

Welcome to The Carpentries Etherpad!

This pad is synchronized as you type, so that everyone viewing this page sees the same text. This allows you to collaborate seamlessly on documents.

Use of this service is restricted to members of The Carpentries community; this is not for general purpose use (for that, try <https://etherpad.wikimedia.org>).

Users are expected to follow our code of conduct: https://docs.carpentries.org/topic_folders/policies/code-of-conduct.html

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Middle East Community call

5 April 2021

Connection

Zoom: <https://nyu.zoom.us/j/91708412645>

Agenda

- Introductions: are you currently a Carpentries instructor, have you held any Carpentries (official or unofficial) trainings at your institution?
- Communication with local community:
 - Slack channel: <https://swcarpentry.slack.com>, #local-middle-east
 - TopicBox: local-middle-east <https://carpentries.topicbox.com/groups/local-middle-east>
 - Any other preferred ways to communicate?
- What do you want for this community to achieve/do?
- Future meeting opportunities
- Maybe change the naming from "Middle East" to "MENA"
- Any suggestion for increasing the number of instructors in MENA?
- Perhaps leverage the experience of other local communities in the global south. For example, South Africa did a remarkable job in building its local carpentry community. Please have a look at their proposal back in 2016.
 - https://figshare.com/articles/journal_contribution/A_Programme_for_the_Development_of_Computational_and_Digital_Research_Capacity_in_South_Africa_and_Africa_-_phase_1/3382168 .

- Instead of isolated workshops to teach basic data science skills to postgraduate students/researchers and then sending participants back to unsupportive home environments, they offered a 12-month programme (with funding) that include:
 - Training of new instructors, support newly qualified instructors, ...
- If we have a plan on how to grow/expand the Carpentries in MENA, maybe the next step will be writing a blog post in the Carpentries <https://carpentries.org/blog/>
- Ammar: raise awareness about carpentry in local academic and research circles

Sign in

Sign-in: (name, institution, email, social networks, GitHub)

- Danny Ben-Avraham, Weizmann Institute of Science, dan.ben-avraham@weizmann.ac.il, Github: dannyba
- Taylor Hixson, NYU Abu Dhabi, twh2@nyu.edu, Github: taylorhixson
- Sara El-Gebali- selgebali@opencider.org Github: selgebali
- Luca Di Stasio, KAUST, luca.distasio@gmail.com, GitHub: LucaDiStasio
- Batool Almarzouq, the University of Liverpool, batool@liverpool.ac.uk, GitHub: BatoolMM
- Lauren Kata, NYU Abu Dhabi, lauren.kata@nyu.edu
- Ammar Alkhalidi, info@neo-reliability.com github:ammar-k
- Mabrouk boutagouga, Algeria, professor of Anthropology at University of Batna 1, Algeria, boutagouga.mabrouk@gmail.com
- Amani Magid, NYU Abu Dhabi, am6087@nyu.edu

Notes

- Communication:
 - Slack is good for organizing: events, projects
 - Topicbox is best for reaching the largest audience
- Scheduling
 - Poll - can we paste the results of the poll here? https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s8XwihGo-RhFB_ROfSrmdcctMlpIA5iLZGP94FRWs2o/edit?usp=sharing
 - We have different weekends - Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday - the community workweek is Monday-Thursday
 - Weekdays is usually better for community calls
 - Community calls better at 7 or 8 PM GST
 - MENA Carpentries Community: what do we want to do or achieve?
 - Results from poll: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s8XwihGo-RhFB_ROfSrmdcctMlpIA5iLZGP94FRWs2o/edit?usp=sharing
 - Other proposals (in the chat):
 - Batool: Address the skills scarcity in researchers/data scientist in the Middle East - maybe with a focus on reproducibility
 - Luca: MENA CarpentryConnect for all the community (online or in person), a MENA Carpentries Instructors/Maintainers/Trainers meetup (online or in person)

- Sera: Expanding the carpentries community in the MENA region, creating onboarding material in arabic for new comers
- Sera: <https://2020.carpentrycon.org/> <— example from last years carpentry con online, 2019 one in UK: <https://software.ac.uk/ccmcr19>
- expanding the carpentries community in the MENA region
- creating onboarding material in arabic for new comers
- a MENA Carpentries Instructors/Maintainers/Trainers meetup (online or in person)
- a MENA CarpentryConnect (<https://2020.carpentrycon.org/>, <https://software.ac.uk/ccmcr19>) for all the community (online or in person)
- Updating name of local community: MENA?
 - Can we update Topicbox, Slack channel, etherpad?
 - Is there a better name for this local/regional community than MENA?

Action

- Batool will start GitHub repository+1
- Mabrouk is translating OpenRefine lessons into Arabic. Contact if you would like to work with him on this.
- Ammar will make a MeetUp group+1
- Better utilize Social Media to grow community: we will use Slack to suggest hashtag for us to use. Suggestion: #CarpenriesMENA
- Use Slack if you have suggestions about another name for community than Middle East or MENA.
- Luca: Workshop can be a first big initiative to grow community and raise awareness
- Taylor will add poll report to etherpad: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s8XwihGo-RhFB_ROfSrmdcctMlpIA5iLZGP94FRWs2o/edit?usp=sharing