



Anna Lindh News

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A Collective Success

For the first time following the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean, over 1000 civil society organizations from all 43 countries of the Partnership gathered together for intercultural dialogue and the common future of the Region.

Held from the 4th to 7th March 2010 in Barcelona, birthplace of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and home to the new Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Anna Lindh Forum combined debates on the issues at the core of intercultural relations between people in the Region with a unique platform for the Anna Lindh National Networks and regional institutions to consolidate partnerships and prepare new intercultural actions at the local and transnational level.

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The Anna Lindh Forum: ‘A Historic Moment’

The first Anna Lindh Forum was inaugurated on Thursday 4th of March in Barcelona, with a presence of over 1000 civil society representatives from the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Speaking at the official opening, from the CCIB International Forum Centre, the Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said:

“Since 1995 we have been working towards a dream: to create a common space of peace and exchange. Today’s unprecedented gathering, along with the launch of Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat, represents a historic moment in that process.”

The Forum’s importance was reinforced by leading institutional figures, including European Commissioner Stefan Fule and United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilisations Jorge Sampaio, as well as the President of the Generalitat de Catalunya, José Montilla, and the Mayor of the city of Barcelona Jordi Hereu.

Over the following three days, participants had the opportunity to share ideas, build new partnerships and define priority areas of action, including the reinforcement of education, translation and mobility programmes as well as work on migrant initiatives.

On the closing day of the Forum, President Azoulay said:

“There can now be no limit in terms of our ambition to bring people together for dialogue. From the level of collective participation to the quality of the debates, the Anna Lindh Forum has been a success beyond our expectations and represents an inspiration to all of us working for a common Mediterranean future.”

First Time Together: The ‘Anna Lindh’ Family

The Anna Lindh Forum represented an occasion to bring together for the first time the entire governing, institutional and operational dimensions of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

On Thursday 4th March, prior to the official inauguration of the Forum, the Foundation’s Board of Governors, Advisory Council and Heads of National Civil Society Networks, as well as representatives of the Headquarters in Alexandria, met together at the Royal Palace Pedralbes, home to the new Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.

During the meeting, which was presided by Ambassador Veronika Stabej, Chairperson of the Anna Lindh Board of Governors, the Heads of Network had the opportunity to share views on the importance of the collective mobilization of the Network members, the need for operational support, as well as the challenge and constraints of the mobility of people across the Region.



**ANNA LINDH
FORUM 2010**

Forum in Figures

- **43** Euro-Mediterranean countries represented
- **1022** registered participants
- **588** civil society organizations
- **52** international press and media
- **166** project ideas and good practices
- **107** stands at the intercultural fair
- **43** thematic workshops, partner debates and information sessions

Participation

Participants to the Forum coming from:

Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and 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, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom

The Key Debates

‘Bridging the Gap in Mutual Perceptions: The Anna Lindh Report on Intercultural Trends’

Plenary Debate 1



The first morning of the Anna Lindh Forum was launched with a live audience and broadcast debate in partnership with TV5 Monde, Al Arabiya and TV3. The debate began with a presentation by Mohamed Tozy (Professor, University Hassan II) and Robert Manchin (President, Gallup Europe) on the initial findings of the ‘Anna Lindh-Gallup Poll’ on Euro-Med Intercultural Trends. Over the following hour, an international expert panel debated issues at the core of intercultural relations in the Mediterranean Region, ranging from mutual perceptions and the challenge of mobility to the use of arts and sport in breaking down stereotypes and prejudice.

‘Contribution to a Euro-Mediterranean Strategy: The Role of the Anna Lindh Foundation’

Plenary Debate 2



The second day of the Forum saw a plenary debate on the development of a regional strategy for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and included contributions from leading institutions including the European Commission, the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe. The Arab League announced the ‘involvement of civil society for the first time in the national reform processes’, while the European Commission announced the coming launch of a new Euro-Mediterranean cultural strategy. The panel also engaged in a discussion on approaches to ensure the complexity of identities are valued and promoted.

Live Broadcast



The Forum’s two main plenary debates were broadcast live on the world-wide web through the Anna Lindh Portal (www.euromedalex.org).

