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Anna Lindh Foundation
Bringing people together for a
common Mediterranean future

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“The dialogue between cultures is our roadmap. It is the way the Anna Lindh Foundation works to rebuild trust in shared values and to allow the people of the Region to reclaim their common destiny”

André Azoulay

President of the Anna Lindh Foundation





ABOUT US

The Anna Lindh Foundation is an institution shared by the forty-three countries of the Union for the Mediterranean



OUR MANDATE

The purpose of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) is to bring people together from across the Mediterranean to improve mutual respect between cultures and to support civil society working for a common future of the Region.

Since its launch in 2005, the ALF has launched and supported action across fields impacting on mutual perceptions among people of different cultures and beliefs, as well as developing a region-wide Network of over 3000 civil society organisations.

Through its action and reflection, the ALF aims to contribute to the development of an Intercultural Strategy for the Euro-Mediterranean Region, providing recommendations to decision-makers and institutions and advocating for shared values.

FORGING MUTUAL RESPECT

The main scope of the ALF is overcoming the misunderstandings and stereotypes which affect relations between and within the societies of the Region, a task which became of utmost importance in the last decade.

As a contribution to the creation of a space of prosperity, coexistence and peace, the ALF works to restore trust in dialogue and bridge the gaps in mutual perceptions, as well as promoting diversity and coexistence.

THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Established in 1995, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was relaunched in July 2008 as the ambitious challenge of a 'Union for the Mediterranean' at the Paris Summit of the 43 Heads of State or Government.

Within this partnership, which is co-chaired by a European country and a partner country of the southern or eastern shore of the Mediterranean, the ALF is the central actor for its human and social dimension.



OUR PROGRAMME

The ALF facilitates and supports the action of civil society of the Euro-Mediterranean Region in priority fields which affects the capacity for individuals and groups to share values and live together.

The Foundation's programme is focused on activities in fields which are essential for human and social dialogue: Education and Youth; Culture and Arts; Peace and Co-existence; Values, Religion and Spirituality; Cities and Migration; Media. Aware of the necessity of a scientific and social assessment on the challenges of intercultural dialogue in the Union for the Mediterranean, the ALF also assumes a monitoring task on the evolution of values and intercultural trends in the Region.

FACILITATING ACTIONS IN THE FIELD

In each of its priority fields, the Foundation develops large-scale programmes in collaboration with international partners, and grants support for projects which bring together members of its 43 Civil Society Networks through its open Calls for Proposals.

The Foundation also facilitates the development of common actions and projects between its members at the national or regional level, and supports local activities aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue between people at the grass-root level.

LAUNCHING REGION-WIDE CAMPAIGNS

The ALF launches region-wide initiatives involving its Networks in the model of "1001 Actions for Dialogue" (2008) and "Restore the Trust, Rebuild Bridges" (2009), as well as gathering more than 700 people in Barcelona for the very first Anna Lindh Forum (2010).

Long-term international and regional partners of the ALF include the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO, EMUNI and the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.



OUR NETWORKS

The ALF runs the largest and most diverse Network of civil society organisations involved in the promotion of intercultural dialogue across the Mediterranean.

From its very beginning, the ALF was conceived as a Network of National Networks, established in each of the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean and bringing together more than 3000 civil society organisations who share the values of the Foundation.

Each Network is headed by an institution or civil society organization who takes part in the development and implementation of the Foundation's programme.

JOINING THE ANNA LINDH

Civil society and groups working in one of the 43 Union for the Mediterranean countries have the possibility to apply through the ALF website to become a member of the National Network in the country where they operate.

Membership of the Network entitles them to have access to partners around the Region and to apply to take part in the ALF activities and grant schemes for local and transnational projects, as well as shaping the work at the national level.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

The Anna Lindh Network is a meeting point of many hundreds of civil society groups, non-governmental organisations and institutions in search of partners and friends in other Euro-Mediterranean countries.

Partnership is developed through the information provided by the Anna Lindh website portal, the participation in training seminars and in regional and thematic meetings, and the development of projects through the grant schemes.



