	55.80%	0.68
Palestine	104	49	18	37	81.70%	47.10%	55.80%	51.00%	0.61
Morocco	193	153	25	15	59.60%	37.30%	82.40%	42.00%	0.52
Tunisia	174	109	17	48	52.30%	38.50%	72.40%	45.40%	0.50
Jordan	175	130	18	27	61.10%	38.30%	78.30%	30.90%	0.47
Lebanon	61	36	16	9	68.90%	23.00%	65.60%	32.80%	0.47
Egypt	235	89	104	42	58.30%	28.10%	54.50%	34.50%	0.44
Totals:	1115	688	221	206					

The 'Rank' is calculated by the weighted results: RTD Topics: weight=4, FP7 Focus: weight=3, Company Descriptions: weight=1, CVs: weight=1

Apart from Syria, Algeria has been very active, both in attracting more members but also in getting the right information out of the registered ones.

Palestine with 81% of the registered members having declared their FP7 objectives and 47% who provided their CVs maintained it good position throughout the project, now holding rank three.

Morocco not even doubled their number of members of the past 35 months; the level of information given is slightly above average with room of improvement.

Tunisia and Jordan had a significant increase in members (factor 3.5 and 4.1) but didn't quite manage to follow up with their members to get some more information from them.

Still lagging behind are Egypt and Lebanon, where despite a good overall increase in numbers quite a lot of information is lacking.

The top non-MPC countries are:

COUNTRY	Individuals						Organisations	
	GrandTotal	... from universities	... from SMEs and Private orgs	... from Public and Nonprofit orgs	Declared their FP7 Focus	Provided their CV	Organisations profiles provided	RTD Topics described
France	66	45	16	5	62.10%	40.90%	74.20%	22.70%
Germany	22	12	8	2	77.30%	63.60%	63.60%	31.80%
UK	20	11	7	2	75.00%	50.00%	80.00%	40.00%
Greece	19	11	6	2	63.20%	68.40%	84.20%	36.80%
Italy	17	12	4	1	58.80%	47.10%	76.50%	17.60%
Canada	16	14	2	0	43.80%	43.80%	87.50%	12.50%
Spain	14	7	6	1	71.40%	28.60%	57.10%	14.30%
UAE	12	4	5	3	75.00%	41.70%	58.30%	33.30%
Saudi Arabia	10	7	1	2	60.00%	40.00%	70.00%	30.00%
Cyprus	8	5	3	0	25.00%	25.00%	62.50%	12.50%
USA	8	7	1	0	87.50%	62.50%	87.50%	50.00%
Belgium	6	1	3	2	66.70%	66.70%	33.30%	33.30%
Turkey	6	3	0	3	66.70%	33.30%	0.00%	66.70%
Austria	5	5	0	0	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%	40.00%
Luxembourg	5	0	4	1	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Qatar	4	2	0	2	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Australia	3	3	0	0	66.70%	100.00%	0.00%	33.30%
Moldova	3	3	0	0	66.70%	66.70%	0.00%	100.00%
Sweden	3	3	0	0	66.70%	66.70%	0.00%	33.30%
Totals:	247	155	66	26				

5. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The main problem is clearly to get sufficiently detailed information, in particular on the research profile of academic institutions. At first glance the questions we are asking seem to be reasonable and should not be difficult to answer, so one would expect a better outcome. To avoid some common resistance against on-line questionnaires, a number of partners have started personal interviews, either by phone or through visits. This had quite a positive impact in some countries for individual information; however the information about the organisations is still far from complete. So are we asking the wrong questions, after all?

From the first feedback from the personal interviews and the various discussions held with MPC researchers at the Networking Event in Amman, it became clear that a research environment as we know it from European universities and research organisations is not very wide-spread in the MPC. The majority of universities are involved entirely in teaching and whatever research is carried out is done on an individual basis, not an institutional one. Likewise, PhD programmes are not very common and subsequently few specialised research groups exist.

On the one hand detailed questions about research environments that do not really exist can easily be embarrassing leading to a general refusal to provide any information, and on the other hand the few full answers obtainable are not sufficient for a detailed partner search. Hence an option would be to remove the detailed questions and replace them by a free text input in which the organisation can be described on a level of detail to be decided by the interviewed staff.

One of the questions for research organisation is the "number of PhD awarded over the past 3 years" and based on the answers given, the top organisations in the Directory are:

Organisations by Awarded PhDs (> 10)

Organisation	Country	Awarded PhDs
Chouaib Doukkali University	Morocco	52
LIRE Laboratory- University Mentouri of Constantine	Algeria	40
Faculté des Sciences - Rabat	Morocco	32
Institut National des Postes et Télécom - INPT	Morocco	30
Royal Scientific Society	Jordan	27
Higher Institute of Computer Science, University of Tunis at El Manar	Tunisia	20
University of Science and Technology Houari Boumedién (USTHB)	Algeria	20
Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine	Egypt	20
Institut supérieur d'informatique et de multimédia	Tunisia	20
Riadi-GDL Laboratory/ISAMM	Tunisia	15
University of Oran, Sciences Faculty	Algeria	15
REGIM: REsearch Group on Intelligent Machines	Tunisia	15
ENIT, National Engineering School of Tunis, Tunis El Manar University	Tunisia	15
Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediène (USTHB)	Algeria	15
Faculty of Science and Technology	Morocco	15
University Badji Mokhtar Annaba	Algeria	13
Laboratoire de Recherche RIADI-GDL/ENSI	Tunisia	13
Cairo University	Egypt	12
Université Moulay Ismail	Morocco	12
Directorate-General of Scientific Research, Ministry of Higher Education, Algeria	Algeria	11
Abderrahmane Mira University	Algeria	11

The numbers are quite low compared with EU universities and it is also interesting to see the vast majority on these universities is in the Maghreb region where the traditional links with France were instrumental for creating a research environment.

6. ANNEX 1

The annex contains a listing of all organisations in the EU-MPC Directory of Researchers that either provided an organisation profile or the description of their RTD topics, or both.

This annex comes as a separate document "D2.3 Final EU-MPC Research Directory ANNEX.pdf".