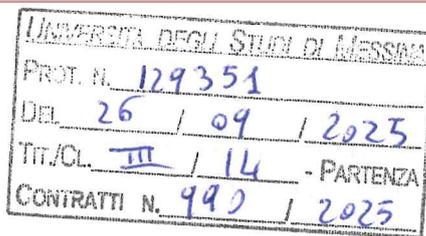




Università
degli Studi di
Messina



Agreement of Joint Thesis Supervision

BETWEEN

University of Sousse (Tunisia), a Public Establishment, having its registered office at Rue Khalifa Karoui Sahloul 4 Sousse /BP: 526, TUNISIA, Here in after referred to as “UNI Sousse” (**Home Institution**), represented by Prof. Lotfi Belkacem as President

and

Università degli Studi di Messina, Italian Public Higher Education Institution established in 1548 having its registered office at Piazza Pugliatti 1, 98121, Messina, ITALY, Here in after referred to as “UNIME” (**Host Institution**), represented by Prof. Giovanna Spatari as Rector

in which the aforementioned parties are jointly referred to as ‘the parties’

Considering

- **The Framework cooperation agreement prot.147757/2023 between University of Sousse and Università degli Studi di Messina.**

Having regard for the Home Institution:

- Vu la loi n° 19 du 25 février 2008 relative à l'Enseignement Supérieur
- Vu le décret n°2716 du 04 août 2008 portant organisation des universités et des établissements d'enseignement supérieur et de recherche et les règles de leur fonctionnement;
- Vu le décret n°93-1823 du 06 septembre 1993, fixant les conditions d'obtention des diplômes nationaux sanctionnant les études doctorales tel que modifié et complété par le décret n°97-1801 du septembre 1997, et le décret n°1665 du 04 août 2003;
- Vu le circulaire du 09/46 relatif à la coopération internationale des établissements d'enseignement supérieur;
- Vu le décret n°47 du 4 janvier 2013 fixant le cadre général du régime des études et les conditions d'obtention du régime national de doctorat dans le système «LMD» en Tunisie;
- Vu le circulaire n°13 du 04 avril 2013 relatif à la durée des études, de la formation complémentaire et la valorisation des acquis pour le diplôme national de doctorat.

Having regard for UNIME (Italy)

- the art. 4 of the Italian Law n. 210 of 03/07/1998, that provides for the Universities' autonomy in setting up PhD courses within Universities' governmental, educational and scientific autonomy, as modified by the Law n. 240/2010;
- the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research Regulation concerning PhD programmes, issued with D.M. n. 226/2021;
- the University of Messina Regulation concerning Research Doctorate course issued with the Rector's Decree n. 645/2025;

- the report of Academic Boards of UNIME that approves the procedure start request of the student promoted by the UNIME Supervisor

The following has been agreed:

Article 1- JOINT THESIS SUPERVISION

The partner institutions hereby agree that they shall assume joint responsibility for the supervision of the doctoral student's doctoral research project. The two Institutions, animated by the will to promote the exchange of PhD students between them and to strengthen, thus, scientific and university cooperation, decide by mutual agreement, within the framework of the legislations in force in their respective countries, to use the procedure of co-supervision of thesis in favor of the Doctoral Student:

- Name and surname of the student: **Jihane Khadhraoui**
 - Born in: Sidi Bouzid (Tunisia), March 7, 2000
 - Address: Rue Chakib Aslen, Sfaya 4000, Sousse
 - E-mail: jihenkhadraoui734@gmail.com
 - Telephone number: +21655425176
- Research Master's Degree in Physics, specialization Nanosciences 2021-2023
Ranked 1st in the graduating class, University of Sousse, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Technologies de Hammam Sousse
Bachelor's Degree in General Physics 2018-2021, University of Sousse, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Technologies de Hammam Sousse
Enrolment at Doctorate D1- Génie Phisique University of Sousse Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Technologies de Hammam Sousse, as stated by the Certificat d'inscription submitted by the student

Article 2 – SUPERVISION OF THE DOCTORAL STUDENT

In each of the institutions concerned, the doctoral student will carry out the research work under the direction and responsibility of the following thesis supervisors:

