

## - MINUTES

**Date:** 24 and 25 May 2022

**Location:** Tunis, Tunisia

**Event called by:** Luca Verzichelli

### EVENT DESCRIPTION

<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE EVENT:</b>	21
<b>PARTICIPANTS (ORGANISATIONS):</b>	<p>1. University of Tunis El Manar <i>Moez Charra (President); Asma Nouria; Samira Mechri; Khalifa Harbouj; Fadila Darragi</i></p> <p>2. University of Carthage <i>Asma Ghachem, Neila Chaabane, Wafa Harrar Masmoudi</i></p> <p>3. University of Kairouan <i>Mohammed Sahbi; Tafa Guerfel; Selmi Wafik</i></p> <p>4. University of Sousse <i>Hichem Romdhani; Lotfi Tarchouna</i></p> <p>5. University of Sfax <i>Nejib Bouthelja; Faiez Gargouri</i></p> <p>6. University of Siena <i>Luca Verzichelli; Matias Nestore</i></p> <p>7. University of Montpellier <i>Christophe Roux</i></p> <p>8. University of Granada <i>Guadalupe Martinez Fuentes; Raquel Ojeda Garcia</i></p> <p>9. UNIMED <i>Silvia Marchionne</i></p>
<b>EVENT DESCRIPTION:</b>	



**DAY 1 - 24 May 2022.**

Meeting with Dr. Malek Kochlef, Director General of International Cooperation, MHESR

Introduction by Dr. Malek Kochlef: relevance of the project. Interest of the MHESR to develop a new initiative of cooperation in the field of social science.

Round table with all the participants from the Tunisian universities. All of them agree on the Master project. Given the delay of the meeting due to the COVID19 outbreak, the common proposal is to submit a formal accreditation at the end of 2022. This will allow the start of the master's in the course of the next academic year. But this entails the postponement of the Pactum project by one year.

Luca Verzichelli takes note of this request and assures that the work of preparation of the dossier will be speed enough to enter the pipeline of the Ministerial accreditation in time. The agenda is the following:

1. Consolidation of the Document *PACTUM Master Course Paperwork* at the end of the Tunis Meeting (USIena) (first week of June 2022)
2. Adoption of the document via e-mail subscription (June 2022)
3. Definition of a shared procedure of application (Ucar + Usf) (to be decided among partners)
4. Definition of grids of potential local instructors (All) (June – September 2022)
5. Definition of lists of external instructors (All) (in presence and online) from Usiena, Ugr, Umon (June – September 2022)
6. Discussion of syllabi and plan of study (July- September 2022)
7. Pactum General Conference (Rome or Tunis) (to be announced)

Common statement on accreditation dossier (end of November 2022)

As far as the partnership of MHESR is concerned, Dr. Kochlef assures the commitment of the Ministry to respond to the request after a check with the legal office. A copy of the Grant agreement is provided by Luca Verzichelli. An exchange of letters between USIena and MHESR will follow.

**h. 2 pm Tunis El Manar**

During the first session, the discussion proceeds with a round table concerning the state of the play of Pactum. After the introduction from the local hosts, Luca Verzichelli informs all the participants about the meeting with Dr. Malek Kochlef. A round table starts. Different points of view about the substantial content of the master and the interplay between the original proposal and the requirements asked by the Tunisian authorities (see the file *demand d'habilitation d'un Master* enclosed).

In particular, the questions of the timing and the authorship of the submission are exploited.

Other points are discussed about the future development of the master project:

- The difference between compulsory credits (in specific disciplines) and “curricular specificities”
- The centrality of compulsory internship
- The offer of additional stages, especially with ONG and international organizations

In the second session, a set of concrete proposals for the preparation of the application are discussed. Most importantly, the partners decide to share soon a list of local references for the organization of the master and the group of local instructors to be appointed for the compulsory courses. Moreover, the discussion has been focused on the possible titles of compulsory courses (see last document concerning the project of the Master enclosed) while the non-compulsory courses may be decided later, between July and September.



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## **DAY 2 - 25 May 2022.**

h. 9 a.m. Tunis El Manar

After the introduction from all the participants, Prof. Moez Chafra, Président de l'Université de Tunis El Manar gives a speech on the strategies and outcomes of internationalization in this academic institution. Luca Verzichelli thanks the president for his time and his hospitality. A discussion on the crucial tasks of international cooperation, especially in the Mediterranean area, follows.

The second slot of the day is devoted to a short resume of the meeting with Dr. Malek Kochlef (MHESR). Luca Verzichelli presents to all the participants a powerpoint document reproducing the state of the play and the future agenda (see file enclosed).

After the break, the participants discuss the questions of the recruitment of students and the management of academic training for the Tunisian partners. A proposal to take two formal events in Europe (Roma/Siena in 2022 and Granada in 2023) is launched, in order to give the local hosts the responsibility to organize both 2 General Assemblies (in 2022 the GA will be mainly focused on evaluating the second edition of summer school, in 2023 the launch of the master program will be the hot issue) and some training activities.

The next session on the substantive agenda will specify the content.

After 11.30 a.m. the state of the play with the second edition of the Summer schools is discussed. Christophe Roux presented, one after the other, the main topics and the guests of the 5 summer schools. A round table starts, focused on practices and suggestions.



The local hosts are asked to provide a blended/hybrid system, in order to accept also students from Europe who have difficulties in traveling. Some efforts from the European partners will be done to send some students to Tunisia.

Also, the question of language is discussed. Differently from the master, where at least 50% of frontal teaching should be offered in English, the local host are left free to accept contributions in French. However, English as a lingua franca is still suggested, In any case, teaching material and presentation should be available in French.

An urgent campaign of communication about the summer school is needed. Luca Verzichelli will make a point with the Project manager and the Webmasters to make this campaign rapid and efficient.

h. 2 p.m. Tunis El Manar

The first slot of the afternoon is devoted to the future agenda of the project. The following decisions are taken

1. Organizing two GA in presence to give continuity to the work (see above) and in the meantime to offer training sessions to a few colleagues from the Tunisian partners. The period should be the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November (Siena) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March for Granada (Dates to be confirmed)
2. Organization of the social media campaign on Summer school and announcement of the master initiative to socialize as many colleagues as possible
3. Bridging between the two outcomes (summer schools and master) by disseminating materials (papers, existing publications, new publications involving Tunisian and European partners)
4. Involvement of stakeholders
5. Project of an Erasmus Mundus initiative that can bring continuity to the master initiative also at the end of the Pactum project.

A formalization of the steering committee of Pactum is also decided. The SC will include, as voting members, one academic member for each university. However, one administrative reference for each university will be included to assure the circulation of information within each community.

The last slot of the 2-day meeting is dedicated to the main administrative issues

1. Administrative and reporting deadlines (first reporting period).
2. Solving the management of the Travel and Stay budget by Tunisian partners, the Coordinator will explore the possibility of centralizing the budget and what amendments to the original plan this would involve.
3. Guidance on equipment purchasing.
4. Agreement on the management of summer schools' enrolments.

## ATTACHMENTS

<b>ATTENDANCE SHEET (pdf):</b>	Attendance list
<b>UPDATED MASTER'S FILE</b>	May 2022 Master's file