

Public Policies for Innovation in Jordan: Realities and Ambitions

A Call for Policy Writing Trainees

Target Group	Jordanian Young to Mid-Career Researchers and Professionals
Requesting Party	The West Asia-North Africa (WANA) Institute
Project Duration	February 2022 – November 2022
Project Cycle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in training on conducting research and public policy-making; 2. Produce public policy papers on innovation that addresses existing policies that challenge, inhibit, or restrain innovation in Jordan or the lack thereof; 3. Present the papers to Jordanian representatives and policymakers.

Description

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Jordan Office and West Asia-North Africa Institute (WANA) are launching a joint project entitled: "Public Policies for Innovation in Jordan: Realities and Ambitions." The project seeks to engage eight Jordanians from diverse professional and expertise backgrounds to produce public policy papers. The participants will also present their papers to Jordanian and international stakeholders.

The project aims to raise awareness of the Jordanian policy landscape and its effects on innovation, broadly conceived. The project offers a non-governmental perspective on issues and challenges regarding innovation to initiate meaningful dialogues that can influence public policies in Jordan. Notably, the project stemmed from the need to address the missed opportunities from technological or other advancements and identify barriers that hinder adoption and sustainable usage or implementation from a regulatory perspective. Therefore, there is a strong focus on practical applications in any field of interest to the applicant.

Participants will receive intensive training on conducting research, writing policy papers, and producing their papers. They will also present their final papers to policymakers in a roundtable discussion organised by KAS and WANA in November 2022. **The policy papers will then be compiled, edited and published in a joint KAS-WANA publication.**

The project shall contribute to the knowledge created around public policies that have hindered innovation in the past and could promote innovation in the future in Jordan from a **grassroots/civil society** perspective. It hopes to challenge the **culture of public policy-making**

in Jordan by allowing additional non-governmental actors to offer their input into this process. Moreover, the project hopes to **build capacity** by training young to midcareer researchers and professionals to draft policy papers and by working closely with them to identify potential channels for communicating and advocating their insights.

Target Group

The project invites eight young Jordanian scholars and professionals from diverse backgrounds. Interested applicants should ideally have previous research experience and be well-informed on issues relevant to innovation in the field or application on which they intend to write policy papers. We welcome applications from anyone who demonstrates interest and capability in the topic of interest they chose.

Project Goal:

The project's goal is to:

- **Address the public policy-making gaps in Jordan** by devising policy recommendations and solutions to issues of relevance to innovation.
- **Build the capacity** of Jordanian youth to enable their entry into the labour market.

Thematic Issues:

The papers should provide concrete recommendations on how to improve policies that impact innovation performance in these fields, such as but not limited to:

- Exponential and disruptive technologies (applied to any area);
- Information and communication technologies (applied to any area);
- The future of learning, education, health, or work
- Innovation at the workplace;
- Green-tech policies
- Cultural, societal, and interpersonal innovations

The themes are not mutually exclusive and should be considered examples and not restrictions to the applicant's field, issue, or concept of interest.

Time Frame:

- February 2022: Call for Applications, screening and selection of participants
- March 2022: Training delivered by WANA
- April 2022: Drafting of papers
- May 2022: Feedback, editing and finalising of papers
- June 2022: Validation workshop with experts & initial presentation of papers
- July 2022: Sharpening of papers, further edits based on the validation discussions
- August 2022 – September 2022: Compiling of papers in addition to WANA/KAS commentary and publication.
- November: Roundtable convening policymakers.

Application Process:

Interested applicants are requested to complete an online application [[link here](#)]. The language of instruction and papers will be in English, with limited exceptions for Arabic papers given in particular circumstances.

Kindly direct any inquiries to Dr Yara Shaban, Senior Researcher and Project Manager, at: yara.shaban@wana.jo, copying Shereen Shaheen, Director of Programmes at WANA at Shereen.Shaheen@wana.jo.

The deadline for receiving the complete application is **28 February 2022**.