

Supporting MENA cultural agents in the EU

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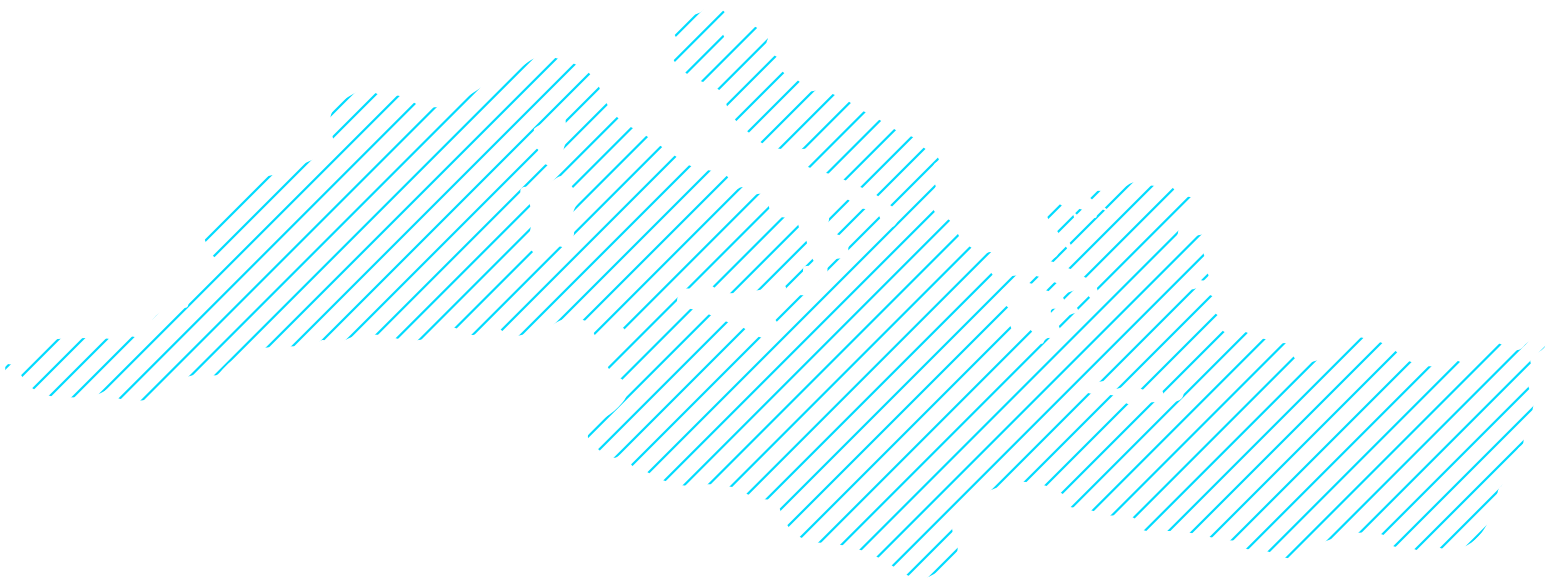
**OPEN SOCIETY
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**culture
ACTION
europe**

About the project

“Supporting MENA cultural agents in the EU” is a one-year project funded by the Open Society Foundations and implemented by Culture Action Europe (CAE). The project aims at raising awareness about the specific circumstances of MENA – Middle East and North Africa – cultural agents residing in the European Union, with a particular focus on the (post) COVID-19 context; it also looks into strengthening collaboration between MENA and European cultural agents.

The project specifically addresses artists, cultural workers, and cultural organisations from the region that are living and working in the countries of the European Union.



