



The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Forum 2016

draft Concept and Programme

The Maltese Presidency of the European Council, from January to June 2017, provides a unique occasion to put Mediterranean Dialogue at the top of the EU and Euro-Mediterranean policy agenda. The organization of the Forum in Malta represents an opportunity to build on Malta's strategic location as meeting point and mediator, and to reinforce the intercultural dialogue approach in the face of regional socio-cultural challenges. The implementation of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy, as a key feature of the Presidency, will also provide a policy focus for actors across the region.

Following on the success of the previous two forums in Barcelona (2010) and Marseille (2013), the third Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Forum will take place from 24-25 October 2016, in Valetta, the UNESCO World Heritage City that has also been designated European Capital of Culture for 2018 at the *Mediterranean Conference Centre*.

The Forum will bring together representatives from all 42 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), including civil society organisations, youth associations, regional institutions, media bodies, donor agencies and foundations.

Building on previous experience

"The Anna Lindh Forum has been a great success at this historic moment for building a union across the Mediterranean. The re-launching of Euro-Med Dialogue must centre on the mobilisation of civil society and citizens for the Mediterranean" - President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, speaking at the opening of the first Summit of Heads of Parliament of the Union for the Mediterranean (Marseille, 2013).

The first two editions of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum resulted in an unprecedented level of civil society engagement and networking in the UfM space. More than 3,400 representatives from across 56 countries took part in the preparation process for both Barcelona and Marseille, with measurable outputs in terms of "partnerships" (more than 500 reported) and new "North/South projects". At the same time, the global assessment identified the potential for increased institutional impact, having in mind in particular the Mediterranean Forum's unique

capacity to bring together all the major players for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and act as a bridge between civil society and political leaders.

Purpose of the Anna Lindh Forum 2016

The Euro-Mediterranean region is facing a series of challenges which affect the life of its citizens and that can have important consequences for the future generations if they are not timely tackled and through a multi-faced approach. The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Forum 2016 offers a unique platform for civil society actors, national and regional institutional representatives to learn from practices, to promote partnerships and to advocate for policy and operational measures to respond to the current socio-cultural challenges that the societies of the two shores of the Mediterranean are facing.

People to people dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region is a powerful tool that can be supported by grass-root organisations, governments, national and regional institutions and offer solutions to economic problems, gender inequalities, environmental challenges, mobility barriers and social conflict. With this in mind, the Anna Lindh Forum will allow civil society and institutional participants to define in which way intercultural dialogue can lead to a more sustainable future, more gender equality, more cross-cultural understanding and knowledge, more employment opportunities and more mobility across and within the Euro-Mediterranean societies.

Taking into consideration that the young generations are the social actors of tomorrow and those who could most benefit from a consolidated vision for intercultural dialogue in the region or suffer from its absence, the discussion and inputs generated during the Forum will be mainly address this target group.

Specific objectives:

- To create an intercultural space for networking reinforcement and durable partnership building among Euromed civil society representatives to propose concrete responses to the socio-cultural challenges facing the Euromed region
- To develop recommendations linked to intercultural dialogue for the implementation plans of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the new horizon for the Union for the Mediterranean policy, as well as provide inputs for programming priorities of the Maltese Presidency of the European Council
- To provide inputs for the ALF and other regional partners programme (ex: UNESCO, CoE, LAS) for the establishment of sustainable intercultural programmes with the perspective of 2025.
- To raise awareness and visibility on the importance intercultural dialogue as a long term strategy response to regional challenges

Main themes of discussion

The Forum will focus on looking towards a new horizon of people-to-people cooperation around the Mediterranean based on a set common of values and putting intercultural dialogue as the main the tool for this cooperation and to respond to the main regional socio-cultural challenges. More detailed topics of discussion for the participants will be Intercultural dialogue for:

- (more) **cross-cultural understanding**, building a Mediterranean community with shared values and based on mutual knowledge
- (more) **gender empowerment**, underlining the central role of women as actors for dialogue and identifying ways to make this role more visible and sustainable
- a (more) **sustainable future with increased opportunities for young people** in terms of social participation and entrepreneurship and identifying shared approaches for regional environmental challenges
- (more) **interaction and exchanges across the Mediterranean**, taking into consideration social dynamics of integration, acceptance of cultural diversity within the societies of the region, exchanges of experiences and know-how

Core event structure

The Forum is to be structured around three main formats for exchanges and debates **Agora, Medina, Closing session**:

Agora: In the morning of 24 and 25 October, participants will be able to share their reflections on the main challenges affecting the Euromed region and potential political and operational ways to address them during **two plenary debates** (on both days from 9h30 to 1h00 am) and during **4 parallel working-group discussions** (on both days from 11h30 to 13h00).

Intercultural fair: In the afternoon of 24 October, participants will gather in an intercultural fair to **present their practices, build partnerships** around current and future actions and **identify potential donors** and supporters to their actions through flexible and innovative networking methodologies.

Conclusion Closing session: in the afternoon of 25 October, the main conclusions of the Agora and Medina sessions will be presented in the form of:

- **An Intercultural Road Map** with policy and programming proposals
- **A Coalition of Dialogue Actions and Partnerships** with the indication of new projects and partnerships developed and potential sources of support identified to face major challenges affecting the Euro-Mediterranean region (outcomes of the Medina sessions).

Programme at a Glance

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER	MONDAY 24 OCTOBER	TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER	WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER
ARRIVALS	"AGORA" STRATEGIC DEBATES (9.30AM – 1PM)		
	9.30AM – 11PM OPENING PLENARY DEBATE INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AS A POWERFUL RESPONSE TO SOCIO CULTURAL CHALLENGES	9.30AM – 1PM PLENARY DEBATE A SHARED PROGRAMMING FOR DIALOGUE IN THE EUROMED	DEPARTURES OF PARTICIPANTS
	11.00 AM – 11.30 AM COFFEE BREAK	11.00 AM – 11.30 AM COFFEE BREAK	
	11.30AM-1PM 4 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS (1) ON THE TOPIC OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIALOGUE FOR...	11.30AM-1PM 4 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS (2) ON THE TOPIC OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIALOGUE FOR...	
	A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPECT	A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPECT	
	MORE GENDER EMPOWERMENT	MORE GENDER EMPOWERMENT	
	MORE CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE	MORE CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE	
	MORE EXCHANGES AND INTERACTIONS	MORE EXCHANGES AND INTERACTIONS	
	LUNCH (1PM-2.30PM)	LUNCH (1PM-2.30PM)	
	2.30PM- 6PM "INTERCULTURAL FAIR" – NETWORKING, PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND DONORS SESSIONS	2.30 3.30 AWARD CEREMONY GERADO DE CREMONA*	
	2.30PM – 6 PM ALF BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING (TBC)	3.30PM-6PM CLOSING SESSION	
	COFFEE BREAK (4PM – 4.30PM)	COFFEE BREAK (4PM – 4.30PM)	
OFFICIAL INAUGURATION AND WELCOME COCKTAIL 6PM-9PM	CULTURAL EVENT IN THE CITY	FAREWELL COCKTAIL	