



# Colours Of A Journey - Exhibition Possibilities Manual

## Why get involved?

This project was designed to raise the voices of newcomers beyond borders. Art is a medium which has the power to transcend not only geographic borders, but linguistic and cultural barriers as well. Through this project, we hope to contribute to a stronger network of solidarity amongst movements and collectives that support newcomers in their struggle for dignity, and for the respect of their human rights.

Feel free to use the content on the platform to protest the inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees.

## How to organise an exhibition

The Colours of a Journey project is open to all structures involved in organising exhibitions, or art displays of any form which have a social cause (NGOs, artist collectives, student associations, etc); that are committed to [our mission](#); and that are able to facilitate the exhibition of paintings done by newcomer children between the age of 6 and 18, living in different European countries. Do you want to exhibit the drawings? It is easier than you think! Through this manual we will guide you on how to define your idea, how to think out of the box when designing the exhibition and/or how to make it in the most economic way. The most important thing is to be flexible. Let's begin:

## Contact us

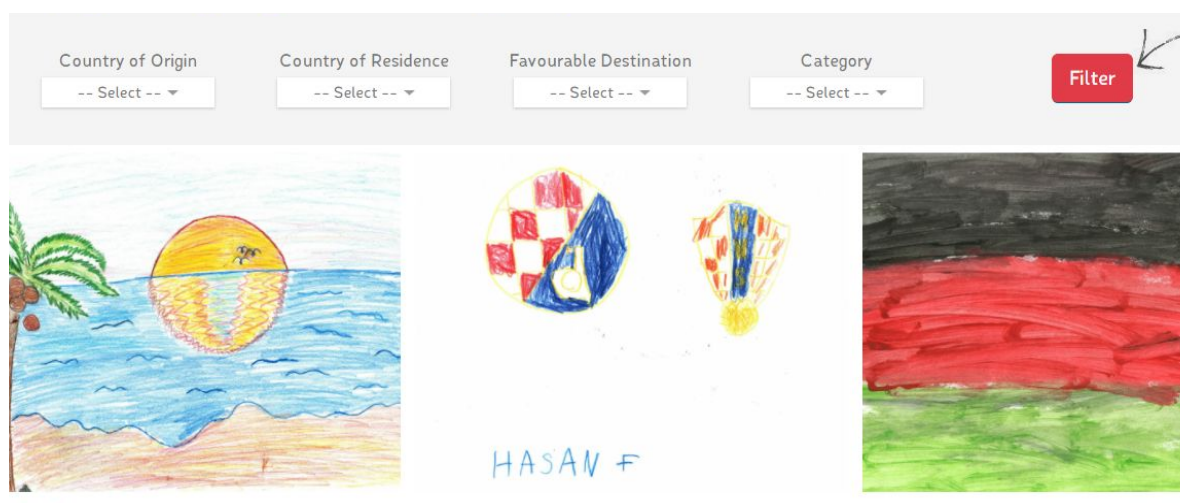
Please send us an email to [info@coloursofajourney.eu](mailto:info@coloursofajourney.eu) with the following details, as well as any questions you might have:

<b>Email</b>	Please specify the email address you wish to be contacted by
<b>First name, Last name</b>	Of the associate in the organization, e.g. Abdul Willson.
<b>Organization Name</b>	
<b>Type organization, private or public</b>	e.g. Activist collective, social institution, association
<b>Telephone</b>	Not visible in public, for internal use only.
<b>Country</b>	e.g. Greece
<b>City/Town/Village/Area</b>	e.g. Athens
<b>Website</b>	If any.
<b>Physical structure for the exhibition</b>	The type of space your organization would be able to provide for the exhibition
<b>Expertise</b>	Please specify your experience dealing with exhibitions and refugee temathic.

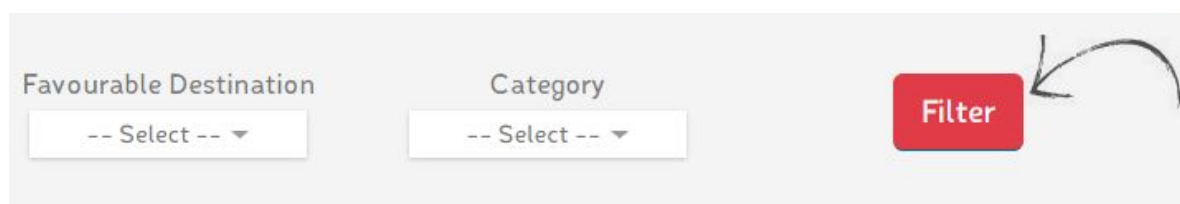
Once we receive your email we will get back to you as quickly as possible. We will also ask you to accept of our [code of ethics](#) when organising the exhibition.

## Using the platform

As an exhibitor, the main area that you will be using is the home page (<https://coloursofajourney.eu>): here, you will find the digital gallery, as well as the possible filters for viewing the paintings. The drawings are displayed through all the page when scrolling down, while the filter button is up in the right corner of the page:



Applying different filters allows you to select the drawings that are of most interest to your organization. You can select the country of origin, country of residence, and favourable destination of the artist, as well as category they have painted (past, present or future), and then filter your result by clicking the the red Filter button on the right hand side of the page.



### Accessing and curating the pictures

The digital archive offers a wide selection of children's drawings. If you click on the picture, you will see some information about artist of that particular work, such as their first name, age, country of origin, residence, their favourable destination, the workshop where the painting was made, or a short explanation of the drawing by the authors.



Curation of the artworks is up to the organization holding the exhibition, although the main themes in the workshops and on the digital archive are the past, present and future, of the newcomer children. These categories could be used to structure the exhibition. Here you can see an example of the public information you can include in your exhibition:



## Get inspired

Although we use the word exhibition, the way of sharing the drawings is not bounded to the traditional idea of an artistic exhibition. Each partner has different capabilities, and therefore it can expose the drawings in different formats that allows them to execute the project.

Last year, four exhibitions took place around Europe: two in Groningen, the Netherlands, and two in Zagreb, Croatia. Some exhibitions were nomadic, some were cooperated into other events in order to reach a wider audience, and one was displayed during a concert on Liberation Day, a Dutch national holiday which celebrates freedom. As you can see, the execution of the exhibitions is flexible; this allows organisers to curate a display of the artworks to with whatever resources they have available. If you would like more details about previous exhibitions you can find inspiration from them [here](#).

For instance, as you can see on the following pictures, on the 24th of April 2017 Amnesty International Groningen collaborated with Colours of a Journey to organise the above

mentioned nomadic exhibition. For this, we exhibited some of the Colors of a Journey paintings on the walls during a dinner which aimed to raise awareness about the situation of refugees. The “Syrian dinner”, was largely organised by Syrian refugees themselves, who not only provided the catering, but who also participated in giving speeches, and engaging with all the attendees. They shared their own opinions and experiences, and expressed as their perceptions of the drawings we exhibited, as did the guests.



*First picture: The team of Amnesty International and Colours of a Journey address the audience. Second picture: some members of the organisers teams and the Syrian refugees who participated on the dinner.*

On the 5th of May 2017, Colours of a Journey had the opportunity to participate in the Liberation Day Festival in Groningen, which celebrates freedom from war and oppression, and reflects upon freedom elsewhere in the world. This theme corresponds well with the Colors of a Journey project, and so the festival was the perfect occasion to display the drawings. The artworks were displayed during the concert of a Syrian Choir (New Life Groningen Choir) and a Dutch band (Aapnootmies). With an audience of more than 300 people, the drawings were projected digitally onto a large screen behind one of the festival stages, while members of our project interacted with guests on the different tables, explaining the project and discussing the solidarity crisis.



