

# Euro-Med Innovation Network: “Tunisian case”



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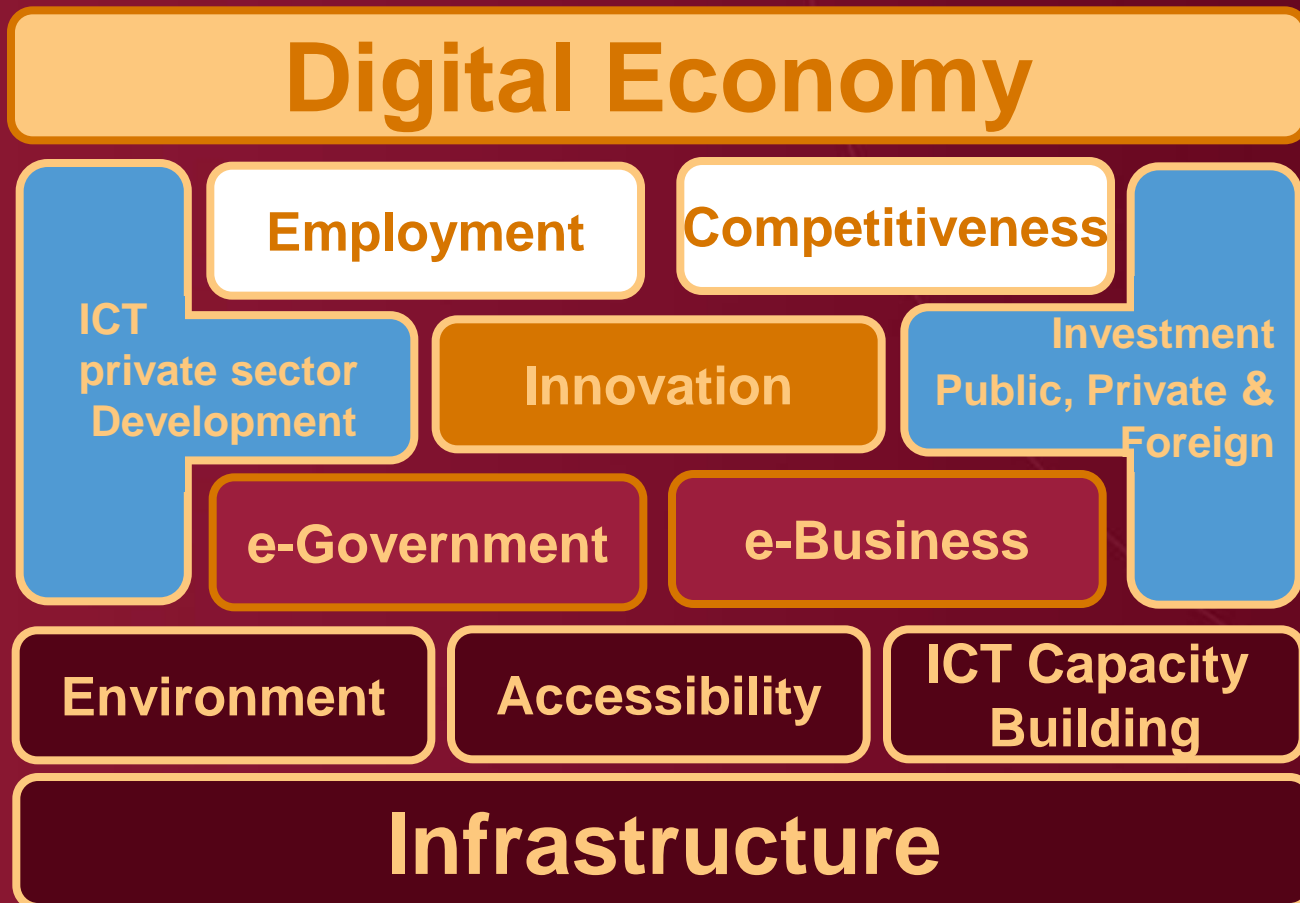
# ***Tunisia at a Glance***

Indicator	2008
Population (M. inhabitants)	10,3
Working population (M)	3,6
Literacy rate	80%
GDP per capita (€)	5360
GDP Growth	5,2%
Investment / GDP	22,6%
R&D / GDP	1,2%

# ***ICT in Tunisia at a Glance***

Indicator	2008
ICT / GDP	10%
ICT Growth	20%
Export (M. €)	40
FDI in ICT / FDI	10%
ICT Investment (M. €)	700
Private / Total ICT Investment	55%
Employment in ICT (Thousands)	~ 80
Percentage of households with PC	13%
Broadband access per 100 inh.	3
International Internet bandwidth (Gb/s)	12
Mainlines Penetration %	12%
Cellular Penetration %	83%

# ***Tunisia: Towards a Digital Economy***



# ***Tunisia: Innovation Landscape***

- **ICT clusters:**
  - ElGazala Technopark: [www.elgazalacom.nat.tn](http://www.elgazalacom.nat.tn)
    - 80 ICT companies (~40 M€ revenue, among which more than 60% in export activities) , 5 High Schools and research centers, 4000 people,
    - Important Extension is on track for 2<sup>nd</sup> Q2010,
  - Other Technoparks: Sousse & Sfax in ICT field among 10 technoparks program
  - Cyber Parks Network (8 operational, 7 under construction): physical spaces for ICT innovative activities,
  - Partnership with European clusters: system@tic, SCS “pôle de compétitivité”
- **Startup Incubators Network:**
  - Providing spaces for 6 to 24 months,
  - Providing managerial, technical and strategic coaching,
  - Certified by European Business and Innovation Centre Network

# ***Tunisia: a comprehensive frame for Innovation(1)***

- **High political will:**

- ICT : a strategic choice for next decade within Tunisian Knowledge Economy strategy,
- WEF: Tunisia ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Innovation within African and Arab countries, 27<sup>th</sup> worldwide,

- **Education :** [www.mes.tn](http://www.mes.tn)

- 25% of population in schools, 25% of State budget, 7% of GDP,
- 1,2% of GDP: R&D expenditure, 1,25% by end of 2009
- 30% of students are in Science & technology branches,
- 12,6% of students are in ICT branches, 50 thousands/year by 2009
- ICT compulsory in all fields

# ***Tunisia: a comprehensive frame for Innovation(2)***

- **Special incentives and funding mechanisms:** [www.infocom.tn](http://www.infocom.tn)
  - RITI : Venture Capital fund for ICT Innovating projects
  - R&D investment allowance: 50% of studies and prototyping charges
  - Incentives for HR Certification Programs
  - VAT exoneration for ICT training programs
  - Spin off framework: incentives and allowance for employees in public sector
- **Legal Framework:** [www.infocom.tn](http://www.infocom.tn)
  - Telecom Act (Jan.2001 , amended in Jan.2008 ): Reinforcement of competition
  - Electronic Business & interchange Act (Aug., 2000): [www.certification.tn](http://www.certification.tn)
  - IT Security Act (Jan., 2004): [www.ansi.tn](http://www.ansi.tn) , 1<sup>st</sup> CERT in Africa and Arab region
  - Personal Data Protection Act (July, 2004): National Committee for Data protection
  - Digital Economy Act (February 2007): PPP for Innovative Projects
  - New Intellectual Property Rights Act (June, 2008)

# ***Tunisie Telecom: an Innovation actor***

- **As an incumbent:** [www.tunisiatelecom.tn](http://www.tunisiatelecom.tn)
  - Broadband Plan 2009-2011: Fiber to all campus, business areas, technoparks
- **As provider of special mechanisms:** [www.tunisiatelecom.tn](http://www.tunisiatelecom.tn)
  - DIVA Sicar: a Risk Fund for Innovation, High Added Value and Development, since May 2009, ~10 M€,
  - Spin off program for Innovative Services,
  - Funding R&D projects in cooperation with Universities and R&D Labs.
- **As shareholder and partner of Main National Innovation Actors:**
  - Shareholder of Technoparks: ElGazala Technopark, Sfax Technopark,
  - Member of Incubator's Steering Committees,
  - Member of High school's Scientific Councils,
  - Partner with many innovative Tunisian SME's,
  - Partner of the Microsoft Innovation Center in Tunisia,



# ***Thank you for your attention***



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