





Societal  
Security  
Network

VIRTUAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT AND COORDINATION ON SOCIETAL SECURITY

D9.13

## SHORT FILM COMPETITION ON SOCIETAL SECURITY

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 Societal Security Network	01.01.2014 31.12.2018	info@societalsecurity.net	Coordinator: ART		<a href="http://www.societalsecurity.net">www.societalsecurity.net</a>
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**Abstract:** Short film competition on societal security: The aim is to organize a pan-European short film competition amongst secondary school students on a topic related to societal security.

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**Authors:** Miriam Mir, Julia Guerin

**Contributors:** Sergio Carrera

**Reviewers:**

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## 1. Introduction

The objective of this Deliverable was to organize a pan-European short film competition amongst secondary school students with a topic related to societal security. Nonetheless, in views to the Final Conference and the importance to deliver a high-quality output, it was decided to organize a short film competition among professional movies that were already produced by **professional young film makers**.

The criteria was therefore to do the pre-selection of 10 films that were done/produced by **young promising film makers on the topic of migration, asylum and borders 'crisis' in Europe**.

From these 10 pre-selected films, 5 of them would go to a final stage where the public and a jury (consisting of stakeholder group members) would be rating the best 2 films.

Therefore, two awards would be given at the end on the occasion of the Final Conference. A **Jury award** would be given, based on the decision of the jury members and an **Audience award**, based on the votes compiled by the audience during the day of the screenings of the films.

The award ceremony took finally place during the SOURCE Final Conference (28 November 2018), which provided the perfect venue for screening the films and to have a Roundtable discussion together with the awarded film makers and members of the jury on their experience and views on ***'The Societal Challenges of Asylum and Migration in the 21st Century'***.



## 2. Preparatory stage

CEPS took on a more professional approach when developing this task in July 2018, involving experienced young filmmakers as well as two external experts in order to assist on the selection of the films.

Dr. Francesco Ragazzi (lecturer of International Relations at the Leiden University) was contacted in order to assist in this task, as CEPS already collaborated with him in similar previous occasions and he had the contacts with film makers already working on films that tackled issues of societal security.

Upon the recommendation by Dr. Ragazzi, a film critic Mr. Neil Young (working for The Hollywood Reporter, Sight & Sound, Tribune (London)) was also hired to come up with a first short list of professional films.

Thanks to the collaboration of Dr. Ragazzi and Mr. Young, CEPS ensured that the selection and output of the Film Competition would be effective, rigorous, under the timeline and professional.

CEPS carried out around 3 coordination meetings with Dr. Ragazzi and Mr. Young in addition to have a closely monitoring of the various steps in the selection of films.

Finally, on October 2018, the team came up with a short list of 10 films. From those, a total of six films were finally chosen in order to be displayed on a Cinema.

The following six films were identified:

- I DON'T WANT TO CALL IT HOME (2018, 12min) by Léa Luiz de Oliveira and Nisan Yetkin - *Selected at Edinburgh international Film Festival*;
- A DROWNING MAN (2017, 16min) by Mahdi Fleifel - *Selected at Cannes Film Festival*;
- AAMIR (2017, 17min) by Vika Edvokimenko - *Selected at Toronto International Film Festival*;
- RANIA'S ODYSSEY (2017, 22min) by Anders Hammer and Rania Ali - *Webby Award, The Guardian, The Intercept*;
- KIEM HOLIJANDA (2017, 14min) by Sarah Veltmeyer - *Selected at Berlin Film Festival*;
- KOROPA (2016, 19min), by Laura Henno - *Selected at Entrevues de Belfort*.

Films would then be awarded based on the votes of the audience as well as the members of a jury that was settled. The **Jury** consisted of stakeholder group members that would judge the films with the highest ratings and would determine a winner.

