# Investing in Young Talents to Create a Global Innovation Microsystem

## The Strategy of Elgazala Innovation Center

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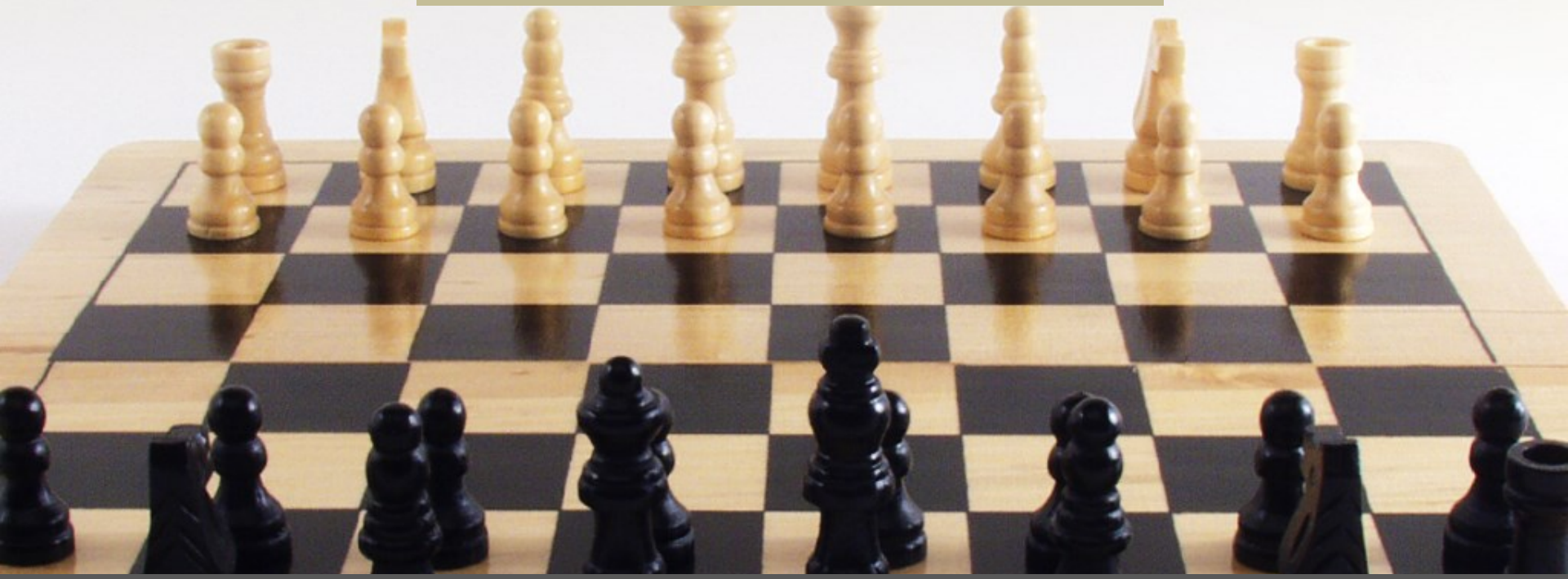
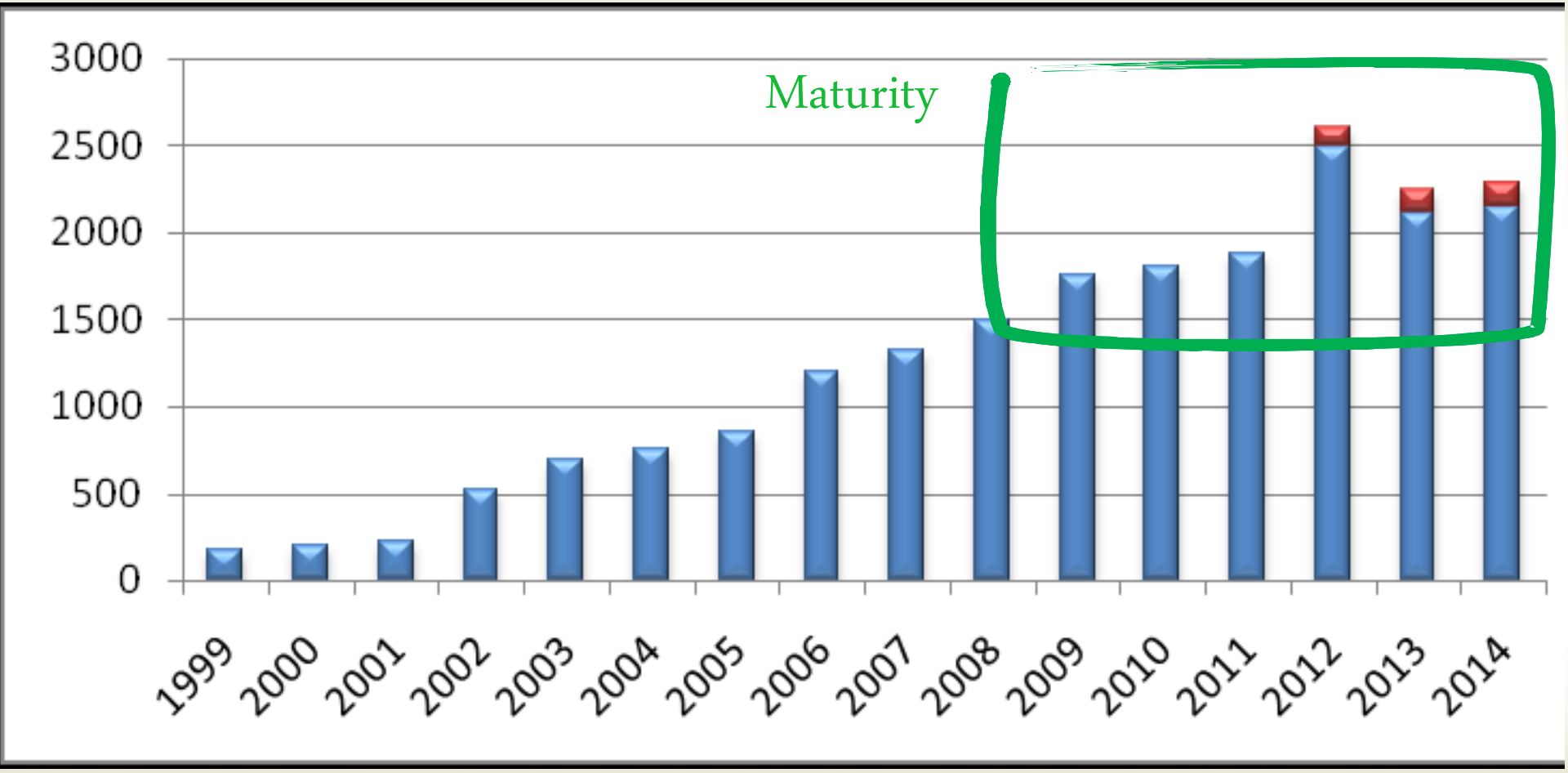


