

Leading House MENA - Kick-off workshop

Luna Iacopini, Head international affairs

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1. Overview

- Newly established Leading House for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
- 17 countries: Algeria, Bahrein, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Occupied Palestinian territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
- At present, no bilateral programme exists between Switzerland and any country of the MENA region
- The identification of priority countries was the first activity of the LHMENA

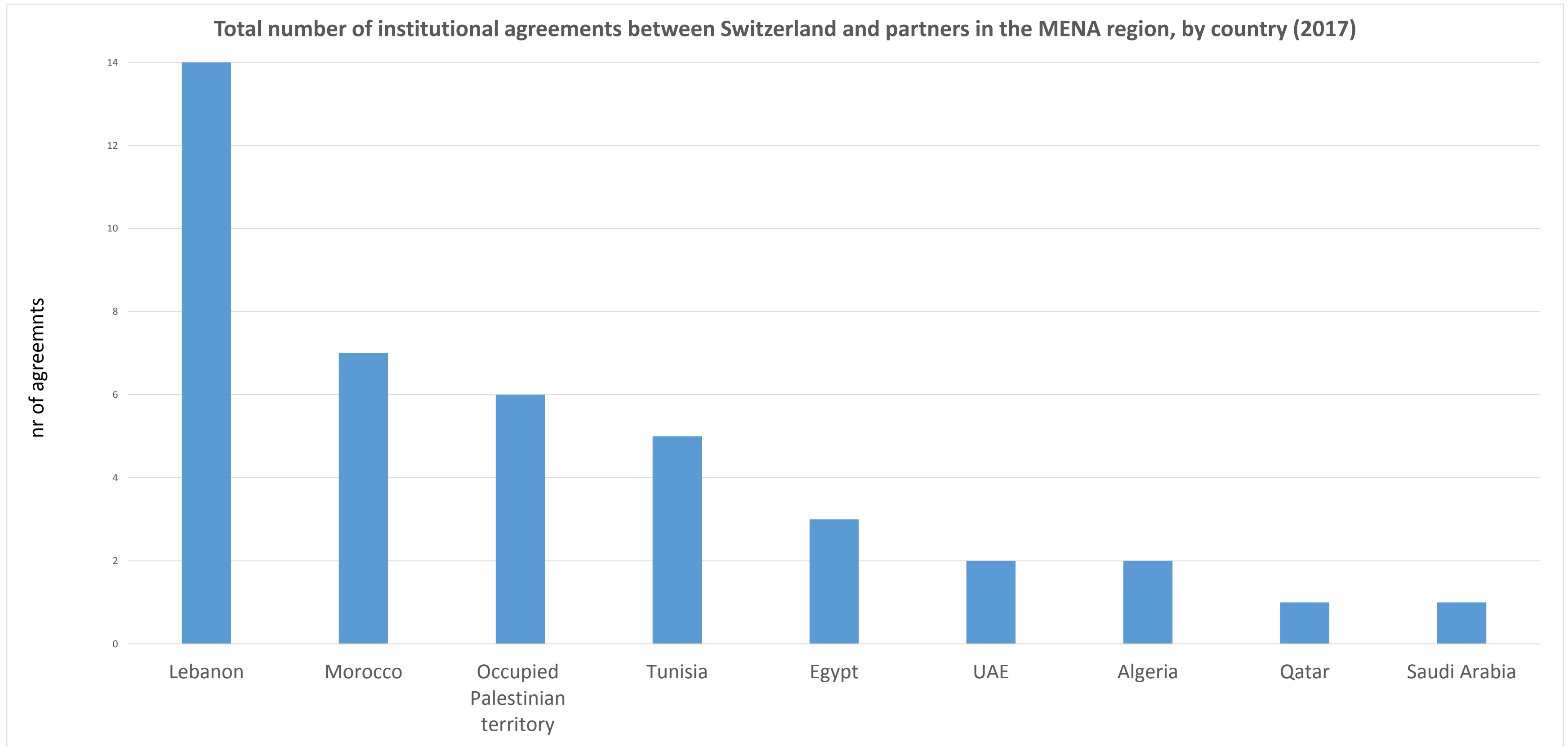
2. Mapping study

- The mapping study was conducted to obtain an overview of the scientific collaborations that Swiss universities have established with partners in the MENA region
- The study gathered primary information on three main issues:
 1. Existing (past and current) scientific collaborations;
 2. Education and/or research exchanges related to the mobility of people between the MENA region and Switzerland;
 3. The interest in establishing future scientific collaborations with partners in the MENA region
- The results of the mapping study were intended to identify the priority countries of the LHMENA

