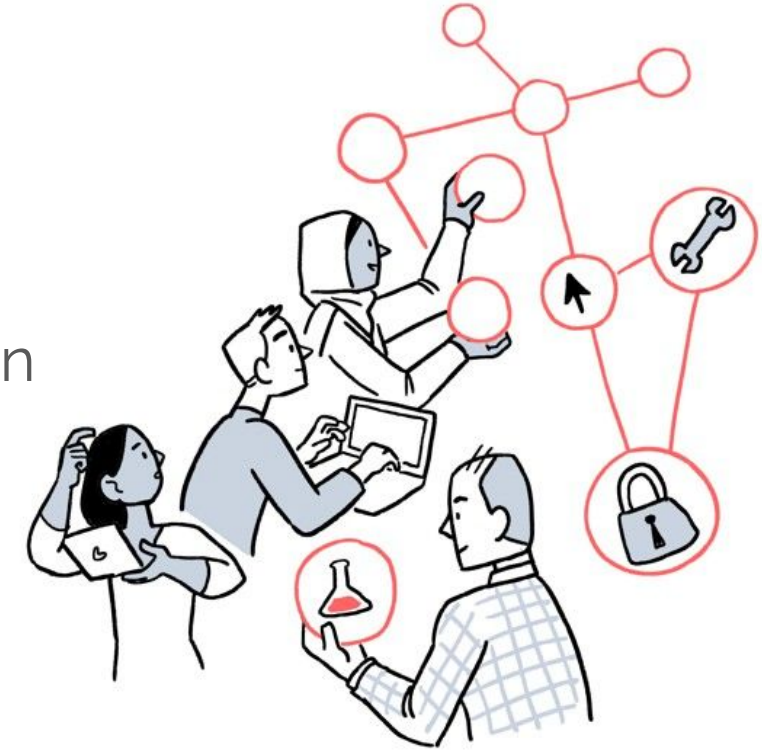
ArabR :
Empowering the R community in Arab-Speaking Countries

By Iman AlHasani (She/her)
Lecturer @ImanAlhasani

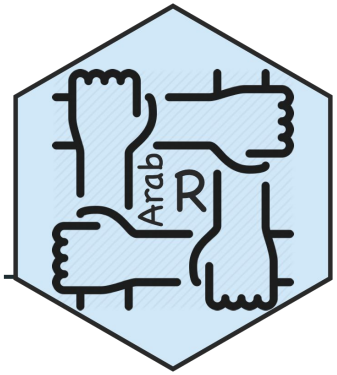


Motivations

- 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.

