



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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# **Human Rights Education for Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue with Young People**

**A Euro-Mediterranean Training Course for multipliers  
active in human rights education and intercultural  
dialogue with young people in South East Europe and in  
the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation context**

**European Youth Centre Budapest, 16-22 April 2007**

**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.

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*<sup>1</sup> 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 field of youth policy cooperation and of intercultural dialogue, including an intercultural Arabic language training course.

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<sup>1</sup> Compass, a manual on human rights education with young people – [www.coe.int/compass](http://www.coe.int/compass)

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures is the first common institution jointly established and financed by all 35 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.

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. In this context, the Euro-Mediterranean training course on human rights education for enhancing intercultural dialogue with young people will promote the idea of intercultural cooperation and give young adults the opportunity to voice their opinions, work in intercultural teams, and overcome possible prejudices and misconceptions.

### **South East Europe: a regional focus**

The course is open to participants from Europe and the Mediterranean countries part of the Euro-Med Partnership. A specific focus in the origin of the European participants is given to South East Europe as a region which has so far benefited less from Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. This focus will be partly reflected in the programme as well, namely in view of checking and exploring possible specificities and commonalities in human rights education and intercultural dialogue work with “Mediterranean” countries, especially in view of the fact that the two regions often overlap, both geographically and historically.

This course will be the first cooperation between the Council of Europe/Partnership and the Anna Lindh Foundation in the field of youth and human rights education. The course builds 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 South Eastern Europe;
- To motivate participants to act as multipliers in human rights education and intercultural dialogue projects;
- To develop participants competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes, values) in working with and training about human rights education and intercultural dialogue;
- 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, four main outcomes can be identified:

- Accrued competences in human rights education and intercultural dialogue;
- 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.

## **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);
- 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;
- 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, active in cooperation activities in South East Europe or in both. Applications are welcome from the 48 states signatory of the European Cultural Convention and from the 10 “Meda” countries signatories of the Barcelona Declaration<sup>2</sup>.

There will be 30 participants selected. In the selection committee will seek a balance of sexes, as well as of participants from European and “Mediterranean” countries. For European countries, applications from people from or working with South Eastern Europe<sup>3</sup> are especially welcome.

The **support letter** of the sending organisation/institution should be uploaded on the above mentioned link, or sent by fax (+ 36 1 438 10 76).

Deadline for applications: **8 March 2007**

## 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. 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 at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

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

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of this course, this includes participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey.