



«Mesahat» (Shared Spaces)

Project

مشاطات
مشتركة

Report

Presentation and Analysis of the Field Survey

In the Southeastern Governorates of Tunisia

December 2022

Introduction

Within the framework of "Mesahat" project, the **"Dancers Citizens South" Association (DCS)** conducted the field survey in the southeastern governorates as the target area for the project components.

This field survey aims at identifying the views and attitudes of social groups, especially youth, on the **political, socio-economic, and cultural reality and the status of rights and freedoms in the country** through samples of respondents living in the southeastern area of the country.

This survey has been one of the most important outputs of the Political Academy, which is part of the project. The Political Academy took place **from 2 to 7 September 2022 at the Radisson Hotel in Sfax** with 44 participants from 15 associations representing the four southeastern governorates of Tunisia, namely Sfax, Gabes, Medenine and Tataouine.

The survey enabled the Political Academy to introduce a general and important training around the various discussed topics. The aim was to transfer the discussion on these topics from the academy to public spaces in the target areas. The discussion was held in the form of focus groups by young men and women who attended the activities of the Political Academy.

The aim of these focus groups was not only to discuss and evaluate the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects and the situation of rights and freedoms, but also to summarize the most important ideas presented. The ideas shared in the focus group would be taken in consideration in the field survey so that it would truly reflect the gist of discussions and standpoints of the public spaces in the Southeast.

Therefore, through this report, we will try to introduce:

- General data on demographic and human characteristics as well as the development indicators of the governorates concerned with the survey.
- The survey and the way it was conducted on the field.
- Diagnosis of features of the respondent sample.
- Presentation and analysis of survey results.
- General conclusion

General introduction to the survey stakeholders

1- Introduction

The southeast of Tunisia is one of the most important demographic economic and geographical regions. It hosts about two million inhabitants, spread over an area of about 62,630 km², which is around 40% of the total Tunisian territory. The region also represents an important industrial and agricultural pole. In addition, it is an important touristic destination especially in Djerba-Zarzis (beach tourism) and the areas of Gabes and Tataouine for oasis, mountain and desert tourism.

To learn more about the survey target governorates, we present their general characteristics on the following tables:

2- Governorate of Sfax:

Sfax is located in the south-east of Tunisia. In the north, it is bordered by Mahdia and Kairouan. On the western border, we find Sidi Bouzid and Gabes. On the other hand, the Mediterranean Sea occupies the east and south border of Sfax.

Area	7455 km ²
Population	1.023 million
Percentage of females	50.4%
Percentage of males	49.6%
Number of districts	16
Number of municipalities	16
Population rate in cities	63%
Number of employed population	270 thousand
Percentage of labor force in manufacturing industries	23.2%
Percentage of labor force in non-manufacturing industry	16.8%
Percentage of labor force in agriculture	8 %
Percentage of labor force in services	52%
Illiteracy rate	17%
Unemployment rate	10.7%

Poverty rate	10.5%
Development Index	0.52 (seventh nationally)
Investment Attractiveness Index	4.7 (second nationally)

3- Governorate of Gabes

Gabes is located in the southeast of Tunisia. It is bordered to the north by Sfax and Sidi Bouzid, to the south by Medenine, to the east by the Gulf of Gabes that is 85 kilometers, and to the west by Kebili and Gafsa. The governorate of Gabes is divided into four natural areas: the Jafara Plain and the mountainous area, the Beheir area and the Manzil al-Habib area.

Area	7175 km²
Population	398.8 thousand
Percentage of females	50.9%
Percentage of males	49.10%
Number of districts	11
Number of municipalities	16
Population rate in cities	70.7%
Number of employed population	92 thousand
Percentage of labor force in the industrial sector	15.5%
Percentage of labor force in construction	22.5%
Percentage of labor force in agriculture	13 %
Percentage of labor force in services	49.1%
Illiteracy rate	18%
Unemployment rate	25.8%
Poverty rate	16 %
Development Index	0.51 (ninth nationally)
Investment Attractiveness Index	2.41 (fifth nationally)

4- Governorate of Medenine

Madanine is located in the southeast of Tunisia, bordered by Libya and the Mediterranean Sea to the east, Gabes and the Mediterranean Sea to the north, Kebeli to the west and Tataouine to the south. The governorate is divided into three natural areas: mountainous, Jafara plain and coastal.

Area	7167 km²
Population	510 thousand
Percentage of females	51%
Percentage of males	49%
Number of districts	09
Number of municipalities	11
Population rate in cities	65%
Number of employed population	128 thousand
Percentage of labor force in the industrial sector	07%
Percentage of labor force in construction	23%
Percentage of labor force in agriculture	07%
Percentage of labor force in services	61%
Illiteracy rate	17.7%
Unemployment rate	19%
Poverty rate	21%
Development Index	0.49 (Eleventh nationally)
Investment Attractiveness Index	2.46 (Ninth nationally)

5- Governorate of Tataouine

Tataouine is located in south-eastern Tunisia. It is bordered to the north by the states of Medenine, Gabes and Kebili, while Algeria and Libya are on its border from west and south.

The name "Tataouine" is an Amazigh word in the plural form. It means "eyes". It is one of the most ancient areas in history. In fact, after contemporary geological and archaeological studies, dinosaur remains of different species have recently been discovered, specifically in the village of Qasr Al-Haddadah and in the mountains

Area	38889 km²
Population	151 thousand
Percentage of females	52.5%
Percentage of males	47.5%
Number of districts	08
Number of municipalities	07
Population rate in cities	63%
Number of employed population	35 thousand
Percentage of labor force in the industrial sector	06%
Percentage of labor force in construction	20%
Percentage of labor force in agriculture	9.1%
Percentage of labor force in services	60%
Illiteracy rate	17.7%
Unemployment rate	18%
Poverty rate	19%
Development Index	0.48 (12 nationally)
Investment Attractiveness Index	2.88 (13 nationally)

Conclusions:

Through this brief presentation of the demographic, geographical and developmental characteristics of the target governorates, we can conclude the following points:

- A great convergence in the natural, geographical and climatic data of the four governorates representing the Tunisian Southeast.
- A great convergence in the data related to the gender social composition through the high percentage of females compared to males.
- Convergence in the proportions of urban population, especially in the states of Sfax, Medenine and Tataouine (between 63% and 65%), unlike Gabes where the urban population reaches 70%.
- If we exclude Sfax, the rest of the governorates converge in terms of economic and social development indicators

The **governorates of the southeast are, thus, a unified sample of social, economic, demographic, and human characteristics.**

Methodology of preparing and conducting the survey in the field

1- Introduction:

In our field research, we decided to adopt the survey technique as a method of data collection and analysis. Surveys are among the most important and most used tools for collecting information and data in psychological, educational, and social research, because they are easy to use, and the data obtained is easy to process. It is simply a list of questions that individuals are asked to answer to obtain information about a particular topic. In its simplest sense, the survey is a set of questions that are specifically prepared and sent by mail or may be delivered to the target respondents to write their answers on the survey papers and then return them. This is called (inquiry). It is done without the help of the researcher. The researcher does not help in understanding the questions, or in writing the answers, to ensure the scientific and objectivity aspects of studying the phenomenon.

Scientific research techniques cannot be separated as they are a set of interrelated technical methods. The technique of observation is the first process of recognition of the subject to be studied. The first steps of scientific research begin with our recognition of the phenomenon and our observation that it is a phenomenon worth studying for its importance in the community. Then, from observation, one can go through the interview or survey technique to collect quantitative data about it. Because the survey has a broad scope, it requires a parallel technical procedure of identifying a research sample that is representative of the study population.

2- Guided survey

In our study, we are using the guided survey technique, which is based on directly meeting the respondents to avoid the illiteracy obstacle and to adequately cover the sample and its social environment. This would enable the researcher to take some side notes that may help them in the analysis process later. The researcher often resorts to trained assistants to interpret questions for the respondents and enable them to express themselves freely and answer questions clearly.

Like other scientific techniques, the drafting of the survey is subject to certain steps and specific requirements. The drafting process of the survey begins with the identification of a set of starting points. It starts with conducting initial research on the target population and with identifying the required sample. Then, the next step lies in developing a pilot survey and testing its validity and suitability for the subject matter, which will help us formulate the final survey.

The requirements for building the survey, on the other hand, consist of building a structure starting from the formulation of an introduction on the subject matter in its various theoretical aspects. The introduction also presents the methods that will be adopted in the research. It is followed by the questions that have been formulated, which must be divided into units or themes related to the research topic. In the last part of the survey, it is possible to deploy open-ended questions to give the respondents space to express their opinions without the guidance of the researcher.

We choose the survey technique because it is the most reliable and objective tool in data collection. In addition, it provides data that can be classified, divided and categorized. This is not the case for the rest of the techniques ***that are based on open questions. The open interview or participant observation techniques use specific survey questions and require a single yes-no answer, or a set of choices developed by the researcher limit, therefore, the answers of the respondent.***

3- Preparing and introducing the survey form

Preparation of the form or field survey document has not been arbitrary or improvisational. It has rather been the culmination of a participatory process throughout the different phases of the project. The process involved civil society representatives of the project partner associations. The preparation of the survey has also been the outcome of all the discussions that had taken place during the activities of the project focus groups organized in 15 municipalities representing the five target regions (Sfax, Gabes, Medenine, Djerba and Tataouine).

