

14th Head of Network Meeting

“Working together towards 2025”

Brussels, 19-21 November 2015

Background

“Ten years on from its launch by the member States of the Barcelona Process, the Foundation needs to assume its pivotal position in defining and defending the values of its mandate, and projecting itself with renewed impetus in the face of an unprecedented rise in several negative trends, among them xenophobia and radicalism. As we plan for 2025 with the aim of making a sustained difference to those negative trends impacting on societies to the north and to the south of the Mediterranean, however, a concentrated investment is necessary. We need to address those elements which can be the key to what we call the “institutionalisation” of the Anna Lindh Foundation, that-is-to-say: the perennity of ALF; its capacity for a sustainable programming approach and impact; and its potential as a visible reference platform among the Euro-Med structures and policies. In other words, this phase of action must be about creating together the conditions for the long-term future of our shared “institution”. ALF Executive Director. From the Strategic document adopted by the Board of Governorson 11.6.2015.

The uniqueness of the Anna Lindh Foundation comes from its condition as a Network of Networks thought by the ALF founding fathers. This particular condition and its intergovernmental nature give the Foundation a unique capacity in the region to address both cross-border and local challenges, by promoting links between governments and civil society. This capacity to build on shared spaces and to advocate for intercultural dialogue from a bottom-up perspective is one of the best dialogue tools in the hands of the Foundation to invest in the future.

The ALF integrates and supports the central role of the Networks as facilitators and catalysts of the action of the Foundation. Nevertheless, the Networks and their members should be, first and foremost, “ALF dialogue ambassadors”, as they are contributing to the ALF impact and visibility by tailoring the actions of the Foundation to the specific EuroMed contexts and social requests for dialogue.

The experience acquired through the years of activities, and the new strategy adopted in June open for us the opportunity to review the work model and consider new approaches to support the new synergies and the common purpose in dialogue through shared values which constitute the basis for the consolidation of a solid and sustainable ALF network model. We need to work together to ensure cohesion and performance and, as well as the consolidation of the networks the main space for exchange, networking and sharing practices in the Foundation.

The increasing maturity of the Networks should be reflected in a long-term strategy focusing on the quality of membership and investing in the potential role of members to lead key intercultural initiatives of the Foundation, according to their expertise, specific skills and national context. Each national Network – or group of Networks - could lead the initiatives deemed as most appropriate for its development and more linked to its social realities.

Through its networks the Foundation should strengthen a virtuous circle of euromed knowledge and practices providing support to those who work for the promotion of

interculturality as a shared value and with the common aim to expose a larger public of the region to dialogue. This is the key human asset the foundation can offer to fight against intolerance and radicalization.

Objectives of the Head of Network Meeting

In the above described context, the 14th Head of Network annual meeting will aim at

A. Devising the best ways to implement the new Intercultural Strategy:

By providing and sharing ideas about programmes and initiatives which might be developed by the Foundation in the mid and long term period in the framework of the major strategic dimensions identified.

B. Drafting a road map for the Network's development by 2025

By defining together on the crucial and unique role of the Networks in relation to the current challenges within a 10-year perspective.

C. Reinforcing Communication and Capacities:

By exchanging good practices and by implementing a mutual capacity building approach for Network's development and ALF communication on the basis of the new communication strategy put in place.

Preparing for the HoN meeting

- In order to make the best use of the time available, the meeting is intended to be an opportunity for all of us to share our thoughts and engage in a discussion following the exchange process to be carried out by the Network coordinators.
- During the coming weeks (till the 7th November), the Heads are invited to participate and organise an open process of discussion about the implementation of the new ALF Strategy approved by the Board in June 2015. The aim of this process is to allow a wider reflection about the role and needs of the Networks in the mid and long term. A discussion that should go beyond the time constraints of an Annual meeting.
- Building on the existing knowledge and the proposals of the Networks, the Heads are invited to elect two representatives to facilitate discussion fora on the suggested topics. These representatives will facilitate the discussions before the meeting, will coordinate with the secretariat the design of the most suitable format for HoN meeting working groups sessions and will present the content of such debates during the meeting plenary session. This process will be led by the 2 HoN facilitators in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

Draft Programme Sessions:

1) During the first day, a plenary and the working session in the afternoon are envisaged. The discussions about Programme and role of the Networks will be organised in the following two fields:

- Synergies and Intercultural Dialogue Initiatives: *how to reinforce Networks' long-term strategic partnerships with the main actors of Mediterranean cooperation and attract complementary resources to scale-up the impact of activities? Which programmes and activities will allow the Networks to continue to promote intercultural dialogue in a context of raising xenophobia and radicalization?* This implies a further definition of the thematic platforms. The new ALF Strategy opens the scope of reflection in order to build a stronger Foundation to activate the ALF as a strategic actor in the region on the long term.

