



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

To: Steering Committee
Middle East and North Africa Transition Fund

London, 14 April 2015

Subject: Jordan's National Center for Innovation – Endorsement Letter

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is pleased to endorse the submission to the Middle East and North Africa Transition Fund of the Jordanian proposal on establishing a National Center for Innovation.

The Jordanian authorities approached EBRD to ask for assistance in implementing a programme to establish a National Center for Innovation (NCI), which aims to provide institutional leadership for innovation across stakeholders, and thorough analyses and recommendations to ensure a more transparent and effective public policy for the national innovation agenda.

More specifically, the NCI will act as a one-stop shop for innovators, providing information and assistance in identifying suitable funding opportunities, monitoring and assessing the impact of the various innovation-focused programmes and providing recommendations to the government to streamline and eliminate inefficiencies in the innovation system. The NCI will be administratively housed within the Higher Council for Science and Technology, but will provide its recommendations to the National Council for Competitiveness and Innovation, the latter chaired by the Prime Minister and bringing together the 9 key Ministries and 24 other stakeholders in the innovation system.

On request of the Jordanian authorities, the EBRD is pleased to act as the Implementing Support Agency for this project.

The proposal was prepared in accordance with EBRD's policies and procedures, which have been followed to the point of finalisation of project preparation, as required by Paragraph 53 of the Transition Fund Operations Manual.

We take this occasion to thank the Steering Committee Members for their consideration of this proposal, and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continuous support and cooperation in the context of the MENA Transition Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Camilla Otto
Director, Donor Co-Financing