

AMWAJ  أمواج

Value Mediterranean Ecosystems

Early Career Journalist Fellowship 2024/2025

Report

www.amwaj-alliance.com

An initiative by REVOLVE
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01 Introduction

The AMWAJ Early Career Journalist Fellowship was launched to support ambitious media professionals in reporting more effectively on water-related topics around the Mediterranean. The Fellowship puts emphasis on up-and-coming journalists in countries from the North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean with the aim of giving them the opportunity to enhance their skills and expand their coverage to have greater impact with their audiences.

116

The application period was open during the month of September 2024. An astounding 116 applicants submitted their dossiers from across the region, reflecting the strong interest in the content, the demand from early career professionals, and the need to cover water-related topics more extensively.



02 Key Statistics

Total

Applicants

116

Description

Received from a diverse range of countries in the Mediterranean region.

Geographical

Distribution

39%

Description

Southern Mediterranean

Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, etc.

48%

Eastern Mediterranean

Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Turkey, etc.)

1%

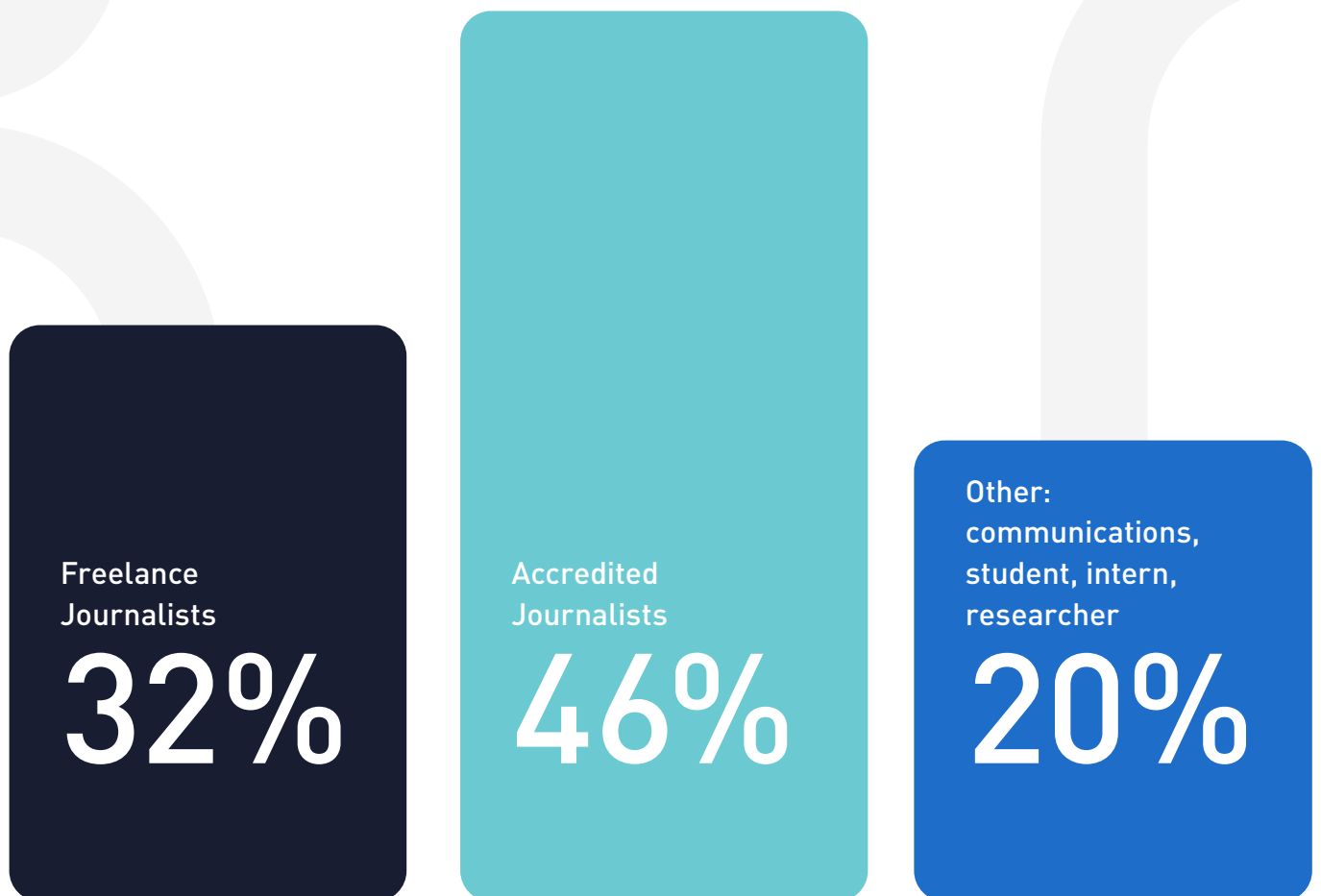
Western Mediterranean

Spain, France, Italy, etc.

