

Festival of Mediterranean Citizens

List of guests

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Rasha	ABBAS	Writer and journalist best known for her book: The Invention of German Grammar, a collection of short stories about her observations of German life and culture through the eyes of an outsider, released in Arabic by 10/11 publishings and in German by Mikrotext [Berlin].
Roula	ABBAS	Programme Manager of the Civil Society, Gender and Youth at the European Union Delegation to Lebanon. She has had previously an intense professional experience at the United Nations Development Programme.
Esraa	ABDELFATTAH	An Independent Journalist - Social Media Specialist - Advisor for civil society and emerging democracies. Human Rights Defender - Honorary Citizenship from the Mayor of Paris, Democracy Courage Tribute 2021. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, following the 25 th of January Egyptian revolution, of which she was one of the main characters.
Souad	ABDERRAHIM	Tunisian pharmacist and politician. On 23 October 2011, she was elected to the Constituent Assembly, for Ennahdha representing of Tunis. Elected as the mayor of Tunis, on July 3, 2018, the first woman to head the municipality of Tunis.
Lina	ABU DAWOUD	Works at the Civitas Institute in Gaza, which aims to strengthen civil society's role by developing NGOs and local initiatives as well as contributing to building a Palestinian state of institutions and supporting democratic practices and behaviors in societies through civil education.
Eva	ABUHALLAWEH	Lawyer and human rights activist who co-founded Mizan for Law and is now its Executive Director. She has a diplomacy master's degree. Received the International Women of Courage Award from the US Department of State in 2011.
David	ABULAFIA	Cambridge University Emeritus Professor of Mediterranean History. "The Great Sea," his history of the Mediterranean, was released in 2011 and has been translated into 11 languages, with more on the way. "The Boundless Sea," a history of the oceans, his most recent work. Visiting professor at the University of Gibraltar and the College of Europe.
Farid	ADLY	Journalist and writer. Director of ANBAMED, works with a number of print publications (including Corriere della Sera, l'Unità, and il Manifesto) as well as radio stations (such as Radio Popolare). Published essays, short stories, and poems, in Italian and Arabic











Ali	AHMED HYSAYN	Civil engineer who also works in civic society. Founding member of the Association for Youth and Giving and its project coordinator. Collaborated with UNMAS on a variety of activities, including educating the public about the risks of small guns and weaponry.
Luca	AIELLO	Member of Trame di Quartiere and the San Berillo neighborhood network's contact person. At the University of Catania, he studied Economics, Policies, and Territory Management, with a focus on migration policies and the development of the South.
Ali	AKEBLI	Executive director of "REMESS," the Moroccan Network of Social and Solidarity Economy, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting social and solidarity economies as a viable alternative to the capitalist production system.
Tamer	AKEL	Soccer coach and school counselor. Graduated from Birzeit University with a bachelor's degree in Audiology and Speech Therapy. Actively involved in his Jerusalem's community and collaborates with a variety of groups on numerous initiatives and themes, including sports, zero waste, gender equality, and children's rights.
Lina	ALAMEDDINE	Capacity development key expert (PhD) of the EU programme Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality. Has extensive international experience and an activist history. Her areas of expertise include participatory citizenship, educational quality, electoral campaigns, and strategic planning. Instructor of advocacy and gender at Beirut's Lebanese American University Continuing Education.
Samer	ALDEYAEI	A prominent human rights defender, executive director of the Free Syrian Lawyers Association. He directed FSLA efforts at national and international levels to bring justice to the Syrian people. His legal practice prior to the 2011 Syrian uprising for democracy centered on defending clients in various Syrian criminal courts.
Khaled	ALDROUBI	Activist who works with the Syrian Association of Free Lawyers, as well as an IT consultant with extensive technical experience in the Information Technology field.
Ibrahim	ALGHANAI	Master's student at Catania University studying Automation Engineering. Former Automation engineer at Alnaseem for Food Industries, with four years of expertise in project development and problems diagnosis. Trainer and advisor for the factory's technical engineers.
Amro	ALI	Co-president of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities, as well as a research fellow at Freie Universität Berlin and a sociology instructor at the American University in Cairo (AUC). He is a University of Sydney PhD graduate.
Abdeljalil	ALI ABBAS	Founder of the Dounia Environmental Protection Association in the Chlef area. Took part in an effort to plant 40 million trees in the Chlef area as State Coordinator in 2015, under the motto "A tree for every Algerian person."











Muhammad	ALKASHEF	Human Rights Lawyer, researcher, consultant, and advocacy officer with "Alarm Phone," a hotline that assists individuals in trouble at sea, monitors migratory patterns throughout the Mediterranean and documents human rights violations at sea.
Hossameldin	ALLAM	State Counselor at Egypt's State Lawsuits Authority. In Al- Azhar University in Cairo, he teaches Usul al-Fiqh, Private International Law, and Research Methods in English at the Department of Sharia and Law in English.
Riyad	ALNAJM	Serves on the board of "We Exist!", an organization dedicated to rectifying the worldwide impression of Syria and the Syrian civil war, emphasizing the effective role of the Syrian population and civil society in the Syrian context, and presenting a true picture of Syria to Europeans.
Chen	ALON	Theatre activist, director, and scholar. Co-founder of Combatants for Peace, a movement of former Palestinian and Israeli combatants who have abandoned the way of violence and struggle together non-violently against the military occupation.
Mejid	AMOR	Secretary General, Association le pêcheur pour le développement et l'environnement (APDE), Zarzis. The association stood out for its solidarity actions towards migrants.
Federica	ARACO	Journalist, editor, and translator working in English and French, as well as a contributor on a variety of Mediterranean-thematic issues. Previously collaborated with the Babelmed.net magazine and currently contributing to the feminist website medfeminiswiya.net.
Lisa	ARIEMMA	Journalist, researcher, educator, and activist. Focuses particularly on issues linked to participatory citizenship, active democracy, and migration. Created and taught courses on intercultural dialogue and multiculturalism and published several articles. She is co-president of Maydan association.
Pedro	ARROJO- AGUDO	UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. He was appointed by the Human Rights Council and started his mandate on 1 November 2020. Served fom 2016 to 2019, as an elected member of the Spanish Parliament. Winner of the 2003 Goldman Environmental Prize.
Cristina	ARTONI	Freelance journalist working with Radio Svizzera Italiana and Radio Colonia WDR. Her books include 'L' amore ai tempi della Bossi-Fini'. The book is a collection of stories that exemplify fragments of the daily lives of foreigners in Italy forced into a difficult, sometimes impossible existence.
Sofien	ASTA	Civil society activist who has been working for JAMAITY as a project manager since 2014. Has a background in non-profit project management and capacity building, particularly in project writing and fundraising. In Tunisia, he works as a consultant and coach for a number of NGOs.











