

## MAJALAT – Online Thematic workshops on: Youth

24th November 2020

3 to 5 pm (Brussels, Paris, Rabat, Tunis, GMT +1) / 4 to 6 pm (Beirut, Cairo, GMT +2)

&

27th November 2020

10:30 am to 12:30 pm (Brussels, Paris, Rabat, Tunis, GMT +1) / 11:30 am 1:30 pm (Beirut, Cairo, GMT +2)

### Framework paper & Agenda

#### Context

Given its crosscutting outlook and importance in the overall goal of MAJALAT project, the theme of youth has been allocated three exclusive webinars (June, July, and September 2020), which were part of the webinar series that were launched between May and October 2020. These virtual meetings have provided valuable platforms for civil society organizations (CSO) in the Southern Mediterranean (SM) region to interact and exchange knowledge and expertise with EU representatives with the intent to forge potential venues of collaborations that would optimize the visibility and participation of youth organizations in the policy making and implementation processes both at the regional level and in their respective countries.

The outcomes of these webinars have culminated in pressing recommendations, proposed by the participating CSOs and MAJALAT. Among the series of recommendations generated since the launching of MAJALAT project, the EU representatives have commented on four main areas of recommendations which they considered of more priority, and which are directly linked to the theme of youth. Hence, others remain pending, and entail further synergies and facilitating mechanisms. The four areas commented on include: 1) Political framework and financing; 2) Sexual and reproductive health; 3) Mobility/Education; and 4) Digitalization. Given the importance of all the generated recommendations, from the point of view of CSOs, MAJALAT deems it enriching to bring the comprehensive list of recommendations to the attentions of the participants of present workshops for further discussions and analysis. Annexes I and II unfold the lists of recommendations.

While the young people have always been vulnerable to social exclusion, unemployment, lack of access to education as well as health coverage, violence, displacement and illegal migration, COVID-19 has simply reiterated that they remain the major acute challenges that the youth need to be engaged with for solving in collaboration with national (CSOs) and international partners (EU). So, in a way, the pandemic accentuates the value of forging bilateral sustainable cooperation. More concretely, it is high time that the EU and CSOs in the SM neighboring countries indulge in concretizing sustainable North-South multi-stakeholders and cross-sectorial collaborative platform that is 1) framed by a structural dialogue 2) guided by compressive policies, 3) implemented through jointly constructed mechanisms, 4) operationalized through result-oriented tools and programs at the heart of which the youth should be involved as active role-players, not only passive beneficiaries.



In this regards, MAJALAT believes that the establishment of such a structural dialogue between the EU and CSOs in the neighboring south is of paramount importance as it comes at timing where momentums are high and the synchronized efforts between youth CSOs across the countries of the region are picking up. Furthermore, the pressing nature of the challenges facing youths are on growing consequences, especially in matters of inclusion, school to work transition, health, climate justice, mobility and migration, security, and rule of law as well as policy interface.

### Objectives of the Youth Workshops

MAJALAT Youth Workshops I and II, on November 24th and 27th, aim particularly at inviting youth and youth civil society organizations from Euro-med countries (mostly from the SM) to actively engage with the EU representatives in devising ways and means for concretizing the aforementioned recommendations, (See list of recommendations in Annexes I & II). More precisely, the participants will be:

1. Updated on the new developments in EU policies on the topic of youth as crosscutting edge in the contexts of socio-economic developments and inclusion, migration and mobility, education and employability, health and security, and rule of law;
2. Invited to put into their perspectives and discussions during the breakout sessions to consolidate previously generated recommendations (see Annexes I & II), and enlarging their scopes if needed.
3. Propose tangible and result-oriented operationalization mechanisms and implementation tools that could be proposed and negotiated to the EU representatives who will be attending the event on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

In so doing, participants are particularly requested to bring to the forth their own advocacy experiences as well as propositions; and discuss and advise suggestions on how can regional and bilateral agreements with EU improve their advocacy on youth issues, along with its crosscutting fields of action.