PRIORITY FIELDS OF ACTION

The Anna Lindh Foundation's programme focuses on fields which impact on mutual perceptions across the Mediterranean



LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY

In the field of education and youth our priorities are:

- Developing pedagogical resources on how to manage religious diversity in schools and training Euro-Med teachers on how to use these tools
- Delivering regional training seminars for teachers on how to manage cultural diversity in the classroom
- Supporting youth-led initiatives at the Regional level, and coordinating with key regional actors working on intercultural learning and youth
- Supporting research and academic work on issues related to Mediterranean identity and intercultural dialogue

'It is our perspective which often locks the others in their narrowest affiliation, and it is our perspective as well which can set them free'

Amin Maalouf

INTERCULTURAL LEARNING

Through its education work, the ALF has developed a new resource entitled 'How to cope with diversity at schools', published in French, English and Arabic, which enables young learners to discover and appreciate the diverse cultures, traditions and beliefs of the Region.

One of the outputs of this process has been the consolidation of a region-wide network of teachers which has facilitated an exchange of good practice as well as allowing them to join training programmes run by partners such as the Council for Europe.

YOUTH ENCOUNTERS

Since its creation, the ALF has set out to promote and facilitate the coordination among different actors from the youth sector in order to develop complementary programmes on intercultural dialogue, including conflict resolution and human rights education.

Youth programmes being developed include the creation of a mobility fund to facilitate the circulation of youth leaders around the Region as well as targeted capacity-building seminars for young multipliers working for intercultural dialogue such as bloggers.



FOSTERING CULTURAL CREATIVITY AND MOBILITY

In the field of culture and arts our priorities are:

- Facilitating joint productions between artists and cultural groups from the two shores of the Mediterranean
- Promoting translation as a key element for improving mutual understanding and in support of partnership-building
- Developing regional programmes aimed at supporting the access to literature and story-telling by and for young people
- Building the capacity of trans-cultural leaders to develop their productions with an intercultural approach

‘We recommend that culture becomes, in the shortest possible delay, the key tool to support the emergence of a common sense of belonging in the Mediterranean Region’

The ‘Groupe des Sages’ of the Anna Lindh Foundation

ARTISTIC EXCHANGE

The ALF has been involved in organising major cultural events, from the region-wide ‘Euro-Med Dialogue Night’ (2008) to the Palestinian Theatre Festival (2009), as well as the Alexandrian festival ‘Farah Al Bahr’ and an annual collaboration on the ‘Babel Med Music’ Festival.

Through its Call for Proposals, the ALF has also supported artistic mobility and joint cultural productions across the Mediterranean as well as launching the ‘Cross-Border Arts Project’ in Lebanon, Palestine and Israel with regional artists.

LITERATURE ACROSS BORDERS

One of the ALF’s most significant regional approaches for cultural dialogue has been the Arab Children Literature Programme which has been carried out in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria with the support of the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA).

The ALF has also launched, in partnership with the European Institute of the Mediterranean, the ‘Sea of Words’ short stories contest, with the participation of hundreds of young writers from across the Region.

VALUING HUMAN DIVERSITY IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

In the field of cities and migration our priorities are:

- Creating spaces for expression and social participation in urban contexts
- Facilitating the development of transnational civil society actions focused on the role of migrants as bridges for intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Med Region
- Funding local actions of the ALF's National Networks on issues related to migration
- Emphasizing the positive role of individuals with migrant backgrounds in plural societies and challenging stereotypes

VALUING CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

In the field of inter-religious dialogue our priorities are:

- Encouraging the role of civil society actors coming from different cultures and beliefs to cultivate the value of diversity
- Making available new tools for teaching and learning about religious diversity through capacity-building and networking
- Creating opportunities for encounter by co-organising gatherings with religious actors and secular groups
- Supporting the development of common actions for human and social development in the Region

RESTORING TRUST AND REBUILDING BRIDGES

In the field of peace and coexistence our priorities are:

- Revitalizing human and cultural confidence within difficult contexts and contributing to sustaining a culture of peace
- Supporting civil society across the Mediterranean through common initiatives for coexistence at the local and regional level
- Organising and supporting cultural events and artistic initiatives with the aim of bringing diverse communities together
- Launching a follow-up phase of the 'Restore Trust, Rebuild Bridges Initiative', with a broader scope in relation to different contexts of conflict in the Region

ENGAGING MEDIA IN CROSSCULTURAL REPORTING

In the field of media our priorities are:

- Making possible national and regional debates between media, academic experts and civil society on intercultural issues
- Supporting joint reporting initiatives involving media practitioners from the two shores of the Mediterranean
- Developing a Rapid Response Media Mechanism with the UN Alliance of Civilisations and the European Commission
- Raising the visibility and recognition of the positive work of journalists in reporting across cultures and on issues of cultural diversity



REPORT ON INTERCULTURAL TRENDS

The Anna Lindh Foundation analyses the evolution of intercultural trends and values in the Euro-Mediterranean Region



REPORT ON EUROMED INTERCULTURAL TRENDS

Since its conception, the development of the Anna Lindh Report has been a collective exercise of intercultural participation, involving leading experts and social practitioners from across the Mediterranean

In order to better understand the challenges of human and cultural relations in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, the Anna Lindh Foundation monitors and analyses intercultural trends and values, providing proposals and recommendations for their rapprochement.

A TOOL FOR KNOWLEDGE

The Anna Lindh Report is an instrument for scientific knowledge, combining a Survey carried out in a sample of countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Region on individual values and perceptions of the other, with a wide range of analysis by a group of renowned experts.

The experts involved in the Report come from different countries and from different disciplines, providing an in-depth insight into intercultural issues.

Each Anna Lindh Report includes a thematic focus on one topic relevant to the shaping of mutual perceptions across the two shores of the Mediterranean, with 'The Role of Media' forming the theme of the first edition of the Anna Lindh Report.

A TOOL FOR ACTION

First and foremost, the Report is a tool to provide the Foundation and its Networks with an understanding of the obstacles which need to be overcome in order to improve intercultural relations, and the opportunities which can be leveraged to develop a common project based on shared values.

The Report is also a tool in the hands of policy-makers and opinion-leaders, providing data, proposals and inputs for the intercultural dialogue agenda.

In addition to the recommendations for action, the content of the Report forms the basis of a programme of debates carried out in collaboration with academic partners and the Anna Lindh Networks, and involving media practitioners and social leaders.



RESOURCES & SUPPORT

The Anna Lindh Foundation provides support to civil society through award programmes, grant schemes and communication tools



ENCOURAGING INTERCULTURAL COMMITMENT

For the first time in 2009, more than three hundred members of the Anna Lindh National Civil Society Networks participated in the online vote to elect the winners of the Euro-Mediterranean Award for Dialogue between Cultures

The Anna Lindh Foundation raises the visibility of actors for intercultural dialogue through a series of regional Award schemes.

Since 2006, the Foundation has launched with regional partners five editions of the 'Euro-Med Award for Dialogue between Cultures' and four editions of the 'Anna Lindh Mediterranean Journalist Award for Reporting Across Cultures'.

The Foundation has also partnered in the development of new award initiatives including the 'Plural +' youth video competition on migration and diversity, and the 'Sea of Words' story-telling prize involving young people across the Region.

AWARD FOR DIALOGUE

The Euro-Med Award for Dialogue is an annual prize in recognition of the achievements of institutions and individuals working for the promotion of intercultural understanding, with a thematic focus announced each year.

Voted upon by the members of the ALF National Networks, former winners include: Combatants for Peace (Israel/Palestine), Rima Maroun (Lebanon), Rodi Kratsa (Greece), Jan Willems –Theatre Day Productions (Netherland/Palestine), Deir Mar Musa Monastery (Syria).

JOURNALIST AWARD

Established in 2006, the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Journalist Award is the leading regional prize for journalists and media practitioners reporting across cultures and on issues of cultural diversity.

With an international jury chaired by the Lebanese writer Amin Maalouf, and an annual prize ceremony hosted in the Principality of Monaco, the award has been bestowed to journalists from Egypt, Italy, Austria, France, Spain, Israel, Belgium, Slovenia, Turkey, the UK.



GRANT SCHEMES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

One of the ways the ALF fulfills its mission is providing grants to civil society organisations through an open Call for Proposals.

Aiming to select the best initiatives, the Calls for Proposals are focused on the ALF priority fields, granting financial support for transnational projects developed by civil society and NGOs across the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Between 2006 and 2009, the Foundation provided over 300 grants, financing activities in over forty countries, ranging from long-term projects across different fields to micro-grants for locally-based intercultural initiatives.

