

Mediterranean +25 Dialogues

MEDITERRANEAN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Recognizing Ourselves in Other's Cultures

Barcelona, September 30, 2020

Pedralbes Palace (Avinguda Diagonal, 686, Barcelona)

In year 1995 the called Process of Barcelona, a collective project to reinforce the cooperation and the dialog between the European Union and the countries of the Mediterranean basin was born. The Declaration of Barcelona constituted a decisive step towards the consolidation of the Euro-Mediterranean association and the posterior creation of the Union for the Mediterranean, the year 2008.

This year, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its launch, the **Government of Catalonia, aware of the strong impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe consequences in the Euro-Mediterranean region, is promoting the series of seminars "Mediterranean +25 Dialogues"**. Within the framework of this initiative, different seminars will be organized to rethink the challenges and proposals aimed at renewing the vision of the Mediterranean relations.

The **Mediterranean Intercultural Dialogue** seminar, co-organized by the **European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)** and the **Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (Diplocat)**, with the collaboration of the **Barcelona City Council**, highlights the importance of the role of societies and cultures in the promotion of a paradigm shift in order to places the Mediterranean in front of the globalization challenges.

The **IEMed** has been studying and disseminating the complex reality of the Mediterranean for years, with the aim of contributing to stability, progress, cooperation and dialogue in the region. On the other hand, **Diplocat** periodically organizes debates of global importance with the aim of strengthening the participation of Catalan institutions and civil society in the international arena and making contributions to attain a more fair, peaceful and sustainable world.

Throughout these 25 years, the relation between Europe and its neighbours from the southern and eastern Mediterranean has been fraught with key challenges in an environment of increasingly global and profound transformations. Over the past decade, new generations of young people, women and civil society, particularly involved in demanding changes have acquired a major role. The values of pluralism, inclusion, dignity and recognition are increasingly emerging as necessary tools in the construction of spaces for reconciliation and dialogue, in order to face real threats such as climate change and pandemics, removing the narrative of violence, conflict and misunderstanding and strengthening social inclusion. Thus, dialogue must be considered as the most relevant tool to know ourselves and listen to each other and through which to build solid Mediterranean relations.

In the course of the seminar, the **exchange** between social actors and Mediterranean institutions will be encouraged; **practices of promotion of the cohesion of the associative network, so necessary in the current context of social and health crisis, will be highlighted, invigorating thus humanism, and priorities and measures will be proposed** to be promoted by European policies in the Mediterranean. The aim of this exercise is to position intercultural dialogue as an effective and recognized tool in the construction of a renewed and shared Mediterranean project, at the service of Mediterranean citizens and in favour of the rapprochement of the peoples that comprise it.

With the collaboration of:

Program

- 8.30h **Accreditations**
- 9.00h **Welcome remarks**
- **Alfonso González Bondia**, Director General of European and Mediterranean Affairs, Government of Catalonia.
 - **Khalid Ghali**, Commissioner for Intercultural Dialogue and Religious pluralism, Barcelona City Council.
 - **Josep Ferré**, Director General, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).
 - **Laura Foraster**, Secretary General, Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (Diplocat).
- 9.30h **What future for the dialogue between cultures in the Mediterranean**
- **Tahar Ben Jelloun**, writer (Paris -Tangier).
 - **Nabil Al Sharif**, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation (Alexandria).
 - **Nayla Tabbara**, Vice-Chairperson, Adyan Foundation (Beirut).
- Moderated by: **Andreu Claret**, journalist and former Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation (2008-2015).
- 10.45h **Break**
- 11.00h **Living together in the Mediterranean: interculturality as a tool**
- Migratory mobility and digital communication have highlighted the challenges in managing diversity to combat misunderstandings in personal perceptions, the generation of stereotypes and the manipulation of religious and cultural aspects. This roundtable will open a debate to highlight those shared values based on humanism that bring us closer and enable a better dialogue.
- **Culture and heritage**
José Enrique Ruiz Domènec, Full Professor of Sciences of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Barcelona).
 - **Values**
Mohamed Tozy, Director, Rabat School of Governance and Economics (Casablanca).
 - **Migrations**
Ricard Zapata-Barrero, Full Professor at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona).
 - **Joves**
Esmat Elsayed, Co-founder, *Young Mediterranean Voices* (Cairo).
- Moderated by: **Oriol Amoros**, Secretary of Equality, Migration, and Citizenship, Government of Catalonia
- 12.15h **The practice of dialogue: Testimonies and proposals from the Mediterranean associative network**
- In the current context of aggravation of the social crisis, civil society is a key piece in activating those spaces for participation and collaboration between both shores. In the framework of this roundtable, it will be discussed of some practices of this associative network to vindicate its potential in the construction of a shared interculturality and in the elaboration of proposals for future in order to achieve a Euro-Mediterranean policy at the service of citizenship.
- **Driss Khrouz**, Director General, Esprit Foundation (Fez).
 - **Mercedes Giovinazzo**, Director, Interarts (Barcelona).
 - **Mohamed El Amrani**, President, AZAHARA (Girona).
 - **Anis Boufrika**, Head of Network, Anna Lindh Foundation (Tunis).
- Moderated by: **Cristina Mas**, journalist.
- 13.30h **Launch of the Anna Lindh Foundation Virtual Marathon for Dialogue**
- **Nabil Al Sharif**, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation (Alexandria).
 - **Cristina Mas**, journalist.
 - **Hajar El Hawari**, responsible of Azahara Association.
- Moderated by: **Josep Ferré**, Director General, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).
- 14.00h **Closing conference: Catalonia and the intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean**
- **Bernat Solé**, Minister for Foreign Action, Institutional relations and Transparency, Government of Catalonia.

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