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[www.icmpd.org/MC2CM](http://www.icmpd.org/MC2CM)

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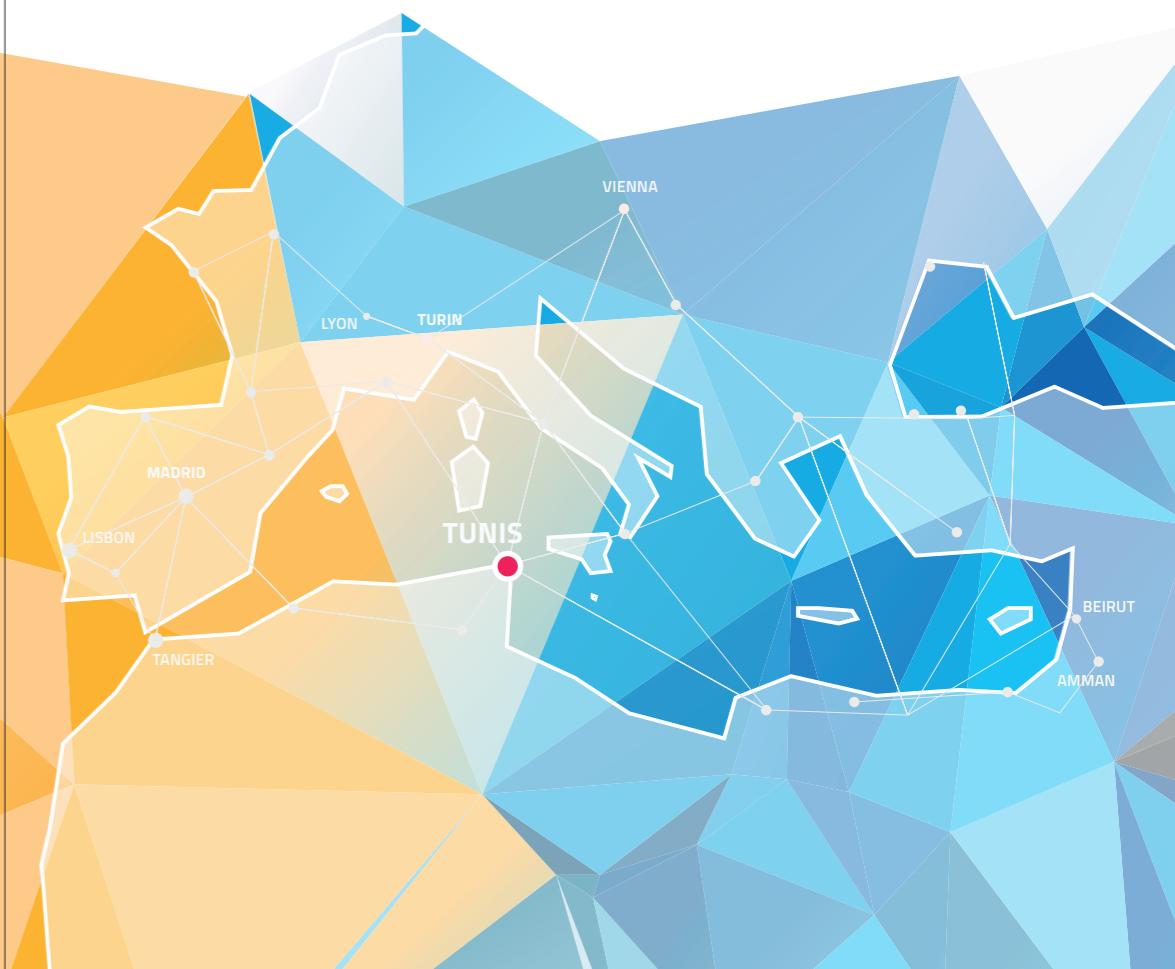
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MEDITERRANEAN CITY-TO-CITY MIGRATION

## CITY MIGRATION PROFILE TUNIS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This document is a synthesis of the city of Tunis Migration Profile and Priority Paper drafted in the framework of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (MC2CM). The project aims at contributing to improved migration governance at city level in a network of cities in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region. More information is available at [www.icmpd.org/MC2CM](http://www.icmpd.org/MC2CM).

GENERAL OVERVIEW (2014)	
<b>Political and administrative context</b>	Tunis is the capital of Tunisia and is the most populated municipality in the Tunis governorate. It is comprised of 15 delegations: Bab El Bhar, Bab Souika, Cité El Khadra, Djebel Jelloud, El Kabaria, El Menzah, El Omrane, El Omrane supérieur, El Ouardia, Ettahrir, Ezzouhour, Hraïria, Médina, Séjourni and Sidi El Béchi
<b>Population</b>	638 845
<b>Share in national population</b>	8.6%
<b>Share of all immigrants in the national territory residing in Tunis governorate</b>	18%

## MIGRATION PATTERNS

The city of Tunis plays a significant role in national, internal, and external dynamics of migration processes.

The city has been losing its appeal to Tunisians: its internal migration balance is now negative (62,642 arrivals in 2009 – 2014 compared to 91,791 departures) and departures have been observed across all delegations. The other governorates that are also part of the metropolis of Tunis (Ariana, Ben Arous and La Manouba) seem to have attracted internal mobility that follows a downtown periphery structure. In addition to the relocation of economic activities outside Tunis over the 1990s and 2000s, the choice place of residence follows a pattern of peripheralization.

In terms of international migration, the Tunis governorate and the city of Tunis host, respectively, 18% and 40% of all immigrants on the Tunisian territory. Over the 2009 – 2014 period, external inflows (from immigrants and returning Tunisians) largely settled in the Tunis governorate (25.7%) and, more widely, in Tunis metropolitan area (48%).

At the city level, data from the 2014 Population and Housing census (RGPH) on emigrants and immigrants in each delegation (2009 – 2014) show that there is a positive external migration balance across the 15 delegations in the governorate. In contrast to internal dynamics of migration processes, Tunis attracted more immigrants over this period and had less people trying to emigrate. The 4, 791 arrivals migrated to the capital city primarily to find employment, support their families or to study. The Bureau for immigration and foreign labour granted close to 45% of labour certificates and more than 38% employment contracts in the city of Tunis between 2014 and 2016, underscoring the capital city's predominant position in the migration phenomenon in Tunisia.

## MIGRANT POPULATION

The total number of immigrants in the city of Tunis is not known. At national level, the 2014 census revealed foreign residents originate primarily from Algeria, Libya,

Morocco, France and Italy. The 2014 census also provided information on the number of immigrants arriving in the city of Tunis across the 2009 – 2014 period. The census lists 4,791 immigrants, which represents 33% of foreign arrivals in Tunisia over this period (14,350 people). These immigrants came mainly from Libya, France, and sub-Saharan Africa. This was a predominantly male migration (57% of men compared to 43% of women). They settled mainly in affluent commuter neighbourhoods such as El Menzah, Cité El Khadhra, and Bab Bhar located in the city.

While data is unavailable at the local level, available national data reports that 40% of the immigrants over this period were between 20 and 35 years old. They were highly educated (more than 40% had a higher education level) and only 3% had not received any educational instruction (as compared to 19% of Tunisians). The activity rate of immigrants at the national level was about 36% over this period, and the unemployment rate stood at 6% (compared to close to 15% for Tunisians).

In 2014, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which records the number of refugees and asylum seekers in the city noted that Tunis was host to 116 refugees and 427 asylum seekers (48% of the country's total) the majority of whom were from Syria and Ivory Coast.

#### **LOCAL MIGRATION POLICY**

The municipality of Tunis is not in charge of migration matters, migration policies being formulated and implemented by State authorities. The Secretary of State for Migration and Tunisians Abroad is responsible for the national migration strategy and other institutions are involved in different aspects of migration governance. The municipality focuses on four priority areas affecting its citizens which are the social, cultural, youth and childhood, and urbanism arenas. In its day-to-day management of these issues, the municipality of Tunis develops actions for immigrants (internal and external) without prejudice.

