

2<sup>ND</sup> EURO-MED YOUTH WORKSHOP  
ON  
**THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN A RENEWED  
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTERACTION IN THE  
GREATER MEDITERRANEAN AREA**

*Fondazione Mediterraneo - Maison de la Méditerranée*  
Sala Vesuvio  
Naples, Italy  
14-16 December 2006

**FINAL REPORT**

*“Mediterranean Rainbow: creativity for the future”*

1. This workshop co-organized by **FONDAZIONE MEDITERRANEO**, **CE.S.I.E.** of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation Italian Network and **EURO-MED-YOUTH PLATFORM** follows the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop ***“The Role of Young Women in Society: How to fight against Social Stereotyping”*** (Naples 17-20 December 2005) organized by the FM and the ALF and supported by the **ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS** and the **REGIONE CAMPANIA**.

On this occasion it was decided that there is need for concrete and rapid actions which:

- Enable citizens to participate in decision-making at all levels including by increasing the decentralisation of governance and the management of public affairs and delivery of public services;
- Increase the participation in quantity and quality of young people in decision-making including in political, social, cultural and economic positions;
- Ensure freedom of expression and association, including participation by facilitating the work of independent information providers and increasing access to information for all citizens;
- Work towards employment and employability for the increasing numbers of young people across the region, reducing regional poverty rates and closing the gender gap;
- Ensure that by 2015 all children complete at least primary education;
- Also support other organisations that work with youth issues in the Euro-Med area;
- Further develop the initiative by Fondazione Mediterraneo and the Anna Lindh Foundation to convene this first EuroMed Youth Workshop which should be continued as part of the new Five Years EuroMed Work Programme.

2. To fulfill the afore commitment the FM, in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the patronage of the Regione Campania, has organized this event.
3. Ten sessions of intense and fruitful debates have characterized this 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop in a friendly and positive environment.  
Sixty-six young people, coming from the Euro-Mediterranean Countries including for the first time Rumanian participants, consulted together planning definite actions and projects that the FONDAZIONE MEDITERRANEO wants to support together with Institutions and organizations.
4. Looking at each of the different countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region, one can see the forms of good practices employed by youth in the field of intercultural dialogue, however often there is a lack of information between countries preventing the dispersal of these practices. This workshop ensured an evaluation of these good practices and offered the opportunity for youth from the Euromed region to exchange ideas, opinions, and proposals for future projects. A collection of good practices used in the field of intercultural dialogue which can be adapted for each country was created and presented to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other institutions and international bodies. The workshop aimed at:
  - The creation of a collection of good practices employed by youths in the field of intercultural dialogue their countries (preparation to be carried out by each participant)
  - The exchange of good practices and analysis carried out as to the possibility of adapting these practices for use in other contexts in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
  - Sharing and diffusion of good practices used in youth work in Europe and countries surrounding the Mediterranean.

Main topics:

**I *The political integration of youth***

- Promoting civil society measures by strengthening non-governmental organizations that support gender equality.
- Assigning a coordinator to promote gender equality and combat social stereotypes in the national media.
- Enforcing the presence of young candidates in local, parliamentary and presidential elections.

**II *The youth's accesses to knowledge and education***

- Establish centres and social programmes targeting the problem of illiteracy. Make the education easy and accessible.
- Make primary and secondary school obligatory and give financial support to the secondary school students. Create scholarships-fund for university students. Combat sexual harassment and discrimination especially in schools.
- Ensure an equal access to education and specially reaching out to rural areas and to people with disabilities. Improve the personal and educational infrastructure.
- Make youth's rights and intercultural learning subjects in school.

### Proposals and advices:

The workshop was a practice of youth consultation that the Fondazione Mediterraneo introduced as participative planning collecting suggestions and indications of youth coming from all euro Mediterranean countries.

Among the proposals and the advices discussed it is worth to mention those:

### **III The creation of a portal dedicated to youth**

It was proposed to create the portal [www.euromedyouth.info](http://www.euromedyouth.info) : a shared space for dialogue and exchange of examples of good practice fostered by any useful information for the youth.

### **IV Workshop of Good Practice**

The participants underlined the importance of both the exchange of good practice and experiences among different youth associations.

The main aim of this workshop was to develop a wide exchange of good practice concerning the intercultural dialogue. The wide debate developed many proposals that can symbolically summarized as follow:

- A boat travelling in the Mediterranean and realizing cultural activities - respecting the local traditions - in each port where it berth. Moreover the idea of a competition was presented. This competition is to allow young artists coming from different Euro-Mediterranean countries to take part in an itinerant exhibition. This exhibition will be organized in open spaces (parks).

For further information on this topic please visit [www.euromedi.org](http://www.euromedi.org) /activities/2006/14.12.2006.

In conclusion, the young participants underlined the importance of such a fruitful event and of the debate deriving from it which will lead to concrete actions.

They expressed their gratitude to FONDAZIONE MEDITERRANEO for hosting this workshop in Naples.