Lorenza	BABBINI	Holds a degree in Biological Sciences and a PhD in biomonitoring methodologies and environmental quality. Currently working at the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research ISPRA. Since 2020, the director of the Regional Information and Communication Center (INFO/RAC) of UNEP/MAP.
Layal	BAHNAM	Programme manager at Maharat Foundation, Beirut-based NGO specialized in advancing freedom of expression and media development in the MENA.
Said	BAKKALY	Founding member and Vice President of the "Mediterranean Commission for Immigration and Asylum". Member and cofounder of a number of international and local organizations, including the Maydan Association." Worked earlier as a coordinator within "Women, Peace, Med identification Statement".
Firas	BALI	Manager of the Bethlehem Business Incubator BBI & Yunus Social Business Center YSBC at Bethlehem University; cofounder of "Ibtikar for empowerment and social entrepreneurship"; with a professional background in the field of social entrepreneurship and innovation.
Laura Silvia	BATTAGLIA	Laura Silvia Battaglia al-Jalal, freelance journalist and documentary filmmaker, has been working as a reporter in crisis areas since 2007 and is a presenter and author for Rai Radio 3. Specialising in the Middle East, with a particular focus on Iraq and Yemen, she has worked as a correspondent from Sanaa for numerous media outlets.
Hamza	ВАҮҮА	Technical Advisor at the German International Cooperation Agency in Morocco, GIZ, for the RECOSA/PPH Project "Prospects via South-South Cooperation", supporting partner institutions and CSOs in the formulation and implementation of programs.
Leonardo	BECCHETTI	Italian economist, full professor of Economics, and research associate at the University of Rome's Department of Economics and Finance. Author of almost 500 works, including scientific articles, working papers, and popular books such as "Bergoglionomics," "Neurosceptics," "The Market Are Us," and "Wiki Economy."
Giusy	BELFIORE	Specialised tour guide. President of The Tourist Guides Association of the Province of Catania, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting cultural activities and improving the professionalism of Catania's tourist guides.
Marta	BELLINGRERI	Specialised in Arab-Islamic and Mediterranean Studies. Published reports on international magazines and collaborates with L'Orient XXI. Author of "Lampedusa: Conversations on Islands, Politics, and Migrants," a book-interview, and a participant in the film "Io sto con la sposa."











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Hmaid	BEN AZIZA	Doctor of Philosophy, graduate in economics and sociology. Secretary-General of UNIMED. Former President of the University of Tunis, as well as former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Author of numerous books and scientific articles. Received The Mare Nostrum Prize: "Virtue and Knowledge", by the Association" Mediterranean Mentee", Porto Cesario.
Mohamed	BEN HAMZA	Marketing expert.Previously served as an expert jury member in pitching competitions. In the meanwhile, he worked at Moomken as a consultant, trainer, and project coordinator. Has a higher diploma in "Mechanical Engineering".
Tarek	BEN HIBA	Founder of "Citoyenneté, développement, cultures et migrations des deux rives", an association which promotes citizenship, democracy and human rights values. Experienced in the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue process as well as in "Euromed" civil society forums
Cheima	BEN HMIDA	Program manager at EuroMed Feminist Initiative. Holds a master's degree in political sociology and is a feminist activist and human rights advocate. The EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) is a policy network that brings together women's rights organizations from both Mediterranean coasts.
Mara	BENADUSI	Professor in Anthropology at the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Catania. Was as a member of the PhD School in "Anthropology and historical-linguistic studies" at the University of Messina and previous member of the PhD School in "Anthropology and Epistemology of Complexity" at the University of Bergamo.
Paolo	BERGAMASCHI	Former European Union official. For twenty-five years, he worked as a political advisor for the Green/EFA Group in the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, focusing on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and European Neighbourhood Policy.
Christophe	BERNES	Specialized in working with governmental institutions and civil society organizations on communication and advocacy. Helped develop and execute citizen participation in water management decision-making in the Egyptian governorates of Menya and Ismailia.
Sebastian	BLOCHING	Director of ElBarlament, a peacebuilding and democracy support organisation, with a special focus on empowering women and youth.
Roberto	BONACCORSI	Acting mayor of the City of Catania. Ha covered several different positions in the City's administration. before taking up this last responsibility. From 2013 to 2016 he was Mayor of the Municipality of Giarre. He has held the position of Statutory Auditor in numerous joint-stock companies.











