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- 1. About the Anna Lindh Foundation
- 2. Overview
- 3. Policy Debate
- 4. Good Practices
- 5. Areas of Action
- 6. Amplifying the Message





About the Anna Lindh Foundation



About The Anna Lindh Foundation

The Anna Lindh Foundation is an international organisation established by the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Union as the central institution for intercultural dialogue among the peoples of the region. It represents a network of networks comprising civil society organisations in 42 countries, and endeavors to promote cross-cultural exchange, skills for dialogue and mutual understanding through common projects established between youth and civil society actors to the south and north of the Mediterranean. Through its action in the field and analysis work on cultural and social trends, the Foundation also aims to contribute to the definition and development of an intercultural strategy for the Euro-Mediterranean region, as a primary tool for building trust, conflict prevention, and fighting extremism and xenophobia.

Following its co-creation in 2005 by the Member States of the Euro-Med Partnership, the Anna Lindh Foundation has worked from its international headquarters in Alexandria (Egypt) to establish the largest regional network of civil society actors dedicated to intercultural dialogue. During its first 10 years, the Foundation launched large-scale actions in the fields of education, media and culture, and involved many thousands of young people in intercultural exchanges. It received international recognition for flagship programmes such as "Young Arab Voices" and the "Mediterranean Journalist Award for Reporting across Cultures", and pioneered the first "Report on Intercultural Trends and Social Change" and "Mediterranean Forum on Intercultural Dialogue".

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary in 2015, the Anna Lindh Foundation launched a new strategic plan "Working Together Towards 2025", endorsed by the 42 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and European Union. The strategic plan sets out principal areas of focus for the Foundation's impact through: "Investment in Youth" which focuses on equipping the region's young people with skills for debate, dialogue and working with peers across the Mediterranean in the face of common social challenges; "Working through Partnership" which centres on largescale communication and advocacy work with the region's principal institutional actors, among them the Council of Europe and UNESCO; and "Analysis on Intercultural Trends" which aims to provide a stronger evidence-base to regional programming and inputs for the definition of policies for EU Neighbourhood and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

For more information on the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation, log on to:

www.annalindhfoundation.org

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https://www.facebook.com/annalindhfoundation

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Overview

On 15th October, in Paris, France, the Anna Lindh Foundation presented the Inter-Cultural Dialogue in facing Environmental Challenges (ICDEC) initiative in the framework of the UN COP-21 Conference in the French National Assembly, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The Inter-Cultural Dialogue for a Sustainable Mediterranean showcased the work being carried out by ALF member organisations and partners in the field of climate change and intercultural dialogue. It was a forum for developing future high impact initiatives, taking into account that the UNFCCC COP 21 will be held in Paris in December 2015 and that Morocco will host COP 22.

Experts on intercultural dialogue and climate change from the Euro-Med region gathered to demonstrate how intercultural dialogue can directly contribute to the development of adaptation options, actions and initiatives at regional, cross-border, national and local levels. Over one hundred participants representing the civil society from Algeria, Egypt, Finland, France, Italy, Jordan, Palestine, Slovenia, Tunisia and the UK also joined the event with the objective of raising awareness of the important role of intercultural dialogue in responding to environmental challenges.

The event structure included two morning debates with discussions and interventions of participants and evening discussions, interventions and recommendations from Euro-Med parliamentarians and civil society leaders.

The event gave also the impetus for the beginning of an awareness campaign to include the concept of Intercultural Dialogue in the Climate Change (global debate?) context. That included a press conference in international a live broadcast interview with the ALF President at France 24.



To meet the global challenge of climate change, every bridge, every link is useful. As such, intercultural dialogue is still a underutilized lever.

Elisabeth Guigou,President of the Anna Lindh Foundation



Elisabeth Guigou, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation, Rachid Talbi El Alami, President of the Moroccan Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and Annick Girardin, Secretary of State for Development and Francophony



AnnaLindh Foundation @AnnaLindh • Oct 15

President @ElisabethGuigou frames #InterculturalDialogue4COP21 at the heart of @COP21 & @MedCOP21







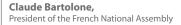
Policy Debate

The Anna Lindh Foundation considers the issue of environmental challenges caused by climate change, in the context of sustainable development, as a critical dimension that needs to be urgently addressed for the successful future of the Mediterranean region. This initiative, to be advocated at the UN COP21 summit, establishes intercultural dialogue as a central component that needs to be included in decision-making and in fighting climate change to prevent conflicts and to enhance social cohesion and resource management.

As a result of the event, the ALF will establish a forum to enable the exchange of information and best experiences on intercultural dialogue and to mitigate climate change issues between its communities and will encourage its members to integrate options to mitigate climate change within their intercultural dialogue projects.



The Mediterranean is especially exposed to the effects of climate change. And all the more so that in this region, where socio-economic contrasts exacerbated the effects of climate change multiply and amplify the dynamics of impoverishment, or even instability.







"Civil society as a key actor in international relations, as in the national communities, and as a voice condemning the policy detrimental to the environment and therefore the future of humanity."

Rachid Talbi El Alami,

President of the Moroccan Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean



"At the crossroads of civilizations, the Mediterranean is primarily a unity of place; a place of diversity and multiplicity; but a unified place in a common destiny."

Annick Girardin,

Secretary of State for Development and Francophony



Climate Change Impacts

Climate change has been the focus of extensive international efforts over the last 20 years. The results of this indicate that the earth's climate is changing and will continue to change in the future. Projections include an increase in global air temperatures and sea surface temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns and a rise in mean sea level.

The prospect of major changes in the earth's environment as a consequence of climate change and human actions presents one of the most demanding challenges facing humankind in the decades to come. The challenge has to be jointly tackled by science, policy, industry, civil society and the general public. The poorest people are likely to suffer the most from climate change since they are already living in marginal locations and hare unable to make necessary adaptations.

The impacts of climate change will be widespread and will vary from country to country, affecting water supplies, ecosystems, food and forest products, health, industries, settlements and society. Almost every sector is likely to be significantly impacted by climate change including, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, construction (particularly in coastal areas), energy and insurance.

Climate change impacts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations. Community resilience can be assessed in terms of technological; economic; behavioural; and managerial vulnerability contexts, such that layers of resilience can be established. In some cases the groups considered most vulnerable may also contain culturally based practices and skills and a wealth of knowledge about how best to develop community resilience.

Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience

There are three overarching challenges to addressing climate change, mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

 Mitigation relates to efforts being made to limit and reverse changes in global climate by reducing the greenhouse gas emission and to improve the ability of natural systems to store carbon.





Pascale Boistard @Pascaleboistard
• Oct 15

Merci @elisabethguigou et @ AnnaLindh pour cet échange sur l'action des femmes dans la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique #FemmesetClimat

Pascale Boistard, Secretary of State for Women's Rights



We have to mobilize investment, boost technology transfer, create job opportunities for our young people and promote production and consumption patterns that contribute to sustainable development efforts in the region, we are here at the heart of the COP challenges.

Fathallah Sijilmassi, UfM Secretary General

- ii) Adaptation relates to how best to live with the environmental challenges caused by climate change. It concerns initiatives made in in response to existing or anticipated climate changes. Adaptation measures can moderate threats and provide a net environmental, social and economic benefit. It involves an understanding of risks, vulnerabilities and potential impacts associated with climate change.
- iii) Resilience concerns the challenge of increasing the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with the effects of climate change while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation.



Intercultural Dialogue

Culture is an essential component of human development; it is a source of identity, innovation and creativity. The way people learn and transmit knowledge varies according to their different geographical, historical and linguistic backgrounds and, therefore, education strategies that are responsive to local cultures, contexts and needs are the most likely to be effective in fostering more cohesive societies¹.

Dialogue emphasizes ongoing interactions and suggests two-way interactions between people reaching either a commitment, or agreement or a compromise. It provides a way of balancing an appreciation of diversity with the importance of finding shared, collaboratively adopted principles for cooperation. In terms of global issues such as climate change, it develops through communications and occurs when the exchange is part of a process of engagement and when it addresses questions of power and control.

For the purpose of this position paper, intercultural dialogue is understood as a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different backgrounds and heritage, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. It requires the freedom and ability to express oneself, as well as the willingness and capacity to listen to the views of others².

Intercultural dialogue contributes to political, social, cultural and economic integration and the cohesion of culturally diverse societies. It fosters equality, human dignity and a sense of common purpose. It aims to develop a deeper understanding of diverse world views and practices, to increase co-operation and participation (or the freedom to make choices), to allow personal growth and transformation, and to promote tolerance and respect for the other.³



The Mediterranean must be the place for meetings of human talent, technical potential and capital necessary for the emergence of a new economic, social and environmental model. To be worthy of our old, rich heritage, we are required to be ambitious.

Elisabeth Guigou,President of the Anna Lindh Foundation

Intercultural dialogue is an essential feature of inclusive societies, which leaves no one marginalised or defined as outsiders. It is a powerful instrument of mediation and reconciliation: through critical and constructive engagement across cultural fault-lines, it addresses real concerns about social fragmentation and insecurity while fostering integration and social cohesion. Freedom of choice, freedom of expression, equality, tolerance and mutual respect for human dignity are among the guiding principles in this context. Successful intercultural dialogue requires many of the attitudes fostered by a democratic culture – including open-mindedness, willingness to engage in dialogue and allow others to express their point, a capacity to resolve conflicts by peaceful means and recognition of the well-founded arguments of others.⁴

Intercultural dialogue is a key instrument for building bridges between people and to safeguard society based on mutual respect. Successful future societies will be intercultural⁵.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/ culture-and-development

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/WhitePaper_ InterculturalDialogue 2 en.asp

^{3.} https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1283135&Site=CM

^{4.} https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1283135&Site=CM

http://www.beate-winkler.net/dateien/solutions-forour-future.pdf



The Euro-Mediterranean Region

European and the Mediterranean countries are connected by history, geography and culture. The region is of vital strategic importance in both political and economic terms. The Mediterranean region is approaching 500 million inhabitants⁶ and available resources are under increased pressure.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC), the Mediterranean region is very vulnerable to climate variability and extreme events⁷. It is expected to be one of the most prominent climate change "hot spots"⁸. Hazards like heat waves, fresh water shortages, droughts, forest fires, an expansion of desertification and the prevalence of vector borne disease are already being felt in susceptible regions. Sea level rise endangers natural ecosystems and the living conditions of millions of people living close to the Mediterranean coast.

Rising temperatures will impact marine biodiversity, fisheries, coastal protection and ecotourism. From these few examples, it is clear that climate change represents a major obstacle to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean coastal zone is densely populated and highly urbanized. The socio-economic costs of climate change In the region have not yet been fully assessed. However, major sectors such as agriculture and tourism are predicted to suffer as a result of drought, water shortage and increased occurrence of storms. The rise of sea level impacts on ports, coastal settlements and related infrastructure.

Climate change threatens to cause regional instability, conflict and considerable human disruption, as a result of environmental degradation. Increasing pressures on natural resources, like water and food, forcing mass movements of population and significant restructuring.



AnnaLindh Foundation @AnnaLindh • Oct 15

Without North-South coalition the #COP21 agenda will fail #InterculturalDialogue4COP21 @zamboni_silvia

Nora Forsbacka @NoraForsbacka • Oct 15

Munqeth Mehyar: #Climatechange a major factor in the conflict in Syria, drought forcing ppl to move to cities #InterculturalDialogue4COP21

Mediterranean environments and the societies that rely on them will face important challenges as a result of projected changes in climate and the search for sustainable development. This is due to the inherent physical sensitivity of the ecosystems and the traditional socio-economic, cultural and amenity values located there. The need for action is now a consensus view in light of the inevitability of impacts on the region^{9 10}.



Elisabeth Guigou, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation and Hatem Atallah Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation

- http://planbleu.org/sites/default/files/upload/files/ Concept_Note_Session_Eau_Foret_EN.pdf
- 7. http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/tar/wg2/index.php?idp=514
- 8. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2006GL025734/abstract

- 9. http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/transnational-regions/mediterranean
- http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/ international/planet-2/report/2006/3/climate-changeand-the-mediter.pdf



Making the Link Between Intercultural Exchange and Climate Change

Climate change obliges all of us to take urgent action. It requires a rethink about how we channel imagination, ingenuity and entrepreneurship into creating a sustainable world. Each segment of society must contribute to ensuring a sustainable future of our planet¹¹.

Science enriches dialogue as part of the knowledge base of any society. Scientific discussion informs issues that require intercultural dialogue. In this respect, intercultural dialogue can be used as source of transformation, change, knowledge and innovation to help address the search for positive solutions to the impacts of climate change. The scientific community can be a forum for dialogue through networking, publications, dissemination of information and exchanges.

Intercultural dialogue has a unique part to play in responding to climate change by helping create a sustainable environment in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Its outcomes lead to trusted, collaborative, interactive and transformative environments that can establish and shape and behavioural change.

Society must be empowered to engage in intercultural dialogue in order to exploit the potential of cultural diversity to stimulate sustainable development through creativity and innovation and thus generate a better quality of life¹². Recent advances in communications technology can be employed to facilitate dialogue.





Maged Butter @MagButter • Oct 15

Nikos Chrystogelos: Climate change isn't about the society or the #environment, it's about values. #interculturaldialogue

Intercultural dialogue can take place everywhere in all communities, in rich and diverse shapes and forms. It can involve people, institutions and enterprises in many diverse areas. In different ways identity can be expressed, communicated and shared, while bringing sustainable and resource efficient perspectives alive in practice, through a spectrum of collective approaches¹³ that result in:

- a common understanding of the issues
- confidence in the process and social cohesion
- dialogue rather than monologue and
- an expression of tolerance and openness to different ideas.



^{11.} http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-08-676_en.htm?locale=en

^{12.} http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/cities/default_en.asp

^{13.} http://www.wandrenpd.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/OptionsforInfluence.pdf



The role of the Anna Lindh Foundation and its member organisations

The purpose of the Anna Lindh Foundation is to bring people together from across the Mediterranean to improve mutual respect between cultures and to support civil society. Since 2005, the ALF has launched and supported action across fields impacting on mutual perceptions – education, culture and media – as well as in developing a region-wide Network of over 4000 civil society organisations.

ALF considers the climate change issue, in the context of sustainable development, as a critical dimension to be urgently addressed for the successful future of the Mediterranean region.

ALF recognises the centrality of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and COP21 in moving forward the global discussion on cooperative multilateral action to address climate change. In particular, it emphasizes the importance of intercultural dialogue in enabling rapid advances in the implementation of mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures in more vulnerable areas to the effects of climate change.

ALF acknowledges that all major social, economic and environmental sectors are sensitive to climate change and that there are significant factors in their sustainable development. To this effect, it seeks to encourage improvements in operational decision-making by intercultural dialogue leading to more widespread use of climate knowledge and information in managing risks and exploiting opportunities.

ALF emphasizes that climate-related action requires intercultural dialogue, as part of multidisciplinary collaboration that can be achieved through its actions and processes. Communication on intercultural dialogue adaptation to environmental challenges in the Mediterranean needs to become mainstreamed.

ALF acknowledges the effectiveness of climate actions can be enhanced when they are integrated with broader strategies designed to make national and regional development paths more sustainable.

ALF stresses the importance of strengthening networks that can showcase best practices and influence national and institutional efforts to understand and address climate change impacts that meet human needs, improve well-being, and bring other environmental benefits.

ALF will foster regional dialogue and the exchange of best practices as its basic element. The purpose is to create a mosaic of successful adaptation approaches for climate change and sustainability for the Mediterranean.

ALF supports the engagement of civil society organisations and strengthening their contribution at local, national and international levels.

ALF confirms its members are involved in actions and initiatives across the region. They enable dialogue across knowledge domains and improve the capacity to interpret conditions, develop change responses and in some cases contribute new evidence leading to innovation and the identification of desirable trajectories or pathways into the future.



Adriana Aralica @AdrianaAralica • Oct 15 Debaisieux: It's the chicken & egg debate - what comes first, #climatechange or development? @UfMSecretariat #InterculturalDialogue4COP21

AnnaLindh Foundation @AnnaLindh • Oct 15 Kelly Robin @IPEMED talking on the sucess of #MedCop21 #InterculturalDialogue4COP21 #COP21

Adriana Aralica @AdrianaAralica • Oct 15
@JaroslavMysiak - We have to turn our cooperation into lasting & accountable partnerships #climatechange
#InterculturalDialogue4COP21 #COP21



ALF recommends that collaborative mechanisms should be developed to facilitate intercultural dialogue to improve the quality and efficiency of adaptation, mitigation and resilience practices to the benefit of all.

ALF will work with governments and other agencies to plan for post COP21 dialogue on climate change and a sustainable future for the Mediterranean.

ALF works to accommodate both the needs of human society and the natural environment, respecting the cultural landscapes of the past, and planning sustainably for the future.

ALF has played an integral role in the coordination and support of North-South interaction across the Mediterranean. ALF and its member organisations and networks have developed partnerships in capacity building, training, education and public awareness at all levels. This will be used to mobilizing support for international action to address climate change and sustainable action for the future of the Mediterranean.

It falls to ALF to provide leadership that mitigates the onset of a changing climate, protects our natural environment and assists Mediterranean communities in adapting to our changing circumstances.

The Anna Lindh Foundation is eager to provide expertise and leadership in establishing intercultural dialogue as a central component of mitigation and adaptation measures to address climate change and for a sustainable Mediterranean future.



AnnaLindh Foundation @AnnaLindh • Oct 15

Djaheezah Subratty emphasises role of women and social enterprise as central to #InterculturalDialogue4COP21 @UNEP #COP21

karl_donert @karldonert • Oct 15

Meeting between #ngos and #parliamentarypresidents on #interculturaldialogue and #climate change @ AnnaLindh

Maged Butter @MagButter • Oct 15

#ClimateChange is not a future problem, it IS a present problem and we have to act NOW. #environment #COP21 #interculturaldialogue4COP21





4
Good Practices



Good Practices



karl_donert @karldonert • Oct 15

Hearing about youth projects across #Mediterranean #interculturaldialogue4cop21

Munqeth Mehyar - Eco-Peace Middle East (Jordan)

Chairman and Director of EcoPeace an organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists. Its primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. The project "Good Water Neighbour", is bringing people together to talk about sharing water resources and community involvement in decision making in water and environmental challenges.

The project "Face based Campaign" is focusing on activities around Jordan River and the involvement of religious leaders in promoting the importance of water in religions and its preservation through community involvement.

Adriana Aralica - SLOGA - Platform of Development and Humanitarian NGOs (Slovenia)

SLOGA is focusing on awareness-raising activities in Slovenia and abroad with a campaign "You too are a global neighbour", aiming to raise awareness on interconnectedness of today's world and promote global solidarity.

One of the messages of SLOGA's campaign "You too are a global neighbour" in the European Year for Development 2015 is "You too can contribute to intercultural dialogue"; targeting young people and organizing various events to enhance dialogue and critical thinking among young global neighbours.

Cécile Marsille - SwitchMed programme (Tunisia)

SwitchMed programme aims to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the Southern Mediterranean. SwitchMed is an initiative that supports and connects stakeholders to scale-up social and eco innovations in the Mediterranean. Providing Mediterranean stakeholders with tools and connections to supporting partners for your social and eco innovations, to achieve productive, circular and sharing economies in the Mediterranean.

Nora Forsbacka - Kehys ry (Finland)

Kehys is the Finnish national platform of CONCORD, the European federation of relief and development NGOs. Kehys aims to increase the Finnish NGO's knowledge of the development policy and development cooperation practised by European Union. CONCORD aims to influence on EU development policy and inform organisations about related matters. It supports and coordinates cooperation of organisations and represents European NGDOs in EU organs.

Nada Rajab Naser Eddin - Jubilee School / King Hussein Foundation (Jordan)

Jubilee School (JS) is the first school in the Middle East that obtained the Green Flag for 7 years respectively. Some of its' projects include: Annual Eco Conference with Discussion Panels, Cop 20 Model discussions and Debates. The JS is an accredited Eco School by the International Eco-school program developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The annual Eco Conference organised with discussion Panels: on Medical waste, Role of science and technology in water and food security, The Logic of Business in Sustainability, Being Green Is a Lifestyle.

One of the JS initiatives include: "Seeds Of Future" innovation as a youth initiative combines technology with Ecology by launching an android application which delivers free plants for the purposes of increasing the green areas, awareness and teaching people how to plant.







Areas of Action

- The Anna Lindh Foundation, through its Inter-Cultural Dialogue in facing Environmental Challenges (ICDEC) initiative, has a special role to play in the framework of the UN COP-21 Conference in Paris, at COP22 in Morocco and for the future realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The ICDEC initiative is established to raise the visibility of intercultural dialogue in helping address climate change and thereby environmental issues and sustainable development.
- 3. COP21 will be key gathering for saving planet by building solutions together. Responses will require us to work together. The Anna Lindh Foundation nurtures this through intercultural dialogue projects that mobilise civil society, focus on youth employment, empower women and respond to sustainable development.
- 4. Capacity building will be critical to establish a community that offers a balanced, intercultural, approach and transfer solutions for mitigation, adaptation and greater resilience. Education (for intercultural dialogue) will be a foundation for the future sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.







Amplifying the Message



Amplifying the Message

The 15th of October was the occasion to launch a media campaign on the role of Intercultural Dialogue in Climate Change talks through an International Press Conference titled "Towards Paris CoP-21: Euro-Med Institutions for a Sustainable Mediterranean Future" held in the French National Assembly





AnnaLindh Foundation @AnnaLindh • Oct 15

President @elisabethguigou live at @France24_fr talking about #InterculturalDialogue4COP21 with @VanessaBurggraf

