International Development Cooperation in the MENA Region: Transformation as Western Construction of Modernity

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** The opinions expressed in this document are exclusively those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of GTZ, ILO or their respective development partners.

1. Introduction

In the framework of international development cooperation, the transfer of knowledge and know-how is sought to produce results along the agenda of progress. The concept of modernity towards Western patterns of success in development cooperation (DC) appears mainly geared towards labour-related productive processes in a so-called 'modern economy'.

In order to make sense of the development agenda for progress in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the theme of sustainable economic development (SED) is used along the German bilateral Sector Network (short: SNMENA), a network established by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to link up its SED programmes in the region.

The present paper, applying the "Constructions of cultural realities " (DOT 2010 main theme), assesses current development efforts in MENA for the empirical measurement of capacity development and success factors. My research objective aims at conducting two empirical DC case-studies in the MENA region that apply the CW model in an appreciative and trustworthy attitude (one in the Mashreq, one in the Maghreb: countries, organisations and programmes yet to be selected for the year 2011).

The perception of „stagnation“ in the Arab-Muslim cultural context will be screened against the poor empirical evidence to explain low progress beyond the political explanations of MENA rentier societies. Applying the concept of multiple modernities, an interdisciplinary approach may help to „making a concerted effort to bring ideas, evidence and practice into dialogue with one another“ (Woolcock 2009: 4).

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1 Pawelka, Peter (Hg.. 2008): Der Staat im Vorderen Orient. Konstruktion und Legitimation politischer Herrschaft
At the practitioners’ level of development work, the German bilateral development system applies the „Capacity WORKS“ Management Model (GTZ 2009: CW)\(^3\), used as a modernity approach (operationalised by the GTZ). The target of this set of instruments is the management of ‘complex’ programmes in the various fields of interventions, to benchmark the success of transformation, modernization and liberalisation processes in development programmes.

Knowledge acquisition, scenario development and multi-stakeholder processes constitute the key tactics to understanding the complexities of a given development programme over time (GTZ programme examples\(^4\): Syria; Aleppo City Rehabilitation; Tunisia: Environmental Planning at Governorate Decentralised level).

The multilateral structures of the United Nations (UN) offer similar technical expertise to building capacity, so does e.g. the International Labour Organisation (ILO), citing their Jordanian constituents in their capacity-strengthening efforts for knowledge creation. Their need for greater involvement in programmes illustrates the DC’s deficit-orientation towards local partners (Jordan, 2002 – 2007, ILO Regional Office for Arab States).\(^5\)

With reference to the series of Arab Human Development Reports (AHDR)\(^6\), the framework concept of bilateral state development policy of Germany (Ministry for Economic cooperation and Development: BMZ\(^7\)) is further reassessed against the multilateral learning network on capacity development. In addition, reference is made to the World Bank Institute’s open learning network (LenCD)\(^8\), a high-level forum of analysts and practitioners to strengthen Southern leadership, including e.g. both the Egyptian and the German Governments.

The Middle Eastern avantguarde forms part of that same DC system, described in the ILO Jordan case above: it constitutes „...in large part social scientists’ efforts to take account of and provide a theoretical basis”\(^9\) (Cooper 2010: 5) for:

- new and thought-provoking ideas of the ‘tribe of experts’ and their knowledge culture, contracted to deliver transformation (Hülken: 14)\(^10\); and the
- participative development processes for learning and innovation of multiple actors of development cooperation programmes (op.cit.: GTZ 2009, CW).

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\(^1\) GTZ 2009: Capacity WORKS, the Management Model for Sustainable Development, also applied in the Arab-Muslim MENA context (http://www.gtz.de/en/leistungsangebote/28379.htm).


My preliminary hypothesis is to verify the conceptual approach of the notions of progress and development in the MENA context. The concept of 'talent' and the 'journey to knowledge' (al-rihla fi talab al-‘ilm) in Muslim philosophy are worth a comparison against development programmes in Muslim countries: does the regional DC experience actually confirm the impact of characteristic features of Islamic culture on the design of projects in important fields of development?

