

**ABOUT GREECE, ABOUT EUROPE.**

A debate about the Mediterranean crisis based on the documentary “Aegean”.

**About Greece, about Europe** is a debate promoted by **Waves of Youth**, a Portuguese artistic collective, and by **MEERU | Abrir Caminho**, a non-governmental humanitarian organization, and supported by **HUBB – Humans Before Borders** and **United Society of Balkans**. **About Greece, about Europe** centres on **Aegean**, a documentary by Tomás Barão da Cunha and Raul Fretes, filmed during 2018 between Athens and Thessaloniki, south and northern Greece, respectively. *On the Aegean coast, the refugee crisis is growing every day. By land or by sea, hundreds of refugees arrive without any view of future. The camps are overcrowded, and life is on hold. Entire families are waiting for better days in complex and lengthy asylum applications. Between Athens and Thessaloniki, between Greece and the world, three distinct paths intersect in a shelter on the Aegean coast.* The proposed debate intends to transport the film from the screen to the action centre. Counting on the participation of parties who had been in the light spot of these times, we are invited to listen to the stories of who lived the crisis in loco and is still, today, far away from knowing its end. Based on the premise that Europe is a welcoming place, we are led to follow a chronological timeline since the beginning of this migration crisis, crossing the closing of the borders, until the moment at we are now. And how is Portugal and the other European country welcoming these people who run away from persecuting and death in their countries, either because of their religion, beliefs or political ideas? **Aegean**, as an urgent documentary, gives time and moment to these stories. Three narratives divided throughout 30 minutes long. First, the arrival, then, the waiting, the endless waiting. Everything starts at the waiting, and it is on this basis that the intervenients of these four sessions will work on. Sofia, in Bulgaria, Thessaloniki, in Greece, Porto and Lisbon, in Portugal. These were the four chosen places to present **Aegean** to the public. The two European extremities, the two extremes of this crisis. On one side, the Greece that welcomes, on the other side, Portugal, which welcomes or should welcome? This is the starting point for the two sessions in national grounds. As for the Balkan sessions, in Bulgaria and in Greece, and on the same basis, the discussion will start with reports from journalists and volunteers that are at the action centre and that will tell us stories from the seas, with the epicentre in Lesbos island, in the Aegean sea, and from land, the ones of those who walk and cross countries and continents until they get to the Greek border, the first European border and their first ideal safe harbour. The Mediterranean migratory crisis transformed into to Hellenic Odyssey of the XXI century. **Aegean** is a narrative about times, **About Greece, About Europe** is an overlook upon them. **Four sessions, free of cost, to make us think about Europe and mainly about what Union we want.**