

Ln. 3418-TUN Gas Infrastructure Development Loan:

US\$60.0 Million Loan of May 5, 1992. Effectiveness Date:

September 25, 1992; Closing Date: June 30, 1996:

Implementing Agency: Société Tunisienne de l'Electricité et du Gaz (STEG). The project would develop a gas transmission system linking the north and the south of the country and would also enhance the flexibility of the distribution network in the City of Tunis. It will also provide services and training in support of these services as well as planning for future infrastructure development and enhancement of security of supply. The project consists of: (a) a gas transmission pipeline in the North of M'Saken to the existing industrial gas network in the South, primarily to supply the Gabes industrial area; (b) city distribution mains of 11 km to complete an existing loop to connect the western and eastern parts of Tunis network; and (c) gas sub-sector development and rationalization study, and technical assistance and training. The 240 km pipeline has been commissioned and the remaining components of the project are progressing satisfactorily. US\$49 million (82%) have been disbursed and the full amount of the loan is committed through signed contracts. The project is expected to be completed before the loan closing date of June 30, 1996.

Ln. 3424-TUN Economic & Financial Reforms Support Loan:

US\$250.0 Million Loan of December 13, 1991, Effective

Date: December 23, 1993; Closing Date: December 31, 1994;

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Planning & Regional Development. The Loan was closed in December 1994. An ICR was issued on July 19, 1995.

Ln. 3456-TUN Higher Education Restructuring Loan:

US\$75.0 million Loan of April 11, 1992. Effectiveness Date:

February 12, 1993; Closing Date: December 31, 1998:

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Education and Sciences.

The loan supports the government strategy of modernizing and diversifying higher education programs to enhance labor market relevance and student choice and shorten the average length of studies. It will do by developing an alternative model of para-university institutions linked to business needs, by providing direct incentives for internal change within existing universities, through a competitive fund for university quality improvement sub-projects, and by improving evaluation and resource management capacity throughout the system. The first component is being implemented: (i) construction of two ISETs (Sousse, Sfax) is nearly complete and the third (Tunis) is under preparation; (ii) initial projects have been approved by the Selection Committee; (iii) the third component (strengthening of the managerial capacity in the MES) is getting off to a slow start.