Within the framework of the MC2CM project, the group of stakeholders from Tunis (composed of the municipality's representatives, the voluntary sector and decentralized State services) identified the following priorities to improve migration governance in the city:

1. **Access to information**
2. **Financial education**
3. **Inclusive social activity centres**
4. **Language learning**
5. **Economic empowerment of immigrants**

### Migration governance stakeholders at local level

Department of culture, children, youth, sports and social affairs:	<b>Social affairs branch</b>	<p>Manages several programs to assist vulnerable populations including immigrants and works alongside the delegations when necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers financial aid to families in need (approximately 400 families receive monthly assistance)</li> <li>• Offers financial aid and pays the rent of certain families awaiting alternative accommodation</li> <li>• Offers monthly financial assistance to construction workers</li> <li>• Offers one-off financial aid to families, for instance during Ramadan or at the beginning of the school year</li> <li>• Offers exceptional assistance for accidents and illness</li> </ul> <p>A social and medical emergency service ran until 2012 when it closed due to lack of funds</p>
	<b>Childhood, youth and sports branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages 15 kindergartens that receive more than 2,000 children, including immigrant children, each year</li> <li>• Manages 2 childhood and youth centres/spaces: Montaciria and El Agba</li> <li>• Proposes outreach activities, excursions and trips for vulnerable youth</li> <li>• Subsidises 33 sports associations and prepares provides neighbourhood sports grounds and facilities to all</li> </ul>
	<b>Cultural affairs branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages the city's cultural spaces and its major events (municipal theatre, exhibition centres, municipal libraries, etc.)</li> </ul>

<b>Municipal delegation carrying out the duties of the Municipal Council</b>	<p>The city's central authorities and the 15 delegations work on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil status</li> <li>• City waste management, lighting and roads</li> <li>• Green spaces and public parks</li> <li>• Health and hygiene</li> <li>• Urban planning and building permits</li> </ul>
<b>Urban planning department</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implements the urban plan of the city of Tunis</li> <li>• Manages the city's urban setting</li> <li>• Grants building permits</li> <li>• Controls conformity with building regulations</li> </ul>
<b>Immigrants resource centres (CRM)</b>	<p>Present in Tunis and in three other regions (Sfax, Kef and Médenine) since December 2013, these centres provide information (meetings, website and interviews) and personalised assistance to incoming and outgoing Tunisians and foreigners.</p> <p>Established as part of the "Development of resource centres &amp; online information services for immigrants" (CRM) and set up by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Office of Tunisians abroad (OTE) and the National Agency for employment and self-employment (ANETI)</p>

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active in the areas of immigration and integration in the city	
Maison des Droits et des Migrants (MDM)	Plans to develop the Tunisian civil society's operational response and capacity for advocacy in the field of the rights of immigrants and refugees and to help foster democratic, informed and peaceful public debate on migration issues in Tunisia. In Tunis, MDM has opened a resource centre on immigration, set up meeting rooms and training programs for civil society, and initiated debate on immigration in the Mediterranean
Terre d'Asile Tunisie	The Tunisian section of the France Terre d'Asile association helps support the development of Tunisian civil society on migration and asylum issues in an attempt to encourage civil society organisations to address these issues
L'Association des étudiants et stagiaires africains en Tunisie (AESAT)	Work towards the unification of African students and their inclusion in Tunisian society by helping students experiencing difficulties and promoting African cultures in Tunisia
Laboratoire de l'économie sociale et solidaire (LAB'ESS)	Works towards reinforcing the capacities of Tunisian associations and social entrepreneurship project leaders through coaching, training, and networking
The Tunisian Red Crescent	Works in the city of Tunis in partnership with UNHCR and IOM to provide emergency shelter (housing and care) to immigrants and refugees in distress
Association Tunisienne de Soutien à la Famille "Yessrine" (ATSF)	Supports vulnerable families and individuals, especially children with academic difficulties. ATSF has implemented an academic support project and also offers psychological and social monitoring and initiatives to help single women meet their children's needs. The association also proposes measures to improve housing and schools in Tunis and across the country

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

### Coordination and cooperation at the city, regional and national levels

The city of Tunis has a culture of inclusive dialogue with civil society and has worked with associations in the context of social and cultural programmes. These collaborations stopped after the 2011 revolution and the city is now trying to revive these practices.