The members of the Jury were:

- **Isabelle Tollenaere**, film-maker, representing the jury
- **Claire Chevrier**, Migration Policy Group (representing a CSO)
- **Olöf Soebach**, VUB (SOURCE representative)
- **Lina Vosyliūtė**, CEPS Research Fellow (representing the hosting institution)

### 3. Organising the screening of the Films

CEPS checked the availability of various cinemas established in Brussels and actively engaged in this kind of Festivals. Finally, the Cinéma Aventure (Rue de Fripiers 57, B-1000 Brussels) in Brussels allowed for screening the selected Films in their premises.

As the location of this Cinema is at the heart of Brussels, it facilitated the attendance and visibility of the Short Film Competition.

The public séance of the Films at the Cinema Aventure was widely disseminated via the [SOURCE Facebook page](#) (more than 180 persons interested in the event) as well as on Twitter, counting also with the assistance of the Network partners to expand its visibility among their contacts.

The Short Film Competition was organized on **7 November 2018 from 18:30 to 20:30**. It counted with a participation of more than 55 persons.

The event was introduced by Miriam Mir (CEPS) and Francesco Ragazzi (University of Leiden) who welcomed and explained the audience about the mechanism of the event, how to proceed with the votes, its outcome and introduced the Films displayed.

All the members of the jury were present during the screening of the Films. Furthermore, Rania Ali one of the protagonists and film maker of the Film 'ESCAPE FROM SYRIA: RANIA'S ODYSSEY' also assisted to the event and had the opportunity to interact with the members of the audience.

All the participants in the screening were handed a paper with the list of the selected movies. Once all the movies were screened, the participants had to choose and mark in the paper their best movie (marking just one option). Their vote was compiled in a sealed box.

Once the event was concluded, the members of the jury met separately in order to discuss their views on the films and their preference. The jury voted almost unanimously for **KOROPA**, stressing its quality and the angle on how the film was approaching the perspective of smugglers from North Africa. The story of KOROPA focuses on how a minor is being trained and explained on how to smuggle migrants on a motorboat.

On the other side the organizers, also once the event was concluded, proceeded with the counting of the votes by the public. A majority of the votes (around 42) made '**ESCAPE FROM SYRIA: RANIA'S ODYSSEY**' the winner for the public award. This Film shows the travel and various events that took place during the hard travel that Rania Ali undertook when she decided to leave Syria to reach Europe, in particular until she reached Austria.

Once the decisions were taken, CEPS informed the film makers of both movies awarded, as well as those that were not selected, about the results.

Therefore, the film makers of KOROPA (Laura Henno) and ESCAPE FROM SYRIA (Anders Hammer and Rania Ali) were invited to the SOURCE Final Conference and were communicated the award of an economic contribution.



#### 4. Roundtable Discussion and award ceremony

On the occasion of the SOURCE Final Conference, a special panel was organized in order to allow the public to see the awarded films and to have a brief discussion with the selected film makers.

During this event, the selected film makers could also receive their awards and have some words about their experiences when preparing the movies.

The event was introduced by **Eyal Sivan** (Netherlands Film Academy) and was moderated by **Neil Young** and **Francesco Ragazzi**.

The Roundtable was structured as following:

- **Film screenings of the two winners**
  - Public award – ‘**Escape from Syria: Rania’s Odyssey**’ (22min)
  - Jury award – ‘**Koropa**’ (20min)

- **Award ceremony**

*Moderator:* **Neil Young**, Film critic and reporter

- **Lina Vosyliūtė**, CEPS Research Fellow

- **Isabelle Tollenaere**, film-maker

- **Roundtable discussion, with Q&A from the audience**

*Moderators:* **Francesco Ragazzi**, Leiden University and **Neil Young**, Film critic

- **Eyal Sivan**, Netherlands Film Academy

- **Isabelle Tollenaere**, film-maker, representing the jury

- **Claire Chevrier**, Migration Policy Group

- **Olof Soebch**, VUB and SOURCE representative

- **Anders Hammer**, co-director of ‘Escape from Syria: Rania’s Odyssey’ with Rania Ali

- **Laura Henno**, director of ‘Koropa’

This event allowed for concluding the overall Final Conference in a more visual manner, making use of a different tool that allowed at presenting certain situations of societal security through the views of those actors at stake.

