

## Connect Tunisia: IEEE-SIGHT Project, August 2016 Update

Working together is not easy – breaking ground on new ways of using the Internet so that we can “Connect to Thrive” is taking on a world-changing, leadership role. On July 28, the IEEE student chapter leaders in Tunisia, along with members of the IEEE's Internet Initiative, presented at the People Centered Internet gathering at San Francisco State University, stepping up to the task.

### Introducing the team – Part 1

**Project Managers:**

Samar BABA & Mehdi BOUGUERRA & Seif EL HAJJEM

**Human Resources Director:**

Ayoub SALHA

**Financial Manager:**

Ahmed SELMI

**Communication Manager:**

Meher BNOUNI

**Technical Manager:**

Souhail BOUGRINE

**External Relations Manager:**

Skander MANSOURI & Khalil BEN SASSI

**Advisor:** Habib Kammoun**Project Coordinator:** Anis Ben Arfi

## Why Tunisia?

Why not begin somewhere that the chances for success are greater? This team is unafraid of complex problems, they will break challenges down and advancing solutions, like putting together Lego blocks, break ground on a new approach. Tunisia has a rich culture AND a long history of putting pieces together. Tunisia hosts the world's largest collection of Mosaics hosted in 20 museums, with a cultural heritage that has created the second largest collection of historical monuments in Africa, second only to Egypt.



Five million tourists visit Tunisia a year. In 2003, Vint Cerf was excited visit Tunisia and took lots of pictures at the sites where Star Wars was filmed. The movie Star Wars changed movie making forever.

George Lucas the director took many risks; one was to shoot the scenes of the desert planet Tatooine in the deserts of Southern Tunisia. Big things started in Tunisia.

*You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.*

Martin Luther King Jr.

The father of modern sociology, histography, demography and economics Ibn Khaldoun (1332-1406) was born in the capital of Tunisia, Tunis. Not only the first Arab country to have its own constitutions (1861), it was also the first to sign a treaty of peace and friendship with John Adams in 1797.

In 2011 Twitter, DailyMotion and YouTube were inaccessible in Tunisia, and gaining unlimited access to Internet content was a tremendous breakthrough.

Tunisia is the birthplace of the Arab Spring, when cyber-activists called for

more transparency and freedom, protesting against the infringement of human rights, inequality between social classes and internet censorship.

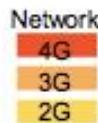
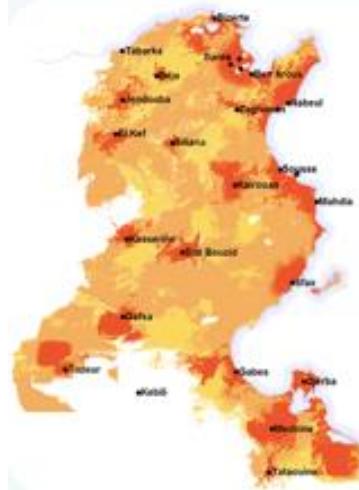
IEEE-SIGHT's Connect Tunisia project is aligned with Smart Tunisia: A national initiative to provide Internet access to all Tunisians in the cities and countryside, and connecting every educational institution by 2020.

## The Tunisian Revolution 2011

The birth place of the arab spring movement and revolution in January 2011. Cyberactivists used social media to organize events and share ideas. Condemning censorship (of Books, Newspapers, Tv, Radio, internet) and asking for more freedom



## Tunisian Mobile Network



- Tunisian people primarily use mobile devices to connect to internet, the majority thru' a 3rd generation network
- Data traffic is increasing
- Many schools and educational institutions are not connected to the Internet and service is unsatisfactory
- Only 2200 out of 5500 elementary schools are connected.

In 2016, 4th generation networks were introduced with improving service including new services, such as video calls. Unfortunately the 4th generation network is deployed in the larger cities only to a limited extent.

### The Connect

Tunisia project goal is not only to expand country-wide access to the latest Internet capabilities but also to engage Tunisians in creating local content in local languages. A concentrated and specific effort is required to assure that the people of Tunisia have the awareness and

understanding to learn together and to work together and effectively use the Internet to improve their lives and the lives of their children, to build communities that offer opportunity.

