

INTERACT – RESEARCHING THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS’ INTEGRATION AS A THREE-WAY PROCESS - IMMIGRANTS, COUNTRIES OF EMIGRATION AND COUNTRIES OF IMMIGRATION AS ACTORS OF INTEGRATION

Co-financed by the European Union

Report on Tunisian Legal Emigration to the EU Modes of Integration, Policy, Institutional Frameworks and Engagement of Non-State Actors

Stéphanie Pouessel

INTERACT Research Report 2014/22

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Integration

Research Report
Country Report
INTERACT RR2014/22

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Modes of Integration, Policy, Institutional Frameworks and
Engagement of Non-State Actors

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Stéphanie Pouessel, Report on Tunisian Legal Emigration to the EU: Modes of Integration, Policy, Institutional Frameworks and Engagement of Non-State Actors, INTERACT RR 2014/22, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute, 2014.

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INTERACT - Researching Third Country Nationals' Integration as a Three-way Process - Immigrants, Countries of Emigration and Countries of Immigration as Actors of Integration

Around 25 million persons born in a third country (TCNs) are currently living in the European Union (EU), representing 5% of its total population. Integrating immigrants, i.e. allowing them to participate in the host society at the same level as natives, is an active, not a passive, process that involves two parties, the host society and the immigrants, working together to build a cohesive society.

Policy-making on integration is commonly regarded as primarily a matter of concern for the receiving state, with general disregard for the role of the sending state. However, migrants belong to two places: first, where they come and second, where they now live. While integration takes place in the latter, migrants maintain a variety of links with the former. New means of communication facilitating contact between migrants and their homes, globalisation bringing greater cultural diversity to host countries, and nation-building in source countries seeing expatriate nationals as a strategic resource have all transformed the way migrants interact with their home country.

INTERACT project looks at the ways governments and non-governmental institutions in origin countries, including the media, make transnational bonds a reality, and have developed tools that operate economically (to boost financial transfers and investments); culturally (to maintain or revive cultural heritage); politically (to expand the constituency); legally (to support their rights).

INTERACT project explores several important questions: To what extent do policies pursued by EU member states to integrate immigrants, and policies pursued by governments and non-state actors in origin countries regarding expatriates, complement or contradict each other? What effective contribution do they make to the successful integration of migrants and what obstacles do they put in their way?

A considerable amount of high-quality research on the integration of migrants has been produced in the EU. Building on existing research to investigate the impact of origin countries on the integration of migrants in the host country remains to be done.

INTERACT is co-financed by the European Union and is implemented by a consortium built by CEDEM, UPF and MPI Europe.

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Abstract

Tunisia has a long history of emigration to the European Union. The Tunisian state has progressively created and implemented a migration policy to protect Tunisian citizens abroad and to tighten ties with the country. This report presents the current policy concerning emigration – strengthening migrant ties with Tunisia and fighting against illegal migration – and policies that concern the diaspora – measures encouraging investment in Tunisia, protection of social rights abroad, new integration of the diaspora within political and civil Tunisian society. To this end, the report provides an update on the political and civil rights of emigrants (voting, plural nationalities, military duty), socio-economic rights (agreements on labor migration, custom/import incentives), social rights (family, social security) and cultural rights (languages, school, media).

The report also presents the engagement of non-state actors from abroad. The collapse of the revolution has permitted the country to redefine the political participation of Tunisians abroad and their integration in politics in Tunisia. The demands of Tunisians abroad for rights to participate in politics at high levels (the right to become representatives in the Assembly; the right for a Tunisian with dual-nationality citizenship to become President) were ratified on January 2014.

