

OVERCOMING HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM TOGETHER

6th Arab-European
Youth Forum



الدورة السادسة للمنتدى
العربي الأوربي للشباب

Overcoming Hate and Extremism Together **معا من أجل تخطي الكراهية والتطرف**

تشجيع الشباب من المناطق العربية والأوروبية على الحوار والتعاون من أجل محاربة التطرف العنيف وخطاب الكراهية
Supporting young people from Arab and European regions to engage in dialogue and cooperation
against violent extremism and hate speech

In cooperation with



Report of the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum
Fez, Morocco, 24-28 April 2017



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**NO HATE
SPEECH
MOVEMENT**



OVERCOMING HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE 6TH ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

*Encouraging youth from the Arab and European regions to engage in dialogue and
co-operation to combat extremism and hate speech*

FEZ, MOROCCO, 24-28 APRIL 2017

WRITTEN BY

**ZINEB BOUKROUNA, SAFAE KADDOURI
STEFAN MANEVSKI AND MOHAMMED MOWAFIK**

EDITED BY

RUI GOMES



The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Council of Europe or those of the League of Arab States..

Copyright of this report is held by the Council of Europe. No parts of this report may be reproduced or transmitted for commercial purposes in any form or by any means, electronic (CDRom, Internet, etc.) or mechanical including photocopying, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without the permission in writing from the Publishing Division (publishing@coe.int), Directorate of Communication of the Council of Europe.

Reproduction of material from this report is authorised for non-commercial education purposes only and on condition that the source is properly quoted.

All other correspondence concerning this document should be addressed to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe:

European Youth Centre Strasbourg

30, rue Pierre de Coubertin

F- 67075 Strasbourg

Cedex – France

Email: youth@coe.int

© Council of Europe, 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	5
Background	6
The Arab-European Youth Forums	8
The 6th Arab-European Youth Forum	9
Aim and objectives of the Forum	10
Programme and methodology	10
A visit to Al Akhawayn University	11
Institutional meeting between European and Arab partners	11
Participants	12
Fez as a context for dialogue and co-operation	12
Drivers, reasons and consequences of hate speech and extremism	14
Racism and discrimination	14
Terrorism	15
Radicalisation	16
Refugees	17
Populism	18
Sexism	18
Islamophobia	20
Responses to hate speech and extremism (Strategies and Solutions)	21
The role of education in decreasing hate speech, radicalisation and extremism	21
Fostering social inclusion and integration as an approach to reducing extremism	22
Youth empowerment in countering hate speech, radicalisation and extremism	23
Conflict transformation as an approach for counter radicalisation	24
Fostering dialogue through religious and political discourse	24
Developing counter and alternative narratives	26
Taking Action – Practical output and messages	27
Outcomes and recommendations from the Forum	29
Space for youth	30
Conclusions	30
The Fez Declaration	33
List of Participants	36
Programme of the Forum	41





PREFACE

This is the report of the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum, a faithful but not exhaustive account of all that took place in Fez and Ifrane at the end of April 2017. This is normal: it is impossible for a single written report to capture and give account of all that happens with and by some 100 young people from so many diverse backgrounds yet united by a desire to know each other, debate, exchange and share their commitment to peace, dialogue and cooperation. The conclusions of the Forum were gathered and presented in the Fez Declaration which indicates pathways for future Euro-Arab youth co-operation.

The sixth edition of the forum was dedicated to hate speech and extremism, to issues that are more connected than it appears and, especially, that impose themselves on the lives and aspirations of young people in European and Arab countries. The forums, of which the first was held in Ain Sokhna in 2007, have mirrored the social and political developments in the Arab and European regions as experienced and perceived by young people. The focus of the Fez forum on hate speech and extremism was the logical choice, especially at a time when the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States are engaged in campaigning with young people to prevent further abuse and violations of human rights. As the participants in the forum stated, there are no “quick-fix” solutions: confidence of young people in social institutions is crucial, “widespread lack of confidence in governments is often accompanied by high expectations of democracy”, betraying these expectations is failing young people’s future. In this context, it is extremely important that we stand together in our refusal of totalitarian ideologies, that we uphold the humanity that unites us, and that we reject the violence that tears us apart. The No Hate Speech Movement campaign is a fine example of what young people can do when they have the space, the means and the freedom to participate.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, on the role of youth for peace and security, recalls, that “today’s generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known” and yet too many young people grow up amidst and affected by armed conflicts. In the turmoils that impact on both Arab and European societies, the forum in Fez was an open window to what is possible when young people are given the opportunity to imagine a better future. It is very important that such opportunities are made possible and open to many other young people – even if it is never enough and sometimes not good enough to meet all hopes and expectations. The potential for learning and improving remain high as ever, for the participants and also for the partnering institutions and organisations. This report is also a contribution to this very dialogical learning process..

Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to this report, and especially to Safae, Stefan and Zinab for having put it together.

Our very special congratulations and thanks to Mohamed Rherras, Yassine Isbouia and their colleagues at the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco for organising and hosting the forum.

Abd Elmonem A. Elshaary

Director of the Department of Youth and Sport
of the League of Arab States

Antje Rothemund

Head of the Youth Department
Council of Europe



BACKGROUND

Young people today in the European and Arab regions grow up in societies exposed to various pressures for change, and resistance to change, that deeply impact on their understanding and exercise of active citizenship, and on their role as agents for dialogue, co-operation and learning.

The current political atmosphere in Europe and the Arab world has been persistently and increasingly tilting towards further social and political polarisation. 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 polarisation 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 critical than ever.

The fate of millions of children and young people caught up in conflicts, and fleeing them, has generated impressive reactions of solidarity for the victims, and outrage against armed conflicts and their root causes. At the same time, these very same events have resulted in the spreading of exclusivist ideas and ideologies, generally accompanied by hate speech, Islamophobia and xenophobia at levels that put at risk diversity as a shared value in the 21st century. Common to these movements is the primacy of national interests over human rights and international agreements and the deepening of social, cultural and religious dividing lines as strategies for supporting confrontation and exclusion as justifications for discrimination.

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 intercultural dialogue, human rights education and social inclusion, especially for youth.

The political transformations in the Arab world after 2010 proved that political freedoms and effective mechanisms of accountability are necessary for protecting the social and economic rights of citizens.¹ The Arab World continues to suffer from endemic unemployment rates. According to ILO projections of Global Employment Trends for Youth, in 2016, the Middle East and North Africa are projected to suffer from the highest youth unemployment rates in the world (~30%).²

Persisting forms of discrimination and problems with social inclusion of immigrants in European societies, coupled with rising Islamophobia, are being accompanied by hate speech and social tensions on ethnic and religious lines. These events have also proved that work on protecting freedoms of expression, religion and belief, and human rights are needed. The media coverage of violent incidents, and their amplification through social media online, often increase tensions and distort perceptions. By over-concentrating on issues of conflict and separation, areas of positive dialogue and solidarity between people have been forgotten or overlooked. More than ever, the peoples of Europe and the Arab world need to reaffirm their commitment to sustained dialogue.

1 www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Economic-Social-Rights.pdf

2 www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/youth/2012/WCMS_181015/lang--en/index.htm



The League of Arab States' mission is to encourage co-operation between its member states, safeguarding their independence and sovereignty, on a range of issues including human rights, economic and social development, migration, and the rights of women and youth. Co-operation with the Council of Europe in the youth field has become an important feature in the youth programme of the League, notably through the youth forums jointly run by the two organisations.

The Council of Europe's mission is to support its member states in promoting and protecting human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Education and training, research, and policy recommendations are a few of the various tools deployed by the Council of Europe to encourage the involvement of young European citizens in the realisation of its aim. The youth sector of the Council of Europe has been particularly active in intercultural dialogue and specifically in Euro-Arab co-operation for more than 20 years. In 2014, the Joint Council on Youth adopted a position paper on Euro-Arab Youth Co-operation. The paper sets out the framework and goals for the co-operation, based on a "need for strengthening co-operation and the further development of interregional youth co-operation processes". It is to be carried out in the respect of:

[a] commitment to a culture of universal human rights, to equality in dignity, equality of opportunities and to the principles of non-discrimination,

the recognition of the role of youth policies in promoting the autonomy, participation and social inclusion of all young people, and intercultural dialogue as the basis for respecting and integrating diversity as well as a basic educational approach of international youth activities.





THE ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUMS

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

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum was held in September 2015 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, under the theme “Learning and practising citizenship”. The *Strasbourg Message* summarises the expectations and conclusions of the participants in relation to the co-operation:

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 post-Forum evaluation by participants in the 2015 Forum also confirmed the multiplier potential of the Forum by allowing youth leaders from Arab and European organisations to establish contacts and initiate projects of co-operation and exchange.

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 Co-ordination Meeting for Youth Organisations.

The Arab-European Youth Forum is organised as a framework for the mobilisation of youth organisations working with youth and decision makers. The Arab-European Youth Forum has been held every two years on a particular theme since 2008, alternately between Arab and European countries. These forums are a central activity for young people to engage in dialogue side by side and to identify common points of action for youth with each other, with their youth organisations and with co-operating international organisations.

