

Mr. Spiros Polycandriotis (Head of trade, economic affairs and private sector development at the EU delegation to Jordan) – As representative of HE Mrs Joanna Wronecka, Head of the EU Delegation to Jordan

On behalf of the EU ambassador I open this important conference under the patronage his Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein.

With e-infrastructure we could tackle all of today's most challenging demands, the economic prices, climate change, energy and digital culture heritage or cultural diversity.

The acceptance of cultural diversity is in many ways the basis for rework in deeper in the coming days. Other domains are also directly or indirectly linked to connectivity such as the use of internet to promote citizenship, democracy and fundamental freedoms.

The domains you want to address re-joint cooperation and open borders , this is why we need to work together in why internet connectivity especially in research and education is so important, or if you want to put it the other way around e-infrastructure disregards borders as obstacles needs development.

Of course a country can neglect to put in place the necessary infrastructure to connect the faculty to the outside world.

Developing countries can think to have much more competent priorities to fund the building e-infrastructure but it should be understood that the role of e-infrastructure is essential to break the circle of mere subsistence.

Sustainable growth is based on innovation; science is the basis of long term innovation and production activities. The infrastructure is necessary to allow researchers to participate in cross borders activities to share competences and experiences all around the world beyond the established borders. That was the rationale behind the establishment of the EU-Mediterranean cooperation in e-infrastructure and information society when it started 8 years ago.

In the frame of EUMEDs program, this program created the first trans-European network (EUMEDCONNECT) and doubled the collaboration in multiple domains with high scientific societal impact, for the first time researchers in Europe and in the south Mediterranean have been able to work together online on joint initiatives and benefiting from enduring advance border infrastructures to foster speed of collaboration between different nationalities and cultures.

EUMEDs has opened opportunities connecting networks to people from the broad range of sectors and facilitating services that are the key for the successful development in reform of the MENA region . Over 180 Mediterranean universities and research centers are today connected to a network of about 3500 solutions in Europe. In our daily lives of citizens we benefit from e-infrastructure but if we want our societies really to benefit from these developments, just building e-infrastructure is not sufficient, sound policies and strategic approach to advance economical and technological development should be adopted in each country.

These policies should encourage the active participation of all stakeholders, such as governments, civil society, private business and international organizations in creating sufficient environment which will promote effective development.

The launch of EUMEDCONNECT3 represents the European commitment to support and enhance this network since the challenge to use information society as a common tool for security, prosperity, and integration is essential for all Mediterranean and European countries.

We can work together to extend connectivity to more countries in the Arab world.

I am convinced that we are here not only to take a stop of success stories but also to discuss the needs and meets that will assure the sustainability of this network in the future.

Answering the demand of the research community and building up the capacities that will enable this country not only to be connected but also to fully benefit from the network is the other challenge open for today's discussion . But the success of this project goes beyond the immediate goals, it means growth it means social cohesion, and your excellences, esteemed guests, something where the all needed these challenging times both in the Arab world and in Europe. On the half of EU ambassador and European Union I would like to thank you for being here today and I wish you success in your work in the next 3 days.

Thank you.