The Tunisian team is undaunted that even in developed countries, this is the major challenge that many face. As the birthplace of Sociology, Economics and the Arab Spring, Tunisia can be a catalyst for new approaches for using the Internet. We have a vision where Tunisian communities can use the Internet to thrive, where people can build a better future for their children.

**The mission** to provide connectivity to elementary schools in underserved areas in each of the 24 states in Tunisia: Enabling young people from the earliest age to use the Internet and have access to information and modern technology, to connect to other learners over the Internet.

**The first goal** is to decrease the gap between social classes and to Connect Tunisia for all Tunisians to thrive.

*To find useful content online is not an easy task for kids new to the Internet*

**The second goal** is to provide the right content, useful to people at each stage of learning: To be open to other cultures while being well informed and knowledgeable about their country and roots.

**The third goal** is to inspire creativity and interest in science, technology engineering and maths or STEM by visiting schools to motivate kids in STEM careers.

*Workshops and Maker Faires will be organized  
to set up the conditions for success  
for young people to be creative together.*

**The fourth goal** is to grow businesses that meet community needs first locally then regionally and then globally. The IEEE-SIGHT team intends to provide the tools and tutorials on for example, recycling materials, fixing devices, installing solar panels, repair computers, teaching one another and learning together over a lifetime.

*To enable and prepare the young for a rapidly evolving world  
where economies are being transformed by science and technology,  
people of all ages must learn and master skills that can produce  
a source of revenue and become self-sustaining businesses  
– private for profit, or to provide social benefits, that build community.*

## Introducing the Team's Network, Part 2

### IEEE Student Branches

Samar- ENSIT - 110 active members  
Ayoub- ULT - 90 active members  
Meher- ENISO - 80 active members  
Souhail- SUP'COM - 70 active members  
Mehdi, Skander - INSAT 310 active members  
Khalil, Ahmed- ENIT - 180 active members

#### Young professionals:

Seif- 260 active members

More IEEE student branches in Tunisia will get involved over time. Other IEEE affinities such as Teachers in service program and Communication Society will be helping as well. The IEEE Tunisia Section Chair has lent his active support and encouragement, as has the IEEE-SIGHT Chair.

### Introducing the Partners, Part 3

When young people set ambitious goals, not for their own enrichment but to serve the people of their country, they can inspire others to join with them. Connect Tunisia is building relationships with others so that many can work together on this worthy project.

### Our Partners

**Young Tunisian Coders Academy**

- WikiMedia Tunisia user group
- Science & Leadership association
- Young Tunisian Coders Academy
- Youth for Science Foundation
- Tunisian Association of youth & Science
- MentorNation
- Microsoft innovation center Tunisia
- Tunisian education and resources network
- The national center of education technologies
- TuniSchool

**Science foundation**

**Google for Education**

**TuniSchool**

**com**

**CNTE**

**TEARN**

## Introducing the Rest of the Team, Part 4

### ***Get Involved, We Need Your Help***

The technical challenges of Connect Tunisia pale in comparison to the coordination and social systems engineering challenges. We at the People Centered Internet are calling to all those who can assist and support this team to pull off this Mission Impossible. The Project Plan is at an early stage and if you believe you have something to offer, let us know

Role you could play:

Assets - *Skills and networks, passion and interests:*

What you want to contribute to Connect Tunisia: Project

What you seek to gain by engaging with us:

You can expect to hear back from us – not everyone who wants to help will be called to action directly or immediately – yet everyone who puts their hand up will no longer be bystanders. The team have prepared a [project report](#) containing all the technical and financial details and welcome your feedback and questions.

**STOP PRESS** – At the World Economic Forum Internet for All Stakeholder gathering Aug 30-31, Tunisia has been selected with Argentina as the two early countries where WEF is beginning a network of networks to help with Digital Development. People Centered Internet will be leading the initiative for the Mapping the Gaps, starting with Tunisia.