The municipality mobilises a set of inter-agency coordination initiatives to implement ongoing actions, programs and projects. This coordination is first carried out with the Tunis governorate, then with all ministries, central directorates and departments represented in the city.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Since independence, the municipality of Tunis has developed many activities to enhance international cooperation within the framework of twinning arrangements and international organisations. The city takes part in discussions between delegations, international conferences, and training and capacity building activities targeting municipal staff in local governance, facilitation and social and cultural work.

Tunis is a member of UNESCO's Medcities network for knowledge transfer across cities, the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together, and it chairs the Security Council on Intercultural Dialogue for Peace (AIMF). With regard to international cooperation, the Directorate of childhood, youth and sports has set up opportunities for youth exchanges with several countries (Spain, France, Turkey, Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Jordan, etc.). To this end, the municipality's managers and agents take part in capacity-building activities. The Directorate of cultural affairs also collaborates with cultural centres from partner countries to propose cultural activities within different neighbourhoods and public spaces.

The Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project, under which the Migration Profile of Tunis has been developed, is the first project on the governance of urban migration in which the city is involved.

## MIGRANTS' ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

	Education and vocational training	Employment and entrepreneurship	Social affairs	Protection against discrimination	Housing	Political participation and inclusion in local decision-making processes
Competence	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Implementation instrument			Department of culture, childhood, youth, sports and social affairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social affairs branch</li> <li>• childhood, youth and sports branch</li> </ul>		Directorate for urban planning, construction and restoration works	
Policies and projects relevant to migrants' integration			<p>The city manages several programmes proposing assistance to vulnerable populations in the city, with the involvement of the neighbourhoods when necessary.</p> <p>The city has collaborated in the past with civil society associations (with the "Shams" association on health issues, with the "Lions Club" association for the education of students from poor neighbourhoods, with the association for social work of Tunis to help Tunisians returning from abroad and experiencing problems)</p> <p>The city manages municipal kindergartens and general programmes</p>		<p>The city developed the Oukalas project (1991 – 2013) to deal with the degradation of a crowded housing stock in the Médina following the settlement of approximately 3,000 Tunisian families (about 15,000 people) migrating from rural regions into six hundred multi-family dwellings. The municipality of Tunis developed an intervention program to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-house families remaining in the Oukalas in a severe state of disrepair</li> <li>• Reconstruct public and private buildings and provide new accommodation</li> <li>• Adapt public buildings to accommodate social and cultural activities</li> <li>• Encourage private owners to rehabilitate their buildings by granting them loans with favourable interest rates and providing free technical assistance in case of emergencies</li> </ul>	
Migrants' access			<p>Its actions, notably the ones developed in partnership with local associations in favour of vulnerable groups have been highly beneficial to migrants residing in the different delegations.</p> <p>Tunis' social service is particularly active in the historical centre where it works with undocumented or poor migrant populations, particularly in the following neighbourhoods: Medina and Bab Bhar, Bab Souika, and Bab Elkhadhra (migrants from Algeria and sub-Saharan Africa) and Cité Tahrir and Cité Ibn Khaldoun (migrants from Libya and Syria)</p> <p>While the service does not provide programs specifically targeting migrants, they may use the municipality's general programmes when dealing with migrants. By way of example, non-Tunisian children are admitted in some municipal kindergartens</p>		The Oukala project is a municipal initiative which does not fall within the framework of a national migration policy. It has, however, participated in the reception and integration of Tunisian internal migrants in need (essentially rural/urban migration) by improving their living conditions in Tunis	
Comments						