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## “Youth Contributions for Dialogue and Change”

### *1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting for the Anna Lindh Forum 2013*

28 June - 1 July 2012, Istanbul (Turkey)

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## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

In the context of the “Anna Lindh Forum 2013”, the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (ALF) will hold a Pre-Forum Preparatory Meeting with the participation of Youth from the Euro-Med region where thematic priorities for reflection and action will be identified in the context of the 4D ALF strategy: Dialogue, Diversity, Democracy and Development.

The Meeting will be organised in cooperation with the three co-coordinators as the Heads of the ALF National Network in Turkey: the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), the System and Generation Association (S&G) and the Association of Civil Society and Development Institute. The event will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 28 June to 1 July 2012.

### **1. BACKGROUND: THE “ANNA LINDH FORUM 2013”**

The Anna Lindh Forum is a major civil society gathering for the promotion of intercultural action across the Mediterranean region to bring together civil society and NGO representatives from the Union for the Mediterranean countries to debate and create action in favour of dialogue, mutual understanding and peace. The event is organized every three years.

In line with the objectives and level of participation of the first and successful [Anna Lindh Forum 2010](#), which took place in Barcelona, the ALF Secretariat plans to hold the second edition of the Anna Lindh Forum in Marseille, France, in April 2013.

Building on the outcomes of the Forum 2010, ensuring continuity with the results of the [Tunis Exchange Forum](#), held in Tunis in June 2011, the Anna Lindh Forum 2013 has the ambition to be one of the most relevant and pioneering Euro-Mediterranean civil society events following the major changes recently experienced by the region. The event is meant to be a platform where participants from different backgrounds are encouraged to exchange ideas, debate, network and be part of a participatory process aiming at designing a final road map for purposeful and concrete recommendations and actions to improve mutual knowledge and perceptions among the people of the Euro-Mediterranean societies.

The Forum will seek to contribute to the promotion of intercultural dialogue at all the levels of the society, through community mobilization and participation and supporting the implementation of civil society’s initiatives. More specifically, the second edition of the Forum will not only aim at targeting those who are already acquainted with the ALF core mission but will also attempt to bring in a wide range of civil society actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and the participation/involvement of local civil society at the grass-root level will be of high importance.

Based on the successful model of the first edition, the Anna Lindh Forum 2013 will consist of an AGORA (plenary sessions and seminars referred to the strategic fields of the Foundation), a MEDINA (workshops on best practices initiated among ALF activities and aiming at addressing topics and common problems related to field work) and an Intercultural Fair (a space of networking where all ALF network members and partners present their activities to the public at large as well as exhibitions and artworks).

Conceived as a participatory process articulated in three main phases, the Forum 2013 will begin with a preparatory phase, which will include a series of **Pre-Forum Preparatory Meetings** that will be held in 2012 focusing on **Youth, Women and Migrants**, as active agents of dialogue and facilitators of Intercultural Dialogue within and between communities and societies.

The rationale for holding the Pre-Forum Preparatory Meetings is to identify - from the perspective of the respective focus groups of the ALF activities relevant **Ideas for Discussion, Ideas for Action and Inspiring Experiences** to set the scene for the 2013 Anna Lindh Forum 2013 and the ensuing of a that will result from it.

## **2. OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND METHODOLOGY**

The Pre-Forum Preparatory Meeting "*Youth Contributions for Dialogue and Change*" will represent the first meeting before the Forum 2013.

The Meeting will gather a group of around 45 young participants from the Euro-Mediterranean region from 28 June - 1 July 2012, to debate, interact and share experiences focusing on the 4D ALF strategy: Dialogue, Democracy, Development and Diversity.

### **2.1 General Objective**

The general objective of the Meeting is to contribute to the formulation, development and implementation of the Programme of the Anna Lindh Forum 2013 by articulating a Youth Perspective on broad social, cultural, economic and political challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean context in the wake of the major changes experienced by the region in the last year and a half.

### **2.2 Specific Objective**

The specific objective of the meeting is to identify thematic priorities for reflection and action from a Youth perspective through the Intercultural Dialogue approach in the Euro-Mediterranean region in the framework of the overall ALF strategy (*4 Ds*) and fields of action (*Education & Intercultural Learning, Culture & Creativity, Urban Spaces & Citizenship, Media and Public Opinion*) in view of the Ann a Lindh Forum 2013.

### **2.3 Expected Results**

The expected results of the Pre-Forum Youth Preparatory Meeting will be:

- 1) Identification of the key questions to be discussed in the Forum taking into account the Mediterranean Youth Perspective on current critical issues, recent trends, key developments, lessons, challenges and major needs related to the thematic focus of the meeting;
- 2) Identification of best practices and possible synergies in relation to the topics discussed;
- 3) Concrete Ideas for Discussion to be further debated and Ideas for Action to be integrated in the Road Map to emerge from the 2013 ALF Forum:
  - at the level of ALF overall strategy/programmes/projects/activities
  - at level of ALF Networks activities
  - at the level of Euro-Mediterranean agenda
- 4) Selection of the three best project ideas developed in the thematic workshops to be presented at the Forum;
- 5) Ideas about the overall programme structure as well as the debate and exchange modalities during the event.

## 2.4 Methodology

All participants are expected to actively contribute to the sessions of the Meeting with Ideas for Discussion and Ideas for Action and to present their activities and identify inspiring/relevant experiences at some stage during the meeting.

The participants will be divided in three break-up groups of up to 15 participants which will deal with one of the three thematic axis of the meeting. A plenary session will bring together the conclusions and proposals of the three groups on each of the themes and allow for a joint discussion.

There will also be short plenary discussion sessions on the formats for debate, exchange and proposals formulation for the Anna Lindh Forum 2013 and on possible actions by participants in the period between the Pre-Forum Youth Preparatory Meeting and the Anna Lindh Forum 2013 to prepare for the implementation of the Road Map that will result from the Forum.

Furthermore, on the second day of the Meeting there will be a competition between the three groups of participants. Each group will present project ideas as a result of the working sessions and which translate the theories discussed into practical actions. One project idea of each thematic workshop will be selected at the end of the Meeting. The winners will be invited to the Forum in 2013 to present their projects with one of the co-coordinators of the Turkish Head of Network.

The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French.

## 3. THEMATIC AXIS

The discussions in the Pre-Forum Youth Preparatory Meeting will be articulated around the following three main thematic axis:

- **Dialogue and Diversity: Living together in Plural Societies**

Contributing to living together and making diversity compatible with social cohesion and sustainable development is at the core of the mission of the ALF on both sides of the Mediterranean. In most of Europe, living together in diversity became a social and political challenge aggravated by the economic and financial crisis. In the South of the Mediterranean, diversity is becoming also a growing challenge.

The last socio-political changes had a major impact on the whole Mediterranean region from different perspectives by opening new dialogue and communication channels between youth in the region providing new possibilities to newly emerging actors of the civil society, such as social media. Social and cultural diversity receives, therefore, more and more visibility in the new context (while its management becomes more complex), which requires new approaches in order to benefit from its richness and fight the still existing stereotypes. In this respect, intercultural dialogue - both inside the societies and between the societies is an value diversity, promoting social participation in building open and pluralistic societies, and fostering social cohesion, human development and respect for fundamental rights.

The participants will discuss:

- the role of youth in the promotion of respect and mutual understanding among all cultures through mobility actions and culture exchanges/partnerships among youth in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- the tools needed to raise awareness and encourage young people to be positive actors with their peers for a better living together;
- the major challenges facing in the recognition of the richness of cultural diversity, evolving civil societies and the role of the new creative spaces and social media in supporting new forms of citizenship;
- the importance of the cultural and educative interactions to promote multiculturalism and pluralism for a Euro-Mediterranean identity.

▪ **Democracy: Opening New Spaces for Youth Participation and Citizenship**

The Arab Spring of 2011 changed the self-perception of Arab societies while the global current socio-economic situation challenge the Euro-Mediterranean societies at large. Suddenly, the people of the Arab region found themselves for the first time acting as a "group" or a "team" with a common purpose ahead of them. Tahrir Square and Avenue Bourgiba emerged as symbols of unity and debate while in the northern shore of the Mediterranean new participatory processes are requested by the citizens. From the perspective of many young activists there was nothing "sudden" about it. It was instead a reflection of a deeper change that youth were slowly introducing into their societies slowly through social movements that emerged during the past 10 years. The Arab Spring was directly affected by the convergence of these movements' ideals into a common objective.

The participants will discuss:

- the effect of the new regional context on the youth social movements in the Euro-Mediterranean region and the difference in their role before and after the Arab Spring in relation to their level of participation in the social and political scene;
- the tools needed to translate youth interest in social and political participation into a real value adding, and therefore the way to strengthen youth social and political empowerment;
- Ideas for identifying and elaborating clear steps for the future role of youth NGOs in the Euro-Mediterranean region promoting democratic values, social change, civil society empowerment, citizenship, freedom, pluralism and mutual respect - these are all concepts promoted by the ALF's mission.

