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HIGH-TECH FOR  
HUMANITARIAN AID

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## ROUNDTABLE ON HIGH TECH FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

Innovation Prize On Affordable High-Tech For  
Humanitarian Aid<sup>1</sup>

18th April 2018 [11:00 - 12:30] – European Union Delegation,  
Amman, Jordan

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<sup>1</sup> European Innovation Council Horizon Prize



## BACKGROUND

Advanced technologies<sup>2</sup> are largely inaccessible and unaffordable to people and businesses in low-income countries as well as to important segments of the European society. It is however possible to develop high-quality, affordable solutions and products based on key enabling technologies, with limited resources, through a frugal innovation approach. Frugal innovation is an inclusive approach to problem-solving, which seeks to get more value from fewer resources by using creativity at every stage of the innovation process. It aims to reach out to a customer base that might otherwise have never been reached by that product or service. It can be a first step to market creation and makes a relevant contribution to socially inclusive development and sustainability. Specifically, it can offer opportunities to SMEs to develop new technology-based products and services that are accessible and suitable to a large number of people on international markets.

The increasing number of humanitarian crises and disasters that the world is facing calls for doing more, for more people, more effectively and at a lower cost. Introducing more cost-effective technology-based solutions can help enhance humanitarian response. Recent examples of frugal application of advanced technologies in humanitarian contexts include improved shelters with advanced materials; better portable water filtration and purification systems based on nano-technology catalysts; off-grid energy supplied through organic photovoltaics, or customised humanitarian supplies thanks to 3D printing technology.

Addressing humanitarian challenges requires a more effective involvement of a wider variety of actors, notably the private sector and the research and innovation communities. **This is why, in November 2017, the European Commission launched a Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid under the Horizon 2020 Programme.** The Prize will support the development of proven, innovative humanitarian solutions with greater cost-effectiveness, based on the frugal application of advanced technologies. The Prize aims to induce increased collaboration between humanitarian actors, the private sector and research and innovation communities. Five prizes, each worth EUR 1 million, will be awarded in the following categories: a) shelter and related assistance; b) water, sanitation and hygiene; c) energy; d) health and medical care; and e) open category.

For more information please see: [EIC website](#) and [rules of the contest](#).

A first roundtable was organised in Brussels on 23 February 2018, as a follow-up to the launch of the Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid. For more information please see: [summary of the workshop](#). The roundtable discussion allowed stakeholders from different sectors and disciplines to discuss their role and potential participation to the prize. It also highlighted the importance of community building (in Europe and beyond) as to developing new humanitarian solutions through a needs-based approach defined in an inclusive manner with local communities and organisations responding to crises. It is in this context that this second workshop takes place in Amman. These events are part of a series of awareness raising activities to create a dynamic around the Prize in view of stimulating multidisciplinary partnerships around humanitarian innovation.

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<sup>2</sup> Advanced technologies include notably nano-technologies, advanced materials, industrial biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, photonics and micro and nano-electronics.

### Format and objectives of the roundtable:

This session takes place in the context of the recent launch of the Prize on 'Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid'. It is organised in the margins of the H2020 Information Day held in Amman on 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.

It will be a roundtable discussion with a selected number of representatives of the humanitarian, business and research communities. The aim of the roundtable is to:

1. Present the innovation Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid to Jordan humanitarian actors, businesses and research and scientific communities
2. Identify and discuss local / regional humanitarian challenges that could be addressed through the frugal application of advanced technologies and cooperation opportunities with EU counterparts
3. Discuss partnership opportunities and ways to create community building between humanitarian actors and technology developers in the context of the Prize

### Agenda:

10:45 - 11:00	<b>Registration</b>
11:00 - 11:05	<b>Welcome remarks</b>  <u>Dr. Khaled Elshuraydeh</u> , Secretary General of The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan
11:05 - 11:15	<b>Introductory remarks and presentation of the EIC Horizon Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid</b>  <u>Maria Cristina Russo</u> , Director - International Cooperation, European Commission (DG RTD)
11:15 - 11:30	<b>A Prize in Context: humanitarian needs in Jordan and neighbouring countries</b>  <u>Claudia Amaral</u> , Head of ECHO Office Amman, European Commission (DG ECHO)
11:30 - 11:45	<b>Presentation of ShamalStart –</b>  <i>EU funded startup accelerator that invests in passionate Jordanian and Syrian entrepreneurs with innovative cutting-edge ideas and fosters use of cost-effective technology-based solutions</i>  <u>Ibrahim Faza</u> , Project manager

11:45 - 12:20

**Discussion with all participants in the Roundtable**

**Moderator: Eng. Omar Amawi**

*Which humanitarian needs should be addressed as a priority in the context of the Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid? Where are the biggest gaps where much more R&D is needed?*

*Which advanced technologies could address these humanitarian needs with greater cost-effectiveness? What are the most promising technological developments in the pipeline?*

*What are the most relevant examples of corporate - humanitarian partnerships in Jordan and what is their perspective as to collaborating with EU in this sector? What are the key ingredients for effective collaboration involving a wide variety of stakeholders? What more can the Commission do to stimulate community building between humanitarian actors and technology developers in the context of the Prize on Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid?*

12:20 - 12:30

**Concluding remarks**

