

Zeinah Abdelsalam

MSFS-5500-03

Egypt's S&T Institutions (450)

Egypt governs science and technology (S&T) through a centralized, yet multi-layered institutional framework aimed at advancing economic modernization and national security. A disclaimer is that official policy documents may lack full transparency. Despite this, public strategies and institutional mandates indicate a coordinated effort to use S&T as a key driver of development and geopolitical influence.

The highest-ranking governmental bodies shaping Egypt's S&T landscape are the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). MOHESR functions as the primary authority responsible for national research policy, overseeing universities and research institutes.¹ MCIT plays an increasingly influential role through its leadership of the "Digital Egypt" initiative, which focuses on expanding digital infrastructure.² Complementing these ministries, the National Council for Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), established in 2019, coordinates Egypt's National AI Strategy and supervises AI governance across sectors.³ The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), founded in 1971, serves as a think tank that links researchers with policymakers and coordinates applied scientific initiatives.⁴

¹ "About the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research." *Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research*, n.d. <https://mohesr.gov.eg/en/#>.

² "Digital Egypt." *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology*, n.d. https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Digital_Egypt#.

³ "Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *The National Council for Artificial Intelligence*, January 16, 2025. <https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategy%20English%2016-1-2025-1.pdf>.

⁴ "Egyptian House of Expertise." *Academy of Scientific Research and Technology*, n.d. <http://www.asrt.sci.eg/>; "Egypt, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)." *International Science Council*, n.d. <https://council.science/member/egypt-academy-of-scientific-research-and-technology-asrt/>.

Several institutions further shape, fund, and regulate Egypt's S&T ecosystem. The Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STDF) represents the country's largest public research funding body, supporting both academic and applied innovation programs.⁵ The Applied Innovation Center (AIC) promotes the implementation of emerging technologies to address domestic challenges.⁶ Further, the City of Scientific Research and Technological Applications (SRTA-City) strengthens collaboration between research institutions and industry.⁷ Regulatory oversight is shared among entities including NCAI, the Supreme Council for Cybersecurity, the Egyptian Patent Office, and the emerging Personal Data Protection Authority, just to name a few.⁸

Egypt's guiding playbook is its Vision 2030 national development strategy. Artificial intelligence and digital transformation receive particularly strong emphasis, with government investments directed toward 5G expansion, fiber-optic networks, and national data center development.⁹ Environmental and resource security also shape innovation priorities, particularly through investments in climate-resilient agriculture.¹⁰ Additional focus areas include healthcare innovation and renewable energy technologies.¹¹

⁵ "Science & Technology Development Fund (STDF)." *Ain Shams University*, n.d. <https://www.asu.edu.eg/226/page/science-technology-development-fund-stdf>; "About STDF." *Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority*, n.d. <https://stdf.eg/web/page/64152>.

⁶ "Applied Innovation Center." *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology*, n.d. https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Applied_innovation_Center; "Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *The National Council for Artificial Intelligence*, p. 19.

⁷ "About the City of Scientific Research." *City of Scientific Research and Technological Applications (SRTA-City)*, n.d. <http://srtacity.sci.eg/>.

⁸ "Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *The National Council for Artificial Intelligence*, p. 35; "National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030." Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, n.d. <http://www.crci.sci.eg/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/National-Strategy-for-Science-Technology-and-Innovation-2030.pdf>, p. 42. "The National Agenda for Sustainable Development Egypt's Updated Vision 2030." Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, May 21, 2024. https://mped.gov.eg/Files/Egypt_Vision_2030_EnglishDigitalUse.pdf, p. 159.

⁹ "Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *The National Council for Artificial Intelligence*, p. 36.

¹⁰ "National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030." MOHESR.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

Egypt continues to leverage science and technology as a diplomatic tool by strengthening international partnerships and positioning itself as a regional leader. The country's participation in the EU's Horizon Europe program supports scientific collaboration with Europe,¹² while its leadership of African Union and Arab League AI initiatives and its role in hosting the African Space Agency reinforce regional authority in emerging technologies.¹³ Egypt also expands bilateral cooperation through research and innovation partnerships with countries including the United Kingdom, France, China, Germany, Japan, and the United States.¹⁴ Additionally, Egypt participates in global technology governance forums such as the UN, BRICS, G20, UNESCO, and OECD to shape international AI standards and promote regional priorities.¹⁵

¹² Matthews, David. "Egypt Joins Horizon Europe Despite Academic Freedom Concerns." *Science Business*, April 10, 2025.

¹³ "Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *The National Council for Artificial Intelligenc*, p. 20; "National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030." MOHESR, pp. 22-23.

¹⁴ "National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030." MOHESR.

¹⁵ "Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy." *The National Council for Artificial Intelligenc*, p. 49.

Bibliography

- “About STDF.” *Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority*, n.d.
<https://stdf.eg/web/page/64152>.
- “About the City of Scientific Research.” *City of Scientific Research and Technological Applications (SRTA-City)*, n.d. <http://srtacity.sci.eg/>.
- “About the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.” *Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research*, n.d. <https://moheer.gov.eg/en/#>.
- “Applied Innovation Center.” *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology*, n.d.
https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Applied_innovation_Center.
- “Digital Egypt.” *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology*, n.d.
https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Digital_Egypt#.
- “Egypt, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT).” *International Science Council*, n.d. <https://council.science/member/egypt-academy-of-scientific-research-and-technology-asrt/>.
- “Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.” The National Council for Artificial Intelligence, January 16, 2025.
<https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategy%20English%2016-1-2025-1.pdf>.
- “Egypt Ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025.” World Intellectual Property Organization, n.d. <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/gii-ranking/2025/eg.pdf>.
- “Egyptian House of Expertise.” *Academy of Scientific Research and Technology*, n.d.
<http://www.asrt.sci.eg/>.
- Matthews, David. “Egypt Joins Horizon Europe Despite Academic Freedom Concerns.” *Science Business*, April 10, 2025.
- “National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2030.” Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, n.d. <http://www.crci.sci.eg/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/National-Strategy-for-Science-Technology-and-Innovation-2030.pdf>.
- “Science & Technology Development Fund (STDF).” *Ain Shams University*, n.d.
<https://www.asu.edu.eg/226/page/science-technology-development-fund-stdf>.
- “The National Agenda for Sustainable Development Egypt’s Updated Vision 2030.” Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, May 21, 2024.
https://mped.gov.eg/Files/Egypt_Vision_2030_EnglishDigitalUse.pdf.