



5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum

Learning and Practicing Citizenship

Young people's values and commitments to intercultural and inclusive societies

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EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE STRASBOURG

FRANCE

Report

The present report was written by Haythem Kamel, consultant with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. The report builds on the information provided by participants of the forum and various other sources. The report does not necessarily represent the official view points of the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States or any of the organisations taking part in the forum.

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Report

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Executive Summary

Since 2008 the Euro-Arab Youth Forum has become a bi-annual event inviting around 80 young Arab and European leaders, youth workers, representatives of youth associations and decision-makers. Hosting of the Youth Forum rotates between countries from the Arab and European regions.

The Euro-Arab Youth Forum aimed to foster mutual cooperation and dialogue among European and Arab Youth leaders and representatives of youth associations on topics of shared concern within a framework of commitment to a culture of universal human rights and intercultural dialogue.

The Euro-Arab Youth Forums and the cooperation in between the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States in the field of youth started back on the 2007, and the first Euro-Arab Youth Forum was organized in Amman (Jordan) in 2008, and since then several Euro-Arab Youth Forums has been organized in Morocco (2009), Italy (2010), Qatar (2013). In 2015, the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg was host of the 5th one.

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum had three objectives:

- To contribute to the development of shared knowledge and to increase the awareness about meanings and practices of Intercultural Dialogue, Human Rights and Euro-Arab cooperation;
- To explore the role and practices of education for citizenship and human rights in building peaceful cohesive societies and preventing discrimination, hate speech, islamophobia and extremism leading to violence;
- To develop proposals which aim to involve young people in the issues on the Arab-European dialogue agenda (social, economic, spiritual, cultural, and political) based on their ability to challenge stereotypical images.

The Forum was co-organised by the Youth Departments of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States in cooperation with the European Youth Forum.

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum was organised under the theme ***Learning and Practicing Citizenship: Young people's values and commitments to intercultural and inclusive societies***. The forum brought together 100 young people from the member states of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States.



The programme of the Forum was built so as to cover the concepts and practices of:

- citizenship;
- citizenship education and youth participation;
- understanding the local realities of citizenship and youth participation from the field visits in Strasbourg;

- mapping the impact of personal, societal, political and economic realities on the Youth Initiatives for learning and practicing citizenship and how they can be addressed;
- networking and intercultural learning;
- the Euro-Arab Youth Cooperation on enhancing learning and practice of citizenship and development of the 'Strasbourg Message' as the output from the Forum.

Despite the very different demographical, social and culture realities of young Arabs and Europeans, the forum participants were driven by a common desire to overcome prejudice and barriers and by the commitment to intercultural dialogue and exchange.

The participants' profiles were varied from the European side and the Arab side. European participants were selected as a result of an open call among partners of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and member organisations of the European Youth Forum. They were active young people representing national or regional youth organizations or youth platforms, interested in the Euro-Arab Youth cooperation. Participants from the Arab side were selected by the governmental youth bodies in their respective countries, as being active young people either on the national or local levels. These methodologies of selection for participants resulted in a diversity of backgrounds of the participants which enriched further the discussions. All participants were highly motivated in engaging in dialogue and cooperation and in contributing to overcome current misconceptions and prejudice that make Euro-Arab youth cooperation difficult.

The Euro-Arab Youth Forums have been influenced, in methodologies, partnership and participants, by the political transformations of the Arab region during last few years – and similarly by political and social changes in Council of Europe member states. Due to these transformations, stakeholders and players of the youth field have been changed or replaced. So, having the Forum and continuation of the cooperation in this field should be considered as a success in itself. The fact that the implementation of the 6th Euro-Arab Youth Forum was agreed and put in the agenda of both of the partner organisations should be welcome as a step in the right direction..

In addition to the political transformations that affected the Arab region since the beginning of the Euro-Arab Cooperation, the 5th Forum was deeply influenced by what was happening in the participants societies, notably the multiple civil wars in the Arab region that resulted to a refugee crisis in Europe and contradictory reactions of individual European countries to this situation. This appeared on the discussions in between the participants and the speeches of the speakers. It provided a particular framework that made it even more essential to discuss cooperation especially on the fields of youth participation, citizenship and intercultural dialogue. Even after the Forum, the succession of events in Europe and the Arab region, with terrorist attacks and the raise of violence in many countries, reinforced the need for further Euro-Arab youth cooperation.

The Forum was planned during two preparation meetings between partner organisations and a team of facilitators. During the preparation meetings the detailed content of the activities was prepared and logistics arrangements were done. The team of the facilitators and rapporteurs from both sides were professional, dedicated and open for cooperation.

The language competencies of the team and the participants were very important as there were a lot of common languages to speak. Many of the Arab participants could communicate successfully both in English, French and many European participants even had diverse level of Arabic proficiency. This was one of the main aspects that facilitated successful communication and led to having a vision of continuous cooperation between the participants and the organisations represented in the Forum.

Having multiple stakeholders in the Forum was a plus, as having representatives from the governmental institutions especially from the Arab side, will give a push to the Euro-Arab cooperation on national level. This will add a support to the individual participant's initiatives as a follow-up from the Forum. Participation

of the officials should facilitate the communication with the participants in the future, and should also raise the awareness of the existence of this Euro-Arab cooperation on official national level. That, in turn, should lead to the engagement of more stakeholders.

The participants had a big will to learn about the previous experiences of the previous Euro-Arab Youth Forums, and they tried to avoid some of the mistakes from the past as a learning outcome to improve the work of the future.

The programme included Plenary sessions, to get an overall understanding of the topics and a variety of workshops to go deeper on the topics and to understand the situation on national level from the perspective of young people. , Field visits to organizations working on democratic citizenship and youth participation in Strasbourg, in addition to a *Bazar evening*, where the participants presented their NGO's activities and work, allowed them to know well what they do and how they can cooperate among each other.

The intensive interactions, discoveries of commonalities and differences of the youth realities and challenges resulted in a common outcome document prepared by the participants. The forum adopted the "Strasbourg Message" (Appendix 3), reflecting the proposals and expectations of the participants on future Euro-Arab cooperation and possibilities to enlarge spaces for effective participation and citizenship of young people.

In the message, the participants express their concerns about the shrinking space for civil society, poor access to social rights, rampant corruption and lack of accountability of governments in many countries. They also called on all member states of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States to live up to their international commitments and duties to safeguard human rights, with regards to the current refugee crisis by hosting more refugees fleeing from armed conflicts.

The group of participants initiated actions to ensure the follow-up of the forum:

- Creating a group of responsible for following up the forum ideas and implementation of the forum outputs and Strasbourg Message;
- Setting up a Facebook group bringing together participants of the 5th and the previous Forums to promote cooperation taking into consideration the previous lessons and outcomes;
- Developing the idea of creation of the Network of the Euro-Arab Forum Alumni, aiming to consider a continual investment and knowledge sharing from all the previous practices to the future ones.

Recommendations of the participants to the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States

Cooperation and support

- Encourage and support the development and implementation of policies for citizenship and human rights education involving all relevant stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations, education professionals and students in both of the regions;
- Support research and cooperation between European and Arab professionals in education (non-formal) and youth field to better identify areas that need development as well as strategic priorities and actions in order to create an evidence-based cooperation strategy;
- Consider the development of projects, within the framework of the Euro-Arab Youth Forum Alumni, which support youth workers to develop specific strategies and tools to equip young people with competences to challenge anti-democratic forces, such as on-line hate speech and islamophobia.

Capacity building

- Continue to support youth activists and youth organisations through the organisation of long-term Euro-Arab training of trainers on citizenship and youth participation in order to increase the number and quality of human rights educators, as well as the outreach of the Euro-Arab Youth Forum;
- Promote and further develop network of Alumni of the Euro-Arab Youth Forums, in order to ensure and sustain the platform for cooperation networking and dialogue among active European and Arab Youth;
- Explore possibilities for advocacy and funding mechanism to support youth-led Euro-Arab initiatives and activities;
- Support the translation of the Council of Europe materials (such as t-kits and Compasito) into Arabic in order to improve their accessibility;
- Establish an online resource on priorities, challenges, results and discussions of the Forum in the field of citizenship and participation.

Conceptual development

- Encourage and support the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States not only to work in partnership with NGOs, youth organisations but also with the governmental structures (to involve all stakeholders) to develop action plans for common activities, which include identification of underdeveloped areas, priorities for action, as well as provisions for monitoring and evaluation of progress, for the sustainability of the Euro-Arab Cooperation;
- Ensure political and financial support to initiatives in citizenship and youth participation coming from the non-formal education sector, and particularly those that support and develop the autonomy of young people and their organisations;
- Support small scale Euro-Arab collaborative projects to foster citizenship and youth participation through exchange of expertise and success stories;

- Awareness raising and advocacy;
- Promote the “Strasbourg Message” among youth groups, networks of the Council of Europe and League of Arab States, governments of the member countries of the involved organisations and empower them to take action for the promotion and development of citizenship and youth participation;
- Raising the awareness of the importance of the citizenship education and youth participation;
- Continue the networking and sharing of good practices at regional, national, and Euro-Arab levels to promote the cooperation in the field of youth implementation.

Background of the forum

Young people in the European and Arab regions grow up in rapidly changing societies that present many of them with challenges regarding their understanding and exercise of the citizenship. More than five years of economic crises and four years following the 'Arab spring', young people find themselves in societies hard hit by austerity measures and economic insecurity where social services and access to housing, education and the labour market have become more difficult. Increasing numbers of people have had to migrate in pursuit of education, better economic opportunities, or refuge from violence and political unrest. With the greater mobility comes the realisation that our societies are increasingly becoming more globalised but also more localised and fragmented. Many young people today seem to consider their nationality of a particular country or region and European or Global citizen simultaneously. Resistance to the incorporation of new members with other backgrounds into the community is also growing, manifesting itself in support for nationalist movements and groups holding extremist views. In this context, nationalist and cultural essentialist views risk attracting more young people in search for ways to shape their future and that of their societies.

While the political, economic and social developments in the European and Arab countries vary widely from country to country, it is clear that many young people look for ways to respond to the changes in their society – such is the purpose of youth participation. Youth leaders embrace new formats to engage with their community and address the challenges affecting their society. They, out of will or necessity, create new forms of social entrepreneurship and develop innovative projects addressing a variety of issues ranging from providing basic needs and supporting vulnerable groups, to promoting diversity and intercultural dialogue and provide information and education on human rights, health, active citizenship or vocational training.

Young people in the Arab region and Europe seek for ways to be recognised as citizens, take responsibility and contribute to the improvement of the lives of the members of their society. Citizenship is both a right and a duty; while citizens are expected to contribute to the economic, social, cultural and political processes in their society, they are also entitled to protection and enjoyment of their human rights.

Within this context, the Council of Europe mission is to support its member's states to promote and protect Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy. It is acknowledged that the citizens of Europe have the right and the duty to contribute to the realisation of this mission. Education and training, research, and policy recommendations are a few of the various tools deployed by the Council of Europe to encourage involvement of young European citizens in the realisation of its aim. The Youth Department of the Council of Europe has been particularly strong in promotion of education for Human Rights and Citizenship, notably in supporting the role of non-governmental youth organisations as actors in the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

On the other side, the League of Arab States mission is to encourage cooperation between its member states, safeguarding their independence and sovereignty, on a range of issues including Human Rights, economic and social development, migration, rights of women and youth. As part of its programme for youth, the League of Arab States Youth Forum (LASYP) has been held in 2007. These forums have been attended by youth leaders, officials from the youth sector, and parliamentarians from Arab countries.

The LASYF became the Euro Arab Youth Forum since 2008, and since then it was organized in-cooperation between the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum, The first EAYF in was organized in Amman (Jordan) focusing on Intercultural dialogue and resulted in “Amman Declaration”.

This Forum had for the first time equal Euro and Arab participants working on common topics and goals, and started a new era of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States in the field of youth. It resulted on multiple activities that was implemented either on the level of both the intergovernmental organizations, or within the cooperation that resulted in multiple projects in between the youth leaders and youth organizations participated in the frame work of this cooperation.