Rasmus	BOSERUP	Executive Director (PhD) of EuroMed Rights. Has a background in organizational management and social science research. Previously worked at the Danish Institute for International Studies as a Senior Researcher, focusing on power and politics in the Middle East and North Africa.
FATIH	BOULOUSSAKH	Founding member of The Mediterranean Youth Council. The council is an assembly of 30 young Mediterraneans committed to the co-construction of a model of youth representative body at the Mediterranean level.
Zied	BOUSSEN	Activist, researcher and trainer on Governance, Public Policies and Human Rights. His research focuses on institutional and legal reforms in transitional contexts. Runs "Pandora Research", a research center based in Tunis.
Razane	BOUSTANY	Project manager at the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL). She supports the development and implementation of HiiL's projects, in cooperation with HiiL's three Product Groups, to achieve the deliverables agreed on with specific donors.
Anna	BUCCA	Social and cultural activist. Member of the board of ARCI Sicily, an Italian organization for social progress. Its approach combines "Culture" and "Society" with inclusive and multicultural social events, as well as a focus on people who are socioeconomically and culturally disadvantaged.
Miriam	CAMERINI	Theatre director, writer, singer and actress, Miriam is the founder and artistic director of Benhashmashot. Among her shows: Golem, Caffe Odessa, Il Mare in valigia, (on Else Lasker-Schüler), and Messiah and Revolution (on the Bund).
Luca	CAMILLERI	Diocesan delegate for ecumenism and dialogue for the diocese of Agrigento and Lampedusa. Also deputy director of the Sicilian CESi Regional Office for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue.
Mara	CARFAGNA	Italian Minister for the South and Territorial Cohesion since 2021. Minister for Equal Opportunity in Berlusconi IV's Cabinet from 2008 until 2011. Named vice president of the Chamber of Deputies in 2018.
Paola	CARIDI	Author, journalist, founder and president of "Lettera22" independent journalist association. With over 20 years of experience on the Arab region, she heads the series that hosts the Italian version of Alaa Abd-el Fattah's political writings, "Non siete stati ancora sconfitti" (hopefulmonster publish. house).
Patrizia	CARUSO	Head of the resilience unit in Action Aid Italia and founder of Step4, a social enterprise that aims to spread innovative and sustainable social practices, promote global citizenship education, and improve CSOs effectiveness and impact.











Camilla	CEDERNA	Teacher-researcher of Italian literature and civilisation including history, circulation of ideas, and Italian theater in Europe, 17th-20th centuries. Author of several essays, including "Couscous, contes, sortilèges. La fabrique de l'écriture d'Elisa Chimenti". Currently professor of Italian literature and civilization at the university of Lille.
lain	CHAMBERS	Theorist and Professor of the Sociology of Cultural Processes at the Oriental University in Naples, where also directs the doctorate programme on Cultural and Postcolonial Studies in the Anglophone world.
Rawane	CHAMSEDDINE	Competence-based Training Officer (CBT) in the EU-funded project "Vocational and Technical Education for All in Lebanon (VTE4all)" implemented by GIZ. Follows up on curricula development and coordinates the delivery of training based on need.
Imen	СНЕВВІ	Tunisian Ph.D. student. Marine biologist with a specialization in Fisheries and Management. Currently leading the project "All for a Blue Economy: Piscatourism in Tunisia."
Hichem	CHENAKER	President of Cedar Association for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the city of Khenchela (North-East of Algeria). Participated in the classification of a Chilean forest as a protected national park.
Imane	CHENAKER	Biologist and nurse. Currently working on a start-up financed by the Algerian state to create a production unit of spirulina plant. This would enable the production of local microalgae in a desert region allowing access to fresh spirulina while also encouraging the development of a sustainable economy.
Mihai Sebastian	CHIHAIA	Works at the Europe in the World Program as a Policy Analyst and focuses on political and security challenges in the Middle East, as well as EU-Middle East relations, EU foreign policy, and European defense integration.
Valentina	CHISARI	Graduated in Political Science in 2005.Began collaborating with several newspapers the same year. A passionate writer who has written numerous short tales for children. Her recent novel, "The sea of Vita and Chadi," was released by Scatole Parlanti.
Catherine	CORNET	Adjunct Professor of Middle Eastrern studies at the American University of Rome. Weekly contributor of the Italian newsmagazine, Internazionale, and is a free-lancer for French media outlets, mainly ARTE Television and France 5.
Melita	CRISTALDI	A primary school teacher and coordinator of the Catanese Polo di Educazione Interculturale-Global Teacher Centre. The Catanese Pole of Intercultural Education is a network of schools of all levels, NGOs, universities, and communities hosting unaccompanied foreign minors.











Immacolata	DALL'OGLIO	Pediatric nurse, she is a lecturer at the University of Rome. Since her brother – the Jesuite father Paolo Dall'Oglio - was abducted in Syria, in 2013, she has been involved in activism initiatives to shed light on fatherPaolo's kidnapping and raise awareness on Syria's forced disappearances. She is one of the characters of the documentary "Ayouni".
Ernesto	DE CRISTOFARO	Teaches Middle-age and modern law at the University of Catania. Worked as honorary judge at the juvenal detention centre. Author of several books and an editor of mafia and criminality books. "Il senso storico della verità" is one of his most recent works.
Lorenzo	DECLICH	Expert in the current Islamic world, he works with a variety of organizations and publications, including Limes, Internazionale, Indian Nation, and Gad Lerner's show "Islam, Italia." He curates the blog "Tutto in 30 secondi". He founded the website "Islametro."
Luigi	DI MAIO	Italian politician serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs since 5 September 2019. Previously served as Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of Economic Development, Labour and Social Policies from 2018 to 2019.
Daniele	DI MICHELE	DJ Daniele De Michele, aka Donpasta, Italian dj-cook, ecologist and gastro-philosopher. Donpasta mixed cooking and music into a fusion of aromas, sounds and flavors. Considered by the New York Times to be one of the most inventive food activists.
Marcello	DI TORA	Dominican, he was born in Catania. Made his "solemn profession" in 1991. In 1992, was ordained as a priest. Has been residing in the San Domenico Convent in Catania since 2019. Published essays such as "Christianity in comparison with religions (Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam) and sects".
Samira	DLIMI	Professor/Trainer at the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Mohammed V University of Rabat; she leads the Research unit "Sciences de l'Éducation, Sciences Humaines et Langues". Researcher in sociolinguistics.
Nataliya	DROZD	Director of the Ukrainian pro-democracy Dobrochyn Center NGO, and head of the Chernihiv Regional Resource Center for Local Democracy Development. Dobrochyn Center is partner of European Endowment for Democracy.
Can	DÜNDAR	One of the best-known figures in Turkish media. Has written for several newspapers, produced many television programs for TRT, CNN Türk and NTV, and published more than 20 books. He is the recipient of the International Press Freedom Award by the Committee to Protect Journalists.
Khaldoon	ELHASSANIEH	Religious leader from Lebanon. Has been working with the Druze Council of Lebanon and has been appointed the director of the Druze Council website. Became the Secretary of the Druze Council Presidency in 2008.











