



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

***Innovation and Employability as a Development Nexus for the
Mediterranean
Creating new opportunities for youth and entrepreneurship – 10 November***

UfM: The Euro-Mediterranean intergovernmental institution

42 member countries

All EU member states

15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries

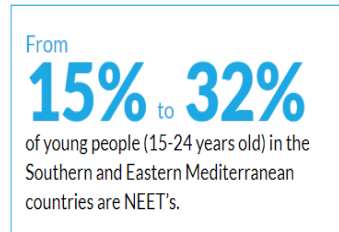


MISSION

To enhance regional cooperation and dialogue through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives addressing human development, stability and integration.

Why working on employability and innovation

Regional cooperation efforts in the fields of higher education, research and innovation as well as vocational training and mobility play an essential role in achieving a **Positive agenda for the Youth** in the Mediterranean because of their potential on increasing employability, promoting intercultural dialogue, preventing extremism and fostering innovative solutions to regional challenges.



The UfM region
counts **over**
30M university
students

By 2030, gross
enrolment rates in
higher education are
foreseen to rise up to
40%

The employment of Mediterranean university graduates: *Bridging the employability gap between advanced skills and markets*

Side event to the UfM
Ministerial Conference on
Employment and Labour

Cascais, Portugal
1 April 2019

+60 high level participants
(Ministries, international
institutions, chambers of
commerce, universities,
private sector, networks
and startups).



Follow up actions



Implemented by



A **consultatory process** with Member states and stakeholders, and Digital Steering Committees for assessing needs and best practices (OECD, EC, National ministries, Universities, Accelerators, etc.).

Short **publication** for presenting best practices, available platforms and initiatives, ready-to-implement ideas

- A Regional training
- Two **National** Training Workshops
- A **Regional** Training Seminar

