

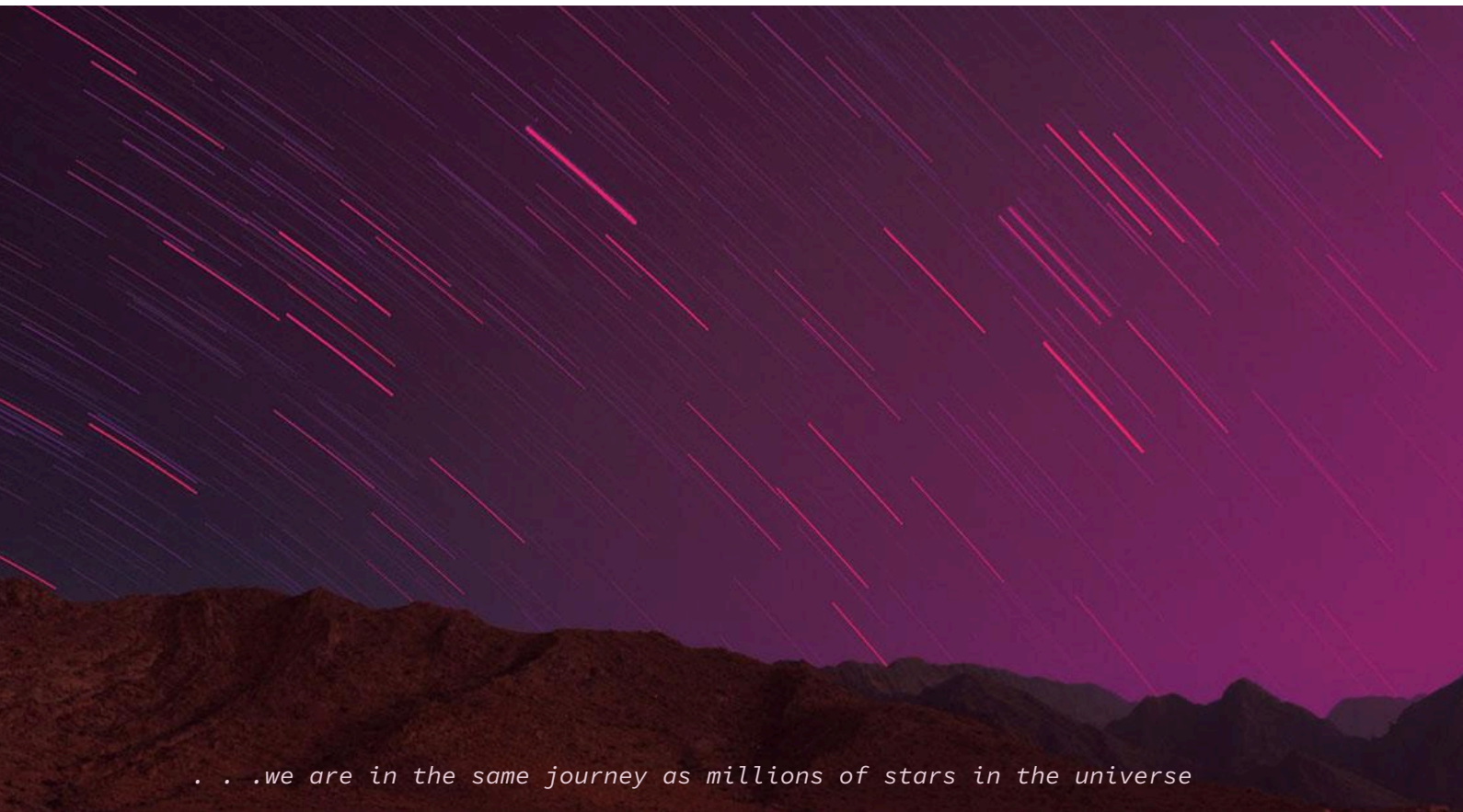


GO-GO QISETNA

An insight to our organization



We like to look at our world from a different perspective...



. . .we are in the same journey as millions of stars in the universe

Why Are We Qisetna?

