


# Empowering Libyan Researchers

## Unlocking Opportunities through International Research Networks and Their Impact on Libya

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# The Current Research Landscape in Libya

- **Libya's**, with its strategic location in North Africa includes the region's longest Mediterranean coastline, facing southern Europe, its researchers confronted with systemic barriers:
  - limited funding and inadequate infrastructure.
  - Scarce opportunities for international collaboration.
  - Brain drains.
  - Fragmented academic systems.
  - Language and publication barriers.
- These constraints limit their ability to contribute to global science and address local challenges.



# In Comparison: The Power of International Research Networks

- Access to funding and resources.
- Training and mentorship.
- Cross-border collaboration.
- Shared infrastructure (labs, databases, tools).
- Increased visibility and impact.
- ➡ International research networks act as bridges. They offer access to global funding, cutting-edge technology, and knowledge exchange. These networks don't just share resources, they create a collaborative culture that's essential for scientific progress.



# Key Benefits for Libyan Academic Researchers

- Capacity building through training programs.
  - Participation in high-impact publications.
  - Exposure to global standards and ethics.
  - Development of specialized expertise.
  - Enhanced credibility and academic presence.
- **The real benefit is empowerment:** developing the skills, networks, and credibility to stand shoulder-by-shoulder with global peers. This creates a cycle of knowledge production and application.



# Libya's Research Environment – Challenges

- Political instability.
- Lack of research infrastructure, although, more than 30 research centers with minimum facilities and outdated, insufficient infrastructure.
- Limited research environment.
- Inadequate research support.
- Low R&D investment (<0.1% of GDP).
- Weak university-industry collaboration.
- Limited international visibility.
- Political instability disrupts more than governance, it creates an environment of uncertainty, where long-term investments and strategic planning take a back seat. When leadership changes frequently, national innovation agendas lose continuity, thus, progress stalls!



# Libya in Global Research Networks – Missed and Emerging Opportunities

- Currently underrepresented in major global networks.
  - Limited nascent participation in EU programs.
  - Potential in climate, water, energy, and public health research.
  - Growing diaspora community in academia.
- Although Libya is underrepresented in international research networks, opportunities are emerging, particularly in sectors like renewable energy, water security, and health. The huge number of Libyan academic in exile could also play a pivotal role in these efforts.



# Case Studies – Successes from Other Countries

- **Example 1:** Rwanda – Leveraged international partnerships to develop its data science and health sectors.
  - **Example 2:** Tunisia – Active participant in Horizon 2020, with measurable academic and economic benefits.
  - **Example 3:** Morocco – Collaborates with EU and African Union on climate research.
- Other African nations show what's possible. Rwanda built its health system capacity through partnerships. Tunisia gained funding and training via the EU. All such models, if offered to Libya, they can be well adapted and scaled.



# Strategic Recommendations for Libya

- Create a National Research Strategy aligned with international goals.
  - Establish government-backed mobility and funding programs.
  - Engage Libyans in exile as scientific ambassadors.
  - Form alliances with regional and global research networks.
  - Invest in digital infrastructure to enable remote collaboration.
- Libya can make strategic moves to unlock its potential. A national research strategy that prioritizes international collaboration is the first step. Supporting digital infrastructure will multiply the impact.



# Opportunities of AI to Challenges

**To overcome all challenges, and with cooperation of international organizations and institutions, Libya should:**

- Create a national AI roadmap aligned with international best practices.
  - Investing in digital infrastructure and open data platforms.
  - Encouragement of expert citizens in exile to engage in AI research and development.
- By actively engaging with international AI research networks, Libya can accelerate its digital transformation, build resilient institutions, and drive inclusive development. The key lies in strategic collaboration, investment in human capital, and policy alignment that positions AI not as a distant technology, but as a practical tool to solve real-world problems.



# Role of International Partners

- Prioritize inclusion of Libyan institutions in funded projects.
  - Offer tailored capacity-building initiatives.
  - Facilitate exchange programs and joint degrees.
  - Co-develop research priorities with Libyan stakeholders.
- For international organizations and institutions, there's a clear role too. Empowering Libyan researchers isn't a charity. it's a long-term investment in global stability, regional expertise, and scientific diversity.



# Conclusion

## Key Message:

- International research networks are not just about science, they're about sovereignty, opportunity, and global equity. Libya has the talent. What's needed now is connection, support, and vision.
- **To conclude:** Empowering researchers in developing countries like Libya through international networks is more than an academic pursuit, it's a strategy for economic development, political resilience, and social innovation. Research empowerment in Libya is more than academic, it's a strategic investment in regional and for global transformation.



# Questions?