Practical DC experience can be further assessed against the notion of work ethics, highlighted as 'development-resistant' along analyses of the Islamic cultural region in 'culture-comparing institution economics' (Leipold 2006: 176 - 224). Empirical evidence is needed to validate both the theoretical concept as well as the practical experiences laid out by DC partners above. One such example refers to the perception of culture and work ethics presented against a cycle of control and fear at the workplace (Becker, B., gtz 2009).

The question of trust, relating to bureaucratic and complex formal systems and institutions, obviously constitutes a reciprocal feature of development discourses. Manoeuvring at the edge of sometimes critical dimensions such as governance, economics or policy development, 'technical experts' often depend on the role of "development brokers" – it finally needs institutionally and morally secured playing fields for both sides to operate in a creative and innovative problem orientation built on trust (Hüsken in: Jammal, Elias (Hg., 2008: 30).

2. Islam, Tradition and Modernity: Claims for the Future

The historical perspective of Western Social and Economic Sciences since the 1970s acknowledges Islamic theory and interpretation of Islamic Law as taken for granted (Nienhaus 1986: 181). The continuity of the discourse regarding the challenge of the Middle Eastern development perspective does not facilitate the debate on appreciating Islam between tradition and modernity":

the confrontation between active-passive concepts of modernity as "superordinate" puts 'tradition' down as "subordinate". The "absence of modernity...in turn is seen as the social and cultural liberation from tradition" (Schulze, in Hafez 1997: 31).

As a matter of fact, the current status of academic research and analysis confirms the deficit orientation of conventional development economics. The same applies to comparing the approach of institution economics with regards to the MENA region:

understood as "dominant religiös gebundenes Institutionengefüge", the economic consequences for the Islamic cultural arena are considered for those countries suffering "unter wirtschaftlicher Armut" (Leipold 2006: 213). The reason is given as follows, namely that the division of labour and degree of specialisation is considered among the core fundamentals of economic development ("...auch der Fähigkeiten und des Wissens in Verbindung mit dem marktmäßigen Austausch der

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11 "al-rihla fi talab al-‘ilm" in the Islamic epistemology stands for the journey to knowledge in Muslim philosophy, representing a framework for an Islamic theory of knowledge, see Dr.Sayyid Wahid Akhtar (2007), Vol XII, No.3., The Islamic Concept of Knowledge.

Considerations to economic and social science to draft SED strategies and measures for MENA were contracted to GTZ by the BMZ as a conceptual discussion paper (GTZ 2008\textsuperscript{13}). The cover shows an 18th century scene from North Africa, picturing relaxing camel caravans. Apparently, the scene is meant to reveal a strange absence of Arab knowledge: „dabei fällt auf, dass Wissenschaftler/-innen aus dem arabischen Raum noch wenig präsent sind“ (op.cit., introduction: 2).

The academic guest contribution in the same GTZ study challenges the „relevance versus irrelevance thesis“ as being confirmed by Kuran (1997) who argues „...that the relative openness of the West’s public discourse created an engine of growth that the Islamic world, because of its expressive constraints, failed to develop“ (Kuran after Leipold, in gtz, op.cit: 29).

A reflection of the AHDR Series as well as the „New Social Contract“ format applied by the Worldbank (WB 2004)\textsuperscript{14} shows that the pressure for job creation in a setting of economic productive structures in the MENA region is high, yet these structures fail to do deliver – two different sources refer to the same quest for the region with whom the „main responsibility rests (Worldbank 2008)“. The Worldbank further claims in „Shaping the Future“: „Almost a decade ago, a World Bank report asked MENA to: “Claim the Future” and take the steps needed to secure the economic well-being of their citizens“ (WB 1995a, in WB 2009: 5).

These references summarize a somewhat dark picture for MENA’s future as they mainly depict tributary modes of production in rental economies: „...den orientalischen Staat als uralte Struktur. Diese überlebt möglicherweise als Produkt einer überholten (tributären) Produktionsweise im kapitalistischen System nur auf der Basis internationaler Renten. Deren Ende könnte also auch zu seinem Untergang führen“ (Pawelka, in Leipold, in gtz, op.cit, chapter II.1, 2008: 31 - 32).