Facilitator: HoN

Secretariat Focal Points: Eleonora Insalaco and Dimitios Cavouras (under the coordination of Gemma Aubarell)

- Networks support mechanisms : *building on the extensive experience of the Networks and on an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses encountered in applying the previous and current funding schemes, which are, in your opinion, the programmes most needed by the Networks to increase their capacity of action and impact at local and regional level? In a medium-long-term perspective and according to your opinion which might be the most suitable funds supporting mechanisms?*

Facilitator: HoN

Secretariat Focal Points: Nihal Elnahas and Fatma Kotkat (under the coordination of Cristiana Gaita)

The preparatory discussions will be led, developed and conducted till the beginning of November 2015 by the two facilitators in collaboration with the Secretariat Focal Points. They will be the bases for first day working groups' discussions and the outcomes will be presented, followed by a debate, in the plenary by the respective HoN facilitators during the afternoon of the first day.

The outputs of the discussions of the first day will aim at:

- Providing concrete ideas about potential actions, programmes and initiatives to be developed by the Foundation in the mid and long term in each of the two major strategic dimensions identified.
- Elaborating a shared understanding of the role of the Networks in relation with the above-mentioned challenges and requested tools and methodologies
- Building a more operational framework in order to improve the coordination among the ALF instances to facilitate our impact and effective work in the field.

The main conclusions of the day including the wrap up discussion will be presented the second day in a Plenary.

2) During the second day, the meeting will offer instead the possibility to Reinforce the Capacity and Communication:

- Plenary Session about Exchanging good practices in Network coordination and mobilisation This should be the moment to share a glimpse of some of the very diverse approaches to intercultural dialogue that are being put into practice by the ALF Networks. The good practices will be targeted beforehand based on the inputs of the Heads and the Secretariat.

Facilitated by Network Team
Reported by HoN

- Working Session 1: Reinforce capacities on topics relevant to Network coordination and development. The session should start with a general presentation of the main strong points and weaknesses detected while evaluating different calls for proposals. The main “critical” areas will be highlighted and will be addressed. Reflections might continue on topics related to fundraising and contract management. The approach is to share both the specific skills available in the Secretariat and among the Heads.

Facilitated by Administration and Networks Team
Reported by HoN

- Working Session 2: Reinforce capacity on the basis of the new communication strategy. The Session will provide information and instruments about how to increase the visibility of the ALF action by implementing the new communication strategy and by ensuring that the Network action is defined by the characteristics of clarity of purpose, quality over quantity and durability and sustainability.

Facilitated by Communication and Programmes Team
Reported by HoN

The outputs of the morning and afternoon sessions will be completed by the rapporteurs. The materials will be edited and prepared by the Network Team and circulated to the Head of Networks, as follow up to the HoN meeting

3) Side Sessions

- An Open discussion session will be organized on the day of arrival between the HoN and the members of the Secretariat in order to exchange specific concerns raised during the transition period between Phase III and Phase IV.
- A Cultural Activity will be organized in occasion of the HoN meeting in cooperation with the HoN and the BoG of Belgium.
- The HoN meeting will be the occasion to host the bestowing ceremony of the EuroMed Award 2015 and to participate in a debate with the winner and finalists.

Programme Draft

	18 November	19 November	20 November	21 November		
Morning	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Working Together towards 2025</u>		<u>Departures</u>		
		9:00-10:30 <u>Plenary Session</u> -The implementation of the ALF strategy			9:00-10:30 <u>Plenary session</u> - Exchange of good practices	
		10h30-11h00 <u>Presentation of the meeting and working sessions</u>				
		11:00-11h30 <u>Coffee break</u>			10:30-11h00 <u>Coffee break</u>	
		11:30 -13:00 <u>Parallel working groups</u>			11:00-13:00 <u>Parallel working groups</u>	
Afternoon	18:00-19:30 <u>Open Session</u> Sharing opportunities for improvement 19:00- 20:00 <u>Euromed Award Jury meeting</u>	<u>WG1 Synergies and Intercultural Dialogue Initiatives</u>	<u>WG2 Networks support mechanisms</u>	<u>Capacity building session (1)</u>	<u>Capacity building session (2)</u>	
		13:00 – 14:30 <u>Lunch</u>		13:00 – 14:30 <u>Lunch</u>		
		<u>Plenary Sesssion</u>		<u>Plenary Session</u>		
		14:30 – 16:30 <u>Presentation and debate</u> on results of the working groups and discussion in plenary		14:30-15:30 <u>Presentation of the 2016 main activities</u>		
				<u>Conclusions</u> 15:30 – 17:00		
Evening	20:30 <u>Welcome dinner</u>	17:30 – 19:30 <u>EuroMed Award</u> bestowing ceremony 19:30 <u>Cocktail</u>	<u>Free evening and Cultural Activity</u>			