Civil society from across the Region engaged in the broadcast and debate, with people logging on from Turkey, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Italy, Greece, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Agora Workshops

Overview

The Anna Lindh Forum succeeded in reviving the antique tradition of the Agora by gathering over the two main days of the event more than fifty experts and eight hundred civil society representatives in order to debate about the strategic fields of action of the Anna Lindh Foundation and to serve as a space of ideas and recommendations for the Anna Lindh programmes and for the Euro-Mediterranean Intercultural Agenda at large.

Learning to Live Together in Diversity

The workshop gathered around 300 participants, including different generations of formal and non-formal educators. The workshop underlined the importance of consolidating coordination efforts between actors in the field to minimize duplication. In addition, an emphasis was placed on investing in developing innovative tools for intercultural learning, investing in capacity-building of teachers and civil society multipliers, and supporting the development of physical and virtual spaces for youth encounters.

Restoring Trust, Rebuilding Bridges

The aim of the workshop was to reflect on the different existing narratives of conflict and exploring effective ways of creating a culture of peace and reconciliation. Through the workshop, ideas were shared on launching a second phase of the 'Restore Trust, Rebuild Bridges' Initiative with a focus on long-term actions and a wider concept of conflict. There was also an emphasis in the debate on the need to develop a multidisciplinary approach to engage all community members in intercultural dialogue.

Creativity for Dialogue

The participants called for creating a momentum in the field by bringing artists from both shores of the Mediterranean together. The workshop underlined the importance of facilitating and funding artists mobility in line with the Ibn Batuta Model and supporting networks in developing new media and communication tools. Another important aspect related to supporting translation as a tool to celebrate the diversity of languages in the Region, with a focus on translation of non-published cultural productions and oral traditions

Valuing Diversity, Understanding Migration

The theme of 'cities and migration' will form a priority area of work for the Anna Lindh Foundation in 2010. In this regard, the workshop addressed the work on the history of migrations as seen as a positive contribution to the development of societies and a broader perception of diversity as an opportunity, and of migrants as an asset, a key actor for the construction of a multicultural coexistence where they will be a bridge between countries of origin and hosting societies

Inter-religious Dialogue and Common Values

The workshop explored ways that civil society, religious leaders and thinkers can come together to examine how religions can be re-appropriated by communities and to valorize common values of coexistence between individuals. The workshop stressed how there is the challenge of dialogue between religious minorities, believers and non-believers, and between the religious groups and the secular ones. One of the recommendations of the workshop was to develop educational and training tools to support religious diversity and to support interfaith studies centers and programmes.

Inside the Medina

Partner Contributions

A central component of the Medina was the 'Partner Contributions', a platform for leading institutions for dialogue and partner organisations of the Anna Lindh Foundation to share and debate on the issues at the core of their activities.

More than 450 participants took part in the fourteen sessions which were coordinated by partners including: the British Council, the European Commission, the Euro-Med Media Task Force, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, EMUNI, Arco Latino, Combatants for Peace, Transeuropeenes, the Mediterranean Institute.

The sessions tackled a number of important subjects, including the perceptions and challenges of Muslims in Europe; History Education as a tool for intercultural dialogue; Reporting on Migration.

Best Practices

Eighty-five civil society representatives from across the two shores of the Mediterranean were involved in presenting an insight into their past and current activities.

Almost half of the practices presented dealt with the field of education, with a particular focus on the importance of youth in building a common future in the Region.

Around a quarter of the presentations were focused on cultural productions, with other themes explored including 'Peace and Co-existence' and 'Cities and Migration'.

Actions specifically addressing religion were limited in number but the spiritual dimension of intercultural dialogue work was discussed within the framework of different good practices.

Information Sessions

The information sessions included a range of specific subjects related to intercultural practices, tools and methodologies that focused on funding programmes, networking and innovative approaches to dialogue work.

Nine dedicated sessions were held by fifteen organisations which included: the Council of Europe; Foundation for the Future; COPEAM; the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Culture Futures; Search for Common Ground.

There was in addition a special participatory session held on working methods for multicultural teams as well as a session on the Dialogue for Ecological Transition which explored the role of the Foundation after the Copenhagen Summit.

Project Ideas

In total, 77 project ideas and proposals were presented, of which around 30% focused on the field of education and youth; 30% on culture and arts; 35% on peace and coexistence, migration and diversity; and 10% on the field of religion and spirituality.

The diverse presentations touched on issues and critical matters related to Euro-Med Dialogue, including conflict resolution and the role of artists as agents of social change.

A number of the presented proposals combined formal dialogue activities, learning and training practices with more informal developments, with a unique dimension of the sessions related to the fact that relatively smaller initiatives were able to present alongside more established institutions.



Intercultural Fair

The Intercultural Fair represented a unique space for exchange of information between representatives of the National Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Euro-Mediterranean civil society.

Structured around the main thematic fields of the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Fair was officially opened on the first evening of the Forum, with more than 100 organisations having the opportunity to present their projects and initiatives to more than 500 participants.

The opening also featured the presentation of ‘Common Actions’ organised by the Foundation’s National Civil Society Networks, including: ‘Vecinos’ (Spain); ‘Youth Can!’ (Bosnia Herzegovina); ‘Faces of the Mediterranean’ (Croatia); ‘Arab Film Week’ (Germany); ‘Italy and the Balkans for Intercultural Dialogue’ (Italy); ‘Euro-Med Week in Latvia’ (Latvia); ‘Cultural Dialogue Night’ (Lebanon); ‘Intercultural Dialogue from Theory to Practice’ (Malta); ‘Ana Tounsi’ (Tunisia).



Artistic Exchange

The Artistic Exchange took place during the main two days of the Forum, and included a range of artistic approaches such as film screenings, art exhibitions, artistic installations and literary readings.

The artistic projects presented by participating organisations included: Multiculti (Portugal); Association Peoples et Cultures Finisterre (France); Swallow Club (Czech Republic); Media-Arts for Development (Egypt); APIMED (Spain); All Art Now (Syria); Adyan (Lebanon); La Vie Sur Terre (The Netherlands) and SCCA – Centre for Contemporary Arts (Slovenia).

The winners of the region-wide literary competition ‘A Sea of Words’, supported by the Anna Lindh Foundation in partnership with the IEMED, also had the opportunity to present readings from selected stories.

On the evening of the third day of the Forum, a concert was organised at Barcelona’s Museu Maritim and featuring the intercultural group ‘Omar Farouk & Asikides’.

Website and Communication

The new website portal of the Anna Lindh Foundation was officially launched on the closing morning of the Forum, with an audience of civil society representatives from the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Presented as a unique platform and resource for the Foundation’s Nationals Networks and for the civil society at large, the new portal (www.euromedalex.org) features:

- An open platform presented in three languages: English, French and Arabic
- Forty-three National Civil Society Network mini-websites
- An interactive calendar of events and activities from across the Region
- Networking tools and a partnership database of over 3000 civil society organizations
- An interactive space for expert opinion and debate on intercultural issues

The new website also operates as an internal management tool for the National Networks, facilitating the sharing of knowledge between civil society member organizations and providing a space for project management at the transnational level.



Amplifying the Message

With the aim of amplifying the reach and impact of the Anna Lindh Forum at the local, national and international level, communication and media was placed at the heart of the event with key initiatives focused on:

- Securing the participation of leading television partners and the presence of international journalists
- Delivering press briefings with media and journalists with experts from the two main plenary debates
- Launching new media tools for discussion including the official blog (<http://www.annalindh.wordpress.com>)
- Coordinating media-centred debates on issues of 'Perceptions' and 'Reporting on Migration'
- Web-casting live online the main plenary debates of the Anna Lindh Forum
- Providing new promotional and communication tools to civil society partners and Network members

Press coverage of the Anna Lindh Forum included sixteen television and radio broadcasts by local and international media institutions; over 150 news items in media based across countries including Albania, Austria, Italy, Spain, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt.



Thank you

A special thanks to all the participants and supporters for making the first Anna Lindh Forum a collective success.

Have your say:

Please send us your feedback about the Anna Lindh Forum at www.annalindhforum.org/feedback or email to forum2010@euromedalex.org