



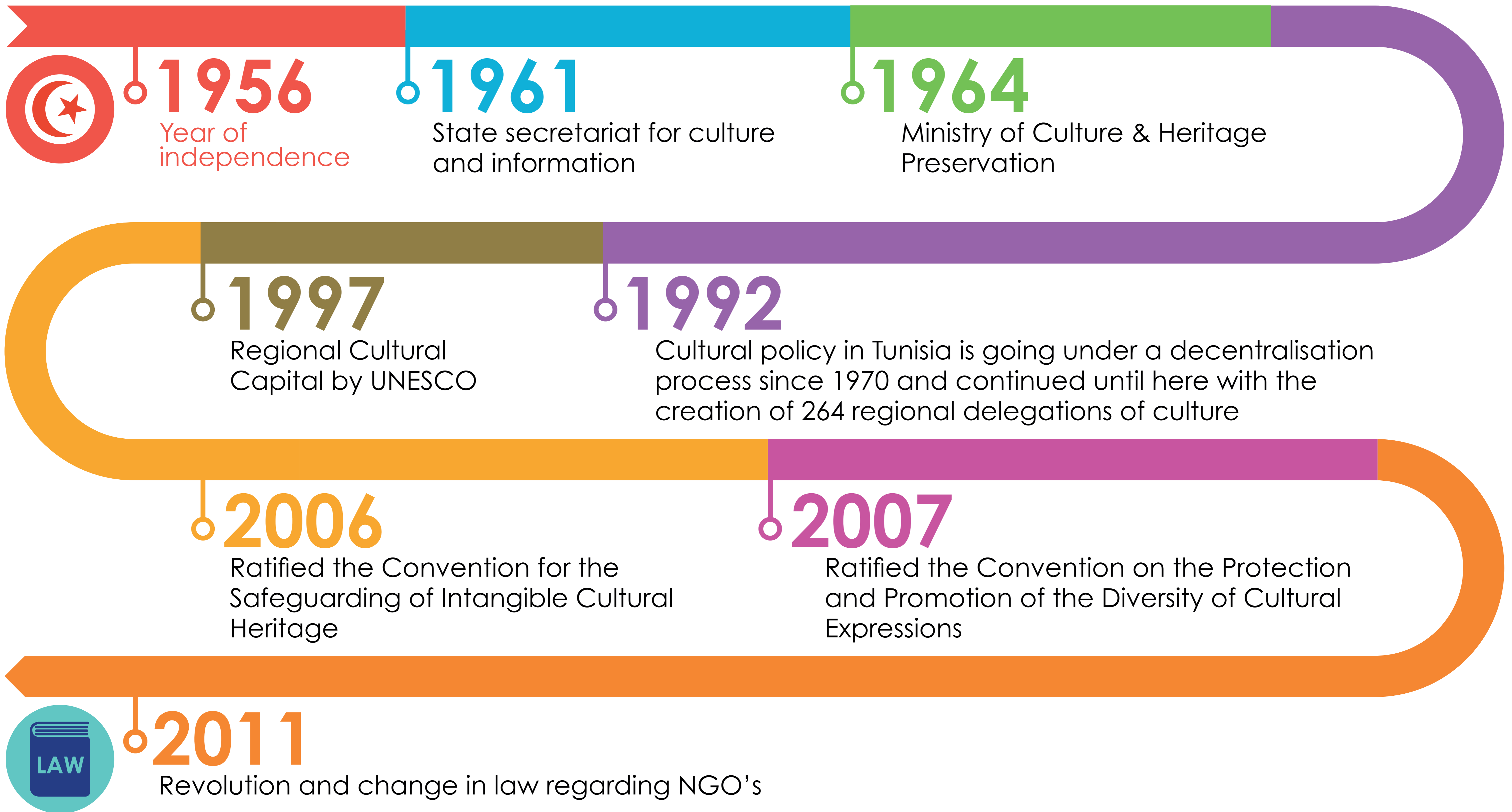
A programme funded by the European Union



The present data has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of the data published under the present country profile are the sole responsibility of Med Culture Technical Assistance Unit and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

# OVERVIEW OF THE CULTURE SECTOR IN TUNISIA

## KEY DATES



## FUNDING

FUNDS ALLOCATED TO CULTURE IN 2018:

# 0.74%

 FROM THE OVERALL STATE BUDGET

From 2015 to 2017, the budget allocated to culture has been progressively increasing, which is a positive sign indicating changes in strategies to boost the arts and culture sector.

### Ministry of Culture supports:



#### Heritage

Three national public bodies under the Ministry of Culture are involved in protecting and managing heritage:

- National Heritage Institute INP
- The Directorate General of Heritage
- The Agency for the Development of Heritage and Cultural Promotion



#### Performing Arts

3.2 million TND in 2014 channeled through 3 support mechanisms:

- Production aid
- Distribution aid
- Assistance for the operation and equipping of theatrical spaces and associations



#### Music & Dance

550000 TND in 2013

- 100 000 TND were awarded to dance against 50 000 TND in 2010



#### Books

- Subsidised local production with the compensation of paper cost
- Controlled editorial activity
- Liberalised book importation



#### Visual Arts

- Associations who implement art projects may be subsidised: maximum 5000 TND; 10000 TND grant per association to be validated by a commission, approved by the Minister
- A commission of the Ministry of Culture is entrusted of purchase of works of art twice a year from galleries approved by the Ministry
- Purchased art works are stored in a repository with very poor conditions for the conservation of such art works, and is run by personnel who lack adequate training
- 400 art works unknown to the public have been exhibited by the Fine Arts Department, for the first time in 2012
- A second exhibition was held in 2014



#### Cinema

5.5 million TND in 2013 channeled through the CNCI, established in 2012, and who signed a partnership agreement with the CNC France in 2013 to develop film cooperation between France and Tunisia

- The revision of legislation on the grant and dissemination of Tunisian films, dating from the 60s and 80s, gave a breath of fresh air to the sector. The production aid for 2015 exceeded 3.982 million dinars (1.794 million euros)

There are two production support commissions to provide:

- Aid with writing, production or finishing a feature film or a short film
- Support for non-subsidised producers (for the previous committee) purchase of film rights to broadcast with a non-commercial network, such as cultural centres, associations (cine clubs), schools, universities



#### Infrastructure



211 cultural Houses  
14 complexes to cover  
185 delegations out of 264

→ **70%** Geographical coverage

12 cultural centres, 384 public libraries, The Tunisian National Theatre and 6 centres of dramatic and performing arts, 19 institutes of music and dance, Over 700 festivals are identified throughout the country, The Agency for the development of heritage and cultural promotion

## PRIVATE SECTOR OVER 150 INDEPENDENT THEATRE COMPANIES 500 PRODUCTION HOUSES



Despite existing tax incentives, cultural patronage is rare in Tunisia; as the law allows producers to defer payments of employees social security contributions, reductions on the income tax and tax exemptions related to training