In addition to the EAYF, The European Youth Forum coordinated a parallel activity was organized in the same time of the first four Euro Arab Youth Forums, it was the Euro–Arab Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations (EACMYO). The EACMYO aimed to increase the cooperation and coordination between the European and the Arab youth organizations, and to enhance concrete partnerships and outcomes on the level of cooperation, projects and programs, youth policy and helping in the creation of national and regional platforms for youth organizations in the Arab region.

Within this cooperation, a second Euro Arab Youth Forum was organized in Assila, (Morocco) in 2009 focusing on the topic of migration and resulted in the “Assila Appeal”, in 2010 another form of activity took place within the 3rd EAYF which is the Euro-Arab Youth conference that it was held on two parts, in Tunis (Tunisia) and in Ragusa (Italy) with the theme of Youth, Migration and Development, and it resulted in The “Ragusa Declaration”. In the same year, The Euro Arab Long Term Training Course for cooperation youth projects, was organized in two phases, the first one in 2010 in Strasbourg (France) and the second phase in 2011 in Dubai (UAE).

Since then, the Arab region faced multiple political transformations which affected the promising Euro Arab Cooperation. The 4th Euro-Arab Youth Forum is considered as an important milestone event that restarted the cooperation again; it was held in Qatar, from 8 to 11 December 2013, addressing the themes: “Human Rights, Youth Participation and Intercultural Dialogue”. The Doha Youth Declaration 1 acknowledges the valuable contribution that young people and youth organisations make to society and recognizes that it is only by engaging with them that decision makers will be able to develop policies and programmes that effectively meet their needs. The participants of the forum highlighted the need to strengthening the policies, legal frameworks and other mechanisms such as a charter, that promote the full enjoyment by young people of their human rights, including the rights to live in peace and security; education; participation in decision-making at all levels and in society in a wider sense. Promoting human rights and citizenship education for young people in formal education and in non-formal education was recommended as a concrete step to this aim.

The other milestone that took place is that the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe agreed to organize the Euro Arab Youth Forums as a bi-annual event in order to keep the rhythm of the cooperation and to have time interval in-between the main events to organize other activities. Aiming to maximize the benefits and the outcomes of the Forum, the forum should be organised by turns in a European and an Arab country.

The scope of what citizenship means, the responsibilities and expectations of young citizens, deserves reflection and should be a solid basis for intercultural dialogue by young people. The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum was a platform for reflection and exchange among peer youth leaders from member states of the Council of Europe and the Arab League.

Aim and Objectives

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum was organised to foster mutual cooperation and dialogue among young Arab and European leaders, representatives of associations and decision-makers, on the meanings and practices of citizenship by young people and the challenges they face in their paths to autonomy.

Objectives of the forum:

- To contribute to the development of shared knowledge and to increase the awareness about meanings and practices of active citizenship by young people;
- To reflect on the meanings of citizenship within the context of Euro-Arab cooperation;
- To exchange on realities and challenges faced youth organisations engaged in the education and promotion of citizenship and human rights;
- To explore the role and practices of education for citizenship and human rights in building peaceful cohesive societies and preventing discrimination, hate speech, islamophobia and extremism leading to violence or terrorism;
- To present and give visibility to projects and meaningful practices in the Euro-Arab region that promotes citizenship by and for young people;
- To develop proposals to involve young people in the issues on the Arab-European dialogue agenda (social, economic, spiritual, cultural, and political) based on their ability to challenge stereotypical images.

The expected outcomes of the Forum were as follows:

At the policy level:

- Strengthening co-operation of all involved parties on the international level to initiate plans for concerted Euro-Arab actions;
- Prioritization of future areas of cooperation between the youth sectors of the League of Arab States and of the Council of Europe.

Specific outcomes:

- A Forum report, including conclusions and recommendations;
- Direct cooperation projects between the participants and their organisations.

Participants

Organisers

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum: “Learning and practicing citizenship”, was organized together by the Youth Department of Youth of the Council of Europe and the Department of Youth and Sports in the League of Arab States and the European Youth Forum.

Participants

The forum was attended, formally, by 71 participants, where 30 Arab and 41 European participants including 34 male and 37 female participated in the Forum. In addition the participants, the forum included also the team of facilitators, 2 rapporteurs as well as guests from the League and the Council of Europe.

The European participants were selected based on an open call for participation. Selection of the participants from the Arab States was implemented by the Ministries or National Councils of Youth.

The selection criteria were: geographical balance of the participants, activeness on the local and international levels. The technical committee for youth affairs of the League of Arab States and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe also participated in the Forum.

In addition to representatives from the Anna Lindh Foundation , a number of the members of the technical committee for youth affairs of the League of Arab States and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe participated in the Forum (**Appendix 1**: List of participants).

Preparation for the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum

There were 3 phases of preparation and development of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum.

The first preparation meeting (March 2015) aimed to support the development of the Euro -Arab cooperation vision for the future, and planning for the 5th Forum in 2015, taking into consideration the lessons and recommendations of the 4th Euro-Arab Youth Forum in Doha.

The second preparation meeting (May 2015) aimed to build-up the team of facilitators and to construct the detailed program of the Forum, to discuss the activities of each of the sessions, stating the time table. The outcome of the meeting was a detailed program of the Forum and a plan of preparations.

The third preparatory meeting (August/ September 2015) took place two days prior to the Forum. The objectives of it were to finalise the programme, to distribute the tasks, and to finalise the logistics.

Methodology and Programme

Working program:

The Forum was designed to enable an interactive participatory approach with the participants through:

- A strong focus on using working groups as a space for interactions, discussions and debate to take place about the meaning and practice of citizenship in the Arab and European and Euro-Arab contexts.. The team of facilitators also focused on the positive interaction between the participants within the working groups as well as within the plenary sessions.;
- Providing space for participants to interact through "Bazaar" evening in which the participants had the space to interact and to present their organisations, countries and cultures (food, music and costumes);
- Field visits: gave space to the participants to know the efforts of local organisations active in Strasbourg concerning humanitarian and human rights issues within the framework of the Forum;
- A common preparation of the Strasbourg Message: The Message has been developed through a participatory approach on three stages
 - First: A team of editors was formed by two youth participants, one European and one Arab, in addition to the two rapporteurs to draft the Message;
 - Second: A consultation process by meetings with representatives of the League of Arab States, Council of Europe, Advisory Council on Youth and the European Youth Forum in order to prepare the draft. In addition to this consultation with the partners, the participants had the opportunity to provide comments and ideas to be mentioned to the draft of the text through the closed Facebook page of the participants,
 - Third: In the last day of the Forum, the draft was presented in the plenary to all the participants in the Forum to have the chance to review it by raising any suggestions or amendments and additions to the final text of the document.



The Program of the Forum

The structure of the program (**Appendix 2**) focused on the meaning, challenges and practices of citizenship. The program was designed on three main stages, The first stage with The Initial Sessions were designed to create a common ground of understanding about the main topics of the forum and to have a clear understanding about the different realities in the Euro-Arab countries

and the organisations. The second stage of the program went on to provide participants with a framework to analyse citizenship as a concept and its practices.

In order to have a common framework of analysing the concepts that they had a common understanding about. The third stage of the program then allowed time to explore existing practices and to learn from them before drafting of the final (Strasbourg Message), and by producing the Strasbourg Message, the full cycle of the program stages is completed; that it will compile all the gained knowledge in the forum to a common call for action.

The program included a Space for exchanging of experiences and networking and presenting practices and tools used in promoting citizenship, human rights education and intercultural dialogue, the local visits in Strasbourg helped to create a clear idea about the situation and the types of organizations that work on promoting citizenship and youth participation in Strasbourg, and to provide a deep knowledge by visiting and meeting representatives from the organisations on how it works and what is the situation and challenges they have in order to achieve their goals.

The Social program facilitated the creation of a team work among the participants in addition to the Bazaar which was used to present the cultural backgrounds of the participants' countries, their projects and activities in relation to the topics of the forum. Non-formal education methodologies used during the various working groups contributed in facilitating the exchange of knowledge about reality and dialogue between cultures. .

Activities of the Forum

A) Opening session

The opening session involved the high level presence on the part of the Council of Europe of Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Dr. Sami al-Majali, in addition to the Vice Chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Youth and Sports, the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Youth of the League of Arab states and the President of the Supreme Council for Youth of Jordan. Berenice Jond, Board member of the European Youth Forum and a recorded message from the United Nations Secretary General Special Envoy on youth, Ahmad Al-Hindawi completed the opening forum

All of the speakers mentioned the importance of the Forum and the issues that it should address including:

- The importance of facing and countering hate speech that feed conflicts and disputes;
- The importance of intercultural dialogue and dialogue beyond the institutional level;
- The importance of youth political participation, so that citizenship is a lifestyle and practices not just an academic subject.

B) The Forum Events & Program:

The Forum focused on learning and practicing citizenship. Through the sharing of experiences and realities in working groups, the speakers inputs providing an analytical framework of citizenship, and field visits and the informal social interaction among the participants the practice and education of citizenship of young people across the European and Arab region was explored

1- Citizenship Definition:

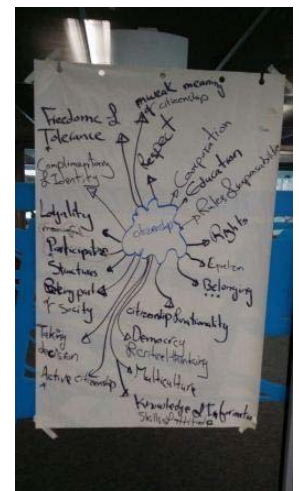
The objectives of the session:

- Enable the participants to understand the meaning and the dimensions of Citizenship;
- Discover the common elements and diversities of understanding learning and practicing citizenship among the different cultures and areas;
- Learning from their peer experience.

The Definition and Concept of “Citizenship” has been discussed through two stages:

In the first stage, participants were distributed into working groups to discuss the following:

- Having a general discussion with the participants on how participants understood the general concept of citizenship.
- Exploring the practice of Citizenship in participants' countries within the four domains of citizenship,

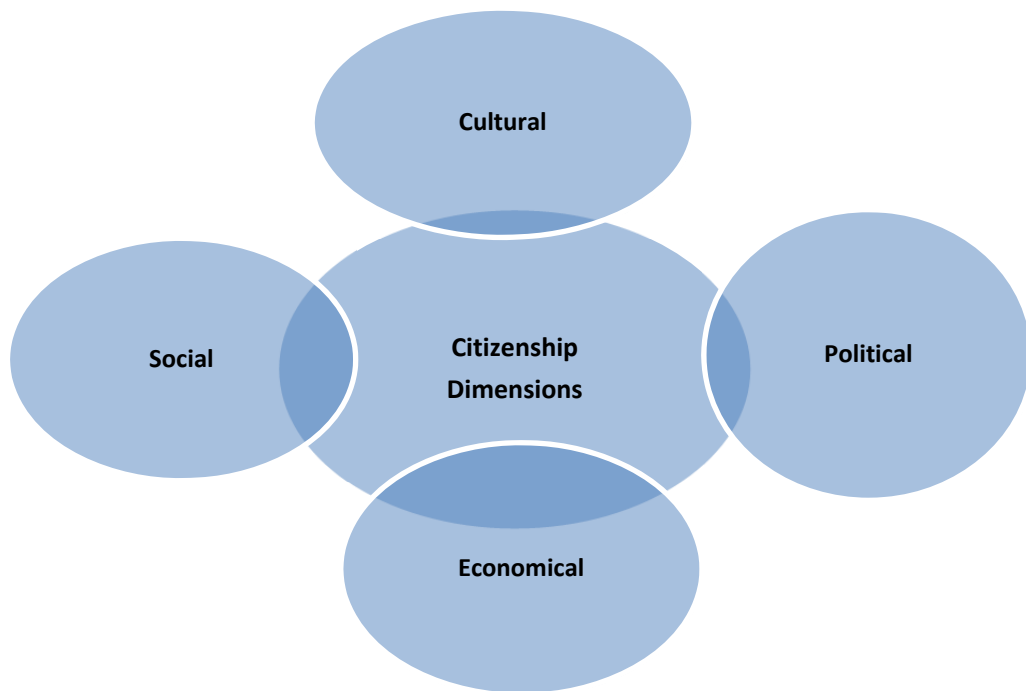


Social, Economic, Cultural and Political.