3. Empirical Science of Middle Eastern Knowledge Approaches towards Multiple Modernities for Development and Change

The construct of modernity in the Muslim-Arab region may be allocated to empirical science on development along manifold fields of Middle Eastern knowledge approaches. Going back in history, the concept layers relate to the early compendium of Arab knowledge of the 13th century\textsuperscript{15}. Knowledge references have been researched in Islamic sciences by major classical knowledge scholars and researchers throughout the late 19th and most of the 20th century, if only citing Stromaier’s compendium Graeco-Arabica\textsuperscript{16}.

\textsuperscript{15}A. Speer, L. Wegener, Hrsg., Wissen über Grenzen: Arabisches Wissen und lateinisches Mittelalter (Miscellanea Mediaevalia 33, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2006).
Yet, the different ways of reception of empirical science do not always distinctively allocate their sources. Quoting just one example on the „Islam and the West“, al-Buti puts into question „Islamic and Western Views“ against the construction of Muslim thinking by Western scholars (Buti, 2005: 23).

The paradigm of shifting modernities allows some deeper reflection against their „capacity of resistance“, entailing a „...critical realism...“ towards open systems in which „...multiple and complex real...causal forces operate interactively to produce distinct outcomes“: suggesting the way forward to „...a coherent and well-developed theory of multiple modernities...“, new opportunities emerge „...for considering ranges of options that modern people and societies might take when it comes to religion, science, and morality“ (Smith 2006: 3).

The same source and author spells out that „...modernity is believed to engender...“, placing the reception of Middle Eastern knowledge sources in the methodological field of Islamic sciences. The path towards the future of „Modernity and Islam“ should therefore be seen in the wide spectrum of „...Themes, disciplines, methods and historical eras...,where...7.science employs a multiplicity of means by which to understand and explain reality (scientific and methodological pluralism“ (op.cit.: 8).

The five levels of economic growth, yet referred-to as another theoretical framework, postulate the modernity concept also in the MENA context „...that modernity produces predictable patterns of uniformity and standardization...“ (W.W.Rostow, in Solivetti 2005: 720).

Looking at the 20th century and until present, knowledge aspects focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as much as they engender knowledge, according to the Arab Knowledge Report (AKR): „Towards Productive Intercommunication for Knowledge“ reassesses the premises and principles of the „knowledge-development-freedom“ triade, or the relationship between human development and knowledge „...that places knowledge at the service of development“. The AKR’s „Theoretical framework: Concepts and Problematics of the Knowledge Society“ refers to the „economic, social, and cultural efforts to overcome the deficiencies that limit the expansion of human well-being“. Accordingly, knowledge is a human right that tends to engender social development (AKR 2009, chapter 1: 4).

The United Nations (UN) discourse levels the conditions of knowledge in the Arab region not necessarily towards Islam: independent of religion, the scholars and thinkers involved with producing the Arab Human development Report series (AHDR: five reports between 2002 and 2009) rather look at the operative efforts to build a knowledge society (AHDR 2003: „Building a Knowledge Society“). The development of the concept of knowledge in Arab-Muslim culture is further developed in essays such as Zahlan’s „Arab Societies as Knowledge Societies“ (A.B.Zahlan 2006: 103 - 112).

In overall terms, the research agenda is as wide as the development partners allocate their support and funding to. Nadir Firjani17, as a way of example, was not

only the lead author of several AHDR reports between 2002 and 2005. Being the founder and director of a well-established NGO research body in Egypt, Firjani(1,7),(997,991) covers some major knowledge-related research agendas, including a forthcoming issue on “the economic and non-economic consequences of intra and extra-Arab migration” (03/2010 – 09/2011)\(^{18}\).

ERF Cairo, in its training on how to do economic research\(^ {19}\), draws on facts such as Dixit and Stiglitz’s monopolistic competition model (with 4000 citations). The message for economists, according to ERF, is rather to work with “simple models to understand complex processes”, instead of showing the “rest of the world how much you know” (op.cit., slide16).

Summarizing the ’Discomfort in Islamic Studies’ for orientation of scientific challenges between politics and mediatic spotlight, the redundancy of earlier orientalism and philological craftsmanship can be overcome by a common ground for multiple disciplines. If cosmopolitan present and future relevance unite, the ’mechanism of exclusion’ can eventually seize to exist. The exclusion prevails, until present, because it takes the occupation with non-Christian and non-Western traditions yet as opposites to the discourse of European culture (Kermani, in Poya/Reinkowski 2008: 307, English translation, German origin).

4. Research for Development in the Arab MENA Setting: HRD for “Mise-à-Niveau”

Based on David McClelland’s „Achieving Society“ (1961)\(^ {20}\) and the acquired-needs theory of achievement, affiliation and power for an individual’s specific needs (acquired over time), management practices until today rely on the concept of achievement motivation at the heart of effective human resource development. Be it goals-oriented performance measurement tools at company-level, or job-relevant feedback mechanisms\(^ {21}\) for personal assessment, achievement-motivated people are considered the backbone of development in both „developed“ or „developing“ countries.

McClelland’s achievement theory is the backbone for an adult-learning toolkit and network initiated by the BMZ Germany, known as „Competency-based Economies – Formation of Enterprise“ (CEFE)\(^ {22}\). The training model was developed by GTZ in Nepal in the early 1980s, „based on the assumption that welfare of societies essentially depends on its human resources – the more productive and entrepreneurial people are, the greater will be the wealth of that nation“ (CEFE website, introduction). Today, acting as a not-for-profit NGO, the CEFE network makes ends meet by producing and delivering training and consultancy services for the international development landscape, be it institutions or individual training.

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\(^{18}\) ERF Research project: The Economic and Non-economic Consequences of Intra and Extra Arab Migration, principal investigator and project director: Khalid Sekkat.

\(^{19}\) http://www.erf.org.eg/ see 2009 ERF Training Workshop: 1247741189_How_do_we_do_research.pdf


\(^{21}\) DiSC Validation Research Report (2005): The „inscape publishing“ presents a summary of results based on the theoretical DISC model. Two instruments and several scales were used with a test group (103 participants), and results were correlated to assess empirical evidence in 3 language versions (Danish, German, US English).

\(^{22}\) www.cefe.net has been introduced in 1983 by the BMZ (German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). It was outsourced in 2008 and is now coordinated by CEFE International as a non-profit private sector organization based in Germany.
providers. The CEFE network has been actively promoted since the 1980s and until present, using the training methodology and network throughout the MENA region.

Research and development (R&D) in Arab-Muslim MENA is related to the considerable potential for sciences. However, confronted with the severe lack of science, and in particular social sciences in the MENA, there appear persistent gaps of Arab research agendas. These gaps are seen as relating to the changes - if not collapses - in the 1980s and 1990s, due to political and economic events of major importance: the 2nd Gulf Crisis, the collapse of the USSR, and the consequences of the Oslo Agreement.

The broad polarization among Arab intellectuals resulted in significant R&D conclusions (IDRC 2000) that call for a „more qualified and pertinent research agenda“ to conduct research on knowledge systems in the MENA. The same agenda calls for the use of „unconventional approaches to research“ to tackle the main issues of democracy and governance, MSME development for employment generation and poverty eradication.

If trying to relate these sincere efforts to overcome the R&D deadlock, it is important to verify in what way the free-trade agenda between MENA and its European partners let emerge the „Mise-à-Niveau“ (MàN) concept as a path towards standardisation and competitiveness:

- the case of Algeria constitutes one of the most recent countries in the Southern Mediterranean to have adopted the MàN concept, largely cofinanced by the EU. Coined in the early 1990s, it was only programmed in Algeria as an instrument of transition for the autonomy of larger enterprises and entire industries since 1998 (official Government declaration). As of 2002, the MàN effectively took its start in Algeria’s reform efforts to consider all economic dimensions of internal and external factors as well as those related to the economy cycles of a given business, industry or sector.

- A recent study of the MàN effects at small and medium enterprise (SME) level in Algeria reveals less convincing results when it comes to price, quality and innovation (Azouaou 2010: p.14):

the evolution of Algerian SME, although financially and technically supported by the MPMEA with large EU cofinancing (approx. EUR 63 mio.), predicts relatively meagre prospects for the 6000 SME to be targeted by the MàN programme (2006 - 2013). The performance of the Algerian support agency ANDPME (2005), established against the framework of the free trade zone by the year 2017, is under severe pressure for success, as the relatively poor results on MàN impact confirm (2006 – 2009: only 63 SME out of 670 requests were effectively dealt with).