A programme funded by the European Union



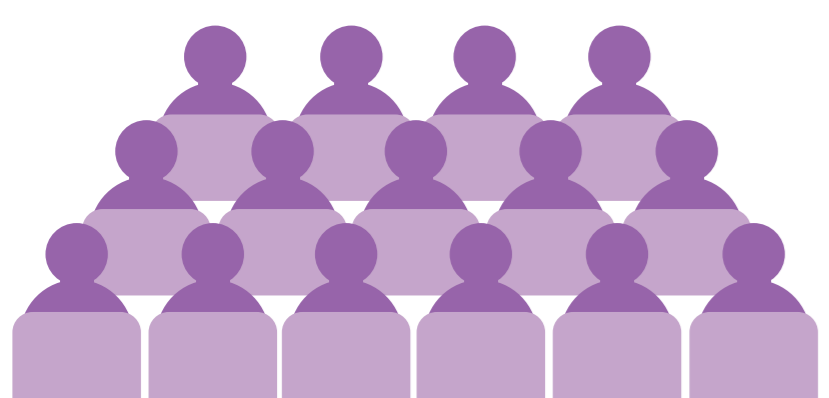
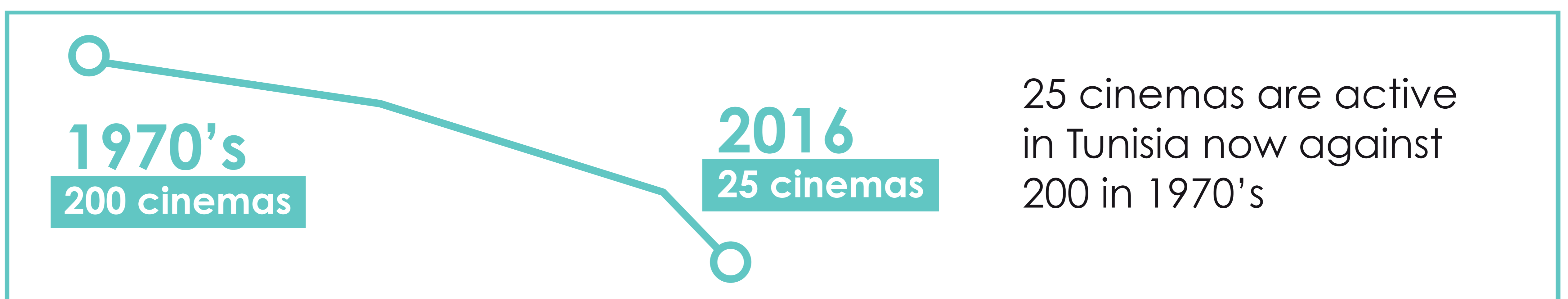
The present data has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of the data published under the present country profile are the sole responsibility of Med Culture Technical Assistance Unit and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

# OVERVIEW OF THE CULTURE SECTOR IN TUNISIA

## AUDIENCE VS INFRASTRUCTURE



Cinema



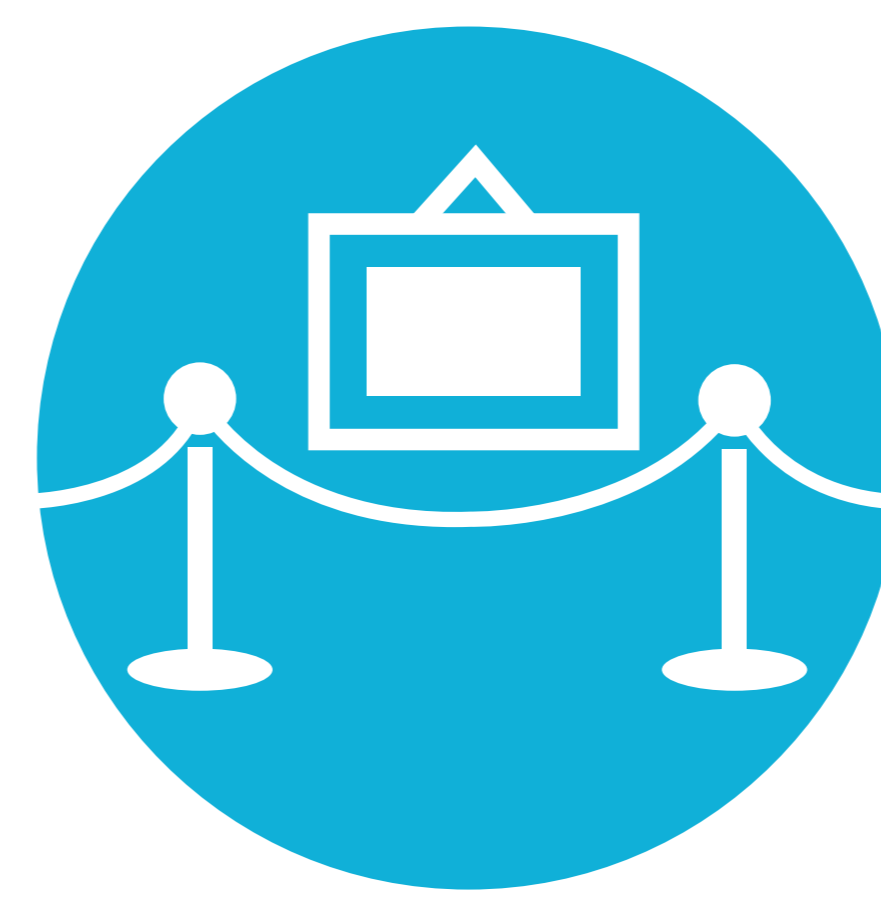
### Paradoxically film festivals are well-attended

