

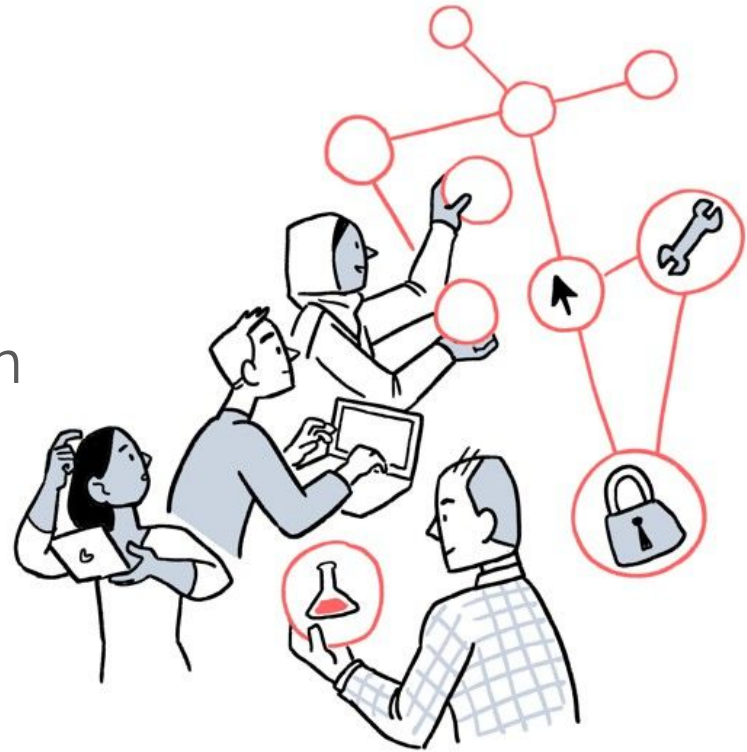
***ArabR*** :

Empowering the R community in  
Arab-Speaking Countries

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**By Iman AlHasani (She/her)**

Lecturer @ImanAlhasani



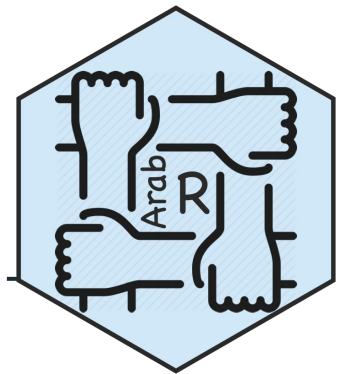
# Motivations

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- There is **low representation and participation** for MENA R users in the International conferences.
- There is **few useR groups/R-Ladies** in the MENA region.
- There is **no platform** to connect R users in MENA.

# R Community in MENA

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Although the R Community is growing in MENA, it's still largely **underrepresented** in R international conferences and local meetups.

- R-Ladies Dammam, R-Ladies Masqat, R-Ladies Tunis, R-Ladies Algiers, Al-Khartum and more .....
- useR groups in Cairo, Riyadh, Algiers, Tunis, Oman ... and more

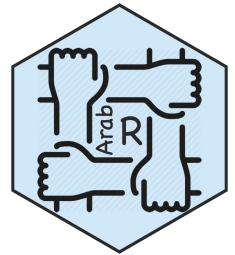
<https://r-community.org/usergroups/>

# R Community in MENA

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Image taken from  
R-Ladies Muscat



# R Community in MENA

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Image taken from  
R-Ladies Muscat



# R Community in MENA

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The data science software stack

Type of tools needed:	Examples:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Programming language</li></ul>	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Code editor</li></ul>	  
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Version control software</li></ul>	 

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a slide titled "The data science software stack" with a table of tool types and examples. The table lists: Programming language (Python, R), Code editor (Jupyter, R Studio, Visual Studio Code), and Version control software (Git, GitHub). The Zoom interface includes a top bar with "Recording..." and "You are viewing Tiffany Timbers' screen", a right sidebar with participant video thumbnails (benmessaoud H..., Tiffany Timbers, hana ghiloufi, Sirine Elfeki), and a bottom toolbar with controls like Unmute, Start Video, Security, Participants (59), Chat, Share Screen, Pause/Stop Recording, Closed Caption, Breakout Rooms, Reactions, and End.

Image taken from R-Ladies Tunis

# R Community in MENA

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SEP 23, 2021  
**{ganimate} R package**

OCT 19, 2021  
**{r2D3} R package**

NOV 11, 2021  
**{colourpicker} AND {bs4Dash}**

DEC 2, 2021  
**{tidygraph} R package**

OnePackagePerMeetup Series  
Data Visualization theme #1

ZOOM  
REGISTER ON MEETUP

@tunisrusergroup /tunisrusergroup @tunisrusergroup /TunisUserGroup Tunis R User Group

Image taken from  
User Tunis

# Our Story started in useR2021!

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**Batool Almarzouq** submitted an abstract for incubator at **useR2021**



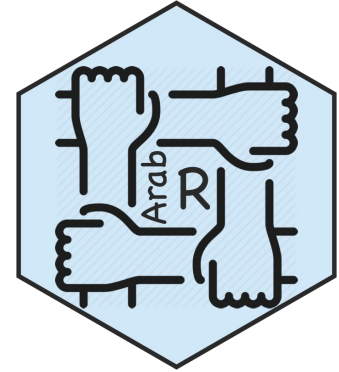
↓  
How can empower R community in MENA region?

