



**The contribution of business incubators in innovating and supporting startups -
Presenting some of the experiences of business incubators in Algeria –**

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Received: 32/01/2025	Accepted: 12/10/2025	Published: 31/12/2025
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Abstract :

The study highlights the role of business incubators in supporting startups, small and medium enterprises, and product developers. It examines the contribution of Algerian business incubators to economic growth and reducing unemployment. The research emphasizes the resources provided by incubators to help entrepreneurs develop their ideas and explains the stages of incubation leading to successful institutions and market-ready products. Despite the early stage and lack of statistical data, business incubators in Algeria have played a significant role in fostering economic growth, diversifying the economy, and supporting innovative projects among young people, thanks to the support of the Algerian state.

Keywords: Business incubators, start-ups, entrepreneurial ideas, Algeria.

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Many young people today have innovative economic and development project ideas that open the door for them to work and rely on themselves, but they face several obstacles and obstacles that limit and serve as a barrier to achieving their ambition and completing their innovative projects on the ground, and for this purpose the Algerian state has established business incubators, and decided to adopt the idea of incubators as a result of their success in several countries, these incubators help and contribute to the establishment of projects for young people and break into the world of work without resorting to a long search for work in institutions, whether public Or private.

In a world full of challenges and opportunities, youth play a crucial role in achieving sustainable development and economic prosperity, developing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among young people is essential to ensure a prosperous future, and business incubators aim to develop ideas and medium and small enterprises, and incubate them for a period of time that varies from one incubator to another, after which a startup certificate is granted to the owners of the idea, from which the institution is established with successful standards that lead them towards profitability and increase job opportunities, and thus have achieved the goal of developing an economy The country primarily.

1.1. Statement of the Problem: In this study, we will explore the role of business incubators in motivating, financing and supporting startups, and from it we pose the following problem: To what extent do business incubators contribute to the development and support of startups?

1.2. Hypothesis/hypotheses: of the study: In order to answer the problem of our study, we tried to present the following hypotheses:

- Business incubators have a role in funding startups,
- Business incubators in Algeria have a promising future in the development of the economy.
- There is a positive relationship between the financial support provided by business incubators and the growth of startups.
- Access to investor networks and strategic partners through incubators increases the chances of securing external funding.
- The impact of incubators on startup success varies depending on the sector (e.g., technology, agriculture, industry).

1.3. Significance of the Study : The importance of our study lies in the importance of the subject of business incubators that support and finance startups and contractors by providing them with supportive resources and motivating them to continue to innovate and develop in entrepreneurial projects, by incubating their ideas and supporting them

with field outputs, training and participation in meetings to develop their entrepreneurial spirit.

1.4. Objectives of the Study: Our study aims to clarify and understand the role played by business incubators in supporting and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship among young people, supporting startups and providing spaces that encourage development, as well as presenting the experiences of business incubators in Algeria and their contribution to the development of projects and incubating ideas.

1.5. methodology of the Study: In our study, we relied on the descriptive-analytical approach by presenting the concepts related to our research. We also presented some statistics on business incubators and referred to the Sidi Abdallah business incubator in Algeria.

1.6. Organization of the Study :

The first axis: an introduction to business incubators and emerging institutions,

The second axis: supporting business incubators for startups,

The third axis: Some experiences of business incubators in Algeria

2. The entrance to business incubators and emerging institutions

In this theme, we will discuss general concepts about business incubators and emerging institutions, highlighting their importance and the most important things that business incubators offer to develop the idea of a startup

2.1 First Subtitle: Business Incubators

Business incubators are institutions or programs that aim to support and encourage innovators and entrepreneurs to develop their own projects and start their own small and medium businesses. These incubators provide the resources and guidance needed to turn their ideas into reality.

2.1.1 Definition:

s'TODOROVIC an Moenter defined it as: "a university-sponsored program to nurture new and small businesses by providing support during the early stages of development, and most university incubators provide specialized resources, such as technical or other research capabilities not available to the company" (Bisare, 2022).

