



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures

مؤسسة أناليند الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات



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Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Education for Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue with Young People

**A Euro-Mediterranean Training Course for multipliers
active in human rights education and conflict resolution
in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation context**

**European Youth Centre Budapest,
19-26 October 2008**

**Course Presentation
Procedure for applications**

Background and framework of the project

Human rights education (HRE) – understood as educational programmes and activities that focus on promoting equality in human dignity – is of incalculable value in the shaping of a sense of global citizenship meaningful to all young people irrespective of origin, nationality, culture or religion. In youth work, all those involved in non-formal education should also consider the evolution, practice and challenges of human rights, with regard to their universality, indivisibility and inalienability, and what they mean concretely to the young people of today. This applies equally to the school and similar formal education systems: human rights education should shape and be mainstreamed in school and out-of-school activities. Understood as learning about, for and through human rights, it is clear that HRE is not so much about cognitive dimensions of human rights as it is about shaping attitudes and developing skills that allow the learner to act for human rights and to interact with others accordingly.

In line with the Human Rights education component, the Anna Lindh Foundation has dedicated research and resources in order to consider possibilities for handling and solving conflicts through cultural cooperation. For this purpose, the Foundation has developed exercises and training schemes that it expects to spread among key actors and intermediaries of the Euro-Mediterranean area, those in contact with youth in particular, in order to provide easy-to-use and easy-to-reproduce tools to all of those through whom change will occur.

The richness of European and Mediterranean societies lies in cultural diversity expressed also by the number of religious, ethnic and cultural groups and communities present across the region. Cultural and ethnic diversity have in fact been a characteristic of European and Mediterranean societies for many centuries, even if sometimes events seem to give the impression of the opposite. In this context, the role of intercultural dialogue appears as an essential approach to counter and overcome mutual prejudices and the self-fulfilling prophecy of the “war of civilisations”, with its purpose of “learning to live together peacefully and constructively in a multicultural world and developing a sense of community and belonging”; it is clear that it can only work if it involves everyone, young people included.

The Euro-Mediterranean co-operation between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries formalised through the Barcelona declaration stresses that “youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners”. The Euro-Med Youth programme was proposed as a “permanent dialogue between young people from the 27 Euro-Mediterranean partners, to foster mutual understanding among young people (...) and to contribute to the process of democratisation of the civil society.” Obviously, this can not be pursued without a strong emphasis on human rights and intercultural learning. It can also not be pursued without an involvement of young people themselves.

Recognising the potential of human rights education, the Partnership on youth between the European Commission and the Council of Europe has, among others, a specific objective of promoting European citizenship, human rights education and intercultural dialogue. Activities carried out so far in the framework of the Partnership confirm the opportunity and the need to deepen practices of human rights education as an educational approach valid and relevant to all the partners in Euro-Med projects. The publication of *COMPASS*¹ by the Council of Europe in over twenty languages, including Arabic, provides the opportunity to enlarge the circle and scope of human rights education while allowing reaching new target groups and organisations. This is complemented, within the Council of Europe by other activities in the

¹ Compass, a manual on human rights education with young people – www.coe.int/compass

field of youth policy cooperation and of intercultural dialogue, including an intercultural Arabic language training course.

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (www.euromedalex.org; www.1001actions.org) is the first common institution jointly established and financed by all 37 members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This far reaching partnership between the European Union and their partners in the Southern Mediterranean region was launched at the Barcelona Conference in 1995. The declaration adopted at Barcelona strongly promotes regional cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields. Created in 2004, the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures aims to bring people and organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean closer to each other. The main target group of the Anna Lindh Foundation is youth and its main objectives are to promote a dynamic concept of dialogue between cultures through co-operation between civil society partners in education, culture, science and communication.

In the frame of this project, the Anna Lindh Foundation will distribute the results of previously organised trainings in a short handbook constituted by a theoretical and historical background followed by practical exercises in English, French and Arabic and aimed at facilitating initiatives for developing and multiplying good practices in the field of conflict resolution through cultural cooperation.

