

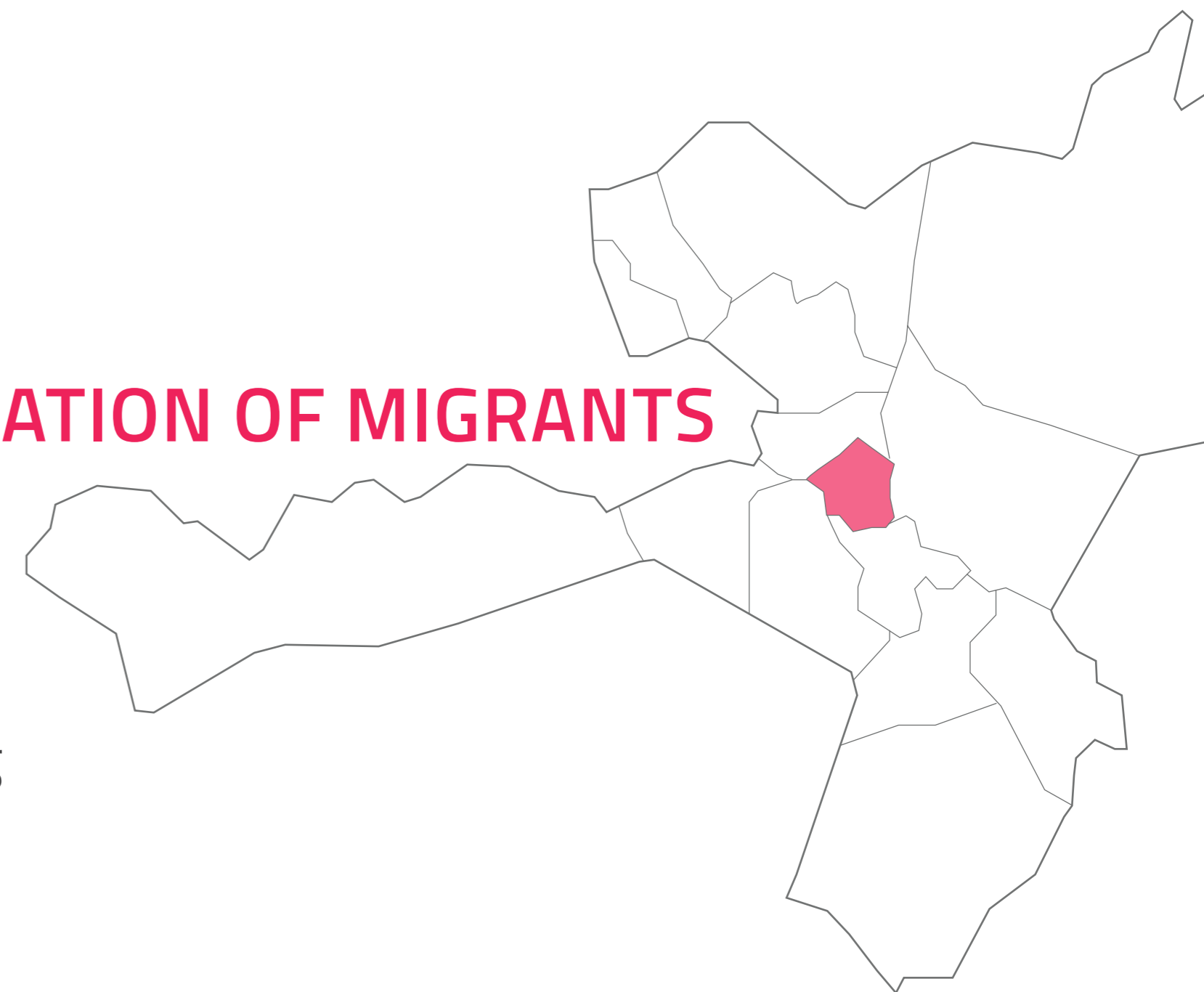
TUNIS

OUKALAS PROJECT:

REVITALISATION FOR THE LONG-TERM INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS

ABOUT TUNIS:

- 639 000 people
 - 18% Share of all immigrants in the national territory residing in Tunis governorate
 - 15 districts
- Medina (21 400 inhabitants) is the city's historic centre



WHY:

Since the 1950s, Tunis has attracted many internal migrants looking for job opportunities. While families living in the Medina of Tunis were relocating from the city centre to suburban areas, families coming from rural areas inhabited the abandoned houses and created so-called Oukalas arrangements. These are shared living spaces for families of poorer backgrounds often unsafe, unsanitary and overcrowded. This created social, public health and environmental challenges.

WHAT:

The Oukalas project was initiated by the local government in 1991 and aimed to address the challenges of internal migrants in the Medina. The project came to an end in 2013. The project provided secure shelter and renovation of historic buildings, as well as social assistance to vulnerable groups who lived in the Oukalas, namely:

- specialised housing solutions for older people living independently
- access to loans for elderly individuals
- support for children with disabilities covering their education and healthcare needs
- scholarship grants to allow local students to finish their higher education
- seasonal support for vulnerable groups to help meet costs associated with religious observation and/or school year cycles

WHO:

- Municipality of Tunis (lead)
- 3,000 households (approx. 15,000 inhabitants). Beneficiaries were lower-class households living in the abandoned buildings of the Medina of Tunis. Almost exclusively, such households drew from an internal migration background.

AIMS:

The project was designed primarily to protect families living in buildings at risk of collapse. It also had a broader aim of improving the general living conditions of all residents in the medina and catalysing the restoration of historic buildings and monuments in the area.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

- Municipality of Tunis
- Loan by FADES (Fonds arabe pour le développement économique et social)

REVITALISATION

INTERNAL MIGRATION

MEDINA

ADEQUATE SHELTER

BASIC SERVICES

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- relocation to adequate shelter
- use of rehabilitated and renovated public and private buildings
- access to favourable home improvement loans

Results can be seen both in relation to localised social and economic indicators and also with respect to the wider urban development of Tunis.

