

Towards Phase V

In this issue :

- Kīmiyya, Women Actresses of Dialogue
- 3.S. for Intercultural Citizenship Education
- Anna Lindh Days for Intercultural Citizenship Education
- Best Social and Creative Enterprise Training
- Intercultural Cities in Slovenia
- Be Effective! Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue Media Skills in Central and Eastern Europe
- Intercultural Artistic Expression in Fragile Areas
- “No Hate Speech” Workshop
- Contemporary activist/ artistic practices and project management
- Intercultural citizenship Education and Fundraising opportunities
- New mobility program and Gamification workshop
- Intercultural Dialogue on Migration and working with newcomers
- Arab Culture Days in Lithuania
- 10th anniversary of the “A Sea of Words”
- ALF Call for Proposals 2015/17
- People of the Networks

The **Network News**, the bi-monthly Newsletter, coming to its 5th and last issue for this Phase; aimed to increase the communication flow and visibility of the different Network activities for an efficient exchange of knowledge and news of the 42 National Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

In this special edition, dedicated to the **Cross Network Activities (CNA)**, you will find an overall description and results of every activity of the scheme designed to foster collaboration and support joint projects and activities among the National Networks of the ALF.

The CNA designed to capitalise on Network Members’ knowledge and experience in addressing challenges related to intercultural dialogue at regional and sub-regional level. The CNA activities took place over a period of 3 months and included 7 projects that involved 28 National Networks that formed 60 partnerships. This year, around 600 participants benefited from the CNA activities.

Looking forward for the **Heads of Network Meeting** that will take place mid-December and will review the whole Phase IV Network Activities and plan the future Activities of the Network of Networks for the next phase; since the Anna Lindh Foundation runs the largest Network of civil society organisations involved in the promotion of intercultural dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The EuroMed Award reached its 10th edition since 2006! As usual the bestowing ceremony will take place during the **Heads of Network Meeting**. In this current edition of the Newsletter, we are happy to host as a feature story “*People of the Networks*” **Rabeea Al-Nasser**, the founder and manager of House of Tales and Music (HTM) that was the winner of the Euro-Med Dialogue Award eighth edition in 2013, under the theme of “Migrants as Ambassadors for Mutual Understanding”.

Network Meetings that are funded by the Network Coordination Scheme also took place in some ALF Networks, and here we present some of them.

We hope you enjoy reading this and all the previous editions of the *Network News*!
Warmest greetings from Alexandria, Egypt

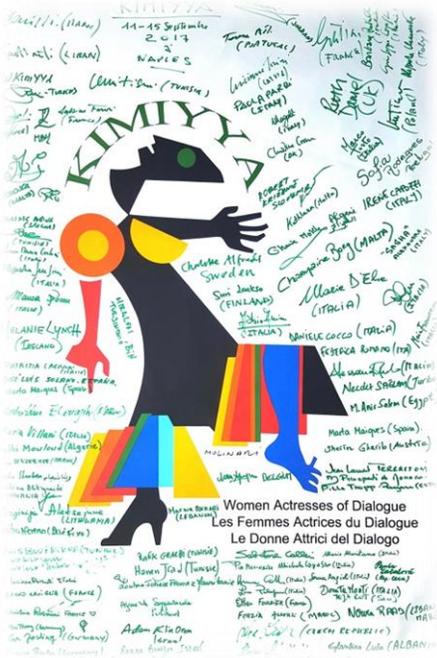
The NETWORK NEWS, is a bi-monthly Newsletter, featuring current and upcoming activities taking place in the 42 National Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation. Here, you will find information about Network Meetings, Project-related activities, calls for proposals and for participation, trainings, conferences, and other activities.

Our aim is to increase the communication flow and visibility of the different Network activities for an efficient exchange of knowledge and news. So, please keep us posted with your latest Network Activities, news and photos that showcase the ALF.



Kimiyya, Women Actresses of Dialogue

Cross Network Activity led by the Italian Network



Kimiyya, is an international conference that took place between the 11th and the 15th of September 2017 in the Museum of Peace, Naples.

The conference was organised as part of the Cross Network activity led by the Italian HoN **The Fondazione Mediterraneo** and funded by the ALF. The main partners of the project were: **We love sousse (Tunisia), Geminarie Group (Malta), Forum Femmes Méditerranée (France), Youth Resource Center (Bosnia& Herzegovina), L'Association Étoile Culturelle d'Akbou (Algeria), Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations (Albania).**

The conference gathered **150 representatives from 12 National Networks of the ALF (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovenia and Tunisia).** A "Steering Committee" formed by the leaders of 12 Euro-Mediterranean countries met in Naples from 12 to 15 July for the organization of the content of the event. The 3 day work meeting was dedicated to define the agenda, the goals and the participants who will be present in the event.

Kimiyya aimed at strengthening the role of women in Euro-Mediterranean civil society as "actors of dialogue" in the fields of training, education, migration, economy, creativity, traditions, work, democracy and, at the same time, to increase their participation in decision-making, including political, social, cultural, creative and economic, from a quantitative as well as a qualitative point of view. The activity consisted of 6 workshops that focused on the following topics: "**Women and Migration**" coordinated by Network of Tunisia, "**Women, social inequality and democracy**" coordinated by Network of Malta, "**Voices of women**" coordinated by Network of France, "**Women, health and science**" coordinated by Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "**Economic Empowerment of Young Women**" coordinated by Network of Algeria, and "**Women, former professions and crafts**" coordinated by the Network of Albania.