13%

Non-Mediterranean Countries

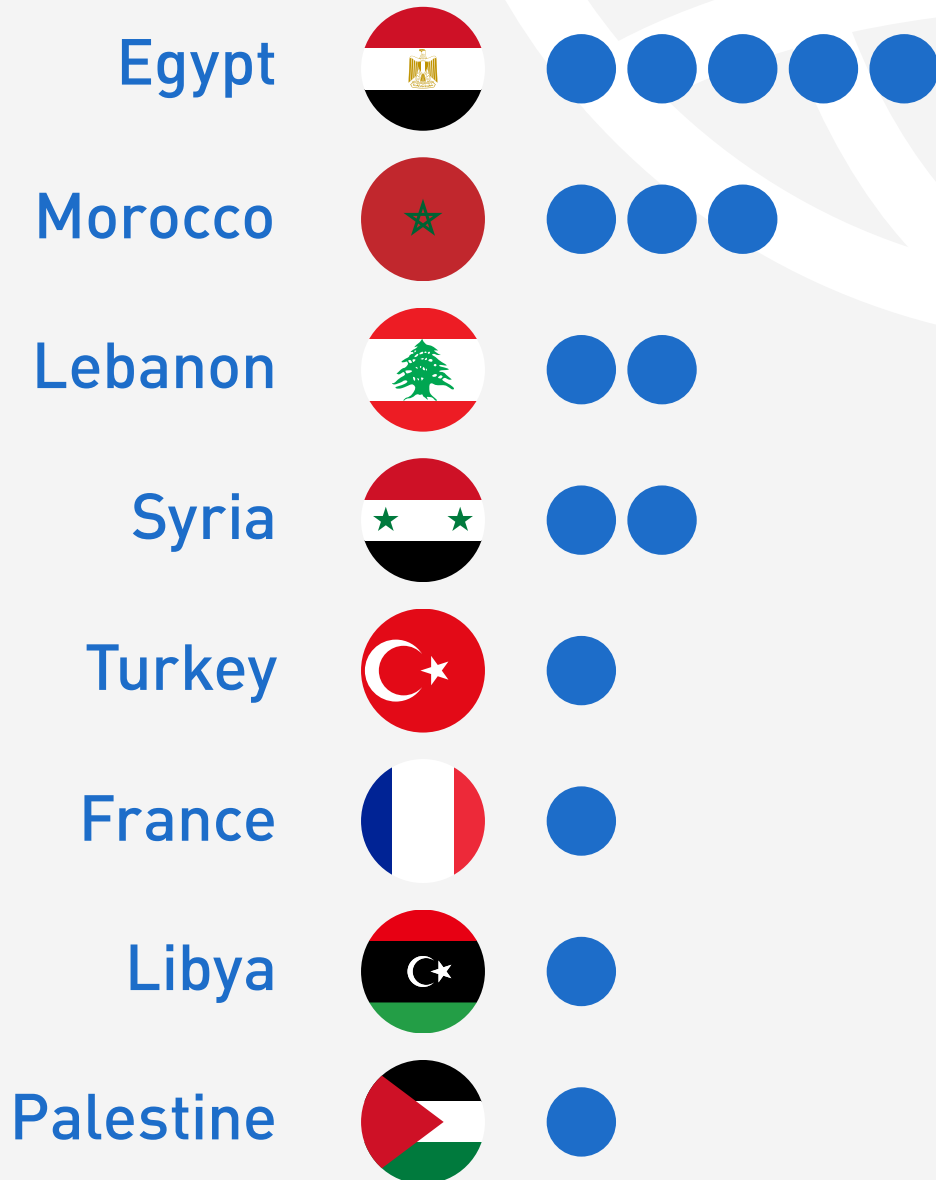
03 Professional Background



04 In Focus

Top 16 Shortlist

The 16 top applicants that were short-listed for the AMWAJ Fellowship came from the following countries:



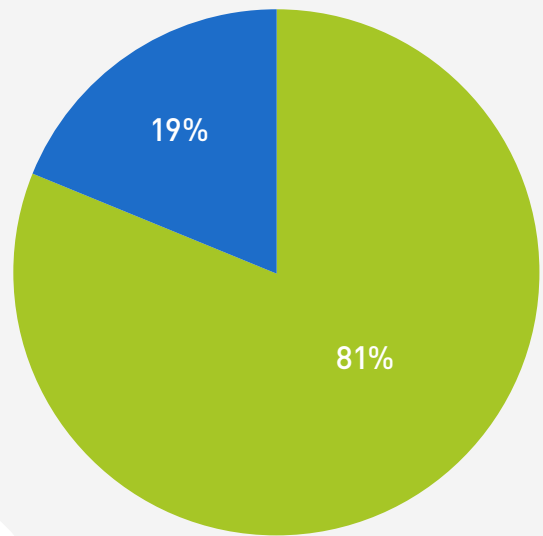
05 Gender and Inclusion Top 16

Female Applicants

81%

Male Applicants

19%



06 Languages Top 16

Many of the Fellowship applicants were multilingual.

Four languages stood out in the top 16.

Arabic

94%



English

75%



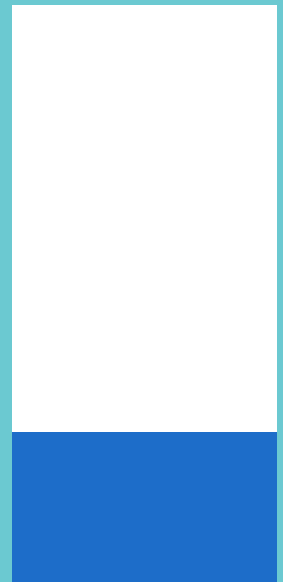
French

31%



Turkish

25%



07 Notable Trends

1

The topics pitched to the AMWAJ Fellowship varied and ranged from social justice to ecosystem restoration to community actions and innovative climate solutions.



2

Many junior journalists with less than 5 years' experience applied, as required by the selection criteria. However, almost 40% were more senior journalists, highlighting the need for support for established professionals.

3

Strong representation of multimedia storytelling, with a high percentage of applicants submitting proposals for video and podcast formats.

Green Circular Economy in the Mediterranean: the Impact of Green Jobs

Date: 30 July 2024



08 The Process

The Panel

The AMWAJ Fellowship panel, comprising journalists Marta Castillo, Mariam Younes and Jake Threadgould, was in charge of the selection process.