Furthermore, the organization of the Film Competition also generated a wider visibility of the SOURCE Network, approaching a complete new audience and making awareness of the Network’s results.

## Annex 1. Brochure of the Screening



## SHORT FILM COMPETITION

### ‘THE SOCIETAL CHALLENGES OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY’



**Cinéma Aventure**  
**Rue des Fripiers 57, 1000 Brussels**  
**7 November 2018, 18:30 - 20:30**



### CONTEXT

How does it feel to **leave home** because life is not bearable anymore? How do the **travel, the arrival and the consequences** of the decision to flee impact the rest of your life? Through the eyes of **young and talented filmmakers** from all over Europe, this short film selection offers an **intimate journey** beyond the usual news images of migrants and their plight.

**CEPS** – a Brussels-based leading think-tank on European policies – is organising a **short film screening** within the context of the **SOURCE project** – Network of Excellence, funded by the European Union’s Seventh Framework.

### WHICH FILMS?

- **I DON'T WANT TO CALL IT HOME** (2018, 12min) by Léa Luiz de Oliveira and Nisan Yetkin - *Selected at Edinburgh International Film Festival.*
- **A DROWNING MAN** (2017, 16min) by Mahdi Fleifel - *Selected at Cannes Film Festival.*
- **AAMIR** (2017, 17min) by Vika Edvokimenko - *Selected at Toronto International Film Festival.*
- **ESCAPE FROM SYRIA: RANIA'S ODYSSEY** (2017, 22min) by Anders Hammer - *Webby Award, The Guardian, The Intercept.*
- **KIEM HOLIJANDA** (2017, 14min) by Sarah Veltmeyer - *Selected at Berlin Film Festival.*
- **KOROPA** (2016, 19min), by Laura Henno - *Selected at Entrevues de Belfort.*

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 1 Watch the **6 shortlisted films**
- 2 Vote for your **favourite film**
- 3 Two awards will be given for the finalists: a **‘public award’** and a **‘jury award’**

### JOIN US

**Free Entrance**  
**When:** 7 November 2018, 18.30 – 20.30  
**Where:** Cinéma Aventure

**Visit our website at**  
[www.societalsecurity.net](http://www.societalsecurity.net) and follow us  
 on [Facebook](#)





## Annex 2. Programme Roundtable Discussion

Societal  
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### SOURCE Societal Security Conference

#### Responding to societal needs through security policy

28 November, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels

#### Roundtable discussion & Screening of films awarded:

#### **'The Societal Challenges of Asylum and Migration in the 21st Century'**

- 16:30 - 16:45 **Introduction**: filmmaking, research and policy-making, what relations?  
**Eyal Sivan**, Filmmaker and Lecturer, Netherlands Film Academy.
- 16:50 - 17:30 **Film screenings of the two winners**
  - Public award – **'Escape from Syria : Rania's Odyssey'** (22min)
  - Jury award – **'Koropa'** (20min)
- 17:30 - 17:40 **Award ceremony**  
*Moderator: Neil Young*, Film critic and reporter
  - **Lina Vosyliūtė**, CEPS Research Fellow
  - **Isabelle Tollenaere**, film-maker
- 17:40 - 18:15 **Roundtable discussion, with Q&A from the audience**  
*Moderators: Francesco Ragazzi*, Leiden University and **Neil Young**, Film critic
  - **Eyal Sivan**, Netherlands Film Academy
  - **Isabelle Tollenaere**, film-maker, representing the jury
  - **Claire Chevrier**, Migration Policy Group
  - **Olof Soebach**, VUB and SOURCE representative
  - **Anders Hammer**, co-director of 'Escape from Syria : Rania's Odyssey' with Rania Ali
  - **Laura Henno**, director of 'Koropa'
- 18:15 **Cocktail reception**