



REPORT 17

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



2025



Ambassador of SDG 17

Prof Moez CHAFRA

President of the University of Tunis El Manar



Formalized Sino-Tunisian Academic Cooperation for Sustainable Development



A delegation from the University of Tunis El Manar, led by President Professor Moez CHAFRA, has formalized collaborative agreements with Hohai University and the University of Macau. The partnerships are designed to foster academic exchange and joint research initiatives, with a strategic focus on water resource management, civil engineering, and environmental protection.

These collaborations will leverage innovative technologies to contribute directly to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby strengthening the University of Tunis El Manar's academic ties with leading institutions in China.

Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism Development

Within the framework of the *Taaziz Program*, the University of Tunis El Manar has established dynamic partnerships with sustainability-focused resorts, including GDA Sidi Amor and several institutions in Germany. These collaborations are designed to embed sustainability principles into tourism and hospitality operations, promoting both environmental stewardship and socio-economic advancement. The partnership initiatives are articulated around three main strategic axes:



- **Implementation of Sustainable Tourism Practices:** The University collaborates with partner resorts to introduce and monitor environmentally responsible measures—such as reducing waste generation, optimizing energy consumption, and promoting efficient water use—aimed at strengthening the ecological integrity of tourism activities.
- **Advancement of Research and Innovation:** Joint research efforts are dedicated to designing and evaluating sustainable tourism models that balance ecological preservation with educational and professional development opportunities for students.
- **Local Community Empowerment:** The collaboration prioritizes inclusive growth by supporting employment opportunities, safeguarding cultural heritage, and fostering community-led economic initiatives that derive benefit from sustainable tourism.

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These initiatives directly contribute to the realization of several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Through these engagements, the University of Tunis El Manar demonstrates its commitment to embedding sustainability into tourism education, research, and practice at both the national and international levels.



The GEnMISTa'ziz Initiative

As part of its commitment to sustainable development, the University of Tunis El Manar (UTM) and its National Engineering School (ENIT) are engaged in a forward-looking partnership with the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau (WHZ), Germany. Supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the GEnMISTa'ziz initiative seeks to operationalize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a combination of education, research, and innovation-oriented collaboration. The project's central objective is to embed sustainability principles—particularly those linked to green engineering and responsible management—within higher education programs. It promotes curriculum renewal through the introduction of interdisciplinary modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, complemented by seminars, international conferences, and digital training sessions designed to strengthen alignment with SDG-related priorities. A strong emphasis is also placed on gender inclusion to enhance women's participation in emerging fields of green technology and sustainable innovation.



By deepening cooperation among academic institutions, industry stakeholders, and civil society organizations in Tunisia and Germany, GEnMISTa'ziz contributes to developing a new generation of engineers and innovators equipped to integrate sustainable solutions into industrial processes and community development. The initiative thereby reinforces both environmental responsibility and socio-economic resilience, advancing UTM's mission to link education with sustainable transformation.

The MIGRANTS Project: Cooperation Agreement and Final Conference

In Palermo, partners of the MIGRANTS Project reviewed the first phase (2021–2023) and signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen collaboration. The project aims to establish an international, interdisciplinary Master's program in Migration Studies covering governance, policies, and cultures. Coordinated by Tunisian universities (Tunis El Manar, Tunis, and Manouba) in partnership with the Universities of Palermo, Westminster, and Granada, as well as NGOs, the program combines research, policy analysis, and field engagement to address migration and refugee challenges while promoting inclusive, evidence-based education.



11th International Arab Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education



Held in Tunisia on 8–9 November 2023, the 11th International Arab Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education was jointly organized by the University of Tunis El Manar and Al-Zarqa University (Jordan). The program included an inaugural session and a series of workshops addressing diverse themes, including the promotion of quality culture, governance and strategic planning, assurance standards and their application, university ranking, vocational and technical education, e-learning quality, and innovation in higher education.

International Student Integration Days

The Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management at the University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia, hosted an event welcoming students of diverse nationalities. The program provided an overview of the faculty, its internal systems, and available specializations, while offering practical information on university life. Students were encouraged to engage actively by asking questions on registration, training, and campus services. This initiative supports innovation by promoting multiculturalism, fostering collaboration among students from varied backgrounds, and facilitating their integration into academic life, thereby encouraging the exchange of ideas and perspectives.



Academic Excellence – Collaboration with

The University of Tunis El Manar (UTM) maintains a strategic partnership with ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization) to promote academic excellence and international collaboration, thereby enhancing the university's standing in regional and global rankings. Through this partnership, UTM and other Arab universities have benefited from training provided by leading ranking organizations, including Times Higher Education and QS. This training equips institutions with a clearer understanding of global ranking criteria, supporting improvements in academic reputation, research output, and international collaboration, and strengthening their competitiveness in the Arab region and worldwide.





WE4LEAD Project Launch: Advancing Gender Equality in Higher Education



The University of Tunis El Manar, in collaboration with other Tunisian universities, hosted the launch of the "WE4LEAD" project at the Royal ASBU Hotel in Tunis. This Erasmus+ capacity-building initiative aims to increase women's representation in leadership positions within higher education institutions and promote gender equality in governance. Co-led by Aix-Marseille University (France) and the Lebanese University, the project involves partners from Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Italy, Spain, and other countries, fostering international collaboration to enhance women's leadership opportunities. The launch emphasized stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising as key elements in advancing the project's objectives.

Recognition of NGO Contributions to "UTM Sans Obstacles"

Mr. Radhouane Naghmouchi, former Director-General of the International Center for the Promotion of Disabled Persons, was honored for his pivotal role in the successful execution of the second edition of "UTM Sans Obstacles," held from May 26 to 28, 2023. His dedication and collaboration greatly enhanced the event's impact and outreach.