Main activities of the project

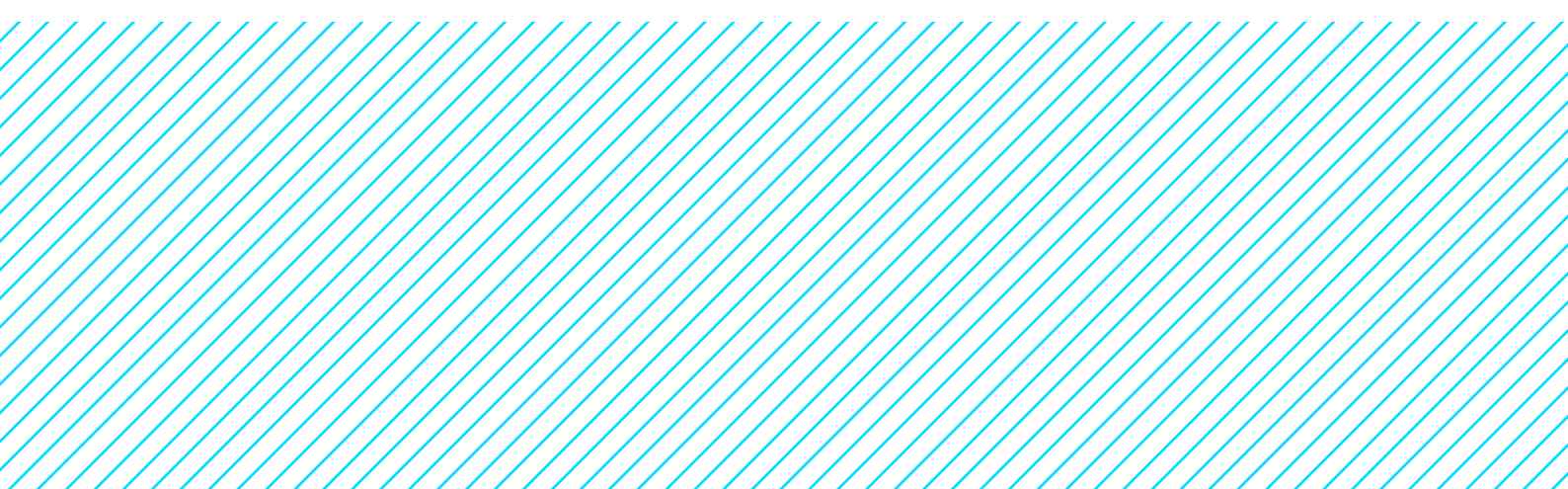
Mapping¹

Through its large network, Culture Action Europe will identify activities and projects involving MENA cultural agents residing in the EU. The project will engage with a wide group of artists and organisations, representing different countries of origin and residence, cultural sectors and genders.

Research²

What are the particular circumstances, realities and patterns of MENA cultural agents residing and working in the EU? Is their position recognised within their host countries' societies and legal and social systems? The research phase aims to determine the main challenges in achieving a fulfilling professional life (for example, social rights and social security benefits, cultural rights and freedoms, mobility and gender inequality). It will also act as a benchmark for meaningful EU national actions.

How have MENA cultural agents residing and creating in the EU been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic? The project will investigate whether the pandemic has increased the systemic vulnerability of cultural agents stemming from a marginal position within their host countries' societies and legal and social systems.



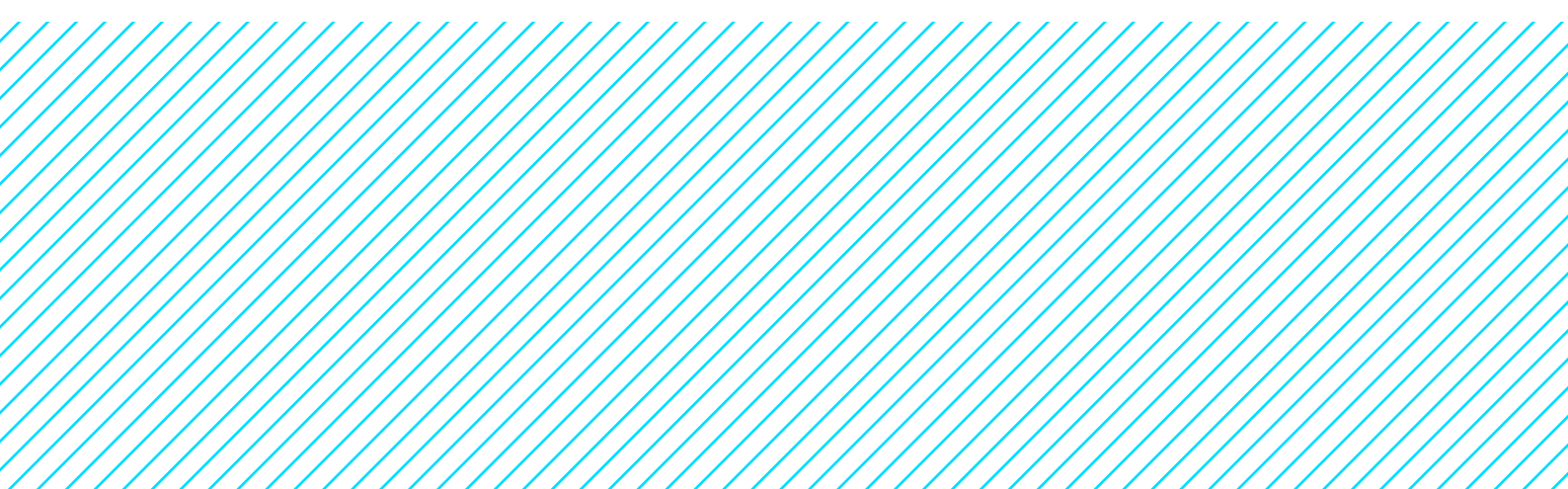
Main activities of the project

Network³

The project will strengthen networking and knowledge sharing among the MENA and European cultural agents. The project will initiate structured focus groups and organise capacity building webinars around specific topics jointly identified with MENA representatives. MENA cultural agents will be invited to join CAE and participate in the network's meetings and working groups.

Advocacy⁴

The project will propose advocacy actions and policy recommendations to ensure that EU Recovery Plan covers MENA cultural agents. The project will inform the ongoing political debate on key topics such as working conditions for artists and cultural workers, and undertake advocacy actions accordingly. The project will propose benchmarking meaningful EU national actions (for example, with reference to social rights and social security benefits, encouraging freedom of movement and/or freedom of artistic expression). Specific issues of concern from MENA cultural agents will be integrated in CAE's advocacy work.



About Culture Action Europe

Culture Action Europe (CAE) is the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policymakers. CAE is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in the EU. As the only intersectoral network, it brings together all practices in culture, from the performing arts to literature, the visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives, to community centres and activist groups.

CAE believes in the value and values of culture and its contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.

**Do you want to follow the project
more closely or do you have any
questions or ideas?**

**Contact us at:
contact@cultureactioneurope.org;**

**or visit our website at:
www.cultureactioneurope.org.**



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