↓  
Created a persona and pathways

↓  
Focus on Arab-speaking countries (ArabR)



The **vision of ArabR** is creating a sustainable capacity building of Arabic R users in the region and support Arabic R users through **networking** and **increasing their visibility** to drive the creation of more useR/R-Ladies groups in the region.



Hussain  
Alsalman



Amal Tlili



Iman Al-Hasani



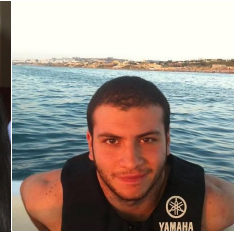
Fahad  
Almsned



Haifa Ben  
Messaoud



Kamila  
BENADROUCHE



Mohammed  
El Fodil



Mouna  
BELAID





**Hussain Alsalman**

- Created a bilingual [Website](#) and the documentations
- Incorporated a [newsletter in the website](#), the 1st issue will be on 30th of Feb
- He is developing a **Code of Conduct** for the ArabR community.



Mouna BELAID

- Created a [documentation in Arabic](#) in how to start your own chapter of R-Ladies
- Created a [guide](#) in how to start your own chapter of UseR Group in Arabic-speaking countries (**in Arabic**)



Haifa Ben Messaoud

- Curated the Arabic content for R in **Books and articles**
- Curated **Videos and lessons for R** in Arabic



## Main Goal

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- Increasing the **visibility** of R users in the Arabic speaking countries so they can get **connected to the international R community**
- **Support the sustainability** for the current UseR/RLadies chapters in the Arabic speaking countries

# Communication between the community!



## ArabR

Name

Newsletter

Code of Conduct

Arabic useR Groups

Starting your own useR or R-Ladies group

Review Applications

Slack

Vision

What is Capacity Building?

Persona and Pathway

Tasks

Logo

### Website Development

- I'm a bad web developer, any volunteer to help to improve the website and make it bilingual is very welcome!
- ✓ [Help building a bilingual website](#) (see below for more information about the website)
- ✓ GitHub "Getting Started" guideline for content contribution.

### Content Creation & Management

- [Collect materials for teaching R from the Arab community](#) and add them to the website - we may add BioSchemas to improve findability.
  - The most asked question is what resources are available in Arabic to learn R - these are scattered around the web and not collected in one place. Collecting them will have two advantages:
    - ✍ [Content Curation Page](#)
      - Resources for R users to improve their skills
      - The most important thing is that it will increase the visibility/findability of those people who created the lessons
  - [Write an Arabic instruction \(in R Markdown format\)](#) about starting your own useR or R-Ladies group.
    - [Comment if you want to volunteer/help](#)

### Logo

I asked for a logo from a graphic designer - will have it soon



@Hussain I was going to ask which IDE do you use for your Arabic blogs, most text editors (e.g. Atoms, Sublime, ...) don't support Arabic?

**Batool Almarzouq** Feb 1  
Also, there was a new announcement in GitHub yesterday regarding their support for RTL Languages <https://github.blog/changelog/2022-01-31-editor-support-for-right-to-left-languages/>

Do you see any different after they implemented this?

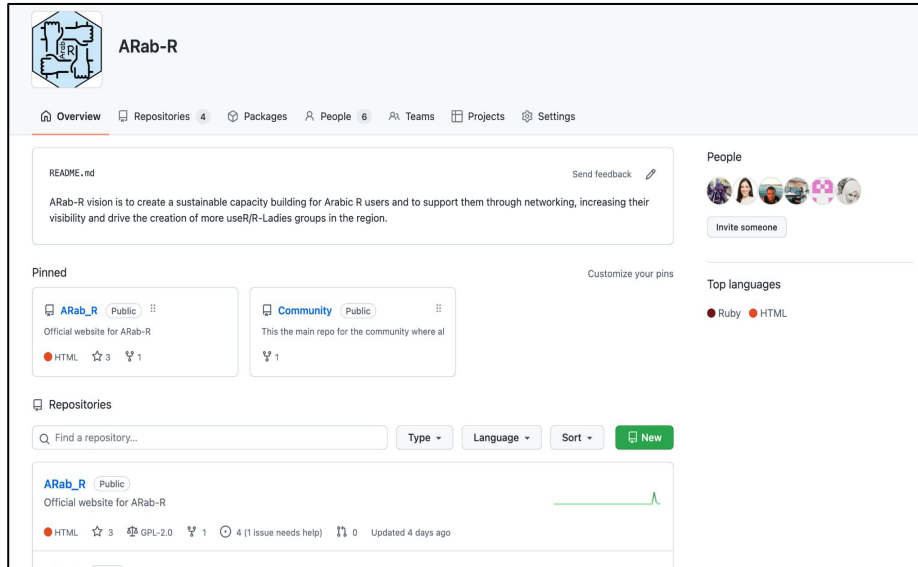
**Hussain** Feb 1 (edited)  
I usually write all my thoughts into the TextEditor, which can be found on Linux Ubuntu (the one I use) and macOS (my stationary workstation). While writing, I intentionally leave few extra white space lines, so I can put in them my code chunks later. It is not the smoothest workflow but it is the most reliable I found.