*The band Aapnootmies gave a passionate concert that empowered the meanings of the drawings, while the public discussed with the CoJ members about the issue*

More recently, Colours of a Journey collaborated with the Udruga Balkon, an NGO from Zagreb. From the 15th of December until the 15th of January, Udruga Balkon is holding two temporary exhibitions, one in a library in Dugave and one in library in Travano. The children’s artwork is displayed in the windows of these two libraries, with some facing the



street, and others facing inside. This enables both library visitors, and bypassers to appreciate the pieces easily. As you can see in the following pictures, it has been a great success!



Art can take many forms and use infinite ways of displaying, as our partner Udruga Balkon proved in Zagreb. These pictures show an original way of engaging in Colours of a Journey.

Still looking for inspiration? One of our partners, Futurelab Europe, explained our project in the book ["Letters to Europe: Refugee Women Write"](#), which was presented in Brussels in September. Printing is another interesting option!

## Format for of the implementation

The first step for organising an event is deciding the type exhibition or sharing you wish to organise. For example, it could be a nomadic exhibition (a one day exhibition), a temporary exhibition, or a permanent one.

Another important decision is whether to organise a physical or a digital exhibition (like the those mentioned above). Another possible way to display the artworks is in printed media, such as a magazine or a booklet, as long as the distribution of the paintings does not generate profit (see the code of ethics). Sometimes, as previously mentioned, it is useful to merge the exhibition with another event in order to have a bigger impact. In addition, you could organise a conference/talk to coincide with the display of the drawings (a talk regarding refugees and immigrants, the solidarity crisis, etc.) as a way to attract a different type of audience.

It is always useful to consider other regional/local actors that might help with the execution of the event. For example, CoJ allied with Amnesty International and the Liberation Day Festival to carry out exhibitions. The most effective way to identify possible collaborators is by looking for organizations/institutions that share the same values (such as for example charity groups, NGOs or civil society organizations), or that are used to engaging/collaborating with other groups (universities, for example, tend to have spaces for organising public events and different types of initiatives). Nonetheless, sometimes it is good to think outside the box and collaborate with other types of institutions. We are also willing to

help you on this quest (finding a partner on the region). Quick tip: sometimes, the fastest way to reach an organization is via Social Media.

In order to be more engaging, the exhibition could include audience interaction, such as a writing board for opinions, or a discussion panel of experts on the issue of refugees who want to share their own opinion. Asking attendees to reflect on their experience is one way of making the experience more memorable.

## Finance and budget

Unfortunately, Colours of a Journey is not able to provide funding for the exhibition, however, we can provide expertise and assistance. If you are keen to organise an exhibition but lack funds or material resources, we are more than happy to have a one on one discussion with you to see if we can come up with a solution together. Many institutions provide funding for this type of event. Quick tip: Another possibility is setting up a crowdfunding page.

## Communication and dissemination

Communicating and disseminating information about the event is key to ensuring maximum impact. So, let us know! We would like to be informed about your activities so we can share it with the Colours community, particularly the structures and children that have created the paintings. We would also appreciate having direct correspondence with one or two representatives from your organization, so that communication is easy to follow.

Furthermore, we recommend the following:

- Explaining the event on your organization's website and in newsletters
- Uploading posts about the event and Colours of a Journey on Social Media
- Inviting other actors that might be interested in the project to the event. Even if they do not attend the exhibition, you can always ask them to spread the word to other contacts (a retweet from certain institutions might be very helpful)
- Printing leaflets for the exhibition which explain the project and point the relevant websites (Colours of a Journey and your organization).
- Writing a short blog entry about your event that can be included on the Colours of a Journey platform

## Disclaimer

- We would like to remind you that the exhibition of the drawings on our webpage, or any other activity with this content, must be in line with our [Code of Ethics](#) and [Mission Statement](#).
- All content on the platform is under a creative commons licence (link) which forbids the usage of the paintings for profit

Should you have any other question/suggestion? You know where to find us! Good luck,

The Colours of a Journey team