Key words: migration, integration, policy, Non-State actors, rights

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1. Introduction

a) General policy framework concerning emigration

The Arabic language has at its roots a single term to express the idea of “emigration” and “immigration”: “hijra”. “Hijra” means being away from one’s home country. It is often associated with the idea of “ghourba” (the pain and the nostalgia to be away from home). Migration has always been perceived as a nostalgic relationship with one’s home country, not as a question of integration abroad. Nowadays, the state calls Tunisians abroad “twensa bil khalij” or “twensa bil mahjar” (“Tunisian living abroad”), a term which still focuses more on their Tunisian national identity and on their condition of being a Tunisian “from abroad” rather than on their “plural belonging”. Belonging to at least two countries stems from a long history of emigration toward Europe and the rest of the world. The term “emigration” no longer fits for many generations anchored in Europe.

Nowadays, Tunisian emigration to Europe includes many different profiles: resident citizen (for studies, work, former exiles, etc.) dual nationality citizen (219,037 citizens) (Office des Tunisiens à l’étranger 2006) and last but not least, illegal migration. Emigration is a huge phenomenon in Tunisia: 10% of the Tunisian population is living abroad: 83.5% are living in the EU and 58.5%, in France.

Since the middle of the 1900s, Tunisia has been in a huge emigration phase toward Europe. Today, France is Tunisia’s number one emigration country. Since the 1990s, Italy has been the second country, followed by Libya and by Germany in the fourth rank. The progressive closing of emigration-countries borders has led to increased illegal migration. The current emigration policy is focused on preventing irregular migration. Tunisia was, along with Morocco, among the first countries to sign a re-admission agreement with Italy in 1998. But Tunisia combines this control of migration with facilitating the mobility of its citizens, in particular with the aim of improving the return of investment in Tunisia.

This report presents the current policy concerning emigration – strengthening migrant ties with Tunisia and fighting against illegal migration – and the policies concerning the diaspora – measures encouraging investment in Tunisia, the protection of social rights abroad and the integration of the diaspora within political and civil Tunisian society. To this end, the report provides an update on the political and civil rights of emigrants (voting, plural nationalities, military duty); socio-economic rights (agreements on labor migration, customs/import incentives); social rights (family, social security) and cultural rights (languages, school, media).

The report also presents the engagement of non-state actors from abroad. The collapse of the revolution has permitted the country to redefine the relationship between Tunisia and the Tunisian diaspora. The demands of Tunisians abroad for rights to participate in politics at high levels (the right to become representatives in the Assembly; the right for a Tunisian with dual nationality citizenship to become President of the Republic) were ratified on January 2014.

b) Directional changes before and after the revolution

Before the Tunisian revolution in January 2011, the two main axes of migration policy within the framework of the Economic and Social Plan 2010-2014 were promoting legal migration through the signing of agreements with European countries and with countries outside Europe (Canada, Australia, etc.), and strengthening links with Tunisian emigrants in order to encourage their participation in local development.

More precisely, for the period 2009-2014, migration policy continues the program developed by the government to promote legal migration by boosting bilateral agreements with Italy and France as

well as openness to the private sector – by granting permission to private employment agencies to act at the level of international investment on the one hand, and strengthening actions that reinforce the Tunisian diaspora’s participation in development efforts, on the other.

After the fall of the former regime, emigrants – through elites and leaders of associations active in the countries of immigration in the EU – expressed a significant claim to participating in the work of rebuilding the country. Migration issues became part of the important social, economic and political changes brought about by the revolution. Indeed, we witnessed a new attitude on the part of the public authorities regarding the Tunisian community abroad. Their level of concern has risen and become important within political agenda. The proof of this is the creation of a “State Secretary of Migration and Tunisians abroad” (SEMTE) in 2012.¹ This institution was put under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Through this institution, a new policy of migration insists on:

- the drafting of a national strategy on migration between the EU and Tunisia (border management, labor emigration, assistance to the Tunisian community abroad, return and reinsertion, migration and development). SEMTE works on this task in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreigner Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Training and Employment and the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Strengthening a sense of belonging to one’s homeland for Tunisians abroad; insuring effective assistance for Tunisians abroad; protecting the rights of the community; improving the system of social protection; improving the quality of administrative services that are intended for Tunisians abroad; and supporting community integration. The Tunisians Abroad Office (OTE) is the institution of reference focusing on emigrants and migrant communities abroad. It belongs to the Ministry of Social Affairs and was created in June 1988.
- Strengthening community involvement in the current democratic process and in development.

