



*Thesis  
Title:*

DIGITAL INNOVATION IN FINANCIAL SERVICES AND IRS IMPACT ON  
REGULATORY POLICY - AN ACTION PLAN TO FACILITATE THE  
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF BAHRAINI'S FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SECTOR

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## Abstract

Over the past decade, digital innovation and technological advancements altogether referred to as “FinTech” has caused a paradigm shift in the provision of financial services and the way it is regulated. This thesis will qualitatively explore multiple perspectives relating to this evolving phenomena from different angles including academia, industry and policy makers and will also identify and study the top macro trends and concepts relevant to FinTech including Blockchain, crypto-assets, robo-advisory, open banking and crowdfunding. Information will be synthesized to build a basis for a high-level action plan consisting of three dimensions such as policy, technology and infrastructure, to facilitate the digital transformation of Bahrain’s financial services sector.

The thesis will be supported by some primary data collected from three semi-structured interviews conducted with the most relevant people in this area in Bahrain.

**Keywords: Digital Innovation, Innovation, Banking, FinTech, Disruption, Financial Services, Policy, Regulation, Technology, RegTech, Crypto-Assets, Open Banking, Crowdfunding, Retail Banking**