It is a branch of the department that seeks to develop skills, facilitate the launch of the project and emerging institutions, and help developers develop their ideas and achieve them on the ground,

In the same context, business incubators are defined by organizations as: The National Association of Business Incubations (NBIA) as: "An economic development tool designed to accelerate the growth and success of businesses, through a system of business support and support resources and services, and the primary goal of business incubators is to graduate successful institutions that leave the incubator

financially capable to grow and continue" (Nour Eddine & Baadache, 2022).

The European Commission is based on the following definition: "Business incubators (institutional nurseries) are a place where newly established enterprises are concentrated, in a limited space, aimed at increasing their chances of growth and increasing their success rates, with the help of a standard building containing equipment and providing them with assistance in management and support services, aimed mainly at local development, job creation, and marginally technology transfer" (Nour Eddine & Baadache, 2022).

There are also university business incubators, defined as: "A university institution that provides comprehensive support to startups, where university pioneers can benefit from a variety of services. This support includes physical resources, such as infrastructure equipped with the latest computer systems and technical means, as well as technical and technical support. It also includes moral and educational support. This support features well-trained human resources provided by the university, including experts in a variety of fields. It gives students and university leaders the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired in real business contexts, and this contributes to the entrepreneurial spirit among them.

This close relationship between the university and the business community also contributes to the transfer of modern technologies and research results to the market. This is done through marketing channels and economic cooperation, which promotes positive interaction between the academic and business worlds (Khdija, 2023).

2.1.2 Objectives of business incubators: Business incubators aim at a set of points that are divided in the economy on two levels as follows (Nour Eddine & Baadache, 2022):

At the micro level	At the macro level
-Reduce upfront costs and risks - Reducing the time period for the development of institutional activity - Minimizing the efforts of the creators -Solve administrative, technical, financial and legal problems - The development of the institution and increase the chances of success -Contributes to new products	–development of the local economy, - Eliminate unemployment and promote sustainable development, –attracting investments, –increase per capita income rates, –support and encouragement of institutions, - Supporting young people with innovative projects, - Marketing of scientific research and studies, - Supporting high-tech enterprises by mediating with businessmen.

One of the main objectives of business incubators is to provide the necessary support for individuals and startups to develop their ideas and turn them into successful projects that contribute to economic and social development.

2.1.3 The importance of university business incubators:

Its importance is to promote innovation and create an entrepreneurial spirit among university members, including university students, and it also supports ideas and projects of emerging institutions, transforms scientific research into practical commercial projects and contributes to solving the problem of unemployment and creating job opportunities, and here shows the importance of incubators in motivating young people to start their own business,

It is also of great importance at the level of the local economy by supporting small and emerging enterprises, developing them and increasing their productivity, which affects the growth of the local economy and the diversification of the economy.

In general, university business incubators play a crucial role in supporting innovation and transforming ideas into practical projects, thus contributing to achieving sustainable development.

2.1.4 Types of business incubators: Business incubators are divided into several types, and we mention their types briefly:

- Industrial incubators: Industrial Incubators provide infrastructure and support for startups in industrial sectors (sarra, 2022),
- Tech incubators: Technological incubators focus on supporting tech and innovation startups (sarra, 2022),

Business incubators differ in their orientation, the services they provide and the sectors they target.

