

The Challenges of Mobility

The Challenges of Mobility:

Research, Debates and Practices

Edited by

Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio
and Serene Huleileh

Cambridge
Scholars
Publishing



The Challenges of Mobility: Research, Debates and Practices

Edited by Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio and Serene Huleileh

This book first published 2015

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Copyright © 2015 by Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, Serene Huleileh
and contributors

All rights for this book reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without
the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN (10): 1-4438-7703-4

ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-7703-9

The articles in this publication were compiled over a period of three years from research presented at a symposium held in 2011 around the theme of exploring mobility, and a second symposium held in 2014, both within the Istikshaf program which was initiated and managed by the Arab Education Forum in Jordan and supported during the first phase by the Anna Lindh Foundation and during the second phase by the European Union. Some of the articles have already been published in Arabic and French.

www.almoultaqa.com

www.safarfund.org

www.istikshaf.org



This project is funded by
The European Union



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio	
Istikshaf: The Mobility Platform of the Mediterranean.....	6
Serene Huleileh	
Istikshaf Policy Agenda.....	11
Chapter I: Research	
Understanding the Impact of Mobility: Istikshaf Survey Results.....	20
Rami Takroui	
Public Policy Advocacy: Best Practices in Funding Mobility	44
Rami Takroui	
Public Policy Advocacy Visa Assessment: Country Reports (Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates).....	52
Rami Takroui	
A Report on Mapping Mobility Funds in the Mediterranean	69
Lamia Raei	
Right to Enter Campaign: Academia Undermined: Israeli Restrictions on Foreign Academics in Palestinian Higher Education Institutions.....	84
Ghassan Abdullah	
Education in Mobility: Experience, Creativity and Intercultural Knowledge.....	91
Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio	
Still Moving and Learning? Questioning Previous and Further Research	101
Xabier Landabidea, Matina Magkou and Cristina Ortega	

Chapter II: Debates

The Roberto Cimetta Fund's Contribution to the Mobility of Artists
and Cultural Operators between Europe and the Arab World 110
Angie Cotte

Mobility Restrictions and its Effects on the Slower Development
of Mediterranean Cultural Collaboration, Network and Artistic
Exchanges..... 115
Slavika Ilienska

The Mobility of African Artists: A Politically-Oriented Issue 131
François Bouda

Art Mobility Initiatives for Emerging Theatre Companies in Nigeria:
Paradoxes and Mutations..... 137
Taiwo Okunola Afolabi

Mobile, Therefore Free? Mobility Paradoxes of Nowadays Societies 151
Cristina Farinha

Challenges of Interaction between Host and Guest through Artistic
Mobility 158
Isin Onol

freeDimensional @ 10 – A Decade of Looking Both Ways:
Artist Mobility and Human Rights 165
Todd Lester and Mary Ann DeVlieg

Linking International Volunteerism to Mobility in the Euro-
Mediterranean Region 179
Christoforos Pavlakis

Chapter III: Practices

In Place of War: Researching, Empowering and Connecting Artists
Working in Sites of War, Revolution and Conflict 192
Inés Soria-Donlan

Arab Learning and Convivial Cities: Amman Jeera as an Example	203
Serene Huleileh and Mais Irqsusi	
The Legacy of the Trail	226
Nesma Al-Guaily	
Love Helps Make Distances Shorter	231
Raouf Karrai	
The Impossible Journey	238
Saad Hajo	
Contributors	248

INTRODUCTION

HERMAN BASHIRON MENDOLICCHIO

Mobility is indeed a challenge. A personal challenge that requires every individual to deal with the complexity of life, that makes us reflect on our own needs, passions, struggles, desires and identities.

Mobility is a collective challenge, which makes us reflect on migration, globalization, cultural transformations, communalities, differences, borders, restrictions and the evolution of a world that is still unable to improve itself, seeking the common good.

Mobility is a political, social, economic and cultural issue. Mobility is, possibly, one of the major factors and elements that are shaping and transforming the contemporary world. Flows of people crossing seas, lands and continents; irrational, huge imports and exports of merchandise, products and useless objects; fruitful exchanges of ideas, knowledge, thoughts and visions; and amazing, creative and original encounters as well as horrible and cruel clashes, are some of the most usual and somehow timeless elements that form the history and the contemporaneity of mobility.