### Expected Outcomes

To meet the workshops' objectives, participants are kindly reminded that being the concluding youth targeted event for the year 2020, the ultimate goal from the event is to propose a result-oriented output with concrete objectives and feasibilities to the EU representatives attending the events. The expected propositions will hopefully serve as departing ground for upcoming collaborations between the youth and the youth CSOs in the region and the EU. To this end, the workshops will allocate various panels, working group sessions, and peer discussions, as well as interactions between the participants and the EU representatives on the issue of youth in the contexts of the themes mentioned earlier. These activities will be moderated and coordinated by MAJALAT Project Coordinator for REF – Réseau Euromed France (Ms. Nathalie Mehdi), and facilitated by Abdeslam Badre, an expert in the field of youth and policy development (See biography below).



## Workshop 1

November 24th at 3 pm Brussels time (16:00 Beirut) - two hours

*Panel One: “Consolidating venues of collaboration between the EU and its South Mediterranean neighbors’ youth CSOs” – By A. Badre*

During this 30-minute panel, the youth expert will tackle four main points that should put the participants in the context of the workshops. The first point will synthesize the new developments in European policies on the topic of youth and its transversal fields, putting in perspective the proposal for new Structured Dialogue and Governance of EU Youth Strategy as enfolded in the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. The second point will zoom on the comprehensive lists of recommendations suggested by the participants of the series of workshops and webinar sessions organized by MAJALAT since 2018, paying specific attention to the recommendations that were commented on by the EU commission. The third point will highlight pertinent CSOs’ advocacy work in the field of youth in the region and which call for more visibility and consideration from the point of view of the European commission. Finally, the fourth point will suggest a model for institutionalizing the EU and SM CSO’s dialogue for the sake of strengthening visibility and impacts of youth CSOs in the region. In short, this panel is meant to provide food for thoughts to the participants and pave their way toward the breakout session as well as Workshop II on November 27th.

### *Breakout Sessions: Participants & Rapporteurs*

After 35 minutes of scene-setting talks of both MAJALAT and the youth expert, the participants will be invited to split into about 4 sub-thematic breakout sessions for 45 minutes. Each of these parallel sessions (PS) will tackle one the following subthemes:

- PS1: EU Political Frameworks & Funding Mechanisms;
- PS2: School to Work Transition & Employability;
- PS3: Sexual and Reproductive Health & Security;
- PS4: Mobility, Migration & Inclusion.

To facilitate the participants’ discussions and outputs during the breakout sessions, a worksheet with guiding questions (Annex 3) will be provided to each working group.

During the 45 minute sessions, the participants will collaboratively discuss the guiding questions provided before hands with the aim to answer the what/how/who/where/when dimensions: for instance, if the answer to a given question is: “The EU should launch more youth funded programs in benefits of CSOs in the south”, then the answer should also describe:

- What kinds of programs are direly needed? What Logistics need to be in place (know-how? Funding?)?
- Who are the targeted groups (young minorities, young girls, or/and young immigrants)? And Who are the potential local and regional stockholders to be involved in the realization of the suggested projects?
- How can the suggested programs be developed, implemented, managed and evaluated?



- Where the suggested programs are urgently needed: what countries? Regions? Communities?
- When should programs be implemented? At what pace? Once in a life span or periodically?

During the PS, the expert and REF MAJALAT project coordinator will be monitoring the groups' discussions, and attending the needs of the participants, in case if any technical or thematic assistance would be needed.

### *Rapporteur*

The group members of each parallel session are requested to designate one member to act as the Rapporteur for the group. The task of this member will be capturing all the main points discussed by the group members. More importantly, the rapporteur will have to ensure that the guiding questions are being answered, using the worksheet to be provided. At the end of the 45 minutes PS, and right after the 10-minute break, all the members of the four parallel sessions will convene again in the main webinar's room. This is the time when each group rapporteur will be invited to share the outcome of their discussions and recommendations with the general audience of the workshop. Finally, another brief session will be held between a single rapporteur and the expert on November 26th in order to finalize the discussions on the recommendations that the rapporteurs has developed on the 24th November workshop. Once finalized, the expert will integrate the four reports of the four SP into one harmonized document of recommendations. During Workshop II on November 27th, the designated participant will present this finalized report (15 minutes) in the presence of EU representatives.

