



Lutfia Rabbani Foundation Activities 2021-2022

The post-pandemic reopening of offline activities this year in the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation was accompanied by the continuation of some online events established during lockdown years. In this vein, the website and social media platforms of the Foundation were evaluated and updated, social media posting and promotion was improved both quantity and quality-wise, and the online dialogue series *Rabbani Talks* and the filmmaker Meet & Greet with IDFA were continued.

The scholarships and grant opportunities which the Foundation offers to both Dutch and Arab students in the MENA region were continued, both by granting scholarships to individual students, and by renewing our collaborations with other educational institutes, such as KIT and Leiden University. This year, the Foundation focused on two main goals: expanding and deepening its existing collaborations while seeking long-term partnerships with a select few organizations, and exploring possibilities for future third-party funding.

Activities 2021-2022

- Overall, **23 scholarships and travel grants** were awarded to various scholars this year:
 - 3 students were awarded Mahmoud Rabbani Scholarship – a fully financed Master or PhD scholarship at a Dutch university or other institute for higher learning;
 - 1 student was awarded the Leiden University Fund – a fully financed Master scholarship at Leiden University for students from the Arab World. This scholarship fund has been renewed for another three years.
 - 13 students were awarded the Vreede Scholarship for International Law – for Arab students in international law, offered at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. 11 of these students were funded for the online Winter course and 2 were funded for the on-site Summer course;
 - 6 Travel Grants were awarded – offered to Dutch and Arab students and professionals seeking experience in the Netherlands or the Arab World;
- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation funded for the fourth time the **International Documentary Film festival Amsterdam (IDFA)** in November 2021, supporting 12 young Arab filmmakers from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Syria whose films were screened during the festival. The funds provided by the Foundation went towards film rights, curation, travel costs and otherwise support of Arab filmmakers. The aim of this collaboration for the LRF is to contribute to make IDFA more inclusive, by bringing a rich source of young Arab talents including their ideas and expertise to enrich the film community in and around IDFA, offering different perspectives and valuable insights. Following the festival, an **online Meet & Greet** was organised with these filmmakers to further connect with them.
- An online **film screening** was organised as part of the IDFA partnership, in May 2022, to showcase the filmmaking talents of the Arab filmmakers. During the event, the film 'Wild

Relatives' by Lebanese Jumana Manna was shown. This was followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker and the Artistic Director of IDFA Orwa Nyrabia. The event was recorded and shared on the Foundation website as the fourth episode of **Rabbani Talks**– a series of online dialogue events of which all previous episodes can also be found on our [website](#).

- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation continued its support for the **Nour Project**, initiated by the Leiden branch of AIESEC the Netherlands. The Nour Project sends a group of both Dutch and international students to the MENA region for 6 weeks over the Summer and Winter seasons to work in various projects and internships in their destination country of choice. Last year had marked the **10-year anniversary** of the partnership between the Nour Project and LRF, which had been celebrated through an online campaign. In March 2022, an in-person **Meet & Greet** was organized in the LRF offices that brought together scholars, alumni and staff from both sides in celebration of the past anniversary. The event was aimed at encouraging a dialogue between young scholars from the MENA region and Dutch or international students in the Netherlands who have travelled or plan to travel to the region. Following this event, a current LRF scholar was invited to the **Nour Preparation Day** to give presentations introducing the country they are from and reflecting on their experience of the cross-cultural dialogue in the Netherlands for high school and university students to encourage them to go on exchange projects in the MENA region.
- The Foundation's partnership with the **Leiden University**, which is marked by the matching LUF-LRF scholarship, was renewed for three more years. This was cemented by a contract signing ceremony in September 2021 on Leiden University premises. Following this, the Foundation met with several officials of the university including the rector, officials from the Leiden University Fund, the head curator as well as the director of the university library and the director of LUCIS (Leiden University Center for Islamic Studies). The LRF team was given a tour of the university library collections relating to historical Palestinian texts and materials. The aim of these meetings was to explore ideas for expanding the existing partnership between LRF and the university. LU has thus expressed interest in collaborating with the Foundation to develop **long-term courses or programs** for its curriculum which will be focused on the MENA region.
- The **resources section** featured on the Foundation's website was updated and improved both content and visuals-wise to contain easily navigated information on finding accommodation, housing rights, work permits, legal assistance, health insurance, living costs, language courses, scholarships and more for students studying in the Netherlands and more scholarship/grant finders for students studying in the MENA region.
- A partnership was formed with the **Van Gogh Museum** specifically support in the form of a grant that was used for the viewing of a documentary by filmmaker Deena Charara during an exhibition held between May-September 2022. The documentary features interviews with and a deeper dive into the work of Etel Adnan, and the installation appeared in the *Colour as Language* exhibition commemorating the recently passed legendary Lebanese artist. The logo of LRF was physically featured on the installation. This inspired talks between the Museum and the Foundation of other possible collaborations in the future.
- In May 2020, the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation and **KIT Royal Tropical Institute** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). One of the activities undertaken as part of this MOU was the sponsorship of participants from the MENA region to join the **Gender Training Programs** held in 2020. In 2022, the Foundation once again sponsored the program, now in its second phase. This partnership has been especially important for the Foundation as it is aimed at 'training the trainers' – the impact of the program grows exponentially. To celebrate this and highlight the experience of the trainees, the LRF is currently in the process of preparing

collaborative social media content with one of the MENA participants of the program, which will be published during the Summer of 2022.

- The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation hosted a table at the 12th **Middle East North Africa (MENA) Trade Dinner** in The Hague in June 2022, inviting representatives from some of the Foundation's strategic partners and supporters. The Foundation's participation at this event stems from its belief that the business community has a key role to play in supporting its mission of increasing cultural and educational exchanges aimed at strengthening Euro – Arab dialogue and understanding. The Foundation's LUF – LRF scholar, Amatallah Aqlan and AIESEC Nour Project representative, Nicklas Roen delivered short speeches on their projects and perspectives on Euro – Arab relations



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