Analysing and understanding the multiple aspects of mobility, and its impact and connection with several fields of our living society, has nowadays become necessary and urgent. The practice and the experience of mobility – with both its richness and obstacles – are generating a new knowledge, new forms of interrelationships and new questions that are definitely important and need to be addressed.

What kind of knowledge, ideas and visions, do mobility practices generate? How does mobility, and its restrictions, produce and/or contrast the transformation and alteration of geographies, borders, territories, cities and conflict areas? How do mobility practices contribute to create new narratives, cultural representations and counter-representations? How could cultural mobility contribute to a responsible and sustainable

transformation of society? What are the impacts of mobility? What can we learn through the analysis of the relationship between mobility, art, education, intercultural dialogue, human rights and volunteerism?

The present volume attempts to cover and reflect on these several crucial issues that shape our contemporary age, and give some new and fresh perspectives about the challenges of mobility.

Divided into three different sections (Research, Debates and Practices), the book originates from the second Istikshaf Conference, “Advocating Mobility: Right on Track”, organized by the Arab Education Forum – in cooperation with several international partners – and held in Amman, Jordan, in March 2014.

In the first section of the book, we focus on the research, findings and outcomes, initiated and developed by the Istikshaf Coalition. The “Regional Mobility and Freedom of Movement Policy Agenda, 2012-2015” is a fundamental document which aims “to develop closer links between a range of international stakeholders including government agencies, foundations, voluntary and community sectors in delivering specific policies and positions in areas affecting mobility with a focus on arts, culture and social entrepreneurship”. Focused on four specific policy issues – 1) Mobility in the National Agenda; 2) Financing Mobility; 3) Crossing Borders; and 4) Mobilizing Communities – the agenda, on the one hand, defines the needs, concerns and challenges related to mobility, specifically in the Arab countries, and on the other hand offers a series of values, principles and recommendations in order to promote, ease and support mobility initiatives.

The survey results, findings and recommendations on the impact of mobility; the best practices and research on financing mobility; and the policies and country reports on crossing borders and visa issues, prepared and developed by Rami Takrouy, constitute significant documents that provide useful qualitative and quantitative data that will certainly help in understanding concepts, practices and obstacles related to mobility.

The report by Lamia Raei on mapping mobility funds in the Mediterranean, presented in the first Istikshaf Symposium in 2011, offers a detailed analysis of the work of several mobility operators in the Euro-Arab region. The report, which also examines the definitions of mobility, represents one of the first pieces of research developed under the Istikshaf

project and is useful today in order to understand and analyse current changes and evolutions in the activities of the mobility operators and funds.

Education and new learning practices in mobility are other important fields that constitute interesting challenges to explore and deal with. The paper by Ghassan Abdullah focuses on the negative impact of the Israeli military occupation on the Palestinian Higher Education Institutions. The research describes the abusive movement and access restrictions on foreign academics that undermine the quality of education and cause the isolation of Palestinian Academia, and provides some recommendations in order to face these challenges.

The paper by Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio focuses on the identification and analysis of the new dynamics of knowledge production and “education in mobility” in the Mediterranean, through two specific areas: on one hand, the international university programs of mobility between Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries; on the other hand, the development of new educational practices (that are essentially non-academic) that are emerging thanks to the initiative of interdisciplinary centres of art, education and creativity, as well as museums.

The article by Xabier Landabidea, Matina Magkou and Cristina Ortega, represents a further development of the “Artists’ Moving and Learning” study. The research focuses on artistic mobility, the added value of mobility in life-long learning and the possible repercussions of these issues due to the socio-economic crisis in Southern Europeans countries.

The second section of the publication deals with current debates related to mobility, developed by several international professionals working mainly in the field of art and culture. Angie Cotte explores the role of mobility in cultural policies and the Roberto Cimetta Fund’s contribution to cultural mobility in the Euro-Arab region. Slavika Ilieska focuses on the restrictions on cultural and educational mobility and its effects. The paper by François Bouda addresses the specific case of the mobility of African artists and the political logics, at international and national levels, that regulate the movement of goods and people. Taiwo Okunola Afolabi centres his article on the impact of art mobility initiatives on emerging theatre in Nigeria.

