

CrowdSolving for Development

Egypt

Implementing Agency/organization	Yomken.com
Implementation Period	Since 2012 – till present
Location (City and Country)	Egypt & Tunisia
Total Cost to implement the Project	US\$ 90,000
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The Challenge

Technology and Innovation are relatively expensive and not adaptable to local needs. There is a gap between the local societal and industrial challenges and the applications of scientific research:

- Unlike the major multinationals; local factories, SMEs, NGOs and small governmental agencies rarely can afford a proper research and development process for the daily industrial and societal challenges they are facing.
- Despite the abundance of young creative minds in the Arab world, many of their great ideas never see the light and sometimes are not driven by the market needs.

The Innovation

Yomken.com lowers the risk and cost of innovation by bridging the gap between (1) the market's societal and industrial challenges, (2) innovative solutions and research outcomes from students, engineers, startups, Diaspora, and the public and private entities supporting innovation.

The platform does so by crowdsourcing innovations or “crowd solving” challenges submitted by NGOs, factories, and governmental entities, while financial and/or non-financial incentives are rewarded to the best solution to be implemented. Yomken's team has also developed its own bottom-up methodology in challenge identification and prioritization by providing ideation workshops in Egypt and Tunisia.

The platform also matches innovators from different technical backgrounds to join forces in transforming their innovative prototypes, and designs into startups. It also links them with its network of financial vehicles (e.g. VCs, crowdfunding platforms, angel investors).

The Impact

- +150 partners in 10 countries with offices in Egypt & Tunisia.
- +300 low-cost solutions and innovation from more than 10 Arab countries.
- +50 challenges featured with 80% solved and implemented.
- 10 spin-off startups emerged from the project.
- 175 direct and indirect jobs, with an average cost less than US\$ 500 per job opportunity.