

# Mapping of activities organised by institutions and international organisations on the theme of youth and the Arab spring



## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth





The information presented in this report are those of the international organisations and institutions who voluntarily agreed to share reports, links and insights of the work they have done in relation to the Arab Spring and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.

This mapping has been compiled and edited by Gisèle Evrard with the help of the following organisations:

The EU-CoE youth partnership  
The North-South centre of the Council of Europe  
The Anna Lindh Foundation  
The SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed  
The Swedish Institute in Alexandria  
The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom  
The League of Arab States and the World Bank

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The Swedish Institute of Alexandria: Gisèle Evrard  
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# I. INTRODUCTION

*Dedicated to all young people who strive for human rights, participation and democracy.*

This mapping has been realised in the framework of the preparation of the ***seminar on empowerment of youth organisations and youth-led civil society initiatives in the South-Mediterranean framework*** organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership and due to take place in Malta from 22nd to 24th of March 2012.

The purpose of such document is to provide participants and partner organisations with a general overview of activities organised between January 2011 and March 2012, even though some of the events mentioned are still to be organised throughout 2012 (in such case, there are directly related with previous initiatives).

Such activities may consist of seminars, conferences, workshops consultations, symposium, and training courses with a youth dimension, addressing either civil society organisations, international institutions and international partners, or both.

Hence in the present document you will mainly find:

- Presentation documents, background information highlighting in most cases the main theme, the objectives, the profile of the participants, the outcomes and - if appropriate, the planned follow-up;
- Extract from background documents and reports;
- Links to related video, informations and conclusions

In no case does this mapping pretend to be exhaustive: we are aware that numerous activities have been organised in the frame of EuroMed and Euro-Arab cooperation as well as on the theme of the Arab Spring.

Thus, the information which follow mainly focus on activities organised specifically by institutions and international organisations. It does not disregard the immense contribution of local, regional, national and international initiatives but did not pretend to compile them all.

Moreover, this document is to be seen as a 'work in progress' and may be further developed at a later stage.

We hope that you will find it useful.

We wish to thank the institutions and international organisations and foundations who contributed to this document.

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than an executive summary as such, what follows is to be rather seen as an overview of the activities, initiatives and events organised on the theme of youth and the Arab spring.

The table available on the next pages provides you with the title of the activity, a short summary of the purpose and contents, the dates and - when appropriate, few words about the target group and possible outcomes or follow-up.



Title	Focus	Theme / Summary / Objectives	Dates	Additional information
<b>The EU-CoE youth partnership</b>				
Seminar <i>'Empowerment of youth organisations and youth-led civil society initiative on the South-Mediterranean framework'</i>	Empowerment of youth organisations	This seminar will focus on the role and status of youth organisations/youth movements and the young people they work with as crucial actors in the development and consolidation of inclusive, participatory and pluralistic democracies based on human rights and the rule of law. Alongside a joint analysis on the impact of youth (organisations) on the Arab revolutions and vice versa, their role within the resulting transition process will be the focus of this seminar.	21-24 March 2012, Malta	Expected outcomes: in order to come up with well-grounded recommendations, young people supported by experts will be given an opportunity for exchange of experiences and needs assessment in the framework of working groups. Proposals for concrete projects (e.g. in the field of capacity building) to be realised by/in cooperation with youth (organisations) should also be discussed in this framework.
<b>The North-South centre of the Council of Europe</b>				
<i>'Women as agents of change in the south Mediterranean region'</i>	The role of women as agents of political, economical and private changes but also the role of media as instruments for the promotion of the role of women.	The theme of the conference [...] was doubly topical. First, it is at the heart of historic upheavals facing the southern Mediterranean region since the beginning of 2011, which give a new relevance to the issue of promoting women's rights in the region. Furthermore, it enrolled in the continuity of initiatives, often for many years, on gender equality, of the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, the United Nations, the euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Union, the parliamentary cooperation and the local and regional civil society.	24 – 25 October 2011, Rome, Italy	Main outcomes: the discussions [...] gave a broad overview of the place and role of women on both sides of the Mediterranean. Participants examined this issue in terms of political, public, economic, social, family, personal and private life. They also held two special sessions, one concerning the situation in Tunisia after the general elections of 23 October and the other about the role that the media can play in promoting women in North and South of the Mediterranean.
<i>The 2011 Lisbon Forum 'The Arab Spring: a major</i>	An analysis of recent developments in	The 2011 Lisbon Forum included a series of panels and workshops on the following topics: ▪ 1 <sup>st</sup> panel: 'Democracy on the move'	3 – 4 November 2011	Main outcomes and follow-up: As a follow-up, the main organisational lines were agreed as follows:



<i>step towards making universal rights real</i>	North Africa and the Middle East and that it should include a reflexion on the role of the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, as well as the co-operation among international partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> panel: 'Democracy and development' Workshops on Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> panel: 'Citizenship as a key concept to build democracy and realise human rights for all'</li> <li>4<sup>th</sup> panel: 'The role of media and new technologies (including social networks) as instruments to promote and develop democracy'</li> </ul>	<i>Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, Portugal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To organise the 2011 Lisbon Forum in co-operation with the League of Arab States;</li> <li>To use a "universal human rights approach" as a basis for the discussions;</li> <li>To put a special emphasis on the importance of civil society, in particular youth and women, and the role of social networks;</li> <li>To draw on lessons which could be learnt from previous historical experiences and/or political models which could be seen as sources of inspiration;</li> <li>To alternate between plenary sessions, aimed at analysing common trends and co-operation prospects, and more specific workshops organised in parallel;</li> <li>To promote inter-active working methods, both at plenary sessions and during the parallel workshops.</li> </ul>
<b>The Anna Lindh Foundation</b>				
<i>Training Seminar on Social Change and Youth Leadership</i>	Citizenship & Freedom, Connecting through Social Media, Youth Leadership & Social Change, and Democracy through	<p>The main objective of the training seminar was to bring together representatives of civil society organisations in the Arab world to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect upon the recent socio-political developments in the region from an intercultural perspective,</li> <li>Strengthen knowledge and skills to develop the capacity of those organisations as civil society actors in the democratic and social</li> </ul>	1 - 6 June 2011 Cairo, Egypt	<p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments of partnerships on citizenship and democracy among civil society operators, media and young activists;</li> <li>Empowerment and capacity building of civil society organisations, especially members of the ALF Arab networks;</li> </ul>

	Intercultural Dialogue	<p>transition, and act as multipliers on the local and international levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The involvement of resource persons from different Euro-Med countries will enrich the training content and will encourage exchange.</li> </ul>	<p>transition, and act as multipliers on the local and international levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The involvement of resource persons from different Euro-Med countries will enrich the training content and will encourage exchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a network of resource persons supporting the ALF national networks in fields of democracy and citizenship.</li> </ul>
<i>The Tunis Exchange Forum</i>	Promotion of exchange and debate on issues of citizenship, civil liberties and intercultural dialogue in the context of social changes, reforms and democratic transitions	<p>The overall objective of the Anna Lindh Exchange was to bring cultural and media operators, non-governmental organisations and young activists from the Euro-Med region together to exchange experiences and debate about the major challenges which the Euro-Med societies are facing in terms of citizenship and intercultural dialogue, especially those engaged in social change and democratic transition.</p> <p>In line with the above, the specific objectives of the seminar were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fostering debate and facilitating exchange, contact in the field of citizenship, democracy, human rights;</li> <li>Offering tools and resources for the empowerment of civil society with respect to the relationship between dialogue and the above mentioned fields;</li> <li>Encouraging sustained interaction and mutual support between citizens from all participating countries and contributing to spreading awareness about intercultural citizenship.</li> </ul>	<p>23 – 26 June 2011 Tunis, Tunisia</p>	<p>Main outcomes: throughout the Tunis Exchange Forum, the ALF got not only a message of support but also a request for commitment and sustainability in the action of the Foundation. The triennial programme for 2012-2014 has been developed taking into account the conclusions of the Forum.</p>
<i>The Exchange Financial Mechanism</i>	Specific mechanism aiming at developing	People-to-people contacts are important to promote cooperation and support, networking and partnership in the field of democracy and	2011	Outcomes: 21 Networks will benefit from the Exchange Financial Mechanism and more than 30 young journalists, activists,



	interaction among Members of different Networks and enhancing cooperation and contact making between North and South and South Network for participation, democracy, citizenship and civil freedoms, through intercultural dialogue.	citizenship in the whole ALF Network of Networks. Therefore, a specific mechanism has been designed by the Foundation to support this exchange, aimed at developing interaction among Members of different Networks and enhancing cooperation and contact making between North and South Network for participation, democracy, citizenship and civil freedoms, through intercultural dialogue.		civil society operators and bloggers will be hosted. This tool has been well appreciated as it has given the opportunities to member organisations to welcome new voices coming mainly from the Tunisian and the Egyptian societies in a series of decentralised activities in the whole region.
<i>The 2011 Euro-Med Dialogue Award</i>	Dialogue - Best practices dealing with the culture of citizenship, the struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights for all.	<p>The Euro-Med Award for the Dialogue between Cultures is an annual prize, which recognises the achievements of individuals and organisations working for the promotion of intercultural dialogue. Each year, the Award is dedicated to a special theme.</p> <p>The annual Euro-Med award was for 2011 dedicated to Dialogue, giving recognition to local, national and/or regional initiatives in favour of the development of democratic values and practices through an intercultural approach.</p>	2011	<p>Outcomes: for the first time, an Egyptian NGO won the ALF Euro-Med Award for Dialogue between Cultures for their work on the promotion of citizenship and active participation among youth.</p> <p>Development No Borders (Tanmeya Bela Hodod) from Egypt has been named the Winner of the Sixth Edition. Based in Cairo, Development No Border (DNB) is a youth NGO working for fighting xenophobia, racism, and discrimination and promotion of citizenship and youth empowerment.</p>
<i>The 2011 Mediterranean Journalism Award</i>	Youth participation and social change	The 2011 Mediterranean Journalism Award had a special section is devoted to the theme of 'Reporting on Youth Participation in Social Change'. This category recognised quality media	2011	<p>Outcomes: Among the prize-receivers, Asmaa El Ghoul – Palestinian blogger and writer from Gaza - was awarded commitment to freedom of expression</p>