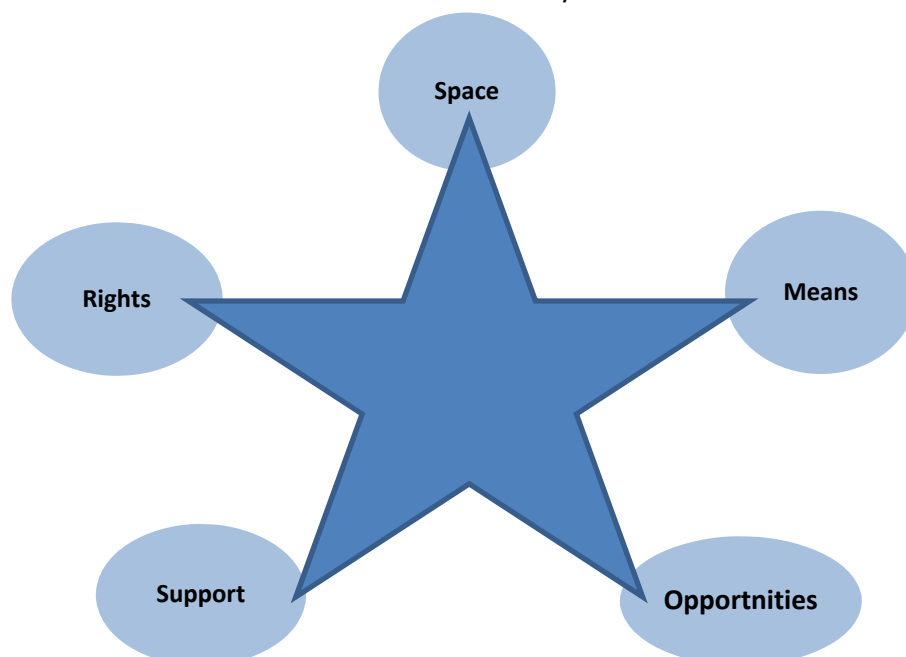
- Understanding Citizenship in framework of knowledge, skills and attitudes, and how to enhance it.

a) Citizenship Concept:

The discussions were based on the Citizenship dimensions: (Cultural, Social, Political and Economical)



And on dimensions of participation, in order to participate, influence decisions and engaging in actions and activities so as to contribute to a better society.



The following ideas have been discussed in the context of the four dimensions of citizenship concept by asking main questions:

- Who determines what citizenship entails, and who is to be considered as a citizen
- What rights, duties and responsibilities does having a citizenship entails
- What other terms are closely related or used to describe citizenship.

Aspects of citizenship participation , in each domain of citizenship that were identified

Economic: Poverty, unemployment, benefits from the government, tax payment, job market, decent jobs opportunities, non-efficient laws and regulations, age gap salary, access to local and private grants;

Culture: Access to education, learning languages, knowing history, music, multi-cultural activities, tolerance, belonging, respect, transition towards democracy, censorship, cultural visits;

Political: Elections and voting, interpretation of religion as a constitutional source, corruption, freedom of expression, rise of extremism/ nationalism, lack of youth political participation/ lack of trust, tokenism; facilitate political membership and creating parties, youth councils should be established;

Social: Social participation, volunteering, gender equality, , migration, civil and religious marriage discrimination according to your religious/ age/ political affiliation, youth active participation on social media and its positive impact in promoting citizenship and raising awareness;

The impressions from the discussions that there are a lot of similarities not just in between the Arab countries or between the European countries, but the participants realised a lot of similarities in between both the European and Arab countries.

The participants found out that there are mutual challenges for young people from both sides, and there is a need of common solutions to solve the problems on both sides.

b) Citizenship Learning process:

The process of Citizenship Learning is an extended process without limit. However, the following areas were identified in a community where people can enhance their culture and the practice of citizenship and the type of learning they can gain, knowledge, skills or values development:

<p>Formal Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School. • Universities and colleges. <p>Non-Formal and In-Formal Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At public spaces and streets actions. • Awareness raining events.. • Learning from Friends, colleagues and family members. • Cultural organizations. • Cultural exchange programs. 	<p>Knowledge: The State legal framework, Rights and Duties, History, Culture, Civil role, Political system.</p> <p>Skills: Teamwork, Leadership, Negotiations, Communications, as all will be learned by doing.</p> <p>Attitudes: Compassion, Tolerance, Respect (Travel and learning through street and cultural exchange, Learning languages, Family as a space</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops and spaces for Capacity building. • Travel • Exhibitions and festivals • Voluntary spaces. 	to learn values)
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The Second Stage: This stage emphasizes two areas of Citizenship concept in order to provide an effective discussions about the challenges facing citizenship and the effective role of young people in the society. To enhance the discussion, exchange of ideas and to benefit from the session time, participants were mixed into working groups ensuring a wide variety of backgrounds and regions represented in each working group. In the working groups the participants identified the following challenges within the four domains of citizenship:

Challenges on the Social Context :	Challenges on the Cultural Context:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty and deprivation. • Lack of awareness and knowledge of social rights. • Distrust in youth. • Xenophobia that leads to lacking tolerance, acceptance and respect of each other's. • Weakness in achieving gender equality. • Lacking information that leads to distrust and negative perspectives against the non-governmental organizations. • Weakness of social media effectiveness and utilization to promote Citizenship concepts on the Euro-Arab level. • Services centralization in capitals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequacy of our cultural awareness about other community practices which reflected on the culture discussions. • Availability of cultural events could be considered as important, as some believe in the important of multiculturalism, while some could think that having plenty of multicultural events may threaten their identity. • Societies are in transfer into a democracy model without proper awareness among the people about its tools and/or its utilization. • How to maintain the community local culture while being part of a process of globalization.
Challenges on the Economic Context:	Challenges on the Political Context:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty and bad economic status of members of a society. • Shortage of International and National supports in addition to the Economic crisis, these results in the migration of skilled youth willing to have for better life opportunities. • Shortage of available funds for youth projects due to bad financial status and even if there is, the bureaucracy procedures obstruct it distribution. • Few job opportunities and ability to create private business in addition to the non-efficient laws and regulations , especially for the Europeans, • In some European countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of resources and instability of political environment. • Youth are less interested in politics due to little awareness and no representations for the young people in political life and/or availability of other options rather than being involved in politics. • Weak youth representation in decision making process, and carelessness towards roles and ideas of young people. By the decision makers • Lack of trust or misunderstanding of the current political systems by youth in some countries. • Due to corruption, youth prefers to be disengaging themselves from the political system. • Unawareness of their political rights. • Absence of political culture. • Education system ignores importance of political

<p>Unemployment benefits are almost similar to employment benefits, which does not encourage the motivation to search for or adhere to a job.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment disempowers the young people. • Discrimination in the labour market. Some young people have better chances than the others, due to cultural, religious background or political affiliation. 	<p>awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibilities for young people to express themselves politically vary between countries, from very free expression to lack of right to expression depending on the regime ruling the country. • Different constitutional sources, some are based on interpretation of religion versus others based human rights. • Nepotism and favouritism and in the Political life don't provide equal opportunities for young people to participate. • Instability of power relations could restrict the access of participation to specific stakeholders, as tribal or religious groups. • Hate speech and lack of chances for youth participation. • Feeling of marginalization for people who don't hold the passport of the host country, as migrants or expats.
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2- Enhance Citizenship and Youth Participation – Field Visits

The field visits goal was to provide the participants with information about issues and challenges in Strasbourg related to actual Citizenship in different areas in order to provide examples and further support the critical analysis of learning and practicing citizenship. The participants could chose to visit one of the organisations listed below. On their return from the visit, each group had their own debriefing and gave a presentation of their reflections through a presentation during an informal session followed by further informal exchange of information.

The organisations and their projects visited were:

AMSED: Migration Solidarity and Exchange Association for Development

AMSED is a European youth NGO that aims to promote and implement youth activities, special events, intercultural exchanges and integration activities, especially among migrants. AMSED seeks to create spaces for exchange, learning and solidarity at a local, European and international level.

Alsatian Youth Parliament

It's a tool to achieve participative democracy among the youth in Alsace. It represents the youth diversity, whereas many of their questions, projects and themes related to youth, and works out concrete propositions, therefore aiming and contributing to have an influence on regional policies.

Green Party Strasbourg / Europe Ecology

Europe Ecology – The Greens (French: Europe Écologie – Les Verts is a green political party in France, formed in 2010 from the merger of The Greens and other environmentalists and social activists. It aims to provide political ecology. As a green party, EELV prioritizes and emphasizes environmental issues. It

calls for a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions, phasing out nuclear energy in favour of renewable energy, eco-friendly urban planning and the development of sustainable agriculture.

Maison des Potes

The 'friends' house' is a national association, grouping neighbourhood association on local scale. It aims to raise the youth awareness on citizenship, to promote diversity, to educate against racism and discriminations and to help professional insertion. In this framework it also aims to make youngster more autonomous, make their social integration easier and reinforce their citizenship.

Themis Association

Themis is an association promoting children's and youngsters' access to their rights. It follows three main lines, which are taking in youngsters seeking for advice or help, implementing actions to raise the awareness on citizenship, and promoting children's rights (through conferences and workshops).

Association Oberholz/DOMIE: Unaccompanied foreign minors

The association is a social home of educational action for unaccompanied foreign minors. The social workers have to accompany the youngsters towards the social and the professional inclusion and their autonomy. The youth follow education in the French educational system to obtain a professional qualification, they discover the French culture and administrations and they are encouraged to take part in the public life of the society to which, from now on, they belong.

3- Tools and practices to enhance citizenship

This session seeks to exchange information about tools and practices to enhance citizenship, aiming to increase youth participation, and to overcome challenges that the participants could face in their youth work on local level. The session also aimed to strengthen Euro-Arab cooperation between the participants and provide them with information about Euro-Arab initiations such as (Anna Lindh Foundation programmes) that can support them in their efforts. During this session a few workshops were run in parallel giving the participants the possibility to present various initiative ideas to each other and to choice which programmes they would like to learn more about. The workshops run included

- **Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), DAWRAK Programme, by Gemma Aubarell**
DAWRAK is the Citizens for Dialogue Programme that was managed by the ALF to enhance the citizenship and dialogue through arts, culture and education. The programme was implemented in the Arab States members in the ALF network.
- **Education programmes for the democratic citizenship, Education division of the Council of Europe by Yulia Pererva**
The discussion covered the success stories and challenges that facing the implementation the **Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education** inside the schools in Europe.
- **The Guidelines for Intercultural Dialogue in non-formal education, Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth by Menno Ettema**

The Guidelines have been developed with educators and those who are working with young people in order to assist them in integrating the intercultural dialogue approach into non-formal educational activities and projects such as youth meetings and exchanges.

- **WediActivists Board Game – An Interactive Game by Amal Hamich**

This game has been developed through “The No Hate Speech Campaign” wherein participants have been learned about hate speech and how to deal with it.

- **LOEJSE Workshop (Campaign Development/slogan) by Marina Tracoveskas**

This workshop provides a general introduction on how to develop campaigns slogans. Loesje is an international network working on criticizing society issues through publishing critical messages via special designed posters.

- **Amman Youth Declaration on peace and security by Matilda Flemming**

The “Amman Youth Declaration on peace and security” was presented in the Forum as an important document due to its relationships with youth participation. And the participants accepted to include it in the “Strasbourg Message” as an additional output of the 5th Euro Arab Youth Forum

As a brief on the “World Youth Forum” was presented in which gave a highlights to the importance of youth for their key role in peace process, but there is no recognition for their role or providing the required resources.

The Amman Declaration includes the following points:

- Youth participation/leadership in peace and security process.
- Youth role in preventing violence and building peace.
- Social equality.
- Youth empowerment economically and socially

4- The League of Arab States and the Council of Europe

The forum included a session on the structure of the Arab League and the Council of Europe and their mechanism of decision making and programme implementation to clarify for participants how the forum outputs can be link to the work of the two institutions.

A presentation of the structure of the League of Arab States and the Arab Youth and Sport Ministers’ Council with special focus on the work and the activities they do to achieve their main aim of a generational capacity building so the young people will believe in the Arab values and principles, and able to achieve its aims on the Arab cooperation level in the field of youth

The presentation covered the following points:

- History;
- Structure;
- Membership of 22 of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports or their equivalents;
- Coordination and integration among Arab states in the field of youth and sports;
- Youth policies;
- Main activities and programmes;
- Regional cooperation within the Arab region and internationally..

The Council of Europe was also presented, on its general aim on achieving a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles with a special focus on the work that the Council of Europe do in the field of youth and the Role of the Council of Europe in enhancing and encouragement of the national youth policies;

The presentation covered the following:

- The aims, Institutions, The secretariat;
- How young people can participate in decision-making via the co-management mechanism and the Joint Council of Youth ;
- The activities of the youth department, the European youth centres, the European Youth Foundation, the Partnership with the European Commission and the Intergovernmental cooperation;
- The campaigns, Educational tools and the main activities that the Council of Europe implement to achieve its goals in the field of youth.

5- - Learning Euro-Arab Cooperation - Ideas for networking

The forum naturally included space to encourage the participants to engage in Euro-Arab cooperation. A number of stakeholders involved in Euro-Arab cooperation were present in the forum including the Anna Lindh Foundation and the North-South Centre.

Ambassador Hatem Attallah the Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation, mentioned that this Euro-Arab Youth Forum is one of the models of the Euro Arab cooperation that have a growing demand and interest of expanding this cooperation between both sides which appeared in the meeting that was held between the foreign ministers of the European Union and the League of Arab States.

He mentioned that through the field work of the Anna Lindh Foundation it is obvious that there is a growing need for the Euro Arab Dialogue and cooperation and that the importance of such cooperation is not only due to the fact that the European Side and the Arab World share the same geographical and historical spot, but also because of its share of social reality and mutual relations, exchange and development.

He highlighted also that it is very important to define the importance of cooperation as there are many challenges to the area such as Islamophobia, growing negative tendencies with the rise of the radical reactions, xenophobic attitudes, and very violent expressions, of attitudes and feelings, which exists due to misunderstanding and the lack of dialogue, interactions and cooperation. Therefore, it's very important to launch such dialogue and cooperation between the European and the Arab sides.

He cited the former French president Jacques Chirac who said that there is no clash of civilization, but it is a clash of ignorance, and that is what we are facing today.

He mentioned that we need a dialogue based on a language that the young people can understand and use, so if we want to change our reality and build a foundation for our future, this must be through cooperation, partnership and common dialogue, because the nature refuse emptiness, and if there is no dialogue the negative trends will be presented more and more because there is no other alternatives. In addition to all of this is that the youth are the main target for the extremism, and they are also the first victims to the economic challenges. In addition to the common concerns between the regions linked to

migration, cultural conflicts. Therefore, we need to build understanding bridges to work together on solving our common concerns.

Finally Ambassador Attallah concluded that facing those challenges can be achieved by supporting the active youth and having them as a successful model that work aiming to change and improve the reality. As many young people are working to construct this positive model that our community's needs, and building bridges of dialogue and cooperation will raise the level of understanding and will overcome all the challenges.

The North-South Centre had a brief presentation about their work and activities, and that they implemented many projects focusing on the Euro-Arab Cooperation. The centre aims to set a positive role for the civil society especially young people and women in the society through:

- Youth Participation cooperation and partnerships with different stakeholders
- Women Empowerment
- Global Education and Intercultural Dialogue.

To enhance the Euro-Arab cooperation between participants the presentation of the various institutions were followed by time for networking, allowing the exchange of ideas for cooperation among the participants. . At the end of the session, participants developed various suggestions including:



- 1st Group: to enhance history learning to children and young people – the group primarily agreed to have a link with Tunisian Historians and AMSED organization, if possible, in order to develop a history enlightenment program in France.
- 2nd Group: to set up a follow up group, including members from various forums, for following up on the Euro-Arab Youth Forum output. This included the idea of an alumni network and working on capacity building for this network.
- 3rd Group: to define a legal and human rights group interested in challenging the French laws that limits the communication of unaccompanied child refugees with their families abroad.
- 4th Group: to expand the “No Hate Speech campaign” to include members from Mauritania, Palestine, Iraq, Italy, Cyprus, England and Yemen as they discussed how to expand the work within the campaign.

C) Forum Conclusion

The forum provided a space to identify common and specific challenges to learning and practicing citizenship , the participants learned about diverse of idea's and examples of practices from across the Euro-Arab region.

The rapporteurs together with two representatives of the group of participants formed a drafting team for the creating of the



Strasbourg Message, they had meetings with representatives from the Council of Europe and League of Arab states towards the formation of the Message to be covering the topics and channelling the voices of the participants of the forum.

The Strasbourg message after going through a process of reviews by the participants was adopted at the end of the forum and provides: General introduction on the forum and its subject; with a brief for the real atmosphere around youth and challenges; and some practical suggestions to follow up the outputs of the forum and to enhance Euro-Arab communication/cooperation.

While developing the Message, The participants developed a follow up group (**Appendix 5**) with a responsibility to follow up on the forum outputs, the participants in the follow-up group agreed to form 3 main sub-groups, to be responsible on specific tasks:

- Alumni/ Participants
- Training, Education and resources
- Funding

The group met after the closing session of the forum to set their future agenda and task distribution, and after the forum they started on their tasks on following up and communication with other participants and the partner institutions.

D) The Final Session:

In the closing session the final Strasbourg message was read out and the three speakers of the closing applauded the work done by the participants throughout the forum and its final results. The closing remarks were provided by

- Mr. Abdul Moneim Alshaeery, Head of the Youth and Sports Department, the League of Arab States.
- Mr. Paulo Pinheiro– Chairman of Youth Joint Council, the Council of Europe.
- Mrs. Antje Rothmund, Head of Youth Department, the Council of Europe.

In addition to the appreciation of the work of the participants, they stressed the importance to enhance the Euro-Arab cooperation and comply with and support the outputs of “Strasbourg Message”.

Mr. Alshaeery mentioned that all political support will be taken for the document of “Strasbourg Message” and an executive framework will be provided according to the available resources. He stressed the importance of building bridges of cooperation.

Mr. Pinheiro in his comment focused on the change that is happening in Europe and the Arab countries, and followed the Arab spring and political transformation that lead to the moment of conflict, and this conflict is affecting both regions, it is important to have cooperation and partnership together, to promote human rights, democracy, pluralism and diversity.

This can only happen with a concrete participation and citizenship to have on the same table representatives from the civil society and the governments, in which the Joint Council of Youth and the Advisory Council on Youth are involved in this unique example of integration, co-management and trust.

This cooperation can be possible only if young people is involved, and that’s why it is important to have the Euro Arab Youth Forum, and we should focus as participants in this Forum that we act as ambassadors for intercultural dialogue. We are all responsible to make this happens.

Mrs. Rothmund expressed her happiness to hold such forum despite of the various challenges for both parties. She promised she would communicate the “Strasbourg Message” to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and to disseminate the document among the various relevant parties; e.g.: Council of Europe sectors concerned with intercultural dialogue, and the Joint Council of Youth. Mrs. Rothmund ensured that the Youth Department will handle the final document seriously, and there is already a specific section on Council of Europe web pages designated to the cooperation with the Arab region.

Mrs. Rothmund mentioned the positive joint meeting between the Arab League and the Council of Europe in which they agreed to lead, follow up and evaluate this forum in addition to prepare the 6th Euro-Arab Youth Forum which is planning to be held in Morocco in 2017. She expressed her hope that the “No Hate Speech” campaign will be spread further within counties of the Arab region.

Evaluation

After the forum, on 6th of September, an evaluation session was held by the facilitators group and the rapporteurs group. In their meeting they reviewed the outcomes of the evaluation session with the participants and together identified lessons learned and the main outcomes of the forum. The most important observations were:

Topics that affected the participants	What was gained by the participants	Initiatives that can be applied
<p>Commonalities and differences of the Arab and European regions; The diversity of the Arab region. The level of youth participation in their societies; The desire of youth to know the “others” and to have positive relationships with them; There are some young people willing to change, by improving the situation they are living in and having a significant role in life. Participants want to work together to learn the citizenship concept; Many of the participants consider that the speech of the vice mayor of Strasbourg had a significant impact on them; Some consider that speaking in other languages is important for communication with the world; Some young people are interested in political participations; The free expression area during the forum; The suffering of minor’s refugees in France and the unfair law blocking unaccompanied migrant children to contact their families in other countries; How European deal with refugees exodus and respecting of their rights. The development process of the final document was better than other forums.</p>	<p>Knowledge of the framework of each region/country and challenges in the context of education for citizenship. Realization that there are different understandings of citizenship in addition to learning the concepts and models of citizenship. Having a better understanding concerning the major challenges that are facing the young people in both European and Arab regions. The importance of facing the challenges through joint work and cooperation in between the European and the Arab young people to spread peace and enhance dialogue in both regions. Knowledge of the citizenship concept, as well as the analysis of the mechanisms associated with it. Possibility of intercultural learning. Overcoming of the stereotypes. Learning from experience of the others, recognize the civil organizations and associations of France and Europe and learning new ideas. Recognition of the structure and work of the Arab League and the Council of Europe. Have information about policies of other countries. Networks and the available cooperation fields. Learning through observations to develop the forums. Identify and get different examples of existing practices and resources. More openness regarding issues and subjects. Discover that also the European officials and trainers can make mistakes.</p>	<p>Possibility to start the dialogue on citizenship, each through their organizations and projects. Raise the concept of citizenship especially with kids. Publish the “Strasbourg Message” and link it with Euro-Med programs/initiatives for youth. Working on changing the stereotype in between European and Arab youth through various means of audio-visual communication and social media. Possibility to start the cooperation for some projects such as Loesje Workshop or a visit of Moroccan delegation to Green Party Strasbourg and Europe ecology. Execution of some joint projects and programs with organizations represented by European youth in the forum. Organize a Euro-Arab meeting on aiming to promote tolerance and understanding among the young people on both sides.. Enhance the partnerships with the “No Hate Speech Campaign”.</p>

Lessons learned on preparations and logistics

- The importance of selecting facilitators who are able to initiate discussion among participants and facilitate the process towards dialogue and consensus building. Where possible to also use some participants as resource persons.
- More concentration on building a team spirit of the team of facilitators.
- More concentration on building a team spirit of the group of participants.
- Develop a clear final program of the forum to avoid confusion of facilitators' team and the participants.
- It's important not to burden the facilitators with additional duties of translation in the working groups as this affect the facilitation process.
- The need to complete the arrangements of work program and to develop clear guidelines within a sufficient time to enable speakers and participants to develop their presentations accordingly.
- Consider the forum date to be suitable for both Arab and European sides in order to have enough time for preparation especially if coincident with holidays and official days off.
- Give more time for the plenary sessions in order to benefit from the discussions in plenary.
- The site visits had a significant positive impact on participants and should be kept as a programme element if possible and instrumental for the next forum programme.
- Put the travel date of Arab participants into consideration to enable them to attend all activities of the forum including the closing day. This gave them an opportunity for much more participation.
- The importance of the forum as an area to teach the participants how to build their skills in presentations, debates...etc.
- The importance to clarify the type and details of side activities such as "the Bazar" and to ensure unified terminology when describe it (e.g.: Projects Bazar or Non-Governmental Organization Bazar oretc.).
- The participants appreciated the simultaneous translation in this forum, having both Arabic and English language simultaneously translations was very helpful in communication and in making it easy for the participants to express their thoughts freely without any linguistic competencies limitations. Hence this be taken into consideration in the coming forums.