Is mobility a choice or a need? The inner paradoxes of mobility, its positive effects and its potential, but also its controversial aspects, its

regulations, obstacles and risks, compose the main points developed in the article by Cristina Farinha. The challenges and responsibilities concerning interconnection between the guest and the host in the art sector are the focus of the article presented by Isin Onol. Among the contributions of this section, Mary Ann DeVlieg and Todd Lester describe the role of freeDimensional and explore the relationship between artist mobility and human rights. Moreover, Christoforos Pavlakis, tells us about the potential of cross-border volunteerism on regional governance in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The last section of the book focuses on practices and experiences, presenting issues like artistic research, the discovery of neighborhood and the potential of conviviality, literature, travel, personal stories and cultural displacement in relation to mobility. Inés Soria-Donlan presents the international project “In Place of War”; Serene Huleileh and Mais Irsusi search the inspiring learning opportunities that exist “close to home”, exploring the city of Amman and the concept of *Jeera* (which means “neighboring” in Arabic), as well as presenting the idea of learning and convivial cities. Nesma Al-Guaily narrates, in the form of a letter, part of her long journey across several governorates in Egypt. The experience of travelling, practical recommendations and the personal story of being “on the road” inspire the article written by Raouf Karray. The last contribution by the artist Saad Hajo interrelates words and images which tell us about a personal account of artistic displacement.

There are evidently several issues we should deal with in order to create common ground on which to discuss and analyze the significance of sharing and exchanging, the value of mobility and all its contradictions. Mobility presents multiple facets: it is directly related to the issues of diversity, exchange, experience and intercultural dialogue. At the same time, it makes us reflect on migration, exile and the obstacles that are faced when crossing borders.

The several contributions presented in this book provide multiple perspectives that can help to advance the process of exploring mobility. Through this process of discussion and exploration, and through the practices of mobility, we can build new knowledge and contexts from which we can begin to analyze the present and to deal with the challenges of the future.

Before wishing you a good read, I want to thank all the authors of the publication for their insights, projects and research, all the people involved in the Istikshaf Coalition, and especially Serene Huleileh for all of her efforts and her immense contribution to the analysis, reflection and practice of mobility in the Mediterranean.

ISTIKSHAF: THE MOBILITY PLATFORM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

SERENE HULEILEH

We work, travel, learn, seek, reflect, take part in dialogues, meet, discuss, and try to create a convivial atmosphere: this is our life story at the Arab Education Forum in general, and the Safar program in particular. This is also how the story of this book started: from two seminars held three years apart, and with several uprisings and revolutions in between, the idea of this book arose from an evident shortage of literature and knowledge about mobility as a tool for learning, dialogue, and artistic exchange and as a new-old paradigm around the Mediterranean basin.

The journey of the “Arab Education Forum” began in 1998 when Palestinian educator Dr. Munir Fasheh was a visiting professor at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. The idea he proposed simply stated that instead of looking at what is “missing” or what the “needs” are in the Arab world, we should pay more attention to what “exists” and what people “have”. There are many inspiring community and educational initiatives that are dispersed both geographically and intellectually, but which, together, can create the momentum for the renaissance that everyone who is active in the field of education and learning seeks. Joined by a coordinating committee from 1999-2003, and by Serene Huleileh as the regional director in 2000, the AEF started with a search for inspiring educational/cultural initiatives in the Arab world to reach a better common understanding of the indigenous knowledge that is being generated but not necessarily articulated. Over the past 14 years, the AEF has promoted a “culture of initiative” and the “construction of new knowledge” and meaning from experiences as the stimulator for co-motion/change. The AEF has also fostered genuine partnerships amongst diverse initiatives locally, regionally, and internationally, stressing the “inherent value” of each experience as a common ground for healthy interaction amongst them. The AEF’s

structure strives to be consistent with its convictions, using a flexible yet structured approach to create a functional “institution”. Its “regional” framework necessitates a small administrative base (no more than ten staff) with a far-reaching web of volunteers constantly “weaving the fabric of human connections.” Since 2003, the AEF has developed several Pan-Arab projects as well as cooperation projects across the Mediterranean that focus on building knowledge, generating wisdom, and providing alternative discourse(s) that give the responsibility of learning back to the individual and his/her community.

