**Third** **Intercultural Citizenship Education Report on:**

**'Intercultural Learning in a Post-COVID-19 World’**

October15, 2020 - from 14:30 to 16:30 CET Time

**Attendees:**

**Educators:** Aspasia Protogerou (Greece); Ali Zamahrir (Morocco); Celso Soares (Portugal); Cristina Santinho (Portugal); Iman Al Hirsh (Palestine); Jacopo Cimmino (Turkey); Lahcen Tighoula (Morocco); Matteo Haenen (UK); Nadia Moussed (Ireland); Nageh Hosni (Egypt); Mónica Salas Corrigan (Portugal); Rolanda Šliažienė (Lithuania)

**Trainers of the Regional ToT:** Laura Dewitte (Portugal), Noureddine Erradi (Belgium)

**ALF Team:** Eleonora Insalaco (Head of Operations and Intercultural Research – Chair of the Exchange); Aissam Benaissa (Online Debate Community Management & Virtual Exchange Capacity Building Expert – Moderator of the Exchange); Racha Omeyri (Intercultural Research Officer - Rapporteur of the Exchange); Johannes Jauhianien (Intercultural Research Social Media Executive); Haitham Samy (Logistical coordinator/expert)



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# **Background of the meeting**

As the COVID-19 pandemic is deeply reshaping our world, the Anna Lindh Foundation organised the third Intercultural Citizenship Education Virtual Exchange on the 15th of October 2020 from 14:30 to 16:30 CET to discuss intercultural education in a post-COVID-19 world**.**

The third Intercultural Citizenship Education Virtual Exchange brought together a group of educators in the formal and non-formal education sector who participated to the Regional Training for Trainers on Intercultural Citizenship Education organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation in November 2019 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

This facilitated Virtual Exchange offered educators from different Euro-Mediterranean countries a space to discuss and reflect on the opportunities to positively transform intercultural education, the lessons learnt from the pandemic, the role that civil society can play in shaping the future of intercultural learning and what the Anna Lindh Foundation can do to support civil society all over the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The meeting builds on the experience gathered by the ALF in developing and implementing technology-based virtual exchange activities for youth. It also builds on the success of two successful pilots that laid the basis for holding similar virtual meetings in the near future.

# The meeting

The third Intercultural Citizenship Education Virtual Exchange started with an icebreaker during which each educator was asked to share, in 30 seconds, an overview of the challenges they face throughout the current health crisis. Following the icebreaker, participants were divided into separate breakout rooms, each with a rapporteur.

Whilst in breakout rooms, the discussion among the educators was initiated with the following questions:

1) How is the pandemic affecting your work as an educator?

2) In which way do you think the pandemic is impacting on mutual perceptions and relations in the Euro-Mediterranean region?

3) What education activities could be organised to minimize the negative consequences of the pandemic on intercultural relations?

4) What role can virtual exchange play in sustaining dialogue work in the Euro-Mediterranean region?

# Summary of key challenges, opportunities, and recommendations

This report summarizes the key issues, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations drawn from the exchange during the meeting.

**Key challenges and opportunities**

Participants reiterated the fact that the pandemic has exposed inequalities in the field of education particularly with regard to **young refugees**, **asylum seekers and migrants** who neither have digital competences nor access to internet connectivity to access remote learning **who may be left behind in online learning.**

Insightful perspectives of youth on the new opportunities were generated with the Covid-19 outbreak **to bridge the local with the global**. For the educators, youth are living this health crisis with a broader vision and greater global awareness with regards to the vast majority of the challenges humanity currently faces. Youth currently believe that these challenges require concerted **large-scale action at the international level.**

 Although the current health crisis has posed exceptional challenges for humanity, the role of the public remains essential to curb the pandemic at an early stage.  The debate attached higher importance to the **renewed sense of individual responsibility towards humanity and social bonds**. In this sense, participants recalled the key role of **intercultural learning as a driver for the exercise of citizenship.**

 Participants indicated that they have **acquired, adapted and refined their skills** in conducting virtual education and practicing remote communication as part of their day-to-day work.

Participants valued **sharing experiences and lessons learned among ALF network members** working in the field of education. The role of the ALF networks, particularly at the country level, was considered as mutually beneficial and effective for the educators.

Unlike face-to-face educational activities and events pre-Covid-19, in which participation is limited to a space and a specific time, the shift to virtual settings without restrictions to a single location has **lifted barriers and** **expanded accessibility, inclusivity, and equitable participation** in knowledge-sharing platforms and online learning**.** Despite the digital divide, virtual attendance has provided opportunities for certain groups such as housewives and people with disabilities while remaining at home with children or other family members for whom they are caring.