Allowing: capacity building, networking, exchanges

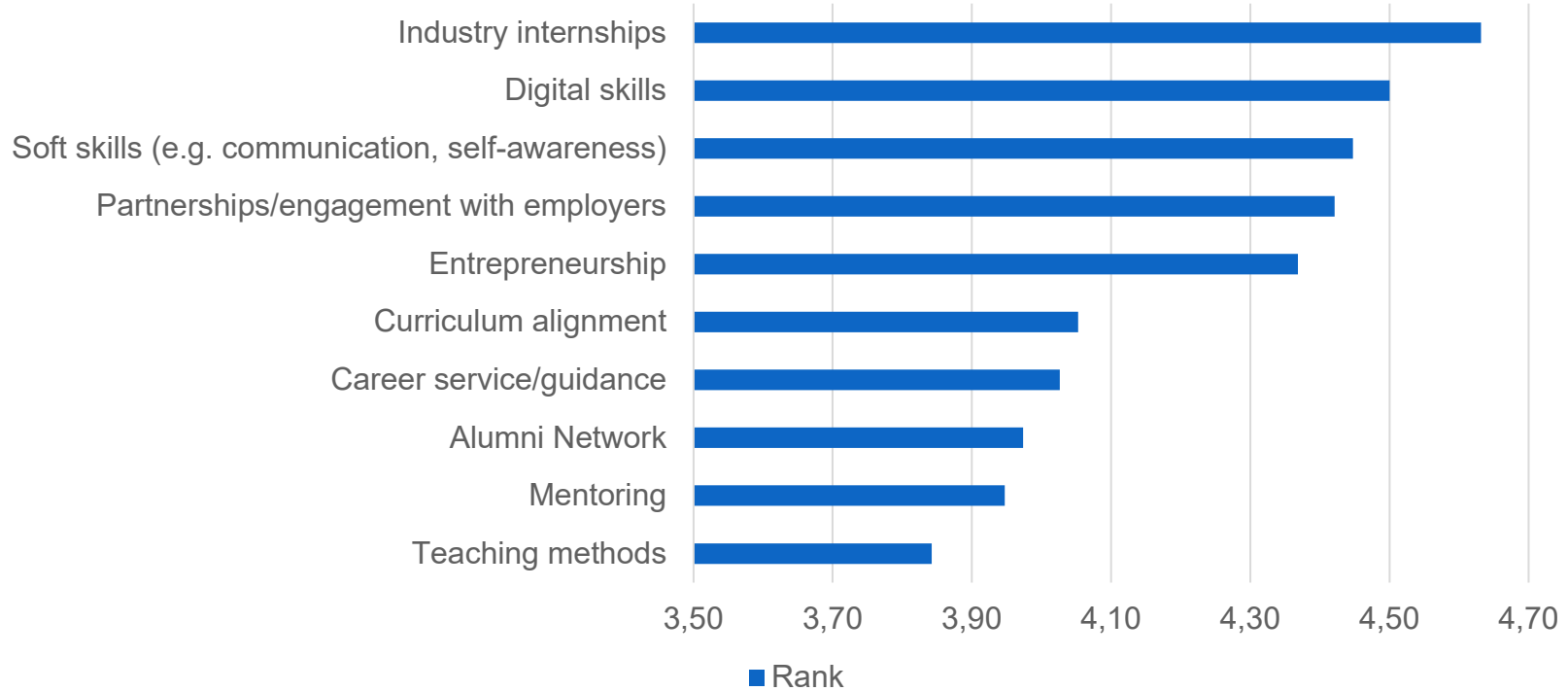
Conducted from 15-30 April 2020

Consultatory process

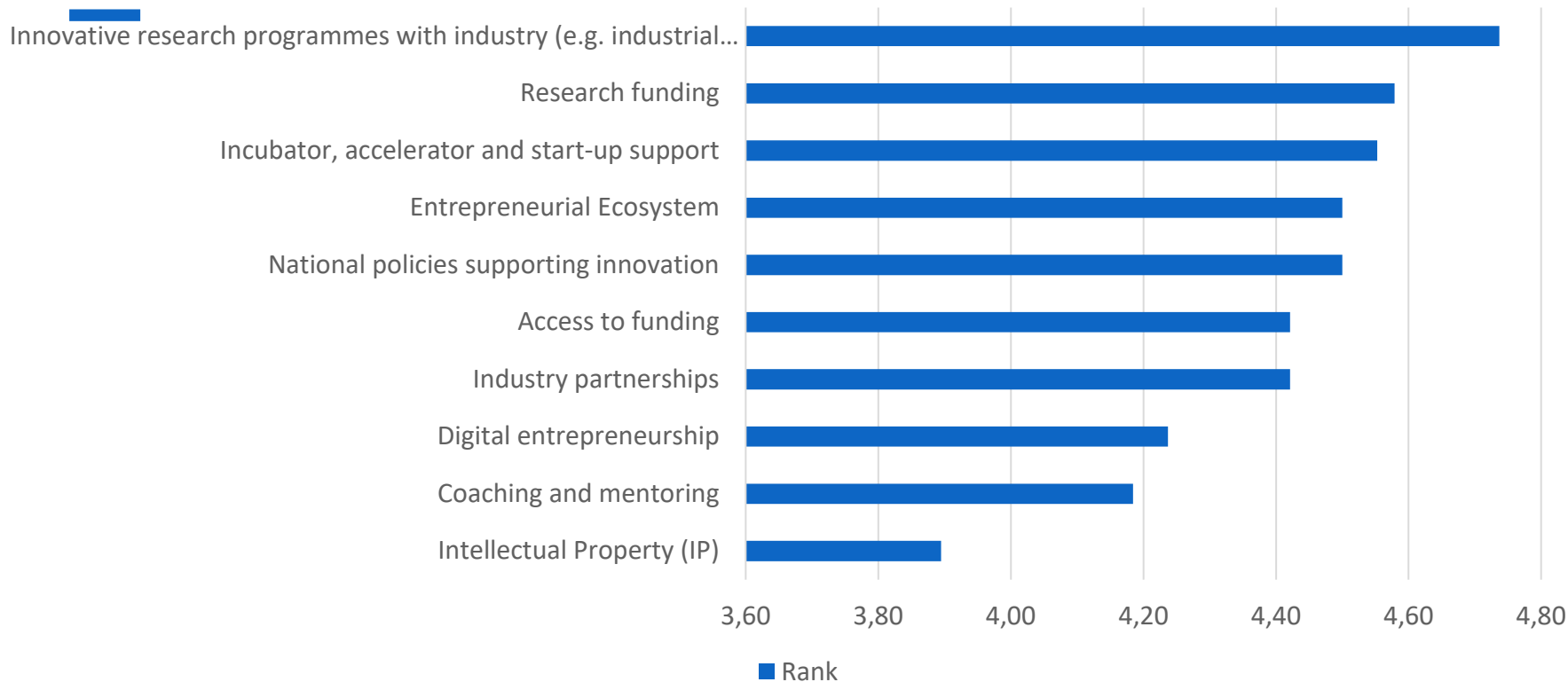


- 38 responses
- > 120 initiatives identified
- How much the handbook should target stakeholder groups
 - Other stakeholders identified
- Views on themes that should be addressed by the handbook
 - On the subject of “employability”
 - On the subject of “innovation and entrepreneurship”
 - Other themes identified
- Existing initiatives identified

Themes on employability



Themes on innovation-entrepreneurship



Steering Committees:

How to promote
employability and
digitalisation?

How to promote
entrepreneurship and
start-up creation in
R&I?

5 and 19 May 2020

Approx 50 participants
each from:

UfM CoPresidency (EC
and Jordan), NFPs from
UfM RP R&I, OECD, EBRD,
CIHEAM, universities &
university networks,
BusinessMed, private
sector, networks and
startups.

A handbook with best practices

Eleven themes ranging: Skills, Teaching & Learning, Collaborative Doctorates, International Mobility and Internships, Career Services, Knowledge Exchange, Partnerships for Innovation, Digital Innovation, Capacity Development, and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.



Freely available on
UfMSecretariat.org



UfM HER |

Reinforcing the Innovation-Employability Nexus in the Mediterranean

Trainings (2021)