After the Strasbourg 2015 Forum, under the theme “Learning and practising citizenship”, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Kingdom of Morocco hosted the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum in April 2017 to mobilise youth and youth organisations from the Arab and European regions to engage in dialogue and co-operation in combating violent extremism and hate speech in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



THE 6TH ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The sixth edition of the Euro-Arab Youth Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Kingdom of Morocco in the city of Fez from 24-29 April 2017. The Forum was part of a series of activities implemented in the programme of Rabat as Capital of Arab Youth (2016-2017) under the theme “For a creative and co-existent youth”, and contributed to the programme of Fez 2017, Youth Capital of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference under the theme of “Young people, holders of tolerance values”. It also took into account the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and the role of young people in supporting their implementation. The activity followed the footsteps of the 2009 Forum, **Youth and Migrations: A Human Rights Based Approach**, held in Assilah in 2009 and hosted by the Mediterranean Youth Forum (FOMEJE).

The 6th Forum was set up as a space to reflect on the current concerns shared by young people in both regions, notably:

- The consequences of violent extremism, terrorism and populism
- The consequences of armed conflict and violence
- The fate of refugees and asylum seekers
- The deterioration of the climate of human rights and dialogue
- The implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, notably those concerning education, peace and intercultural dialogue
- Actions and campaigning by young people against or in reaction to the above.

The Forum has capitalised on the dynamics of the Council of Europe No Hate Speech Movement campaign, which is also being implemented in Morocco, and in the League of Arab States campaign against violent extremism.





AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The 6th Arab-European Youth Forum aimed to mobilise young people and youth organisations from Arab and European regions to engage in dialogue and co-operation against violent extremism and hate speech. It had 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 organisations 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, the Sustainable Development Goals and intercultural dialogue
- to get to know and value the social and cultural diversity and wealth of Morocco and Fez.

PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the Forum used a three-angled approach, taking into consideration the following three main aspects:

- the focus of the public plenaries provided by the expert speakers, academics and partners;
- the themes of the workshops and participants' contributions related to the objectives of the Forum, and
- the direct contribution by the participants in providing ideas for follow-up in a clear manner.

The Forum provided spaces and activities that encouraged cultural exchanges and are directly related to the creativity and cultural understanding of the participants. The Forum's goals were achieved by ensuring participants worked together in geographically- and gender-balanced groups, allowing smaller groups to interact and build ideas. It used participatory methods to encourage those involved to be creative, to think deeply and to communicate freely.

In terms of topic, the Forum was built to provide space to exchange and promote further engagement in the No Hate Speech Movement, and the Campaign against Violence, Extremism and Terrorism. It also took into account the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth Peace and Security, and explored it within the existing topics of the Forum. The Forum started by exploring and defining hate speech and extremism, in order to continue with looking into what the drivers, reasons and consequences of hate speech are in different communities. Following on from these discussions, the Forum explored existing ways forward as responses to hate speech and extremism, and also provided an opportunity to take part in a practical activity and take action. The final programme of the Forum is available in appendix.

The Forum activities were run by a team of six facilitators, brought together by the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe. Official plenaries and discussion groups were facilitated by the organising partners and the institutions present at the Forum. The technical and logistical matters were managed in their entirety by the hosting Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco.



A VISIT TO AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Among the activities of the Arab-Euro Youth Forum, Al-Akawayn University hosted a conference entitled, The Mediterranean Crossroads of Civilisations between Africa, the East and the West: Living together through Education and Culture. The conference also provided space for the participants to find out more about the work of specific international and intergovernmental institutions, and to discover the university as well.

INSTITUTIONAL MEETING BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND ARAB PARTNERS

Within the framework of the Arab-European Youth Forum, a high-level meeting of partners was held in support of the Regional Strategy for Youth, Peace and Security in the Arab States, with the participation of the Director of Youth, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Morocco, and representatives of the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund.

This meeting aimed towards building a strategy and a guiding framework on youth, peace and security in the Arab countries and working towards mobilising partnerships and strengthening support for programmes and initiatives to be implemented within the framework of this strategy.





PARTICIPANTS

The Forum was attended by Arab and European youth leaders aged between 18 and 30 years with experience in the fields of youth work and civil society. Most of them are active and interested in the campaigns of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States against hate speech and violent extremism.

The selection and invitation of participants was carried out by the co-organisers of the Forum in the following way:

- 36 participants from countries of the League of Arab States
- 36 participants from the Council of Europe member states, co-recruited by the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum

The selection also respected and aimed to ensure an equal number of male and female participants from each country or region.

Participants from Morocco and, especially, Fez were additionally invited and welcomed. In addition to this, several international intergovernmental organisations were present to provide support to the process and to present their work. A full list of participants is available in appendix.

FEZ AS A CONTEXT FOR DIALOGUE AND CO-OPERATION

The location of the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum provided the participants with a unique opportunity to experience intercultural dialogue, and reflect on the current challenges and ways forward in the Arab-European youth co-operation. Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, outlined at the official opening of the Forum the importance of the local context in inspiring the work of the participants, having in mind “the choice of the city of Fez as a place for

co-existence of cultures, religions and civilisations, co-existence of tradition and modernity.

The city that gave a place to women in the fight against ignorance takes now an example to be followed as a city of youth”. Mohamed Rherras, Director of Youth and Children and Women’s Affairs at the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco also praised “the selection of Fez as the scientific capital of the historical paths of knowledge between the Kingdom of Morocco and the rest of the world.”



In order to explore this local context and to open a discussion on perceptions and stereotypes, an activity was planned for the first day of the Forum that would help in developing an understanding of the differences and parallels of people's lives and realities. The activity challenged the perceptions of each other, based on observations that participants have within the city as they were asked to look for traces and examples of hate speech, extremism and responses to hate speech. In small groups, participants went to different parts of Fez and were asked to observe. Using this approach, they would initiate dialogue on the topic of extremism and hate speech, but also understand the intercultural dimension of working together and be prepared to reflect on their own biases.

Once everyone was back from the observation, they shared the key outcomes of the activity, with concluding thoughts on the differences and similarities which impacted them the most, but also how they became aware of the different perceptions, conceptions and stereotypes.

During their visit to Fez, the groups were able to note the hospitality of the local people of Fez and felt openness in the Old City towards different cultures. For some of the groups, they were expected to act as tourists to be convinced or even experience some "harassment" by local shop owners, but this did not happen and it challenged their perception. Another group reported that they discussed stereotypes when they saw a man in a shop taking care of his 4-month-old baby. The specific gender roles and the pre-assumptions were challenged but the group also had a chance to talk about pre-assigned or assumed gender roles. In a discussion with a local person he noted that the word 'tolerance' was misplaced because it is primarily linked to problems and he preferred using 'co-existence' as a word. Some groups looked into issues connected with acceptance of LGBT+ young people, and discussed with young women who were open to having homosexual friends, but had difficulties having such conversations with young men.

The participants discussed in some of the groups about the understanding of talking, flirting and harassment. For many of them there were differences, based on some situations in which local men were interacting. The group agreed that what matters is if the person feels comfortable or not being in such situation and also the rule that " 'no' means 'no' " has to be understood across any linguistic or cultural lines as a general rule. In this respect, a group was also talking about the unclear line between jokes and insults (even hate speech). While some would understand it as a joke, making bad comments about someone's looks are insulting for the person but also, if based on prejudices, can be understood even as hate speech.

Understanding and identifying hate speech is also often a matter of previous concepts and situations in which we live.

It was important for the participants to discuss also how the same situation from someone's daily life can be stereotypically understood in different ways. For some participants, the observation led to a conclusion that few women have their own businesses and few women go to coffee shops. This led to questioning whether such a finding implies fewer rights for women, whether it is linked to cultural norms, or whether it is an interpretation based on only a brief observation. Another question raised from such observation is whether the conclusion would be the same if the group was observing the same situation but in another country. To what extent are the context and the specific surroundings making us aware of inequalities or limited access to rights?



DRIVERS, REASONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM

Creating awareness about hate speech and extremism and their manifestations in what are perceived as different realities should start from the drivers and from the reasons for such social issues. Participants in smaller working groups had a chance to understand these realities and discuss the drivers, reasons and consequences of hate speech and extremism. The groups were prepared by means of a facilitated discussion space for participants to share their opinion, ideas and examples on the chosen topic, as well as to hear other contributions. The preparatory group identified seven discussion topics for the working groups and participants chose the one that most suited their interests.

The topics were as follows:

- Racism and discrimination
- Terrorism
- Radicalisation
- Refugees
- Islamophobia
- Populism
- Sexism

The working groups explored the different realities of the participants and tried to synthesise joint responses. In addition, the discussions in the plenary meetings, the official opening and visits during the Forum also contributed to the creation of a clear and relevant overview on all the proposed topics. In the next part of the report a summary is provided of all seven topics, including the input ideas and messages from the plenary sessions.

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

“The Council of Europe defined hate speech in 1997 and called for the prevention of the different forms in which it is spread, asking to prevent dissemination, incitement, promotion and justification of hatred, racism and discrimination,

all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, antisemitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance.”

