

A proposed 2011 Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation Initiative



# Believe in Dialogue, **Act for Citizenship**

EXCHANGING PRACTICES ON PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRACY

**The historical events that the Mediterranean region has experienced in the last months, in particular in Tunisia and in Egypt, represent an important challenge for the Anna Lindh Foundation as a shared and central institution for intercultural dialogue in the region.**

Through their work in the civil society, the Foundation's National Networks are concerned about the implications that this historical shift can and should bring to the Foundation's work. Following these events, the Anna Lindh Foundation wishes therefore to launch an initiative integrating a comprehensive programme of activities developed during 2011, and addressing issues related to intercultural dialogue and democracy, together with its National Networks. This approach must complement the work of the Foundation in favour of dialogue, cooperation and mutual support between people of different belief or background. These historical events have shown that Christians, Muslims and other religious communities have common aspirations, and can build their societies together, rejecting any act of discrimination and violence against themselves.

That is why we suggest to call our Initiative 'Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship', and, in this regard, the headquarters of the Foundation will design and promote a common umbrella brand which can support and label activities taking place across the 43 Euro-Mediterranean civil societies in favour of exchanging practices on citizenship and democracy.

The initiative encompasses the following new specific activities as well as revisited on-going actions:

**A. Adapting the current programme**

- Launching of the 2011 Euro-Med Dialogue Award on the theme of "Dialogue for citizenship and freedom" (replacing the theme "Social inclusion for migrants and minorities")
- Launching of a special category of the 2011 edition of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Journalist Award on the theme of 'Reporting on Youth Participation in Social Change'. This category will recognize quality media works which have provided a balanced and informed insight into the role of young people in the social transformations in the region
- Organization of an event with media to debate the reporting on social transformations in the region and the role of social media (in partnership with the European Commission and European Neighbourhood Journalist Network)
- Publishing the 'Intercultural Digest' with featured articles on issues at the heart of the intercultural dialogue agenda, including the role of youth, citizenship and civil society challenges to trans-Mediterranean democratic change

- Mapping translation on transition and democracy in the social sciences in the framework of the translation programme 'Translation of Transitions'
- Adding the thematic dimension of 'Youth and Social Change' within the Education Workshop organised in partnership with the Swedish Institute of Alexandria
- Giving special attention in the activities around the dissemination of the Anna Lindh Bloggers and Intercultural Dialogue Tool Kit at the national and regional level
- Supporting local actions, with a special focus during the Alexandria's Farah el Bahr Festival on the ALF Initiative themes

**B. Encouraging the adjustment of current activities promoted by the Networks**

- Integrating issues related to citizenship, democracy and freedoms in Common Operations (those actions still at the planning stages)
- Introducing a financial support mechanism to allow National Networks to invite organisations from other Euro-Med countries – with preference to Network members and other organizations in 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 (upon request of the hosting Networks). ALF budget: 25,000 Euros

**C. Preparing the strategy and the programme of the Foundation for Phase 3 (2011-14)**

- The Advisory Council: The meeting of the Advisory Council with original members of the 'Group de Sages' to reassess the role of intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region and contribute to the institutional dimension and strategy of the Anna Lindh Foundation in its next phase of operation; the meeting will also involve Network representatives and qualified participants in the ALF Initiative events to present their grassroots best practices in the field of dialogue, democracy and citizenship
- The Anna Lindh Report: Preparing the 2012 edition of the Anna Lindh Report on Euro-Mediterranean Intercultural Trends; the next Public Opinion Poll and the relevant analyses should be tailored to the new situation during the first meeting of the Report experts committee

#### **D. New specific activities**

- Euro-Med Gathering for citizenship, democracy and intercultural dialogue (Tunisia)
- Arab Networks Meeting on intercultural dialogue and social change (Egypt)

#### **Objectives**

- 1) Exchanging good practices and debate about citizenship and democracy among cultural operators, non-governmental organizations, media and young activists at Euro-Med level;
- 2) Empowering and building the capacities of member organizations of the ALF civil society networks;
- 3) Exploring the link between citizenship and intercultural dialogue, and support the preparation of the ALF strategy for the new phase;
- 4) Interacting with the local community, by organizing parallel events in universities and /or trade unions and media operators;
- 5) Establishing a task force to accompany the ALF in the next phase and formulating recommendations on citizenship and intercultural dialogue for the ALF.

#### **Euro-Med Exchange for citizenship, democracy and Intercultural dialogue (Tunisia)**

*A Region-Wide meeting of civil society players acting for democracy and freedoms with an intercultural perspective. An opportunity to learn from each other, exchange and build partnerships.*

**Location:** Tunisia

**Date:** 23 - 26 June 2011

**Number of participants:** At least 120 Euro-Med participants (80 North, 40 South) + 40 Tunisians

**Fields:** Artistic creation, Media and other means of expression, Civil society development and citizenship resources

**Format:** An event based upon debate, exchange, best practices and project ideas

The above mentioned event would be organized based on the following principles:

- Call for Participation open to members and non-members (selected non-members will join the ALF networks)

- Consultation with the HoNs
- Best practices from 43 countries selected, at least 4 from each Southern country
- Partnership with other civil and intercultural initiatives
- Focus on youth, participation of experts

**Organisers:** ALF (leader) + HoN + Foundation for the Future + partners

**ALF contribution:** 100,000 Euros

**Basic Global budget:** 150,000 Euros

### **Regional Training Seminar on intercultural dialogue and social change (Egypt)**

*A capacity building scheme for Anna Lindh Arab Networks, addressing the new challenges of the southern civil societies and preparing for new actions and initiatives.*

**Location:** Egypt

**Date:** 1 – 5 June 2011

**Number of participants:** 30 Arab participants + at least 20 Egyptians + Euro-Med trainers and experts

**Fields:** role of civil society in promoting citizenship and democracy through intercultural dialogue; youth leadership, use of the social media and new technologies in information and communication.

**Format:** Training and capacity-building seminar (this event has been originally proposed by the Egyptian HoN).

The above mentioned event would be organized based on the following principles:

- Call for Participation open to members and non-members (selected non-members will join the ALF networks)
- Three participants per Arab country, one representative per organisation
- Consultation with the HoNs
- Qualified members will be selected in cooperation with the ALF headquarters
- Focus on multipliers, participation of experts from the all Euro-Med region, including the Northern Networks

**Organisers:** HoN (leader) + ALF

**ALF contribution:** 35,000 Euros (Step 4 Common Operation and additional support)