

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Fondation SMU
MSB - MedTech - LCI

- Cultivate **TALENT**
- Develop **CREATIVITY**
- Open **HORIZONS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2022, We rose stronger after the pandemic, fostering resilience, integrity and innovation within the SMU community.

Our commitment to quality education and creating opportunities for exceptional students and our faculty members remained unwavering, aligning with our exceptional journey to excellence and diversity.

We proudly strengthened our support for faculty researchers and invested in groundbreaking research endeavors. This support had a profound impact on our academic community, inspiring students to actively engage and take leadership in research projects alongside our faculty members. The collaborative approach between students and professors not only contributed to enriching the learning experience but also strengthened the bond between our students and faculty members.

In our relentless pursuit of sustainability, we aim to build a culture of green and sustainable awareness and practice. This involves not only educating our students on sustainable development but also implementing tangible measures that increase our environmental impact and our community's participation.

The journey forward involves continuous support for outstanding students, and we are determined to continue raising funds for our impactful programs, projects and initiatives. These efforts will ensure that we can continue supporting the youth, nurture their exceptional talents, and empower their potential to help them become the leaders of tomorrow.

Together, we will forge new paths, advance knowledge, and embrace discovery for a brighter future.



MAHMOUD TRIKI- PhD

President of The South
Mediterranean University
& SMU Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mahmoud Triki'.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

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 programs.

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 for all.



MISSION

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



VISION

Nurture talent
Broaden horizons
Develop creativity



VALUES

Excellence
Diversity
Innovation
Integrity

AREAS OF ACTION

RESEARCH

Drive Research Excellence

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

15+ research publications in 2022



EDUCATION

Foster talent and access to quality Education for all

Offer 3 Types of 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

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

CAPACITY BUILDING

Develop Competencies and Skills

250+ Public Sector officials trained through the Public Policy & Leadership program since 2018.

50+ Libyan professors trained on how to teach entrepreneurship in Libyan universities.

45+ MENA Fellows trained on social entrepreneurship through the Leadership Development Fellowship program.



EDUCATION: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By 2022

28+

Entry-Level Scholarship
awardees

20+

Diversity scholarships for
international students

55+

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



"I am very thankful to have been chosen for an excellence scholarship to study at the Mediterranean Institute of Technology (MedTech). I have been part of a wonderful learning experience that brings me closer to achieving my dream of becoming a software engineer who has the ability to occupy important leadership positions. Thanks to the encouragement and support I was offered, I have had the opportunity to stay on top of my class since I started my journey at SMU. I have also had the chance to develop my knowledge and soft skills by participating in extracurricular activities, and by being an active member of different student clubs such as IEEE SMU Student Branch. I am deeply grateful to the SMU Foundation for believing in me and helping me to pursue my dreams."

Ahmed Chelly

Software Engineering Scholarship Student at MedTech



"I am immensely grateful to the SMU Foundation for awarding me the excellence scholarship in my first year. It has been a life-changing experience, and I feel honored to be a part of the MSB community. One of the highlights of my scholarship experience was the exchange opportunity at Catolica Lisbon School of Business and Economics Portugal. I am proud to be a part of such a vibrant community of SMU that enabled me to push the boundaries and be active in many clubs and take leadership role. The scholarship has motivated me to strive for excellence, and I am confident that it will continue to have a positive impact on my future endeavors."

Zeineb Mdhaffar

Business Administration Scholarship Student at MSB



To learn more



EMPLOYABILITY: PROMISE PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

MARCH - AUGUST 2022

PROGRAM MISSION Implement an immersive entrepreneurship program for unemployed researchers to bridge the gap between research and entrepreneurship.

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 program aims to convert unemployed PhDs into the innovation system: startups or innovative companies, digital jobs, private universities.



3 Cohorts

150 Total Phd Holders trained

6 Weeks intensive training

15 Modules

3 Months internships

127 Total Phd Holders graduated

1 Job fair for match-making

... An adventure to be continued

To learn more



EMPLOYABILITY: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FELLOWSHIP



October 2022

SMU hosted two cohorts of LDF fellows from the Leadership Development fellowship program, a regional initiative financed by MEPI and implemented by World Learning. The participants attended a two-week interactive bootcamp around social entrepreneurship with experts from SMU, and success stories from the region as well as visits and testimonials of the Tunisian ecosystem.



2 Cohorts

Social Entrepreneurship Training

Leadership Development Fellowship

A **3** - week intensive program that aims to train LDF fellows on the practice of social entrepreneurship concepts, from Ideation to Business Modeling.

26 Participants worked in teams during the training to identify potential successful ideas/projects and attended - **10** sessions to learn innovative pedagogical tools and techniques for interactive learning.