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23 IDRC 2000: Research for Development in the Middle East and North Africa, eds. Eglal Rached/ Dina Craissati, heren chapter 2, Fergany N.: Science and Research for Development in the Arab Region; chapter 7: Social and Economic Development (various authors); part III. Conclusion.


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The academic research done by Azouaou (data between 2001 and 2008) is balanced against an empirical sample conducted in 2005 with 100 SME. The results show ambitious targets for SME improvements – methods, organisation, price/quality – against serious drawbacks – time delays, weak public administration, insufficient number of SMEs reached.

Against this background, it is essential to look at the underlying concept for the MàN programmes supported by the EU as well as a number of bilateral donors. GTZ programmes go in line with the MàN agenda for the opening to national, regional as well as international markets, supported along the shared vision of a social market economy to create and sustain jobs (see chart 1: Overview of Priority Themes per Country and Partners).

The SED concept further aims at country level to enhance quality and distribution channels. However, individual project experience confirms that both the R&D ambitions as well as the MàN realities have a long road to go towards HRD investments and delivery. A validation of the impact of HRD concepts applied by GTZ needs yet to be done. The CW model may be applied in terms of the theme of increasing complexity that current and future DC programmes have to deal with. Below, a brief compilation of GTZ programme data may serve as reference for assessment:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MENA Country &amp; Partners</th>
<th>Priority Themes/Topics</th>
<th>Processes/Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALGERIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner Ministry: MPMEA (Min. de la Petite et Moyenne Entreprise et de l’Artisanat) ANDPME</td>
<td>- (M)SME competitiveness; - increase productivity; - improve quality and quantity of products/services; - building relevant labour market competencies through technical vocational education and training (TVET); - strengthen SME companies’ capabilities, in particular for their innovation capacities;</td>
<td>Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone established by year 2017; - MPMEA &amp; ANDPME supported in steering and implementing the national MâN (Mise-à-Niveau) Programme; - BDS (business development services) market set up for (M)SME advisory services; - access to financial services adapted to (M)SME; - associations strengthened to act as mediators between macro- and meso-level (Government – companies); - cooperative vocational education system promoted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOROCCO</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner Ministry: MAEG (Ministère des Affaires Économiques et Générales) ANPME</td>
<td>- Economic reform to strengthen MSME performance for enterprise development along the: - Pacte National pour l’Emergence Industrielle (as of beginning of 2009); - formalisation of MSME; - creation of employment opportunities</td>
<td>ANPME support through training; - modernization of businesses through regional networks incl. trade points, professional associations, Ministry of Industry delegations, regional centres promoting investment; - pilot activities for export strategies / coaching of business groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUNISIA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner Ministry: MIT (Min de l’Industrie et de la Technologie) „Bureau de Mise à Niveau“ (BMN) Centre des Promotions des Exportations (CEPEX)</td>
<td>- subsidies to SMEs for investments to producing and improving products and services; - awareness-raising to engage pro-actively on a wider scale, and address marketing &amp; export challenges (weaknesses); - knowledge &amp; information on handling external trade issues and free trade agreements (FTA), to capture adaptation of products and services for sales opportunities also on external markets.</td>
<td>Process ongoing since 1996: PMN national (Mise-à- Niveau) programs in place; EU Association completed in 2008; - SME, not prepared to take action on liberalisation challenges nor opportunities locally or internationally, to be prepared to using new market opportunities (trade points et al); - BMN to manage increase of competitive industries, validated „successful‘ for the overall economy. - Public administration, private sector institutions and BDS providers trained to offer improved services to SME affected by FTA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chart 1:** Overview of Priority Themes per Country and Partners  
5. Subject-Object Discourse for Transformation in MENA’s International Development Cooperation

Using social construction as a meta-theoretical position, I would like to apply the appreciative inquiry (AI) methodology as a methodology, in order to assess the deficit-versus resource orientation in international DC in the MENA region. By doing so, it is my hypothesis that „space for multiplicity“ can actually create a „...co-constructive movement with non-subject-object ways of relating“ (Shayamal Kumar Saha 2009: 3, summary at www.taosinstitute.net).

My hypothesis of the concepts of ’achievement‘ against ’development‘ in terms of the subject-object discourse in the MàN context of competitiveness claims that the language of these concepts transport meaning to the MàN programmes. These refer to terms of ’standard‘, ’progress‘ or ’success‘ in the sense of transformation towards modernity in Western construction of being – or not (yet?) being - 'developed'.