AUF-UTM Partnership to Support the New Student Entrepreneur Hub

The University of Tunis El Manar (UTM) and the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), represented by President Moez Chafra and Senior Project Manager Mr. Mejd Ayari respectively, have joined forces to strengthen support for student entrepreneurial initiatives. This collaboration enables students to benefit from the student-entrepreneur status and fosters the development of entrepreneurial skills for future ventures.



Hackathon Hack&Pitches Organized by ISSBAT in Partnership with P2E-UTM and Impact Partner



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Partnership with Enda Inter-Arabe to Support Student Entrepreneurship

Professor Moez Chafra, President of the University of Tunis El Manar, signed a partnership agreement with the NGO Enda Inter-Arabe on November 29, 2023. Through collaboration between Enda Startup Studio and the University's Student Entrepreneur Hub (P2E UTM), the initiative supports student entrepreneurship, with a particular emphasis on empowering women entrepreneurs via training, coaching, and development. The partnership contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), promoting innovation-driven economic growth and gender empowerment.



Partnership with African Universities

UTM has developed strategic partnerships with several African universities to enhance faculty and student mobility, promote research collaboration, and support mutual academic development. These initiatives contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), with notable collaborations including joint programs and academic exchanges with the University of Gamal Abdel Nasser Conakry in Guinea.



Triangular Partnership: Tunisia – Japan – African Countries in Medical Technologies

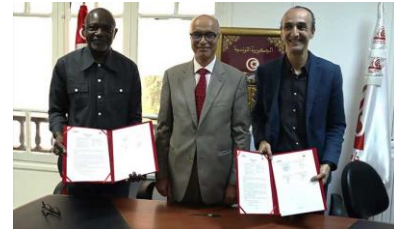


A cooperation agreement was signed at the Higher Institute of Medical Technologies in Tunis (ISTMT) on December 14, 2022, to launch a training program involving Tunisia, Japan, and African countries in medical technologies, supporting SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. The signing ceremony brought together key stakeholders, including Mr. Malek Kochlef (Director-General of International Cooperation at MESRS), Professor Moez Chafra (President of UTM), Mr. Adel Moadhen (Director of ISTMT), Mr. Fethi Zagrouba (Director-General, City of Sciences in Tunis), Mr. Shuhei Ueno (JICA Resident Representative), Mr. Daisuke Kawahara (Japanese Embassy), and Professor Hedi Trabelssi, the project coordinator at ISTMT.



Student Mobility through Dual Degree Agreement

UTM has established a dual degree agreement with ISI and IUT – Sorbonne Paris Nord, enabling second-year Bachelor's students to complete their third year at the partner institutions and earn a dual Licence/Bachelor degree. The agreement fosters academic mobility, international collaboration, and cross-cultural exchange.



Info Session on Free Soft Skills Training and Job Search Techniques



An information session on free soft skills training and job search techniques was organized in partnership with CORP (Centre d'Orientation et de Reconversion Professionnelle) and supported by a youth-focused NGO. The session provided practical tools and insights to enhance professional development, equipping participants with essential skills for the job market. This initiative supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), promoting sustainable employment opportunities and long-term career success.

Partnership with Brazilian Universities

The University of Tunis El Manar, represented by President Professor Moez Chafra, signed a cooperation agreement with the Brazilian Group of International Cooperation of Brazilian Universities (GCUB), represented by Mrs. Rossana Valéria de Souza e Silva. The agreement seeks to enhance faculty and administrative capacities, promote student exchanges, and develop joint teaching and research programs. It supports SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), fostering equality, mutual assistance, and strengthened academic collaboration.



Partnership with Saudi Arabia



A delegation from Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Saudi Arabia, led by Professor Abdulmajeed Albanyan, was hosted by Professor Moez Chafra, President of the University of Tunis El Manar. The meeting focused on exploring collaborative opportunities in education and scientific research, strengthening the partnership between the two institutions, and advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).



Partnership with Shell Licenses and Vivo Energy

The Institute of Higher Studies in Scientific and Technical Applications (ISSBAT) has established a strategic partnership with Shell Licenses and Vivo Energy to advance research and development in the energy sector, emphasizing sustainable solutions and environmental responsibility. The collaboration facilitates knowledge exchange, technical training, and joint research on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable practices, offering students, researchers, and industry professionals opportunities to contribute to Tunisia's energy transition and sustainability goals.



Cooperation Agreement with the National Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology

A cooperation agreement was signed with the National Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology to advance SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). The ceremony was attended by University President Professor Moez Chafra, Mrs. Najwa Ben Ammar, Director of the Institute, and Mrs. Jalila Al-Aati, Head of a Research Lab. The partnership aims to strengthen scientific collaboration, with Professor Chafra honoring Mrs. Ben Ammar and Mrs. Al-Aati for their contributions.



Collaboration on Sustainability and University Branding



A framework cooperation agreement was signed between Professor Moez Chafra, President of the University of Tunis El Manar, and Professor Mustafa Aydin, President of Istanbul Aydin University, in the presence of the Turkish Ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Ahmet Misbah Demircan. The partnership seeks to strengthen collaboration on sustainability initiatives and enhance university branding. Discussions also addressed opportunities for scientific cooperation and expertise exchange across fields such as medicine, engineering, humanities, economics, languages, and sustainable development.

Celebrating Excellence in Science at the Science Day Ceremony

An annual ceremony was held to celebrate academic excellence, honoring outstanding students and recognizing the dedication of faculty, staff, and administrators. University President Professor Moez Chafra commended students for their exceptional achievements in undergraduate, medical, and engineering programs, wishing them continued success. The event featured a cultural dance performance and brought together stakeholders, NGOs, community members, and students' families in a festive and inspiring atmosphere.

