



Open call for the selection of expert to undertake the design and delivery Innovation capacity building for researchers

Terms of Reference

Project Title	Lebanon Innovate (Reference: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/ 435-765-PC 18220)
Financing	European Union
Contracting organization	The “Industrial Research Achievements-Lebanon” (IRALEB)
Experts to be selected	Expert to undertake the design and delivery Innovation capacity building for researchers

1. Background

Lebanon Innovate is a 42-month program funded by the European Union, which aims to foster an enabling knowledge transfer and IP ecosystem in Lebanon and transform research and innovations emerging from universities and research centers into commercial ventures. Ultimately, the program seeks to contribute to sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth.

To achieve this overarching goal, the project aims to meet the following needs:

- **Foster an enabling environment to boost innovation and capacitate stakeholders**, especially in creating and sharing knowledge and commercializing technologies.
- **Strengthen cooperation between industry and academia** to promote innovation and knowledge transfer and support the commercialization of products.
- **Increase collaboration around research and technology between Lebanese and European stakeholders.**

The process of transforming innovations and technological findings emerging from universities into market ready products is essential to driving Lebanon’s economies forward and contributing to job creation. Therefore, **innovation transfer and commercialization are one of the strategic directions that Lebanon needs to prioritize.**

Lebanon Innovate capacity-building initiatives will increase knowledge, skills and capacities of the main stakeholders of the Lebanese innovation ecosystem on issues related to technology transfer, intellectual property and commercialization of research.



2. Objective

IRALEB seeks an external Expert to carry out the design and implementation of the **Lebanon Innovate Innovation capacity building for researchers during its LIRA innovation program's Hackathon** foreseen for 5 days 18-22 of March 2024

The hackathon will host innovators willing to expose innovative ideas or solve “Industry Challenges” and will receive capacity building focused on innovation management. The hackathon will focus on: Innovation Management, Result Commercialization, Creating SpinOffs. Capacity building: Students and researchers will be invited to participate in the innovation olympics to present their technological solutions to industrial challenges in the identified priority sectors. Then, they will undergo a capacity-building program covering topics such as innovation management, commercialization of research results, and support for creating spin-off companies, all dedicated to researchers in academia. A practical approach based on exercises and case studies will be adopted; in 40 hours, participants will be trained to submit a project work by the end of the training program. A minimum of 60 researchers will be trained. Each program edition will select 15 ideas for the following acceleration phase.

3. Scope of Work:

The selected Expert will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Designing a comprehensive capacity-building program tailored to the needs of researchers and students in academia, with a specific focus on innovation management, result commercialization, and creating spin-off companies.
- Developing training materials, including presentations, case studies, and exercises, to facilitate hands-on learning and practical application of concepts.
- Conducting a 40-hour (5 days) capacity-building program that covers key topics such as innovation management, commercialization of research results, and support for creating spin-off companies.
- Providing guidance and mentorship to participants throughout the capacity-building program, ensuring their understanding and readiness to apply learned concepts.
- Overseeing the submission of project work by participants at the end of the training program and selecting 10 ideas for the subsequent acceleration phase.

4. Deliverables:

The Expert will deliver the following outputs:

- A detailed curriculum for the capacity-building program, including session plans, training materials, and assessment criteria.
- Conducted 40-hour capacity-building program over 5 days, including presentations, workshops, and practical exercises.
- Selection of a minimum of 50 researchers and students to participate in the innovation olympics.
- Evaluation report summarizing the effectiveness of the capacity-building program and recommendations for future iterations.



5. Timeline:

The engagement of the external Expert will span for 5 days with the Hackathon scheduled for the end of March 2024.

6. Qualifications and Expertise:

The ideal candidate for this position should possess the following qualifications and expertise:

- A strong background in innovation management, entrepreneurship, and capacity building, particularly within the academic sector.
- Demonstrated experience in designing and delivering training programs focused on innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Familiarity with the Lebanese innovation ecosystem and the challenges faced by researchers and students in academia.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills, with the ability to engage and inspire participants from diverse backgrounds.

7. Reporting:

The Expert will report to IRALEB executive team throughout the duration of the engagement, providing regular updates on progress and seeking guidance as needed.

8. Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of qualifications and expertise to the scope of work.
- Demonstrated experience in designing and delivering similar capacity-building programs.
- Understanding of the Lebanese innovation ecosystem and the specific needs of researchers and students.
- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed approach and methodology.
- Value for money in relation to the proposed budget.



9. Timeline and Application

Work will take place between 18 and 22 March 2024, with the final reporting deadline set for mid-April 2024.

Candidates should submit the following documents:

- Technical offer (maximum 3 pages) outlining the methodology to conduct the work based on the content suggested in sections: “Deliverables” and “Scope of Work”, elaborating it further. It must include an outline of the overall programme (structure and curriculum), a first draft of the in-person training curriculum and approach, the tentative schedule of the different activities and the capacity building approaches that will be proposed to the trainees. An implementation calendar should be delivered.
- Expert(s)' profile (maximum 2 pages per expert): the expert(s) should submit a brief explanation of the qualifications, relevant work experience (CVs shall be included as annex) and references on the topic.

The technical offer and expert profile documents should be submitted by email to Tenders-Tec@iraleb.org by **Sunday 10th of March 2024, 3:00 p.m. Lebanon time.**

- Financial offer: the Expert(s) should state the personnel dedication expressed in days per expert involved (1 day = 8 working hours) and including in the offer any other cost related to the preparation and implementation of the capacity building. The financial offers should be sent to Tenders-Fin@iraleb.org by **Sunday 10th of March 2024, 3:00 p.m. Lebanon time.**

Offers will be assessed according to the following criteria and scores:

- Quality of the technical offer to meet the work objectives > maximum 45 points
- Proven track-record > maximum 45 points
- Financial offer > maximum 10 points

The winning candidate will be notified by email of the selection of offer.