The Suggestions:

The most significant suggestions were:

- To let enough time for facilitators group for the preparation of the forum especially during the few days before it- in order to define the roles, distribute tasks, complete the logistics details.....etc.
- Consider that the participants should be well prepared for the subject of the next forum; in this regard, young people are required to participate in a workshop or preparatory meeting(s) to present the forum subject.
- Consider knowledge, skills and experience of young people, who will participate, to be more compatible with subject of the forum.
- Expand the selection mechanism of the participants especially from the Arab side.
- Invitation for the good practices in the Arab and European countries in order to give chances for various participations.
- The forum should offer larger area for non-official interaction through social or interactive activities.
- Extend time limit of discussion during the plenary in order to give a chance for the participants to enhance the discussion and clarify the ideas, exchange of views and common understanding on a systematic basis.
- Replace the formal speeches to speeches from reality so as to inspire the young people.
- Consider the participants' travel routes to guarantee that they will remain until the end of forum' activities.

Appendixes

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Participants

Surname	Name	Organisation ¹
Albania		
Sula	Gerald	Ushten
Armenia		
Karapetyan	Gohar	Syunik-Development Non-governmental organization
Azerbaijan		
Aliyeva	Aytan	Great Silk Way International Youth Union
Mammadli	Orkhan	IRELI Public Union
Bahrain		
Abdulbasit Abdulsamad Qasim Khundi	Qasim	General Organization for Youth and Sports
Ebrahim Abdulrahim Mohamed	Budoor	General Organization for Youth and Sports
Belgium		
Hamich	Amal	Achievement Assoc. / Wedi Activists
Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Kapic	Melisa	NGO 'GARIWO'
Croatia		
Matus	Hrvoje	Sljeme Zabava
Cyprus		
Hadjiyianni	Michaelina	JCI Paphos
Tsouris	Ioannis	Cyprus Youth Council
Denmark		
Matache	Narcis George	European Youth Denmark
Egypt		
Ali	Fatma elzahraa	League of Arab States
El-Shaari	Shaima	League of Arab States
Khaled Kamel	Rotane	Ministry of Youth and Sports

¹ Participants from countries members of the League of Arab States are usually indicated by the ministry of governmental service responsible for their selection to take part in the forum. They are often representing another national youth NGO or service, not necessarily the ministry.

Abdelsalam		
France		
Ameur	Mériem	AMSED-Association Migration Solidarité et Échanges pour le Développement
Banno Gomes	Sara	AMSED-Association Migration Solidarité et Échanges pour le Développement
Lebreton-Chebouba	Milena	Forum Français de la Jeunesse
Omar	Didi	MAG jeunes LGBT
Reina	Eva	ERYICA - European Youth Information and Counselling Agency
Georgia		
Lezhava	Nino	Erasmus Student Network Tbilisi Universal / ESN Tbilisi Universal
Makharadze	Givi	International School of Intellect and Education
Germany		
Nasir	Ameen	Heimaten e.v Netz für Chancengerechtigkeit
Singpiel	Alexandra	European Federation for Intercultural Learning
Greece		
Tsimplakis	Tasos	The World Organization of the Scout Movement - European Region
Hungary		
Lantai	Judit	National Youth Council of Hungary
Iraq		
Hakim Abed Alkhulaifawi	Mohammed	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Mohammed Hussein Mustafa	Sarah	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Ireland		
Bader	Faris	Washington-Ireland Program for Service and Leadership.
Italy		
Coppola	Alessandra	APICE - Associazione di Progettazione Integrata per la Calabria in Europa
Elefante	Enrico	Forum della Gioventù di Santa Maria la Carità
Simeone	Annamaria	GIOSEF UNITO
Jordan		
Ibrahim Naser Mahmoud	Naser	Higher Council for Youth
Khaled Ata Alrawashdeh	Dema	Higher Council for Youth
Kuwait		

Al Qana'i	Ganan	Public Authority for Youth and Sports
Al Dowayhes	Faisal	Public Authority for Youth and Sports
Lebanon		
Ahmad Salami	Ali	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Gerges Maalouf	Cynthia	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Libya		
Belashhar	Ahmed	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Mohammed	Dalal	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Lithuania		
Mazetyte	Karolina	Youth to Youth Initiative
Mauritania		
Sid	Ahmed Hambel	Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Raky Ba	Ministry of Youth and Sport
Morocco		
Azami Hassani	Sara	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Cherragu	Aiyman	Ministry of Youth and Sports
The Netherlands		
Flemming	Matilda	UNOY Peacebuilders
Stoop	Jaco	EUROCLIO - The European Association of History Educators
Norway		
Diriye	Abdulkadir	The Grace Center For Peace and Development
Palestinian Authority		
Abdulraheem Mahmoud Abumulaweh	Mazin	Higher Council for Youth and Sports
Ali .H.Owda	Heba	Higher Council for Youth and Sports
Poland		
Jojczyk	Bartłomiej	Fundacja Dobrych Inicjatyw (Foundation of Good Initiatives)
Tinti	Paolo	Polish Council of Youth Organisations
Qatar		
Ali Al-Mannai	Fatima	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Abdulla Al Mesaifri	Fawaz	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Alshahrani	Nayef	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Alnesf	Aisha	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Russian Federation		
Bekkhan	Gelgoev	Youth NGO 'Youth For The Future'

Kolupaeva	Tatiana	Charity organization 'Orange'
Saudi Arabia		
Alaa Naji	Hamzah	General Presidency for Youth Welfare
Mohammed A.Albedeiwy	Abeer	General Presidency For Youth Welfare
Slovakia		
Schnelldorfer	Léon	TEJO (World Youth Esperanto Organisation)
Slovenia		
Hočevar	Tina	National Youth Council of Slovenia
Sweden		
Al-Sharif	Ebrahim Ahmed Yahya	Work Agent Sverige AB
“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”		
Trajkovska	Marina	"BETA e.V.
Tunisia		
Soltane	Aymen	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Turkey		
Taşpınar	Ayşe	Cultural Innovators Network
Ukraine		
Fomichov	Oleksandr	Charitable Organization 'Charitable Foundation 'Together to Peace'
United Arab Emirates		
Mahmoud Mohammad Alhaj Albastaki	Hamed	General Authority of Youth and Sports welfare
Mohammad Alhaj Mahmood Al Nasser	Ayesha	General Authority Of Youth And Sports Welfare
United Kingdom		
Fatima	Zahra	National Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Newbery	Rory Albert	Opera Circus

Preparatory Team

Amraoui	Tarek	Facilitator for the Council of Europe
Bouayad	Mohammed Reda	Facilitator for the League of Arab States
Ettema	Menno	Educational Advisor – Council of Europe
Popper	Eliza	Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe)
Salman	Mohamed	Facilitator for the League of Arab States

Consultants

Taher	Rana	Rapporteur for the League of Arab States
Kamel	Haythem	Rapporteur for the Council of Europe
Abdulhafaiez	Noureddin	Film crew – <i>What's up Youth Professional Services</i>
Zaky	Mohamed	Film crew – <i>What's up Youth Professional Services</i>

League of Arab States

Al-Majaly	Samy	Chair of Youth Technical Committee Vice-Chair of Executive office for Arab Youth and Sports Ministerial Council President of the Higher Council for Youth, Jordan
Aseelah	Majed	Assistant of the President of the Higher Council for Youth, Jordan
Elshareei	Abdelmeneim	Head of the Youth and Sports Department
Ali	Omar	Youth and Sports Department
Albattal	Abdulaziz	Youth Technical Committee - General Presidency for Youth Welfare, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Alhajri	Abdulrahman	Youth Technical Committee Ministry of Youth and Sports of Qatar.
Alkooheji	Hashem	Youth Technical Committee Supreme Council for Youth and Sports of Bahrain
Alshammari	Humoud	Youth Technical Committee Deputy Public Authority for Youth & Sports of Kuwait
El Shamarly	Ahmed	Assistant to the Deputy
Alzaabi	Naser	Youth Technical Committee General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare, Dubai
Al Hamidawi	Akram	Youth Technical Committee Ministry of Youth and Sports of Iraq
Charara	Hassan	Youth Technical Committee Ministry of Youth and Sports of Lebanon
Hnid	Kamel	Youth Technical Committee Ministry of Youth and Sports of Tunisia
Rherras	Mohammed	Youth Technical Committee - Director for Children and Youth - Ministry of Youth and Sports of Morocco
Raihani	Khalil	Consultant to the Qatari Youth and Sport Ministry

European Youth Forum

Jond	Bérénice	Member of the Board
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Anna Lindh Foundation

Atallah	Hatem	Executive Director
Aubarell	Gemma	Head of the Programme and Networks Unit
Insalaco	Eleonora	Programmes Manager

City of Strasbourg

Rafik-Elmrini	Nawel	Deputy Mayor, responsible for European and international relations
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Council of Europe

Joint Council on Youth		
Pinheiro	Paulo	Chair of the Joint Council on Youth Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth
Flemming	Matilda	Member of the Advisory Council on Youth
Popper	Eliza	Member of the Advisory Council on Youth
Secretariat		
Battaini-Dragoni	Gabriella	Deputy Secretary General
Rothemund	Antje	Head of the Youth Department
Gomes	Rui	Head of Education and Training Division, Youth Department
Gomez de Agüero	Javier	Office of the Directorate General of Programmes
Pochart	Fabienne	Office of the Directorate General of Programmes
Pererva	Yulia	Education for democratic citizenship and human rights, Education Department
Boetzelen	Philipp	Youth Department, Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth
Ettema	Menno	Educational Advisor, Youth Department
Montevecchi	Claudia	Assistant, Youth Department

THE 5TH EURO-ARAB YOUTH FORUM

The forum is a Joint initiative by the Department of Youth and Sport of the League of Arab States and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in partnership with the European Youth Forum. The forum welcomes 70 European and Arab youth leaders and youth workers engaged in learning and practicing citizenship in their communities.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum aims to foster mutual cooperation and dialogue among young Arab and European leaders, representatives of associations and decision-makers, on the meanings and practices of citizenship by young people and the challenges they face in their paths to autonomy.

Objectives of the forum

- To contribute to the development of shared knowledge and to increase awareness about meanings and practices of active citizenship by young people
- To reflect on the meanings of citizenship within the context of Euro-Arab cooperation.
- To exchange on realities and challenges faced youth organisations engaged in the education and promotion of citizenship and human rights
- To explore the role and practices of education for citizenship and human rights in building peaceful cohesive societies and preventing discrimination, hate speech, islamophobia and extremism leading to violence or terrorism
- To present and give visibility to projects and meaningful practices in the Euro-Arab region that educates and promote citizenship by and for young people.
- To develop proposals which aim to involve young people in issues on the Arab-European dialogue agenda (social, economic, spiritual, cultural, and political) based on their ability to challenge stereotypical images.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 1 September

Arrival of the participants

17:00 Registration at European Youth Centre

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Welcome evening

Wednesday, 2 September

08:15 Registration at the European Youth Centre

09:30 Introduction of the participants

09:45 **Opening of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum**, with:

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Minister Dr. Samy Al-Majaly, Vice-Chair of Executive office for Arab Youth & Sports Ministerial Council and Chair of Youth Technical Committee

Bérénice Jond, Member of the Board of the European Youth Forum

10:30 Video message by **Ahmed Alhendawy**, United Nations Secretary General Special Envoy on Youth

- 10:45 **Experiences and expectations** of participants on Euro-Arab youth cooperation and the forum – in working groups (with break included)
- 11:40 **Break**
- 12:10 **Feedback and proposals from the working groups**
- 12:15 Programme, working methods and practical organisation of the forum
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:30 **Citizenship, what are we talking about?**
Working groups, exploring as young people how we define, experience and practice citizenship in our community.
- 15:40 Break
- 16:20 **Citizenship education:** Working groups continue.
- 17:00 *Plenary presentation of the working groups findings*, identifying commonalities and a framework for working on the topic of Citizenship during the forum.
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:00 **Bazaar of Youth Initiatives** for learning and practicing Citizenship.

Thursday, 3 September

- 09:30 Opening and review of the day's programme
- 09:45 **Understanding Citizenship and Youth Participation**
 Frameworks for analysis of citizenship and youth participation and challenges met by youth leaders and youth workers, Introductions by:
- **Khalil Raihani**, Expert and consultant to Qatari Youth & Sports Ministry
 - **Rui Gomes**, Education and Training Division, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 *Working groups*, mapping the impact of personal, societal, political and economic realities on the Youth Initiatives for learning and practicing citizenship and how they can be addressed.
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 *Plenary presentation of the working group findings*, identifying possibilities to strengthen Youth Initiatives for learning and practicing citizenship.
- 15:05 *Youth participation by the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe*, how does it work?
- 15:30 **Citizenship education and youth participation in Strasbourg**
- *Introduction to the role of the city in Euro-Arab youth cooperation and youth participation*, by **Nawel Rafik-Elmrini**, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg
- 16:00 Visits to youth initiatives and organisations active on citizenship education and youth participation in Strasbourg, including:
- 16:15 Departures to visits
- AMSED (Migration Solidarity & Exchanges Association for Development – *Association Migration Solidarité & Echanges pour le Développement*)
 - Alsatian Youth Parliament (*Parlement Alsacien des Jeunes*)
 - Green Party Strasbourg / Europe Ecology (at the European Youth Centre)
 - Maison des Potes (*The House of "Buddies"*)
 - THEMIS Association (with input of the Strasbourg Advisory Council of Foreign residents)
 - Association Oberholz/DOMIE (Unaccompanied foreign minors)
- 18:30 Arrive PAX. EYCS – Debrief in visits groups
- 19:30 Plenary summary /group meeting / What learned

20:00 Dinner

Friday, 4 September

09:30 Opening and review of the day's programme

09:45 **Learning Euro-Arab cooperation**

Introduction by **Ambassador Hatem Attallah**, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation

10:15 Visits market / coffee

10:45 Instructions for WGs + visits

11:00 **Projects and tools**

Sharing space for participants and organisers of existing practices and tools for education for citizenship and human rights, intercultural learning and Euro-Arab youth cooperation, including:

- The Anna Lindh Foundation *Dawrak* project
- Programmes on *Education for Democratic Citizenship*, Education Department of the Council of Europe
- Training for youth participation at local and regional level, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- Guidelines for Intercultural Dialogue in non-formal education, Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth
- Structured Youth Participation, European Youth Forum
- WediActivists Board Game, **Amal Hamich**
- LOESJE

12:00 Visits to:

- Local mosque in Robertsau
- The Cathedral of Our Lady of Strasbourg

“pic-nic lunch included”

14:30 Visit to the European Court of Human Rights and the headquarters of the Council of Europe

16:00 Free time

19:30 Dinner in town

Saturday, 5 September

09:30 Opening and review of the day's programme / Introduction of the networking wall

09:45 ***Euro-Arab Youth Cooperation: enhancing learning and practice of citizenship together***

Presentation of Euro-Arab cooperation initiatives beyond the forum by partners of the League of Arab States and Council of Europe, *Activities in the Youth Field* of the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe; possibilities for cooperation (**Ali OMAR League of Arab States – Rui GOMES Council of Europe**)

10:30 Presentation of the Anna Lindh Foundation about Dawrak project by **Gemma Aubarell**

10:45 *The forum's "Strasbourg Message" introduction / Feedback*

Introducing and collecting feedback from participants on the draft 'Strasbourg Message' of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum

11:15 Feedback including Break

12:00 Presentation of the North-South Centre and its activities in connection to Euro-Arab cooperation by **Rocio Cervera**

- 12:05 Presentation of the Amman Declaration by **Matilda Flemming**
- 12:15 *Networking ideas and projects between participants*
Working out and preparing initiatives for Euro-Arab Youth Cooperation and projects promoting citizenship, human rights and intercultural dialogue.
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Continuing *Networking*
- 15:00 Sharing results of networking
- 15:30 Evaluation of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum / WG evaluation
- 16:30 Coffee Break
- 17:00 **Conclusions of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum**
The *Strasbourg Message* final presentation and review how to follow up on its content.
- 17.30 **Closing of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum**
Mr Elshareei Abdelmeneim, Head of the Youth and Sports Department, League of Arab States
Paulo Pinheiro , Chair of the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 19.00 Reception and Barbecue dinner
- 21.00 Closing party, with the performance of local youth artists: **Miss Yella; Trans; Compagnie Zéro Vue; DJ BA-K Souto Maior**

Sunday, 6 September

Departure of the participants

STRASBOURG MESSAGE

5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum

Learning and Practicing Citizenship

2 – 5 September, 2015

European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

SDDCP-YD/EA (2015) 10 Strasbourg, 5 September 2015

We, Arab and European youth, met in Strasbourg for the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum dedicated to **Learning and Practicing Citizenship**. We discussed the meanings and practices of citizenship by young people and the challenges we face in our paths to autonomy. We strongly believe in the importance of Euro-Arab youth cooperation and dialogue, we appreciate the long-term commitment by the Council of Europe and League of Arab States to this process.

We experience very diverse realities across European and Arab countries - notably in terms of opportunities, access and practices of youth participation. As young people we share a common will to exercise our right to participation in all spheres of society, regardless of the cultural backgrounds and state of economic development of our societies. We are committed to democratic citizenship based on human rights, freedom of expression, the rule of law and the respect for pluralism and diversity. Nonetheless, we are facing challenges that are hindering our access to fully, fairly and equally exercise our human rights. These include lack of spaces, means, support and opportunities for youth participation, weak representation of youth in decision-making processes and lack of trust or understanding of the current political systems in some of our countries.

Children and young people have to be provided with citizenship education and opportunities to practice active citizenship from an early age. Youth work, and youth organizations, alongside with formal education providers, play a central role in this respect and should be encouraged and supported.

Structured spaces and frameworks for youth participation should be created, with the involvement of young people and youth organisations, in order to facilitate young people's participation in all stages of decision-making processes.

The European and Arab regions are facing violent conflicts in several parts. The regions will not be able to offer young people opportunities to participate and prosper, without peace.

Young people are central actors in building peaceful societies and in countering and preventing violent extremism. Participants of the Forum call for the implementation of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security.

We are appalled by the current refugee situation in the European and Arab regions. The ongoing conflicts are the direct reasons of this ongoing situation. We call on all member states of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States to live up to their international commitments and duties

to safeguard human rights, with regards to this crisis. Member states need to make more efforts to host fleeing refugees from conflict. We are especially worried about the fate and the way of handling unaccompanied minors.

As young people from the European and Arab regions, we are facing a number of related concerns. In many countries in the regions the space for civil society is shrinking, there is poor access to social rights, corruption is rampant and governments are not accountable to their citizens. As regards inclusive and diverse societies, member states should ensure participation for all - including all genders, nationals and non-nationals, and minorities.

European and Arab young people together with the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States need to tackle these important issues that limit the fulfillment of citizenship, participation and freedom of expression. Hence, we are proposing the following action points to be implemented before the next Euro-Arab Youth Forum:

- Supporting the set-up of a “Euro-Arab youth group” to follow-up on the outputs from this Forum consisting of participants from the Arab and European sides.
- Ensuring that information about educational opportunities and resources for youth citizenship and participation in both regions is available in English and Arabic on the websites of the Council of Europe and of the League of Arab States, and is regularly updated.
- Organizing a long-term Euro-Arab training of trainers on citizenship and youth participation.
- Researching the possibilities for a funding mechanism to support youth-led Euro-Arab initiatives and activities.
- Encouraging the involvement of young people, youth organisations and public institutions in awareness-raising and educational campaigns against hatred, hate speech and terrorism.
- Establishing a network of Alumni of the Euro-Arab Youth Forums, in order to ensure and sustain the platform for cooperation networking and dialogue among active European and Arab Youth.
- Encouraging more direct cooperation between youth organisations from both European and Arab regions.
- Encouraging more direct cooperation between youth organisations and the public sector.

We welcome city of Strasbourg’s involvement in the Forum; cities have an important role to play in dialogue and cooperation, as well as structured participation.

We appreciate the efforts of the Anna Lindh Foundation and welcome their work to support Euro-Arab cooperation in the field of citizenship and participation.

We value the European Youth Forum’s role as partner in this Forum and its support to ensure sustainable youth participation in Euro-Arab youth cooperation.

We thank the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States for having organised this forum and securing its follow-up.

Day 2,

Strasbourg Organisations Field visits

Visit 16.00 – 18.30

Suggestions on questions to ask to the Strasbourg Organization during your visit

- How are the young people in Strasbourg you reach out to with your organisation?
- What are the issues of the young people your organisation tries to address?
- What are you trying to give to young people in Strasbourg?
- How do you involve young people in your work, for example in planning activities etc?
- Do you think the work of your organization contribute to citizenship?
- Does your organization do citizenship education among young people, if so what do you educate about?
- What kind of challenges do you come across in your work with young people?

18.30 – 19.30

Debriefing of the visit

In your group, debrief your visit using the following questions:

- What are your impressions?
- How did you gained new ideas or new insights?
- How do you relate what you had exposed to your own country?
- Do you have similar organization in your country?
- Do you think that their approach could work in your country?
- The challenges that they has mentioned, are their similar to what we mentioned in this morning?
- How did they overcome that challenges? So that we can learn from that?

Please prepare a one page poster about your visit give information on the following questions in your poster.

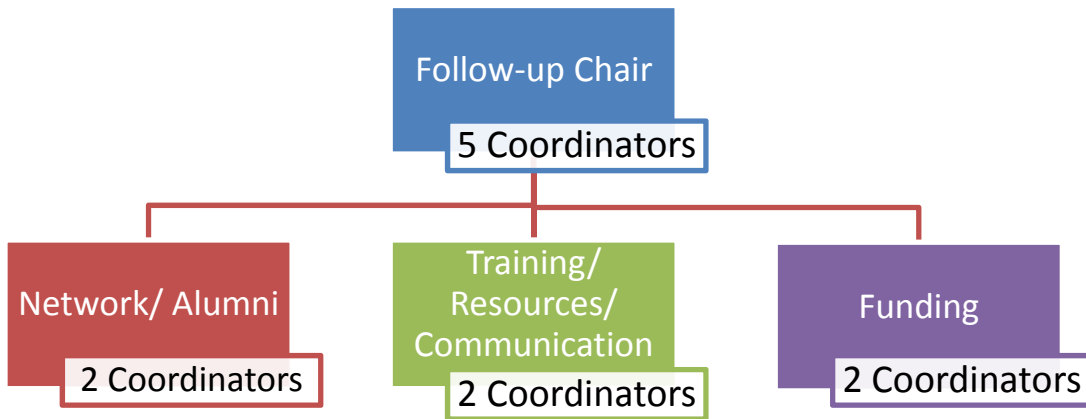
- What does the organization that you visit do and for which target group?
- What are their challenges and of the youth they work with,
 - (specially mention if they have a specific challenge that has not been discussed yet in the Forum)
- Did the organisation share specific solution to their challenges that we should keep in mind for the message?

19.30

Reporting back fair:

Please hang up your poster and appoint 2 reporters that stays with the poster. We ask everybody to visit the different posters and discuss the findings of each group together.

Appendix 5: Follow-up Group Structure



Temporary Composition (need to be finalized and based on gender equality & representation equality):

→ Follow-up Chair:

- Arab States : ALAA NAJI Hamzah (Saudi Arabia) & CHERRAGUI Aimane (Morocco)
- European States : HAMICH Amal (Belgium) & SINGPIEL Alexandra (Germany)
- Support: AMEUR Meriem (France)

Each committee have a: Committee Chair + Coordinators of Subcommittees the coordinator from Arab and European sides.

Appendix 6: Opening Speech: Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General Council of Europe

Welcome and thanks

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 5th Euro-Arab Forum. And can I offer a special welcome to Dr Samy Al-Majaly, President of the Higher Council for Youth of Jordan.

This is the first Forum to be held on Council of Europe grounds and a chance – I hope – to deepen our ties and establish ways that we can work even more closely for the good of the societies we serve.

