

**List of participants:**

Participants from local authorities, civil society, academia, and the ALF youth alumni in the Euro-Mediterranean region:

Clíodhna Noonan, Founder and Director of the Civil Society Organisation Acting Up!, Ireland; Nenad Bogdanovic, Advisor on Intercultural policies, Limassol Municipality, Cyprus; Adriana Bou Diwan, Head of Community Engagement, Gender & Training Projects Lead at Adyan Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity and Human Dignity, Lebanon; Wardia Hamadi, CSO for Planning Urban Heritage culture. Algeria; Zue Halley, Chargée de mission Vie associative et Coopération internationale, City of Colombes, France; Hind Abu Shkhadim, Member of the ALF EuroMed Youth Network, Palestine; Peter Mosaad, Member of the ALF EuroMed Youth Network, Egypt.

Anna Lindh Foundation:

Eleonora Insalaco, Head of Operations and Intercultural Research; Thomas Lund, Cultural Management Expert, co-rapporteur of the meeting; Johannes Jauhainen, Social Media Executive and rapporteur of meeting; Racha Omeyri, Intercultural Research Officer; Haitham Samy, Logistics & Administrative Expert; Alda Kačevac, Admin Expert;

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### Background of the meeting

Between July and October, the Anna Lindh Foundation planned to organize 3 Local Dialogue Platform meetings, and at the beginning of 2022 the Foundation anticipates to arrange a larger Regional Local Dialogue Platform to exchange and showcase good practices and lessons learnt for further development on diversity management and the promotion of intercultural relations at the city level.

The first Local Dialogue Platform was held on 6 July and the second one on 14 September with the participation of a restricted number of people to allow enough space for discussion and learning about the best strategies to engage local authorities and civil society organisations in various activities planned by the ALF for the promotion of Intercultural dialogue at the city level.

The main purpose of the First and the Second Virtual Local Dialogue Platform meetings was to exchange practices and methodologies for a local-level Intercultural dialogue approach and to collect different experiences and knowledge from actors operating in cities around the Euro- Mediterranean. These practices and methodologies can be a basis for the promotion of active dialogue with a broad stakeholders' engagement at the local level.

The meetings aimed also to support further collaboration and facilitate cross-cultural encounters between public authorities and civil society organizations combating negative stereotypes and tackling polarization.

Furthermore, and more broadly, the Local Dialogue Platforms also aim to create a wider network consisting of national, regional, and international actors on both shores of the Mediterranean. This network in turn will offer the possibility to exchange ideas and good practices on new trends, long-term strategies, and methodologies for promoting an inclusive intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean.

While the ALF supports the regional exchange dimension, in the medium and long term the purpose is to establish systemic local dialogue platforms involving local and regional authorities, civil society representatives, educators, academics.

The Local Dialogue Platform meetings are part of the Intercultural Cities and Learning Programme of the Anna Lindh Foundation which in 2021 aims to launch the first edition of the EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award.

### Objectives of the meeting

During the second meeting the following objectives stimulated and guided the discussion:

- Exchanging good practices for cultural diversity management and dialogue promotion across the Euro Med region
- Encouraging collaborations between local authorities and civil society organizations in the implementation and promotion of intercultural policies and practices
- Supporting the involvement of young people, women, marginalized groups, migrants and refugees in the development of initiatives, promotion of intercultural relations
- Identifying and discussing new trends, methods and priority areas of work for the promotion of intercultural dialogue.

### Summary of key challenges and recommendations

The meeting began with an introduction by Eleonora Insalaco, Head of Operations and Intercultural Research at the Anna Lindh Foundation, who underlined the importance of creating spaces where local actors promoting dialogue and intercultural relations can meet, reflect and learn from each other. Insalaco also noted that Local Dialogue Platforms is one of the programmes organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation bringing together civil society organizations, social workers, academics, journalists, and authorities to reflect together on how to promote intercultural relations and dialogue in cities.

Insalaco then opened the plenary session for an introduction of each participant, after which she presented a selection of findings from the 2020 Anna Lindh Intercultural Trends Survey. These included the notion that migration issues are considered to strongly characterise the Mediterranean region by 38% of respondents in Europe and 60% of respondents in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEM).

Furthermore, Insalaco noted that diversity in cities is as a reality in the Euro-Mediterranean considered by a majority of people to be a source of prosperity and that the vast majority of respondents (89% in European and 90% in SEM countries) considered local authorities and civil society initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue to be either 'somewhat effective' or 'very effective' actions. This in turn suggests a high level of confidence in local authorities and civil society.

Lastly, Insalaco noted that respondents see the Mediterranean region above all as characterised by its common cultural heritage and history, with 89% of respondents in European and 85% in SEM countries considering it a characteristic of the region. This also gives a positive tone for all initiatives promoting social cohesion in the region, especially during the time of lockdowns and Corona.

