



# PACTUM

## Summer School Activities

**Erasmus+ Programme**

**Key Action 2 "Capacity Building for Higher Education"**

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## Project information

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>PACTUM</b>
<b>Full name</b>	Projecting Academic Capacities with Tunisian Universities through Master courses
<b>Project No</b>	618888-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
<b>Programme</b>	EPPKA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
<b>Action</b>	CBHE-JP - Capacity Building in Higher Education - Joint Projects
<b>Coordinator</b>	USIENA
<b>Project start date</b>	15/01/2021
<b>Project duration</b>	36 months

## Document Control Sheet and Classification

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## 1. Introduction

The PACTUM project had as its main goals the exchange of degree planning experiences in the field of social sciences, **the organization of preparatory summer schools**, and the design of a vocational master's course enriched by the involvement of social actors and public administration. The intention was to converge on the crucial need to boost positive impact on students and mutual enrichment between European and Tunisian academics. From this perspective, the project aimed at impacting four target groups in Tunisia: students (from the undergraduate level to the master level and even to the PhD level), teaching staff, public employees both from territorial administration and other public organisations (including universities), and engaged citizens and groups from the civil society organisations.

One of the PACTUM's main outcomes, which lies at the core of this document as its specific focus, has been the development of **three annual cycles of five summer schools** dedicated to sustainability, good governance and public administration, democratic theories, and participation in the Mediterranean area. All these activities have been held at five Tunisian universities and involved the three European university partners of the PACTUM project, the University of Siena, the University of Montpellier, and the University of Granada, whose instructors extensively contributed to the development and implementation of these summer courses. Each summer school was conceived for an overall duration of three days of 24 hours in total, divided as follows:

- 16 hours of lectures and seminars;
- 8 hours of students' activities (home activities or group work in class).

## 2. Overview

Who were the intended audiences for our summer schools? The primary focus has consistently been on BA and MA students. The latter target was mainly addressed to share specific training content and learning experiences with skilled students already familiar with topics related to social sciences, international relations and problems of contemporary politics and society in the Mediterranean region. The other target was representing the potential audience of the future master programme (in social sciences) that the PACTUM project intends to establish.

The project aimed not only to equip students with tools for comprehending a complex world and fostering awareness of their rights and responsibilities but also to prepare future public servants and political leaders to tackle challenges such as corruption and inefficient bureaucracy. Consequently, each Tunisian University enrolled a minimum of 20 students per course, with a notable exception during the third and final annual session of summer schools, where public employees actively participated. The objective was to furnish Tunisian public employees with the necessary skills to engage in public policies and self-reform within their institutions, emphasising transparency, accountability, and meritocracy in the third cycle of





summer schools. Additionally, broader participation from civil society was sought, involving Tunisian associations and organizations with extensive experience in the realms of political accountability and transparency. In the three years of the PACTUM project, the entire consortium tried to cope with these objectives, putting more and more effort into granting a good number of students and a variety of participation.

In the first year, in particular, the European partners opened the call for applications to international students. Thus, students coming from both EU partner institutions and other external universities attended – although only virtually, given the limitations to mobility in times of pandemic outbreak. Also, most Tunisian students could participate only on a remote modality. Indeed, the first year of summer school has been challenged by the regulations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic which reduced the chance for international students to attend the courses in person. In this scenario, we want to highlight the great effort and results achieved by our Tunisian partners who have excellently managed the execution of their summer courses, despite the undeniable lack of digital resources and the connection issues we have faced daily in the aftermath of the pandemic.

In the second year, a general increase in participation, engagement and satisfaction has been noticed. Following the recommendations made by the EACEA communicated by our Project Officer, the Tunisian Universities were invited to mainly focus and thus select the applications sent by Tunisian students, being the main target of the project. Consequently, the European participation was mainly represented by the instructors sent by the PACTUM partner institutions. The progress quality evaluation of the first two cycles of summer schools has been provided by the partners responsible for the Quality-related activities and will be published on the PACTUM website together with the final quality evaluation to demonstrate the increasingly positive progress obtained by our Tunisian partners.

Indeed, the third and last year of summer school is considered by the coordination team, corroborated by the positive feedback of students, to have been the most positive and satisfying one. The coordination team itself had the chance to attend three of the five summer courses, thus verifying interest, attendance rate and enthusiasm shown by the attendants. Being the year devoted to the recruitment of future students of the PACTUM Master's program, the coordination team from USIENA in Kairouan has provided a couple of presentation sessions focused on innovative teaching and learning methods which would have been used in the PACTUM MA program. It has provided some tools to check the international job market for young students interested in this future perspective and has presented topics of current international concern. In Tunis El Manar the coordination team encountered the presence of PA professionals and CSOs' members and has created simulation games and project works to illustrate the potentiality of this PACTUM MA. In Carthage, the highest attendance rate has been recorded again (around 40 participants in this last session, and 60 in the previous year). In Sousse and in Sfax, our European partners provided both in-person and online classes on some of the topics included in the PACTUM MA programs' study plans.



The programs, the main data on participation in the Summer schools and some pictures will be reported in the next sections. To find more detailed info please visit the *Courses* page of our PACTUM website:

- PACTUM SUMMER SCHOOLS 2021 → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=6>
- PACTUM SUMMER SCHOOL 2022 → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=84>
- PACTUM SUMMER SCHOOL 2023 → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=98>

### 3. Summer Schools 2021

The five Tunisian summer schools scheduled in the first year are listed in the poster below.

The overall participation in this cycle of school was 80 students and 25 instructors, 15 of whom came from the European partners of the project.

Please find the links to each summer school's page to see programs, pictures and so forth:

- University of Sousse, *Inclusive politics and citizenship* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=59>
- University of Carthage, *Comparative public policy and sustainable development* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=60>
- University of Kairouan, *Elites in regime changes* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=61>
- University of Sfax, *Dynamics of territorial politics and institutions* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=62>
- University of Tunis El Manar, *Issues in contemporary Mediterranean democratic politics* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=63>





**SUMMER SCHOOLS SESSION 2021**  
FROM 29/09 TO 20/10

Five short summer schools will be organised in 2021 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 SOUSSE**  
*Inclusive politics and citizenship*  
[29-30 September - 1 October, 2021]
- 2. University of CARTHAGE**  
*Comparative public policy and sustainable development*  
[4-5-6 October 2021]
- 3. University of KAIROUAN**  
*Elites in regime changes*  
[7-8-9 October 2021]
- 4. University of SFAX**  
*Dynamics of territorial politics and institutions*  
[11-12-13 October 2021]
- 5. University of TUNIS EL MANAR**  
*Issues in contemporary Mediterranean democratic politics*  
[18-19-20 October 2021]

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## 4. Summer Schools 2022

The five Tunisian summer schools scheduled in the second year are listed in the poster below. The overall participation in this cycle of school was 100 students and 30 instructors, 15 of whom came from the European partners of the project.

Please find below the links to each summer school's page to see programs, some pictures and the details of the content:

- University of Sousse, Elections and democratic transitions → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=85>



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- University of Carthage, Powers in crisis → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=86>
- University of Kairouan, Populism and democratic transition → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=87>
- University of Sfax, Policies of health and economic crisis management → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=88>
- University of Tunis El Manar, Human rights in the context of Covid-19 → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=89>

Five short summer schools will be organised in 2022 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**  
*Policies of health and economic crisis management*  
[ 6-7-8 June 2022 ]
- 2. University of SOUSSE**  
*Elections and democratic transitions*  
[ 24-25-27 June 2022 ]
- 3. University of KAIROUAN**  
*Populism and democratic transition*  
[ 18-19-20 July 2022 ]
- 4. University of TUNIS EL MANAR**  
*Human rights in the context of Covid-19*  
[ 19-20-21 October 2022 ]
- 5. University of CARTHAGE**  
*Powers in crisis*  
[ 10-11 November 2022 ]

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## 5. Summer Schools 2023

The five Tunisian summer schools scheduled in the third and last year are listed in the poster below.





The overall participation in this cycle of school was 110 students and 45 instructors, 25 of whom came from the European partners of the project.

Please find below the links to each summer school's page to see programs, some pictures and the details of the program:

- University of Sousse, *The transformation of local politics and policies in Tunisian since 2014* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=105>
- University of Carthage, *Public Policy and Human Rights* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=109>
- University of Kairouan, *Democratic instability and authoritarian revival* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=106>
- University of Sfax, *Representative Democracy Today* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=107>
- University of Tunis El Manar, *Public policy, gender and culture* → <https://pactum-project.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=108>



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 ]

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## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, as mentioned in other project materials and the previous reports interconnected with this WP, the coordination team - in collaboration with Pixel (external evaluators subcontracted in the framework of the PACTUM project) and coping with the requests presented by EACEA in their midterm evaluation - redacted guidelines document presented and discussed before the development of the third annual cycle of summer schools. We aimed to provide as many tangible results as possible in terms of a variety of instructors, presentations to be used as teaching material, attendance sheets and so forth. In particular, we highlight the availability of these materials and information on our PACTUM website (short bio of some of our instructors, PPT presentations of the last sessions and so forth). We also highlight organisational developments in terms of communication: indeed, the PACTUM consortium has implemented a regular use of its social networks to sponsor the planning and beginning of each summer school and that, for the sake of their own identity and independence, our Tunisian partners have individually and independently managed the sponsorship of their summer programs, more often preferring in-person communication with their students, rather than their institutional websites.

As far as the substantive content of the summer schools is concerned, the three cycles of schools have been organized consistently with a logic of preparation to the need of an international faculty which is expected to deliver something more structural - like a graduate program in social sciences. Indeed, from the general topics covered especially during the online courses of the first year, a specific focus has been then devoted to some key problems of the contemporary world: weakness of decision-makers and problems of policy-making, problems of contemporary politics with specific reference to the *democratic backsliding*, gender politics, regime changes, sustainable development and other connected issues. The learning methodology has also significantly evolved: the summer schools in presence offered during the second and - above all - the third year of the project have made extensive use of design thinking and interactive learning processes. Moreover, sessions of restitution and self-evaluation have been proposed, to develop critical thinking and open discussions with all the components of the class.

In general, the coordination team is overall satisfied with the participation in terms of numbers, and an increasing number of students and instructors committed to the PACTUM project thus highlighting at least a positive tendency in terms of impact. Also, the coordination team is highly satisfied with how each partner of the PACTUM consortium managed its resources, how it used them and the constant effort and engagement shown during the entire lifespan of the PACTUM project.