



# THE VALLETTA AGENDA

TOWARDS THE MALTESE  
EU PRESIDENCY AND  
A "PEOPLE-CENTRIC"  
RETHINK OF EURO-  
MEDITERRANEAN  
RELATIONS

## CONTENTS

The Anna Lindh Forum	02
Context and Location	03
Strategic Themes	05
The Strategic Priorities	06
Partnerships and People	16



---

# ABOUT THE FORUM



*The Mediterranean Forum of the Anna Lindh Foundation is the region's largest civil society gathering and most influential event of its kind for intercultural dialogue. The Forum connects a unique regional network of practitioners, policy-makers, media and international donors, united to create together real and lasting change in the face of the region's most pressing problems.*

“THE PREPARATION OF THE 2016 FORUM IN MALTA WILL BE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD AN ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE AT THE HEART OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND REAFFIRM THE GRAND COALITION OF VALUES”.

**Élisabeth Guigou**  
President of the Anna Lindh  
Foundation

Amidst the backdrop of unprecedented crisis and change in the Mediterranean, this year's Forum aims to accelerate and scale-up the impact and reach of intercultural action to counter forces fuelling polarisation and extremism. Both sides of the Mediterranean, North and South, are facing huge common challenges, from the impact of a refugee crisis and climate change to youth unemployment and radicalisation, and the cultural roadmap represents the only viable long-term approach to creating “a common space of peace, stability and economic prosperity”.

As the region's central institution and reference point for intercultural dialogue, the Anna Lindh Foundation has spent more than a decade investing in people-to-people cooperation across the Mediterranean region. Working from Alexandria across the 42 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Foundation has significant assets which can be leveraged through the Forum process to open up a new phase of action, from the largest network of civil society working for Mediterranean dialogue to pioneering research and extensive experience in the field. The Anna Lindh Forum programme of 24th and 25th October 2016 in Valletta will be structured around evidence-led strategic debate (“AGORA”) and an exchange of pioneering practices and network-building (“MEDINA”). The Forum will act as an anchor within a wider dialogue campaign to be run during 2016 with the 4500+ member associations and strategic partners of the Anna Lindh Foundation, and in preparation of the first Maltese EU Presidency. The formal preparations were launched in Valletta on 4th March 2016 with the participation of regional institutions and civil society networks, with a focus on shaping the strategic priorities of the Forum.

---

# CONTEXT AND LOCATION



*As a symbolic bridge between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region, Malta is a unique strategic location to reinforce regional connections. The first Maltese EU Presidency, during the first semester of 2017, also represents an occasion to put Mediterranean dialogue at the top of the political agenda.*

During 2015/16, culture and dialogue have gained increasing recognition as central components for rethinking relations between Europe and the Mediterranean region. Together they can become major instruments in the face of unprecedented challenges - from youth unemployment and radicalisation to the social impact of the refugee crisis and climate change. The Anna Lindh Forum will act as an anchor within a renewed policy impetus for intercultural dialogue, and offer, inter alia, input and complementarity to the following three areas:

“NOW IS THE TIME FOR  
DIALOGUE. INVESTING IN  
THE NEXT GENERATION OF  
DIALOGUE LEADERS IS THE  
BEST WAY TO FIGHT FORCES  
FUELLING POLARISATION AND  
EXTREMISM”

**Wided Bouchamaoui**  
**Nobel Peace Prize Winner and**  
**Anna Lindh Forum 2016 speaker**

Firstly, the ‘Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy’, presented through the joint communication of November 2015 by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood, underlines that “cross-cultural dialogue, such as that promoted by the Anna Lindh Foundation” will be key in efforts at tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation. The ENP Review also advocates a renewed policy on “Partnerships for Youth”, coherent with the central pillar of the Anna Lindh Foundation’s 10 year strategy (Working Together Towards 2025) and opens the possibility for “networks of youth ambassadors” and “exchanges between young leaders and future opinion formers across the EU and its neighbourhood”.



Secondly, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, are presenting in 2016 to the Council and Parliament the first “strategy for culture in the EU external relations”. Within this policy, “intercultural dialogue” is defined as a key pillar, in particular the importance of increasing opportunities for exchanges among young generations and creating sustainable networks. Cities are also identified as “crucial players” in cultural diplomacy, along with regional and local authorities, national parliaments and governments, cultural institutes, foundations and civil society organisations.

Thirdly, and looking ahead to the first Maltese Presidency of the European Council, set to take place between January and June 2017, “Mediterranean” has been identified as a central theme along with “Migration” and “Martine”. This presents a unique opportunity to shape the European Council and wider regional agenda with inputs on the role of intercultural dialogue as a core component of EU foreign affairs, and to leverage policy action at the level of UfM Ministers. The Maltese Presidency will also be the occasion for the EU Neighbourhood Policy Mid-Term Review.

“OUR FOREIGN POLICY HAS  
TO FOCUS CONSTANTLY  
ON EXCHANGES AMONG  
CULTURES, PARTICULARLY FOR  
YOUNG GENERATIONS.”

**Federica Mogherini**  
European Union High  
Representative for Foreign  
Affairs



# STRATEGIC THEMES

MED FORUM 2016 has been built on a unique participatory process launched on 4 March 2016 in Valletta through a regional preparation meeting involving intercultural experts, coordinators of the ALF civil society networks, and representatives of the inter-institutional steering group for the Forum (ALF, EU, Arab League, UfM Secretariat, Maltese EU Presidency). Over the following months, the Forum preparation mobilised the participation of many hundreds of civil society and youth representatives across the 42 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region, with an unprecedented level of participation to the Forum call for participation and submission of project proposals/good practices. Through this global process, the strategic themes of MED FORUM 2016 have been defined.

- #1 Beyond Extremism**: Icon of a head with a leaf growing from it.
- #2 Intercultural Cities**: Icon of buildings.
- #3 Rethinking Learning**: Icon of a head with a circular arrow.
- #4 Exchange Plus**: Icon of a network of nodes.
- #5 Creative Enterprise**: Icon of a lit lightbulb.
- #6 Migrants Connect**: Icon of people connected by lines.
- #7 Youth Can**: Icon of a person running.
- #8 Media Dialogue**: Icon of a person at a computer screen.
- #9 Women In Action**: Icon of a group of people.
- #10 Arts Across Borders**: Icon of a paint palette.



# 01

## PRIORITY

# REAFFIRMING THE ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION

“THE ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION REPRESENTS A BEACON OF LIGHT ACCROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN, UNITING PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF UNPRECEDENTED REGIONAL CHALLENGES.”

**George Vella**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Malta

As it has been stated, “if the Anna Lindh Foundation did not exist, we would need to invent it today”. One of the central objectives of the Mediterranean Forum 2016 is to reaffirm the Foundation’s role, impact and reach as the central institution and reference point for intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean region. This centres on translating to action the Foundation’s strategic reorientation for the next decade (“Working Together Towards 2025”) and reaffirming its position as a central connection point within the renewed Euro-Med policy instruments. It also implies “moving beyond the project cycle” which has previously defined intercultural action and ensuring the Foundation, its Networks and partners have the tools and organisational capacity to accelerate, scale-up and sustain real and durable impact. The Foundation’s action in the field with the region’s civil societies should be complemented by leveraging its analysis work on intercultural trends to reinforce evidence-based programming and shape the wider Euro-Med dialogue agenda.



“Challenges in the region confirm the need for greater collective action and a more comprehensive approach. Reinforcing intercultural dialogue and restoring harmony in civil society are now more important than ever.”  
**Fathallah Sijilmassi**  
Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

# 02

## PRIORITY

### MOVING BEYOND THE EXTREMIST NARRATIVE

“AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY WILL BE TO ENGAGE YOUTH. YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE MAIN TARGETS FOR RECRUITMENT BY VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS. BUT THEY CAN BE OUR BEST ALLIES TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING.”

**Ban Ki-moon**  
UN Secretary General

It is essential to challenge widely held assumptions about radicalisation, and to shift the recent policy focus on extremism to an alternative, inclusive narrative built on the common values of the silent majority of citizens to the north and south of the Mediterranean. Research on the evolution of values among the region’s citizens demonstrates the common ground at the base of the societies for building a shared project across the two shores of the Mediterranean (ALF Trends Report). When it comes to the region’s young women and men, who are the first victims of radicalisation, policies need to be better informed by the insights of the majority of youth who are not attracted to violence, but who understand the context in which it arises. Launching large-scale public awareness campaigns aimed at positively framing youth in debates on participation in public life would ensure greater buy-in of young people as well as establishing positive “champions”. In this regard, the Anna Lindh Forum 2016 will be the platform to launch a far-reaching network of “ambassadors for dialogue”.



“The security-based policy approach to radical groups has utterly failed because it has omitted a central component of the required policy: its cultural dimension. Culture is the reflection of our identity shaped through centuries of history and social organisation. It reveals our beliefs, aspirations and multifaceted identity.”

**Hatem Atallah**  
Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation

# 03

## PRIORITY

# SHIFTING FOCUS TO INTERCULTURAL CITIES

“SUCCESSFUL FUTURE SOCIETIES WILL BE INTERCULTURAL. INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE CAN DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADAPTATION OPTIONS, ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES AT REGIONAL, CROSS-BORDER, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.”

**Karl Donert**  
President of EUROGEO

Cities can be critical players for intercultural dialogue and cultural diplomacy. Against a backdrop of unprecedented human movements, as well as the impact of the refugee crisis on the region's societies, future intercultural cities will be potential dialogue incubators and engines of social innovation. Investing in a comprehensive regional strategy for how to leverage the long-term role of cities will also contribute to a shift in intercultural dialogue work, embedding and interconnecting sustainable policies and practices at a local level. Such a strategy can be built on a two-fold approach: (i) Facilitating the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean network of local and regional authorities for the exchange of good practices related to diversity/integration management policies; and (ii) Supporting civil society for the promotion of intercultural action at the local level with a renewed attention to social entrepreneurship as an innovative mechanism for social participation. Valletta's status as European Capital of Culture in 2018 is an opportunity to activate a far-reaching network of "Mediterranean" cities to act as champions for cultural diplomacy and intercultural dialogue.



“We have to invest in the value of shared society, education, culture, inclusion.”

**Zlatko Lagumdžija**  
Prime Minister of Bosnia  
Herzegovina (2001-2002) and  
Member of Club de Madrid



---

# 04

## PRIORITY

# RETHINKING LEARNING

"INVESTING IN PEOPLE IS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF ANY REVIVAL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN'S LONG-TERM PROSPECTS. EDUCATION IS THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH SUCH AN INVESTMENT MAY BE EFFECTED."

**Dr Joe Borg, Former EU  
Commissioner and Chairman of  
MEDAC Foundation**

The Anna Lindh Forum will be a platform for presenting new research and educational resources to support the institutionalization of transferable skills such as intercultural communication, critical thinking, debating techniques, and cultural understanding. In a region characterised by cultural diversity and increased movements of people, it is of central importance to propagate the respect of diversity and nurturing shared-values and to prevent the growing phenomena of intolerance among the young people of the region. In this sense, a two-folded approach is proposed: (i) Resources and curricula – development of education resources and curricula for Intercultural Citizenship and embedding them in national education systems; (ii) Coalition of educators – creation of a pool of certified educators, in the formal and non-formal education sectors, who can multiply educational initiatives for intercultural learning at the local, national and regional level. The Forum process should act as a catalyst to global consensus on intercultural citizenship learning and reinforcing Member State commitments to existing international policies on values-based education.



"Research and strengthening values in education is key. We need to invest in understanding local realities, not just in the Arab societies but also Europe."

**Professor Stefanos Vallinatos**  
Hellenic Foundation of Culture

---

# 05

## PRIORITY

### TOWARDS EXCHANGE 3.0

"I HAVE NEVER HAD SUCH A LONG-LASTING, EFFECTIVE OPPORTUNITY IN MY LIFE. THIS EXCHANGE SHAPED MY CAREER PATH. MY ENTIRE ORGANISATION CHANGED. IT HELPED ME TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS AND GET BETTER EQUIPPED TO ADDRESS THEM. IT WAS A LIFE-TIME EXPERIENCE."

**Rami Shamseddine**  
Twinning Exchange beneficiary  
from Lebanon to Slovenia

The Euro-Mediterranean region has a historic opportunity to activate connections among the next generation of leaders and fuel the largest ever growth in people-to-people exchanges in the region.

It is time for regional actors to offer a platform for youth engagement between Europe and the broader Middle East and increase exponentially the number and diversity of youth who have a meaningful cross-cultural experience. The connection of emerging young leaders should be the basis of good practice on youth policies. A three folded approach is proposed: (i) Global Virtual Exchange – catalyze the development and expansion of educational and project-oriented online platforms with appropriate mentorship schemes for critical thinking, cross-cultural communication and digital literacy; (ii) Euro-Mediterranean Erasmus programme – reaffirming a large-scale programme targeting students and organisations on the two shores of the Mediterranean; and (iii) Euro-Med Cultural Passport – simplification of visa procedures for cultural and youth leaders.



"We need a culture of dialogue from high school"

**Dhalia Omar**  
Youth Trainer



06

PRIORITY

## UNLOCKING CREATIVE ENTERPRISE

"WE ARE A GENERATION WITH THE CREATIVITY, TOOLS, ENERGY AND IDEAS TO OVERCOME THE CRITICAL AND COMMON CHALLENGES FACING SOCIETIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. WE ARE READY TO WORK TOGETHER ON SUCH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS."

**Statement at the close of the  
Regional Youth Forum in Tunisia**

New evidence highlights the potential of increased support for the development of social enterprises in the region, in particular as channels of economic, social and personal development of young women and men. Analysis of trends also highlights the potential for opening up new spaces of civic participation through innovative models of organization. Investment in creative enterprise training can offer new pathways for youth participation and new opportunities for knowledge networks and regional dialogue. It is essential to work with local authorities and governments to create enabling environments to open up new space for creative enterprise development. There is also evidence that supports the importance of reinforcing regional knowledge networks, and social enterprise has been identified through the ALF intercultural trends analysis as one of the major motivations for youth in the region wanting to engage in exchange with peers. There is a need for an increased investment in establishing work-based learning and new development opportunities through engagement with business leaders.



"We as Arab youth are suffering a lot of stereotypes. Now is the perfect time for our voice, our ideas and our values to come out."

**Esmat Waheed**  
Youth Trainer



---

07

PRIORITY

## A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDIA

“YOUNG JOURNALISTS TODAY  
NEED OUR SUPPORT MORE  
THAN EVER IN ORDER TO GET  
BEYOND THE HEADLINES OF A  
CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS AND  
TO BE ABLE TO REPORT ON THE  
COMPLEX SOCIAL CHANGES  
THAT ARE TAKING PLACE  
ACROSS THE REGION.”

**HRH Princess Rym Ali**  
**Chair of the Anna Lindh**  
**Journalist Award**

There are a wide range of measures to be developed to leverage the positive benefit from the media role in shaping public perceptions and attitudes in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The approach should be based, on the one hand, on reaffirming a new partnership with media and civil society, and creating a permanent observatory to monitor more effectively the role of journalists when it comes to reporting on cross-cultural issues. There needs to be further efforts to leverage the production of new media formats for intercultural dialogue, whether film, real life narratives or talent contests, which can also be useful tools to reach a broad audience and provide examples of intercultural coexistence. At the same time, it is a priority to invest in a new generation of journalists with the skills to report on complex issues with an intercultural dimension. This implies work on the curricula in partnership with an activated network of schools of journalism as well as raising the visibility of media ambassadors for dialogue who can inspire change in the wider sector.



---

08

PRIORITY

## TRANSLATION AND ARTS MATTER

"I CONSIDER THAT ALL OF US ARE CLOSE BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER VERY WELL.

IN THIS REGARD, THE MEDIA PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN NOT ONLY REFLECTING THE PUBLIC OPINION BUT ALSO IN SHAPING IT, HELPING TO BRIDGE THE GAP IN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."

