

FUNDING PROGRAMME: ERASMUS+

SUBPROGRAMME: Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices
Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education (CBHE)

PROJECT TITLE/ACRONYM:

Innovation for the Leather Industry in Jordan and Egypt / INNOLEA



CONTRACT NO.: 585822-EPP-1-2017-1-EL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: 929.900 euro

INCDTP'S BUDGET: 31.766 euro

PROJECT STARTING DATE: 15/10/2017

PROJECT ENDING DATE: 14/04/2021

WEBSITE: <https://innolea.just.edu.jo>

PARTNERS:**Coordinator:**

- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece

Partners:

- Creative Thinking Development (CRE.THI.DEV), Greece
- Centro Tecnológico das Indústrias do Couro (CTIC), Portugal
- South Valley University (SVU), Egypt
- Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AAST), Egypt
- Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Jordan
- Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI), Jordan
- Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU), Jordan
- Italian Center for Permanent Learning (CIAPE), Italy
- University Politehnica of Bucharest (UPB), Romania
- Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuania
- The National Research and Development Institute for Textiles and Leather – Division: Leather and Footwear Research Institute (INCDTP-ICPI), Romania

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES:**

INNOLEA aims to fill an apparent gap in the area of specialized services for the leather sector with the establishment of four leather centers in local universities, two in Jordan and two in Egypt, utilizing the experience and expertise of EU partners in the area of services for the leather sector. The project aims to create and maintain a link between universities and businesses of the leather sector that will foster innovation and the manufacturing of high value quality products, as well as further cooperation between EU and Jordan and Egypt Universities and leather businesses. The project also aims to help encourage the Egyptian and Jordanian governments to favor the establishment of leather centers within universities and to promote research and projects between EU and Egypt and Jordan universities in the leather sector, by creating a research innovation and training network, which will continue to operate after the end of this project.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To provide the leather sectors in Jordan and Egypt access to business development services through

- the creation of leather centers within the universities;
- To promote cooperation between HEIs and businesses through the creation of leather centers within 2 Egyptian and 2 Jordanian universities;
- To help establish other leather centers in other universities;
- To establish further cooperation between EU and Jordanian & Egyptian Universities and leather businesses.

NOVELTY ELEMENTS:

The leather sectors in Jordan and Egypt comprise mainly semi-industrial companies and small craft-oriented workshops, combining manual and mechanical processes with basic equipment. Only a few large industrial companies exist. The sector suffers from a high fragmentation and a lack of quality control in all stages of the value chain. Furthermore, due to the lack of specialized support, most of the companies of the sector cannot invest in quality, design and innovation and export their products.

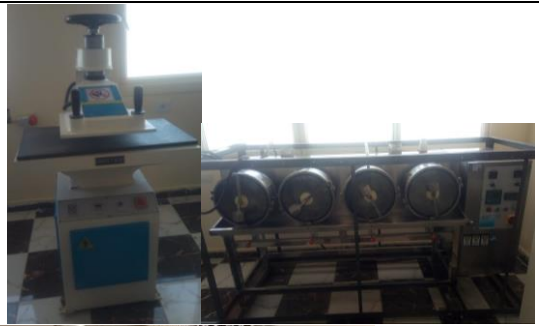
The four leather centers created in Jordan and Egypt play the role of focal points for the leather sector and relevant stakeholders. The services that these centers offer are used by companies of the leather sector of the two countries in order to: improve the quality and design of their products, improve the quality and cost effectiveness of manufacturing techniques and chemicals used, be informed about the new fashion trends, develop new products, learn about requirements for exporting of their products, find funding opportunities, participate in projects. Through the creation of these centers, the leather sectors in Jordan and Egypt are granted access to business development services, such as quality testing, product certification, training, fashion trends, production organization, B2B and funding opportunities, and subsequently the Jordanian and Egyptian leathers sector will have a valuable ally for its further development.

EXPECTED EXPLOITABLE RESULTS:

- 4 leather centers created within 2 Egyptian (SVU and AAST) and 2 Jordanian universities (JUST and BAU);
- Collaboration platform facilitating communication between leather centers and other stakeholders of the leather sector in the region or worldwide;
- 4 capacity building sessions (training seminars) to allow staff from Jordanian and Egyptian Universities to learn from the European experience in setting up and managing leather centers;
- 1 Training Toolkit – training material divided into 4 learning units;
- 1 Database with EU best practices;
- 1 Quality Plan to ensure project quality and efficiency;
- 1 Dissemination and Exploitation Plan to inform about and promote the project and to present project products and results to stakeholders, with the aim of promoting their use by the audience;
- 1 Management Plan to ensure good project management and risk mitigation;
- 1 Sustainable business model for the leather centers;
- 2 Roundtables “Leather centers development and Investment promotion for inclusive and sustainable growth in Jordan and Egypt” – one for Jordan and one for Egypt;
- 1 Recommendations paper based on the results of the Roundtables - How leather centers are useful for the economic development of the region;
- 1 Final conference organized and implemented in Egypt.

