



WITH C Newsletter -

March 2024 Edition

*w*Special edition: Official closure of the SMTMC project and integration of the Centre of Excellence

1. Introduction - SMTMC, lasting legacy

After four years of commitment, the South Mediterranean Tunisian Maintenance Centre of Excellence (SMTMC) project was officially closed on 14 January 2025, marking the end of a journey rich in achievements and advances in maintenance engineering training and the strengthening of links between academia and industry in Tunisia.

Three major events marked this final stage of the project:

- Signing of the framework agreement between the Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIT) and the four partner universities - 25 December 2024. This agreement institutionalises the collaboration between the academic and industrial worlds, thus guaranteeing the continuity of training in industrial maintenance and equipment management after the end of the SMTMC project.
- The official closing event of the SMTMC project 7-8 January 2025. This ceremony, attended by the presidents of the partner universities, representatives of academic and industrial institutions, and the project's partners, provided an opportunity to take stock of the project's achievements and to discuss the post-SMTMC outlook.
- The integration of the SMTMC Centre of Excellence into the Ecole Pratique de Commerce (EPC) of the Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This integration will ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements and the continuity industrial maintenance training and services.





2. Signing of the framework agreement - 25 December 2024

-Venue: Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry

• Participants:

- The Chairman of the Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Vice-Chairman and the Managing Director
- The Presidents of the four partner universities: University of Sfax, University of Carthage, University of Jendouba and University of Gabès
- Representative of the Ministry Industry, Mines and Energy
- SMTMC project coordinators and the industrial players involved







-Objectives of the agreement :

- Structuring long-term collaboration between universities and industry for training in industrial maintenance and complex systems engineering.
- To ensure the long-term future of the SMTMC Centre of Excellence by it with an institutional base and appropriate sources of funding.
- Set up a model for continuing training leading to certification, meeting the needs of companies and maintenance professionals.

This agreement is a **key step in ensuring the continuity of the initiatives developed as part of the SMTMC project**. Thanks to this signature, innovation and training in industrial maintenance remain a strategic priority in Tunisia.







3. SMTMC project closing event - 7-8 January 2025

- Venue: Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - -Highlights of event:
 - **Presentation of the results of the SMTMC project**, highlighting the achievements terms of training, equipment and support for students and businesses.
 - Testimonials from students and lecturers, highlighting the impact of SMTMC courses on improving the skills and employability of graduates.
 - Analysis of the impact of the project, with statistics demonstrating the increase in the student employment rate and the integration of the new SMTMC courses into national university offer.
 - **Post-SMTMC perspectives**, through a round table bringing together industrial and academic partners to define future actions and opportunities for collaboration.







This event provided an opportunity to highlight **the success of the SMTMC project** and to lay the foundations for its development after the end of Erasmus+ funding.

4. Integration of the SMTMC Centre of Excellence into École Pratique de Commerce

-Venue: École Pratique de Commerce (CCITUNIS), Tunis

With the completion of the project, the **SMTMC Centre of Excellence is officially integrated into the Ecole Pratique de Commerce (EPC) of the Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry**. This integration will ensure continuity of training and technology transfer, strengthening the link between universities and industry.

•-SMTMC Centre missions:

- Offering specialised training in industrial maintenance and Industry 4.0, in line with technological developments in the sector.
- Encouraging academic and industrial collaboration to innovation and optimise industrial processes.
- Supporting Tunisian and African companies adopting advanced preventive and predictive maintenance solutions.
- Follow up SMTMC graduates and encourage their professional integration in collaboration with partner companies.

-Strategic axes of the SMTMC Centre:

- Setting up continuing and advanced training programmes professionals in the sector.
- Development of **applied research projects** in intelligent maintenance and equipment management.
- Organisation of **specialised seminars** and **workshops** dedicated to the latest technological innovations in the field.





The integration of the **SMTMC Centre of Excellence** within the École Pratique de Commerce (EPC) provides it with a solid institutional framework, enabling **the project's activities to be sustained and maintenance engineering training to evolve**.

5. Acknowledgements and conclusion

The SMTMC project has **been an exceptional adventure**, made possible by commitment and collaboration of many players.

- We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all the students, teachers, researchers and professionals who have contributed to the success of the project by taking an active part in the training courses, workshops and dissemination activities.
- We would like to express our deep gratitude to the partner universities in Tunisia, in particular the University of Sfax, the University of Carthage, the University of Jendouba and the University of Gabès, for their commitment and their decisive role in industrial maintenance training and integrating new technologies into the academic curriculum.
- We would like to thank the Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIT), which has played an essential role in structuring the SMTMC Centre of Excellence, thereby guaranteeing the continuity of training and services linked to industrial innovation.
 - A special thank you to Mr Moncef Ben Jomaa, Chairman of the CCIT, for his commitment to supporting the project's sustainability and its integration into the Tunisian economic ecosystem.
 - Our sincere thanks to Mr Najeh Ben Abdessalem, Vice-President of the CCIT, for his strategic support and his involvement in consolidating relations between the university and industry.
 - A special tribute to Mr Mohamed Souhaib H'sini, General Manager of the CCIT, whose support has enabled the SMTMC Centre of Excellence to be integrated into the École Pratique de on a long-term basis, guaranteeing its autonomy and sustainability.





- We would also like to thank Socomenin, whose contribution at the start of the project played a key role in bringing the SMTMC closer to the industrial fabric, facilitating the integration of students into the professional world and strengthening the links between companies and universities.
- We are particularly grateful to our European partners, who have made a significant contribution to the adoption of international best practice in maintenance engineering and to the alignment of SMTMC training courses with European standards. In particular, we would like to thank
 - University Dunărea de Jos de Galați (Romania)
 - University of Vigo (Spain)
 - Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University (France)
 - European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting EWF (Belgium)
 - Plasmatrix Materials AB (Sweden)

Their expertise and commitment have made it possible to introduce teaching innovations, enhance the training of Tunisian teachers and incorporate the most advanced approaches to industrial maintenance.

- We would like to express our gratitude to the European Union and the Erasmus+ CBHE programme, which have made this ambitious project possible, bringing about a major transformation in the field of industrial maintenance training in Tunisia. Their support has been fundamental to the success of the project and to the establishment of a sustainable dynamic of innovation and continuous training.
- Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank you to the entire coordinating team at the University of Sfax, who have supported this project with rigour and determination. Their commitment to managing, monitoring and implementing the project's various activities was a key factor in its success. Thanks to their exceptional work, SMTMC has been able to unite a large network of academic and industrial players around a shared vision of excellence in training and innovation.





□ Special thanks go to Mr Lotfi Sellami, Secretary General of the University Sfax, for his central role in the institutional management of the project, ensuring its smooth running and alignment with the university's strategic objectives.

□ Our sincere thanks go to Dr Hamdi Kessentini, Academic Coordinator of the SMTMC project, whose involvement was essential in developing the teaching content, setting up the training courses and liaising between the academic and industrial partners.

The **SMTMC Centre of Excellence**, now part of the Ecole Pratique de Commerce of the Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is **a model of successful Euro-Mediterranean cooperation**. It will continue its mission as key player in the development of industrial maintenance skills, thereby helping to strengthen the competitiveness of the sector in Tunisia and the Mediterranean.

Continue to follow the activities of the SMTMC Centre on our platforms:

Website: https://smtmc.org

Ecebook: https://www.facebook.com/smtmcproject

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SMTMC - A project that is shaping the future of training and industry in Tunisia and the Mediterranean!

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