During the roundtable, participants presented and discussed good practices promoting local dialogue across the EuroMed region and how promoting intercultural dialogue in cities had been affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

One of these good practices presented originating in Lebanon focused on the fight against hate speech. Based on this example, ideas were shared about how to collaborate more by producing resources customized to local needs such as written materials in Arabic.

Participants were then briefed about the importance of attitudes towards migration that should not be perceived as a global problem but rather as a resource for common development.

On a further note, concerning migration, the discussion developed around the ways of promoting collaboration between local authorities and civil society organisations. On that note, the collaboration for the implementation of festivals and the creation of an Intercultural Council in Limassol was discussed as a successful initiative established in 2017 by the Municipality of Limassol, which since then has led to its continuous functioning as city's advisory migrants' representation body. Since the establishment of the Intercultural Council of Limassol, over 40 representatives of migrants' and minority associations, diplomatic representations, labour unions, media, police etc, have been meeting and discussing various challenges that migrants are facing and possible measures in order to solve them. As a result, the Council developed the Intercultural Strategy for the City of Limassol 2018-2020, which aims to become a guiding chart facilitating the development of Limassol as an open and intercultural city, by identifying 11 themes that are relevant for migrants' communities and need immediate intervention. Apart of Culture, Education, Youth, Parenting & Families, Housing, Health, Labour issues, Policing and Security, Access to Public Services, Citizenship & Participation and Intercultural City Branding & Media.

Participants were then briefed about a collaboration between the city of Colombes in France and local authorities of Ras Jebel in Tunisia on sustainable development. through a collaboration bringing together civil society organizations and local authorities. In concrete terms, this was done through a tree planting project in both cities, which involved school children and local civil society organisations. Hence this project highlighted the positive impact, that planting trees has for reaching out to children and youth, to raise awareness about foreign cultures and environmental issues.

The discussion then focused on youth engagement and how civil society organisations in Palestine, created dialogue hubs to fight stereotypes, mainly about women and religion. Seven different hubs were created in Palestine which permitted the trainers to compare the work of the hubs among each other and learn new educational methods. The hubs also aimed to give opportunities for youth to travel abroad and participate in other programmes.

One other result was the starting of an open public debate and dialogue between youth and local authorities in several cities. Both examples give many young residents an increased self-confidence, opportunity for dialogue and participation in the civil society.

Participants were then briefed on Urban independent spaces for dialogue which is a common space for local communities to reflect together on different issues such as immigration, democracy, women's right and other political issues. Another project that was discussed and focused on heritage and raising awareness of the inhabitants on how to preserve cultural houses.

Light was also shed on initiatives from Egypt and Asyut where an art foundation and a theatre club were established.

**Recommendations:**

- To promote dialogue and trust, to tackle religious extremism, fight stereotypes and hate speech, through the lens of local context.
- Urban planning and heritage can be effective tools to promote dialogue, a better understanding of one another and reconciliation at the local level.
- It is encouraged to involve local authorities in initiatives at the city level that can ensure a secure and stable environment for development and diversity management.
- Support should continue to be given to civil society organisations and initiatives for intercultural dialogue at all levels.
- To better promote dialogue and mutual understanding at the local level, it is beneficial to amplify voices of the public in general, in particular, of minorities, youth, women, and refugees.
- Initiatives tend to have a good chance to succeed if they are carried out through a bottom-up principle.
- It is important to reach out to children and youth as powerful social agents of positive change in their communities.

## Annex II: Post-event Press Release

The main purpose for the Second Virtual Local Dialogue Platform meeting was to exchange practices and methodologies for a local-level Intercultural dialogue approach and to collect different experiences and knowledge from actors operating in cities around the Euro-Mediterranean. These practices and methodologies can be about how to promote an active dialogue.

Furthermore, the Local Dialogue Platforms also aimed to create a wider network consisting of national, regional and international actors on both shores of the Mediterranean. This network in turn will offer the possibility to exchange ideas and good practices on new trends, long-term strategies and methodologies for promoting an inclusive intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean.

Some of the recommendations that surfaced during the meeting include:

- To promote dialogue and trust, to tackle religious extremism, fight stereotypes and hate speech, through the lens of local context.
- Urban planning and heritage can be effective tools to promote dialogue, a better understanding of one another and reconciliation at the local level.
- It is encouraged to involve local authorities in initiatives at the city level that can ensure a secure and stable environment for development and diversity management .
- Support should continue to be given to civil society organisations and initiatives for intercultural dialogue at all levels.
- To better promote dialogue and mutual understanding at the local level, it is beneficial to amplify voices of the public in general, in particular, of minorities, youth, women, and refugees.
- Initiatives tend to have a good chance to succeed if they are carried out through a bottom-up principle.
- It is important to reach out to children and youth as powerful social agents of positive change in their communities.



## 20 Euro-Med Capital 21 for Dialogue Award

## Report

Participants from local authorities, civil society, academia and youth ALF alumni in the Euro-Mediterranean region were : Cliodhna Noonan, Founder and Director of the Civil Society Organisation Acting Up!, Ireland; Nenad Bogdanovic, Advisor on Intercultural policies, Limassol Municipality, Cyprus; Adriana Bou Diwan, Head of Community Engagement, Gender & Training Projects Lead at Adyan Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity and Human Dignity, Lebanon; Wardia Hamadi, CSO for Planning Urban Heritage culture. Algeria; Zue Halley, Chargée de mission Vie associative et Coopération internationale, City of Colombes, France; Hind Abu Shkhadim, Member of the ALF EuroMed Youth Network, Palestine; Peter Mosaad, Member of the ALF EuroMed Youth Network, Egypt.

### About the EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award

The EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award is an initiative of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) as the first institution created for the promotion of intercultural dialogue, in the EuroMediterranean region.

The EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award is conceived as an international recognition for cities that have implemented or initiated intercultural policies and actions and have a vision to enhance cultural diversity, intercultural relations and EuroMed collaborations with the collaboration of different stakeholders. The awarded Capital would also be a reference to inspire dialogue work at the local and regional level in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The conceptualization of the EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award benefited from the contribution of a series of organisations, including UNESCO, Council of Europe, UCGL, Eurocities, MedCities, UN-Habitat, OECD, the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), working for the enhancement of city-to-city collaboration, promotion of dialogue at the local and regional level, as well as benefited from the expertise of the ALF Advisory Council and the one of experts associated to the ALF research work on Intercultural Trends and analysis of the civil society good practices implemented by the ALF civil society Network.

The EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award aims to shed light on innovative and interdisciplinary practices that involve different actors ranging from local authorities to civil society to educators, journalists, academics, civil society, and private bodies for the promotion of cross-cultural education and artistic production, social cohesion and intercultural interaction, combating stereotyping and intolerance.

The Award aims to acknowledge multicultural cities and cities which have a vision, which implement intercultural policies and support intercultural initiatives and EuroMed social and cultural collaborations.

For more information and for media inquiries contact: Thomas Lund, Cultural Management Expert (Thomas.Lund@Bibalex.org), Eleonora Insalaco, Head of Operations and Intercultural Research (Eleonora.Insalaco@annalindhfoundation.org), Johannes Jauhiainen, Social Media Executive (Johannes.Jauhiainen@annalindhfoundation.org).

**Annex IV Post-Exchange Questionnaire**

## Post-evaluation questionnaire for the Second Local Dialogue Platform - 10 September 2021

In the framework of the EuroMed Capital for Dialogue Award and to encourage a systemic approach for dialogue at the local level, to give visibility to good practices and exchange knowledge across the EuroMed region, between July and October, the ALF organizes a series of Local Dialogue Platforms bringing together local authority representatives, civil society, educators and academics. Please find the concept note for the Local Dialogue Platform-meetings here:  
<https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/sites/default/files/documents/page/Concept%20note%20-%20Local%20Dialogue%20Platform.pdf>

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**Your name**

Short answer text  
 .....

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**What best describes you? \***

Representant for a local authority

Academic (e.g. university professor, researcher ...)

Civil society activist (e.g. youth worker, educated trainer, social activist ...)

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**How would you rate your satisfaction with the Second Local Dialogue Platform on 10 September 2021? \***

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very low	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very high

Did the online event met your expectations? *						
	1	2	3	4	5	
Not so much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much so.
Was the addressed topic relevant your work /professional life? *						
	1	2	3	4	5	
Not so much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much so.
Did this virtual exchange encouraged meaningful discussion amongst the participants *						
	1	2	3	4	5	
Not so much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much so.
Did this virtual exchange facilitate building positive relationships with participants from different sectors *						
	1	2	3	4	5	
Not so much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much so.



## 20 Euro-Med Capital 21 for Dialogue Award

## Report

Do you consider that Local Dialogue Platform can encourage collaborations between local authorities and civil society organizations in the implementation and promotion of intercultural policies and practices across the region. \*

Long answer text  
.....

In which way do you think collaborations between local authorities and civil society organizations could be encouraged for the implementation of intercultural policies and practices? \*

Long answer text  
.....

What do you consider to be the main challenges with regards to promoting intercultural dialogue in cities across the region? Any proposals to overcome them? \*

Long answer text  
.....

What role do you consider the Anna Lindh Foundation could play in promoting diversity in Euro-Mediterranean cities? Both locally, regionally and internationally?

Long answer text  
.....

What aspects did you appreciate about this Virtual Exchange?

Long answer text  
.....



## 20 Euro-Med Capital 21 for Dialogue Award

## Report

Are you interested in having further Virtual Exchange sessions? \*

Yes

No

Which other topics would you like to be discussed in potential future Virtual Exchanges?

Long answer text  
.....

Thank you for your time and thoughts. If you have any questions regarding your participation in this Virtual Exchange or any other queries, do not hesitate to contact  
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Description (optional)