

Wikimedia Levant Annual Report

2022

Wikimedians of the Levant is a Wikimedia user group targets to promote



Wikimedia projects and other projects of free content and access to knowledge in the Levant Region (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria). It was founded in January 2013 and recognized on 20 May 2015 as the fourth user group in Arabic-speaking countries and has since grown to perhaps one of the leading affiliates in the MENA region

For the Wikimedia project in 2022, Wikimedians of the Levant launched several activities in order to build capacity among its members and invest in their skills. In the following section, we will provide an overview of our work during this year.

1. Locally:

In the first half of 2022 Wikimedians of the levant members just completed a workshop regarding improving the "Wikidata" project by adding Arabic musical words to it.

★ Al-Arz 2 competition:

This event aimed to create and edit to make featured and good articles in Arabic Wikipedia.

- Improved 24 Articles in Arabic Wikipedia Producing:
 - 7 Featured Articles
 - 7 Good Articles
 - 10 improved Articles
- More than 3 MB edits added to Arabic Wikipedia.
- Participations from the whole Arab World
- ❖ Advantages:
 - Help to improve the quality of the articles in Arabic Wikipedia.
 - The participants were from the Arab community and not just restricted to one country or two.
 - The judges were also from different regions, reinforcing the united work and not individuality.
- ❖ Points to improve:
 - Advertisements regarding this competition.
 - Having an edit-a-thon or training on "How to improve the articles" for advanced users.



Event Link: <https://w.wiki/4Zni>

★ **An educational program in Palestine on its 4th edition at Polytechnic University in Hebron.**

This program aimed to engage a university student in encyclopedic work.

Numbers from the campaign:

- Number of Participants: 58
- Number of Articles edited to Arabic Wikipedia: 268

- Numbers of Pictures added to Wikimedia Commons: 311
- ❖ **Organizers:** Tala Al Sarabtah, Nagham Jamjoum, Sami Al-Ja'bary, Omar Meri', Mohammed Fares.
- ❖ We would like to mention that the organizers were former trainees in this program. This gives positivity to keep going and do more efforts to improve it.

Program Link: <https://w.wiki/55AV>

★ Educational program in Al-Najah University in Nablus and West Bank.

Wikimedians of the levant accomplished this year an agreement with a new university in Palestine, which is Al-Najah university in Nablus and the west bank. The program targeted students in Law, and Engineering schools to improve this content on Arabic Wikipedia and to have new people in the Wikimedia community.

- Number of participants: 14
- Improved Projects: Arabic Wikipedia, English Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata.

Link for the event: <https://w.wiki/6LwA>

2. Regionally and Internationally

In 2022, Wikimedians of the Levant broadened their work to work with other user groups to improve Wikimedia projects through campaigns, contests, and agreements.

During the first half of 2022, Wikimedia Levant gets into the next step by cooperating with other user groups in the Arab world as we look forward to having regional works and international connections for the user group

★ Wiki For Human Rights2022

Wikimedian Levant participated in organizing the Arabic-speaking contest of the Wiki for Human Rights 2022 edition. This editing competition was commonly organized by groups and Wikimedians from the Levant, Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco making it a successful collaboration across the region.

- Number of Participants: 67
- Number of Articles edited to Arabic Wikipedia: 517
- Number of newcomers to Arabic Wikipedia from this project:16

On the other hand, Our user group participated also with Wikimedia Morocco to run a Photo competition for the same event (Wiki For Human Rights 2022). This event had accomplished by having:

- Number of Participants: 16
- Number of Images added to Wikimedia commons: 161
- Number of Images had Arabic descriptions in Wikimedia Commons: 436
- Number of Images added to Arabic Wikipedia: 126
- Number of Images from Levant: 73

Event Link: <https://w.wiki/56HT>

★ **Assad Rustom Documentary:**

Since January 2022 Wikimedians of the Levant have started connecting with Ph.D. Lamia Rustom Shehadeh (A doctor in Semitic Languages and writer for Assad's Rustom Biography and his daughter), until producing three hours documentary about Assad Rustom "An Arabic Historian and the Historian of the Antiochian Church", the work got successfully spreading on Wikimedia Commons and on YouTube.

The meeting was done By Michel Bakni and Bassem Fleifl from Wikimedians of the Levant and with the collaboration of Alhabib Mhenni (Wikimedia Tunisia user group) in video editing.

❖ **Reasons:**

- Need to get more in Arabic Historians' biography.
- Help Historians to get to know more about Assad Rustom
- Having a connection with A well-known feminist and doctor in Semitic languages, and historian in the Levantine region.

❖ **Achievements:**

- A documentary published in Wikimedia commons.
- A documentary published on Youtube and offered on social media.
- The documentary reached more than 300 people via youtube

Documentary Link: [On Wikimedia Commons](#)

★ **Wikimedia Summit:**

Wikimedians of the Levant user group took part in Wikimedia Summit by participating two members officially, Nanour Garabedian participated in person and Sandra Hanbo online (Via the internet) presented the Wikimedia Levant user group in Berlin 2022. Also, Abbad Dyrrania participated in presenting Wikimedia Foundation and he was also an event supporter. The participants attends the sessions and discussed important points there.

Event Link: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Summit_2022

★ **WikiArabia2022:**

Our user group participated in WikiArabia 2022 in Dubai, Emirates in person and online. Our presenter was Osama Eid at this conference. Where he was part of a round table discussing having an affiliate committee, Abbad Dyrrania also, had two sessions at this conference, in addition to Farah Mustaklem who had an important session regarding Wikipedia and the Palestinian case, and finally Michel Bakni who had also two sessions regarding Arabic Wikipedia policies and how to improve them.



In addition to presenters, other Levantine members attend the conference in-person and participated in its events.

Conference Link: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiArabia_2022

★ Wikimedia Levant Activity on ClubHouse

Wikimedians of the Levant hosted a weekly session on ClubHouse for two months to raise awareness regarding Arabic Wikipedia and its policies in addition to mentioning the importance of reliable information in the time of a lot of fake ones on the internet.

These sessions got an achievement by having an Arabic Doctor, a celebrity musician, a historian, doctors, and different professionals who are not found on other platforms.

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In Journalist

- American University in Beirut published an article about Assad Rustom Documentary: [Here](#)