

Dear Mr. Fady Yarak,

The Association of Ideas that Accelerate Growth (IDEAS) is a Non-Government Organization proposing the Pilot project named "Bouwebet Al Ibtikar" which will be outlined and discussed below. The purpose of the pilot is to establish an innovative space in 5 Lebanese Public Schools that integrates technology with education through STEAM activities. The aim is to leverage the transformative nature of technology to create and innovate while supporting and enhancing the learning process through establishing a "portal for innovation" to be utilized by students and the local community. The extra-curricular model we are proposing paves the way to technology integration that will allow for new tasks which will enhance and support learning. This initiative is a joint collaboration between the private and public sector to maintain an up-to-date approach in tech education. This space will be utilized by the private sector to increase interest in STEAM subjects and introduce students to programming as well as promote and support interdisciplinary learning. The activities conducted in the space will prepare Lebanese students for the needs of the digital / knowledge economy by stimulating critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Furthermore, this innovative portal will enable and allow students to engage, explore, experience, and become exposed to coding and robotics skill sets, which they can tie back to pragmatic real-world projects. Scalability is ensured by providing each school all the tools, skills, and human resources needed to operate this independently - creating a modular system that is easily replicable. The proposed space is to be utilized during and outside school hours ideally for student, teachers, and the local community who are interested in improving their tech knowledge and skills.

The pilot will focus on students between the ages 11-13 years old, specifically grades 7 and 8 for one scholastic year beginning in September. We are requesting that the Ministry of Education nominates 5 schools at their discretion in different areas of the country for the purpose of this pilot. We are also requesting a vacant space at the public school between 25m²-30m² to be utilized for the pilot. The space is to be open during school hours and after school hours complementary to the schools available extra hours with accessibility to students at all times. Activities should be run an average of 2 days a week per student. Each private partner will identify the frequency of activities through the practitioners and coordinate with the facilitator available at each school. The space will be fully equipped with the necessary materials to conduct sessions (any additional material(s) needed by any external organizations will need to be provided by them). Regarding space management, we are requesting a facilitator (focal point teacher), with experience in ICT to be provided by the Ministry of Education and present at the space during times of operation. We will provide training for the facilitator (focal point teacher). Additionally we are requesting DOPS representatives from the Ministry of Education that will monitor and oversee the progress in the schools. We propose and request that a committee is created for the Pilot with the Project Manager from IDEAS, representatives from DOPS, the Heads of Schools, Facilitator (Focal Teacher), and some students who are in the Pilot. In order to make a strong and valid assessment of the pilot, we request that the Ministry supports us in the pre and post survey of the students to be able to assess the overall impact of Bouwabit Al Ibtikar.

Thank you for your support and if you require any further clarification, I am available at your convenience.

Warm Regards,

Joelle Zlaket