

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME

1. RATIONALE

The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) is an institution created in 2005 for promoting intercultural dialogue in the Euromed Region and shared by the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The Foundation, works as a Network of Networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and its activities are funded by the States of the UfM and the European Union.

In the last year, the societies of the Region have experienced social uprisings, popular mobilizations and political and cultural transformations which are at the origin of historical democratic changes across the Mediterranean, and in particular in several Arab countries. The values of Human Rights, Dignity and Democracy are at the core of those changes which are being led by the civil society, particularly by young people.

Responding to these new challenging scenario, the ALF is setting a comprehensive Strategy of Intercultural Dialogue based on a “4D” approach: Dialogue / Diversity / Democracy / Development, which has been approved by its Board of Governors and endorsed by the National Networks. The “4D” Strategy conceives intercultural Dialogue as a civil society mobilization factor aimed at valuing Diversity, promoting the participation of the society in building open and plural Democracies, and fostering human and sustainable Development. It constitutes an action for Intercultural Dialogue, Democratic Citizenship and Participatory Governance.

To fulfill this goal, the ALF has conceived a 2012-14 Work Plan with several components - including a ‘Believe in Dialogue / Act for Citizenship’ Facility aimed at helping citizens’ participation in exchanges across the Mediterranean on democratic reforms and transitions. In this context, and with the purpose of providing a specific support to the democratic transitions in **Tunisia, Egypt and Libya**, the Anna Lindh Foundation launches now a specific Programme called “**Civil Society Development for Dialogue and Democracy**”.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Programme:

- Aims at empowering civil society for participation in the transitions taking place in Arab countries, affected by social and cultural transformations and historical changes.
- Focus on Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. The Programme could extend to social partners from other Arab countries under transformation, including Syria, if the conditions allow it.
- Lasts three years (1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014).
- Supports capacity building, exchanging, networking and partnership-making activities aimed at creating strong, plural CSOs and independent spaces, in order to play an active and creative role in democratic transitions.

- Involve as main target groups Youth and Women.

“Civil Society Development for Dialogue and Democracy” will be included in the ALF Triennial Work Plan. The Programme will be managed by the ALF HQ, with the participation of the largest spectrum of social players, including ALF Network members; partnership and cooperation will be sought with the governments concerned (Tunisia, Egypt and Libya) and the EU Delegations in the three countries.

In line with the ALF policy, besides focusing on grassroots organizations and initiatives, the Programme will :

- Develop partnerships with local and national public administrations on issues which are relevant for a participatory governance.
- Provide national governments, EU Delegations and other regional institutions with regular feed-back on issues related to civil society’s role in democratic development and intercultural dialogue perspectives in the concerned countries.

The Programme will establish interactions with the relevant ALF activities, particularly the Anna Lindh Forum 2012 and regional cross-network initiatives addressing democracy and citizenship issues. This association will provide consistency to the Foundation’s policy, and will bring an added value to the overall ALF mission.

3. TARGET GROUP

The Programme will seek to identify the most active organisations in the civil society of the concerned countries, paying attention to the social movements and actors of change, the new social and cultural sensibilities which emerged during the last transitional months, the needs of the different regions in the country, and the presence of youth and women, who represent the priority target group of ALF action. In order to do so, a mapping exercise will be required.

The program will be designed and implemented with the ALF Networks, whose members’ involvement will be important.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

The Programme intends to achieve the following results:

- Establishment of sustainable service-oriented structures, devoted to building civil society capacity and citizenship tools for democratic progress, and
- Empowerment of independent spaces which operate in their respective societies.
- Promotion of regional sustainable partnerships of organized citizens to address issues of common interest in the field of democracy, dialogue and human rights through grassroots action and specific spaces.
- Generation of new channels for partnerships, where civil societies of the three countries are central players, either in the form of South-South, or in the form of South-North and South-East cooperation.

- Reinforcement of internal dialogue for social reconciliation, integration and coexistence, applying nonviolent struggle and engagement techniques, and involving social groups which do not normally interact and cooperate, whether for political reasons, geographical constraints, exclusive identities, conflicting interests, or for thematic specialization.

5. FIELDS OF ACTION

The fields of action in which the civil society will be engaged for democratic advancements will be:

- Active Citizenship and Human Rights
- Social and Cultural Diversity.
- Inclusive and Sustainable Development

6. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCING

‘Civil Society Development for Dialogue and Democracy’ will be financed by the EU Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with an Action Grant complementary to the Operating Grant facilitated by the EU for financing the operations of the ALF Triennial Work Plan. The Programme will have its own budget, differentiated from the ALF central budget. It will be managed according to rules and procedures which are going to be developed in the Action Grant signed with the EU. The Programme will be submitted to the audit internal and external procedure mentioned in the Action Grant.

The ALF Management will report regularly to the BoG about the implementation of the Programme and its assessment, in the framework of the follow-up of the Triennial Work Plan, and on a specific basis if needed. The concept of the Programme will be shared with the Advisory Council and the ALF Heads of Network. As it happens with the ALF Triennial Work Plan, the Management will report yearly to the European Union Delegation in Cairo about the results, achievements and impact of the Programme, and will provide the EU with the financial reports and audits.

The Programme will be managed by a specific ALF Unit based at the HQ, integrated by a Head and two/three project managers, and it will work with a focal point in each one of the countries. The Head of the Programme will report to the ALF Executive Director.

The Programme will be part on the ALF Work Plan 2012-2014. In this regard, there shall be a regular coordination and cooperation with other ALF Units in charge of programmes with relevance for democracy issues, of financial management and of communication policies, in order to seek synergies and complementarities, ensure correct management, and upgrading its Euromed perspective.

7. FORMATS AND SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The **‘Civil Society Development for Dialogue and Democracy’** Programme will be developed in each country through National Action Plans with five complementary formats (priorities, order and weight of each one will depend on the national context).

- Mapping and Resources (Mapping the needs and analyzing resources)

- Capacity Building Actions (Training and awareness raising modules)
- Civic Engagement (joint meetings between COS's and local/national institutions)
- Networking and Exchange (sub-regional and Euromed initiatives)
- Creation and Advocacy (Multi-stakeholder events, cross-sector actions)

Most of the formats will be developed at the national level. Others will have a complementary national, sub-regional and Euromed dimension.

The National Plans will be launched on a yearly and triennial basis. They should respond to the ALF Strategy, fields of action and targets, the recommendations of the Tunis Exchange Forum, and the objectives of the '**Civil Society Development for Dialogue and Democracy**' Programme. They will be tailored at a national level, taking into account the specificities of each country, the different level of development of the civil society, and democratic institutions. Expected results will be measured by means of indicators of performance, impact and visibility.

The **Regional Approach** will include a cross-border dimension (cooperation between the three target countries), a South-South dimension (meeting between Arab CSOs), a North-South dimension (exchange between European and Arab CSOs) and a Euromed dimension (participation in ALF flagship events such as the Anna Lindh Forum).