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A Time for Change-makers

In the last years, the Euro-Mediterranean region has seen testing times. Some of its regions are torn by prolonged conflict and violence, and others directly affected by climate change. The challenge posed by the arrival of displaced persons and entire vulnerable communities as well as other regional and local concerns ranging from misunderstandings to xenophobic sentiments need today a sustained effort conducted collectively by all the members of the Anna Lindh Foundation family and partners.

It is indeed in these critical times, that the Anna Lindh Foundation and its Networks must prove that a dialogue between cultures is possible and needed more than ever. In this issue, you will read about the truly amazing work of Tarek Alsaleh (winner of the Euro-Med Dialogue Award 2015) on behalf of Capoeira4Refugees and his project with Change makers in conflict transformation. You will also learn about the new wave of Cross-Network Activities developed by our Heads of Network all over the region. Finally, we are happy to shed a bit of light on some of the daily work “on the ground” of our 42 Networks, including the ALF V4 Forum – the first Central-European summit in the history of the ALF.

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

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 activities for an efficient exchange of knowledge and news. So, please keep us posted with your latest Network Activities, news and photos that showcase the ALF.

SWOT-Analysis and Recommendations for the Future

Network Meeting and Capacity Building Activities in Bosnia & Herzegovina

The IX Annual Meeting of the ALF Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Tuzla, on 9-11 of June, together with a capacity building workshop and an Executive Board meeting. 21 representatives from 17 member organizations and a representative of one non-member organization (*Balkan Discurs Sarajevo*) were present.



The first day opened with the ALF B&H Executive Board meeting. Some of the main conclusions of the discussion included: starting an initiative for the establishment of ALF Network in Serbia; an official stand of the Board on the future selection of representatives

from B&H for international events; adoption of a new initiative for the establishment of the "Council for international cooperation", consisting of 5-7 members, above 45, of both sexes and representing citizens from all parts of B&H, with experience of 10+ years in diplomacy and international relations, to help develop the ALF Network.

The agenda of the **National Assembly, which took place in the second part of the day**, included a report on the meeting of the Board and an overview of the work of the HoN office, and of the work of the Network in the previous period, a presentation of the ALF project "Learning indeed" implemented by the *Youth Club Under the same sun Jablanica*, a Petition for the *Concert Hall Sarajevo* and the *Museum of Peace and Culture*, proposed by *IPC Sarajevo Winter Sarajevo*, and – finally - a presentation of the work of the participants and their respective organizations.

Concert Hall Sarajevo, presented at numerous world architecture fairs (i.e. in Venice) and featured in professional journals and books, is considered one of the best architectural projects of the new generation. It was originally selected in an international competition from among 400 applications from 43 countries by a jury headed by Zaha Hadid, an acclaimed Iraqi-British architect. However, due to a number of challenges, it has never been implemented. In this framework, *IPC Sarajevo* is seeking support among influential organizations and institutional bodies, such as the ALF Network in B&H. Please find more information about the project and the related the petition [here](#). The concept behind the *Museum of Peace and Culture* is to create a "Bank of peace", through an international project, implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Using multimedia and interactive online solutions, the „Bank“ would collect and showcase installations symbolizing peace.

During the **capacity building workshop**, which took place on the 10-11 of June, members of the ALF B&H worked at an **ALF B&H SWOT-analysis**, divided into two working groups. As a result, they identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the Network, and proposed strategic guidelines for the coming period (2017 – 2019). For more information about the presented projects and the work of the Network, as well as the outcomes of the capacity building session, please contact the coordinator, [Mr. Miralem Tursinovic](#).



Developing Non-Violent Communication Skills

Capacity Building Activity of the Czech Network

On the 23rd of May, in Prague, members of the Czech Network had the opportunity to participate in the second part of a capacity building training, the first of which took place in March. The two sessions focused on communication around challenging issues, such as migration, otherness and Islam in Europe, aiming for more wide-reaching, inclusive and constructive dialogue with all segments of the society, especially those fearing "the Other" and lacking information or motivation to expand their knowledge.

While the March training addressed hate speech in social media and coached the ALF members on countering it, the second session focused on more personal and face-to-face Non-Violent Communication skills (NVC). The trainer, Adam Čajka (co-founder of the NGO *Nonviolent Communication in the Czech Republic*), introduced the principles of NVC to the participants who could then use the newly-acquired knowledge in practical exercises. Such trainings equip the members with tools, useful not only during public events, ex. debates or presentations, but also in media communication about issues relevant for their daily work. Around 13 representatives of the Czech network attended the meeting and the feedback was very positive.



Arts for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue

Capacity Building Activity of the Jordanian Network

On the 21st and 22nd of May 2017, the Jordanian Network held an "Arts: A Language for Dialogue" training. The event took place at the *Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies - RIIFS* (the Head of Network) in Amman and brought together



24 young men and women from different governorates and religious orientations (Muslims, Christians and Baha'is), representing a number of civil society organizations that are members of the Network.

The training was held over two days and included different activities. Participants showed great interest in the content of the program and actively interacted with the trainers, who shared their experiences in the field of dialogue between cultures

and religions. The discussion centred around fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an effective tool for countering intolerance, extremism and radicalism.



50 Shades of Networking on Rhodes

National Meeting and Capacity Building of the Greek Network

On the 12-13 of May, the ALF Greek Network organized its last National meeting of the IV Phase. The members who participated in the three-day workshop, gathered on Rhodes Island to discuss topics relevant for the Network, such as its size and diversity, as well as the conclusions of the National Leadership Meeting.



Following this introduction, participants were encouraged to submit proposals for discussion over the following days and thus the agenda of the meeting was elaborated together. A presentation about the successful Photography Competition "**50 sides of Greece**" was then shown. The project was initiated during the previous year's Network meeting with the participation of 48 persons. The three artists with the best pictures were present; the photos can be viewed on the [Network's website](#).

The second day began with the **Living Library** workshop, where participants engaged in a role-play game to promote diversity against racism, prejudice and discrimination. This activity was carried out by the *Medieval Festival of Rhodes* and *House of Europe*. Afterwards, there was a tour of the city of Rhodes organized by volunteers. The members of the Network had the opportunity to explore the history and social life of the island. They also engaged in discussions about the **Young Mediterranean Voices** program the results of the **Med Forum**, which took place in Malta in 2016. The four thematic pillars, which emerged as conclusions of the Forum will guide the Network in planning for the next 3-year period. The day concluded with a

workshop on the **ALF Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean Region**.

The third and final day of the meeting started with presentations of **Cross-Network projects**, funded by the ALF and implemented by the *HISTORY DOC* and *KANE* organizations. This included a screening of films from *HISTORY DOC* projects. Finally, a wide-ranging and constructive dialogue started on the necessity of planning of the program for the next three years. It was proposed that the Network could cooperate with the members of *EUNIC* (*European Union National Institutes for Culture*). The need to deepen and multiply the potential of the Network, as well as to further decentralize the it was also emphasized.



ALF V4 Forum and the Annual Meeting of the Polish Network

Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak Networks Meet in Krakow

This year's annual meeting of the Polish Network, hosted by the *International Cultural Centre – ICC* (Head of Network in Poland) on the 1-2 June, had a Central-European dimension, as the ALF V4 Forum, with the participation of Network coordinators and members from Slovakia, Czechia and Hungary. A total of 13 international guests were present in Krakow, as well as 36 representatives of member organizations of the Polish Network (almost 30% members). The purpose of the meeting was to reinforce and consolidate the Polish Network, as well as to get to know organizations from the region and establish new partnerships. Furthermore, the assembly took place in parallel to the 4th Heritage Forum of Central Europe, whose theme this year was "Heritage and Society", thus enabling Network members to attend parts of the conference.

Prof. Jacek Purchla, director of the ICC and member of the Advisory Council of the ALF, opened the meeting, emphasizing the fact, that it was the first Central European gathering in the history of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Next, the coordinator of the Polish Network, Ms. Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga, summarized ALF's activity in 2016-17, including the 3rd Med Forum, which took place in the Fall of 2016 in Malta, the Sea of Words contest, the EuroMed Exchange Programme, the initial results of the ALF Report on Trends in the EuroMed of 2017 and planned Cross-Network Activities. She also welcomed three new members of the Network: *Polanda Association of Polish-Lebanese Friendship and Cooperation*, *Fundacja Świat na wyciągnięcie ręki*, as well as *Jasmin - Association of Friends for Intercultural Cooperation*.

The rest of the day was dedicated to workshops, which included an ice-breaking and networking session, as well as anti-discriminatory workshops, led by members of the Polish Network: Ms. Anna Urbanczyk from the *City Culture Institute* and Ms. Kinga Karp from *The Anti-discrimination Education Association*. The workshops tackled mechanisms of discrimination and social identity factors, and the participants had the opportunity to test out the acquired knowledge during especially-prepared practical exercises.

The second day of the meeting started with a presentation of the **The Anna Lindh Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean Region**, delivered by Ms. Katarzyna Sztop-Rutkowska from the *SocLab Foundation*, followed by an exercise, demonstrating how the Handbook could be useful for trainers and educators. The publication is the result of many years' worth of the work of 300 educators from 42 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and it is designed for trainers in formal and non-formal education working with young people.

The ALF V4 Forum itself, was comprised of four debates, with the participation of representatives of four ALF Networks present in the event (Czech, Polish, Slovak and Hungarian):

- **Memory identity and heritage in Central Europe;**
- **Migrations in Central Europe;**
- **Cultural cooperation in Central Europe and EuroMed Region;**
- **Youth and their challenges in Central Europe.**

In the first session, the speakers: Ms. Michaela Kubíková (*National Trust of Slovakia*, coordinator of the Slovak ALF Network), Ms. Ágnes Simor (*Jacob Glaser Memorial Foundation*, Hungary), Ms. Zora Hesová (*AMO, FF UK*, Czechia), Ms. Zora Pauliniová (*PDCS*, Slovakia) and Ms. Monika Krzykała (*Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre*, Poland) debated over common historical experiences of the region and their influence on the current situation in the particular countries.

The second panel, dedicated to migration in the region, was moderated by Ms. Zora Hesová. She asked the speakers: Ms. Eva Čech Valentová (*Association for Integration and Migration*, Czechia), Ms. Pavla Začalová (*Institute of International Relations*, coordinator of the Czech ALF Network), Ms. Edina Gábor (*Foundation of Subjective Values*, Hungary) and Ms. Agnieszka Cichocka (*Arteria Association*, Poland) about approaches to migration in particular countries, policies regarding the migration crisis and ways of integrating newcomers into local communities.





The discussion about cultural cooperation in Central Europe and the Euro-Mediterranean region, moderated by Ms. Orsolya Komolósi (*Palantír Film Foundation*, coordinator of the Hungarian ALF Network), with the participation of Mr. Ferenc Kereszti (*Kistarcsa Cultural Association*, Hungary), Ms. Luca Benicka (*Galéria umelcov Spiša*, Slovakia) and Ms. Katarzyna Siwerska (*WIDOK Association for Cultural Education*, Poland), centered around challenges in cooperation related to difficulties in funding projects, as well as finding partners for particular initiatives.

The last session, facilitated by Mr. Piotr Dobrosz from the *UNESCO Initiatives Center*, with Mr. Jiří Mach (Czech

Council for Foreign Relations, Czechia), Ms. Ariadne Abigel Kemele-Vandlik (*The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe*, Hungary) and Ms. Magdalena Pardel-Trefler (*Foundation for the Cultural Exchange toTU toTAM*, Poland), focused on challenges currently faced by young people, as well as the work with and for youth carried out by the respective organizations.

The meeting was organized by the coordinators of the ALF national Network in Poland in cooperation with coordinators in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary.



Euro-Mediterranean Financing Opportunities

Capacity Building Activity of the Italian Network

The objective of the seminar, which took place on the 15th and 16th of June in Naples, was to discuss available European and other international funds for the development of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation projects and initiatives. Ways of increasing the design and management skills of such initiatives were also discussed and good practices were shared among the participants. The workshop was delivered by *OpenMed*, which is a well-known association for promoting integration and exchange opportunities through the implementation of a wide range of projects and cooperation initiatives, especially among the Euro-Mediterranean countries. The main working tools presented were Project Cycle Management and the Logical Framework Approach; methodologies required for design and management by the European Union and the major international donors.



