**The Research and Innovation Fair: A Step towards Creating an Environment that Fosters the Commercialization of Scientific Research Results**

The National Agency for the Promotion of Scientific Research (ANPR), with the support of the European Union as part of the PPI4MED project funded through the IEV CTF MED program (European Instrument of Neighbourhood | Cross-border Cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin), organized the Research and Innovation Fair at the City of Sciences in Tunis on March 9th and 10th, 2023. This fair provided an opportunity for researchers and innovators to present their work to visitors who were able to discover the latest inventions and innovations exhibited at the fair.

Representatives from companies, students, pupils, and actors from civil society were able to benefit from the presence of researchers to interact with them and gain insights into the usefulness of their work and the impact that these innovations can have on their daily lives. Many solutions to societal problems and challenges in the fields of energy, food security, and water were presented by researchers in the workshop presenting research results organized parallel to the fair.

Representatives from the public sector emphasized the various societal challenges and problems facing Tunisia, such as water stress, electricity production costs, diseases, and pests threatening agricultural production. Several researchers presented their innovative solutions, for example, Professor Mohamed Hachicha and his collaborators presented new approaches to wastewater treatment and its use in irrigation. Professor Youssef Timoumi also presented an economical desalination unit that makes the cost of desalinated water per cubic meter cheaper compared to other desalination units. Regarding the energy sector, Professor Adnen Cherif and his collaborators proposed the transformation of the Tunisian electricity grid to a "Smart Grid" and presented a new design with the integration of artificial intelligence to increase the efficiency and stability of the electricity grid. Other innovations to increase energy production efficiency were also presented. Regarding food security, Mr. Chokri Bayoudh presented the bio-insecticides developed at the Regional Center for Research in Horticulture and Organic Agriculture.

This fair opened the debate on societal challenges and the contributions that researchers can make in collaboration with the private sector. In other words, this event is a first step towards creating an environment that fosters the commercialization of scientific research results. It also enables a vision for establishing a public innovation market that adapts to the Tunisian context and is based on the design proposed by the PPI4MED project, which assumes cooperation between research centers, the public sector, and the private sector.