

# Erasmus+ PACTUM PROJECT

Projecting Academic Capacities with Tunisian  
Universities through Master courses.



PACTUM

## PROJECT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 02, AUGUST 2023



### CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



Co-funded by the  
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## The Pactum 2023 Summer Schools. Real innovation in higher education cooperation.

In this time of mistrust and apathy, education is a high priority for all the countries,, But it is a high priority especially in those areas of the world where peace and prosperity are challenged by phenomena like poverty, massive migration, social conflicts and cultural polarization. To secure peace and prosperity, we need to enhance our education systems. This is the only way to envisage a future.



In our small “Pactum workshop” we experience the difficulties but also the enormous potential of cooperation among Northern and Southern Mediterranean people. In particular, we run cooperation among higher education institutions, in order to improve our teaching and our learning processes in the field of social sciences. In the perspective of a more open, friendly, and inclusive university system. We are envisaging a truly Mediterranean university system, where every single institution may preserve its traditions and its autonomy, creating, in the meantime, momentum for the convergence among intents and methods. A convergence which includes all the components of our learners’ communities: scholars, researchers, staff. And, above all, students.

The figures are well-known: despite the remarkable level of government spending on education, the access to university degrees remains limited and the employability of graduates is not very attractive. There is a clear mismatch between qualifications of our graduates in the whole Mediterranean area and the demands of the labour market. This particularly applies to the field of social science, which appears today particularly challenged by the attractiveness of STEM disciplines. However, never before the need of graduates in social sciences and the quest of new expertise in the fields of international relations and global studies emerge. This is the moment to innovate our cooperation.

The Pactum projects is intended to provide new instruments to improve academic cooperation in this wide domain. The summer schools we have organized in the course of 2023 (four of them already held when this NL goes public, one to be held after the summer break) touch some of the most crucial aspects of contemporary transformation: new Local Politics & Policies, Democratic instability, Representative Democracy, Public policy, gender and culture, Public Policy and Human Rights. This, in short, the set of subjects we have presented this year.

But the originally of our summer schools goes beyond the innovation of the courses’ content. Indeed, we are focusing on innovation of methods and new attitudes to interaction. Our students ask us to teach new hard and soft skills. And we need to learn from them as well. Especially when we are dealing with inter-generational cultural gaps, different approaches to global challenges and cultural change. We are very happy of the progress we are doing in terms of methodology. This will be a fundamental point of departure for our future cooperation.

*Just have a look to the reports of the Pactum activities summarised in this Newsletter. And let us know your feedbacks!*

**Prof. Luca Verzichelli, Pactum Project co-ordinator.**

## TRAINING SESSION IN SOUSSE 2023

The second PACTUM general training Session has been held in Sousse between 16 and 19 February 2023. This event has been participated by more than 20 instructors from the Pactum universities. A special attention has been devoted, during the session, to the innovative teaching methods and to the inclusion of students in the learning communities that will be engaged with the Pactum Master program.



## KAIROUAN DISSEMINATION EVENT

On 20 February 2023 the coordinator of PACTUM project, Prof. Luca Verzichelli, has been guest of the university of Kairouan for a disseminative event offered to several students from the classes of political science and law. The event has consisted in a dialogue with Prof. Ghaith Chaouch on different themes, like the importance of a curriculum in social science, the relevance of the key topics included in the master as well as other themes like the exposition of students to mobility, civic engagement, and intercultural relations.



## ONLINE TRAINING SESSIONS 2023

During April 2023 and May 2023, a series of 7 online sessions have been offered to a good number of actors from the Pactum universities. Differently from the content of the previous training sessions in presence, these events have focused mainly on techniques of teaching and research methods, and they have been offered especially to PhD students, post-doc researchers and Junior staff that will be involved in the pactum master program in social sciences.

The sessions have been held with the collaboration of some European partners. The key-note introductions have been offered by: Luca Verzichelli, Gianni del Panta, Simone Cresti (Siena), Roser Manzanera-Ruiz Guillermo Lopez-Rodriguez, Patricia Garcia-Espin, Miguel José Arjona-Sanchez (Granada).



**TEACHING COMPARATIVE POLITICS TODAY.**  
A MEDITERRANEAN PERSPECTIVE.

PACTUM  
Online TRAINING  
28<sup>th</sup> APR 23  
09 AM

Luca VERZICHELLI  
UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

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PACTUM  
**RETHINKING POLITICAL REGIMES  
BEYOND THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL.**

Online TRAINING  
08<sup>th</sup> MAY 23  
11 AM

Pr. Gianni DEL PANTA  
UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

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PACTUM  
Online TRAINING  
11<sup>th</sup> MAY 23  
10-12 AM

Internationalisation of the CV of Social Science Master's students  
Security and Defense studies from a Mediterranean perspective

Roser Manzanera Ruiz  
Guillermo Lopez Rodriguez  
UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

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PACTUM  
**THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: POLICIES AND CASES**

Online TRAINING  
23<sup>th</sup> MAY 23  
12:00-13:00

Simone CRESTI  
UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

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PACTUM  
EP.06 : ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY: POSSIBILITIES OF CONTRIBUTION AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES

Patricia GARCIA ESPIN  
UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

Miguel Jose ARJONA SANCHEZ  
UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