The seminar was preceded by a preparatory workshop, organized on 21st May by Fondazione Mediterraneo, Head of the ALF Network in Italy, who also took the opportunity to meet with the Networks members and some representatives of Sardinia civil society organizations, who were interested in joining the Network. Mr. Michele Capasso, the Network coordinator, presented the activities of the ALF, in particular, the outcomes of the **Med Forum** of Malta and of the last General Assembly of the Italian Network (2016).



A Focus on Rural Communities

Network Meeting and Capacity Building Activities in Ireland

On the 16th and 17th June 2017, the Irish members gathered in Galway for a Network meeting and capacity building event. Representatives of 15 member organizations attended, alongside young representatives from the NYCJ who took part in the “Transforming Shadows” project and guest speakers from Morocco.



The meeting agenda included **ALF-related activities in 2017**, in particular: ‘**Transforming Shadows**’, an Irish- Lebanese exchange project with young people as change makers in conflict transformation - results of the project and videos produced will shortly be featured on the NYCJ website; the **ALF Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship Education; Cross-Network Activities** and **planning for ALF Phase V (2018-2020)**: The programme will be formulated based on four broad pillars: (a) Intercultural Trends & Media; (b) Young Med Voices; (c) Learning & Intercultural Cities; & (d) Med & Net connect - to facilitate collaborations among civil society organisations in the north and south. Mr. Mohamed Fahmi, Head of the Moroccan Network, present at the meeting, gave his input into these projects. Members were also urged to be proactive in coming forward with proposals specifically for the ‘Learning & Intercultural Cities’ programme, as this is something new and will give the opportunity to organizations and members to play an active part in the related activities. It was agreed that the Coordinator will keep the members updated, as the Work Plan for 2018 advances. **Other issues discussed during the event, included:** Elections of the Irish Head of Network for Phase V and ways of generating project ideas independent of formal ALF activities.





The theme of the Capacity Building activity was 'keeping the sustainability of our rural communities in focus'. Led by Dr. Deirdre O'Mahony, an artist and Network member, participants visited X-PO, a public art project in Kilmaboy Parish, in Western Ireland. The visit started with short presentations by members of the X-PO Mapping group on their research work into naming and tracing the inhabitants of houses in Kilmaboy Parish, going back to the earliest

records. A local architect spoke about the projects he has made and curated at X-PO and Dr. O'Mahony spoke about some of the archives accumulated there. Members took a walk to the historic old church in Kilmaboy, which has a Sheilana-gig and an 8C Round tower, and to the Cabhail Mhór, a 16C structure preserved, like the church, by local volunteers.

Major issues facing rural communities in Ireland were discussed, as well as ways in which these were being addressed. Involving young people, and ways of sustaining projects, were of particular focus. Most of the Irish members had never been to this area of the country and were deeply moved by the engagement of the community. It was suggested that the Irish Network continue to explore different areas of the country to expand their awareness of the unique and shared issues of concern.

Fruitful Cooperation on Youth and Education in Finland and Israel

Study visit of Israeli parents in Finland and New Israeli-Finnish Network Projects

In March, a group of Israeli parents to students affiliated with the *Open University of Israel*, the biggest academic institution in the Middle East, visited the cities of Kokkola and Helsinki in Finland in the framework of a special leadership seminar. The main purpose was to activate student-parents and to learn different educational models and ideas from the Finnish society, which is well known for its achievements in the field of education. All the Israeli participants were parents to children of different ages and active members in a student parents' club.

This project is a part of new cooperation between the Finnish and the Israeli ALF Networks. It saw the first light in December 2015, when the Finnish Network coordinators visited Israel and met representatives of *Sparkpro*, an active member of the Israeli ALF Network. Thanks to this meeting, *Sparkpro* found a connection to *Villa Elba*, a youth community centre in Kokkola, Finland (member of the Finnish Network), and March 2017 saw the first successful common project between the two Networks.



During the visit, the group met with principals and pupils of primary schools in Kokkola. They also visited the educational department of the *Kokkola University Consortium*, had meetings with local NGOs, Finnish social activists, youth organizations focusing on education and met a representative of the students' union. They also had the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities to get to know Finnish culture a little more from different perspectives. Finally, at the end of a full week of activities in Finland, participants had a guided tour of the capital, Helsinki and attended a final working session at the office of the *Finnish Institute in the Middle East – FIME* (ALF HoN). The cooperation turned out to be very fruitful and successful, and hence, the next group of educators and teachers is due to embark on another study visit to Finland in September this year.



Boaz & Vera from the Israeli member Sparkpro (furthest left and right) with 2 of their partners from Israel meet the Finnish Secretary of State Ms. Paula Lehtomäki (2nd from right), in Tel Aviv.

From the Crisis of the Christian Communities to Transformations in Arab Identity

Researchers of MENA studies assembled in Joensuu, Finland



The Fifth Colloquium of Middle East and North African Studies (May 29-31) brought together 40 scholars specializing in the MENA region to Joensuu in eastern Finland, to discuss transformations in space and identity. The general theme centred around the concept that in a globalized world,

identities are changing and spatial borders are getting increasingly contested. The conference covered events of ancient times, as well as the most recent developments - ranging from the history of the Alawites in Levantine societies to contemporary Islamic environmental thinking. The keynote speeches covering Arab identity development in the 2010s and Christian communities in the Middle East will be available online in [Youtube very soon](#).

This conference was organized by the *Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME)*, Head of the Finnish ALF Network, together with *University of Helsinki* and the *University of Eastern Finland*.



Learning Indeed – A Step Beyond!

Intercultural Dialogue Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Between the 24th and 30th of April in Sarajevo, the Youth Club “Under the same sun” from Jablanica (member of the ALF Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina), held a training entitled “Learning indeed - A Step Beyond!” The activity was attended by 20 young people from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Turkey, Egypt and Hungary. Over the course of seven days, participants learned about dialogue between cultures, human rights, peace, stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination and xenophobia. They also had the opportunity to learn skills for combating the negative trends in the region and for organizing local actions in their communities.

The training included a meeting with the coordinator of the Bosnian national ALF Network, Mr. Miralem Tursinovic and a panel discussion on peacekeeping operations: "Personal Stories", with Mr. Goran Bubalo (Network for Peace Building), Mr. Cedomir Glavas (Odysseus Bratunac) and Mr. Zek Dundar (Youth Ambassadors of Peace).

“Learning Indeed” is part of a one-year program that Youth Club carried out in collaboration with the Dynamic Development Association from Istanbul, Turkey,

which supports the Anna Lindh Foundation. Activities to follow in the coming period include virtual travel and local campaigns in participating communities. More information is available at www.okpis.org and www.learning-indeed.net



24-30.4.2017. SARAJEVO LEARNING INDEED WWW.LEARNING-INDEED.NET



Bosnian Students Stand Against Terrorism and Radicalization

Campaign Against Terrorism and Hate Speech in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In May, a group of students from Bijeljina, Brcko and Tuzla, gathered around *PRONI* and *ORC Tuzla*, launched the "Cat - Citizens Against Terrorism" campaign, targeting all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a common action against terrorism and radicalism in the country.

Make Love
not War!



In light of the recent increase of terrorist attacks in Europe and the world, the organizers would like to mark May 22nd as „The World Day of the Fight Against Terrorism“. The students want for the initiative of an international day that marks the fight against terrorism and commemoration of all tragically deceased during attacks to originate from Bosnia and Herzegovina. They gathered around 450 signatures in a petition that will be sent to the B&H ambassador to the UN, Mr. Milos Vukasinovic.

Following the street campaign, A public debate entitled "Is B&H fertile ground for terrorism?" took place at Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Tuzla. All interested students had the opportunity to listen to presentations by Ms. Aida Ganović, psychologist and professional consultants of the OSCE Mission to B&H, Mr. Adnan Peckovic, researcher on the topic of nationalism in the educational institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr. Miralem Tursinovic, director of ORC Tuzla (Head of Network) and researcher on the topic of human security in the Balkans.

The public debate was organized in cooperation with the *OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina* and the entire campaign is supported by *Facebook*, *The Department of State* and the Bosnian Network of the *Anna Lindh Foundation*. You can find more information by visiting the [Facebook page](#), reading the [article](#)



[on Radio Free Europe](#), and watching the [report on TVTK Television](#), and a [short movie from the campaign process here](#). In addition, all B&H citizens who want to be actively involved in the activities and participate in one of the street actions or panel discussions organised by the students on this subject, are invited to fill in [this questionnaire](#).



World Village Festival in Helsinki

Counter Narratives Concerning Youth and Women of the MENA Region

World Village Festival, the largest annual intercultural civil society fair in Finland, this year took place over 2 days at the end of May and attracted 70 000 visitors. The Finnish ALF Network organized two public discussions during the event, both aiming at offering new perspectives on understanding the life and problems of the women and young people living in the MENA region for the Finnish audience.

The first of them, tackling the role of Syrian women in the current conflict and peace efforts, organized together with *FELM*, a Finnish CSO involved in projects focusing on gender in peace and conflict. The second session was a public debate with experts on everyday life of young people in the MENA region, based on a new book about the issue. Two anthropologists focusing on Egyptian youth, Senni Jyrkiäinen and Henri Onodera from *Helsinki University*, were interviewed together with the marketing and communications unit head Noora Flinkman from Egyptian CSO *HarassMap*.



Anthropologists, researching Egyptian youth: Henri Onodera, Senni Jyrkiäinen, Sanna Ra, discussing the youth in MENA region with Noora Flinkman (PR & media manager of HarassMap, Egypt). Fot. Pekka Tuominen



ALF Call for Proposals 2015/17

WATERanean - Building Interculture of Water in MED Area

Intercultural Citizenship Education

WATERanean is an international project developed by *Kallipolis* (Italy), *Oxfam Italia* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *AFDC - Association for Forests, Development and Conservation* (Lebanon) and the *Women association "Priroda"* (Bosnia & Herzegovina) in order to promote coexistence and mutual understanding across the Mediterranean. The participating organizations hoped to build a shared vision of the common destiny of human societies inhabiting the area, through the exchange and sharing of knowledge and experiences on environmental sustainability and water management among students of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and Lebanon. The ALF supported the project with EUR 34,000.00.

Around 160 students and teachers of secondary schools from three different areas of the Mediterranean basin: Bratunac in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Trieste in Italy and Kabrshmoun in Lebanon, participated in activities where knowledge and experiences on issues related to environmental sustainability and water resources were shared.

In March and April, students attended lessons on water management, followed by the *Kallipoly Competition*. *Kallipoly – a game for the better city*, is a tool conceived and designed by *Kallipolis* to raise awareness of the diversity of populations across the Euro-Med benefiting from sustainable urban planning. The objectives of the tool are to increase knowledge about the strategies set up by various urban communities to improve their territory and to promote sustainable development strategies built through integrated instruments. It is also meant to promote - among players - the knowledge of various urban contexts, as well as the knowledge of the best practices used by communities to cope with different urban problems.

In May, the winners of the *Kallipoly Competition* visited Italy together with their teachers and delegates from *Priroda* and *AFDC*. There, they observed some of the best

practices on water management existing in the Euro-Med region - in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

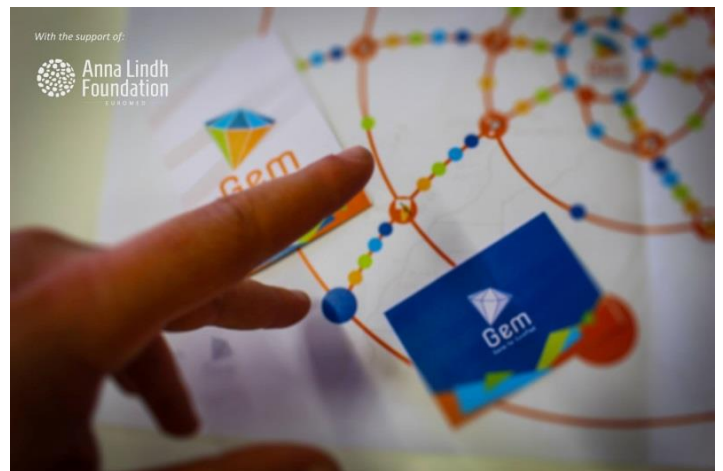
The exchange program included also visits to the phytodepuration system of the company *Fintessile Mamo 69* in Azzano Decimo (Pordenone), to Trieste's water supply managed by *AcegasApsAmga* (Hera Group company) - guided by the operators of *WWF AMP Miramare* and to the waste separation and compost center of *Moraro* (Gorizia), managed by *ISA Isontina Ambiente*. In addition, Visiting participants had in a tour of Trieste, guided by the Italian students and exchanged experiences on the diverse awareness-raising activities and campaigns they carry out in their own countries.

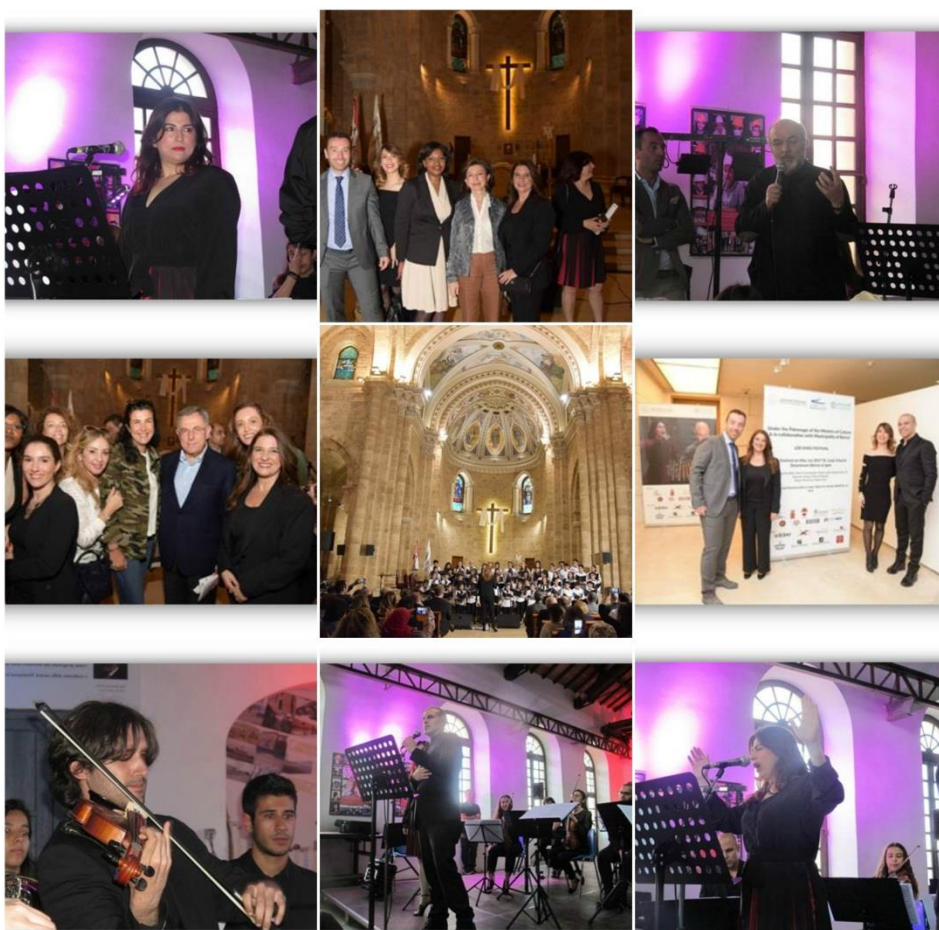
For more information about the project, visit the [website](#) and watch the [video](#).

"Game for Euromed" – GEM

Intercultural Citizenship Education

GEM aims at promoting education for intercultural citizenship through playing. It was developed by *CE.S.I.E - Centro Studi ed Iniziative Europeo* (Italy) with *ADICE – Association pour le Développement des Initiatives Citoyennes et Européennes* (France), *Juhoud for Community - Rural Development* (Palestine) and *Waseela for Training and development* (Egypt). The ALF supported the project with EUR 43,720.20.





This end product of this exercise is a catalogue which has been finalized thanks to the contribution of all project partners. It doesn't aim at being an exhaustive overview, but at giving the readers the opportunity to focus on a few elements which might be explored when developing the *GEM board game*.

The project is ongoing until the end of August. For more information, visit the [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

LEB-SARD Festival

Cultural Co-Productions

Funded by the European Union and the Anna Lindh Foundation, the *LEB-SARD Festival* is a cultural project about music for Mediterranean dialogue. Developed by *Zico House* (Lebanon), with *Associazione Culturale Anton Stadler* and *Comune di Iglesias* (Italy), it aims at supporting a sustainable Mediterranean cross-border cooperation through the creation and dissemination of an artistic project, where Music is

conceived as a tool for cultural expression and intercultural dialogue. The ALF supported the project with EUR 35,000.

The festival, which took place 1st of May at the Saint Louis Cathedral in Beirut and on 20th of May in Iglesias, Sardinia at the Monteponi Mine, attracted local civil society organizations and involved members from the Italian and Lebanese ALF Networks. Prominent local artists also took part in the show: *Ms. Hiba Al Hawas*, soprano and composer from Beirut and *Mr. Fabio Furia*, bandoneonist and composer from Sardinia.

Mr. Michele Capasso, the Head of the ALF Italian Network and one of the Festival's supporters, underlined the importance of the initiative, which reflects the cultural richness of Lebanon and Sardinia by highlighting the cultural heritage of both regions. In addition, through the participation of 70 students from the *Rafic Hariri Foundation Choir* in Lebanon and the *Conservatory of Lebanon*. For more information, visit the [website of the Festival](#). You can also watch the [Lebsard festival trailer](#) and visit the Facebook pages of [the Festival](#) and of [Zico House](#).

The main tool to be developed in the project framework is a board game for use with youngsters, so as to promote tolerance and mutual understanding of different traditions and cultures co-existing on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The aim is to create an informal and amazing setting, supporting youngsters to become Euro-Mediterranean citizens and encouraging reciprocal dialogue and cultural awareness.

