Moving MENA

Social change depends on exchange. Moving MENA wants to make it easier for culture makers from the Arab region to get to the German cultural scene, enable interactions which give new stimuli for the local and regional cultural scene and thereby serve to strengthen and network the independent cultural sectors. Artists and cultural institutions both accompany and reflect the processes of social change. With the political changes since 2011, a new interest in the culture and cultural actors of the Arab world has developed in Europe and in Germany. Both sides benefit from an exchange partnership.

The mobility program Moving MENA of the Goethe-Institut in Cairo makes it possible for cultural actors, particularly from the Arab countries Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Jordan, to participate in festivals, exhibits, and other relevant events in Germany and also in other countries of the Arab world. In some cases, travel for the research of future projects can also be supported.

What is Moving MENA about?

The travel stipends from Moving MENA are directed at cultural actors from the countries named above. Applications from other Arab countries are, in particular cases, also possible. Travel from the region to Germany and also to other countries in the Arab world will be financed. The financial support consists of a lump sum for flight and hotel costs, airport transfer costs and daily stipends. Furthermore, help with visa applications will be offered.

Moving MENA is organized as two programs:

Program 1 is directed at cultural institutions in Germany that would like to invite people from the mentioned countries. The host institution is responsible for the conceptual integration of the trip in the program and for support in Germany. They set the goal of the trip and the relationship of the trip to the social change processes in the countries of origin.

In Program 2 individuals can travel to cultural events in Germany or in other countries in the Arab world. In these cases, the travelers themselves will present the purpose and goal of the trip as well as the relationship to the social change processes in their countries of origin will be presented in an application.

Who can take part in the program?

The target group of Moving MENA includes young local culture actors who would like to: participate in an event relevant to themselves, present their own work in Germany or in other countries of the Arab world, and join discussions, for example within a film or theater festival, cultural policy conferences, exhibits, and other cultural projects. The travel stipends are also for people
who would like to develop themselves professionally through research, participation in seminars, workshops or festivals, and are looking for opportunities for exchange with colleagues in Germany. An adequate command of English is a necessary precondition for participation.

Additionally, curators, artistic directors, producers and project leaders of initiatives and institutions from the Arab world can apply in order to meet current and potential partners in Germany or in other countries of the Arab world in order to develop and carry out joint initiatives.

**What are the requirements?**

Successful applicants (individuals and/or host organizations) sign a contract with the Goethe-Institut, in which the obligations of both sides are specified. The relevance of the proposal for the social change processes of the home countries must be clear. The stipend holders commit themselves to provide the completed visa application materials to the Goethe-Institut one month before the desired travel date. After their return, the Goethe-Institut expects a report on the trip, as well as, when possible, photos and any press reporting on the project. Host organizations commit to reference the support of Moving MENA in relevant publications and on their websites.

**Application Process**

Interested applicants are asked to please fill out the application for the desired program, which is available on the website [www.goethe.de/movingMENA](http://www.goethe.de/movingMENA) (in German or Arabic) and send it to movingmena@cairo.goethe.org

Programm 1 - Cultural institutions

Programm 2 - Individuals

**For your application and travel plans: kindly take note that processing visa applications for Germany takes four weeks at least.**