Explanation from Rui Gomes, Council of Europe, during the Forum

Racism and discrimination as drivers of hate speech common to the participants was also highlighted by Tina Hocevar, from the European Youth Forum which “encourage[s] youth actors to establish intercultural dialogue to meet the common challenges of Arab and European youth such as unemployment, violence, discrimination, stigma and extremism.”

Youth actors to establish intercultural dialogue to meet the common challenges of Arab and European youth such as unemployment, violence, discrimination, stigma and extremism.

Tina Hocevar, European Youth Forum



Young people at the Forum shared their understandings of how racism and discrimination are manifested in the communities they live in. Through discussions, they tried to build a common understanding of racism and then discuss the drivers and consequences of discrimination in our societies. Some of the identified drivers of racism and discrimination in both regions were identified in the quality of education where programmes on living together in diverse societies, and acceptance of differences are often lacking. In addition, there is a trend of intolerance spreading through the promotion of narrow-minded views through media. The media influence overall was identified as a key driver of racism and discrimination, as articles and news often contain direct and subtle racist messages. Finally, there is a need to work on accepting differences overall and, here as well, the role of the media and the ethical reporting again came up in several discussions. For some participants, exploring the drivers and consequences more deeply during the Forum provided a space in which to reflect on their regions, the existing issues within the region or even within their own communities. One such discussion referred to the racism and discrimination in the Persian Gulf region, allowing for comparison and reflection with the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond.

Racism and discrimination are seen and experienced as a form of injustice and inequality in society. Due to this, the participants asked for more committed work in order to reduce the social gaps and to work against stereotypes and prejudices which are fuelling discrimination. On several occasions participants made strong statements on promoting mutual understanding and tolerance in order to combat hate speech and extremism.

TERRORISM

A mixed group of participants from both the European and Arab region shared their perceptions, images and understanding of terrorism in today's societies. They looked into drivers, reasons and consequences from terrorism based on the images that are created in the media and also in the public discussions.

Cultural exchange is the best response to terrorist attacks

stressed Hattem Attallah, Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation; "through exchanges we seek to establish dialogue and nurture cultural diversity among young people".

Participants mapped and shared different ideas about the drivers and reasons behind terrorism. For some, it was the rising tensions existing in societies today and especially being fuelled by hate speech and sensationalist media. For others, the drivers are also visible in the lack of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, which should result in activities in the fields of education, youth and the media. For many, the rising discontent and isolation is what may fuel terrorism; thus, ensuring the protection of minorities, and fighting intolerance, racism and social exclusion, can weaken the drivers of terrorism.

As part of the panel on "Making youth, peace and security a reality", Luay Shabaneh from the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office concluded the following:

Hate speech is a result of many factors such as exclusion, inequality, unequal opportunities and religious extremism. The reality of the challenges is complex and of a structural nature.



No organisation can deal with these challenges alone, but must work together with young people to find regional approaches

in the political field. Regardless of the differences in national policies, everyone needs to move forward with commitment and launch many partnerships to develop regional strategies on security and peace.

RADICALISATION

At the session hosted by the Al Akhawayn University of Ifrane, Mr Abd Elmonem A. Elshaari talked about the Arab youth campaign under the name No to Violence, No to Extremism, No to Terrorism, launched by the Council of Ministers of Arab Youth of the League of Arab States. He pointed out that the finger of accusation is now directed towards the Arab Muslim youth, as a group of them were involved in the waves of violence, and extremism. Through this campaign, the League of Arab States, inspired by the No Hate Speech Movement of the Council of Europe, aims at raising awareness among Arab youth of the importance of responsibly addressing extremist ideas promoted by extremist groups and extremism. The campaign aims to motivate states, Arab youth organisations and youth actors to implement outreach activities for young people and adolescents that address issues of violence and illiteracy, in order to prevent extremism.

The participants discussed different types of radicalisation and what drives it, based on the local circumstances. In order to start the discussion, they focused on defining the term 'radicalisation'. Some of the shared definitions refer to individuals using personal, violent, religious, political, social or any other means to justify the use or threats or violence.. It was difficult, however, to agree on a specific definition; rather, the participants agreed that radicalisation refers to ideas and thoughts out of the mainstream, which reject familiar mainstream thoughts; they replace it with theirs and could turn to violence to achieve what they believe in. As drivers of hate speech and radicalisation, the group identified the following:

- On a macro level, more globally or on a national level, radicalisation can be seen in the political spectrum with 'right' and 'left' parties which, in order to get attention, become more radicalised in their platforms. The tensions against recognised institutions, legal and election systems also contribute and drive radicalisation, as these institutions seem to have issues in creating counter narratives to existing attacks against them, and the rise of conspiracy theories which aim to encourage people to lose hope towards any possible change.
- On a meso-level referring to civil society, there are increasingly more ideas through social movements, and not all of those are based on human rights and tolerance. Far right movements also impact and drive radicalisation as they manage to recruit young people. The lack of social infrastructure and resources (such as functional youth centres) leaves young people vulnerable to being recruited by extremist groups and movements.
- On an individual level, the drivers of radicalisation can be as diverse as there are people. Some of the ideas shared include the following: the understanding of religion and beliefs, the influence of the family, personal mental health, social recognition, social exclusion, education, the influence of the Internet, exposure and access to media, involvement in social groups and the influence of the non-local context.



As consequences of hate speech, many young people are facing a lack of choices, media and political manipulation, violence and terrorism, a legal system they cannot trust, and reduced participation. Radicalisation again leads to inequality, segregation and insecurity towards others, who then become vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation themselves.

REFUGEES

The participants shared specific situations, examples and contexts of refugees in the Arab and European regions. It was clear from the discussion that there is an increasing trend of hate speech targeting refugees in both regions.

The understanding and compassion of people with refugee status seemed to be common for participants from both regions. Nevertheless, a very heated debate began with a discussion about migrants and refugees, as some participants indicated that many people make a conscious decision to move to another country looking for a better future. For some of the participants this decision is also motivated by seeking to fulfil their social rights, while for others there must be a clear distinction between refugees and migrants.

Participants agreed overall that the reasons and drivers of hate speech against refugees are mainly due to media manipulation and populism, followed by the impact of the economic crisis on the quality of life that people have. Combined with ignorance, this makes it easy for the local population to blame refugees and share hate speech towards them. As a consequence of such behaviour, violence is shown through bad and aggressive attitudes and behaviour toward refugees.

The role of civil society and activists was also debated significantly. For some of the participants, activists and civil society organisations should make more effort to raise awareness about the refugee crisis and hate speech expressed against them, while others see their role much more as humanitarian, working directly with refugees.

Young people are working to change the reality and the role of youth is to propose different ways of thinking in finding solutions. A problem, as proposed by Albert Einstein, cannot be solved by the same minds that created the problem. Youth, through the Council of Europe, are committed to work with young refugees, gender equality and the promotion of the values of democracy and human rights.

Young people are working to change the reality and the role of youth is to propose different ways of thinking in finding solutions.

Rui Gomes, Council of Europe, on a panel at Al Akhwayan University



POPULISM

The working group on populism started with a clarification of what populism is, and how it is manifested. It was interesting how most of the participants from Europe referred to populism as sharing superficial information based on emotions to trigger reactions of people, or providing easy solutions for complex problems often based on demagoguery and blaming the elite. On the other hand, for the participants from the Arab region it did not always have a negative connotation: for some, populism was merely a reflection of the opinion of the people, even though there is a lot of demagoguery within it.

While discussing the causes and drivers of populism, it was not so difficult for the participants to agree that populism is a strategy which is easy to use and effective for mobilising large masses of people. It spreads because education does not encourage critical thought, neither towards facts represented, nor when dealing with our own emotions. Due to this, most people today accept the way information is presented, even if it lacks validation. Populism affects young people very much due to the reasons outlined above; it is an opportunity and chance for young people to have an objective and to feel important. Populists feed from the negative views of society, the economy, politics, which exist among young people due to the lack of possibilities they have to shape their own lives. Populism finds ways and methods of sending messages to young people that the elite are all to blame for the difficult situation they face and it acknowledges that young people are rarely listened to and even more rarely included in society.

Due to populism, there are specific consequences on society which were shared amongst participants from the Arab States and Europe. These include the division of society into different groups (mostly based on religious, social and ethnic lines), and the growing mistrust of politics, politicians and media among people. As a political approach, populism was seen as something damaging for the economy as its focus is very short-term. The simplification of thinking patterns on political and personal levels, as well as easy solutions, are making people more gullible and more easily manipulated. Therefore, critical thinking is crucial to prevent populism from spreading.

Populism sometimes directly and mostly indirectly promotes hate, as its focus is on negative aspects, and it aims to dehumanise and demonise people. Populism can reach a huge audience to which, as one participant stated, it “speaks at the belly of the people” and it activates the “primitive” instincts such as the need for security and safety. It is important for people to be aware that populism is a tool with which to pack messages with basic emotions, and that it tends to blame groups of people in society which, as such, are not responsible for some specific situations. Populism also has a role in increasing radicalisation among young people.

SEXISM

During the Arab-European Youth Forum, a working group also looked into the drivers and consequences of sexist hate speech and sexism in societies today. As a result of their work, a map of consequences was made, and participants exchanged views on discrimination of women in both European and Arab societies.



Participants agreed that sexism is a growing concern in both regions; it presents an obstacle for women to fully enjoy the same rights and opportunities as men.

Education, media, families and even fairy tales reinforce the unequal treatment of, and discrimination against women. A lot of discussion was held around the traditional and religious norms which, for some participants, were important to keep, while other participants strongly proposed that such norms should also be questioned and changed. The discussion also opened up the issue of how some norms are obstacles for women specifically, and looked into how some norms can be questioned and changed, without putting in danger the life of the person doing this.

Economically, sexism is driven by lack of employer responsibility, as women are either not hired, or are paid lower salaries for the same work than men. Many examples of this were shared in the group, starting from the pay gap, but also discussing significant discrimination taking place against women in the labour market. Another aspect is the objectification of women, which is very present in the media, marketing and advertising but also in everyday life through sexist jokes. This is a driver of sexism as women are only presented by their appearance and age; they do not speak or make decisions.

The participants mapped many consequences of sexism in society and grouped them into specific categories:

- Economic consequences, including employment, which are the pay gap, hiring gap, lack of women in decision-making positions (directors, etc.), creation of economic dependence for women, limited maternal leave and no re-qualification training upon return from maternity leave
- Consequences in media and culture: sexist advertisements, lack of presence of successful women in the media, strong objectification of women, subtle justification of violence against women, pornography
- Politics and legal systems: increasing trend for anti-abortion laws, sexist laws (e.g. relating to maternity leave, or the income gap), women are presented as unable to make choices, and thus unelectable
- Consequences in education: division of male / female professions (lack of women in science and technology), women are often teachers but not very often managers or professors. Access to education is limited for women due to traditional roles and expectations towards women (e.g. women should marry and have children).
- Health and reproductive rights: limited access to gynaecologists and sanitary products, a lot of sexist comments about women's menstrual cycle or women in the menopause, lack of trust in women doctors, limited access to abortion
- Marriage, romance and family: women are pressurised to marry young, often, permission to marry is sought from the male family members, boys can have more romantic relationships but girls not, women in marriage become victims of sexual assaults by their husbands, women are expected to take care of the homes and their children, and divorced women are "less worthy".



ISLAMOPHOBIA

I encourage youth to participate in this dynamic exchange between the Arab and European regions because it's an irreplaceable opportunity and a crucial stage in overcoming hate and prejudices.

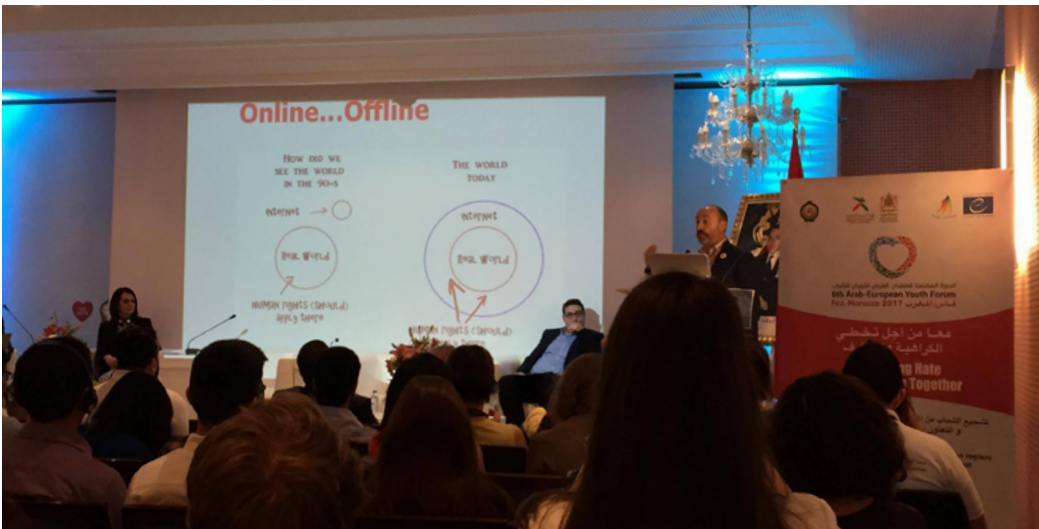
Mr Badreddine EL Allali, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

The working group explored the drivers and reasons for Islamophobic hate speech and discrimination, and how it impacts on societies in both regions. Participants took time to understand how Islamophobia is spreading in Europe and how it uses people's ignorance and fear to spread further. The fear of the unknown becomes an act of violence towards people who are different. One the other hand, in the Arab region, Islamophobic hate speech is shared as proof that all Europeans hate Muslims and it is fuelling another type of prejudice and hate speech.

At the official opening of the Forum, Mr Badreddine EL Allali, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, stated: It is important to co-operate with the Council of Europe for taking action, especially after the successive negative developments on the international and regional scene, and the consequent collapse of the basic infrastructure.

The Arab-European Youth Forum is an activity for dialogue on the common points of youth organisations' work in order to contribute to the development of shared knowledge of intercultural dialogue, building cohesive and anti-discriminatory societies.

Abd Elmonem A. Elshaari, League of Arab States





RESPONSES TO HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM (STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS)

At the opening of the Arab-European Youth Forum, Khalili Abdelaziz, from the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco, lent significant importance to the needs of young people for an accelerated and sustainable development.

The development should already take into account the digital technologies and become a pressing necessity for involving young people in strategic plans and policies against hatred, violence and extremism.

Some young people and youth organisations are already taking the lead in such efforts, finding different responses to hate speech and extremism and proposing ways forward. Antje Rothmund, head of the Council of Europe's Youth Department, stated the following in the opening ceremony:

Adopting the Declaration from the previous Euro-Arab Youth Forum by the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe is an obligation to continue our work to establish a culture of human rights, equality of opportunities, non-discrimination, independence and participation.

Overcoming hate and rejecting ideologies related to extremism is a common objective that young people from both the Arab and European region have set together, and their work using digital tools and social media can counter the populism and extremism which aim at restricting freedoms and causing a set-back in human rights.

As youth organisations and youth leaders have many ideas and a good deal of experience to share and learn from each other, a set of workshops was proposed to allow participants to build a common understanding on the approaches for dealing with hate speech and extremism. The following part outlines some of the conclusions and ideas agreed upon as part of the workshops.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN DECREASING HATE SPEECH, RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

This workshop provided space to share examples and discuss the role that education (formal and non-formal) can play in decreasing hate speech, radicalisation and extremism. The participants agreed that quality education can decrease ignorance and promote acceptance of diversity. For this reason, they proposed that intercultural learning should be a core part of school programmes. Participants stated that education must encourage critical thinking, respect and open-minded attitudes in young people. In this way, education becomes a tool to fight hate speech and extremism. As access to education is still an issue for many young people, participants asked for quality education to be free and accessible for everyone. In this respect, equal recognition of formal and non-formal education was seen as a step towards more learning opportunities, especially for those young people who cannot access education easily.



As one workshop participant stated,

“the goals of education are to be free and for all, to integrate intercultural learning into school curricula and programmes, to develop human rights education and to be based on best practices”.

All participants agreed that education is among the key responses to hate speech and extremism, and it still needs to be improved so that it can show its potential.

Similarly, Tina Hocevar, from the European Youth Forum, emphasised that *“this phenomenon [hate speech] can be overcome only by answering the real questions about quality of formal education and non-formal education, and seeing how they contribute to the promotion of shared universal values and human rights”.*

FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION AS AN APPROACH TO REDUCING EXTREMISM

The Forum looked into challenges, ideas and ways forward for social inclusion and integration within the different realities that the participants came from. It was a space to reflect on how to achieve better cohesion in our societies. Young people have often been excluded and some find it difficult to integrate into their communities, although they have the potential to change how societies work. During a panel discussion, Samir Anouti, from the UNFPA Arab Region, indicated the following:

In the MENA region, nearly 50% of the population are less than 25 years old.

It is important to see how we could translate this energy into activities and policies, and find alternative solutions to make the future a place of co-existence, despite the fact that the current reality of integration difficulties further aggravates the situation of young people.

Social inclusion and integration was, of course, seen as a response to hate speech and extremism. In discussions, Arab and European participants agreed that the barriers for active inclusion in society are not so different from one region to the next. Young people often face a lack of information and lack of knowledge on how to be more visible and active, or even if they have the knowledge, they are not taken seriously. There were many roots of inequality which are common to the two regions. One of them is the difficulty for some young people in accessing information, making specific opportunities limited only to a privileged group. This then widens the gap between different young people, making, for example, employment, education and training of youth accessible to some and not accessible to others. Poverty remains a significant factor in contributing to increasing inequalities and especially the relative poverty which exists in any one country. Finally, the lack of human rights education is also a factor preventing young people facing exclusion from claiming their rights. If young people do not know their rights, they cannot claim them. Nevertheless, not all participants agreed that mistrust in youth and lack of youth empowerment leads to hate speech. The connection between the two seemed not so direct for some of the participants, who claimed that many young people who are deprived from their rights and not included, would not directly spread hate speech. For others, social exclusion makes young people vulnerable to extremism and hate speech, so the link is still very strong.