**Recommendations :**

In addition to the challenges shared above, the educators also suggested certain recommendations. These are listed below:

* Participants to the meeting stressed the **crucial role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** in acting as information channels and first responders since the outbreak of the pandemic.  With this in mind the participants called for an increased role of CSOs as a key **link between public authorities and citizens** with their capacity to reach out to, empower, and represent people living in vulnerable situations.
* Several participants suggested organising capacity-building workshops bringing together migrants, refugees, asylum seekers for **encounters with native-born and indigenous communities** who have a better understanding of cultural and historical factors.  Creating spaces where migrants and native-born communities or indigenous communities can interact might **reduce** **prejudice, discrimination, and xenophobia** against migrant communities and **influence policymaking and bring about sustained long-term change.**
* The **Anna Lindh Foundation is called upon** **to:** support and invest in **virtual academies** on intercultural citizenship education and capacity building skills; carry out, finance and provide support for **pilot projects bridging the formal and non-formal education sectors**; conduct **NGO management trainings** to provide **support and opportunities to the ALF network members**; produce **more intercultural resources** in addition to the ALF Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship Education in the EuroMed region.

# Annex I: Press Release

As the COVID-19 pandemic is deeply reshaping our world, the Anna Lindh Foundation organises a facilitated Virtual Exchange session on the 15th of October 2020 from 14:30 to 16:30 CET to discuss intercultural education in a post-COVID-19 world. At the centre of the discussions will be the opportunities to positively transform intercultural education, the lessons learnt from the pandemic, the role that civil society can play in shaping the future of intercultural learning and what the Anna Lindh Foundation can do to support civil society all over the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Virtual Exchange brings together a group of educators in the formal and non-formal education sector who participated in the Regional Training for Trainers on Intercultural Citizenship Education organised by the ALF in November of 2019 in Nicosia, Cyprus. The same group of educators also participated in virtual exchanges on intercultural education on the 15th of April and the 12th of May.

The Virtual Exchange is conceived to offer educators from different Euro-Mediterranean countries a space to encourage discussion and reflection on how the current pandemic has affected the work of educators and to share ideas on how the pandemic’s consequences on intercultural exchanges/dialogue can be minimised.

The Virtual Exchange on the 15th of October meeting will build on the experience gathered by the ALF in developing and implementing technology-based virtual exchange activities for youth. Hence an aim of the meeting is to share experiences among those educators who tested the methodology with a small-scale intercultural citizenship education activity.

**About the Anna Lindh Foundation Intercultural Learning and Cities Programme**

The Intercultural Learning and Cities Programme is the fruit of a consultative and participatory process which started in 2010 with the ALF main partners, educators and experts in the field of education. Those stakeholders concurred on the need to conceive a regional education programme to prepare people of the region, and youth in particular, to live and be active within multicultural societies.

Following a series of expert meetings and conventions, the ALF, in consultation with over 300 educators, published the Anna Lindh Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship Education in the Euro-Mediterranean Region as the first tool to support regional capacity-buildings, education activities on the ground and orientate education policies.

For more information:<https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/citizenship-handbook>

# Annex II: Agenda of the meeting

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| --- | --- |
| **Time CEST** | **Item** |
| 14:30 | Welcoming, ice breaker |
| 14:50 | Format and creation of the breakout rooms |
| 14:55 | Start of the group discussions in the breakout rooms |
| 15:15 | Presentations and discussion in the plenary room |
| 15:45 | Reflection and evaluation |
| 16:00 | End of the session |

# Annex III: Post-Exchange Questionnaire - Intercultural Citizenship Education Virtual Exchange - 15 October 2020

Thank you for your participation in the Virtual Exchange session on Intercultural Citizenship Education on 15 October 2020. We would like to ask you to complete a short survey at the end of the exchange. We are asking you to do this so that we can learn more about your experience on the theme of today’s virtual exchange, and what can be done to support the intercultural work across Europe and the Mediterranean. There are no correct answers, we simply ask you to answer the questions honestly.

Your confidentiality will be protected at all times. The data will be anonymised prior to statistical analysis and reports/publication writing. Taking part in this survey is voluntary.

If you have any questions regarding your participation in this Virtual Exchange or any other queries, do not hesitate to contact Eleonora.Insalaco@annalindhfoundation.org and aissam.benaissa@annalindhfoundation.org

\* Required

The survey should take you no more than 5 minutes.

**Participant name (optional)**

Short answer text

**Country of residence/ALF Network of reference (optional)**

Short answer text

**How would you rate your satisfaction with today’s virtual exchange session (15 October 2020)?\***

 1 2 3 4 5

Very low Very high

**Which aspect of the virtual exchange did you appreciate the most?\***

Short answer text

**Which aspect of the virtual exchange do you consider could be improved? \***

Short answer text

**To which extent you believe that the Intercultural Citizenship Education is relevant during the COVID-19 period?**

* ICE is not relevant at all during the COVID-19 period
* ICE is relevant to a certain extent during the COVID-19 period
* ICE is relevant to a high extent during the COVID-19 period
* Add option or add “Other”

Please tell us why?

Long answer text

**What orientations would you like to provide to the Anna Lindh Foundation for its future programming?\* The ALF Should focus on:**

* Online Courses
* Training of Trainers
* Mentorship
* Advocacy
* Local platforms for dialogue (with universities, local authorities, etc.)
* Other
* Add option

Please tell us why?

Long answer text

**Are you planning to organize your own intercultural education activities virtually?\***

* Yes
* No
* Maybe
* Add option or add ‘Other’
* If yes, could you please specify when?

Short answer text

**What kind of support would you need from the ALF to implement your activities?**

Long answer text

Additional comment

Long answer text

Thank you very much for your valuable feedback!

The ALF Team