



TUNISIA

Southern Neighbourhood



EU-TUNISIA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development



Democracy, good governance and human rights



Bringing peoples closer together, mobility and migration



Security and the fight against terrorism



TRADE & INVESTMENT

- The EU is Tunisia's main trading partner. In 2023, EU share in Tunisia's total imports was **49%**, while the share of Tunisia's exports towards the EU was **70%**. Goods imports from Tunisia to the EU amounted to **€13.1 billion** and goods exports from the EU to Tunisia amounted to **€11.8 billion**.
- In 2022, services imports from Tunisia to the EU amounted to **€3.2 billion** and services exports from the EU to Tunisia stood at **€1.6 billion**.
- In 2022, EU Foreign Direct Investments stocks in Tunisia amounted to **€5.4 billion** and Tunisia FDI stocks in the EU amounted to **€900 million**.



MOBILITY AND RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Mobility

Since 2014, **6 509 Tunisian students** and staff travelled to Europe and **3 098 European students** and staff travelled to Tunisia through Erasmus+.

Research and innovation

Tunisia is the only country associated to the Horizon Europe programme in the North of Africa region. Since 2021, it has benefited from 43 grants for a total of about **€10 million**.



EU FUNDING

- The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI) is the main financial instrument for the EU's international cooperation with partner countries, including Tunisia, for the period 2021-2027. The EU indicative bilateral allocation to Tunisia for the period 2021-2024 amounts to **€620 million** in grants. It is complemented by other NDICI thematic programmes to support **civil society** and promote **human rights and democracy** with **€7.1 million** for 2021-2024.
- On **migration**, Tunisia benefitted from funding under the North of Africa window of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Support is also currently provided under NDICI for a total of approximately **€175 million** for the period 2021-2023. The EU and Tunisia cooperate on all aspects of migration comprising migration governance, border management, protection, fighting smuggling and trafficking, labour migration and legal mobility, diaspora mobilisation, return, readmission and reintegration.
- In addition, since 2014 Tunisia benefitted from three **macro-financial assistance** operations (concessional loans) for a total of **€1.4 billion**. This support helped the country address its external financing needs and incentivised sound macroeconomic policy reforms in Tunisia.
- In 2014-2020, the EU provided bilateral assistance to Tunisia mainly through the **European Neighbourhood Instrument** with over **€1.6 billion** (grants).



EU-TUNISIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) on a Strategic and Global Partnership

Based on the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement, the MoU signed on 16 July 2023 provides a comprehensive framework for the Commission to support Tunisia engagement and cooperation with Tunisia under five pillars dedicated to:

- macro-economic stability
- economy and trade
- green energy transition
- people-to-people contacts
- migration and mobility

As part of the comprehensive EU-Tunisia MoU and its 3rd pillar dedicated to the green energy transition, **a specific EU-Tunisia MoU was signed on 13 June 2024 to promote and develop investments in renewable energy and ensure strategic energy supply**. It will support investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, enhance skills and technological capacities, promote the resilience of renewable energy supply chains, and contribute to maximise the benefits of the ELMED electricity interconnector between Tunisia and Italy.



ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT PLAN

In 2021, the EU launched the **Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours** to support human development, strengthen resilience, build prosperity, and increase trade and investments in the region. In Tunisia, the EIP has been implemented so far via **20 projects** in the fields of energy, water, environment, food security, transport, education, inclusive economies, social protection and SME support including green finance. A total contribution of **€764 million** has been committed, including grants, blending and guarantees, with expected mobilised investments amounting to about **€6.3 billion**.

Projects supported by the EIP include:

Modernisation of the road between Sfax and Kasserine

Estimated project cost: €210 million provided by an EIB loan, guaranteed by the EU.

The project will support a better, safer and cheaper transport system, as well as increased regional connectivity, stimulating economic development in disadvantaged surrounding regions by linking them to major economic centres.



Flagship 5 – Connected economies

Support to the “ELMED” 200 km Italy-Tunisia electricity undersea interconnector

Estimated project cost: €472.6 million; EU grant contribution: €307.6 million grant from the Connecting Europe Facility, plus a €27 million EU grant; EIB: €45 million loan; EBRD: €45 million loan; KfW: €48 million loan.

The project will develop cross-border electricity trade between the EU and Tunisia. Set to be operational as from 2028, it will enhance the deployment of renewables in Tunisia and improve the resilience of the Tunisian power system.



Flagship 10 – Energy transition and energy security

Support to SMEs economic recovery

Estimated project cost: €476 million; EU contribution: €8 million; AFD: €80 million loan + €0,9 million grant; EIB: €170 million loan covered by an EU guarantee; KfW: €10.4 million (guarantee mechanism).

The project will boost Tunisia’s economic recovery by enhancing access to finance for Tunisia’s micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a special focus on strengthening the financing of social inclusion.



Flagship 3 – Resilient economies

Modernisation of primary schools infrastructure

Estimated project cost: €65 million; EU grant contribution: €25 million; EIB: €40 million loan covered by an EU guarantee.

The project will improve learning and teaching conditions for **14 500 pupils** enrolled in primary education with the construction of 80 new green and digital primary schools, and acquisition of school transport.



Flagship 7 – Digital transformation, research and innovation



KEY MILESTONES

MARCH 1998

Entry into force of the Association Agreement (signed in July 1995)

MARCH 2014

Signature of the EU-Tunisia Mobility Partnership

SEPTEMBER 2016

Adoption of the Joint Communication “Strengthened EU support for Tunisia”

NOVEMBER 2018

Adoption of the EU-Tunisia Strategic Priorities 2018-2020 (extended as from 2021)

JULY 2023

Signature of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic and Global Partnership

JUNE 2024

Signature of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding on Energy

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