Some of the tools that participants shared which can support social inclusion and integration in the Arab-European context include the following: information campaigns on social, political and educational rights for young people, campaigns on volunteering and motivating young people to volunteer in their community, engaging young people in dialogue through more international exchanges, entrepreneurship programmes for young people, cultural events and the promotion of diversity, offering mobile youth work in disadvantaged areas as well as virtual youth work spaces accessible by everyone, making physical spaces accessible to those with disabilities and also creating space for youth voices in the projects and programmes managed by civil society organisations and governments.

Other ideas shared included opportunities based on non-formal education and support programmes for female entrepreneurs. Such programmes have the potential to increase social inclusion, especially if they provide continuous learning and are tailored to address the needs of young people. Participants also highlighted that the search for new ways to ensure the inclusion of everyone in society must continue as there are many issues still to be dealt with. A practical step for promoting inclusion is also seeing whether the special needs of young people with disabilities are taken into account, and, for example, whether networks can be created for their integration and empowerment.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN COUNTERING HATE SPEECH, RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

A workshop to share ideas and projects which contribute to youth empowerment and successful youth participation was also held as one of the possible responses to hate and intolerance. Nevin Wanis, from the League of Arab States, presented the youth situation in the Arab states:

Besides the fact that youth represent more than half of the Arab population,

youth in the Arab world are suffering a lot from unemployment and a big majority is living in poverty.

Governments are trying to reach out to all categories of people but still there's a lot of work to do from the civil society and also from small economic enterprises, because this way, the job opportunities will be created and youth will find a way to live in dignity and be more active in the society.

Participants agreed that, both in the Arab and European countries, youth should be given more space to express themselves and to share their opinions. In order for this to be effective, education programmes should be revised to include empowerment, starting from childhood. One of the effective ways for youth empowerment is through non-formal education, which some participants pointed out as very useful for youth in gaining skills, competences and capacity building.

On the theme of empowering young people in the Arab and European regions, the participants of the Forum proposed to focus on and take into account the Internet and its use in reaching the largest number of young people. One of the steps for empowering young people specifically to promote Arab-European co-operation is to explore a possibility of setting up a platform for Euro-Arab youth aimed at smooth and simple speech and audio discussions. This platform could be used for exchange projects between young people and youth organisations.



Yassin Al Bahlouli, Researcher in Public Policy, University of Regina, Canada, addressed the impact of hate speech and extremism through social media and the Internet. He highlighted that the Internet makes it is easy to share hate speech with more impact as some users have thousands of followers every day. Empowering young people to produce content that will counteract hate online should also be a focus of our work, as it will limit the impact of hate speech.

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AS AN APPROACH FOR COUNTER RADICALISATION

The workshop on conflict transformation explored strategies that support conflict transformation and counter radicalisation. The participants shared their work on these topics, focusing on conflict transformation, which, in their view, is a long-term project. Several ideas shared suggested that conflict transformation should be included at school level to enable young people to learn comprehensively, strengthen their ability to think of possible win-win solutions and encourage co-existence and intercultural dialogue.

The need for transformation of conflicts and creating counter discourse was stronger where clear and direct conflicts were visible in society, such as armed conflicts and major conflict crisis. The role of young people in such situations should not be undermined, and young people should be included in finding peaceful solutions to such conflicts. On the other hand, it is important to transform conflicts that are not escalating visibly but which still cause discomfort and limitation towards people's human rights. Such conflicts can be, for example, the struggle for rights of LGBT people in most countries, but also the struggle for rights of religious and cultural minorities.

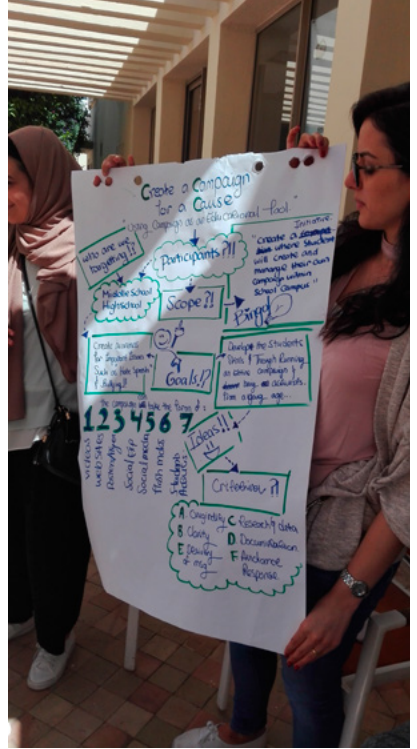
The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, the first of its kind aimed at enhancing youth participation in peace building and sustaining peace and security. With the resolution, the UN member states are urged to consider ways to increase the overall representation of youth in processes to prevent and resolve conflicts, promote youth participation in peace and security, and to increase overall representation of youth in decision-making processes to prevent conflicts.

FOSTERING DIALOGUE THROUGH RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL DISCOURSE

"How to support and enhance dialogue in the political and religious discourse" was a focus topic for a workshop but also a question that guided participants throughout the Forum. Samir Anouti, from the UNFPA Arab Region, outlined again Resolution 2250 on the UN Security Council, which states the following:

[Resolution 2250] urges member states to provide a stimulating environment and to develop policies and mechanisms to enable youth effective contributions to peace-building and the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance.

This requires the effective institutional integration of young people in their communities, the promotion of education and work that meets their needs and the goals of sustainable development.





Khaled Louhichi, international youth expert, talked about an international survey conducted in 12 Arab countries looking at “Values of tolerance, dialogue and peace in the Arab region”. The survey looked at values of young people, concluding that for most young people family and religion come first, followed by employment. Nevertheless, only one in three young people stated that they go to a mosque at least once a week. Within the survey, one in five young people values being independent and autonomous, but only one in three young people would prioritise the opinion of the religious leader as the most valuable one. In fact, 40% of those young people interviewed feel empowered to complain about the religious establishment.

The mistrust in politicians and political structures, according to the same survey, seems quite alarming regarding the political parties, in which only one in five young people stated that they trust. Nevertheless, 85% consider the democratic system good, and only 10% stated that they are against democracy. Out of all interviewed young people in the survey, 59% consider themselves part of the world.

From the workshop discussion, the participants proposed that dialogue should start with the religious leaders as role models, as they can be called upon to set the tone for tolerance and peace from all their platforms. Young political leaders should also be supported in their struggle for promoting and protecting human rights and, finally, the general public must be in a position to think critically, involved actively in dialogue, and able to take into consideration the diverse opinions.

Antje Rothmund, in her speech at the opening of the Forum, also reminded us of the following:

The Arab-European Forum for 10 years has been one of the main events for encouraging intercultural dialogue and for exposing young people from different backgrounds to understand each other better and become advocates of dialogue on political and cultural levels.

Many organisations and institutions today support this dialogue, and during the Forum such examples were also heard from the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Union of the Mediterranean, and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

DEVELOPING COUNTER AND ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

Several participants also took an active part in a workshop to share examples of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign of the Council of Europe and the latest manual *We CAN!*, taking action against hate speech through counter and alternative narratives. In this workshop, Stefan Manevski from the Council of Europe explained what counter narratives are and how to use them in our work against hate speech, as well as introducing participants to the *We CAN!* manual.

The workshop participants exchanged information about the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and how young people are working to promote human rights online. It was shared that hate speech is a real danger in our societies today and we need to encourage more youth organisations and activists to work jointly against hate speech and extremism. Participants were informed about, and explored ways to build a narrative based on human rights which, in practice, means that it should contain no hate, no violence and no discrimination but should promote equality, respect and solidarity among individuals and groups. Such narrative promotes equal dignity of all human beings, and uses critical thinking, fair dialogue and accurate information.



The participants agreed that it is important to empower youth activists and organisations to create counter and alternative narratives to hate speech in both Europe and the Arab region. Building counter narratives should be based on human rights and human dignity; it should contain no hate and no violence and should serve to raise awareness and curiosity that there might be an alternative to hate speech narratives. The work of youth organisations on Euro-Arab co-operation should be promoted as an alternative narrative aiming to build bridges between the two regions.

TAKING ACTION – PRACTICAL OUTPUT AND MESSAGES

On the last day of the Forum participants had a chance to take action and to work on creating output, a message, a new tool or giving a performance together. The following workshops on Creativity, Learning and Campaigning for Human Rights and Dialogue were provided, and participants could choose to contribute to one of them.

- A) WediActivists game – a workshop which presented an educational game for online (web) activism and promoted its use across the two regions.
- B) Short videos with alternative narratives – a workshop aiming at creating videos with counter or alternative narratives
- C) Visual arts – a workshop where participants developed messages, photos, slogans or other visual tools
- D) Theatre and role plays – a space for participants to prepare a scene using Forum Theatre techniques
- E) Common Action Day – a space for online activists to plan joint online actions and messages which will be used for an action day of the No Hate Speech Campaign
- F) Education activities – a workshop aimed at sharing different educational activities that the participants use, as well as to exchange these tools amongst each other.





