Internationalisation at the University of Sfax, Tunisia

Adel M. Alimi & Lotfi Sellami

January 2012, Alicante, Spain
Located 270 km (168 miles) southeast of Tunis.
The city, founded in AD 849 on the ruins of Taparura and Thaenae
Sfax City
Sfax City

- Nearly 1 million people
- A multidisciplinary University
- "ICT" Technopark
- 5 Business start-up centers
Sfax University (Short Presentation 1/2)

- Created in: 1986
- Nb. of students: 43,000
- Nb. of teachers: 2,500
- Nb. of institutes: 20
• Nb. of research labs 26
• Nb. of research units 80
• Nb. of graduates/yr 6800

• Wide international cooperation
  EU; USA; Japan; MENA; Africa …
Main Challenges 1/4

- Improving teaching efficiency and attractiveness (LMD, co-construction)

- Developing R&D: Valorization, Innovation, Patenting, ...

- Improving Governance: Quality Assurance, Assessment, ...
Main Challenges 2/4

Heading towards the entrepreneurial University

- Employment survey and facilitations
  (Courses: English, EC, Computer Sciences)
- Entrepreneurial and innovation culture:
  teaching enterprise for students
- Making the University a main actor of regional development
Main Challenges 3/4

• Work on changing culture

• A real need to work it out together: social and economic environments, local representatives, university faculty, students, teachers, …
  o Acceptance of all members and their implication in this difficult but promising project.
  o Weakness of the link between the educational field and the innovative entreprise creation field.
  o Operating a real change of mentalities at all levels about innovation.

• The importance of the decentralized and contractual organization for more flexibility and accountability
The importance of the awareness campaigns to change students’ vision: higher education as a mean to accomplish their own life projects instead of a mean to get a job in the public sector.

University must be at the front line in spreading entrepreneurship culture mainly in developing countries.
IRO Description

Direction Générale de la Coopération Internationale

Direction de la Coopération Bilatérale

- Sous – direction de la Coopération avec l’Europe, L’Asie et l’Amérique
  - Service de L’Asie et de L’Amérique
  - Service de L’Europe

- Sous – direction de la Coopération avec Le Monde Arabe et l’Afrique
  - Service de la Coopération Arabe
  - Service de L’Afrique

Direction de la Coopération Multilatérale

- Sous – direction de la Coopération Entre les Universités
  - Service de la Coopération Entre les Universités
  - Service de la Documentation et de L’information

- Sous – direction de la Coopération Régionale Et Internationale
  - Service de la Coopération avec les Organisations Maghrébines et Arabes
  - Service de la Coopération avec les Organisations Régionales et Internationale

Université de Sfax

Sous Direction de la recherche scientifique de la coopération internationale et de l’évaluation universitaire

Service de la coopération internationale
1. Date of creation: **August 4th 2008**

2. Staff members:

   - **AbdelMonem Ayadi**: Vice president
   - **Lotfi Sellami**: General secretary
   - **Adel M. Alimi**: Academic coordinator
   - **Nejib Bouthelja**: Director of academic affairs and research partnerships
   - **Fatma Ghorbel**: Administrator in charge of projects MOU
   - **Khereddine Jamoussi**: Administrator in charge of mobility
   - **Hajer GHZAIEL**: Administrator in charge of research structure
   - **Faical DERBEL**: Computer technicien
   - **Henda MSAAED**: Secretary
   - **Mejda LOUMI**: Secretary
3. Equipment implementation: computers; laptops; printers; videoprojector, camera, etc.

4. IRO improvement from the beginning of the TIES project: introduction of IT in the pre-established IRO, recruiting staff for the IRO.

5. Website: http://www.uss.rnu.tn (Coopération internationale)
1. Improvement of the internationalisation at the institution:
   Achievement of the TIES objectives + practice of the workshops in the university
2. Evolution of the International Strategic Planning: development of international cooperation projects, developing an international collaboration with many universities worldwide, reinforce the quality of the educational programs and the pedagogy, extend a traditional commitment of the university, teaching and exchanging knowledge; promote the international exchange of teachers, students, and administrative staff
3. Incorporation of international dimension into the university mission: auto financing; co-diplomation; network of research and expertise; better visibility of the product of the University; comparability of degrees and programs
4. Development of mobility, active cooperation projects, international students:

**Mission:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td>378</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisian</td>
<td></td>
<td>489</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Grants:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students</td>
<td></td>
<td>924</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
<td></td>
<td>429</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Year 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia-France</td>
<td>Joint Committee university cooperation (CMCU)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Institute of Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia-Maghreb</td>
<td>Standing Joint Committee for Moroccan-Tunisian Research (CMPTM)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Projects Tunisia - Portugal</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Projects Tunisia - Spain</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Framework agreements for cooperation</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conventions Cotutelle</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of foreign teachers who have provided courses at the University of Sfax</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of foreign teachers at the University of Sfax missionaries</td>
<td>343</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of teachers who participated Tunisian (of science) abroad</td>
<td>577</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Beneficiaries of Tunisian teachers Stays</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of recipients of mobility in the framework of Averroes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD level</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master's level</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>license level</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>staff</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Projects Tempus</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of international scientific events organized at the University of Sfax</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Soft Application « IBHATH », e-filling for:

- Professors: management of perdiem for international missions, management of visits of foreign professors at our university

- Graduate students: Scholarship for international mobility (from ministry, from graduate schools, from laboratories, from projects, etc.)
جامعة صفاقس
المدرسة الوطنية للمهندسين بصفاقس
وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي والتكنولوجيا

نظمت "إبحث" لتسير شؤون البحث العلمي

تنظيم وتسير كل الشؤون الخاصة:

- بمطالب منح البحث العلمي
- بمطالب منح الأساتذة الزائرين
- بمطالب منح التداول
- بمطالب منح مدرسة الدكتوراه
- وعقود عمل المتحاقيدين العاملين
- بمخابير البحث
Needs of supporting Team: Training
1. Participation in Regional Networks: CEMUR; RMEI; Téthys
2. Expectations about:
   a) Cooperation programs: increasing the number of co-diploma (actually 6)
   b) Mobility: 84 foreign researchers
   c) International students & professors: develop a strategic plan and an official status (actually 232 foreign students, 17 foreign professors)
3. How to increase the international vision of the institution: leadership, creation of an IPMO (International Project Management Office)
4. Dissemination: web site, seminars, training
1. Expectations of the TIES Project: certification of the IRO

2. Synergies between the consortium partners:
   a) new cooperation schemes and agreements, codiplomation, joint degrees, etc.
   b) possible future joint activities (ENPI + Tempus + FP7)
Thanks for your attention