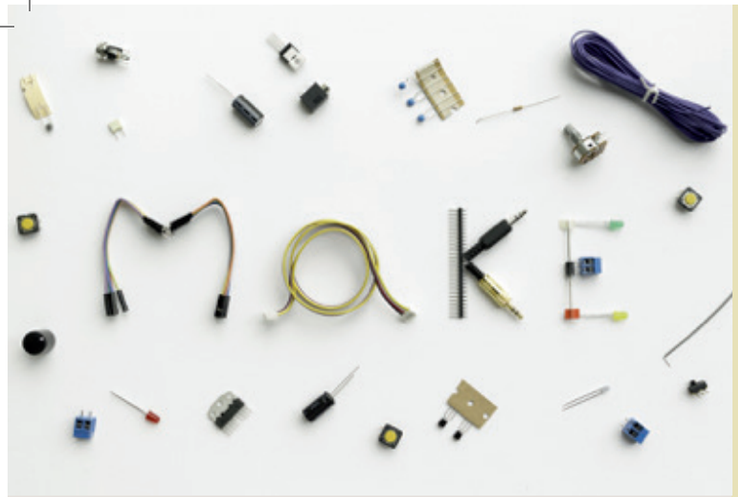

Vision and Objectives

The interdisciplinary project *Twinning for Innovation* is located at the boundary between science and society and aims at the establishment of transnational initiatives for technology and knowledge transfer on the grassroots level. *Twinning for Innovation* focuses especially on collaboration between Arab and German FabLab initiatives. Both, German and Arab FabLabs will benefit from Twinning through:

- Transnational cooperation and knowledge transfer
- Building and providing expertise
- Fostering sustainable development
- Empowerment of local actors

About us

Twinning for Innovation is a project of the Working Group “Innovation” of the Arab-German Young Academy (AGYA) and the Institute of Production Engineering at the Helmut Schmidt University in Hamburg.

The aim of AGYA is to serve as cross-cultural think tank supporting Arab-German research collaboration of excellent early career scholars. Contributing AGYA Members are Osman Bakr, Tamirace Fakhoury, Andreas Fischer, Ahmad El-Guindy, Bashar Ibrahim, Fatima Kastner, Daniel Meyer and Tobias Redlich.

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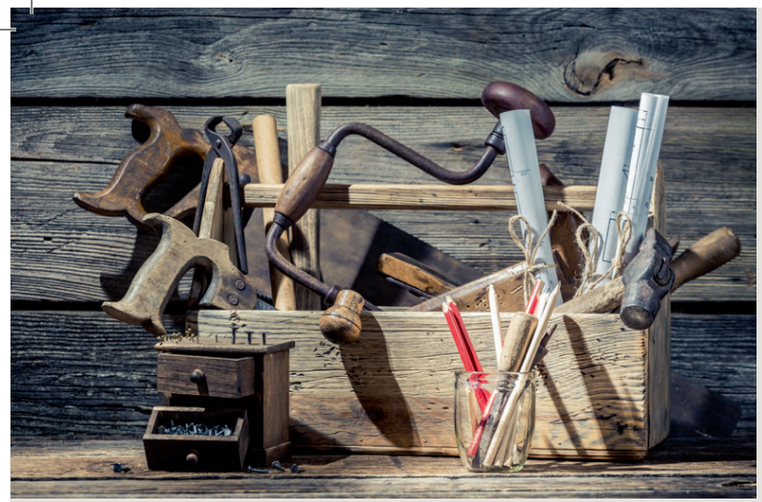
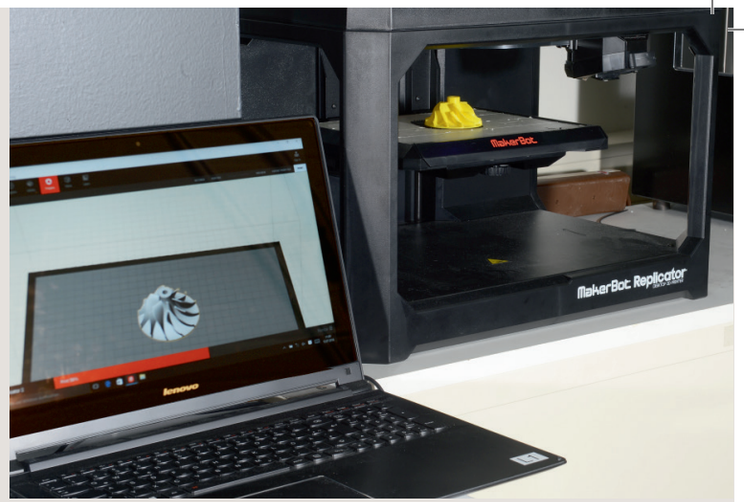
TWINNING FOR INNOVATION

Exploring and enabling technology and knowledge transfer on the grassroots level



Challenges

Despite the growth of FabLab initiatives and makerspaces all over the world, a main shortcoming is that single Labs rarely collaborate and exchange their knowledge – a fundamental principle of the whole Open Source movement. As a result, an enormous potential is left aside.



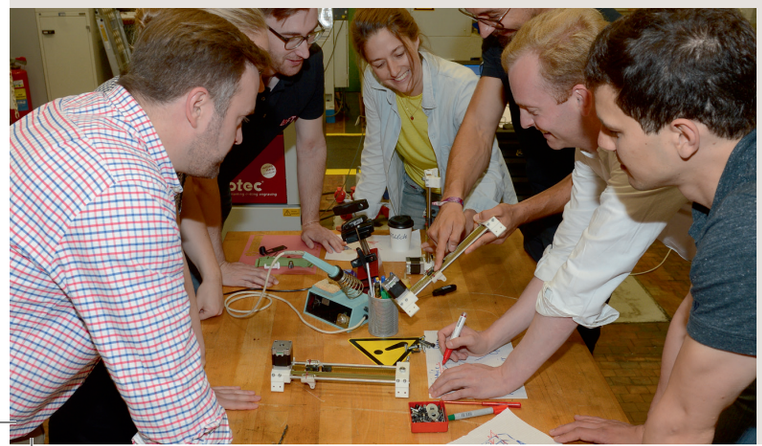
Empowerment and Participation

Community-operated, self-organized open manufacturing spaces like FabLabs (Fabrication Laboratories) deliver an easy access to means of production and their utilization.

As places for encountering, learning, experimenting, joint creativity and value creation, they empower their users to participate in value creation and develop innovation capabilities that fit local needs and resource availability.

Collaboration and knowledge exchange between Labs are fundamental requirements of their success.

Being embedded in their respective communities local actors know about their needs, resources and societal conditions, thus, shaping the way of producing and cooperating. Local actors on both sides profit from the twinning process by aligning knowledge and competencies.



Twinning FabLabs could represent one way of overcoming this deficit by enabling knowledge and technology transfer.

The concept of Twinning refers to an organization-to-organization co-operation that aims towards a mutual exchange between entities with diff erent socio-cultural backgrounds and fosters reciprocal learning and understanding.

We need to encourage the development of vital small-scale innovative activities that cut across different sectors from agriculture to energy, health and education!