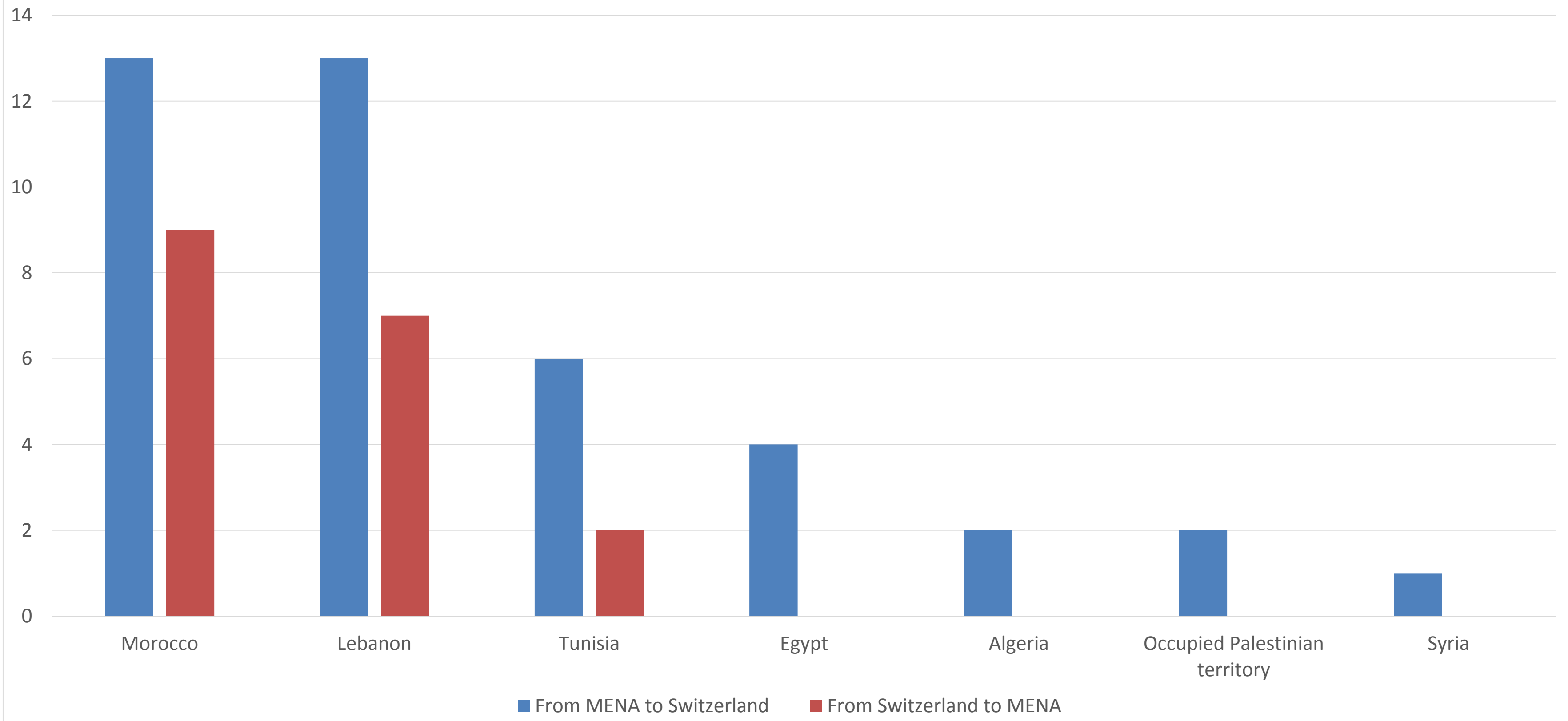
2.1. Mapping study: methodology

- Two sets of questionnaires: 1) survey for university administrators; 2) survey for professors and researchers
- Dissemination of the survey:
 - Survey for university administrators: 1) letter sent *ad personam* on the 9th of October 2017 to the Rectors of all of Switzerland's universities; 2) identification of a contact person in charge of completing the questionnaire
 - Survey for professors and researchers: 1) email sent to a initial group of researchers working with the MENA region + managers of the other LHs; 2) snowball technique
- The dead line for answering the questionnaire was set on 21st of January 2018 for university administrators and on the 28th of January 2018 for researchers
- Response rate: in total we received 62 complete questionnaires, 19 from university administrators and 43 from researchers. The response rate of the survey for university administrators was 53%