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Belal	FADL	Writer of screenplays, journalist, and columnist He began his career as a journalist at Rose al-Ysuf, then as a co-founder and secretary of Al-Dustour, and finally as a columnist for Al-Masry Al-Youm, where he became one of Egypt's most influential columnists.
Sara	FAGONE	Head of Piattaforma Librino, a network of sports and cultural associations, committees, and schools united for the development of Catania's suburban district 'Librino', against all forms of prejudice and neglect.
Rola	FAYYAD	Founder & CEO of "ViaVii", a regional community brand and an Al-powered travel experience recommendation engine. Starting her career at a young age, she previously co-founded "MICEit", an event booking engine for the MENA region.
Katerina	GAGAKI	Vice-mayor at the Municipality of Athens. She is responsible for Social Solidarity and Civil Society in the City's administration.
Marina	GALEAZZI	Architect who works with the Service for the Protection and Management of Public Green Areas - Ornamental Fountains of the Municipality of Catania and collaborates with organisations such as the territorial association Tourist Guides or the Italian Environmental Fund of Catania.
Stefano	GATTI	Special Envoy for Food Security of the Italian Government The Special Envoy promotes Italy's role in food security around the world. He was Italy's ambassador to Australia and has held other diplomatic functions around the world.
Maurizio	GIACHERO	EU Delegation to Egypt's Governance, Human Rights, and Civil Society Program Manager. He spent nearly seven years with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, where he gained expertise in local administration and management. Was also the project manager for the International Organization for Migration in Serbia and a long-term election observer.
Mercedes	GIOVINAZZO	President of BJCEM with over 20 years of experience in project design and management of international cooperation projects. Holds a Laurea in Archaeology and a master's degree in Arts Management.
Gaetano	GIUNTA	Theoretical physicist and Secretary General of the Messina Community Foundation. Expert in social and cultural economics and scholar of complex systems. The foundation is recognised by the OECD and the WHO as 'one of the world's most interesting cases of experimentation with local welfare and development models'.
Mostafa	GOUDA	Sustainability and urban planning expert. Coordinated a number of volunteer and community service projects with non-profit organizations focused on environmental, urban, and technology issues.











Biagio	GUERRERA	Poet, performer, and artistic director. Author of four poetry volumes, dramatic texts, and songs in the Sicilian language. With the Italian-Palestinian group Dounia and Moncef Ghachem, he founded Pocket Poetry Orchesta and now works as an artistic director and independent cultural activist.
Karama	HABLI	Programme assistant of Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality. Has Hen a civil society activist for seven years and was involved with several international organisations including AIESEC, Dreams'NMotion, and International Peace Research Association.
Mahmoud	HADHOUD	Writer concerned with cultural criticism and politics in the Middle East. Produced several essays and articles, published in Arabic journals and websites. Co-author of "January Revolution: Critical Vision". Serves as the managerial editor of the Arabic digital magazine, Ida2at.com.
Youssef	HAMDAOUI	Volunteer director of the Moroccan Association for Citizenship Initiatives, which strives to foster a sense of citizenship among youth, as well as contribute to the attainment and dissemination of the Millennium Development Goals.
Hannah	HANANIA	He is the new Mayor of the Palestinian city of Bethlehem. Has been appointed in April 2022. He earlier served as Deputy Mayor for the same municipality.
Radwa	HASHEM	Press Officer and Head of the Environment Department at Al- Watan newspaper. Responsible for community initiatives at the International Environmental Quality Company.
Afraa	HASHEM	One of the main characters in the award-winning documentary, "For Sama", which tells the story of Waad al-Kateab's life through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, where she opened a series of schools.
Mohammad	HDAIB	Jordanian journalist based in Doha and editor of Al Araby Al- Jadeed newspaper. Specialised in cultural affairs and has been collaborating with various international film festivals.
Ibrahim	HEGGI	Human rights activist, he is co-founder of the transnational "Maydan Association," which aims to develop a network of engaged citizens working for a new Mediterranean citizenship and a shared destiny for the peoples of the Mediterranean.
Abdelfattah	HERIZI	Co-founder and manager of the programme "Algeria Startup Challenge" (ASC), operating in the Algerian innovation ecosystem for the past 4 years during which he accompanied 5400 projects. Currently, Abdelfettah is the General Manager of "LEANCUBATOR", an organization specialising in the design and implementation of innovation and incubation programmes.
Sandra	HETZL	A literary translator, writer and project curator with a focus on Arabic literature. Translated collections of stories, poems and non-fiction books. Presented readings of over twenty theatre pieces that she has translated in Germany. Founder of the literary agency Collective 10/11.