The workshops took place in the morning and the final results were presented as part of the closing of the Forum. The following outlines are ideas which can be used by different civil society organisations and public institutions in their work against hate speech and extremism:

- Delivering No Hate Speech Workshops for the media, parents, organisations, friends, university students, the whole community, school officials and representatives of governmental institutions, held by young people. The workshops proposed aimed at transferring knowledge and experience from young people to adults on the topic of hate speech in their community. In this way, intergenerational dialogue will be encouraged and tolerance will be further promoted.
- Supporting campaigns for a cause – an activity proposed to provide young people from secondary schools with the power to create their own campaigns and create initiatives within the school campus. In this way, young people would be raising the awareness of important issues affecting youth, such as hate speech and bullying. Additionally, the young people would be developing ideas and boosting their creativity in combating hate speech, by creating videos, websites, promotional material, flashmobs and student activities.
- No Hate App should be an application similar to the Scouts' application and Pokemon Go, designed to make young people aware of hate speech, its consequences and to empower them to create and make a change. This would be done through interactive learning (games, quizzes, language and culture activities, religion-related activities, creating videos and images) and would be very flexible and adaptable as an activity to be incorporated into different societies.
- Promoting the development of visual art and supporting the creation of posters and pictures, focusing on the consequences of hate speech and extremism. Such visual materials should put forward ideas that counteract hate in a clear and convincing manner, using data reflecting the seriousness of hate and extremism and its impact on local communities.
- Usage of theatre and especially Forum theatre as a technique can be a strong experience for understanding violence and hate. It also engages and motivates the participants (young people, but also the wider community) to look for solutions and propose different ways to resolve specific challenges.
- Increase the opportunity of training and non-formal education and make it centred on understanding populism and developing critical thinking about it. These training courses can offer a space for creativity and ideas for fighting violence and hatred. One of the possible activities to use is the WediActivists game.
- Development of videos, podcasts and digital content as a counter narrative to the hate speech and presenting alternative narratives based on human rights. During the workshops, participants managed to make a video in three hours and had already managed to share it with everyone as a counter narrative to prejudice and hate. Counter narratives also deconstruct populist discourse motivating critical thinking among the recipient of the message. The produced video is available available on the No Hate Speech Movement website. <https://www.nohatespeechmovement.org>
- Using electronic games and internet applications to raise awareness about hate speech was also proposed as a tool that needs further developing.
- Regarding public policies aimed at youth, participants stressed the need for the policy makers to formally take responsibility for implementing the policies and create plans based on regional realities.



In this way, the proposed policies and ideas can become reality in a rapid and realistic way.

Working together to take action in the smaller groups and workshops gave a practical element to the entire Forum and a space to see how participants coming from both Arab and European countries could co-operate. The mixture of experience and ideas from participants gave everyone the chance to learn and to be in an intercultural group. In the end, participants felt they were productive and that their contributions could actually be made use of in some of their daily work.

OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FORUM

The most important outcomes of the Forum were the established contacts, exchanges, debates and projects between the youth leaders attending the Forum. The participants in smaller working spaces and informal spaces had a chance to build partnerships among their organisations and to exchange good practices from their work. The Forum also contributed in building capacity of youth for fighting extremism and hate speech, especially as it offered new ideas or confirmed their commitment to be active in this field. Working together in different spaces using social media, the arts, videos, theatre and educational tools also increased their interest to continue the exchanges and dialogue.

“From a personal point of view, I consider that

the network created through the participation at 6th Arab-European Youth Forum represents the main outcome of the Forum,

adding also the opportunity to learn about actions on intercultural dialogue in the area.”

A participant on the evaluation form

The Forum remains a unique space for young people from the Arab and European countries to meet and engage in dialogue. This dialogue often provokes empathy and solidarity between Arab and European youth and organisations. The lack of space for dialogue and exchange leads to misunderstandings; it is impressive how the participants recognised this, and were able to build connections and understanding in only a short period of time.

“I had an amazing experience discussing terrorism with youth from both the European and Arab region. It was great discussing something that effects all of us but from very different points of view. That is something I will take home with me – that

we can, should and must engage in peaceful dialogue, especially with people who are different from us.”

A participant on the evaluation form



The Forum as a good example of space for dialogue also called for more sustainability of the Euro-Arab youth co-operation. Looking into what works well, it is important to use the good practices and extend them so that others can also be reached, invited and inspired.

SPACE FOR YOUTH

Looking at the practical outcomes and recommendations of the Forum, one noticeable shortcoming from the participants' feedback and the programme was the need for more space for young people to speak and engage in dialogue. Most of the recommendations outlined in the evaluation forms from the participants are directed at this issue, asking for more space for youth. Many participants commented that "there was too much time allocated to ceremonial speeches and too little time to work in groups", and that sometimes they felt that the speeches were repetitive and did not really take the Forum further. "Conferences and official speeches took a lot of time; it would be better to change them for workshops and networking." (A participant on the evaluation form)

Apart from this, a participant also recommended "that one part of the agenda be decided together with the participants. I felt that many young people, in some sessions, were more audience than participants of a youth forum."

These proposals and recommendations should be taken into account for the next editions of the forums or any follow-up activity that comes from the Forum. Increasing spaces for young people to discuss and work together and providing opportunities to meet in smaller groups and exchange should remain a priority in the methodological approach of the Forum.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of the Forum, through various feedback processes, were gathered and presented in the Fez Declaration which indicates pathways for future Arab-European youth co-operation. The declaration reaffirms the commitment to develop and strengthen the Arab-European youth co-operation and proposed a specific set of practical and policy measures that can be put in place to facilitate this co-operation. Among those, opportunities for mobility, and working together were emphasised by many participants, as well as the call to set up an alumni group of participants in the forums which will take care of sustainability and the promotion of co-operation.

On a practical level, participants shared a proposal and commitment for common action days between the campaigns of the Council of Europe and that of the League of Arab States to counter hate speech and violent extremism.







THE FEZ DECLARATION

Overcoming Hate Speech and Extremism Together

We, Arab and European youth, met in the city of Fez, Morocco, for the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum dedicated to Overcoming Hate Speech and Extremism Together. We deepened our understanding of hate speech and extremism and their consequences on young people. We also explored and shared ways of preventing and combating them.

Hate speech is one of the most prolific forms of intolerance and xenophobia, particularly online. In mainstream political discourses, we have seen toxic mixtures of populism, hate speech, fake news and “alternative facts” posing a serious threat to freedom, peace and democracy. We are all exposed to hate speech and to the consequences of violent extremism, although in different forms and at varying levels.

Too many people have fallen victim to terrorism and extremist violence. We are alarmed by a general regression of universal human rights, especially of women’s rights and the rights of minorities. This is not acceptable and threatens our common future.

We believe firmly in the importance of co-operation and dialogue among youth from Arab and the European regions, and we appreciate the long-term commitment by the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States in this process. We have been particularly inspired by the successes and experiences of the Council of Europe’s No Hate Speech Movement campaign. We welcome the decision of the League of Arab States to initiate a campaign against terrorism and violent extremism. They support our determination in not letting our futures be hijacked by forces of fear, aggressive nationalism and intolerance.

We have been encouraged by the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security and its recognition of the role that young people play in peace building and overcoming conflict. Hate speech stands in the way of peace and is used everywhere to fuel conflict and justify violence. We want to contribute to the implementation of the resolution’s principles in our countries and organisations. As young people, we share a common will to exercise our right to participation in all spheres of society.

We are alarmed by the continuation and proliferation of armed conflicts and the huge toll they take on innocent people. We are upset by the refusal of many of our countries in meeting their obligations with respect to refugees, many of them unaccompanied children and young people.



We are equally worried by the growing inequalities and disparities in accessing fundamental human rights and in the attempts to curb the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression. There is no excuse for hate speech and violent extremism; nor should they serve as an excuse for human rights violations.

Young people represent more than half of the Arab population, yet many suffer from unemployment and a large majority lives in poverty; this puts at risk the potential of this “demographic dividend”. The precariousness affecting young people in virtually all our countries hinders our chances of living in dignity, makes us more vulnerable to extremist and “quick-fix” solutions, and reduces confidence in social institutions. In too many countries corruption is rampant and governments are not accountable to their citizens. Widespread lack of confidence in governments is often accompanied by high expectations of democracy; these expectations cannot be betrayed.