Furthermore, the entry of several politicians living abroad to political life has encouraged the expatriate elites to participate in national political life.

Regarding illegal migration, the transitional democratic government faces an upsurge of illegal migration into Italy. The arrival of thousands of Tunisian migrants on the Italian island of Lampedusa in the days and weeks following the fall of the Ben Ali regime is continuing. To get an idea of the scale, in less than three months (January-March 2011), 20,258 Tunisians arrived in Lampedusa (Frontex 2011: 29).

c) Prevailing public discourses on emigration

With 10% of Tunisian population living abroad, the Tunisian State considers emigration to be one of its main social and economic issues. The official discourse on emigration has always been to promote legal migration through the signing of agreements with European countries and with countries outside Europe (Canada, Australia, etc.) and to strengthen links with Tunisian emigrants in order to encourage their participation in local development.

From the perspective of civil society, the discourse is different. Non-state actors involved with associations criticize the fact that they are only perceived as economic resources by State. These individuals can claim full citizenship (which includes the right to take part in all elections) and some advantages that help them to concretize links with Tunisia such as reductions on airline tickets to

¹ The current context of political transition has resulted in perpetual shifts in migration politics. The State Secretary of Migration and Tunisians Abroad, created in 2012, was cancelled following the adoption of a new constitution and the nomination of a new government in January 2014.

Tunisia, free Arabic language courses abroad, etc. Since the revolution, non-state actors have also strongly denounced corruption at the border crossing.

From the perspective of Tunisian residents, everyone is concerned about emigration: there is no one who does not have a person of his family or a close relationship with someone living abroad. Emigration is therefore an intrinsic part of the society. But the current implication of emigrants participating in the political renewal could be seen as an intrusion of outsiders due to their distance from society (linguistically, sociologically, etc.). Problems in the relationship between migrants and Tunisian society is older than the current political context and characteristically include return issues, short stay, relationships that are maintained at a distance, emigrant ignorance of the home society, complex relationships, etc.).

2. Description of state-level emigration or diaspora policies – national level

a) State emigration policy

The multiple international conventions on migration are based on security, economy, social welfare and development. Tunisian emigration policy aims to anticipate the needs of the host country and helps to prepare potential candidates for emigration as requested with regards to necessary qualifications, equivalence of diplomas and appropriate language level. In addition, it defines ways and means to prevent illegal immigration by opening bonafide opportunities for legal and orderly migration.

b) Responsible institutions

The institutions responsible for the implementation of these policies are the Ministry of Training and Employment, the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), the General Department of Consular Affairs under the administration of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Social Affairs. Under the Ministry of Social Affairs, OTE elaborates emigration policies.

After the post-revolution election in 2011, in order to highlight migrant communities abroad as stated, a new ministry dedicated to focusing on emigrants, migrant communities abroad and returnees was created. This state secretariat is called “State Secretariat for Migration and Tunisians living abroad”. It was created in December 2012 in the aftermath of the revolution and represented the new priority of the government to make migration issues new national priorities. The State Secretary was Houcine Jazaïri, a member of the Islamist Ennahdha Party. In 2014 the State Secretariat was suppressed and its responsibilities downgraded to the Office of Tunisians Abroad.

This institution was in charge of migration, uniting the visions of the different actors, ensuring good governance of resources, supporting coordination between partners and understanding opportunities in the field of migration.

c) State diaspora policy

With respect to the diaspora, the Tunisian government insists on five main goals: providing social security (ex: bilateral agreements with France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands); tightening cultural ties with migrants and their descendents (by establishing cultural programs, teaching Arabic language and providing preachers for religious celebrations); promoting investment and transferring remittances; gathering knowledge and savoir-faire abroad and developing information systems for expatriate citizens.