		works, which have provided a balanced and informed insight into the role of young people in the social transformations in the region.		and her courage in facing repression, while Mohamed El-Dahshan – Egyptian writer who was at the forefront of the Egyptian revolution-was awarded for his exceptional writings on social change in Egypt published in many international publications, and which made the voice of young Egyptian activists heard all over the world.
<i>Arts for Social Change</i>	Art as an instrument for social change	In the framework of the institutional activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation, and responding to the current social changes taking place in Egypt, the Anna Lindh Foundation launched an opportunity to the members of the Egyptian National Network, to collaborate into a number of local activities to take place in Alexandria.	October 2011	
<i>Young Arab Voices</i>		The purpose of the programme is to train young people in debating skills and facilitate youth participation in new processes of democratic transition and reform. It has led to the creation of debate clubs in a wide range of settings, from schools and universities to cultural spaces and grass-root NGOs.	Ongoing	The programme is actually running its first phase (2011-2012) in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. The ALF is responsible to implement the programme in Egypt (see YAV PDF attached), covering all the country, and to develop the regional communication strategy. Next phase should take place from (2012-2013) enlarging the geographical scope.
<b>SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed</b>				
<i>Seminar 'Euro-Mediterranean Youths: from indignation to contribution'</i>	The Arab spring - understand what has occurred and to try - thanks to the help of European youth	The objectives of the seminar were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To analyse roots of young protests and to assess the political process sparked</li> <li>▪ To support youth actors in producing recommendations focused on</li> </ul>	7-10 February 2012 Lyon, France	In the process to be compiled



	programme, to bring some solutions to youth expectations around Mediterranean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- education (formal and non formal), participation and employability</li> <li>- society and knowledge society</li> <li>▪ To increase the international institutions awareness in developing more targeted and effective cooperation program in youth field.</li> </ul>		
<b>Swedish Institute in Alexandria</b>				
<i>Youth in Politics Programme - Workshop I</i>	The role of youth in capacity building of political parties; developing party identity/ideology and programmes; develop principles into policies and programmes for implementation; communicate political messages; outreach; campaigning and recruitment of candidates and members	<p>The programme is an initiative set up in order for young people to interact on shared concerns. It encourages the exchange of ideas and interaction between youth in the Middle East and Europe in shaping a common future based on understanding, knowledge and respect. The main objectives of the programme are to promote young people to be active citizens in decision-making and civil action as well as to foster mutual understanding and social cohesion between youth in the MENA region and Europe. Political participation among youth is generally low in the Arab world, yet the momentum caused by the "Arab Spring" has created a quest among youth and their role in building a democratic society based on principles of dignity and human rights.</p> <p>Among the objectives of the first event were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote networking between politically active youth in MENA region and (North) Europe;</li> <li>▪ Create an understanding for each other's political contexts, inspire and explore approaches and capacities;</li> </ul>	7-8 April 2011, Egypt	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen participation of youth in politics and community development</li> <li>Individual and organisational capacity-building, sharing best practices of organisational issues;</li> <li>Increased youth participation in politics;</li> <li>Create a productive environment for intra- and inter-party democracy debate;</li> <li>Promote a democratic culture and awareness.</li> </ul>			
Youth in Politics Programme Workshop I		Follow-up of the above	13-15 June 2011, Sweden	<p>Twenty-five young Egyptians were invited to meet with politically active youth in Sweden and visited the political youth associations and the Swedish Parliament. Five young journalists from Egypt were among the group to write about the exchange but also learn about the media landscape in Sweden.</p>	
Youth in Politics Programme Broadening the programme to Tunisia	Tunisia	In October 2011 the programme was broadened to include active youth from Tunisia.	October 2011	<p>The Swedish youth representatives changed to embrace representatives from minor parties currently represented in the Swedish parliament. There was a specific focus on gender equality and the role of the civil society in building democratic societies. The second day focused on social media as a tool for active citizens</p>	
Youth in Politics Programme Youth-democracy and Citizenship	Democracy and Citizenship	<p>In February 2012 youth from Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and Sweden met in Tunis for a three days' workshop that focused on Youth- Democracy and Citizenship and how to strengthen youth participation in decision-making and politics.</p> <p>Further the workshop focused on how to build strong links between civil society and governing</p>	February 2012		



		institutions, best practices and lessons learned regarding capacity building, organisation and advocacy on a national as well as international level.		
Alexandria Encounters (Dardasha Iskandarani) 1st Encounter	Arts for social change', 'Volunteering and civic participation' and 'Social media	The opening session of the encounters started with a round table debate on 'Social changes in times of transition' where the Ambassadors of Poland, Estonia and Turkey in addition to the Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation shared the experiences of their respective countries during the period of transition. Three parallel thematic sessions were then held on the topics of 'Arts for social change', 'Volunteering and civic participation' and 'Social media: its role for social change and its limitations'; with a final closing session allowing presentations of the main issues discussed during the thematic sessions and a discussion among the participants.	19 - 21 May 2011	
(Dardasha Iskandarani) 2nd Encounter		A follow-up activity was held to exchange information on the activities the participants organised since May, to discuss about common challenges and objectives, and set the basis for joint actions for the promotion of social change in Alexandria.	19 July 2011	
The Young Leaders Visitors Program	Provide the participants with new skills, networks and innovative tools to strengthen their work to drive social change in their respective	The programme combines intercultural leadership training with theory and practice in the fields of transparency, democracy and human rights. Cutting-edge social media solutions are used throughout the program, as tools for learning and for building networks that promote dialogue, knowledge sharing and openness.	13-17 November 2011	

Euro-Arab Dialogue Forum	contexts. Promotion of peace and social justice, through stronger cooperation at a bi-regional level by fostering intercultural dialogue and enhancing the exchange of experiences amongst European and Arab youth	<p>Young people in the Euro-Arab region promote and contribute to the transition of sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.</p> <p>The objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ European and Arab youth work together (online and in person) to learn about sustainable ways of living, sustainable global development, shared ethics and intercultural dialogue;</li> <li>▪ Concrete action, generate projects taking place in participants home communities;</li> <li>▪ Vivid youth network where activists inspire each other to keep working for a more just, sustainable and peaceful future.</li> </ul>	May 2012	
<i>Euro-Arab Dialogue for Young Journalists</i>	Gather young journalists from both sides of the Mediterranean, to fight the stereotypes perpetuated by media in order to create better intercultural journalism.	<p>EMAJ 2012 aims to provide training on New Media in addition to inspiration and possibilities to reflect on the role of these technological innovations. As new media have played an important role in promoting social, political and economic change in many countries of the Euro-Mediterranean, the Academy will look at the insights of communication processes that occur through these tools.</p>	2012	



The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom				
<i>Blogger for Freedom in the Arab World</i>	Create a network of Arab citizen journalists	Bloggers from all parts of the Arab world came together in Cairo from May 20 to 22, 2011 for a workshop entitled 'Blogging for Freedom in the Arab world'. The three-day event aimed at creating a network of Arab citizen journalists and providing spaces for exchanges of experiences and opinion. In Cairo, just a few steps away from Tahrir Square, the bloggers also engaged in strategic discussions on how best they could support the democratic revolutions and uprisings with their personal online media.	20-22 May 2011	The Regional Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF) launched a manual on blogging in the Arabic language. The 200-page-book published in cooperation with Al Mahrousa Publishers is considered the first hands-on guidebook on the topic in Arabic. Prominent Egyptian authors share their insights regarding the various aspects of blogging.
<i>Capacity building and the development of knowledge for young Libyans journalists and citizen journalism</i>	Citizen journalism	Twenty-one young Libyan journalists, including three females, recently attended a 'Capacity Building and the Development of Knowledge for Young Libyan Journalists and Citizen Journalism workshop', a five-day event that aims to build emerging Libyan journalists' capacity. The workshop is the brainchild of Friends of Libya-Egypt, developed in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. After more than four decades of virtually no freedom of press, Libya's young journalists start the daunting task of building strong and capable local media.	July 2011, Cairo	
<i>'The People Demand' – The FNF launches a Political documentary on January 25 revolution</i>		'The People Demand. Liberal Features of the Egyptian Revolution' is the title of a documentary film sponsored by the Regional Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF), launched during a public forum at Rawabit Cultural Center in Cairo on September 26, 2011. The film features historic pictures of Egypt's Revolution and commentary by leading	26 September 2011	'The People Demand' is the second documentary film developed and sponsored by the Foundation in Egypt. It follows the widely popular 'Liberalism: Egyptian Story' produced two years ago which narrates the history of the country from a liberal perspective.

		representatives of the country's liberal movement who played an active role in the uprising.			That movie has been used during a large number of educative activities sponsored by the Foundation and distributed widely among her partners in Egypt and beyond.
<i>Online Conference 'Facebook revolution?'</i>	The role of social medias in the revolution	Nine months after the beginning of the Arab Spring the online conference 'Facebook Revolution?' the Virtual Academy tried to take stock. What is the role each of the media has played in the transition process in Arab countries? Do they promote democracy, freedom of expression and free access to information? Do they bring about a new diversity of opinions and media? Is the role of social media being overestimated or possibly assessed even dangerously wrong?	19-30-September 2011		In addition to the participation of international experts, bloggers from Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco and Syria have spoken about their activities and motivations
<b>The League of Arab States and the World Bank</b>					
<i>'Towards a new Era of Arab Youth Empowerment'</i>	Youth Empowerment	The aim of the workshop was to listen to key Arab youth leaders and organisations in the aftermath of reform movements in the region, in order to develop a better understanding of the impact of the Arab Spring on the Youth agenda and programming for increased participation and civic engagements.	25-27 September 2011 Cairo, Egypt		Four youth-led thematic consultation sessions were organised and the meeting brought together youth from civil society organisations and activists from different MENA countries.

### III. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

# THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH



The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, also called 'the EU-CoE youth partnership' provides an added value to the programmes of the two institutions and their institutional partners, fosters co-operation, complementarity and synergies and enhances the EU-CoE youth partnership's impact on youth related policies and activities in Europe and beyond. The current EU-CoE youth partnership Agreement covers the period 1st July 2010 – 31st December 2013.

The main objectives of the EU-CoE youth partnership are to develop:

1. Social inclusion:

- To strengthen the social inclusion of young people, particularly those most disadvantaged;
- To combat exclusion, precarious social conditions and marginalisation;
- To improve access to employment, entrepreneurship, education and training;
- To promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity;
- to foster equal opportunities for all, especially those at risk of exclusion;
- To promote young people's health and well being.

2. Democracy and human rights, democratic citizenship and youth participation:

- To make young people aware of human rights;
- To share and promote democratic values;
- To foster youth participation, voluntary activities and democratic citizenship;
- To promote gender equality;
- To address sustainable development, environment and climate change.

3. Intercultural dialogue and diversity:

- To foster intercultural dialogue and youth work in a multicultural environment;
- To promote responses to racism, intolerance and discrimination;
- To support peace-building, conflict prevention and transformation;
- To support global solidarity and inter-regional co-operation;
- To support co-operation with regions outside Europe;
- To support young people's creativity and participation in culture.



## ***Seminar 'Empowerment of youth organisations and youth-led civil society initiatives in the South-Mediterranean framework'***

21-24 March 2012

Malta

### **→ Background**

The South-Mediterranean youth policy cooperation of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the League of Arab States and other actors started in 2005. The cooperation aims at developing a common understanding and exchange of issues of specific concern for youth policy in Europe and South Med region. Since 2006, other national and international stakeholders of youth policy in European and South Med countries have become involved and extended the framework of this informal cooperation. The activities carried out brought together youth researchers, governmental institutions responsible for youth policy and nongovernmental youth organisations in European and South Med countries. Among other results, the cooperation has supported the process of the Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (EACMYO), created possibilities for direct exchanges between South Med and European youth leaders through relevant youth forums, and provided opportunities for capacity-building of civil society youth organisations through training courses on human rights education, intercultural dialogue and youth participation.

The process of changes brought about by the 'Arab Spring' in various countries provides the context and drives the need for re-visiting this cooperation. The seminar on *Empowerment of youth organisations and youth led civil society in the South-Mediterranean framework* hereby presented, is the first step in this direction: it provides youth non-governmental organisations and stakeholders the opportunity to reflect upon recent developments and their implications for the future youth policy cooperation so as to safeguard ownership of the process among stakeholders and to ensure a sustainable long-term perspective.

### **→ Context**

The events in a number of countries in the Arab region since the beginning of 2011 have imposed a new perception of young people's capacities and aspirations. As crucial actors in the processes of political changes, young people have stood up for more freedom, equality and justice. But they also stand up for better future perspectives in education and work, economic and social development and participation in the decision making process.

Young people have legitimate aspirations to be listened to and respected, and to participate in decision-making about their present and their future and that of their nations. Youth is demanding a voice in the transition process towards real democracy.

The new political environments need to take into consideration the stronger civic engagement of young people. Conversely, following the successful mobilisation for change in the political system, young people and civil society actors need to find appropriate ways in order to further shape the incipient transition process in the long-term. The present window of opportunity should not close without young people making sure their interests are taken into account when it comes to the establishment of a new social order.

Furthermore, the role and organisation of youth policy needs to be reviewed. International

youth policy cooperation has also an important role to play. Despite the obvious differences between the Arab and European regions, it is clear that both are affected by consequences of globalisation processes. The massive spread of global communication, and particularly social media, has become a new and powerful vehicle for young people to get organised and participate, to be informed and to spread information.

Youth organisations in Europe might be interested to learn from the efficient use of social networks and online media by youth organisations in the South-Mediterranean region. Eastern European countries have a recent history of engaging in political transition processes towards democratic societies. Their experiences with regard to the construction of democratic societies and the development of a citizenship and participation culture can provide an enriching background for the current events in Arab countries.

In reaction to the political changes in their Southern neighbouring countries, both, the European Union and the Council of Europe are strengthening their efforts to support these developments towards democracy. Young people in Egypt, Tunisia and other parts of the South-Mediterranean hold the key to the sustainable and peaceful development of their societies based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Understanding and taking into account their expectations and needs is crucial for all the institutional stakeholders, such as the League of Arab States, national youth policy authorities and youth organisations. The experience of young people from the Diasporas in Europe and their role in and perception of recent developments can also positively contribute to this process.

### → Purpose and objectives

This seminar will focus on the role and status of youth organisations/youth movements and the young people they work with as crucial actors in the development and consolidation of inclusive, participatory and pluralistic democracies based on human rights and the rule of law. Alongside a joint analysis on the impact of youth (organisations) on the Arab revolutions and vice versa, their role within the resulting transition process will be the focus of this seminar.

The objectives are as follows:

- To exchange on the current effects of Arab spring on civil society and to develop a shared understanding of the current situation of young people in the South Med region as well as in European countries and their role in on-going processes of change;
- To understand the implications of this transition to democracy for the reality of youth, the youth agendas and for the landscape of youth-led civil society organisations
- To strengthen and support the role of civil society and non governmental youth-led organisations and networks by enabling young people to reflect on their needs in terms of capacity building and propose joint projects to be implemented on a long term basis in a wider partnership.

### → Expected outcomes

In order to come up with well-grounded recommendations, young people supported by experts will be given an opportunity for exchange of experiences and needs assessment in the framework of working groups. Proposals for concrete projects (e.g. in the field of capacity building) to be realised by/in cooperation with youth (organisations) should also be discussed in this framework.

A better understanding of the situation of youth and their needs after the Arab spring as well as of the new emerging civil society actors will ease the preparation of the forthcoming Tunis symposium on youth participation and contribute to a meaningful dialogue between policy, practice and research at that event.

### → Organisers and partners

The Maltese Youth Agency, the EU-CoE youth-partnership, The League of Arab States, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, and the Euromed Youth Platform.

### → Participants

The seminar will bring together thirty young people from Southern Mediterranean [MENA] (20) and European (10) youth organisations, facilitators, stakeholders and youth policy experts from the Euro-Mediterranean region.

# THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Created in November 1989, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (more commonly known as the 'North-South Centre') was set up in Lisbon in May 1990.

Lisbon was chosen following an initiative of the Portuguese government, which had proposed (after the European public campaign on North-South interdependence and solidarity organised in 1988 by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the European Community) that a centre be set up to follow up the proposals generated by the campaign. From the start, it has built on what, until today, still constitutes its fundamentally pioneering dimension and development potential.

The aims of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity are:

- To promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law through intercultural dialogue and education, in particular among the youth of Europe and its neighbouring regions;
- To provide a framework for European co-operation for the purpose of increasing public awareness of global interdependence and solidarity issues;
- To promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe, by fostering dialogue and co-operation between Europe and non-European countries in neighbouring regions.

The Centre pursues its aims in conformity with the values and principles of the Council of Europe. The North-South Centre's work is based on three principles: dialogue, partnership and solidarity.

**Dialogue:** a mutual learning process based on listening to others and acquiring new knowledge - the approach that makes the North-South Centre a platform for discussion between North and South and between the partners in its quadrilogue. It arranges conferences, debates and workshops, then takes action to get their conclusions and recommendations adopted by national and international institutions.

**Partnership:** the North-South Centre brings together players from different countries and walks of life who are concerned with common issues. It encourages them to set up networks so as to increase their impact. It has close working relations with the European Union and international organisations other than the Council of Europe such as OECD, the UN and the OAU.

**Solidarity:** the North-South Centre promotes the idea that only globalisation based on solidarity will ensure universal respect for the Council of Europe's traditional values.

## ***'Women as agents of change in the south Mediterranean region'***

*24 - 25 October 2011*

*Mappamondo, Palazzo Montecitorio, Rome, Italy*

### **→ Background information of the conference**

This Conference brought together representatives of international organisations, parliamentarians, civil society, journalists but also experts on these issues. They discussed not only the role of women as agents of political, economical and private changes but also the role of media as instruments for the promotion of the role of women.

The theme of the conference [...] was doubly topical. First, it is at the heart of historic upheavals facing the southern Mediterranean region since the beginning of 2011, which give a new relevance to the issue of promoting women's rights in the region. Furthermore, it enrolled in the continuity of initiatives, often for many years, on gender equality, of the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, the United Nations, the euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Union, the parliamentary cooperation and the local and regional civil society.



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### **→ Co-organisers and partners**

This event was co-organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Italian Parliament. It enjoyed the political support of the government of Italy and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as well as the financial support of the government of Spain.

## → Participants

This Conference count with the presence of the Mr Franco Frattini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr Antonio LEONE, Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Mrs Mara Carfagna, Minister for Equal Opportunity, Mrs Cecilia Attard-Pirotta, Mr Luca VOLONTE, President of the EPP Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Chair of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre and many other personalities.

The total number of participants was about 250 from 31 countries.

## → Main outcomes

The discussions [...] gave a broad overview of the place and role of women on both sides of the Mediterranean. Participants examined this issue in terms of political, public, economic, social, family, personal and private life. They also held two special sessions, one concerning the situation in Tunisia after the general elections of 23 October and the other about the role that the media can play in promoting women in North and South of the Mediterranean.

## → Appendices and links

To access the conclusions of the conference and the video: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Intercultural\\_dialogue\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Intercultural_dialogue_en.asp)

Further information is also available on the webpage of the North-South centre of the Council of Europe: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/conf%C3%A9rence\\_femmes\\_2011.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/conf%C3%A9rence_femmes_2011.asp)

Access to the video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBimPFiuSBE&feature=channel\\_video\\_title](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBimPFiuSBE&feature=channel_video_title)





## ***The 2011 Lisbon Forum ‘The Arab Spring: a major step towards making universal rights real’***

*3 - 4 November 2011  
Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, Portugal*

### **→ Background information and history of the Lisbon Forum**

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the countries on the south of the Mediterranean. The North-South Centre organises the Forum since 1994. It focuses on issues at the heart of the mandate and actions of the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy, the rule of law and intercultural dialogue. It has been enriched since 2006 by partnerships with the Council of Europe’s Commission for Democracy through Law – also known as the Venice Commission - and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and, most recently, with the Alliance of Civilizations, operating under the aegis of the United Nations.

Created in 1994, the Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the countries on the south side of the Mediterranean.

- During the 2008 session, a process was launched, in partnership with the Alliance of Civilisations, devoted to ‘The principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level’. It provided a new opportunity to share Europe’s experience with other continents and exchange points of view and good practices with systems in other parts of the world, in particular those set up by regional organisations such as the African Union, the Arab League or the Organisation of American States. It also constituted a framework for analysing geopolitical changes since 1948 and their effects on the conception, interpretation and application of human rights.
- The 2009 Lisbon Forum was dedicated to the theme ‘Creating a culture of human rights through education’. The event was organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Alliance of Civilisations. The Forum attracted around 150 participants from a variety of 44 countries and representatives of international organisations. The conclusions identified subjects where there appeared to be an underlying consensus, and others, which required further thought. Paths for future action were identified for the Council of Europe, its North-South Centre and the Alliance of the Civilizations, as well as other agencies and actors present at the Forum.

- In 2010, the Lisbon Forum theme was 'Freedom of expression, conscience and religion'. The Forum was again organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Alliance of Civilisations. It attracted around 150 participants from a variety of 48 countries and representatives of international organisations. The participants discussed in simultaneous working sessions which were held on the following themes: religious pluralism in democratic societies, the role of religious leaders in the promotion of a culture of peace, the prevention of radicalisation and religious extremism and the international co-operation for the promotion of religious freedom. The conclusions highlighted that freedom of expression; conscience and religion are among the foundations of democratic societies and are instrumental for the pluralism, which characterises them, with special regard to the protection of religious minorities over the world. A series of policy recommendations were agreed, and specific follow up action has been / will be taken by the North-South Centre and the Alliance of the Civilisations throughout 2011.

### → The 2011 Lisbon Forum

During its 45th meeting (Lisbon, 28 March 2011), the NSC Executive Council agreed, among other issues, that the 2011 Lisbon Forum should be dedicated to an analysis of recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East and that it should include a reflexion on the role of the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, as well as the co-operation among international partners in this respect.