The speakers of the event were **Anna Maria Carloni, Alessandra Rubino, Massimo Pica Ciamarra, Paola Parri, Federica Romano** among other political figures and researches. Among the international guests, was **Noura Raad** of the European Network of Migrants Women. As an act of appreciation, the President of the Italian Republic, **Mr. Sergio Mattarella**, assigned the "MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC" to the event.



For more information about the conference, please visit [Fondazione Mediterraneo website](#) or [Facebook Page](#)



3.S. for Intercultural Citizenship Education

Cross Network activity led by the Turkish Network

The 3.S. for Intercultural Citizenship Education is the cross Network activity implemented by the Turkish ALF Network in collaboration with Bosnia & Herzegovina, Morocco, Slovenia & UK ALF Networks. The activity aimed at organizing 3 Seminars to strengthen the advanced level of mutual understanding and to develop an Intercultural Citizenship Education (ICE) platform in the Euro-Med region, in Tangier Morocco (2-8 August), Mazara de Vallo, Italy (17-23 August) and Bursa, Turkey (7 -15 September).

The Journey started in Tangier with a Seminar on **Cultural diversity for Intercultural Citizenship Education**. Tangier was selected as one of the most intercultural cities in Morocco. The Moroccan Network of Intercultural cities was established in Tangier at the beginning of 2016, which focused on the review of city policies through intercultural lenses and a positive management of diversity.

The 1st seminar aimed at exploring *diversity* in its multi aspects, with special regard to the harmonious coexistence of



minorities and different religions in Tangier, in order to promote a model of intercultural diversity management to reach a system of equal interaction between people from different cultures and share cultural expressions through dialogue and mutual respect. The seminar has been successfully conducted by providing academic theory related to cross-cultural communication and cultural diversity and by offering concrete tips for putting cultural diversity theory into practice through the **Anna Lindh Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship** in the Euro-Mediterranean. A special attention was given to the interaction with local people, both in

non-formal and informal way. Through 2 activities : **DEBARRASEK** and **Breakfast on the other side**.

The 2nd Seminar which is entitled **Intercultural Integration challenges for Intercultural Citizenship Education**, took place in Mazara Del Vallo in Italy, a city in the middle of the Mediterranean where stories and cultures, landscapes and architecture meet.

The seminar aimed at promoting the management of diversity as a holistic, inclusive approach to facilitate the development of human beings, with their cultural peculiarities, their interaction with equality and the reservation of local identities. By exploring interculturality in all its shades, no hate speech, intercultural conflict, and by stimulating reflections on the skills and attitudes developed through the activities, knowledge in matter of ICE and Intercultural integration with its challenges was



increased.

A particular focus was given to the case of Mazara del Vallo thanks to a meeting with the **Professor Hannachi** at the University of Enna and his work on migration for the Euro-Arab Institute. He well explained the history of migration to



Mazara, and how people from different cultural backgrounds are living there, the issue of the mixed marriages, the peaceful coexistence of different faiths and the places of worship, the role of the historical centre e.g.: Casbah center.

Finally, the ***Creative and Social Entrepreneur Seminar for a better intercultural integration*** in Bursa, Turkey was the last stage of the **3.S. for Intercultural Citizenship Education** activity. During the first two days, the seminar focused on the Intercultural Citizenship Education as a key concept to foster socio-cultural integration and a deeper and mutual understanding between people with different cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, one session was dedicated on sharing the best practices concerning the topic, in order to exchange information, ideas, and to encourage sharing the same piece of content across multiple networks and to foster the cooperation between ALF Heads of Networks among the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Following, a session was dedicated to Intercultural Literacy and different perspectives to highlight similarities and differences between diverse Euro-med cultures. At this point, one of the most touching and emotional moments of the seminar was : the meeting with 4 Syrian refugees who are currently living in Bursa. They shared their experiences, their stories and lives, their happiness, sadness and their humanity.

Keeping with the humanity theme, **Mr. Kostas Pinteris**, a fisherman from Lesbos (Greece) who has been nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize** for having saved a thousand of migrants from the treacherous Mediterranean Sea, was hosted by the leader of the project **S&G System and Generations organization**. Mr. Kostas attended the Photo Exhibition (**IMAGINE: Migrant Journey**) whom he is one of the main characters. The exhibition was also attended by the mayor of the municipality of Bursa **Mr. Mustafa Bozbey**.

IMAGINE: Migrant Journey is even the name of a board game produced by S&G with the support of Anna Lindh Foundation whose aim is to put people into migrants 'shoes and to raise the awareness and eventually sympathize with the migration issue. After that, the ALF UK partner, **In place of War**, presented by **Ms. Alison Surtees** delivered a training course on **Creative and social entrepreneur programme** with the aim to lay the basis for the development of an Intercultural Citizenship Education and to come up with concrete ideas for future collaborations and to strengthen cooperation between ALF networks. The Training was followed up by workshops that put into practice the skills and competences gained by the participants during the course.



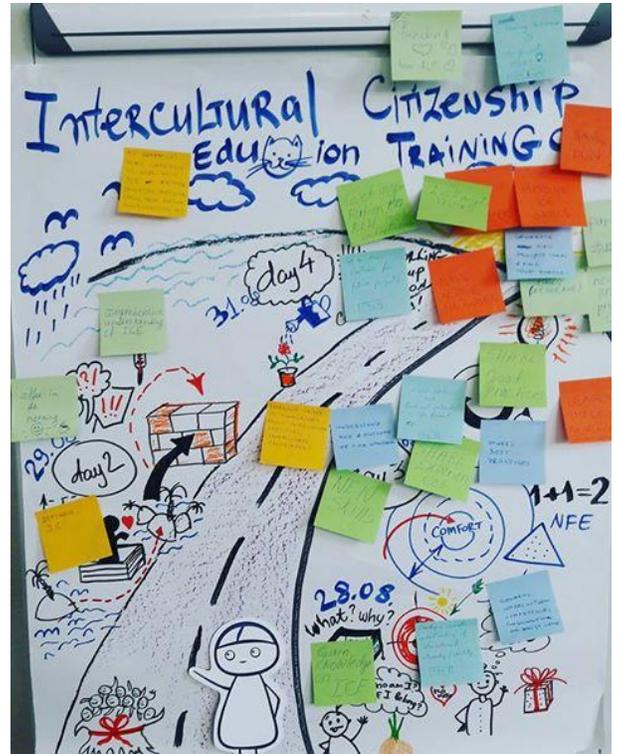
Anna Lindh Days for Intercultural Citizenship Education

Cross Network Activity led by the Finnish Network

Between the 26th and the 31st of August 2017, the Finnish Network organized together with its partners from ALF Heads of Networks of Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Morocco, Poland, Sweden, Tunisia and Turkey, an intercultural forum and a training with the titled *Anna Lindh Days for Intercultural Citizenship Education*.

The Forum lasted two days and consisted of two panel discussions and multiple workshops on hate speech, intersecting identities, and virtual reality as a tool for raising awareness and creating empathy. In this workshop, participants lived a virtual reality experience where Helsinki had been transformed into a conflict zone similar to what Aleppo has gone through (hence the name of the project, Helsinki-Aleppo).

The training was conducted over four days on the themes of intercultural dialogue, citizenship, identity and education. The goal of the training was also to familiarize educators with the *Anna Lindh Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship Education*, and develop it further. A small group of participants delved deep into the topic and had enlightening and sometimes difficult discussions. Through the two events, participants and their organisations found new possible partners and developed their project ideas. As a result, a [network of ICE educators](#) was created on Facebook. Everyone is welcome to join the group.



Best Social and Creative Enterprise Training

Cross Network Activity led by the UK Head of Network

The ALF UK Network has just finished its Cross Network Activity, looking at Best Social and Creative Enterprise Training, working with Refugee Communities.

The activity which took place on 4-9 September, was a partnership between the ALF UK Network, Greece, Sweden, Lebanon and Germany, ALF Networks.



They all worked directly with organisations that supported and developed refugee communities, sending a filmmaker to each country to record best practice approaches in each context. The resulting footage will be produced into a digital toolkit for wider distribution of best practice approaches and also develop on the current Creative and Social Entrepreneurial Programme of the UK Network. Hopefully, this programme can support organisations directly working with refugees to look at enterprise development through entrepreneurial approaches directly with refugees.

The project culminated in Training of Trainers in Athens, with 3 organisations from each country. This training enabled delivery of the full Creative and Social Entrepreneurial Programme for those who are

trained, as a direct support to refugees who may consider using their skills in establishing their own enterprise. The programme, enables to bring diverse organisations together around a common theme so that they could all share and learn from each other,

In total **18 people** were trained and certified in the CSEP Training of Trainers, enabling them to take this programme to their own places of work to train refugees they work with. The ALF UK Network aims at supporting this programme through the Networks for mentoring opportunities and possible collaborative working.



Intercultural Cities in Slovenia

Cross Network Activity led by the Slovenian Network

“Intercultural Cities” is a Cross-network Activity initiated by Slovenia and organized with Slovenia, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Israel ALF Networks.



The main aim of the activity was to utilize Network members' knowledge and experience in addressing challenges related to intercultural dialogue at regional and sub-regional level through intercultural phenomena in urban areas. The main event, International Euro-Med Forum took place in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, from 3rd till 6th of September 2017. It had two main components: to reinforce the exchange between organizations working on intercultural issues in cities throughout the Euro-Med region, and to build new partnerships and new projects among Heads of Networks and member organizations from involved Networks.

As a preparation for the Forum, the leader and the partners met for the kick-off meeting in Jerusalem, Israel, which was chosen due to historical richness and specific interculturalism aspect.

The opening of the Forum **Intercultural cities** was addressed by the Secretary General Union for Mediterranean **H. E. Amb.**

Fathallah Sijilmassi. During the first program segment, two round tables and four thematic workshops were held with various actors from civil sector, public sector, politics, education and media. In the second part, participants concentrated on interactive activities that continued throughout the whole event, the organizational fair was also set

and several good practices programs from different countries were presented. Strong cultural program was mentioned by participants as very important connecting moment. Concerts, exhibition and culturally colored lunches and dinners have brought joy and learning in a cooperation with ALF Slovenia Network members.



active participants, guests and speakers from ALF Networks of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Turkey and Lebanon were present. **ALF Intercultural Trends Report**, from the point of “cities” trends, was presented to ALF community by ALF Advisory Council **Ms. Alik Moschis-Gauguet** and it was an added value as a back-up content of the need for the ALF constant work on Intercultural cities.