We observed progress in implementing proposals from the 5th Forum held in Strasbourg in 2015. Most, however, remain to be implemented. More is needed to move away from a culture of hate towards a culture of love. We call upon the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and their partners to follow up on this Forum by:

1. Developing common and updated definitions of hate speech and measures to counter it
2. Supporting the recognition of 22 July as a day to remember all victims of hate crime
3. Campaigning together on Action day for Human Rights online on 10 December
4. Raising awareness about the attacks and hate speech against refugees, and advocating for their human rights
5. Developing counter and alternative narratives to hate speech and extremism based on human rights; the work of youth organisations on Euro-Arab co-operation can be promoted as an alternative narrative
6. Ensuring equality of opportunities in participation for all young people – regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, nationality or minority / majority status; the effective implementation of anti-discrimination laws is particularly important
7. Acknowledging and combatting sexism and sexual discrimination in all its forms, including the recognition that Muslim women are often more affected than men by Islamophobia



8. Increasing provisions for quality human rights education, digital citizenship and peace education: all are effective in preventing hate speech and violent extremism; both formal and non-formal education have important roles to play in fostering competences for intercultural learning and critical thinking; investments in quality education and adequate facilities are needed
9. Reviewing school books and manuals to stop the propagation of prejudices and stereotypes, and offering alternative narratives for living together in dignity and diversity
10. Taking an active role in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security and connecting it with the Sustainable Development Goals related to youth
11. Investing in the entrepreneurship of young people, particularly social entrepreneurship
12. Establishing or increasing funds for youth-led youth programmes and activities, including Euro-Arab co-operation projects
13. Initiating or supporting exchanges between Arab and European young people, including the easing of visa and other travel restrictions for young people
14. Extending systems for the recognition of academic qualifications among the member states of the Council of Europe and of the Arab League
15. Organising a Euro-Arab training of trainers on youth participation, and developing a pilot training seminar on youth participation based on the 50:50 model of the Council of Europe, associating representatives of youth organisations and public services
16. Setting-up of a follow-up group composed of participants of the Forum to support the implementation of these proposals and prepare the 7th Forum
17. Continuing the efforts to establish a network of alumni of the Euro-Arab Youth Forums
18. Communicating this declaration to their decision-making bodies.
19. We value the European Youth Forum as a partner in our Forum. We wholeheartedly thank the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco for its hospitality and generosity in hosting us and the national committee of the No Hate Speech Movement of Morocco for their support.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Name	Organisation
Albania	Iana Minochkina	Youth Center 'Perspektiva'
Armenia	Narek Mirzoyan	'YO!Mag' magazine
	Andranik Shirinyan	European Youth Parliament
Azerbaijan	Aytan Aliyeva	Great Silk Way
Bahrein	Rim Talal Alquhtani	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Bahrain
	Mariam Zaman	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Bahrain
Belgium	Olivier Danenberg	Young Belgium
	Asmaa Hamich	Achievement Association – Wedi Activists
	Assia Oulkadi	Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisation
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mustafa Džihić	Youth Council of Municipality Centar Sarajevo
Denmark	Monika Elend	European Youth Northern Denmark
	Natascha Skjaldgaard	World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)
Egypt	Moh Hassan	Generations for Peace
	Tariq Loubna	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
France	Ilyesse Aissa	City of Strasbourg / AMSED
	Ekaterina Alekseeva	Compagnons Bâisseurs
	Eva Banno Gomes	City of Strasbourg/ AMSED
	Ines Ben Brahim	City of Strasbourg/AMSED
	Ossama Bouqarrou	City of Strasbourg/AMSED
	Benihin Gasson Sigfried	City of Strasbourg/AMSED
	Kenza Occansey	Fédération des Associations Générales Étudiantes – FAGE
Georgia	Nikoloz Gugushvili	Production 42
Germany	Lukas Findeisen	European Federation for Intercultural Learning – EFIL
	Sina Laubenstein	Neue deutsche Medienmacher e.V.
	Jade Junge	Islam Konferenz
Hungary	Eszter Várszegi	Service Civil International Hungary (SCI)
Iraq	Mona Layat	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Mustapha Chaoui	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Ireland	Seamus Kearney	Young Fine Gael
Italy	Michel Alimasi	Jeunesse Initiative et Engagement pour le Climat
	Enrico Elefante	Forum della Gioventù di Santa Maria la Carità



Country	Name	Organisation
	Tiziana Fantucchio	Action Associative
Jordan	Mounia Ettouissi	Al-Hussein Bin Talal University
	Mohamed Elmaani	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Lebanon	Linda Faiz Tanouri	World Learning
	Ahmed Mehanna	Medical Students Association – Lebanon university
Libya	Youssef Hajar Sas	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Youssef Mahmoud Khalil	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Mauritania	Abdelrahman Abdeljali	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Diallo Hawa	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Morocco	Chaima Arjaoui	Sultan Moulay Ismail University, Beni Mellal
	Majida Fettah	University of Mohammed V Rabat
	Salma Bensaid	Faculty of Sciences Rabat
	Nadia Boutaina	Association RISSALA of Education and Camping
	Rokia Ouhejjou	Forum knowledge of religious studies and research
	Karima bachiri	Association Our Youth for Development
	Salma Bouzalim	Scouts of the Moroccan Hassania
	Touhami Issaoui	BOUTALHA Youth Development Association
	Saad Ouakkas	Moroccan Organization for Debates
	Ayoub Belhaj	National Institute of Youth and Democracy
	Med Daamach	The Alternative Cultural Association
	Iman Lahrich	FOMEJE
	Lebbat Eddakhil	Press Club for Media and Communication
	Youssef Faleh	Moroccan Organization for Young Decision-makers
	Khalid Oughbalou	Moroccan Scouts Organization
	Hamza Dady	Moroccan Association for the Education of Youth
	Ammar Al Harrouss	Youth Movement
	Mohamed Sayad	Al - Sakia Al - Hamra Association for young artists
Hicham Arij	Socialist Youth	
Nadia Boutaina	Sidi Mouhamed Ben Abdallah Université Fes	
Norway	Huthayfa Abuserriya	Muslim Youth Union
Palestinian Authority	Khalid Aagl Wahid	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Ala Farhat	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Poland	Sandra Oborska	AEGEE / European Students Forum
Portugal	Susana Costa	Refugees Welcome Portugal
Qatar	Ahmed Hassan Alobaidly	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Mohamed Yousuf Alotbey	Al Ahli Sports Club
Romania	Madalin-Catalin Blidaru	Asociatia Se Poate



Country	Name	Organisation
Russian Federation	Olga Nilova	National Youth Council of Russia
Saudi Arabia	Aid Abdelrhman Khalid	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Mohammed Bandar Ben	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Serbia	Edina Heco	Centre for Development Policy and Co-operation
Slovenia	Anja Fortuna	National Youth Council of Slovenia – MSS
“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	Mila Josifovska	Center for Intercultural Dialogue
Tunisia	Hanine Diari	Great Silk Way
	Benahif Diyae Hussein	Ecole Nationale D’architecture Et D’urbanisme De Tunis
	Ismail Neil Ben	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
Turkey	Ismail Demir	Great Silk Way
Ukraine	Vladyslav Dementiev	NGO ‘Poruch’
United Arab Emirates	Ahmed Akil Nacer Lootah	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
	Said Mohammed El Achkari Ali	Nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport
United Kingdom	Rory Albert Newbery	The Complete Freedom of Truth (TCFT)
Yemen	Hafsa Mansour	MSA University
	Zineb Mansour	MSA University

Facilitators

Tarek Amraoui
Mary Drosopoulos
Adib Lrhoul
Rasha Fityan
Jaouad Elouafi

Guest Speakers

Khaled Louhichi	International Youth expert
David Knox	Regional Director, British Council
Seleman Yusuph Kitenge	African Network of Youth Policy Experts
Samir Anouti	Youth and HIV/AIDS, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office
Meriem El Hilali	Diplomatic Advisor, Social and Civil Affairs, Union for the Mediterranean
Hassan Tariq	Professor and Researcher in Public Policy
Yassine El Bahlouli	Researcher in Public Policy, University of Regina
Hatem Atallah	Anna Lindh Foundation
Mohammed Fahmi	Co-ordinator of the Moroccan network of the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue
Jalila Morsli	Committee member National Committee No Hate Speech Movement campaign in Morocco



European Youth Forum

Tina Hočevar	Board member
--------------	--------------

League of Arab States

Dr. Badr Eddine El Allali	Assistant Secretary-General, Head of Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States
Abd Elmonem A. Elshaary	Director of the Department of Youth and Sport of the League of Arab States
Nevin Wanis	Department of Youth and Sports of the League of Arab States

Council of Europe - Joint Council on Youth

Marko Grdošić	Chair
Oleksandra Kovyazina	Member of the Advisory Council on Youth
Zorica Stamenvovska	Member of the European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ)

Council of Europe Secretariat

Antje Rothemund	Head of the Youth Department
Rui Gomes	Head of the Education and Training Division, Youth Department
Rocio Cervera Crespo	North-South Centre, Deputy Executive Director
Stefan Manevski	Education and Training Division, Youth Department
Claudia Montevecchi	Assistant, Youth Department

Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco

Mohamed Rherras	Director of Youth and Children and the Women's Affairs
Jamal Shaimi	Head of Youth Division
Belfahem Mouhsine	Head of Co-operation and Communication Division
Aouzen Mohamed	Head of Cultural Tourism Service of Youth
Yassine Isbouia	Director of the National Institute for Youth and Democracy, « Coordinator »

Local Supervision

Abdellatif Obbad	Regional Director of the region of Fez Meknes
Sidi Hammani Benali	Sdi Hammani Benali Provincial Director of Ifrane

Local Committee and co-ordination in the cities of Fez and Ifrane

Abdelali El Bakkali	Regional Directorate of the region of Fez, Meknes
Hassan Saber	Regional Directorate of the region of Fez, Meknes
Mohammed El Azzouzi	Regional Directorate of the region of Fez, Meknes



Co-ordinating committee workshops and report of the Forum

Safae Kaddouri	Provincial Directorate of Moulay Yacoub
Mohammed Mouafek	Provincial Directorate of Khemisset
Zineb Boukrouna	No hate Speech Movement – Morocco

