

ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION VIRTUAL MARATHON FOR DIALOGUE IN THE EUROMED – ALF CONTRIBUTION TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARCELONA PROCESS

CONCEPT NOTE

25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process – The Anna Lindh Foundation Community Celebration

The ALF, as the first institution created in the framework of the EuroMed Partnership/Barcelona Process, intends to contribute to the 25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process by giving voice to its large network of civil society – Cultural operators – Opinion leaders – Educators – Think tanks and Universities – Partners - Youth – Men and Women to showcase a variety of cultural cooperation and solidarity initiatives in the EuroMed region, data and reflections on intercultural trends and areas to be strengthened for the promotion of intercultural dialogue for the future of social and cultural EuroMed cooperation.

Anna Lindh Foundation Virtual Marathon for Dialogue in the EuroMed - ALF celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process:

Taking into consideration the symbolic and strategic importance of 2020 as the year of the 25th Celebration of the Barcelona Process, and the large mobilization made by the ALF community in preparation of MEDForum 2020, which had to be cancelled due to the outburst of COVID19, the ALF plans to launch by the end of 2020, a series of celebration and mobilization activities of civil society, institutional representatives, young people, the media and the academia framed by the Anna Lindh Virtual Marathon for Dialogue.

At this historic moment for the EuroMed cooperation, the Anna Lindh Foundation Virtual Marathon for Dialogue aims to offer a platform to analyse the orientations for the future within the current context but also to make even more visible the work for dialogue done at the institutional and grass-root level and that is still little known to the broad public.

The Anna Lindh Foundation Virtual Marathon for Dialogue consists in a series of cultural activities, weekly webinars on main issues for the promotion of EuroMed cultural cooperation, virtual trainings, seminars, exhibitions, debates led by the ALF Networks and partners, and building on all the work the ALF had done in preparation of MedForum 2020.

The main components of the Virtual Marathon for Dialogue include:

- A regional launch event on 30 September 2020, in partnership with IEMED as the Head of the Anna Lindh Foundation Spanish National Network
- The organization of a series of activities planned within the different programmes of the Foundation between September and December 2020 that will be the occasion to initiate the debate on the state and the future of EuroMed cooperation

- The presentation of the ALF civil society contribution during the UFM regional Forum between 25 and 27 November in close coordination with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
- The launch of a social media campaign running through 2021 to broadly spread the messaging of the initiative and engaging large audience and social media influences with a specific focus on youth
- A traditional media campaign and coverage of the Virtual Marathon for Dialogue activities at the EuroMed level
- A programme of virtual activities as mentioned earlier including regional conferences, workshops, exhibitions, trainings and debates in the first semester of 2021 to be organised in coordination with the ALF Heads of Network and network members as well as some of the ALF partners
- And final regional outcomes activity in Croatia in 2021 where we had planned to implement MEDForum 2020

Themes

The 25 Anniversary of the EuroMed Partnership calls on all the stakeholders committed to the promotion of cooperation around the Mediterranean sea to analyse the orientations for the future within the current context but also to make even more visible the work done at the institutional and grass-root level and that is still little known to the broad public.

The Programme of the Anna Lindh Foundation Virtual Marathon for Dialogue will be developed around the overarching theme of “Intercultural Dialogue for Sustainable Societies” which is at the heart of the vision of the ALF for its next years of programming. The programme will emphasize the relevance of intercultural dialogue for the sustainability of EuroMed societies, as an essential tool to ensure social cohesion, economic growth, environmental respect and sustainability, youth development and exchange, gender equality and civil society empowerment.

The Virtual Marathon for Dialogue will be opportunities to exchange good practices, identify and discuss new trends and priority areas of work for the promotion of intercultural dialogue in the EuroMed region in the main domains of the ALF work and taking into consideration the new context brought about by the outburst of the world pandemic Covid19.

The programme of the Anna Lindh Foundation Virtual Marathon for Dialogue will offer the opportunity to civil society, institutional representatives, young people, media, educators, researchers and citizens from the EuroMed region and beyond to debate around the following topics:

- Youth exchanges and mobility
- New concepts for EuroMed mobility and environmental sustainability
- Media and social media to counter hate speech and stereotypes
- Civil society exchanges and empowerment and new formats for economic development through social action
- Culture, arts and translation
- Intercultural education, virtual exchanges and research
- Gender and combating gender stereotypes
- Intercultural cities and localised action for dialogue
- Digital tools and Virtual Exchange for dialogue
- Green recovery post-Covid19 crisis and international cooperation

Provisional format

The Format of the Virtual Marathon for Dialogue includes

- 2 Hour-Webinar every week at the same time, over a couple of weeks (1 Month max) on issues of main interest for EuroMed cooperation and intercultural dialogue - livestreamed and open to large audiences
- A series of debates, workshops, seminars, roundtables, exhibitions, trainings
- Outcome - “Policy - Recommendations” activity

Partnerships

The ALF identifies in the ALF Networks the main partner in the development and implementation of the Virtual Marathon for Dialogue.

Therefore, from the early stages, the ALF Heads of Network are to be involved in the curation, organization of specific activities, mobilization of Networks members and communication of the ALF Virtual Marathon for Dialogue.

The ALF established institutional partners as well as other organisations interested to contribute to this regional initiative for dialogue in the EuroMed region will be invited to contribute and a specific attention is ensured to the collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean fully engaged in the celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process.