Based on all the above, the main topics of the survey have been identified. They focus on the content of the Political Academy on the one hand, and the outputs of the focus groups on the other. Therefore, the field survey document (see annexes) included the following themes:

- First theme: on general information about the respondent.
- Second theme: on the political aspect (10 questions)
- Third theme: on the socio-economic aspect (10 questions)
- Fourth theme: on the cultural aspect (11 questions)
- Fifth theme: on the situation of rights and freedoms (10 questions)

More than two answers to each question have also been suggested to ensure the credibility of the answers, and to give more room for the respondents to express their opinion objectively and comfortably.

4- Quantitative evaluation of the survey

The survey document included 50 questions, including questions on general information. There are 145 possible answers to these questions. It is a very large number, enabling us to assess seriously and objectively all the data that will be produced by the field work.

The project geographical scope includes **15 municipalities** located on four regions in the south-east of Tunisia. To guarantee that the survey reflects the real standpoints and opinions round the overall themes put forward, **1500 field surveys have been completed at a rate of 100 surveys in each municipality.**

Based on the number of surveys that have already been conducted, the number of possible answers that **would have been covered in this report is within the range of 217500.** This huge number of possible answers makes the survey error margin very weak.

5- conducting the survey:

To ensure the objectivity of the survey agents, and that they avoided even spontaneously influencing the respondents, a training session was organized for all those in charge of this work. The training covered the techniques of conducting the survey as well as the communication method with citizens in the different survey regions. In addition, they have been provided with all possible ways to ensure the neutrality of their field work. All this falls in line with making the survey work transparent, and with reducing the error margin during the evaluation and analysis of the survey results.

Evaluation and analysis of the characteristics of the sample of respondents

Before starting the evaluation and analysis of the field survey and drawing conclusions, an evaluation and analysis of the characteristics of the sample of respondents shall be carried out.

This evaluation that will enable us to know the extent to which the questioned sample corresponds to reality of the social fabric and the nature of the existing social structures, according to the data and indicators mentioned above in relation to the constituent entities of the area concerned with the project, which is the southeastern side of Tunisia.

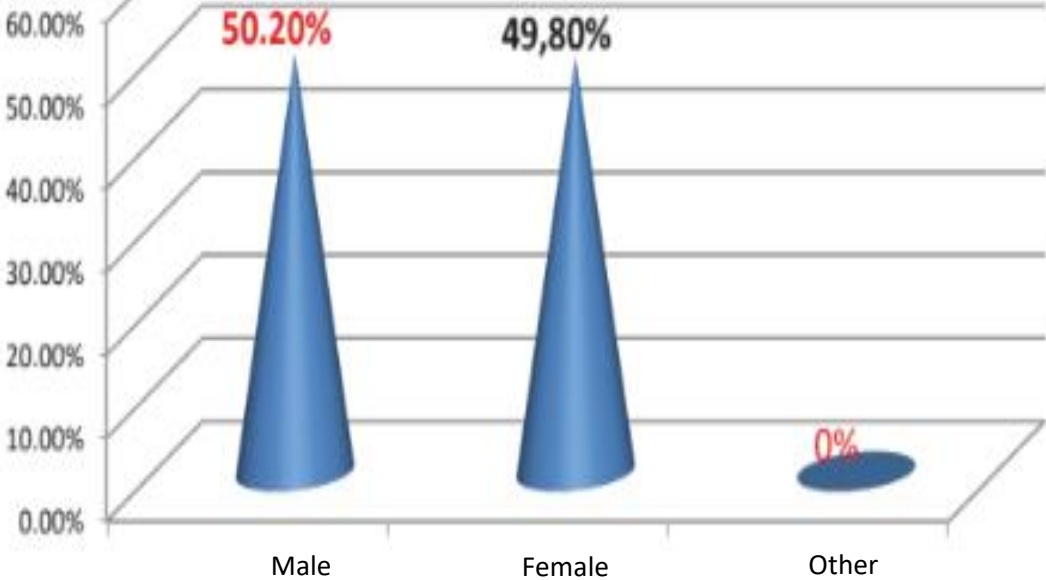
We will try to diagnose the sample of respondents by analyzing the information contained in the first theme of the survey related to the general information of the questioned person.

1- Characteristics of the sample of respondents:

1-1- Sample characteristics based on gender:

The sample of respondents is distributed as follows based on gender:

	Female	Male	Other	Total Number
Number	753	747	0	1500
Percentage	50.2%	49.8%	0%	100%



It is obvious from the table and graph that the percentage of females is greater than that of males participating in the survey, which reflects the general rate of females in the demographic structure of the southeast region of the country. Therefore, arguably, the sample of respondents corresponds to a large extent with the real demographic structure in terms of gender for the areas concerned with the project.

1-2- Sample characteristics based on disabilities:

After addressing the result of the survey on this topic, 4% (60 female participants and one male participant) of respondents are persons with

disabilities. It is a low percentage, reflecting the reality of PWDs rate in the municipalities covered in this survey.

1-3- Sample characteristics based on age group:

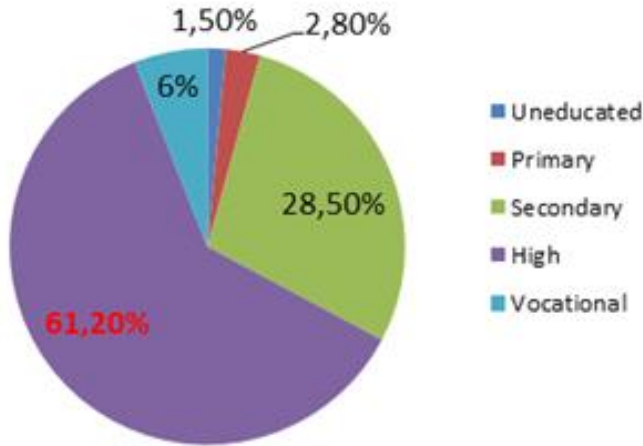
By evaluating the survey based on age group of the sample of respondents, we found that the age group 24-35 represents 75% of the number of participants and the remaining percentage, which is 25%, includes the age group of 35 and over. However, age group over 55 years represents only 2%.

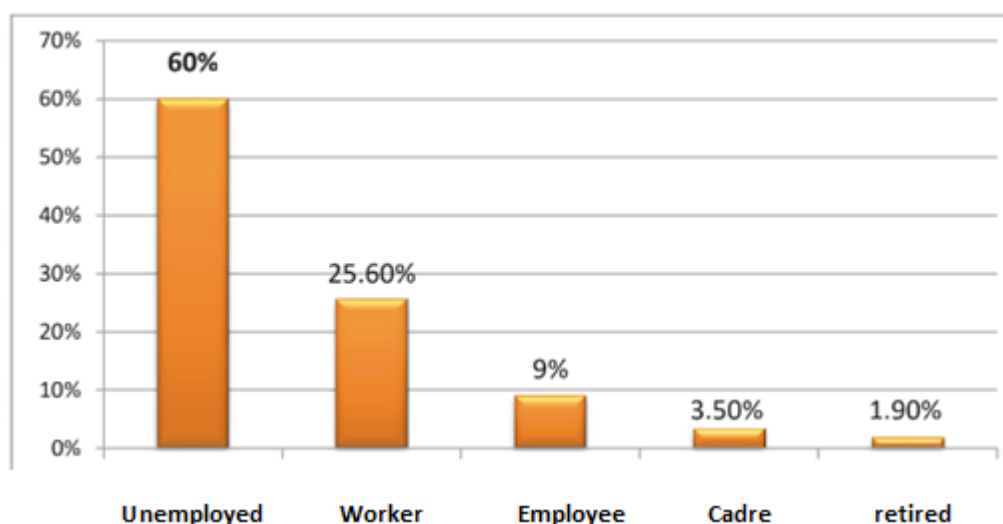
Thus, we can argue that the participating community in the survey is clearly the youth community, which is the objective that had been set from the beginning of this fieldwork as the opinion of the youth community would enable us to perceive the future of this country.

1-4- Sample characteristics based on educational level:

The sample of respondents is distributed as follows based on educational level:

	Uneducate d	Primar y	Secondar y	High Educatio n	Vocation al Training	Total Numbe r
Number	23	42	425	920	90	1500
Percentag e	1.5%	2.8%	28.5%	61.2%	6%	100%





Male and female with higher education level represented the highest percentage of the participants, at about 61.2%, while the percentage of secondary education level participants represented about 28.5%. These proportions reflect the youthful nature of the sample of respondents.

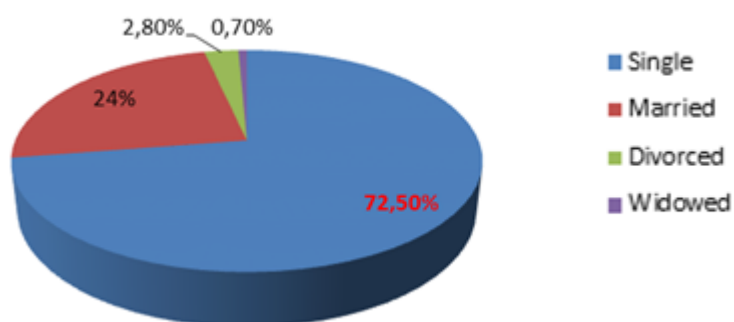
1-5- Sample characteristics based on profession:

The sample of respondents is distributed as follows based on profession:

	Unemployed	Worker	Employee	Cadre	Retired	Total Number
Number	903	384	135	49	29	1500
Percentage	60%	25.6%	9%	3.5%	1.9%	100%

It was not surprising that the percentage of the unemployed participants in this survey reached 60%, as more than 75% of the sample belong to the age group 24-35, which is the community that represents the weight of the unemployed in comparison with those holding university degrees in the southeastern region of the country.

1-6- Sample characteristics based on civil status:



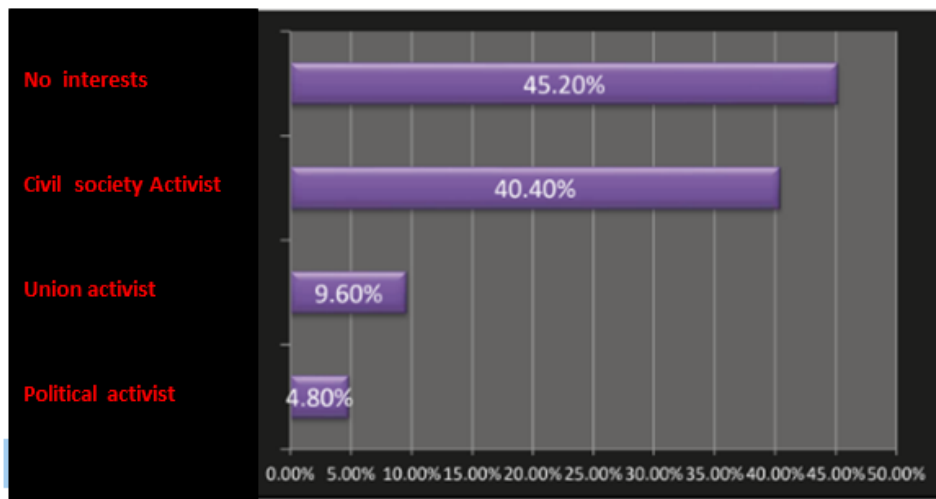
In consistency with the previous data, we will necessarily find that the rates of celibacy for within the respondents are high. This is due to the high percentage of the unemployed in the sample and the dominance of the age group 24-35 over the sample in general.

1-7- Sample characteristics based on civil interests:

We tried to include the civil interests' element for the respondents so we can know the extent of interest of both male and female participants in responding to this survey about public affairs, mainly that all the questions are in this regard.

According to the results of the field survey, the sample was distributed according to civil interests, as follows:

	Political activist	Union activist	Civil society activist	No interests	Total Number
Number	72	144	606	678	1500
Percentage	% 4.8	%9.6	% 40.4	%45.2	%100



Through the table, it is clear that the sample of respondents does not include a significant number of political activists, which indicates that the Tunisian citizen in the southeast region no longer cares about politics and politicians. However, civil and trade union activities are still present, existing mainly association activity, which indicates that society still trusts civil associations and trade unionists, albeit to a lesser extent.

It is worth mentioning that the percentage of respondents who do not have interests at all represents approximately 45%, which is the highest percentage in relation to other interests. It is an indication of the reluctance of the youth community's interest in public affairs.

2- General conclusions:

Through this survey and analysis of the sample of respondents, it reflects in a quasi-total way the demographic characteristics, gender, and human and developmental indicators of the southeastern region of Tunisia which reveals that this survey was truly reflective of the nature of the addressed topic. In addition, people tasked with fieldwork were loyal to the required academic impartiality.

Analysis of the results of the field survey

1- Introduction:

After presenting the characteristics of the respondents and matching its results with the actual data of the area subject of this study, we present in this section of the report, a detailed evaluation and analysis of the results of the field survey, according to the four themes included in the survey document.

We will try to focus on the questions of great importance for each theme, given that it is not possible objectively to present and analyze all the answers to the questions in detail (about 217,500 possible answers).

2- Analysis of the results of political field theme:

This theme included 10 questions and 28 possible answers to each survey. This means that 1,500 surveys include about 42,000 possible answers on this theme. After addressing all the answers related to the political field theme, the results of the detailed analysis are as follows:

Q1: The political reality in Tunisia for the past 11 years

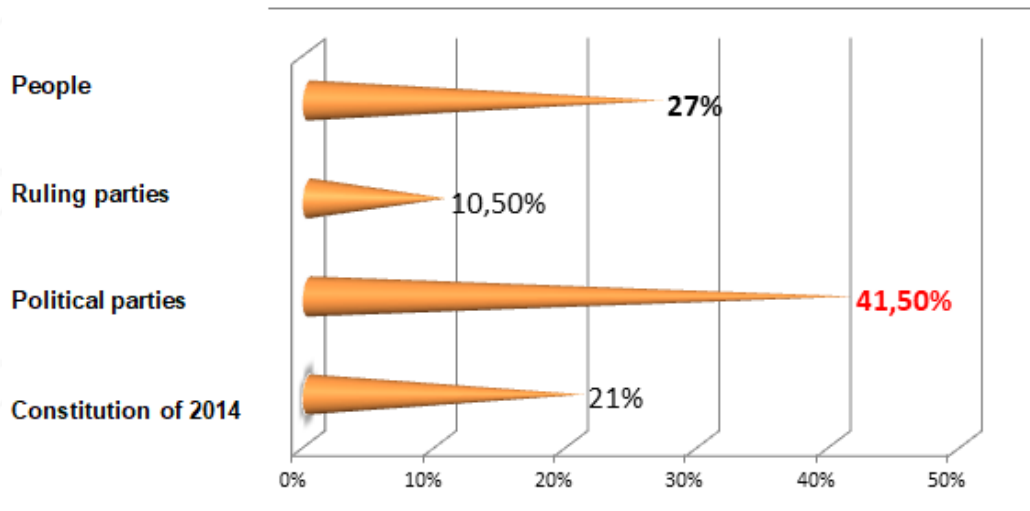
All answers to this question can be summarized in the following table:

	Good	Normal	Bad	No answer	Total Number
Number	72	199	1207	22	1500
Percentage	4.8%	13.25%	80.5%	1.45%	100%

The majority of the respondents (80.5%) agree that the political situation in the country is bad, which fully reflects the absolute reality. Indeed, it is an undisputable fact that the political situation was bad from January 14, 2011 to July 25, 2021.

Q2: Reasons behind the bad political situation:

The following graph sums up all the answers to the question above:



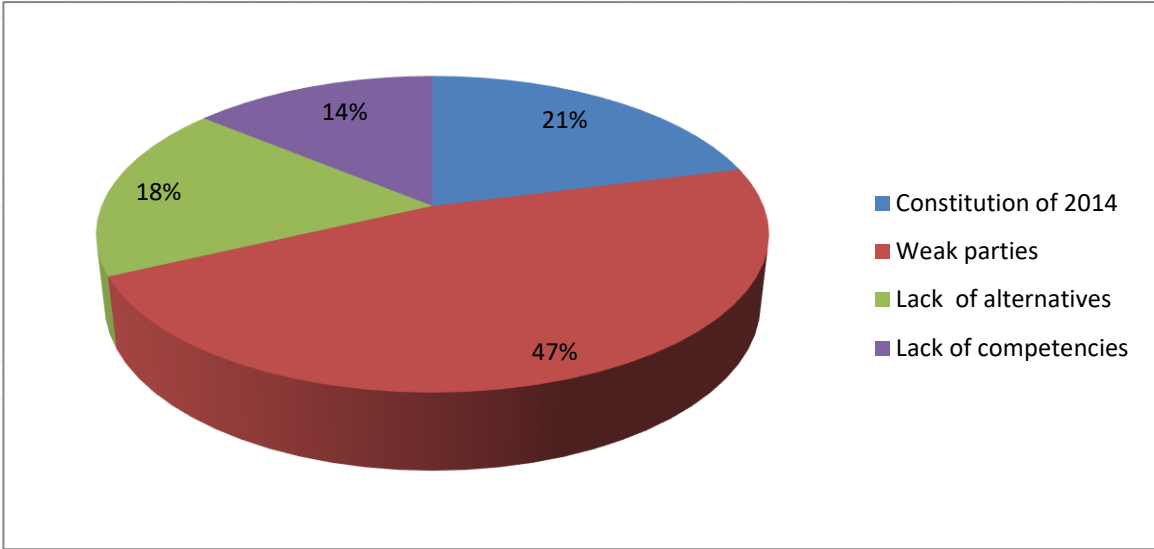
41.5% of the respondents hold the ruling parties responsible during the recent period for the deterioration of the political situation in the country over the past 11 years. While **27%** of the respondents hold the people responsible for re-electing the same parties that have proven their failure more than once.

Q3&4: Did the democratic experience fail in Tunisia? what are the reasons if your answer is YES?

The following table shows the answers of question 3:

	Yes	No	No answer	Total
Number	1245	252	3	1500
Percentage	83%	16.8%	0.2%	100%

83% of the respondents acknowledged the failure of the democratic experiment in Tunisia, and attributed the failure to several reasons, as shown in the following chart:



47% of the respondents attribute the failure of the Tunisian democratic experience to the weakness of political parties and their inability to fill the political void in society. Also, 21% stated that the constitution of 2014 is the reason behind this failure, which was nothing more than a set of complex or inapplicable articles as most of its articles were political gratifications rather than regulations of the political and legislative life of the country.

- Q5, 6&7: Did the political situation change after July 25, 2021? And what are the reasons in the case you answered yes or no?

On this question 5, the answers with yes and no are so close in numbers. As 57% said yes, while 43% said no in the sense that there is no change in the situation after July 25, 2021. In both answers to questions 6 and 7, the extent to which the situation changed or not after July 25, 2021 was referred to the reasons, as shown in the following two tables:

- For those who answered « yes », the reasons are as follows:

	Constitution of 2022	Exclusion of political	Promulgation of	No answer	Total

		parties	presidential decrees		
Number	349	786	360	5	1500
Percentage	23.3 %	52.4%	24%	0.3%	100%

- For those who answered « No», the reasons are as follows:

	Lack of dialogue	Decisions are made by the president	No political or economic alternatives	No answer	Total
Number	577	470	450	3	1500
Percentage	38.5 %	31.3%	30%	0.2%	100%

Those who acknowledged the change in situation after July 25, 2021, have attributed this by 52.4% to the exclusion of political parties from the scene, which is consistent with holding these parties accountable for the failure in the last decade.

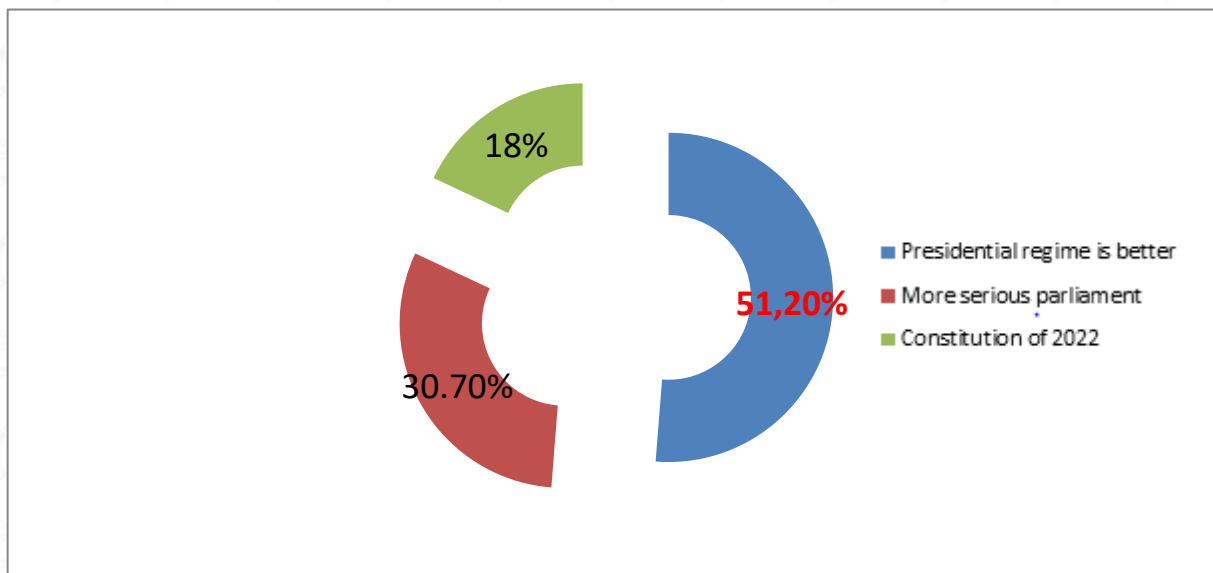
As for those who expressed that there is no change in the situation after July 25, 2021, they attributed the reasons for that, in close percentages, to: **the absence of dialogue by 38.5% / and the unilaterality of decisions in the hands of the president by 31.3%, together with the absence of a political and economic alternative by 30%**. We can confirm from this closeness in percentages the awareness of the sample of respondents and their understanding of the nature of their political reality, especially the youth group with the age group of 24-35 years.

Q8 & 9: Do you expect a change in the political situation after the elections of December 17, 2022 if your answer is « yes », why?

Regarding question 8 related to the possibility of changing the situation after the legislative elections of December 17, 2022, 58.4% were hopeless, **while**

41.6% dreamed of change. These answers express the state of political frustration among Tunisians with regard to changing the situation due to the continuous worsening of their economic and social conditions after July 25, 2021.

The following chart summarizes the reasons for the possibility of changing the



situation after the election.

About 51.2% of the sample of respondents attributed the reasons for the change in situation after the elections to the presidential regime; this confirms that the majority of Tunisians prefer the presidential regime that they experienced through different generations for more than 60 years. It also confirms that Tunisians are looking for a president who has important powers that enable him to change the situation, but will these wishes turn into reality?

Q10: Question 10: Can you imagine a real democracy without parties and a strong civil society?

69.8% agree that there is no real democracy without the participation of political parties and a strong civil society. This rate confirms the great awareness of a large proportion of the young sample of respondents about the role of political parties and civil society organisations in shaping political democracy and ensuring its sustainability in society.

3 – Analysis of the results of the economic and social theme

This section includes 10 questions and 27 possible answer per survey, meaning that 1500 surveys include around 40.5 thousand possible answer about this theme.

After reviewing all the answers relevant to this section, here are the results of the analysis:

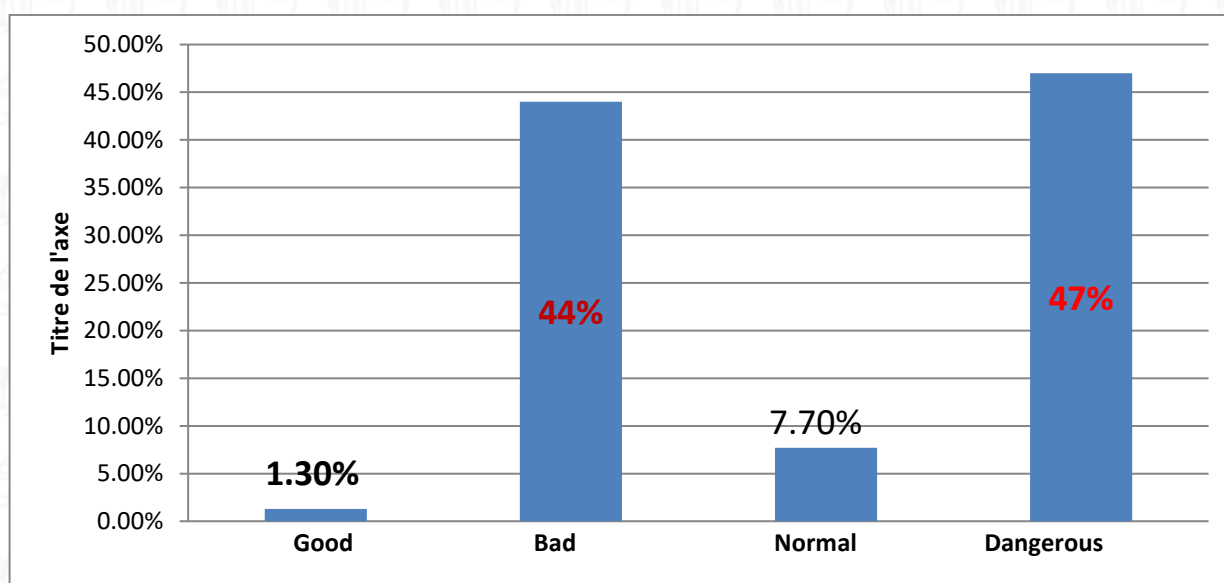
Question1: Did the political situation have an impact on the socioeconomic conditions during the last decade?

90% of the sample of respondents confirm that the political situation had an impact on the economic and social situation in the country. This was a logical and expected answer considering that the social and economic situation is a translation of the political situation.

Question 2: How would you assess the socioeconomic situation during the last decade?

This was one of the most important questions in this section. The answer are summarized as follows:

	good	bad	normal	dangerous	total
Number	20	660	115	705	1500
Percentage	%1.3	% 44	% 7.7	% 47	% 100



91% of the respondents qualify the social and economic situation as 'Bad to Dangerous'. 47% of the respondents consider the it 'dangerous'. This truly reflects the social and economic situation in the country during the last two decades.

Question 3: Is there a connection between the social and economic situation?

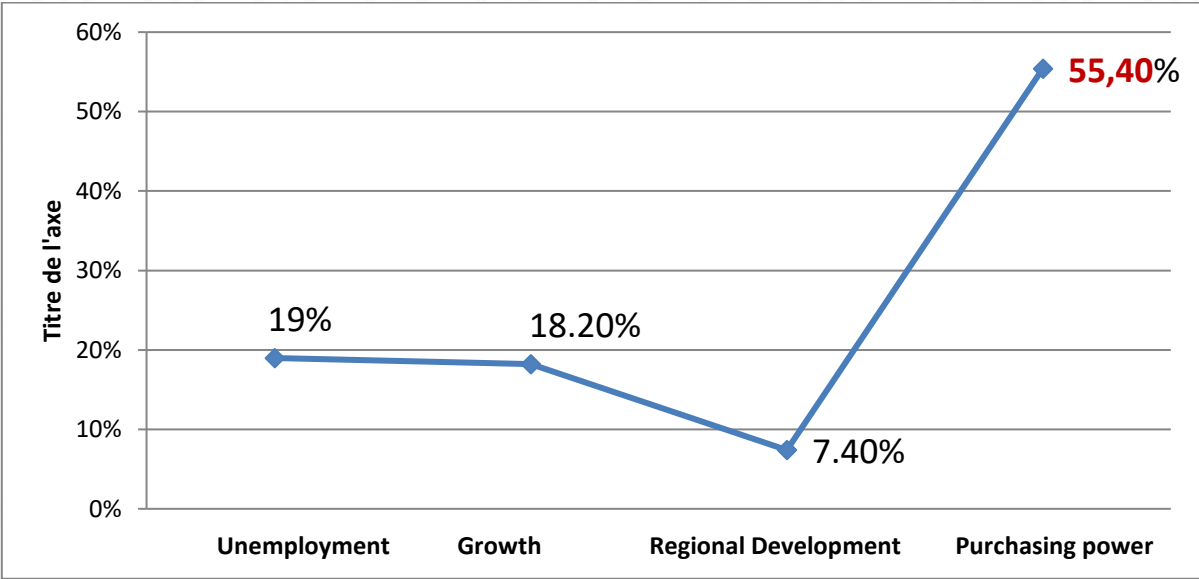
The answers to this question are summarized in the following table:

	Political choices	Weak political parties	Due to the implemented development policy	total
Number	609	100	791	1500
Percentage	%40.6	% 6.7	% 52.7	% 100

Based on the answers of question 3, the deterioration of the social and economic situation is due to the nature of the implemented development plans (according to 52.7 of the respondents). 40.6% of the respondents affirm that the deterioration of the conditions is a result of failing policy options during the last period. These answers are objectively and realistically provable.

Question 4: What are the indicators you use to evaluate the economic situation?

The following diagram summarizes the answers to this question:



55.4% of the respondents agree that citizens' purchasing power is the indicator used to evaluate the economic situation. The better purchasing power the better the economic situation. This approach reflects how well an important faction of the respondents understand the economic situation of the country and the indicators of improvement of the economic situation.

Questions 5 and 6: What do you think about popular protests, shut downs and roadblocks?

77% of the respondents support the popular protests and consider them legitimate because they claim the rights to work, water, health and transportation, as well as other legitimate entitlements for which the uprising of 17 December started.

75.5% of the sample confirmed that they do not support roadblocks and shut downs because such practices violate other people's rights to work and move and travel.

The sample illustrates the shared positions between the majority of the people concerning the legitimacy of the demands on the one hand, and the illegitimacy of infringing other people's rights and freedoms to work and travel on the other hand.

Questions 7 and 8: On the strikes organized by the Tunisian General Union of Workers and its political role:

Despite the economic and social weight of the Union and its glorious history, **56% of the respondents do not support the strikes organized by the Union.** In addition, **58% of the respondents do not support the involvement of the Union in politics and consider that it should stick to its union activity.**

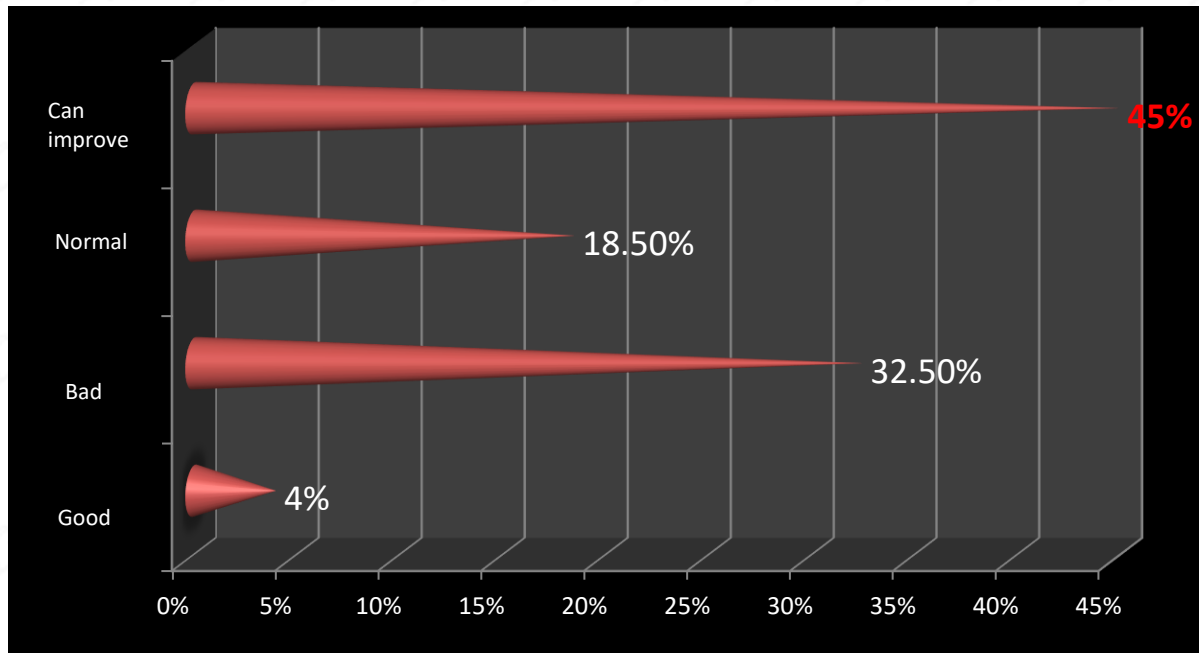
These positions of the youth concerning the Union and its syndicate struggle are no surprise considering the campaigns held by the parties in power in the last two decades that aim to demonize the Tunisian General Union of Workers.

Question 9: How do you foresee the future of the economic and social situation after the elections of December 17?

The answers to this question showed that there is distrust and frustration about the future on the one hand and hope of better conditions after December 17 on the other hand.

The results can be summarized as follows:

	Good	Bad	Normal	Can be improved	Total
Number	60	487	278	278	1500
Percentage	% 4	% 32.5	% 18.5	% 45	% 100



45% of the respondents hope that the social and economic situation will improve after December 17; 2022. However, 32.5% of the respondents consider that the situation will remain dire because of the unilateral decisions and the centralization of the powers at the level of the presidency, in addition to the absence of dialogue, which is the only way to overcome the current crisis.

Question 10: Do Tunisians value work?

84% of the respondents admit that Tunisians do not revere work; meaning that most Tunisians do not have strong work ethics. This explains the lack of national product and the deterioration of economic activity overall.

4- Analysis of the results relevant to the section of Culture:

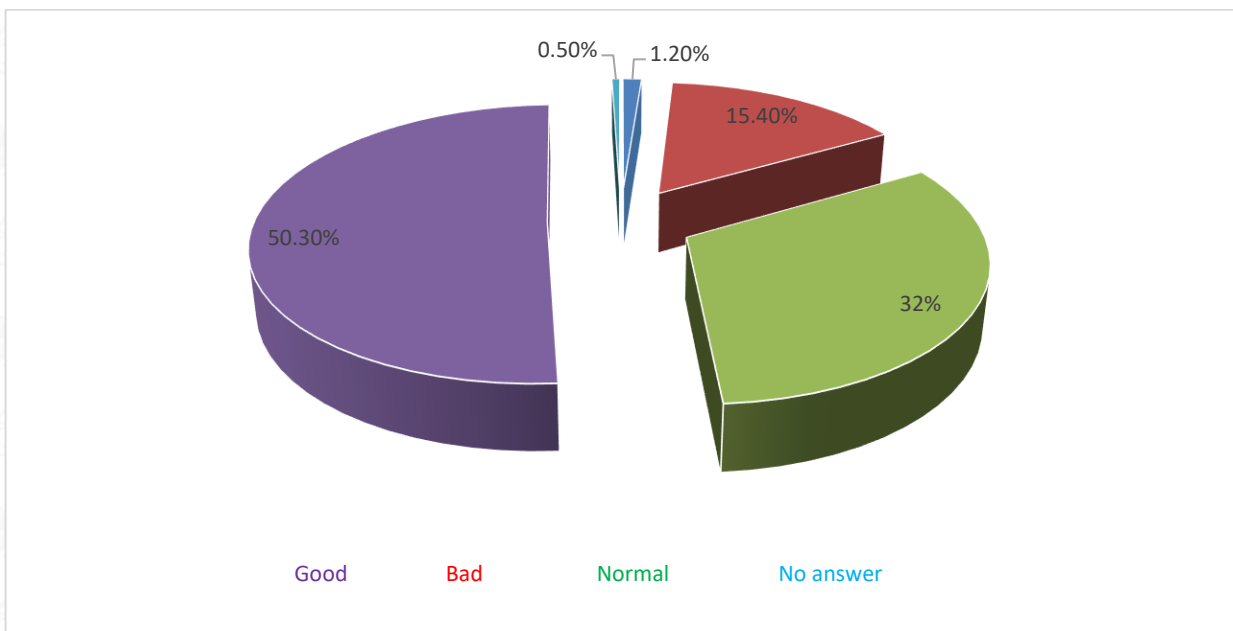
The section of Culture includes 11 questions that have 38 different possible answers; which means that we have an overall 57 thousand possible answer in all the 1500 conducted surveys.

The results of our detailed study and analysis of the data on this theme are presented as follows:

Question 1: How do you evaluate the status of Culture in Tunisia?

The answers to this question were divided as follows:

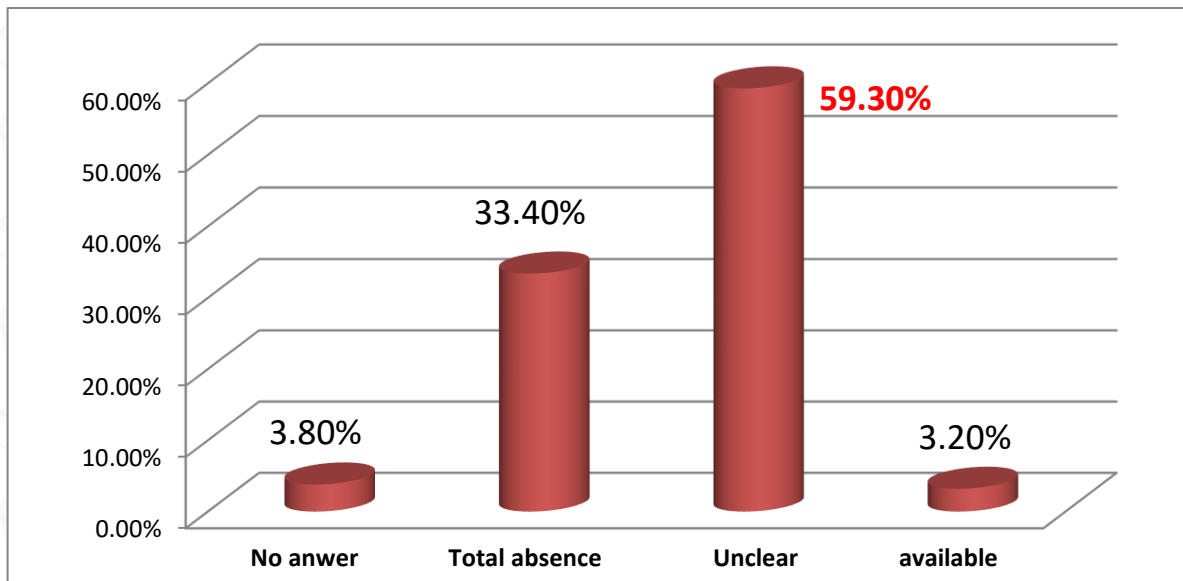
	Good	Bad	Normal	Marginalized	No answer	Total
Number	18	231	480	755	08	1500
Percentage	% 1.6	%15.6	% 32	% 50.3	% 0.5	% 100



50.3% of the respondents affirm that culture is marginalized. However, 32% consider that the status of culture is normal. The word normal is used here to say that the situation of culture in Tunisia has always been stalled with no creativity; thus giving the impression that the situation remains normal. The marginalization of culture was linked, since the sixties, to a folkloric aspect of culture. In Tunisia, since 1956, culture never overcome its elitist and spectacle-based aspect. That is the idea that the authority tried to disseminate in popular conscience.

Question 2: Does Tunisia adopt a clear cultural policy?

The answers to this question were divided as follows:



59.3% of the respondents admitted that Tunisia does not adopt a clear cultural policy, while 33.4% consider that there is no cultural policy at all. These answers reflect a clear position from the youth participating in the survey with regard to the long absence of culture and its components in the social and political fabric of the country, which goes beyond the last decade.

Question 3: How does politics affect the cultural aspect?

	marginalization	Employment	Financing	Repression	total
Number	687	270	60	483	1500
Percentage	% 45.8	%18	% 3.8	% 32.2	% 100

45.8% of the respondents consider that politics marginalize culture, while 32.2% think that politics repress culture through bans, confiscation and harassment.

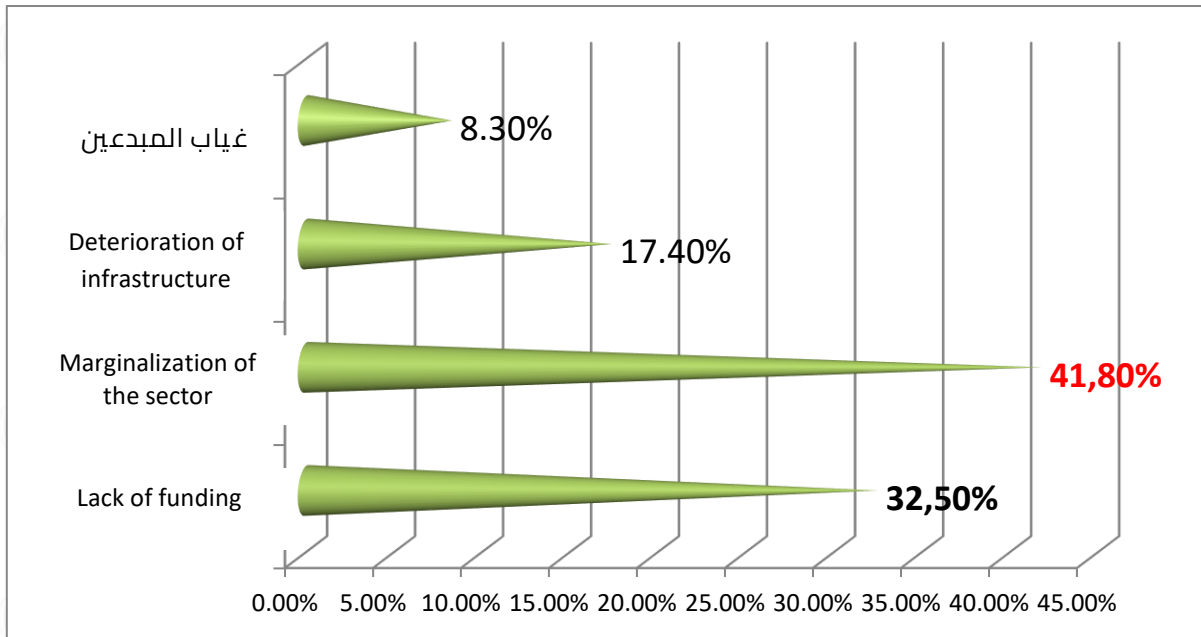
Question 4: What are the factors linked to the deterioration of the cultural sector in Tunisia?

The answers to this question were divided as shown in the following chart:

The respondents explained the deterioration of the cultural sector by:

- 41.8% say it is due to marginalization of the sector by the authorities
- 32.5% say it is due to lack of public finance

Absence of innovators



Thus, both opinions say that the authority is responsible, accounting for 76% of the respondents who hold the state accountable for the deterioration of the cultural sector.

Question 5: What is the condition of the cultural sector in your region?

45.8% of the respondents consider culture marginalized in their region, while 21.4% say that the status of culture is deteriorating. Only 9.6% of the respondents consider that the cultural status is good in their region. This percentage confirms the previous answers saying that the cultural sector in most areas, especially in the internal regions, is marginalized and deteriorating.

Question 6: What are the forms of cultural expression?

The answers to this question were divided as follows:

	Festivals	Theater	Music	All forms of creativity	Total
Number	125	139	48	1188	1500
Percentage	% 8.3	%9.3	% 3.2	% 79.3	% 100

79.3% of the sample consider that cultural aspects manifest in all different creative forms, meaning that the authorities' efforts to disseminate a

stereotypical understanding of culture were not successful. This confirms that youth have great interest and ambitions when it comes to culture.

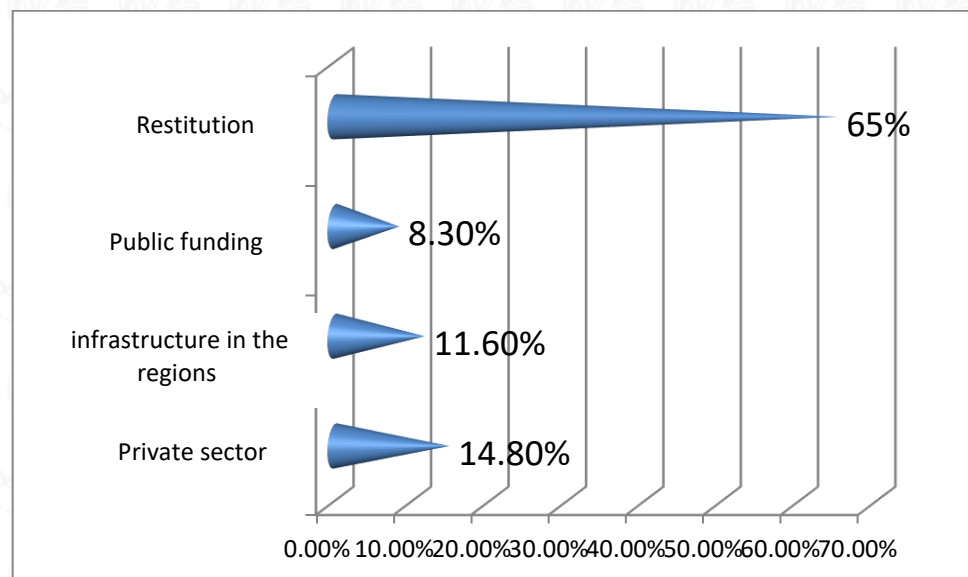
Questions 7 and 8: The contribution of culture in raising awareness and the possible role that culture can play in boosting the economy.

89.5% of the respondents think that culture is capable and responsible for raising awareness and educating active future generations. This shows that the youth are aware of the paramount importance of culture.

As to the economic role of culture, **80.6% of the respondents confirm that culture plays an important role in advancing the economy and creating wealth.**

Question 9: How can we reconstitute the situation of culture?

