



Insight

The Internal Newsletter of the Anna Lindh Foundation

October 2008 Edition

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Focus on Marseilles - EuroMed Ministerial Conference



In Marseilles, between the 3rd and 4th November, the Anna Lindh Foundation participated at the EuroMed Ministerial, together with Foreign Ministers representing the countries signed up to the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean at July's Paris Summit.

The first day of the meeting was marked in particular by the challenge of clarifying roles and working mechanisms related to the political and operational processes of the Union. With this in mind, the intervention of President Azoulay centred on the importance of 'maintaining the momentum' around Mediterranean cooperation which had been recaptured through the Paris Summit. In addition, Azoulay underlined the

need of such a partnership based on equal participation.

A number of the following interventions by delegates reinforced the important role of the Foundation, including the Foundation being mentioned as a central tool of the Partnership by Javier Solana, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Amr Moussa and Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

In terms of the outcomes of the Ministerial, key points include: 'Union for the Mediterranean' as the established name of the process, instead of 'Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean', five Deputy Secretary Generals proposed for the first term, that will be Greece, Malta, Italy, Palestine, Israel, with the Secretary General still to be selected; the Arab

League is invited to participate at all levels and meetings of the Union; a Secretariat will be established in Barcelona devoted to the proposed large-scale projects of the Union, including securing relevant finance.

Following on from the Ministerial, Director Andreu Claret also gave a key intervention at the cultural Atelier « Valeurs, identités, cultures et visions de la Méditerranée » also in Marseilles, where he put an emphasis on the importance of supporting mobility within the region.

In this regard the event 'Live from Gaza' was presented as an illustration of the essential need for mobility in bringing people together in the region.

'Live from Gaza' at the EuroMed Civil Forum

As part of the 2008 EuroMed Civil Forum, the Foundation facilitated a live video conference and debate involving civil society representatives and university students in Gaza and two hundred participants of the Civil Forum in Marseilles, in collaboration with the French Head of Network, Fondation René Seydoux. During a two hour live video discussion university students and cultural activists from Gaza had the opportunity to present an insight into their living and working conditions and in particular an extreme perspective on the issue of mobility in the EuroMed region.

The conference was facilitated in Gaza by Yousry Darwish of the General Union of Cultural Centres with the assistance of Dimitrios Cavouras, and attended by representatives of the Islamic University and University Al Azhar, ensuring that the activity was a plural exercise of dialogue among young palestinians representing diverse political views. Content from the debate formed concrete recommendations presented at the Ministerial Conference in Marseilles by representatives of the Civil Forum.



Programme Development



Following the Advisory Council's meeting in September on the Anna Lindh Foundation's strategic orientations for 2009 to 2011, work has been carried out this month on the development and consolidation of key regional partnerships related to large-scale projects in priority fields, as well as working to put in place the role of observatory which will also act as a convergence point for the projects and new programme.

Putting in place the observatory role

Work is underway on identifying and securing partners and academic experts to support the development of the annual report on trends related to intercultural relations. Between 23rd and 25th October, Eleonora Insalaco represented the Foundation at the seminar in Messina organized by ARIC, International Association for Intercultural Research, an opportunity to present the programme and receive specialist input on methodologies the Foundation could follow for its analysis work. Participants underlined the importance of carrying out intercultural work from an equal partnership perspective, rethinking current knowledge structures and supporting research work from 'non-western' countries.

Targeting Education

Between 21st and 22nd October, President Azoulay and Eman Qaraeen represented the Anna Lindh Foundation at the Copenhagen Conference 'Education for Intercultural Understanding and Dialogue'.

The conference was an opportunity to take stock of developments and implementation of the Rabat Commitment of 2005, as well as reinforcing key regional partnerships which have the capacity to support large-scale work in the next phase, including the Council of Europe, UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

During his keynote intervention, Azoulay set out how work around the observatory and flag-ship initiatives could positively benefit the education sector, in addition to launching the Foundation's new resources on religious diversity.