- At UNI Sousse (Home Institution):
Name: Chérif Dridi
Department : Center for Research on Microelectronics and Nanotechnology (CRMN)
Position: Professor & Head of NANOMISENE Laboratory LR16CRMN01
- At UNIME (Host Institution):
Name: Prof. Giovanni Neri
Department: Ingegneria
Position: Professor & Head SensorLab

Both thesis Supervisors undertake to fully exercise, jointly with the doctoral student, the responsibilities attributed to them by the regulations in force and the academic traditions in their respective countries. They shall also undertake, in their respective establishments, to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

The doctoral student shall follow the activities of the doctoral programs during his staying at UNIME and Uni Sousse as agreed by the two Supervisors.

ARTICLE 3 – ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES AND DOCTORAL THESIS SUBJECT

The doctoral student is already registered at University of Sousse, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Technologies de Hammam Sousse, at Doctoral course in “Génie Phisique”, academic year 2024/2025. At UNIME the doctoral student will be enrolled at Doctoral course in Ingegneria 40° Cycle, first academic year. At UNIME the duration of the doctoral program is three years (36 months) and it started on December 1st 2024 and will end on NOVEMBER 30, 2027.

To allow the temporal alignment of the duration of the doctorate programmes the partners agree that the date of end of the doctoral programmes will be November 30th, 2027 as provided by Ph.D course in Ingegneria of UNIME . Home Institution and the Student are aware that an extension of the doctorate is not permitted unless explicitly provided for in the UNIME Doctoral Regulations. The subject of the thesis submitted by the doctoral student is “Intelligent sensing platforms based on Green nanomaterials: Study, development and Applications”

ARTICLE 4 – ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICE FEE

The doctoral student must be enrolled in both institutions. He must pay registration fees at UNI Sousse (Home Institution). She is exempted of tuition fees at UNIME.

ARTICLE 5 – AWARD OF THE DEGREE

If the doctoral student has passed the joint doctoral examination successfully, she shall be separately awarded a degree by the partner institutions as follows:

- In Tunisia: Doctor (Ph.D), in “Génie Phisique” (University of Sousse, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Technologies de Hammam Sousse)
- In Italy: Dottore di ricerca (Ph.D) in “Ingegneria” (Università degli Studi di Messina)

ARTICLE 6 – INSURANCE COVER

During her stay in the host country (UNIME/Italy), the doctoral student benefits from the social security cover, in accordance with the legislation in force. UNIME guarantees third party liability and accident insurance within the limits established by the Italian law. University of Sousse guarantees third party liability and accident insurance within the limits established by the Tunisian law In Italy, in addition to that, before starting the mobility periods abroad, the doctoral student takes all necessary steps in order to arrange health insurance, insurance cover against physical injuries and third-party liability. It should also take out compulsory civil liability, as well as repatriation in case of accident or illness.

ARTICLE 7 – RESEARCH AT PARTNER INSTITUTION

The period of joint research thesis will be divided between the two institutions. According with the supervisors, the number of months of stay period at Home Institution will be 18 months, and at UNIME will be 18 months for a total duration of the doctorate programme of 36 months.

Institution	Period	Number of months
	First Academic Year	
UNI SOUSSE (HOME Institution)	1 December 2024 to 31 August 2025	9
UNIME	1 September 2025 to 31 December 2025	4
	Second Academic Year	
UNIME	1 January 2026 to 31 July 2026	7
UNI SOUSSE (HOME Institution)	1 August 2026 to 31 December 2026	5
	Third Academic Year	
UNIME	1 January 2027 to 31 July 2027	7
UNI SOUSSE (HOME Institution)	1 August 2027 to 30 November 2027	4
		36 months

ARTICLE 8 – ADMISSION AT THE ONLY FINAL EXAMINATION AND THESIS DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The partners agree that the deadline for the submission of the final thesis will be until 15 days before the end of the doctoral course.