Answers to this question were divided as follows:



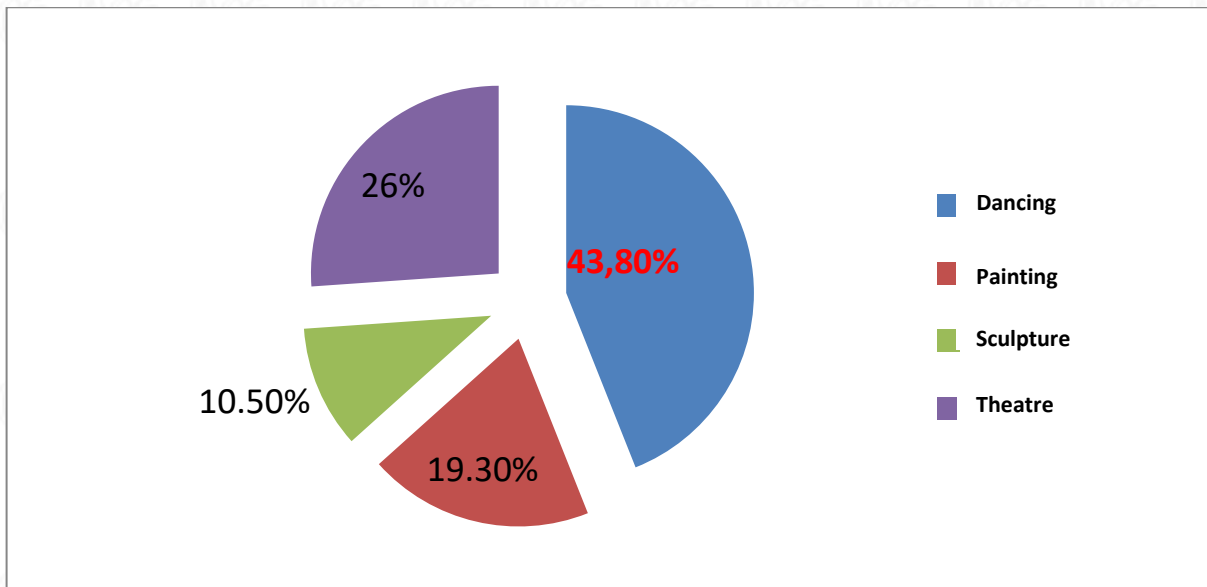
65% of the respondents believe that the restitution of culture can only occur through educational institutions, through the promotion of cultural activities in all educational institutions whether schools or universities. These institutions are the real incubators to culture where talents can thrive and cultural creativity turn into serious, efficient and economically profitable products.

Question 10: How is the situation of innovators in Tunisia?

63% of the sample considered that innovators are marginalized, while 27.4% consider that they are humiliated. As to the remaining 9.6%, they consider creative people esteemed. These percentages objectively illustrate the true condition of innovators in Tunisia, and they reflect the conditions of the cultural sector in general.

Question 11: What are the cultural forms with the least visibility in our society?

The answers to this question are summarized in the chart below:



These answers illustrate the reality of different cultural forms and the ones that are the least visible in our social fabric. Dancing ranks first amongst the least visible cultural forms with a percentage of 43.8%. Conservative societies consider dancing as a sin, something that is frowned upon, and that is prohibited socially. Theatre and painting are not considered as a sin, so far at least. For this reason, only 26% of the answers consider that they are not visible. As to sculpture, it is a form of art that is little known in our society and is considered very elitist.

5- Analysis of the results relevant to the theme of rights and freedoms:

This theme included 10 questions and 26 possible answers for each surveys; meaning that 1500 surveys include around 39 thousand possible answer to this question.

After processing all the answers relevant to this theme, here are the results of the analysis.

Question 1: How do you evaluate the situation of freedoms in Tunisia?

The following table summarizes the answers of the respondents:

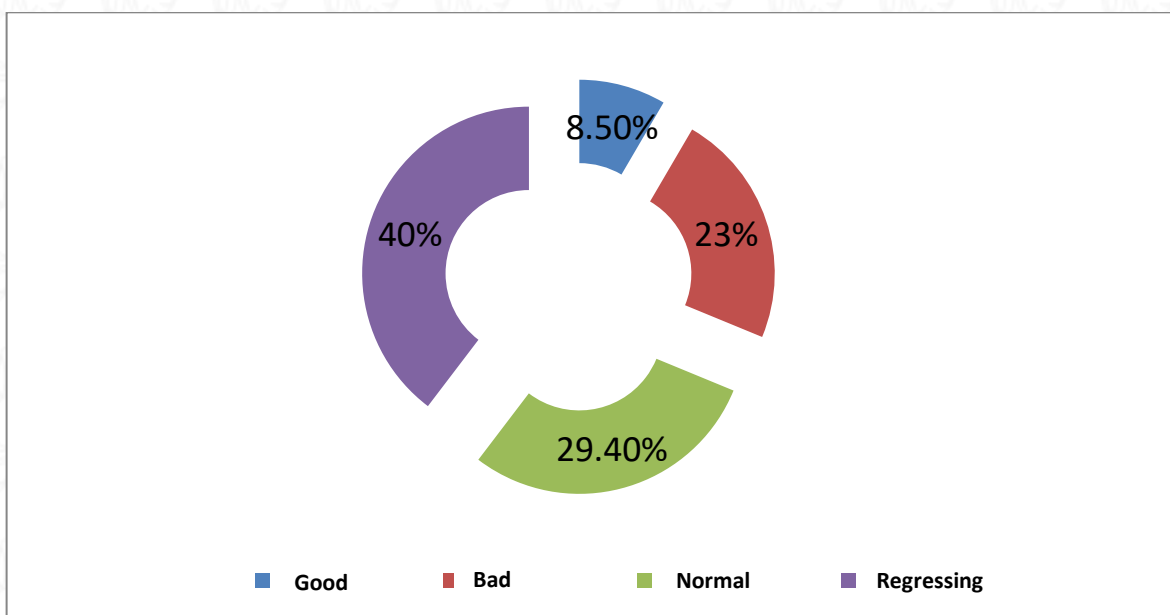
	good	bad	normal	regressing	total
Number	168	294	411	627	1500
Percentage	% 11.2	%19.6	% 27.4	%41.8	% 100

41.8% of the respondents consider that freedoms are regressing in Tunisia.

There is more and more suppression of freedoms. However, around 27% have a different opinion; they consider that the situation of freedoms is normal and that there is no need to worry about freedoms in Tunisia. This difference of opinion is linked to different perspectives on the matter of freedoms that remains undefined.

Question 2: How do you evaluate the situation of rights in Tunisia?

The following chart summarizes the answers to this question.



Similar to the answers on the situation of freedoms, 40% of the respondents consider that rights, just like freedoms, are regressing in Tunisia. This is not the opinion of the majority of the respondents. 29.4% of the sample consider that the situation of rights is normal and did not change. These answers show that the matter of rights and freedoms is a contested issue, as there is no agreement on their situation or whether they should be prioritized to the issue of social and economic rights.

Questions 3 and 4: Can we guarantee rights and freedoms through enshrining them in the constitution? Did the theme of rights and freedoms develop in the constitution of 2022 in comparison with the constitution of 2014?

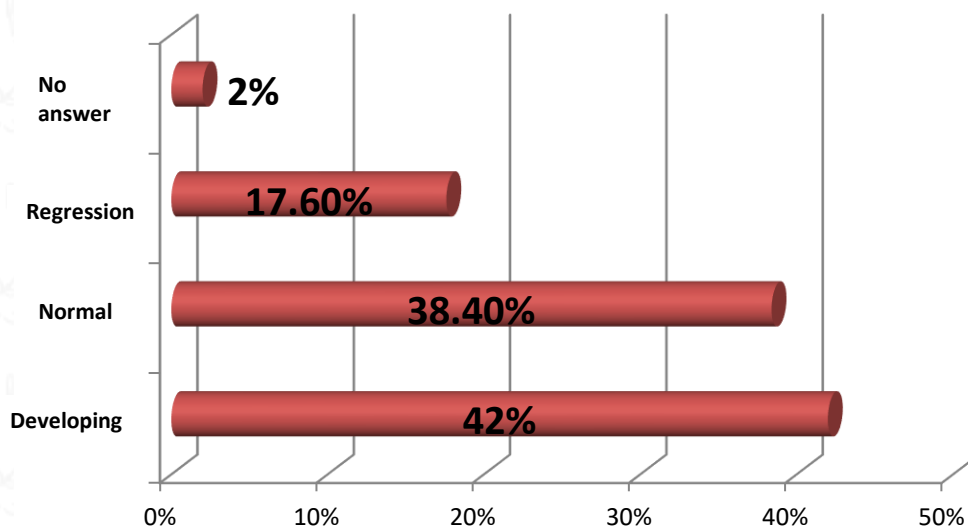
53% of the sample consider that enshrining rights and freedoms in the constitution is not a guarantee for them. However, 38% had the opposite opinion. 9% of the sample did not answer this question.

With regard to the development of rights and freedoms in the constitution of 2022 in comparison with the constitution of 2014, 57% of the respondents consider that the new constitution did not improve rights or freedoms. 38.5% of the respondents think that the new constitution has introduced new developments in this field. This difference of opinion confirms the overall social difference on the matter of rights and freedoms.

Question 5: How do you evaluate women rights after January 14, 2011 and until today?

This is a key question in the field of rights and freedoms in Tunisia, since women are at the center of rights and social struggle.