The state is also committed to maintaining an identity link between the migrant and Tunisia. For instance, it implements Arabic-tuition-abroad program through official Tunisian representations in

Europe (even if users are not satisfied with this service). Also, residents abroad can now be both voters and candidates for election.

Tunisia is leading negotiations with host countries over the entry and living conditions of migrants.

The periodicity of stay is indicated in the framework of technical cooperation: for example the students receiving a scholarship to study in the EU must commit to return to work three years in Tunisia (Decree of the Minister of Higher Education, 31 October 2001).

The state diaspora policy supports diaspora remittances from Europe. The state promotes economic return in Tunisia but not definitive return because the economic link to EU is essential to pursuing investment.

The state's short term objectives are: developing a national policy on the management of Tunisians abroad; enacting laws encouraging migrant investment in the country (Tax benefits to temporary or permanent return); identifying Tunisian skills abroad (Inventory of Tunisian Skills Abroad, TSA); mobilizing the skills of the Tunisian community abroad in the fields of higher education and research; developing a strategy to strengthen the dissemination of information to the diaspora; developing a cultural program strengthening the attachment of Tunisian emigrants and their families to their country; conducting negotiations with the countries of destination on conditions of entry and residence for Tunisian emigrants; implementing bilateral agreements to promote the investment of Tunisian nationals abroad; increasing prevention campaigns aimed at discouraging candidates for illegal immigration and reforming Tunisian legislation to control irregular migration.

d) Responsible institutions

The institutions responsible for the implementation of these policies are:

the Ministry of Foreigner Affairs (via local embassies and consulates abroad);

the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Training and Employment: employment and professional insertion; coordination between the two previously mentioned ministries and OTE support for investment via the Agency for the promotion of industry and innovation (API) and the Agency for the Promoting of Agriculture (APA);

the Ministry of Social Affairs deals with social, cultural and economic aspects (social security, Arabic teaching);

the Ministry of Culture deals with cultural programs reinforcing the attachment of Tunisian migrants and their families to their country;

the Ministry of Religious Affairs provides preachers for religious celebrations;

OTE and the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) are responsible for the implementation of These policies.

e) Bilateral agreement on the readmission (or forced return) of emigrants

The 2008 agreement organizes the admission of migrants, including services such as a psychological follow-up in order to manage their integration in their origin country. An agreement was signed with France regarding voluntary return and forced return (readmission). France provides 3,000 Euros to every illegal migrant who agrees to return by himself to Tunisia.

f) Responsible institutions

The institutions responsible for the implementation of these policies are:

the Ministry of the Interior: collaborates with the Ministry of Social Affairs and other ministries in order to ensure migrants' successful integration in their origin country. It applies relevant agreements to achieve the goal of successful readmission of Tunisian migrants: Tunisian hospitality and cooperation of third countries in the field (that is to say, notification of the return; exchange letters);

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: has signed readmission agreements with third countries;

the Ministry of Social Affairs: applies social conventions – that is to say, development assistance in the country (from Northern countries) – which aim to manage migration flows indirectly;

the Ministry of Employment helps to implement exchange programs in the field of employment to support the readmission of Tunisians.

2.1 Political and civic rights of emigrants

a) Emigration and voting rights

The Tunisian electoral system is currently being overhauled due to the 2011 political break, i.e. the end of the period of dictatorship and the establishment of a democracy. Up until then, Tunisian citizens were not involved in elections or in political life in general. Even if they were allowed to vote from abroad in a Presidential election, this election was in reality a farce; the president were elected with a 98% vote for more than 20 years.