Digital training
1-13 September

Two **National**
Training Workshops
End September

A **Regional** Forum
on innovation and
employability
18 November



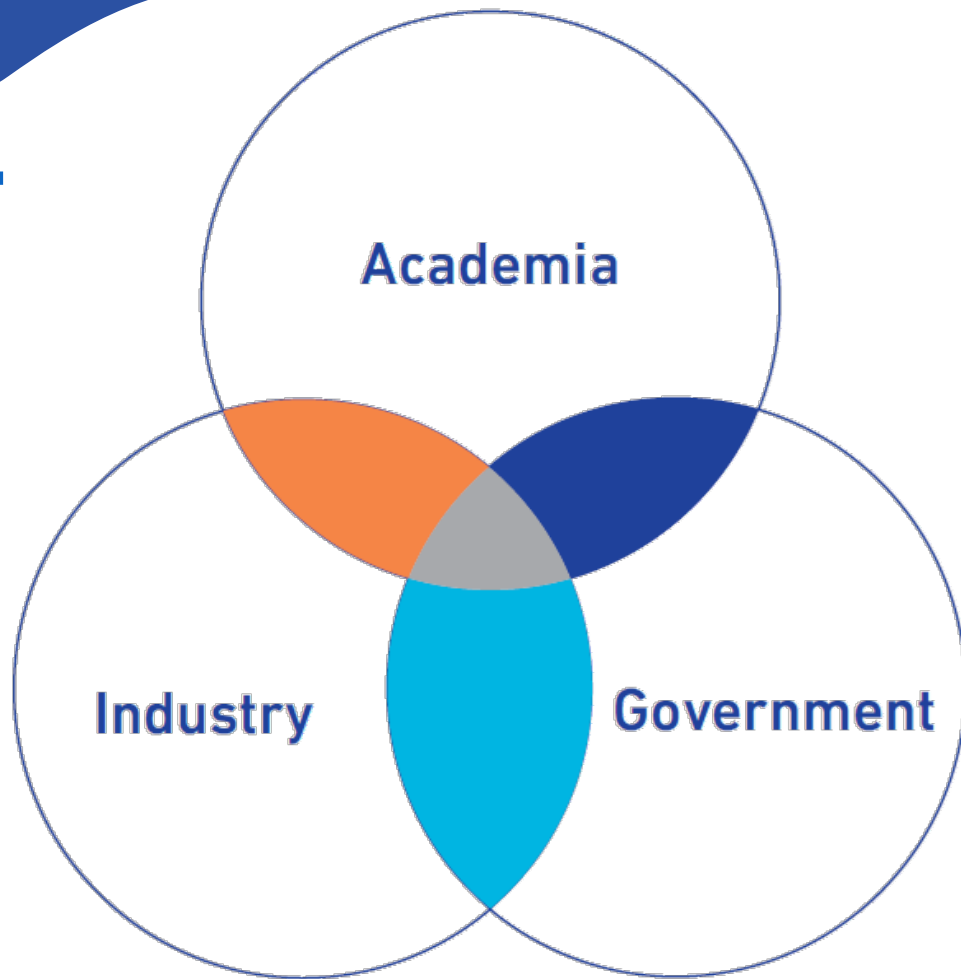
Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Reinforcing capacity building and supporting thematic exchanges

Theoretical Framework

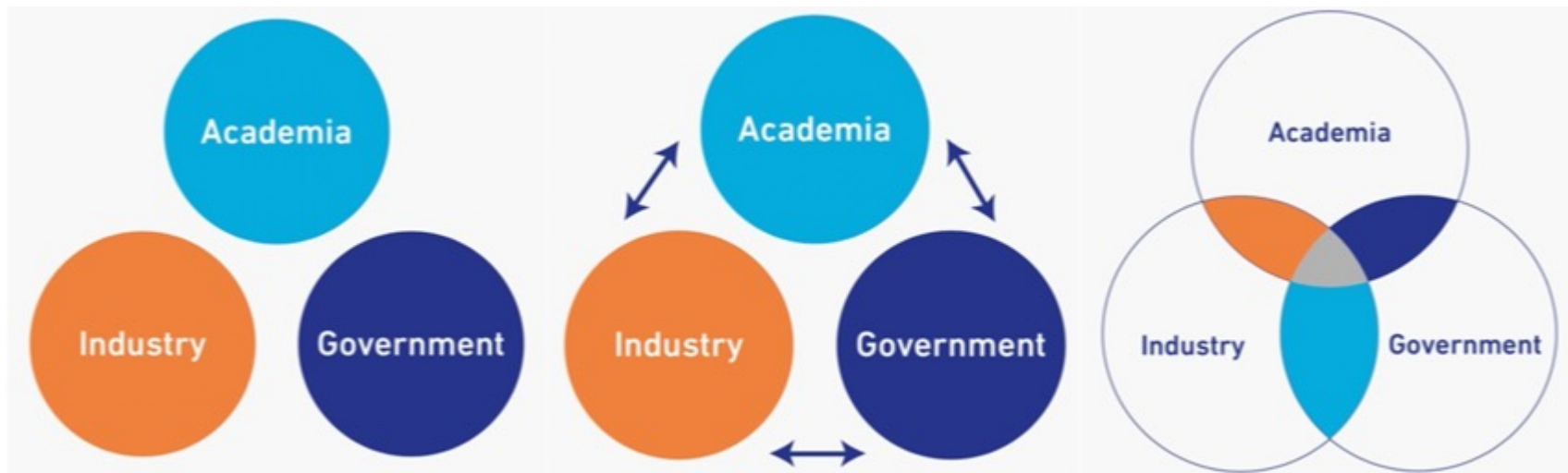
Triple Helix of
Innovation





Lens / Framework:

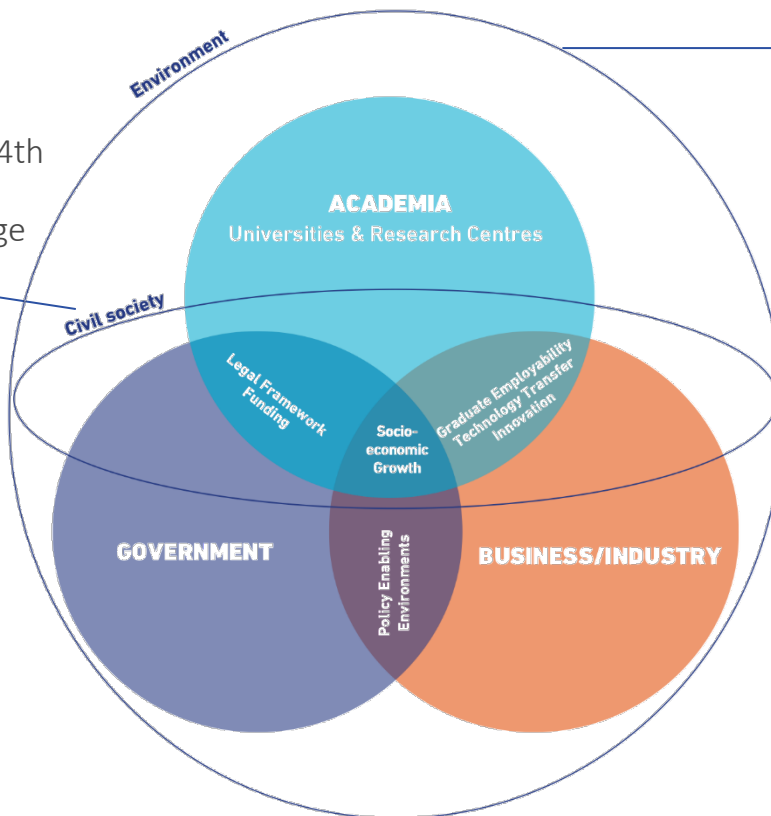
Moving from the static to the interactive Triple Helix



Triple Helix – Quadruple Helix – Quintuple Helix

Quadruple Helix

Integration of **civil society** as the 4th dimension resulting in shift from knowledge economy to knowledge society



Quintuple Helix

Integration of **natural environment** resulting in a fifth dimension considering the natural environment as a key driver for knowledge production and innovation

What we learned

- Importance of investment in youth and in capacity buildings of HEIs
- Key role of HE despite the employability challenges of highly qualified graduates
- Triple helix of innovation as a lens through which ensure the involvement of all actors to solve the “wicked problem” -> moving to quintuple helix in order to support SDGs and green transitions
- Research
 - Research and innovation system in the Mediterranean are highly advanced - research production has increased considerable over the past years.
 - Challenges in capitalising on it sufficiently for a number of reasons (e.g. economic development framework, education system) → One of the main challenges is the weak capacity of industry to absorb the research results.
 - Several reasons, but one of the main ones is the weak linkages between Academia (highly fragmented) and Industry.
- Importance for the government to provide the framework conditions for both academia and industry to address societal issues
 - More institutional autonomy would allow universities to be more agile to engage more easily with industry.
 - Importance of quality assurance, capacity development of HE leaders and researchers & internationalisation and the increased visibility of research from the region
- So what's next?

What's next?

UfM Forum
on Innovation
and
Employability



18 November -> REGISTRATION OPEN ON UfM WEBSITE



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Reach out to us!

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