



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures  
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures  
مؤسسة أناليند الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات

Fifth Meeting of the Anna Lindh Foundation National Network Coordinators  
Berlin, Germany, 29-31 May 2007

---

## Final Statement

*We, the Coordinators of the Anna Lindh Foundation National Networks have gathered in Berlin on May 29-31, 2007, to discuss the **development and conception of the Anna Lindh Foundation vision and policy** for the next two years, and have issued the following final statement.*

### Whereas:

- Dialogue is more and more an essential and urgent tool in the Euro-Mediterranean Region to shape an area of peace and stability in the light of global challenges such as socio-economic gaps, cultural misunderstandings, environmental threats or geo-political conflicts,
- Dialogue can work if it involves the best, most active and positive forces of our societies in an organized framework which can rely upon resources, tools and expertise,
- The Network of Networks can play a major role in mobilizing and associating such positive forces around a coalition of values,
- The Foundation is a joint institution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and it is a political instrument that can contribute to consolidate the Barcelona Process to achieve peace, stability, and mutual understanding and coexistence in the region.

### Our uniqueness

We believe that **the uniqueness of the Foundation is the Network of Networks of member organizations in the Euro-Med Partnership countries.**

---

P.O. Box 732 El Mansheya, Alexandria 21111 - Egypt  
Conference Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Bibliotheca Alexandrina El Shatby, Alexandria – Egypt,  
Tel.: +203 4820342 or 343 / Fax +203 4820471  
57, 26 July Avenue, Mansheya Cornishe, Swedish Institute, Alexandria– Egypt  
Tel.:+203 4831832 or 4831953 / Fax: +203 4820471

In these first two years of existence, we have invested in making our Networks a reality, through a day-by-day effort of gathering organizations together and putting them in contact for discussion and common activity. This effort has produced up to now a large **platform of more than 1400 organizations in 37 Networks**.

### **A new approach: Investing in Networks**

In Berlin, we have committed ourselves with the new Direction of the Foundation to focus our effort in the next two years to strengthen the Networks, consolidate their project capacity and give them the necessary tools in order to be able to function as real social players for dialogue.

It means, we **shall invest in the infrastructure of the Foundation**, the Network of Networks, which is our uniqueness and our real strength.

Networks should be able to mobilize the best energies and expertise in their respective countries to promote mutual understanding, mobility of ideas and persons, and generating opportunities for partnerships and participation.

What we want is an institution which is more than just a Funding Agency, but rather a **Facilitator, a Clearing House and a Space** where **ideas are generated, partnerships are developed, resources are matched, and services to the civil society are delivered**.

A Foundation acting as a Facilitator, a Clearing House and a Space prepares and encourages civil society to take an active role in dialogue initiatives that underpin democracy. For us, dialogue is a strong means to foster mutual understanding, experience sharing, cooperation and friendship, and a common sense of belonging within the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Successful work in the field of exchanges and dialogue is not a short-term issue but can be achieved only within a mid-term, if not a **long-term perspective**.

### **Our landmarks for the future of the Foundation**

Therefore, the Foundation needs to work along the following directions:

- 1) **Empowering Networks**: To make the Networks more effective by delivering services that will enable them to operate and create projects (contact making meetings, sharing project ideas, matching partnerships, support fundraising, developing capacity building, creating specific networks around joint policies such as academic cooperation or education, etc.). The Network of Networks is the **backbone** of the Foundation. If we do not create conditions that will allow Networks to build the infrastructure to properly function, the Foundation will not be a relevant and efficient instrument in the long term.

- 2) **Simplifying grant procedures:** The Foundation's procedures should be further eased and smartened, mainly in the field of the Call for Project Proposals, which up to now is the most important financial instrument the Foundation disposes of. If we simplify these procedures, we will create the conditions for member organizations in the Networks to participate at a higher rate in the Call for Project Proposals.
- 3) **Supporting cross-network activities:** The Foundation should, as for now, stimulate **joint operations and campaigns involving several Networks simultaneously along common values and priorities**, which have an impact on our societies, thus contributing to increase the visibility of the Foundation by creating a "**Critical Mass**".
- 4) **Working along cross-policy and integrated lines:** While involving several Networks simultaneously in operations and campaigns, thus pursuing visibility through "quantity", we should more importantly strive for "quality" activities, which encompass several aspects of Euro-Med societies (political, socio-economic, cultural, environmental, etc.) and involve actors of different natures (NGOs, public and private institutions, schools and universities, economic operators, etc.). Such a holistic approach, within the parameters of fundamental societal problems such as "social justice and migrations", "sustainable development and climate change", or "peace and conflict resolution", would encourage a creative and synergic mobilization in our civil societies.
- 5) **Improving communication between the Networks:** We shall launch an Intranet system which will allow fluid and regular communication between Network Coordinators and Foundation, and we will strengthen our website "Network of Networks" in order to give visibility to the member organizations of the Networks.

## **2008 – A Great Opportunity**

In this framework, the Year of Intercultural Dialogue, 2008, is a great opportunity for the Network of Networks to raise its profile.

In 2008, we will persist in our commitment, creating projects through and for our Networks. Drawing upon our large platform of member organizations, we have a wide reach and thousands of channels to operate through. We will strive to **create simultaneous activities, reaching out to people in different Euro-Med countries** at the same time. Simultaneous actions bring people together around a common topic, allowing greater focus and ensuring greater impact.

## **The Foundation and the Board of Governors**

Networks are the strength of the Foundation, a strength, which can make a difference in the region, where already several players are developing dialogue initiatives.

During our meeting with the Foundation's Board of Governors on May 30, 2007:

- 1) The Board endorsed **our common vision and our strategy on “Reinforcing the Networks 2007-08”**.
- 2) We have expressed our major concern to **find appropriate resources, mainly funds and facilities, to help the Networks consolidate and function better**. Investing in the “infrastructure of the Foundation”, a functioning network of civil society players, must be a **joint commitment** of the Networks and their Coordinators, as well as the Governments. Network Coordinators particularly in the **new EU-member countries and in the Mediterranean partner countries** are still lacking resources in order to exercise their main mission of making their National Network grow and become more active. Supporting National Networks should become a **primary objective**, either through fresh financial support or through contributions in facilities, human resources and services.
- 3) The Board recognised the role of the Networks as major actors of the Foundation’s policy and decided to **regularly consult** the Coordinators of Networks at least once a year. That will ameliorate the communication and exchange within the institutional framework of the Foundation.

### **Towards Lisbon: Future cooperation between the Networks and the EU Presidency**

On June 1, we have attended in Berlin the opening session of the Euro-Med Youth Parliament to which the Foundation has made an important contribution. The involvement of the Foundation in the Youth Parliament shows that we are able to stage politically important events if we work with appropriate partners. We believe that a political event as the Euro-Med Youth Parliament could be emulated on a regular basis, thus permitting the Foundation to join ranks with political representatives.

**We invite the country assuming the Presidency of the European Union to support similar events of cooperation with the Foundation and its Networks as part of its presidential agenda.** In this sense, the next Portuguese Presidency represents an interesting opportunity for further strengthening the Networks and designing our common policy. Lisbon could also represent the opportunity to prepare and train the Coordinators of the National Networks in order to make their role of service in favour of the Networks more and more effective.

### **A joint responsibility**

The Headquarters of the Foundation in Alexandria and the Coordinators of the Networks have to share together the responsibility of strengthening the civil society. The Coordinators commit themselves to making the effort to create in our respective countries the conditions of transparency, transmission of information, and partnership development that can make the Networks a really organized and efficient player.

*The Coordinators of the ALF National Networks  
Berlin, June 1, 2007*

**ANNEX: Working Groups Recommendations and Ideas for 2008**