Safar and *Istikshaf* respectively mean *travel* and *discovery*, and as such, derive their programmatic momentum and direction from the wide concept of learning through mobility, which helps the youth engage in a healthy process of growth that permits them, and hence their communities, to develop their own unique experiences and knowledge. The Safar youth mobility fund, launched in 2005, provides travel grants for Arab youths aged 15-35 years to travel to another Arab country to learn from a workshop, conference, meeting, seminar, apprenticeship, internship, joint project, or an exchange visit. It also provides an online database and forum for exchange of experiences, as well as opportunities for Arab social entrepreneurs to develop a new community discourse based on their experiences.

Since the establishment of the Safar youth mobility fund in 2006, there has been a marked increase in the number of mobility operators in the Arab region as a response to the urgent need for resources to support the mobility of social entrepreneurs and artists. Nevertheless, available travel opportunities are still far fewer than the increasing demand, and artists and socially active individuals and groups are still lamenting the shortage of available resources for travel, particularly between Arab countries, as well as public policies that promote mobility, all of which limits opportunities for artists to travel, learn, and interact with their audiences.

Mobility: The Concept, imagination, and practice

When we search for a way to define mobility, we find many variables at play. Its most basic definition is the ability to move freely and easily. However, experiences of promoting mobility for artists and social entrepreneurs in particular tell us that the key to defining mobility is purposeful planning and thoughtful processes, as well as a focus on personal and collective development. Destinations also tell us something

about mobility: whether its aim is a place, a move across social hierarchies, economic advancement, accomplishment, knowledge accumulation, internal reflection, or the exercise of liberties. Mobility can also be defined as a tool for external and internal exploration and discovery, and an interest in mutual learning; it does not necessarily require a license, budget, professionals, or visible outcomes.

More specifically, mobility for “learning” can only be lived; it requires physical presence and face-to-face conversations. The stress is not so much on information and content as on re-thinking and unlearning much of what has been learned before – including beliefs. And while learning is usually defined in relation to formal forms of schooling – informal, non-formal, or experiential – mobility for learning within the context of “*Istikshaf*” can be seen from the perspective of two distinct concepts connected to mobility: *Tajawor* and *Tazawor*.

Tajawor is similar to apprenticeship, whereby an individual already practicing a certain skill/field of knowledge organizes to *yatajawor* with someone older and/or with more experience in the same field whom he/she wishes to learn from; not just the technical part of the skill, but also the “human” part, the connection between character, values, and lifestyle to the work itself.

Tazawor or *mutual visitation* is when a person with an initiative or a vocation visits another person/group/organization in order to take a closer look at their work, discuss with them what they do, and explore possible ways for mutual learning.

Looking at education curricula where the value of research, indigenous knowledge, and learning from life is undermined and different cultures are mostly in absentia, conceiving mobility is placed out of the reach of the vast majority of the population in formal educational institutions (schools and universities alike). This dimension highlights an absence of a system that operates against cultural xenophobia, alienation and isolation, whether within or outside of familiar national borders.

Istikshaf program

Within this context, the *Istikshaf* program evolved as an interactive platform for the questioning of and reflection on artistic mobility around the Mediterranean, as well as providing mobility opportunities for artists across the Mediterranean divide.

It aims, through various tools, to expand on and develop a renewed understanding of contemporary mobility by bringing together people who are able to think about mobility in its widest sense. This collaborative program started between two mobility operators in the Euro-Mediterranean area, namely the Arab Education Forum/Safar fund and the Roberto Cimetta Fund, and the collaboration expanded to include several other organizations and individuals in the region with funding from the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean foundation for dialogue between cultures and the European Commission.

The *Istikshaf* coalition for mobility was formed to reflect the growing concern on the part of several community organizations and groups about the increasing obstacles to mobility and freedom of movement within the Arab World in particular, as well as in other countries around the world. This problem is aggravated by the fact that the concept of the mobility of people, artists, and initiatives is not well defined and recognized by institutions in the public sector, the private sector, and NGOs, as a learning tool and as an integral part of social, economic, and political development.