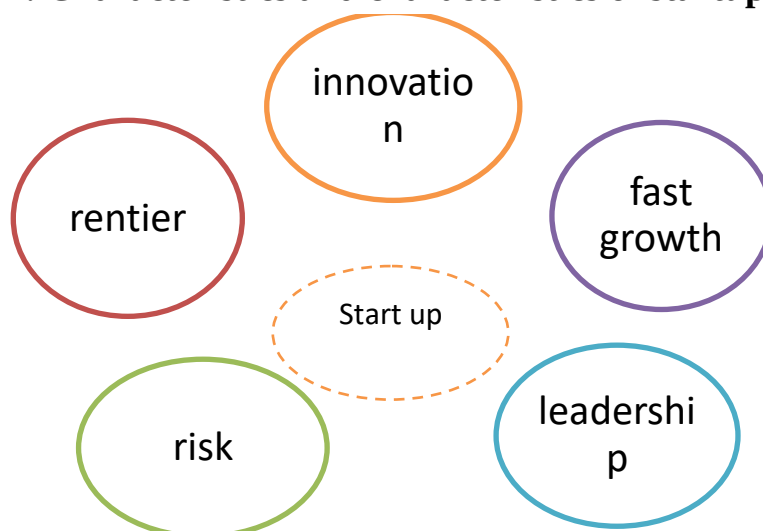
2.2 Second Subtitle: Startups

2.2.1 Startups: are new companies or ventures established by entrepreneurs to introduce new products or services to the market. These institutions are usually small, innovative, and independent. Startups aim to achieve rapid development and growth over time,

It is defined as an entrepreneurial idea for a project, and it is in the form of a newly established business activity that meets the needs of the market by creating a product idea or a business model that can be sustainable and developed, usually having limited resources to work with to build on a model that can be replicated and developed in the world (Puhtila, 2017).

2.2.2 Characteristics and advantages of startups: Startups are characterized by several characteristics that enable them to continue and succeed on the ground:

Figure 01: Characteristics and characteristics of startups



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the definitions.

Startups aspire to provide new products, services or applications through innovation, and seek to achieve opportunities in the market through leadership, and also aim to increase the volume of business and expand quickly, and this is what distinguishes them with rapid growth, but they face risks in production processes and losses resulting from the lack of profitability in the project, but soon emerging enterprises face them thanks to bearing high risks, and depend on attracting investments to finance growth and development, and this is evident in the rentier advantage.

According to Patrick fridenso, startups only answer four questions, and they were asked as follows:

- To what extent does it use modern technology?
- Do you need huge funding?
- Does it have the potential for growth?
- Is the market new? (Inssaf, 2020),

Through the definitions and characteristics of startups, it can be concluded that startups play an important role in promoting innovation, creating jobs and stimulating the growth of the economy.

3. Supporting Business Incubators for Startups

Business incubators provide comprehensive support to startups to help them succeed and develop their businesses

3.1 First Subtitle: Mechanisms to support business incubators for startups

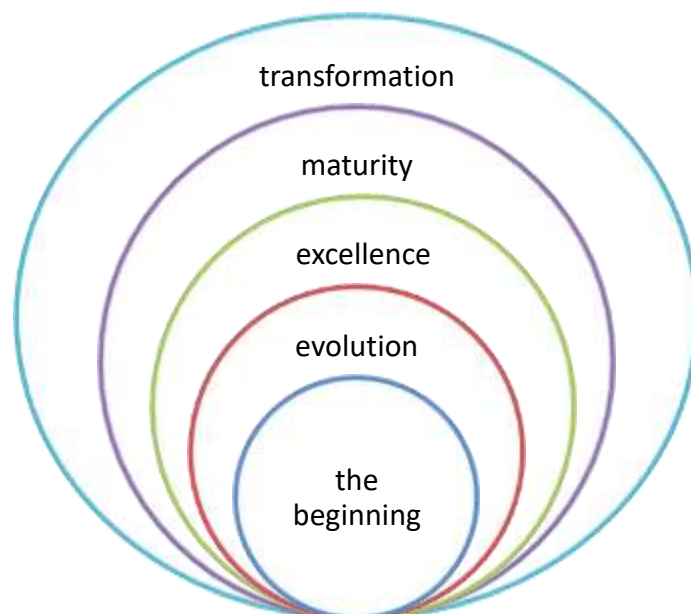
Business incubators provide many services and resources to startups in order to support their growth and development. The support mechanisms provided by business incubators vary from one type to another (business incubators, university business incubators) and depend on the incubator model and the specific needs of emerging institutions, but among the services provided by business incubators include:

1. **Physical resources:** Provide offices or co-working spaces (such as shared offices) where entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial ideas can work and interact with each other.
2. **Human Resources:** Provide access to consultants and coaches with experience in a variety of business areas, helping startups make the right decisions and achieve success.
3. **Funding:** Provide information and support on how to attract funding from various sources, including venture capital and loans.
4. **Attracting investors and expanding relationships:** Provide opportunities to build relationships with other institutions, entrepreneurs and investors, enabling startup owners to learn from others and increase opportunities for partnerships and investment.
5. **Training:** Providing training courses and educational programs that help develop the skills of startup owners and increase their understanding of the basic processes of business management.
6. **Technical support:** Provide access to equipment, technology, and infrastructure that can be essential to a startup's success.
7. Provide advice on business strategies, business plans development and growth goals.
8. **Marketing Opportunities:** Support in designing marketing strategies and promoting products or services.
- 9 Organizing events and opportunities to showcase products or services to potential audiences or investors.

