



# TIME TO ACT TOGETHER

**The preliminary conclusions of the MEDITERRANEAN FORUM of the Anna Lindh Foundation in Valletta, Malta (23rd to 26th October 2016).** MED FORUM brought together 680 international delegates from all 42 Member States involved in Euro-Mediterranean process, constituting a large-scale coalition of diverse regional actors - young leaders, national civil society coordinators, international donors, policy-makers, city and local authority networks. A grand coalition of values from the north and the south of the Mediterranean.

A powerful message of MED FORUM, shared by the civil society networks and institutions, is that IT IS TIME TO ACT TOGETHER and accelerate the reach, impact and visibility of intercultural action in the face of unprecedented regional challenges - conflict, extremism, the social impact of a refugee crisis, climate change and youth unemployment - which have the combined potential to generate to a more potent, long-lasting threat: a cultural divide. In this perspective, MED FORUM also reaffirmed the Anna Lindh Foundation as the central institution and reference point for intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Med space, and a catalyst for collaboration among the main networks and institutions working for “preventive narratives” and address the underlying causes of issues of extremism and social incohesion.

The preliminary outcomes of MED FORUM 2016:

**Young Mediterranean Voices: critical to addressing issues of peace and security.** Preliminary data presented at the opening of MED FORUM 2016, based on a new Intercultural Trends survey carried out by Ipsos MORI and commissioned by the Anna Lindh Foundation, exposed that a majority of citizens polled in Europe and the southern Mediterranean region believe that “fostering youth-led dialogue initiatives is the most efficient measure to prevent and deal with causes of radicalisation and conflict” (79% in European countries surveyed, and 86% in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries).

MED FORUM resulted in securing a far-reaching institutional backing to bring youth leaders to the centre of policy decision-making on how to build preventative strategies to challenge growing extremist narratives, including **commitments expressed through MED FORUM by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and EU High-Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.** MED FORUM was also the platform for the global launch on 24th October of YOUNG MEDITERRANEAN VOICES, with a financial commitment of the European Commission for a 3 year expansion phase of the flag-ship debate programme Young Arab Voices launched in response to the 2011 Arab uprisings.

**Intercultural Cities: shifting strategic attention to city and local authority networks.** “The future city will be intercultural”, as tweeted through MED FORUM Live!, articulates the first rationale for shifting the focus of strategic programming into the domain of cities and local authorities. The role of cities was also underlined in the context of “populations on the move”, the impact of a refugee crisis, good practice on cities as catalysts for social innovation, and the strong consensus within MED FORUM to “bring dialogue to the street”. The Forum produced a large-scale proposal for launching a “MEDITERRANEAN CAPITAL FOR DIALOGUE” aimed at securing buy-in from cities to embed enhanced intercultural practices and policies, and raise global visibility for attracting further engagement and investment.

**Media Observatory: evidence-base approach to reshape cross-cultural reporting and debate.** Media remains central domain impacting on the gap in perceptions within and across societies of Europe and the Mediterranean. MED FORUM resulted in policy proposals for a new level of engagement with the media community on reporting issues related to migration, terrorist acts, extremism, and complex socio-cultural affairs. Trust in media is a key issue, as also exposed by the preliminary data of the Intercultural Trends and Values survey of the Anna Lindh Foundation carried out in October 2016. At the operational level, creation of a platform for media analysis, monitoring and debate connected to period between 3-yearly editions of the INTERCULTURAL TRENDS AND VALUES REPORT of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

## **MED FORUM - RESOURCE LINKS:**

VIDEO: Message of EU's HR/VP Federica Mogherini to the Young Mediterranean Voices at MED FORUM 2016:  
[https://youtu.be/qJJ-Yg19\\_nU](https://youtu.be/qJJ-Yg19_nU)

Message of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to MED FORUM 2016 delivered by UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova:  
<http://www.annalindhoundation.org/news/message-united-nations-secretary-general-med-forum-2016-delivered-unesco-director-general-irina>

MED FORUM 2016 photo gallery:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/annalindh/sets/72157672115881793>

EU External Action Services (21 October): 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Inter-Cultural Dialogue to examine youth issues and concerns in the Euro-Mediterranean Region  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12767/3rd-euro-mediterranean-forum-on-inter-cultural-dialogue-to-examine-youth-issues-and-concerns-in-the-euro-mediterranean-region\\_en](http://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12767/3rd-euro-mediterranean-forum-on-inter-cultural-dialogue-to-examine-youth-issues-and-concerns-in-the-euro-mediterranean-region_en)

EU External Action Services (23 October): 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Inter-Cultural Dialogue to help young people be drivers for change – Mogherini  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12772/3rd-euro-mediterranean-forum-on-inter-cultural-dialogue-to-help-young-people-be-drivers-for-change--mogherini\\_en](http://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12772/3rd-euro-mediterranean-forum-on-inter-cultural-dialogue-to-help-young-people-be-drivers-for-change--mogherini_en)

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta:  
<https://gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Pages/2016/October/25/pr162366.aspx>  
<https://gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Pages/2016/October/24/PR162359.aspx>

Speech of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta, Dr George Vella, at the Inauguration of MED FORUM 2016 on 23rd October:  
<https://gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Pages/2016/October/24/PR162349.aspx>

VIDEO: PBS TV platform on MED FORUM 2016:  
<http://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/civil-society-representatives-debate-euro-mediterranean-issues-in-malta/>

PBS online on MED FORUM 2016:  
<http://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/600-civil-society-representatives-end-two-days-of-discussions-in-malta/>

ANSA: Med youth in Malta to “overcome extremist narrative” (EN and IT)  
[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2016/10/25/med-youth-in-malta-to-overcome-extremist-narrative\\_e16f4c41-0451-4abd-9ddc-3f8638f02a5a.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2016/10/25/med-youth-in-malta-to-overcome-extremist-narrative_e16f4c41-0451-4abd-9ddc-3f8638f02a5a.html)  
[http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2016/10/24/giovani-regione-med-a-malta-superare-narrativa-estremismo\\_90522cc4-f45e-42da-9598-e82edbff2516.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2016/10/24/giovani-regione-med-a-malta-superare-narrativa-estremismo_90522cc4-f45e-42da-9598-e82edbff2516.html)

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