I'd like to thank our partners: the League of Arab States and the European Youth Forum, as well as the representatives of the Joint Council on Youth and, especially, the Advisory Council on Youth.

Let me also welcome our local participants and representatives from the city of Strasbourg, as well as the many other organisations whose commitment brings this Forum to life.

Democratic security and citizenship

For those of you who have not been here before, the Council of Europe was set up after the defeat of fascism in the middle of the 20th Century. Our Organisation emerged from the rubble of war as Europe's leaders sought to build peace on new foundations: freedom, co-operation and international law.

It should therefore come as no surprise that one idea drives us above all others: the concept of democratic security. The belief that, in today's world, military power cannot, alone, bring stability. If you want to create strong and secure states, you must create tolerant societies, where the rule of law reigns supreme, where human rights are safeguarded, and where power and corruption are kept in check.

Today's theme – learning and practicing citizenship – is central to this idea of democratic security. Because citizenship, ultimately, is about living together peacefully. It is not about being the same. Unlike petty nationalism or extreme ideology, citizenship does not insist that we must each hold identical beliefs. Instead it teaches us to respect each other's differences while upholding fundamental and universal human rights. Democratic citizenship is the bedrock of plural societies, at ease with our growing diversity.

However, in many of our countries – members of the Council of Europe and of the League – inclusivity, tolerance and mutual understanding are now under threat.

We are in the midst of a desperate refugee crisis, where thousands are risking their lives every day to cross the Mediterranean, fleeing violence and poverty. And yet instead of being met with generosity and solidarity, which we have seen from some individual countries, for example Turkey, the collective European response so far has been one of political posturing, finger pointing and blame. The Council of Europe is clear: European states must fairly share the burden of this crisis and all asylum seekers and migrants travelling to Europe should be treated as individual human beings with the same basic rights as everyone else, as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Elsewhere xenophobia and populism are on the march. Anti-Semitism and islamophobia are on the rise. More and more, it seems, people – and especially young people – are being asked to abandon democratic ideals; to pick a side and reject all else. And in both Europe and the Arab world we are grappling with radicalisation leading to terrorism.

I believe that our shared mission is countering these forces of division. You will be discussing how to do, in the context of citizenship, that over the coming days and I would like to briefly highlight three fronts where I am convinced we can do more together.

Fight against hate speech

First, in the fight against hate speech.

Hate speech has terrible consequences for our societies. Every armed conflict is nourished by it. Every social fault line is deepened by it. And the Internet has given perpetrators of hate speech a vast new platform in which they can too often act with impunity.

So the Council of Europe has, in partnership with young people across Europe, their governments and many NGOs, created our No Hate Speech Movement: a Campaign of Young people for Human Rights Online.

Led by young volunteers, the campaign exposes examples of hate speech, rallies against them, and, crucially, has them removed. It is a fine example of active citizenship by young people. Not only is it carried out on the Internet but also in schools, youth camps and everywhere where young people gather.

Its success has derived from the energy of the young men and women who are involved and also from the vocal support of ministers and parliamentarians.

Indeed, it has proved so valuable that, although the Campaign was due to finish this year, our Secretary General has decided to extend it, in length. We would now also like to see it broadened out, geographically, and I strongly invite all of you – and especially the League of Arab States - to join. Our partnership on this issue will, I believe, send a very powerful message.

Intercultural Dialogue

Second, it is imperative that we now look for ways to work together to promote greater intercultural dialogue.

Citizenship is not just about our formal relationships with state institutions. It's about how we relate to one another and the degree to which we can accept the differing sides of each other's identities – religion, faith, creed. It is about understanding the way in which those differences co-exist with our common humanity and shared values.

Our White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue defines it as: "a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect." This applies also to the forum and to the participants: an open dialogue leading the way for co-operation.

But clearly there are still vast chasms in our understanding – and they are routinely exploited by those who wish to stoke anger and violence. How can we overcome those? What are the barriers? Which stereotypes are most pervasive? Who should facilitate this dialogue how can we translate the conversations held in rooms like this to meaningful change on the ground?

We need concrete, practical initiatives and I set this as a challenge for you today.

Participation in political life

Finally, I want to flag the importance of participation in political life. Because citizenship is not academic. It is lived and learned, or else it is forgotten.

Participation is central to the Council's youth policy. We have developed European standards on youth participation such as our Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. The charter stresses that "to participate means having influence on and responsibility for decisions and actions that affect the lives of young people or are simply important to them."

Clearly that will mean different things in different places. There are many young people, in both Europe and the Arab world who, for different reasons, do not feel engaged in this way. Some do, but many still don't, and our job is to learn from each other's insights and experiences to identify ways in which we can correct this imbalance.

Young people ought to be able to have opportunities to learn and recreate participation and citizenship according to their wishes and needs. And you should be treated as full citizens, not junior citizens. We have undertaken some common capacity-building activities for youth participation, but clearly those have not been enough. We can do more and we can do better. In this respect I am very pleased to announce that today the translation into Arabic of our manual for Human rights education is completed. I am confident that this is a tool that will also contribute to unite youth leaders across the Mediterranean and I hope that the League will help us to disseminate it.

I hope that this forum will also represent a real opportunity for us to learn and speak about youth policies and what kind of youth participation they support. In this respect I would like also to salute and welcome the members of the Youth Technical Committee of the League of Arab States.

On that note, I would like to hand over to the chair. I have flagged the issues that I think are most pressing, for the sake of tolerance, inclusivity and democratic security in these difficult times. You will, I'm sure, have more to say on these points and many others to raise. I'm sure. I wish you all the best in your discussions and I very much look forward to hearing what they produce.

**HE the Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, His Excellency Mr. Abdel Moneim Alshaery
Director of Youth and Sports Department of the League of Arab States,**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Dear young women and men

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

We meet today with this elite people of opinion, experience, interested in issues and concerns, and aspirations of young Arab and European. Begin in an official dialogue on education and the exercise of citizenship, on the agenda of the fifth Euro-Arab Youth Forum, Which outlines the features of personal excellence Youth, and consensus on the most important pillars, principles, references and constants that contribute to the formation, and the role of educational and youth organizations in the embodiment of these features, to enable young people to participate actively, interacting in influential matter that affected the community engagement around youth, so that proves our youth on their ability to bring about change in the present and the future initiative and participation in home development and development of the citizen.

Providing a balanced youth comprehensive care so that their behavior be developed in a creative balance between adhering socio-cultural heritage, and openness to the movement of global change, believing that there should be consensus between the inherited the nation`s past and acquired from the civilizations of other nations, in an era that the world is considered to be a small village due to the revolution in information technology, the development of easy ways to contact and communication between people.

Being proud of the achievements despite his young age of the state, we also cherish cohesion and fruitful partnership between the leadership and between the bid and development groups in the Jordanian generous society, especially the young people, therefore promoting good citizenship values for our young people by emphasizing the honest affiliation to the nation and loyalty to the leadership.

Here we seek to continue to organize the seedling outstanding, specifically those related to the training of public and private universities and youth centers students on the principles of true citizenship and civic education initiatives, these initiatives have the importance of creating a quality awareness of the concept of true citizenship, to raise the awareness of the young people on their rights, appraising their duties and responsibilities, it comes in particularly the young actors participate in the registration and voting and nomination municipal and parliamentary elections, and urged young people to engage in political life, and the initiative to establish a youth local councils in all municipalities, through the project, "local councils of young people" and the establishment of the nucleus of the parliaments of youth by running training courses and training programs for the administrative staff related to the Code of organizational behavior and

professional ethics , the preservation of public money for workers in the sports clubs, training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, and programs relating to national safety and preservation of national achievements facing violence, extremism and terrorism, I hope that this movement will continue and evolve that the youth play a leading role in the overall national reform process that we seek.

Sisters and Brothers

We continue to consider the participation of young people a right for every young man and woman, it is necessary to convert the person from the state of total dependence in his early childhood, to independence and self-reliance, being aware of the importance of the participation of youth, and our firm faith and conviction that the participation of young people is a fundamental right for their development, it should be highlighted as an important value in itself, and as a goal must be pursued and respect, as well as that participation helps young people to realize their aspirations, launching their creative potential, increasing the real space of freedom they deserve.

Our main vision for youth and participation is creating a supportive and friendly environment and safe for their participation, working on changing the institutional trends concerning this participation, creating a supporting environment to achieve it, as one of the priorities for action in the caring and develop the young people. Especially as the improvement of the surrounding youth and participation conditions, embodies the first step in the right direction, and we should not forget, of course, young people themselves, the work with them to activate the concept of participation, must be paced balanced with improved surrounding their partnership with governmental and non-governmental institutions circumstances, to build real bridges of understanding, communication and creative interaction with our young people, and to raise awareness they have and hone their skills and enable them to positively deal with the current challenges with all the flexibility and openness and awareness.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,,

It is a must to focus on political and national education, that its position and status should be recognized by the educational programs of the youth and educational institutions instead of having it within the educational programs for some subjects, the need has been emerged to a have an individual program for civic education in the educational institutions in order to achieve its aims and objectives, aiming at contributing to the preparation of young people to be good citizens in their community, and to do their role consciously with a good manner and responsibility.

In regard to this forum, we hope to achieve the desired output goals behind it, and to reach a consensus on the various issues on the dialogue table, that helps the young people to access to public life with a balanced aware entrepreneurial personality, having influence and being affected with the surrounding societal movements, that aims for the good of the homeland and the citizen.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you

Appendix 8: Opening Speech Bérénice Jond, Member of the Board of the European Youth Forum

Learning and Practicing Citizenship

Young people's values and commitments to intercultural and inclusive societies

Dear Friends,

First of all, I'd like to start by saying that I'm very pleased to be here on behalf of the European Youth Forum & to attend this 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum.

Before speaking about what brings us all here, I'll say a few words about the European Youth Forum, who we are and what we do.

Created in 1996, the European Youth Forum is a youth-led, volunteer-led, democratic platform. It gathers nearly a hundred of youth organizations (either national youth councils or international non-governmental youth organizations). Entirely run by young people it represents together tens of millions of them from all over Europe. It represents their common interests and fights for their rights.

The partnership with the League of Arab States and the CoE isn't a new one. We have been working together for a few years now and on diverse topics.

But beyond this long lasting partnership, I am very happy to see the dynamic growing amongst our member organizations. In fact they are always more and more interested in this euro-arab cooperation. Seeing so many of them here reflects how much young people care about this inter-regional cooperation.

And because we know that young people do play a key role in realizing mutual respect, solidarity, social and economic justice and environmental sustainability;

Because we are concerned about the polarization between different regions providing breeding-ground for prejudice, intolerance and discrimination;

And because we are convinced that in today's world there is a need for us to join our efforts in building bridges of understanding;

This proves how important we, young people and youth organizations are in processes such as the Euro-Arab Youth Forum. Declarations made in previous meetings pave the way for further cooperation between all of our organisations, between institutions and young people.

With past years' events in a number of Arab countries, has emerged a new perception of young people's capacities and aspirations. As crucial actors in the processes of political changes, young people have stood up for more freedom, equality and justice. They also stand up for better future perspectives in education and work, economic and social development and participation in the decision making process.

I'd like here to exemplify the potential and benefits of involving young people & youth organisations in policy development and implementation.

Because we easily forget how powerful tools youth organisations are in creating inclusive societies through organising and representing young people.

In fact, it is a reality that young people are often looked down on by policy makers (and it's not a new thing! Go and read some greek philosophy, you'll see).

Young people have more than often been described as incompetent, naïve and idealistic. But we are experienced, maybe not by years, but by stories. Young people have tens of millions of stories to tell! Then, idealism should be part of everyone's reasoning, especially when being in the driving seat to policy making. It is about fighting for what we believe in. From the moment one turns to a cynic, the fight is lost.

So promise me a bit of dreaming over the few days and we'll make it work together.

Now that you want to believe in the role of youth organisations, I'll prove to you how essential they are.

We have been witnessing in the recent years an increasing gap between young people and decision makers despite the importance, if you want to speak to young people, to also listen to them.

Indeed, joint efforts can contribute to better policies, and more targeted and creative solutions. It's also a way to increase young people's ownership and better understanding between youth and politics.

