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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

Alexandria, 5th November 2009

Euromed Youth Policies in Intercultural Dialogue

**Preparation seminar for the Anna Lindh Forum 2010
in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation**

**European Youth Centre Strasbourg,
25-28 January 2010**

**Course Presentation
Procedure for applications**

Background and framework of the project

The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe (Partnership) in the field of youth have engaged since three years in cooperation activities in the field of youth and intercultural dialogue. This cooperation is rooted in the common commitment to provide opportunities for young people to be part of intercultural dialogue, in the shared need to develop synergies and complementarities between each other's activities in Euro-Mediterranean context and in the commitments of the Faro platform for intercultural dialogue.

The Euro-Mediterranean co-operation between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries was formalised through the Barcelona declaration which stresses that “youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners”. The Euro-Med Youth programme was proposed as a “permanent dialogue between young people from the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners, to foster mutual understanding among young people (...) and to contribute to the process of democratisation of the civil society.” Obviously, this can not be pursued without a strong emphasis on human rights and intercultural learning. It can also not be pursued without an involvement of young people themselves.

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (www.euromedalex.org) is the first common institution jointly established and financed by all 43 members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Created in 2004, the Anna Lindh Foundation aims to bring people and organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean closer to each other. It acts as a Network of Networks in order to reach the civil societies of each of the 43 countries and to mobilise them in order to serve Intercultural Dialogue. The main targets group of the Anna Lindh Foundation are youth, women, and migrants and its main objectives are to promote a dynamic concept of dialogue between cultures through co-operation between civil society organisations which work in education, culture, science and communication.

In 2009-2010, the ALF and the Partnership would like to cooperate in the organisation of a common seminar on “*Euromed Youth Policies in Intercultural Dialogue*”, which will enable both the Youth partnership and Anna Lindh Foundation to take stock of what is already done in this field and will at the same time serve as a preparation meeting for the Anna Lindh Forum 2010. This Seminar will give an insight about the **Youth Policies in the Region** and the status of cooperation and coordination between the different actors of the Euro-Mediterranean space. It will also help explaining **how youth participation can be strengthened** in different fields of actions of the Foundation and the Partnership (Education, Media, Cultural Production, Migration etc). The presence of 25 youth leaders and youth workers from the ALF Networks and the Partnership Networks along with policy makers and researchers will contribute to the formulation of concrete recommendations for action and guidelines for the ALF Forum 2010 as well as future actions of the ALF.

From the 4th to the 7th March 2010, the Anna Lindh Foundation will be gathering between 500 and 600 ALF members and partners, NGOs, other Euromed networks, institutions, experts, and personalities from across the region in the **Anna Lindh Forum 2010** in order to give new momentum to the cooperation among civil society organizations committed to intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Med region and to increase its impact on the establishment of the Union for the Mediterranean while enriching the activities of the National Networks and the work of the Foundation.

The Youth Partnership

In 2005 the Youth Partnership, together with several national and regional partners, initiated a process of youth policy co-operation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region aimed at fostering greater cooperation between stakeholders of youth policy. Since then, several activities were organised to reflect on youth policy in the Euro-Med region:

- 2 round tables on youth policy cooperation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region (Cairo 2006 and Budapest 2009)
- A seminar on the role of youth research in youth policy development (Cairo, 2006);
- A seminar on youth participation and the role of youth organisations in youth policy development and implementation (Budapest, 2007);

This seminar will contribute to further develop the work on youth policy, with a new focus lying on intercultural dialogue, and thus to combine the institution's experiences and expertise in these topics to contribute to successfully preparing the Anna Lindh Forum 2010.

ALF and Partnership

The course is open to participants from Europe and the Mediterranean countries part of the Euro-Med Partnership.

This seminar is the concrete output of a continuous cooperation between the Council of Europe/Partnership and the Anna Lindh Foundation in the field of youth and intercultural dialogue. The seminar offers a reflection on the experiences accumulated in the Youth Partnership, especially the programme of HRE and intercultural dialogue activities of the Council of Europe youth sector and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Aims of the seminar

The seminar aims at evaluating the positions of ALF and the Partnership Programme regarding youth policies on Intercultural Dialogue in the Euro-Med with the contribution of major actors involved in this field in order to develop a future youth strategy and plan the 2010 Anna Lindh Forum accordingly.

Objectives of the seminar

- To explore the situation and conditions for youth policy in intercultural dialogue in the broader Euro-Mediterranean framework with a special focus on current themes such as non formal education, youth mobility, youth integration and new technologies;
- To share experiences and resources on intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- To provide a deeper knowledge of the institutions involved and the cooperation opportunities offered by their programmes;
- To identify ways of strengthening youth participation in Intercultural Dialogue in the Euro-Med programme field
- To experience educational tools for human rights education and intercultural dialogue;
- To take stock of the youth organisations active on youth policy in intercultural dialogue in the partners' networks.
- To develop the concept for the Youth section of the ALF Forum 2010

- To develop concrete recommendations and guidelines for future youth strategy and regional cooperation.
- To increase the presence of the Anna Lindh Foundation in the cooperation dynamism in the region.
- To motivate participants to act as multipliers in human rights education and conflict settlement projects.;

Profile of participants

The course is open to participants from Europe and the Mediterranean countries part of the Euro-Med Partnership and to participants from the Council of Europe Countries.

All participants must be:

- Youth workers, youth leaders, young researchers, journalists, bloggers or artists or occasional trainers, involved with intercultural dialogue and/or youth policy.
- Interested in the broader framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation;
- Motivated to learn and further develop their competences in youth policy and/or intercultural dialogue;
- Committed to follow-up the seminar with multiplying activities (youth projects, training activities, participation in the Anna Lindh Forum 2010 etc.);
- Supported by an institution or organisation in the framework of which they will develop their follow-up activities;
- Committed to diffuse the results of the seminar among their own networks, in particular among their national networks and the heads of these networks in the case of participants belonging to the Anna Lindh network.
- Able to work in English and to attend the full duration of the course.
- Aged between 18 and 30 (exceptions will be possible)

Working languages

The course will be held in English only.

Application and selection procedure

This call will be sent to the ALF Head of Network and dispatched to the National Networks Members and published on the Council of Europe online application website.

All those interested in applying to take part in the course must do so by filling in the application on-line, available at <http://coe.opencontent.it> by the 25th November 2009 the latest.

The applicants must be nominated by an organization that is member of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures or by another youth organisation actively interested in Euro-Mediterranean intercultural dialogue. The sending organisations must provide support letter which should be uploaded on the above mentioned link, or sent by fax to the Council of Europe (+3612124076).

Applications are welcome from the 48 states signatory of the European Cultural Convention and from the 10 “MEDA” countries signatories of the Barcelona Declaration¹.

25 participants will be selected, and the selection committee will seek a balance of sexes, as well as of participants from European and “Southern Mediterranean” countries.

Deadline for applications: **25th November 2009**. Applications after this deadline will not be taken into account, and the results of the selection will be communicated by the **10th of December**. Please note that only selected applicants will be contacted.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Selected participants will receive a pre-paid electronic ticket for a round trip from their place of residency to Strasbourg. Other eligible travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Only the participants who attend the entire seminar can be reimbursed. The payment will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros).

Accommodation

Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

¹ Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine; Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.