

10th INTERNATIONAL SHORT STORY
CONTEST

A SEA OF WORDS

Youths, Stereotypes and Radicalisation

Organised by



Introduction

We are celebrating the 10th year of the literary contest "A Sea of Words", organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Anna Lindh Foundation, under the motto **"Youths, Stereotypes and Radicalisation"**. This year's theme seeks to give youths (18 to 30 years old) the opportunity to explain their experiences related to how they see themselves and how society imposes a series of stereotypes on them. Since the Arab Springs, youths have achieved a more significant role and visibility in the media, blogs or social networks. Meanwhile, the economic crisis marginalises youths and contributes to their anonymity. Youths are seen through stereotypes and dualism: either as innovative people and better trained than ever or as people easy to manipulate through the social networks.

Short stories are a highly valuable tool because they enable us to explore our deepest beliefs and experiences. The literary message can provide a personal, historical and anthropological view of the complexity of the human soul, and bring similar experiences from diverse origins closer.

Objectives

"A Sea of Words" is aimed at the production of short stories **focused on building a joint future of shared values based on real or fictional experiences** to showcase the diverse social sensitivities and realities in the Euro-Mediterranean region from the point of view of the young people who live there.

Moreover, this initiative seeks to foster cooperative relations within Euro-Mediterranean civil society and encourage the creation of spaces of debate with the citizens, to stimulate **the active participation of society in mutual awareness and the exchange of experiences.**

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Foster young literary production to promote knowledge of the environments and political, social, cultural and economic complexities of the Mediterranean and European countries.
- Create meeting points to foster debate.
- Share values, projects and ways of working.
- Enhance the links between the national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

General characteristics

Call for the submission of short stories by authors from the 43 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area through the national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

General conditions of the call:

- People aged 18 to 30 on the date of the deadline for submission of texts.
- The stories must be original and can be written in any of the official languages of the 43 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- The stories must not exceed 2,500 words.
- The texts can be submitted individually or in groups.

The authors of the 15 best stories selected by an international jury will be invited to participate in the following activities:

- Awards presentation ceremony in the city of Barcelona (17 October 2017)

- Writing workshop to improve the capacities of literary expression led by outstanding experts in the field (18 October 2017)
- Cultural visit to a Spanish city noted for its interculturalism (19 October 2017)
- Coinciding with the 10th year of the contest three winners from past years who have achieved success in the literary world will be invited to participate in these activities.

The stories selected will be published in a book in digital format with the texts in the original language and their corresponding English translation (December 2017).

The organisation will cover all the travel, visa, meals and accommodation expenses derived from the previously detailed activities.

Schedule

1. Call for stories and national selection

(24 March - 24 May 2017)

The European Institute of the Mediterranean, in collaboration with the ALF, launches on 24 March 2017 the new call for "A Sea of Words" among the organisations comprising the 44 national networks. The IEMed will

complement this call through other networks in which it participates.

Deadline for submission of original works, in any of the official languages of the Euro-Mediterranean countries, is **24 May**. The texts will be classified by country of origin of the author and sent to the coordinators of the national networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation, who will establish a national jury in each country. National juries will have one month to assess the quality of the stories submitted by the participants of their country, select the best 5 and send them to the international jury.

2. International selection of stories (10 July - 14 August 2017)

An international jury will assess the works pre-selected by the national juries and will have one month, from **10 July 2017**, to select the best stories. The international jury will select the authors of the 15 best stories. From these, the jury will select the 3 winners of the contest. The outright winner will be invited to form part of the international jury in the next contest.

The jury will take into account both the literary quality of the stories and the personal experiences narrated linked

to participation in civil society, volunteering, social action, and so on.

The stories from past years are available on the following link:

<http://www.iemed.org/results?q=sea%20of%20words>.

The stories must be sent to the following address:

concurso@iemed.org