### → Programme (highlights)

The 2011 Lisbon Forum included a series of panels and workshops on the following topics:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> panel: 'Democracy on the move'**

This panel discussed and analysed the ongoing developments in the Southern Mediterranean region and their impact at regional and global level. The following issues were planned to be addressed: the prospects for spill-over effect of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions throughout the region, particularly in the Mashreq and the Gulf; the future of Libya after Muammar Gaddafi; and the impact of current transformations in the Arab world on the geopolitical relationships in the Mediterranean region.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> panel: 'Democracy and development'**

This panel looked at the social and economic roots of popular unrest in the Mediterranean Arab world and analysed what lessons to learn from the diverse scenarios. Looking at the future, the panel explored the possible link between democratisation and development, and the role of international and regional co-operation in the region in this respect. The panel reflected upon how external actors can provide support to the democratisation processes of Arab countries, in particular the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Alliance of Civilizations.

#### **Workshops on Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia**

##### Egypt

This workshop analysed the democratic changes that the "Arab Spring" brought in Egypt. Among the main issues foreseen were: the passage from military to civil power; education; freedom of religion; the involvement of youth, women and civil society in political and public life; as well as perspectives for future collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

### Tunisia

This workshop analysed the democratic changes that the “Arab Spring” brought in Tunisia. Among the main issues foreseen were: the functioning of democratic institutions in the post-electoral context; the role regional actors can play in supporting the democratisation; the model of state system to follow and secularism-religion relations in the Tunisian context; the involvement of youth, women and civil society in political and public life; as well as perspectives for future collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

### Morocco

This workshop analysed the democratic changes that the “Arab Spring” brought in the Kingdom of Morocco and the strategies that facilitated this process, at governmental and civil society level. Among the main issues foreseen were: the respective roles of the King, the Prime Minister and the Parliament in the new Constitution; the new political landscape after the elections of 25 November; the involvement of youth, women and civil society in political and public life; the role of the media and communication in the on-going transformative process, as well as perspectives for future collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> panel: ‘Citizenship as a key concept to build democracy and realise human rights for all’**

The concept of citizenship is generally understood as a legal status, defined by civil, political and social rights. It is a powerful source of identity, which can be complementary to or generate tensions with, other sources of identity such as religion, ethnic or cultural identities. This panel analysed the challenges and opportunities of extending civil, political and social rights in the countries of the “Arab Spring”. One important aspect of this discussion was to analyse the role of education in building a strong citizenship. The panel also discussed the role of citizens as political agents, actively participating in a society's political institutions and thus contributing to shaping their country's future – at local, national and international levels – as well as ways and means to develop an organised civil society.

### **4<sup>th</sup> panel: ‘The role of media and new technologies (including social networks) as instruments to promote and develop democracy’**

A common trend in the countries of the “Arab Spring” is the role of the media and the Internet (including social networks) in organising popular movements and giving a voice to the individuals on the streets. Through the Internet, any individual can become a protestor, a journalist, an opinion leader or a political leader. This panel explored how media and new technologies were and can be used to promote and develop democracy, for example by reaching out to people which were not closely involved in politics or public life in the past, such as women and the younger generations.

### **→ Co-organisers and partners**

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Alliance of Civilizations United Nations and its host, the Aga Khan Development. The Forum was able to count on the participation many relevant international actors, such as the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Union for the Mediterranean, the African Union, UNESCO, the International Federation of human Rights or the euro-Mediterranean for human Rights. It also counted with the financial support of the European Commission and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

## → Participants

More than 200 participants from about 50 countries

## → Main outcomes

As a follow-up, the main organisational lines were agreed as follows:

- To organise the forthcoming Lisbon Forum in co-operation with the League of Arab States;
- To use a “universal human rights approach” as a basis for the discussions;
- To put a special emphasis on the importance of civil society, in particular youth and women, and the role of social networks;
- To draw on lessons which could be learnt from previous historical experiences and/or political models which could be seen as sources of inspiration;
- To alternate between plenary sessions, aimed at analysing common trends and co-operation prospects, and more specific workshops organised in parallel;
- To promote inter-active working methods, both at plenary sessions and during the parallel workshops.

## → Links

Further information are also available on the webpage of the North-South centre of the Council of Europe: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/LisbonForum\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/LisbonForum_en.asp)

# THE ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION



The purpose of the Anna Lindh Foundation is to bring people together from across the Mediterranean to improve mutual respect between cultures. Since its launch in 2005, the Anna Lindh Foundation has launched and supported action across fields impacting on mutual perceptions among people of different cultures and beliefs, as well as developing a region-wide Network of over 3000 civil society organisations.

The values of the Anna Lindh Foundation are those adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership from the Barcelona Declaration to the Paris Summit: acceptance of pluralism and cultural diversity, mutual respect between societies, religions and beliefs, acknowledgment of rule of law and fundamental freedoms. Those values inspire the work of the Foundation within the civil society and the collaboration with its partners at the national and regional level, as well as the relations between its members and the relation of the Headquarters with the Networks.

The ALF facilitates and supports the action of civil society of the Euro-Mediterranean Region in priority fields, which affects the capacity for individuals and groups to share values and live together. The programme of the Foundation is focused on activities in fields, which are essential for human and social dialogue: Culture and Creativity; Education and Intercultural Learning; Urban Spaces and Citizenship; and Media and Public Opinion

Aware of the necessity of a scientific and social assessment on the challenges of intercultural dialogue in the Union for the Mediterranean, the ALF also assumes a monitoring task on the evolution of values and intercultural trends in the Region.

**Facilitating actions in the field** - In each of its priority fields, the Foundation develops large-scale programmes in collaboration with international partners, and grants support for projects that bring together members of its 43 Civil Society Networks through its open Calls for Proposals. The Foundation also facilitates the development of common actions and projects between its members at the national or regional level, and supports local activities aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue between people at the grass-root level.

**Launching region-wide campaigns** - The ALF launches region-wide initiatives involving its Networks in the model of “1001 Actions for Dialogue” (2008) and “Restore the Trust, Rebuild Bridges” (2009), as well as gathering more than 700 people in Barcelona for the very first Anna Lindh Forum (2010). Long-term international and regional partners of the ALF include the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, ALECSO, ISESCO, EMUNI and the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.





The current social and democratic challenges in the Arab countries highlight the important role played by civil society, especially youth organisations and movements, as essential and active actors of democratic transition. Many ALF National Networks have indicated that a strong need for strengthening civil society skills in broadening public awareness on subjects related to citizenship, participation and democracy, incorporating social media, communication tools and civil leadership building, is emerging in the Arab world. The Anna Lindh Foundation has therefore launched the **'Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship' - Exchanging Practices on Participation and Democracy** Initiative, consisting of a comprehensive programme of activities to be developed during the year 2011.

### ***Training Seminar on Social Change and Youth Leadership***

*1 - 6 June 2011  
Cairo, Egypt*

#### **→ Background information on the training seminar**

The 'Cairo Training Seminar' on Social Change and Youth Leadership dealt with issues such as Citizenship & Freedom, Connecting through Social Media, Youth Leadership & Social Change, and Democracy through Intercultural Dialogue. It was a special moment of encounter and partnership between many Egyptian organisations and sister organisations in other Arab countries, which has given the opportunity to many to share hopes and expectations following the 25<sup>th</sup> of January revolution. Those days, a parallel meeting of the Arab HoNs was held upon the initiative of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the Egyptian HoN institution, during which the HoN representatives had the opportunity to meet and exchange in order to increase cooperation among the Arab National Networks. Trainees and HoN representatives were then able to share their respective proposals for actions in the field of democracy and citizenship, which should be also assessed by the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Secretariat in preparing its next actions.

In the framework of the **'Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship' - Exchanging Practices on Participation and Democracy** Initiative, new specific activities have been elaborated by the Foundation and among them the Anna Lindh Foundation's **Regional Training Seminar on Intercultural Dialogue and Social Change**.

#### **→ Objectives**

The main objective of the training seminar was to bring together representatives of civil society organisations in the Arab world to:

- Reflect upon the recent socio-political developments in the region from an intercultural perspective,

- Strengthen knowledge and skills to develop the capacity of those organisations as civil society actors in the democratic and social transition, and act as multipliers on the local and international levels.
- The involvement of resource persons from different Euro-Med countries will enrich the training content and will encourage exchange.

The specific objectives were:

- To explore the effects of the recent political and social changes on civil participation in the Arab world, as well as the role of intercultural dialogue in empowering the understanding of democracy and citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean framework, and specifically in the Arab world.
- To strengthen the capacities of Arab civil society organisations, and especially members of the ALF National Networks, to develop skills in initiating, implementing and monitoring projects with an intercultural focus.
- To exchange knowledge and good practices about citizenship and democracy among civil society operators, media and young activists.
- To make possible for members of the ALF Arab Networks through dialogue and personal experiences to achieve cooperation and recognise mutual interests and potentials, and to support the South-South cooperation.
- To disseminate good practices (i.e. Anna Lindh Bloggers and Intercultural Dialogue Tool Kit).
- To strengthen the communication between the ALF Arab networks and the ALF Secretariat, and plan regional actions.



→ **Co-organisers and partners**

ALF and the Egyptian Head of Network – Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in close collaboration with other partners.

→ **Participants**

The activity gathered members of NGOs from all the Arab countries of the Euro-Med area as well as a few resource persons from other countries. It was attended by around 50 participants.

### → Main outcomes

- Developments of partnerships on citizenship and democracy among civil society operators, media and young activists;
- Empowerment and capacity building of civil society organisations, especially members of the ALF Arab networks;
- Development of a network of resource persons supporting the ALF national networks in fields of democracy and citizenship.

### → Links

Further information about the initiative 'Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship' is available on the webpage of the Anna Lindh Foundation: <http://www.euromedalex.org/believe-in-dialogue-act-for-citizenship/background>

A Facebook group has been created by the participants in the Cairo Training Seminar: [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_204732416230297&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_204732416230297&ap=1)

## ***The Tunis Exchange Forum***

*23 – 26 June 2011*

*Tunis, Tunisia*

### **→ Background information**

The **Tunis Exchange Forum** was conceived as an important human and social gathering for the promotion of exchange and debate on issues of citizenship, civil liberties and intercultural dialogue in the context of social changes, reforms and democratic transitions.

More than 220 civil society representatives gathered from across the region, including NGO managers, human rights and social progress activists, cultural and media operators, and youth leaders.

### **→ Objectives**

The overall objective of the Anna Lindh Exchange was to bring cultural and media operators, non-governmental organisations and young activists from the Euro-Med region together to exchange experiences and debate about the major challenges which the Euro-Med societies are facing in terms of citizenship and intercultural dialogue, especially those engaged in social change and democratic transition.