**Amin Maalouf**

**Writer and former Chairperson of the Anna Lindh Journalist Award**

Arts is a vehicle for dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean. Translation is the language of the Mediterranean but new evidence demonstrates that it is receding as a cultural tradition with evidence of a significant increase in the north, south gap in translated works. The Anna Lindh Forum will be a catalyst for further advocating a far-reaching Euro-Med translation policy involving the diverse stakeholders in the translation chain: publishers, authors, academics, libraries, translators, foundations, public and private institutions and for the promotion of artistic creation as a tool for the promotion of dialogue between people of the region. Mobility will be key to allowing the circulation of ideas and cultural productions, and for translators to assume a central role as actors for dialogue. Investment in large-scale operations, such as regional translators residence programme, should be combined with actions as part of a broader political and cultural agenda for the Mediterranean. More than anything, the Forum process can bring to the Euro-Med dialogue agenda translation as a central vector for mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue.



"There can be no intercultural dialogue without translation. A book that is not translated is missing out on its universal vocation. Translating brings people into contact. Babel is not a source of confusion but of recognition."

**Élisabeth Guigou**

President of the Anna Lindh Foundation



09

PRIORITY

## MAKING COLLABORATIONS WORK

“MINISTERS UNDERLINED  
THE NECESSITY TO RESPECT  
RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY, PROMOTE  
DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES  
AND COMBAT HATE SPEECH.”

**League of Arab States-European  
Union Foreign Affairs Ministerial  
Meeting**

The Anna Lindh Forum represents a unique process and gathering to catalyse collaboration, uniting people and organisations from diverse sectors and reaffirming a “grand coalition of values” across the Mediterranean. Building on and strengthening - rather than duplicating and overruling - existing regional partnerships and programmes instruments is a key approach to be advocated. At the same time, this Forum will be central to transforming partnerships into action. On the one hand, this implies further investment for mechanisms for institutions active in the field of intercultural dialogue for more effective coordination, and on the other, embedding a results-orientated, evidence-based programming. It is time to make collaborations work for citizens across the region, at a time in history when the major challenges are greater than the individual institutions that face them. The ALF and MEDAC propose to work together on an annual benchmarking initiative to assess progress, and maximise Malta as a safe space for bringing diverse actors together.



“Cross- cultural dialogue, such as that promoted by the Anna Lindh Foundation, will be key.”

**Joint communication on  
the Review of the European  
Neighbourhood Policy**



---

# 10

PRIORITY

## ACCELERATING AND SUSTAINING IMPACT

“INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE  
IS KEY FOR THE EU,  
WHERE THE ANNA LINDH  
FOUNDATION IS OUR MAIN  
PARTNER IN THE SOUTHERN  
NEIGHBOURHOOD.”

**Johannes Hahn**  
**Commissioner for European**  
**Neighbourhood Policy and**  
**Enlargement Negotiations**

Continuous, sustainable support is fundamental for civil society to the north and south of the Mediterranean to assume a central role in the long-term investment in trust-building and cultural relations. It is time to move beyond the project cycle established by leading donors to a next level of financial and operational support to enhance impact and expand the reach of intercultural activities. An enabling environment for civil society committed to intercultural dialogue must be a priority of regional actors and Member States engaged in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation if there is to be the possibility of lasting, real change within the societies of the region. Those practices that are already working on the ground should be scaled-up with a focus on reaching larger, more diverse communities of citizens and accelerating a culture of change.

# PARTNERSHIPS AND PEOPLE

*The central objective of the Anna Lindh Forum is to unite people and organisations from different sectors around a common strategic agenda for intercultural dialogue.*

During the preparation phase of the Forum, the Anna Lindh Foundation has consolidated a series of strategies with main institutions and regional networks. The Forum will also bring together leader practitioners of intercultural dialogue from across 42 countries in the region, selected through an open call for participation.

## Inter-Institutional Partners:



## Strategic collaborations and knowledge partners:



## Co-funded by:







Valetta  
Malta

OCT. 24-25, 2016