Menna	HIJAZI	Project coordinator of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE). She collaborates with Natuf for environment and community development. A Law graduate at Al-Azhar University and an alumna of the U.S. Government-funded Global UGRAD (2019-20) and the ACCESS (2014-16) Programme.
Jan	HORZELA	Polish civil society activist. Co-founder of the Civil March for Aleppo, he was responsible for logistics, public outreach and political conceptualisation. He then created an international activism capacity building network called Civil Action Network.
Sandra	IMRAN	Co-founder and Chairperson in Mirsal ry, Espoo, (a nonprofit organization that supports integration in Finland). Works as a legal, financial, and administrative officer at the Mission of Palestine to Finland and the Baltic counties.
Maher	ISSA	General director at Civitas Institute, which aims to strengthen the role of civil society, develop NGOs and local initiatives, and contribute to building state institutions in Palestine. Has more than 25 years of hands-on experience in civil society.
Marion	ISVI	Executive director of the Réseau Euromed France, a network that brings together 36 French civil society organizations involved in the countries around the Mediterranean. REF and its members cover a wide range of key areas: education and youth, art and culture, migration, social and solidarity economy, environment, and equality.
Dima	KHATEEB	Journalist, poet, and translator from a Syrian background. Managing Director of AJ+ an award-winning digital news service in English, Arabic, and Spanish launched by Al Jazeera Media Network in San Francisco, USA. She is the only female executive director within the Al Jazeera group.
Sulaiman	KHATIB	He is co-founder of Combatants for Peace, a binational grassroots nonviolence movement in Israel and Palestine. Board member of the 'Middle East Initiative,' as well as a local organizer who has received international recognition for his efforts to promote peace.
Jessica	KHAZRIK	Artist, technologist, electronic music producer and writer whose interdisciplinary practice ranges from composition to ecotoxicology, machine learning, cryptography, performance, visual art and history of science and music.
Najoua	KHALIFI	Agronomy consultant with Agro-valoriZ, coaching promoters of agricultural projects. Joined many ecological projects, including Soukra 2030, with "Citoyens Solidaires" and the Municipality of Soukra. Advocated for the protection of the marshland Sebkha of Ariana in this initiative.
Laila	KIKI	Specialist in development, humanitarian aid, and advocacy who has led frontline humanitarian, cultural, and human rights groups in Syria and the Middle East. She is The Syria Campaign's executive director - an initiative founded by the activists of the 2011 Syrian revolution.











Yorgos	KONSTANTINOU	Visual communicator from Thessaloniki who has lived many
		years in Catalonia. Konstantinou is a comics and cartoon maker with a creative visual rhetoric background, he illustrates pictures in an original, poetical, and intelligent way. He is the author of the cartoon movie "The Middle Sea".
Mohaned	KREMA	Maydan Association's volunteer board member and International Committee of Red Cross' communication field officer, Mohaned began his civic activism trip seven years ago with the Libyan Red Crescent, where he assisted migrants and internally displaced persons in Libya.
Robert	KRIZANIC	Director of the Institute Povod, which works toward global justice and development through sustainability principles, art, and global education. National Coordinator of the Slovenian Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation and Faces of Migration programme.
Emel	KURMA	Executive director of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, which aims at introducing in society values such as life with dignity, the rule of law and justice, and gender equality, as well as shaping an accountable, transparent, and participatory public administration, particularly in the South-East of Europe and Turkey.
Fatma	LADGHAM	Communication Expert of Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality programme. Has 15 years working experience with international organizations, in designing, managing and implementing communication strategies and plans, targeting diverse groups such as Mediterranean confederations, Tunisian and regional civil society.
Kamal	LAHBIB	Facilitator in mediating between social movements and the Moroccan state. Founder and president of Morocco Alternatives Forum. Founding member and national coordinator of the Associative Collective for the Observation of Elections.
Gianni	LATINO	Graphic designer, teacher and author. Deals with visual identity for public and private entities, communication for cultural events, designing books, and curating exhibitions. Currently, director of the Catania Academy of Fine Arts for the three-year period 2021-2024.
Federica	LI MULI	Assistant Project Manager in the International Projects and Networking team of UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union. She coordinates a student mobility programme and is active in various refugee integration and intercultural conversation programmes and initiatives.
Luca	LO RE	President of Trame di Quartiere, anthropologist with research and action experience in urban contexts characterized by marginality and spatial abandonment problems. He is currently attending the Ph.D. course in urban studies at the DICEA of the Sapienza University of Rome.











Francesca	LONGO	Deputy dean of the University of Catania. Teaches political sciences and international relations and is in charge of her University's "internationalisation programmes". Member of the executive committee of the International Political Science Association. A specialist of EU political affairs and migration.
Carlos	LOZANO	Coordinator of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Social Economy, which aims at providing a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region. Directed and produced several publications on the role of the Social Economy in the achievement of SDGs and the Agenda 2030.
Jaber	MAATOUI	Founder of Skills-Up, a university club created in 2019 by the students of the Faculty of Science and Techniques of Tangier. Its concept is based on soft-skills, and personal development. It develops projects to enhance awareness of the importance of soft skills, particularly in the the labour market.
Johannes	MAERK	Prof. Dr. Maerk is an Academic Coordinator of the MA program in Diplomacy and IR at the University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Vienna. His research interests are non-western social sciences and South-South relations. Conducted research projects in Latin America and the Middle East.
Anita	MAGNO	A graduate of Arabic, Islamic and Mediterranean Studies from the "Orientale" University of Naples. Has been a publisher, an organizer, and a press officer for socio-cultural events for over 10 years, as well as promotion manager for the publishing group of her family, Sabir s.r.l., and Mesogea Edizioni.
Asma	MANSOUR	Founder and director of the Tunisian Center for Social Entrepreneurship with a long experience in working with civil society organisations at local and international level.
Khaled	MANSOUR	Writer and communication expert with extensive experience at the United Nations and as a foreign correspondent. Has been writing on political issues, human rights, humanitarian aid, and peacekeeping in addition to his fiction work.
Francesca	MATEROZZI	Involved in the field of migration since 2002. Worked with NGOs and groups dealing with forced migration in Italy and abroad. As an expert, worked with radio shows and magazines. In 2012, she co-founded Corriere delle Migrazioni. Since 2017, she has been working with marginality, new and old poverty with the newly founded Nonna Roma initiative.
Zineb	MECHIECHE	With a Master on environmental engineering and climate risks, she is a member of the Algerian environmental organization Dz Explorer, in charge of environmental education programmes. A freelance environmental journalist, she publishes on several specialised media, including mainsvertes.org. She conceived a new environmental capacity building concept: Carbondz.