Online TRAINING  
25<sup>th</sup> MAY 23  
10:00 - 12:00

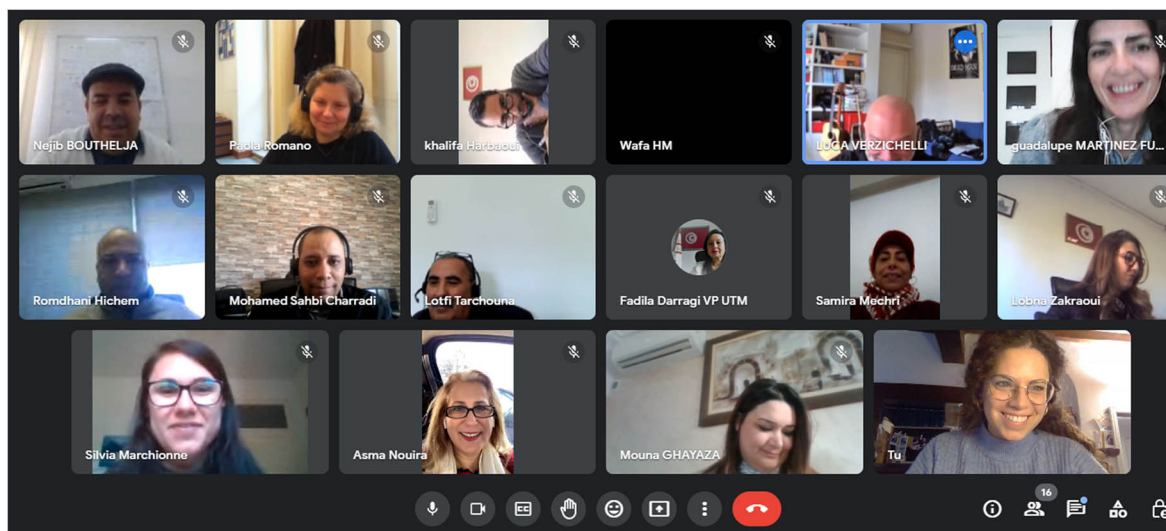
EP.07 : FROM PUBLIC LAW TO POLITICAL SCIENCE: CROSS-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK

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## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACTUM MASTER PROGRAM

During the spring of 2023, the activities for the preparation of the PACTUM master program have been accelerated. After a PACTUM general call, held in the month of March 2023, a number of bilateral contacts have been taken in order to assure the conditions for the start of the program and socialise the local teams with the coordination team and the other partners.

Among the documents prepared during the spring of 2023, the Master info package for instructors and staff, the press release to be used during the phase of students' recruitment and a dedicated webpage for collecting the open access teaching material, to be used in the master classes.



## PACTUM NETWORK OF TUNISIAN OF TUNISIA CSOs



The Pactum team is working to an ambitious work of contacts and cooperation with the CSOs operating in Tunisia. These actors, involved in the pactum training activities, will be particularly helpful during the implementation of the Master program and, specifically, during the second year of the master study plan.

Linda Krzikalla, junior research assistant at the CIRCp – Centre of Research on Political Change of the University of Siena – is working to the project. After the phase of data gathering on the network of actors, there will be a round of contacts to collect qualitative data and offer a partnership to the relevant organization in order to bring them in the context of the PACTUM activities.

## PACTUM SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

The third cycle of PACTUM summers school is ongoing. While we are publishing this NL 4 of the 5 summer schools have been celebrated. The first summer school, held in Sfax, has been devoted to the topic representative democracy today, on 6-8 June 2023.

The second summer school, titled Democratic instability and authoritarian revival, has been held in Kairouan between 19 and 21 June. The third summers school, held in Tunis El Manar has been dedicated to Public policy, gender and culture (on 21-23 June), while the fourth one has been held in Sousse between 3 and 5 July, exploring the topic Transformations of local politics and policies in Tunisia since 2014.

The fifth and last Summer school will be held later in Carthage (10-11 October 2023 with the title Public policy and human rights). However, the good participation of students (with an average of more than 20 attendants for each school) and the participation in presence of several instructors (both from the partner universities and even from public administration and civil society) already describe the successful approach of this cycle of PACTUM school. The first cycle entirely offered in presence.

The participation and attention of students testify the need of the academic offer in social science, comparative politics and international relations in Tunisia and confirms the good premises of the approach followed by the Pactum project.



Five short summer schools will be organised in 2023 in the context of the PACTUM project. The summer schools aim at bringing together Tunisian and European teachers and learners, providing intensive seminars in several social science fields.

### 1. University of SFAX

*Representative Democracy Today*  
[ 6-7-8 June 2023 ]

### 2. University of KAIROUAN

*Democratic instability and authoritarian revival*  
[ 19-20-21 June 2023 ]

### 3. University of TUNIS EL MANAR

*Public policy, gender and culture.*  
[ 22-23 June 2023 ]

### 4. University of SOUSSE

*The Transformation of Local Politics & Policies in Tunisia since 2014*  
[ 3-4 July 2023 ]

### 5. University of CARTHAGE

*Public Policy and Human Rights*  
[ 10-11 October 2023 ]

>>> Visit the PACTUM website for more information and application.



THANK YOU

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