1 Pitch session in front of a jury of experts.

CAPACITY BUILDING: ENTREPRENEURS OF THE FUTURE

Training of Trainers - September 2022

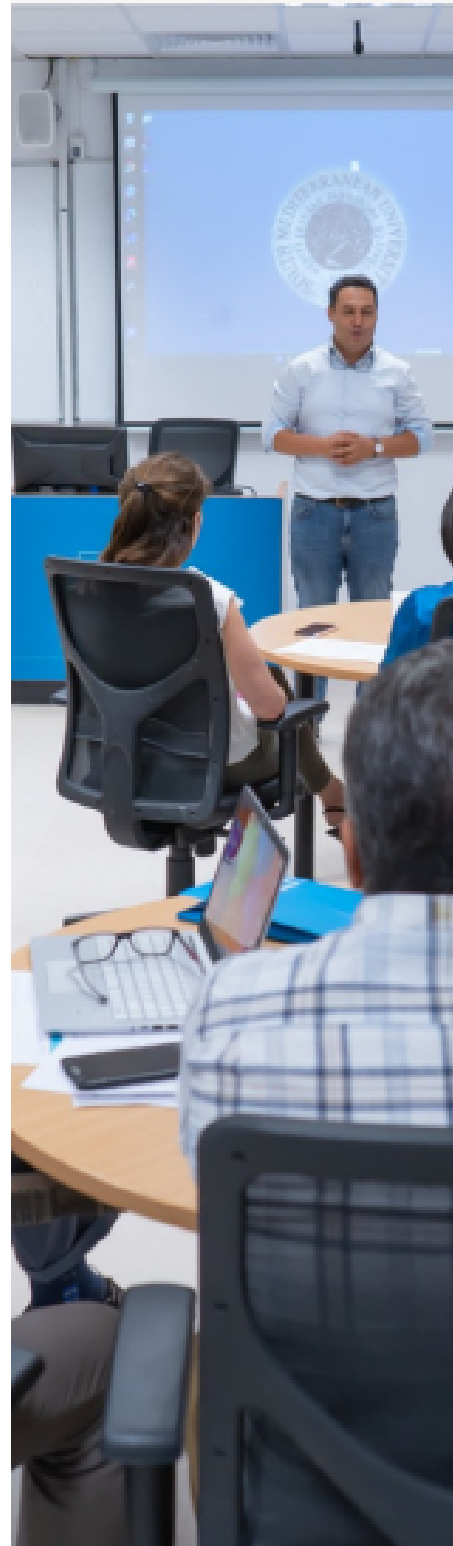
EU4PSL is a project financed by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France, that aims to support the entrepreneurship education delivery in Libyan universities.

SMU Foundation's mission has been to deliver a Training for Trainers (ToT) program for university professors around entrepreneurship to share best practices around teaching the entrepreneurship courses and culture to university students.

As part of its scope of work, SMU implemented the following activities:

- Prepare the resource material of the training in Arabic.
- Deliver the training of trainers over 5 days on: Entrepreneurship
 - Mindset, Creativity & Innovation, Leadership & Communications,
 - Strategy & Marketing, Funding & Sustainability.
- Final report: to recap the program details and output and incorporate the comments/feedback from the training attendees.

A program funded by



September 2022

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.

13 attendees from **11** Libyan institutions.

1 final pitch session with a jury of experts.

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.

Sponsored by



Hédi Larbi

Founder & Program Director

250+ Program Alumni

7 Cohorts trained

4 Modules
Months by cohort

400 Participants
by 2025

To learn more :





OUR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



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

ECO CONSTRUCTIONS

The Ecolab 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 20% in 2022.

REDUCING WASTE

- **Waste segregation** through dedicated recycling bins.
- **Waste collection** and Partnership with recycling startup Colibris to collect and recycle paper, plastic and cans.
- **Recycling campaigns** and collaborations with clubs to raise awareness on sustainability and practical skills on how to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.
- **Water fountains** to offer free water for everyone and reduce plastic bottles on campus.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



SMU CLUBS CLEANING ACTIVITIES

Including students, staff and faculty in *Tunisie Recyclage & Tounes Cleanup* and planting days and teaching them green skills and sustainable practices.

SMU SUSTAINABILITY DAYS

A 2-day annual event around sustainability mixing:

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



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



OUR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



MENTAL HEALTH

Seminars, talks & coaching for our community led by the SMU Advising & Counseling Center on Mental Health and interpersonal skills development.



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

SMOKING AREA

Reduction of the smoking area by 80% in 2022.

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

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



E-RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

With e-recycling startup Sharek for recycling of SMU e-waste.



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

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** : 70% of awardees in 2022 coming outside of Tunis.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

OUR PARTNERS



SOFIDE



Thank you.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY !



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