

2024

# Newsletter

## EU NEIGHBOURS SOUTH



The EU Neighbours South is part of the EU-funded Regional Communication Programme for the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods. The four-year programme (2020-2024) aims to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve public understanding of the European Union and its policies, enhance strategic communication actions and build resilience against disinformation in the [Southern Neighbourhood](#).

## HIGHLIGHTS



### TANDEM DigiArt Award

#### Calling Digital Artists, this contest is for YOU!

As part of the «Speak up culture!» campaign, the regional EU-funded programme EU Neighbours South is introducing a new category in the regional TANDEM Media Awards competition: the **TANDEM DigiArt Award**.

This contest focuses specifically on visual digital art and invites **pairs of digital artists** from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia to participate.

Participants must create a **video using digital art techniques** such as 3D modelling, video animation, interactive art, artificial intelligence art, Motion graphics, Generative art, Virtual reality (VR) art, Augmented reality (AR) art, etc.

The TANDEM DigiArt Award thematic focus is «**empowerment in all its forms**». Participants are encouraged to explore and communicate messages relating to the various EU-funded initiatives of empowerment in the Southern Neighbourhood, including the success of young professionals and the impact of work and education on individuals and communities.

**Apply now!**



## Media Connect debuts in Morocco!

The inaugural **Media Connect event** took place on April 25 in Meknes, Morocco. This event is the first of a new and dynamic initiative aimed at **fostering dialogue and collaboration in journalism**.

Set against the backdrop of the 16th edition of the International Agricultural Show (SIAM) in Meknes, the first Media Connect event zoomed in on a pressing issue: **water scarcity**. Bringing together journalism students from Rabat, Kenitra, Fez, and Taza, Media Connect offered a platform for engaging with experts and EU representatives, including the EU Ambassador to Morocco.

Organised in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Morocco and the electronic newspaper [www.thevoice.ma](http://www.thevoice.ma), Media Connect marks the debut of a series of sessions aimed at **promoting fact-based journalism and solution-oriented discourse**.

**Learn more here**



## #EyesOnEarth Forest Clean-Ups in Tunisia, Lebanon and Libya: Uniting for Nature

Between April 20 - 25, **three #EyesOnEarth forest clean-ups** took place in Tunisia, Lebanon and Libya as part of the #EyesOnEarth ongoing campaign. The timing coincided with Earth Day (April 22) and helped highlight the EU's commitment to healthy and thriving forests.

In collaboration with the **EU Delegations and partners in Libya, Lebanon and Tunisia**, EU Neighbours South brought together young volunteers, students, EU Jeel Connectors, and local stakeholders for a day of adventure intertwined with meaningful and educational activities.

In Jabal El Akhdar, Libya, on 20 April, volunteers worked to address **the aftermath of Storm Daniel's impact** on the Green Mountain region. The devastating floods wreaked havoc on the landscape, particularly near the valley of al-Kuf, a cherished destination for Libyans. The clean-up efforts aimed to restore the beauty of the area and support local businesses that rely on the natural bounty of the region.

Meanwhile, in Ain Drahem, Tunisia, on 21 April, volunteers turned their attention to the **«Tbeynia» Forest in Ain Drahem that had fallen victim to unchecked littering**, with beer cans, tin cans, plastic bottles, and other debris tarnishing the natural landscape. With a focus on proper waste disposal, volunteers worked to clean up the illegal dump in the forest.

In Lebanon, a group of youth and EU officials went to the **Shouf Biosphere Reserve to clean the Dalboun oak tree forest**, a buffer zone between the cedar forests and neighbouring villages. The volunteers collected organic and non-organic litter, then assisted in the shredding of the collected wood, which will then go into briquettes making. The cleanup activity was in collaboration with BioConnect, an EU-funded project dedicated to effective management and governance in Sites of Ecological Importance.

[Discover the cleanups in pictures](#)



## Connect, Collaborate, and Converse: A Coffee Talk in Morocco and Libya

On 5 April, a **Coffee Talk by Connectors** took place in **Libya** in the format of a traditional Iftar. The event was organised by EU Jeel Connector Fatima Zahra Abu Zaid, gathering around 27 engaged youth around EU Ambassador Nicola Orlando and representatives from the European Union delegation and the German Embassy. This gathering provided an occasion to exchange views about EU opportunities in Libya. It was also a chance for the young participants to raise the most important issues they face today.

On 19 April, there was another **Coffee Talk by Connectors in Agadir**, led by EU Jeel Connector, Reda Benbarek. Focused on the EU's engagement in cultural and creative industries, the event sparked discussions on the EU's role in supporting the cultural sector. Participants explored the EU's contributions to cultural and creative industries, with Reda Benbarek moderating the conversation and highlighting Kawalis project. Kawalis, Morocco's incubator for Cultural and Creative Industries, empowers project leaders in these sectors through comprehensive support, financing, and guidance.

[Check out the pictures here](#)

# NEWS

Lebanon: Commissioner Várhelyi in the country



Palestine: EU steps up humanitarian assistance



# OPPORTUNITIES

Apply to Youth4Regions,  
the programme for aspiring journalists



Apply to the  
Climate Change Innovation Programme