Here, the social construction debate still appears anecdotal for the MENA region, given the scarce sources that challenge similar economic concepts. The „visions of free trade“ analysed for the EU, NAFTA and Mercosur is one such source being referred-to (Duina 2005: 3). Yet such dimensions on the „Social Construction of the Maghreb“ exist, and they do provide valuable information that complement the dimensions of economic development (e.g. on regionalisation and the ‚outer borders of the Maghreb‘, Wippel 2004: 8).

Against the above hypothesis briefly laid out, I plan to develop case-studies on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) with ‘good-practice’/‘best-practice’ cases in the MàN economic endeavour of ’making progress‘. Furthermore, it is my intention to assess the development focus of achievement and productivity, as much as the result-driven agenda of development programmes in their endeavour to achieve impact. As a cross-reference, the hadith notion (referred-to as ‘reports of traditions’ by GTZ practitioners in various Muslim countries), will be validated against their effective purpose and relevance for the cases they are used for (Ganter/Bigalke 2006: 9).

6. EVALUATION of Development Programmes for Knowledge Transfer and Impact in the MENA Region

Looking at England and Germany, France and the USA, social construction is used to perform the art of evaluating academic excellence, as this growing art in sciences may confirm. The possible effects and defects of new production of knowledge will, however, not always tell the stories written. Mixing qualitative research results with informed peer review systems and quantitave data does not necessarily confirm the reliability of sources.

The „evaluatis“ of social sciences is a particular German example that compares historical as well as comparative perspectives: the critical work of evaluation throughout the academic and strategic assessment of facts „under observation“ shows that „economic development may fall short of expectations, let alone of innovative ideas, to find an answer to this seemingly failing competitiveness (Matthias/Simon, eds., 2007: 331, original text in German).
Against this background, the pattern of German development cooperation follows the evaluation sequences through a separate in-house unit that coordinates international as well as local consultants. It is them who conduct the field evaluations along standard procedures for evaluation of development programmes, generally screened along thematic focal areas (e.g. microfinance in 2009). Accordingly, the relevance of evaluation results would need to be screened in-depth, in order to validate the concept of MENA knowledge transfer and core competence areas for economic policies and practices against the standard lay-out of technical cooperation programmes, irrespectively of the region they are implemented in.

Without claiming evaluation authority, and irrespectively of the SED concept or the private sector development agenda of MaN programmes, the „Capacity WORKS“ (CW) approach has been made compulsory by the GTZ for all its development programmes (rollout 2009 – 2010).

Used as a management model for sustainable development, CW is to „help providing answers on how to make an effective contribution to its partners’ capacity development“ and how to „structure the management and steering of programmes so that the results of capacity developments are as effective and sustainable as possible“ (CW Introduction).

**Source:** GTZ 2009 – Capacity WORKS (Success Factors Model)

Until present, there has been no fullfledged assessment done yet that would use the most recent set of capacity development tools, let alone in the MENA context:

an interesting observation of a recent cross-section evaluation of project progress reviews (PPR) in MENA reports that none of the fourteen projects or programmes evaluated in the sample systematically „makes systematic use of the Capacity WORKS concept, but some of them have trained project staff in its use and applied selected success factors. The most frequently discussed success factor was strategy, and this was the area in which the greatest need for intervention was usually identified (see OECD-DAC criteria)“.

Against these preliminary PPR results in 2009, an indepth survey would be needed to validate the cross-sectoral findings in their socio-economic perspective in and against the particular MENA context.

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On a different level, it is useful to cross-check the trends for the Maghreb as synthesized in a series of „Future Workshops“ on development and security-related issues (Houdret A., 2008: 41). Their longterm scenario indicates the following trends by the year 2020:

The Interdependence of Trends in the Maghreb until the Year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major TRENDS</th>
<th>Essential IMPACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberalisation of the Political systems</td>
<td>Spread of „local solutions“</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent Repression</td>
<td>Influence of religious organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberalisation of the Economy</td>
<td>Potential conflict, possibly at national and/or regional level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climatic Change</td>
<td>Decreasing State Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This summary of future trends hints to a basic preparedness of the region, in particular of Algeria and Morocco, to open up their societies in overall terms during the next ten years from now.