2.2 Second Subtitle: Stages of incubating a startup

There are several stages to incubate a startup by business incubators, which are:

Figure 02: Steps to incubate startups



Source: (sarra, 2022)

From the above figure, the mentioned stages can be explained as follows:

_ Start phase: At this stage, the startup has just been established, and the business idea may be new. The role of the incubator in providing support is to develop the idea and prepare the initial business plan. This stage also includes goal setting and guidance and providing advice on the initial strategy,

_ Stage of growth or development: As the organization progresses and grows, it needs to develop its products or services and increase the volume of production. The incubator provides technical and advisory support to help the company achieve sustainable growth. This can include funding support for business expansion,

_ Excellence and Expansion Phase: At this stage, the startup expands into new markets and adopts expansion strategies. Collaborates with the incubator to discover expansion opportunities and guide its strategy.

_ Maturity: When a startup reaches maturity, it becomes a sustainable and stable enterprise. It needs to work on maintaining its position and guiding its strategy for the future. The incubator provides support in process improvement and long-term strategic guidance.

_Transformation or exit phase: Sometimes, the ultimate goal of an organization becomes a sale or merger with another company. An incubator can help facilitate these processes and ensure maximum value from the transaction.

These steps vary according to the idea of the startup incubated by business incubators, as well as the method of financing according to the business incubator located in the region, but the only goal is to support small and medium enterprises and seek to develop them and increase the productivity and profitability of the enterprise.

4. Experiences of Some Business Incubators in Algeria

The reality of business incubators in Algeria reflects a remarkable development in recent years, as the idea of business incubators began to spread and flourish with the aim of supporting entrepreneurs and innovative entrepreneurs and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Business incubators are an important hub for boosting the economy and SME development in Algeria.

Although there are challenges and difficulties facing these incubators, such as bureaucracy, lack of funding, lack of guidance and training, they work hard to provide multifaceted support to young people wishing to start their own businesses. These platforms offer customized training and development programs that include a variety of entrepreneurship-related topics, as well as assistance in securing funding and technical support to facilitate start-up processes.

One of the promising developments is increased cooperation between the government and business incubators in order to enhance the business climate and provide more

opportunities for young people. In addition, the growing interest in entrepreneurship and innovation is witnessing sustained growth in Algeria, encouraging the development of an active entrepreneurial community that contributes to promoting economic development and improving innovation and business infrastructure.

4.1. The emergence of business incubators in Algeria

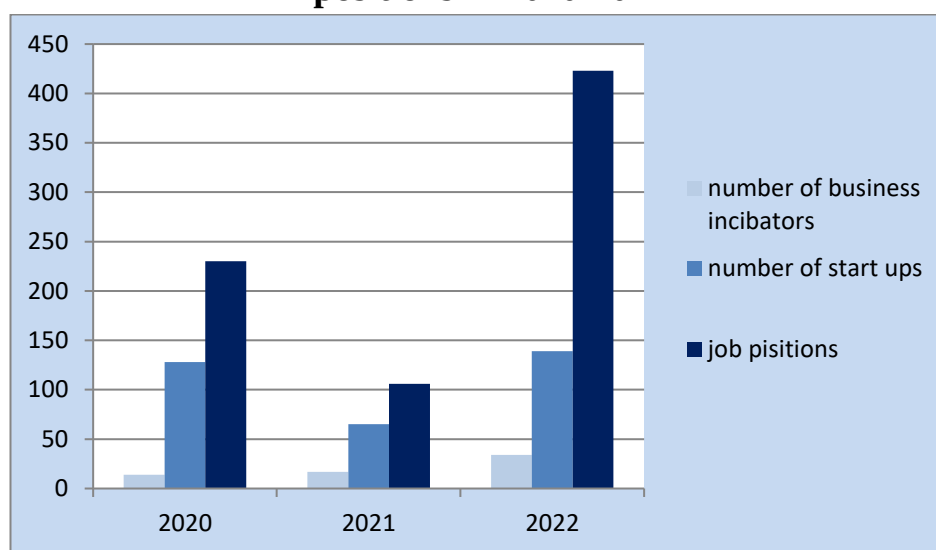
Business incubators in Algeria have begun to emerge in recent years, and have seen an increase in their number as a result of continuous efforts to promote entrepreneurship and support start-ups. The actual emergence of business incubators in Algeria has been in the last decade, and this growth has been boosted by factors including:

- Orientation towards economic growth: The focus has increased on promoting economic diversification in Algeria and stimulating entrepreneurship as part of the strategy to develop and diversify the economy.
- Support from the Algerian government, which has taken the initiative to provide support for entrepreneurship through the launch of programs and initiatives that encourage the establishment and operation of business incubators, in addition to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, start-ups, small enterprises,
- Increased interest in entrepreneurship among young people, especially in the situation of increasing unemployment rates and lack of jobs, increased interest in entrepreneurship as a means to promote innovation and improve the economic situation in the country,
- Improving the legal and bureaucratic environment to support the establishment and operation of startups, including the issuance of Resolution 1275 on granting a startup certificate and patent to owners of entrepreneurial ideas.

Although business incubators are still in the beginning, with the continuation of developments in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation, further growth and development can be expected in the field of business incubators in Algeria. Contractors looking for new incubators and available support should contact the concerned authorities and trusted sources in the country to obtain the latest information, by facilitating the process of communication with business incubators by the administrative structure of the incubator.

The number of business incubators in the years 2020-2022 and the number of projects and institutions incubated by them, in addition to their impact on the provision of job positions, are explained below:

Figure 03: Statistics on business incubators and startups, and the number of job positions in 2020-2022



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the Ministry of Industry and Pharmaceutical Production - Statistical Bulletin - the period 2020-2022

We note from the above figure that the number of business incubators in Algeria is constantly increasing, as there were 17 incubators in 2020 to increase in 2021 by 34 incubators in the Algerian country, and this increase is due to the remarkable developments in all the world that call for the development of the economy as well as diversification in the economy to increase its growth rates and catch up with developed countries, and in 2022, the number of emerging institutions incubated by business incubators reached 139 emerging institutions, thus providing 423 positions. Work for young people and the unemployed, and this calls for encouragement and motivation to increase the number of business incubators in Algeria and work to develop and support them by the government, for their importance in reducing unemployment rates and raising the equipment for economic growth, and according to statistics, Algeria intends to establish business incubators in all universities of the country and in all states due to the great importance in the economy and its role in the management and success of emerging and small enterprises and entrepreneurial ideas of contractors by supporting them with material and moral resources that motivate them to develop their ideas and come up with institutions Successful.

4.2. Some experiences of business incubators in Algeria

Among the business incubators in the Algerian country, we mention the following:

Creadincubator (Centre de Recherche en économie appliquée pour le Développement): (Cread, 2023)

The Center for Applied Economics Research for Development (CRID) is a government body based in Bouzareah, Algeria established in 1985 to deal with research and development in the fields of economics and development. Cread is part of the government's efforts to promote economic development in the country and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

_ Promote economic development in Algeria through research, analysis and development of economic policies. The Authority also seeks to support entrepreneurship and innovation in the country,

_It conducts research and analysis in many economic fields, such as sustainable development, small and medium enterprises, the labor market, and innovation, this research provides important data and information to support decision-making,

_ It organizes workshops, seminars and lectures to educate and raise awareness about economic and development issues in Algeria,

_ It works to enhance cooperation with local and international bodies in the field of economic research and development and the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Incubator: (IncubMe, 2023)