Fausto	MELLUSO	Member of the board of ARCI Sicily, an Italian social promotion organization. Its approach combines "Culture" and "Society" with inclusive and multicultural social events, as well as a focus on people who are socioeconomically and culturally disadvantaged.
Gennaro	MIGLIORE	President of the international organization Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). Also, a member of the Italian Parliament from 2006 to 2008 and from 2013 to date.
Anna	MIGNOSA	Visiting lecturer at Erasmus University in Rotterdam and researcher at the University of Catania. Her areas of expertise include cultural policy and their potential influence on society and the cultural industry. Her research focuses on changes in cultural policies, the economics of cultural heritage, and the relationship between culture and development.
Hatem	MLIKI	International facilitator with over 24 years of experience working with international organizations on decentralisation management in Tunisia and the MENA area, as well as over 10 years in project management of donor-funded initiatives. He was elected as member of the Tunisian Parliament in 2019.
Rehab	MOGHAZY	Programme Manager for the civil society, agriculture, and food security at Egyptian Om Habibah Foundation. Has 20 years of experience working in international and national institutions as well as working with a variety of donors, including the EU, Ford Foundation, Finnish embassy, UNDP, and Drosos.
Zeina	MOHANNA	Has been active in humanitarian development and in academia for more than fifteen years. Board Member of Amel Association International, an NGO providing support to the most underprivileged populations in Lebanon
Rita	MONTICELLI	Professor of English literature, gender and cultural studies, theories and history of culture in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Bologna, Italy. She coached with her academic commitment the mobilisation for the jailed Egyptian student Patrick Zaki.
Heba	MOUSA	Urban planner, co-founder of Tabdeel, a grassroots community of urban planners and cycling advocates that aims at studying, promoting and supporting non-motorised mobility in Egypt, using planning and design knowledge.
Christian	MULDER	Rector's Delegate for Ecology and Climate Emergency at the University of Catania. His research and teaching focus on responses to environmental changes and on structural variations in soil biota and in (arid and temperate) terrestrial, freshwater and (coastal) marine communities.
Wasim	NASSER	Director of international advocacy and resource development at the Mossawa Center. Holds a BA in international relations and psychology and a MA in peace and conflict management. Created an international network of supporters for the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel.











Alberto-Horst	NEIDHARDT	European Migration and Diversity (EMD) Policy analysist. He works on asylum, migration, and integration issues at the European Policy Center (EPC), with a particular interest in migration politics and experience in EU law and jurisprudence.
Niccolò	NOTARBARTOLO	Works for the development cooperation NGO CO.P.E. Cooperazione Paesi Emergenti. Member of the organisation's board. Has an experience in local politics.as former member of the Catania's city council.
Vedran	OBUCINA	Priester, political scientist and international promoter of interreligious understanding, member of Maydan association. Commissioner for Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations at the Orthodox Old-Catholic Province of St. Christopher, part of Croatia's Old-Catholic Patriarchy.
Pascal	ODUL	Graduated in 1981 as a Civil Engineer in Architecture. He worked as researcher, international consultant and professor in Belgium, France and Brazil, and for the Belgian International Development Cooperation. Joined in 2001 the European Commission as environment and regional development programme manager in Egypt. He is now DG Near's Team Leader for regional programmes in the South, dealing with good governance and security.
Fatima	OUTALEB	Fatima is a founding member of the women's rights organization "Karama" and advisory board member of "ABAAD". Earlier, she worked as a facilitator, trainer and technical consultant. Has supervised the implementation of "UAF" shelter management programme.
Moni	OVADIA	Italian actor, musician, singer, and theatrical author. Has been an outspoken opponent of what he regards as growing racism in Italian society. Longtime advocate of the cultural rights of persons with disabilities.
Stefania	PAGLIAZZO	Psychotherapist. Member and coordinator of psychological services for Mediterranea Saving Humans, a 'civil society platform' founded to monitor the situation in the Mediterranean and to rescue people in distress at sea after most other NGOs were no longer in a position to act due to legal obstacles.
Igor	PALMINTERI	Eclectic artist who expresses himself through different languages. A graduate in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts of Palermo. Has often exhibited his works both in Italy and in other European cities, with group and solo shows. Organises workshops and is involved in social work and art therapy.
Giovanni	PAMPANINI	Pedagogist and essayist (author of "Illuminismo pedagogico"). Founded the Mediterranean Society of Comparative Education. He was Coordinator of the International Group on the Right to Education, gathering the UN Special Rapporteurs on the right to education as well as internationally renowned intellectuals such as Samir Amin and Thomas Pogge.