OBTAINED RESULTS:

- **four fully operational leather centers**, established in four universities in Jordan and Egypt, well equipped and its staff well trained in order to be able to offer innovative services that include testing of leather products, training, certification, seminars, informative events regarding fashion trends and funding tools for the sector, thus giving the opportunity to leather companies to improve the quality of their products and become competitive;

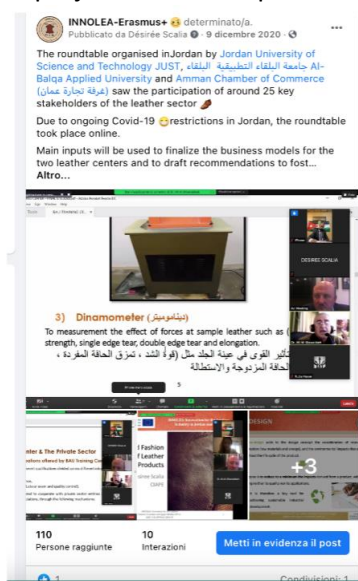


- **four capacity building sessions** (seminars) have been performed: one in Portugal, one in Italy and two in Romania. The trainees from the four universities in Jordan and Egypt also visited laboratories and tanneries. The training toolkit comprised four units:
 1. U1. Quality Control and Standardization;
 2. U2. Modern Production Technologies for Leather;
 3. U3. Environmental Management;
 4. U4. Innovation/R&D, Marketing and Business Management.

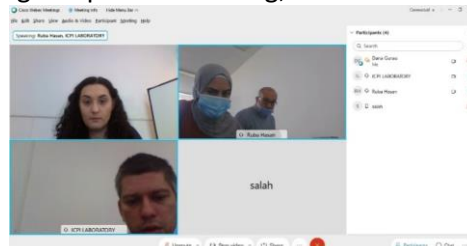
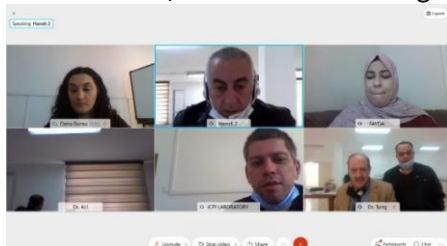


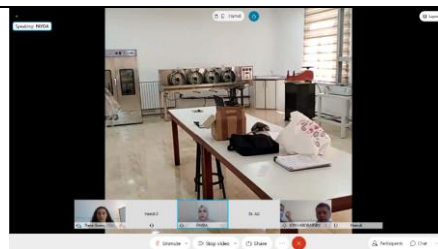
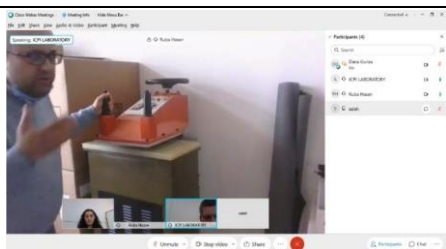


- The **collaboration platform** is a virtual space aiming at favoring collaboration between: the newly-established leather centers, leather centers and companies both European and of the target countries, leather centers and other relevant stakeholders, such as policy-makers and research centers, leather centers and initiative groups who would like to create other leather centers/universities interested in setting up leather centers;
- **two Roundtables** held in Jordan (online due to Covid-19 restrictions) and in Egypt (in-person) - “Leather centers development and Investment promotion for inclusive and sustainable growth in Jordan and Egypt” – with the participation of tannery owners, producers, government representatives and leather experts, who engaged in discussions, sharing beneficial insights, market challenges, as well as issues and concerns related to the sector, confirming the added value that the leather centers bring to universities and the manufacturing sector, helping to educate and qualify the students and researchers for applied scientific research projects as well as product development and starting up new companies;



- **sustainable business model for the leather centers**, updated based on the feedbacks collected during the piloting of the leather center and finalized after the roundtables with inputs from relevant stakeholders;
- **virtual visits** carried out by CTIC Portugal and INCDEP-ICPI in Egyptian and Jordanian centers, respectively, to provide support in setting up the leather centers' services. The virtual visits consisted in an overview of the premises of laboratories and equipment set up in the leather centers established in each of the four universities, followed by discussions related to equipment operation, specifications of standard test methods, and clarifications regarding sample conditioning;





- **the final conference** of the project took place on April 7th, 2021 as a hybrid event, organized at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Alexandria, Egypt, and online on the Zoom platform. During the conference, the key achievements of the project were presented, and participants learned about the four leather innovation centers created in the framework of the INNOLEA project.



DISSEMINATION, PATENT APPLICATIONS, AWARDS:

- **SCOPUS published papers: 2**

1. Albu, L., Deselnicu, V., Vassileiou, P., Deselnicu, D.C., Abdelsadek, M.S., El Barky, S., Al Rub, F.A., Allabadi, F., Al-Ghabeish, E., Scalia, D., Tsakalou, L., Martinho, A., Jankauskaite, V., INNOLEA - Innovation for the Leather Industry in Jordan and Egypt, Proceedings of The 7th International Conference on Advanced Materials and Systems, Bucharest, Romania, October 18th-20th, 2018, pp. 219-222, <https://doi.org/10.24264/icams-2018.III.2>
2. Haddad, S.S.G., The Status of Leather Supply Chain in Egypt: An Exploratory Study for the INNOLEA Project, Proceedings of The 7th International Conference on Advanced Materials and Systems, Bucharest, Romania, October 18th-20th, 2018, pp. 105-110, <https://doi.org/10.24264/icams-2018.I.15>

- **Scientific communications: 2**

1. Albu L., "Tools and Opportunities for Skills Improvement in the Leather & Footwear Sectors, Developed under ERASMUS+ Programme", Oral Presentation, INCDDTP Seminar: Scientific Research for Textiles & Leather - Results and Trends, within MODEXPO International Fair, 27 September 2018, ROMEXPO Bucharest

- **Other:**

1. INNOLEA Project presentation, *Leather and Footwear Journal*, 2018, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 163-166
2. Participation in NEXT SEASON Fair, 03-05 September 2019, ROMEXPO Bucharest
3. Short presentation of INNOLEA project results included in the article "INCDDTP Bucharest – Promoter of Professional Training in the Textiles and Leather Sector", published in Market Watch, May 2020, pp. 30-31

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