CC BY

R Community in MENA



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/

CC BY

R Community in MENA

Image taken from
R-Ladies Muscat

CC BY

R Community in MENA

Image taken from R-Ladies Muscat

CC BY

R Community in MENA

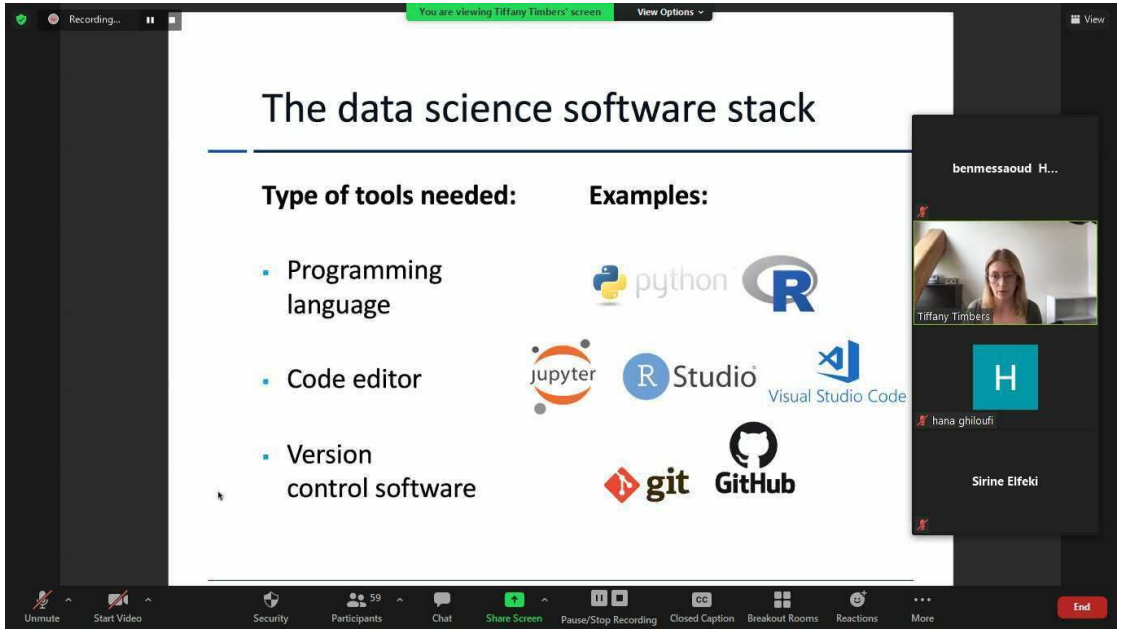


Image taken from R-Ladies Tunis

CC BY

R Community in MENA

Image taken from UseR Tunis

CC BY

Our Story started in useR2021!

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

↓

How can empower R community in MENA region?

↓

Created a persona and pathways

↓

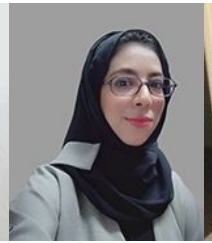
Focus on Arab-speaking countries (ArabR)

CC BY

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

CC BY

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.

CC BY

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)**

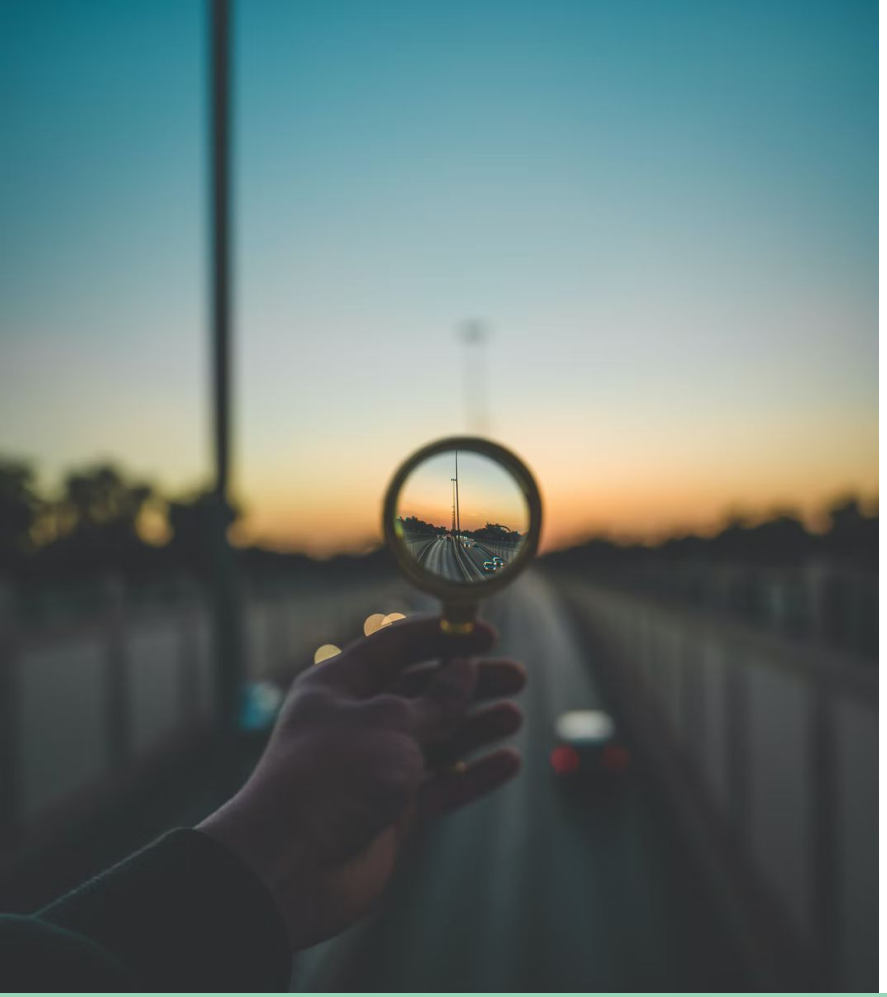
CC BY

Haifa Ben Messaoud

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

- Curated **Videos and lessons for R** in Arabic

CC BY



Main Goal

- 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

CC BY

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

Share

@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.

