

# **Internationalisation at the University of Sfax, Tunisia**

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# Sfax City



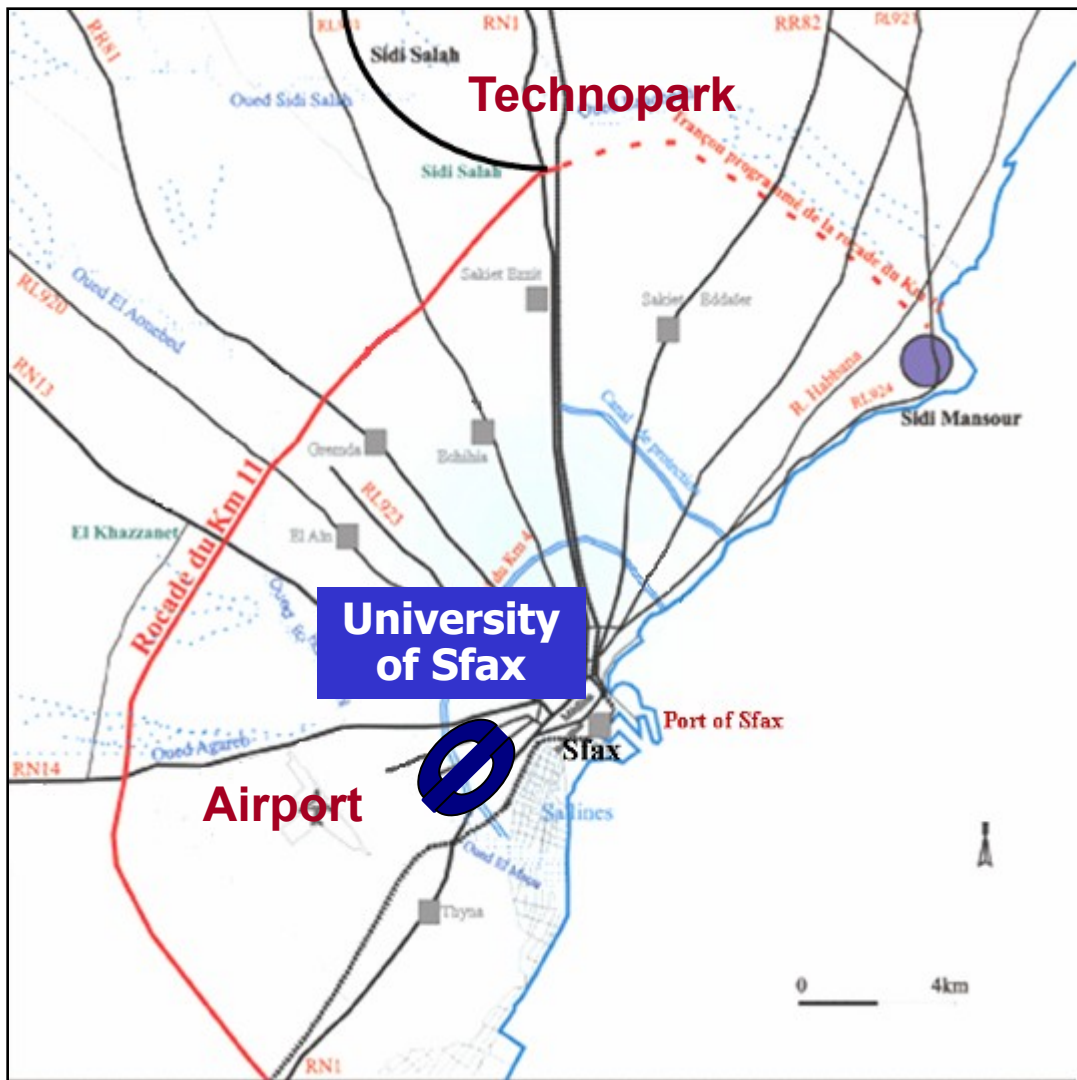
Located 270 km (168 miles) southeast of Tunis.

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 **2500**
- Nb. of institutes **20**