Through the 2009 to 2011 triennial programme, the Anna Lindh Foundation has awarded over three hundred projects, including the launch of '21 long-term programmes' involving partners on the two shores of the Mediterranean

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS

Cross-network initiatives have been developed by the ALF headquarters in partnership with the National Networks, in addition to the development of regional workshops with Network Members on the ALF priority fields of action.

Regional workshops, projects and events are organized in this framework, aiming at involving the largest number of Networks in these transnational activities.

NETWORK SUPPORT

The ALF offers financial and technical support to the Heads of National Network Institutions in order to allow them to effectively coordinate their own Networks and mobilise the action of their Members.

With the support and facilitation of the Headquarters, the Networks develop common actions at the national and regional level involving different member organisations.



WEBSITE & COMMUNICATION

The Anna Lindh Foundation publishes the latest, up-to-date information on its website and communicates regularly to its region-wide network of journalists and editors based across the forty-three countries of the Union for the Mediterranean

The communication policy of the Foundation is based on freedom of speech, pluralism of points of view and respect for different opinions.

As a primary tool for external communication, the Anna Lindh website portal (www.euromedalex.org) is an open platform presented in English, French and Arabic language, which provides access to information and analysis on intercultural issues, as well as networking and resource tools for civil society.

The portal also operates as an internal management tool for the National Networks, facilitating the sharing of knowledge between civil society member organisations and providing a space for project management at the transnational level.

CULTURE OF COMMUNICATION

With the aim of ensuring communication is at the heart of programming processes, the ALF coordinates national and regional communication seminars with project leaders and representatives of its Networks.

The regional seminars involve media and communication experts and focus on offering support to civil society organisations on areas including communication planning, press engagement and new media tools.

DISSEMINATING INFORMATION

Acting as a centre of information for its press and media network, as well as its national and regional civil society partners, the ALF gives visibility to the activities and opportunities of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The ALF also regularly publishes booklets and publications on activities for intercultural dialogue and organizes media events aimed at amplifying the impact of its initiatives at the national and regional level.



VALUES & GOVERNANCE

The values of the Foundation
inspire its work across the Euro-
Mediterranean civil societies



OUR VALUES

The values of the Anna Lindh Foundation are those adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership from the Barcelona Declaration to the Paris Summit: acceptance of pluralism and cultural diversity, mutual respect between societies, religions and beliefs, acknowledgment of rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

Those values inspire the work of the Foundation within the civil society and the collaboration with its partners at the national and regional level, as well as the relations between its members and the relation of the Headquarters with the Networks.

The countries which form the Union for the Mediterranean, whose Heads of State or Government were co-signatories of the Paris Declaration for the Mediterranean, are:

Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom.



OUR GOVERNANCE

Co-financed by the forty-three countries of the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Commission, the ALF is ruled by a Board of Governors composed by representatives of those countries. The Board, which is chaired by Veronika Stabej (Slovenia) and has a Deputy Chair in Mohamed Mahjoub (Tunisia), is responsible for approving the ALF programme and budget. The President of the Foundation is André Azoulay (Morocco) and the Executive Director is Andreu Claret (Spain).

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is comprised of scholars and experts from 18 countries: Besnik Mustafaj, Aïcha Kassoul, Nevine Simaika Halim, Ron Barkai, Rowaida Al-Ma'aitah, Antoine Nasri Messarra, Taleb Mahmoud Omran, Mohamed Mahjoub, Ayse Sumru Noyan, Heidi Dumreicher, Eduard Gombàr, Tuomo Melasuo, Caroline Fourest, Aliko Moschis-Gauguet, Lucio Guerrato, Karina Petersone, Nevenka Koprivsek, Sara Silvestri.

THE HEADS OF NETWORK

The Heads of Network are institutions and civil society organisations working at the national level for the promotion of intercultural dialogue. Through an annual meeting, as well as ongoing consultations from the Headquarters, the 43 Heads of National Networks participate in the development of the programme of the Foundation.

OUR STAFF

The multicultural staff of the Foundation works at the ALF Headquarters in Alexandria (Egypt).

CONTACT

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The Anna Lindh Foundation is co-financed by the European Union