Reply...

**Iman Al-Hasani** Jan 17  
I can help with this.

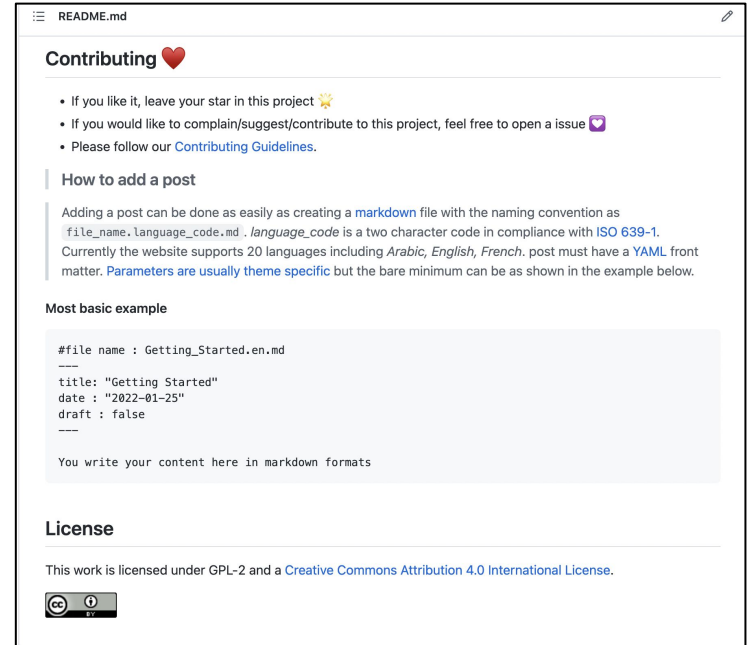
[Notion](#)

# Communication between the community!



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for ARab-R. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Overview', 'Repositories 4', 'Packages', 'People 6', 'Teams', 'Projects', and 'Settings'. Below this, the README.md file is displayed, containing the project's vision: 'ARab-R vision is to create a sustainable capacity building for Arabic R users and to support them through networking, increasing their visibility and drive the creation of more userR-R-Ladies groups in the region.' To the right of the README, there's a 'People' section with profile pictures and an 'Invite someone' button. Below the README, there are 'Pinned' repositories, including 'ARab\_R' (Public) and 'Community' (Public). The 'ARab\_R' repository is the official website for ARab-R, with 3 HTML files, 1 star, and 1 fork. The 'Community' repository is the main repo for the community, with 1 fork. Below the pinned repositories, there's a 'Repositories' section with a search bar and filters for 'Type', 'Language', and 'Sort'. The first repository listed is 'ARab\_R' (Public), the official website for ARab-R, with 3 HTML files, 3 GPL-2.0 licenses, 1 fork, 4 issues (1 needs help), 0 issues, and updated 4 days ago.

GitHub



The screenshot shows the content of the README.md file. It starts with a 'Contributing' section with a heart icon, followed by a list of instructions: 'If you like it, leave your star in this project', 'If you would like to complain/suggest/contribute to this project, feel free to open an issue', and 'Please follow our Contributing Guidelines'. Below this is a 'How to add a post' section, which explains that adding a post can be done as easily as creating a markdown file with the naming convention as `file_name.language_code.md`. It notes that the website supports 20 languages including Arabic, English, and French, and that the post must have a YAML front matter. Parameters are usually theme specific, but the bare minimum can be as shown in the example below. The 'Most basic example' section shows a code block for a file named 'Getting\_Started.en.md' with the following content: 

```
#file name : Getting_Started.en.md
---
title: "Getting Started"
date : "2022-01-25"
draft : false
---
```

 Below the code block, it says 'You write your content here in markdown formats'. The 'License' section states that the work is licensed under GPL-2 and a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. At the bottom, there is a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License logo.



## Future Activities:

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- Help review submissions for future useR or RStudio (any international conference).
- Run GitHub Workshops to encourage communication through GitHub and contribution to Open Source.
- Reach out to local college teachers and add their work and accomplishment to the website **(increase their visibility)**.