Caterina	PASTURA	Worked as a bookseller and cultural animator in Messina.
		Member of the Mesogea publishing house's editorial board, which is committed to the Mediterranean and its many peoples, cultures, histories, and expertise. Mesogea's catalogue has over a hundred publications, including essays and novels.
Giacomo	PELLINI	Giacomo is the head of communication and campaign of Kyoto Club. Kyoto Club is a non-profit organisation bringing together business companies, associations, local municipalities and governments to reach the greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the Kyoto Protocol, by the EU and by the 2015 Paris Agreement.
Antonio	PERDICHIZZI	Founder of Isola, a Catania-based facility that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship via training and exchange. A coworking space for trying out new methods of working and offering a diverse cultural programme to boost creativity and skills. An island of creativity, a hyper-connected and open area.
Emanuela	PISTONE	Actress, theatre director, graduated in foreign languages with a master in literary translation. Founder and artistic director of Catania based Isola Quassùd (2004). The organization aims to social and cultural inclusion of young migrants, mostly minors and women, through arts and creative activities.
Dario	PRUITI	Lawyer and president of ARCI Catania. ARCI is the most important Italian social promotion organization. Its approach combines "Culture" with "Society", to implement inclusive and inter-cultural social actions addressed at all citizens, being Italian or foreigner, migrant or refugee.
Kristina	PRUNEROVA	Programme assistant since 2018 at the Regional Co-operation Unit - Southern Neighbourhood, DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), European Commission, responsible for projects on civil society and culture. Led the Czech Cultural Institute in Belgium promoting cultural relations between 2011 and 2017.
Rania	QADI	Democracy and Human Rights Master Student at Birzeit University, Palestine. Currently doing Erasmus at the University of Palermo, with the International Relations programme. Lawyer and has professional experience in research related to International and constitutional law.
Alice	QUATTROCCHI	Spokesperson for the Fridays for Future movement in Catania, the platform of young activists launched by Greta Thunberg to mobilise society and governments and provide concrete answers to the climate crisis.
Kenza	RADY	Born in Casablanca, she currently resides in Berlin. A cultural manager who has worked in Egypt, Iraq, and Berlin, with a focus on cinema and literature. Currently coordinating a video project for Iraqi women for Elbarlament, in Berlin.











Viola	RAHEB	Palestinian social scientist (Ph.D), theologist and teacher currently living in Austria. Member of the Interdisciplinary Research Group on "Global Contestations of Women's and Gender Rights", at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (Bielefeld University).
Intissar	RAJABANY	Team leader of Linataawan Project, British Council Libya. Holds an MA in International Relations Theory from the University of Warwick. Has 26 years of international development and private sector experience in Libya and the MENA region.
Miquel	RAMOS	Musician and journalist from Valencia, Spain, specialised in social movements, fake news and hate speech. Has been writing about the threat of the extreme right for a long time. Has just published 'Antifascistas', which describes the fight against the extreme right in Spain since the 1980s.
Giuseppe	RANNISI	President of Birdlife International – LIPU in Catania. Promoted a campaign for the regeneration of the Monte Po's green areas and urban-rural territory, located around the homonymous popular district of Catania. The campaign has been supported by 21 civil society organisations.
Luigi	RENNA	Italian Catholic cleric, metropolitan archbishop of Catania since January 2022. He was the rector of the Pontifical Regional Seminary of Puglia "Pius XI" (2009-2015). He was ordained a priest in September 1991. Since 26 May 2021 he has been President of the Bishops' Commission for Social Problems and Labour, Justice and Peace of the Italian Episcopal Conference.
Sabine	RHÉTORÉ	Marseille's artist who creates contemporary maps. She considers herself a dreamer who has been redrawing the world by proposing political poetry through maps since 1997. She has fun with the visual mechanisms that allow and lead to revolutions in our thinking.
Marie	RUYFFELAERE	PhD candidate in political science at the "Université Libre de Bruxelles" (ULB). Her research deals with the external action of the EU in its Southern Neighborhood, and more particularly on the relations between the EU and Egypt after 2011.
Mohab	SABER	Cultural Manager and Creative Producer committed to the non-profit independent cultural sector in the MENA region. His engagement in the cultural sector led to managing large-scale regional programmes increasing access to culture and enhancing the collaboration between North Africa, The Middle East and Europe.
Laura	SAIJA	Associate professor in City and Regional Planning at the University of Catania, Italy. Before joining Catania University in 2018, she served for three years as assistant professor at the Department of urban and regional planning, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Memphis, USA.
Wissal	SAKRI	Leader in TAMSS, a Tunisian social enterprise specialised in the economic and social empowerment of women and youth. He is the coordinator of the EU funded FLAG programme (Women Leadership: Support and Management).











Maryam	SALEH	Egyptian singer, songwriter, and actress. She works together with the Lebanese musician Zeid Hamdan. Her music was described as the invention of Arab trip-hop.
Jad	SALHA	Was a project officer at "Ras El Matn Youth Organization", where he implemented projects on community-dialogue peacebuilding and youth capacities. He has graduated from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon with a BA in International Relations, and he is currently studying an MSc in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action.
Saïd	SALHI	Vice-president of the "Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights" (LADDH), which aims at defending the political and civil rights and freedom of thought, expression, assembly, culture and democracy in Algeria. Has been involved in the social movement for democracy in Algeria (Hirak).
Nada	SALLAM	Syrian lawyer and a member of the Free Syrian Lawyers Association - FSLA - Has experience in legal fieldwork in Syrian courts. Worked on following up on the cases of political detainees and revealing the fate of the missing during the Syrian conflict.
Ameenah	SAWWAN	Advocacy campaigner with The Syria Campaign, a human rights organisation created by Syrian activists, that works for freedom and justice in Syria.
Lina	SCALISI	Full Professor of modern history at the Department of Humanities of the University of Catania. President of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania.
Rita	SCANDURA	Educator working with the Juvenile Detention Centre of Acireale, located in the Province of Catania. She has an extensive experience of working with youth in marginal contexts.
Gianfranco	SCHIAVONE	Scholar of international migration. President of the Italian Consortium of Solidarity-Refugee Office. Co-founder of the SPRAR-National Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. He is also the Vice President of the Italian Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration.
Ingrid	SCHWAIGER	Deputy Head of Regional Co-operation Unit - Southern Neighbourhood, DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), European Commission, she is in Brussels since November 2015. Dealt with different economic and political issues, development cooperation, financial instruments as well as geographic responsibilities in the Eastern Partnership and the Southern Neighbourhood. She worked for the EU Delegation to Algeria.
Michelangelo	SEVERGNINI	Film director interested in portraying societies with its contradictions. Among his films, we can name: L'uomo con il megafono, Schiavi di Riserva and Istimaryya - Tra Napoli e Baghdad controvento.