The political involvement of Tunisian citizens abroad was limited before the revolution (2011): they were allowed to vote only in presidential elections and for referendums (in the context of a dictatorship. Since then, Tunisian migrants have fought to obtain rights equal to the rest of the country's citizens and to be a part of the political scene in new Tunisia. Citizens from abroad still vote in presidential elections and obtained the right to vote in parliamentary elections from overseas. Thanks to this, migrants elected their own representatives to the constituent assembly for the first time (in the first election after the revolution: 21 October 2011). Eighteen representatives represented six constituencies abroad: France (2), Italy (1), Germany (1), Arab countries (1) and "America and rest of the world"(1). The new Tunisian Constitution institutionalizes this right in article 55: a citizen possessing two nationalities is allowed to be elected to be a representative (agreement of 2007). Furthermore, at the end of a long polemic, article 74, which allows a Tunisian citizen with two nationalities to become president, was amended² to include the condition that every candidate for the presidential election, when introducing his candidacy, must undertake to renounce any other nationality from the moment he is declared elected.

Modalities to vote from abroad: The conditions to register as a voter abroad are: to be 18 years old; to have a clean record; to be registered in a Tunisian consulate abroad; and to initiate the registration process. There is indeed a time limit before each election, after which voters are excluded. Emigrants receive a convocation notice; they then need to go to the consulate nearest to their residence to vote in person with their election card and a piece of I.D.

² See the new Tunisian Constitution adopted in January 2014, translated into English by Jasmine Foundation: http://www.jasmine-foundation.org/doc/unofficial_english_translation_of_tunisian_constitution_final_ed.pdf

b) Responsible institution

Since 2011, elections are administered and controlled by an independent commission called “Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Elections” (High Independent Instance for elections, ISI). The president of the commission for the 2014 elections, Chafik Sarsar, was elected by Parliament. This independent commission was created after the fall of the former regime in order to break state control over the democratic process. It is totally independent of the state. The commission manages elections, votes, and supervises the process at every stage in Tunisia as well as overseas through agencies abroad.

c) Nationalities, citizenship, and military duty

Persons born abroad automatically have the nationality of their parents’ country of origin. Persons in this category must be declared before reaching 18 years of age in a consulate abroad or in Tunisia. Dual or multiple nationalities have been allowed since 1975.

According to the agreement of 4 January 2007 with France, “2007-10”, a male citizen possessing two nationalities and residing in Tunisia must express his intention before the age of 20 to perform his service in France or in Tunisia. In both cases, the army is mandatory.

By Tunisian law, a Tunisian citizen possessing two nationalities from Tunisia and France and residing in France has the choice of performing national service in France (“the day of appeal”) or national service in Tunisia (twelve months of national service).

d) Responsible institutions

The institutions responsible for the implementation of these policies are:

the Parliament, which establishes the laws; the Ministry of Interior, which is in charge of voting rights and applies them abroad through consulates in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Issues;

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, through which consulates receive Tunisian nationality applications. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then sends the request to the Ministry of Justice for investigation and returns the decision to the Consulate.

2.2 Socio-economic rights of emigrants

a) Bilateral agreements on labor migration

The Ministry of Employment is working to promote legal migration. To this end, he signed a migration agreement with Italy in 1998 (implemented in 2000) which provides a quota for the entry of 4,000 migrants per year for Tunisian candidates possessing an employment contract in Italy. Since 2003, this agreement has been difficult to enforce. Today, Tunisia follows up negotiations with the Italian government Italy to boost this agreement.

With regards to France, a Tunisian-French agreement on legal migration was signed in 2008 which stipulated granting visas to 9,000 Tunisian candidates for emigration (the application does not exceed a size of 3,000 per year). Today, Tunisia is trying to re-engage the agreement. To achieve this, a cooperation program has been implemented. It aims to strengthen the capacities of structures in charge of labor migration (the National Agency for Employment and Independent Work ANETI with the cooperation of the French National Agency for Employment, called *Pôle Emploi*). *Pôle Emploi* is expected to address periodic employment offers and ANETI tries to provide Tunisian candidates to satisfy these offers.

The Tunisian government has developed an active policy in the field which involves both emigration institutions and private placement offices abroad.

b) Customs/import incentives

Tax code incentives to encourage Tunisians abroad to invest in Tunisia facilitate investment on legal, administrative and regional levels. Tunisians abroad enjoy tax benefits all over Tunisia. In addition, in regions that are classified as areas of investment, any investment operation (owned by foreigners or by Tunisians) receives: 10 years of tax exemption; and in agricultural regions, incentives through the Agency for the promotion of agriculture investment (APA). Furthermore, migrants abroad who are businesspeople have the right to import goods related to their core business activities (industrial, commercial or agricultural) without paying customs duties.

To support migrant engagement in the economy of the home country, double taxation is cancelled.

The EU supports foreign investment from Tunisian migrants through promotional agencies of foreign investment. Property rights depend on the laws of the host country; there are no privileges for migrants.

c) Social and labor rights

Migrants benefit from transfer of the host country's retirement regime to Tunisia (and all social rights that they had abroad: medical, social security) and the portability of common law (family law), including the transfer of these rights to women and children staying in the country of origin.

The portability of social rights abroad is effective. Social security abroad is provided according to bilateral conventions.

d) Responsible institutions

The institutions responsible for creation and implementation of these policies are:

the Ministry of Finance, through customs, is responsible for providing tax exemptions to Tunisians abroad;

the Ministry of Training and Employment is responsible for encouraging the recruitment of Tunisians abroad;

the Ministry of international cooperation deals with the implementation of technical and labor cooperation with countries that are signatories to the relevant conventions and with countries that are applicants for Tunisian workers (Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia);

the service of agreements within the National Social Security Fund (the Ministry of Social Affairs) implements the social rights of Tunisians abroad.

2.3 Cultural rights of emigrants

a) School and languages

There are no national schools teaching a national Tunisian curriculum in Europe but there are in Gulf countries (Qatar, Saudi Arabia etc). There are foreign schools, however, teaching their national curriculum in the country of origin: for example, the French school.

The compulsory languages in the country are: Arabic, French and English/German/Italian. Every student is expected to learn at least 3 languages.

The national language, Arabic, is taught abroad. There are also Arabic lessons funded by the Tunisian government, which are offered to Tunisians abroad in Tunisian associations.

b) Media broadcasted abroad

All Tunisian Media is distributed in Arabic language (with a mix of Tunisian Arabic) and can be received in all countries abroad. It is very closely followed by the Tunisian diaspora in Europe and in the Gulf region.

The program *Hawzat-wasel* (“the link”) has been broadcast on the former TV7 (the government channel) and was created to help migrants keep ties with Tunisia. The program showed cases of Tunisian elites and skills abroad.

Nessma TV, a private channel created in 2007 by a Tunisian-Italian cooperation, aims to gather an audience from all over Maghreb countries and from Maghreb people living abroad. Some specific programs target one country and other programs gather audiences from all Maghreb countries and the diaspora. “Nessma’s” goal is to shape a “Maghreb” identity that includes the diaspora.

c) Responsible institutions

The institutions responsible for creation and implementation of these policies are:

the Ministry of Social Affairs (via the OTE) is in charge of Arabic teaching abroad. All consulates abroad must offer Arabic tuition to persons from the diaspora;

the Ministry of Education;

the Ministry of Culture.

3. Engagement of non-state actors (NGO)

a) Engagement of the Tunisian diaspora

The Tunisian diaspora has long remained silent for fear of reprisals by the regime. Today young emigrants participate en masse in politics and want to make their voices heard from their country of residence. After the revolution, the Tunisian diaspora was involved in rebuilding the country. There are many relevant actions, initiatives and activities involving migrant associations, professionals and student networks abroad.

Three years after the revolution, dozens of NGOs were created in France, creating a real dynamic of associations that were involved in the democratic transition in Tunisia. The OTE announces that 154 Tunisian associations were created abroad in 2011 (including 64 in France). The revolution offered opportunities for former opponents of the Islamist party to invest in official associations.