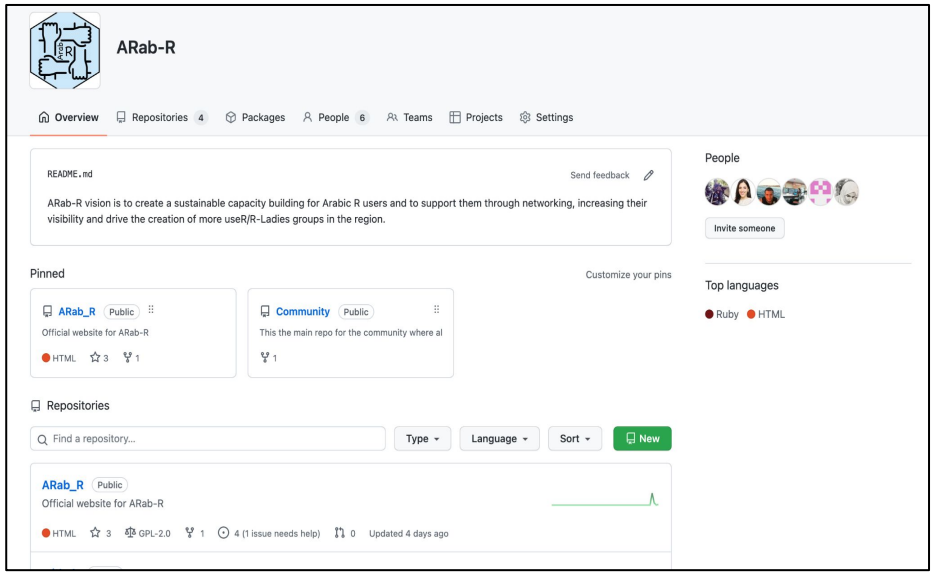
Reply...

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

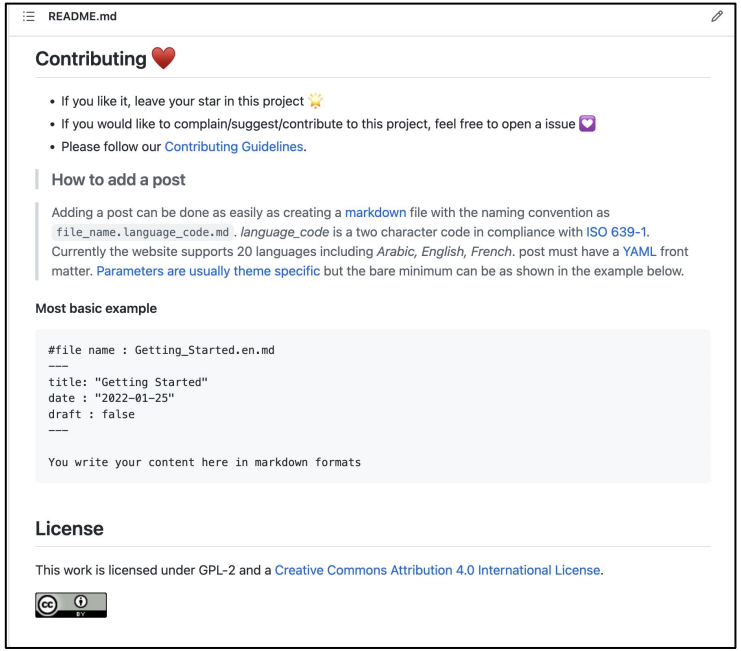
[Notion]

CC BY

Communication between the community!



[GitHub]



Future Activities:

- 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).**

CC BY