

From Care to Collective Resilience

“Tiers Lieux” facing vulnerability in Mediterranean contexts

This workshop is part of the Mawjaat programme and offers a collective working space bringing together practitioners from third places and cultural and social initiatives across different Mediterranean contexts. Conceived as a peer-to-peer exchange, it aims to question practices, organisational choices and economic models of third places through concrete situations and lived experiences. The two days are structured around a shared guiding thread: understanding how vulnerabilities — affecting publics, teams and organisations — run through our spaces, and how the responses developed, whether relational, organisational or economic, shape the capacity of third places to act and to sustain themselves over time.

Wednesday, February 4 – Care and vulnerabilities

SHANTI & BAHJA 44-43 Rue du Niger, 1073 Tunis

A shared entry point for “Tiers Lieux”

This first day opens a collective space for reflection around the notion of care, understood in a broad and transversal sense. Care is not approached here solely as a set of professions or specialised services, but as a way of doing and relating: an attention to people, life paths, rhythms, relationships, and to the frameworks within which activities take place.

In third places, care is often expressed implicitly: through welcoming practices, the creation of safe and supportive environments, the recognition of fragilities, and the capacity to listen, adapt and accompany without imposing norms. Although central, this dimension is rarely articulated as such, even though it profoundly shapes practices and uses of these spaces.

In many Mediterranean contexts, third places host a wide diversity of publics with multiple and differentiated vulnerabilities. Some users — artists, young entrepreneurs, emerging collectives, cultural or social project leaders — face more diffuse forms of fragility: professional precarity, income instability, isolation, lack of recognition or limited access to resources. Other publics experience more acute vulnerabilities linked to fragile life trajectories, social or gender inequalities, psychological or territorial difficulties, or the effects of climate change.

The aim is not to establish a hierarchy between these realities, but to recognise that all require attention, and that they influence, at different levels, how spaces are used, the nature of the services offered, modes of reception, and the relationships built within these places.

This diversity of situations also reflects the realities of the organisations themselves. Third places and associative collectives often operate in structurally fragile contexts: uncertain economic models, dependence on project-based funding, overloaded teams, and tensions between social

ambition, economic constraints and actual capacities. Vulnerability therefore runs through publics as well as teams, spaces and the ecosystems in which they are embedded.

Based on these observations, the day invites participants to mobilise care as a shared analytical framework. Thinking through care means questioning simultaneously:

- how publics are welcomed and supported,
- the working conditions and modes of cooperation within teams,
- and how spaces, rules and organisations can become more supportive, fairer and more sustainable.

This focus on care and vulnerability provides a continuity with the second day of the workshop. Acknowledging and addressing vulnerabilities at all levels inevitably leads to questioning the economic, organisational and cooperative conditions that make these practices viable over time. The reflections developed here thus prepare the ground for a deeper discussion on hybrid, solidarity-based and mutualised economic models as structural responses to shared fragilities.

Time	Session	Content & Intent
09:30 – 10:30	Welcome & Opening	Welcome of participants by L'Blaça and IFT. Presentation of the workshop framework. Introduction of Algerian partners.
10:30 – 11:30	Framing & Collective Discussion	Moderated by Nadia Cherif A reflection on <i>care</i> as a professional posture, a political framework, and a collective responsibility, drawing on feminist care theories. This will be followed by a participatory discussion on the vulnerabilities experienced within each organization, both individually and through collective actions. Together, we will examine how these vulnerabilities—affecting audiences, teams, organizations, and places—are currently addressed: by whom, at what cost, and with what effects.
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 – 12:30	Small Group Work	Moderated by Nadia Cherif “Mapping Our Capacity for Care” This session aims to help organizations identify situations where they absorb too much, where care becomes invisible, where boundaries are

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		crossed, and where collective responsibility is lacking.Group feedback and collective discussion.
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	Free time and informal exchanges.Visit of <i>L'Artisanerie</i> .
14:00 – 14:30	Visit of BAHJA	Presentation of the space.Positioning around care, well-being, and personal services.
14:30 – 16:00	Practical Workshop	Embroidery & Care Weaving connections across the Mediterranean.
16:00 – 17:00	Collective Debrief	Exchange session on partners' updates and progress of ongoing activities.
17:00 – 18:00	Free Time	Hotel check-in, departure to the city center.
18:00 – 20:00	Afterwork	Visit and exhibition at <i>Centre Culturel 32Bis</i> , cocktail.Group dinner in La Goulette at <i>Le Casino</i> .

Day 2 – Hybrid economic models and mutualisation

Ftartchi 3 bis rue Enée, Mutuelleville, Tunis

Structural responses to vulnerabilities

The second day extends the reflections initiated around care and vulnerability by shifting the focus towards the structural conditions that enable these practices to endure. It opens a collective space to reflect on the economic models of third places, considered not as an isolated

technical issue, but as a dimension deeply intertwined with values, organisational forms and the social purposes pursued by these actors.

In many contexts, third places and collective initiatives develop so-called hybrid economic models, combining market-based resources, public subsidies, partnerships, solidarity contributions or mutualisation mechanisms. This hybridity is often experienced as a necessity, sometimes as a constraint, and rarely as a subject of collective reflection in its own right. Yet it directly shapes governance choices, relationships with publics, team working conditions and the room for manoeuvre of projects.

The day therefore invites participants to question the coherence between the social, cultural or political intentions of third places and the economic models that support them. How can the principles of the social and solidarity economy — cooperation, solidarity, territorial anchoring and value sharing — be translated concretely into funding, organisational and management practices? How can economic activities be sustained without weakening missions of care, accessibility or inclusion? And how can hybridity avoid becoming an additional source of fragility for teams and organisations?

These questions resonate particularly strongly in contexts where resources are limited, unstable or highly conditional, and where third places are compelled to invent forms of mutualisation: sharing spaces, skills, services, networks or tools. Mutualisation then appears not only as an economic strategy, but as a political and collective response to the structural vulnerabilities highlighted during the first day.

Rather than identifying replicable models, the reflection proposed during this second day seeks to open a discussion on trade-offs, tensions and deliberate choices. Participants are invited to situate their own organisations within trajectories of hybridity, to share their dilemmas, and to explore how economic models can become levers of collective resilience rather than sources of exhaustion or contradiction.

By articulating economic practices, governance and cooperation, this day aims to open avenues for reflection transferable across the different Mediterranean contexts represented, and to position third places as spaces capable of experimenting with economic forms aligned with their values, while remaining grounded in territorial realities.

Time	Session	Content & Intent
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome Opening	Welcome of participants at Ftartchi . Recap of key takeaways from Day 1 and reminder of the open question: <i>how can we make our practices sustainable over time?</i>

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09:45 – 10:15	Introductory Framing	Hybrid economic models (imposed / chosen), ESS coherence, and their links with care, working conditions, and public accessibility.
10:15 – 11:00	Structured Discussion	Guided debate on the tensions within economic models: accessibility vs. financial viability; values vs. economic opportunities; autonomy vs. dependency on funding.
11:00 – 12:30	Small Group Work	Each participant is invited to reflect on their own economic model using guided questions. Group feedback and sharing.
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch	Lunch and free time.
13:45 – 14:30	Action Research	Exchange with Lieve Wijman on the ongoing research project.
14:30 – 16:00	Practical Workshop – Cooking & Agroecology	Collective cooking workshop at Ftartchi, using agroecological products as a medium for informal discussion on value chains, pricing, quality, accessibility, and territorial cooperation. Contribution from Association Tunisienne de Permaculture on the <i>Citizen Food</i> label.
16:00 – 17:00	Synthesis & Discussion	Collective identification of three key learnings and two to three concrete avenues for cooperation or resource-sharing to explore within Mawjaat .
17:00	Closing	Mawjaat team.