

## In this issue :

- Refugees and Cultural Environments Capacity Building Activity of the Estonian ALF Network
- Meeting of the Cypriot ALF Network
- Meeting of the Slovenian ALF Network
- Meeting of the Belgian ALF Network
- Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ALF Spanish Network
- Lines of Freedom: Contemporary Arab Caricature Intercultural Action of the Czech ALF Network
- “Tisseurs de Paix” Against Racism and Xenophobia Intercultural Action of the ALF French Network
- Visa for Music - Africa Middle East Music Meeting, Rabat – Morocco
- Cairokee in Sweden
- Second “Union for the Mediterranean Regional Forum- Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development
- Geopolitics of the Middle East in Monaco
- Preventing Violent Extremism through Interreligious Dialogue - Conference in Denmark
- CfP: As Life: Sharing Experiences through Arts- Artistic Co-Productions
- CfP: I-Gender- Intercultural Citizenship Education
- In the next issue

The *NETWORK NEWS*, is a bi-monthly Newsletter, featuring current and upcoming activities taking place in the 42 National Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Here, you will find information about Network Meetings, Project-related activities, calls for proposals and for participation, trainings, conferences, and other activities.

Our aim is to increase the communication flow and visibility of the different Network’s activities for an efficient exchange of knowledge and news. So, please keep us posted with your latest Network Activities, news and photos that include the ALF visibility.

We are happy to inform you that starting from this edition, the *Network News* will include the activities and projects related to the ALF Calls for Proposals (CfP).

The calls for proposals are grants given by the Anna Lindh Foundation to support transnational projects and programmes developed by civil society and NGOs across the two shores of the Mediterranean. During a period of ten years, the Foundation has launched seven regional calls for proposals and supported 218 projects and programmes involving more than 600 organizations, with a total envelope of 8.25 million euros.

The last launched CfP 2015/17 focused on two major fields:

**EDUCATION FOR INTERCULTURAL CITIZENSHIP** which refers to learning processes that lead to a knowledge of other cultures and install behavior patterns of availability, openness and dialogue, and **INTERCULTURAL ARTISTIC CO-PRODUCTION** which refers to a cross border cooperation that involves two or more producing partners from different cultures to support the creation and distribution of an artistic project.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition!  
Warmest greetings from Alexandria, Egypt

## Refugees and Cultural Environments

### Capacity Building Activity of the Estonian ALF Network

The Estonian School of Diplomacy, the Head of the ALF National Network in Estonia, organized an open lecture, entitled: “What Cultural Environment Do the Refugees from the Middle East Come from: A Look Beyond Islam”. The talk was delivered by Mr. Egdūnas Račius, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at the Department of Area Studies of Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania), Reviews Editor of the *Journal of Muslims in Europe* and a co-editor of the *Yearbook of Muslims in Europe*.

In his lecture, Prof. Račius focused on two key topics: Firstly, the common misconception that all refugees from the Middle East are Muslims. Secondly, the general lack of knowledge of both Islam and Muslims in Estonian society, leading to a broad tendency to dislike everything related to Muslims, treated as “the Other” - their behavior, beliefs and laws. He drew a distinction between *muslimophobia* and islamophobia: *muslimophobia* being culture-focused, while islamophobia religion-focused. The event took place on December 14, 2016 at the European Commission Representation in Tallinn.



## Meeting of the Cypriot ALF Network

Members of the Cypriot ALF National Network met on the 18th January 2016 at the University of Nicosia to discuss an agenda primarily focused around the future of the Network. A brief historical overview was provided by Mr. Shekeris the current coordinator (*Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs*), pointing out that elections are to be held in May 2017. Other topics included the planned training session for enhancing the capacities of the Members, as well as ways of assuring Member active participation in Networks activities and attracting new Members.

The general structure and goals of the ALF Foundation were also debated, followed by the pros and cons of the policy, financing and intercultural dialogue evolution through to today of the Foundation. Finally, a general overview of the Med Forum in Malta and the Heads of Network Meeting held in its framework were provided by two of the Cypriot participants. The importance of highlighting best practices in the work of NGOs was underlined, as well as that of creating networking opportunities for actors across Europe and the Euro-Med.



## Meeting of the Slovenian ALF Network



The ALF Slovenian Network had its annual Network Meeting with more than 20 organizations on 25th of January in Ljubljana. The first part of the meeting was an interactive workshop and seminar about opportunities for funding and networking in the Euro-Med and intercultural field. Attention has been given to the aspects of the 2030 perspective in a light of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The activity was co-organized with one of the Network members: *Global Education and Humanitarian Aid SLOGA*, which is a Slovenian national platform for development cooperation. After a lunch, prepared by the Migrants Social Entrepreneurship Restaurant, the members discussed last year's ALF activities, as well as the steering committee plan of the Network which will be adopted during this year.

Overall, the event was an opportunity for networking and sharing good practices among members and showcasing of the relevance of many organizations and individuals to the work and the mission of ALF and the Slovenian Network.

## Meeting of the Belgian ALF Network

Eleven Belgian Network members met on the 8th of February 2016 at the King Baudouin Foundation in Brussels. The discussion centered around current and future activities implemented by the Network, current and upcoming activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation, the governance of the Network and other relative topics. The ALF Belgian Network, which currently counts 98 members, is headed by MEDEA (*European Institute for Research on Mediterranean and Euro-Arab cooperation*), officially selected through a public competition replacing the King Baudouin Foundation as Head of the Belgian Network since 1st of January 2013. For more information, including the full agenda of the Network Meeting, click [here](#)



## Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ALF Spanish Network



The ALF Spanish Network had its first meeting of the Executive Committee for this year on 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The meeting was held in Barcelona, at the IEMed facilities( Head of Network). It gathered Irenia Jocs de Pau (Barcelona), Fundación Tres Culturas (Sevilla), CERAI (Valencia), Jovesolides (Valencia) and Adesc (Ceuta), who participated via skype.

During the meeting, the main agreements addressed in the last Annual Network Meeting in November were reviewed and launched. The Executive Committee agreed on the need to prioritize quality versus quantity, to maintain and enhance the plurality of the Network, and to build an organized, plural, active and participatory Network in which all types of entities would be accommodated. The efforts of the Executive Committee were oriented towards this objective, and to that end, work began on a first classification of the existing profiles in the Network, which will help in categorizing the types of entities that compose the Network. Hence, the Committee reviewed and approved 4 new entities that had requested to join the Network, to make its total number of members of the Spanish Network 142 members.

In addition to that, The members of the Executive Committee agreed that in the upcoming months, The Network will focus on seeking mechanisms to improve its sustainability and on advancing a concrete proposal for membership to be debated and approved by all the members. This proposal can be presented at the next Annual Network Meeting.

It was also recalled, during this meeting, that this year the process to renew partially the Spanish Executive Committee with three new entities will start in June. The call will be launched so that members who wish to opt to join the Executive Committee can submit their candidacy.

The date of the next Annual Meeting of the Network is expected to be held this year in Madrid, on September 13 and 14, 2017.



## Lines of Freedom: Contemporary Arab Caricature

### Intercultural Actions of the Czech ALF Network

Two major cities of Czech Republic, Prague and Olomouc, hosted an exhibition of cartoons "Lines of Freedom: Contemporary Arab Caricature". Thirty nine works by Nadia Khiari (Tunisia), Abdul Raheem Yassir (Iraq) and Khalid Albaih (Sudan), commenting on events in their home countries and regions, focused on issues such as freedom of expression and its limits, security and extremism, active citizenship, political responsibility, tolerance, and social problems.



The art works were showcased in the prestigious exhibition space DOX: Center for Contemporary Art, Prague, and in Gallery W7 / The Na cucky Theatre, Olomouc. The accompanying program included a documentary film screening ("Cartoonists: Foot Soldiers of Democracy") followed by a public debate and workshop for young cartoonists with the participating artist, Mr. Yassir. Both exhibition sets will travel around the Czech Republic throughout 2017.

The action has been very well received by the Czech public and media, receiving coverage by official public Czech TV in primetime cultural news, as well as in the Czech Radio and major printed and electronic newspapers. The project was implemented by three

members of the Czech ALF Network, Insaan: The Czech-Arab Center for Intercultural Dialogue, Baraka: Center for Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa, and People in Need, with financial support of the Anna Lindh Foundation, under the framework of the Network Intercultural Actions.



Abdul Raheem Yassir



For more information, contact Pavla Zcalova:  
[zcalova@iir.cz](mailto:zcalova@iir.cz)



## “Tisseurs de Paix” Against Racism and Xenophobia

Intercultural Actions of the ALF French Network



In the framework of the French Network Intercultural Actions “Tisseurs de Paix”, which is financially supported by the Anna Lindh Foundation, Association of *Les Labos de Babel Bretagne* organized an arts & crafts workshop using fragments of poetry on peace and education in intercultural citizenship. The end result was a collection of painted canvases acting as artistic and poetic “totems” against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism.

The artist Brestois Jean Yves Andre used these “totems” in combination with the words the Jazz musician of Cameroonian origin, Manu Dibango, said during a congress of an association for education against the racism: “You cannot paint white on white, black on black, everyone needs the other to reveal oneself.” These words were then translated into various languages. The multilingual collection of “totems” was eventually presented at the ALF Med Forum in Malta. The sentence was also translated “live” in Malta, where everyone was invited to come and read the words in their mother tongue.

“It is the beginning of a new adventure, always in the hope to counter the forces that stimulate xenophobia and extremism,” explained Jean-Paul Quioc. For Quioc, the founder of the association *Peuples et Cultures*, who is now part of the *Les labos de Babel Bretagne*, these words,

which he would like to render in all the languages of the world, goes beyond the simple fight against racism. “Each language reads the world in its own dynamic and creative way. Between singularity and universality, all languages enrich each other.”

The project based on the words of Manu Dibango and the “totems” created by Jean Yves Andre continues to grow. It has been showcased at festivals and at the Forum of the Languages of the World in France. The message has been translated into various regional languages in France, as well as those of migrants.

There is a great need for education against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and homophobia. This initiative is seen as an awareness campaign about the interdependence of all humans, regardless of their languages and cultures, and may also contribute to constructing a common space for citizen-to-citizen conversations, with dignity and equality.



For more information, click [here](#) and watch this [video](#)



## Visa for Music

### Africa Middle East Music Meeting – Rabat - Morocco

Rabat hosted the 3rd edition of Visa For Music, an international music festival, where Africa meets Europe on November 16 -19 2016. The success of the third edition of Visa For Music confirmed its position as the essential meeting place for professionals in the music industry at large, a meeting taking place each year in Rabat, the « City of Light », dealing as THE African Cultural City. Allowing the meeting of artists and professionals of the musical sector, Visa For Music gathers and organizes the social, institutional and economical forces around important themes for the development of the region. The festival includes showcases, workshops and trainings, conferences and a trade fair. Moreover, Visa For Music is a showplace for the African musical identity and gives a good opportunity for artists of the continent to be known by professionals from all around the world.



© <http://visaformusic.com/>

The 4th edition of Visa For Music, the first professional music market for Africa and the Middle East, will be held from 22th to 25th November 2016 in Rabat, Morocco. The call for applications for the showcase program is open until 15th April 2017. To learn more, click [here](#)



©Google

## Cairokee in Sweden

For the first time in Sweden, the Cairokee rock band from Egypt performed at Världskulturmuseet in Gothenburg on 16 December 2016. Cairokee started in 2003 but came to prominence with its revolutionary music following the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, with its politically-inspired lyrics and protest songs released following the 25 January uprising. Members of ALF network were invited to the concert free of charge.



## Second Union for the Mediterranean Regional Forum

### Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development

Building on the first Union for the Mediterranean Regional Forum held in 2015, the second UfM Regional Forum took place in Barcelona on the 23-24 of January 2017 under the chairmanship of the UfM Co-Presidents, Mrs. Federica Moherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice President of the European Commission, and Mr. Ayman Al Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This second edition of the UfM Regional Forum had a special focus on youth.

© Union for the Mediterranean



The discussion, divided between two segments: a meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the UfM Member States and a Conference with the participation of representatives of private sector and civil society, centered around Mediterranean youth's potential as driving force for stability and development. It brought together the region's key players to review the UfM's action-oriented collective activities and achievements and to discuss perspectives for strengthening Euro-Med cooperation, synergies and complementarities between main stakeholders, towards a better future for the region. Amb. Hatem Atallah, the Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation attended the event.

For more information and the full program, click [here](#)

## Geopolitics of the Middle East in Monaco

The Conference entitled "Did We Create DAECH?", discussing the geopolitics of the Middle East, organized by the ALF Monegasque Network, took place on 15th of February 2017 at the Hermitage Hotel. Mr. Antoine Sfeir, Journalist, Director of *Cahiers de l'Orient* and Specialist on the Middle East, conducted the conference and you can find an interview with him published in French [here](#)



© Wikipedia



## Preventing Violent Extremism through Interreligious Dialogue

### Conference in Denmark

The Danish ALF Network, together with Danmission (Head of Network), in collaboration with “RIIFS”, the Head of Network in Jordan and three ALF Network Members: Adyan Foundation (Lebanon), Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (Lebanon) and the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (Egypt), organized a conference entitled: "Preventing Violent Extremism through Interreligious Dialogue".

In addition to the “Danish- Arab Partnership Programme” and “Leaders for Interreligious Understanding”, the conference brought together experts, policy makers, religious leaders and young professionals to share reflections, perspectives and best practices in relation to interreligious dialogue and cooperation as a way to prevent violent extremism and polarization in Denmark and the Middle East. Taking place on February 22, 2017 in Copenhagen, the event marked the five-year anniversary of the successful training program “Leaders for Interreligious Understanding (LIU)”, which has been training youth from Denmark and the Middle East in management of religious diversity and prevention of extremism.

The Program of the Conference can be viewed [here](#)

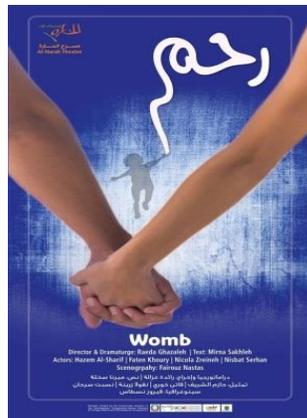
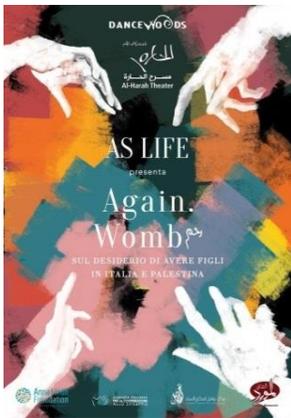


# ALF Call for Proposals 2015/17

## As Life: Sharing Experiences through Arts

### Artistic Co-Productions

The “As Life” project aimed to increase public awareness and provoke a change of attitudes of societies towards the effects of not being able to have children on women & their families. The three participating theatre companies reached out to diverse audiences on both shores of the Mediterranean through intercultural exchange & artistic expressions. They believe that infertility is a worldwide problem that affects couples & whole families and thus should be approached through North-South cooperation in the Euro-Med; it is an unseen problem that deeply hurts.



The project, which ended on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2017, was a collaboration between three theater companies Al-Harah Center for Theater and Arts (Palestine, leader), Dancewoods Association Culturale (Italy) and 2-Le MÈME Ensemble (France). It consisted of two seminars, five workshops, a tour in Italy and 14 performances of the play “Womb” in Palestine and Italy, overall reaching 400 persons. The ALF contributed with a Grant of 33,478.00 EURO.