- Carthage Film Festival,
- The International Festival of Hammamet,
- The Documentary Film Festival "Doc à Tunis",
- The Festival of Ulysses Films International, in Djerba,
- The Spring Festival Sousse,
- The amateur Film Festival of Kelibia attracting over 2,000 spectators per evening



Performing Arts

There's a need for new and well-equipped theatre spaces knowing there are no less than 300 theatre festivals throughout the country that are international, national, and regional, with the best known, Carthage Theatre Days



Museums



The number of visitors has dropped since 2011 in both:

- The Bardo Museum
- The archaeological museum of Sousse and Djerba



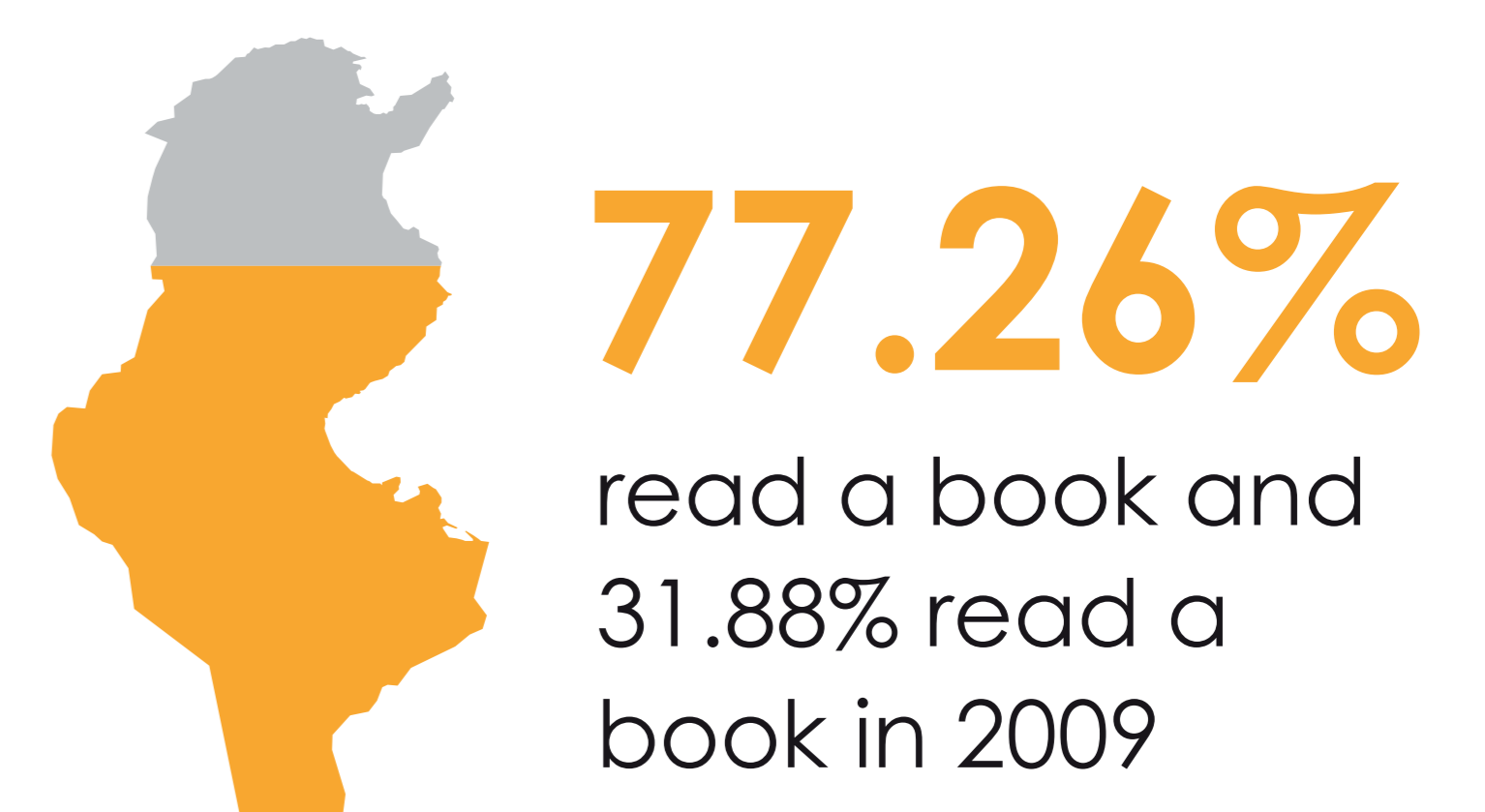
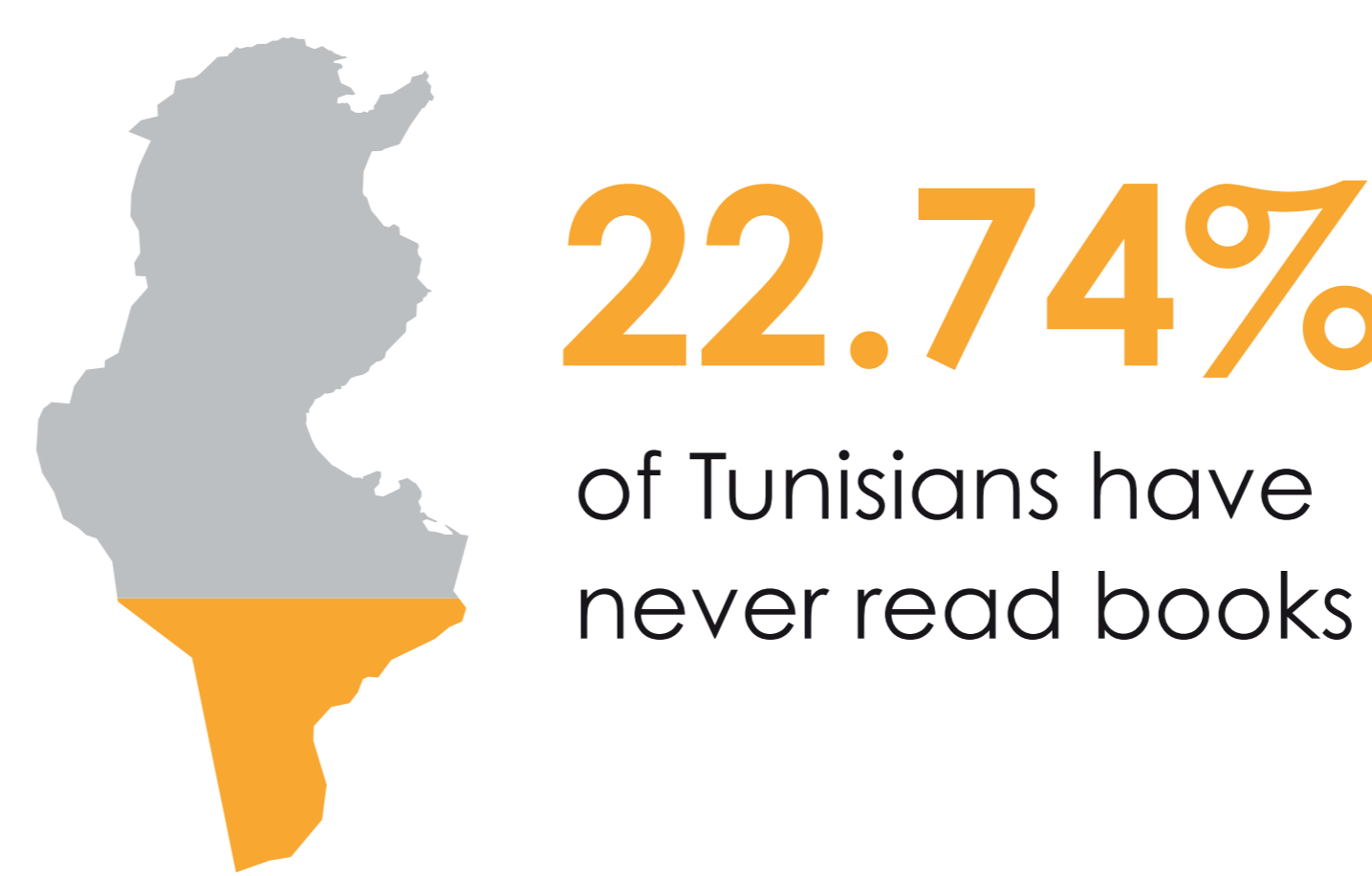
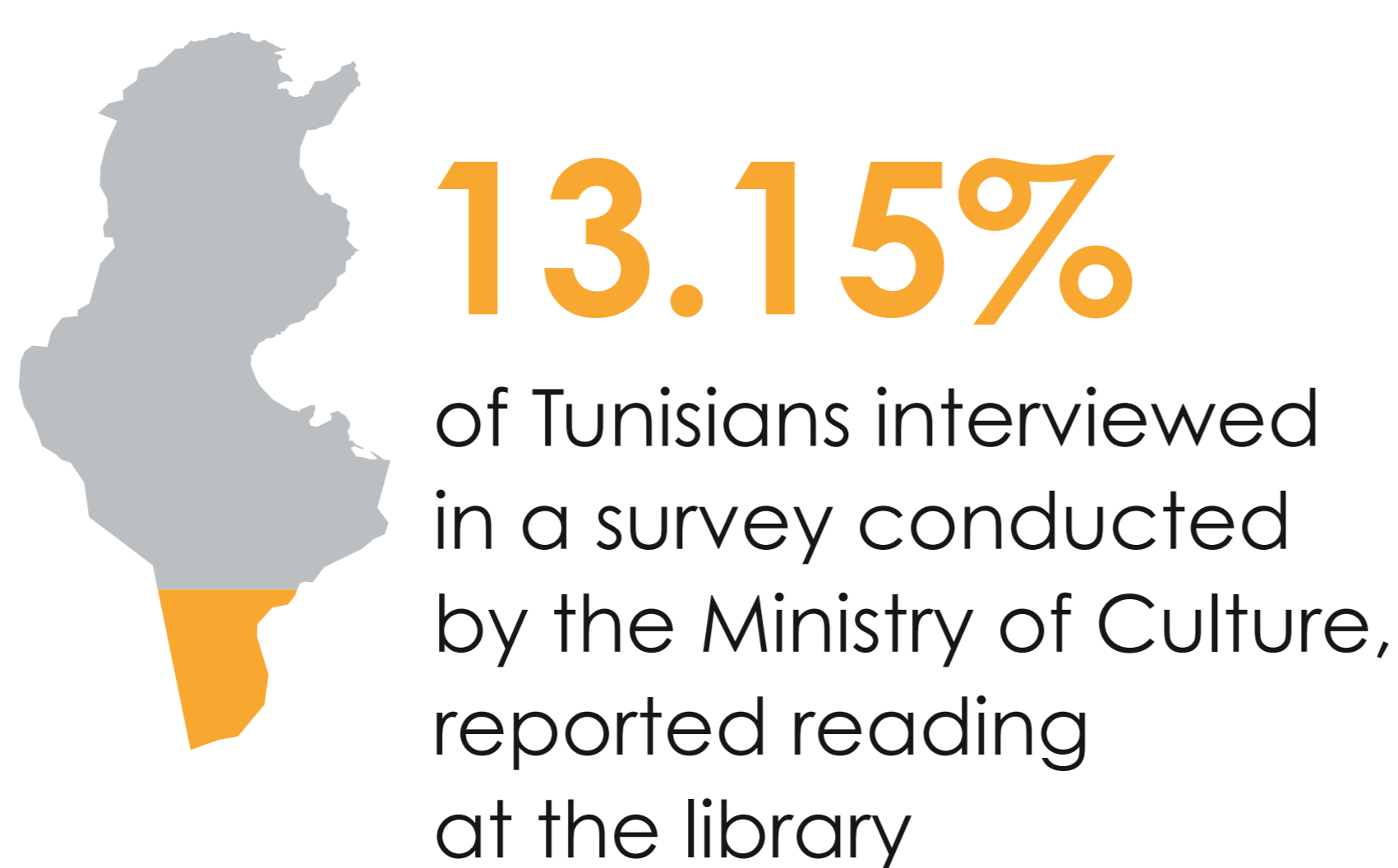
Music