Background – MEDFORUM

The ALF contribution to the 25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process/Virtual Marathon for Dialogue build on the experience and preparatory work that the ALF, its civil society Network and partners ensured for the organization of MEDFORUM 2020, planned in Croatia for April 2020 and which due to the outburst of COVID19 the ALF had to cancel.

The MED FORUM of the Anna Lindh Foundation represents a landmark movement to accelerate and scale-up the impact of intercultural action in the face of unprecedented regional challenges. It is the largest and most influential youth and civil society gathering for cross-cultural dialogue and peace across the Mediterranean region.

MED FORUM has been widely acknowledged as a “landmark event” in how intercultural dialogue can counteract conflict, extremism, unemployment, and the public discourse on migration and refugee crises.

MED FORUM is built on a far-reaching programming process involving the 4500+ local branches of the Anna Lindh Foundation, CSO national coordinators, youth sector leaders, intercultural experts, city-to-city networks, and regional institutions.

The first MED FORUM has been organized in Barcelona (2010), followed by Marseille (2013) and Valletta (2016) with a strong institutional dimension, and with two out of three taking place during the Presidency of the European Union.

In Barcelona, the Forum was organised during the Spanish Presidency of the European Council. In Marseille, it was organised in the framework of the Marseille European Capital of Culture 2013 and took place together with the UfM Summit of Heads of Parliaments. The Valletta Forum took place in connection to the first Presidency of the European Council and the preparation of the Valletta European City of Culture 2018.

The first two editions of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum resulted in an unprecedented level of civil society engagement and networking in the UfM space. More than 3,400 representatives from across 56 countries took part in the preparation process for both Barcelona and Marseille, with measurable outputs in terms of “partnerships” (more than 500 reported) and new “North/South projects”. At the same time, the global assessment identified the potential for increased institutional impact, having in mind in particular the Mediterranean Forum’s unique capacity to bring together all the major players for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and act as a bridge between civil society and political leaders.

MED FORUM 2016, co-organized by the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta, with the support of the EU and in collaboration with a far-reaching coalition of institutional partners and civil society networks, was hosted at the historic Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Valletta. The Forum focused on the crucial sectors for the Foundation’s renewed role as central institution for intercultural dialogue: (1) Cities (2) Media (3) Education (4) Mobility and (5) Entrepreneurship; and actors: Youth, Women and Artists. The programme included high-level plenary debates on the role of intercultural dialogue in the face of today’s global issues; 8 evidence-led strategic sessions built on research and innovative practice; the launch of “Young Mediterranean Voices”; partner and delegate-led sessions to present and exchange proposals for scaling-up existing innovative practice; and a “Counter-narrative” training involving Youth Sector representatives delivered through a pioneering partnership with Facebook HQ.

Resources for the ALF Virtual Marathon for Dialogue from MEDFORUM 2020

From the work already done in preparation to MEDForum we have the following important resources:

- 104 Project idea/Good practice proposals (selected through the call for fully covered participants) to be considered and filtered out
- 51 Project idea/Good practice proposal (selected through the call for self-paying participants) to be considered and filtered out
- 38 high-level representatives who had confirmed their participation to MEDForum (list and availability to be reconsidered) to be newly invited and informed about the new MedForum preparations

Pre-MEDForum 2020 Events:

In order to prepare the MED FORUM 2020, 2 thematic meetings/discussions - PRE-FORUM EVENTS - were held with Heads of Networks for the Anna Lindh Forum in 2019 to underline the importance of networks role in outreach and to plan for activities that would also include hard to reach voices across 42 UfM countries.

This combined package of activities helped maintain the momentum and narrative of dialogue and mediation as central to EuroMed policies in the region.

The first pre-Forum event took place in Primosten, Croatia from April 10-12, 2019 and it coincided with Croatia’s network members annual meeting. The event titled **MARE NOSTRUM** focused on youth; challenges, mobility, employment, opportunities for business development, education and best practices exchange, what is Mediterranean today, how they relate to being a ‘Mediterranean’, what is Mediterranean culture to them today. The objective was:

- to further stimulate greater Euro-Mediterranean youth research and mobility.
- to open a discussion that will lead to building capacities of youth and promote their active engagement in the development and implementation of national policies and strategies on youth.
- To increase youth participation in priorities across national decision and policy-making in the Mediterranean to improve the situation of young people.

Heads of Networks (HoNs) from all 42 countries were invited by Croatia's network and the following 20 countries attended: Austria, Albania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Italy, Morocco, Ireland, Lithuania, Jordan, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Luxemburg, Poland, Greece, Algeria, Slovenia, Turkey.

This pre-Forum event was used for the presentation of youth projects – exchange of good practice.

The second pre-Forum 2020 event took place in Zadar from 11-13 June. The main theme of this pre-Forum event was **"Sustainable Development (Local Communities) of Euro-Mediterranean"** with 4 subthemes:

- The role of women in the development of local communities in the Euro-Mediterranean - Panel discussion
- Sustainable development of Mediterranean islands
- Social Entrepreneurship - an initiator of sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean
- Renewable energy sources - new Euro-Mediterranean power

This event included several panel discussions of representatives of organizations, who were given the platform to present their successful projects from their countries/organizations on relevant themes discussed at this conference.

A third pre-Forum event was organised during the ALF Heads General Assembly on 26.10.2019 in Thessaloniki, Greece and the discussion focused on the preparation of the MedForum 2020 Agenda:

- Venue and local activities in Croatia
- Forum's program structure
- HoNs Tasks and roles during the Forum
- Communications strategy and partnerships
- Extra-curricular activities