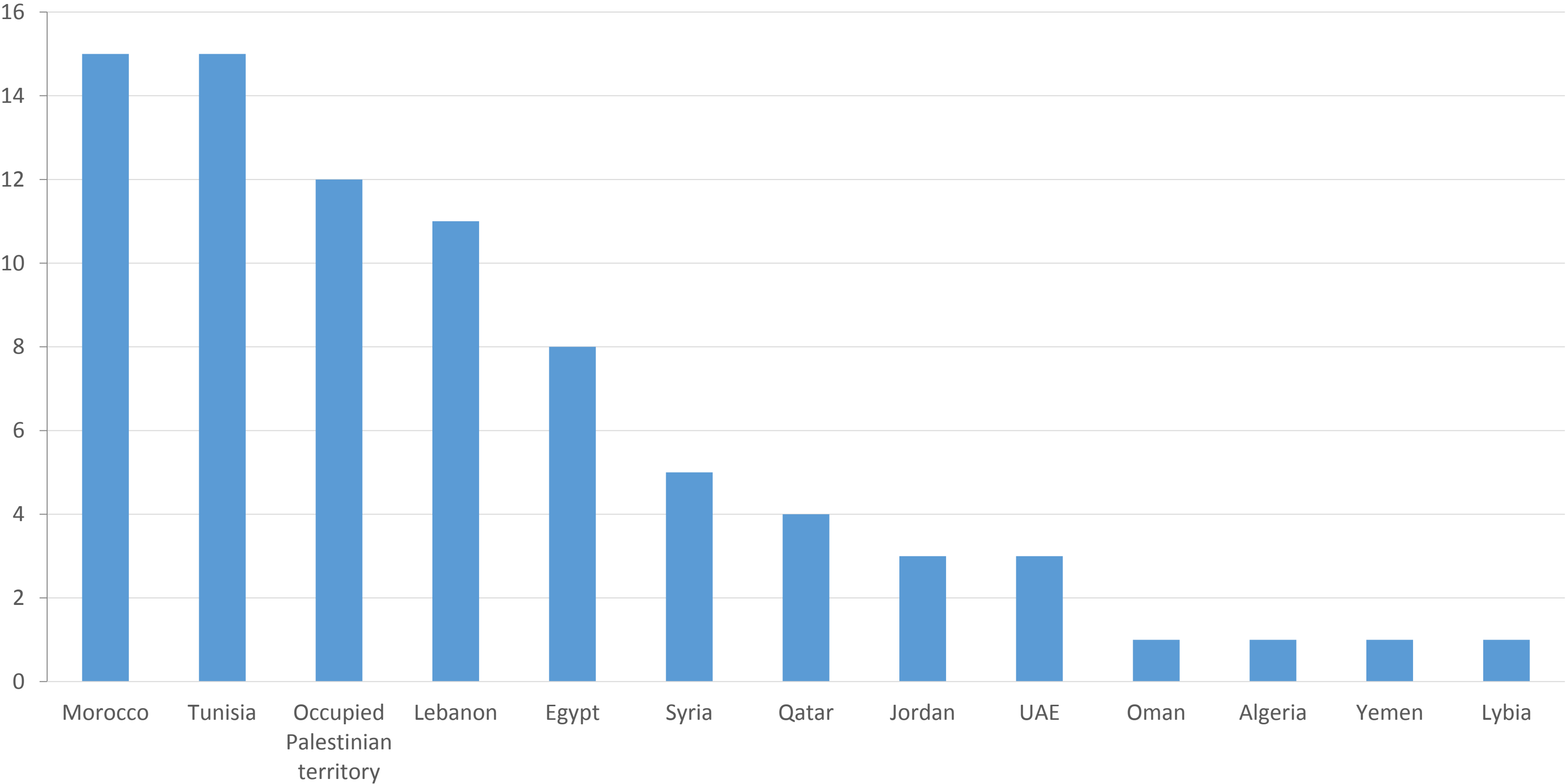
3. Results



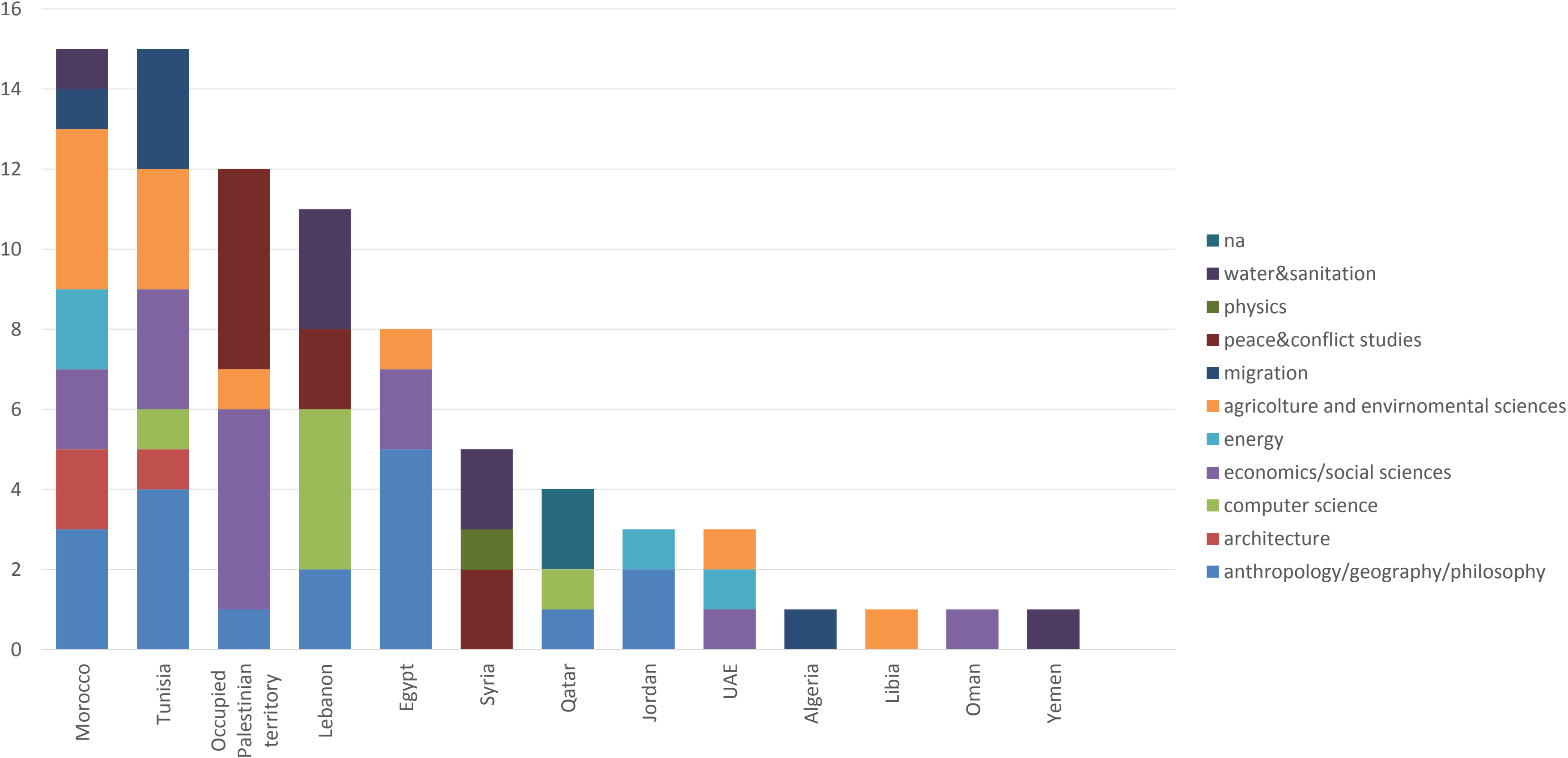
Total number of exchanges of researchers, lecturers and students between MENA countries and Switzerland, by country (2017)

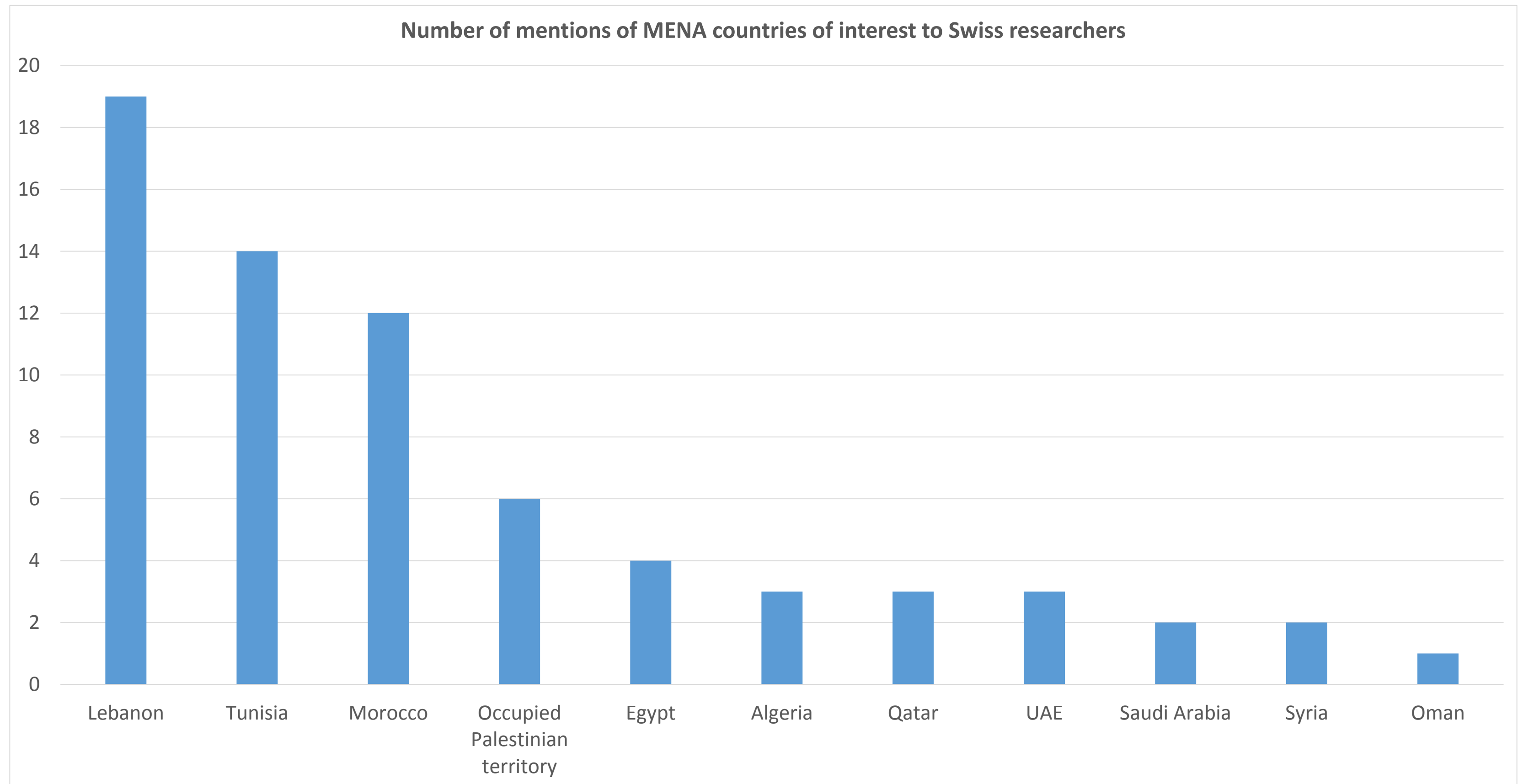


Total number of research projects or partnerships between Swiss and MENA region over the last 5 years, by country