Corinne	SILVA	British artist living and working in London. Her artistic research is concerned with landscape as a complex interrelation of culture and geography, politics and botany, living beings and inanimate matter. She explores these themes through photography, video, installation, and performance.
Domenico	SIMONE	Co-founder and president of the cultural organization South Media. Has experience working with both private and public cultural organizations. Attended Ermanno Olmi's "Ipotesi Cinema" workshop and Marco Bellocchio's "Fare Cinema" school of advanced film training after graduating from DAMS cinema orientation in Bologna. Directed a series of festivals and events, including Liège Cinema Italien and Regards sur Rome.
Gianluca	SOLERA	Team leader of the EU programme Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality. He ideated the Mediterranean Citizens Festival. Town planner, he advised the Greens in the European parliament for many years. Activist and a writer, he published several books, including "Citizen Activism and Mediterranean Identity: Beyond Eurocentrism".
Klara	SRBOVA	International development aid professional and a yoga teacher. Become an avid advocate for trauma healing. Trained in trauma-informed yoga, Klara founded Yogasil, an initiative providing adapted yoga sessions to asylum seekers in three asylum centers of Fedasil in Belgium.
Elettra	STAMBOULIS	Cultural director, curator and writer of Greek origins and Italian culture. She has curated many exhibitions in Italy and abroad, such as Satrapi, Joe Sacco, Raul, Zehra Doğan, Badiucao. She has been the artistic director of Komikazen International Festival of Reality Comics in Ravenna.
Ambra	STAZZONE	Curator, art critic, and a professor of contemporary arts history at the Academy of Fine Arts in Catania. Collaborates as a curator with various public and private bodies such as the GAM Gallery of Modern Arts in Catania.
Igor	STIKS	Novelist, and Professor at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade. Published the monograph, Nations and Citizens in Yugoslavia and the Post-Yugoslav States: One Hundred Years of Citizenship, and together with Jo Shaw, edited the collections Citizenship after Yugoslavia. He is co-author of the Maydan's Manifesto for Mediterranean Citizenship.
Paul	TABET	A graduate from the Lebanese American University. Junior non-Key expert in the EU Clima-Med programme, focusing on supporting the municipalities in developing their Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans (SEACAPs).
Mario	TAVIANO	Has an extensive experience in educational and entertainment workshops for children. He cooperates with the publishing house Mesogea, section Mesogea Ragazzi.











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Miralem	TURSINOVIĆ	Professor of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language and comparative literature. He was a moulder in a steel foundry, an actor in amateur theatres and in Tuzla's National Theatre, a director of radio programmes, a desk operator, and an editor on Tuzla's Radio Kameleon. Former fighter during the Yugoslavian civil war.
Elisabetta	VINCI	Graduated in foreign languages and literatures, with a PhD in Cultural Heritage. Teaches English in the lower secondary school. Her collaboration with Isola Quassùd, which started in 2011, has become a fixed point in her life. She deals with organizational and administrative tasks.
Mirko	VIOLA	Entrepreneur and Social innovator. Founder and President of RP2.0, a cultural association for research and education in active citizenship and social innovation. Co-founder and investor of startup projects with a high social impact. Secretary of Città Insieme, Civil Society Movement founded in 1987 that promotes in Catania a new relationship between citizens and institutions.
Don Enzo	VOLPE	Priester, defender of migrants' rights in Palermo. President of Santa Chiara organization, which has always been a point of reference for migrants, mostly Africans, minors at risk and fragile families in Palermo.
Christos	VOSKOPOULOS	Mayor of the Municipality of Kaisarianni, located in Metropolitan Athens. Kaisarianni is sadly part of in Greek modern history and Greek collective memory for being one of the hotspots of Nazi-fascist mass killings during World War II.
Gaëtane	WICQUART	Country Director with Acted Lebanon. In 2021, she led on the capitalisation process for an EU-funded project that supported 50 civil society organisations in governance. Holder of a master's in international relations and conflict analysis, she created Acted's global monitoring & evaluation unit.
Yahia	YAHIAOUI	Collaborated with the association Etoile culturelle d'Akbou, working with youth exposed to social delinquency. Volunteer member of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights. Since February 2019, he joined the weekly marches of HIRAK, and the forums organised by HIRAK activists on social networks.
Salima	YENBOU	French politician and Member of the European Parliament since 2019. Member of the Greens/EFA group, then of RENEW group. She has been serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the sub-Committee on Human Rights and on the Committee on Culture and Education.
Fotouh	YOUNES	Social activist and human rights educator who led remarkable advocacy campaigns for education, women, gender equality and peace. She is running the Arab Network for Civic Education (ANHRE) as its Executive Director.
Claudine	ZAAROUR	She is a part of the global movement "Platform for Peace and Humanity" working on peace, humanity and justice. Selected as the Youth Ambassador for the Right to Peace for Lebanon. Furthermore, she is an alumna of the Youth Leadership Programme organized by UNDP.











Kostas	ZAFEIROUPOULO S	Investigative journalist based in Athens. Kostas is also the co- Founder of the Mediterranean Institute for Investigating Reporting which aims to enhance the genre of journalism that holds those on power accountable and defends public good.
Patrick	ZAKI	Egyptian postgraduate student at the University of Bologna, Italy, who was detained in Egypt on 7 February 2020. He has been recently freed, but still under trial for presumed opinion crimes. He also conducts research and advocacy on gender issues and human rights for the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR).
Mohamed Amine	ZARIAT	Founder and the president of TIBU Morocco, Innovation through sport. His organisation aims to create real paths to personal and professional success through sport for different beneficiaries.
Samar	ZUGHOOL	Intercultural trainer, researcher, and performing artist. In 2004, she started her career in various Youth organisations in Jordan as a volunteer and non-formal educator. Currently the director of international programs for intercultural and inclusive cities at the Povod Institute.