It is an African incubator founded in 2018 by Algerian entrepreneurs with the aim of supporting entrepreneurs, innovative entrepreneurs and start-ups by providing an ideal environment for them to develop their ideas and create their businesses. IncubMe provides financial, administrative and technical support to contractors. They are followed, guided and encouraged in the most strategic decision-making process, based in Algiers and managed from abroad,

Table 02: Startups and patents realized by IncubMe

Developed institution or service	Developed Country	Services Offered
The product of my farmer	Algeria	A digital platform for marketing agricultural products, agricultural equipment, fertilizers and livestock food
Karesesi Digital Soultion	Senegal	An electronic platform that contributes to the management of workshops and the promotion of agricultural products
TAWA Digital Talent	Tunisia	A platform that mediates between creators and provides opportunities for young people to provide the best customer experiences

Soutra Market	Ivory Coast	Online buying center for processed natural and local agricultural products
Travis	Algeria	A digital platform in the field of tourism that allows sharing the experiences of hotels, tourist places and travel agencies
Magest Eye	Tunisia	A digital platform that provides solutions and assistance to customers to improve the use of their data
Symbioll	Ivory Coast	A device that uses facial recognition techniques to combat impersonation
Yed Baladi	Algeria	Application for e-commerce and product display
@KISSI	Ivory Coast	An application that facilitates the process of money management
Access Aligner	Tunisia	Invisible transparent orthodontic appliance
Tahadi GO	Algeria	An application is a game that helps in discovering tourist areas in Algeria
G-quiz	Gambia	An app that offers educational tests and helps share knowledge between individuals
Colorful	Cameroon	A platform that streams and learns Cameroonian music
AUTOWARE	Nigeria	A smart device that issues alerts about gas oscillation
EGOTransfert	Togo	A developed application that allows transferring money from one account to another over the phone only
BUS14	Egypt	An electronic platform that provides transportation service to students
Spot.it	Algeria	A digital platform to participate in waste

		reduction and forest and beach clean-up outputs
Strapp	Algeria	An application that reminds people with chronic diseases, the elderly and others of medication times
Cynioa	Tunisia	A small enterprise is a space where meetings, workshops, conferences and experiences are exchanged

Source: Prepared by the author (IncubMe, 2023)

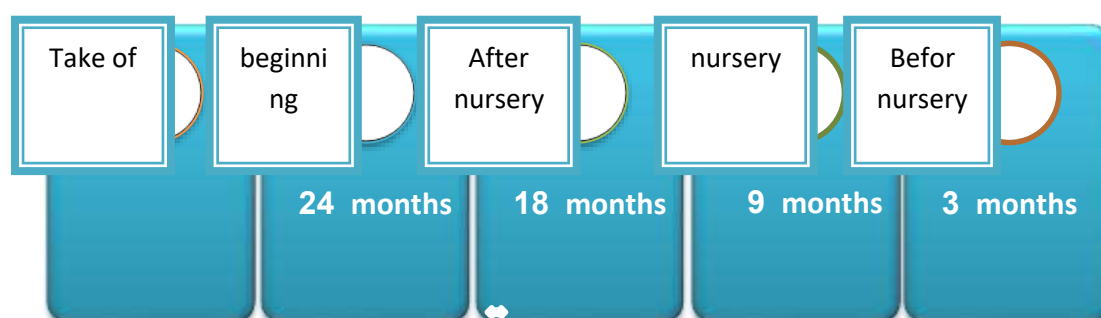
INCUBATOR CYBERPARC DE SIDI ABDELLAH:

It is a technology incubator located in the Sidi Abdellah region of Algeria, created by Executive Decree 04-91 of March 24, 2004, this complex aims to support and promote the technological sector and innovation in Algeria. It is a place for incubating technology companies, research institutions and individuals who hold a startup project or entrepreneurial idea. It provides a favorable environment for technology companies and startups to develop their projects and innovate. It also supports startups by providing office space, technological infrastructure, and training and development programs.

Cyberpace de Sidi Abdellah represents an important place to promote the technological and innovative environment in algeria and plays an important role inpromoting economic development and encouraging entrepreneurship.