For more information click [here](#) and contact Marina Barham: [info@alharah.org](mailto:info@alharah.org)

## I-Gender

### Intercultural Citizenship Education



The “I-Gender” project, implemented by *Asociacion Euroaccion* (Spain) in cooperation with *Giosef UNITO* (Italy), *I Dare for Sustainable Development* (Jordan), *New Generation* (Palestine) and *Intercultural Youth Dialogue Association* (Egypt), aimed at developing educational methodologies for tackling gender issues efficiently while working with young people in contexts with an intercultural dimension. The first major activity of the project was an international training course for youth workers in Spain, which explored the role of gender in intercultural education, allowing space for sharing experience in developing non formal learning methodologies to promote gender equality.

As a result of the course, which took place between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February in Murcia, participants developed a set of educational curricula on gender related issues and gender equality, to be used for promoting intercultural education, and which can be further adapted to fit the local context. The project, which foresees more international trainings in Italy, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt, is due to close in September 2017. The Anna Lindh Foundation has contributed with a Grant of 30,666.00 EURO.

For more information click [here](#) and [here](#), and contact Federica Milano: [federica.euroaccion@gmail.com](mailto:federica.euroaccion@gmail.com)



## In the next issue :

- **Beginning of March** : Network Meeting- **Denmark Network**
- **10.3.2017: Euro-Arab youth Forum in Sfax – Tunisia Network**
- **14.3.2017 to 15.3.2017** : Third Workshop- Two Sessions with children in Berlin- Aphorisma Kulturstiftung organization- **Germany- Call for Proposals**  
*For more information please contact: Johann Wiede, e-mail: johann.l.wiede@aphorisma.eu*
- **18.3.2017:** Masterclass “Dealing with sensitive history through intercultural dialogue- **Netherlands Network**
- **15 March to April:** Translation synopsis + screenplay in Arabic in Purmerend; preparation research & introductions in Morocco- Sander Francken FILM Organization - **Netherlands - Call for Proposals**  
*For more information please contact: Sander Franken, e-mail: sander.e.m.francken@gmail.com*
- **31.3.2017:** Workshop on basic training in project management and advocacy with children and youth in Zadar & Ankara (Croatia & Turkey)- Udruga “Mala filozofija”(Association of Petit Philosophy) – **Croatia**  
*For more information please contact: Ivana Kragić, e-mail: kragic.ivana@gmail.com*
- **1.4.2017:** Round Table on Heritage preservation –**Hungary Network** (TBC)
- **3.4.2017 to 6.4.2017:** Regional Training Seminar on Countering Hate Speech through Human Rights Education- **Denmark Network/ Finland Network/ Germany Network/ Sweden Network**
- **24.4.2017 – 30.4.2017:** Winter school in Sarajevo region -Youth Club “Under the Same Sun”- **Bosnia & Herzegovina**  
*For more information please contact : Emil Balavac, e-mail: okpis.jablanica@gmail.com*
- **April to May** : Public seminars & Festival “Common music –shows” in Iglesias Italy and Beirut, Lebanon- LEB-SARD festival Zico House- **Lebanon**  
*For more information please contact : Shaden Beydoun, e-mail: shadenbeydoun@hottmail.com*
- **1.5.2017:** Network Meeting- **Portugal Network**

## Contact Us

<http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/networks>

Dimitrios.Cavouras@bibalex.org

Fatma.Kotkat@bibalex.org

Mai.Helmy@bibalex.org

Paulina.Raduchowska@bibalex.org

Rana.Tarek@bibalex.org

**The Networks Team is interested in publishing information about activities of your National Network, including meetings, trainings, calls for participation/proposals and other public announcements. Please keep us posted by updating the Google Calendar and/or by sending us your Network’s News and activities.**