Answers to this question can be summarized as follows:



We can conclude from this chart that the answers to the question on the situation of women after January 14 are close. **42% of the respondents think that the situation improved while 38.4% consider the situation unchanged.** This similarity reflects the intensity of the conversation on women and their freedom.

- **Questions 6 and 7:** Will Tunisia's transfer from a parliamentary to a presidential regime impact the situation of rights and freedoms? Does civil society play an important role in the protection of rights and freedoms?

60% of the respondents consider that the transfer from a parliamentary to a presidential regime will have an impact on rights and freedoms. This important percentage confirms the fear of some youth from a centralized presidential system and its possible effects on rights and freedoms.

As to the role that civil society plays in the protection of rights and freedoms, a high percentage of the respondents, **about 85.5%**, consider that civil society plays an essential role in the protection of rights and freedoms.

- **Question 8:** How do you assess the situation of minorities in Tunisia?

	Good	Bad	Normal	Total
Number	120	945	435	1500
Percentage	% 8	%63	% 29	% 100

63% of the sample consider that minorities in Tunisia are in a bad situation.

However, 29% think that the condition of minorities is normal and poses no issue. The higher percentage expressed the bad situation of minorities in Tunisia.

Questions 9 and 10: Do arts and creativity play a role in the protection of rights and freedoms? Is the exclusion of political parties from the public sphere a step that threatens rights and freedoms?

83% of the respondents admit that arts and creativity play a role in the protection of rights and freedoms. 60% of the sample considered that the exclusion of political parties from public sphere is a step that threatens rights and freedoms. Thus, we can say that **the age group between 24_35**, which represents the majority of the sample, is well aware of the importance of arts and creativity in the field of rights and freedoms. In addition, despite the weakness of political parties in Tunisia, this age group still believe there can be no real democracy without democratic and efficient political parties that offer real alternatives and solutions to the problems of the people.

Summary

Based on a close examination of the characteristics of the surveyed group, it is safe to conclude that the respondents almost fully represent the composition of Tunisia's southeast in terms of demography, gender, and human development index.

Based on the provided introduction, processing, and detailed analysis of the results of 1500+ surveys conducted throughout the Misahat project's 15 municipalities, the following conclusions are drawn:

In terms of Politics:

- The country's political atmosphere is unsatisfactory, to say the least. This has been an undeniable fact since January 14th, 2011.
- Over the last 11 years, the Tunisian political atmosphere has been deteriorating because of the parties that held power.
- The failure of the democratic experience in Tunisia is chiefly due to the fragility of the political parties. Parties both failed to take the youth in and to fill the society's political void.
- Most Tunisians prefer a presidential system of government; It is the system they have known and lived under for the last 60 years, one generation after another. The people want a president with significant powers who can improve their lives.
- There is a high level of youth awareness of the importance of political parties and CSOs in shaping and sustaining political democracy.

In socio-economic terms:

- Politics directly influence a country's socioeconomic status, given that the socioeconomic discourse is but a condensed political speech
- Over the last decade, the socioeconomic situation has grown alarmingly dire.
- The deterioration of socioeconomic conditions is mostly a result of the incompatible development policies that have been in force since the 1970s.
- There is consensus among the people regarding two points: the justice behind the legitimate demands expressed, and the illegitimacy of threatening basic human rights such as the freedom of work and the freedom of movement.

- Despite the socioeconomic weight and glorious national history of the UGTT (Tunisian General Labor Union), a considerable number of youths are against its involvement in politics and argue that it should stick to being a trade union.

In terms of culture:

- The cultural stagnation in Tunisia may misleadingly suggest that the situation is normal. As early as the 1960s, limiting culture to folklore has resulted in a state of marginalization that continues until today. Since 1956 and until this day, culture has been elitist and designed for show business.
- The marginalization of culture comes in various forms of political oppression, e.g. bans, censorship, confiscation, harassment...
- Authorities are responsible for the deteriorating cultural situation. This is a result of continuous marginalization and lack of public funding.
- Culture, specifically in the interior regions of Tunisia, is in a deplorable condition.
- Raising awareness and building a proactive generation via culture is not only a desired effect but also a duty. Culture can greatly boost the economy and generate wealth.
- The situation Tunisian innovators experience is no different from that of culture, as both are neglected, marginalized, and forgotten.

In terms of rights and freedoms:

- Opinions regarding the future of rights and freedoms vary depending on perspectives, as there is no consensus on a specific set of criteria.
- Stipulating rights and freedoms in the Constitution does not represent a guarantee.
- Women's status in post-January 14th Tunisia raises several social debates. Some claim that there has been improvement, while others believe it is stagnant. This disagreement reflects the degree of intensity of the debate on women's status and social freedom.
- A shift from a parliamentary system to a presidential one will almost certainly influence the status of rights and freedoms. In this regard, some young people express concern about the consequences of a centralized presidential system.
- Civil society plays a key role in rights and freedoms.
- Art and cultural creativity play a key role in safeguarding rights and freedoms. Excluding political parties from the public sphere undermines rights and freedoms.

Attachment Field Survey

Field Survey

Governorate:..... **Municipality:**.....

Neighborhood:.....

General information

1. **Gender:** Male Female Other
2. **Disability:** Yes No
3. **Age:** years old
4. **Nationality:** Tunisian Other
5. **Level of education:** None Primary school High school Academic Vocational training
6. **Profession:** Unemployed Worker Employee Cadre Retired
7. Permanent resident Temporary resident abroad Immigrant
8. **Marital status:** Single married widowed divorced
9. Political activist Trade union activist Civil society activist

In terms of Politics

1. **Tunisia's political situation for the last 11 years has been:** Good Normal Bad
2. **If bad, please specify why:** Constitution Political parties Ruling parties
 The people
3. **Has democracy been a failure in Tunisia?** Yes No
4. **If yes, please specify why:** The 2014 constitution Fragility of the political parties Lack of alternatives Lack of competence
5. **Was there a real change in political terms after July 25th, 2021?** Yes No
6. **If so, what are the reasons?** The July 25th, 2022 constitution Removing political parties from power Governing through presidential decrees
7. **If not, what are the reasons?** Lack of political dialogue Centralized presidential decision-making Lack of political and economic alternatives
8. **In your opinion, will there be a change in the political** Yes No

situation after the December 17th, 2022 elections?

9. If yes, why?

- The presidential system works better A more "serious" parliament The new constitution will be in force

In Socio-economic terms

1. Has the political situation affected the socioeconomic conditions during the last decade? Yes No Other
2. How would you assess the socioeconomic situation during the last decade? Good Bad Normal Alarming
3. Socioeconomic conditions are due to: Political choices Poor programs of ruling parties Inadequate development policies
4. Through which criterion do you assess the socioeconomic situation: Unemployment rate Growth rate Development in interior regions Purchasing power
5. Do you support the recent popular protests? Yes No
6. Do you support blocking roads and stopping production units? Yes No
7. Do you support the strikes suggested by the trade union? Yes No
8. Do you support the trade union's involvement in politics? Yes No
9. What future do you foresee for the socioeconomic situation after the December 17th elections? Good Bad Normal Room for improvement
10. Do Tunisians duly respect work as a value? Yes No

In terms of culture

- 1- How would you assess the cultural situation in Good Bad Normal On the margin

Tunisia?

- 2- Does Tunisia follow a clear cultural policy? There is one Not clear No policy at all
- 3- How do politics influence culture? Marginalization Instrumentalization Funding Oppression
- 4- The deterioration of the cultural situation in Tunisia is due to: Lack of funds Marginalization by the State Poor infrastructure Absence of creative people
- 5- In your region, what is the cultural situation like? Good Deteriorating Marginalized Normal
- 6- According to you, which forms does culture come in? Festivals Theatre Music All forms of culture and creativity
- 7- Can culture be a means of raising awareness and building a proactive generation? Yes No
- 8- Can culture boost the economy? Yes No
- 9- In your opinion, how can we restore the value of culture in the future? Public funding Infrastructure in interior regions Privatization Restituting culture in educational establishments
- 10- In Tunisia, are creative minds: Revered Marginalized Mistreated
- 11- Which form of cultural expression is the least common in Tunisia? Dancing Drawing/ painting Sculpture Theatre

In terms of rights and freedoms

- 1- In Tunisia, is the situation of the freedoms: Good Bad Normal Deteriorating
- 2- In Tunisia, is the situation of the rights: Good Bad Normal Deteriorating

- 3- **Is the constitutional stipulation of rights and freedoms guarantee them?** Yes No
- 4- **Has the rights and freedoms situation witnessed development in the 2022 Constitution compared to the 2014 one?** Yes No
- 5- **What assessment would you suggest for the women's rights situation since January 14th, 2011 up until today?** Developing Normal Deteriorating
- 6- **Will Tunisia's shift from a parliamentary system to a presidential one affect rights and freedoms?** Yes No
- 7- **Does civil society play an active role in the protection of rights and freedoms?** Yes No
- 8- **How would you assess minorities' situation in Tunisia?** Normal Good Bad
- 9- **Can art and creativity play a role in safeguarding rights and freedoms?** Yes No
- 10- **Does excluding political parties from the public sphere represent a threat to rights and freedoms?** Yes No

- At the end of the survey, respondents are kindly invited to express through art, drawing, or a sign their overall position on the general condition the country is experiencing.

Name of the surveyor:.....

Signature