▪ **Development: Youth as Key of Change in a New Social and Political Context**

The social and political developments experienced in the Arab countries in 2011 and the current situation of socio-economic crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean region evidenced the need for a deep change in their development model and an increased focus on job creation, local development and sustainability. They also challenged the very foundations of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation so far. Youth, as the largest social group in those societies, have been the main agent for change in those developments and should become the focal point of all new policies.

The participants will discuss:

- the main challenges, conditions and components of the new development model to be articulated in response to the new socio-economic and political context;
- the need for a comprehensive approach linking social cohesion and diversity and labour insertion as a basis for emancipation and socio-political participation;
- the possibility to develop a joint North-South Mediterranean development agenda in the framework of the current global economic crisis and the rationale for a new Euro-Mediterranean cooperation agenda as a material basis for intercultural dialogue in the region.

#### 4. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 28 June 2012	Friday 29 June 2012	Saturday 30 June 2012	Sunday 1 July 2012
Arrival of the Participants	9:00-9:30 Registration	9:00- 10:30 3 Parallel Thematic Workshops	9:30-12:00 Public Activity
	9:30-10:30 Introduction to the ALF Programme and Forum 2013		
	10:30-11:30 Methodology and Presentation by the Experts		
	11:30-12:00 <i>Coffee break</i>	10:30-11:00 <i>Coffee break</i>	
	12:00-13:30 3 Parallel Thematic Workshops	11:00-13:00 3 Parallel Thematic Workshops	
	13:30-15:00 <i>Lunch</i>	13:00-14:30 <i>Lunch</i>	
	15:00-16:30 3 Parallel Thematic Workshops	14:30-16:30 Presentation and Debate on workshop results and conclusions on each of the thematic axis	
16:30-16:45 <i>Coffee Break</i>	16:30-16:45 <i>Coffee Break</i>	18:15 - 18:30 Evaluation of the project ideas Conclusions	Departure of Participants
16:45-18:30 3 Thematic Parallel Workshops and Daily Evaluation	16:45-18:15 Project ideas by each Workshop Participants'		
19:00 <i>Ice Breaking Activities &amp; Welcome Cocktail</i>	20:00 <i>Dinner</i>	18:30 <i>Free time</i>	

#### 5. TARGET GROUP

The Pre-Forum Youth Preparatory Meeting targets mainly youth activists from ALF National Networks. The 45 participants from the Euro-Med region will not necessarily be experts on the thematic axis of the meeting, but youth activists with grass-root experience working in the field of youth, preferably in relation to some of the thematic axis. Around 10 of them will come from Turkey as hosting country of the meeting. Representatives of major actors in the field of Euro-Mediterranean and Arab youth will be also invited.

## 6. PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants should:

- ✓ be resident in one of the 42 countries<sup>1</sup> of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
- ✓ be between 18 and 35 years old;
- ✓ representatives of an ALF network member;
- ✓ have knowledge and strong interest in at least one of the three topics of the Meeting and be working in the field of Development, Dialogue, Diversity & Democracy;
- ✓ have experience in the field of the selected working group(s);
- ✓ be strongly motivated to work on at least one of the three topics of the Meeting and ensure a follow-up to the Meeting;
- ✓ preferably be young activists with grass-root experience working in the field of youth in relation to the thematic axis focus of the Meeting;
- ✓ be able to communicate in English and/or French during the Meeting;
- ✓ be able to participate during the full duration of the Meeting;
- ✓ preferably be able to act as a multiplier of the Meeting conclusions through the organization/institution he/she represents.

## 7. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

This Call for Participants along with the Application Form will be sent by e-mail to all ALF network members. The selection committee at ALF Headquarters will examine the received applications and select around 45 applicants. The selection of participants will be subject to the quality of applications received, while trying to ensure a geographical and gender balance.

The filled in Application Form should be sent email to: [youthmeeting@annalindhforum.org](mailto:youthmeeting@annalindhforum.org)

## 8. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

The ALF will cover all expenses related to travel, board, accommodation and visa of the selected participants.

## 9. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

The deadline for receiving the applications is **Wednesday 23 May 2012 (16:00 Egypt Time - GMT+2)**

**Kindly note that applications received after the deadline will not be taken into consideration and that only selected applicants will be notified.**

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom.