

Mediterranean Youth in Action

ALF4ThePact Dialogues

Recentring the human and cultural dimension in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership: The Pact for the Mediterranean, a not-to-be-missed opportunity

Dates: April 2, 2025

Location: Granada, Spain

Venue: Main meeting room, Euro-Arab Foundation, C. San Jerónimo, 27, Centro, 18001 Granada, Spain

Organiser: Anna Lindh Foundation

Context

The Anna Lindh Foundation, ALF, was established in 2005 to promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding across Euro-Mediterranean societies. Since its inception, ALF has successfully mobilised a vast network of civil society actors, the largest in the Euro-Med region, while benefiting from the strong support of its Board of Governors, which brings together representatives from 42 Member States.

With the Pact for the Mediterranean taking shape alongside the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, ALF sees a unique opportunity to reinforce the human and cultural dimensions of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. This vision aligns with ALF's two decades of commitment to amplifying civil society voices, particularly those of young people, and advancing knowledge production. By leveraging its extensive expertise and networks, ALF aims to transform civil society-driven insights into policy-oriented solutions through a series of dedicated and intergenerational ALF4ThePact Dialogues. These Dialogues will engage ALF's partners and key stakeholders in generating innovative ideas to address pressing regional challenges.

The ALF4ThePact Dialogues will take place under the auspices of ALF's flagship youth programme, Mediterranean Youth in Action, MYA, which embodies a dynamic and action-based approach to fostering positive change in the region.

Rationale

The Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean, hosted by the Spanish Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, PA-UfM in Granada, Spain (April 2-4) provides an ideal platform for launching the ALF4ThePact Dialogues. With the support of the Euro-Arab Foundation, ALF will organise a high-level side event focused on three key themes shaping the human and cultural dimensions of the region: people's mobility and exchanges across the Mediterranean, the European Union's support for civil society in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, and Euro-Mediterranean international cultural relations.

Format. The ALF4ThePact Dialogue will consist of three expert panels, each lasting ninety minutes. Each session will begin with a presentation by a rapporteur who will summarise findings from an ALF mapping report related to the topic at hand. This will be followed by a moderated panel discussion featuring a gender-balanced and geographically diverse group of local and international experts, alongside young beneficiaries of ALF programmes. After the panel discussion, the floor will open to an interactive exchange, first with



comments from pre-identified speakers and then through a broader debate with audience participation. Bringing together up to thirty participants, including policymakers from Euro-Mediterranean institutions and EU organizations, academics, researchers, civil society practitioners, and grassroots organisations, the Dialogue will bridge generations, expertise, and perspectives.

Draft Agenda

02/04/2025

09.00-09.30 *Welcome coffee and registration*

09.30-09.40 *Introductory remarks*

Antonio Sánchez Ortega, Executive Secretary, Euro-Arab Foundation

Stephen Borg, Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

Katerina Wolfowa, Head of Unit DG MENA A2, European Commission *[online]*

Josep Ferré, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation

09.40-11.10 *Taking stock of and recalibrating EU's international cultural relations in the Euro-Med*

This panel will reflect on the role of international cultural relations in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and how it has contributed to co-creation, trust, and mutual understanding in the region. The discussion will address whether existing efforts effectively foster intercultural dialogue and how they can be recalibrated to better respond to emerging challenges. Panelists will also examine how international cultural relations can be leveraged to support peacebuilding, social cohesion, and sustainable development across the Mediterranean.

Moderator:

Alessandro Lamonica, Manager, Public Policies Unit, Anna Lindh Foundation

Presentation of the ALF mapping report:

Caterina Carta, Programme Director, Brussels School of Governance *[online]*

Panelists:

Elise Cuny, chairwoman of the Board, Culture Solutions

Haifa Gebes, Head, Tunisia Creative Europe Desk

Jusaima Moaid-Azm, Substitute Professor, University of Granada & MYA-Intercultural Stakeholders Dialogues beneficiary

Mercedes Giovinazzo, Consultant and president, Biennale des Jeunes Créateurs d'Europe et de la Méditerranée - BJCEM



First commentators:

Jamal Youssfi, Artistic Director, Cie Nouveaux Disparus

Souhaila Amri, Nazra & MYA-Transformative Youth in Action beneficiary

11.10-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-13.00

Unleashing the full potential of youth and civil society mobility in Euro-Mediterranean relations

This session will explore how enhanced mobility opportunities for youth and civil society actors can contribute to strengthening ties between countries across the Mediterranean. Discussions will focus on the current barriers to mobility, including visa restrictions and funding limitations, and will highlight successful initiatives that have fostered meaningful exchanges. Panelists will examine how investing in mobility programmes can lead to greater social cohesion, economic opportunities, and a shared Euro-Mediterranean identity.

Moderator:

Diego López Garrido, Director of Culture and Communications, Fundación Alternativas

Presentation of the ALF mapping report:

Mary Drosopulos, Consultant and Human Rights Trainer

Panelists:

Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED

Maria Teresa Castillo Campo, Policy Officer, DG MENA A2, European Commission

Marwane Fachane, Director, Hiba Foundation

Pablo Pastor Vidal, Lund University & MYA-Voicing Youth Knowledge beneficiary

First commentators:

Menna Mosbah, Worldfish & MYA-Voicing Youth Knowledge beneficiary

Rascha Albaba Acosta, Researcher and Project Officer, Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies & MYA-Intercultural Stakeholders Dialogues beneficiary

13.00-14.30

Networking lunch



14.30-16.00

The Pact for the Mediterranean: An opportunity to address the EU's approach to civil society cooperation in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean

This session will assess the European Union's current strategies and programmes for supporting civil society in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. Panelists will discuss the effectiveness of EU approaches and initiatives and the challenges faced by grassroots organisations in accessing resources, building capacities and ensuring sustainability. The conversation will also explore how civil society actors can play a more prominent role in shaping policies that have a visible impact on their communities, with a focus on fostering long-term partnerships between institutions and local organisations.

Moderator:

Javier Ruipérez Canales, Director of projects and research, Euro-Arab Foundation

Presentation of the ALF mapping report:

Mary Drosopulos, Consultant and Human Rights Trainer

Panelists:

Moath Jaber, Researcher & MYA-Intercultural Stakeholders Dialogues beneficiary

Rawnak Nasri, EU Jeel Connectors & MYA-Intercultural Stakeholders Dialogues beneficiary

Sam Khebizi, Director, Les Tetes de l'Art & Co-Head of French Network of Civil Society

Senén Florensa Palau, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean

First commentators:

Rowan Aly Abdelrazek Elsayed Mohamed, University of Granada & MYA- Intercultural Stakeholders Dialogues beneficiary

16.00-16.15

Closing remarks

Josep Ferré, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation

20.00

Networking dinner

Restaurante Ruta del Azafrán Granada

P.º del Padre Manjón, 1, Albaicín, 18010 Granada, Spain