Be Effective! Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue Media Skills in Central and Eastern Europe

Cross-Network Activity led by the Czech Republic Network

The Cross Network Activity "Be Effective!" brought together on 7-11 September, 8 ALF National Networks: Czech Republic as the project Leader; Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Tunisia and Morocco as Partners.

The project goal was to build communication capacities of National Network members to enable them to open and



develop constructive, inclusive and far reaching dialogue about the "other" : be it a refugee, a migrant, an Arab or a Muslim in our societies. It aimed to contribute to better quality media reporting and explore ways how to deliver the message more effectively to those who are anxious, refusing or fearing "the otherness", to fight xenophobia, nurture Dialogue and social cohesion in Europe and the Mediterranean.

Throughout July and August **116 network members in 6 European project countries** have gone through a series of 3-5 trainings in viral video production, including editing and subtitles, info-graphics design and data journalism. Furthermore, a Communication Strategy paper has been published, summarizing available knowledge about public perception and media reporting about "other" in each of the 6 national contexts, drawing conclusions and recommendations for future communications strategies.

Finally, the Learning and Sharing Meeting took place in the city of Olomouc, Czech Republic, in early September. **56 participants**, trainers and facilitators from **9 countries** met for 4 days to build upon the previous National trainings, exploring effective ways how to cooperate with traditional media, how to reach larger and new audiences by social media, how to apply non-violent communication (NVC) skills to debate the issue with public. Media and social activists from North Africa enriched the meeting with their account of "other" in Tunisian and Moroccan

societies; the **ALF Intercultural Trends Report** was introduced by one of its co-authors.

Finally, a brainstorming session took place during a hike in a natural reserve, leading to a summary of recommendations in a Best Practices to be circulated in late October. It has been agreed that the most effective communication which is most likely to open dialogue and change opinions is direct and face-to-face, delivering personal experience and interaction with the other, providing emotional message rather than analytical data. In-depth PR strategy and communication plan is necessary. The delivered information need to be clear, simple, easily accessible and inviting to be shared or interacted with (such as in a game).

The participants shared the conviction that communication strategies need to be re-designed and upgraded to become more impacting and effective to respond to developments of the



intercultural social reality of today's Euro-Mediterranean region and the world in general. As one of the participants concluded *"I had many fruitful discussions about current social and political issues in Europe, Middle East and North Africa"*. Many agreed that they *"learned a lot"* and the *"meeting was very useful"*, especially due to the possibility to meet and exchange with variety of like-minded people. As another participant put it, the *"Cross-Network Activities and international partnerships are much more effective because of the possibility of collecting so many opinions and points of view"*.



Intercultural Artistic Expression in Fragile Areas

Cross Network Activity led by the Tunisian Network

The Tunisian Network organized a Forum titled “Intercultural Artistic Expression in Fragile Areas” that took place between the 26th and the 31st of August 2017 in Sousse, Tunisia. This Forum was organized in collaboration with ALF Heads of Networks of Finland, Lebanon, France, Algeria, Spain, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Belgium, Greece, Ireland and Morocco ALF Networks, within the framework of the Cross-Network Activity of the ALF.



More than **15 countries** and a **hundred young people** gathered in the magnificent setting of the city of Sousse, its medina and its wide spaces in order to work-during the three days of the Forum- on themes related to the role of the intercultural artistic expression in facing challenges posed by fragile zones. It was a seminar for reflection and sharing of experiences, following with the **Euro-Arab Youth Forum**, organized in partnership of the “**Sfax Capital of Arab Culture**” in March 2017. This Forum brought together young people from the Euro-Arab Region, members of several NGOs and National Networks of the ALF, as well as experts on the various related topics discussed.

In the Medina, workshops, plenaries, a craft’s fair were organized. There was also a launch of an international action against exclusion, poverty and carbon, as well as several other activities that aimed at deepening reflection on the issues addressed. During the plenary opening, six speakers presented their approaches to the importance of art in fragile areas. Starting from their very rich experiences and their deep reflections, they presented their knowledge and vision on the topic in question, afterwards, a debate was held between the participants and experts who were present.

On the 9th of September, 6 workshops were organized in order to discuss the role of intercultural artistic expression in war zones, refugee camps, marginalized regions and also its role in regards to victims of violence, exclusion and radicalization. These workshops, to which participants actively contributed, were divided into three parts: icebreaking sessions, presentation and discussion of concepts and development of joint programs.

Finally, the Declaration of “Sousse to Naples” was discussed on the 3rd day of the Forum. It was a good opportunity to oversee the outline of the declaration, propose it and discuss it with all those who were present. It was validated, signed and sent to the Forum of Naples “**Kimmiya**”.



“No Hate Speech” Workshop

20th Network Meeting and Capacity Building of the German Network

The 20th Network Meeting of the German ALF Network, which took place in Chemnitz, Germany on 21- 22 June 2017, was hosted by the City of Chemnitz and the institute dialogue transnational.

The meeting was an occasion for the coordination team of the German ALF Network to report on the news and updates of the Network on National and International level. The first day of the Network Meeting consisted of project presentations and a “matchmaking activity” that aims at establishing partnerships with other members of the ALF Networks.

On the second day of the meeting, Ms. Ljubov Lissina led

a Capacity Building workshop on “No Hate Speech”. The EU-certified trainer from Barcelona, who is familiar with the work of the ALF, explained the forms that Hate Speech can take on the internet and sensitised the consequences of Hate Speech.

The meeting was a great opportunity to bring together the different organizations of the Networks and to visit new regions of Germany within the framework of the Network



in Germany.

Contemporary activist/ artistic practices and project management

Network Meeting & Capacity Building Activity of the Montenegrin Network

On the 3rd of August 2017, the Head of Montenegrin Network, “Ministry of Culture” organized a Network Meeting with Capacity Building presentation in the "Club", gallery of the Center for Contemporary Arts in Podgorica.

At the beginning of the Meeting Mr. Boris Abramovic, Coordinator of the Network, presented the best practice



examples implemented within the ALF program, at National and International level. He outlined some of the current possibilities and future perspectives of this Euro-Mediterranean program and emphasized various opportunities in the realm of education, cooperation and networking available to members of the ALF Networks. Moreover, he discussed with the participants the outcomes and benefits of the implemented ALF projects as well as how they contribute to stimulating social processes such as development



of dialogue, diversity and inclusiveness.

Afterwards, a presentation on contemporary activist/ artistic practices, was delivered by theatrologist **Ms. Natasa Nelevic**. She focused on how cultural practices can increase community capacities for recognizing individual and social benefits of dialogue and interculturalism. She also reflected on some of the key activities that have been realized whether in Montenegro or on international level through ALF funds and Networks.

The second part of the program was devoted to the Capacity Building Activity through a financial project management presentation, while the additional part of the program was for the presentation of most significant project funded in culture - Creative Europe.

In his presentation, **Mr. Vucic Cetkovic**, an economist, spoke about effective project management with a focus on European funds. The presentation focused on the project cycle starting from the assessment of costs through the implementation of planned activities and the spending of funds, as well as on the process of monitoring and applying regulations in all aspects of project financial management.

Ms. Milena Raznatovic, Coordinator of the Desk for Creative Europe in the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro, presented an open call for European cooperation projects, which is launched in Autumn of each year. In addition, a part of the presentation was dedicated to propositions under which Montenegrin institutions and civil society organizations may participate in the program of the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018.

The presentation was attended by members of the Montenegrin ALF network as well as non-member representatives of institutions, civil sector and local government.

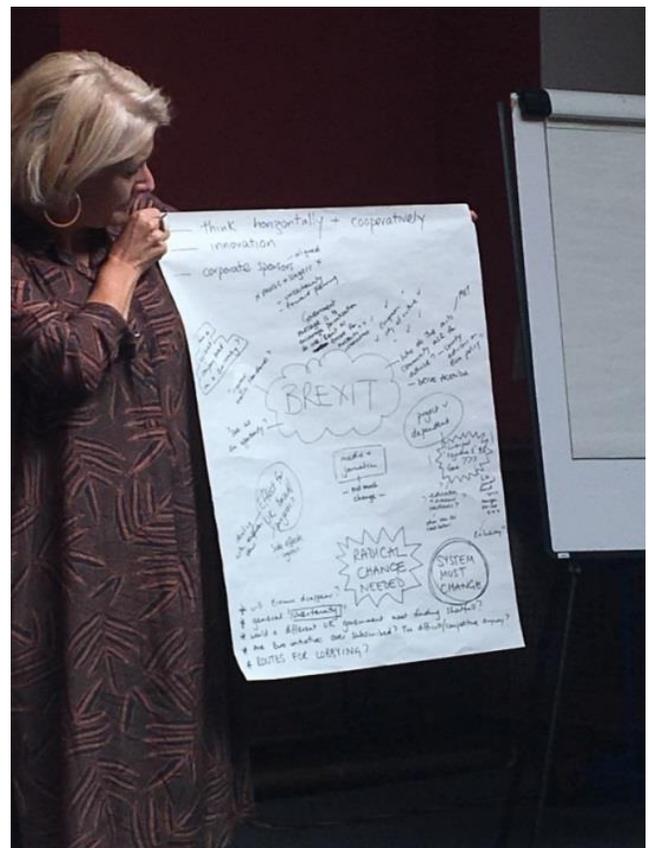
Intercultural citizenship Education and Fundraising opportunities

Network Meeting of the UK Network

The ALF UK Network organised on 31st August and 1st September its third and final National Network Meeting for this year. The event took place in Manchester, and brought together 23 ALF Member organisations to discuss the future, and the key issues and opportunities facing the ALF UK Network. Many of the members who attended were of the newly signed up members, of which there are 20 new individuals and organisations, with many young aspiring social and creative practitioners.

In the morning of the 1st day, the meeting focused on the rules of the Network and on one of the key issues, that of Brexit. In the afternoon, a session was dedicated to discuss Intercultural citizenship Education, led by **Ms. Lucy Dugate**, who had attended the **ALF Training of Trainers in Malta** earlier this year. This session consisted of an overview and examples of the worksheets and the exercises proposed by the Handbook.

Day two was focused on Capacity Building Activity for ALF Members, around finance and funding. **Ms. Nikala Torkington** of Flourish CIC, and ex of UnLtd, a funder dedicated to development of Social Enterprise, gave an hour and a half workshop looking at options for funding and alternative



methods of raising and generating income. This was followed by an open session with **Mr. Steph Grant** of Creative Europe to discuss future CE funds and opportunities and to ask questions regards the strands. The session generated lots of positive feedback, and enabled everyone to find something they had not tried before or consider options for diversifying income streams, using social enterprise trading and commissioning models.



The afternoon was dedicated to sharing members' activities, giving them the chance to present their organisations, and to debate on how effective their work and practices were at reaching predominantly refugees and young people. This was a highly active session with many new members having their first opportunity to share their work with others and also make connections for possible future collaborations.

The meeting has proven to be highly successful in connecting new members to old, and in enabling sharing of work and collaborative approaches, and discussion of best practices.

New mobility program and Gamification workshop

The 18th Annual Network Meeting of the Spanish Network

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Spanish ALF Network (ReFAL) took place in Madrid, at Casa Árabe, on 13 -14 September 2017. More than 60 people from 54 organisation members attended the meeting.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the work carried out during the year within the Network, the topics discussed in the Executive Committee meetings, and the Network Intercultural Actions (NIA) launched by the ALF in which the Spanish Network participated. On the one hand, in terms of the internal functioning of the Network, the Executive Committee of the ReFAL proposed to the members of the Network to create a new management model that would save economic resources from the coordination of the Network. These saved financial resources could be used to carry out several meetings between the members of the Network in order to generate synergies between them and also to organize activities that allow the professional enrichment of associations and members of the Network.

On the other hand, a mobility program was announced, which would be launched with a full budget of the IEMed, the leader of the Spanish Network, through two annual calls. This program, which includes a budget of up to € 6,000, aims to promote the mobility of members within the Network who wish to attend meetings, conferences and meetings organized by other members of the Network.

On September 13, a training day was held on "The Importance of Communication" and a "Market of Ideas and Projects" was organized. In this market of ideas, eight entities presented their projects, ideas and best practices to the participants in order to seek synergies between other ReFAL entities.



On September 14, the second part of the training day was held and a Gamification workshop was organized by the



"Jovesolides Association", which allowed the participants to interact with each other for three hours. Gamification is the set of practices that allow the use of game mechanics to solve real-life problems and create synergies between participants. It is both a vector of communication and an element of motivation for collaborators, in order to promote a commitment and improve teamwork.

By the end of the meeting, the members of the new ReFAL Executive Committee emphasized on their commitment to work together, in order to improve the cohesion of ReFAL and to organize meetings, workshops and events.

Intercultural Dialogue on Migration and working with newcomers

Nordic Baltic Meeting and Seminar

On 25-26 August, approximately 40 members from the ALF Nordic Networks, namely Denmark, Finland and Sweden



gathered in Malmö for an interactive Seminar on Migration and working with new comers.

The seminar which was organised with the support of the ALF, the European Union and the Swedish Foreign Department was an important continuation of the Nordic co-operation that was established in 2016.

The two days included sharing of good practices and three workshops: Intercultural communication and diversity management workshop delivered by **Patrick Gruzckun** from **samarbetsbolaget**, Well-being and integration: Resilience from Inside Out workshop delivered by **Sari Scheinberg** and **Cecile Marsille** from **Recomate – Action Research Centre** and Facilitated Networking delivered by **Karin Bruce** from **LärOlika**. The three workshops each contributed with

different elements; Through the Intercultural communication and diversity management workshop, the participants became more aware of their own approaches and think patterns – useful skills in all dialogue work and in particular when working with Intercultural Dialogue and new comers.



The second Workshop focused on well-being and integration. It highlighted how the importance of a new comer's well-being leads to a successful integration. This discussion ended up for many participants rather bringer awareness to the importance of their own well-being at work. This was a non-identified need but turned out to be a very important added value as most of the participants had a need to discuss work load and how to stay happy when working with challenging topic – in often hectic environments. Finally, the facilitated networking opened the eyes for the importance of conscious networking – through guided exercises, the participants became more aware of who to network in a constructive and focused way. The seminar proved an important opportunity for the member organizations to network and exchange experiences. The three workshops furthermore ensured that the participants left the 2-day seminar with new knowledge and concrete inspiration about how to work with refugees and other new comers.



Arab Culture Days in Lithuania

On the 12th - 16th of September 2017, the ALF Lithuanian Network organised " Arab Days Culture"; an event which took place in Vilnius, Kaunas and other Lithuanian cities. Its main goal was to turn to the richness of the Arab culture as well as eccentricity and present it through the prism of ethnicity and art.



“Arab Culture Days” aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue, based on genuine mutual understanding. The ALF Lithuanian Network sought to allow for the Arabs participants to represent themselves by telling their own stories, presenting their own culture and traditions. It was important to them, that Arab culture would be represented through the artistic, academic and aesthetic point of view, emphasizing art and culture, education and cultural cooperation.

During the five days of the event, artists, lecturers, journalists, writers, government representatives and musicians came together to represent their culture from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, India, Syria and Palestine. **Mr. Ahmad Dari**, a Palestinian in Lithuania talked about culture in Palestine and the Arabic calligraphy. In addition, **Ms. Salva Rasool**, a world-renowned artist famous for her unique works of calligraphy, led a

workshop about Arabic calligraphy that was combined with a lecture entitled “Features of Arabic calligraphy” led by **Ms. Milda Petkauskaitė**. The project brought the Arab and the Lithuanian artists and people together around shared values. It also helped to increase awareness and gave an in-depth view of the Arab culture in Lithuania, acknowledging its tremendous contribution to the universal culture.



10th anniversary of the “A Sea of Words”

Literary contest by the Spanish Network



The literary contest “A Sea of Words” organised by the Spanish Network: European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the ALF, celebrated this year its 10th edition.

This contest which usually focus on the production of short stories whose content is linked to the creation or consolidation of dynamics, aimed at fostering voluntary work, a key element of active citizenship that helps to promote the expression of the different sensibilities and realities of youths in the region

On the occasion of this anniversary this year’s theme seeks to give the spotlight to the Euro-Mediterranean youths aged between 18 and 30 who have been targeted by the contest since 2008. Under the motto “**Youths, Stereotypes and Radicalisation**” the contest gives Youth the opportunity to explain their experiences related to how they see themselves and how society imposes a series of stereotypes on them.

In the framework of the awards ceremony, the authors of the 15 best stories from Albania, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Montenegro and Morocco, were invited to come to Barcelona and to also participate in various cultural activities as a guided tour of the city of Tarragona and the creation of a writing workshop in Sala Beckett.



In the course of the ceremony held on 17-19 October at the Institute of Catalan Studies of Barcelona, the three first prizes were announced. The winners are: Omar Hussein Al Othman *لحياة مثل صندوق من الشوكولاتة (Life is like a box of chocolates)*, Jordan, Salim Bouazzati *رغيف خبز (Loaf of bread)*, Morocco, and Giulio Pitroso *Pizza Kebab*, Italy

To read the stories of the 3 finalists please click [here](#)



ALF Call for Proposals 2015/17

Latvian-Israeli joint effort in building Social Inclusion through Education

Intercultural Citizenship Education

Latvian-Israeli joint effort in building Social Inclusion through Education is a project implemented by 3 partner organisations: **The Youth International Program Agency** as the project leader, **the European Movement in Latvia** and one of the leading institutes for civic education in Israel - **the Merchavim Institute**. The ALF supported the project with **EUR 26,205.00**.

The project's mission was to study the Education system in Latvia and Israel, focusing on the development of social and civic competences in formal and non-formal education; familiarity with and examples of

good practices from partner countries; development of methodological material, training of educators and further education in Latvia and Israel. The two Delegations visit took place during the project. The visit of the Israeli delegation took place from 18th to 22nd of September in Riga, and the Latvian delegation on 28th November until the 2nd December. It focused on the Israeli educational systems and more specifically in the context of civic Education. Based on the information gathered during the visits, examples of good practice learned, a methodical tool for

educators to develop social and civic skills in the learning process were developed. After the development of methodological material, in the spring of 2017, teachers' workshops were held to share examples of good practice and provide practical support for teachers to integrate social and civic competences in the content of the course. As a result of this partnership, almost **300 multipliers** were trained. The three partners had the opportunity to develop methodological material suitable for both, the Latvian and Israeli Education systems. Both of them have pupils coming from

minority groups, among them Russian-speaking groups and Arab groups in Israel. It is also important to note that, sustainable partnerships were established between key players in Latvian and Israeli Education systems.



Art of Democracy in Euro-Med region

Artistic co-productions

Art of Democracy in Euro-Med region was a project based on critical thinking for young people in Croatia and Turkey. It aimed to develop a set of democratic skills in youth so that the voices of these soon-to-be-voters can influence important decisions in their communities. The project is led by "Petit Philosophy", a Croatian association that is supporting informal education, critical thinking and philosophy in practice along with three Turkish partners: "Ortaköy 80.Yıl Mesleki ve Teknik Anadolu Lisesi", "Keçiören Municipality" and Turkey **Disable's Education and Solidarity Foundation**. The ALF supported the project with **Euro 30,000.00**



The first part of the project included workshops where youth participants used artworks from the fields of architecture, visual art, music, film, and literature to critically analyze and reflect on topics of democratic values and social issues, such as human rights, discrimination, equality and diversity. Art was used as a tool to help youth become aware of the complexities of material and conceptual world that surrounds them. Most importantly, art offered a safe haven when talking about some issues

that are uncomfortable, dogmatic, or even dangerous.

In addition, Civic action took place after workshops and it allowed youth participants to carry out an activity of an importance to their local communities. Each group of youth participants carefully assessed the needs of their local communities. Youth from Croatia and Turkey connected with each other via internet to compare and brainstorm their ideas before carrying out the action. This allowed them to compare and understand different values through intercultural dialogue with their peers.

For more information, check the project's [website](#)



People of the Networks

ALF Network Members Tell Us Their Stories

Working on supporting children affected by conflict, poverty and deprivation, Rabeea Al-Nasser, the founder and



manager of **House of Tales and Music (HTM)** in Jordan is a teacher, a librarian and a storyteller. Mrs. Rabeea was selected by the ALF to be the winner of the Euro-Med Dialogue Award in November 2013, under the theme of “Migrants as Ambassadors for Mutual Understanding”. As a mother and a grandmother, she is now making reading stories a daily habit. After more than 40 years of work in education and libraries, she has become an expert in Arabic children's books and other translated books. She is the first specialist in children's stories in her country Jordan.

“Telling and reading stories are no luxury; it's a joyful activity that is full of chances for learning new skills, in addition to being a means for boosting learning skills, such as reading, writing, dialogue and self-expression.” (annalindhfoundation.org)

How and when did you find your passion for storytelling, Arts and Music ?

My passion for stories began before learning how to read, my grandmother, my father and my mother are the first storytellers I met. I have been fascinated by stories since I knew how to read, then I began to read by myself and retell what I read to my best and close friend Lamya who always said that she was my first audience. As a young mother and teacher, I began to buy children stories to read them for my children and students too. Storytelling as a career began through my work as librarian, reading and discussing books with students. After my retirement I became a known expert in children literature and libraries. Through my travelling from library to another reading stories for children in villages, desert and marginalized areas, I discovered that I am Storyteller.

When and how you decided to found the House of Tales and Music ?

I was the counselor of the Child Culture Program in a development institution when I was close to be 60 years old. I began to think about establishing a library with a new vision, suited to the technological revolution and contemporary developments, specially that I think the classic library is not enough to satisfy the needs of

children and young people now. I aim at creating spaces for discovering and developing skills and abilities through literature and Arts (Stories - Music-drawing-theater) , allowing children and adolescents to fly into the world of imagination and creativity, and to develop skills and thinking.



What type of activities and workshops are organised in the House of Tales and Music ?

House of Tales and Music started working in early 2010 with children and young people living in Shelters. During the pilot phase, the project's team which was composed of storytellers and music, theater, painting and handcrafts



artists, prepared a program of sequential and interrelated activities in terms of content and idea. The activities were basically: storytelling and creative writing, music and singing, shadow theater, handcraft and painting. Today, more than 100 activities have been conducted annually and around 300 training workshops targeting teachers, librarians, mothers and youth were held.

The number of children benefiting from the programs of our project reached more than **70,000** children, schoolchildren, orphan children and refugees. We cooperate with, Municipalities, youth initiatives, women's associations and humanitarian organizations in most of our activities. I personally contributed to the establishment of a number of children's libraries in the capital Amman and in various governorates

Tell us about “Storytelling and Music Mobile Bus project”.

The Storytelling and Music Mobile Bus initiative was launched in late 2012. The bus brings storytelling, music, singing, painting and sports to the unprivileged children in the rural area outside Amman. We are focusing on the Refugee camps for Syrian kids and Palestinian kids who do not normally have the chance to experience art, music, and literature. Youth Volunteers always participate in the different programs organized in the framework of the **Mobile Bus**.



How do you think storytelling can be today a tool of Informal Education ?

Not only the tools of storytelling is tools of Education, I believe that it enhances the understanding of the value of Education. In storytelling, children enjoy being engaged in the stories. They also spontaneously learn new concepts, new words and sentences, and this helps and leads them to accept learning from school books.

Now that we are in the era of Digital Multimedia, how do you think children can still be eager to listen to a

story instead of watching it on screen ? how can they still find handcrafts and Arts interesting ?

First of all, the nowadays generation of children grew up with technological devices. Thus, technology does not fascinate them, as it fascinates adults. Through my experience with my grand children, whom their age starts from 15, 13, 8, 3 and 2 years old, I notice that books always dazzles them, especially that they grew up with books and they were used to listen to a story from a loved one, laughing and deliberating thoughts with friends or brothers. It's us, adults who need training to know how to plan for enjoyable activities such as storytelling.

From our experience in the **House of Tale and Music**, which is completely devoid of electronic devices, children and adolescents spend about three to four hours without touching iPad or the mobile, because the child is social human, and he/she can spend hours, if we have creative and enjoyable activities.

From your point of you, how refugees and migrants children are integrated today in the Jordanian society and how do you think through Stortelling and Arts you can help them in a better social integration ?

First of all we have a same culture, and we are working together with artists. We also cooperate with international and Arab organizations, such as **UAE cultural institutions** and **Syrian and Jordanian charities, Goethe Institute**, at cities such as Amman, Irbid and Ajloun, and we have been working many times continuously on events in the three camps in Jordan. No obstacles in our work with children. Refugees children are very receptive to our activities.

Are there any challenges that you face while working with refugees and migrants children and how you overcome them ?

The only challenge we face in working with refugees is the lack of an understanding of the importance of stories and arts as a fun and learning activity for children with some organizations that are more interested in sport and purely recreational activities such as face painting. We also ask for a long term agreement with them but they only ask us just for one event. One event will not make the change we are looking for.



Is there any collaboration or initiatives organized between the House of Tales and Music and other Euro Mediterranean countries ?

In 2015, International Scotch Storytelling Festival (ISSF) and House of Tales and Music presented a project (Storytelling without Border) to UNESCO but unfortunately we were not lucky enough to be selected. After that, the ISSF invited me as storyteller and my son Tarel AlNasser as a musician to perform traditional Storytelling and Music in five towns in North and East of Scotland, and also in the center of storytelling in

Edinburgh.

What now. Tell us about your current and upcoming future projects

Since my retirement, what I hope to achieve is to start writing my experience, and I hope to write it in a book. I have more than 30 articles, some of them were published in Newspaper and others at my [Blog](#), it's about my experience as a teacher, librarian, storyteller, grandmother and mother.

Maybe one day I will have a time, or funding to write and publish that book.

Also, I am now thinking of appealing to teachers and retired teachers to invest leisure time and prepare a valuable and useful work plan to organize a series of visits to nearby schools and public libraries. I am also willing to provide them with the titles of the best books for young people.



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The Networks Team are interested in publishing information about activities of your National Network, including meetings, trainings, calls for participation/proposals and other public announcements. Please keep us posted by updating the Google Calendar and/or by sending us your Network's News and activities.

This edition, as well as all past editions of our newsletter can be viewed on the [ALF website](#).

