



WELCOME TO ROME

FULFILLING THE VISION OF 2003: THE ROAD AHEAD

ROME | 22 NOVEMBER 2018

- In Conversation with Romano Prodi and Young Mediterranean Voices: 15 Years On from the High-Level Advisory Group on Dialogue between Peoples
- Global Media Launch of the latest edition of the region's flagship report on "Intercultural Trends and Social Change in the Euro-Mediterranean region"

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Fulfilling the vision of 2003: the Road Ahead

"If we fail to invest in Culture now there is a danger that we will all be caught up in a global maelstrom in which cultures would be hijacked for the most retrograde and criminal ends.

If on the other hand, we all resolve to meet this challenge head on, in 25 years the people of both shores of the Mediterranean will form a human and economic community united by their common destiny and capable of making a lasting mark on history. Globalisation would not then breed marginalisation and the frustration and loss of identity this can engender."

We start with the past, and one of the conclusions, above, from the report of the 'High Level Group on Intercultural Dialogue' established in 2003 by Romano Prodi, then President of the European Commission. That report led to the birth of the Foundation, and provided its guiding and operational template. Now, as we move to Rome to plan the future orientations of the Foundation, the words of Soren Kierkegaard are resonant: "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

The past will always provide a bridge to the future, and should also animate the present exchanges in Rome as we navigate together a course towards the fulfilment of that vision. It is 15 years since that meeting and attendant aspirations. We have 10 years remaining to finish the work of the formation of a common human and economic community in our region.

In its 15 year life the Foundation has weathered many existential storms and has faced different adversities in brave and pragmatic ways - by reinventing itself, seeking new mandates, extending its outreach, expanding its networks, and coalescing with diverse partners. This has been done while always maintaining the principles and values that underpinned the ethos of its establishment, and continues to act as a scaffold to the extension of the Anna Lindh house. The maturation process sees the Foundation now coming of age as our shared central institution and reference for youth and intercultural dialogue. But the path ahead to the realisation of the vision of the Group des Sages in 2003 is still strewn with challenges.

We live in a complex and conflictual, but interdependent world. Many of the old certainties concerning governance and the respective roles of states, intergovernmental organisations and civil societies have been eroded and undermined by violence and unrest in our societies. There has been a parallel, growing mistrust in traditional institutions and media, often fuelled by populism with the aid of deliberate disinformation. The violence of exclusion of our youth continues as disaffection grows with their lack of a role in society, the absence of an anchor on which to ground their hopes and dreams.

Now, in 2018, the Foundation is at a pivotal moment in its development as it reshapes its corporate identity in line with the consolidation of a strategic focus outlined in our adopted Strategic Plan; "Working Together Towards 2025." This envisages the preparation of the next generation with the necessary skills, confidence and commitment to create together lasting change in the face of the region's most pressing challenges.

This long-term vision for the Foundation further solidifies its links with the past, by remaining loyal to the founding operational principle and address the three required conditions outlined in the High Level Group Report; independence, as a guarantee of its credibility and legitimacy; sufficient financial and administrative resources in line with the scale of the challenges of bridging negative mutual perceptions; and visibility to ensure that the Foundation is seen as a credible, effective actor on this stage.

Together we can respond to the challenges outlined above. The Anna Lindh Foundation family is a large and diverse constituency of over 4,000 Euro-Mediterranean civil society organisations, diverse media and academic partners, EU institutions and international organisations, city representatives, researchers and entrepreneurs, our Board of Governors and our Advisory Council. This diffuse congregation of actors

is represented in Rome, where we look to you to assist in the advancement and endorsement of new thinking and policies that will help the Foundation as it pioneers new trails with old maps. There is much scientific evidence to assist us in our new and expanding endeavours.

The third edition of the Intercultural Trends Report, being launched here in Rome, provides ample data to support the above, as well as an evidence-base for required new thinking on how regional cooperation and global relations are constructed. It underlines strong support for bottom-up, youth-led cross-cultural dialogue and action, a move away from supply driven initiatives to more demand driven ones.

As we continue to respond to a sense of drift and disillusion among the youth of our region, it is primordial that we trust and invest in them, include them in the discussion of policies and by giving them a sense of ownership in the articulation of those policies that affect their lives and livelihoods.

This is the underpinning principle of Young Mediterranean Voices (the successor of the groundbreaking Young Arab Voices). Two years after its launch the programme is already showing a maturity beyond its 'young' status. It is now primed to become a pivotal platform connecting youth voice and leadership across the Mediterranean region and further.

What started in Maghreb/Mashraq region, and is now extending across various EU countries, has also had pioneering exercises in the Sahel and Southern Africa. This joining of geographical, intercontinental dots resonates with current EU thinking in efforts to deal with the primary causes of migration, terrorism, climate change and development. Is it possible that this youth-led programme of debate, dialogue and outreach, tested in the laboratory of one of the world's most challenging regions, could become a microcosm for EU policies in external relations?

The findings in the Intercultural Trends Report are forward-looking and offer an encouraging green light for the Foundation's new programming and strategy adopted in liaison with our main donors in the EU and various partners. They include: investment in education and intercultural learning; promotion of youth-led debates and dialogues; working with cities and associated partnerships to develop circles of trust; the establishment of a media observatory on cross cultural trends. This latter finding echoes one of the explicit conclusions of the High Level Report of 2003 in relation to the creation of a media monitoring centre attached to the Foundation.

The Intercultural Trends Report reflects and represents a long-term strategy for investment in the next generation of young leaders. Beside the compilation and tabulation of data from opinion polling it also begs vital questions about States, multilateralism, inter-governmentalism and governance. The running thread through the data and analysis is a question that should inspire and frame our discussions in Rome. Echoing the 'collective call to action' articulated by Member States on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration in 2015, is it not now time to build new partnerships of humanity, new unions of empathy and to consider a paradigm shift from investing in hard security based on risk to investing in youth-led dialogue based on resilience?

Let us try and build together a composite family built on the accumulation of our assets to help us move forward towards the realisation of that vision and aspiration of 2003. We can offer no more fitting legacy to the Founding Fathers, and to the woman who gave the Foundation its name – Anna Lindh.



Elisabeth Guigou
President of the Anna Lindh Foundation

THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER | 09.30-12.00

HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE

Senate of the Italian Republic
Palazzo Giustiniani, Rome

09.30-10.00 Welcome & Registration
Coffee, pastries and a welcome to delegates joining the Anna Lindh Foundation high-level dialogue.

SCENE-SETTING

10.00-10.30

TIME FOR A REBOOT

15 years on from the High-Level Advisory Group: In conversation with Romano Prodi and Young Med Voices.

The Anna Lindh Foundation was conceived in 2003 on the initiative of the President of the European Commission Romano Prodi, to “take action to restart dialogue and refuse the risk of clash of civilisations”. A high-level Advisory Group was formed by Prodi to explore the roots of polarisations, taking into account the impact of conflicts in the Mediterranean and broader context of economic globalisation, immigration and “identity”. Fifteen years on, in the face of growing mistrust and polarisation among societies, it is more relevant than ever to revisit this landmark report as the basis for re-launching a next generation blueprint for dialogue across Europe and the Mediterranean.

MODERATED BY:

ELISABETH GUIGOU, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation. As former Minister of European Affairs of France, Member of the European Parliament, and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, President Guigou has high-level experience of the EU and international cooperation. In addition, she was the first female to be appointed Minister of Justice in France, where she gained international recognition for her fight for a more independent justice system.

ROMANO PRODI

Prodi served as President of The European Commission (1999-2004) and Prime Minister of Italy (1996-1998 and 2006-2008). He was Chairman of the United Nations-African Union High-level Panel for Peacekeeping in Africa from 2008 to 2010, and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel from 2012 to 2014. In 2003 he formed the High-Level Advisory Group on Dialogue between peoples and cultures to explore the roots of polarisations in the Mediterranean.

AISSAM BENAÏSSA & SOPHIE SCHRIEVER

Benaïssa and Schriever are ambassadors for the “Young Mediterranean Voices Plus” Initiative of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini. Benaïssa is founder of Young Mediterranean Voices in Algeria and Online Debate Community Manager for “Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange”. Schriever has been working as a journalist for the German TV chain ARD, and is contributor to the Middle East and North Africa Committee of European Youth Press.

ROUNDTABLE

10.30-12.00

INTERCULTURAL TRENDS REPORT 2018 & INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF PEOPLE-LED DIALOGUE

Towards a new operational blueprint for the first Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue

During the last fifteen years, inspired by the Prodi Report, the Foundation has led the creation of the largest south/north network for Mediterranean dialogue, involving directly in its programmes many thousands of young leaders, women entrepreneurs, educators, artists, journalists, researchers, local mayors, and policy-makers. As the only Euro-Med institution working from the South, it has weathered many changes across the region, and consolidated its operational infrastructure in 42 Member States. Now is the time to shift from organisation to movement, and to lead an alternative narrative for the Mediterranean based on dialogue and exchange. This also implies putting in motion the founding ambition for the Foundation and making a step change in scaling-up the visibility, reach and impact of this collective movement.

KEY DISCUSSANTS:

DR MICHAEL KÖHLER

European Commission Director for the Neighbourhood South and Professor at the College of Europe. Previously he was Head of Cabinet to Commissioner for Energy between 2010 and 2013 and Head of Cabinet to Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries between 2008 and 2009. He teaches at the College of Europe in Bruges, and is a senior Fellow of the Center for European Integration Studies at the University of Bonn.

RANDA HABIB

Author, former Director of Agence France Presse and Amnesty International Regional Director for MENA. She has 35 years of experience as a journalist based in the Middle East. Randa has reported from Iraq as well as other hotspots and conflict zones throughout the region and interviewed several heads of states. In 2008 she was awarded the highest French award la Légion d'Honneur. She has been member of the EuroMed Media Network.

ALPASLAN OZERDEM

Intercultural Expert for the Anna Lindh Report, Director of the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Studies. With experience of nearly 20 years in conflict and peace studies, Professor Özerdem has engaged in the development and implementation of strategy, policy making and evaluation in the areas of humanitarianism and post-conflict reconstruction. He is President of Centre for Strategic Research and Analysis (CESRAN).

NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE PROGRAMMING:

Dr Nabil Al-Sharf, *Executive Director of the Foundation*, and **Eleonora Insalaco**, *Head of Intercultural Trends Research and Foundation Programming*, and **Enrico Molinaro, Ph.D.** *Secretary General of the Italian Network for the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue (RIDE-APS)/Head of the Italian Network Anna Lindh (ALF)*

NETWORKING LUNCH

12.00-13.00

An opportunity for the Anna Lindh Foundation, strategic partners and delegates to interact over a networking lunch (*).

(*). Transportation has been arranged by the Foundation for international delegates attending the opening of the Rome MED-Dialogues.

GLOBAL MEDIA LAUNCH & THE INTERCULTURAL DEBATES



Rome, 22 November 2018, will mark the global media launch of the region's flagship report on "Intercultural Trends and Social Change in the Euro-Mediterranean region". It also coincides with a region-wide programme of intercultural debates run in more than 30 countries, and in cities and local communities, with the Foundation Network of civil society Networks and its "Young Mediterranean Voices" debate forum.

Established in 2010, the Intercultural Trends Report represents the Foundation's response to one of the main recommendations and concepts of the 2003 High Level Group on Intercultural Dialogue (the "Prodi Groupe des Sages"), namely that any dialogue project must be built on the understanding of deep transformations in our societies, and the analysis of their impact on behaviours, values and perceptions. The Report, that is based on a unique public polling methodology co-designed with Gallup and Ipsos-MORI, is a pioneering resource for the Euro-Mediterranean agenda.

The latest edition of the Intercultural Trends Report (2018) is based on a public opinion survey involving more than 13,000 people across 13 countries, interviewed by Ipsos-MORI about their expectations, concerns, interests and values. The countries studied included eight in the EU (Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and The Netherlands) and five Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEM) countries (Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia). Among the key findings:

- Positive perceptions of the Mediterranean region outscore negative ones.
- Tolerance of those from different cultural backgrounds – on matters ranging from work contexts to marriage – exceeds 60%.
- The key qualities associated with defining the Mediterranean region are shared history, shared heritage, and shared way of life – especially cuisine.
- Migration, instability and conflict were also acknowledged as relevant aspects but to a much lesser degree.
- There are some differences in perceptions on the two sides of the Mediterranean, with interviewees in the south focusing on migration more than their counterparts in the north.
- The aspect 'source of conflict' – which is a focus for much of the media - rated only 25% for strong association in the north and 39% in the south.
- Print media is the second (40%) most trusted source for information in European countries. However in SEM countries only 15% of respondents think print is a trusted source.
- 37% of 15-29 year olds in SEM countries find Online Media and Social Media trusted sources of information about European countries.
- In terms of the efficiency of mechanisms to prevent and deal with conflicts and radicalisation in the Euro-Mediterranean region, 8 out of 10 respondents think that education and youth programmes that foster youth-led dialogue initiatives would be 'very' or 'somewhat' efficient.
- 9 out of 10 Europeans (92%) and SEM (88%) see the potential of cooperation in relation to opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation and youth employment.

“The research confirms the direction of the work we have done so far together with the Anna Lindh Foundation – investing particularly in education and intercultural learning, and promoting youth-led dialogues and virtual exchanges (...). The Report shows there is a strong case for scaling-up this kind of initiatives – involving a much greater number of young people from different countries and different backgrounds, but also a greater number of governments and organisations.”

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the
European Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy

“The Anna Lindh Report, and its key findings, will undoubtedly serve as an important reference for politicians, decision makers and scholars alike. The League of Arab States remains fully committed to further advancing its multi-dimensional partnership with the EU, its institutions and member states, and I am confident that this Report and its important findings will continue to afford us with invaluable analyses that will enable us to pursue our common goals.”

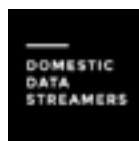
Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Secretary General of the League of
Arab States

“To develop our dialogue and move it forward, we need facts. We need to know the situation on the ground. Which is exactly what this Report is bringing (...). This Report represents an immensely valuable contribution to our strides to give voice to all, to open doors and address globally the violence of exclusion. It provides us with further evidence-base, useful reflections and long-term strategy for investment in youth-led dialogue and conflict prevention.”

Miroslav LAJČÁK
President of the 72nd UN General
Assembly and Chair of the OSCE
Mediterranean Contact Group

The global media launch on 22 November 2018 in Rome, coincides with media actions organised in strategic partnership locations for the Foundation, from Cairo, Tunis and Amman to Brussels and New York. It is being organised in collaboration with the Nicosia-based international communications network “Action Global”, Barcelona-based “Domestic Data Streamers”.

COMMUNICATION PARTNERS:



The opinions and contents expressed in the framework of this initiative are the sole responsibility of the organisers and the speakers and are not in any way the responsibility of the Senate of the Republic or of any other body of the Senate itself.

Access to the hall – with the appropriate dress code and, for men, obligation of jacket and tie – is allowed until reaching the maximum capacity of the hall.

Identity card needed to access the Senate.