



Research Commercialization Readiness Initiative

Cairo University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee

Overview

This initiative (dubbed as RCR initiative) is a strategic program designed to **bridge the gap between academic research and market application**. It establishes a structured system to identify, evaluate, and commercialize promising research across faculties with practical research: Engineering, Science, Computer Science, Urban Planning, Agriculture, Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The initiative is implemented under the supervision of the Cairo University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee (CUIE).

Strategic Objectives

- **Build Commercialization Infrastructure:** Develop sustainable processes and governance to support research commercialization.
- **Deliver Measurable Outcomes:** Support 4–6 projects initially, targeting **30–40% commercialization success** within 3–5 years.
- **Enhance Faculty Engagement:** Involve 40–50 faculty members and develop entrepreneurial capabilities.
- **Strengthen Institutional Collaboration:** Operationalize the different entities working together and coordinated by the CUIE committee.
- **Achieve National Leadership:** Position Cairo University as a **model for innovation commercialization in Egypt**.

Program Structure (4 Phases)

1. Launch & Project Identification (3 Months)

Faculty engagement, awareness campaigns, and receiving project submissions. It is expected to have 30–50 research projects passing through the initial screening (Gate 1).

2. Evaluation & Selection (6 Months)



Rigorous screening and selection of top projects; execution of pre-agreements. Evaluation comprises two parts, gate 2 involves technical evaluation and gate 3 is the market validation.

3. Support and Implementation (12-18 Months)

Intensive technical, business, and market support including:

- Prototype development
- Business modeling
- Industry engagement

4. Commercialization & Evaluation (3 Months)

Licensing, spinout formation, and full program assessment.

Program Scope

The initiative will launch as an 30-month pilot program involving four faculties with strong research and innovation potential:

- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Computers and Artificial Intelligence
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Dentistry
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Support Provided to Selected Projects

Selected projects receive comprehensive support including:

- **Financial Support**
Proof-of-concept grants ranging from **EGP 150,000 to EGP 300,000 per project** to support prototype development, testing, and validation.
- **Commercialization Expertise**
Dedicated CUICO commercialization managers providing market validation, business model development, licensing negotiations, and investor engagement.



- **Technical Support**
Access to research facilities, laboratories, and expert technical consultation through DRTPC.
- **Entrepreneurship Training**
Workshops, mentoring, and networking opportunities with industry partners, entrepreneurs, and investors.
- **Intellectual Property and Legal Support**
Assistance with patent applications, IP strategy, licensing agreements, and spin-off company formation.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects are assessed using a **process comprised of 3 gates**.

- Gate 1: The CUIE committee chooses projects based on the capabilities of the team (technical expertise; commercialization experience and time commitment), the feasibility of the requested resources (budget reasonableness; work plan clarity and resource sufficiency), and strategic impact (alignment with university priorities; national development impact and social and economic impact).
- Gate 2: DRTPC assesses the Technical Merit & Readiness of the project by hiring 2~3 experts from its database with relevant experience to provide the technical assessment based on Innovation & Novelty; Technical feasibility and current technology readiness. The experts will sign NDA agreements drafted by CUCO legal team.
- Gate 3: CUCO coordinates or commissions studies of Market Potential (market size and growth; customer value proposition and competitiveness) for the proposed project ideas.

Roles & Responsibilities

- **DRTPC:** Technical support, program management, faculty engagement
- **CUCO:** Commercialization, market validation, licensing, and spinouts
- **CUIE Committee:** Project selection and oversight
- **Faculty:** Research execution and commercialization participation



Expected Outcomes

The CU-POC Initiative is designed to achieve measurable institutional and economic impact, including:

- Development of a **pipeline of commercially promising research projects**
- Creation of **technology licenses and university spin-off companies**
- Strengthened **industry–university partnerships**
- Increased **faculty participation in research commercialization**
- Contribution to **Egypt's innovation-driven economic development**

Strategic Impact

By integrating **research excellence with commercialization pathways**, the RCR Initiative will strengthen Cairo University's role as a leader in **innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer**, while contributing to national priorities such as economic diversification, knowledge-based growth, and sustainable development.