Istikshaf's main areas of focus are:

Influencing policies:

To develop and manage an advocacy campaign around mobility; to bring mobility funds (or other kinds of organizations supporting mobility) together in order to find common actions and tools; to use and develop the complementarities; increase efficiency; exchange good practices and challenges; develop a better understanding of the context; and set up an innovative scheme to support mobility embedded in lifelong learning and local development.

Enhancing communication and mutual learning through knowledge building amongst various stakeholders:

Mobility is a long term process; thus, measuring the impact and outcomes of mobility is always a challenge, especially since the *Istikshaf* platform and partners view mobility as a tool for development and growth. *Istikshaf* aims to research and discuss what quality mobility is. Mobility operators need to share their know-how as well as enhancing their evaluation tools (quantitative and qualitative indicators). On the operational level, what are the tools and resources that can be shared to reach better cost effectiveness? Technical assistance.

Enhancing mobility opportunities for artists and young social entrepreneurs:

Providing travel opportunities; sharing resources and knowledge between mobility operators; integrating alumni databases; ensuring consistent and valuable communication with the alumni in particular and the community in general; and exploring ways in which mobility experiences are shared/multiplied/transmitted.

Community involvement and mainstreaming mobility:

Developing and enhancing a common “Mobility Alumni” and local travel funds, as well as developing local projects that support and enhance mobility.

This book aims to inform an ongoing debate around mobility, one that is of particular importance first and foremost in order to defend the basic right to learn. And in the spirit of meaningful mobility, perhaps what we need to do is “spend more time in conversations face-to-face with one another, in doing things together, in dreaming beautiful dreams, and in building shared visions. In short, we need to reclaim our lives and regain our cultural spaces.”¹

¹ Munir Fasheh

ISTIKSHAF POLICY AGENDA

Regional Mobility and Freedom of Movement Policy Agenda 2012–2015

Advocating for Mobility and Freedom of Movement

Istikshaf Advocacy Coalition: The Arab Education Forum – Istikshaf Program, in collaboration with a number of social and cultural organizations, initiated this coalition in order to develop a policy agenda and to create a platform for interested individuals and civil society organizations working under the theme of mobility, arts, culture, and social entrepreneurship.

This regional mobility and freedom of movement policy agenda aims to develop closer links between a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, foundations, and the voluntary and community sectors in delivering specific policies and positions in areas affecting mobility with a focus on arts, culture and social entrepreneurship. It also helps people to better understand the policy issues and their impact, and provides tools to influence them.

The Methodology: The Arab Education Forum – Istikshaf Program – is using the best international practices in developing this agenda and its supporting strategies. In June 2012, the AEF commissioned Rami Takroui, Policy Advisor, to lead the process with the Istikshaf policy team. A problem identification survey was sent to a number of mobility operators, NGOs, and international organizations, followed by a workshop that was held in Alexandria in order to define the policy issues, agree on specific positions, and set and prioritize their initial strategies. In addition, two focus group meetings were held in Amman to complete this important exercise. The work will continue in order to develop an advocacy and communications strategy in order to support the execution of this agenda.

Our Values and Guiding Principles are as follows:

- **Participation**, where we commit to ensuring the participation of all stakeholders.
- **Transparency and accountability**, where we commit to the work according to a well-defined and clear process, and constantly evaluate our strategies, tools and effects.
- **Evidence based approach**, where we commit to using the best practices in policy development processes to gather information and support our positions with evidence and data.
- **Proactive approach**, where we commit to presenting solutions and ideas in order to try to solve the policy issues and challenges.

The **Scope of this policy agenda** has two levels:

- **Regional – International Level**, where all involved stakeholders can work collectively on cross-cutting issues that have regional and international impacts.
- **Country Level**, where mobility operators and NGOs in each country can use this regional agenda as the base to further develop their own specific national policy agendas.

POLICY ISSUE MOBILITY ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA I:

Challenges: There is a growing concern about the lack of mobility within the Arab World, and between other countries around the world. The concept of the mobility of people, artists, and initiatives is not well defined and recognized by institutions in the public sector, private sector, and NGOs, as a learning tool and as an integral part of social, economic, and political development.

We aim to ensure a true engagement of all key stakeholders in order to promote and adopt the concept of mobility within the national agendas in the region, with a focus on influencing the cities' agendas and private sector strategies to acknowledge it as a central theme within its long term vision and strategies.

