



الدورة السادسة للمنتدى  
العربي الأوروبي للشباب  
**6th Arab-European  
Youth Forum**

**OVERCOMING HATE AND EXTREMISM  
TOGETHER**

Supporting young people from the Arab and European regions to  
engage in dialogue and cooperation against violent extremism and  
hate speech

**Fez, Morocco, 24-29 April 2017**

**Draft PROGRAMME**



## MONDAY 24 APRIL

### ARRIVALS

19:30 Dinner

20:30 Get together: Introductions and Ice-Breaking

## TUESDAY 25 APRIL

09:00 INFORMAL OPENING OF THE FORUM

Framework and main actors

- Participants, Facilitation Team and Organisers
- Objectives, Expected Results and Programme

10:30 THE CONTEXT OF THE FORUM IN MOROCCO AND FEZ

- Expectations of the Participants
- Practical arrangements

11:00 Break

11:30 FEZ AS A CONTEXT FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

- Exploring the city
- Lunch in Fez
- Discovering Fez continued

16:00 Debriefing of the explorations of Fez through the lenses of intercultural dialogue

18:00 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FORUM

19:30 Dinner

21:00 INFORMAL ACTIVITIES (TBC)

## WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL

09:00 OPENING AND PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

09:15 THE IMPACT AND DAMAGES OF HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM

10:30 Break

11:00 DRIVERS, REASONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF  
HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM, in working  
groups:

- RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION
- TERRORISM
- RADICALISATION
- REFUGEES
- POPULISM
- SEXISM
- ISLAMOPHOBIA

MEETING OF INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS OF ARAB-  
EUROPEAN YOUTH COOPERATION

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Feed-back on drivers, reasons and consequences

15:00 RESPONSES TO HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM (STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS) – IN WORKSHOPS

- A. The role of education in decreasing hate speech, radicalisation and extremism
- B. Social integration / cohesion
- C. Youth empowerment
- D. Conflict transformation and counter-radicalisation
- E. Dialogue through religious/political discourse
- F. Counter and alternative narratives

*(break included)*

18:00 Debriefing and preparation of the conference in Ifrane

19:30 Dinner

21:00 INFORMAL ACTIVITIES (TBC)

#### **THURSDAY, 27 APRIL**

08:30 Departure to Ifrane

10:00 MEETING WITH STUDENTS IN IFRANE

11:15 Participant-led workshops and actions on the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and the Campaign of the League of Arab States against violent extremism

13:00 Lunch

15:00 International Conference THE MEDITERRANEAN CROSSROAD OF CIVILIZATIONS BETWEEN AFRICA, THE EAST AND THE WEST: LIVING TOGETHER THROUGH EDUCATION AND CULTURE, at the Al Akhawayn University, covering:

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Euro-Arab cooperation
- Euro-African cooperation
- Human rights

18:30 Debriefing and conclusions (to be taken up in the Fez Declaration)

19:30 Dinner in Ifrane

#### **FRIDAY, 28 APRIL**

09:00 OPENING AND PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

09:15 TAKING ACTION

Workshops on Creativity, Learning and Campaigning for Human Rights and Dialogue

- WediActivists game
- Short videos with alternative narratives
- Visual arts

- Theatre and role plays
- Common Action Day
- Education activities

12:00 Sharing the workshops results

13:00 Lunch

Free time

Finalisation of the Fez Declaration

16:30 OPEN SPACE AND NETWORKING – run by participants

18:30 CONCLUSIONS OF THE FORUM

Presentation of the Fez Declaration

Evaluation

19:15 CLOSING SESSION

20:00 Dinner and Farewell party

## **SATURDAY, 29 APRIL**

Departure of Participants

## BACKGROUND

The current political atmosphere in Europe and the Arab world has been persistently and increasingly tilting towards further social and political polarization. The instability ensuing from continuing regional wars and conflicts has had tremendous social consequences on youth extremism across the Arab world. Furthermore, the rise of recurrent economic and social crises, in addition to numerous security incidents in Europe have led to an atmosphere that is conducive, if not checked, to further polarization on ethnic and religious lines. Nationalist and cultural essentialist views risk attracting more young people in search of meaningful ways to shape their future and that of their societies. The need to diffuse tensions on a socio-cultural level is more pertinent than ever.

Regardless of the position and starting point of each young person, all of us are affected by this state of affairs. Although tremendous efforts have been put in place by the Council of Europe and the League of Arab states, more action is required to encourage inter-cultural dialogue, human rights education and social inclusion, especially for youth.

Throughout nearly 10 years, the Euro-Arab Youth fora have established themselves as a central activity for young people from both the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States to engage in dialogue and, *together*, identify common points for action by themselves, their youth organisations and the two cooperating international organisations.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Euro-Arab Youth Forum was held in September 2015 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, under the theme “Learning and Practicing Citizenship”. The [Strasbourg Message](#) summarises the expectations and conclusions of the participants in relation to the cooperation:

“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 fulfilment of citizenship, participation and freedom of expression.”

The forum respects the principles of co-management in place in the youth sector of the Council of Europe, notably through the involvement of the Advisory Council on Youth and of the European Steering Committee on Youth.

The European Youth Forum is an institutional partner for the Council of Europe in these activities. The European Youth Forum associates European youth organisations to this process, as exemplified in the pioneering work of the Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations.

## THE 6TH ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The sixth edition of the Euro-Arab Youth Forum will be hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the Kingdom of Morocco in April 2017. It will, among others, capitalise on the dynamics of the Council of Europe No Hate Speech Movement campaign, which is also being implemented in Morocco, and on the League of Arab States campaign against violent extremism which it will seek to strengthen. For the Council of Europe’s Youth for Democracy programme, the forum supports young people’s role in building peaceful and cohesive societies by engaging in intercultural dialogue.

## **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Arab-European Youth Forum will mobilise young people and youth organisations from Arab and European regions to engage in dialogue and cooperation against violent extremism and hate speech. It has the following objectives:

- To share understandings of the causes and manifestations of extremism and populism
- To support human rights education and actions against hate speech and the risks it poses to democracy and youth
- To develop the competences of youth leaders to fight hate-speech and extremism online.
- To exchange good-practices between youth organizations and activists from the Arab world and Europe.
- To increase intercultural learning in order to combat prejudices and stereotypes.
- To raise awareness of the role and relations between Human rights, Sustainable Development Goals and intercultural dialogue
- To get to know and value the social and cultural diversity and wealth of Morocco and Fez.

## **OUTCOMES**

The most important expected outcome will be the results of the contacts, exchanges, debates and projects between the youth leaders attending the forum. The conclusions of the forum will be collected in a document gathering the conclusions issued by the working groups of the forum and indicate pathways for future Arab-European youth cooperation by the co-organisers and partners until the next edition of the forum. Other outcomes include:

- More partnerships among participants and their organisations
- The capacity of youth to fight extremism and hate-speech is strengthened among participants, including through online social media and the usage of arts, cinema, theatre and photography
- Solidarity networks between Arab and European youth and organisations are solidified
- Better sustainability of Euro-Arab youth cooperation
- Set up/institutionalise an alumni group of participants in the fora
- Common actions days between the campaigns of the Council of Europe and that of the League of Arab States to counter hate speech and violent extremism

## **Specific outputs**

- Video and other creations of the participants
- Political message on young people, hate speech and extremism/populism
- Recommendations on Euro-Arab Youth Cooperation
- Video report.