Maximising Culture

Following the recommendation of the Advisory Council to target also the cultural sector for large-scale initiative, work has been carried out on the development of a cultural strategy for the Foundation and consolidating key regional partnerships.

The initial approach, being followed by Susanne Abou Ghaida, centres on creating an 'infrastructure' to allow the building of further partnership and cooperation among cultural operators in the EuroMed region, through the capacity-building of cultural managers and providing a platform for professionals to meet.

This will create a long-term basis to reaching and supporting the mobility of artists working on the ground and the better distribution of cultural products from one side of the Mediterranean to the other.

Engaging Media

In mid-October Director Andreu Claret, Paul Walton and Ingy Sedky attended the regional meeting of journalists and media practitioners taking place in Amman, organised by the EuroMed Media Task-Force.

During his keynote speech, Claret highlighted the challenge of tackling negative perceptions across the region and the important role of journalists as opinion-leaders and public intellectuals with the capacity to reform populist perceptions, a question which became the basis of the two day discussions.

In addition to providing space to share ideas on strategies to engage the media, the meeting acted as a basis to consolidating a number of key regional partnerships for the Foundation's large-scale work in the field of media.

From the Headquarters

Recruitment

The call for candidature officially closed on the 15th October 2008. Globally the Foundation received 898 applications for the eleven posts advertised. The Executive Director appointed personnel evaluation panels to carry out the evaluation process in specific case of recruitment.

Interviews are now scheduled to take place at headquarters during the month of November. All logistical arrangements were handled by Fida Hennawi and Hady Agina through the Foundation's service provider.

Heads of Network Meeting

Staff at the headquarters have been preparing the Heads of Network meeting to take place in Nice at the end of November. The focus of the meeting will be around the approach for the next three-years programme of the Foundation as well as evaluating tools to support network development and discussing the regional communication policy.

Six new Heads of Network are expected to participate at the meeting, in accordance to the new geographical scope of the Union for the Mediterranean, namely Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Mauritania, Monaco and Montenegro. President Azoulay is also expected to participate in the final day of the meeting.

Grant Contract

The Grant Contract was finalised this month with the European Commission. At a working value of seven million Euro, the contract includes information on the main areas of activity proposed for the next phase of the Anna Lindh Foundation (2009 to 2011), including a general description of the activities foreseen for the next programme phase and the main budget lines for activities.



The remaining part of the budget will be covered through the members states contribution, for an equal value to the EC contribution.

Children's Literature

The Children's Literature three-years regional programme, launched by the Foundation with the funding of SIDA entered its second phase of operations, continuing to develop the sector of children literature in five focus countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Palestine.

In the month of October the management team of the programme, coordinated by Youmna Albatran and Nawal Traboulsi, carried out a number of activities including the launch of a call for publishers to identify new fiction children's books to be published as well as to strengthen the importance for the regional publishing industry to respect the book chain. The call has been launched on the website of the Foundation and entries are accepted until January 10, 2009.

Other activities concern preparation for the forthcoming Cairo International book fair, with the aim of promote a selection of children's books during the fair.

New Publication presented in Budapest

The EuroMed training course on 'Human Rights Education and Conflict Resolution', organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Council of Europe took place at the end of October in Budapest, gathering thirty-three youth workers from throughout the region. Amina Abodoma was representing the headquarters at the course.

The training was timed to correspond with the launch of the publication 'Conflict Resolution and Cultural Cooperation' produced by the Foundation and presenting best practices of work on conflict resolution for trainers and educators. The manual was distributed among the participants and will be made available to networks and partners. The Foundation was asked by participants to play a follow-up role in providing them with trainings on the Call for Proposals and to assist them in identifying expertise for the local trainings they intend to organise in the future.

Farewell to Eman

At the start of November the Foundation will bid farewell to Eman Qaraeen who is leaving to take up a new international post.

During the past three years, Eman headed the work on education and youth, establishing partnerships with schools across the region and putting in place the highly acclaimed 'EuroMed Teacher Training Programme' with the Council of Europe. The work of Eman in this regard offers an important basis for the long-term development of partnerships and large-scale initiatives for the coming three years.

Inside the Network

Albania

A mission was carried out from the headquarters to Albania, one of the new countries of the EuroMed Partnership that is currently in the process of creating a national network for the Foundation. The country is from a region, the Balkans, that has suffered major political instabilities in the recent past and that is currently putting a lot of energies in improving political and socio-economical standards for future EU integration.

The meeting was attended by Gianluca Solera, with twelve organizations gathered by the future Head of Network, Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations, that stressed their interest in enlarging their area of operation from Europe, where most of their projects currently take place, to the Euro-Med region.

Some ideas for action were discussed during the meeting, for example a training course for Albanian organisations to coincide with the Call for Proposals 2009, an event on inter-religious dialogue hosted in Albania and a meeting of the chambers of commerce of the region.

In addition a meeting was carried out with the Director General for Multicultural Relations at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Spiro Koçi, who confirmed the interest in supporting the development of Foundation's projects in Albania.

Slovenia

A meeting of the Slovenian National Network took place at the end of October in Ljubljana organised by the current Head Lev Kreft of the Peace Institute, and at the presence of Amb. Veronika Stabej, member of the Board of Governors of the Foundation and of Gianluca Solera from the headquarters. During discussions, the Slovenian Network presented its willingness to play a support role to new EuroMed members from the Balkan area, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania, in particular with regards to creating and developing a network of civil society organizations focused on work for cultural dialogue.

Looking ahead to 2009, the Slovenian Network set out ideas to focus on areas of work around 'nomad communities' and 'inter-ethnic conflict resolution', and appointed the new Head of the Slovenian Network, Igor Brlek of Studentska zalozba.

Syria and Lebanon

Executive Director Claret, during his visit in Syria, met with the Head of the Syrian National Network, Marwan Al Mahasseni, of the Arab Academy of Damascus, to discuss ideas for the development of civil society in Syria.

In addition, a meeting was carried with the Director of the Oriental Centre for International Studies, a modern think tank advising the government about international policy of Syria. He expressed particular interest in the role of the Foundation as observatory of cultural trends in the region. Claret also met with the Minister of Information Moshen Bilal and the Minister of Higher Education, Ghais Barakat.

After visiting Damascus, Claret traveled to Beirut to meet with the members of the Lebanese Network and the Head of Network, Salwa Siniora of the National Commission for UNESCO. The meeting was a good occasion to assess and understand the challenges of the Lebanese network and to start identifying possible partners for the new programme of the Foundation.



End of Year Diary

Highlights and key dates of events taking place in the remaining quarter of 2008

- 1 November:** EuroMed Civil Forum in Marseilles - 'Live from Gaza'
- 3-4 November:** **EuroMed Ministerial Conference in Marseilles** + Atelier: 'Dialogues Interculturels dans l'Espace Meditteraneeen'
- 4-5 November:** Arab week at European Parliament, Brussels
- 14-17 November:** EuroMed Information and Training Seminar for Diplomats, Malta
- 18-20 November:** University teachers regional meeting in the framework of Children's Literature Programme, Alexandria
- 20-21 November:** President Azoulay participates at 'Séminaire Maroc Espagne – 10^{eme} anniversaire Fondation 3 cultures', Seville
- 22 November:** Opening of the 'Crossing Borders' art exhibition in Biella
- 28-30 November:** **Heads of Network meeting in Nice**
- 11-15 December:** Visit and programme of President Azoulay in Egypt
- 15 December:** Euro-Arab cultural event with Arab League in Cairo on the occasion of visit of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner to Egypt
- 16-17 December:** **Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Foundation, Nice**

Feedback

The internal news bulletin is produced from the headquarters on a monthly basis for the benefit of staff, Heads of Network and members of the Advisory Council.

Please feel free to send any feedback and comments to the communication team:
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