Positions / Recommendations

1. **Governments should support all stakeholders to freely engage in participating and developing the national policies, discussing the concepts and definitions of mobility, and promoting its positive role in society, in order to adopt it as part of the national development agendas in the region.**
2. **Arab cities should work to promote the concept of mobility, and officially adopt and include it within their national and local agendas, and provide the linkages needed to allow for better interaction and integration of cities and people.**
3. **In recognizing the important role of civil society, governments should facilitate the work of the NGOs, artists and youth groups that are working to improve cultural and social mobility by reducing regulatory constraints.**
4. **Artists, social entrepreneurs, mobility operators, NGOs, foundations, civil society organizations, and private sector companies should work to introduce the concept of mobility within their development and human resources strategies in order to encourage mobility of employees.**

Stakeholders

Advocacy Strategy / Tools

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Arab League - Central governments - Municipalities - Private sector companies - Foundations and NGOs (local, regional and international) - Mobility operators - Academia - Citizens - Artists and social entrepreneurs - Media | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White paper on the concepts and definition of mobility 2. Regional and national conferences and workshops 3. Position paper on the role of Arab cities in supporting mobility 4. Research on social and economic impacts of mobility and creative economy 5. Regional/national campaigns to promote and encourage the concept of mobility 6. White paper on the mobility vacation concept and process |
|---|---|

POLICY ISSUE FINANCING MOBILITY**2:**

Challenges: Mobility operators, along with social and cultural NGOs, are now facing a bigger challenge in providing and sustaining programs to support the mobility of social entrepreneurs and artists (men and women) in the region. There is a growing need for governments, donors, and private sector companies to set a clear budget and allocate funds that have clear and simplified processes.

We aim to work with public and private sector institutions and the donor community in the region, in order to agree on clear and transparent mechanisms for allocating budgets and distributing funds to support mobility initiatives with no restrictions on the receiving of funds and donations.

Positions / Recommendations

- 5. Governments and municipalities should invest in mobility by allocating a clear percentage of their budgets, needed to provide sustainable support for developmental projects related to mobility.**
- 6. Governments, in collaboration with civil society and the donor community, should work to develop a clear and transparent funding system and procedures, to allow NGOs, mobility operators, groups, artists and entrepreneurs to freely access the available funds.**
- 7. Governments should adopt a progressive tax and benefits system to encourage socially responsible private sector corporations and NGOs to establish mobility funds and provide donations to support mobility initiatives.**
- 8. Mobility operators and NGOs should work with all stakeholders including governments in order to establish friendly spaces and facilities to support the mobility of people, initiatives and activities.**

Stakeholders	Advocacy Strategy / Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central governments - Parliaments and elected officials - Municipalities - Private sector companies - Foundations and NGOs (local, regional and international) - Mobility operators - Donor organizations - Artists and social entrepreneurs - Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Impact assessment study/position paper on allocating government mobility funds, and tax incentives for the private sector 8. Position paper on funding systems and procedures 9. White paper on “the use of regional friendly spaces to support mobility” 10. Regional conferences and national/city debates 11. Regional/national campaigns to promote and encourage CSR and government funding

POLICY ISSUE CROSSING BORDERS

3:

Challenges: The right to free and responsible movement within national and international borders, as described in international declarations, can have profound effects on societies and people. Over the past years, the concept of the free mobility of people has been faced by unexplainable social behaviors and legal systems that aim to place artificial boundaries between Arab countries, and also between Arab countries and the rest of the world.

We aim to reach for a free movement of people and ideas across the Arab countries, where all borders are open without limitations, and to ensure all Arab citizens including artists, social entrepreneurs, men and women are capable of spreading social and cultural initiatives.

Positions / Recommendations

9. Governments, in coordination with local and international organizations and activists, should work to ensure free mobility between Arab countries for all Arab citizens, and should also work collectively to ensure the freedom of movement of the people in Palestine.

