

Speech of the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation

At the Fifth Union for the Mediterranean Regional Forum 27 November 2020

Your Excellencies

As the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation, it gives me a great pleasure to be here with you today to celebrate 25 years of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, a partnership that we can consider today well established with strong economic, political, social and cultural pillars to support its further growth.

The Anna Lindh Foundation, as the first EuroMed institution created in the framework and for the Partnership, has done an important work since 2005 for the creation of the people-to-people connection and social bond which is at the heart of all successful political project.

In the first fifteen years of activity, the Anna Lindh Foundation has succeeded in the establishment of the largest civil society network in the region as foreseen in its statutes, establishing a mechanism for structured dialogue at the national level and at the regional level where representatives of civil society organisations from Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa.

It has given the opportunity to 45.894 young people from the two shores of the Mediterranean to get training, participate in exchanges and advocate toward decision-makers with its Young Arab and Mediterranean Voices programmes

It has facilitated and directly organized cultural events, public debates on issues pertaining intercultural relations attended around by 450.000 people

It has surveyed and analysed the opinions of 52.000 people in the context of the its research work on Intercultural Trends and monitored with a scientific tool the evolution of people's mutual perceptions, their fears, aspirations and support for the EuroMed project across time. So that today our programming can have a solid evidence-base complemented by the regular consultation with our civil society network.

It has created pedagogical resources on Intercultural Citizenship Education tested and rolled out among over 1000 educators and it has developed online courses to ensure the widest reach.



It has ensured technical and financial support of over 26 Million Euros to civil society organisations to establish collaborations across the region and to work with their communities for dialogue.

It has used social media and traditional media to reach public opinion and mobilize EuroMed populations around the importance of investing on a culture of dialogue and of nurturing cultural diversity, reaching over 37,000 followers with Facebook, 10,500 via Twitter and producing daily contents.

I shared important figures but we know that dialogue work goes much beyond numbers, it is about the nurturing of relationships everyday and this is a long-term work which requires an important financial and political support by all the governments of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Today, in the midst of the Corona virus pandemic which has called on all of us to raise even higher our commitment to cooperation and international solidarity, I would like to invite your Excellencies to a common call to continue your investment towards the promotion of intercultural dialogue as a pre-condition to bring people closer together and a tool to ensure the sustainable development of the societies of the region and your support for the mission of the Anna Lindh Foundation in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

We are committed to the continuous development of our EuroMed civil society network and regional collaborations, our work in intercultural learning and research, youth exchange and empowerment, the use of arts and media as tools for cross-cultural communication beyond language barriers and cultural differences, the fight against gender and cultural stereotyping with a view to contribute to the set Green deal objective towards 2050.

I thank you for your attention