One good practice in terms of involvement is the co-management model, which is illustrated within the Council of Europe youth department with the Advisory Council on Youth and the Government representatives gathered in the Joint Council. They work together, they decide together.

At EU level, involvement of young people in policy making is official by the Structured Dialogue process, which aims at consulting young people across Europe in order to collect input and ideas that should shape the EU and National Youth Policy.

Those models make sense also because they can be reproduced at local or national level, to ensure that a wide range of young people participate into the development of policy, enhancing the dialogue between young people and decision-makers.

Those two processes, because of the work they do, demonstrate that citizenship is indeed a two-way street. Not only citizenship brings rights and responsibilities but the individual who takes no part in community activities and institutions, deprives himself or herself and others of the benefits of community action.

This being said and considering that young people are and will be part of society, you'll understand that active citizenship should be a right for every young person.

It means also that young people should be involved through youth organisations at all stages of the development, implementation and evaluation of policies.

There should be official mechanisms to ensure that the voice of young people is taken into account into policy making. Such mechanism reflects the recognition and the support from the Governments and other authorities, to national youth councils and other NGO, and thus, should be encouraged.

Events like this Forum are places to discuss the processes we feel are relevant to further develop and improve the existing processes and structures for active citizenship.

Once participation is ensured, the way towards more inclusive and quality polity is open.

I hope that Sunday, when looking back on the work we'll have done, we'll be proud of the outcomes and that this Forum will be remembered in the future of our cooperation.

And there is no doubt that we need more and continuous cooperation. The situation following the Arab-Spring, together with conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe have fatal consequences. Notably, they impact people from those areas, but also Central and Western Europe, as increasing flows of refugees show.

Without repeating what was said before me, we have to remind ourselves that the Mediterranean is one space. Thus, solutions have to be joint ones, and they can't wait much. Calling for intergovernmental cooperation on such topics has to go hand in hand with supporting a parallel cooperation between youth organisations, as young people are on the front line.

I hope that in the coming days, we'll be able to remember the previous declarations to enlighten our vision of citizenship when it comes to building inclusive and diverse societies.

Appendix 9: Opening Speech Ahmed Alhendawy, United Nations Secretary General Special Envoy on Youth

Assistant Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League, Participants and Organizers, in this 5th Euro Arab Youth Forum Gives me great owner to send you this video message and to share with you the message on behalf of the United Nations on this 5th Euro Arab Youth Forum.

I regret that I couldn't be with you in person, but I trust that you have great time, that you are meeting in your first time this Euro-Arab youth Forum in the European side this time,

in fact it happened before in Europe in a Forum that was split between Tunisia and Sicily in Italy, but this time is happening in Europe and Strasbourg at the Council of Europe, I

I commend the work of the Arab league and the council of Europe and bringing the people together from the two shores of the Mediterranean.

I am a firm believer of the importance of strengthening the ties between Europe and the Arab Youth, at the time where there are barely fires there where many troubles and problems facing the people from both shores of the Mediterranean we need to come together and strengthening our ties and bringing people together from the two sides of the Mediterranean

This is the time that where young people had high employment rates, where young people are struggling to access their basic rights, They are effected by conflicts, they are forced to flee and to migrate or to live as a refugees or an unemployed and they are facing today complex challenges at all levels, if the Euro Arab process was relevant , I would say that it becoming more relevant as all these challenges are rising, we need to strengthening the institution capacities, and I say the youth issues on both sides of Mediterranean, we need strongest focus as the younger generations of young people in the worlds that have ever seen .

And whenever I meet with Arab youth or European youth, I am convinced that together we can do and bring a new energy to solve some of this urgent challenges.

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary for the world call for action for youth a land mark documented by the general assembly of the united nations 20 years ago, and as we celebrate this year the 20th anniversary , I would like to invite you all to strengthen your commitment of the world programme action for youth, we need more governments, the 47 member states of the council of Europe, the 22 member states of the Arab League to come over on board and renew their commitments for the implementation of the world programme for action for youth and to increase the investment in young people .

As you are meeting in Strasbourg my message to you is that we need to come together by supporting more youth organizations and the work of the youth organization then promoting positive youth development in all countries, one would think that there are many differences in terms of the realities and the situations between Europeans and Arab youth, but I am convinced that the value of these exchanges, the problem today is that we don't have enough of these exchanges.

Some of the studies shows that less than 1% of the young people around the world participate in any cultural exchange programs and whenever I go to Europe and the Arab countries you need really to build more bridges between the 2 sides and bring them together, we need to expand these programmes and to give more offers to young people,

I myself as the secretary general envoy I started also to be and I was inspired to continue working in youth development at this type of youth forums, participating in Euro Arab exchanges and Euro-Med youth exchanges and that really inspired me to become who I am today, so I watch on a very personal note to all the participants of this Euro Arab Youth Forum that you being inspired to continue your public service and to pay back to your communities particularly at the time of where young people are trouble with many burdens and higher unemployment rate and many complex challenges,

This is a message of hope and a message to all of you to enjoy in a very unique gathering and to continue the mark for a Euro Arab relations because that what we need today to bring further stability and to counter violence extremism and to promote positive youth development in the region, only by dialogue, and dialogue among young people can will be able to tackle some of these issues and to find common ground to sees the opportunities out there, \

Once again I thank the Arab league I thank the council of Europe, I thank the organizers my good friends there , I really sorry that I couldn't be with you in person but I have been there to the European youth centre at the council of Europe in Strasbourg several times and it's a great place to be and I hope you all be inspired by your gathering there and I send you my warms regards, I hope to see you all very soon, I look forward to learn about the outcomes of your meeting,

Thank you

Appendix 13: Closing Speech: Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

Citizenship and participation are processes of empowerment and democratisation. They are never achieved nor complete, but it is important that they are taken seriously. This is especially true with youth participation as it is a pre-condition for the future of our societies. If societies are not able to respond to young people's needs, if we ignore or despise them, young people will look for other forms of engagement. I hope that the experience of this forum was lived by all of you as a meaningful form of participation as much as it was, we believe, an enriching intercultural learning experience.

This forum carries a very ambitious title in a current political and social context that is not always very favourable to cooperation between Europeans and Arabs. The first achievement that we would like to point out is the fact of holding the forum itself. It would have been much easier not to hold it and to give up in front of the obstacles and of the scepticism we sometimes met. However, it is in the very heart of the CoE's work, to build and to maintain bridges. The clashes of ignorance create spaces for meeting and dialogue that Ambassador Attalah talked about yesterday can only be overcome by meeting, learning and living together. With Your participation here you demonstrated your responsibility and commitment to be an active citizen of a wider community in your respective countries.

Learning and practicing citizenship and participation remain key pillars of youth policy in the Council of Europe and you'll find in our priorities for the 2016-2017 programme many possibilities to contribute to our work. Our work can only be successful with the active follow-up of participants of this Forum - all of you who are ready to be ambassadors, agents and multipliers of the spirit of the intercultural dialogue that worked in this forum and of the concrete recommendations you make in your declaration. It does not matter if you come from an Arab or a European country, if you are a member of an NGO or represent a governmental service: we all have a role to play in making dialogue alive and meaningful.

I am very impressed with the message that you have prepared and presented. I will pass on this message to the Deputy Secretary General Madame Battaini-Dragoni, who you have met in the opening session and I am sure you felt her personal commitment to intercultural dialogue. We will share this message also with other departments of the Council of Europe involved in intercultural dialogue. and as you have heard from Paolo Pinheiro, it will be brought to the attention of our Joint Council on Youth.

Your message is strong and I am particularly impressed on how you place the results of your encounter here in a wider political and global context, be it armed conflicts or the current refugee situation. You describe very well the central position young people have, both as victims of poverty, war, discrimination or violence and as advocates of peaceful societies. Thank you also for reminding the institutions and decision-makers of their responsibilities. I will travel to Budapest tomorrow to attend a symposium on Youth participation in digital age at our European Youth Centre in Budapest. The participants of the symposium have already started communicating on-line about the situation of refugees passing Hungary coming from the Mediterranean on their way to a European Union country. Europe faces what might turn out the biggest humanitarian challenges since the second world war, and We must all help to make the voices of empathy, human rights and peace loud and clear. We must be louder than hate-speech, racism and selfishness.

Those of you who have longer experience in working with the Council of Europe youth sector know, that we will take this message very seriously.

We'll start by sharing and discussing it with the youth and governmental representatives of the Joint Council on Youth next at their meeting next month. As you know by now, our co-management partners are directly involved in decision-making about our policies programmes.

I am confident that your message will be appreciated and I am sure that the members attending this forum will not forget this carry it forward. The Joint Council on Youth adopted last year a position paper on Euro-Arab cooperation; this has been very useful to secure the sustainability of our activities and I would like to thank especially the youth representatives for the work that they have put into this.

You may also know that we have a web page in our Internet site dedicated to Euro-Arab cooperation; I am pleased to inform you that next week we'll be opening a new site, with a more attractive look, in which the process and results of the Euro-Arab Youth for a will feature more prominently. This is also a way to support you in disseminating the results of the forum and in advocating for intercultural dialogue.

I am pleased to inform you that our programme for 2016 and 2017 foresees activities to follow-up the forum, including a training course on human rights education. In our discussions with the colleagues of the League of Arab States we have also agreed on the need to have an evaluation and follow-up meeting for this forum and start the preparations of the 6th Euro-Arab Youth Forum, probably Morocco. We hope also that the No Hate Speech Movement campaign will be present in more countries of the region. I invite all of you to join us in the campaign – if you have not yet done so. Words are powerful.

In talks with the Anna Lindh Foundation we have also agreed link the No Hate Speech Movement campaign to their youth programme; I am confident that by the time of the 6th Forum / the campaign will be present in many more countries and languages. We also envisage to cooperate in training for intercultural education, we'll start this at the 2016 Mediterranean University in Tunisia, which is coordinated and co-organised with our colleagues of the North-South Centre.

I would like to invite you to join your projects and your actions to these activities and to share them with us. For us, you are all partners in this cooperation; we need each other to be stronger, better visible and more efficient.

I would like to conclude by thanking the people, organisations and institutions who made this forum possible:

I like to thank Shukran the League of Arab States for the partnership and for the commitment. We share a responsibility to ensure a follow-up and that our respective international organisations and stakeholders also learn from this forum. Very special thanks to Omar Ali and his team for their tireless work in making sure that everyone could get to Strasbourg.

Thanks to the European Youth Forum: the long-standing partnership with the Council of Europe is also visible and effective in this forum and we count on your support also in between the fora. Your support in strengthening the exchange between youth organisations and young people from Europe and Arab countries – in both directions, is very much needed and appreciated.

Thanks to the Anna Lindh Foundation for having inspired us with their projects and actions; we hope that we can also have them at the next forum, as well as with our colleagues of the North-South Centre.

Merci beaucoup to the city of Strasbourg for joining and supporting the forum, and we hope that they'll also be present at the next one, especially if it will be held in Morocco.

To the facilitators: Menno, Eliza, Mohamed, Reda and Tarek: it has been a very intensive forum and all your efforts have been appreciated

The rapporteurs, Haythem and Rana, who have been much more than rapporteurs. We actually hope that you found time to work on the report, in addition to translating, facilitating, organising and advising us...

I'd like to thank the staff of the Youth Department for their support to this event, all the EYCS colleagues working in the background, specially thanks go to Claudia Montecchi for looking after the administrative support to this forum and to the Head of our Education and Training division, Rui Gomes, who has been for many years a most active advocate and engine of the Euro-Arab youth cooperation.

I'd like to thank the interpreters who assist us so competently to understand each other messages by not only translating the words but also by helping us to understand our diverse cultural backgrounds.

And last but surely not least, I would like to thank all of the participants for your time, for your motivation, commitment, hard work and patience, for your questions, your answers and for each and everybody's contribution to the declaration which will be a lasting reminder of the forum and your recommendations.

I wish you a happy party tonight, a safe and pleasant journey back home and all the best.

And with this I would like to close the official programme of the 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum.