

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Fondation SMU  
MSB - MedTech - LCI

Cultivate TALENT . Develop CREATIVITY . Open HORIZONS



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Looking back at a year where, despite the turbulence caused by the global pandemic, the SMU community found new ways to come together to learn and work, while also being able to reinvent our core mission and the way we deliver our programs.

2021 has been another challenging year for our university and our community, but despite this context, our foundation has been able to deliver and grow, thanks to our donors' and partners' involvement. The foundation's core programs around education, research, employability and capacity building have continued and broadened, reaching a larger audience.

On behalf of the foundation and our SMU teams, I would like to thank our partners for their generosity and their commitment and I hope to see more achievements in 2022.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mahmoud Triki'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is located below the main text of the message.

**MAHMOUD TRIKI**

President South Mediterranean University  
& Fondation SMU

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

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SMU Foundation is a Tunisian non-profit association founded in 2018 by the South Mediterranean University (SMU-Group MSB, MedTech and LCI). Its aim is to promote and support the development of youth through the funding of student scholarships, research projects as well as employability and capacity building initiatives.

Our objective is to open our programs to the community and to as many people as possible. Therefore, we have developed a rigorous selection process to make our programs accessible to the most deserving candidates, while offering equal opportunities to all.



## MISSION

Promote and support the development of talent through scholarships funding, research projects, capacity building & employability initiatives.



## VISION

Nurture talent  
Broaden horizons  
Develop creativity



## VALUES

Excellence  
Diversity  
Innovation  
Integrity

# AREAS OF ACTION

## EDUCATION

### Foster talent and Open quality Education to all

Offer scholarships and loans to students who have the talent and ability to succeed but concerns about funding.

**15+** entry-level Merit scholarships each year

**30+** Top 3 merit scholarships each term

## RESEARCH

### Drive Research Excellence

Assisting the SMU Research Center in fundraising for hands-on research projects (Professors, students, corporates)

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### Develop Competencies and Skills

Deploy capacity building programs that develop competencies and skills.

**200+** Public Sector officials trained through the Public Policy & Leadership program since 2018

**40+** Libyan professors trained on how to teach entrepreneurship in Libyan universities

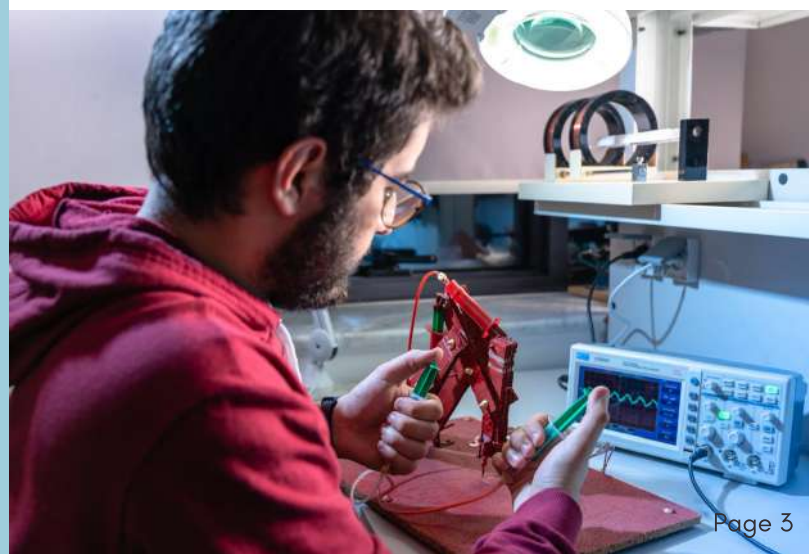
**20+** MENA Fellows trained on social entrepreneurship through the Leadership Development Fellowship program

## EMPLOYABILITY

### Bridge education to the professional World

Facilitate employability of young graduates by bringing them into high-level trainings coupled with apprenticeship while cultivating the entrepreneurship culture.

**100+** PhD holders trained on entrepreneurship & innovation in 2021 through the PROMISE program





# EDUCATION: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 2021

**20+** Entry-Level  
Scholarship  
awardees

**10+** Diversity  
scholarships for  
international  
students

**40+** Top 3 scholarships  
for existing SMU  
students

Our scholarship program offers partial to full tuition fees to talented and passionate students with an excellent academic record, a strong investment in extra-curricular activities and limited financial means.

## Testimonials



*It was my dream to join MedTech and its unique pedagogy and international openness, a place when I can learn to become at the same time an engineer and an entrepreneur.*

*Without the scholarship offered by Fondation SMU, this dream would not have been possible. Hopefully, one day, I will be able to found my technological startup and raise funds internationally!*

**Firas Haj Kacem**  
MedTech Pre-Engineering student

*Founder of IEEE SMU, Founding member  
Lions Club SMU & StudentLife member*

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*Coming from a technical background as an Electronics Engineer, I never thought I'd enjoy Business studies the way I did, and I proudly say that joining MSB as a full scholarship awardee has been a lifetime journey! Pursuing a master degree in Operations Management & Supply Chain allowed my professional and personal growth. Also, I gained more confidence and visibility about my professional aspirations. Special thanks to SMU Foundation for believing in potential and helping grow dreams into reality, forever grateful!*

**Ikram Cherni**  
MSB Master Program student

*Member of IEEE SMU, MEPI Students Leaders  
Network Alumni, SMU Career Center Officer*



# EMPLOYABILITY: PROMISE PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

Fondation SMU is the learning partner in the Promise project, an initiative financed by the US Embassy in Tunisia to support the Tunisian Ministry of Technology, supervised by Smart Capital and implemented by the consortium Deloitte, OST, TAYP and Endeavor.



The poster features a dark background with a glowing blue and red network of nodes and lines. At the top left is the 'Promise' logo. In the top right corner are the flags of Tunisia and the United States. The main text reads 'INNOVATION POST-DOC PROGRAMME POUR LES DOCTEUR·E·S NON-ACTIF·VE·S'. Below this, it states 'DATE LIMITE D'INSCRIPTION 12 AVRIL' with a calendar icon. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for partners: the Tunisian Ministry of Technology, SMART CAPITAL, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, ATDocS, Fondation SMU, and GOMYCODE.

## OBJECTIVE

Convert unemployed PhDs into the innovation system: startups or innovative companies, digital jobs, private universities

**5** Weeks intensive training

**14** Modules

**1** Job fair for match-making

**3** Months internships

**80+** Phd Holders trained

**50** Participants to be trained in 2022

... An adventure to be continued

To learn more :



# CAPACITY BUILDING: LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

## OBJECTIVE

- A high-level training program that aims to build leadership, public policy planning and management capacities for high officials and policy practitioners in Tunisia.
- The four-months training intends to address a major skills gap identified in most public institutions especially in ministries in charge of public policies and critical government development programs.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

- Enhance the capacity of Tunisian institutions in public policy analysis, implementation and evaluation, in service delivery and more generally in designing and effectively implementing development strategies and programs;
- Contribute to the creation of a corps of well-trained public policy makers and analysts (in the public and private sectors) equipped with adequate strategic and analytical skills.



*Hédi Larbi*

Founder & Program Director

**200+** Program Alumni

**5** Cohorts trained

**4** Modules  
Months by cohort

**400** Participants by 2025

*Sponsored by*



*To learn more :*

# CAPACITY BUILDING: ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMPS

EU4PSL is a project financed by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France, that aims to improve Libya's business environment in order to generate economic growth and job opportunities in particular for the youth and women.

One of EU4PSL's key pillars is to stream entrepreneurship within the education system by:

- Establishing the institutional basis for entrepreneurship
- Introducing Junior Enterprise in Libyan universities
- Upgrading the Entrepreneurship Certificate into a bachelor-accredited course
- Expanding the results of LIBUS, the virtual learning space for young Libyan entrepreneurs and business owners.



*March 2021*

## Entrepreneurs of the Future Bootcamp

University Professors Edition

- A **5** - day intensive program to train university professors on the practice of entrepreneurship concepts, from Ideation to Business Modeling.
- A combination of workshops, talks, simulations and ecosystem visits
- **34** attendees from **12** Libyan universities
- **1** final pitch session with a jury of experts





# OUR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

## MENTAL HEALTH

Seminars & coaching for our community lead by the SMU Advising & Counseling Center.

## HEALTHY FOOD

A new cafeteria to cater our community with healthy & affordable options.

## SMOKING AREA

Reduction of the smoking area from 400m<sup>2</sup> to 100m<sup>2</sup> (outdoors).



## ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Savings on our electricity bill following an energy audit (Annual decrease of 10,000 TND)

## E-RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

With e-recycling startup Sharek for recycling of SMU e-waste. The partnership continues through SMU IEEE club.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Reduce inequality within and among countries

## OUR SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

- **Equality scholarships:** created in 2020, it is a fully funded scholarship granted to outstanding students who cannot afford tuition fees.
- **Diversity scholarships:** For International students from developing countries.
- **Regional diversity:** 54% of awardees in 2020 coming outside of Tunis.





# OUR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

## ECO CONSTRUCTIONS

The Eco lab is an initiative led by the Renewable Energy department in SMU. It uses eco-friendly & sustainable material (Cellulose, Locally-grown and harvested wood, Non-toxic paints & preservatives...)



## GREEN AREAS & GARDENS

Where anyone from our community can grow fruits and vegetables! Increasing the green areas from 2% to 10% in 2021.

## REDUCING WASTE

- **Waste segregation** through dedicated recycling bins
- **Waste collection:** Partnership with recycling startup *Colibris* to collect and recycle paper, plastic and cans.
- **Waste tracking:** should be implemented in 2022
- **Water fountains** to offer free water and reduce plastic bottles on campus



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## SMU CLUBS CLEANING ACTIVITIES

Attending other associations events such as *Tunisie Recyclage & Tounes Cleanup* cleaning and replanting days.

## SMU SUSTAINABILITY DAYS

A 2-days annual event around sustainability mixing:

- Eco- Fair: Exhibition for sustainable brands
- Conferences & Inspirational talks
- Practical workshops (DIY, vegetables garden)



# OUR PARTNERS



**VERMEG**  
Badreddine OUALI

**SOFIDE**



# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!



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[www.linkedin.com/company/fondationsmu](http://www.linkedin.com/company/fondationsmu)



[www.fondationsmu.org](http://www.fondationsmu.org)



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