



FORUM
NAZIONALE
DEI GIOVANI



Call for participants

International Year on Youth

Seminar on Intercultural Dialogue and Mutual Respect

Tunis, 22nd-24th July 2010
Hotel Residence Karim
Ave Abdulkacem Chebbi, Tozeur

Euro-Arab Youth Conference *Mare Nostrum*

Youth, Migration and Development
Ragusa, Sicily 25th 30th July 2010
Baia del Sole Residence Hotel, Marina di Ragusa [RG], Italy

Deadline for applications 5th July 24.00

Background document

The Italian National Youth Forum is organizing, in cooperation with the European Youth Forum, The Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport and the League of Arab

States, the first Euro-Arab Youth Conference which will be held in Ragusa from 25th to 30th of July 2010.

Participants are expected to travel from their Country of residence to Tunis where a meeting point will be organized, from there the group will move by boat to Marina di Ragusa (Ragusa, Sicily).

The event will start during the trip by boat along the migration routes where participants will be involved in intercultural and non formal activities.

The specific timetable will be communicated after the closing of the selection procedures (mid June 2010)

Introduction

The Mediterranean Sea represents a geopolitical system unique in the world; a meeting point of three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe; politically, a crossroad between East and West and economically, between North and South. The Mediterranean Area includes several cultural communities, several civilizations and different lifestyles and ways of thinking. It is also home to major religions and confessions, including Christian, Muslim and Jewish.

Around the Mediterranean Sea cohabit also different social-economic systems and different society structures; they represent different challenges and provide different opportunities to young people –even if young people have fundamentally similar aspirations to participation, autonomy and well being.

The Mediterranean Sea has always been a place of exchanges. Around the "Mare Nostrum" (1) several civilizations have contributed to the growth and the political, economical, artistic and technological development of the area. Today, more than ever, it is important to recognize the role of the Mediterranean area as a space of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, and as an answer to the great challenges that the globalization questions to societies and, in particular, to young people.

Aware that, in the European society the cultural, religious and legislative differences are still strong, young people consider very important to establish an active and fruitful dialogue on the priority topics that the challenges of the globalization and the world-wide economic crisis impose to us, like sustainable development, migrations and above all, the necessity to implement a common educational strategy, to facilitate the process of social inclusion among young people with an extra-European background in the countries of the Union.

The Italian National Youth Forum

The Italian National Youth Forum (FNG) is one of the most recent Forum of Europe, exists since 2004 and in at International level is engaged since three years on topics like the participation of the young people to the decision making processes, around the intercultural dialogue and the understanding of the migration flows.

Themes like active citizenship, solidarity, tolerance, fight against xenophobia and racism, human rights education, cohesion and social inclusion, recognition of key competences and participation are key words and main motiv of the daily activities of the Italian National Youth Forum.

This project wants to be an important milestone in the frame of a process where the Italian National Youth Forum is deeply involved as platform of national youth associations where the implementation of international mobility projects and assuring participation are daily challenges of our work.

The geographical position of Italy places our country in the centre of a crossroad of cultures and as one of the main important door for those migration routes of the old continent.

1 Mare Nostrum (Our Sea) was the name the Romans gave the Mediterranean

Background

The **League of Arab States Youth Forum, LAS Forum** is being organized annually since 2007, with a wide participation of youth leaders, officials concerned in the Youth sector and international organization.

The Forum had held three editions throughout the years 2007-2009 in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco respectively.

The forum aims over the three editions to:

- Facilitate a dialogue between youth leaders, decision makers and representatives of regional and international organisations concerned in youth issues.
- Strength the exchange, the partnership and the networking among youth leaders and their respective organisations.
- Develop a solid knowledge in youth issues and develop the leadership skills for young leaders.
- Build a regional youth policies and advocating for stronger youth agenda in the national policies.
- Strength the dialogue and exchange between the youth leaders in the Arabs and Europeans States.

Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (EACMYO)

The main objective of the EACMYO is to strengthen the cooperation between Arab and European youth organizations at regional level and at the global level. Also at institutional level, the EACMYO is a point of reference in the frame of the Youth policies between Europe and the Arab region.

The initiative of EACMYO came from the demands of the Member Organisations of the YFJ to work more pro-actively in the Mediterranean and the Arab Region and included the development of a longer term approach towards the cooperation in those regions which led to the organisation of the first coordination meeting.

2007-2009

The first round of the Forum was in 2007 with theme of **Youth & the Millennium Development Goals**, attended by around 300 youth leaders from the Arab states, a significant number of Heads of National Councils of Youth, Arab parliamentarians and representatives of regional and international organisations. The Forum provided to Arab and European youth organisations the opportunity to share their views on Youth policies and their role in tackling global challenges, such as the Millennium Development Goals, Migration, Unemployment, Education and Climate Change. It also contributed to the creation of several regional youth networks initiatives, including those targeting youth organisations or youth bloggers.

In October 2007, it has been organised in Italy, after the proposal of the European Youth Forum, a specific focus group on Euro-Arab cooperation
During that meeting, the second LAS Youth Forum and the first EACMYO started to be planned.

Both the events were held in November 2008, in Jordan, where the main topic was **"Youth and the intercultural dialogue"**. Gathering 170 young participants, the Forum concluded with the adoption of a declaration under the motto **"For a better world through the intercultural dialogue"**.

The FNG strong engagement in the Euro-Arab cooperation and in the steering group of EACMYO continued throughout 2009, with the support to the organisation of the 3rd LAS Youth Forum **"Youth and Migrations: A Human Rights Based Approach"** and the 2nd EACMYO, in Assilah, Morocco, on November 2009, jointly organised by the Department of Population Migration Policies of the League of Arab States, the European Youth Forum, the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the Mediterranean Forum for Youth and Childhood, with the support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund.

The 3rd LAS Youth Forum, in which the project "the Euro-Arab Youth Conference – Mare Nostrum" was launched, resulted in the adoption of the Assilah Appeal, for facilitating youth mobility, promoting youth exchange and ensuring equality, non-discrimination and the rights of young migrants.

Mare Nostrum will be an international meeting based on an innovative approach to the topics mentioned before, using non formal methodology and cooperative learning.

2010

Event: Euro-Arab Youth Conference (20th – 30th July 2010)

Title: Mare Nostrum: Youth, Migration and Development – Euro-Arab Youth Conference

Referring to: Processes of Euro-Arab youth cooperation, Human rights, Youth rights, Millennium Development Goals World Youth Conference (Mexico, 2010) and International Year of Youth August 2010 – August 2011.

Briefly:

The Project aims to promote the inter-cultural understanding between young people from the European and Arab Countries by promoting partnerships between youth organisations .

The event will run in Sicily, the place of crossroads, multicultural heritage and welcoming people, with the participation of 150 young people who will meet in Tunis and, after travelling by boat on the historical migration flows, will arrive in Ragusa, where will take part in the event, structured in plenary sessions and thematic workshops.

The trip will be a fundamental part of the project, not just because of the symbolic meaning of Migration atmosphere but also as moment of knowing each other and ice breaking, as during this day on the sea the International Red cross will organise for the participants a role game on Migration.

One week before the conference, we will organize a Training for Facilitators in order to prepare the facilitators who will run the workshops during the Conference.

It will be full days of activities and several opportunities of training and debate enriched by a multicultural programme of night events which will involve also the local context and the people who live there.

The day before the departure to Ragusa, will be held the III EACMYO in Tunis.

General Objectives

1. to reinforce dialogue and partnerships between Europe and the Arab world establishing structures for a Euro-Arab youth cooperation on a permanent basis
2. to promote the cooperation between youth organisations and decision makers and representatives of regional and international organisations, creating a space of debate and structured dialogue with institutions;
3. to promote the participation of Arab and European youth organisations in the decision-making process, enhancing their involvement in migration and development and intercultural dialogue issues.
4. to promote the participation and contribution in developing common knowledge and raising awareness regarding the main topic of Migration, related policies and the specific thematic;
5. to educate, train and motivate youth generations to the active participation and citizenship's concrete actions;
6. to empower young people to be peace agents
7. to recollect all the experiences of the partners involved in order to establish a common strategy in following the cooperation
8. to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between Arab and European young people and youth organisations, establishing a framework for a sustainable and permanent Euro-Arab youth cooperation
9. to support the constitution of national and regional youth platforms and its recognition

Specific Objectives

Analysing the social and the economical issues of the interested geographical area:

- to understand different policy realities and existing models of integration and application of migration policies
- developed competences and increased awareness, understanding and innovative practices working with Non Formal Education
- to train and to find common non formal educational approaches when dealing with conflict resolution
- to elaborate and develop a document on migration policies by the workshops outcomes
- to support and reinforce the EACMYO network
- to map youth organisations in the Arab region

Participants Profile

YFJ, Coe and FNG are selecting up to 60 European participants (all the Countries recognized by the Council of Europe)

The conference is open to young people closely involved in youth policy processes and migration issues in their organisations and countries, such as volunteers, leaders of youth organisations, youth researchers and youth workers from National Youth Councils, National and international NGOs

All participants should:

- be committed to Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab cooperation in the youth field
- aged between 18-35 years old;

- experienced in the field of youth policies, training and Euro-Arab cooperation with specific focus on migration issues;
- interested in enhancing the political dialogue and cooperation with the Arab States and in developing their competences on youth policy
- be ready to share their knowledge and experience with youth policy in their institutional or organisational context
- be supported by their sending institution or organisation, notably in view of the follow-up of the seminar
- be available to reach Tunis on the 24th of July to travel by boat to Marina di Ragusa
- be able to work in English
- be committed to attend the full duration of the meeting

Gender balance, geographical origin and organisational criteria will be taken into account when selecting participants.

Working language: English

Practical information

- participation fee: 50€. Participants are requested to bring with them the amount, a responsible person of the treasurer office will give back a receipt;
- accommodation and food will be covered by FNG;
- travel costs will be covered by FNG
- participants are expected to arrive in Tunis on 22nd of July and leave from Ragusa on the 30th July.

All the detailed practical information will be sent to selected participants

APPLICATION

Please send the annexed **application form** duly and completely filled in to FNG. Please don't forget to mention if you need a **VISA** to enter in Tunisia and Italy.

Application have to be sent to Mister Paolo Fiora
info@forumnazionalegiovani.it
within 5th June 24:00