Qisetna (pronounced *qee-set-na*) means 'our story' in Arabic. In 2013 -yes, more than ten years ago-, a small group of creatives started what has become one of the most innovative initiatives that tirelessly work on engaging with communities and individuals impacted by displacement and war.

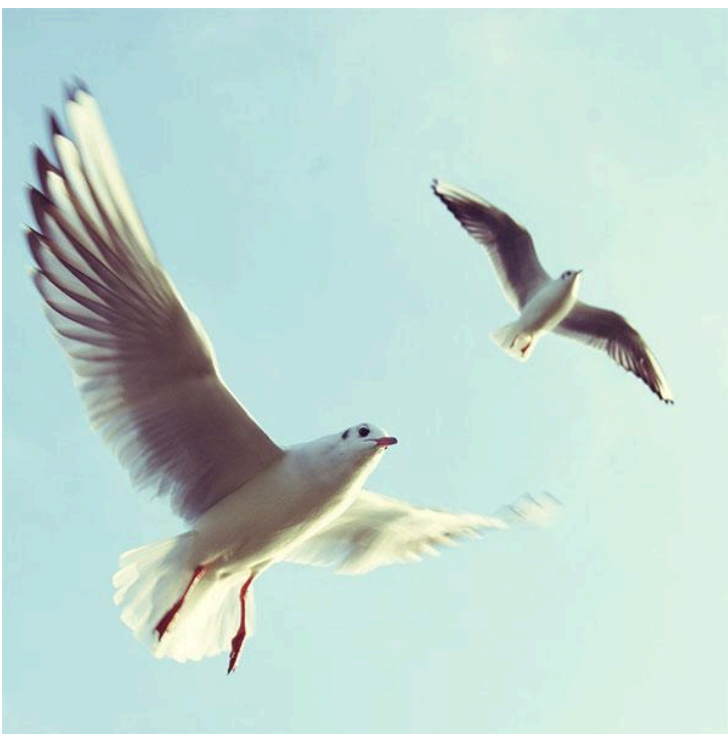
"An archive at its best that not only preserves voices of displaced and fractured communities for the future but also acts as an engine of community resilience in the present"

[-Communities Archives & Heritage Group](#)

Certainly it has been an extraordinary journey supported by an outstanding culturally diverse collective of volunteers, artists, writers, designers, translators, who with the generosity and enthusiasm helped Qisetna become an inspiration for many other organisations across the world.