Leaders of the independent migrants’ NGO want to carry the voice of Tunisians abroad in the new Parliament. Supported by other organizations, the Association of Tunisians in France (ATF) presented a letter on 25 February 2011 to the President of the High Commission for Political Reforms to request inclusion in a future electoral law that gives the “right to vote and eligibility to be elected in parliamentary elections and the right to choose among representatives to Tunisians living abroad”. Thus, three representatives of civil society - which included an emblematic figure exiled from Tunisia for over 20 years (Kamel Jendoubi) – were involved in part of the national commission for political reform with the main task of preparing the election of the Constituent Assembly to draft the new constitution of Tunisia. Thanks to this involvement, Tunisians abroad were represented in the new Assembly elected in October 2011 by 18 representatives.

b) Objectives by association

Association tunisienne de défense des Tunisiens à l'étranger, ATDE (Tunisian Association of Defense of Tunisians Abroad) aims to promote and support the rights of migrants.

Fédération des Tunisiens pour une citoyenneté des Deux Rives, FRCR (Federation of Tunisians for a Both Shores Citizenship). Created in 1982 and based in Paris, this French NGO brought together many associations having a double geographic reference to France and Tunisia. It leads actions and reflections on various themes such as citizenship, secularism, human rights, immigration, illegal immigration, HIV/AIDS, etc. It provides prevention services, such as social security and law support, and provides shelters for people who are victims of discrimination.

Coordination des assises de l'immigration tunisienne, CAIT (Coordination of Tunisian Associations) was created in January 2014. The objective of this NGO is to coordinate Tunisian associations at the European level. It brings together several Tunisian-abroad associations. CAIT aims to protect political rights for Tunisians abroad. It is committed to the creation of a High Council of Tunisians abroad. It is also concerned with illegal migration issues.

La Ligue tunisienne de défense des Droits de l'Homme, LTDH (the Tunisian League for Human Rights). It supports the perception of illegal migration from a human point of view and not only a from a security point of view.

ATUGE (the Tunisian association of High schools) was created in 1990 to host Tunisian students in preparatory classes and schools in France and to support their efforts and their integration (especially with regards to economic aspects). Over the years, ATUGE has widened and become known for the diversity and quality of its events –for example, recruitment forums, conferences, cultural and sporting activities – which are generally open to everyone.

Uni-T (Union for Tunisia) was created in the aftermath of the 14 January revolution. It aims to encourage the emergence of a democratic state in Tunisia. Based in Paris, its actions consist of: information (conferences, interviews etc. to provide additional information on the current situation in Tunisia and on the institutions there), citizenship (coordination to help support and orient voters during the first Tunisian election, October 2011) and solidarity (to provide support to charitable associations in Tunisia).

Jasmin Tunisia Freedom and Democracy was created in Toulouse (France) in 2011. It organizes debates on Tunisian political and citizenship issues. It also organizes protests in France to put pressure on political decisions in Tunisia. It helps to carry out humanitarian missions in low socio-economic development regions in Tunisia.

Jeunes Tunisiens de France, JTF (Youth Tunisians from France). Created in 2012, this association is concerned with the success of the political transition. It is involved with the democratic, economic, cultural and social development in Tunisia. It aims to open public debates and promote citizen action. It aims to encourage cooperation between France and Tunisia, especially to promote the involvement of youth and the diaspora in France with current Tunisian concerns.

Association des Tunisiennes Engagées en France, ATEF (Association of Tunisian Women Involved in France). Created in 2013, this association focuses on women's issues, including how to develop their place in the domains of education and culture and how to maintain and improve their rights. Beyond this gender focus, the association is committed to fighting against poverty and to defending human rights.

Association des Tunisiens pour la Démocratie et le Développement, AT2D (Association of Tunisians for Democracy and Development). Created after revolution, AT2D is concerned with the democratic transition in Tunisia. It aims to reinforce links between France and Tunisia, and especially to strengthen the relationship with Tunisian civil society. It also involved in promoting investment in Tunisia.