In line with the above, the specific objectives of the seminar were as follows:

- Fostering debate and facilitating exchange, contact in the field of citizenship, democracy, human rights;
- Offering tools and resources for the empowerment of civil society with respect to the relationship between dialogue and the above mentioned fields;
- Encouraging sustained interaction and mutual support between citizens from all participating countries and contributing to spreading awareness about intercultural citizenship.

### **→ Programme**

The participants selected through this Call for Participation have participated in the following components of the Anna Lindh Exchange:

- Debate Workshops;
- Presentation of Best Practices and Project Ideas; and
- Resources for Action.

#### **1. Debate Workshops**

Dedicated to promote the debate and formulate recommendations for future action.

The topics addressed during the Debate Workshops were:

##### **➤ Creativity for Change: Culture and Artistic Expression**

- The role of arts and cultural creation in supporting new forms of citizenship;
- Cultural cooperation policies in contexts of social and political change;



- Major challenges for the cultural industries in the new social environment;
- How can cultural interactions promote multiculturalism in the Euro-Med societies.

➤ **Spreading Ideas: Media and Tools for Social Expression**

- Media reporting in supporting intercultural dialogue, human rights and social change;
- The role of new media and social networking in bringing people together;
- The role of social institutions and communities for people's mobilisation and empowerment;
- Synergies and cross initiatives for promoting free debate and opinion-making.

➤ **Spaces for Participation: Civil Society Development and Resources for Citizenship**

- The role of NGOs in developing democratic and multicultural societies;
- Developing intercultural tools for social movements;
- Addressing human rights and diversity in societies under change.
- Improving education and intercultural learning for citizenship.

## **2. Exchange**

The Exchange addressed the same topics of the Debate Workshops, i.e.:

- 1) Creativity for Change: Culture and Artistic Expression,
- 2) Spreading Ideas: Media and Tools for Social Expression and
- 3) Spaces for participation: Civil Society Development and Citizenship Resources

It consisted of:

➤ **Presentation of Best Practices and Project Ideas**

- Present best practices of organisations, social movements and other key stakeholders, sharing positive experiences and key projects implemented as well as results obtained and obstacles faced in the field work; and
- Present innovative Project Ideas in order to develop new projects and look for partnerships for future activities.

➤ **Resources for Action**

This space aimed at providing participants with information on resources, tools and methodologies to address issues related to democracy, citizenship and civil rights through an intercultural approach.

The space consisted of simultaneous sessions on components such as partnership making; fundraising, learning and training; capacity building; advocacy and campaigning. The 'Resources for Action' sought to orientate participants to work together on common regional proposals.

➤ **Bees Factory**

The Anna Lindh Exchange foresaw as well an informal exchange space during the night of 24 June 2011, where participants were given the opportunity to enjoy the coolness of a Café environment while discussing about their visions and projects.

The Tunis Forum in numbers:

- 14 workshop debates and resources for action seminars were held;
- 99 best practices and project ideas were presented;
- 50 organisations attended the bees' factory space.

### → Co-organisers and partners

The Anna Lindh Foundation in cooperation with the ALF Tunisian Network, the Foundation for the Future and Unesco Alesco Club of Bardo.

### → Participants

Between 150 and 200 participants working in the fields of Artistic creation, Media and Social Networks, Civil society development and Resources for Citizenship. About 190 organisations represented from 35 different countries.

### → Main outcomes

Throughout the Tunis Exchange Forum, the ALF got not only a message of support but also a request for commitment and sustainability in the action of the Foundation. The triennial programme for 2012-2014 has been developed taking into account the conclusions of the Forum.

### → Links

An online Forum is now available on [www.tunisforum.org](http://www.tunisforum.org). It includes resources, photos, videos good practices presented at the Tunis Forum and the conclusions of the Forum. It gives a rich online platform for debate for all its visitors.

Further information about the Tunis Forum is available on:

<http://www.euromedalex.org/believe-in-dialogue-act-for-citizenship/actions/tunisia>

## *The Exchange Financial Mechanism*

### → Background information

The recent popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt and the pivotal role played by the civil society raised the interest of ALF Networks in engaging in dialogue and exchange with Arab organisations and movements, particularly from Tunisia and Egypt.

People-to-people contacts are important to promote cooperation and support, networking and partnership in the field of democracy and citizenship in the whole ALF Network of Networks. Therefore, a specific mechanism has been designed by the Foundation to support this exchange, aimed at developing interaction among Members of different Networks and enhancing cooperation and contact making between North and South Network for participation, democracy, citizenship and civil freedoms, through intercultural dialogue.

### → Outcomes

21 Networks will benefit from the Exchange Financial Mechanism and more than 30 young journalists, activists, civil society operators and bloggers will be hosted. This tool has been well appreciated as it has given the opportunities to member organisations to welcome new voices coming mainly from the Tunisian and the Egyptian societies in a series of decentralised activities in the whole region.

## *The Awards 2011*

### → Background information about the Awards

The Anna Lindh Foundation raises the visibility of actors for intercultural dialogue through a series of **regional Award schemes**. Since its launch in 2006, the Foundation has established Award programmes aimed at raising awareness about the actions of organisations and individuals in favour of a better understanding, dialogue and coexistence. The Award programmes include four editions of the Euro-Med Award for Dialogue between Culture and three editions of the Anna Lindh Journalist Award for Reporting Across Cultures among other prizes and recognitions.

### → The 2011 Euro-Med Dialogue Award



The Euro-Med Award for the Dialogue between Cultures is an annual prize, which recognises the achievements of individuals and organisations working for the promotion of intercultural dialogue. Each year, the Award is dedicated to a special theme.

The annual **Euro-Med award was for 2011 dedicated to Dialogue**, giving recognition to local, national and/or regional initiatives in favour of the development of democratic values and practices through an intercultural approach.

The Award was to bestow best practices dealing with the culture of citizenship, the struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights for all. Based on the nomination proposals addressed by members, the Heads of Network took part in the short list of 5 candidates from which Network members elected the winner.

For the first time, an Egyptian NGO won the ALF Euro-Med Award for Dialogue between Cultures for their work on the promotion of citizenship and active participation among youth. **Development No Borders (Tanmeya Bela Hodod)** from Egypt has been named the Winner of the Sixth Edition. Based in Cairo, Development No Border (DNB) is a youth NGO working for fighting xenophobia, racism, and discrimination and promotion of citizenship and youth empowerment. The main scope of DNB's work focuses on social and cultural activities, and volunteerism, through non-formal education projects, exchange schemes and trainings. DNB is one of the ALF members in the Egyptian National Network, which brings together more than 100 civil society organisations.

You can access the list of the nominees and winners on: <http://www.euromedalex.org/resources/awards/euromed-award>

### → The 2011 Mediterranean Journalism Award



The **2011 Mediterranean Journalism Award** had a special section is devoted to the theme of 'Reporting on Youth Participation in Social Change'. This category recognised quality media works, which have provided a balanced and informed insight into the role of young people in the social transformations in the region.

Among the prize-receivers, **Asmaa El Ghouli** – Palestinian blogger and writer from Gaza - was awarded commitment to freedom of expression and her courage in facing repression, while **Mohamed El-Dahshan** – Egyptian writer who was at the forefront of the Egyptian revolution-was awarded for his exceptional writings on social change in Egypt published in many international publications, and which made the voice of young Egyptian activists heard all over the world.

You can access information about the prize as well as the list of winners on: <http://www.euromedalex.org/fields/media-activities/journalist-award>



## Arts for Social Change

October 2011

### → Background information

In the framework of the institutional activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation, and responding to the current social changes taking place in Egypt, the Anna Lindh Foundation launched an opportunity to the members of the Egyptian National Network, to collaborate into a number of local activities to take place in Alexandria.

### → The three selected activities

#### **El Madina for Performing and Digital Arts: 2 Workshops + Training.**

##### **Training in the street**

To achieve the needs of the artists who want to play an influential role in the democracy change, increasing awareness and civil participation, but because the lack of communication between artists and the public street people and there is no clear ways to work by. This programme sought to fill this gap of distance between them through the establishment 2 workshops with a part on training between artists and people in the street together to formulate and drafting an artistic experience to be presented in one interactive event in the Street.



#### **Arab Origami Center: Workshop + Training + Cultural Event.**

##### **Arab Origami Festival**

The Arab Origami Festival proposed to take the visitor into a journey through the Origami arts and values. Origami is a Japanese ancient artistic technique based on paper folding. It is nowadays known worldwide, and sees a strong development in Egypt and the Middle East. The Festival combined workshops, lectures, small performances and film screenings.

#### **Agora and Arts Culture: Open debate/Discussion + Concert**

##### **THE FORUM (of young Egyptian Musicians)**

The 'FORUM' facilitated a space of exchange and experience sharing between young Egyptian Musicians. Young emerging / amateur Egyptian Musicians therefore had the opportunity to perform on the first day of the Forum and be exposed to the large number of audience. The event included open concert and debate with amateur and professional musicians.

### → Links

The three selected activities took place in Alexandria between 22nd and 30th October 2011  
<http://www.euromedalex.org/fields/culture-arts/arts-for-change> Access to a short summary video: <http://www.euromedalex.org/node/15834>

## *Young Arab Voices*

### → General information

The British Council and the Anna Lindh Foundation, in response to the historic political and social changes taking place across the Arab region, have jointly launched the 'Young Arab Voices' programme in 2011.

The purpose of the programme is to train young people in debating skills and facilitate youth participation in new processes of democratic transition and reform. It has led to the creation of debate clubs in a wide range of settings, from schools and universities to cultural spaces and grass-root NGOs.



The programme is actually running its first phase (2011-2012) in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. The ALF is responsible to implement the programme in Egypt (see YAV PDF attached), covering all the country, and to develop the regional communication strategy. Next phase should take place from (2012-2013) enlarging the geographical scope.



SALTO-YOUTH stands for 'Support and Advanced Learning & Training Opportunities' within the Youth in Action programme. This is a network of 8 regional and thematic Resource Centres set up by the European Commission in order to improve the quality of projects within the Youth in Action programme by providing support, trainings and information to National Agencies.

Specifically, SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed supports and reinforces the Euro-Mediterranean Youth cooperation by offering trainings, events, educational tools and practices, support to the EuroMed Youth Units, the network and our partners.

SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed is part of the French National Agency for the Youth in Action programme. In cooperation with National Agencies and EuroMed Youth Units, SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed organises thematic trainings, seminars and conferences on EuroMed Youth priorities. These enable participants to share, to test, to analyse, to transfer and to develop new project ideas, new partnerships and to implement these priorities in their future projects. Hence, the training activities of SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed are mainly aimed to train youth workers and trainers in Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation and to reinforce the quality of tools for learning. Moreover, the Resource Centre is also in charge of compilation and dissemination of educational tools and practices in the field of youth and training, to create a common memory.

#### Intervention zone:

- 33 programme countries: 27 EU, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Croatia, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey
- 9 Mediterranean Partner Countries, which are involved in the Barcelona Process: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, and Tunisia.

#### Intervention fields:

- Training Opportunities
- International events
- Educational tools and Good Practices
- Support to Network
- Partnerships

In terms of publications, SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed divides them into two categories:

- Salto EuroMed periodicals: the magazine *Meet'In EuroMed* and the Newsletter *EuroMed Info*;
- Education publications on EuroMed

## ***Seminar 'Euro-Mediterranean Youths: from indignation to contribution'***

*7-10 February 2012*

*Lyon, France*

### **→ Background**

The wave of protestations that happened around Mediterranean, in southern and northern shore, around Arab Spring and "Indignados" movement, ask us to reflect about the roots of those uprisings and about youth expectations and claims.

### **→ Aim and objectives**

Through a three-day seminar, SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed therefore thought that it might be interesting to try to understand what has occurred and to try - thanks to the help of European youth programme, to bring some solutions to youth expectations around Mediterranean. Nonetheless and even though youth programmes exist, we all know that they can be improved. Hence, participants will also work on proposition for the future to better tackle the need of Euro-Mediterranean youths.

The objectives of the seminar were as follows:

- To analyse roots of young protests and to assess the political process sparked
- To support youth actors in producing recommendations focused on
  - education (formal and non formal), participation and employability
  - society and knowledge society
- To increase the international institutions awareness in developing more targeted and effective cooperation program in youth field

The seminar has been organised around conferences from experts and workshops with the aim to produce some common recommendations to present to concerned authorities on the last day.

### **→ Organisers and partners**

The French National Agency of the Youth in Action programme, SALTO -YOUTH EuroMed.

### **→ Final statement**

#### **Education, Participation and Employability Euro-Mediterranean Youths: From Indignation to Contribution**

The unprecedented protests in Europe and the Middle East between December 2010 and Spring 2011 ushered in widespread political/social soul-searching, most notably in Tunisia and Egypt. Such political turbulence demands serious and unbiased reflexion. While leading players in European youth programmes, as well as key actors of Euro-Mediterranean youth fields, are being looked for direction and need to respond.

Under the aegis of the Youth in Action programme, in a seminar organized by INJEP, AFPEJA, SALTO YOUTH EuroMed in collaboration with University Lyon 2, MOM, and GREMMO, fifty key actors of youth field and social work from both sides of the Mediterranean sea, have joined forces to agree on a list of recommendations for international policy makers.

Grounded on participants' past experiences and on direct interactions with international experts coming from academia, international organizations for development and public institutions, the following list of recommendations aims to promote human security and development in the Euro-Mediterranean area by supporting youth learning, employability, and entrepreneurship, as well as by reinforcing universal access to information and knowledge economy.

Recommendations are organized under two main issues, being both strategic for the future of the region and consistent with subscribers' competences, visions and values:

- participation, non-formal education, and employability
- Information society and knowledge economy.

### **Recommendations**

#### *Participation, non-formal education, and employability*

Building long term coalition among all stakeholders (including private sector) affecting youth social context

##### **Why**

- To unite efforts of all stakeholders to develop relevant projects to support a better professional and social integration of youth.

##### **How**

- By raising awareness among stakeholders (private sector) about the importance of such coalitions in terms of improving the public image of these entities as well as creating more competent human resources. For example: study visit for best practice model or partnership building activities within Euromed context

Supporting entrepreneurship initiatives among youth in the Euromed area

##### **Why**

- The unemployment rate is high and still increasing
- Unemployment is a destabilizing factor in the Euromed region that generates a vicious circle of social exclusion.

##### **How**

- By implementing capacity building programmes to enhance entrepreneurial competencies among youngsters,
- By creating an entrepreneurship-supportive environment social, political, legal and economic.
- An example: to use youth initiatives to facilitate the first step to build a company

To adapt/reinforce a visible EuroMediterranean framework for non formal education that supports voluntarism and employability

##### **Why**

- To make information more visible, accessible to youngsters and stakeholders.



- To reinforce the impact by highlighting and dissemination of best practices in civil society.
- To facilitate the evaluation of the impact of the projects on youth employability

How

- By building a Euromed reference for quality criteria of non formal education activities
- By creating or reinforcing it by adapting national frameworks for non formal education.

To ensure the sustainability of youth-oriented NGOs

Why

- Sustainable NGOs are needed as they are aware of youngsters needs and have a better understanding at grassroots level.
- NGOs sustainability depends on management skills and expertise

How

- By providing capacity building programs aiming at empowering NGOs at all organizational, managerial, legal, and financial levels.
- By bridging the gap between labour market and NGOs by building partnerships.

To promote the significance/recognition of competences acquired through non-formal education in Euromed

Why

- Skills acquired through non-formal learning, if recognised and meaningful for the labour market, might enhance youth employability.
- Life long learning is a continuum of learning acquired through formal, non-formal and informal education: non-formal and informal learning are particularly important for youngsters and NGO professionals in the acquisition of social, personal, organisational skills.

How

- By expanding the use of Youthpass within Euromed program.
- By promoting the significance of the Youthpass to all relevant stakeholders within Euromed region through creating common work spaces for youth workers, policy makers, teachers and researchers.
- By addressing policy makers to adopt this tool as an official certificate of acquiring competencies for both youngsters and social workers

*Information society and knowledge economy*

To promote universal access to information through the ICTs

Why

- ICTs are empowering tools and they enhance human development

How

- By advocating for the recognition of access to information as a basic human right
- By implementing policies that contribute in removing economic and social obstacles
- By implementing communication campaigns in “disconnected areas” that show the potential of ICTs as a developmental tool...

To preserve the free flow of information and the sharing of knowledge

#### Why

- Safe environment and full access to information are the prerequisites to enable individuals to become engaged and active citizens

#### How

- By safeguarding privacy and anonymity of users,
- By raising the awareness about political and economic threats to of the free flows of information.

To support innovation and knowledge economy

#### Why

- To cope with the fast changing world and the necessity of improving youth employability, innovation is necessary and ICTs offer great opportunities to promote it.

#### How

- By facilitating the share of innovative ideas and good practices through a network of dedicated Euromed centers;
- By raising the awareness that innovative projects may pop up everywhere from grassroots processes to multidisciplinary encounters;
- By establishing virtual incubators to provide support to innovative projects

To promote critical thinking about ICTs

#### Why

- To fully exploit ICTs potential, users should develop specific competences and skills in order not to be overwhelmed by the overload of information.

#### How

- By training (adopting formal and non formal methodologies) on ICTs in order to enhance their efficient, beneficial and responsible usages;
- By training on the production and sharing of information.

→ **Links**

Link to the article published after the event: <http://emajmagazine.com/2012/02/18/from-indignation/>

Link to the recommendations developed during the seminar: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151311279940118>

Link to the planned training activities of SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed: <http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/tceuromed/tceuromed2012/>

Link to the publications of SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed: <http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/EMlibrary/>

# THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF ALEXANDRIA

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The Swedish Institute in Alexandria (SwedAlex) was inaugurated in year 2000 following an agreement between the governments of Egypt and Sweden. Its main goal is to promote dialogue between Europe and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) in order to make Europeans and people in the region to better understand each other. SwedAlex promotes sustainable political, economic and social development in the MENA region. It brings together people for dialogue in a wide range of topics. SwedAlex organises seminars, conferences and workshops, giving participants of different strata an opportunity to meet.

Thinkers, philosophers, religious leaders, researchers, politicians, students, journalists and other experts meet at SwedAlex. Difference of opinions is considered an advantage but the discussions should be based on respect of the other and their views.

## ***SwedAlex's mandate***

Within the framework of the overall goals of Sweden's international development co-operation the Swedish Institute has the following tasks:

- To contribute to the European-Mediterranean partnership and to serve as a forum for the dialogue between the countries of Europe and the countries of the MENA;
- To address issues of importance to the political, social, economic, and scientific development in the MENA region;
- To contribute to increased mutual understanding in the areas of culture and religion;
- To further broaden contacts between Sweden and other countries in Europe and Egypt and other countries in the MENA region.

## ***SwedAlex's vision***

SwedAlex's vision is a peaceful world where democracy and respect for human rights prevail and that people in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa should understand each other's differences and values.

## **Youth in Politics Programme**

*2011-2012*

### **→ Background information**

The programme is an initiative set up in order for young people to interact on shared concerns. It encourages the exchange of ideas and interaction between youth in the Middle East and Europe in shaping a common future based on understanding, knowledge and respect. The main objectives of the programme are to promote young people to be active citizens in decision-making and civil action as well as to foster mutual understanding and social cohesion between youth in the MENA region and Europe. Political participation among youth is generally low in the Arab world, yet the momentum caused by the “Arab Spring” has created a quest among youth and their role in building a democratic society based on principles of dignity and human rights.

To build on the impetus, SwedAlex in cooperation with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina organised an exchange-programme between Egyptian and Swedish youth representatives of political parties. Two workshops took place, one in Egypt (April 2012) and one in Sweden (June 2011).

### **→ Workshop, 7-8 April 2011, Egypt**

The workshops in Egypt and Sweden focused on the role of youth in capacity building of political parties; developing party identity/ideology and programmes; develop principles into policies and programmes for implementation; communicate political messages; outreach; campaigning and recruitment of candidates and members.

Furthermore funding, gender representation, leadership, mediation and negotiation skills were discussed.

Among the objectives of the first event were the following:

- Promote networking between politically active youth in MENA region and (North) Europe;
- Create an understanding for each other’s political contexts, inspire and explore approaches and capacities;
- Strengthen participation of youth in politics and community development
- Individual and organisational capacity-building, sharing best practices of organisational issues;
- Increased youth participation in politics;
- Create a productive environment for intra- and inter-party democracy debate;
- Promote a democratic culture and awareness.

### → Workshop, 13-15 June 2011, Sweden

Twenty-five young Egyptians were invited to meet with politically active youth in Sweden and visited the political youth associations and the Swedish Parliament. Five young journalists from Egypt were among the group to write about the exchange but also learn about the media landscape in Sweden. The group met with the ombudsman responsible for discrimination and the press-ombudsman. Further there were meetings with women shelters and a visit to Ericsson HQ in Stockholm. Among the recommendations of this study tour was to involve other Arab Countries that have also been part of the Arab Spring.



### → Broadening the programme to Tunisia, October 2011

In October 2011 the programme was broadened to include active youth from Tunisia. The Tunisians and Egyptians have a lot to share and learn from each other. The Swedish youth representatives changed to embrace representatives from minor parties currently represented in the Swedish parliament. There was a specific focus on gender equality and the role of the civil society in building democratic societies. The second day focused on social media as a tool for active citizens.

### → Workshop on Youth-democracy and Citizenship, February 2012

In February 2012 youth from Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and Sweden met in Tunis for a three days' workshop that focused on Youth- Democracy and Citizenship and how to strengthen youth participation in decision-making and politics. Further the workshop focused on how to build strong links between civil society and governing institutions, best practices and lessons learned regarding capacity building, organisation and advocacy on a national as well as international level.



## ***Alexandria Encounters (Dardasha Iskandarani)***

*May – July 2011*

The Anna Lindh Foundation, the Swedish Institute, in collaboration with Bibliotheca Alexandrina, organised a series of encounters among youth activists from Alexandria where the young activists were offered a platform for dialogue to exchange their views and perspectives on issues linked to their future and social participation.

### **→ The 1st Encounter, 19 -21 May 2011**

The opening session of the encounters started with a round table debate on 'Social changes in times of transition' where the Ambassadors of Poland, Estonia and Turkey in addition to the Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation shared the experiences of their respective countries during the period of transition. Three parallel thematic sessions were then held on the topics of 'Arts for social change', 'Volunteering and civic participation' and 'Social media: its role for social change and its limitations'; with a final closing session allowing presentations of the main issues discussed during the thematic sessions and a discussion among the participants.

### **→ Follow-up, 19 July 2011**

A follow-up activity was held to exchange information on the activities the participants organised since May, to discuss about common challenges and objectives, and set the basis for joint actions for the promotion of social change in Alexandria.

The session started with, an overview presentation on the current status of civil society in Egypt, main challenges and initiatives, followed by a debate with participants.

## ***The Young Leaders Visitors Program***

*13-17 November 2011*

### **→ Background information**

SwedAlex hosted the annual training programme of the Young Leaders Visitors Program YLVP, organised by the Swedish Institute in Stockholm. The YLVP is an intercultural leadership programme that aims to lay a foundation for dialogue, mutual understanding and knowledge sharing among young leaders from the Middle East, North Africa and Sweden.

### **→ Aim and objectives**

The YLVP is designed to provide the participants with new skills, networks and innovative tools to strengthen their work to drive social change in their respective contexts. The programme combines intercultural leadership training with theory and practice in the fields of transparency, democracy and human rights. Cutting-edge social media solutions are used throughout the program, as tools for learning and for building networks that promote dialogue, knowledge sharing and openness.

### **→ Participants**

The participants are visionaries who are in a position to make a difference and committed to positive change. They are young, open-minded leaders in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank-Gaza, Yemen and Sweden who are actively working for democracy and human rights within the spheres of society, culture, politics and media: project managers, youth leaders, government civil servants, youth politicians, lawyers, journalists/bloggers, activists and cultural workers.

## **Euro-Arab Dialogue Forum**

*May 2012*

*Note: although this mapping mainly focuses on activities and initiatives which took place between January 2011 and March 2012, what follows is closely linked to previous activities of SwedAlex.*

### **→ Rationale**

The problems of today's world are highly interconnected and interdependent. We face climate change, vast exploitation of natural resources, population growth, growing gap between rich and poor, and social inequity, among many others. To be able to respond to these challenges future leaders need a new and innovative interdisciplinary approach. At a time when major changes in how we think and live are urgently needed, we challenge them to examine our values and to choose a better way. It calls on us to search for common ground in the midst of our diversity and to embrace a new ethical vision shared by growing numbers of people in many nations and cultures throughout the world. What we need are sustainability leaders.

Sustainability leaders recognise that sustainable development is essential because it 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (World Commission on Environment and Development [Brundtland Commission], 1987). Therefore there is a need to train the next generation of sustainability leaders. The sustainability approach to leadership requires special competencies compared to traditional leadership; knowledge about the challenges of globalisation, capacity for innovation, dialogue and communication skills, systems thinking, global mindset, peer networking ability and strong capacities in Information and Communication technologies (ICTs), to mention a few.

### **→ Background information**

SwedAlex is the main sponsor of the workshop *Euro-Arab Youth Forum*, in Alexandria in May 2012 in cooperation with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, bringing together 100 Arab and European youth for a 4 day's workshop. European and Arab young people face common challenges about sustainable development, but have very different ways of understanding and viewing it, especially in regards to environmental, economic and social sectors, as well as the achievement of human rights, including access to education, decent employment, migration and gender equality. In this context the aim for this cooperation is to promote peace and social justice, through stronger cooperation at a bi-regional level by fostering intercultural dialogue and enhancing the exchange of experiences amongst European and Arab youth.

### **→ Objectives**

Young people in the Euro-Arab region promote and contribute to the transition of sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.

The objectives are as follows:

- European and Arab youth work together (online and in person) to learn about sustainable ways of living, sustainable global development, shared ethics and intercultural dialogue;

- Concrete action, generate projects taking place in participants home communities;
- Vivid youth network where activists inspire each other to keep working for a more just, sustainable and peaceful future.

## ***Euro-Arab Dialogue for Young Journalists***

*2012*

### **→ The Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists 2012**

SwedAlex is supporting The Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists, EMAJ workshop in Alexandria on 'Social Media in a changing world' April-May 2012.

The Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists (EMAJ) brings together young talented journalists from both sides of the Mediterranean, to fight the stereotypes perpetuated by media in order to create better intercultural journalism.

New Media – the topic of the 2012 edition of the Academy – have revolutionised New Communication Order nowadays. Offering higher interactivity, quicker reports, easy access to powerful and ever-growing social networks, these media constitute today new and exciting tool in journalistic practice.

### **→ Objectives**

EMAJ 2012 aims to provide training on New Media in addition to inspiration and possibilities to reflect on the role of these technological innovations. As new media have played an important role in promoting social, political and economic change in many countries of the Euro-Mediterranean, the Academy will look at the insights of communication processes that occur through these tools.

### **→ Participants**

The participants will be selected based on their qualifications, creativity and commitment by a jury of experienced journalists and representatives of the EMAJ-network. The group of participants should be balanced in gender and professional backgrounds. The maximum age of the participants is 30 years and fluency in English is a requirement. The participation should be evenly distributed over the whole Euro-Mediterranean region.

### **→ Programme**

20 selected participants will gather here by the end of April 2012, to go through a ten-day high-quality training course on Intercultural Journalism built around the concept of dialogue and mutual understanding. Drawing on two-year experience in capacity building of young professionals from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe, the EMAJ Project has tackled so far two essential domains related to the field of journalism – cultural sensitivities in news making and migration.

The programme of the Academy will be divided into a theoretical and a practical section. Through expert hearings on relevant topics in the field of New Media, Journalism, and Intercultural Dialogue and discussions of the role of media, the participants will decide on a media product and develop a common editorial line. In interregional teams the participants will be confronting each other's different views, approaches and cultural backgrounds.

In order to increase the achievement of its tangible outcomes, the third phase of EMAJ is seeking to challenge technological revolution and an ever-increasing media diversification.

Implementation of the workshop: A team of two trainers, one from each region, will facilitate and manage the daily program. In addition, a pool of journalists, editors, bloggers and cultural workers from the host country will be invited for consultations and informal talks with EMAJ participants in order to strengthen a community link.

### → The EMAJ Magazine

*The EMAJ Magazine - making news not stereotypes:* the permanent EMAJ Magazine website is developed to ensure sustainability of the Academy. The objectives of this venue is to provide EMAJ alumni with opportunities to practice what they have learnt by producing the content for the Magazine, strengthen inter-regional cooperation and interaction between the members of EMAJ network at the media level and finally to ensure regular flow of high-quality information produced from the inside of context and culture.

The final outcomes of the teams of the Academy will be implemented in the special edition of EMAJ Magazine in partnership with local media outlets.

The power of EMAJ is the network composed by junior professionals involved in media making at intercultural level. The Organising Team (OT), that includes representatives of this network, is a unique link between the three editions of the Academy and a useful point of reference regarding the EMAJ development. These experience and competences should be used as a way to keep the Academy true to the original idea and ensure sustainable improvement



You can find more information about SwedAlex on: [http://www.swedenabroad.com/Start\\_5296.aspx](http://www.swedenabroad.com/Start_5296.aspx)



# THE FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM



Friedrich Naumann  
STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom is the foundation for liberal politics in the Federal Republic of Germany. It aims to promote the goal of making the principle of freedom valid for the dignity of all people and in all areas of society, both in Germany and abroad. With the safeguarding and the development of its statutory projects (civic education and dialogue, sponsorship of the talented, research and political consultation, archive-work), the Friedrich Naumann Foundation wants to contribute to shaping the future.

In Germany the Foundation offers diverse forums, mostly for young and talented people, to exchange of information and experience in present-day contexts. Its main focus is to promote a greater understanding of politics and to inspire citizens to take part in political processes.

Abroad, the support of human rights, rule of law and democracy in more than 60 countries form the core of the work of the regional offices in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Central America; various forms of international dialogue and transatlantic dialogue programme are used to promote these three values around the world. The foundation supports local, regional, and national initiatives to advance the rights of minorities, the democratic control of security forces and for strengthening international human rights coalitions.

Furthermore, we assist the development of democratic and constitutional structures by supporting liberal parties and groups. A strong network of associations of democratic parties, of human rights organisations and of academic establishments forms the basis of the foundation's activity abroad. The foundation's central idea, both at home and abroad, is the realisation of freedom and responsibility.

## ***Blogger for Freedom in the Arab World***

*20-22 May 2011*

→ **Overview**

Bloggers from all parts of the Arab world came together in Cairo from May 20 to 22, 2011 for a workshop entitled 'Blogging for Freedom in the Arab world'. Co-sponsored by the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) and the Rights and Democracy organisation of Canada, the three-day event aimed at creating a network of Arab citizen journalists and providing spaces for exchanges of experiences and opinion. In Cairo, just a few steps away from Tahrir Square, the bloggers also engaged in strategic discussions on how best they could support the democratic revolutions and uprisings with their personal online media.

A broad consensus emerged that the social media had played a crucial role in bringing down the autocratic rulers in Tunisia and Egypt and that, likewise, bloggers have still an important role to play in countries like Syria, Bahrain and Yemen. At the same time, participants noted that the regimes are cracking down on online dissent and threatening bloggers and other activists in their very existence. On the sidelines of the workshop, the Regional Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF) launched a manual on blogging in the Arabic language. The 200-page-book published in cooperation with Al Mahrousa Publishers is considered the first hands-on guidebook on the topic in Arabic. Prominent Egyptian authors share their insights regarding the various aspects of blogging.

→ **Links**

You may download the manual for free: [غير وات حرر: دليل التدوين](#)

## ***Capacity building and the development of knowledge for young Libyans journalists and citizen journalism***

*July 2011  
Cairo*

→ **Overview**



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Twenty-one young Libyan journalists, including three females, recently attended a 'Capacity Building and the Development of Knowledge for Young Libyan Journalists and Citizen Journalism workshop', a five-day event that aims to build emerging Libyan journalists' capacity. The workshop is the brainchild of Friends of Libya-Egypt, developed in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. After more than four decades of virtually no freedom of press, Libya's young journalists start

the daunting task of building strong and capable local media.

