PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (questionnaire) (employees and self-employed)

Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: **23/LBS/032**

Title of Project: Entrepreneurship in the MENA Region: The Uncharted Territory

You are being invited to take part in a research project. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

1. **What is the purpose of the project?**
   Entrepreneurship has been shown to be one of the main drivers for country's development and growth worldwide by creating new job opportunities, providing new services to the market, endorsing social welfare, and reducing poverty levels. The MENA region is no exception. Work on entrepreneurship in the Arab region addresses in its entirety antecedents of entrepreneurship from different meso and macro level, with particular focus on women. Little is known about the micro level determinants of entrepreneurship. In our project, we aim to provide a clearer and more comprehensive picture on the state of entrepreneurship in the MENA region. The literature on labor markets has mainly focused on two main groups of workers: self-employed and paid workers. Nevertheless, in a region associated with high political and economic uncertainty while being rich in investment opportunities, a third group might emerge, consisting of workers who shift between self-employment and paid work, i.e., dabblers. This group might have distinct features and drivers compared to the other two groups. Accordingly, we believe that the MENA region with its unique macro-economic setting is ideal to study the determinants of entrepreneurship and its drivers from a micro perspective. This project is funded by a generous grant from Templeton World Charity Foundation under the reference number TWCF-2023-31800, https://doi.org/10.54224/31800. The principle investigator is Dr. Moustafa Haj Youssef from Liverpool John Moores University.
   Specifically, our research aims and objectives are the following:
   - Examine self-employment in the MENA region in terms of characteristics, existence of different groups (sustainers vs dabblers) and contrast them with paid workers.
   - Understand the motives behind entering self-employment with reference to locus of control and personality traits and contrast them within the different self-employed groups and the employed workers.
   - Estimate the returns to education for all the different self-employed groups.
   - Understand how the different groups of workers were affected by the Covid-19 crisis.
   - Develop a comprehensive database for future research in the MENA region.

2. **Why have I been invited to participate?**
   You have been identified as a potential participant because you are an employed (full or partial employment); meaning that you are a full-time employees, part-time employees, and or freelancers, and entrepreneurs (self-employed) responsible to run a business and you are over the working age.

You must not participate if you are unemployed or retired.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. You can ask questions about the project before deciding whether to take part. If you do not want to take part that is OK.

Verbal consent will be recorded separately from the answers to the questionnaire to ensure that answers remain anonymous.

You can stop being part of the project at any time, without giving a reason. You may withdraw from the project immediately while being interviewed at anytime by informing the enumerator of your intention of stopping the enumerator administered questionnaire, you may or may not provide a reason and this is completely up to you. Then the enumerator administered questionnaire will be stopped and marked as "In-Complete"

Anonymous data already collected will be retained and used because we cannot trace this information back to you.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

The quantitative approach will involve 30-minute face-to-face time to complete the survey - Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI). You will be approached by trained enumerators who will read out the questions to you while you see them on their tablet and you will provide the verbal answers. The survey can take placeeither in your household, business complexes, in the street or in their offices after having the consent to conduct the enumerator administered questionnaire. Trained enumerators use a structured questionnaire, maintain a conversational tone, and record responses on their table or laptop. The process fosters engagement, enables clarification of queries, and allows for nuanced data collection in diverse settings.Time of the enumerator administered questionnaire will be within usual working hours unless there was a pre-agreement based on the respondent's request. The survey includes basic demographic questions and covers topics related to education background, employment status, personality traits, entrepenruail orientation, intention and motivation. The questionnaire includes questions that may be regarded as private by some individuals. Therefore, the enumerator will ensure that the questionnaire is completed at a time and location where the responses cannot be overheard by others.

Enumerators will read the introduction for the survey which will include the study objectives, duration and will ask for your consent and will inform you that your participation is voluntary and that his personally identified information is safe and will remain anonymous at all times, you will be given the choice to participate or refuse and also you will be provided with a notification that you can stop the enumerator administered questionnaire at any time and ask for your response to be excluded. You will also be given the option of completing the questionnaire once you have been fully informed or at a later date as determined by your and the enumerator's availability.

5. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks in taking part?

Participating in the project is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantages or discomfort. There is no potential *physical and/or psychological harm or* distress and the experience will be the same as any experienced in everyday life.

Consideration for Covid-19 are in line with the regulations and advise form the health officials in your country.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There will be no direct or personal benefit for those people participating in the project. It is hoped that this project will lead to present new findings and data within a new environment that would help further our understanding of the self-employed (entrepreneurship) and employees' behaviour.

7. What information will be collected and what will happen to information/data provided?

The information you provide as part of the project is the **project data**. Any project data from which you can be identified (e.g., from identifiers such as your name, date of birth, audio recording etc.), is known as **personal data.** Your participation in this project will involve the collection/use of personal data (contact details and consent to participate).
We will keep personal data safe and secure. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your [name or contact details or any identifiable information that can lead to revealing your identify. All your responses are anonymous

8. Will the project be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other outputs?

The findings from the project will be disseminated in the following formats:
Outputs:
1. The most important output from our project is the dataset which will be collected during the first year of the project. The dataset should be publicly available online (for free) on institutional websites by the end of the funding period.
2. At least two original and novel research articles will emerge from this project, and each will be presented in a conference. Conferences, such as European Academy of Management (Entrepreneurship track), Academy of Management annual meeting (Entrepreneurship division) and the World Economic Forum (MENA chapter), will be used to disseminate our research project and highlight the importance of our dataset. This should be done before the end of the funding period.
3. We will provide policy briefs and recommendations, as well as access to the dataset, to entities interested in entrepreneurship in the MENA region such as think tanks, research centers, NGOs, and Ministries of Labor and Economics in the countries covered in our project.
Outcomes:
1. One of the most important outcomes of this project is potential publications. We anticipate publishing three papers within five years of receiving the fund. We will be targeting top-tier journals, such as: Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice, Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research, among others.
2. Another significant outcome of this project, due to the publicly available dataset, is its potential academic impact in terms of the proliferation of research studies on socio-economic determinants and consequences of entrepreneurship in the MENA region. The research output is expected to significantly increase in terms of published articles given the data availability, which facilitates a greater social impact. The number of quantitative

studies is currently low, and thus we expect at least 50% increase in the number of publications.

In any of the above, there will be no identifiable information and all data published will be anonymous.

9. Who is organising and who is funding/commissioning the project?

This project is organised by Dr. Moustafa Haj Youssef as the principal investigator from Liverpool John Moores University and funded by Templeton World Charity Foundation via the Economics and Human Flourishing Research Fund and have the following reference number: TWCF-2023-31800. For more details about the project and funder, please visit the grant website on: https://doi.org/10.54224/31800

10. Whom do I contact if I have a concern about the project or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please contact Director of Public Affairs from Ipsos Mr. Ibrahim Ammari on Ibrahim.Ammari@ipsos.com. You should expect a reply within 10 working days. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the principal investigator Dr. Moustafa Haj Youssef on m.hajyoussef@ljmu.ac.uk and University Research and Ethics Committee on pr-urec@ljmu.ac.uk.s

11. Data Protection

Liverpool John Moores University is the data controller with respect to the project data and as such will determine how data will be used. There will be no processing of your personal data for the purpose of the project outlined above. Research/evaluation is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further Information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from:

- the LJMU Privacy Notice for Research Participants (https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-and-cookies/external-stakeholders-privacy-policy/research-participants-privacy-notice)
- Ipsos Privacy and Data Protection. https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/privacy-data-protection
- by asking one of the project team or contacting us using the information below

Ipsos will act as support and will help in data processing in this project and will process data in accordance with data protection legislation and the LJMU privacy notice.

12. Contact details

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