

VÁCLAV HAVEL EUROPEAN DIALOGUES 2025:

Art for Social Development

October 9, 2025, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo, Dokki - Representative Hall

Conference language: English

[Registration form](#)

SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Registration

11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.: Welcome & Introduction

- H. E. Mr. Ivan Jukl, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Egypt
- Rana Gaber, Volunteer Managing Director, the Event Host

11:20 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.: Keynote speech- [Mohamed Yassein Salmann](#)

11:35 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.: 1st Session- Presentation from representatives of thematic initiatives: Good Practice

Speaker 1: [Nouran Akrab](#), Senior Project Manager at Dawar for Arts and Development

Speaker 2: [Marwa Karout](#), Programs Manager at Alwan wa Awtar

Speaker 3: **Roman Černík**, Head of the Moving Station in Pilsen

→ Q & A Session follows

12:20 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.: 2nd Session- Artist's Perspective

Speaker 1: **Nada Riyadh**, Filmmaker and cultural manager

Speaker 2: **Jiří Žák**, Artist

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Coffee Break, Networking opportunities & stands of the initiatives

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Thematic workshops

→ 2 parallel workshop sessions, interactive

- A dialogue circle on the role of arts on social change (led by The Dialogue Company)
- Storytelling workshop with Mortagal (led by Mohamed Farouk and Laila Hosny)

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Closing Remarks

The conference program is subject to change.

Host:

Rana Gaber, Volunteer Managing Director of The Dialogue Company.

Rana Gaber is a program manager, researcher, and trainer with a Master's in Comparative Middle East Politics and Society and 15 years in development work. She has worked with national, regional, and international NGOs—including the Danish Egyptian Dialogue Initiative, Egyptian Youth Federation, the League of Arab States, and the World Bank—focusing on youth development and engagement. As co-founder of the Dialogue Company, she has built networks of youth facilitators in nonviolent communication, conflict resolution, and citizenship. She previously led Egypt's national team of dialogue facilitators in the Ambassadors for Dialogue project and has co-authored training manuals with GIZ and UNFPA.

Experts:

Mohamed Yassein Salman, Co-founder of Collective Routes (LLC).

Yassein has over 15 years of experience in social development, qualitative and participatory research, learning design, programme evaluation, and impact assessment across the MENA region. He specialises in youth-focused programmes, co-creating youth-enabling spaces, and facilitating participatory community research, including Participatory Action Research. His work spans participatory evaluation, youth policy analysis, and developing capacity-building tools for community leadership, activism, and gender equality. He holds an MA in Participation, Power, and Social Change (IDS, University of Sussex, 2016). In 2018, he co-founded Collective Routes (LLC), leading research and consultancy projects to advance youth development, gender equality, and participatory approaches.

Nouran Akrab, Senior Projects Manager at Dawar for Arts and Development.

Nouran Akrab is an Egyptian feminist development expert and artistic facilitator with 18 years of experience across the MENA region and Europe. She specializes in gender equality, SRHR, and inclusive community development in marginalized and conflict-affected areas. As Senior Projects Manager at Dawar for Arts and Development, she leads regional initiatives that integrate art, psychosocial support, and rights-based approaches. Nouran also mentors young feminist activists and is passionate about using creative tools to foster well-being, amplify voices, and drive social change.

Marwa Karout, Programs Manager at Alwan wa Awtar.

Marwa Karout is the Programs Manager at Alwan wa Awtar, an Egyptian NGO dedicated to

fostering education, creativity, and community development through the arts. With a advanced diploma in Culinary Arts and Heritage, she is an experienced Programs Manager with a strong track record in the civic and social sector. Marwa is also a researcher and trainer, skilled in nonprofit management, strategic planning, nonviolent communication, program design and implementation, dialogue facilitation, and mentoring. Her work bridges organizational development with community impact.

Roman Černík, Head of the independent cultural space Moving Station in Pilsen.