Youth Media Committee « No hate Speech Movement – Morocco »

Kawtar Mawass	FOMEJE
Marwa Cherkaoui	The Mediterranean Forum for Youth
Mohammad Saad TLIGUI	local Youth Council - ASSILAH
Qoria Anouar	Fahd School of Translation
Abderrahim Elhani	Ministry of Youth and Sport

Committee Documentation and Information

Khalili Abdelaziz	Regional Director of the region of Tangiers Tétouan and Al Hoceima
Abdelaziz Mouchrif	Ministry of Youth and Sport
Elhabri Mohamed	Ministry of Youth and Sport
Miloud Stira	Ministry of Youth and Sport
Salmane Rahmouni	Ministry of Youth and Sport
Abdelhak El Mezrioui	Ministry of Youth and Sport

Organizational Committee

Chouaib Elazhar	Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco
Hakim Kiki	Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco
Bahi Mohamed	Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco
zakaria Aghmine	Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco
Ghizlane zmhour	Regional Director of the region of fez – Meknes
Sibari Ayda	Regional Director of the region of fez – Meknes
Zakia khomri	Regional Director of the region of fez – Meknes
Hasnae Rafi	Regional Director of the region of fez – Meknes
Boutelhio Mouhamed	Regional Director of the region of fez – Meknes

Medical Committee

Dr. Rim Sabar	Sports Directorate/ Ministry of Youth and Sport
---------------	---



PROGRAMME OF THE FORUM

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 of the Forum

- › 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 The city of Fez as a Context for Dialogue and Co-operation

- › Exploring the city through the lenses of intercultural dialogue – in groups (including lunch)

15:30 Debriefing of the explorations of Fez

18:00 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FORUM – at the Fez Employment Hall (in the Old City)

- › Rachid Talbi el-Alami, Minister of Youth and Sport of Morocco
- › Badreddine El Allali, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Arab States
- › Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

Statements by partners of the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum

- › Tina Hočevar, European Youth Forum
- › Jalila Morsli, Moroccan National Committee of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign
- › Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office
- › Sergi Farré, Diplomatic Advisor and Spokesperson, Union for the Mediterranean
- › Hatem Atallah, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation

Dinner and Andalusian music

Wednesday 26 April

09:00 Opening and Programme of the Day

09:15 The Impact and Damages of Hate Speech and Extremism

- › Khaled Louhichi, International Youth expert



- › Hassan Tariq, Professor and Researcher in Public Policy
 - › Rui Gomes, Head of Division, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
 - › Yassine El Bahlouli, Researcher in Public Policy University of Regina (Canada)
 - › Samir Anouti, Regional Advisor, Youth and HIV/AIDS Arab States Regional Office (ASRO)
- 10:30 Break and Group photo
- 11:00 Drivers, Reasons and Consequences of Hate Speech and Extremism, in working groups:
- › Racism and discrimination
 - › Terrorism
 - › Radicalisation
 - › Refugees
 - › Islamophobia
 - › Populism
 - › Sexism
- In parallel:
- › Meeting of Institutional Partners of Arab-European youth co-operation
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Feedback on drivers, reasons and consequences
- 15:00 Responses to Hate Speech and Extremism (strategies and solutions) – in workshops
- › The role of education in decreasing hate speech, radicalisation and extremism
 - › Fostering social inclusion and integration as an approach to counter extremism
 - › Youth empowerment in countering hate speech, radicalisation and extremism
 - › Conflict transformation as an approach for counter radicalisation
 - › Fostering dialogue through religious and political discourse
 - › Developing counter and alternative narratives
- 18:00 Presentation of the outcomes of the workshops
- 18:30 Presentation and preparation of the day in Ifrane
- 20:00 Dinner

Thursday 27 April

- 08:30 Departure to the Al Akhawayn University of Ifrane
- 10:00 Meeting with students in Ifrane
- Presentation of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and of the Campaign of the League of Arab States against violent extremism by:
- › Abd Elmonem A. Elshaary, Director of the Department of Youth and Sport of the League of Arab States
 - › Rui Gomes, Head of Division, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- Participant-led workshops and campaign actions with the students and the Forum participants



13:00 Lunch

15:00 The Mediterranean crossroad of civilizations between Africa, the East and the West: Towards Making Youth, Peace and Security a Reality – International Conference in partnership with the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), Arab States Regional Office, and the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM)

Session 1, co-ordinated by UNFPA

Moderator: SAMIR ANOUTI, Youth and HIV/AIDS, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office

- › Rui Gomes, Council of Europe
- › Meriem El Hilali, Diplomatic Advisor, Social and Civil Affairs, Union for the Mediterranean

16:30 Break

17:00 Session 2, co-ordinated by UFM

Moderator: MOHAMED RHERRAS, Director of Youth and Children and Women's Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Morocco

- › Khaled Louhichi, international Youth expert
- › David Knox, Regional Director of the British Council
- › Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, City of Strasbourg
- › Rocío Cervera Crespo, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
- › Seleman Yusuph Kitenge, African Network of Youth Policy Experts

19:00 Debriefing and conclusions from the Conference

20:30 Dinner in Fez

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
- › Visual arts
- › Theatre and role plays
- › Common Action Days
- › Short videos with alternative narratives
- › Education activities

In parallel:

Partnership Meeting in support of the Development of a Regional Strategy on Youth, Peace and Security in the Arab States Region

12:00 Sharing the workshops results

13:00 Lunch

- › Free time and finalisation of the Fez Declaration



- 16:30 OPEN SPACE AND NETWORKING – run by participants
- 19:00 Conclusions of the Forum
 - › Presentation of the Fez Declaration
 - › Evaluation
- 20:00 Closing session
- 21:00 Dinner and Farewell party

Saturday 29 April

Departure of Participants





6th Arab-European Youth Forum
Overcoming Hate and Extremism Together



Forum Newsletter

DAY 2 : Workshops





#ArabEuroForum17

Daily Resume

The day started with a conference on (The Impact and Damages of Hate Speech and Extremism) moderated by Mrs Rasha , the speakers who participated in the conference were: Mr. Tareq, a professor and researcher in public policy, Mr. Gomes from the Council of Europe, Mr Elbahoui, a Researcher in Public Policy, Mr Anouti a Regional Advisor in ASRO.

The participants were then asked to join one of the following workshops: Islamophobia, Populism, Racism and Discrimination, Radicalisation, Refugees, Sexism and terrorism. They discussed and talked about the definitions, drivers and consequences of each subject of the workshop. They were later presented their findings and shared them with the others.

After the group picture and lunch, they were asked to join other workshops that focus mainly on Responses to Hate Speeches and Extremism.

And since we are in an intercultural environment ,participants had the chance to join the intercultural evening where they shared some items from their cultures.

Interviews



Name: Mohamed Nissim
Age: 23
Country: Palestine

What are your expectations about the Forum?
I am personally – would expect to build a better understanding of different perspectives about hate and extremism, and also want to learn how to face these international issues in our countries to build and formulate strategies to combat them effectively.

How do you find the program of the forum so far?
The 6th Arab-European Youth Forum has been an excellent one, since we are going to face this forum which has been the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum and it is a very important one for us. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum.

What are your expectations from the Forum?
I am personally – would expect to build a better understanding of different perspectives about hate and extremism, and also want to learn how to face these international issues in our countries to build and formulate strategies to combat them effectively.

How do you find the program of the forum so far?
The 6th Arab-European Youth Forum has been an excellent one, since we are going to face this forum which has been the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum and it is a very important one for us. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum.



Name: Rasha
Age: 25
Country: Arabestan

What are your expectations from the Forum?
I am personally – would expect to build a better understanding of different perspectives about hate and extremism, and also want to learn how to face these international issues in our countries to build and formulate strategies to combat them effectively.

How do you find the program of the forum so far?
The 6th Arab-European Youth Forum has been an excellent one, since we are going to face this forum which has been the 6th Arab-European Youth Forum and it is a very important one for us. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum. It is a very important one for us because it is the first time that we are participating in such a forum.

27th April 2017 – Fez, Morocco

The Euro-Arab Youth forums are central activities for young people from both the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe to engage in dialogue and, together, identify common points for action by themselves, their youth organisations and the two co-operating international organisations.

The 6th Arab-European Youth Forum mobilised young people and organisations from the two regions to engage in dialogue and co-operation against violent extremism and hate speech. It was held in the historical city of Fez in Morocco, co-organised and hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Morocco. This report provides an overview of discussions, contributions and ideas shared at the forum. It synthesises the dialogue towards a common understanding of hate speech and extremism, looking into the drivers, reasons and consequences of hate speech in different communities. The report also provides an overview of possible responses to hate speech and extremism, proposed by the participants from both regions.

The Council of Europe has been active in Euro-Arab youth co-operation for nearly 20 years. The Euro-Arab youth co-operation has provided space for dialogue between youth organisations and institutions concerned with youth policy, and has recently focused on capacity building for human rights education, intercultural dialogue and the development of non-formal education.



www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

Council of Europe Publishing
<http://book.coe.int>

www.coe.int/youthpeace