### **Logistics**

The language used by the expert will be English, and translation from and into Arabic and French will be provided. The workshops will be hosted on Zoom. MAJALAT will send the webinar invitation code ahead of time to all participants. For internal use only, video recording of the sessions might be carried out. Therefore, participants should rest assured that none of the content recorded will be published or advertised anywhere on any platforms. Instead, the content will be only used for the purpose of producing the final reports, respecting the anonymity code of conduct.



## Agenda

Thematic workshop 1: November 24 : 15 :00 – 17 :00 Paris time		
<i>Moderator:</i> Nathalie Mehdi, Project coordinator, REF – Réseau Euromed France		
<i>Objectives:</i> Discussion & finalization of recommendations between civil society participants		
Time	What	Who
5 min	Context-Setting	Nathalie Mehdi
30 min	“Consolidating venues of collaboration between the EU and its South Mediterranean neighbors’ youth CSOs”	A. Badre
45 min	Breakout Sessions	A. Badre
10 minutes break		
5 min	Reporting on PS1: EU Political Frameworks & Funding Mechanisms	Rapporteur 1
5 min	Reporting on PS2: School to Work Transition & Employability;	Rapporteur 2
5 min	Reporting on PS3: Sexual and Reproductive Health & Security	Rapporteur 3
5 min	Reporting on PS4: Mobility, Migration & Inclusion	Rapporteur 4
5 min	Wrap-up	A. Badre
5 min	Closing Note	Nathalie Mehdi

\* A short meet up between the expert and the rapporteur is scheduled on November 26th finalize the recommendations to be presented on 27th.

Thematic workshop 2: November 27 : 10 :30 am – 12:30 pm Paris time		
<i>Moderator:</i> Nathalie Mehdi, Project coordinator, REF – Réseau Euromed France		
<i>Objectives:</i> Presentation of recommendations and discussion with EU representatives		
Time	What	Who
5 min	Context-Setting	MAJALAT
3 min	Promotional video on MAJALAT (TBC)	MAJALAT
15 min	Presentation of discussions on the recommendations	Ahmad Qadi
15 min	Show-case: Presentation of a project which benefited from MAJALAT support, implemented in Tunisia by Citoyenneté, Développent, culture et migration des deux rives (CDCMIR)	Tarek Ben Hiba
10 minutes Break		
40 min	Discussion with EU representatives	A. Badre + EU representatives and participants
5 min	Wrap-up	Badre
5 min	Closing Note	Nathalie Mehdi



## The expert

### Abdeslam Badre

Badre is a full-time associate professor at Mohammed V University in Rabat, and a policy development expert. His fields of actions include youth, migration, and gender in the contexts of higher education and socio-economic integration within the EU-Southern Mediterranean as well as sub-Saharan regions. His research seeks to analyze current norms that hamper the progress and livelihood of youth, migrants, and women as social groups, as well as generating evidence-based recommendations that could inform national and regional policies, providing comparable data across borders, while addressing the causes of entrenched marginalization.

Currently, he is leading a project on sub-Saharan migration in Morocco under Princeton University and the University of Michigan programs. Previously, he delivered hundreds of CPT trainings and workshops for various international organizations, such as UNESCO, EU-JRC, Youth in Action, AIMS, Next Einstein Forum, and Global Young Academy, among many others.

He also served visiting professor positions at Alfred University in New York, Monterey Institute for International Studies in California, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill; Aalborg University in Denmark, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, and Babes Bolyai University in Romania. Badre is now an Editor of Social Science Section for ELSAVIEER & Scientific African (2019-2020). His last coauthored books are 'Voices of early career researchers in and out of the academy: A pan- African perspective', (May 2020, Germany); Enjeux de l'interculturalité (October 2020, Rabat, Maroc); and GloSYS Africa Report (November 2020; Germany).