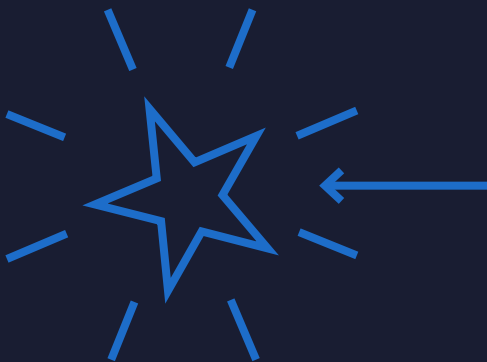


The Criteria

Committee members individually went through the applications applying a 5-point scoring system based on journalistic credentials, multimedia skills, previous experience, innovation and potential impact of the pitch, relevance of the pitch, and multimedia integration.

Final Selection

The combined top selection of candidates produced a final shortlist of 16, which was reviewed internally over several meetings until a top candidate was agreed upon.



9 Media Fellowship 2025 The Winner

Introducing Basma El Atti, the first AMWAJ Media Fellow

Elatti, 24, is a Moroccan freelance journalist and contributor to The New Arab as a correspondent who has previous early career experience in broadcast and as a social media manager.

In a statement, El Atti said:

“I am both honoured and thrilled to be AMWAJ’s first fellow. This opportunity excites me not only because it offers a chance to grow and collaborate with the AMWAJ team but also because it allows me to amplify pressing climate issues that resonate deeply with my community and beyond. I look forward to the months ahead, filled with opportunities to learn, create, and share impactful stories.”

The AMWAJ Media Fellowship selection committee were drawn to her intriguing pitch related to the flood-drought paradox and cloud-seeding in her home country of Morocco.

With guidance from AMWAJ, Elatti will use the Fellowship as a platform to explore these topics further, with particular attention and care given to the social implications in the North Africa region.



Stay tuned for more updates and follow Elatti’s progress here on AMWAJ.

10 Conclusion

The AMWAJ Fellowship has attracted astounding applicants from around the Mediterranean, demonstrating a strong need for further capacity-building among journalists covering sustainability topics.

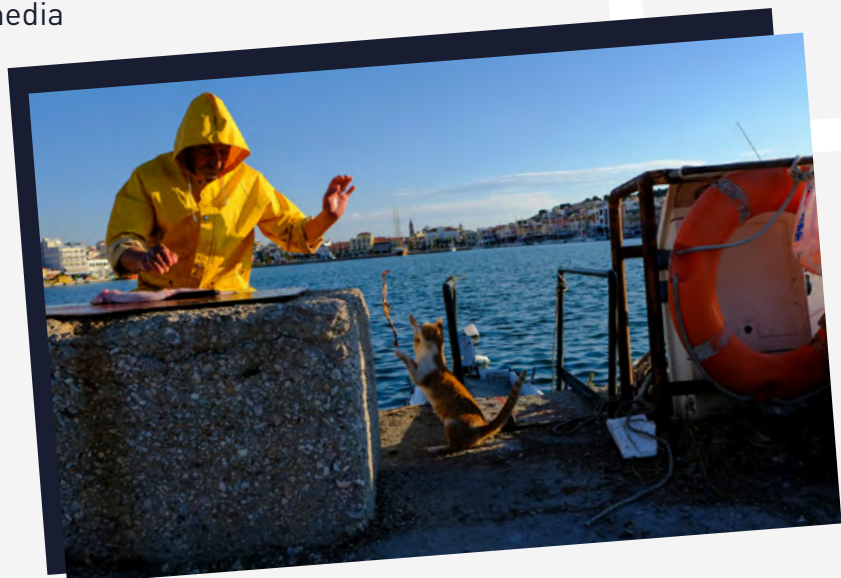
With this proof of concept, AMWAJ is positioned to enhance storytelling on water-related societal, environmental, and the broader sustainability challenges confronting everyone around the Mediterranean.

In 2025, AMWAJ aspires to enlarge the impact of the Early Career Journalist Fellowship with Strategic Partners to support more coverage of pressing water-related topics such as:

- a. Water & Cities
- b. Water & Technology
- c. Water & Agriculture
- d. Water & Fisheries
- e. Water & Pollution

If you would like to support the AMWAJ Fellowship Program, please contact:

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