- 10. Governments, on the short term, must set new policies that are in line with human rights principles, in order to better govern the movement of artists and social entrepreneurs across borders, and to create an effective, efficient and transparent visa system and procedures.**
- 11. Governments should work to ensure the availability of information on laws and regulations related to movement across borders, and visa procedures and costs.**
- 12. Local, regional and international organizations should work in cooperation with individuals and communities to provide all the necessary travel and movement information by developing a comprehensive travel guide for Arab countries and cities.**
- 13. Governments and NGOs should work to encourage foreign authorities to set clear, simple and cost effective international visa procedures in order to facilitate the movement of artists and social entrepreneurs to their countries.**

Stakeholders	Advocacy Strategy / Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Arab League - Central governments - Foundations and NGOs (local, regional and international) - Donor organizations - Artists and social entrepreneurs - Mobility operators - Citizens - Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Benchmarking research to compare visa laws and regulations to the human rights declarations 13. Legal and technical research on visa procedures/cost and impact on the movement of artists and social entrepreneurs 14. White paper on low risk–high risk visa system – security system 15. Regional and national conferences and public debates 16. Regional/national campaigns to support the movement of people, artists and social entrepreneurs in the Arab world

POLICY MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES

ISSUE 4:

Challenges: Mobility has been an integral part of the development of Arab societies, cities, culture and people. Although we are living in a mobile society where technology plays a major role in exchanging information and ideas, Arab societies, cities and people are not fully engaged in supporting the concepts of mobility, cultural exchange, and the arts. Social constraints and negative behavior is still discouraging people, especially women, from engaging in such endeavors.

We **aim** to fully engage people to be supportive of art and culture, mobility initiatives, and the development of their societies, and to reduce the fear factors that limit the participation of men, women and youth from different backgrounds in developing their societies and engaging in mobility and artistic initiatives.

Positions / Recommendations

- 14. Creating partnerships between governments, civil society organizations and societies in order to ensure a national endorsement of “learning” as a tool for creativity and innovation, and “mobility” as a tool for acquiring experience.**
- 15. Creating partnerships between governments, civil society organizations and societies in order to reduce the gaps, and encourage the involvement and participation of women, youth, artists and social entrepreneurs in mobility and cultural initiatives by eliminating social and economic constraints.**
- 16. Governments should invest in the voluntary and community sectors’ work in building bridges within and between communities, through local infrastructure networks and partnerships.**

Stakeholders	Advocacy Strategy / Tools
- Central governments	17. White paper on learning and link with mobility
- Municipalities	
- Political parties	18. Regional and national conferences and workshops
- Community leaders	
- Private sector companies	19. Position paper on the legal constraints facing Arab women in mobility, arts and culture, and social initiatives
- Foundations and NGOs (local, regional and international)	

- Mobility operators
 - Universities and schools
 - Citizens
 - Artists and social entrepreneurs
 - Media
- 20. Regional/national campaigns to encourage participation of women, youth, artists and activists in mobility
 - 21. Disseminating the “Jeera” initiative to Arab cities, municipalities, institutions and individuals in order to adopt and implement it.

SUPPORT ISTIKSHAF MOBILITY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT REGIONAL POLICY AGENDA

How can you Support the Istikshaf Policy Agenda?

As an individual or an organization, you can support this initiative by:

1. Adopting the policy agenda by joining the group and signing the MOU.
2. Supporting the coalition in advocating related issues to you or your organization.
3. Providing your expertise, skills, and time as an advisor to the coalition.
4. Providing feedback, information, and data to support the positions and advocacy strategy.
5. Provide financial or in-kind support to execute the technical and legal research, papers, and campaigns that will be implemented according to this agenda.

Feedback and Contact Information

For more clarifications and information related to this agenda, please contact the Istikshaf Policy Team at policy@almoultaqa.com, or info@almoultaqa.com, or call us on 00962-6- 4659992.

CHAPTER I:
RESEARCH

IMPACT OF MOBILITY: SURVEY RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RAMI TAKROURI

I. The Survey

The Istikshaf Advocacy Team designed a tailor-made survey in order to gather some qualitative and quantitative data that will help in understanding the concept of mobility and its impact. This survey results will help the coalition members in:

- Acquiring initial data about some factors relating to travel grants and their impact on people and communities.
- Understanding certain patterns of behavior and practices within the travel cycle.
- Setting a model to determine the impact of mobility on a country and regional level.

The survey was posted online (www.surveymonkey.com) during February–July 2014, and it was promoted to all mobility operators and partners using different communication and social media tools.