## Sfax University (Short Presentation 1/2)

- 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**

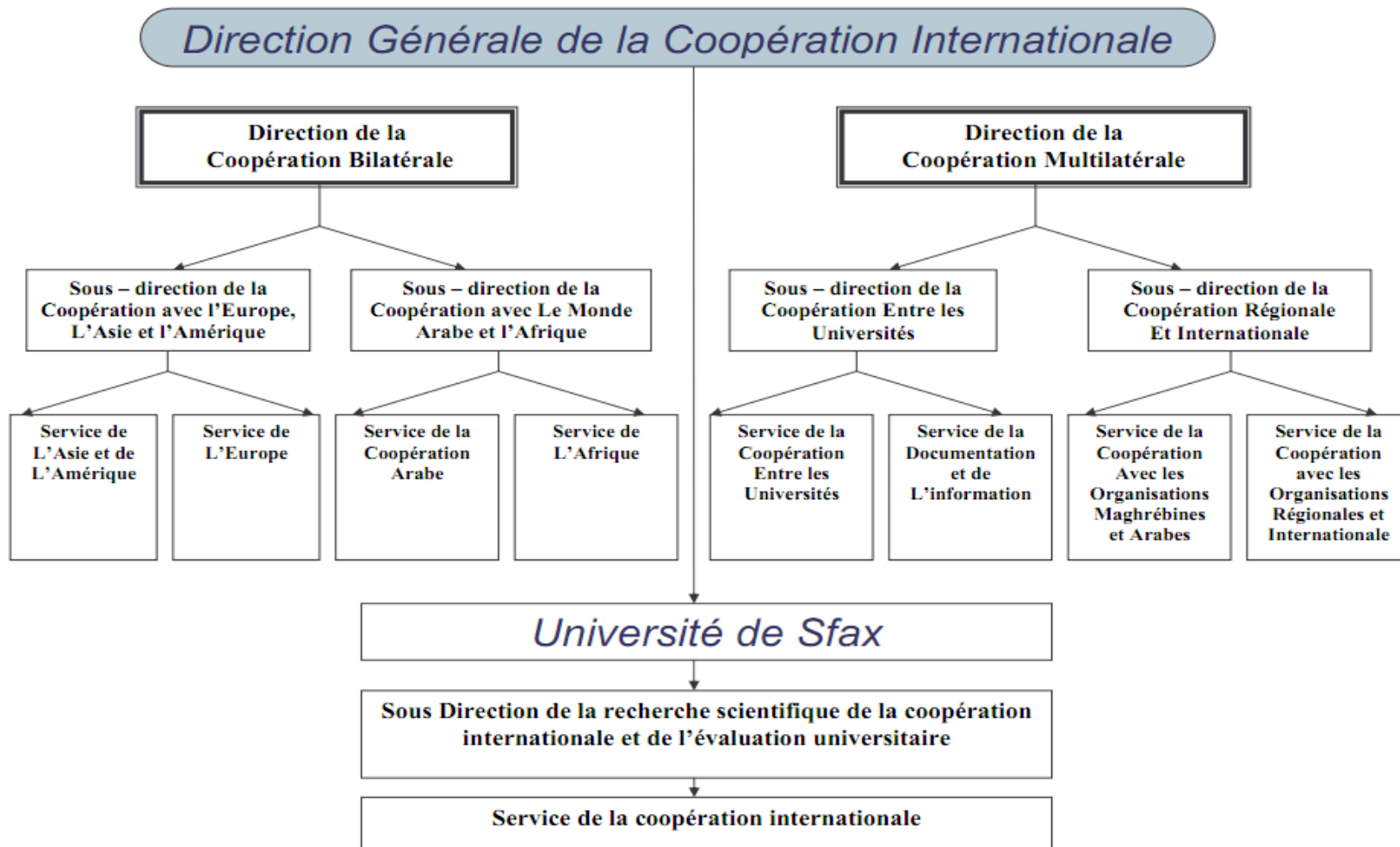
## Main Challenges 3/4

- **Work on changing culture**
- **A real need to work it out together: social and economic environments, local representatives, university faculty, students, teachers, ...**
  - Acceptance of all members and their implication in this difficult but promising project.
  - Weakness of the link between the educational field and the innovative enterprise creation field.
  - Operating a real change of mentalities at all levels about innovation.
- **The importance of the decentralized and contractual organization for more flexibility and accountability**

## Main Challenges 4/4

- 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



## IRO Description

1. Date of creation: August 4<sup>th</sup> 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 technician

Henda MSAED: Secretary

Mejda LOUMI: Secretary

## IRO Description

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)

## Internationalisation at Sfax University

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 world wide, 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

## Internationalisation of Sfax University

### 4. Development of mobility, active cooperation projects, international students:

#### Mission:

Year	2009	2010	2011
Beneficiary			
Foreign	378	413	343
Tunisian	489	497	393

#### Research Grants:

Year	2009	2010	2011
Beneficiary			
Graduate students	924	745	713
Professors	429	439	374

# Internationalisation of Sfax University

	Indicators	Year 2010
<b>Projects Tunisia-France</b>	Joint Committee university cooperation (CMCU)	25
	National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)	14
	National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM)	2
	National Institute of Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA)	4
<b>Projects Tunisia-Maghreb Standing Joint Committee for Moroccan-Tunisian Research (CMPTM)</b>		40
<b>Projects Tunisia - Portugal</b>		7
<b>Projects Tunisia - Spain</b>		3
<b>Framework agreements for cooperation</b>		69
<b>Conventions Cotutelle</b>		96
<b>Number of foreign teachers who have provided courses at the University of Sfax</b>		61
<b>Number of foreign teachers at the University of Sfax missionaries</b>		343
<b>Number of teachers who participated Tunisian (of science) abroad</b>		577
<b>Number of Beneficiaries of Tunisian teachers Stays</b>		19
<b>Number of recipients of mobility in the framework of Averroes</b>	PhD level	9
	Master's level	2
	license level	2
	staff	5
<b>Number of Projects Tempus</b>		10
<b>Number of international scientific events organized at the University of Sfax</b>		47

## IBHATH platform at Sfax University IRO

**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.)**

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## بمخابر البحث

## Needs of supporting Team: Training



## Vision for the internationalisation

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

## Impacts of the project

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