**Arab Regional Workshop on ICTs for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, Cairo, April 2015**

# Elgazala Technopark

- Starting date : 1999
- HQ : 65 hectares
  - 2 university institutions
  - 3 governmental agencies
  - 4 international firms
  - ~ 90 SMEs
  - ~ 30 startups
- Regional offices: 110 hectares (covering 18 administrative regions)

# Evolution of the Number of Employees



# Sustainable Innovation Platform

Research

Robust synergy leading to positive economic, environmental and social outcomes

Academia

IT industry

Strategic Assessment

Entrepreneurship + Self Employment

Environmental Assessment

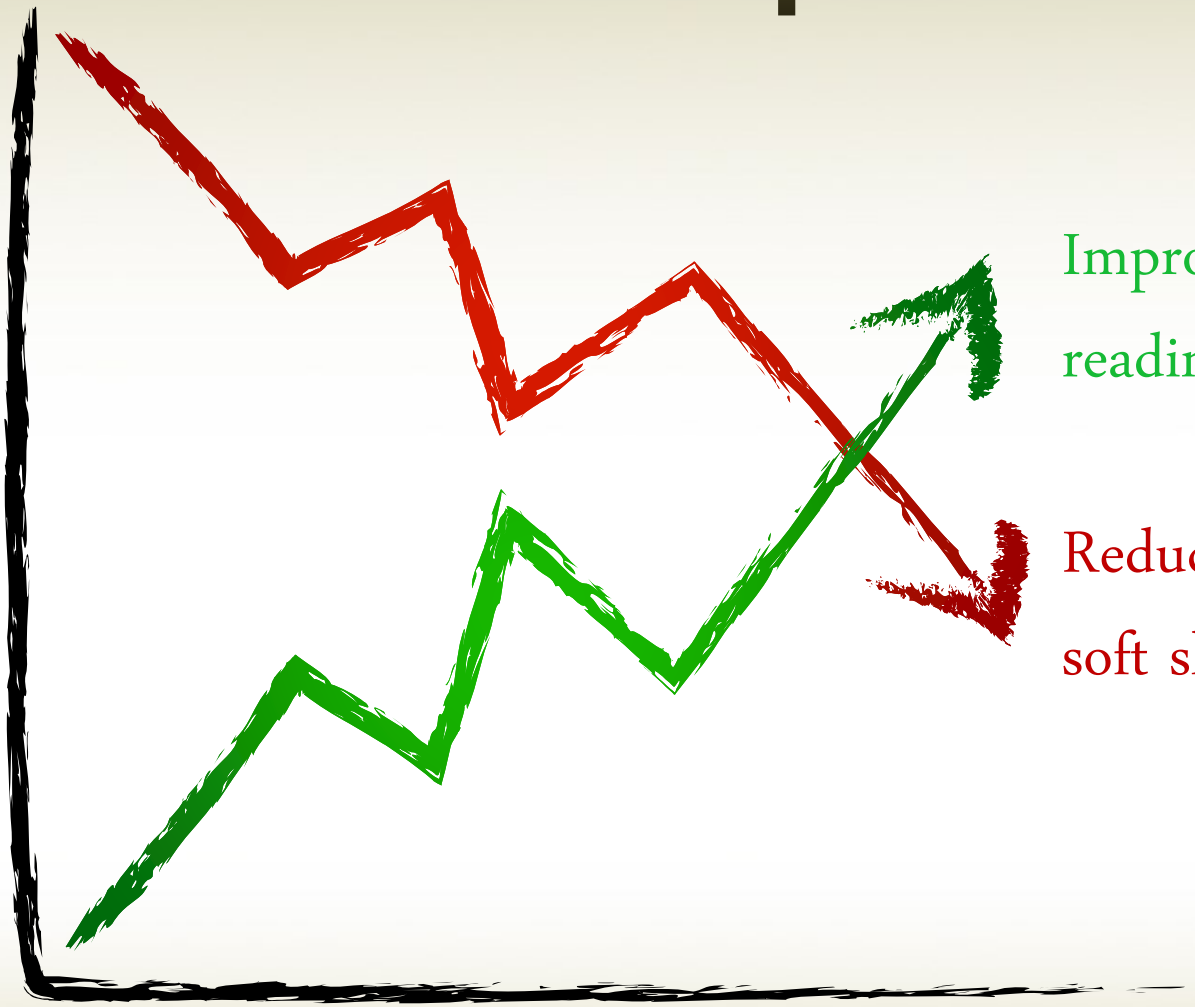
# The path to innovation

## Analogies with the Domino Effect

- ✓ Incremental construction
- ✓ Risk increases as you are getting closer to the objective
- ✓ Win first take all

# Objectives

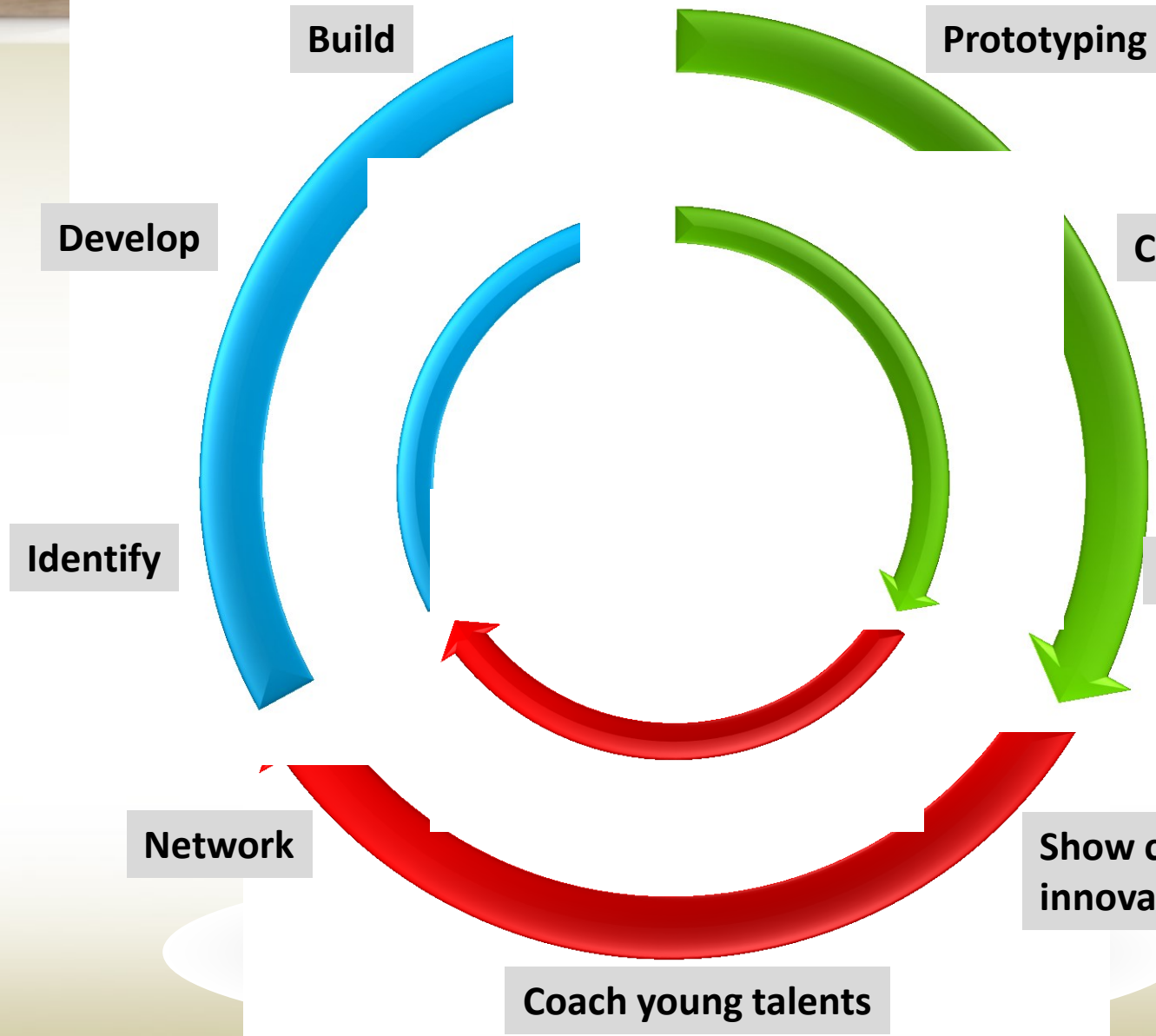
## In a couple of lines



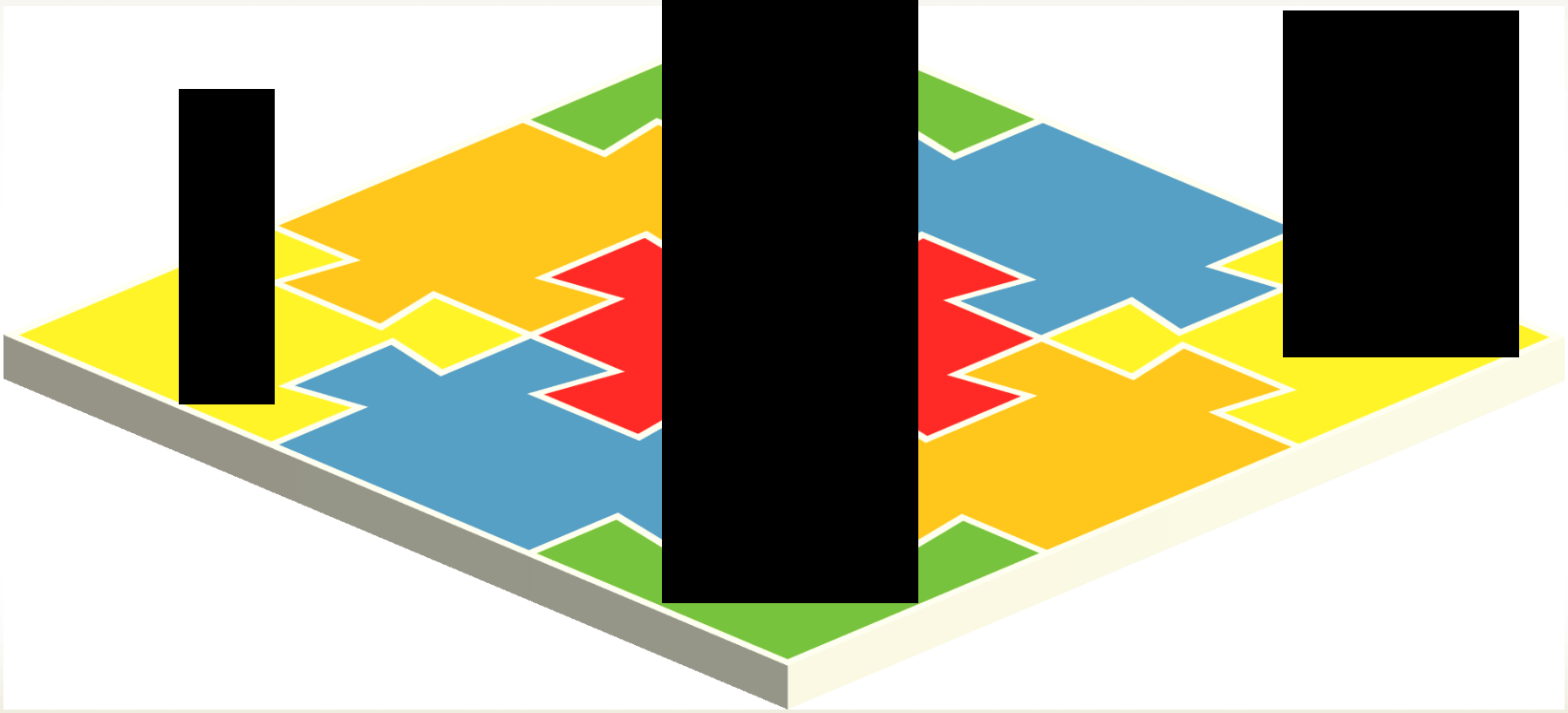
Improving innovation readiness

Reducing investments in soft skills

# Interaction of the Individual with the Innovation Ecosystem

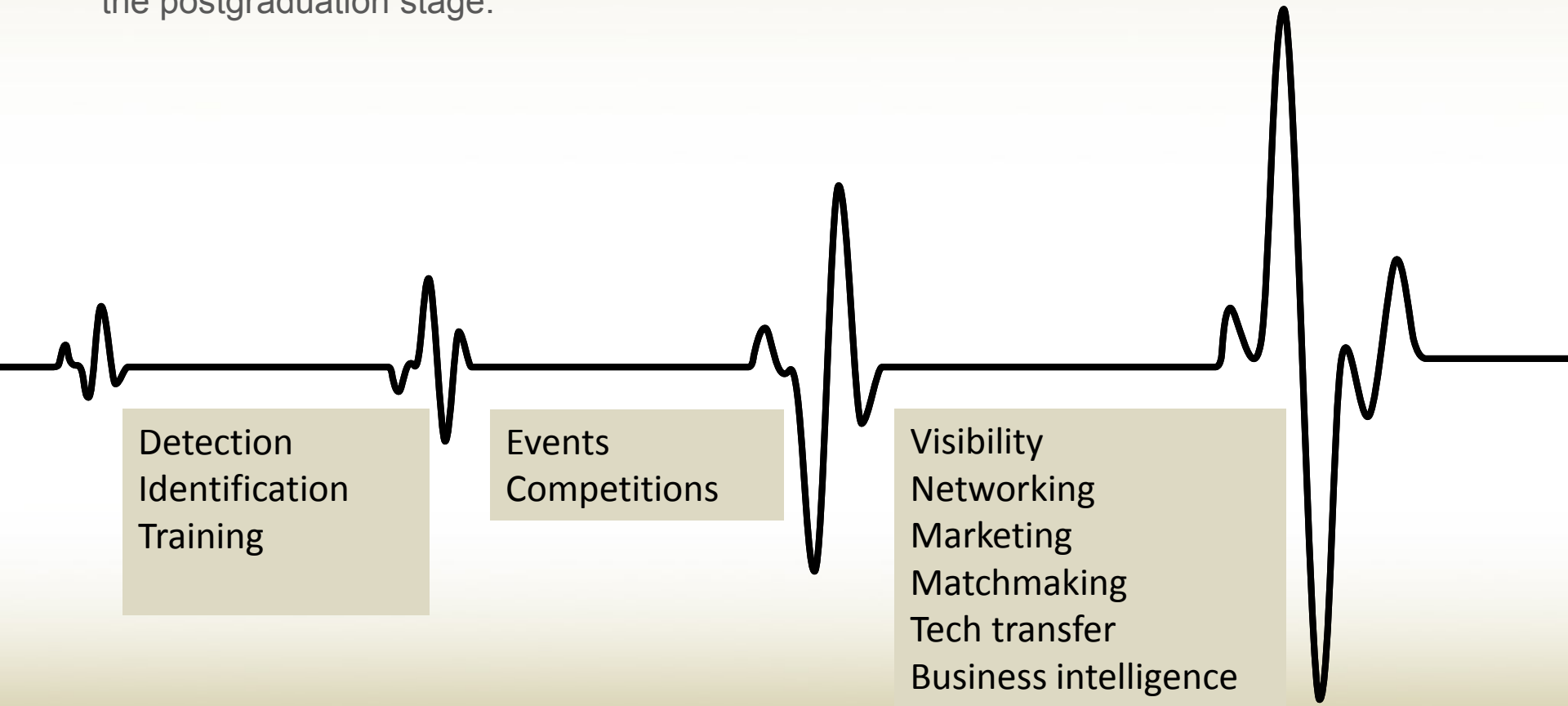


# Core component: Volunteers in different technical fields



# Amplification of the Innovation Potential

Based on the knowledge and experience available at Elgazala Technopark, the individual talents can be gradually amplified so as to reach the maturity level at the postgraduation stage.