According to Italian rules, to obtain the admission at the single final examination, the thesis will be evaluated by two external reviewers named by the Italian Board of Professors that don't participate in the final examination. If the evaluation of the reviewers and of the Italian Board of professors is positive and they don't ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be taken until 60 days before the end of the doctoral course. If the evaluation of the reviewers and the Italian Board of professors is positive, but they ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be postponed until six months. The only Defence Committee shall be comprised of six members including the two thesis supervisors that do not evaluate the candidate. In accordance with regulations in force, the Defence Committee is made up of a balanced number of members appointed by the two Establishments and includes at least two members external to both universities. At least two thirds of the members of the Defence Committee must be Academic professors.

ARTICLE 9 – DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENCE (PUBLIC DISCUSSION)

The thesis will lead to a single defense at Sousse University

The only report of the Examination Board will be only in English language. The institution organizing the defense, undertakes to issue the title of Doctor and to transmit a copy of the complete defense file to the partner institution which undertakes, in turn, to issue the titles of Doctor as provided by art 5.

ARTICLE 10 – LANGUAGE OF THESIS

The doctoral thesis and the conclusions of the research shall be written in English. The written thesis will be in English.

An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in English and Italian.

ARTICLE 11 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Intellectual property ownership will be based on the principle of inventor owns in accordance with the respective policies of each of the partner institutions.

Therefore, the protection of the research results arising from the doctoral research project, as well as any matter related to filing them, making them accessible, their publication and exploitation shall be discussed and agreed by the partner institutions and be in accordance with the national and institutional regulations in force.

ARTICLE 12 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The processing of personal data related to this call is carried out by the University in accordance with the European General Regulation No. 679/2016 for the protection of personal data and the Code regarding the protection of personal data, Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 and subsequent amendments and additions. The complete information is available in the "Sezione Privacy" of University of Messina at the link <https://www.unime.it/privacy-e-cookie-policy>

ARTICLE 13 – DEPOSIT COPY AND PUBLICATION OF THE PHD THESIS

Details regarding the deposit copy, authorial information and printing the PhD thesis are set out in the applicable regulations of each higher education institution.

The publication of the PhD thesis is guaranteed by both higher education institutions in accordance with their applicable regulations.

ARTICLE 14 – COMMENCEMENT AND VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT

The present agreement shall take as and from the date of its execution by the authorized representative of each contracting Institution and expires at the end of final examination procedure.

Article 15 – VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES

The stipulations of this agreement may not conflict with the provisions of the regulations at of the two

Institutions. Disputes must be resolved amicably through friendly bilateral consultations.
Modifications to this agreement shall be effective only if they are in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the contracting parties

Signatures

Drawn up in four original copies

Stamp and Signature

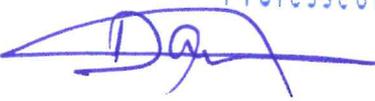
University of Sousse

Università degli Studi di Messina

<p>President</p> <p>Pr Lotfi Belkacem</p>  	<p>Rector</p> <p>Pr Giovanna Spatari</p>  
<p>Date : 23 JUL 2025</p>	<p>Date : Sep 14 , 2025</p>

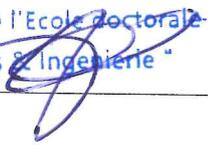
Director of Ecole Supérieure des Sciences
et Technologies de Hammam Sousse

Pr Adel Daouas



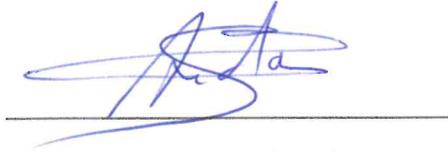

Director of the Doctoral School

Pr Mohamed Ali Mahjoub




Coordinator of the Doctoral Course

Pr. Aida Kesraoui



Coordinator of the Doctoral Course

Pr. Edoardo Provedrbio



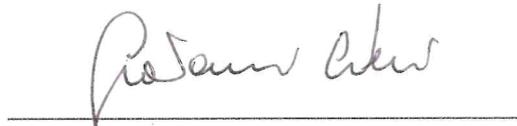
Supervisor/Tutor

Pr. Chérif Dridi



Supervisor/Tutor

Pr. Giovanni Neri



The doctoral student for acceptance

Jihane Khadhraoui