4. Relevant agreements

a) Between Tunisia and France

- Framework agreement for the concerted management of migration and supportive (solidarity) development (Accord cadre relatif à la gestion concertée des migrations et au développement solidaire), 28 April 2008: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Soc/tn_soc/tnsoc280408/tnsoc280408.pdf;
- Agreement on social security (Convention de sécurité sociale), 26 June 2003: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Soc/tn_soc/tnsoc260603/tnsoc260603.html;
- Agreement on residence and work (Accord en matière de séjour et de travail), 17 mars 1988: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Soc/tn_soc/tnsoc170388/tnsoc170388.html;
- Agreement on the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments (Accord sur l'encouragement et la protection réciproques des investissements), 20 October 1997: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Eco/tn_eco/tneco201097acc/tneco201097acc.html;
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of education for Tunisian students living in France. Accord concernant la coopération dans le domaine de l'enseignement pour les élèves tunisiens résidant en France, 12 march 1986: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Cult/tn_cult/tncult120386/tncult120386.html;
- Agreement relating to national service obligations in cases of dual nationality (Convention relative aux obligations de service national en cas de double nationalité), 18 March-17 June 1982: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Jur/tn_jur/tnjur1803170682/tnjur1803170682.html;
- Agreement to eliminate double taxation and to establish rules on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters (Convention tendant à éliminer les doubles impositions et à établir des règles d'assistance mutuelle administrative en matière fiscale), 28 may 1973: http://fothman.free.fr/Accbitxt/Eco/tn_eco/tneco280573/tneco280573.html.

b) Between Tunisia and Italy

Full list of agreements between Italy and Tunisia:

http://www.diplomatie.gov.tn/index.php?id=357&no_cache=1&tx_wdbilaterales_pi1%5baction%5d=singleView&tx_wdbilaterales_pi1%5bpointer%5d=0&tx_wdbilaterales_pi1%5bmode%5d=1&tx_wdbilaterales_pi1%5bshowUid%5d=226.

Agreements with links:

- Agreement to avoid double taxation on taxes and income, Tunis, May 1979: <http://www.droit-afrique.com/images/textes/Tunisie/Conv.fiscales/Tunisie%20-%20Conv.fisc.Italie.pdf>;
- Convention on social security, Tunis, December 1984: http://www.cnam.nat.tn/telechargements/italie_francais.pdf;
- Agreement for the promotion and mutual protection of investments (“Accordo per la promozione e la protezione reciproca degli investimenti”), Rome, October 1985: text available on the online archive: <http://atrio.esteri.it/Default.aspx>.

5. Legal documents

- Law of nationality of 2008. Official publication of the Tunisian Republic. Amendment from laws n° 63-6, 23 February 1963;
- Law on passports and travel documents of 2004 (law n°1008-13). Amendment from laws n° 1975-40, 14 May 1975.

6. Conclusion

With 10% of its citizens living abroad, Tunisia has put migration issues at the heart of the political agenda. In the aftermath of the 2011 democratic revolution especially, the Tunisians-abroad issue has been raised as a real social and political concern. In the recent political campaigns for elections (2011 and 2014), no political party could avoid this issue or avoid proposing improvement to the State emigration policy. During the second part of the 1900s, while Tunisia was becoming a country of emigration, the state progressively took charge of the migration issue by trying to protect its residents abroad through agreements with European countries concerned with Tunisian emigration. The state aimed to promote labor and student migration and return of investment. At the same time, it aimed to strengthen the national, cultural and identity ties of migrants with Tunisia.

Nowadays migration profiles no longer fit with former frames of analysis. New generations are mostly born abroad with two nationalities and the development of an allegiance to the culture of another country. For this reason they can no longer be considered “migrants”. Their recognition as full and equal citizens despite their other national and cultural belonging is one of the challenges Tunisia faces today.

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