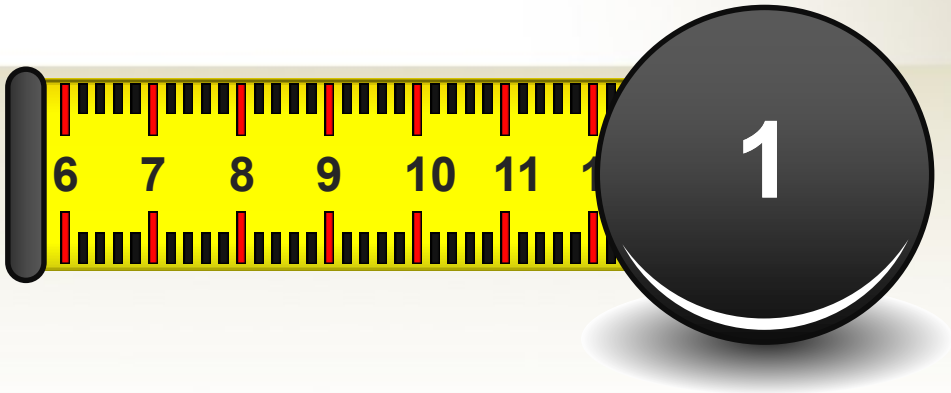
Detection
Identification
Training

Events
Competitions

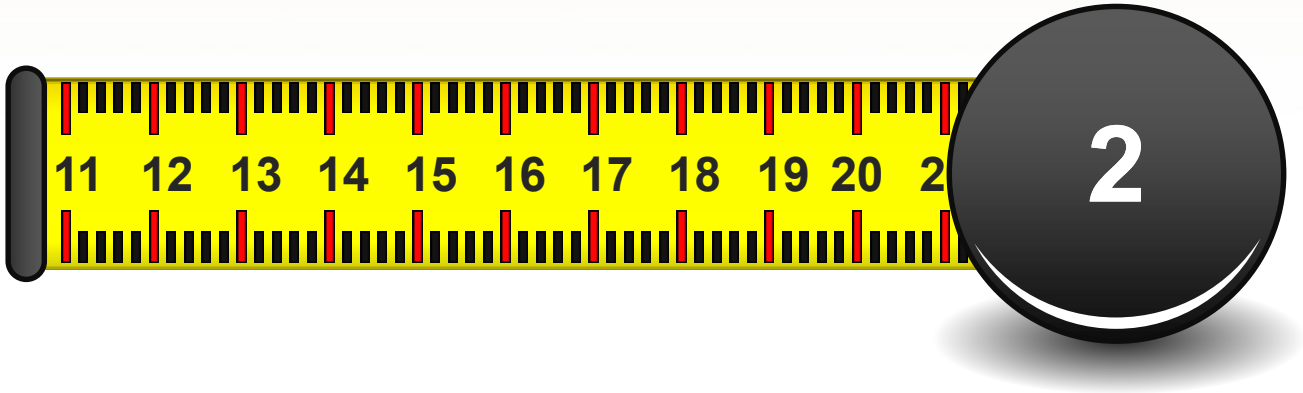
Visibility
Networking
Marketing
Matchmaking
Tech transfer
Business intelligence

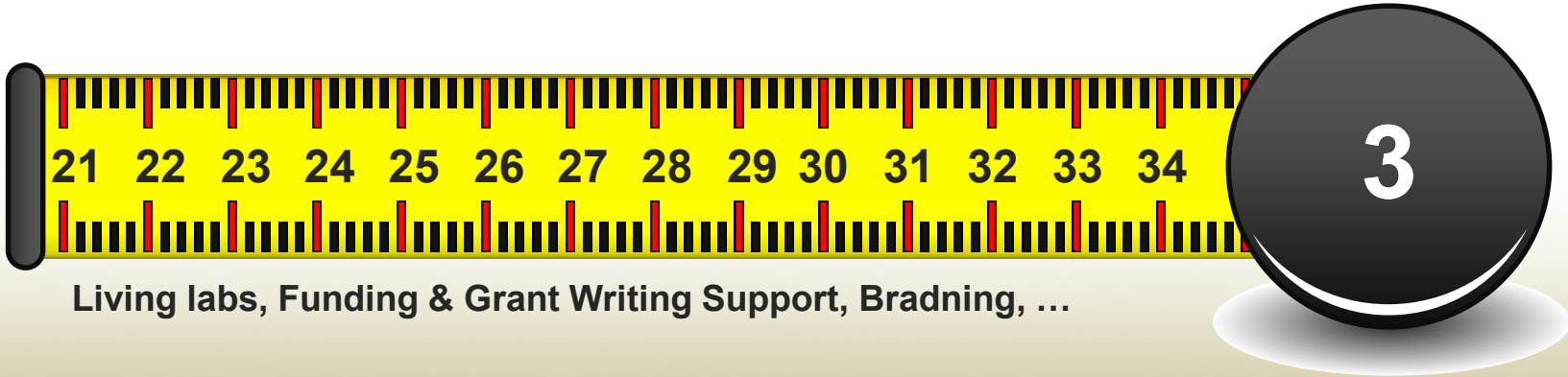
# Age-based distribution of Innovation Support Activities

