

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS OF THE NEIGHBOURS

during COVID-19 time

#9May2020

INFORMATION PACKAGE



As the current Covid-19 crisis is keeping the majority of the world's student population out of school and confined to their own homes, the European Union encourages youth from both Member States and partner countries to find creative ways to keep cultivating their inner self. For that reason, the communication initiative "Meet the Neighbours of the Neighbours during COVID-19 time" has been initiated by the Commission (DEVCO, NEAR and FPI) in close collaboration with EEAS through the project "Support to EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVALS".

A digital window will be opened to provide students and youth from Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe with free access – through the streaming platform FestivalScope.org – to a selection of high-quality films about their respective cultures, providing for mutual understanding and building solid bases to strengthen fertile inter-cultural dialogue.



The proposed initiative will be launched on 9 May (on the occasion of 70 years of the Schuman Declaration, and with a special screening highlighted for Africa Day on 25 May) and will last 27 days (one for each of the Member States of the European Union), until 4 June. Access to the streaming platform will be **free of charge**, providing secure, on-demand access to around 40 feature films, with a different selection of films every week. **Around 20 European feature films will be accessible in Africa and the Mediterranean**, and another **20 African and Mediterranean feature films will be accessible in Europe and the Balkans**. Audiences will be able to watch the selected films on a first-come, first-served basis for up to **1000 users for each film**.

The approach of the initiative is to "open a virtual window" through stimulating and entertaining films that can inspire young generations, with contents that foster reflection and independent thought on other cultures and the diversity of situations and societies. A carefully selected catalogue of audio-visual contents will then be made available in free streaming or broadcast through local networks within a formal weekly programme.

The initiative is jointly implemented in collaboration with the European Film Festival support programme, the Cineteca of Bologna, the Creative Europe/Media supported Festival Scope platform, the ACP-EU Culture Programme and the LUX prize of the European Parliament.

The films can be accessed on the following websites, from 9th May:

For audience from Africa and the Mediterranean: www.festivalscope.com/meeteu

For European audience: www.festivalscope.com/meetafrica

For more information and the screening schedules, see also platform CultureXchange.eu and the associated social media accounts: www.culturexchange.eu Facebook: [@cultureexchangeplatform](https://www.facebook.com/cultureexchangeplatform) Instagram: [cultureexchange_platform](https://www.instagram.com/cultureexchange_platform)

Please use following hashtag: [#MeetTheNeighbours](https://twitter.com/MeetTheNeighbours)

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