- Mechanisms for incubating a startup and entrepreneurship in Sidi Abdallah incubator:
The incubation process goes through several stages, which we mention in the following figure:

Figure 04: Startup Incubation Steps



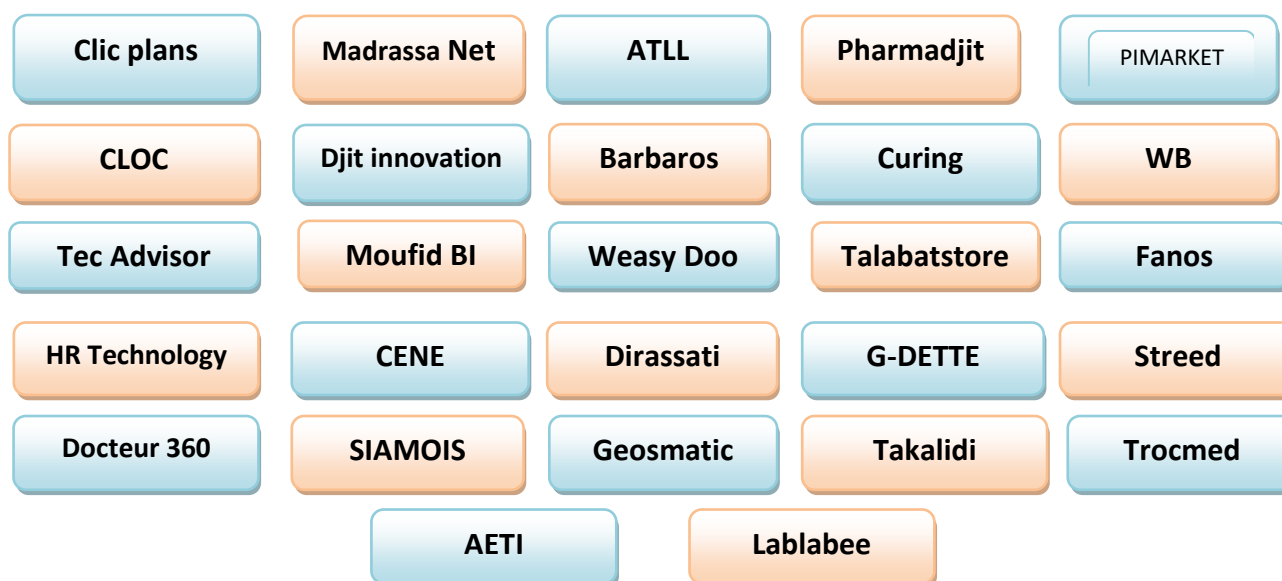
Source: Prepared by the researcher based on: <https://anpt.dz/incubation>

The process of starting the incubation lasts for a period of 3 months and is directed, supported and helped project owners and contractors to start their project or services, after confirming the project comes the incubation process and lasts for 9 months Consultation is carried out Training and guidance of entrepreneurs, after this period and steps is the post-incubation process and lasts for 18 months and this step is very important in which the idea is developed and access to the professional network, that is, entering into the process of work and production to be after 24 months The developed institution or service New in the start-up process, followed by the starting step and the project's exit to reality and its application in the market.

Mechanisms to support the business incubator Sidi Eid Allah: The incubator supports entrepreneurial entrepreneurs and holders of entrepreneurial projects and innovative ideas by supporting them with the following mechanisms (ABDELLAH, 2023):

- _ material resources by providing work spaces,
 - _ Training, by organizing conferences and workshops and participating in meetings and events,
 - _ Create and develop a product or service,
 - _ Human Resources.
 - _ Startups and patents realized by the business incubator: 32 developed institutions and services have been produced until 2023: (ABDELLAH, 2023)
 - _ **IBN HAMZA:** A health startup that has won several national and continental awards, whose mission is to improve the quality of health care through web applications in smartphones,
 - _ **OVERGEN:** a marketing consulting agency specializing in electronic communication and game development,
 - _ **BRIM:** an Algerian institution whose mission is to manage marketing, market study, organize events and consult among clients,
 - _ **SYNOOSSTUDIO:** A program that carries many electronic applications directed to children, working to provide educational programs for children to learn languages in an entertaining way,
 - _ **GOLDEN:** An Algerian institution that develops computers and websites.
- And other institutions we briefly mention as follows:

Figure 05: Startups sponsored by Sidi Abdellah incubator



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on data (ABDELLAH, 2023)

4.3.Third Subtitle: The challenges of business incubators in Algeria

Business incubators in Algeria face a number of structural and operational challenges that limit their ability to effectively support the development of startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). One of the most prominent obstacles is the complexity of administrative procedures and the burden of bureaucracy, which hinders the establishment of new ventures and slows down the growth of entrepreneurial ideas. In addition, limited access to financing remains a critical issue, as banks and financial institutions are often reluctant to provide loans to emerging businesses due to high risk and insufficient guarantees thus restricting their ability to expand and survive.

Entrepreneurs also suffer from a significant lack of training and capacity-building programs, as there are few specialized educational initiatives to develop entrepreneurial and managerial skills. This situation is further exacerbated by the weak entrepreneurial culture in Algerian society, where private initiative is often met with skepticism and lacks strong community support, making it difficult to encourage young people to launch their own businesses. Moreover, incubators face legal and regulatory obstacles related to the establishment and management of companies, in a legislative environment that is not fully adapted to the needs of innovative and dynamic enterprises. Market access both nationally and internationally is also a major barrier, due to high competition and economic constraints.

Internal challenges further complicate the role of incubators, particularly in terms of financial management and institutional organization, which affects the quality and efficiency of the services they provide. To overcome these obstacles, public authorities

and actors within the entrepreneurial ecosystem must adopt more flexible and supportive policies. This includes simplifying administrative processes, improving access to funding and technical support, and increasing public awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship as a fundamental driver of economic and social development in Algeria.

5. CONCLUSION:

Business incubators are an essential part of Algeria's entrepreneurial infrastructure. It provides a supportive environment and vital resources that enable startups to grow, thrive and increase innovation in the field by entrepreneurs, thanks to mentorship, shared spaces, and the technical, human and material resources available in the incubator, business incubators enable entrepreneurs and innovators to successfully achieve their goals. This support plays a crucial role in boosting the economy, encouraging innovation and creating new jobs in the country.

The results of the hypotheses: The first hypothesis, which states that business incubators have a role in financing startups by supporting them with the resources available in the incubator and seeking to develop ideas and medium and small enterprises, and the second hypothesis, which states that business incubators in Algeria have a promising future in the development of the economy, has been relatively validated because the statistics at the present time are slightly unfair about the number of startups that have been incubated by business incubators.

Results: Through our study of the role of business incubators in supporting startups and a presentation of some of the experiences of incubators in Algeria, we have reached:

- _Raising awareness of entrepreneurship,
- _Develop entrepreneurial skills such as: planning, project management and innovation,
- _Creating jobs and eliminating unemployment through start-ups
- _Encouraging teamwork by providing spaces for the exchange of ideas between entrepreneurs and exploiting the technological resources in the incubator to share experiences,
- _Contribute to local development Entrepreneurship projects established through business incubators contribute to supporting local development and creating new job opportunities.

Recommendations: In order to activate the role of business incubators, we decided to present a number of recommendations, which are:

- _ Raising awareness among young people and the opportunities available to them and the facilities provided by business incubators to develop their projects through seminars and field outputs of the incubator,
- _Expanding support through multiple programmes including training, funding and training sessions,
- _Encourage internal and external cooperation: Entrepreneurs can be encouraged to collaborate with others and with external projects to exchange experiences and ideas,

- _ An encouraging and appropriate environment must be provided to develop their ideas and entrepreneurial projects.
- _ Regularly evaluate the performance of the business incubator,
- _ Expansion of communication networks by business incubators,
- _ Supporting innovation and research: Innovative idealists and start-ups should be encouraged to research and innovate in areas of interest to them and develop new solutions.
- _ Encourage entrepreneurs to think about entrepreneurial projects aimed at improving society and not just making a profit.
- _ Sustainability and the environment: The concepts of sustainability and environmental conservation should be integrated into entrepreneurial projects carried out by innovators and entrepreneurs.

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