Both the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Youth Partnership acknowledge that programmes and projects on human rights education and intercultural dialogue with young people can only be sustainable if the trainers and educators active at national level, in the formal and the non-formal education structures will feel able to translate them in their work with other young people. And, in what relates to intercultural dialogue as an aim, training activities have to be intercultural in nature in as much as they also have to be based on human rights. Furthermore, competences for addressing and dealing with conflict situations are essential in order to build a culture of peace, respect and dialogue. With this in mind, the Anna Lindh Foundation is publishing a handbook for trainers on Conflict Resolution through Cultural Cooperation while the Partnership on Youth is also producing a T-Kit on Conflict Transformation.

Europe and the Mediterranean

The course is open to participants from Europe and the Mediterranean countries part of the Euro-Med Partnership.

This course is the concrete output of a continuous cooperation between the Council of Europe/Partnership and the Anna Lindh Foundation in the field of youth and human rights education. The course offers a reflection on the experiences accumulated in the Youth Partnership, especially the programme of regional training courses for trainers in HRE using Compass in Arabic, and the other HRE and intercultural dialogue activities of the Council of Europe youth sector and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Aims of the training course

The course aims at supporting and to promoting the development of human rights education and intercultural dialogue with young people in the broader Euro-Mediterranean co-operation framework.

Objectives of the course

- To explore the situation and conditions for human rights education in the broader Euro-Mediterranean framework with a specific focus on current themes such as the migrations on a regional scale, the situations of potential or real conflicts and the issues related to the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- To promote intercultural dialogue and tolerance as pre-conditions to settlement of conflicts and for the development of a ‘culture of peace’
- To motivate participants to act as multipliers in human rights education and conflict settlement projects.;
- To develop participants competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes, values) in working with and training about human rights education, intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution through cultural cooperation;
- To provide a deeper knowledge of the institutions involved and the cooperation opportunities offered by their programmes;
- To experience educational tools for human rights education and intercultural dialogue;
- To support participants in developing and planning follow-up multiplying activities.

Expected outcomes and profile of the participants

The framework and duration of the course invite for a “hybrid” course, intermediate between “absolute beginners” and experienced trainers. The participants are expected to have basic insights in training and non-formal education to which we’ll provide additional competences in human rights education and intercultural dialogue..

From the participants’ perspective, five main outcomes are expected:

- Accrued competences in human rights education, intercultural dialogue, and in issues and techniques related to the notion of conflict;
- Contacts with potential partners and colleagues in other countries;
- Acquaintance with the programmes of the promoting institutions;
- Increased motivation and support for their regular work with HRE and ICD.
- A follow-up and reproduction of acquired experience through multiplying activities and diffusion effort among local communities, national networks and professional contacts of the participants.

Profile of participants

All participants must be:

- Youth workers, youth leaders, teachers or occasional trainers, involved with intercultural dialogue and/or human rights education (on a regular or occasional basis); or show experience or innovative techniques in the field of settlement of conflicts through cultural means.
- Interested in the broader framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation;

- Motivated to learn and further develop their competences in human rights education and/or intercultural dialogue;
- Committed to follow-up the training course with multiplying activities (youth projects, training activities, etc.);
- Supported by an institution or organisation in the framework of which they will develop their follow-up activities;
- Committed to diffuse the results of the training among their own networks, in particular among their national networks and the heads of these networks in the case of participants belonging to the Anna Lindh network.
- Able to work in English or French and to attend the full duration of the course.

Working languages

The course will be held in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

Application and selection procedure

All those interested in applying to take part in the course must do so by filling in the application on-line, available at <http://coe.opencontent.it> according to the instructions provided on the site.

They must be nominated by an organization that is member of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures or by another youth organisation actively interested in Euro-Mediterranean intercultural dialogue. Applications are welcome from the 48 states signatory of the European Cultural Convention and from the 10 “MEDA” countries signatories of the Barcelona Declaration².

There will be 34 participants selected. During the selection, the committee will seek a balance of sexes, as well as of participants from European and “Mediterranean” countries.

The **support letter** of the sending organisation/institution should be uploaded on the above mentioned link, or sent by fax (+ 36 1 212 40 76).

Deadline for applications: **10 September 2008**.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe and the Anna Lindh Foundation. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. The payment will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros).

Accommodation

Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe and the Anna Lindh Foundation at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

² Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority; Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.