7. Researching the Mediterranean for A Knowledge Society Based on Dialogue: Conclusions

The Euro-Mediterranean University landscape features social development and science in a setting of change that confronts theoretical approaches of transformation research with regional empiricism (Euromed Permanent University Forum: EPUF 2010). EPUF stands for a network of higher education and research institutions that contribute to promoting a knowledge society in an interdisciplinary fashion.

Based on this university landscape, brief excerpts complement „Why Research the Mediterranean and the Middle East?“ (Gillespie/Martin, 2010: 151 - 175). The authors stress the importance of conducting research on the Mediterranean and the MENA.

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Accordingly, research elements in the MENA setting should be integrated in the overall development of scientific theory for all levels of social sciences, as the interdisciplinary resource orientation for "Researching the Mediterranean" claims since 2006 and until present. Challenges will therefore be of relevance to advancing the transition and development sciences for future initiatives, listing the concluding aspects below:

- creating knowledge as a process of applied research;
- stimulating social demands and innovation;
- forging synergies between the North and South of the Mediterranean;
- overcoming the asymmetric nature of knowledge between the limited European knowledge of their Arab neighbours, as against the fair knowledge that Arabs possess about Western culture and society
- making allusion to the historical references and "present-day human migration" that make people of Arab origin and culture an integral part of European societies;
- reiterating the new definition of the maps after the "Cold War", irrespective of the duration of postcolonial Arab regimes and international migration trends;
- tackling the question of mid- and longterm structures, scenarios and strategic thinking towards transformation, to remain open for the Mediterranean and the Arab populations;
- with reference to security questions after "9/11": while the North-South-divide today makes funding scenarios insufficient, there is at least strengthened interest towards the MENA on the side of the UK and Spain as well as towards enlargened Euro-Mediterranean perspectives;
- the grown interest in the Arab/Mediterranean MENA region constitutes an entire compendium as a test-case in a new international order. It englobes dimensions of security, economy and culture for international and diplomatic relations but, at the same time, also a sort of 'grammar' of conflicts in he same region.

- Theoretical precision is as much needed as empirical evidence that requires multi-disciplinarity and inter-disciplinary approaches to learn about realities. These approaches are meant to establish new fora of dialogue as trustbuilding measures and networks (reference is made to the EuroMeSCO Study Commission).

- The question whether the Mediterranean constitutes a coherent entity has to be renounced in the sense that it is no longer a simple means of transport of former times. Today, the dividing gaps are even larger a construct than before, given the testing ground towards new dynamics: mainly Western Mediterranean neighbours pretend an artificial construction concerning the capacity aspects of the EU and the Arab world, both sides in their means to act as global players also towards the European Neighbourhood Policy model (ENP).

- The Mediterranean is the object of research, according to Fred Halliday in the same source: "every region tends to think of itself as unique"(Gillespie/Martin, 2009: 154). Against this uniqueness per country, region and sub-region, social scientists would have to be able to explain the social, cultural, economic and political developments with the same methodological and theoretical models than for any other region in the world.

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29 Laraoui, Abdallah, in Gillespie/Martin, op.cit., p.151, footnote 2.
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Worldbank (2009): „Shaping the Future“: A Long-Term Perspective of People and Job Mobility for the MENA.


### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHDR</td>
<td>Arab Human Development Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI</td>
<td>Appreciative Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKR</td>
<td>Arab Knowledge Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDPME</td>
<td>Agence Nationale de la Petite et Moyenne Entreprise (Algeria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMZ</td>
<td>Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEFE</td>
<td>Competency-based Economies – Formation of Enterprise (<a href="http://www.cefe.net">www.cefe.net</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Capacity WORKS (GTZ Management model, 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENP</td>
<td>European Neighbourhood Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPUF</td>
<td>Euromed Permanent University Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERF</td>
<td>Egyptian Research Foundation (Cairo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>GTZ</td>
<td>German Technical Cooperation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDRC</td>
<td>International Development Research Centre (Canada)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MâN</td>
<td>‘Mise à Niveau’ (standardisation, used mainly by the EU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSME</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PME</td>
<td>Petite et Moyenne Entreprise (SME)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPR</td>
<td>Project Progress Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>Small And Medium-sized Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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