→ Links

More at ahramonline: <http://english.ahram.org.eg/~NewsContent/1/64/17373/Egypt/Politics-/E2%80%98We-are-thirsty-for-capacitybuilding,E2%80%99-young-Libya.aspx>

### ***‘The People Demand’ – The FNF launches a Political documentary on January 25 revolution***

*26 September 2011*



→ Overview

‘The People Demand. Liberal Features of the Egyptian Revolution’ is the title of a documentary film sponsored by the Regional Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF), launched during a public forum at Rawabit Cultural Center in Cairo on September 26, 2011. The film features historic pictures of Egypt's Revolution and commentary by leading representatives of the country's liberal movement who played an active role in the uprising.

‘The People Demand’ is the second documentary film developed and sponsored by the Foundation in Egypt. It follows the widely popular ‘Liberalism: Egyptian Story’ produced two years ago which narrates the history of the country from a liberal perspective.

That movie has been used during a large number of educative activities sponsored by the Foundation and distributed widely among her partners in Egypt and beyond.

→ Links

To view the film: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nphyT2MpbUQ&feature=channel\\_video\\_title](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nphyT2MpbUQ&feature=channel_video_title)

## Online Conference 'Facebook revolution?'

19-30- September 2011



### → Overview

'Thank you, Facebook!' Demonstrators in Cairo had written on banners and walls. No doubt Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media platforms played an important role during the protests in the Arab world. Such networking 'from grass roots level' widespread access to information and the simple and rapid dissemination of news and one's position had been unthinkable in such a way by using traditional media only.

Nine months after the beginning of the Arab Spring the online conference 'Facebook Revolution?' the Virtual Academy tried to take stock. What is the role each of the media has played in the transition process in Arab countries? Do they promote democracy, freedom of expression and free access to information? Do they bring about a new diversity of opinions and media? Is the role of social media being overestimated or possibly assessed even dangerously wrong?

In addition to the participation of international experts, bloggers from Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco and Syria have spoken about their activities and motivations

### → Links

To view the launching of the conference:

<http://www.en.freiheit.org/September-Online-conference-Facebook-Revolution/1322c20072i1p/index.html>

# THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND THE WORLD BANK



The League of Arab States was formed in Cairo on 22 March 1945 and has currently has 22 members. The main goal of the league is to draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.

Through institutions such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League's Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the Arab League facilitates political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programs designed to promote the interests of the Arab world. It has served as a forum for the member states to coordinate their policy positions, to deliberate on matters of common concern, to settle some Arab disputes, and to limit conflicts. The League has served as a platform for the drafting and conclusion of many landmark documents promoting economic integration

## ***The Population Policies and migration Department (PPMD)***

The Population Policies and migration Department was established within the Sector of Social Affairs of the League of Arab States. Its activities focus on population issues and challenges at the Arab regional level within a broad partnership with related national, Arab and international bodies.

The PPMD's main objectives are:

- Strengthening and activating coordination, exchange and partnership among all institutions involved in the field of population at the Arab level and contributing to the development of a holistic approach to a better understanding of population and migration issues and challenges in the Arab countries
- Transferring and setting up knowledge on population including concept and methodology and in the field of experiments as well as international and Arab innovations, and seeking to employ such extensive knowledge and experiences in population policies at national and Arab regional levels.
- Contributing to building national capacities and in particular the institutional ones (National Population councils / committees) in the areas of population and migration policies development, thru enabling them with tools, methodologies and skills of data analysis and extraction of indicators and how to use them to develop appropriate policies.
- Strengthening the regional dialogue and advocacy activities and diversification and modernisation of media awareness aiming at supporting joint Arab action, and



activating political decision to implement the recommendation and resolution of Arab as well as international conferences on population, migration and development.

- Strengthening and developing continuously updated Regional databases, general and specialised, in the Arab countries, so as to meet the needs of decision makers, researchers and those interested in population and migration.
- Seeking to integrate population issues into sectoral development policies.



The **World Bank** is an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programmes.

The World Bank's official goal is the reduction of poverty. According to the World Bank's Articles of Agreement, all of its decisions must be guided by a commitment to promote foreign investment, international trade and facilitate capital investment.

### **Two Institutions, One Mission**

The World Bank is not a bank in the ordinary sense but a unique partnership to reduce poverty and support development. We comprise two institutions managed by 187 member countries: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). The IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries, while IDA focuses exclusively on the world's poorest countries. These institutions are part of a larger body known as the World Bank Group.

Established in 1944, the World Bank is headquartered in Washington, D.C. It has more than 9,000 employees in more than 100 offices worldwide.

### **Strategy**

Six strategic themes drive the Bank's work:

1. The Poorest Countries
2. Post-Conflict and Fragile States
3. Middle-Income Countries
4. Global Public Goods
5. The Arab World
6. Knowledge and Learning

The World Bank also works in strategies for the following key areas:

- Thematic and sector strategies, which guide the WB's work to reduce poverty in a specific sector or aspect of development. Each derives from a broad consultation with a wide array of stakeholders.
- Country assistance strategies, which identify the key areas in which the WB can best support a country in reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development.

## ***‘Towards a new Era of Arab Youth Empowerment’***

*25-27 September 2011*

*Cairo, Egypt*

### **→ Aim**

The aim of the workshop was to listen to key Arab youth leaders and organisations in the aftermath of reform movements in the region, in order to develop a better understanding of the impact of the Arab Spring on the Youth agenda and programming for increased participation and civic engagements.

### **→ Context and contents**

The Arab Spring and the unfolding events in the region with the rise of youth movements have rendered full and effective youth participation a priority at all levels of policy setting and implementation.

The workshop was held in the framework of the League of Arab States Council resolution on level of the Arab Economic, development and social summit of 19 January, 2011 that calls for: delegate all the financial, development Arab institutions and Arab Organisations, to intensify the cooperation with the World Bank. Hence, the meeting took place in the framework of the cooperation project between the League of Arab States, and the World Bank, which calls for youth empowerment and enhance their participation.

Four youth-led thematic consultation sessions were organised and the meeting brought together youth from civil society organisations and activists from different MENA countries.

### **→ Issues**

Themes for discussion in the four sessions were selected through a prior on-line consultation process with young people. Selected themes ranged from the impact of social media and its potentials to connect and empower youth in the MENA region, to policy alternatives and new projects that seek to engage youth and enhance their participation on the local, national and regional levels.

### **→ Organisers and partners**

Organised by the League of Arab States (PPMD) and the World Bank with the kind support of United Nations Population Fund.

### **→ Final Statement**

#### **Workshop Statement of the Regional Stakeholder Consultation ‘Towards a new Era of Arab Youth Empowerment’**

Organized by the League of Arab States and the World Bank with the kind support of UNFPA

## Context

The Arab Spring and the unfolding events in the region with the rise of youth movements have rendered full and effective youth participation a priority at all levels of policy setting and implementation.

This meeting held in the framework of the League of Arab States Council resolution on level of the Arab Economic, development and social summit, dated: 19/1/2011, that calls for: delegate all the financial, development Arab institutions and Arab Organizations, to intensify the cooperation with the World Bank. This meeting held in the framework of the cooperation project between the League of Arab States, and the World Bank, which calls for youth empowerment and enhance their participation.

Four youth-led thematic consultation sessions took place on the first day of the workshop on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The meeting brought together youth from civil society organizations and activists from different MENA countries. Themes for discussion in the four sessions were selected through a prior on-line consultation process with youth. Selected themes ranged from the impact of social media and its potentials to connect and empower youth in the MENA region, to policy alternatives and new projects that seek to engage youth and enhance their participation on the local, national and regional levels. Convening young people made specific recommendations for policy and programmatic action in these identified priority thematic areas.

## Issues

The youth movements in the Arab region along with youth-led civil Society Organizations (CSOs) face challenges in effectively communicating with each other and different stakeholders. Despite the mobilization and the rise of youth involvement in cyber-activism, their meaningful engagement in the decision-making, policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is limited if not absent. Young people regard their civic engagement and empowerment as an issue of equal importance to their economic integration and employment creation.

We, young representatives of youth NGOs and platforms, gathered in today 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011, in Cairo for the workshop 'towards a new era of Arab Youth Empowerment' discussed and decided:

### *Themes 1 and 2: Towards a new agenda for youth inclusion, empowerment and youth participation*

#### Discussion points:

1. Independent, youth-led and youth-representative platforms and networks should be developed at the local, national and regional levels. These should bring together young people and youth organizations and advocate for their rights.
2. A preparatory process is to set the criteria of legitimized elections of youth representatives for such platform at the regional level, continuing the initiative started in 2010 to launch an Arab Network for Youth Organizations
3. Inclusion of all young people, particularly from marginalized and disadvantaged groups
4. Formal and non-formal education and training in the field of youth development as a precursor for young people to make informed decisions

#### Recommendations:

1. Establish an independent youth-led platform, including online networking, with representatives that would be recognized in decision-making processes at all levels.

2. Encourage participation of youth representatives in the political process through open and transparent engagement
3. The platform needs to encourage young people and youth-led CSOs to better participate in the political sphere and national elections
4. Enable youth CSOs to take part in the participatory budgetary process at the local and national levels
5. Endorse Arab-specialized institutions that promote evidence-based policies, provide and disseminate research results and data in transparent and participatory ways
6. Engage universities in the development of curricula for youth empowerment

### *Theme 3: Social Media for Youth Development*

#### Discussion points:

1. How to make youth participation through social media relevant after Arab revolutions and the protestation movements
2. Sharing international and regional best practices and success stories from bloggers and young social media users
3. Public and social media complementarily versus competition
4. Youth capacity building using online technology for advocacy

#### Recommendations:

1. Develop a code of ethics to ensure online content legitimacy and independency
2. Build an online youth CSOs' platform and database
3. Develop specialized mobile applications in Arabic for improved local accountability
4. Create an e-learning online platform for youth participation, empowerment and civic engagement
5. Organize annual coordination meetings as a mechanism aiming to strengthen the exchange and cooperation between regional and international organizations dealing with youth issues.

### *Theme 4: Youth citizenship and Human rights*

Human rights abuses continue to affect young activists and bloggers in some Arab countries. Freedom of information rights continues to be infringed in some Arab countries.

#### Discussion points:

1. School curricula seeking to in-still civic values and promote tolerance, engagement, and sense of responsibility.
2. The need to connecting young activists and local and international human rights organizations.
3. The protection of young political activists and bloggers

#### Recommendations:

1. Introduce a human rights approach for policy development
2. Provide the education of human rights principles for youth stakeholders and decision makers, parliamentarian and police authorities
3. Organize regional and national forums that allow young people and human rights organizations to develop ways to deal with relevant issues at hand.
4. Build capacities related to recording, reporting, and communicating violations of human rights

Cairo, September 27, 2011