In order to define the pedagogical framework of the *GEM board game*, it was considered highly relevant to explore existing good practices in all partner countries, which promote the use of games as intercultural tools. This approach allowed the participating organizations to collect inputs and stimuli stemming from different experiences and also to have deep insight into games in partner countries, so as to identify useful elements to be featured in the implementation of their games, either for their contents or for their specific characteristics.

Cagliari in Italy, the Festival reached out to youth, who see music as a bridge between cultures. Ms. Wafa Katba, from the ALF Secretariat in Alexandria attended the event in





Photo Courtesy of WATERranean. Kallipoly Competition



People of the Networks

ALF Network Members Tell Us Their Stories



Tarek Alsaleh, Syrian-German, founded capoeira classes for street kids and refugee children on the streets of Damascus, Syria in 2007. He studied sport science at the University of Cologne, Germany and went on to run his own gym. He also established a real estate agency in Damascus, and set up two successful and innovative sports and play NGOs. Tarek is a member of the Global Diplomacy Lab and his work has been recognised by the *BMW Foundation Award for Responsible Leaders 2015*, the *Anna Lindh Euro-Med Dialogue Award 2015* and *Beyond Sport in partnership with UNICEF for Sport for Conflict Resolution 2013 and 2015*. Since 2007, Tarek's capoeira programmes have reached over 50,000 vulnerable children and adolescents in Syria, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and beyond. *Capoeira4Refugees* is a member of the ALF Network in the UK.

"I'm after the changemakers who have the motivation, the desire, already – and we release their potential. I've worked with young people in some of the harshest environments, and I've met them, again and again, these bright stars just wanting, waiting for that opportunity." (capoeira4refugees.org)

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background.

I've been working in the emergency aid/development sector since 2007. I've worked in desert refugee camps, being apprehended and questioned by secret police, and recently, even stopped at borders because I have Syrian heritage. I've watched the development sector fail the young people across the Middle East. I had amazing work in Syria - we were reaching the most vulnerable, including abused women and children, and internally displaced people. But politics, how funding is allocated (costs, like governance, risk, strategy) - the larger INGOs did not want to pay for it. I had an amazing project in Raqqa and in Damascus. Capoeira was run by local trainers, and it was giving young people a life line.

This pattern of 'we love your work, but we can't fund you' lead me to rethink how I wanted to work. The clock is ticking and children are losing years of their lives. They are falling prey to depression, anger, frustration and, often, violence. They need help now. Over half of all refugees in Jordan are children - how can we help them live their youth?

I left Syria in 2012. I was leaving to the sounds of bombs in my neighbourhood. I'd lost everything. but I had an international network, and I used this network to help me start again. I was passionate about continuing to help young refugees, including Syrians, who were facing no future at all.

So, how do we help young people, young refugees, who are off the grid?

I knew of other Syrians who had to flee Syria. They tapped into their global networks and used them to find a place to sleep, search for jobs, to get advice on how to source services in refugee camps or understand the education system, if they received asylum in Germany. These networks or networked communities proved essential in allowing people to access the services they needed to start a new life.



Marrying up my experience in development, of working with refugees and my own experience of using a network to survive, I decided to launch the #GrassrootsAward. This is a competitive process of awarding grassroots community Changemakers with a



2-year support and training package, including mentoring, to scale change themselves. We also tap them into an international network that can support their projects. We have based our innovation on grassroots capoeira projects - the senior team are entrepreneurs. This way we are creating a culture of innovation, learning from successes and disasters, an aptitude for tech, and exploration of different ways of thinking about opportunities and problems.

For example, we trained up local trainers who were able to reach into their communities to access more girl students, and create a network of support for their students. These trainers went on to run their own initiatives, and benefit from a cloud-based network. We are piloting a decentralized network via the trainers themselves, i.e. working with projects and fledgling initiatives that are already in place.

The Changemakers Programme. What's happening now and how does it work?

In 2016 we launched the pilot of our Changemakers Programme Awards. The participants are changemakers, coming from emergency situations (both protracted and current conflicts) who work with 150 students in their local communities. They take part in a training programme that includes learning psychosocial skills, which they then use in their work. This includes 1 female changemaker who is training up future trainers. Both the Changemaker and their students benefit from the project. Ages range from 8 to 45. A condition of the Award is that local winners outreach to girls if they are not already doing so (with appropriate support, when needed, and an integrated gender training).

We know local change comes from local ownership. This is why we design what success looks like together with the changemakers, and use a curriculum and a specifically designed measuring system iterated from practical experience. Communities benefit through owning the projects that provide them with psychosocial support. We are scaling internationally, through our related online network (which is part of our decentralized network approach) and partnerships with relevant organizations. We aim to expand the Award out of the Middle East context to Western Europe and then potentially to other contexts using different forms of art and culture.



What does the future look like?

For Syria, the immediate future doesn't look so great. But young people impacted by conflict can still have their youth. I am already talking to the Brazilian Government about having a special partnership. We are also talking to leaders in the sport4development field about potential partnerships, and we will be expanding the Changemakers Award across the globe.

I am very passionate about helping people who have the X-factor, those who dedicate their lives to helping their communities – but have not the network, nor any other means to help their work to grow. Currently, the majority of developmental funds are going to larger organizations who are not willing to engage with these initiatives or who are too slow-moving.

This is not a fresh perspective - the leaders of aid industry are mostly very aware of the issues they've caused - the trouble is it's not clear what to do about it. I am convinced that, for the most part, jobs, training and networks are what are needed, not financial aid. At the same time the clock is ticking and refugee children and their families, are losing their sense of dignity, while support is not reaching them.



It is that loss of self-worth, and control over one's own life, which makes people so vulnerable to anger, to frustration, mental illness, and to choices that can lead to violence and extremism. Just recently I was driving into Azraq refugee camp built for over 130,000 refugees in the middle of the desert in Jordan. A barbed wire fence cuts into the sand, surrounding thousands of shelters, as far as the eye can see, back to back. I'm stopped at the fence; a soldier asks to see my security clearance. There are lots of young men hanging around, kicking the desert sand. There is nothing to do. I don't really see any girls. Those older than 11-12 aren't allowed out of the shelters. Many marry before the age of 15.

So, ... how did I end up here, a Syrian/German guy in a desert refugee camp?

In 2007 I was running a successful real estate company in Syria but... I wanted and needed a meaningful change. I was practicing my very cool capoeira moves on the streets of Damascus, singing and playing instruments. Local kids joined me – they brought their friends, the friends brought their friends and some brought their parents. I decided to rent a space and set up classes for them. From these beginnings, Capoeira4Refugees started projects in youth prisons, with Iraqi and Palestinian refugees and in women's safe houses. Despite the malfunctioning development sector, throughout the Middle East and beyond, we reached out to thousands of young people.

Let's go back to Azraq refugee camp.

I saw Ahmed, who trains capoeira with us, there last week. Ahmed fled Aleppo with his family after his home was bombed and destroyed. Together with his three

sisters and mother, he travelled with other desperate Syrians for three months, running out of food, water, losing all their money to bribes. Two men traveling on the same truck were shot and killed. As Ahmed finally made it to the border, a soldier stopped him, beating him to the ground and crushing his head into the sand with a boot, breaking his nose.

Ahmed is 16 years old. When I first met him, he was angry, he wanted to go back to Syria and fight. Now, he is a very different boy, walking on his hands and practicing music - he wants to be a teacher when the war is over. Kids like him desperately need positive outlets to deal with their violent experiences.

My vision is to scale the #GrassrootsAward to access conflict-impacted communities across the globe and to reach out to young people like Ahmed. Peace, when it comes, will come to a generation with little to lose... and accustomed to violence. It is through the safe expression of their emotions, building new relationships based on trust and the joy of playing with friends, that the trauma created by the violence of what they've been through can begin to heal... Other choices exist and it all begins with having a freedom of mind.

To learn more about Tarek's work and his organization, Capoeira4Refugees, please visit the [website](#). Here is a [Video](#), where Mark Brasilford, Senior Protection Officer UNRWA, oPT explains the psychosocial benefits of Capoeira Here is an [Introduction Video](#) to the Organisation.

If you are yourself or know a Network member who has an interesting story to tell, contact us!



ALF Cross-Network Activities

June – September 2017

Kimiyya, Les Femmes Actrices du Dialogue

Leader: Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo Onlus (Italy);
Partners: We love sousse (Tunisia), Geminarie Group (Malta), Forum Femmes Méditerranée (France), Youth Resource Center (Bosnia& Herzegovina), L'Association Etoile Culturelle d'Akbou (Algeria), Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations (Albania); **Countries of implementation:** Italy, France, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Tunisia and Malta;
Budget: 95.000 euros (ALF contribution: 75.000 euros);
Contact: Michele Capasso

(Eng. Women Actresses of Dialogue). Building on the work of the ALF and its Networks, Kimiyya "Les Femmes actrices du Dialogue" aims to develop the role of women as main actors of dialogue, especially in relation to migration, democracy, economy, creativity, traditions, rights, education and peace. The project would like to formulate recommendations and concrete operational guidelines which would eventually strengthen the role of women in Euro-Mediterranean civil society, in the hope of reaching gender equality across different sectors. Kimiyya is an Arabic word which means chemistry, it symbolizes the unique capacity of Euro-Mediterranean women for creating connections and bringing together different cultures.

Expression artistique interculturelle dans les zones fragiles

Leader: We Love Sousse (Tunisia); **Partners:** Perpetuum Mobile (Finland), The Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO (Lebanon), Forum Femmes Méditerranée (France), L'Association Etoile Culturelle d'Akbou (Algeria), The European Institute of the Mediterranean (Spain), Zavod Povod (Slovenia), In Place of War (United Kingdom), The Museum of World Cultures (Sweden), European Institute for Research on Mediterranean and Euro-Arab cooperation (Belgium), Hellenic Foundation for Culture (Greece), Triskel Arts Centre (Ireland), Centre International de Coopération Sud Nord (Morocco); **Countries of implementation:** Tunisia, Finland, Lebanon, France, Algeria, Spain, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Morocco; **Budget:** 74.820 euros (ALF contribution 100%); **Contact:** Anis BOUFRIKHA

(Eng. Intercultural Artistic Expression in Fragile Zones). Fragile zones are growing all across the EuroMed region, which is currently characterized by an increasing instability. Refugee camps, marginalized and post-conflict regions, vulnerable persons, victims of violence, radicalized persons are all considered part of fragile zones. Art is apt to play a significant role in helping people in these conflicted areas to reestablish peace and face challenges. The project follows an intercultural artistic approach which will contribute to finding different solutions for people affected by the conflicts by providing a platform of expression through art. It will also support new cultural initiatives and will include Syrian and Libyan artists who can develop a bridge of dialogue through their work and experiences coming from populations torn by war and conflicts.

Be Effective! Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue Media Skills in Central and Eastern Europe

Leader: Institute of International Relations Prague (IIR) (Czechia); **Partners:** Palantír Film Visual Anthropological Foundation (Hungary), Povod, Institute for culture and development of international relations in culture (Slovenia), International Cultural Centre (Poland), The National Trust of Slovakia (Slovakia), We Love Sousse (Tunisia), Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (Lithuania), Centre International de Coopération Sud Nord – CICSN (Morocco); **Countries of implementation:** Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania; **Budget:** 71.200 Euros (ALF contribution 100%); **Contact:** Pavla Zacialova

The 2015 "refugee crisis" has significantly affected the politics, media and general society across the whole EuroMed region. Although the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries have not experienced any noteworthy inflow of refugees and have only small non-EU minorities, they record worrying and growing rates of xenophobia and hate against foreigners in general and Arab, Muslim and refugees specifically. The project will equip the ALF Network members with effective communication skills and capacities to reach a wide range of audiences and convey the message in an innovative and attractive way to combat xenophobia and extremism in CEE societies and to inspire and fuel a constructive and inclusive dialogue within societies.