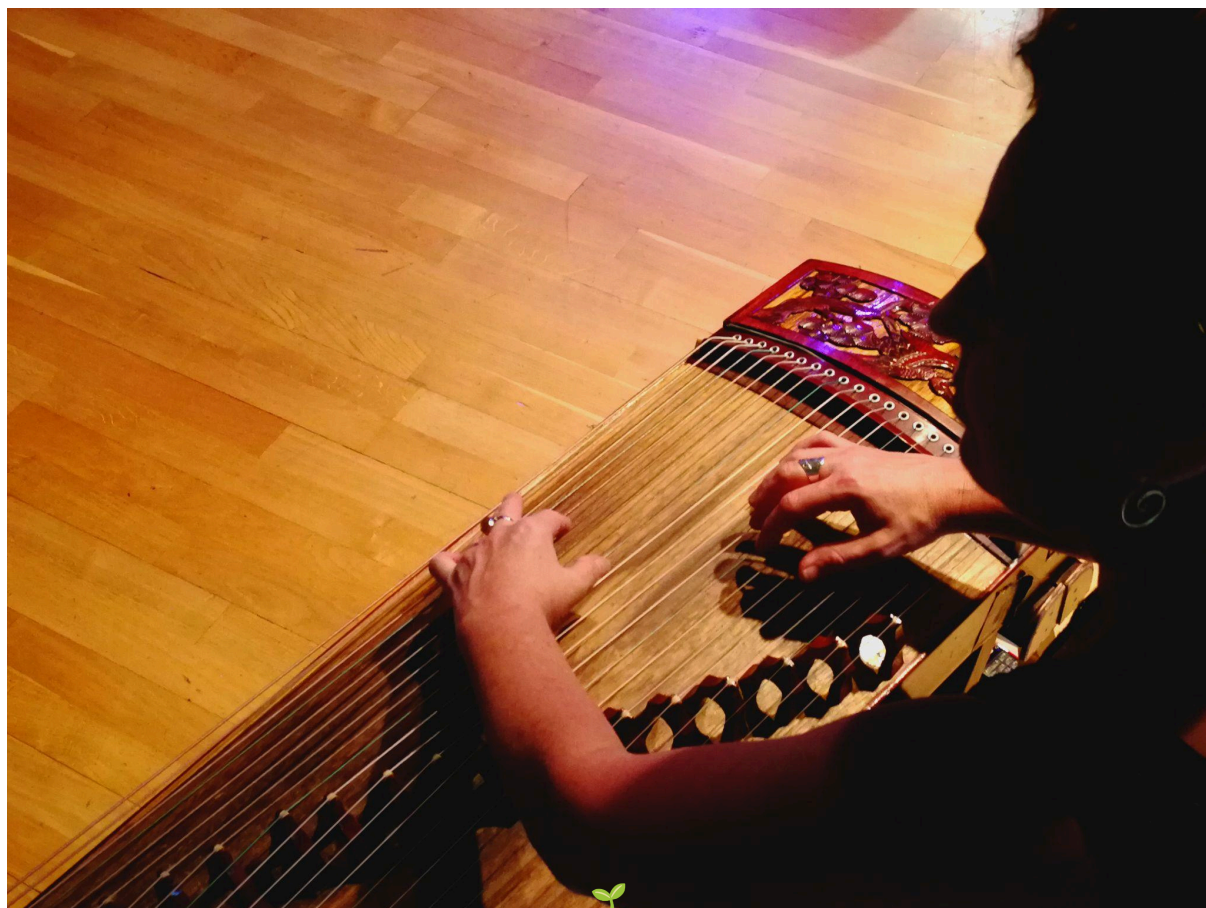
www.qisetna.com



We are a [LIVING Archive](#) and we love stories; we are profoundly driven to document them in any way we can, using an inclusive and respectful methodology with the intention of preserving the fragility of the intangible heritage - songs, proverbs, memories.. - at [risk of disappearing](#), for the generations to come.



Qisetna's storytelling workshops for young people in Turkey, Sweden, and the UK to share culture and build community. As a valuable contribution to research and advocacy, Qisetna has been involved in projects like UNESCO's Unite4Heritage, Beyond the Now, and its own research initiatives.



Qisetna has focused on preserving the intangible heritage elements:

Oral Heritage: Documenting the traditional practices of Syrian communities, particularly the art of hakawati (storyteller). This intangible heritage has been impacted by conflict and displacement.

Music: Recording and sharing their music, including traditional and contemporary pieces. Through projects like the transcultural community-led [Return to Tenderness](#), young people reconnected with their music heritage at risk as many musicians were forced to flee their homes and music instruments were destroyed.



Cultural narratives: Aiming to reframe the narratives of those displaced by conflict, promoting stories of resilience and cultural identity, and providing a platform for individuals to share their stories and connect with their cultural heritage.



The impact of conflict and displacement on these intangible heritage elements is multifaceted:

Loss of cultural practitioners: Many traditional storytellers, musicians and cultural producers have been forced to flee or were killed, leading to a loss of cultural knowledge and skills.

Disruption of cultural and artistic practices: Conflict and displacement have disrupted the transmission of cultural knowledge and artistic practices from one generation to the next, threatening the long-term preservation of intangible heritage.

Trauma & Cultural erasure: The trauma caused by conflict has led to a sense of cultural erasure, as individuals and communities struggle to maintain their cultural identity and practices in the face of displacement and exile.



Digital preservation: Qisetna's digital platforms and archives aim to mitigate these impacts by providing a safe space for cultural expression and preservation, ensuring that intangible heritage is protected for future generations.

Further information:

- [Routed Magazine](#)
- [Archivoz](#) (part 1 & 2)
- [Al-Fanar](#)

