



Lutfia Rabbani Foundation Activities 2023-2024

This year the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation continued its efforts in promoting Euro-Arab relations through mutual understanding and dialogue. Events such as the Informal Dialogue Series and a focus on reconnecting with Foundation scholars and alumni in a meaningful way, were prioritised. In this spirit, the Foundation held an Iftar event as well as its annual meet and greet event as a means to strengthen the alumni network.

The organisation furthered its collaborations with partner organizations and associations such as IDFA and AIESEC. Various promotional materials for the website and social media platforms of the Foundation were further developed and diffused to strengthen the organization's brand. The Foundation continues to strengthen the rebranding of its website and social media platforms with the intention of expanding the impact of our mission.

The Foundation continued with awarding scholarships to both Dutch and Arab students in the MENA region and vice versa in The Netherlands. These scholarships are offered to individual students to facilitate knowledge exchange and strengthen the Foundation's aim to promote dialogue and understanding. This year, a renewed focus on fundraising was highlighted with a recognition that fundraising is key to expanding the impact of our scholarship programme.

Activities 2023-2024

- Overall, **13 scholarships and travel grants** were awarded to various scholars this year:
 - 2 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.
 - 4 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. 1 of these students were funded for the online Winter course and 3 were funded for the on-site Summer course; The return of in-person lessons for these courses has led to a return of awarded scholarships to pre-COVID19 numbers.
 - 5 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 supported 9 young Arab filmmakers at **the International Documentary Film festival Amsterdam (IDFA)** from Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria whose films were screened during the festival as part of the Filmmaker Support Program. The funds provided by the Foundation went towards film rights, curation, travel costs and general support of Arab filmmakers. The aim of this collaboration is to contribute to make IDFA more inclusive, by bringing the invaluable perspectives of young Arab

talents to enrich and diversify the film community in and around IDFA, offering different perspectives and valuable insights.

- As part of its partnership with IDFA, the Foundation organized a private **film screening** in November of 2023 at the Vondelpark Pavilion. During the event, the documentary film 'The Postcard' by Moroccan filmmaker Asmae el Moudir was shown. Afterwards, an interactive online Q&A session was held with the director to discuss the film and its themes.
- Various events were held at the Foundation's offices this year. The annual **Meet & Greet** was organized the past October to introduce and connect our team, scholars, alumni, partners and board members. During the month of Ramadan, a gathering event was organized to celebrate **Iftar** and bring together our scholars, alumni and team members. These informal events are fundamental for increasing and upkeeping the deep network that is connected to the LRF, providing an additional benefit to new students who are awarded our scholarships.
- 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. Given the similar missions shared by our two organisations, an LRF alumna attended the **Nour Winter Preparation Seminar** to give a presentation reflecting on cross-cultural dialogue between the Netherlands and the MENA region to encourage travel and exchange projects in the MENA region. Following last year's evaluation which also focused on the financial aspect of our partnership alongside of how to increase our combined impact, further meetings were held with the Nour Project team throughout the year to build on strengthening our collaboration and impact.
- The partnership with Leiden University was continued with its second term of three years ending in 2025. As previously mentioned, this partnership takes the form of a matching scholarship awarded to a student from the Arab world. Throughout the year, the Foundation held a series of meetings with several officials of the university to discuss means to improve and potentially expand cooperation.
- In January 2024, The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation hosted a table at the 14th **Middle East North Africa (MENA) Trade Dinner** in The Hague. This event brought together representatives from various strategic partners and supporters of the Foundation. The dinner was a success, and furthered the Foundation's objective by connecting individuals from the business community as well as political and cultural spheres. The Foundation's MSR scholar, Hala Al Theeb delivered a short speech and shared her insights and perspectives on Euro – Arab relations.
- On the communications side, all **social media accounts** continued to grow following past year's trend, both in terms of follower counts and engagement. Promotional videos for our scholarships were made throughout the year, highlighting our scholars exchange experiences on our Instagram account. As an example, a video was created with a focus on the Foundation's Travel scholar Nadim Choufi. Two team members travelled to Maastricht to meet him and spotlight his work. As part of the Foundation's **45th anniversary** in 2024, an interview was held with the Foundation's first scholarship recipient, Basel Awad. The interview video was subsequently published on YouTube and across the Foundation's other social media platforms. In the making of the video, a deep dive into the Foundation's archives was done resulting in the discovery of video footage, newspaper archives and old photographs that allowed us to share insights into the rich history of the Foundation. More video interviews are planned in 2024.



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