TAE'THIR CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

T H E M E

"How do humans live?"

"How do humans live?" is a question that calls for reflection on the complexity and diversity of human existence. It is not just a query about our daily routines; but an invitation to explore the values we stand for and how specific contexts influence our ability to scrutinize and challenge societal, political and cultural norms. How do humans live in the face of adversity? **How do we move about and position ourselves in the world?**

This thought provoking question is taken from Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* (1928). This opera addresses the concerns of our world with a delicate balance of lightness and distance encouraging thoughts that transcend its predicted tragic outcome. It prompts us to reflect actively, offering a **perspective** that resists succumbing to paralysis and lamentation.

This capacity to aspire collectively for change and the confidence in the power that artists and digital content creators can have to promote human rights principles, despite the current context of our Mediterranean region, is the silver lining that our project *Tae'thir - **influence in Arabic** - is structured around.

The project covers the Mediterranean region with a particular focus on the southern sub-region considering the massive decline in human rights it has undergone in recent years. The economic, social, and political situation in many Southern Mediterranean countries has continued to deteriorate as a result of a tightening of repression and authoritarianism to varying degrees in several countries. The assault on freedom of expression has significantly contributed to the erosion of democracy and in some cases to the erosion of state institutions. This has resulted in a deterioration of people's freedoms and social conditions. **What is the human cost of living under repression?**

The different forms of constraints on freedom of expression include government censorship, restrictive laws and regulations, political repression, media ownership and online surveillance put in place by several regimes as their repressive arsenal which generates feelings of powerlessness and dispossession of one's own narrative. The aforementioned set of restrictions lead to a suppression of dissent and human rights abuses, limited access to information, social isolation,

stifled creativity and an erosion of democracy. In this context artists and content creators in the southern Mediterranean region see their capacity for expression and intellectual reflection restricted by the absence of spaces and platforms promoting dialogue and content production.

Furthermore, this repressive climate is conducive to the rise of far-right and religious extremist ideologies on both shores of the Mediterranean which poses a significant threat to human rights, social cohesion, and to a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity. These ideologies often promote discrimination, intolerance, and violence against individuals or groups on the basis of their beliefs, religion, gender, or other characteristics.

Supporting and promoting human rights among young people in the context of a massive decline in liberties is a priority that calls for creative and experimental approaches. *Tae'thir* project aims to respond to this lack of space for dialogue and creativity by encouraging the promotion of a culture of human rights in the Mediterranean through the artistic and digital practices of young people. Artists and digital content creators, through their creative prowess and critical insight, can present us with a unique perspective on the world, unveiling the intricacies of human life and its fragility.

Both contemporary art forms and digital content creation serve as dynamic mediums through which the complexities of human life and existence are explored, interpreted, and communicated. They bridge gaps, provoke discussions, and inspire change, making them indispensable in the contemporary dialogue about the human condition. Faced with the multitude of issues that this raises, we want to address this subject in a critical way.

We shall examine this from different perspectives:

- How do art and digital content creation play a role in unraveling the complexities of this situation? How can individual or collective expression reclaim the power of narrative through a creative outlet?
- How does the artist's imagination work in this landscape? Which aesthetic choices are at work? How can artistic expression and the poetic essence of the creative process be leveraged to approach intricate issues?
- Digital content permeates nearly every aspect of people's lives, shaping their daily experiences. How does it impact our perception and comprehension of the world we inhabit?
- How are culture and artwork connected to the public space?
- What role do artists play in society, given their inherent propensity to raise questions stemming from their own inquiries? Similarly, what significance does art and digital content creation hold in society? How can we consistently challenge the status of artwork, the artist's role, and the position of art within our societal framework?

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- How are culture and artwork connected to the public space?
- How do ideologies draw upon aesthetics and delicate nuances? Why are the most rational, political, economic, and fundamental decisions never solely technical but also profoundly intertwined with cultural perspectives and sensitivities?

TAE'THIR PROJECT

The project is led by the Réseau Euromed France (REF), the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), les Instants vidéo numériques et poétiques and the Ligue de l'enseignement des Bouches du Rhône, and in partnership with the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme and iReMMO-Suds. The project is financially supported by the Agence française de développement. The three-year project was recently launched in Marseille, France, in September 2023.

The *Tae'thir* project will provide support to 42 young people, leading to the production of 20 to 25 digital materials and/or artworks by the end of *Tae'thir* project. This will be done through online sessions that will feature lectures, readings, webinars, and discussions exploring intersections between arts, human rights, politics, and social practices. They will analyze the impact of contexts on artistic creation and dissect complex relationships with concepts like patriarchy, censorship, and criticism. The program also includes participation in a research project, a mentoring process, a cascade financing scheme and participation in stakeholder meetings in Marseille.

It will support young content creators and artists in the region, by strengthening their knowledge of human rights, their tools and their practices, so that they can make their voices heard.

The human rights agenda is directed at bridging attitudinal disparities, such as prejudices based on race, religion, gender, age, nationality, culture and identity. Art and digital creation possess the capacity to ignite inspiration and evoke empathy, reaching an audience beyond the scope of traditional human rights organizations.

Please note that during the first year of the *Tae'thir* project, spanning from September 2023 to October 2024, only 10 to 15 productions will be financially supported and will have the opportunity to be presented during the 2024 Festival Les Instants Vidéo.

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NOTA BENE

We do not view the human rights situation in the Mediterranean region as homogeneous. We are aware that it overlooks the unique socio-political contexts and challenges faced by each country in the region. Each nation has its distinct history, culture made of multiple identities, political system, and social dynamics, which shape its human rights landscape in unique ways.

In this project aimed at promoting human rights through art and digital content creation, it is our fervent wish to emphasize that **art should not be instrumentalized. Our approach values artistic integrity, creativity, and the authentic expression of ideas and emotions. We believe in the power of art and digital creation to inspire change organically, without manipulation or coercion.*

***Moreover, we believe in the power of **collaborative learning**, where knowledge is shared horizontally, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding. We encourage open dialogue, active listening, and the exchange of diverse perspectives, ensuring that everyone involved learns from one another. By nurturing a collaborative, inclusive space, we aim to amplify the impact of our project and cultivate a rich tapestry of creative expressions that resonate with the essence of human rights.

****Our organizations actively oppose discrimination. We take affirmative action and implement measures to ensure **non-discrimination** based on race, ethnicity, political opinion, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We are committed to fostering an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment, ensuring a safe space for dialogue and debate among all our members, participants, and staff.

CONDITIONS TO APPLY

The call for projects is open to **young artists and digital content creators aged between 21 and 35** according to the following allocation:

- ○ *About 70% of projects will be led by youth from the following countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.*
- ○ *About 30% of projects will be led by youth from the following countries of the northern shore of the Mediterranean: Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain.*

Candidates do not have to reside in the aforementioned countries but to originate from them.

- ● *Propose an original artwork or digital content creation in resonance with the theme of the project: "How do humans live?" as an open question and an invitation to explore the complexity of the human conditions through a human rights lens.*

- ● *The artwork or digital content must be completed for its presentation during the next Festival Les Instants Vidéo scheduled for October 2024.*

Work in the following artistic forms is eligible:

Creative writing

Digital content creation

Installation and visual art

Sound creation

Performance

Vidéo installation

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CALL CALENDAR

Opening of the call for participants: **31 October 2023**

Closing of the call for participants: **15 November 2023**

Announcement of results: **20 December 2023**

PROJECT TIMELINE

Date	Location	Description
February-April 2024	Online	Around 20 hours of training aimed at reinforcing knowledge and mechanisms around human rights and digital security
June 2024	Marseille, France	One week of mentoring and peer to peer exchange
June- september 2024	Online	Support for the production and distribution of 10 to 15 artistic and digital productions
October 2024	Marseille, France	Presentation of selected art works and digital productions during the Festival Les Instants Vidéo

Applicants must commit to the project timeline indicated above.

HOW TO APPLY

Please use the provided link to access the online form and submit your application.

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