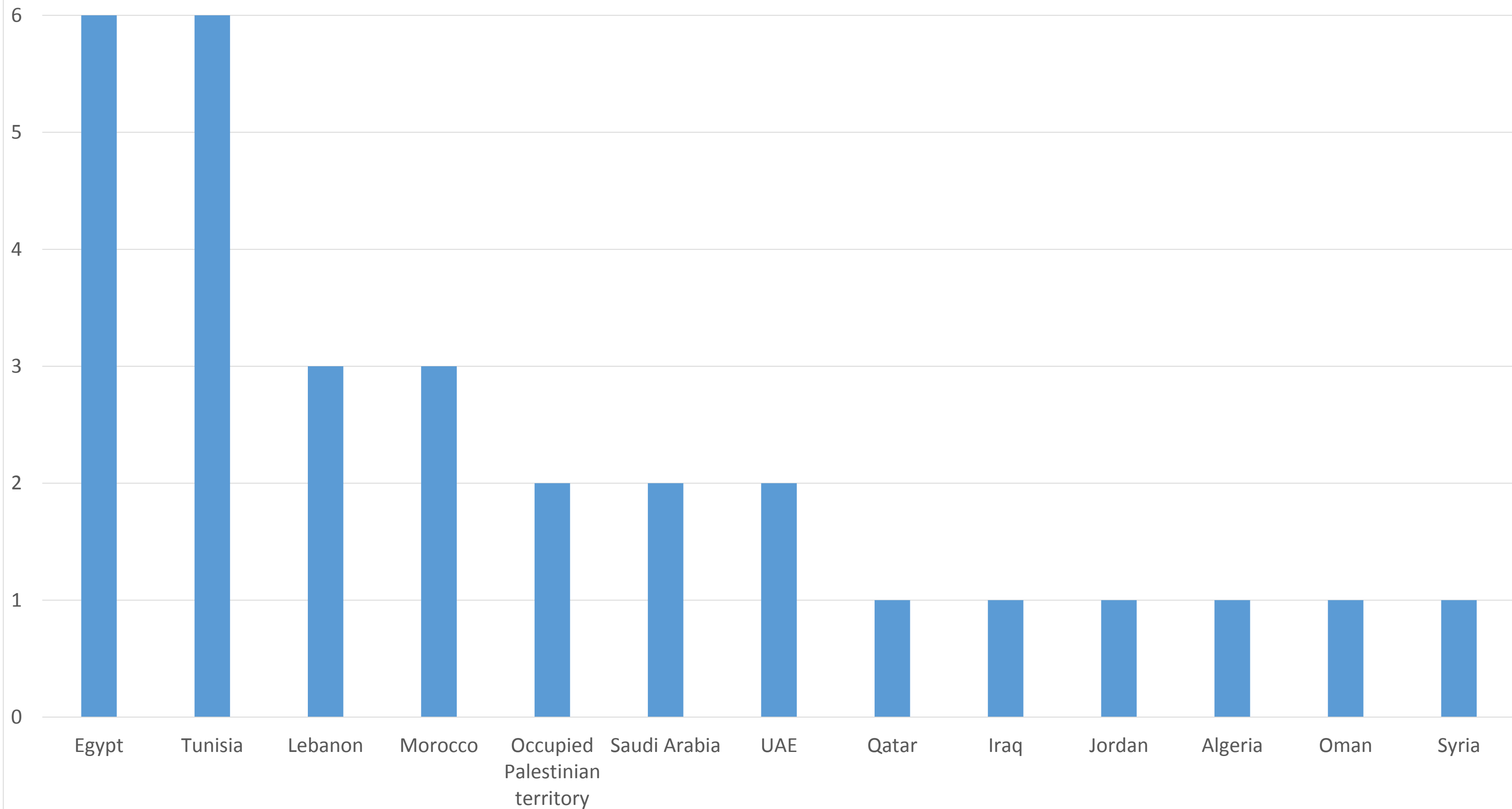


Main areas of research collaboration between Switzerland and the MENA region, by country





Total number of forseen institutional collaborations in the MENA region



4. Selection of the priority countries

- Since cooperation between Switzerland and the MENA region is still modest, the focus of the selection was on those countries that already presented scientific collaborations with Switzerland
- The focus was also geographically oriented on 3 different regions: North Africa, Middle East and the Gulf
- Based on the results of the mapping study, the following countries were identified as priority countries for the LHMENA till 2020:
 1. Egypt
 2. Lebanon
 3. Morocco
 4. Occupied Palestinian territory
 5. Qatar
 6. Tunisia
 7. United Arab Emirates

5. Funding instruments

Instrument	Aim	Description	Timing
Seed money for cooperation with Mediterranean countries	To assess the interest of developing a Mediterranean approach; To initiate larger joint activities or consolidating existing partnerships between Switzerland and the MENA region; To identify key research themes for future activities of the LHMENA.	Mediterranean countries will be the target of this call. The call will be open to any research theme that tackles challenges in the Mediterranean region	The call will be launched on the 6 th of March 2018
Young scientists mobility grants	To develop collaborations between Swiss HE institutions and partners in the MENA region.	Mobility grants for bachelor, master, PhD students and teaching staff with less than 6 year of professional experience	The call will be launched on the 6 th of March 2018
Innovation projects	To foster collaboration between academia and professional sectors.	Innovation projects must involve at least a Swiss higher education institution, an academic partner from the MENA region and an actor of the socio-economic sector.	The call will be launched at the beginning of 2019
2020 expo in Dubai	To promote the participation of Swiss researchers to the expo	The LHMENA will collaborate closely with other Swiss actors such as Presence Switzerland and swissnex to present the Swiss science, education and innovation landscape in this event.	2019-2020

5.1. Seed money for cooperation with Mediterranean countries

- **Goal:** to assess the interest of the Swiss scientific community to work at the regional level and to develop a Mediterranean approach
- **Target countries:** Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian territory and Tunisia
- **Open to all scientific disciplines**
- **Topic:** any research theme that tackles challenges in the Mediterranean region
- **Maximum budget:** 13'000 CHF
- **Deadline for submission:** 6th of May 2018
- **Evaluation:** committee formed by representatives of the Swiss Leading Houses

5.2. Young scientists mobility grants

- Young scientists from **Switzerland or the MENA region** who hold a **Bachelor or Master's degree but no PhD yet**, and with **not more than 6 years of professional research experience**
- The call is open for activities in all scientific disciplines and fields of research: activities may include field work and/or an internship in relation to the applicant's research project
- Host researchers must be **permanently employed principal investigators** at a university or research institute in their respective country
- The applicant's mobility visit should have a **minimum duration of 4 weeks** and the amount **not more than CHF 5'000 per grant**
- Applications will be accepted between **06.03.2018 and 31.12.2019**
- Applications will be evaluated by the Leading House MENA on a rolling basis

Thank you!
Ihmena@hes-so.ch