- New bar concerts and new events are created at regional, national or international levels for young contemporary music (hip hop, rock, reggae, electronic)
- Parallel circuits and social networks have helped in the development of these players in the "alternative music" realm, who are very popular among the younger generations
- The lack of rehearsal rooms and recording is increasingly evident today



Literacy, readership and libraries

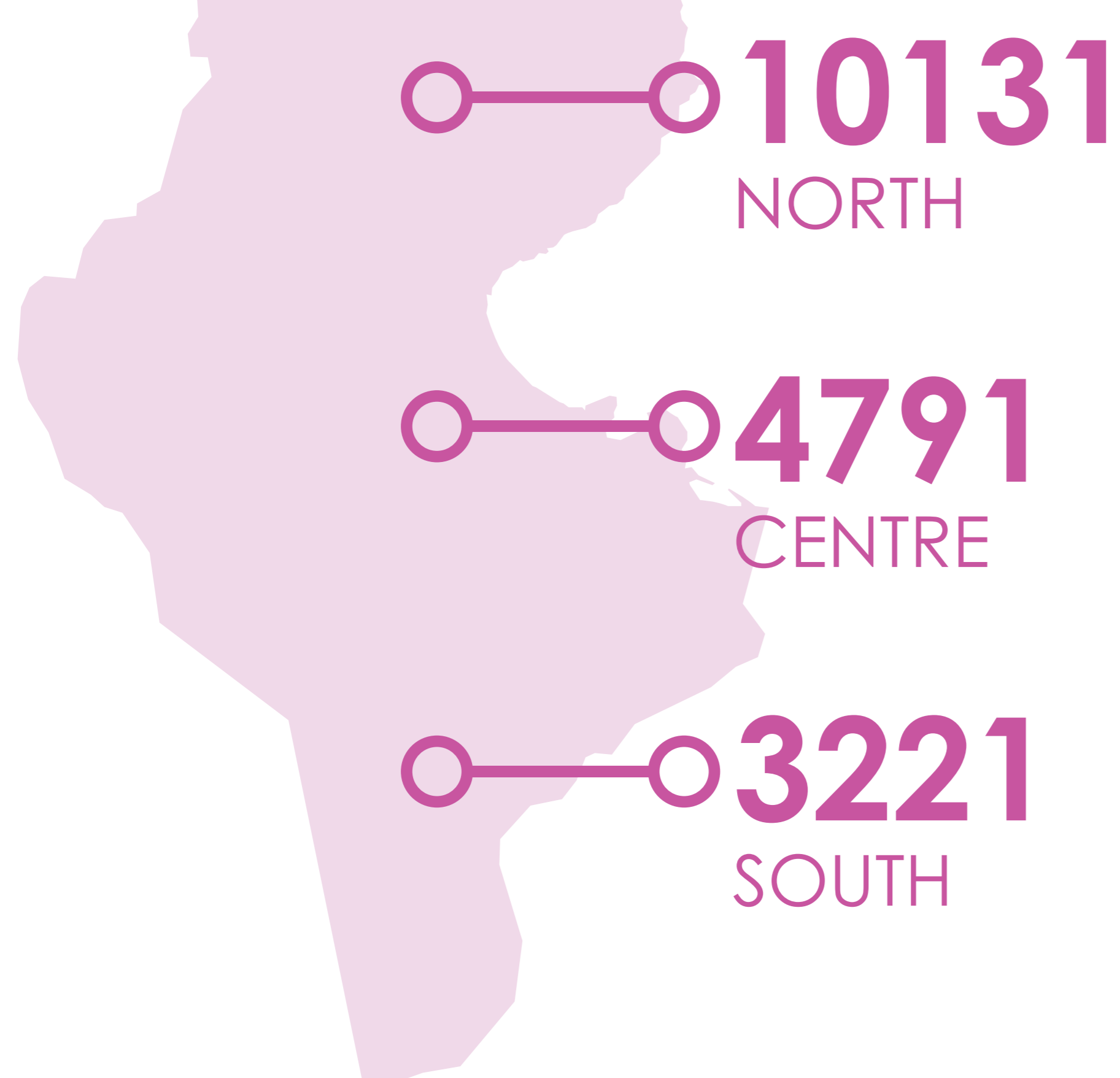
- The number of visitors has dropped since 2011
- Sharp increase in school enrolment rates (99% for 6-11 years in 2013 according to NIS)



- Readers are mostly young and female readers outnumbered male readers
- A network of 384 public libraries in 2012 covers almost the entire country, with over 34 000 seats and 7.4 million books

## ACTORS

### 18,000 associations of the civil society



### Examples of independent Cultural Spaces

- MAD'ART
- AGORA
- CINE VOG
- El Hembra
- ESPACE 77
- ETOILE DU NORD
- L'ARTISTOU
- EL HAMRA
- ELMAKHZEN
- ELTEATRO
- MASS'ART
- LANG'ART
- LE RIO
- LE MONDIAL
- LE MAJESTIC
- MINERVA
- LE PHOENIX
- INTERNATIONAL
- CULTURAL CENTRE
- LA GROTTTE DES ARTS-ALHIBUROS
- POCKET THEATRE of KEF / ACT
- ETOILE DU NORD
- ZANDALA
- KENE
- HANG'ART

Source: Rideau Rouge association for performing arts

## LEGISLATION

### OTPDA (Tunisian Agency for the Protection of Copyrights)

Provides support to safeguard the economic and moral rights of member authors in the various literary, artistic and scientific fields

- It delivers the authorisations necessary for the use of the different works and ensures the obtaining of royalties due to authors
- It contributes to instilling the culture of copyrights

The steps initiated by the Ministry of Culture since early 2014 in this regard were to:



Organise an awareness campaign on the importance of literary property to the dissemination of the culture of safeguarding intellectual property (spring 2014)



Increase the interventions of qualified field officers who are committed to punish offenders (September - December 2014)



Develop cooperation with specialised international organisations and bodies (2016)