

## Youth Webinar 1: Impact of COVID-19 on young people in the Euromed region and recommendations from MAJALAT

### CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAM

1 pm (Tunis, Algiers, Rabat) - 2 pm (Paris, Tripoli, Cairo) - 3 pm (Ramallah, Beirut, Amman)  
Duration : 2h30

#### 1. Context

The living conditions of young people around the Mediterranean are not very different from the rest of the population and would rather be indicative of society as a whole. In other words, the condition of youth in the Mediterranean is a element in assessing the state of health of our countries. Youth is already the present. Thus, a youth that is not doing well would be representative of a society that is encountering difficulties in its entirety. The specific nature of the condition of young people must therefore be put into perspective.

This is also true in the context of the crisis linked to Covid-19, which has had a strong and different impact on the most precarious populations, including the elderly, migrants, women, unemployed people, people with disabilities, but also many young people. Following the crisis, the latter are likely to be more affected from a social point of view (e.g. precariousness, difficulty of access to healthcare, impoverishment, etc.).

On all the themes discussed within MAJALAT project, this unprecedented crisis raises many questions and concerns that underline the challenges facing young people in the area.

On economic and social development, the prospects are worrying as the global recession is leading to an explosion in unemployment. The period is also worrying on issues related to good governance and the rule of law, as individual freedoms are being severely curtailed and some democratic processes are being undermined. Violence, especially against women and children, is also on the rise. Freedom of movement is under tight surveillance, etc. Finally, while the relationship between climate and infectious diseases divides researchers, the reductions in CO2 emissions observed since the beginning of the crisis, if they are only a deceptive economic downturn, show in a tangible way the benefits of more breathable air and a more respected nature.

Nevertheless, young people rarely develop severe symptoms of this virus and, despite major geographical disparities, they are the first to be affected by the reflections on the "next world".

Thus, this crisis reverses certain paradigms and constitutes a space of opportunities that lead us to reflect on our lifestyles, our movements, our work and our mobilizations. This period also reminds us of the crucial role of public policies, especially European ones, and the interest of strengthening the dialogue between the EU institutions and civil society within MAJALAT.



## 2. MAJALAT and its activity plan for 2020

Civil society organizations (CSOs) face several challenges that limit their participation in policy-making processes with the EU, such as the lack of permanent mechanisms for dialogue between the EU and CSOs in the area, but also the reduction of collective freedoms, difficulties in mobilizing sustainable resources, complications in accessing information. This undermines their capacity to meet the challenges they face, to present their approach and to put forward their priorities. Majalat is a civil society initiative aimed at creating spaces for constructive dialogue between the European Union and CSOs, trade unions, social movements and academics from both sides of the Mediterranean, in order to influence the vision and policies relating to the region.

The consortium managing the project is composed of six regional civil society networks: Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), REF - Réseau Euromed France, EuroMed Rights, Forum des Alternatives Maroc (FMAS), and SOLIDAR. Within the project, REF is responsible for ensuring the participation of young people during the process.

In the light of the Covid-19 global pandemic, MAJALAT has developed a new activity plan for the years 2020-2021 which aims to continue the work on the EU-civil society dialogue in the Euromed region despite mobility restrictions, using online communication tools. In this context, a series of webinars will be organized in the coming months. REF will organize webinars specifically on the theme of youth.

## 3. Objectives of the first webinar

Around 25 participants under the age of 35, the objectives of this workshop will be to:

- Reflect collectively on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region
- Promote joint initiatives that address the causes and vulnerabilities that have emerged as a result of the pandemic.
- Identify new avenues for recommendations addressed to the European Union and national institutions in the light of the webinar discussions and on the basis of the recommendations made by young people previously in the MAJALAT process.

## 4. Format and programme

The webinar of about 2.5 hours will mainly take the form of an open discussion, guided by guiding questions (see program below). The working languages will be French and Arabic. Interpretation will be available in French and Arabic.

	<p><b>Session 1: Opening - General Information (20')</b></p> <p>Moderator: Nathalie Mehdi, REF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcoming notes and information on technical aspects (microphones, interpretation, chat, ...) (5'): Nathalie Mehdi, REF</li> <li>Round table introduction of participants (5')</li> <li>Information on MAJALAT process (5'): Yon Janssen, EuroMed Rights</li> <li>Summary of the recommendations resulting from the youth workshop process and promoted during the Brussels Forum (5'): Robin Madoré, REF</li> </ol>
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	<p><i>Objective of the session: to give keys of understanding to the participants on the global framework of MAJALAT project and the recommendations made during the youth workshops.</i></p>
	<p><b><u>Session 2: Youth facing the Covid-19 pandemic (70')</u></b></p> <p>Moderator: Sarah Chelal, Alter'Solidaire</p> <p><b>Contexte et premiers éléments d'analyse (20')</b></p> <p>a) General considerations on the Covid-19 pandemic (5'): Sarah Chelal, Alter'Solidaire          (b) The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on security, vulnerable people, sexual and reproductive health and the expression of citizenship: <b>speaker TBC</b>          c) The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on education, employment, mobility and digital use: Ahmad Qadi, Al Haq (5')          d) Overview of the EU response to the pandemic and the role of youth: Nathalie Mehdi, REF (5')</p> <p><b>Brainstorming sur le contexte et impact du Covid-19 sur les jeunes (50')</b></p> <p><i>Reminder of the rules of animation and speaking (5'): Sarah Chelal, Alter'Solidaire</i></p> <p>Q&amp;A:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to you, what are the effects of the pandemic on young people in terms of the themes above mentioned? (15')</li> <li>2. What has this crisis revealed about the place of young people in your society? (15')</li> <li>3. What new forms of action have been put in place? (To which challenges/gaps at the national level do they respond)? (15')</li> <li>4. Why is digital important during this period? What opportunities and challenges can it bring? (8')</li> <li>5. In your opinion, has the European Union taken a position on this context and its impact on young people in the region? Are there any initiatives that have been supported at national level through the European Union Delegations in your countries? (8')</li> </ol> <p><i>Objectives of the session: Participants will have the opportunity to present their analyses of the situation and lessons learned.</i></p>
	<p><b><u>Break (5')</u></b></p>
	<p><b><u>Session 3: Possible recommendations (40')</u></b></p> <p>Moderator: Nathalie Mehdi, REF</p> <p>Reminder of the rules for moderating and taking the floor (5'): Nathalie Mehdi, REF</p> <p>Q&amp;A:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What priorities and recommendations identified during the youth</li> </ol>

	<p>workshops seem less relevant to you with the Covid-19 crisis? (10')</p> <p>2. What priorities and recommendations can be added (that were not included in the previous documents and that were suggested during the session? (20')</p> <p><i>Objective of the session: the conversation will focus on the recommendations and should allow for development (improvements, necessary changes to be made) taking into account the discussions of the previous session.</i></p>
	<p><u>General Conclusion</u> (5') - Marion Isvi, REF</p>