Early talent detection,
Improving practical skills,
…




Pre-incubation,
Graduation projects,
Exchange programs,
Challenges & Contests,
…




Living labs, Funding & Grant Writing Support, Bradning, …

# INNOVATION OBJECTIVES

Business | Research | Academia

- ☒ Best practices
- ☒ Key performance indicators
- ☒ Models and frameworks
- ☒ Entrepreneurship and incubation
- ☒ Competitive intelligence & KPIs
- ☒ Intellectual property management
- ☒ Networking and collaboration

- ☒ Regional research frameworks
- ☒ Technology transfer
- ☒ Research and urbanization
- ☒ Funding schemes
- ☒ Patents and copyrights
- ☒ Indexing and ranking
- ☒ Collaboration with industry

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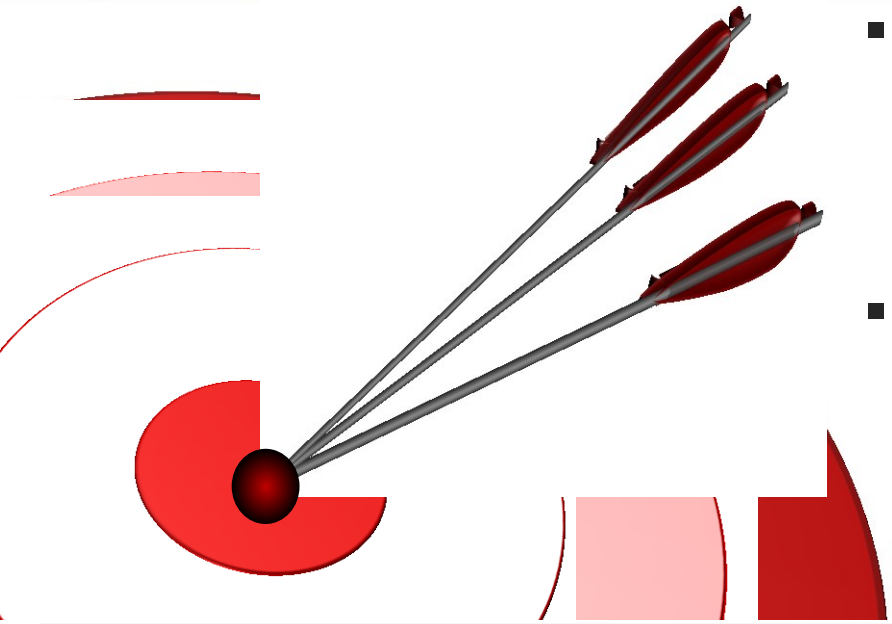
- ☒ Accreditation and recognition
- ☒ Joint education programs
- ☒ Funding schemes
- ☒ Student incubation
- ☒ Challenges and contests
- ☒ Certification programs

# LIVING LAB?

Visibility

# ACHIEVED OBJECTIVES

- Living lab (5 ongoing R&D projects )
- International competitions (programming, cybersecurity, mobile development, gaming)
- Co-working space (500 sm)
- Hosting international research labs (4)
- Participation to international R&D projects (1 ongoing FP7 project, 1 PEER project nder evaluation, 1 IRDC project under evaluation, 1 H2020 project under evaluation)
- Entrepreneurship program at the Engineering School of Communications (first prize at the Arab Mobile Application Challenge - 2014)



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