IPSAS Innovation Incubation Policy

📌 Context and Strategic Partnership

In March 2023, IPSAS signed a strategic partnership with **CoStarT**, a private incubator based at the **Sfax Technopark**, to support and boost innovation among IPSAS engineering students. This collaboration offers a unique opportunity to build a structured and dynamic framework for entrepreneurship and co-creation.

🎯 Vision

- To establish an **open innovation ecosystem** that encourages **collaboration and co-creation** between IPSAS engineering students, incubator innovators, mentors, and industry experts.
- To foster **entrepreneurship** among IPSAS students by equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to launch successful tech ventures.
- To promote **partnerships** between incubated companies and IPSAS students for the development of innovative solutions to complex industrial challenges.

❇️ Strategy

- Set up a **clear governance structure** for the partnership, including steering and monitoring committees to ensure that the objectives are met and that students receive proper support.
- Implement **training programs** for IPSAS engineering students focusing on entrepreneurship, innovation, project management, communication, and pitching.
- Organize **regular events** to foster collaboration and creativity, such as hackathons, workshops, roundtables, conferences, and innovation competitions.
- Build a **network of experienced mentors and industry professionals** to support students in developing projects, securing funding, and building professional skills.
- Create a **co-working space** where IPSAS students and incubator innovators can collaborate, share knowledge, and work on projects.
- Establish **partnerships with local businesses, investors, donors, and international incubators** to offer additional opportunities for student entrepreneurs.

📜 Policy

- Define **clear selection criteria** for incubated innovation projects based on quality, feasibility, economic viability, and growth potential.
- Implement **policies and procedures** to protect the intellectual property (IP) of incubated projects and ensure student compliance with IP regulations.

- Provide **financial support** for student-led innovation projects in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, or seed investments.
- Set up a **monitoring and evaluation committee** to regularly assess the partnership's progress, project quality, and impact on IPSAS engineering students.

☑ SMART Objectives (by End of 2025)

1. Increase by **50%** the number of IPSAS engineering students who have developed an innovative project in collaboration with the incubator.
2. Organize **at least two innovation-focused events** per year to foster collaboration between students and incubator innovators.
3. Secure **at least 10,000 TND** in additional funding to support IPSAS student innovation projects.

📁 Action Plan

- Launch a **training program on entrepreneurial and business skills** including business creation, financial management, strategic planning, and communication.
- Utilize the **dedicated CoStarT co-working space** as a creative hub equipped with the necessary tools and resources for innovation.
- Organize an **annual hackathon** bringing together IPSAS students and CoStarT innovators to work on real-world industry challenges, with prizes awarded to top projects.
- Develop a **pilot project** for a mobile virtual reality application for IPSAS students, in collaboration with the incubator and local industrial partners.
- Create an **online training module on intellectual property (IP) protection**, in collaboration with legal experts and the incubator.
- Establish a **structured mentoring program** pairing students with industry professionals and innovators to help guide their projects and build market-ready solutions.