The long-term focus of Roman's work is on the intersections and relationships between art and education. He teaches at the University of West Bohemia and at Prague's Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU). In 1998, he co-founded the JOHAN Centre for Cultural and Social Projects in Pilsen where he works as a director. The centre runs Moving Station, an open community space for culture education and community activities. He is also consistently involved in cultural policy, and has participated in the development of cultural strategies for the cities of Pilsen, Písek or Mělník. As a producer, dramaturge and occasional performer, he has been involved in a number of theatre projects in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Nada Riyadh, Filmmaker and cultural manager.

Nada Riyadh is an Egyptian filmmaker and a cultural manager. She has managed several multidisciplinary art projects with a focus on women's issues and body politics. Her latest film project as a director and producer alongside Ayman El Amir entitled "The Brink of Dreams won L'Œil d'or for best feature documentary at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival. Her short fiction film Fakh (2019) was selected for the official competition of Semaine de la critique, Cannes in 2019. Since 2010, She has designed and led filmmaking and visual storytelling workshops to support and empower distressed communities suffering from war, displacement and violent political turmoil with the help of different cultural institutions and N.G.Os in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. In 2016, she co-founded the Cairo-based production company, Felucca Films.

Jiří Žák

Jiří Žák graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and is currently pursuing his PhD studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Brno University of Technology. He works primarily with moving images and video installations that combine research with imaginative forms of storytelling. Together with a theater group 8lidí, he created the participatory theater production We Love Shooting (2023). He has exhibited at a number of institutions in the international context (Bangkok Kunsthalle in Thailand 2024, Kiev Biennale

2021, Warsaw Biennale 2018). In 2020, he was part of the Biennale Matter of Art Prague. He participated in Berlinale Talents 2024. Žák is a co-holder of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award for 2020 and laureate of the EXIT Award for 2015. In 2024, together with Matěj Pavlík, he won the award for Best Czech Experimental Documentary Film at the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival. In 2025, he received the Rector's Award for Students at the Brno University of Technology. He has completed artistic residencies in Jordan, Georgia, and Spain. He is a member of Artyčok TV and was in the past also a member of Studio Without Master.

The Dialogue Company

The Dialogue Company is a training and consultancy social enterprise working in the field of Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Non-Violent Communication. The company is building on the history of the Ambassadors for Dialogue project in Egypt, where there is a team of more than 200 trained dialogue facilitators from all over Egypt facilitating dialogue spaces, teaching people about dialogue, and opening dialogue about a diversity of issues. The company offers a variety of activities that help individuals and institutions enhance their capacities through learning about dialogue, conflict resolution, and nonviolent communication. We work on the national level in Egypt, on the Regional level in the Arab world, and internationally as well.

Mortagal:

Mohamed Farouk, founder of Mortagal.

Mohamed Farouk graduated from the Faculty of Applied Arts (Ceramics) and studied theatre at NAS Performing Arts School in Cairo. He continued his training at the International Comedy School in Denmark, exploring acting, contemporary dance, clowning, commedia dell'arte, buffon, and tragedy. He has also attended diverse artistic workshops on hip-hop, lighting, ballet basics, mime, and directing. As a facilitator and artistic trainer, Mohamed has collaborated with international organizations such as Save the Children, UNESCO, UNDP, ILO, DEDI, and Samosocial, alongside local partners including Care Egypt, Maqad of Sultan Qaitbey, and Adef - Arab Digital Expression Foundation. In addition, he has worked as a director, actor, and dancer in productions at the National Theater, El Hanager Arts Center, and various independent shows.

Laila Hosny, a theatre and arts facilitator with a background in media and performing arts.

Laila Hosny holds a B.A. in Media (Radio and Television) and a Diploma in Education from Cairo University. Since 2011, she has acted in over 16 productions and trained with leading academics and directors. Since joining **Mortagal** in 2022, she has grown from trainee to workshop leader, delivering more than 200 training days across Egypt. She has designed and facilitated projects on self-discovery, gender-based violence awareness, and youth empowerment with local and international partners. Using Object Theatre, Psychodrama, and gamification, she engages children, adolescents, and refugees. Her mission is to use the arts to foster dialogue, inclusion, and positive social change.