



Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship

Exchanging practices on Participation and Democracy:

Financial Support Mechanism for ALF Network Exchange

Part of the 2011 Anna Lindh Foundation Initiative

Introduction:

Following the launch of the ALF Initiative “Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship”, the ALF Secretariat is focusing its efforts in adapting the current programme and encouraging the adjustment of current activities by the Networks.

Background:

The recent popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt and the pivotal role played by the civil society raised the interest of ALF Networks in engaging in dialogue and exchange with Arab organizations and movements, particularly from Tunisia and Egypt.

People-to-people contacts are important to promote cooperation and support, networking and partnership in the field of democracy and citizenship in the whole ALF Network of Networks. A specific mechanism has been therefore designed by the Foundation to support this exchange, aimed at developing interaction among Members of different Networks and enhancing cooperation and contact making between North and South Network for participation, democracy, citizenship and civil freedoms, through intercultural dialogue.

Mechanism:

The Foundation launches a **Financial Support Mechanism for ALF Network Exchange**, a mechanism that allows National Networks to invite organisations from other Euro-Med countries – with preference to Network members and other organizations of the Southern Mediterranean, in particular Tunisia and Egypt – to participate in meetings and local actions carried out in the framework of the ‘Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship’ Initiative.

The mechanism will enable to strengthen the National Network capacities in the fields of the ALF Initiative, and thus the ALF Network as a whole.

Eligibility Criteria:

- (a) Beneficiaries can be individuals coming from organisations of the following Southern countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Priority will be given to participants from Tunisia and Egypt. Beneficiaries from European countries having experienced democratic transformation / change can also be exceptionally selected.
- (b) Hosting institutions must be member organizations of one of the 43 ALF Networks.
- (c) The beneficiary(ies) could be either speakers, trainers, experts or activists.
- (d) The beneficiary(ies) shall participate in one of the following activities:
 - National Network Meetings
 - Network Common Operations and
 - Local Actions of National Network Members

- (e) Any request for financial support must be submitted at least two weeks before the date of the event.

Network Membership:

Beneficiaries (Southern participants travelling to other countries) can be both members or not members of ALF Network. In case of selection, those beneficiaries who are not members on the day the request is submitted to the ALF HQ shall submit a request for membership within a deadline set by ALF.

Hosting institutions must however already be members on the day the request is submitted to the ALF HQ.

Selection Process:

The process can be summarised as follows:

- a. The ALF HQ send out the announcement of this mechanism to all HoN Institutions
- b. HoN Institutions inform their members of this announcement (putting in copy the ALF HQ focal point) and send them a standard request form (according to a template provided by the ALF HQ)
- c. HoN Institutions make a first assessment of the requests received
- d. HoN Institutions submit to the ALF HQ a shortlist of up to 5 requests of support per hosting Network for the participation of the beneficiarie(s) in either Network meetings, Common operations or local actions of members. The ALF HQ will only accept requests channelled via the HoN Institutions
- e. The ALF HQ assess the shortlisted requests and take a final decision within a week from the reception of the request
- f. In case the request does not specify the identity of the potential beneficiary, the ALF HQ can provide assistance in finding the participants with the needed profile.

Financial Allocation/Contribution:

The total financial allocation of the Financial Support Mechanism for ALF Network Exchange is 25,000 Euro.

The ALF offers up to 1000 Euro per hosting Network.

Deadlines:

Requests can be received until June 30, 2011. Actions must take place before July 31, 2011.

The selection will be an open process. Requests will be assessed as soon as they are submitted, until completion of the commitment of the mechanism budget. The selection process mentioned above must be strictly followed by the HoN Institutions.

Eligible expenses:

The ALF HQ can cover travel and accommodation and visa costs only.

The beneficiaries (travelling participants) will be responsible for any penalty incurred for no-show up (flight, hotel).

The ALF HQ will be fully responsible of all travel and accommodation arrangements.

Visas:

Participants should contact the respective Embassy in their country of residence to inquire on whether an entry visa is needed. Visa fees shall be reimbursed upon receipt of original invoice.