Networks for Intercultural Citizenship Education

Leader: Foundation of the Finnish Institute in the Middle East - FIME (Finland); **Partners:** Danmission (Denmark), Estonian School of Diplomacy (ESD) (Estonia), Goethe-Institut e.V. (Germany), Centre International de Coopération Sud Nord – CICSN (Morocco), International Cultural Centre (Poland), National Museums of World Culture (Sweden), We Love Sousse (Tunisia), System & Generation (Turkey); **Countries of implementation:** Finland; **Budget:** 80 297,50 Euros (ALF: 69,467.50); **Contact:** [Suvi Laakso](#)

The aim is to integrate some ALF core themes, focus groups & tools into one project. The main event consists of 2 interrelated parts: a forum and a training. The action follows recommendations of the Malta Med Forum, which identified education as a strategic theme for future intercultural dialogue and youth as one of the key target groups. It brings together the strengths of national Networks to utilize, promote and further develop the ALF Handbook for Intercultural Citizenship Education. "We, HoNs, believe the Networks should have a greater role in promoting ALF programs, benefiting from the previous achievements of the Foundation & developing its actions on a regional civil society level. In line with ALF mandate, the project brings together civil society actors from North & South to discuss issues important for us all.

Intercultural Cities

Leader: Povod, Institute for culture and development of international relations in culture (Slovenia); **Partners:** Foundation of the Finnish Institute in the Middle East (Finland), International Cultural Centre (Poland), The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (Israel), Institute of international relations IIR (Czech Republic), Palantír Film Visual Anthropological Foundation (Hungary), National museums of World Culture (Sweden); **Countries of implementation:** Israel, Slovenia; **Budget:** 74,100 Euros (ALF contribution: 72.900,00 Euros); **Contact:** [Robert Križanič](#)

The aim of the project is to reinforce the exchange between organizations working on intercultural issues in cities throughout the Euro-Med region and to build new partnerships and new projects among HoNs and member organizations from involved networks. The project supports a stronger cooperation among the involved networks, while addressing issues that lie at the heart of the Euro-Med cooperation and, thus, providing support for the ALF mission. Room is given to share experiences related to daily work, while the main thematic focus is placed on intercultural issues in urban areas. Most migrations flow towards cities, therefore an intercultural picture of a city can be treated as an indicator of the intercultural situation in the country or region. The HoN and at least four other members from each network will take part in the main event, a three day Forum in Ljubljana.

3.S for Intercultural Citizenship Education

Leader: S&G System and Generation Association (Turkey); **Partners:** Povod, Institute for culture and development of international relations in culture (Slovenia), In Place Of War (UK), [Youth Resource Centre](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Population and Development Services Center (Egypt); **Countries of implementation:** Morocco, Italy, Turkey; **Budget:** 77,777,20 (62,221.76 ALF Contribution); **Contact:** [Alessia Borzacchiello](#)

The Project aims at increasing awareness and knowledge towards a genuine inclusion and the expression of pluralism in an context, focusing on different examples of diversity and best practices of intercultural integration. The action will show innovative approaches developed and integrated into common practices and the experiences of three different models of intercultural communities. It will also enhance awareness and mutual understanding among the participants of an intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Finally, the action aims to build a learning community ready to practice intercultural dialogue approaches; to disseminate the ALF Handbook on Intercultural Education and to encourage synergies between ALF members for future partnerships.



Best Practice Social and Creative Enterprise Training

Leader: In Place of War (United Kingdom); **Partners:** Goethe Institute e.V.(Germany), Hellenic Foundation for Culture (Greece), The Museum of World Cultures (Sweden), The Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO (Lebanon); **Countries of implementation:** United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Lebanon and Greece; **Budget:** 73,920 Euros (ALF contribution 100%); **Contact:** Alison Surtees

The past couple of years have witnessed a massive influx of migrants and refugees fleeing from the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East in the hope of a peaceful life. This flow of people consequently led to the rise of hatred toward Immigrant and Refugee (IAR) communities. As such, intercultural dialogue is threatened and challenged by the increasing terror attacks, yet, the international community needs to genuinely work on innovative solutions in the aim of overcoming such challenges. This project believes in Entrepreneurship as an important tool to create job opportunities and foster integration across the society. This project- through a research-based survey and a Social Enterprise Development Training of Trainers Programme – brings knowledge, skills and expertise in Social Enterprise Development that can support members working with IAR communities to work towards economic sustainability, reflecting the needs of each partner.

CNA CALENDAR*				
Network	Location (city, country)	July	August	September
Be Effective!	Olomouc, Czech Republic			8 - 11
Networks for Intercultural Citizenship Education	Helsinki, Finland		26 - 31	
Kīmiyya	Naples, Italy			11 - 14
Intercultural Cities	Ljubljana, Slovenia	24 - 28		3 - 6
Intercultural Artistic Expression in Fragile Zones	Sousse, Tunisia			8 - 12
3.S for Intercultural Citizenship Education	Tangier, Morocco (TBC)		2-8	
	Mazara del Vallo, Italy		17-23	
	Bursa, Tukey			7-15
Best Practice Social and Creative Enterprise Training	Athens, Greece			3 - 9

The call for applications, addressed to all the ALF Head of Network institutions in the 42 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean, was launched on the 30th of March 2017. The aim is to fund “Cross-Network Activities” to capitalise on Network members’ knowledge and experience in addressing the promotion of and the challenges related to intercultural dialogue at regional and sub-regional level. All proposals foresee partnerships of at least 4 HoNs. The size of the awarded grants ranges from 37,500 EUR to 75,000 EUR. The ALF financial support represents up to 100% of the total eligible costs of the project. The duration of the activities falls between 15th June 2017 and 15th September 2017.



ALF Call for Nominations

EuroMed Dialogue Award 2017

Upcoming

The Anna Lindh Foundation is getting ready to launch a Call for the last edition of the EuroMed Dialogue Award of the IV Phase.

The EuroMed Dialogue Award is an annual award which aims to recognise the achievements of individuals or organisations that have been at the forefront of the promotion of Intercultural Dialogue in the EuroMed Region. The theme of the Award is chosen annually by a specific committee, in consideration of the socio-political context at the time. Since its creation in 2006, the Award has recognized the commendable work of 10 first-ranking initiatives, organisations and personalities in the region.

The theme for the 2017 edition will be: **Refugees and Migration as an Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue.** Members of the Network will be invited to submit nominations and - during an official Bestowing Ceremony - the Winner will receive a trophy and 5000 Euros.

More information, including details of how to participate and who can be nominated, will follow. Keep your eyes and ears open and make sure to check the ALF website for updates!

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The Networks Team are 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.

This edition, as well as all past editions of our newsletter can be viewed on the [ALF website](#).

